

Italy

The Italy - UNDP partnership

The relationship between UNDP and Italy is essentially project- based and opportunity driven. A more strategic framework and approach remain to be developed. Over the past few years, the Government of Italy has shown particular interest in decentralised cooperation, supporting UNDP in this area through specific projects under the Anti Poverty Partnership Initiatives Trust Fund (APPI). Italy has also a strong involvement in post-conflict activities, in Afghanistan and Somalia in particular.

Italy's contribution to regular (core) resources was divided by more than 4 between 1992 and 1998, going from the equivalent of €46.5 million to the equivalent of less than €10 million. It then went up regularly from 1998 to 2001, reaching then €18 mn, and went down again in 2002 and 2003. Italy is currently the 12th largest donor to core resources, with an annual contribution of €15 million. Italy is the only donor that systematically provides more other (non core) resources than regular resources to UNDP. It provided close to \$52 million to other resources in 2004.

Italy's development cooperation priorities

Italy's ODA fell by 9.7% in 2004 down to \$2.48 billion, mainly due to reduced debt forgiveness. The current ODA budget represents 0.15% of this country's gross national income (GNI), which is the lowest ODA/GNI ratio of all OECD/DAC members, very far from the 0.7% UN target to be reached by 2015. Under EC commitments, Italy will have to increase its ODA to reach 0.33% of GNI by 2006 and 0.51% of GNI by 2010.

Italy's geographical priorities include the Mediterranean region, the Horn of Africa and Southern Africa. In Asia, China and India are priority countries, followed by Viet Nam and Philippines.

Thematic priorities include poverty reduction, local governance and decentralised cooperation, ICT for development, judicial systems, mine action and post conflict. It should be noted that Italy is very keen to see local authorities, universities and other public and social institutions, including Italian NGOs, involved in the development activities carried out by UNDP.

For guidance and assistance, please write to cosupport@undp.org.

Prepared by the Bureau for Resources and Strategic Partnerships (BRSP) of the UNDP

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