

## KEY QUESTION

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## What are important decision-making opportunities in Italy's annual budget process?

**Overall ODA levels are set in spring; allocations to countries are made following budget approval**

- **MEF develops the three-year-budgetary guidelines:** From February to April each year, the Minister of Economy and Finance (MoF) develops the Economic and Financial Document (DEF), which sets three-year budgetary guidelines. Over the past years, the DEF has also outlined estimates of the share of GNI dedicated to ODA for the next three years. Key decision-makers in this process are the Prime Minister, the MoF, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- **Government develops the budget draft:** From July to September, the Cabinet develops the budget draft, in which suggested ODA increases need to be protected. Key stakeholders include the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Finance, and the Prime Minister. As budget negotiations between the government and parliament

start prior to the presentation of the draft budget in mid-October, engaging MPs over this period of time may prove effective for advocacy purposes.

- **Parliament examines, amends, and votes on budget draft:** Parliamentary budget discussions run from October to December. The Foreign Affairs Committees of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate give recommendations on budget amendments. The Budget Committees make the final decision; members of these committees are thus key stakeholders to engage when it comes to budget allocations.

In addition to the regular budget process, the government usually issues a decree known as the 'one thousand extension decree' ('milleproroghe') at the end of December. It uses this decree to finance additional measures in the next budget year, relating to any budgetary issue. Parliament examines and may amend the decree from January to February. This may provide additional opportunities to influence the ODA budget.

