

2015

Irish Aid Annual Report



 **Irish Aid**
An Roinn Gnóthaí, Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

**Ireland's
commitment
to a world
without poverty
and hunger**



This page: A man watches as a helicopter carrying life-saving supplies lands amid a cloud of dust in the town of Kiech Kon in Upper Nile State, South Sudan.
Photo: Mike Pflanz/UNICEF Cover page: Schoolchildren crossing a bridge in Kroo Bay, Freetown, Sierra Leone. Photo: Irish Aid



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FOREWORD

2015 was a year of increasing humanitarian crisis, but it was also the year in which world leaders reached agreement on a new framework for global development for the next fifteen years.



Charlie Flanagan TD



Joe McHugh TD

In September at the United Nations, at the conclusion of a diplomatic process co-chaired by Ireland, world leaders reached agreement on and adopted the 2030 Agenda, and seventeen new Sustainable Development Goals. Ireland was represented at the Summit, the largest ever gathering of world leaders, by the President and the Taoiseach. The challenge now is to ensure that the implementation of the ambitious new Goals for humanity, at home and internationally, is adequate to the level of global challenge.

We can be proud that Ireland has continued to play a strong role in the fight to end poverty and hunger in the world. In 2015, the Government provided a total of €647.51 million in Official Development Assistance (ODA). This contribution reflects the continued importance that the Irish people place in our partnership with people in developing countries. Our commitment has remained steadfast despite the economic difficulties of recent years. As our own economic situation improves, we can be proud that we protected and maintained our development programme when difficult decisions were being made. Because of our strong commitment to international development, in good times and in bad, Ireland continues to play a globally

recognised role in fighting extreme poverty and hunger. Our new Programme for Government makes the commitment of continued progress towards achieving the UN target of providing 0.7% of GNP for ODA, as resources allow.

Our aim through Irish Aid is to enable people, in particular the most vulnerable, to move sustainably out of poverty. This goal was set out clearly in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade review of our foreign policy: *The Global Island. The Global Island* outlines our continued commitment to building and sustaining strong partnerships to address the complex factors behind poverty, hunger and inequality. This also informs every aspect of our policy for International Development, *One World, One Future*.

The Irish Aid Annual Report provides an overview of the Irish people's official aid programme and its impact in 2015. It contains a detailed account in the text and in the annexes of how our aid budget is spent, in our partner countries and in other countries facing the challenges of poverty, hunger and humanitarian disaster. It contains under each specific country page, details of the results we have achieved through our strategic partnerships – whether this is increased numbers of children immunised against disease or our work to promote the orange fleshed

sweet potato as a key nutritional crop. Practical and effective interventions like these are the hallmark of our development assistance programme, and inform our international development policy approaches.

The global context for providing aid is complex and difficult. In 2015, for instance, the number of forcibly displaced people increased to nearly 60 million, and 80% of humanitarian work is now in countries and regions affected by conflict. Over half of refugees worldwide are women and children. Europe itself has been challenged by this humanitarian crisis. Ireland has responded to the level of humanitarian crisis by providing some €140 million in humanitarian assistance globally in 2015.

We held a successful Irish Humanitarian Summit in June 2015 to examine how we respond to the increased number of complex humanitarian emergencies and how we can ensure our humanitarian aid is as effective as it can be. The key message to emerge from our summit was that affected people should be at the centre of all disaster responses and humanitarian action should support affected people in shaping their own survival and recovery. The results of this summit informed Ireland's contribution to

A beneficiary of Irish Aid's distribution of relief items to Nigerian refugees at Minawao Refugee Camp, Maroua, Far North Region of Cameroon, April 2015. Photo: Plan International



the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in May 2016.

2015 was the 60th anniversary of Ireland's admission to the United Nations, and we were particularly pleased to welcome the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon to Ireland in May. During the Secretary General's visit, we underlined Ireland's commitment to supporting a strong and effective United Nations. As a small but active member of the United Nations, Ireland is dedicated to the principles and values enshrined in the United Nations Charter. Ireland is one of the strongest supporters of the United Nations' work on peace and security, human rights and development, all of which is critical to the prevention of and response to humanitarian crises. We strongly support the authority of the United Nations in galvanising international action on the global issues that we face in tackling poverty, ending conflict and dealing with climate change.

This Annual Report is an exercise in accountability to the Irish people and to our partners in the fight to end global poverty and inequality, and to demonstrate the impact Ireland is having in some of the poorest and most vulnerable communities in the world. We are proud that our focus remains firmly

on the poorest and most vulnerable in sub-Saharan Africa. We recognise that our response in an ever more complex and interdependent world needs to be resilient, pragmatic and above all effective. We hope that this report is a solid testament to the vision which underpins Irish Aid and its work.

Charlie Flanagan TD
Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade

Joe McHugh, TD
Minister of State for the
Diaspora and International
Development



2015 - THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The European Union designated 2015 the European Year of Development, and it proved to be the year when the international community adopted the new Sustainable Development Goals and reached an historic and binding climate change agreement. 2015 was a year for development and Ireland played a role we can justifiably be proud of.

In September 2015, following two years of intense consultations and negotiations at the United Nations and four linked international conferences, the leaders of the world adopted seventeen Sustainable Development Goals and 169 associated targets which set the benchmark for progress in fighting hunger, poverty and environmental degradation for the next fifteen years.

The first of the four linked conferences, the March World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Japan, resulted in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The framework takes on board lessons learned over the last ten years, during which time, over 700,000 people have lost their lives due to natural disasters, over 1.4 million have been injured, approximately 23 million have been made homeless, and the economic loss, as a result of the natural disasters over that time, has exceeded \$1.3 trillion.

The new framework recognises that poverty, inequality and climate change increase vulnerability to loss of life and destruction of livelihoods following a natural disaster and it seeks to tackle these issues at source.



President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins giving the keynote address at the Launch of the European Year for Development 2015 in Dublin Castle, January 22nd 2015. Photo: Conor Healy Photography

The July International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Ethiopia, was all about agreeing the means of financing the new development goals. The outcome of this conference, the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda*, outlines commitments to generate sufficient resources to finance development.

In addition to traditional official development assistance, the *Action Agenda* casts the net wider, and seeks to address: illicit flows of capital from poor countries, weak domestic taxation systems, the inadequate tax transparency of multinational corporations working in the developing world and the low participation of domestic capital markets.

The *Action Agenda* also ensures continued flows of aid while encouraging new international donors to play their part, including for example emerging economies in the South.



An Taoiseach Enda Kenny T.D. addresses the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in New York, September 25th 2015. Photo: UN Photo/Mark Garten

The September United Nations Sustainable Development Summit was the largest ever gathering of world leaders in the history of the United Nations, with 193 countries committing to a new development plan for the world, the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

Ireland was appointed by the President of the General Assembly to facilitate the negotiations along with Kenya, and played a pivotal role in brokering the agreement. Our delegation to the Summit was led by An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, T.D., and President Michael D. Higgins, with the Minister of State for International Development, Seán Sherlock, T.D., also participating.

Given Ireland's central role in co-facilitating the negotiations we can all be proud of the outcome: a universal agenda which has the potential to transform our world for the better over the next fifteen years and an agenda that pledges to leave no one behind.

Finally in December, the United Nations *Framework Convention on Climate Change* held its 21st 'Conference of the Parties' or COP21, as it is also known. This resulted in an historic binding agreement on climate change. Given the importance for development of stabilising and adapting to climate change, and the numerous failed previous attempts to seal an agreement acceptable to all, the Paris Agreement was an enormous milestone at the close of a very successful year.

As with all frameworks and plans, implementation is the key. However, securing agreement from all nations, both developing and developed, on goals and targets for the forthcoming fifteen years, truly has the potential to change the course of development.

2015 was also a year beset by humanitarian crises and images of the largest migration of people, fleeing conflict and poverty, since World War II, brought the reality of humanitarian strife into sharp focus. This year's report starts with a feature highlighting Irish Aid's work in assisting those in need in the wake of natural disasters and conflict and outlines Ireland's new Humanitarian Assistance policy. It also highlights our longer term work to help communities better cope with life and livelihood threatening disasters, both natural and man-made.

In January, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade launched its review of Ireland's Foreign Policy: *The Global Island*. The review considers the challenges and opportunities for Ireland in a new globalised world under five main but closely linked themes: Our People, Our Values, Our Prosperity, Our Place in Europe and Our Influence. The second theme, Our Values, sets out Ireland's support for a fairer, more just, secure and more sustainable world through our development programme, human rights policies, peacekeeping and a growing engagement with emerging global issues, including climate change.



Irish Ambassador David Donoghue with Amina Mohammed, the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning, as well as Kenyan Ambassador, Macharia Kamau, at the UN Summit, New York, March 2015. Photo: IISD/ENB (http://www.iisd.ca/post2015/in3/images/24mar/IMG_1331.jpg)

Gender Equality continues to be centre stage of the Irish Aid programme and in March, Ireland co-hosted three international events on women’s participation in decision making during the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in New York. The Commission is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

In April, the new Embassy of Ireland in Kenya opened. The Embassy, which has a strong bilateral trade focus, brings to ten the number of Irish Embassies in sub-Saharan Africa. Ireland now has a strong footprint in Kenya, through a range of development, humanitarian, human rights, governance and gender empowerment projects.

During 2015, Ireland marked the 60th Anniversary of its admission to the United Nations. To mark this important time in the history of the State, the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon visited Ireland in May to launch a programme of commemorative events and activities, “UN60”. During his visit, Ireland’s wide ranging contribution to the United Nations was showcased. Mr Ban, during a keynote address in Dublin Castle to mark UN60, highlighted Ireland’s development programme and its leadership in tackling world hunger.

Irish Aid is committed to a robust scrutiny of the aid programme by the Oireachtas and during the year the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade visited our programme in Malawi and South Africa and the Public Accounts Committee visited Vietnam.

Both delegations concluded that our programmes in these countries are clearly benefiting some of the poorest and most marginalised communities. In particular, the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade concluded that “the work being undertaken by the Irish Embassy in Malawi and particularly the practical focus on agriculture and nutrition, resilience building, and governance was indeed the best use of Irish funding under the Irish Aid programme”.



Unloading emergency supplies in Malawi in the aftermath of the floods, January 2015. Photo: Arjen van de Merwe/Concern Universal



The Global Humanitarian Crisis

Saving and protecting lives, alleviating suffering and maintaining human dignity before, during and after crises

Every year, millions of people across the world show extraordinary resilience in the face of natural and man-made crises. Unfortunately, many do not survive the devastating impact of such crises or if they do, they have to flee their homes and suffer the loss of loved ones, and their livelihoods.

Humanitarian crises come in many forms - from the sudden devastation caused by earthquakes and typhoons, to the destruction caused by war and conflict, to recurring hunger and malnutrition caused by drought and famine. Almost all have the same causes: poverty, exclusion and competition for limited resources, compounded by climate change, political instability and conflict.

Humanitarian assistance delivered by Irish Aid through its partners is designed to help people, communities and countries prepare for, withstand, and recover from these crises. Crises are often protracted in nature. In many cases, people forced to leave their homes are unable to return for several years, if at all. Developing countries are disproportionately affected by these crises and it is the poorest men, women and children who suffer most.

Conflict is a major driver of humanitarian need, with 80% of need arising in areas affected by conflict. Increasingly, civilians are deliberate targets of war, with people's human rights violated and scant respect for international humanitarian law. The number of forcibly displaced people globally stands at 60 million, the highest level since World War II. The vast majority of these are hosted in countries such as Turkey, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lebanon and Jordan, which struggle to provide basic services to an increasing population.



Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Charlie Flanagan T.D., with the Minister for Development, Trade Promotion and North-South Cooperation Seán Sherlock T.D., at the launch of Irish Aid's new Humanitarian Assistance Policy in Dublin, July 2nd 2015. Photo: Mark Henderson

The quantity, scale and intensity of emergencies continues to increase with the number of people affected by humanitarian crises almost double what it was ten years ago. In 2015, the numbers of people in need of humanitarian assistance at the beginning of the year was estimated at 77.9 million; this number had increased to 125.3 million by the end of the year. The financial cost of humanitarian action is rising every year and the humanitarian system, in its current form, is struggling to cope. In 2015, there was a record 45% shortfall in financing available to meet humanitarian needs.

Ireland's Humanitarian Assistance –protecting life and dignity

The core objective of Ireland's humanitarian assistance is to save and protect lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity, before, during and in the aftermath of humanitarian disasters. The Government provided over €140 million in humanitarian assistance globally in 2015, the majority through the Irish Aid programme. Resources were allocated across crisis-affected countries to support programmes which are saving lives and meeting basic needs, providing protection for people fleeing from conflict, improving their access to healthcare, education and clean water, providing food assistance and tackling malnutrition, and where possible, supporting vulnerable people to find livelihood opportunities in the communities and countries where they are currently hosted.

Ireland's humanitarian programme is underpinned by a strong commitment to international humanitarian law and the provision of flexible and timely funding that is based on the international humanitarian principles of independence, neutrality, impartiality and humanity. These principles ensure that our humanitarian assistance is focused on where need is greatest, providing life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations, delivered without discrimination. Ireland maintains a particular focus on forgotten crises, for example through support provided to crises in Northern Nigeria, Afghanistan and Yemen in 2015, and to those which are particularly protracted. In such contexts, Ireland's focus is on supporting the recovery of livelihoods and strengthening the long term development of migrant and host communities.

Ireland's humanitarian policy engagement

In July 2015, Ireland's Humanitarian Assistance Policy was launched by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Charlie Flanagan, T.D. and the Minister of State for

Development Seán Sherlock, T.D. The updated Policy reflects the current challenging humanitarian context worldwide and sets out Ireland's approach to understanding and meeting the needs of communities affected by humanitarian crises. This approach is underpinned by policy priorities such as provision of humanitarian assistance based on need alone, putting affected people at the centre of humanitarian action, protection of women and girls and support to forgotten crises.

In June 2015, we also published our strategy on Ireland's *Rapid Response Initiative*. The *Rapid Response Initiative* is a central feature of our humanitarian assistance programme. We respond in a practical way to crises by deploying highly-skilled rapid responders as surge capacity to our UN partners on the ground and by sending in emergency relief supplies, such as tents, blankets, water tanks and jerry cans.



Pabityra Paudyal, 13, reads a book she found in the rubble of the destroyed Chaturmala Higher Secondary School in Muchowk, Gorkha district, Nepal. Photo: UNICEF/Panday

In preparation for the first ever World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in May 2016, the Irish humanitarian community convened a two-year consultation process to explore ways to improve individual and collective humanitarian responses. 230 senior representatives from Government, NGOs, academia, the private sector and the diaspora came together at the Irish Humanitarian Summit in July 2015 in Dublin which was opened by President Michael D. Higgins. The core message arising from the consultations was:

“Affected people should be at the centre of all disaster responses and humanitarian action should support affected peoples to be actors in shaping their own survival and recovery”.

Ireland’s response to major crises in 2015

Ireland’s largest single humanitarian response is to the Syria crisis. By the end of 2015, more than 260,000 people had been killed and some 13.5 million people within Syria were in need of humanitarian assistance. The UN estimates that over 4.8 million Syrians have fled to neighbouring countries. In 2015, Ireland pledged €12 million in support of the Syria crisis but exceeded that pledge by over €1.7 million. By year end, this brought our total humanitarian assistance to the Syria crisis since 2012 to over €42 million. Irish funding seeks to meet the

needs of those inside Syria, particularly in besieged and hard-to-reach areas, and those who have fled to neighbouring countries, in particular Lebanon and Jordan. One example of Ireland’s response to the Syria crisis is our funding contribution to the *No Lost Generation* campaign, which is led by UNICEF, focussing on the education of children. Within Syria, 3.2 million children were enrolled in education in 2015 as a result of the programme, and a further 700,000 in neighbouring refugee-hosting countries.

Ireland has also responded to the migration crisis which saw more than 1 million people arrive to Europe by sea in 2015, while an estimated 4,000 drowned. Through our *Rapid Response Initiative*, we deployed five members of our Rapid Response Corps in 2015 to provide surge capacity to our UN partners in the Middle East and the Balkans. Ireland also dispatched 9 tonnes of blankets for distribution in December 2015 to refugees in Serbia. We also supported the work of World Vision in Serbia and the International Rescue Committee in the Balkans.

In addition, in 2105 the Irish Defence Forces made a significant contribution to the humanitarian response through its search and rescue operations in the Mediterranean, saving 8,592 lives.

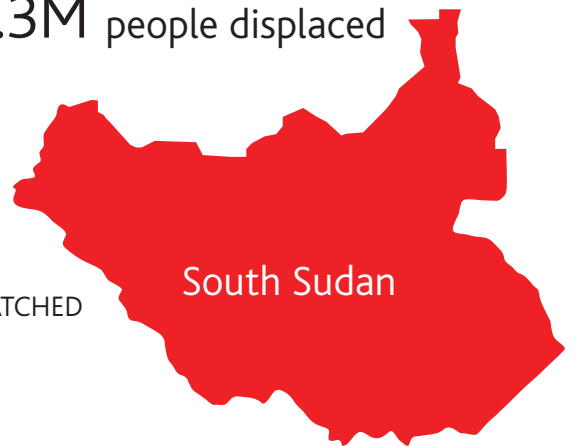
IRELAND’S HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH SUDAN, 2014-2015

 Population 10.3M people  2.3M people displaced

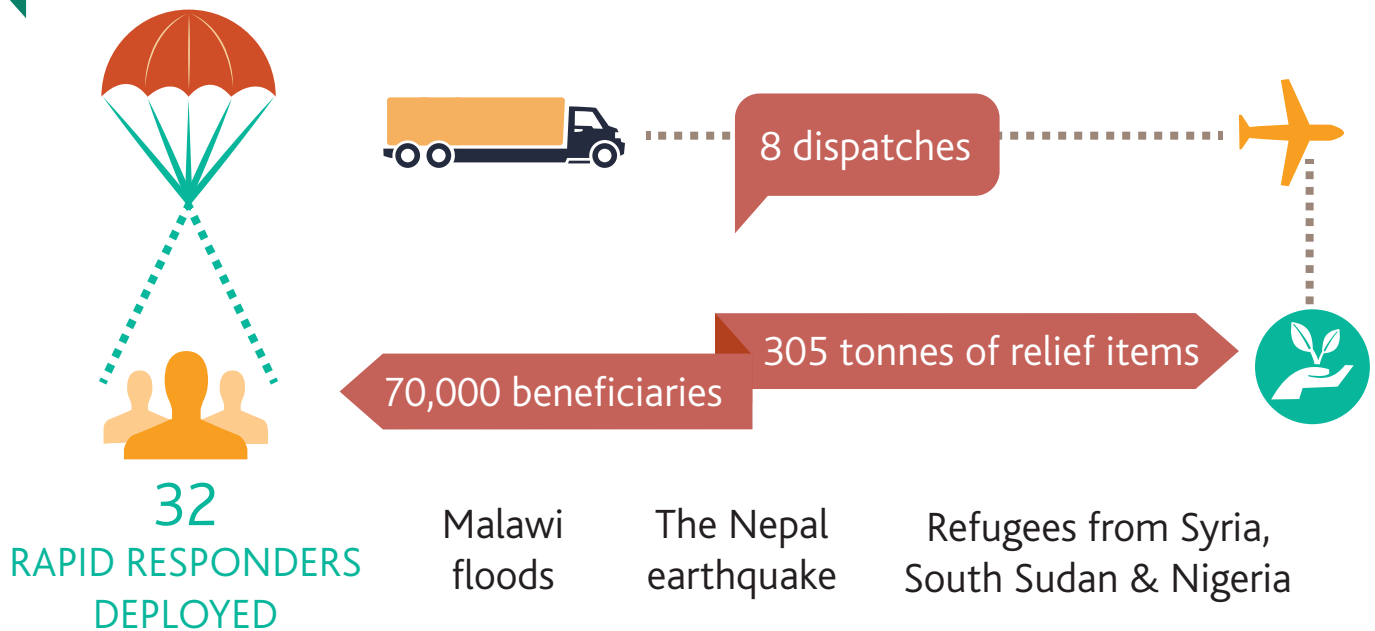
 19M IN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

 167 TONNES OF EMERGENCY RELIEF SUPPLIES DISPATCHED

 11 RAPID RESPONSE CORPS MEMBERS DEPLOYED



IRELAND'S RAPID RESPONSE INITIATIVE IN 2015



Throughout 2015, Ireland provided significant humanitarian assistance in the Horn of Africa. €23 million was provided to countries including Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Eritrea and South Sudan. Our assistance saved lives and alleviated the suffering of families and communities affected by conflict, violence and the severe drought and floods caused by the El Niño weather phenomenon. We supported the provision of food assistance, livelihoods support, and emergency shelter, helped improve access to health care and nutrition services, and helped build the resilience of people to cope.

On 25th April 2015, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal, just northwest of the capital of Kathmandu, the worst earthquake to strike the region in more than 80 years. Over 8,700 people died and more than 22,200 were injured, with over half a million homes destroyed. In response, Ireland provided a total of €1.6 million in humanitarian funding, through our NGO partners and agencies, to support the provision of life-saving assistance for the people of Nepal. This assistance included 114 tonnes of relief items such as tents and blankets; water & sanitation; and the provision of counselling and psychosocial support for those affected by the earthquake.

Ireland's partners in humanitarian action

Our humanitarian assistance is delivered on the ground by our partners who have the experience and capacity to deliver to the most vulnerable communities. Where possible, we support local people and organisations who have a longer term presence in countries affected by crises. In our partner countries, we work with national and local governments in support of their plans and capacity to respond.

Looking to 2016...

With ever-increasing humanitarian needs and continuing conflict in many parts of the world, 2016 is another challenging year for humanitarian action. Ireland has engaged actively in the first ever World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in May 2016 and is contributing to more effective, transparent and accountable humanitarian assistance which meets the needs of those most affected by crises.

ETHIOPIA

- 👤 Population: **96.5 million**
- 💰 Gross National Income (GNI) per capita: **\$1,428**
- 📊 UN Human Development Index: **174 out of 187 countries**

- 🌐 Key Partner Country since: **1994**
- 👤 Life Expectancy: **64**



Debre Birhan kebele farmers' houses and crops, Hawzen Woreda, Tigray Region, Ethiopia. Photo: Diane Guerrier/IIED Consultant

Coping with El Niño and improving accountability

By the end of 2015, Ethiopia was in the grip of its worst drought in fifty years due to the global El Niño. The two rainy seasons of the year were greatly affected by this climatic event. As a result, the number of those requiring food assistance increased from 2.9 million in January to 10.2 million by December.

Ireland responded to the drought quickly, tripling its contribution to the Ethiopian Government's Humanitarian Response Fund. A total of €3.8million was provided by Ireland in 2015 to support 400,000 people. Ireland's Embassy team engaged closely on how the fund was spent, providing advice and monitoring support.

The largest component of Irish Aid's programme in Ethiopia is the *Productive Safety Net Programme* which Irish Aid helped establish. This programme was set up to help poor rural communities cope with ongoing food shortages caused by drought and poverty. A combination of cash and food transfers are provided based on season and need, with food given primarily in the lean season between June and August. 5.1 million food-insecure people received cash or food through this programme in 2015.

KEY RESULTS



400,000 people affected by El Niño drought benefit from Irish Aid support.



5.1 million food-insecure people received cash or food through the Irish Aid supported Productive Safety Nets Programme.



28,157 poor and marginalised victims of violence, 71% of whom were female, received free legal aid.

Irish Aid also supports farmers to adopt drought-resilient farming methods. During the year, those farmers assisted produced 40% more food than they would have using traditional practices, despite this year's drought.

Assisting those most at risk, in a context of ongoing food shortages and climate shocks is just one element of the Irish Aid programme in Ethiopia. Another pillar of the programme involves working with civil society to encourage communities, who tend to be less active in the development process, to get involved, air their views

and understand their rights. Our support to the Ethiopia Women Lawyers Association and to eight regional universities for the provision of free legal aid, is an example of this work. This project was established in partnership with the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and focuses particularly on those affected by Gender Based Violence. In 2015, 28,157 people, 71% of whom were female, received counselling, assistance with the preparation of pleadings and court representations.

CASE STUDY - The Ethiopian Centre for Disability



Lemma Nigatu, Aster Laketch and Friends Stationery Services Cooperative, Debre Birhan. Photo: Irish Aid

To give effect to Irish Aid's policy on ensuring that no one is left behind, including those with disabilities, our programme in Ethiopia started in 2015 to support the Ethiopian Centre for Disability.

Lemma Nigatu is from the rural area of Semen Shoa zone of Amhara region. When he was 12 years he suddenly became paralysed from the waist down. He was able to regain some mobility but one of his legs was permanently impaired. He completed grade seven but was not able to continue his education, noting "how can one learn without eating?" After moving to Debre Birhan when he was 31, Lemma began running a horse-drawn carriage for transporting goods and people. His earnings, however, were insignificant as his reduced ability to carry goods slowed him down considerably. Following a recommendation of his local government

office, he joined a cooperative of ten people with disabilities who are supported by Irish Aid.

Nigatu and the others were given the capital to set up a business centre near the Debre Birhan University. They were also trained in the use and maintenance of business centre equipment, including printers, photocopiers, binders, scanners and computers. Its premises were provided rent free by the City Administration and their new cooperative 'Aster Laketch and Friends Stationery Services Cooperative Shareholder Association' began operations in 2015. 'The location of our shop is ideal... we are confident that we will get good business from university students and staff' said Lemma.

'There is no going back. We are determined to change our lives'.

MALAWI

👤 Population: **16.8 million**

💰 Gross National Income (GNI) per capita: **\$747**

📊 UN Human Development Index: **173 out of 187 countries**

🌐 Key Partner Country since: **2007**

🕒 Life Expectancy: **63**



A Social cash transfer beneficiary accessing her monthly e-payment in Balaka, Southern Region, Malawi. Photo: Irish Aid

Irish Aid pilots innovations: cook stoves to charge phones and social protection delivered using e-banking

Malawi experienced a difficult start to 2015 with intense flooding in many parts of the country followed by the early cessation of rains leading to drought at the end of the agricultural growing season. Weather extremes such as these and their livelihood-destroying impacts have become regular features in many of Irish Aid's programme countries. Climate adaptation is consequently an area of increasing focus of Irish Aid's work. Our 2015 programme in Malawi helped over 2.2 million households cope with flood and drought through a variety of projects aimed at securing livelihoods and supporting emergency cash based programmes.

Irish Aid's assistance to the Malawi National Social Cash Transfer programme continued during the year. This programme ramped up significantly in 2015, and now

reaches 711,413 people, a threefold increase since the end of 2014. We are now on track to reach 10% of all households in Malawi by 2017. Irish Aid also directly supports the social cash transfer programme in Balaka district (8,519 households) and in 2015 successfully piloted the use of electronic banking to deliver payments. On foot of this success, the Government of Malawi has recently announced its intention to use e-payments for all Social Cash Transfer payments in the future.

Supporting a more widespread use of fuel-efficient cook stoves is an important and tangible example of how Irish Aid helps communities adapt to climate change. Improved cook stoves use less fuel and consequently the cost to households and the impact on the local environment is significantly reduced.

KEY RESULTS



2.2 million households received support from Irish Aid following climate shocks



The Malawi National Social Cash Transfer programme was significantly ramped up in 2015, reaching 711,413 of Malawi's poorest people a threefold increase in the national programme from the previous year.



By the end of 2015, an estimated 382,000 households were using improved fuel-efficient cook stoves in Malawi as part of Irish Aid's work in adapting to the effects of climate change.

Ireland provided stoves to over 8,000 beneficiaries in Balaka, with a further 8,000 being sold through production sales. Irish Aid has contributed to the uptake of 382,000 fuel-efficient cook stoves to date and hopes to play a continued strong role in achieving the Government's target of 2 million stoves by 2020.

A second innovation in 2015, brought about by Trinity College Dublin and Concern Universal, with support from Irish Aid, extended the utility of fuel-efficient cook stoves as a source of electricity. The pilot Thermo Electricity Generating stove is locally produced and can charge mobile phones, radios and lights.

CASE STUDY – Climate proofing livelihoods



Grace Banda stands beside her house built with profit earned through the ECRP programme. Photo: Louis Suwedi /Christian Aid

Grace Banda lives in Chingwe Village in Nsanje district, in northern Malawi. She is married with four children and the family also cares for another child. Before joining the Irish Aid supported *Enhancing Community Resilience Programme*, Grace's income came mostly from casual farm labour and selling snacks. The family struggled financially as she only earned two euro (1,500 Malawian Kwacha) per day which barely met her family's needs. *"I used to try to do some business but all of the profits would be used for food and other small things,"* Grace says.

Since joining the programme, Grace has diversified her earnings from the business with a loan from a village savings and loans group. With the loan Grace was able to source higher value foodstuffs to sell. Now, she sells bread rolls and fish twice a week at her local market place. On a

good day, Grace earns almost twenty euro (15,000 Malawian Kwacha) which is a huge boost to the household's income. With this income Grace was able to save enough to build a safe and secure house for her family.

Through the programme Grace and her husband also benefited from advice and support on conservation agriculture, agroforestry and small scale irrigation. She also uses climate forecasting messages received on her mobile phone.

These interventions complement each other and have made a significant difference in the lives of the Banda family and for the first time in years Grace can meet her household needs.

MOZAMBIQUE

- 👤 Population: **26.5 million**
- 💰 Gross National Income (GNI) per capita: **\$1,123**
- 📊 UN Human Development Index: **180 out of 187 countries**

- 🌐 Key Partner Country since: **1996**
- 👤 Life Expectancy: **55**



Luchimua Bridge in Niassa province, built with Irish Aid funds to improve land communication between Majune and Mandimba districts. Photo: Irish Aid

Helping communities adapt to Climate change and gain access to better services

Ireland's programme of support to Mozambique is the largest of Irish Aid's bilateral country programmes. The current strategy covers the period 2011 to 2016 and during 2015 a review of the programme was conducted to gauge progress so far. The review noted that the programme's focus on inclusive economic growth, helping communities adapt to climate change and improving health and education services, especially for the most marginalised communities, is well on track.

Access to basic services has improved remarkably during the last 20 years in Mozambique having been all but destroyed during years of conflict and civil war.

As in all our country programmes, Ireland has a two pronged approach of active policy dialogue and the provision of targeted financial support. In Mozambique, strong engagement on policy, targeted financing and technical support have resulted in the enactment of key legislation and national strategies. Currently, Ireland is the co-chair of the donor group on nutrition and our work has contributed to a drop in the mortality rate, as a result of severe malnutrition, from 25% in 2010 to 11.6% in 2015. Another example, is the collaboration with government to improve access to basic services, where, over the past three years we have seen a 10% increase in school enrolment at primary level.

KEY RESULTS



Ireland is the co-chair of the international donor group on nutrition and our work has contributed to a fall in the mortality rate, as a result of severe malnutrition, from 25% in 2010 to 11.6% in 2015.



Ireland has been working directly with the government to improve access to basic services; an example of this improvement is that over the past three years we have seen a 10% increase in school enrolment at primary level.



The number of supervised births, a major indicator of success in reducing maternal mortality, rose from 62% in 2010 to 75% in 2015.

The Health sector is another example of Ireland's pivotal role in development in Mozambique. In 2015, Ireland represented all agencies supporting the health sector in dialogue with the Ministry of Health and used the opportunity to focus on improving human resources and financial management in the sector. Ireland's work

alongside the government of Mozambique, and other donors is yielding dividends. This year, for example it emerged that there has been an increase in the number of supervised births from 62% to 75% in 2015. This is an important indicator of success in reducing maternal mortality.

CASE STUDY - Improving child nutrition in Niassa



Community children during the orange fleshed sweet potato harvest, Lichinga, Niassa Province, Mozambique. Photo: Benjamin Rakotoarisoa

Jervino Santos is a one year old boy. One month after his birth, his mother could no longer breastfeed him due to health problems. Margarida Assa had no choice but to feed her baby milk bought in a small shop nearby. By the time Jervino was six months old, symptoms of malnutrition were evident. Lucia Bizale, his grandmother was aware of the benefits of consuming orange-fleshed sweet potato and so gathered vines from a neighboring field to plant herself.




Orange-fleshed sweet potato is a Vitamin A-rich food. Lucia prepared it daily by mixing it with ground nuts, legume-puree or fish powder and this became Jervino's main diet for the next six months. He recovered and is now a healthy child and the pride of his grandmother.



Malnutrition (and vitamin A deficiency especially) among young children is a huge challenge in Mozambique. In Niassa, a northern province of Mozambique, one and a half times the size of Ireland, malnutrition rates reached 44% of children under five years of age in 2013.

To address this issue, Irish Aid is funding the 3 year project called *Nutritious Orange-fleshed Sweet Potato for Niassa*. The project assists 20,000 households with young children. Working with local farmers, production and consumption has expanded. Surplus roots are also a source of cash for households.

Not a traditionally consumed food in Niassa, orange-fleshed sweet potatoes are now widely integrated into people's diets in targeted districts and are even processed by small bakeries to make bread and cookies.

SIERRA LEONE

-  Population: **6.2 million**
-  Gross National Income (GNI) per capita: **\$1,780**
-  UN Human Development Index: **181 out of 187 countries**

-  Key Partner Country since: **2014**
-  Life Expectancy: **51**



Street scene in Freetown, Sierra Leone. Photo: Irish Aid

Post Ebola - Getting back on Track in Ireland's newest Key Partner Country

Sierra Leone, the worst affected country of the largest Ebola outbreak in history in terms of the numbers of reported cases, emerged from the crisis during 2015, with the WHO officially declaring the outbreak over in November. Ireland's Embassy in Freetown played a strong coordinating role in bringing the epidemic under control and was particularly successful in advocating for a stronger role for NGOs in the response and in ensuring adequate nutrition to those quarantined. Ireland's total contribution towards ending the epidemic in West Africa was €18.5 million.

While the first half of 2015 was largely taken up with the Ebola crisis, the second half of the year saw the Government and donors resume development activities which had been put on hold while responding to the outbreak. A nine-month recovery plan was developed and Ireland started and led

donor coordination in support of the plan. Over the course of 2015, Ireland provided over €3.3 million in support for nutrition food security projects. Progress on nutrition in Sierra Leone is mixed. Results of a micronutrient survey undertaken with support from Irish Aid, shows estimated anaemia rates at an alarming 76% in children under five. Irish Aid has now begun to work on this issue and is a member of the recently established Anaemia Working Group. Conversely, progress in tackling Severe Acute Malnutrition is encouraging, with cure rates rising from 93.2% in 2014 to 95.4% in 2015.

Evidence also strongly suggests that an already challenging context for women and girls in Sierra Leone, worsened during the Ebola crisis. The burden on women and girls as caretakers in the family increased and there was also an

KEY RESULTS



Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone declared over by WHO in November.



Children cured of Severe Acute Malnutrition in Sierra Leone rose from 93.2% in January 2014 to 95.4% in March 2015.



99% coverage for an immunisation campaign in 15 counties in Liberia was achieved, protecting children from illness and disability.

increase in sexual and gender-based violence and teenage pregnancies over the course of the outbreak. In 2015, the Mission led on successfully lobbying the Government to create an education programme for pregnant girls after they were banned from regular schools.

The Embassy in Sierra Leone also manages Ireland's programme of assistance to Liberia. 2015 was a very challenging year for Liberia as the country coped with the combined challenges of the Ebola outbreak and declining prices of exports such as rubber and iron, both of which are very important for the Liberian economy.

Similar to Sierra Leone, progress in development was stalled and in some cases reversed as a result of the Ebola outbreak. The closure of health centres, classrooms and markets to contain the epidemic, has impacted heavily on already vulnerable communities.

Ireland's focus on improving health service delivery in Liberia continued during the year. Measures designed to retain and train health workers and strengthen the national health system were implemented in partnership with the Government and other agencies. Early signs of a return to progress were apparent with a 99% coverage across 15 counties on an immunization campaign that targeted children aged 0 to 5 years old. Furthermore, progress on strengthening the skills of health staff in financial management and using the health management information system were firmly back on track.

Ireland's Embassy team in Freetown has a busy year ahead. In order to build on the gains of 2015 in this post-Ebola context, the Embassy team are in the process of finalising a new strategy, to cover Ireland's support to both countries for the period 2016-2017.

CASE STUDY - Access to Education for Teenage Pregnant Girls

"I dropped out of school because I cannot afford to meet my schooling needs. All these have changed. Thanks to Restless Development Volunteers for changing my mind and the community; to see the need to send girls back to school."

These are the words of Aminata Kamara, a 16 year old member of the 'Layyah Girls' Club' in Koya Chiefdom, Port Loko District Northern Region, Sierra Leone. As a result of an Irish Aid funded project, with Restless Development (a civil society organisation that supports education), Aminata has gone back to school.

Aminata dropped out of St. Paul's Secondary School for a number of reasons. Firstly, her parents found it very difficult to meet her schooling costs. Aminata also had to walk 10 miles from Layyah community to Madigan community school every day. One day, like so many others before, Aminata was punished for being late because she had to do her household

chores before leaving for school that morning. Aminata decided that education was not for her and she dropped out.

To address this issue, Restless Development invited her to be a founding member of the community's girls' club – an opportunity which Aminata eagerly accepted. The girls' club engaged with Aminata's family and the parents of other girls who had dropped out of school. Inspirational stories of prominent women in Sierra Leone, how they struggled, and how education changed their lives, were shared with the community. The club acted as a source of strength and courage to support the girls' return to school.

Today, Aminata is back at Junior Secondary School 3; and she is preparing to take her Basic Education Certificate Examination (BECE). Her parents have now pledged to provide their full support for her education. Aminata dreams of becoming a lawyer.



Aminata Kamara, 16 year old member of the 'Layyah Girls' Club' in Koya Chiefdom, Port Loko district Northern Region, Sierra Leone. Photo: UNFPA Sierra Leone

TANZANIA

- 👤 Population: **50.8 million**
- 💰 Gross National Income (GNI) per capita: **\$2,411**
- 📊 UN Human Development Index: **151 out of 187 countries**

- 👤 Key Partner Country since: **1975**
- 🌍 Life Expectancy: **65**



Christopher and Matilda of Mnyororo Sunflower Producers Group, Chunya District, Mbeya, Tanzania. Photo: Irish Aid

Achieving lasting results in healthcare and nutrition

2015 was an important year for Tanzania, with the election of a new President and a new parliament. In support of democracy, Ireland assisted various election-related programmes, including civic and voter education, improving women’s political representation and election monitoring. It was also an important year for the Irish Aid programme in Tanzania, with preparations underway for a review of the current programme, and the development of the next five year strategy from 2017 to 2021.

Improving the quality and availability of health services for all Tanzanians has been a longstanding component of the Irish Aid programme in Tanzania. While there have been improvements in child health in the past decade, progress on improving the health of women and adolescent girls has not been as strong or wide-reaching. Almost 8,000 women die

each year during childbirth, and only half of all deliveries are with a skilled birth attendant. A shortage of skilled health workers, particularly in rural and underserved areas, is a major constraint to further progress.

Ireland’s programme of support to health in Tanzania focuses on strengthening the public health system in the knowledge that achieving lasting change requires embedding that change in the local context. Ireland partners with both government and civil society organisations to improve the availability of essential medicines and equipment, the distribution of health workers and the ability of communities to demand better services. Ireland also provides targeted support to vulnerable people whose needs are not currently met within the public system.

KEY RESULTS



100,000 specialist consultations provided to people living with disabilities through Irish Aid support in 2015.



Under-five mortality rates reduced from 147 (per 1000 live births) in 2000 to 66 in 2012.



Maternal mortality ratio reduced from 605 (per 100,000 live births) in 2005 to 432 in 2012

Ireland chaired the donor group supporting health in Tanzania during the second half of 2015 and used this opportunity to support the Ministry of Health to advance a new national health strategy that prioritises improved human resources for health and increased access to health services. Irish Aid support resulted in twenty seven additional trained health care professionals being posted to remote districts contributing to a skills gap reduction from 57% to 32% in targeted facilities.

Addressing the needs of people who live with disabilities is an ongoing challenge for the government and its partners.

Irish Aid support resulted in the referral of over 100,000 patients with disabilities for specialist consultations mainly in ophthalmology and orthopaedics in the country's largest disability hospital.

The objective of improved health care and the other objectives of Ireland's programme in Tanzania: addressing nutrition, helping small holder farmers and improving domestic accountability, are mutually reinforcing. The next strategy will be based strongly on learning and analysis, distilling lessons from current and past programmes.

CASE STUDY - Simple technology that changes lives

Although Amina was born with only one leg, nothing stops her from engaging with the world.

At the Comprehensive Community-Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT) Disability Hospital in Dar es Salaam, Amina was fitted with a small prosthetic leg, provided free of charge. At first, Amina did not feel comfortable using her prosthetic limb, but following regular rehabilitation clinics at CCBRT, Amina has learned to move comfortably with the device. Now, Amina is happy with her prosthetic leg, and she sits and makes small movements all by herself. She can play with her friends and lead a normal life as an energetic toddler, and she will continue coming for rehabilitation and new prosthetic legs as she grows up.

As her daughter can now move comfortably, Amina's mother Rebecca is less worried about Amina's future,



Rebecca with Amina, CCBRT Hospital, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Photo: Sala Lewis/CCBRT

and she has more time to take care of her family and even work part-time. "I am speechless," Rebecca says when she is asked to describe her experience. "I could not afford to buy a prosthetic leg on my own. All I can say is thank you to CCBRT."

Irish Aid is a longstanding supporter of CCBRT Disability Hospital. In 2015, Irish Aid provided €700,000 in funding to support affordable and quality medical and rehabilitative services for people living with disabilities.

UGANDA

- 👤 Population: **38.8 million**
- 💰 Gross National Income (GNI) per capita: **\$1,613**
- 📊 UN Human Development Index: **163 out of 187 countries**

- 👤 Key Partner Country since: **1994**
- 👤 Life Expectancy: **58**



Katikit Primary School, Amudat District, Karamoja which was constructed with Irish Aid funding under the Karamoja Primary Education Project. Photo: Irish Aid

Expanding access to better education in the northern sub region of Karamoja

Ireland's programme in Uganda made significant progress on several fronts during 2015, in particular in expanding education access and improving education quality in the northern sub region of Karamoja and also in rolling out a social protection programme designed to assist senior citizens in extreme poverty.

Access to services for the poor and marginalised in Uganda is still weak. In education, while primary school enrolment has increased from 2.5 million in 1997 to 8.5 million in 2013, only 33% of those enrolled actually complete the full primary school cycle. Karamoja lags well behind the national average performance in education. Only 12% of the

northern district's population can read or write, for example, while the national average is 71%. Irish Aid's support for education in Uganda is concentrated in Karamoja where, during 2015, the construction of teachers housing, dormitories, classrooms, kitchens and sanitation facilities for twenty one primary schools was completed.

Those least able to meet the costs of going to school were also assisted. Irish Aid's bursary programme in Karamoja meant that an additional 937 students were able to go to school during the year. 587 girls and 350 boys received assistance to pay school fees, mentoring support and career guidance under the programme.

KEY RESULTS



Teacher housing, dormitories, kitchens, classrooms and sanitation facilities for 21 primary schools constructed in Karamoja.



The number of recipients of social assistance grants increased to 136,148 by the end of 2015 benefiting a total of 612,666 individuals.



937 students received financial support from Irish Aid to attend secondary school. The school bursaries benefited 587 girls and 350 boys.

At a national level, improving the quality of teaching in science and maths has been a challenge, and Irish Aid has responded by supporting a science and maths in-service training programme for teachers. During the year, 100 students received additional training in both subjects and plans for the construction of a new science and maths teachers' accommodation facility, funded by Irish Aid, got underway.

Ireland also supports a social protection programme in Uganda which is designed to assist groups with less resilience to poverty: older people, those with disabilities, young children and female headed households. By the end of the year, the number of recipients receiving quarterly payments, reached 136,148. The benefit of this assistance will reach an estimated 612,666 individuals, helping them afford an extra meal, more nutritious food, school fees, or needed medication.

CASE STUDY - Social Protection helping to change lives in Karamoja

Abendego Lojoo

80 years, Bazaar Village, Boma North, Moroto District, Karamoja.

Abendego enrolled for the Irish Aid-funded social protection programme when it first began, in 2012. He says the money has helped him in many ways, especially in paying rent, school fees, and feeding the household. He is now able to buy different food items apart from maize. He can afford beans, rice and occasionally potatoes, even though these are relatively expensive items.

The payments enable him to pay for his grandchildren's education which is an important investment in their future.


Abendego proudly tells of how six of his dependent children are now in Kampala studying. Recently he sold a cow in order to send more of his children to school. Most of his grandchildren are in primary classes, but those in Kampala are in secondary school.


Still, he explains, there remain several young children at home, who will soon need to go to school, including his grandchildren who have been orphaned since the death of their mother. Prior to receiving the social protection payment, Abendego says that he worked hard to send the older children to school, and now the grant is helping him to ensure that the younger ones also have a chance at accessing education.



Abendego Lojoo, Senior Citizen's Grant beneficiary, Moroto, Karamoja. Photo: Irish Aid


VIETNAM

 Population: **92.5 million**

 Gross National Income (GNI) per capita: **\$5,092**

 UN Human Development Index: **116 out of 187 countries**

 Key Partner Country since: **2007**

 Life Expectancy: **76**



Mrs Vang Thi Chu, of the Hmong ethnic group, weaving the traditional way in Pa Co commune, Hoa Binh province. Photo: Irish Aid

Ensuring ethnic minorities are part of Vietnam's growth

Ireland's embassy in Hanoi oversees Ireland's development cooperation programme with Vietnam, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar.

Vietnam has a fast-growing economy. However marked poverty persists, particularly in rural isolated areas and amongst ethnic minority communities. Amongst the development agencies and donors in Hanoi, Ireland's strong reputation for influencing policy and designing programmes to address poverty, is well recognised. Support for the government's Programme 135 is an important instrument in Ireland's work on poverty reduction in Vietnam. It's designed to tackle the multiple causes of poverty which are particular to many of Vietnam's ethnic minorities. Factors such as limited education, poor health and nutrition, compounded in some areas by early marriage traditions, prevent these

communities from benefiting from the wider prospering economy. In 2015, the Embassy worked intensively with this programme to deliver services to the communities most in need. A successful output of the year's work was a new decision, by the Government of Vietnam, to address the issue of early marriage. Ireland supported the Gender Department of the Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs to disseminate the new measure to rural areas.

An independent evaluation of the Programme 135 during the year, showed that tangible results are being achieved with improved services for isolated ethnic communities. An example of the benefits accrued during 2015 is the completion of 70 community projects improving access to basic services for their inhabitants.

KEY RESULTS



115 hectares of land cleared, with 2,243 mine items destroyed, benefiting 23,982 people in Cambodia.



Food security improved for 252,000 rural households in Myanmar.



70 community infrastructure projects completed to improve essential services to the poorest ethnic minority in Vietnam.

In Cambodia, Irish Aid supports Halo Trust, one of the world's largest and most experienced mine clearance organisations.

The North West Cambodian province of Oddar Meanchey is still heavily mined. With Irish Aid's assistance in 2015, Halo Trust cleared 115 hectares of land, destroyed 2,243 mine items, benefiting 23,982 people in Cambodia. A recent review estimated that between 2012 and 2015, over 160,000 lives have been positively affected by the laborious and potentially dangerous work of removing mines and unexploded ordnance, square metre by square metre.

Mine and unexploded ordnance clearance is also one of the areas supported by Irish Aid in Lao PDR and Myanmar all of

which have, like Vietnam, areas of mined land which remain unusable and a source of danger to rural communities. In addition to mine clearance, Irish Aid projects in Lao PDR, Cambodia and Myanmar focus on nutrition and rural livelihood enhancement. In Myanmar for example, Ireland supported a food security project which ensured access to nutritious food for 252,000 rural households.

2015 was the final year of Ireland's current strategy in the region and a new strategy is now under preparation which will outline our trade promotion, consular and development cooperation work for the period 2017 to 2020.

CASE STUDY - Increased internal migration leads to more communities living near or on minefields



Muon Yort tending to his orchard, Bavel district, Battambang province, Cambodia.
Photo: Ry Saleap/The Halo Trust

Muon Yort is an internal migrant, having moved to Bavel district in Battambang Province 18 years ago in order to find new land for agriculture. This kind of migration is common in Cambodia, especially in the north west regions where pressure for land is increasing and scarcity is becoming a serious problem. He was aware of the mine threat on the additional land that he had recently purchased but he knew that HALO was clearing it so he knew it would soon be safe. HALO worked on the minefield from May 2015 until the end of February 2016,

finding 69 anti personnel mines and one other type of unexploded remnant of war.

Now, Muon Yort is growing mango and banana trees on the land to sell at the local market. With the recently cleared land, Muon Yort has increased his annual income. Internal migration will continue to be a major factor in the prioritisation of HALO's work as more and more families move to uncleared land. Sustained support from Irish Aid ensures that these new lands are safe.

ZAMBIA

- 👤 Population: **15 million**
- 💰 Gross National Income (GNI) per capita: **\$3,734**
- 📊 UN Human Development Index: **139 out of 187 countries**
- 🇺🇦 Key Partner Country since: **1980**
- 🕒 Life Expectancy: **60**



Some of the 2,000 child participants at the Carnival Procession of the Barefeet Theatre Festival, Lusaka, Zambia, August 29th, 2015. Photo: Barefeet Theatre

Slow but steady progress on the path to development

The Zambia Demographic Health Survey findings, released in 2015, have shown improvements in health and nutrition and also a marked improvement in the availability of clean water across Zambia, with the number of households with access to improved water increasing from 24% in 2007 to 65% in 2014.

The improvements in nutrition are also noteworthy and encouraging. An objective of Ireland’s current five year development programme with Zambia is to improve food and nutrition security in the poorest households. An important indicator of success, in the effort to improve the nutritional status of communities, is a reduction in the number of households having only one meal per day. Irish Aid support contributed significantly to reducing the

number of such households from 23.5% in 2010 to 15.5% in 2015 in districts benefitting from Social Cash Transfer programmes.

A central component of Ireland’s programme in Zambia is continued support to the Northern Province where some of the poorest Zambian people live.

The programme is particularly focussed on two districts, Mbala and Luwingu. By working directly with the communities and targeting poor households, we can already demonstrate improved nutritional practices and dietary diversity in over 80% of households. We are also seeing an increase in livestock ownership and in fish production by vulnerable households in these districts.

KEY RESULTS



The number of households who only had one meal per day reduced from 23.5% in 2010 to 15.5% in Social Cash Transfer districts in 2015.



Households with access to an improved source of drinking water has increased from 24% in 2007 to 65% in 2014.



There has been some improvement in the nutritional status of children in Zambia with a decline in stunting (low height for age) from 45% in 2007 to 40% in 2014.

CASE STUDY - Small changes that make Charity feel like a different person

A new home, better food, and the prospect of being able to pay for help on her land are all signs of the progress that Charity Kamwala has made since she first began working on an Irish Aid backed project in a remote corner of Northern Zambia, three years ago.

A 56-year-old widow and grandmother who cares for seven young grandchildren in Nsunda village, Charity says that meal times have been transformed since she started growing new cereals and vegetables to supplement the cassava crop that had been her basic diet for as long as she could remember.

"We can now vary what we eat. The children are much healthier. They used to be sick a lot of the time," she says.

Late last year Charity used money that she earned from the sale of millet, maize and vegetables to build new rooms onto her mud-brick home, while she replaced the leaky straw roof with tin sheeting to improve the home even further.

Charity is amongst 10,000 people who are working with Gorta-Self Help Africa on an Irish Aid backed rural development programme in the far north of Zambia. Since she was widowed over a decade ago, life has been hard. She digs, plants, weeds and harvests what she can from the plot, and is planning this year to hire labour to assist with ploughing and harvest.

"When I look my house, I can't believe it's mine. I feel like a different person owning it."



Charity Kamwala, Nsunda village, Northern Province, Zambia.
Photo: Kenneth O'Halloran/Gorta Self Help Africa

SOUTH AFRICA



Civil Society Organisations and Gender Activists on a street march in Johannesburg to raise awareness of violence against women and children, November 2015. Photo: Irish Aid

Continued progress in the fight against HIV and AIDS

Ireland's Embassy in Pretoria manages a development programme covering the poorer communities of South Africa, Zimbabwe and Lesotho.

As southern Africa remains one of the worst affected regions for HIV and AIDS prevalence in the world, there is a strong emphasis on HIV prevention and treatment in Ireland's development programme in the three countries.

Ireland works with South African AIDS Council Women's Sector to increase access to minimum services for HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis treatment and prevention for women and young girls. The Joint Gender Fund in Kwa-Zulu Natal province is also supported and during the year Irish funds were used to set up a dialogue between community organisations and the government to discuss actions that could be taken to monitor and prevent the high incidence of gender based violence in the province. During the year, in Irish Aid-funded trauma

centres, 266 women received counselling and support following sexual and gender based violence.

Zimbabwe

Though recovering from a decade of economic decline, Zimbabwe still has the most challenging health statistics in the world: almost 15 percent of the population is living with HIV; over 1.3 million children are orphans; and 100 children under five still die every day from preventable causes.

The largest component of Ireland's support to Zimbabwe is therefore to the Health Transition Fund, a pooled fund administered by UNICEF to support the recovery of Zimbabwe's national health service. Since 2011, the transition fund has contributed to an improvement in the health and nutrition outcomes and a turnaround of the maternal mortality and infant mortality for the country.

KEY RESULTS



266 women in South Africa who reported sexual violence at trauma centres funded by Irish Aid received counselling and other support services.



Zimbabwe Maternal mortality rate dropped from 960 in 2011 to 614 (per 100,000 live births) in 2015.



Two new rural health facilities in Lesotho completed in 2015 and used to provide HIV testing services to 1,852 people and to start 88 patients on HIV treatment.

During 2015, 1,647 new Village Health Workers were trained bringing the total number of trained Village Health Workers to 13,447. Also in Zimbabwe over 10,000 survivors of gender based violence received counselling and legal services through support from Ireland.

Lesotho

Lesotho's mountainous terrain makes accessing services such as health care very difficult for many. Irish Aid's long

partnership with Lesotho underwent a transition phase during 2015, with the transfer of management of the programme to the Embassy in Pretoria. Support for HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment continued with two rural health facilities constructed which opened up access to HIV services for two communities. The new clinics provided testing services for 1,852 patients and initiated 88 patients on anti-retroviral treatment for HIV during the year.

CASE STUDY - Providing universal access to health through village health workers in rural Zimbabwe

With a blue bag slung over her shoulder, Susan Mavhunduke, aged 40, pedals her bicycle down a rocky, bumpy, red dirt road. She is heading from the local health centre to her village of Dendenyore in Wedza Mashonaland East Province – a community of just under 25,000 people living in one of Zimbabwe's poorest rural areas.

In her bag she carries basic medicines for the villagers she is about to visit. She will answer their questions on basic health issues, pregnancy and the prevention of sexually transmitted infections. When she has finished, she will put away her blue bag, prop her bicycle against her hut, and return to work in the fields with the rest of her family.

Susan, like all the other residents of Wedza, is a subsistence farmer. But she is also a member of the country's Village Health Worker program, run by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF with financial support from the Health Transition Fund (HTF) supported by a



Village health worker Susan Mavhunduke, Wedza District, Mashonaland East Province, Zimbabwe. Photo: Richard Nyamanhindi/UNICEF

number of donors including Irish Aid. The programme is a creative attempt to bridge the gap in health services between Zimbabwe's rural and urban areas.

Medical facilities in rural areas are sometimes a far cry from those available among the high-rises of Harare, the nation's capital. Providing services poses a great logistical challenge, which is why the government, UNICEF and donors adopted this novel approach of training and providing Village Health Workers with bicycles to make them more mobile and reach those in remote areas. By recruiting members of rural communities to serve as health conduits, the program enables villagers, who may never have the chance to see a doctor, to bring health services home with them.

PALESTINE



Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Charlie Flanagan T.D. visits a school in Gaza. Photo: Irish Aid

Providing quality education to refugee children

There was no real improvement in the humanitarian situation in the occupied Palestinian territory in 2015. Palestinian civilians continued to endure the harsh realities of occupation in the West Bank, the unresolved Gaza blockade and the aftermath of the 2014 conflict, with food insecurity and unemployment remaining key concerns.

The pace of reconstruction in Gaza following the 2014 hostilities has been extremely slow, due in large part to import restrictions and the slow flow of promised donor assistance. At the end of 2015, more than 16,000 families (over 90,000 individuals) remained displaced. The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Charlie Flanagan, T.D., visited the West Bank and Gaza in February 2015. During his visit, he saw first-hand the sheer scale of the destruction and the devastating humanitarian impact on a largely refugee population.

Ireland has been strong in its response to the Gaza crisis and in 2015 we provided €1.5 million to the Emergency Appeal of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees to help provide urgently needed food, shelter and medical aid to thousands of families. While in Gaza, the Minister visited an UNRWA school, to see the

impact of Ireland's commitment to supporting quality, basic education for all children and an UNRWA Collective Centre still sheltering families displaced from their homes.

Ireland's broader programme of assistance to the Palestinian people seeks to contribute to a sustainable improvement in the quality of life of the most vulnerable Palestinians. Our programme, renewed in 2015, involves a particular focus on education. During 2015, we worked with the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Education and Higher Education to ensure improved access to and quality of education for Palestinian children. We also provided support to the Palestinian Authority for social development programmes to help meet the needs of the most vulnerable Palestinian families.

Ireland continued to support UNRWA's provision of basic services to a population of some 5 million registered Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and Gaza.

Support was also provided to Palestinian and Israeli civil society organisations working for justice and human rights.



A damaged building in Gaza. Photo: Eoghan Rice/Trócaire

NGO PARTNERS

Irish Aid recognises that Irish civil society organisations are strongly placed to implement, complement and add value to its work. The organisations which we support play a pivotal role in reaching the most vulnerable and the poorest, providing life-saving assistance, promoting gender equality and human rights, and ensuring strong public support for the Irish Aid programme. Irish Aid channels a very significant proportion of its budget through civil society organisations whose work has helped deliver tangible and long-term development results in over fifty countries across three continents.

Irish Aid uses a number of funding mechanisms to provide grants to its civil society partners in support of its policy priorities. Its Programme Grant supports large-scale, five-year development programmes, its Civil Society Fund supports projects and through its partner, Misesan Cara, up to ninety missionary organisations receive funding. All projects and programmes are in line with the priorities laid out in Ireland's policy for international development, *One World, One Future*.

In line with *One World, One Future*, Irish Aid supports volunteers who wish to use their skills while learning from overseas experience in development. In 2015 Irish Aid helped to promote awareness of good practice in volunteering and supported

IRISH AID AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS WORKING TOGETHER IN 2015 AT COUNTRY LEVEL



Schools in targeted districts in Afghanistan reporting **100% retention rate for girls.**



Hundreds of local organisations, groups and individuals assisted in Central and South America, Asia and Africa in securing their **human rights.**



Over **30,000** people living with HIV in Zimbabwe receiving support services in 2015.



Long-term changes at policy level, for example the introduction of a universal pension in Tanzania and land rights for pastoralist communities in Angola.



Attitudes, behaviours and practices towards **gender equality** and **women's rights** resulted in over **2,000** people recognising gender-based violence as unacceptable in target communities in Malawi.

Comhlámh in its work to develop a Code of Good Practice for volunteer-sending agencies. In 2015, Irish Aid continued to provide support to VSO Ireland on a three-country pilot volunteering programme designed to place specialised volunteers in programmes in Ethiopia, Uganda and Tanzania.

Irish Aid worked closely with Civil Society organisations in preparation for the crucial multilateral summits of 2015 and civil society representatives were part of the Irish delegation at these summits.



Liliana Turbequia (25) stands in front of a sign indicating that she lives in a humanitarian zone, which offers protection to people living in conflict.
Photo: Matt Gonzalez-Noda/Christian Aid

CASE STUDY - Supporting Peace in Colombia

Since November 2012, Christian Aid and its local partners have been working to support the peace talks in Havana, Cuba, aimed at bringing fifty years of armed conflict in Colombia to an end.

Christian Aid and its partner organisations, have contributed to ensuring that victims, and women in particular, have had their say, and that the human reality of the suffering caused by the conflict was at the forefront of discussions about justice, compensation and reparations.

Too often, sexual and gender based violence is used as weapon during conflict with devastating consequences for the community, while those responsible go without punishment.

During 2015 however, Christian Aid through its local partners, including Sisma Mujer, contributed to successful advocacy for a special sub-commission on gender to be included in the talks, which has helped to ensure that the transitional justice agreement in Colombia will exclude

those responsible for sexual violence from amnesty or pardon.

The agreement also includes provisions for restorative justice, as suggested by Christian Aid partner CONPAZ, a collective of victims of the conflict, which provide for alternative sentences focused on restoring the damage caused by perpetrators.

This case study is a good example of the very important work that Irish Aid's civil society partners do to protect and promote human rights around the world.

MULTILATERAL PARTNERS



Delivering Ireland's development programme in the most effective way requires working through different types of organisations. A hugely significant component of the Irish Aid programme is delivered through multilateral partners. Multilateral organisations, such as agencies of the United Nations or the European Union are able to draw together the resources of multiple countries and have the expertise and the technical specialism needed to work in different contexts on Ireland's development and humanitarian priorities.

European Union

The European Union, with its Member States, continued to be the world's largest provider of Official Development Assistance in 2015. Ireland works with the institutions of the EU to ensure that these programmes retain a strong poverty eradication focus in line with our own priorities.

During 2015, the EU began a dialogue with its member states and with developing countries on a new

development agreement to replace the current *Cotonou Partnership Agreement*, which expires in 2020. This agreement provides a framework for the EU's relations with 79 countries from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Of central importance in designing a new agreement is assurance of continued progress on good governance, human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law.

In 2015, Ireland continued to work with our EU partners to finalise more Economic Partnership Agreements. These are a relatively new type of multilateral agreement combining both trade and wider development issues in a unified framework and are very much in line with our own thinking on development as set out in *One World, One Future*. In November 2015, Dáil Éireann approved Economic Partnership Agreements between the EU and thirty-one developing countries in the Caribbean and West Africa. These agreements seek to promote sustainable development, regional integration and gradual

integration of these Caribbean and African countries into the world economy.

The United Nations

Ireland's multilateral development funding to the UN in 2015 was allocated principally to UN agencies with whom we have a strong track record and who specialise on issues that are policy priorities for us. These include the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), UN Women and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA).

In our ongoing dialogue with these agencies during the year, Ireland continued to prioritise governance related issues such as comprehensive implementation of evaluation and audit recommendations, as well as implementing policies on food and nutrition security, and the mainstreaming of gender equality.

A priority area of our work with UN agencies in 2015 was in the negotiation and development of Agenda 2030 and its seventeen Sustainable Development Goals.

The World Bank

The World Bank Group continued in its role as one of the largest contributors to development in the world during 2015. Ireland actively contributed to ongoing policy development in the Bank through our constituency (led by Canada), with a particular emphasis on Africa and our partner countries.

Ireland continued also to provide support for the World Bank's private sector arm, the International Finance Corporation and its *Conflict Affected States in Africa* initiative to assist these countries to rebuild their economies. Ireland was also centrally involved in the World Bank's *Facility for Investment Climate Advisory*

Services which assists developing countries to develop a conducive business environment in order to create jobs and reduce poverty.

In June 2015, Dr. Jim Yong Kim made his first official visit to Ireland as President of the World Bank. The purpose of the visit was to strengthen relations between Ireland and the World Bank further. Dr Kim met with President Michael D. Higgins, the Minister for Finance Michael Noonan, T.D. and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Charlie Flanagan, T.D., all of whom had the opportunity to discuss areas, of common concern: global economic growth and the post 2015 development agenda. Dr Jim Yong Kim also delivered a lecture at Iveagh House, the headquarters of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, on the subject of building the new global agenda for shared prosperity.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

2015 was a seminal year for the international community and particularly for the entire multilateral development system. In September, one of the largest gatherings of Heads of State and Government in the history of the United Nations took place in New York to adopt a new development framework, the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

This framework, unanimously endorsed by all UN members, will guide the actions of all signature countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger and achieve sustainable development over the next fifteen years. Ireland, as Co-Chair of this process, played a key role in negotiating and shaping this agenda.



President Michael D. Higgins with footballer Kaka at the "Mobilising Generation Zero Hunger" meeting, at the UN Sustainable Development Summit, New York, September 2015. Photo: Shane O'Neill/Fennell Photography Ltd

During the negotiations, Irish Aid worked with colleagues in all relevant Government Departments and civil society to ensure Ireland’s priorities of ending hunger and poverty, promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment, and promoting good governance and the rule of law were well-reflected in the Agenda.

President Higgins participated in a session on *Mobilising Generation Zero Hunger* at the UN Summit and highlighted that Ireland has placed “the fight to end hunger” and undernutrition at the center of its approach to international development, and its foreign policy.



THE 2030 AGENDA

The 2030 Agenda is a comprehensive intergovernmental framework which integrates the economic, environmental and social dimensions of sustainable development. The seventeen new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), at the heart of the 2030 Agenda, aim to complete the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), but also include new goals on climate change, oceans, biodiversity and other areas that were obstacles to full implementation of the MDGs. These goals are universal. They will be implemented by all countries, both high income countries such as Ireland, and developing countries.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Bank have estimated that the financial cost of achieving the SDGs will be trillions of dollars rather than billions. Central to the outcome of last year’s International Conference on Financing for Development therefore is the recognition that Official Development Assistance will not be able to deliver on this ambitious agenda alone. Tax systems and the private sectors in developing countries need to play a much stronger role in financing development.

Governments must ensure that we create a conducive business environment not just for large companies but also for small businesses, smallholder farmers, entrepreneurs – and particularly women farmers and entrepreneurs. At the conference, Ireland reconfirmed our commitment to reaching the 0.7% of GNP target within the timeframe of the new development agenda. We are also committed to retaining a strong focus on sub-Saharan Africa and to continue providing at least 50% of our aid budget to Least Developed Countries.

The multilateral system, with the UN at its heart, has a major role to play in supporting national implementation of the new 2030 Agenda. In its role as a global standard setter, the UN is the main platform for the SDGs and their follow-up.



Tina Akinola, Bianca Simari, Francisah Heii, Gabriella Martins (7) and Rebecca Martins (5) at the launch of Africa Day 2015 in Farmleigh House, Dublin.
Photo: Marc O'Sullivan

ENGAGING WITH THE IRISH PUBLIC



Enjoying Africa Day in Dublin: Samson Samuel, with his daughters (l-r) Chidinma (6), Adaeze (10), and Amaka (8). Photo: Conor ó Mearáin

The media is an important means of informing and engaging with the Irish public on global development issues. The Communications Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade supports the work of Irish Aid by providing regular press briefings, and website and social media updates on conferences and international agreements that relate to global development.

We also support fledgling media professionals who wish to gain experience overseas and bring home stories of development from communities around the world. Our support to the *Simon Cumbers Media Fund*, set up in 2005 to honour his memory and to build the capacity of young journalists, is designed to present a balanced and

realistic picture of the challenges faced in the developing world, and of the progress that is being achieved.

In 2015, Irish Aid through the Simon Cumbers Media Fund, provided over €100,000 to support thirty projects by media professionals from ten publications across twenty developing countries. Nepal and India were the countries which received the most coverage from funded journalists, with other reports covering Ethiopia, Cuba, Kenya, Malawi, Cambodia, Tanzania, East Timor, Haiti, Cameroon, Guatemala, Peru, Lebanon, Comoros Islands, Pakistan, Brazil, Turkey, Sierra Leone and South Africa.

The resulting stories were published across a wide range of outlets from

national and local broadcast to print and online media in Ireland, including the Irish Times, East Coast FM, RTÉ and the Farmers Journal. Irish Aid also supported a Simon Cumbers Media Fund student media award in partnership with the Irish Times, Newstalk, and Storyful.com/thejournal.ie, with students from DIT, Griffith College Cork, and University of Limerick travelling to Uganda and Ethiopia.

Also in 2015, as in previous years, Irish Aid co-funded the 'What in the World' TV series, which was broadcast on RTÉ in December 2015, and featured programmes on Venezuela, Western Sahara, El Salvador, and Libya.

Irish Aid Public Outreach in 2015



3,000 more
followers
1.5 million
Impressions

Irish Aid Twitter

The Irish Aid Twitter Account allows us to share information about Irish Aid events, programmes and funding announcements, as well as provide live coverage to our followers of Irish Aid public events, including Africa Day. In 2015, our Twitter following increased by 60%, from 5,000 followers up to 8,000.

https://twitter.com/irish_aid

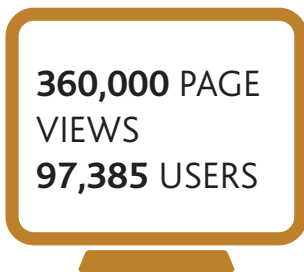


3,000 more
fans
546,000
impressions

Irish Aid Facebook

The Irish Aid Facebook account has developed a loyal following, and allows easy sharing of photos, updates and links to Irish Aid news on events, activities and programmes. In 2015, our numbers doubled to 6,000 Facebook fans.

<https://www.facebook.com/IrishAidCentre>



Irish Aid Website

The Irish Aid website continues to be the definitive source of information about the Irish Aid programme, our partners, and the countries in which we work. Almost 100,000 accessed information about Irish Aid's work through our website in 2015. <https://www.irishaid.ie>

Every year, Irish Aid has exhibition and information stands at events such as the **BT Young Scientist Exhibition** in January, **Africa Day** in May, the **National Ploughing Championships** in September and the **Overseas Volunteering Fair** in October.



In 2015, over 14,000 people visited Irish Aid exhibition stands at various national events. In addition, 27,000 people attended the Africa Day event in the Phoenix Park, organised by Irish Aid.

DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

Development Education, a central element of Irish Aid's work, is guided by our Development Education Strategy, which seeks to promote and deepen the Irish public's understanding of issues relating to global poverty and development.

In 2015, funding of €3.4 million was provided to support development education through education partnerships and an annual grants scheme. The 2015 annual grants scheme supported twenty eight non-governmental organisations and educational institutions working on development education projects. A results-based approach is used in all development education funding to ensure public funds are used to best effect in promoting an understanding and awareness of the challenges of international development.

Peer Review of Development Education

In April 2015, the Global Education Network Europe (GENE) carried out a Peer Review of development education in Ireland. The International Peer Review Team included representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education from Austria, Finland, Luxembourg and Belgium. The *GENE National Report on Global Education in Ireland* was launched on 24 November 2015 by the Minister of State for Development, Seán Sherlock T.D. The Minister of State at the Department of Education and Skills, Damien English T.D., also spoke at the event, demonstrating the cooperation and collaboration between the two Departments in this area.

The GENE Report contained perspectives on, and recommendations



(l-r) Simon Lenihan, Mark Coughlan and Cian O'Brien from Roscommon Community College, at the WorldWise Global Schools Annual Conference on development education in secondary schools, Croke Park. Photo: Mark Stedman/Photocall Ireland

for, strengthening development education in Ireland, as well as informing the next Irish Aid Development Education Strategy. The Report acknowledged the rich history, traditions, experience and skills evident in development education in Ireland. It also commended the strong and longstanding commitment of Irish Aid to development education.

Our World Irish Aid Awards

Caring for Our World was the theme of the 'Our World Irish Aid Awards' in 2015. The annual awards help primary pupils in schools all over Ireland learn how Irish Aid is working to achieve the United Nations Development Goals to fight poverty and create a better future for children and their families in developing countries.

In 2015, more than 1,000 primary schools all over Ireland registered to take part. The hundreds of projects

submitted included displays, music, film, games, artwork and project books and sixty schools were shortlisted to take part in the regional finals in May, in Limerick, Cork, Sligo and Dublin. At the National Finals in Dublin Castle in June, twelve finalist schools received trophies. Vicarstown National School, Co Cork was presented with the overall winner's award, while Glencullen National School, Co Dublin received an award for consistent excellence over a number of years.

Irish Aid Centre Workshops for Schools and Colleges

7,000 primary, second and third level students - the highest number ever - participated in Irish Aid workshops in 2015. Schools from all over Ireland came to the Irish Aid Centre premises in Clonmel Street, Dublin, to participate in interactive workshops on global development and the work of Irish Aid. Our team of facilitators also

delivered workshops to over 2,000 student teachers in the colleges of education.

BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition

2015 was the tenth year that Irish Aid has sponsored the Science for Development Award. The Award aims to encourage teachers and students to develop ideas, using appropriate scientific technology that may prove useful at local community level in the Global South, to reduce poverty and promote social justice. This can give the students a greater insight into the wider world, and their role as global citizens.

Megan Duffy and Zoe McGirr from Oakgrove Integrated College, Derry, won the Science for Development Award for their project on a Seed Harvesting Kit for Subsistence Farmers. The project consists of a hot box that allows poor farmers to save their seed each year in a climate controlled and water tight environment, which can save them the cost of purchasing seed from one year to the next.

WorldWise Global Schools Annual Conference April 2015

Irish Aid's WorldWise Global Schools is the key channel through which Irish Aid support for post-primary development education is

coordinated. The theme for the 2015 conference was *The World We Want* and was organised as part of the European Year of Development. The Annual Conference is a large development education event providing an opportunity for secondary schools funded to showcase learning from their projects and collaborate with peers through a variety of interactive workshops and activities.

At the Annual Conference, 25 schools were presented with the first ever Global Passport Award. This Award is part of an initiative to recognise the work of schools in development education and global justice.

Achievements in Development Education in 2015

International peer review of Ireland's development education work undertaken



World Wise Global Schools conference held on the theme: The World We Want



28 non-governmental organisations and educational institutions receive support for their work on development education projects



7,000 primary schools, second and third level institutions – the highest number ever – participate in Irish Aid workshops in 2015



More than 1,000 primary schools all over Ireland register to take part in the Our World Irish Aid Awards in 2015



Irish Aid sponsors the Science and Development award at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition for the tenth year.



25 schools receive 'Global Passport Awards' under the World Wise Global Schools initiative to recognise the work of those schools in development education and global justice.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY



Chairman Pat Breen TD and members of the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade on a tour of a 17-hectare gravity fed irrigation scheme developed by the local community in Golomoti village, Dedza district, Malawi. The irrigation scheme is part of the Irish Aid supported Enhancing Community Resilience Programme. Photo: Irish Aid

The programmes we support are subject to ongoing internal and external monitoring. Audits and evaluations are regularly undertaken by both independent experts and by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Evaluation and Audit Unit.

Evaluations of our Key Partner Country programmes are conducted to assess their effectiveness in achieving their objectives. In addition to providing lessons on what was achieved, country programme evaluations are an important way of providing accountability to both the Irish public and to the host country. They also help inform future strategic decision-making and are carried out towards the end of each strategy cycle, which typically covers a period of 4-5 years.

In 2015, evaluations of Irish Aid's country programmes in Uganda and Malawi were completed.

As well as being accountable to the Oireachtas, Irish Aid spending is also subject to scrutiny by the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's independent Audit Committee. The Audit Committee produces a detailed annual report that is available on the Department's website.

An important component of Ireland's accountability is its commitment to aid transparency. During 2015, Irish Aid published detailed budget and expenditure data for 2014 in an accessible raw data format on its website, in line with international best practice. The data allows the Irish

public and citizens in our partner countries, full access to specific details on how Ireland's development assistance is used.

The Development Assistance Committee of the OECD also publishes full expenditure data on Ireland's development programme, alongside that of other donors. This data store enables the public to compare aid flows to different policy priorities, in different countries by different donors.

From this data for example, it is evident that Ireland's development assistance is very strongly targeted to least developed countries and has a particular geographical focus on sub-Saharan Africa.

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

The Fellowship Training Programme aims to build the capacity of institutions that are important for development in our Key Partner Countries. In 2015, the Fellowship Programme enabled 62 students from government ministries and civil society organisations, to undertake postgraduate studies in both Ireland and Africa. Current fellows in Ireland are studying at UCD, TCD, DCU, UCC, UL, DIT, NUI Galway, Kimmage Development Studies Centre, Griffith College and Dublin Business School.

An additional 25 scholarships to UCD were awarded to Vietnamese graduates to undertake studies in banking, finance, business administration and other technical areas with a further three Vietnamese students studying in Griffith College, UCD and UCC. A further ten scholarships were awarded to South African students and one to a student from Burundi.

Fellowship graduates typically return to work in their countries or regions of origin, bringing new qualifications and expertise to their work in nutrition, health, education, climate change adaptation and good governance.



Irish Aid Fellowship Programme students on their visit to Irish Aid in Limerick. Photo: Liam Burke/Press 22



Mizinala Lutolo, cocoa producer and chairman of Mababu Farmers Business Group, Kyela, Mbeya, Tanzania. Photo: Nile Sprague/Technoserve



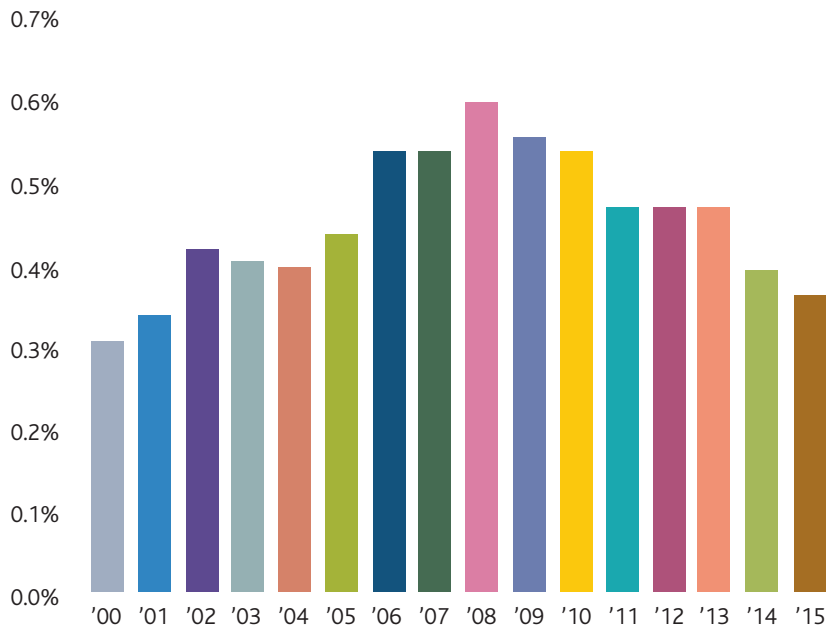
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Ireland's Official Development Assistance

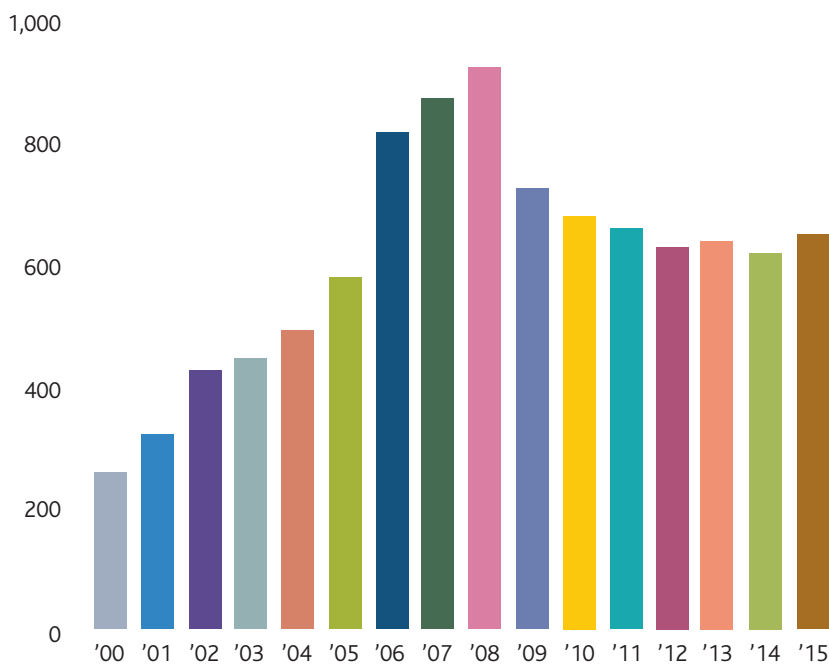
	€ Millions 2015	€ Millions 2014
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Vote 27	481.69	476.29
Other Government Departments and Contributions to the EU Development Cooperation Budget	165.82	138.57
Total ODA	647.51	614.86
GNP	181,021	158,438
ODA as a % of GNP	0.36%	0.39%
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Vote 27 as a % of Total ODA	74%	77%
Other Government Departments and Contributions to the EU Development Cooperation Budget as a % of Total ODA	26%	23%
Bilateral / Multilateral Analysis		
Bilateral ODA		
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Vote 27	409.67	410.67
Other Government Departments and Contributions to the EU Development Cooperation Budget	7.70	7.16
Total Bilateral ODA	417.38	417.83
Multilateral ODA		
Department of Foreign Affairs And Trade - Vote 27	72.02	65.62
Other Government Departments and Contributions to the EU Development Cooperation Budget	158.12	131.41
Total Multilateral ODA	230.14	197.03
Total ODA	647.51	614.86
Bilateral ODA as a % of Total ODA	64%	68%
Multilateral ODA as a % of Total ODA	36%	32%

ODA as a % of GNP



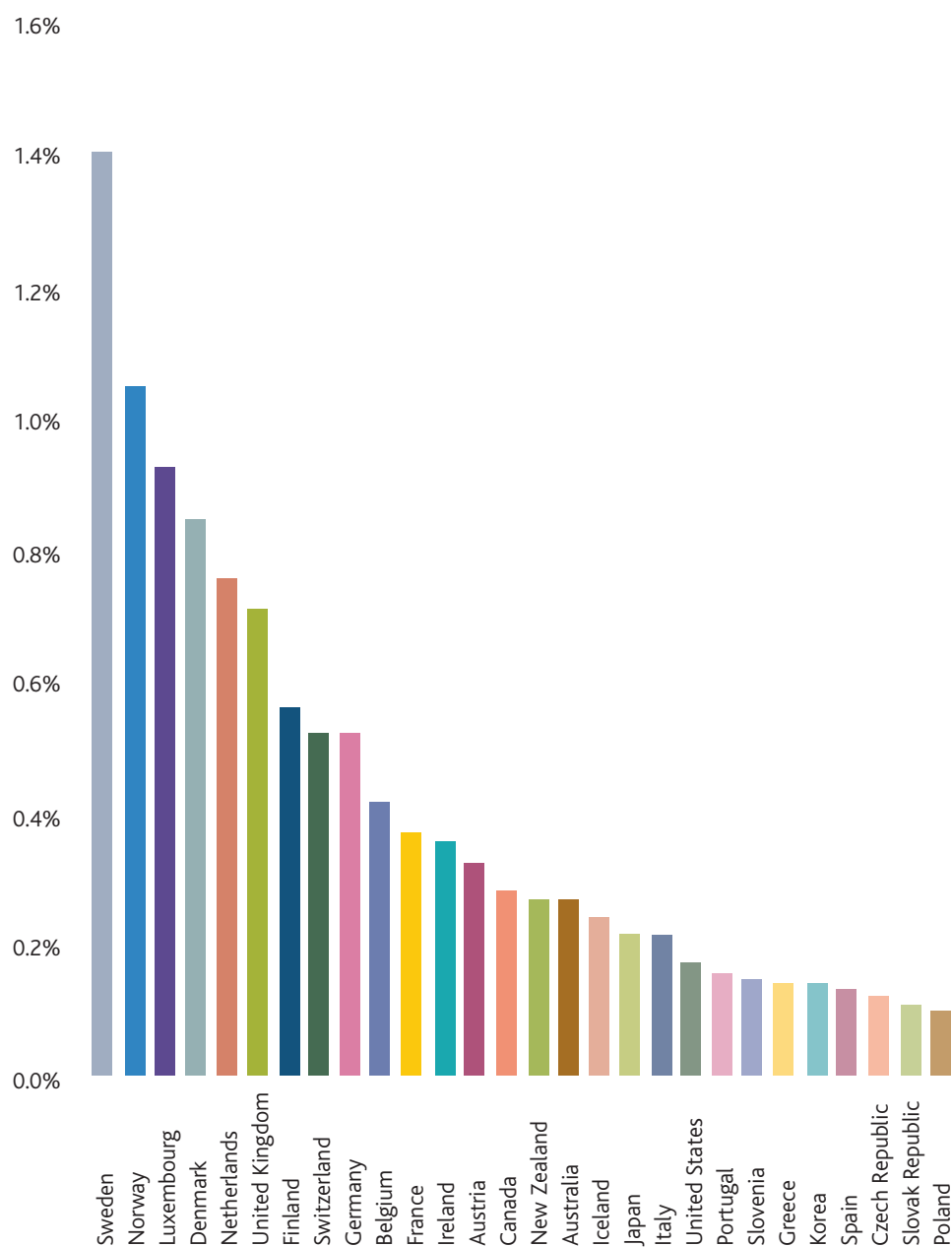
Year	ODA as a % of GNP
2000	0.30%
2001	0.33%
2002	0.41%
2003	0.40%
2004	0.39%
2005	0.43%
2006	0.53%
2007	0.53%
2008	0.59%
2009	0.55%
2010	0.53%
2011	0.46%
2012	0.46%
2013	0.46%
2014	0.39%
2015	0.36%

ODA VOLUMES 2000-2015



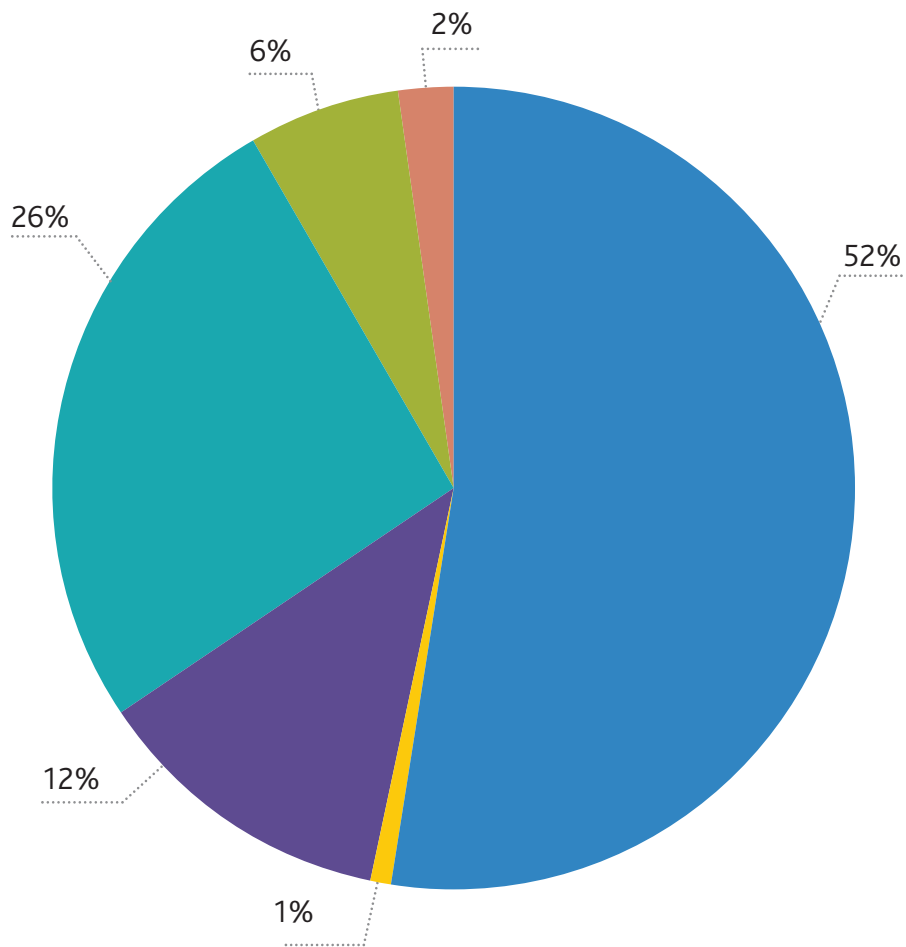
Year	ODA €m
2000	254.86
2001	319.90
2002	422.06
2003	445.71
2004	488.92
2005	578.46
2006	813.96
2007	870.87
2008	920.66
2009	722.20
2010	675.84
2011	657.04
2012	628.90
2013	637.10
2014	614.86
2015	647.51

Net ODA as a Percentage of GNI - DAC Donors 2015



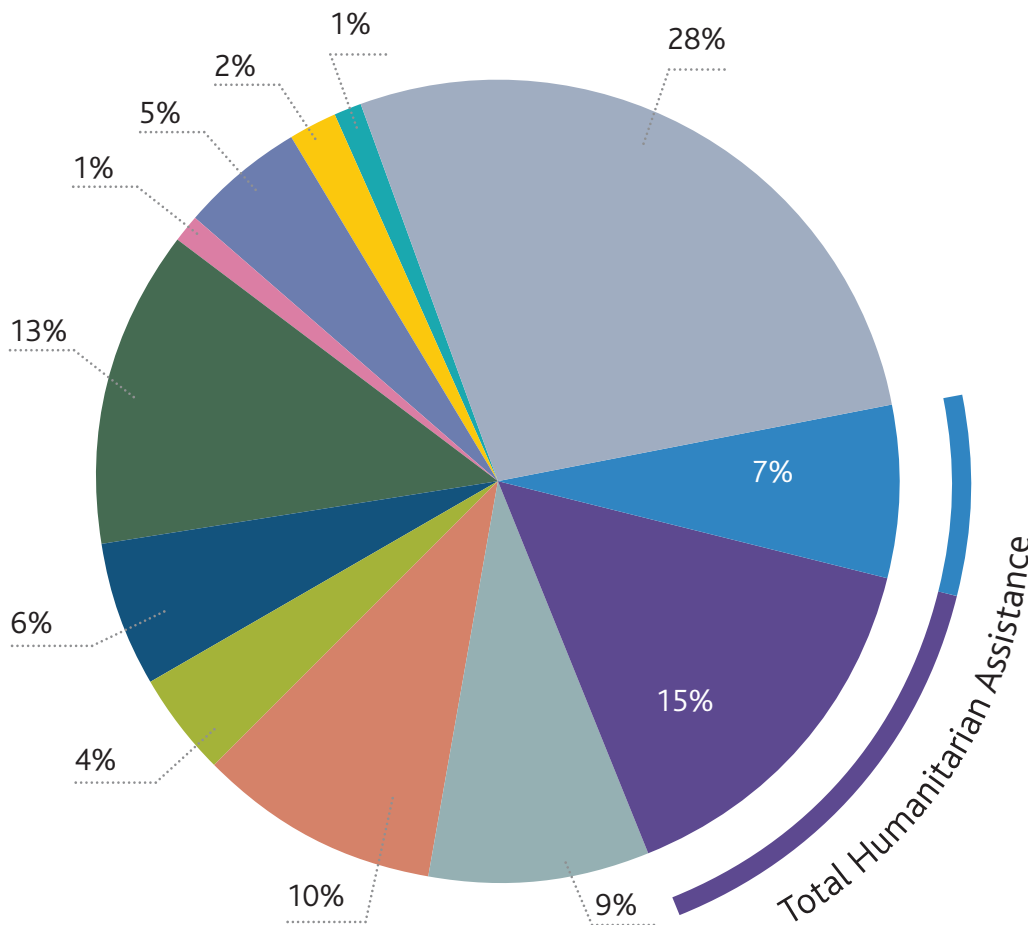
ODA as a % of GNI - 2015	
Sweden	1.40
Norway	1.05
Luxembourg	0.93
Denmark	0.85
Netherlands	0.76
United Kingdom	0.71
Finland	0.56
Switzerland	0.52
Germany	0.52
Belgium	0.42
France	0.37
Ireland	0.36
Austria	0.32
Canada	0.28
New Zealand	0.27
Australia	0.27
Iceland	0.24
Japan	0.22
Italy	0.21
United States	0.17
Portugal	0.16
Slovenia	0.15
Greece	0.14
Korea	0.14
Spain	0.13
Czech Republic	0.12
Slovak Republic	0.10
Poland	0.10
TOTAL DAC	0.30

Total ODA by Channel of Delivery - 2015



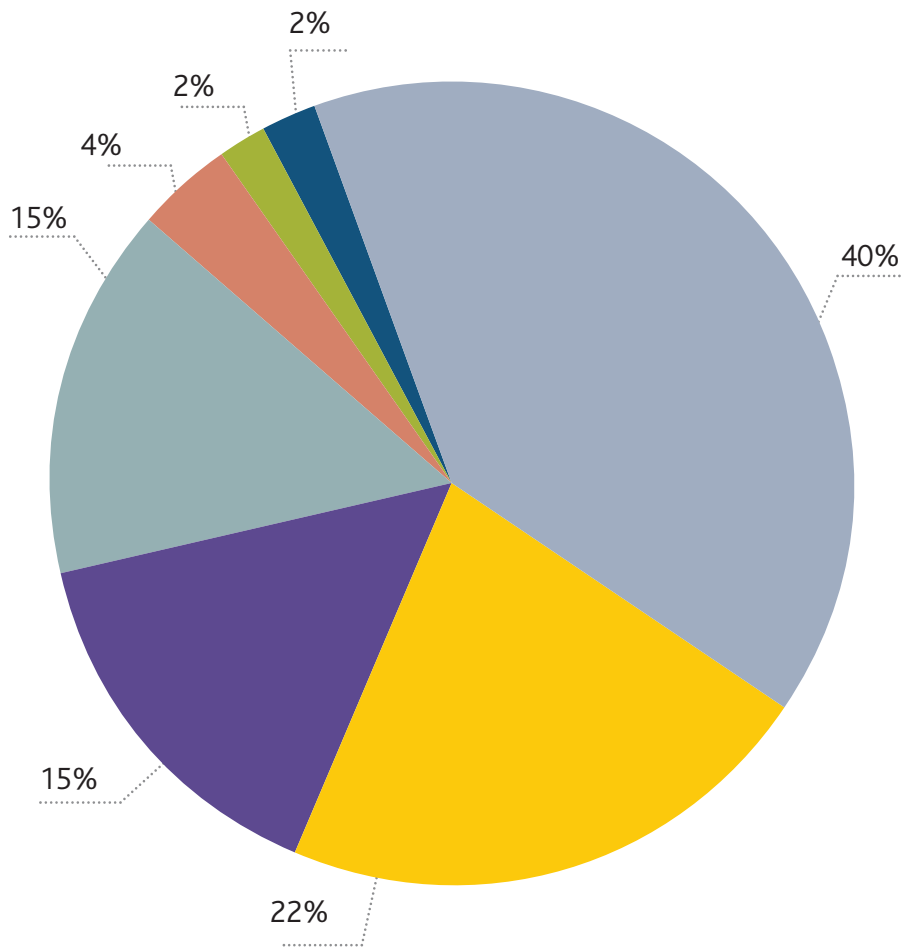
Channel	€000's	As a % of Total ODA
● Multilateral Organisations	336,546	52%
● Delegated Cooperation	8,322	1%
● Government Systems in Partner Countries	80,840	12%
● Non Governmental Organisations	167,929	26%
● Other Channels	39,495	6%
● Research Institutions and Management Agents	14,382	2%
Grand Total	647,514	100%

Total ODA by Sector 2015



Sector	€000s	As % of Total ODA
Core Support to Multilaterals - Development	184,071	28%
Core Support to Multilaterals - Humanitarian Assistance	46,066	7%
Humanitarian Assistance - Bilateral	96,303	15%
Total Humanitarian Assistance	142,369	
Human Rights and Accountability	57,267	9%
Multi Sector	62,020	10%
Agriculture	28,293	4%
Education	36,475	6%
Health HIV and AIDS	82,830	13%
Promotion of Development Awareness	4,670	1%
Programme Management and Administration	29,197	5%
General Budget Support	14,546	2%
Water and Sanitation	5,776	1%
Grand Total	647,514	100%

Total ODA By Aid Modality 2015



Modality	€000s	As a % of Total ODA
Core Support to Multilateral Organisations	276,203	40%
Basket and Pooled Funds	149,638	22%
Core Support to NGOs	105,897	15%
Project Type Interventions	105,108	15%
Administration	26,714	4%
Other Aid Modalities	15,520	2%
General Budget Support	14,500	2%
Grand Total	647,514	100%

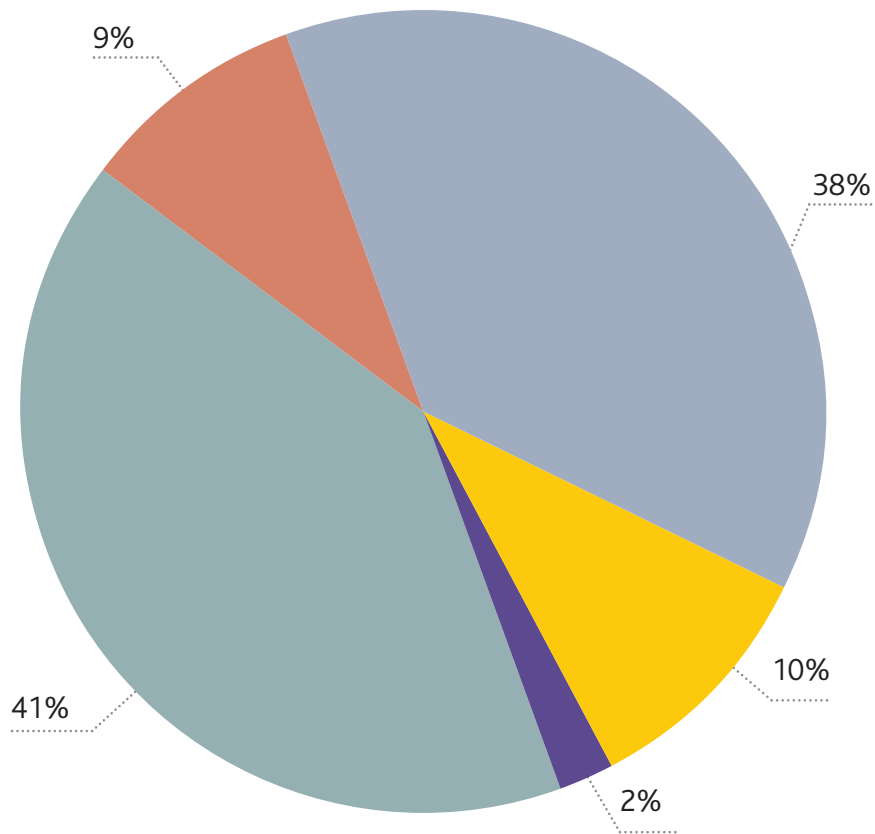
Top 30 Recipient Countries of Ireland's Bilateral ODA 2015

Recipient Country	€000s
Mozambique	37,034
Ethiopia	35,158
Tanzania	28,700
Uganda	23,344
Malawi	20,006
Zambia	17,500
Vietnam	12,644
South Sudan	11,010
Sierra Leone	10,388
Syria	8,981
Occupied Palestinian Territory	8,754
Kenya	8,146
Liberia	6,915
Zimbabwe	6,512
Somalia	6,443
South Africa	5,797
Sudan	5,207
Democratic Republic of the Congo	4,927
Central African Republic	4,879
Afghanistan	2,485
Lebanon	2,423
Nigeria	2,202
Rwanda	2,139
Haiti	2,071
Niger	1,948
Yemen	1,757
Republic of Congo	1,731
Jordan	1,716
India	1,670
Iraq	1,580

Key Partner Country Sector Breakdown 2015

Sector	Ethiopia	Malawi	Mozambique	Sierra Leone	Tanzania	Uganda	Vietnam	Zambia	Total
	€000s	€000s	€000s	€000s	€000s	€000s	€000s	€000s	€000s
Agriculture	8	5,209	1,061		3,343		110	1,720	11,451
Education		12	6,593	760	148	4,558	1,228	6,092	19,391
Health, HIV and AIDS	7,775	496	13,105	2,605	12,204	2,122	425	2,169	40,901
Human Rights and Accountability	668	1,661	2,507	1,024	2,970	3,733	3,817	1,650	18,031
Humanitarian Assistance	3,800	580				998	28		5,406
Multi Sector	15,579	4,679	10,100	913	6,847	4,563	6,374	2,094	51,149
Water and Sanitation			200		10				210
Programme Management and Administration	1,277	914	1,916	710	1,157	1,354	1,342	738	9,407
Grand Total	29,107	13,551	35,482	6,012	26,678	17,329	13,323	14,463	155,946

Funding to Multilateral Organisations 2015



	€000s	As a %
● European Union Institutions	127,309	38%
● Other Multilateral Institutions	32,676	10%
● Regional Development Banks	7,075	2%
● United Nations	138,854	41%
● World Bank Group	29,132	9%
Grand Total	336,546	100%

Funding to Multilateral Organisations 2015 (Detailed in €000s)

	Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine	Department of Environment, Community and Local Government	Department of Finance	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Ireland's Share of the EU Development Cooperation Budget	Other Departments	Total
European Union Institutions							
European Commission - Development Share of Budget					94,549		94,549
European Development Fund				30,940			30,940
European Investment Bank				1,820			1,820
European Union Institutions Total				32,760	94,549		127,309
Other Multilateral Institutions							
Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria				11,000			11,000
Global Partnership for Education				4,000			4,000
CGIAR Fund				3,500			3,500
Global Alliance for Vaccines & Immunization				3,000			3,000
International Potato Centre				1,775			1,775
Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development				1,774		30	1,804
Global Environment Facility		1,420					1,420
Organization for Security and Co- operation in Europe				1,250			1,250
Global Alliance for TB Development Inc				1,000			1,000
Global Environment Facility - LDC Fund				1,000			1,000
Council of Europe				994			994
ICRAF World Agro Forestry Centre				525			525
International Livestock Research Institute				400			400
International Organisation for Migration				266			266
International Crop Research for Semi- Arid Tropics				250			250
World Fish Centre				160			160
Organisation for Security And Co- Operation				108			108
European Court of Human Rights				99			99
International Criminal Court				75			75
Global Crop Diversity Trust	50						50

Funding to Multilateral Organisations 2015 (Detailed in €000s)

	Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine	Department of Environment, Community and Local Government	Department of Finance	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Ireland's Share of the EU Development Cooperation Budget	Other Departments	Total
Other Multilateral Institutions - Total	50	1,420	-	31,176	-	30	32,676
Regional Development Banks							
Asian Development Bank			7,075				7,075
Regional Development Banks - Total			7,075				7,075
Un Agencies Fund or Commission							
United Nations Development Programme				29,364			29,364
World Food Programme	18,476			3,561			22,037
United Nations Children's Fund				16,357			16,357
Central Emergency Response Fund				11,750			11,750
UN Office of the Comm for Refugees				9,601			9,601
UN Office of Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs				7,350			7,350
UN Relief and Works Agency – Palestine Refugees				6,500			6,500
UN Population Fund				5,600			5,600
UN High Commissioner for Human Rights				4,524			4,524
World Health Organisation				1,900		1,816	3,716
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS				2,700			2,700
UN Women				2,625			2,625
Food and Agricultural Organisation	1,835			250			2,085
International Fund for Agricultural Development				2,000			2,000
United Nations - General		24		2,779			2,803
World Food Programme - Food Aid Convention	1,524						1,524
United Nations - Department for Peace Keeping Operations				1,473			1,473
United Nations Environment Programme		940		250			1,190
International Labour Organization						927	927

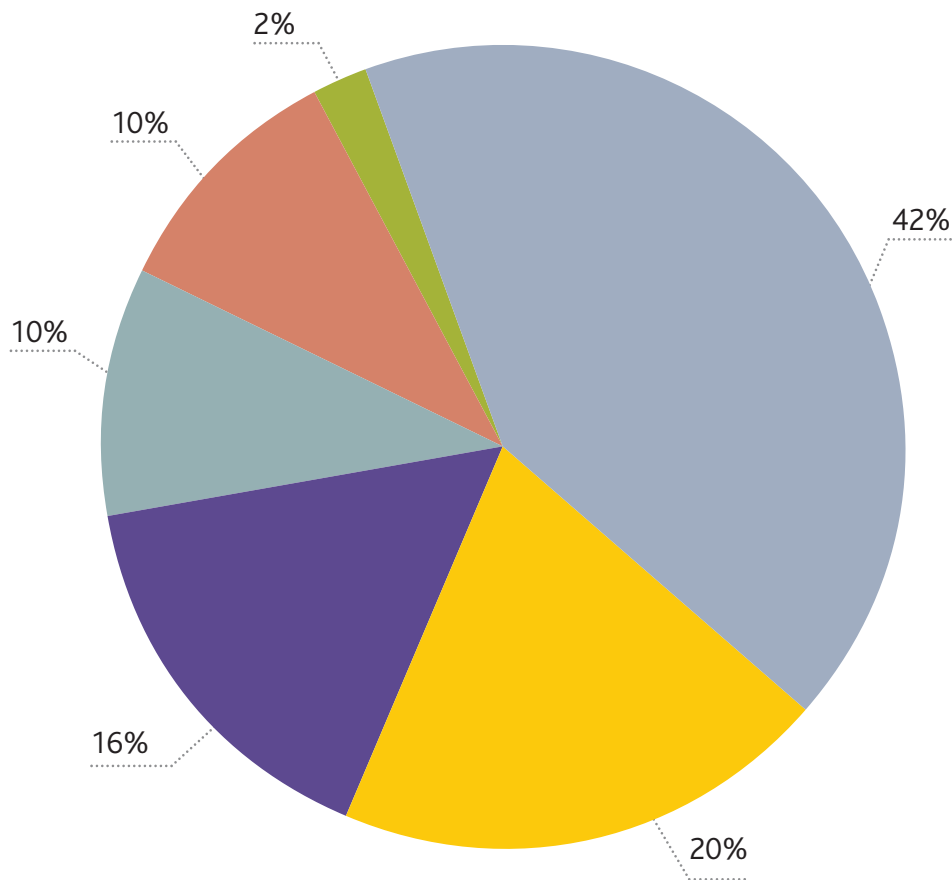
Funding to Multilateral Organisations 2015 (Detailed in €000s)

	Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine	Department of Environment, Community and Local Government	Department of Finance	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	Ireland's Share of the EU Development Cooperation Budget	Other Departments	Total
UNESCO				210		722	932
United Nations Volunteers				595			595
United Nations Peace Building Fund				500			500
Industrial Development Org				490			490
International Atomic Energy Agency		473		193			666
International Labour Organisation				400			400
United Nations Office for Project Services				340			340
UN Int'l Strategy for Disaster Reduction				300			300
UN Conference on Trade and Development				250			250
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change				200			200
Convention to Combat Desertification				31			31
World Intellectual Property Organisation						14	14
UNECE		7					7
UN Agencies Funds - Total	21,835	1,445	-	112,094	-	3,479	138,854
World Bank Group							
World Bank - International Development Association			24,332	200			24,532
World Bank - International Bank for Reconstruction & Development				4,600			4,600
World Bank Group - Total			24,332	4,800			29,132
World Trade Organisations							
International Trade Centre				800			800
World Trade Organisation				350			350
Advisory Centre on WTO Law				350			350
World Trade Organisations - Total				1,500			1,500
Grand Total	21,885	2,865	31,407	182,330	94,549	3,509	336,546

Humanitarian Assistance by Country 2015

Country	€ 000's
Syria	8,969
South Sudan	7,976
Ethiopia	5,417
Somalia	5,037
Central African Republic	4,879
Sudan	4,238
Democratic Republic of the Congo	3,451
Occupied Palestinian Territory	2,875
Malawi	1,803
Yemen	1,750
Republic of Congo	1,731
Iraq	1,580
Lebanon	1,409
Uganda	1,350
Jordan	1,116
Libya	1,000
Niger	950
Mali	775
Afghanistan	762
Haiti	604
Burundi	590
Nigeria	548
Eritrea	500
Chad	500
Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)	394
Liberia	390
Cameroon	310
Turkey	275
Zambia	227
Sierra Leone	201
Mozambique	200
Africa, regional/multi-country	1,800
N.&C. America, reg./multi-country	628
Middle East, regional/multi-country	1,000
Other Countries	830
Common and Pooled Funds	76,305
Total	142,370

Humanitarian Assistance by Channel of Delivery 2015



Channel	€000s
Core Support to Multilaterals	58,795
Non Governmental Organisations	28,630
United Nations Agencies	22,719
International Red Cross	14,630
Common Humanitarian Funds	14,500
Other	3,096
Grand Total	142,370

Civil Society Organisations in receipt of €50K or more, in 2015 in €000s

Organisation Name	From other Government Departments	Through HQ Budget Lines	Through Key Partner Countries	Total
Concern Worldwide		23,462	438	23,901
Trócaire		18,373		18,373
Goal		15,594		15,594
Misean Cara		15,500		15,500
International Committee Of The Red Cross	130	11,750		11,880
Self Help Africa		3,445	1,630	5,075
Christian Aid Ireland		4,666		4,666
World Vision Ireland		4,012		4,012
Oxfam		3,592	1,300	4,892
International Fed Of Red Cross And Red Crescent		2,750		2,750
Plan Ireland		2,653		2,653
Save the Children Fund		1,700	2,869	4,569
Halo Trust		2,600		2,600
TechnoServe			2,024	2,024
Medicines Sans Frontieres		1,728		1,728
SOS Sahel Ethiopia			1,600	1,600
Sight Savers Ireland		1,508		1,508
Irish Council for Overseas Study		1,685	306	1,991
International Institute For Env & Development		1,100		1,100
Fundacao MASC			1,000	1,000
International Rescue Committee		1,000		1,000
Concern Universal			849	849
Action Aid		841		841
FAWE Uganda			804	804
Action Contre la Faim			804	804
Fhi Solutions		800		800
Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation			700	700
Helpage International		601		601
World Resources Institute		600		600
Traidlinks			600	600
Irish Fair Trade Network		600		600
Childfund Ireland		594		594
Helen Keller International			647	647
Children In Crossfire		533		533
Aidlink		526		526
SNV Tanzania			500	500
SA HIV/AIDS Info Dissemination			500	500
Care International			700	700
Front Line		484		484
Comhlámh		453		453
Sikika			400	400

Civil Society Organisations in receipt of €50K or more, in 2015 in €000s

Organisation Name	From other Government Departments	Through HQ Budget Lines	Through Key Partner Countries	Total
Tilitonse			400	400
Sonke Gender Justice Network			400	400
The Centre For Counselling Nutrition & Health Care			400	400
International Livestock Research Institute			395	395
The Micronutrient Initiative			385	385
Vita		350		350
Tanzania Media Fund			350	350
VSO Ireland		345		345
Uganda Women's Network			330	330
Hivos Basket Fund			325	325
Camfed Zambia			319	319
Choice			300	300
Wildaf-Gender Based Violence			300	300
AIDS Foundation Of South Africa			300	300
The AIDS Support Organisation			300	300
The Alliance Of Mayors and Municipal Leaders - HIV			300	300
PANITA			300	300
Raising Voices		290		290
Serve In Solidarity Ireland		279		279
Centre For Domestic Violence			270	270
International Commission Of Jurists		259		259
Emergency Nutrition Network		250		250
Haki Elimu			250	250
International Alert		250		250
Inst. Estu.Sociais Economicos			250	250
Dóchas		250		250
International Youth Foundation			235	235
Associacao Progresso			233	233
Evangelical Assoc. Of Malawi			230	230
Suas Educational Development		220		220
Apheda Vietnam			208	208
Misa Zambia			200	200
Global Witness Trust		200		200
Adigrat Diocese Catholic Secretariat [ADCS]			200	200
FIDH		200		200
Transparency International E.V		200		200
AIDS Consortium			200	200
Bothar Ltd		200		200
We Effect			200	200
International Crisis Group		200		200

Civil Society Organisations in receipt of €50K or more, in 2015 in €000s

Organisation Name	From other Government Departments	Through HQ Budget Lines	Through Key Partner Countries	Total
National Smallholder Farmers			200	200
Anti-Slavery International		200		200
Tearfund Ireland		192		192
A-Z Children's Charity		180		180
Zambia Open Community Schools			175	175
Irish Forum For Global Health		169		169
ISEE Vietnam			160	160
Water Aid		154		154
Camara Education Ltd.		150		150
The Mary Robinson Foundation		150		150
DPI -Democratic Progress Institute		150		150
Centre de Controle Democratique des Forces Armees		150		150
The Minority Rights Group		150		150
Saferworld		150		150
Crisis Management Initiative Ry		150		150
ECPAT International		150		150
CRD Vietnam			147	147
CRS Vietnam			146	146
Action for City Development Vietnam			145	145
Women Fund Tanzania			145	145
Friends of Londiani		140		140
The Carter Center Inc.		130		130
Value Added In Africa		130		130
Social & Health Education Project		128		128
Valid Nutrition	62	63		126
International Service For Human Rights		125		125
MSD Vietnam			116	116
Setsan-Sec. Tec.De Seg. Alimentar E Nutricional			115	115
Irish Family Planning Association		100		100
Barefeet Theatre			100	100
Hapfed International		100		100
Save The Children Int'l Vietnam				-
Health Poverty Action		100		100
Aidspan		100		100
Transparency International Vietnam			100	100
International Fertilizer Development Centre		100		100
Restless Development			100	100
Camfed International		100		100
DRD Vietnam			100	100
CSDS Vietnam			100	100
Agricultural Non State Actors			100	100
Orbis Ireland		100		100

Civil Society Organisations in receipt of €50K or more, in 2015 in €000s

Organisation Name	From other Government Departments	Through HQ Budget Lines	Through Key Partner Countries	Total
Henry Dunant Centre For Humanitarian Dialogue		100		100
Renew Project Vietnam			100	100
AFAP Vietnam			100	100
RIC Vietnam			91	91
GAIN			90	90
Gisha-Legal Centre For Freedom		90		90
Yesh Din Volunteers For Human Rights		90		90
Conciliation Resources		90		90
National Youth Council Of Ireland		89		89
Bimkom Planners For Planning Rights		85		85
CECEM Vietnam			85	85
AEPD Vietnam			82	82
Plan International Vietnam			80	80
CDI Vietnam			80	80
Al Haq, Law In the Service of Man		80		80
GAA Vietnam			80	80
Palestinian Centre For Human Rights		80		80
Jerusalem Legal Aid & Human Rights Centre (JLAC)		75		75
Addameer Prison Support And Human Rights		75		75
Comet Me		75		75
Community Led Total Sanitation Foundation		75		75
Irish League Of Credit Unions Intl Devt Foundation		73		73
MAG Vietnam			70	70
The Haven Community Foundation		70		70
80:20 Educating+Acting For A Better World		70		70
Ethiopian Center for Disability & Developmnet Asso			70	70
Miftah		70		70
Southern African Liaison Office			70	70
Lourdes Youth & Community Services		65		65
Action Lesotho		63		63
Women's International League For Peace & Freedom		60		60
Friends In Ireland		60		60
Inter-Religious Council Of Uganda			60	60
Aid Recipient Nigeria		59		59
Shades Negotiation Program Regional Education		58		58
Viet Health Vietnam			53	53
Christian Blind Mission Ireland		52		52
Leratong Hospice			50	50
Institute Human Rights & Business - Myanmar			50	50
Global Health		50		50
World Organisation Against Torture		50		50
JRR Association		50		50

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