PORTUGAL

Leaving no one behind: Portugal’s approach and priorities

Portugal is committed to the principle of leaving no one behind and the notions of inclusion, universality and equity it entails. Through its development co-operation, Portugal aims to eradicate poverty; promote the respect of human rights, democracy, the rule of law; and the social, economic and political inclusion of all. It also addresses the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable countries in policy areas that have transboundary impacts, such as trade, climate and migration.

For Portugal, applying a leave no one behind approach helps focus on the poorest, vulnerable and excluded segments of the population in all developing countries. It supports, for example, social protection for abandoned children and people with disabilities. Official development assistance (ODA) can be a relevant source of finance in the poorest countries and can catalyse other sources of finance and technical co-operation in all developing contexts. It sees a need, however, for better tools, instruments and partnerships for mainstreaming leave no one behind in development co-operation and to deliver real results for vulnerable people and groups.

Key challenges to success include finding the right balance between ODA allocations (that are still crucial for those countries that are lagging behind) and the use of ODA to mobilise other public and private sources of finance to catalyse investment in a more efficient and effective manner and to reach the furthest behind groups.

Financial flows from Portugal to developing countries

Financial flows from Portugal to developing countries

Portugal’s performance against commitments for effective development co-operation

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Portugal</th>
<th>Alignment and ownership by partner country (%)</th>
<th>Predictability (%)</th>
<th>Transparency</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Use of country-led results frameworks</td>
<td>Funding recorded in countries’ national budgets</td>
<td>Funding through countries’ systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>73.4%</td>
<td>82.6%</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Baseline</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>75.9%</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trend</td>
<td>-</td>
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Note: Please refer to Annex B for details on the indicators. Data on untied ODA, retrospective statistics and publishing to the IATI have been updated according to the latest information available.
Portugal's official development assistance

In 2017, Portugal provided USD 378 million in net ODA (preliminary data), which represented 0.18% of gross national income (GNI) and a rise of 6.9% in real terms from 2016 due to an increase in its multilateral contributions to the World Bank and regional development banks. Portugal intends to meet its official development assistance (ODA) target when its economy begins to recover (OECD, 2015[2]) and is committed, at the European level, to collectively achieve a 0.7% ODA/GNI ratio by 2030. In 2017, in-donor refugee costs were USD 3 million and represented 0.8% of Portugal's total net ODA, compared to 1.3% in 2016.

Portugal's share of untied ODA (excluding administrative costs and in-donor refugee costs) was 59.1% in 2016 (up from 49% in 2015), compared to the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) average of 81.2%. The grant element of total ODA was 95.2% in 2016. Loans amounted to 12% of gross ODA in 2016.

In 2016, 44.4% of ODA was provided bilaterally. Portugal allocated 55.6% of total ODA as core contributions to multilateral organisations. In addition, it channelled 7.8% of its bilateral ODA to specific projects implemented by multilateral organisations (multi-bi/non-core contributions).

In 2016, 67.4% of bilateral ODA was programmed with partner countries. The share of country programmable aid was high compared with the 2016 DAC country average of 46.8% and project-type interventions made up 93% of this aid.

In 2016, USD 13.9 million of bilateral ODA was channelled to and through civil society organisations (CSOs). Portugal’s ODA to and through CSOs increased between 2015 and 2016 as a share of bilateral ODA (from 6.4% to 8%).

Figure 36.3. ODA composition in 2010-16 and distribution of multilateral ODA in 2016, Portugal

Figure 36.4. Composition of bilateral ODA, 2016, gross disbursements, Portugal

Figure 36.5. Gross bilateral ODA disbursements to and through CSOs by type of CSO, 2010-16, Portugal
Bilateral ODA was heavily focused on Sub-Saharan Africa. In 2016, USD 112.1 million was allocated to this region and USD 23.5 million was allocated to Far East Asia.

In 2016, 85.8% of bilateral ODA went to Portugal’s top 10 recipients. Portugal’s programme is focused on its six Lusophone priority partner countries, which are its top ODA recipients. Its support to fragile contexts reached USD 83.9 million in 2016 (48% of gross bilateral ODA). Support to fragile contexts was distributed mainly between project-type interventions (60%), debt relief (20%) and contributions to pooled funds (9%).

In 2016, 52.4% of bilateral ODA was allocated to least developed countries (LDCs), amounting to USD 91.3 million. This is an increase from 49.5% in 2015 and is higher than the 2016 DAC average of 21.9%. The LDCs received the highest share of bilateral ODA in 2016. At 0.05% of GNI in 2016, total ODA to the LDCs was below the UN target of 0.15% of GNI.
In 2016, 62% of bilateral ODA was allocated to social infrastructure and services, amounting to USD 98.2 million, with a strong focus on education (USD 47.5 million). Humanitarian aid amounted to USD 8.3 million. Portugal committed USD 4 million (3.1% of bilateral allocable aid) to promote aid for trade and to improve developing countries’ trade performance and integration into the world economy in 2016.

USD 34.8 million of bilateral ODA supported gender equality. In 2016, 26.5% of Portuguese bilateral allocable aid had gender equality and women’s empowerment as a principal or significant objective, compared with the DAC country average of 36.5%. This is an increase from 19.8% in 2015. A high share of Portugal’s aid to population and reproductive health focuses on gender.

USD 9.3 million of bilateral ODA supported the environment. In 2016, 7.1% of Portugal’s bilateral allocable aid supported the environment and 2.2% (USD 2.9 million) focused specifically on climate change, compared with the respective DAC country averages of 33% and 25.7%.

Reference