

FINLAND

1. Measures to accelerate progress towards the MDGs by 2015

To enhance its contribution to the MDG targets, Finland has increasingly emphasised the role of economic growth and private sector development. It underlines partner countries' ownership of, and responsibility for their development, and supports national development strategies, including MDG targets. Despite the economic downturn, Finland has substantially increased its ODA funding and, thus, its capacity to contribute to MDG targets.

2. Changes in development policy, and what drives them

There have been no major changes in Finnish development policy since the Development Policy Programme 2007. Finland emphasises the link between development, climate and the environment, and has issued a policy paper on sustainable agriculture and food security. Finland has also adopted new guidelines for General Budget Support and Sector Budget Support in Finland's Programme-based Development Cooperation, whereby emphasis will be on sector budget support, limiting general budget support to 25% of the bilateral country assistance portfolio. Finland favours programme based approaches in all cooperation, across all aid modalities. In order to support the preparation of the forthcoming new development policy programme and to evaluate the results of MFA's cooperation in general, Finland has carried out a synthesis of evaluations "The Sustainability Dimension in Addressing Poverty Reduction". To better engage all potential stakeholders and resources for global development financing, Finland has prepared a study on broad development finance at domestic level.

3. Measures to increase the predictability of aid

Finland's current budgeting framework allows for predictability in aid planning. Budgetary spending limits for development cooperation are set for four years ahead, and the Ministry can make multi-annual pledges. Finland communicates its spending plans to partners through bilateral consultations and joint coordination processes. Partners receive an estimation of the overall budget for a four-year period. The exact allocations for general and sector budget support are communicated 2 to 3 years in advance; for technical cooperation up to 5 years ahead. Finland favours multi-annual pledges to UN organisations, complementing the multi-annual pledges to multilateral development banks. Finland has prepared a pilot case study examining its aid management practices in light of predictability for the Working Party on Aid -Effectiveness. This pilot exercise has been utilised as an example for other donors to join the exercise. Finland will integrate the key findings and recommendations of the study in the Ministry's staff guidelines.

coopération: harmonisation avec la programmation européenne, et concentration géographique et sectorielle accrue.