

PORTUGAL

1. Measures to accelerate progress towards the MDGs by 2015

Portugal focuses on achieving the MDGs in its priority partner countries, most of which are least developed countries and fragile states, through interventions in education, health, rural development and governance sectors. It redefined its indicative co-operation programmes to align better with the MDGs prioritised by partner countries. Portugal is adopting a whole-of-government approach to define and implement interventions in partner countries' priority development areas. This integrated approach is particularly relevant for Portugal since most of its partner countries are in situations of post-conflict and fragility, where MDGs tend to lag behind.

2. Changes in development policy, and what drives them

Portugal has revised co-operation policies and adopted new sectoral strategies with a view to increase the coherence and effectiveness of its development co-operation. It established a *national security and development strategy* to improve coherence of development and security policies. Portugal also approved new strategies on *multilateral co-operation* and *national development education*, both with the objective of improving the conditions for achieving the MDGs in partner countries. *Gender* and *governance* strategies are being revised in line with the same objective. Portugal reformed its *scholarship programme* to provide more scholarships in partner countries than in Portugal. Finally, legislation aimed at ensuring Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) has been adopted

3. Measures to increase the predictability of aid

Portugal reformed its country strategies to increase the medium term predictability of its aid. Its Indicative Co-operation Programmes are aligned with the objectives and time frames (3-4 years) of partner countries' development strategies. Each programme has a financial envelope that is formally agreed between Portugal and the partner country through a Memorandum of Understanding. Therefore, partners know in advance the amount of resources they can expect to receive. For the past years, disbursements have not significantly diverged from programmed amounts.