

KEY QUESTIONS

the big six

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What are Spain's priorities for global development

Spain focuses on the SDGs, development effectiveness, and new cooperation models

The Spanish government outlines its strategic orientations for development in the 'Master Plan for Spanish Cooperation 2018-2021' (Master Plan), which underlines Spain's commitment to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and increase ODA to 0.7% of GNI. It outlines four cross-cutting development principles: human rights, gender equality, cultural diversity, and environment. Seven strategic goals are highlighted, in line with the SDGs: 1) zero hunger; 2) good health and well-being; 3) quality education; 4) gender equality; 5) clean water and sanitation; 6) decent work and economic growth; and 7) peace, justice and strong institutions. According to the Master Plan, these sectors are to account for 87% of Spain's bilateral funding.

Further underscoring the centrality of the 2030 Agenda in Spain's priorities was the creation in 2018 of the new High Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda, based in the Prime Minister's office (La Moncloa). The Spanish government has also launched an 'Action Plan for 2030 Agenda Implementation', which places development cooperation, including ODA, as a cornerstone to accelerating and achieving the SDGs.

Within its development policy, Spain adopts a differentiated strategy depending on the status of its partner countries. When cooperating with middle-income countries (MICs) – Spain's traditional top recipients are countries in Latin America, such as Peru and Colombia, that are transitioning to upper-middle income status – the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MAEUEC) seeks to progressively substitute traditional ODA with new models of development cooperation. This includes triangular programs (carried out jointly by an industrialized country, an emerging economy, and a recipient country), blended finance (financial instruments involving a mix

Spain's key development priorities:

- **Strong focus on MICs:** Spain seeks to develop new models of cooperation with its middle-income partner countries. It focuses on triangular cooperation and knowledge transfers.
- **Gender, governance, and climate change:** These sectors are prioritized as cross-cutting areas of intervention.
- **2030 Agenda implementation:** The seven SDGs prioritized by Spain are to account for 87% of bilateral funding.
- **Zero Hunger:** Zero hunger is the first sector mentioned in the Master Plan, with a focus on food security.

of public funding and private investments for development), knowledge-transfer programs, and an increasing use of equity investments. Democratic governance, infrastructure, and climate change are among Spain's preferred interventions in MICs. For example, Spain contributed to the creation of a water sanitation program in Bolivia, a project that was jointly carried out with Brazil. The current MAEUEC leadership is aiming for Spain to lead global efforts – specifically for MICs – to influence the global debate around managing the middle-income transition and to attract emerging markets in Latin America to the global development community.

In addition, the new Master Plan expects a growing ODA focus on sub-Saharan Africa. In these countries Spain prioritizes traditional ODA disbursements (mostly grants) to support the provision of basic social services and strengthening institutions.