

GREECE

1. Measures to accelerate progress towards the MDGs by 2015

The vision and goals of Greek development policy since 2009 reinforce its focus on achieving the MDGs. Its overarching aim is to contribute to sustainable poverty reduction in an effective way, mainly in relation to MDGs in education, health, and environment. To accelerate progress, the Government decided to increase the proportion of aid to be allocated to LDCs. Its environmental activities for the period 2009-2014 will focus on (1) climate change adaptation in East and Central Africa in cooperation with the African Union and the World Meteorological Organization, and on (2) climate change vulnerability risk assessment, adaptation and mitigation in the Caribbean and the Indian Ocean.

2. Changes in development policy, and what drives them

Promoting country ownership is a priority of Greek development policy; Greece aims to set up solely demand-driven programmes. It increasingly joins forces with other donors in Afghanistan, a priority country for Greek Development Co-operation since 2009. It has also prolonged its Hellenic Plan for the Economic Reconstruction of the Balkans until 2011. Moreover, Greece intends to respond promptly to emerging needs of developing countries such as the wheat crisis unfolding after Russia's catastrophic fires in summer 2010.

3. Measures to increase the predictability of aid

In light of its financial and economic difficulties, Greece is currently in the process of revising its development programmes and planning over the medium-term.