
OUR VISION

A sustainable and just world, where people are empowered to overcome poverty and hunger and fully realise their rights and potential



**REDUCED HUNGER,
STRONGER RESILIENCE**



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT, INCLUSIVE
ECONOMIC GROWTH**



**BETTER GOVERNANCE,
HUMAN RIGHTS AND
ACCOUNTABILITY**

One World, One Future

Ireland's Policy for International Development



RIALTAS NA hÉIREANN
GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND

Summary

Irish Aid is the Government's official aid programme administered by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, working on behalf of the Irish people to address poverty and hunger in some of the poorest countries in the world.

The Review of the White Paper on Irish Aid

The 2006 White Paper on Irish Aid was a statement of Government policy, placing the fight against world poverty at the heart of Ireland's foreign policy. The White Paper laid the foundation for our work over the last six years, and today we are recognised globally as a leader in the delivery of quality aid, where it is needed most.

However, the world has seen significant changes since the White Paper was published and our engagement on international development needs to respond accordingly. At home, we must adapt to the economic and financial constraints we are facing. This means setting out a credible and realistic agenda, and striving to maintain strong public support for the aid programme.

A Review of the White Paper on Irish Aid was undertaken in 2012. It took stock of progress made since 2006, examined the changing context, and considered the evidence of what works best. Through a comprehensive and lively public consultation process, in Ireland and in our partner countries, we listened to people's views and drew on the experience of those organisations working at the forefront of development.

The lessons we learned from this period of reflection have informed Ireland's evolving policy for international development – One World, One Future. This policy refreshes our approach and sets out clear priorities for the future. We are committed to reviewing progress again in 2016.

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GOALS 3



Our plan for the future

Aid and beyond: It is clear that aid alone will not solve the problems of poverty and hunger. Lasting solutions must be underpinned by developing countries' own leadership, their ability to raise revenue and boost foreign direct investment, to integrate into world markets and to address inequality. We need to recognise what aid can do, but to also think and act beyond aid.

In this, our contribution is not just financial. We have a strong voice on the international stage, which we will use. And we have in Ireland a clear capacity, in our people and in our institutions, which we will harness.

A Whole-of-Government approach to international development: It is not just our aid programme that impacts on international development, but also our policies and actions more widely. So while the 2006 White Paper on Irish Aid primarily guided our aid programme, this new policy will guide all of our development efforts - across Government.

Greater prioritisation: We will play to the strengths that we have built up over many years, including our strong poverty focus, the delivery of a quality aid programme and our solid record of partnership.

We recognise, however, that there is a need to prioritise further and to focus even more intently on the results we and our partners are achieving. This is always important and our present economic circumstances make it imperative. We need to achieve maximum value for money from the more limited resources we have available.

This policy will be used as the basis for making decisions on where the focus of our attention, and our resources, will be placed. Some of these decisions will be difficult to make – there are so many needs. However, we will take these decisions on the basis of a clear policy position.

Central to our decision-making and the way that we manage our resources will be our performance and the performance of our partners in achieving results.

Three Goals: Our policy for international development – an intrinsic part of our foreign policy – will seek to achieve three goals:

- > Reduced hunger, stronger resilience
- > Sustainable development, inclusive economic growth
- > Better governance, human rights and accountability

Six priority areas for action: Our goals will be the reference points around which Ireland's international development programmes and engagement will be planned. Six priority areas for action are identified, namely:

- > Global hunger
- > Fragile states
- > Climate change and development
- > Trade and economic growth
- > Essential services
- > Human rights and accountability

Key Decisions

Stronger focus on stability in countries that are fragile:

We will focus within our programme on countries experiencing greater fragility – such as countries recovering after periods of conflict. This is where the needs are greater, and where human rights are most at risk. This is also where we can have the most impact. And while such work presents more risks, the risk of inaction is greater.

A new Key Partner Country: To demonstrate our commitment to staying the course with countries emerging from conflict, we will deepen our engagement in Sierra Leone and Liberia. This will include Sierra Leone becoming one of our nine Key Partner Countries, the others being Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam and Zambia.

Changing relations: We will now term our Programme Countries as Key Partner Countries, reflecting the more rounded partnerships that we will pursue. In each Key Partner Country we will have different types of engagement, depending on the needs and opportunities that exist.

The Africa Strategy: We will build towards stronger economic partnerships in Africa and work towards an exit from aid where possible. The Government's Africa Strategy (available at www.dfat.ie) - designed to bring the different strands of the Government's foreign policy engagement with Africa together – will guide our approach.

We will strengthen our presence on the ground in East Africa as part of implementing the Africa Strategy, tapping into economic integration and trade in the region. This will also enable us to engage more strategically with humanitarian work in the region.

Maintaining aid expenditure: The Government remains committed to achieving the target of 0.7% of Gross National Income allocated to international development cooperation, as stated in the Programme for Government. Recognising the present economic difficulties, the Government will endeavour to maintain aid expenditure at current levels, while moving towards the 0.7% target when our economy improves.

Putting climate change at the centre: The effect of climate change is perhaps the most pressing issue facing poor countries today. We will work hard to ensure that our efforts are more firmly geared towards addressing this challenge, including by promoting a balance between the social, economic and environmental aspects of development.

Reinvigorating our approach to human rights: We will ensure that human rights principles and standards are promoted, protected and integrated across our development efforts. In particular, we will devote more of our resources to gender equality and disability, and ensure that they are taken into account in our development interventions.

Commitment to accountability and transparency: We are committed to openness, transparency and accountability to the Irish people and our development partners in what we do, how we work, and what we are achieving. We will implement fully our international commitments on aid transparency, and will publish our aid data under the recent internationally agreed format and standard by 2015.

We will also work with our partners – governments, NGOs, multilateral organisations, and others - to ensure that they adhere to similar standards of accountability and transparency. In this way, Irish people will be better able to see where and how their money is being spent, and what results are being achieved.

The importance of engagement internationally: Our engagement at the UN and international level is an essential part of our foreign policy. It gives us a stronger voice. It enables us to tackle the global dimensions of poverty and inequality. It amplifies the effectiveness of what we do. We are committed to playing a leading role, particularly through the European Union, in our collective effort to accelerate international development and advance peace, security and human rights.

Engagement at home: We will strive for a deep public understanding and engagement with our aid programme and our development policy, harnessing the contribution of Irish people and institutions. Through a new Volunteering Initiative, we will modernise the way in which we support volunteering, enabling experienced professionals to have an opportunity to contribute to development.

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