

## KEY QUESTIONS

### the big six

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## Who are the main actors in Spain's development cooperation?

### MAEUC steers strategy, AECID leads implementation

Prime Minister (PM) Pedro Sánchez of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) has led a minority government since a no-confidence motion ousted former PM Mariano Rajoy and his conservative People's Party (PP) in June 2018. His office (La Moncloa) provides leadership at high-level forums like the UN General Assembly or the group of 20 (G20), in addition to steering and coordinating Spain's efforts to achieve the SDGs through the High Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda. Under the PM's leadership, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union, and Cooperation (MAEUEC) sets the strategic orientation of Spanish development policy.

Following a parliamentary rejection of the government's 2019 budget proposal in February 2019, Sánchez called for a snap election to take place on April 28, 2019. The upcoming election will mark the third time the country elects a new parliament since December 2015.

MAEUEC is headed by Josep Borrell, a former president of the European Parliament and member of the PSOE. Within MAEUEC, the secretary of state for international cooperation and for Ibero-America, Juan Pablo de Laiglesia, oversees global development. In this role, Laiglesia also supervises the work of the General Directorate for Sustainable Development Policies (DGPOLDES), an administrative body that steers development policy and defines ODA priorities of MAEUEC and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID; see below). MAEUEC also drafts the development budget.

The Ministry of Finance and Public Function (Ministry of Finance) finalizes the budget and channels ODA to EU institutions. The Ministry of Economy and Business (MINECO) is engaged in debt-relief operations, in the management of Spain's Development Promotion Fund (FONPRODE) jointly with MAEUEC, and in disbursements to regional development banks and finance institutions.

AECID is currently directed by Aina Calvo and is responsible for implementing bilateral programs, humanitarian assistance, and funding to CSOs. It also advises the MAEUEC on allocation questions. AECID's financial volume of activities was drastically decreased due to overall budget cuts and remains low relative to historical levels. Its budget decreased from €870 million (US\$981 million) in 2011 to €238 million (US\$268 million) in 2018.

Spain programs its bilateral funding based on the strategic, regional, and thematic priorities established in the four-year Master Plan. Low-income countries receive funding according to their development needs, cooperation with middle-income countries focuses on fostering triangular partnerships, global health research and development, and global public goods. The governing council of AECID, which includes representatives from MAEUEC, decides on allocations by region and country.

To increase ODA predictability, Spain uses multi-annual country partnership frameworks (MAPs) for its priority countries. MAPs specify sector priorities and provide estimated annual budget allocations. They are developed jointly by the AECID, the partner countries, and local civil society organizations. In addition to MAPs, Spain plans to develop New Generation Partnerships (ANG) with some of its traditional ODA recipients that have progressed to developed or upper-middle-income status, including Argentina, Brazil, Cape Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Jordan, Mexico, Panama, Uruguay, and Tunisia.

The Development Promotion Fund (FONPRODE) is the main financial instrument for voluntary multilateral funding, loans, and equity investments. While the AECID manages day-to-day FONPRODE operations, the MAEUEC (together with the MINECO and other ministries) defines its funding priorities. FONPRODE was created in 2010, initially to separate ODA from Spanish commercial interests and ensure that no loans were allocated to heavily-indebted countries. A lack of administrative capacity has prevented FONPRODE from disbursing its entire budget approved by the Parliament.

**Parliament:** The Spanish Parliament is composed of two chambers (Congress of Deputies and Senate); each of them has a development committee. Members of Parliament (MPs) debate and vote on commitments related to development and can request information on all development matters, as well as require officials working in global development to give testimony in hearings call hearings. Spain has had minority governments since its June 2016 elections, which have resulted in a greater influence of the Parliament over development policy and the ODA budget.

**Civil Society:** Spanish civil society, which includes secular and Catholic non-governmental organizations (NGOs)

and think tanks, serves a key role in development cooperation. Although NGOs have lost influence in recent years, the level of NGOs' inclusion in policy dialogue remains high, both through bilateral platforms and the MAEUEC's Council for Development Cooperation. Spain's main civil society umbrella organization for development cooperation, Coordinadora de ONGD España (CONGDE), coordinates NGO activities and regularly interacts with government actors. It has 76 member organizations and 17 regional NGO platforms, counting 400 organizations in total.

Spain is a highly decentralized country: sub-national state actors (autonomous regions, local administrations, and universities) also provide ODA. According to government estimates, decentralized cooperation amounted to €287 million (US\$324 million) in 2018 or an 11% of the overall Spain ODA projected for that year.

SPAIN'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION SYSTEM

