

# Italy

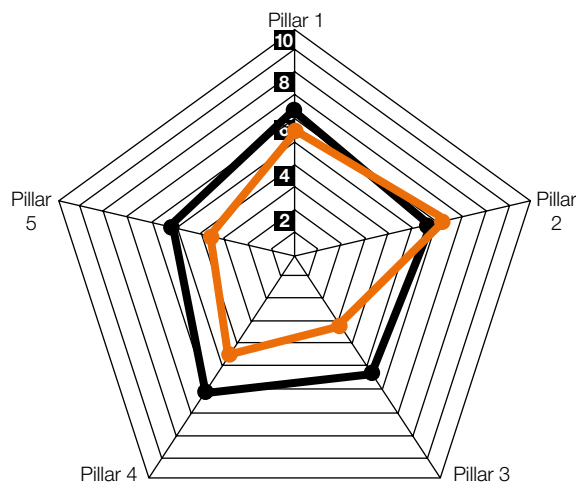
HRI 2010 ranking: 20th

## Policy framework

Italy's development cooperation and humanitarian assistance programme falls under the responsibility of the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (DGCS) in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The DGCS Office VI (emergency operations and food aid), one of 13 DGCS departments and two units, is in charge of food aid and emergency humanitarian action. DGCS currently operates according to the 2010–2012 three-year plan which highlights the importance of the timeliness of humanitarian response, building response capacities and strengthening partnerships with NGOs and local partners. Law 49/1987, the legal foundation of Italy's foreign assistance, maintains in Article 1 that humanitarian action should be an integral part of Italian foreign policy. Italy's ODA/GNI ratio has fluctuated in recent years and has fallen back in 2009 to 0.16% compared to 0.22% in 2008. Humanitarian assistance represented 12.93% of ODA and 0.005% of GNI in 2009.

Italy formally endorsed the *Principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship* (GHD) in 2007 through the adoption of the *European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid* – a 2007 EC policy agreement – on which its humanitarian action is based. However, Italy does not have a national policy, a clear mission statement or a definition of its humanitarian aid programme. While it attaches great importance to disaster risk reduction, one of the *GHD Principles*, it is usually supported by the development budget. Italy has indicated its intention to develop a GHD domestic implementation plan.

## HRI 2010 scores by pillar



Italy

OECD/DAC average

**Pillar 1** Responding to needs

**Pillar 2** Prevention, risk reduction and recovery

**Pillar 3** Working with humanitarian partners

**Pillar 4** Protection and international law

**Pillar 5** Learning and accountability

\* The OECD/DAC average does not include scores for Austria, Greece or Portugal.

## Performance

Italy ranked 20<sup>th</sup> in the HRI 2010. Based on the patterns of its scores, Italy is classified as a Group 3 donor. Donors in this group tend to perform poorly in Pillar 3 (Working with humanitarian partners), Pillar 4 (Protection and international law) and in Pillar 5 (Learning and accountability). Other donors in Group 3 are Austria, Belgium, France, Japan, Portugal and Spain.

Italy's overall score was below the OECD/DAC and the Group 3 scores. It scored below the OECD/DAC and close to the Group 3 average in Pillar 1 (Responding to needs), while in Pillar 2 it reached its highest score, which was also close to the Group 3 average but above the OECD/DAC average. In Pillar 3 (Working with humanitarian partners) where it had its lowest score, in Pillar 4 and in Pillar 5, its scores were below the averages of both the OECD/DAC and Group 3.

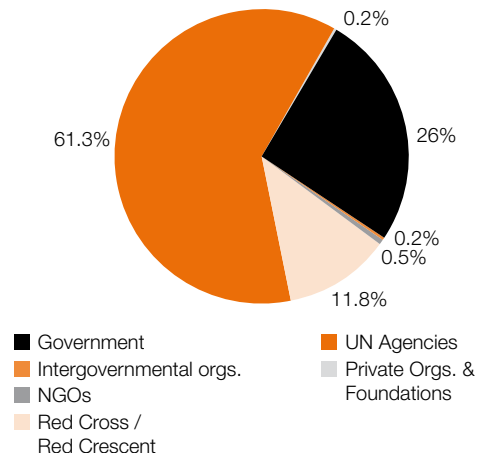
Italy did best compared to its OECD/DAC peers in the indicators on *Funding for accountability initiatives*, *Funding for reconstruction and prevention*, *Reducing climate-related vulnerability* and *Funding of risk mitigation mechanisms*. Its scores were lowest in the indicators on *Funding and commissioning evaluations*, *Participation in accountability initiatives*, *Funding UN and Red Cross Red Crescent appeals*, *Un-earmarked funding* and *Funding to NGOs*.

## Recommendations:

Italy is close to the OECD/DAC average in *Timely funding to sudden onset disasters*. However, it scored below average in *Timely funding to complex emergencies*. Italy provided 26% of its funding within three months of the launch of an appeal, while the OECD/DAC average was 34%, and the Group 3 average 40%. Italy's partners also consider it below average in terms of *Timely funding to partner organisations*.

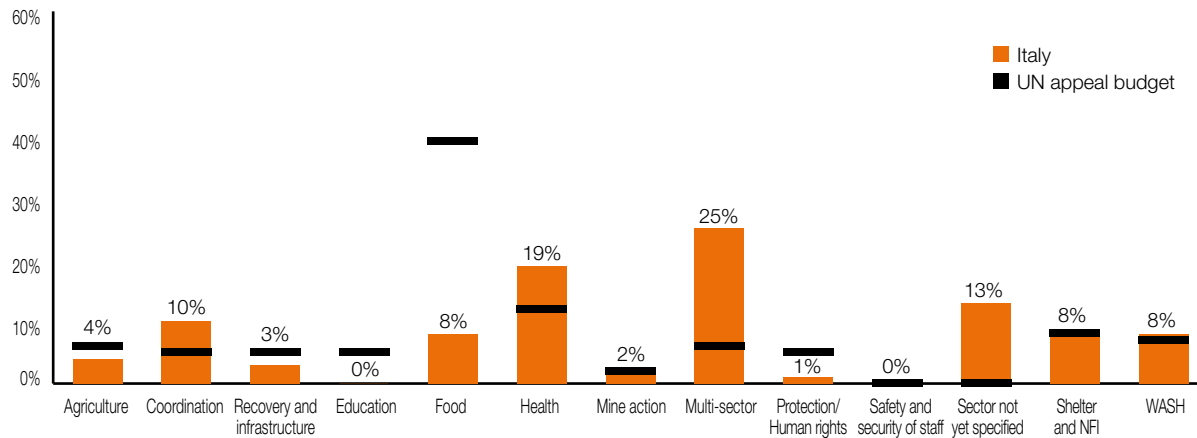
- Italy should review the timeliness of its funding and engage in dialogue with its partners to discuss their perceptions in this area.

## Aid distribution by type of organisation



Source: OCHA/FTS October 2010.

## Sectoral distribution of funding to UN appeals, 2009 (%)



\* Distribution of donor funding to these sectors includes flows within and outside an appeal that has been reported to OCHA/FTS. This is compared to the “distribution of needs” based on the 2009 UN appeal budget allocation.  
Source: OCHA/FTS October 2010.

The flexibility of Italy’s funding appears to be a weakness. Italy received one of the lowest scores for *Un-earmarked funding*: Italy provided only 7% of its funding without earmarking, compared to the OECD/DAC average of 35% and the Group 3 average of 37%. Italy’s partners echoed this finding, as Italy scored below average in the qualitative indicator *Flexible funding*.

- Italy should review options to reduce earmarking and increase the flexibility of its funding and engage in a dialogue with its partners to discuss their perceptions in this area.

Italy’s funding to NGO partners was very limited; it received the lowest score of the OECD/DAC donors on this indicator. Less than one percent of its funding went to NGOs, and it supports only one UN in-country pooled fund. The OECD/DAC average is 13%.

- Italy should consider finding ways to increase its share of funding through NGOs directly or through pooled funds.

In Pillar 4, Italy received a very low score for *Human rights law*, which measures signature of human rights treaties, accreditation of national human rights institutions and funding to OHCHR, the primary guardian of international human rights treaties. Italy has signed the majority of the human rights treaties included in the indicator, yet provided only 0.01% of every million dollars of its GDP to OHCHR, while the OECD/DAC average is 0.67%. Italy’s National Human Rights Institution is not currently accredited by OHCHR.

- Italy is encouraged to attempt to meet the requirements for OHCHR accreditation, and consider increasing its funding to human rights organisations like OHCHR.

For more information, please see [www.daraint.org](http://www.daraint.org).

Strengths			
Indicator	Donor score	OECD/DAC donor average	% over average
Funding for accountability initiatives	5.64	2.75	105%
Funding for reconstruction and prevention	6.98	4.12	69%
Reducing climate-related vulnerability	8.76	7.19	22%
Funding of risk mitigation mechanisms	5.89	5.49	7%

Areas for improvement			
Indicator	Donor score	OECD/DAC donor average	% below average
Funding and commissioning evaluations	0.00	4.25	-100%
Participation in accountability initiatives	0.17	4.73	-96%
Funding UN and Red Cross Red Crescent appeals	0.67	5.05	-87%
Un-earmarked funding	0.67	3.45	-81%
Funding to NGOs	1.04	4.40	-76%