



PORTUGAL

"The European Union has undertaken to provide ODA worth 0.7% of GNI by 2015, with an interim joint target of 0.56% by 2010. The latter includes individual targets of 0.51% for the longest-standing member states, including Portugal... In 2002 Portugal also undertook to comply with the figure of 0.33% of GNI for ODA by 2008." Strategic Vision of Portuguese Development Cooperation, 2008.

Did Portugal hit its target of 0.33% in 2006 without inflating its aid? NO
Will Portugal meet its target of 0.51% of GNI in 2010 without inflating its aid: NGO prediction: UNLIKELY

The Portuguese government signed up to the agreement to give 0.33% of its GNI in aid by 2006, 0.51% by 2010 and 0.7% by 2015. In 2006 Portugal only provided 0.21% of GNI, (€312 million) performing worst of the EU 15 countries after Italy. There is also a lack of plans to meet the target of 0.51% in 2010.

Bilateral aid targets 10 countries, which are mainly Portuguese speaking countries and fragile states. This can be positive for enabling an alignment of Portuguese cooperation with development priorities of partner countries; however, it also represents an increasing alignment of development cooperation to foreign policy and commercial interests. Basic social infrastructure and services is not a strategic choice of Portuguese cooperation. Basic social services represented only 3.6% of bilateral spending in 2005, far behind the Copenhagen 20% target. Another element distorting the poverty focus of aid is the share of total ODA spent as technical assistance (TA). This accounted for more than 50% of bilateral ODA in 2005, mainly related to imputed student costs (28% of technical assistance disbursements).

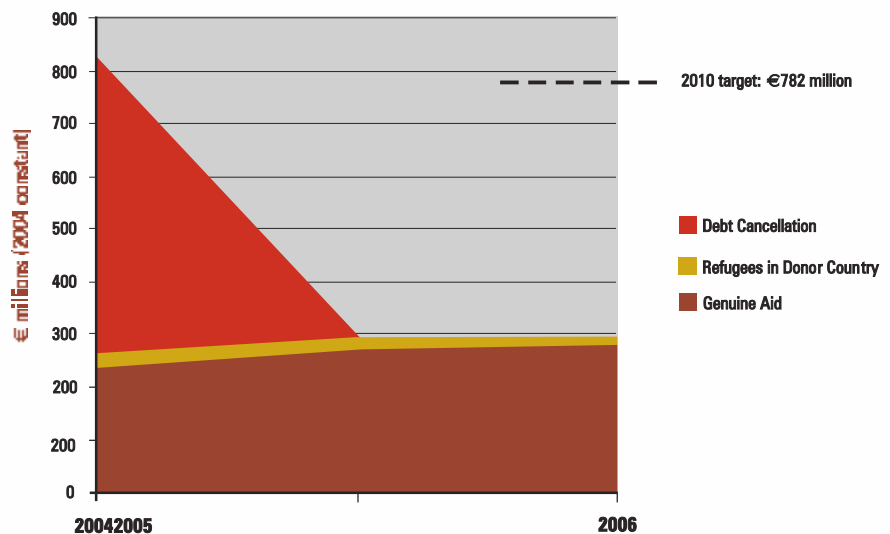
The Portuguese development agency (IPAD) has set up a planning system that centralises and processes financial information provided by all public entities and private bodies to make ODA more predictable and improve transparency. However, the system does

not facilitate long-term commitments and concentrates on inputs only. The impact of Portuguese ODA on poverty reduction and the creation of mechanisms linking aid to the achievement of the MDGs, in coherence with the new development cooperation strategy, has not yet been addressed.

Portuguese NGOs call on the Portuguese government to:

- ◆ demonstrate the impact of Portuguese aid on addressing poverty;
- ◆ establish, under the current governmental mandate, a road-map to reaching Portugal's aid commitments;
- ◆ ensure coherence between policies and practice, particularly regarding a focus on poverty eradication and basic social services;
- ◆ make development aid more predictable on a multi-annual basis
- ◆ set up a single entity for development cooperation and improve reporting transparency;
- ◆ strengthen decentralised cooperation to ensure that the 0.7% of municipality budgets is channelled for development cooperation;
- ◆ improve relationships with NGOs as real partners for development, and increase their role in defining policy and programming;
- ◆ increase ODA channelled through NGOs, to reach the European average of 9%.

Portugal's genuine and inflated aid



Note: all figures including 2010 target figure in 2004 prices for comparability (see endnote 1)

Organisations consulted: Associação Adventista para o Desenvolvimento, Recursos e Assistência (ADRA), Associação para a Cooperação, Intercâmbio e Cultura (CIC), Institutos de Estudos para o Desenvolvimento (IED), Instituto Marquês de Vila Flor (IMFV), Cooperação e Desenvolvimento (OIKOS), Sol sem Fronteiras (SOLSEF), Plataforma Portuguesa das ONGD.