In Libya, Italy supports the rehabilitation of critical infrastructure destroyed by conflict. Italy’s development programs increasingly focus on tackling the root causes of migration from Africa to Europe.
Italy Donor Profile

ITALY
at a glance

ODA funding trends

- Italy is the eighth-largest donor country, spending US$5.0 billion on official development assistance (ODA) in 2018. This represented 0.24% of its gross national income (GNI), below Italy’s intermediate goal of reaching 0.3% of GNI.

- ODA decreased by 21% between 2017 and 2018, partly driven by decreases in costs of hosting refugees in Italy. This follows a 12% increase between 2016 and 2017.

- In September 2018, the government reaffirmed its commitment to increasing ODA gradually to 0.7% of GNI by 2030, aiming to reach 0.4% by 2021. Despite this commitment, the latest budget sets ODA at US$5.2 billion or 0.26% of GNI in 2021.

Strategic priorities

- Italy’s development assistance focuses on Africa and on mitigating the root causes of migration and displacement. In October 2018, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted an Italy-Africa Conference and announced increased ODA to support youth and promote economic development on the continent.
• Italy shows leadership on agriculture, food security, and nutrition. These were central topics in Italy’s G7 presidency in 2017. Italy also maintains close relationships with the United Nations’ (UN) Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

• In 2021, Italy will host the G20 Summit, where a focus will be energy. In 2017, the energy sector received a large increase in bilateral contributions, from US$11 million in 2016 to US$143 million in 2017.

ITALY’S BILATERAL ODA BY SECTOR, 2017

Total: US$3,208 million

- Refugees in Donor Countries: 96.2% (US$3,109m.)
- Government & Civil Society: 4.8% (US$129m.)
- Debt Relief, Rescheduling, etc.: 6.4% (US$206m.)
- Humanitarian aid: 8.3% (US$206m.)
- Energy: 4.5% (US$143m.)
- Health & Population: 3.9% (US$124m.)
- Agriculture*: 3.2% (US$102m.)
- Other: 0.6% (US$20m.)

OECD CRS. Gross disbursements. *Includes agriculture, forestry, fishing, and rural development. In 2017 prices.

Outlook

• Emanuela Del Re, deputy minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, has stated that Italy’s current focus is to strengthen bilateral development cooperation.

• Both the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and the Italian Bank of Deposits and Loans (Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, CDP) are pillars of this re-orientation: AICS has increased its staff from 200 to 240 to boost capacity for project implementation, and CDP – acting as a development finance institution – is boosting Italy’s investment through loans, equities, and innovative finance.

• Addressing issues that drive migration from Africa to Europe – e.g., food security and nutrition, health, and women’s empowerment – will remain a top focus. A large part of ODA will also likely continue to be spent on hosting refugees in Italy, leading ODA to remain at elevated levels in the coming years.
How much ODA does Italy provide?

The government has committed to gradually increase ODA to 0.4% of GNI by 2021, but the 2019 budget indicates decreases in coming years

In 2018, Italy spent US$5.0 billion on total ODA (current prices), making it the eighth-largest donor country among members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC). This corresponds to 0.24% of Italy’s GNI, making Italy the 18th-largest donor in relative terms.

These numbers are based on the new methodology for measuring ODA loans which the OECD DAC will apply to ODA reporting for 2018 onward. Preliminary ODA figures for 2018 using this new methodology were first released in April 2019. This methodology, called ‘grant-equivalent’ methodology, provides a more accurate way to count donor efforts in concessional ODA loans because only the ‘grant’ portion of loans, expressed as a monetary value, is counted as ODA. The impact of this methodology reform on Italy’s ODA is currently small. According to the previous methodology, known as the ‘cash basis’ methodology, net ODA was 2% below ODA figures using the new methodology.

To allow for comparison over time, the OECD still publishes net ODA disbursements according to the cash basis methodology. Following sharp decreases between 2008 and 2012 due to the economic crisis, Italy’s ODA doubled between 2012 and 2017, reaching a peak of US$5.9 billion (constant prices). Between 2017 and 2018, ODA decreased by 21%. These fluctuations were largely driven by changes in the costs of hosting refugees in Italy, but also stemmed from the establishment of an Italian development agency in 2016.

Due to its geographic position, Italy has been at the frontline of refugees reaching Europe by sea. ODA-reportable costs of hosting refugees in Italy rose significantly in the last years: while in 2012 they were only US$226 million (or 9% of net ODA), in 2017 they reached US$1.8 billion, accounting for 31% of Italy’s net ODA. In 2018, refugee costs decreased for the first time since 2012, to US$1.1 billion. When excluding these costs, net ODA between 2017 and 2018 still decreased by 12% (from US$4.1 billion to US$3.6 billion in 2018). Despite declines in arrivals, the Italian Ministry of Interior has budgeted US$1.9 billion for 2019 for hosting refugees as well as to “assistance to countries in the field of migration and asylum”.

Despite reaffirmation in September 2018 from the current government to gradually increase the ODA/GNI share to 0.4% by 2021, the budget after 2019 further undermines this commitment. The new budget law approved in December 2018 after long discussions with the EU over Italy’s public deficit indicates a gradual decrease of ODA from €5.1 billion (US$5.7 billion, 0.29% of GNI) in 2019 to €4.6 billion (US$5.2 billion or 0.26% of GNI) in 2021, given a projected growth rate of 1%. ODA levels as a share of GNI are expected to drastically decrease over the next years, which has prompted concerns from civil society.
TOP 20 DAC DONOR COUNTRIES, 2018
Total ODA as % of GNI

- Sweden: 1.04
- Luxembourg: 0.83
- Norway: 0.74
- Denmark: 0.72
- United Kingdom: 0.7
- Germany: 0.61
- Netherlands: 0.61
- Switzerland: 0.61
- Belgium: 0.44
- France: 0.43
- Finland: 0.39
- Ireland: 0.31
- Iceland: 0.31
- New Zealand: 0.28
- Canada: 0.28
- Japan: 0.28
- Austria: 0.26
- Italy: 0.24
- Australia: 0.23
- Slovenia: 0.2

An initiative by SEEK Development
What are Italy's priorities for global development?

**Focus is on tackling root causes of migration, particularly in Africa**

Strategic priorities of Italy’s development cooperation are spelled out in the three-year Programming and Policy Document and Directions for Italian Development Cooperation (‘Documento Triennale di Programmazione e di Indirizzo’), developed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI). The 2017-2019 Guidelines cover ten priority sectors, including humanitarian aid, migration, agriculture and food security, environment, energy, health, education, global citizenship education, culture and creative industry, and juvenile justice.

Italy overhauled its development cooperation system in 2014, the first major reform since 1987 (see Question 4: ‘Who are the main actors in Italy’s development cooperation?’). As part of this reform, Italy established its first-ever development agency, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), and created a new mandate for the Italian Bank of Deposits and Loans (Cassa Depositi e Prestiti, CDP) to function as an international financial institution (IFI) for development. AICS started operating in January 2016. In 2017 it operated with a budget of €545 million (US$614 million, just over 10% of Italy’s total net ODA. For 2018 AICS’ planned budget had increased to €624 million (US$689 million).

AICS outlines five thematic areas on which it will focus its bilateral cooperation:

- economic development and opportunities;
- human development (including health and education);
- environment and use of natural resources;
- rural development and food security;
- conflict-affected and fragile states.

Due to Italy’s position on the frontline of the refugee crisis, the government places strong focus on tackling the root causes of migration, particularly in Africa. In 2017 Italy hosted the Summit of the G7 Heads of State and of Government in the city of Taormina, Sicily. The resulting G7 Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué agreed to strengthen dialogue and establish partnerships with African countries to improve socio-economic conditions and to reduce drivers of migration. The Italian government also reinforced its commitment to increase development finance to Africa at the Italy-Africa Conference in October 2018.

Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte has called for greater European cooperation and investment to address the ‘mass migration crisis’ and deaths in the Mediterranean Sea. In this context, he has emphasized Italy’s support for the EU’s Trust Fund for Africa, which was established to address root causes of irregular migration. Nonetheless, Italy has so far not adopted the Global Compact on Migration, an intergovernmentally negotiated agreement that lays out objectives to facilitate legal migration prepared by the UN. Italian officials did not attend the conference in December 2018, instead opting for a discussion in the Italian Parliament first, as migration has become a highly controversial topic.

The country has shown international leadership on agriculture and the related areas of nutrition and food security. During the Italian G7 presidency, leaders highlighted agriculture, food security, and nutrition as crucial issues to address and committed to increase ODA to these sectors, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as to strengthen humanitarian assistance to famine-stricken areas. Multilateral contributions in the area of agriculture and rural development are high, given Italy’s close ties to the UN Rome-based agencies, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Italy is starting to prepare for hosting the G20 Summit in 2021 where the focus is expected to shift to energy.

**KEY QUESTIONS**

The big six

- **Migration**: Tackling root causes of displacement, particularly from Africa, was a key priority of Italy’s G7 presidency in 2017 and remains high on the agenda. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs committed to increase development assistance and increase economic investments in Africa at the Italy-Africa conference in October 2018.

- **Agriculture, food security, and nutrition**: Italy has shown international leadership, e.g., through its G7 presidency in 2017. It maintains close relationships with the Rome-based Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
How is Italy’s ODA spent?

**Italy traditionally disburses much of its ODA multilaterally**

Italy traditionally provides ODA mainly through multilateral channels. The share of ODA disbursed multilaterally is much higher than that of other donors: On average Italy spent 61% of its ODA multilaterally between 2010 and 2017. But since 2015, the share of bilateral contributions has increased due to the costs of hosting refugee, bringing bilateral and multilateral contributions more in line. Still, at 47% in 2017 Italy spent more ODA multilaterally compared to member countries of the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC; 40%).

**Half of bilateral ODA covers costs of hosting refugees; humanitarian assistance is largest sector of spending abroad**

In recent years, Italy’s bilateral funding has increased rapidly, tripling between 2013 and 2016 and reaching a total of US$3.2 billion in 2017. The increase in bilateral ODA is largely driven by two factors: the launch of the Italian development agency (AICS) in 2016 and the costs of hosting refugees in Italy.

Despite the drop in incoming migrants (120,000 in 2017 compared to 181,000 in 2016), costs of hosting refugees made up 56% of Italy’s bilateral ODA in 2017, or US$1.8 billion. Excluding these refugee-related costs, bilateral spending for development programs abroad has still significantly increased: by 66% between 2016 and 2017, from US$845 million in 2016 to US$1.4 billion in 2017.

Other sectors have benefited from this expansion of bilateral cooperation. Humanitarian assistance is the largest sector of spending abroad. In 2017, Italy provided 21% of total bilateral ODA as loans. The share of ODA provided as loans and equity investments is expected to increase, as Italy’s new development bank is increasingly engaging in innovative financing mechanisms. The majority of Italy’s bilateral ODA is disbursed through the public sector (75% in 2017). Only 7% of bilateral ODA was channeled through non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in 2017, a significant decrease as a share of bilateral ODA in recent years but an increase in absolute terms.

**Italy’s ODA recipients are primarily in sub-Saharan Africa and MENA**

Sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region are priority areas of Italy’s bilateral development cooperation. With the exception of Afghanistan and Turkey, all top ten recipients are in these regions (2015-2017 average). These regions will remain in focus in the coming years, particularly as Italy continues its emphasis on tackling root causes of migration from Africa. The three-year Programming and Policy Guidelines for Italian Development Cooperation 2017-2019 also highlight these as geographic priorities.

Italy provides a considerably small proportion of its bilateral ODA to low-income countries (LICs): 11% in 2017, compared to the DAC average of 24%. However, this partly reflects the large portion of Italian ODA that is not allocated by income-level: excluding this, LICs received 41% of bilateral ODA on average between 2015 and 2017.

**Multilateral contributions primarily go to EU institutions**

Core contributions to multilateral organizations made up almost half of Italy’s ODA in 2017 (47%): This represents a 5% increase over 2016, from US$2.7 billion to US$2.9 billion. A large proportion is channeled to EU institutions, which went from US$1.4 billion in 2015 to US$1.8 billion in 2017, amounting to two thirds (61%) of Italy’s total contributions to the multilateral system. This increase was primarily to fund EU policies to respond to unprecedented arrivals of asylum seekers. The 5% increase to overall multilateral funding from 2016 to 2017 can largely be explained by contributions to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the African Development Fund (ADF) and other UN organizations, which increased significantly.
Other major recipients of Italy’s multilateral ODA in 2017 were the regional development banks (US$ 290 million or 10% of multilateral ODA), the World Bank (US$278 million or 10%), and UN agencies (US$271 million or 9%). The multilateral share is particularly high in the area of agriculture and rural development: In 2016 the sector received US$233 million in the form of multilateral funding, or 71% of total agricultural ODA.
THE TOP 10 RECIPIENTS OF ITALY’S ODA
Average 2014-2016, excluding debt relief; US$ millions.

- Afghanistan: 53
- Ethiopia: 29
- Iraq: 14
- Tunisia: 14
- Turkey: 8
- West Bank and Gaza Strip: 7
- Lebanon: 7
- Albania: 6
- Mozambique: 6
- Syrian Arab Republic: 5

Grants
Loans and equity investments

ITALY’S BILATERAL ODA BY INCOME-GROUP, 2015-2017
average 2015-2017: US$2.5 billion

Low-income countries 13.2% (US$330m.)
Lower middle-income countries 6.1% (US$150m.)
Upper middle-income countries 13.2% (US$313m.)
Unallocated by income 67.6% (US$1,900m.)
Who are the main actors in Italy’s development cooperation?

**The MAECI leads on strategy; Italy’s new development agency, AICS, implements bilateral programs; embassies play a key role on the ground**

In August 2019, Italy formed a new government, comprising of the Five Star Movement and the center-left Democratic Party, which forced the far-right League party into opposition. The new coalition was triggered by a no-confidence motion, initiated by the right-wing League to bring down the government that it had formed with the Five Star Movement since June 2018. Matteo Salvini (former minister of the Interior and current federal secretary of the League) hoped to trigger new elections by October, however before then, the Five Star Movement and the center-left Democratic Party had reached a coalition agreement that forced the far-right League party into opposition.

Giuseppe Conte survived the change of government and is now in his second mandate as Prime Minister of Italy. After the government change, Conte announced that there would be a more ‘responsible approach’ to governing. He promised more investment and a better economy. He also proposed to work with Brussels to reform the budget and immigration laws. Furthermore, Mr. Conte stated that Italy would ask Europe to increase investments in Africa and intensify cooperation there, in order to control the flow of unregulated migration. Conte has appointed Pietro Benassi, former Italian ambassador to Germany, as his diplomatic advisor.

In 2014, Italy’s development cooperation system was profoundly restructured. The reform aimed to better align development policy with foreign affairs. Amongst other new initiatives, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and a new development bank were established.

Within government, two main ministries are involved in development cooperation:

- **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation** (MAECI) is responsible for defining the strategic direction of development policy. It is currently headed by Luigi Di Maio (Five Star Movement’s leader). Within the MAECI, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Emanuela del Re (Five Star Movement), manages development policy. Del Re was appointed in August 2018 and again reappointed in September 2019. She supervises the MAECI’s Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGCS), which is in charge of defining the strategic direction of development programs and is headed by Giorgio Marrapodi as the Director-General since January 2018. Del Re also supervises the work of AICS and the development bank.

- **The Ministry of Economy and Finance** (MEF), led by Roberto Gualtieri (Democratic Party-PD), is also a key player: the MEF prepares revenue and financial analysis for the MAECI, oversees and assesses the economic and financial effects of laws and policies. In addition, the MEF jointly with the MAECI controls the ODA budget, as well as relations with and contributions to multilaterals.

- MAECI and MEF are also members of the Interministerial Committee for Development Cooperation (CICS), established in 2014 as part of the reform. The CICS represents the institutional setting for interaction among different ministries involved in development cooperation and aims to ensure coherence of policies and approaches. The CICS usually meets twice a year to approve the three-year Programming Guidelines for Italian Development Cooperation and the overall ODA budget. The CICS is chaired by the prime minister and composed of the minister of foreign affairs, the deputy minister of foreign affairs, and representatives from other ministries, including Finance and Environment. The Joint Development Cooperation Committee (‘Comitato Congiunto’) decides on operational issues, including on funding for projects over €2 million (US$2.3 million). It is chaired by the MAECI and composed of the heads of MAECI’s DGCS and AICS.

**AICS** was set up in January 2016. It is in charge of developing, supervising, and directly implementing programs. The agency may only autonomously approve project funds of up to €2 million (US$2.3 million). AICS’ staff was initially limited to 200, prompting concerns from Italian civil society organizations (CSOs) about the limited capacity that could negatively impact program implementation. In 2018, the ceiling was increased to 240. The Italian diplomat Luca Maestripieri is leading AICS since April 2019.

The ‘Cassa Depositi e Prestiti’ (CDP) operates as The...
Italy Donor Profile

Italy Donor Profile and has a new mandate as an international financial institution (IFI) for development cooperation since 2014. Since 2016 the CDP also manages the Revolving Fund for Development Cooperation (FRCS). In total it manages resources of €5.4 billion (US$6.1 billion) and since 2017 is authorized to use its own resources up to €1 billion (US$1.1 billion) per year. CDP’s focus in development cooperation is the management of the FRCS on behalf of the Italian government; direct lending to sovereign and multilateral entities, working with the private sector and other partners in co-financing with multilateral development banks; and technical financial advisory to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, AICS, and other Italian public institutions.

Embassies play a key role in programming bilateral funds on the ground. Allocations to partner countries are based on multi-year country programs developed by DGCS. To do so, the DGCS consults Local Technical Units and embassies on the field. Priority sectors and allocations are outlined in these documents. Based on the country programs, the DGCS annually reviews and updates its guidelines for development cooperation. These guidelines define annual priority countries and key bilateral programs. At a country level, regional departments at DGCS’ headquarters then develop and approve projects after consultation with embassies. Due to their close relations with partner-country stakeholders, embassies often have an influential role.

Civil society is involved in the policy-making process mainly through the National Council for Development Cooperation (CNCS). It is a consultative body – introduced by the 2014 reform – which brings together 50 members of different backgrounds: private-sector organizations, CSOs, and public authorities. It expresses its views on the three-year programming guidelines and other development issues. The CNCS currently divides its work into three groups (‘Agenda 2030’, ‘private sector’, and ‘migration and development’) that each meet every two months.

The Parliament plays an important role in the budget process. The Italian Parliament has two chambers: the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. They examine, amend, and vote on the draft budget developed by the government. The Foreign Affairs committees of both chambers give recommendations on ODA budget amendments, while the Budget committees of both chambers make the final decision.
ITALY’S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION SYSTEM

Prime Minister

MAECI

decides strategic guidelines

MAECI

develops strategic guidelines

MEF

participates in

CICS

approves strategic guidelines

Policy and strategic priorities

Civil Society

influences

voting budget and is consulted on strategic guidelines

Parliament

lobbies

AICS

manages funds and implements programs

Technical cooperation

CDP

finances development projects

Financial cooperation
How is Italy’s ODA budget structured?

Foreign Ministry manages main ODA budget line; Ministry of Interior covers costs of hosting refugees

The budget law indicates that Italy will spend €5.1 billion (US$5.7 billion) on ODA in 2019. This would be a slight decrease from US$5.9 billion in 2017. In 2017, 31% of ODA went toward the cost of hosting refugees in Italy, funding which is provided by the Ministry of Interior. These costs continuously and significantly increased between 2012 and 2017, going from US$226 million in 2012 to US$1.8 billion in 2017. In 2019, the Ministry of Interior’s budget for hosting refugees and migration-related assistance in third countries is set at US$1.9 billion. Despite declines of incoming migrants, Italy still receives very high numbers of asylum seekers every year, who reach Europe via the Mediterranean Sea. Due to its geographic position, the costs of hosting refugees in Italy are likely to remain at very high levels in the coming years.

The Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) manages the largest part of the ODA budget (40%, US$2.3 billion in 2019). The MEF mainly contributes to Italy’s development funding through contributions to the EU’s general budget, which includes the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI). The estimated share of the European Union budget destined for development assistance is US$1.5 billion in 2019.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) manages the last part of the ODA budget (26%, or US$1.5 billion in 2019). The main ODA-related budget envelope within the MAECI’s budget is the program 4.2 ‘Development Cooperation’ (US$1.3 billion). It comprises ‘chapters’ of funding to Italy’s development agency, AICS, and contributions to the European Development Fund. It also includes several ‘chapters’ of contributions to the UN and other multilaterals.

Overview: 2019 ODA Budgetary sources, in millions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>€</th>
<th>US$</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF)</td>
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<td>3.1 Contributions to the EU general budget</td>
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<td>3.2 International economic and financial policy</td>
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<td>634</td>
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<td>Assessed contributions to multilateral development and funds</td>
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<td>510</td>
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<td>Capital increases to multilateral development banks</td>
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<td>131</td>
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<td>Contribution to the IFI</td>
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<td>Contribution to World Bank offices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>2.7</td>
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<td>8.2 Debt relief</td>
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<td>119</td>
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<td>Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MAECI)</td>
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<td>1,504</td>
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<td>4.2 Development cooperation</td>
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<td>Transfers to AICS</td>
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<td>Multilateral and emergency initiatives</td>
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<td>Staff costs</td>
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<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring and evaluation</td>
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<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.4 Economic cooperation and international relations</td>
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<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
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<td>4.6 Peace and international security</td>
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<td>101</td>
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<td>4.7 European integration</td>
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<td>4.8 Cooperation on migration</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>Ministry of Education and Research</td>
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<td>Ministry of Economic Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport</td>
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<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,077</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,723</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>
What are important milestones in Italy’s annual budget process?

Parliamentary budget discussions run from October to December; Overall ODA levels are set in spring

Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) develops the three-year budgetary guidelines: From February to April each year, the government develops the Economic and Financial Document (DEF), which sets a three-year framework for economic and budgetary planning. Over the past years, the document 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 minister of finance, the minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, and the deputy minister of foreign affairs. The DEF is presented to the parliament by April 10 each year for the approval of both houses.

- Government develops the budget draft: From July to September, the Cabinet develops the budget draft. The draft budget is presented to Parliament in mid-October. 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, engaging MPs and MAECI staff 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 Budget committees of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate set the final budget levels, and the Foreign Affairs committees of both houses give recommendations on amendments to the bill. Members of these committees are thus key stakeholders to engage when it comes to budget allocations. The full parliament votes on the budget by the end of December.

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.
Health is one of Italy’s development priorities; it provides strong support to multilateral health organizations

In 2016 (latest year for which full data is available), Italy contributed US$271 million to health official development assistance (ODA), increasing by 10% compared to 2015 contributions. However, the proportion going to global health went down from 6% to 5% in the same period (DAC average: 8%). This is because although Italy has started to increase its ODA levels, global health has increased at a slower pace than other sectors.

Italy’s ODA to global health remains relatively low: Italy was the 11th-largest donor to global health in 2016 in absolute terms, compared to other members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development’s (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC). In relative terms it was the 19th largest donor.

Health has been a priority for Italy’s development policy in the past and has been reaffirmed as a strategic priority in the ‘Programming Guidelines and Directions for Italian Development Cooperation 2017-2019’. Within health, the guidelines place a focus on health system strengthening (HSS); maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH); non-communicable chronic diseases; communicable diseases; and mental health.

As with the rest of its ODA, Italy delivers most of its health ODA multilaterally: 75% in 2016, or US$204 million (+22% compared to 2015 levels). The largest share of multilateral funding was core contributions to the EU (37% of total health ODA in 2016, which was a 29% increase compared to 2015).

Italy strongly supports health multilaterals. On August 25, 2019, during the G7 Head of State summit in Biarritz, Italy announced an early pledge of €160 million (US$177 million) to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, for the replenishment period of 2020-2022. This represents an increase of 15% from the previous contribution. Italy has been a strong supporter of the Global Fund from its onset, playing a major role in its creation at the G8 Summit in Geneva in 2001, and hosting the first meeting of donors to replenish the Global Fund’s resources in Rome in 2005. During the last Global Fund replenishment in 2016, Italy increased its contribution by 40%, from €100 million (US$ 110 million) to €140 million (US$155 million). In 2017, Italy introduced the ‘5% initiative’, which means that Italy will keep 5% of its 2017 to 2019 contribution to the Global Fund (€7 million, US$8 million for the direct financing of synergistic initiatives implemented by Italian research institutes. The activities will be identified and agreed on together with the Global Fund.

Italy is also a major funder of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi). It supports Gavi mostly through innovative finance mechanisms. With nearly 50% of total contributions, Italy is the largest donor (US$264 between 2016 and 2020) to Gavi’s Advance Market Commitment (AMC), a mechanism that provides market incentives for vaccine makers to develop and produce sustainable and affordable products for neglected diseases. Italy is also a significant contributor to the International Financing Facility for Immunization (IFFIm), a financing entity that makes immediate funding available to Gavi. According to Gavi, Italy will contribute US$101 million (8% of total funding) to IFFIm between 2016 and 2020. In addition, in 2015, Italy committed €100 million (US$117 million) in direct funding to Gavi for 2016 to 2020, its first-ever direct contribution. Taking together all funding mechanisms (AMC, IFFIm, and direct funding), Italy has given a total of US$482 million for Gavi’s 2016 to 2020 funding period.

Italy’s bilateral ODA to health amounted to US$124 million in 2017 (latest year for which bilateral data is available), corresponding to 4% of Italy’s total bilateral ODA. This represents a substantial increase compared to US$68 million in 2016. Within health, funding focused on infectious disease control (36% of bilateral ODA in 2017), basic healthcare (14%), and medical services (13%). This is partly in line with the priorities spelled out in the Guidelines for Development Cooperation 2016-2018, which included a focus on universal health care (UHC).
and HSS. Contributions to global health research and development (R&D) have been low compared to other donors (for more details, see section ‘Deep Dive: Global Health R&D’).

Italy’s recent initiatives in the global health sector include instituting a global day against infantile diarrhea. During her visit in Geneva in March 2019 to celebrate World Water Day, Italy’s Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Emanuela Del Re raised awareness for the issue. Diarrhea is the second main cause of death among children under five. This initiative will most likely be discussed at the World Health Organisation Assembly (WHA) in 2020.

**DGCS defines priorities within global health**

Within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation (MAECI), the Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGCS) defines Italy’s priorities around global health. Relevant departments include the Deputy Minister’s cabinet, geographic departments, and the unit on multilateral development cooperation, which is in charge of relations with multilateral organizations working on global health, such as the Global Fund. Within the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), the office in charge of programs in the health sector is the ‘Human Development’ office. It is currently headed by Leone Gianturco.
RECIPIENTS OF ITALY'S HEALTH ODA, 2016

Total: US$271 million

- Bilateral: 24.9% (US$67.6m.)
- EU Institutions: 27.1% (US$75m.)
- Global Fund: 16.7% (US$45.2m.)
- IFFIm: 11.2% (US$30.3m.)
- Other: 19.5% (US$53m.)

OECD CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the health sector: DAC secretariat estimates. In 2017 prices.

ITALY'S KEY GLOBAL HEALTH COMMITMENTS

US$ millions


Data from government and listed organizations
TOP 15 DAC DONORS TO HEALTH, 2016
Total health ODA; US$ millions; in 2017 prices;
incl. bilateral and multilateral funding

- United States: 10,048
- United Kingdom: 2,359
- Germany: 1,184
- France: 971
- Japan: 871
- Canada: 799
- Netherlands: 599
- Norway: 568
- Sweden: 330
- Australia: 372
- Italy: 271
- Korea: 255
- Belgium: 304
- Switzerland: 197
- Denmark: 161

OECD CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the health sector (DAC Secretariat estimates)

TOP 20 DAC DONORS TO HEALTH, 2016
Health ODA as % of total ODA

- United States: 28.1
- Canada: 19.2
- Luxembourg: 15.6
- United Kingdom: 13.3
- Ireland: 13.2
- Netherlands: 11.1
- Australia: 10.6
- Korea: 10.4
- Sweden: 10.3
- Belgium: 8.3
- France: 8.0
- Denmark: 6.2
- Portugal: 5.6
- Finland: 5.6
- New Zealand: 5.4
- Switzerland: 5.4
- Japan: 5.4
- Italy: 5.1
- Germany: 4.3

OECD CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the health sector (DAC Secretariat estimates)
Italy’s global health R&D

Funding to global health R&D is low but Italy has been vocal about improving market transparency for drugs

Italy’s support to research and development (R&D) for poverty-related and neglected diseases (PRNDs), referred to as ‘global health R&D’ in this profile, has been very low so far and Italy is not a top donor. According to G-FINDER data, based on a survey covering a select group of products in need of R&D, Italy has not reported significant financial contributions to global health R&D since 2012. These figures may differ from the trend numbers presented in the chart due to changes in the scope of the G-FINDER survey from year to year.

In 2017, Italy contributed only US$1.5 million to global health R&D, of which 93% went to vaccines research and 7% to basic research at the Italian National Institute of Health, Istituto Superiore di Sanita (ISS). All of the funding was for R&D for HIV/AIDS.

Italy is part of the ‘European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership’ (EDCTP 2). Global health R&D is not featured in the three-year Programming Guidelines and Directions for Italian Development Cooperation 2017-2019 which explains the low funding levels.

Recently, Italy put forward a resolution on improving market transparency for drugs, vaccines, and other health-related technologies which was accepted by Member States during the 72nd session of the World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 2019. The resolution “urges member states in accordance with their national and regional legal frameworks and contexts” to make information on net prices public, and to support dissemination, availability, and overall transparency of procurement price data. However, the final resolution does not empower WHO to collect and analyze concrete data on drug manufacturer’s production costs, which had been the central aim of earlier drafts of the resolution.

Further information: G-FINDER

G-FINDER is a data source developed by Policy Cures Research that provides information on global investments into R&D for neglected diseases. Figures in this section are based on the G-FINDER survey, which covers basic research and product-related R&D (drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics) for a select group of diseases. The G-FINDER scope has been defined by an expert committee, in line with three criteria: the disease disproportionately affects people in developing countries, there is a need for new products, and the commercial incentives are insufficient to attract R&D from private industry.

For more information: www.policycuresresearch.org

Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the main funder for global health R&D

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has policy leadership around global health R&D and is responsible for the majority of funding to the issue.

In April 2016, the government set up a new Center for Global Health as part of the Italian National Institute for Health (ISS), which focuses on R&D for neglected diseases, including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, Ebola, and Zika. The center is now operational and executes research projects, including grants connected to the ‘5% initiative’. Currently, the ISS is recruiting a new Director.
ITALY’S R&D FUNDING FOR NEGLECTED DISEASES

US$ millions; in 2017 prices

Policy Cures Research, G-FINDER Public Search tool
Italy’s education ODA

Italy’s funding for global education is increasing

Italy spent US$234 million on global education in 2016 (the latest for which complete data is available), according to data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), making it the 10th largest donor country to education. Education accounted for 4% of Italy’s total official development assistance (ODA) in 2016, well below the average of 8% spent by members of the OECD’s Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

Although Italy spends a low share of its development funding on the sector, Education is articulated as a priority in Italy’s overall strategic document for development policy. The triannual Programming Guidelines for Italian Development Cooperation 2017-2019 list education as a key priority. The primary focus is on early schooling and childhood development, as well as technical vocational education and training (TVET). A central objective of education is the support of democratization and peace-building processes. Additionally, education was a focus of Italy’s G7 presidency in 2017; it was highlighted as a key area for promoting social sustainability and reducing inequalities. The G7 Accountability Working Group had education as the theme of its progress report in October 2017. It was titled, ‘The G7 Taormina Progress Report: Investing in Education for Mutual Prosperity, Peace and Development’.

Between 2012 and 2016, Italy’s ODA to education increased significantly. Spending grew by 64% over the period, from US$146 million in 2012 to US$238 million in 2016.

Italy’s multilateral education ODA is mainly channeled through EU institutions

Italy provides over half of its ODA to education through multilateral organizations (57%, US$134 million in 2016). Most of this funding is made up of core contributions to the EU (US$99 million) and of core contributions to the World Bank’s International Development Association (US$21 million).

In addition, Italy supports the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), providing US$52 million to GPE since it became a donor in 2005 (as of April 2019). This makes it the 16th-largest donor to GPE. In February 2018, Italy pledged €12 million (US$16 million) for the 2018 to 2020 pledging period. The Programming Guidelines specifically mention Italy’s support for GPE, identifying it as the principle financing mechanism for activities to attain the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4).

Italy’s bilateral support for education has a regional focus on Africa

Italy’s bilateral support for education was US$100 million in 2017, remaining stable since 2015. Looking forward, ODA to education is expected to continue to grow in line with an increasing ODA budget. Italy spend bilateral education ODA in 2017 mostly in the area of general education (41%), followed by basic education (25%) and post-secondary education (24%). The largest share of bilateral education ODA (34%) in 2017 was allocated to ‘education facilities and training’ in partner countries. A significant share of contributions also went to funding for advanced technical and managerial training (18%). US$13 million (13% of bilateral ODA) was spent in 2017 on ‘basic life skills for youth and adults’. Primary education (12%) and vocation training (8%) receive smaller shares of funding.

Italy’s bilateral support for education has a regional focus on Africa. Sub-Saharan Africa received 39% of all funding between 2014 and 2016 (US$34 million per year on average), making it by far the largest recipient region. Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Asia follow, each receiving 13% of bilateral funding for education. The largest contribution of bilateral education ODA in 2017 went to Ethiopia for general primary education strengthening (US$ 3 million).

DGCS defines education priorities; AICS leads implementation

The Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGCS) within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Inter-
national Cooperation (MAECI) is in charge of defining the strategic direction of Italy’s education policy. The DGCS’s office for programming of development cooperation, its geographic offices, and the unit for multilateral cooperation are relevant actors for defining Italy’s bilateral and multilateral education policy. The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), is in charge of program implementation. AICS’s office for ‘Human Development’ is responsible for education projects.
ITALY’S ODA TO EDUCATION
US$ millions

ITALY’S BILATERAL ODA TO EDUCATION ACROSS SUB-SECTORS, 2017
Total: US$100 million

- General education: 41.4% (US$41.4m.)
- Post-secondary education: 23.6% (US$23.6m.)
- Vocational training: 8.1% (US$8.1m.)
- Secondary education: 1.4% (US$1.4m.)
- Basic education: 25.5% (US$25.5m.)

OECD CRS. In 2017 prices.
TOP 10 DAC DONORS TO EDUCATION, 2016
Total education ODA; US$ millions; in 2017 prices; incl. bilateral and multilateral funding

- Germany: 2,934
- United States: 1,600
- United Kingdom: 1,671
- France: 1,357
- Japan: 737
- Norway: 426
- Korea: 278
- Canada: 274
- Australia: 273
- Italy: 234

OECD CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the education sector (DAC Secretariat estimates)

TOP 25 DAC DONORS TO EDUCATION, 2016
Education ODA as % of total ODA

- New Zealand: 15.7%
- Portugal: 14.8%
- Luxembourg: 14.3%
- Hungary: 12.9%
- Slovenia: 12%
- Korea: 11.4%
- France: 11.2%
- Austria: 11%
- Poland: 9.3%
- Norway: 9.3%
- United Kingdom: 8.9%
- Slovak Republic: 8.4%
- Germany: 8.3%
- Australia: 7.8%
- Ireland: 7%
- Czech Republic: 6.6%
- Canada: 6.6%
- Finland: 6.4%
- Belgium: 5.4%
- United States: 4.7%
- Japan: 4.5%
- Switzerland: 4.5%
- Italy: 4.4%
- Netherlands: 4.1%
- Sweden: 3.8%

OECD CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the education sector (DAC Secretariat estimates).
Agriculture is a key sector of Italy’s multilateral engagement

Italy spent US$299 million on official development assistance (ODA) to agriculture and rural development in 2016 (the latest year for which complete data is available). This corresponds to 6% of its total ODA, which is slightly below the 7% average spent by other members of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC). Italy channels large shares of its ODA to agriculture and rural development through multilateral organizations (US$213 million, or 71% of total ODA in 2016). Contributions through the EU represented 50% of Italy’s total ODA to agriculture and rural development in 2016, making it the largest recipient of Italy’s agriculture multilateral ODA. Italy also maintains close relationships with the Rome-based United Nations (UN) organizations working on agriculture and related issues. Italy is traditionally a large funder to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), and the World Food Programme (WFP). The second-biggest amount (US$27 million, 9%) of multilateral contributions of the sector in 2016 went through the World Bank’s International Development Association (IDA). FAO was the third-largest recipient of Italy’s multilateral ODA to agriculture and rural development in 2016 (4%), while IFAD received 2%. WFP did not receive any funding in 2016. In July 2018, FAO signed a partnership agreement with the Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA) to further activities around agriculture innovation for family farmers, particularly small land-owners.

‘Agriculture and food security’, is one of the priority sectors outlined in the Programming Guidelines and Directions for Italian Development Cooperation 2017-2019. The main initiative mentioned within the sector is the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development, which brings together 38 donors, multilateral organizations, and financial institutions to exchange knowledge and programs aimed at promoting rural development, nutrition, and agricultural productivity. The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) is a member of the platform’s board and has confirmed a financial contribution, but has not specified the amount or timing. Italy also supports research and development on agriculture through participation in the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) partnership. Italy contributed US$5 million to CGIAR in 2016.

Italy’s bilateral ODA to agriculture and rural development stood at US$102 million in 2017 (the latest year for which bilateral data is available), up from US$86 million in 2016, taking Italy back to nearly the level of funding that it contributed in 2015. Bilateral cooperation for agriculture and rural development stood at around 3% of Italy’s total 2017 bilateral ODA. This is very low compared to other donors of the OECD’s DAC, who spend, on average, 7% of their bilateral ODA on agriculture. This low share is, however, explained by high costs of hosting refugees in 2017, which distort the overall picture of funding. When excluding these costs, agriculture projects accounted for 7% of Italy’s bilateral funding. Italy’s bilateral support focused on agricultural development (38% in 2017), rural development (16%), followed by agricultural education and training (14%).

The largest single amount of bilateral agriculture ODA disbursed by Italy went to the region of Sub Saharan Africa (US$11.4 millions) channeled through the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) for education activities around biosafety.

**DGCS defines strategic priorities on agriculture**

Priorities within agriculture are set by the Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGCS) (see Question Four: ‘Who are the main actors in Italy’s development cooperation?’). DGCS’s geographic departments, as well as the office for ‘Multilateral Cooperation’, are relevant actors for defining Italy’s agriculture policy. Within Italy’s development agency, AICS, the ‘Rural Development and Food’ office is in charge of setting priorities around agriculture.

Rome hosts the main UN agencies tasked with addressing food security, agriculture, and sustainable development issues. FAO, WFP, and IFAD are together referred as the ‘Rome Agri-food hub’. The government has a close relationship with these organizations.
relationship with these agencies and Italy’s development cooperation in the sector of agriculture is therefore heavily influenced by the policies of the Rome-Agri-food Hub.

ITALY’S ODA TO AGRICULTURE

US$ millions

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Multilateral agriculture ODA</th>
<th>Bilateral agriculture ODA</th>
<th>Agriculture ODA as % of total ODA</th>
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<td>8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OECD CRS, and imputed multilateral contributions to the agriculture and rural development sector. DAC secretariat estimates. In 2017 prices.

RECIPIENTS OF ITALY’S AGRICULTURE ODA, 2016

Total: US$299 million

- Bilateral: 26.6% (US$300m.)
- Other: 11.7% (US$33m.)
- IDA: 9.0% (US$27m.)
- EU Institutions: 0.0% (US$15m.)

OECD CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the agriculture sector. DAC secretariat estimates. In 2017 prices.
TOP 10 DAC DONORS TO AGRICULTURE, 2016
Total agriculture ODA; US$ millions; in 2017 prices; incl. bilateral and multilateral funding

United States: 1,904
Germany: 1,230
Japan: 1,071
United Kingdom: 952
France: 713
Netherlands: 447
Italy: 209
Canada: 292
Switzerland: 246
Sweden: 200

OEC CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the agriculture sector (DAC Secretariat estimates)

TOP 20 DAC DONORS TO AGRICULTURE, 2016
Agriculture ODA as % of total ODA

Poland: 13.5
New Zealand: 9.9
Finland: 9.1
Ireland: 8.7
Netherlands: 8.5
Luxembourg: 7.7
Belgium: 7.7
Iceland: 7.4
Korea: 7.2
Canada: 7.1
Czech Republic: 6.6
Switzerland: 6.7
Japan: 6.6
Slovak Republic: 6.3
Denmark: 6.1
France: 5.9
Slovenia: 5.7
Italy: 5.7
Austria: 5.4
United Kingdom: 5.4

OEC CRS and imputed multilateral contributions to the agriculture sector (DAC Secretariat estimates)
Italy has shown international political leadership on nutrition issues, though funding is low

Nutrition is a component of Italy’s larger focus on agriculture and food security. The Italian Development Cooperation (AICS) aims to adopt a deeply integrated approach to these fields relevant to development.

Italy has demonstrated international leadership in the nutrition sector and has pushed the issue forward at international events. Food security and nutrition were key areas of Italy’s G7 presidency in 2017. The Taormina Leaders’ Communiqué reaffirmed the Elmau commitment to lift 500 million people out of hunger by 2030. It committed support to the United Nations (UN) Secretary General’s call for urgent action in several famine-stricken African countries and committed to raising collective support – including official development assistance (ODA) – for nutrition in sub-Saharan Africa. Despite this, Italy did not make a concrete financial commitment during its G7 presidency.

In the past Italy has shown political engagement around nutrition: In 2012, Italy took part in the G8’s establishment of the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition. In November 2017, the Italian Ministry of Health, together with the City of Milan, hosted the Global Nutrition Summit in Milan. The Global Nutrition Summit is a high-level meeting on nutrition and food, during which the 2017 Global Nutrition Report was launched, and stakeholders took stock of commitments and progress made to date.

In the framework of its bilateral cooperation, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) focuses its nutrition interventions on improving methods of food production, with particular attention given to new technologies. The Italian budget law in December 2017 established a yearly contribution of €500,000 (US$563,000) between 2018 and 2020 to the Milan Center for Food Law and Policy, which focuses on public nutrition policies and which aims to further the nutrition-related objectives of the Agenda 2030.

Moreover, in 2017, Italy established a multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral national working group ‘ITALY-DEC-ADE’ to implement the ‘Decade of Action on Nutrition’, which aims to identify actions and strategies to undertake, under the framework of the United Nations’ decade of action, jointly launched by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The Italian Ministry of Health seeks to improve dialogue with international institutions – in particular with the FAO and WHO – to better coordinate cross-cutting actions addressing the triple burden of malnutrition i.e. undernourishment, micronutrient deficiency, and obesity.

Precisely quantifying Italy’s engagement in the nutrition sector is difficult, particularly as Italy did not make a commitment at the 2013 launch of the Nutrition for Growth Summit. Italy also doesn’t participate in the reporting framework set by the ‘Scaling Up Nutrition’ (SUN) initiative to track nutrition-sensitive interventions, nor does it report to the Global Nutrition Report. Although it doesn’t contribute financially, Italy hosted a high-level political meeting of the SUN initiative in Sudan in 2018 and the AICS has on-going initiatives to support the Sudanese population in the poverty alleviation and nutrition sector. According to data from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Italy’s funding for basic nutrition (nutrition-specific activities) stood at US$6 million in 2017, up from US$2 million in 2015.

Nutrition policy is shaped by the DGCS and by AICS offices

Priorities are set by the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGCS), within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development (MAECI). Relevant departments include geographic departments and the unit for multilateral cooperation. The Italian ambassador to the UN institutions in Rome (FAO; International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD; and World Food Programme, WFP) also plays a key role in defining priorities on nutrition. Within AICS, the ‘Rural Develop-
The government has strong ties with the Rome based UN agencies of the ‘Rome Agriculture Food Hub’: WFP, IFAD, and FAO.
About the Donor Tracker

The Donor Tracker seeks to advance and support progress in global development by providing advocates with easy access to high-quality quantitative and qualitative strategic information to support their work. The Donor Tracker is a free, independent website for development professionals that provides relevant information and analysis on 14 major OECD donors.

For more in-depth information on the six donor countries covered in this analysis and to find out more about strategic priorities, funding trends, decision-making, and key opportunities, please visit: donortracker.org and follow us on twitter @DonorTracker

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