

THE NETHERLANDS

1. Measures to accelerate progress towards the MDGs by 2015

Using ODA as a lever for increased sustainable investments in development, the Dutch government in 2007 stepped up its efforts to stimulate and facilitate public-private partnerships by appointing an Ambassador for the MDGs and creating *Millennium Agreements* between public and private partners.

2. Changes in development policy and what drives them

In 2009 the Netherlands moved to strengthen multilateral aid to (i) tackle global problems such as the financial and food crises and climate change; and (ii) play a stronger role in fragile states, gender equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights, growth and equity. In this context, it strives for more effective and efficient multilateral aid that reflects the changing needs of developing countries; improves international cooperation and division of labour; improves links with national policy and systems; and improves the representation of developing nations in international organisations. Dutch NGO policy has also changed, with a new focus on strategic alliances of NGOs around priority development areas and increased complementarity between different aid channels.

3. Measures to increase predictability of aid

The Netherlands has used four-year Multi-Annual Strategic Plans (MASPs) for its partner countries since 2005. This has substantively increased the mid-term predictability of its aid in terms of objectives, results and financing. The Netherlands is currently evaluating the current MASPs, which terminate in 2011, so as to make the next generation of country plans – to be operational by 2012 - even more strategic and improve their predictability.