

Irish Aid is Ireland's official programme of assistance to the poorest countries in the world.

*"Addressing gender inequality is about implementing the fundamental human right to equality. It is also essential to effective poverty reduction"*

– White Paper on Irish Aid, 2006

Women account for two thirds of the world's poor, earn only 10% of the world's income and own less than 1% of the world's property.

Gender inequality remains a significant barrier to achieving progress. It has a negative impact on societies and hinders development for both men and women. Gender inequality negatively affects women more than men.

Research in Africa indicates that reducing gender inequality could increase agricultural yields by more than 20%. These additional agricultural yields would adequately nourish an additional 1.7 million children in sub-Saharan Africa.

### What is Gender Equality?

Gender Equality means equal access to and control of resources and benefits, equal participation in decision-making and equality under the law for men and women. Gender equality is about valuing men and women as equal human beings and ensuring that their rights are fully met.

### What does Irish Aid do to promote Gender Equality?

The achievement of gender equality is part of Irish Aid's overall strategy to tackle poverty. The Irish Aid programme takes account of men's and women's different interests and needs while also supporting specific programmes that empower women, improving their position and status in the countries in which Irish Aid works.

- Irish Aid is ensuring greater access to quality education for both boys and girls.
- Irish Aid is supporting community-based health programmes that ensure women's access to health services.
- Irish Aid is funding innovative micro-credit schemes for women.
- Irish Aid is actively working with Irish and international partners to stamp out Gender-Based Violence which has a devastating impact on women, as well as society as a whole.

### The Joint Consortium on Gender-Based Violence

Irish Aid has joined with Irish human rights, humanitarian and development agencies, and the Irish Defence Forces to form the Joint Consortium on Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The Consortium's aim is to promote a coordinated response to GBV, ensuring that actions to prevent and respond to GBV are visible and systematically addressed in the policies and work of all members of the Consortium.



Former Irish President Mary Robison addressing the Joint Consortium on Gender-Based Violence.

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 [www.irishaid.gov.ie](http://www.irishaid.gov.ie)

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 **Irish Aid**  
Department of Foreign Affairs  
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha

What Ireland is  
doing to promote  
gender equality and  
end poverty

## **Gender inequality**