



# Italy

## → OBJECTIVES AND OVERVIEW OF OPERATIONS IN MYANMAR

Italy's Development Co-operation in Myanmar is now experiencing a new phase, thanks to the democratic transition started with the new civil Government in March 2011 and strengthened by the positive process of the by-elections in April 2012. The new political situation allowed to move from a cooperation based on emergency activities to another aimed at promoting the development of the country.

One of the most important outcomes of the democratization process has been the setting up of a direct co-operation channel with the Myanmar Government. Therefore, Italy was able to finalize, on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013, two important agreements, concerning the cancellation of the 50% of the Myanmar Debt and the Swap of the remaining 50%, which will be invested in development projects, selected through a joint decision mechanism.

In this phase the main objective of the Italian Aid in Myanmar is the following:

- Supporting and contributing to the elaboration and implementation of a National Development Plan, focussed on the fight against poverty, the revitalization of the economy and therefore the improvement in the short-mid term of the living conditions of the Myanmar people.

To achieve this objective, in the biennium 2011-2012 Italy continued to focus on traditional areas, such as:

- Food, Agriculture and Rural Development ( through FAO and Italian NGOs)
- Health (mainly Italian NGOs);

To such objectives, new intervention areas were added, such as:

- Capacity building in favour of Myanmar Ministries and/or public institutions (bilateral technical assistance)
- Cultural Heritage ( through UNESCO)
- Promotion of SME and labour rights (UNIDO and ILO)
- Environment (INGOs)
- Land Mine Action (INGOs)

## → FOCUS AREAS (% OF 2011/2012 DISBURSEMENTS AND 2013/2014 COMMITMENTS PER SECTOR \*)

	2011/2012	2013/2014
Food and Agriculture and Rural Development	44,4	84,3
Health	12,2	2,1
Cultural Heritage	12,9	4,2
SME and labour rights	17,3	-
Environment	4,9	-
Capacity building/technical assistance	3,1	7,8
Landmine action	5,2	-
Governance	-	1,6

→ **OPERATIONAL SIZE (IN EURO AND US DOLLAR) \*\***

In the biennium 2013-2014, the Italian aid will be composed of grants, debt swap funds and soft loans.

Years ***	2011/2012(disbursed)	2013/2014 (to be disbursed )
Grants	Euro 3 million US\$ 4 million	Euro 4,3 million US\$ 5,6 million
Debt Swap	-	Euro 2,4 million US\$ 3,1 million
Soft Loans	-	Euro 20 million US\$ 26 million

Projects and initiative funded in the biennium 2011-2012 are in the implementation phase.

→ **ITALY'S PROGRAMMING CYCLE**

The Italian Development Co-operation is basing its general programming assumptions on Guidelines, which comprise a three years period, but are subject to annual updating. The Italian fiscal year starts on 1<sup>st</sup> January and ends on 31<sup>st</sup> December.

## → IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

All contributions are decided and approved by the Directorate General for Development Co-operation (DGCS) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome. Most of initiatives and projects are implemented in the field by the

\* The % of 2013-2014 commitments per sector may be subject to changes, since some new initiatives are still to be defined.

\*\* Exchange rate euro/Dollar used: 1/1,30

\*\*\* These sums do not include Italian core contributions to the United Nations and the European Commission. different partners (see below). Some of capacity building actions will be implemented directly by DGCS through missions of Italian specialized consultants.

## → KEY PARTNERS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- Ministries and Public Institutions (Debt Swap and Soft Loan);
- NGOs: Italian NGOs (CESVI, THD, AVSI, OIKOS, Progetto Continenti), in association with International and local NGOs
- UN Agencies: UNOPS, UNDP, WFP, UNESCO, ILO, UNIDO
- Other (Italian Municipal Governments, Universities and Research Institutions.): Torino Municipality, Sassari and Torino Universities, ISTAT, etc..

## → CONTACT DETAILS

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