Development Co-operation Directorate
Development Assistance Committee

DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics

Report of the Statistical peer review and capacity-building of Portugal

This document is submitted for INFORMATION under item 10 of the draft annotated agenda [DCD/DAC/STAT/A(2026)1].

The Statistical Peer Review of Portugal was carried out from 27-31 October 2025. The review team consisted of representatives from Finland and the United Kingdom and staff from the DAC Secretariat. The review covered the five dimensions outlined in the Guidance note for Statistical Peer Reviews and Capacity-Building, namely: main statistical policy issues; domestic data collection; statistical reporting; performance on DAC recommendations and international commitments; and the relevance, transparency, dissemination and use of data.

Portugal's review was the first one following the revision of the methodology for statistical peer reviews and capacity building, adopted by the WP-STAT in December 2024. In addition to the actual review aspects, the agenda of the review mission included six capacity building sessions on (1) ODA classifications; (2) ODA eligibility of Culture and Global Public Goods; (3) Untying; (4) Private sector instruments; (5) ODA eligibility of Peace and Security; and (6) ODA eligibility of Migration and In-Donor Refugee Costs.

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Acronyms and abbreviations

Camões IP	Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua, I.P.
CIVs	Collective Investment vehicles
CRS	Creditor Reporting System
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DCD	Development Co-operation Directorate
DFI	Development Finance Institution
GNI	Gross National Income
GPEDC	Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation
GPPE	Planning, Programming and Statistics Office of Camões IP
IDRC	In-Donor Refugee Costs
IFT	International Forum on TOSSD
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PALOP	Países Africanos de Língua Oficial Portuguesa (African countries with Portuguese as an official language)
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIICP	Sistema de Informação Integrado da Cooperação Portuguesa
TOSSD	Total Official Support for Sustainable Development
USD	United States Dollar
WBG	World Bank Group
WP-STAT	DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics
PSI	Private Sector Instruments
MPF	Mobilised private finance
SOFID	Sociedade para o Financiamento do Desenvolvimento

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Executive summary

The Statistical Peer Review of Portugal was carried out from 27-31 October 2025. The review team consisted of representatives from Finland and the United Kingdom and staff from the OECD DAC Secretariat. The review covered the five dimensions outlined in the Guidance note for Statistical Peer Reviews and Capacity-Building, namely: main statistical policy issues; domestic data collection; statistical reporting; performance on DAC recommendations and international commitments; and the relevance, transparency, dissemination and use of data.

This review was the first one following the revision of the methodology for statistical peer reviews and capacity building, adopted by the WP-STAT in 2024. In addition to the actual review aspects, the agenda of the review mission included six capacity building sessions on (1) ODA classifications; (2) ODA eligibility of Culture and Global Public Goods; (3) Untying; (4) Private sector instruments; (5) ODA eligibility of Peace and Security; and (6) ODA eligibility of Migration and In-Donor Refugee Costs. It also included a presentation of the TOSSD framework and a consultation with civil society organisations.

The Review team congratulates Portugal on the quality and comprehensiveness of its reporting to the OECD-DAC, for which it recently received a "Very Good" rating from the OECD. The team especially notes the excellent work of the Statistics Unit, in the Planning, Programming and Statistics Office (GPPE) of Camões, I.P., in coordinating Portugal's complex and decentralised development finance data system and conducting a broad range of activities to support Portugal's development co-operation.

Key recommendations

Portugal should:

On the main statistical policy issues and ODA eligibility

- **Continue improving the quality of project descriptions** in its CRS reporting **and be commended for its conservative approach to ODA**.
- **On culture-related activities, contribute actively to improving the OECD-DAC knowledge base**, considering that it is an area of interest for many DAC members and non-DAC reporters.
- **On in-donor refugee costs (IDRCs), share its experience with the DAC's Working Party on Development Finance Statistics (WP-STAT)** on providing disaggregated expenditures by type of expenditure and category of refugees.
- **Proactively consult with the OECD Secretariat on complex or contested eligibility issues**, and contribute with examples to OECD casebooks and toolkits.
- **On reporting on Private Sector Instruments, focus on improving reporting on "additionality",** notably in providing the necessary information in key related reporting fields.
- **On the mobilisation of private finance, review its portfolio** to identify whether any other activities have included private co-financing in order to expand reporting in this area.

On the domestic data collection system

- **Consider reviewing its current legal framework to formalise the obligation for, at least, central, regional, and local governments** to provide statistical information to Camões, I.P. on development financing**.**

- **Ensure that the Statistics Unit is adequately staffed to manage the volume and complexity of its responsibilities**, recognising the dedication and expertise of current staff**.**

- **Introduce additional efficiencies in the Unit's reporting processes (such as the planned refinement of the SIICP)**, **recognising substantial improvements in reporting to the OECD-DAC in recent years** and building on **its strong engagement with other reporting agencies**.

- **Pursue further improvements through peer learning.** Sharing experiences, lessons, and technical practices with WP-STAT and other peers can support innovation, knowledge exchange, and continuous improvement in development finance reporting.

On reporting to the OECD

- **Be congratulated for the recent improvements in the quality, completeness, and timeliness of OECD/DAC reporting**, as well as for implementing structured quality-assurance processes and multi-layered validation workflows.

- **Strengthen its capacity and knowledge retention**, to maintain high-quality DAC reporting in the context of increasing complexity and workload.

- **Continue updating thematic guidance**, also ensuring CRS submissions provide sufficient detail to confirm ODA eligibility in complex areas (e.g., culture, global public goods, peace and security).

- **Continue SIICP modernisation to minimise reporting issues and help address concerns with workload**.

On monitoring commitments and recommendations

- **Engage with the DAC Secretariat and share its experience with other WP-STAT members on reporting contract awards in the context of NGO procurement contracts**.

- **Pursue the use of the LDC flag, keeping in mind current capacities and data availability, with the ultimate objective of using the flag "1"** (methodology based on exact expenditures) for a full recognition of Portugal's support to LDCs.

On transparency, data use and dissemination

- **Test both the existing dashboard and the Power BI tool as soon as possible with civil society organisations, and release an online beta version**, so that they can be checked against users' expectations and give the public access to detailed, activity-level information.

- **Develop a clear plan** for long-term maintenance of these systems, including a strategy for ensuring adequate and sustainable technical and IT expertise.

- **Create specific forms or similar tools to systematically collect users' feedback.**

- **Present its experience and lessons learned on building the dashboard and data visualisations at the WP-STAT Informal Network on Data Quality and Innovation**.

- **Gradually, as time and resources allow, publish user-focused dissemination products** (e.g. graphs on key elements of Portugal's development co-operation, stories on development impact).

- **Use data-storytelling approaches to build clear narratives from the data** (using simple, low-cost tools such as Flourish or Data Wrapper) and **to actively circulate existing products** (e.g. OECD Development Co-operation Profiles and dashboards) to relevant stakeholders, to showcase their contributions and increase recognition of the Unit's work.

- **Assign additional resources to communication-related activities**, for example by involving Camões, I.P.'s Communication Unit in statistical outputs, ideally through a joint communication strategy or plan.

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Overview of Portugal's development co-operation

This section aims to provide a snapshot of the strategic framework guiding Portugal's development co-operation, its organisational structure and its ODA context.

Strategic framework and focus of Portugal's development co-operation

The 2030 Portuguese Co-operation Strategy (Government of Portugal, Estratégia da Cooperação Portuguesa 2030, 2022) **serves as the overarching guide for Portugal's development co-operation** based on international political commitments, including the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. The strategy provides the overall background, as well as the strategy and implementation framework for Portugal's co-operation.

The overall objective of Portugal's co-operation is "the eradication of poverty, the fight against inequalities and the promotion of sustainable, equitable and inclusive global development, based on the respect for human dignity and leaving no one behind" (Government of Portugal, Triptych ECP 2030 (English version), 2022).

Portugal's co-operation focuses on four main "guiding principles": the respect for human rights and fundamental rights and freedoms; the promotion and consolidation of peace and security, democracy and the rule of law; gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls; and environmental protection and the fight against climate change, within a framework of sustainability.

Portugal extends its co-operation through three key areas and a large number of sectors. It uses the "5 P's" (People, Peace, Prosperity, Planet and Partnerships) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to structure it sectoral approach.

- *First key area - "development co-operation":*
    - The **"People"** dimension covers education, science and culture; capacity development (focusing on justice, security and defence, and finance); social protection, social inclusion and decent work.
    - The "**Peace**" dimension includes the support to states in situations of fragility.
    - The "**Prosperity"** encompasses digital transformation; and quality employment and local private sector development.
    - The "**Planet**" comprises climate action and the green transition; the oceans and blue economy; and biodiversity.
    - The "**Partnerships".**
- *Second key area - "Development education".*
- *Third key area - "Humanitarian and emergency assistance".*

In terms of geographic priorities, Portugal targets Portuguese-speaking African countries (Angola, Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe) and Timor Leste. In addition, it places special emphasis on specific groups: Least Developed Countries (LDC); countries in fragile situations; Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and countries in a graduation process or recently graduated from LDC status.

Organisational structure and key stakeholders

Camões, I.P. is the statistical central reporting entity in charge of collecting development finance information from a wide and decentralised network of reporters. Camões, I.P. is an official entity operating under the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). The Institute proposes orientations for the Portuguese co-operation policy, implements and coordinates co-operation activities carried out by a national development finance ecosystem comprised of a wide range of actors (Figure 1). Camões, I.P. has the mandate to coordinate Portugal's statistical data collection system for development co-operation. It collects these data from a very decentralised network of 17 Ministries and several dozens of local authorities, for a total of up to 500 potential reporters on development co-operation activities (see also chapter 2).

Figure 1. Portugal's development finance national ecosystem

Public Sector	Public Sector – Financial Institutions	Private Sector
• Central administration	• Banco de Portugal	• Civil Society Org.
• Municipalities	• Caixa Geral de Depósitos – CGD	• Foundations
• Regional Governments	• Banco de Fomento	• Private Schools
• Courts	• SOFID – Portuguese DFI	• Private Banks
• Universities		• Enterprises

Source: Camões, I.P.

The Statistics Unit, which is part of the Planning, Programming and Statistics Office (GPPE) of Camões, I.P., maintains strong engagement and positive working relationships with reporting institutions, but carries a workload that appears quite substantial relative to the team size. The unit, comprised of two full-time staff members along with one staff member working on the Dashboard tool, manages a broad array of activities including:

- Collecting, verifying, reporting and publishing official data on Portugal's development co-operation financing.
- Preparing Portugal's official reports to multiple international questionnaires, including those from the OECD/DAC, the European Union and the United Nations (as a primary responsible entity, or in co-operation, with its sectorial ministries).
- Providing official data and technical analysis on ODA and broader financing to a large number of stakeholders (e.g. sectoral ministries, the National Statistics Institute, academia and CSOs) and
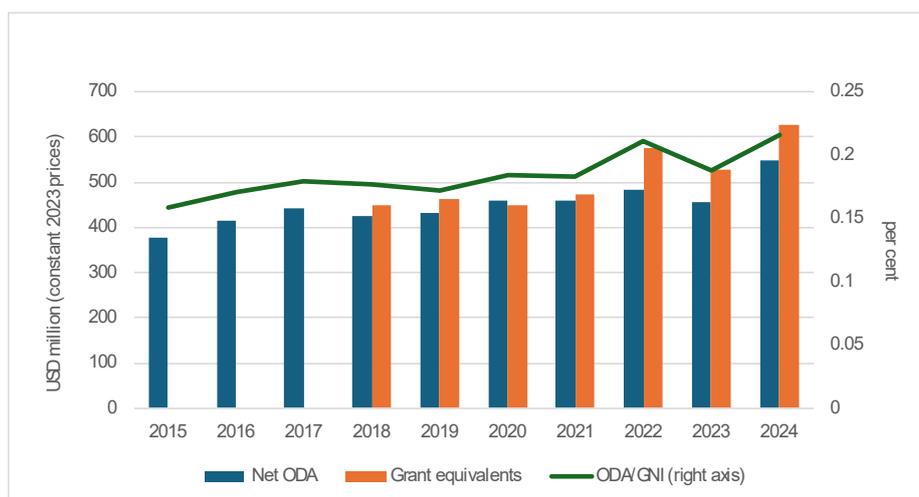
for several reports (e.g. financial implementation of the Strategic Co-operation Programmes with Portugal's six main partner countries).

- Following up on WP-STAT matters by monitoring topics and participating in WP-STAT meetings.

- Contributing with inputs or technical analysis to Portuguese delegations' participation in national and international meetings on development financing.

- Participating in working groups and monitoring exercises related to development co-operation financing, such as the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC).

ODA figures and budget preparation

Portugal's ODA has gradually increased over the last ten years and in 2024, the country provided USD 627.49 million of ODA, representing 0.22% of its gross national income (GNI) (Figure 2**).**[1] As a DAC member, Portugal reports its development finance statistics to the OECD annually. The Review team commends Portugal's careful approach to ODA eligibility (chapter 1) and improvements in reporting in recent years (chapters 2 and 3), which underscore the importance that Portugal places in its statistical performance in this area.

Figure 2. ODA and ODA to GNI by Portugal

Note: OECD DAC, "International development statistics (database)" (2024).

In addition to Portugal's highly decentralized development co-operation system, Portugal does not have an "ODA line item" in its national budget, even if Camões, I.P. has its own dedicated budget. Portugal compiles its ODA figures ex-post based on the reporting amounts from the various Portuguese reporters. This affects the visibility of its development co-operation in national budgetary conversations, limits its ability to participate in prospective statistical exercises (an increasingly important aspect of OECD DAC discussions in a context of decreasing levels of concessional finance to developing countries) and CSOs' ability to monitor or anticipate future ODA levels.

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[1] DAC members adopted the grant-equivalent methodology starting from their reporting of 2018 data as a more accurate way to count the donor effort. Detailed information on Portugal's development co-operation can be found on the Development Co-operation profile of Portugal published yearly by the OECD (OECD, 2025).

1 What are the main statistical policy issues?

This chapter describes the main statistical policy issues regarding Portugal's reporting to the OECD-DAC Creditor Reporting System (CRS).

1.1. Overall approach to ODA eligibility

The Statistics Unit adopts a conservative approach to ODA eligibility, which is commended by the Review team. Examples include reporting on private sector instruments (PSI), activities within thematic areas such as culture, peace and security, and in-donor refugee costs (IDRC). The Unit refrains from reporting to the OECD activities for which it cannot confirm ODA eligibility with relevant reporting institutions. This approach demonstrates Portugal's commitment to ODA integrity and speeds up the downstream OECD quality assurance process by limiting the number of possible ODA eligibility questions.

The Statistics Unit has developed valuable tools and manuals on ODA eligibility for its national reporters. Building on this good experience, more of these manuals could be developed, and other tools used, to improve the understanding of ODA eligibility across the Portuguese statistical system. Several customised manuals have been developed, for example for municipalities or specific ministries, such as for the Ministry of Defence. The Statistics Unit is encouraged to continue producing these manuals for issues that have been more recently raised at the DAC, e.g., culture, GPGs, peace and security, and migration. Another possibility would be for the Unit to record training sessions on ODA eligibility for institutional memory.

The Statistics Unit is invited to contact the OECD DAC Secretariat early on in the reporting process to clarify the ODA eligibility for prospective activities in thematic areas that are complex and contested, e.g., culture, peace and security, and migration. This will minimise the burden on both the Statistics Unit and the DAC Secretariat that may otherwise ask clarification questions. It would also allow the Unit to build capacity in other reporting institutions through regular dialogue with the Secretariat on ODA eligibility issues.

1.2. Main statistical policy issues

1.2.1. Culture, migration, peace and security, and refugee costs

Portugal's reporting is of very good quality. The Statistics Unit and reporting entities are, however, encouraged to continue improving the quality of project descriptions in their CRS reporting, specifically to help the OECD Secretariat confirm ODA eligibility on complex topics, e.g. culture, migration, peace and security, and IDRC. Providing excellent descriptions reduces the number of clarification questions by the Secretariat and increases the usefulness of the data for the end data user, among other benefits. Even though drafting such descriptions may take additional time, it could lead to

efficiencies further downstream (e.g., during the validation process with the OECD Secretariat, or with users who may contact the Statistics Unit or the OECD with questions) and therefore would be worth the up-front investment. Better descriptions are especially important as users are increasingly using Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI/ML) for customised analysis of the CRS – Portugal's data would be better represented in these models if the Unit expends added effort for better quality descriptions. Therefore, Camões IP would very much gain from finding the appropriate means to invite and motivate national reporting agencies to focus their efforts on providing quality descriptions.

On culture-related activities, thanks to Camões IP's unique mandate and institutional set-up, Portugal is invited to contribute more actively to improving the OECD DAC knowledge base on culture-related activities, an area of interest for many DAC members and non-DAC reporters. The unique case of Camões IP as an entity with a dedicated mandate on culture, an institutional set-up that includes both development co-operation and culture, as well as decades-long of experience in these two areas can greatly benefit further clarification of the CRS statistical reporting rules in the area of culture. The Statistics Unit could contribute actively to the creation of OECD casebooks/toolkits on culture-related activities, as well as activities in other thematic areas, including by submitting specific cases to the Secretariat. A dedicated capacity-building session was organised on Culture and Global Public Goods (GPGs). The Secretariat provided an overview of the ODA eligibility rationale, the reporting rules on these topics, the main boundaries between ODA and non-ODA activities, as well as concrete examples. In the discussion that followed, Portugal recalled the dual mandate of Camões IP to support culture and development and the importance of cultural activities and protection of cultural heritage in social and economic development, noting that, in some cases, determining the ODA eligibility of cultural activities was particularly challenging. Specific cases were discussed such as if the youth sector falls under "culture"; if contributions to the «International Youth Organism for Iberoamerica» and «the Iberoamerican Council of Sports» could count as ODA; or if financing athletes to travel to developing countries could be counted in ODA. Attendees were informed that in such complex cases, further review - by both their Camoes IP colleagues and the OECD Secretariat - would be needed, thereby underscoring the importance of detailed description and dialogue with counterparts

On migration-related activities, Portugal should make full use of the resources already available[2]. The review team fully recognised that current capacities in the statistical team may prevent Portugal from gaining familiarity with detailed reporting rules in certain areas, including migration (see the specific recommendations on human resources further down in this report – See Chapter 2). When possible, and in order to serve its objective of expanding reporting on migration-related activities, Portugal could look at other countries to find inspiration on possible new activities to report. The Statistics Unit is encouraged to produce an internal manual to better inform and support reporting entities in this area. A dedicated capacity-building session was conducted during the review mission that included a presentation on the policy implications of migration.

On Peace and Security, important efforts are made by Portugal to provide accurate and comprehensive reporting on this topic, for which ODA rules are complex. While reporting rules on ODA provide boundaries that can be perceived as conservative, the efforts made by the Ministries of Defence to report their ODA activities are commendable as they contribute to the transparency on development finance flows in this critical area. The Statistics Unit provides a support manual to the Ministry of Defence and in the past has organised dedicated training. It also provides the Ministry with detailed feedback on the ODA eligibility assessment of reported activities, mainly Peacekeeping Operations. For the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the GPPE sends the reporting form back to the Ministry with corrected and updated information, including eligibility assessment of non-ODA activities as appropriate. In addition,

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[2] This includes the Webpage on migration-related activities in ODA, the Update to the review of the activities reported under purpose code 15190 (Recommendations in Box 1 - April 2025); the Examples of ODA and non-ODA eligible activities, including migration and peace/security and the ODA Casebook on activities in the field of migration.

several activities in this area that do not qualify as ODA are reported to TOSSD as part of Portugal's support to the SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions).

On in-donor refugee costs (IDRCs), Portugal should be commended for publishing a detailed methodology on how it reports these costs[3], and could share with the WP-STAT its experience on providing disaggregated expenditures broken down by type of expenditures and category of refugees. This provides appropriate transparency on how these costs are calculated. The review team encouraged the country to continue doing so for further consistency and future alignment of members' reporting practices. Portugal can continue to draw on existing resources to further increase its understanding of reporting rules on IDRC[4].

1.2.2. Mobilisation of Private Finance and PSI

The reporting on mobilised private finance (MPF) and PSI are two promising areas for improved reporting in Portugal:

- **On MPF:** the data presented in the Dashboard on mobilisation[5] show an upward trend since 2012, peaking to USD 77 billion in 2024 for all bilateral and multilateral providers combined. However, total amounts mobilised remain modest compared to the financing needs for the implementation of the SDGs and volatile. This was confirmed in Portugal's 2024 reporting, (with USD 20.2 million reported, driven by a guarantee through the Portuguese Co-operation Business Fund – FECOP)

- **Two PSI vehicles have so far already been assessed as ODA-eligible and Portugal considers submitting additional PSI vehicles for ODA eligibility assessment**. The two vehicles assessed as ODA-eligible are SOFID (*Sociedade para o Financiamento do Desenvolvimento*) and *Investimoz* (Mozambique). Others are being considered, which could further expand Portugal's reporting.

Camões IP and national institutions have taken proactive steps to implement the new OECD-DAC rules on PSI. Between 2018 and 2024, a total of 8 new PSI activities have been reported. ODA PSI is accounted using the institutional approach. Overall, Portugal's reporting is of good quality.

A specific area of progress on PSI is the reporting on additionality. A dedicated capacity-building session was organised during the review mission, focusing on how to improve and expand reporting in the MPF and PSI areas[6]. In relation to additionality, Portugal could consider the following recommendations[7]:

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[3] See the webpage on In-donor refugee costs in official development assistance.

[4] Notably the Webpage on in-donor refugee costs in ODA, including methodologies by 20 members, the Reporting rules (see paragraphs 107 to 117); the Explanatory notes on the reporting of in-donor refugee costs, see Annex 18; the Report on the implementation of the clarifications on ODA; the Summary of findings of the survey on Ukrainian refugees, including Ukranians refugees in IDRC and the Comparison tool on DAC members' IDRC methodologies.

[5] See the OECD dashboard on mobilisation.

[6] During the mission, an online intervention by Finnfund, the Finnish DFI, notably helped Portugal to better understand the range of financial instruments used by Finnfund such as equities, shares in CIVs and other hybrid instruments and that could also be used by SOFID, the Portuguese DFI. On PSI, the Statistics Unit and current PSI vehicles in Portugal could reach out to the DFIs of other reporting members for capacity-building sessions on reporting to the OECD.

[7] Building for example on the description of this project in 2019 that well describes its additionality: "***Côte D'Ivoire is a high category risk country*** *(category 6, according to OECD country risk classification). The additional debt provided by SOFID **allowed the private investor to mobilize additional finance from local banks to complete the project implementation**. Furthermore, the project is untied and **addresses the country priorities** by **fostering economic growth and job creation**.*"

- Information on the country/territory of residence should be provided in the project description, as highlighted in Secretariat's feedback on Portugal's 2024 reporting (e.g. through automation and internal systems adaptation).
- CRS field "69. Additionality description" can include contextual information gathered as part of the additionality assessment, such as country level information (e.g., risk rating, availability of capital, maturity of financial institutions, challenges to access finance, private finance mobilised, political risk, etc.) and sector level information (e.g., access to transport or health infrastructures, telecommunication networks, etc.).
- CRS field "70. Additionality – Development objective" can include information on the expected development impact; how the activity responds to the issues and needs expressed at country and sector level to achieve the expected impact, and that cannot be met by the private sector; information generated by the Portuguese PSI vehicles as part of their impact assessment and that can be used to develop the associated narrative on additionality.

1.2.3. Untying

A dedicated section of the present report (see chapter 4 – section 4.1) describes in more detail the review outcomes of Portugal's reporting on the tying status of aid. Portugal reports on the tying status of aid as part of its overall OECD DAC CRS reporting. The country also reports annually to the DAC the aggregate questionnaire on contract awards (contracts awarded are smaller than USD 1 million).

As part of the present review and capacity building, Portugal was seeking guidance on the new reporting rules derived from the current review of the DAC Recommendation on Untying ODA; basic information on how to provide national institutions with methods for collecting data (recognising that the level of information of national institutions was uneven and that information on this topic was scattered across multiple institutions); and information on the Untying Recommendation.

1.2.4. TOSSD

Portugal could further investigate expanded reporting with the International Forum on TOSSD (IFT). Portugal has been reporting to TOSSD since 2019. From the very first year, Portugal's TOSSD has included activities reported to CRS as well as several additional activities (around 50 per year on average). Further expansions of the data coverage is hampered by a lack of adequate resources, which also prevents the country from active participation in the IFT. The present Review and capacity building included a dedicated session with the Secretariat of the International Forum on TOSSD to further deepen ways of how Portugal can improve and expand the coverage of its reporting and how to communicate and present TOSSD data. The outcome of the review and of the capacity-building session are further explained in Chapter 5 of the present report.

1.3. Proposed recommendations – Dimension 1

- **The Statistics Unit and reporting entities are commended for their conservative approach to ODA eligibility and encouraged to continue improving the quality of project descriptions** in their CRS reporting, specifically to help the OECD Secretariat confirm ODA eligibility on complex topics, e.g. culture, migration, peace and security, and refugee costs.
- **On culture-related activities, thanks to Camões IP's unique mandate and institutional set-up, Portugal is invited to contribute more actively to improving the OECD DAC knowledge base on culture-related activities**, an area of interest for many DAC members and non-DAC reporters.

- **On in-donor refugee costs (IDRCs), Portugal could share with the WP-STAT its experience on providing disaggregated expenditures by type of expenditures and category of refugees.**

- **On PSI reporting, Portugal should focus on improving reporting on "additionality"** and notably provide the critical information to this effect in the two key fields on "additionality description" and "additionality – development objective" with the appropriate information.

- **On the mobilisation of private finance, Portugal could review its portfolio to identify whether any other activities have included private co-financing**. If confirmed, these should be reported under mobilised private finance.

2 How to make domestic data collection more effective and efficient?

This chapter describes how Portugal, particularly the Statistics Unit, collects and manages its development finance statistics.

2.1. Data collection

2.1.1. System coordination and actors involved

Portugal's development finance data system is highly decentralised, which presents challenges in coordination and in the submission of comprehensive and high-quality data. As described in the overview chapter, Camões I.P. coordinates a complex and decentralised reporting system, with the Statistics Unit being responsible for compiling data from across the system, validating it, and reporting to the OECD/DAC and a range of other international institutions. Each year, the Unit solicits data from 500+ public sector institutions in Portugal. These institutions submit data that vary widely in volume and complexity, requiring the Unit to devote significant additional time and resources to data validation and quality assurance. The Unit has strong working relationships with these actors, which is essential as reporting from these institutions depends on a strong spirit of collaboration rather than any formal arrangements or institutional requirements.

Portugal could consider reviewing its current legal framework[8] to formalise the obligation for, at least, central, regional, and local governments to provide statistical information to Camões, I.P. on development financing. This would greatly facilitate the work of the Statistics Unit by providing an appropriate legislative reference point to collect complete and reliable information in a timely manner from national institutions and allow the Institute to benefit from additional legal instruments that could strengthen its coordinating role.

Portugal is strongly encouraged to ensure that Camões I.P.'s Statistics Unit is adequately staffed to manage its large volume of complex and specialised work. The Statistics Unit currently comprises only two full-time staff, and one staff member working on the Dashboard tool, to manage a wide range of activities (further outlined in the Overview). This work requires significant technical expertise, stakeholder management, and proactiveness from the Unit. While the Review team commends the Unit for their

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[8] E.g. the Organic Law and the Statutes of Camões, I.P. A legal obligation to provide detailed statistical information to Camões, I.P. on development financing may also be introduced in the annual Decree-Law on the Execution of the State Budget of Portugal.

management of such complex tasks, it notes that the Unit's ever-broadening mandate could affect its ability to deliver on core objectives related to domestic data collection.

2.1.2. Annual reporting timeline

Portugal's annual reporting cycle follows a clearly defined timetable and begins in December, with the preparation of tools and the launch of data collection. At the beginning of each reporting cycle, the Statistics Unit updates the reference tables to reflect all new DAC classifications, including changes to the DAC/CRS code list. In parallel, the Excel file for data collection and all accompanying support manuals are revised to incorporate these updates and address any issues identified during the previous cycle. Once finalised, the data request is sent to all relevant public sector entities, with a reporting deadline set for 1st February the following year. The internal data collection for Camões, I.P. also begins in December.

The first three months of the year, from January to March, are dedicated to supporting national institutions, as well as receiving and validating public sector data. Throughout this period, the Statistics Unit has a constructive division of labour within the team and provides ongoing support to reporting entities. Within each ministry, a designated focal point consolidates inputs before submission. For ministries dealing with particularly complex data, such as the Ministry of Defence or the Ministry of Health, dedicated clarification sessions have been organised when necessary and if the Statistics Unit has the capacity (see chapter 3).

In parallel to validation work, the Statistics Unit prepares key national and international reporting outputs. During this period of January to March, the team also prepares, for example, the annual report presenting preliminary ODA figures for internal validation and submits the Advanced Questionnaire (AQ) to the OECD/DAC. Subsequently, from March to July, the Unit focuses on non-ODA flows and private sector reporting, including amounts mobilised from the private sector.

Following the submission of the AQ, the data request for private entities is issued, with a reporting deadline by the end of April. In parallel during this period, the Unit performs further validation and global quality checks across the full dataset. The CRS and DAC tables are prepared based on the validated information, and a second version of the annual report is produced, presenting the final figures for high-level validation. Portugal then submits its CRS and DAC tables to the OECD by the 15 July deadline.

The second half of the year, from July to December, focuses on international reporting, validation, and public dissemination. This includes the submission of Aggregated data on Contract Awards and the annual TOSSD data transmission. In parallel, the Statistics Unit engages with the OECD Secretariat during the CRS validation process. Once all data are finalised and validated, the national website[9] is updated with the final figures, methodologies, and all documents used for public dissemination.

2.2. Data management process and tools

As part of its technological infrastructure, the Statistics Unit manages the *Sistema de Informação Integrado da Cooperação Portuguesa* (SIICP), a central platform for data management, validation, and reporting (Figure 3). The SIICP was developed between 2012 and 2015 to adapt the pre-existing Portuguese Co-operation database to evolving statistical requirements. The SIICP functions as a front-end for accessing and managing data stored in an SQL Server-based database.

The first phase of SIICP's modernisation significantly improved the quality and timeliness of Portugal's reporting to the OECD-DAC, providing a clear example of how modernisation can streamline reporting and reduce the workload associated with manual processing. In 2023, Camões

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[9] https://www.instituto-camoes.pt/en/activity-camoes/what-we-do/co-operation/activity/reporting/oda-statistics

I.P. launched this major initiative, which it outsourced due to the absence of an internal IT development team. The completed first phase introduced automatic validation rules aligned with the DAC Checklist[10], corrected system bugs, enhanced performance, added new functionalities and modules, and migrated the database to a dedicated server compatible with modern software such as SQL Server Management Studio. A second phase is planned, which will develop an online reporting module to give external statistical correspondents secure access for direct data entry, further strengthening data accuracy and efficiency.

Figure 3. Portugal IT System - Sistema de Informação Integrado da Cooperação Portuguesa (SIICP)

Source: Statistics Unit, Camões I.P.

Portugal could increase efficiency and reduce manual burden by introducing greater automation and enhanced technical integration in its reporting system. Currently, data is processed and validated in an SQL Server and shared through Excel-based tools that combine free text with predefined DAC code lists translated into Portuguese. Most institutions use a standardised "Development Finance Data Sheet" with simplified versions for municipalities as well as for specific contexts such as defence, security, in-donor refugee costs, or for private sector reporting. Introducing an automated Excel import module with built-in validation and integrating the SQL database with R/Python could accelerate processing and diversify outputs. This may require investing in hiring and retaining staff with these skillsets.

The team uses the annual "Management Report and Accounts" from the Finance Department, supplemented by detailed disbursement information in Excel. An internal coding system, called the "Internal Order", ensures consistency between financial records and the statistical system, allowing data to be transferred automatically or semi-automatically into SIICP. This setup enables ODA-eligible activities to be identified and verified throughout the year, ensuring that all ODA-related operations are monitored continuously and accurately. Once the "Management Report and Accounts" are finalised, the system also supports the automatic integration of final financial data.

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[10] https://www.oecd.org/content/oecd/en/data/insights/data-explainers/2024/10/resources-for-reporting-development-finance-statistics.html; [DCD/DAC/STAT(2024)11/REV1].

Building on these achievements, Portugal has opportunities to further enhance SIICP's performance and impact, keeping in mind the limited resources. The Statistics Unit could reclaim control of the system's "back office" from the external IT provider, enabling the integration of new quality assurance checks and structural changes to the SQL database independently. The team could also share its experience in upgrading SIICP and its reporting processes with the rest of WP-STAT, for example through the informal Network on Innovation and Data Quality and seek insights from peers on IT development for development co-operation data.

2.3. Proposed recommendations – Dimension 2

The review team would like to:

- **Congratulate Portugal for its strong coordination and engagement with reporting institutions.** Building on this effort, Portugal could introduce efficiencies in its reporting processes (such as the ones described in section 2.2) to improve the Statistics Unit's ability to coordinate, collect, and validate data across Portugal's decentralised development finance data system.

- **Recognise the dedication and expertise of the Statistics Unit staff. Camões I.P. should ensure the Unit is adequately staffed to manage the volume and complexity of its responsibilities**. The Unit could also capitalise on broader HR reform processes in Portugal's development co-operation system to ensure staff with adequate skills and expertise are hired and retained.

- **Congratulate the Statistics Unit for the substantial improvements in the quality and timeliness of Portugal's reporting to the OECD-DAC over the last three years.** Encourage the Statistics Unit to continue improving its IT systems to reduce the workload associated with manual processing.

- **Commend the team for exploring the refinement of the SIICP to enable direct data entry from other reporting institutions**, which would improve efficiency while also building capacity in these institutions for reporting.

- **Encourage Portugal to pursue further improvements through peer learning.** When facing a reporting issue, Portugal should feel comfortable reaching out to WP-STAT members and the Secretariat to support them and identify possible solutions. Sharing experiences, lessons, and technical practices with WP-STAT and other peers can support innovation, knowledge exchange, and continuous improvement in development finance reporting.
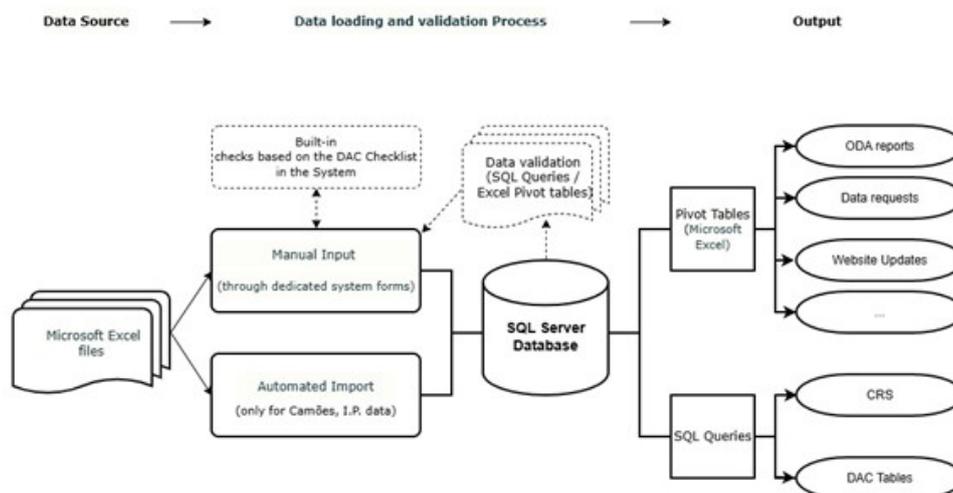
3 How to improve reporting to the OECD and how to consolidate quality reporting over time?

This chapter discusses how Portugal can improve the quality assurance and reporting of statistics on development finance to the OECD, building on findings from Chapter 2.

3.1. Quality assurance process and DAC reporting

Portugal has made notable progress in strengthening quality-assurance processes for DAC reporting, resulting in consistently high data standards in recent years. To build on these improvements, Portugal should continue consolidating its quality assurance framework. The Statistics Unit applies a rigorous approach to data quality, supported by effective management of the IT system (SIICP) and a clear division of responsibilities within the team. Each annual data request is accompanied by comprehensive support manuals that guide users through the data submission process, as well as thematic manuals (e.g., on ODA eligibility) that address more complex reporting areas. Throughout the reporting period, the Statistics Unit provides continuous technical support to other reporting institutions, responding to queries by email or telephone and offering specific clarification sessions for ministries with more demanding reporting needs.

Figure 4. Data Flow overview

Source: Statistics Unit, Camões I.P.

Portugal has a structured, multi-layered validation process to support the preparation of CRS and DAC tables. Once data are collected from external and internal reporting channels, the Statistics Unit systematically verifies completeness, internal coherence, and compliance with the OECD/DAC Statistical Reporting Directives, following up with focal points whenever clarifications are required. Raw data submitted in Excel are first entered into SIICP in both Portuguese and English. This is done either manually through dedicated data entry forms or automatically through SQL import routines, which apply only to Camões I.P. data. When information is entered manually, the system applies built-in validation rules based on the DAC Checklist, helping to ensure that the information meets the required methodological and quality standards before it is stored in the database.

The Statistics Unit's robust consolidation and verification mechanisms strengthen reliability and coherence. All validated information is consolidated in a centralized SQL Server database, which is subject to regular backups to ensure security and preservation of the data. The Statistics Unit performs additional layers of validation and consistency checks using SQL queries, Excel pivot tables, and the CRS Macro. These complementary tools allow the team to detect coding inconsistencies, verify the coherence of financial flows, and identify potential issues requiring follow-up with focal points.

Final outputs for the OECD/DAC are produced through controlled extraction and formatting processes. Once the validation stage is complete, the processed data are extracted from the SQL database for use in different reporting outputs. Excel pivot tables are used to produce statistical outputs such as ODA reports, responses to data requests, and updates to institutional websites. For formal reporting to the OECD, specialised SQL queries are used to generate the final CRS and DAC tables in the required formats. This multi-step process ensures that the data reported by Portugal are accurate, consistent across sources, and compliant with the OECD/DAC Statistical Reporting Directives.

3.2. Data quality and specific reporting issues

Portugal has significantly strengthened the quality of its reporting over recent years. Camões I.P. and the wider Portuguese reporting system have made substantial progress in improving the accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of Portugal's submissions to the OECD/DAC. The responsiveness of the statistics team and the systematic follow-up with reporting entities have resulted in consistently higher-quality datasets, year after year. These efforts and the finalisation of the first phase of their new system have placed Portugal among the top donors in terms of reporting quality.

Despite these improvements, persistent structural and operational challenges continue to affect the reporting process. The submission of the DAC Advanced Questionnaire coincides with the period in which data from Portuguese reporting entities are still being received and validated, placing additional pressure on a relatively small team. At the same time, DAC statistical reporting has become more complex, requiring more detailed information across a wider range of areas (e.g. PSI). Alongside the growing number and heterogeneity of reporting entities, this has increased the workload and technical demands on the Statistics Unit. High turnover and limited specialisation, both within Camões I.P. and across ministries, further affect efficiency and continuity, despite the internal and external training already provided by the Statistics Unit. These constraints underscore the need for continued investment in skills, knowledge retention and process streamlining.

Portugal has introduced measures to mitigate recurrent issues and strengthen capacity. Each officer in the Unit manages a stable portfolio of ministries and private entities, which has over time supported continuous follow-up and more tailored capacity building. Interactions between the Unit and focal points in other reporting institutions has led to a didactic approach, supported by regularly updated support Manuals and reporting forms that address recurring challenges, such as limited familiarity with statistical concepts, the complexity of DAC classifications and the interdependence of variables. Recent training—particularly on tying status and ODA classification—has been beneficial.

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The review team also commends the Statistics Unit's conservative approach to ODA eligibility (see chapter 1) and quality, particularly on PSI, culture, and in-donor refugee costs. The review team encourages the Unit to continue developing thematic guidance on areas more recently raised at the DAC (e.g. culture, global public goods, peace and security, and migration), to record training sessions for institutional memory, and to work with reporting entities to strengthen the quality of CRS project descriptions, particularly in complex thematic areas. The Statistics Unit is also encouraged to contribute to OECD casebooks and toolkits, including by sharing specific examples in areas such as culture, peace and security, and migration, and to seek Secretariat clarification on ODA eligibility for prospective activities when needed.

Additionally, Portugal's reporting on policy markers reflects the same conservative approach that the team applies to other aspects of ODA statistical reporting. When the project description does not provide sufficient information to substantiate the assignment of a score on a given policy marker, the Statistics Unit systematically requests clarifications from the relevant reporting institutions, and where the information is not available, the marker is removed. Camões I.P. has established internal expertise to support quality assurance in specific thematic areas, notably through a dedicated team overseeing environmental issues and validating the Environment and Rio policy markers. Building on this practice, further collaboration with specialised teams in other policy areas, such as gender equality, could support additional review and strengthening of the quality of reporting on the Gender Equality policy marker, for example.

Limited resources and system constraints affect Portugal's ability to engage in voluntary reporting elements, but ongoing SIICP modernisation is expected to alleviate these pressures to some extent. Portugal does not yet participate in some optional components of CRS reporting, such as the use of multiple or voluntary purpose codes, with exception to purpose codes related to in-donor refugee costs. The Statistics Unit may consider adopting these elements following future system upgrades and as additional capacity becomes available, with additional consideration to the utility and user-friendliness of these features. In some cases, given the highly complex nature of Portuguese development co-operation, with small-scale projects implemented by sectoral ministries, the use of voluntary/multiple purpose codes may affect the usability of Portugal's development finance data, and therefore, a feasibility study and cost-benefit analysis would be warranted before embarking on such an initiative.

The upcoming online reporting module – designed to offer user-friendly interfaces, secure individual logins, historical submission archives and automatic validation controls – should significantly reduce recurrent issues related to system updates, tying status reporting and CRSID coding, for e.g. These enhancements, along with planned refinements to PSI and mobilisation modules and to validation routines, are expected to reduce manual workload and further reinforce overall reporting quality. The Unit has already started reporting on the nutrition and disability markers for 2024 flows; it is encouraged to continue improving reporting on these and other voluntary policy markers.

Request to the Secretariat

The Unit indicated that it would be beneficial for the Secretariat to facilitate further peer exchange sessions on specific issues, so that the Unit could learn from the experience of other WP-STAT reporters.

3.3. Proposed recommendations – Dimension 3

The review team would like to:

- **Congratulate Camões I.P. and the Statistics Unit for the recent improvements in the quality, completeness, and timeliness of OECD/DAC reporting**, as well as for implementing structured quality-assurance processes and multi-layered validation workflows.

- **Strongly encourage Camões I.P. to strengthen capacity and knowledge retention**, to maintain high-quality DAC reporting in the context of increasing complexity, workload pressures and staff turnover.

- **Encourage the Unit and reporting entities to improve project descriptions and update thematic guidance**, ensuring CRS submissions provide sufficient detail to confirm ODA eligibility in complex areas (e.g., culture, global public goods, peace and security, and migration).

- **Encourage the Unit to continue SIICP modernisation to minimise reporting issues and help address concerns with workload**.

4 How to better monitor recommendations and commitments in the field of development co-operation?

This chapter synthesises the peer review team's observations and recommendations to better monitor recommendations and commitments.

4.1. DAC Recommendation on Untying Official Development Assistance

Portugal generally meets the requirements of tying status reporting and demonstrates a strong commitment to continue improving the reporting in this area. Portugal reports the tying status of all its bilateral ODA (Figure 5) and identified this as an area of progress early on in the review process. The current level of information of national institutions is uneven and data on the tying status of aid is spread across multiple institutions. A dedicated capacity building session took place during the review mission and included methods on how to collect and report data (including reporting rules derived from the current review of the DAC Recommendation on Untying ODA). The session was also an occasion to raise awareness on the Untying recommendation. The Statistics Unit is actively working to raise awareness among national institutions about the requirement to report on tying status in DAC statistics, recognising its importance as a critical policy dimension of ODA. Two specific areas for improvement were highlighted:

- **Agency-level reporting on tying status:** For some agencies, the tying status is currently determined by the central Statistics Unit based on project descriptions. The Secretariat noted that while certain co-operation modalities are inherently untied (e.g., budget support) or tied (e.g., donor country personnel), for others – particularly project-type interventions – it would be preferable for agencies themselves to report the tying status. This is because procurement arrangements are not always visible in other data fields, such as co-operation modalities or project descriptions. To support this, the OECD Secretariat is ready to organise capacity building events to improve understanding of tying status rules across reporting agencies

- **Dissemination of new rules for private sector instruments:** Portugal expressed interest in receiving support to disseminate the new rules on the tying status of private sector instruments[11] to relevant agencies. These rules will apply to 2026 reporting on 2025 flows.

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[11] See DCD/DAC/STAT(2024)4.

Bilateral ODA, excluding administrative costs, scholarships and student costs in donor countries, development awareness and in-donor refugee costs.

Untied	Partially Untied	Tied	Not reported
94.6%	0%	5.4%	0%

Source: Creditor Reporting System (CRS).

Portugal also fully aligns with the transparency provisions of the DAC Recommendation on Untying ODA and displays some great practices in this regard. The transparency provisions include (i) ex ante notifications of procurement opportunities above SDR 700 000, and (ii) ex post reporting on contract awards (contracts above SDR 700 000 at individual level, contracts below SDR 700 000 at aggregate level). While Portugal does not usually have any contract above the ex ante notification threshold, it reports annually its below-threshold contract awards at aggregate level.

The review identified notable good practices in Portugal regarding the reporting of contract awards. Under this reporting framework, members are expected to disclose procurement contracts linked to untied ODA grants and loans. All DAC members report contracts related to public procurement, whether managed directly by the donor or by the partner country government (in the latter case, the donor collects data from the partner government and submits it to the DAC).

Regarding reporting practices for project-type grants to NGOs, Portugal stands out as a strong example. While some donors exclude NGO grants entirely (viewing them as outside the scope of reporting, which they interpret as strictly limited to public procurement), and others report the grant award itself (considering that the grant is what needs to be untied), Camões, I.P. goes further. It collects data from NGOs on contract awards and reports it to the OECD as part of its ex-post reporting on contract awards. To the Secretariat's knowledge, Portugal is the only DAC member that collects and reports contract award data from NGOs.

4.2. ODA to LDCS

Portugal has one of its main policy priorities to support LDCs and is therefore keen on improving the tracking of ODA to this group of countries, especially for those projects and programmes reported as regional or unallocated and involving its priority countries of intervention (Angola, Cabo Verde[12], Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe in Africa and Timor Leste in Asia). At present, Portugal is not using the "LDC flag" in the CRS, which is used to identify instances of regional programmes that benefit one or more LDCs. To analyse its ODA to LDCs, Portugal looks at the regional recipient codes "289 – South of Sahara", "298 – Africa, regional" and "998-Developing countries unspecified"[13], trying to identify within these which projects could be counted and how. A capacity building session was held during the review to see how Portugal's tracking of support to LDCs, in the context of its regional programmes, could be improved. The main objective for Portugal was to better understand the LDC flag methodology to see

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[12] Cabo Verde is a Lower Middle-Income Country (LMIC) in the DAC classification at the time of writing this report.

[13] Here Portugal should ensure that in the total for "998-Developing countries unspecified" does not include aid in the donor country, i.e. co-operation modalities "G01-Administrative costs", "H01-Developmental awareness" and "H02-H06-In donor refugee costs", for which specific purpose codes exist.

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if it could use it as a possible solution to track expenditures to LDCs, to then decide which solutions to adopt including automatisation procedures.

Portugal could improve its reporting on LDCs, by using the LDC flag available in the CRS. The following options were put forward by the Secretariat to improve reporting, noting that i) the application of the flag could entail substantial additional work that would require appropriate capacities and ii) the flags n°2 to 5 (flags based on estimations)[14] are not used in the DAC Secretariat's calculations of aggregates (e.g., ODA/GNI to LDCs). Therefore, Portugal should aim to move towards the use of flag "1 - Exact expenditure" to have its full support to LDCs reflected in DAC statistics.

Various cases were discussed:

- For regional projects/programmes that only target LDCs:
  - Portugal could report the full known amount against the relevant regional code (or "998-Developing countries unspecified") and use LDC flag = "1 - Exact expenditure"
- For regional projects/programmes that partially benefits LDCs <u>and</u> for which the amount is <u>known</u>,
  - Portugal could split the record into two rows in the CRS, with the same regional code, and add a suffix to the CRS ID. In addition:
    - On the row with the amount known to benefit LDCs, then Portugal could report the exact amount and record the project / programme with an 'LDC flag' = 1
    - On the row with the amount known but that does not benefit LDCs, Portugal could report the exact amount and leave the "LDC flag" blank.
- For regional projects/programmes that <u>partially</u> benefit LDCs and where the amount is <u>estimated</u>:
  - Portugal could split the record into two rows in the CRS without using the code "998-Developing countries unspecified" for estimated amounts.
  - On the row with the amount estimated to benefit LDCs, Portugal could report the amount with an 'LDC flag' 2, 3, 4, or 5.
  - On the row with the amount <u>not</u> estimated to benefit LDCs, Portugal could report the amount and leave the 'LDC flag' blank.

4.3. Proposed recommendations – Dimension 4

Portugal is encouraged to:
- **Engage with the DAC Secretariat and share its experience with other WP-STAT members on reporting contract awards in the context of NGO procurement contracts.**
- **Pursue the use of the LDC flag, keeping in mind current capacities and data availability, with the ultimate objective of reporting against the flag "1"** (methodology based on exact expenditures) for a full recognition of its support to LDCs in DAC statistics.

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[14] These flags correspond to the following: "2 - Estimate, based on geographic breakdown of fund's expenditures"; "3 - Estimate, based on population"; "4 - Estimate, based on number of countries"; "5 - Estimate, based on some other methodology".

5 How to improve transparency, make the data better fit for purpose, and improve dissemination?

This chapter summarises the review team's observations and recommendations to improve transparency, make the data better fit for purpose, and improve dissemination.

5.1. Transparency, communication, and dissemination

Camões, I.P.'s developed a comprehensive communications strategy, covering the three branches of its activities (Language, Culture and Development Co-operation). Communication is a core tool to showcase how Portuguese development co-operation promotes economic, social and cultural development in partner countries (especially Portuguese Speaking African Countries - PALOP - and Timor-Leste), grounded in solidarity, human rights and global responsibility. For what concerns specifically development co-operation, the strategy aims to: inform national and international audiences about Camões' mission, programmes and projects; ensure accountability and transparency by disseminating information on ODA amounts and results; strengthen public understanding and support for development co-operation; and act as a complementary instrument to the National Strategy for Development Education by fostering debate and critical thinking on active global citizenship. Communication on development co-operation specifically focuses on demonstrating the relevance of Camões' contribution to sustainable development, at bilateral and multilateral levels, using quantitative and qualitative information, evaluations and evidence-based impact stories to convey the results of programmes and partnerships.

Quantitative data produced by the Statistics Unit is one of the central elements in the communication to the Portuguese institutions, to stakeholders (including civil society) and to the public. GPPE communicates the data produced in three basic ways:

- **Internal institutional communication** to the Government, ministries and other Portuguese institutions. Within government, two detailed annual reports are sent to the Secretary of State, one with preliminary figures and another with final data. Summary statistics are also presented at meetings of the Interministerial Co-operation Commission (CIC), which brings together the relevant sectoral ministries. In addition, information is provided as appropriate to the Foreign Affairs and Portuguese Communities Committee (CNECP), the parliamentary body responsible for scrutinising development co-operation policy. Portugal participates also in the monitoring rounds of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation (GPEDC). In addition, the Statistics Unit is partnering with the National Statistics Institute (INE) in the monitoring of SDGs, providing data for 14 indicators, published in the 2030 Agenda National Report.

- **Dissemination channels with partner countries.** The Statistics Unit feeds data to the country platforms of Mozambique and Timor-Leste, and as well to the Ibero-American South-South and Triangular Co-operation Data Platform,

- **Website**. Through the website, overall quantitative ODA data and charts are disseminated in Portuguese and English (Camoes I.P., 2026). Overall data for Portuguese ODA is updated on the website as soon as it is validated with the OECD Secretariat and main aggregates and 5-year trends are shown. Currently, the website can only showcase a limited amount of information, mostly recent trends of the main aggregates through static charts and tables, while more advanced solutions are being developed (see below).

- **Ad-hoc requests.** The Statistics Unit frequently responds to ad-hoc requests from both public institutions and external actors, such as civil society organisations, to provide data on Portuguese development co-operation. The Statistics Unit was praised by CSOs for their availability to provide information and respond to requests timely and comprehensively in the absence of a system that stakeholders and the public can use to autonomously visualise and download data.

Camoes I.P. has been developing two innovative tools that have the potential to substantially improve accessibility of statistical data, once they are finalised. These include a 'Portuguese Co-operation Dashboard' and a Power-BI solution. The Dashboard is designed for internal use and, once finalised, will allow users to access the full range of project information, as well as generate summary information and charts. The Power BI tool is designed to be integrated into the website and will provide the public with interactive summary tables, charts, and maps, as well as microdata, in a more user-friendly manner.

These tools are at an advanced stage of development and will replace a previous data dissemination module, which was part of the *Portuguese Cooperation Integrated Information System*. That module is no longer available because it was based on an old software platform that has since been discontinued. The peer review team praised Camões I.P. for developing these tools, which will significantly improve data dissemination, and encouraged Camões I.P. to open them to stakeholders and the public—even in a beta-testing format—to gather feedback and enhance the information available to the public. A series of detailed recommendations on these tools are available in section 5.4 below.

5.2. A perspective from civil society organisations

In Portugal, CSOs, represented mainly through the national platform (around 64 member organisations of very different sizes) have a close and constructive relationship with Camões, I.P, with whom they engage among other things to obtain detailed data on Portuguese Development Co-operation but also on results, impact, development awareness and as implementing partners on certain activities.

Portuguese CSOs make in depth use of data, which they mainly request, and obtain, directly from the Statistics Unit of Camoes IP, in the absence of a data dissemination tool. CSOs regularly request data from Camões for reporting to CONCORD's AidWatch and other analyses but note that the publicly available information (including on the website) is less detailed than the data they receive bilaterally, and that the previously available integrated information system module for public presentation of data, which included public funding to NGOs, is no longer accessible. CSOs expressed the need of a more user-friendly, digital and stable data system.

CSOs expressed interest in increasing the availability of more policy-relevant quantitative information (for example on ODA cuts, priorities, SDGs, gender, climate, funding to and through CSOs, development education, grants vs loans and PSI), more transparency on the development co-operation budget across ministries, and a stronger public communication effort in Portuguese, focused on impact

rather than just preliminary and financial figures[15]. CSOs also stressed that many projects generate valuable data, studies and lessons that remain "buried" at the end of projects, and they would welcome a more systematic approach to centralising and sharing this knowledge, including feedback on country co-operation strategies and their results.

Finally, CSOs mentioned the usefulness of regular national dialogue on development co-operation, including on ODA data, such a regular multi-stakeholder co-operation forum where Camões and all partners can discuss data needs, programming challenges and how to better communicate Portugal's development co-operation to a largely unaware domestic public

5.3. TOSSD – Total official support for sustainable development and the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)

On TOSSD, Portugal has participated in the data collection since 2019. There is no dedicated mechanism for collecting additional TOSSD information, and Portugal relies mostly on automated CRS reporting to populate the TOSSD database. In 2023, Portugal reported 52 additional non-ODA eligible activities to TOSSD (mostly in peace, security and health). Due to the lack of resources, the team cannot participate in the IFT. Related, Portugal expressed being unaware of some of the main discussions held by the Members of the Forum.

Camoes I.P. is aware of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and has discussed internally participation in this initiative. This participation, while desirable, would likely require additional resources. As a first step, the Statistics Unit could reach out to other WP-STAT members that report both to IATI and the OECD, to benefit from their experience and insights, such as the European Union.

5.4. Proposed recommendations – Dimension 5

The review team welcomes Portugal's progress on communication and dissemination of data, encourages to make them fully accessible to the public, and formulates the following key recommendations. The review team:

- **Commends Camões, I.P. for creating a sophisticated and technically robust internal dashboard. Given the completeness of the functionalities demonstrated during the review, the team suggests testing both the dashboard and the Power BI tool as soon as possible with civil society organisations and releasing an online beta version**, so that the tools can be checked against users' expectations and give the public access to detailed, activity-level information.

- **Stresses the importance of a clear plan for the long-term maintenance and sustainability of these systems,** including a strategy for ensuring adequate, sustainable technical and IT expertise, as well as ways to adapt this plan to the needs of different target audiences and appropriate allocation of resources.

- **Advises creating forms or similar tools to systematically collect users' feedback, given that the current website does not adequately respond to users' needs.** The review team further encourages Camões, I.P. to present its experience and lessons learned on building the dashboard

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[15] Recognising that some of the improvements in these areas require data that are not available in the SIICP and would therefore require the involvement of other Units within Camões, I.P. to be able to communicate on them.

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and data visualisations to the wider WP-STAT community, for example through the informal Network on Innovation and Data Quality.

- **Highlights specific types of information requested by stakeholders and that should be possibly put at their disposal in the future**, including: accessible graphs giving an overall picture of Portugal's development co-operation (with breakdowns by sector, geography and financial instruments); detailed activity-level data for expert users; figures on Portugal's contributions to key thematic areas such as peace and security, development education, gender equality, climate and private-sector instruments; stories illustrating development impact; and comprehensive metadata explaining concepts, methods, validation processes and data quality limitations.

- **Encourages the Statistics Unit to use data-storytelling approaches** to build clear narratives from the data (using simple, low-cost tools such as Flourish or Data Wrapper) and to actively circulate OECD products that feature Portugal's development co-operation — such as the Development Co-operation Profiles and dashboards — among relevant ministries and stakeholders, to showcase their contributions and increase recognition of the Unit's work.

- **Recommends assigning additional resources to communication**, for example by involving Camões, I.P.'s Communication Unit, so that statistical outputs on development co-operation are better communicated, ideally through a joint communication strategy or plan.