



IRISH AID ANNUAL REPORT 2009

FOCUS ON POVERTY AND HUNGER

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

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

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Palestine

Sierra Leone
Liberia

Ethiopia

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Tanzania

Malawi

Zambia

Mozambique

Lesotho

South Africa

Irish Aid is Ireland's official programme of assistance to developing countries. It is managed by the Development Cooperation Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs. The Irish Aid programme was established in 1974. The main focus is the fight against poverty and hunger in some of the world's least developed countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. The programme provides assistance to over 90 countries worldwide, including nine partner countries where Ireland is engaged in long-term strategic assistance.

**For more information see:
www.irishaid.gov.ie**



Vietnam

Timor Leste

**Partner Countries
Other Priority Areas**

FOREWORD



Micheál Martin,
Minister for
Foreign Affairs.



Peter Power,
Minister of State for
Overseas Development.

This year, with just five years to go until the target date for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the international community is measuring the progress made in the fight against global poverty and hunger. Significant advances have been made in many areas through a focused partnership between developing and developed countries.

Very impressive progress has been made in primary education, the fight against HIV and AIDS and the reduction of infant mortality. Just under 90% of children in developing countries are now enrolled in primary education. In sub-Saharan Africa, the region still most in need, 76% of children are enrolled, up from just 58% ten years ago. HIV and AIDS continues to devastate the lives of millions, but 3 million people in sub-Saharan Africa are now receiving vital antiretroviral therapy, compared with just 100,000 in 2003. In 2008, the number of children under five years of age dying every day in developing countries was down 10,000 on the number in 1990.

The Irish people can be proud of the contribution they have made to these advances. Development cooperation is working, but international efforts need to be renewed if we are to achieve the goal of halving the number of people who have to live on less than \$1 a day by 2015. The global challenges are enormous, and have been accentuated by the economic and financial crisis. We may not yet fully understand the extent of the challenge posed by climate change. Over one billion people in the world are still hungry. More than 500,000 women in developing countries are dying every year in childbirth. Progress in the fight against poverty and hunger is uneven, and is slowest in sub-Saharan Africa.

Irish Aid is the Government's programme of development assistance. It is the Irish people's programme. Over 80% of our assistance is directed to sub-Saharan Africa where need is greatest and where we work in partnership with governments and communities in support of national plans to fight poverty and hunger. The quality of Ireland's assistance has been recognised internationally. The OECD peer review of Irish Aid, published in May 2009, noted that Ireland is a champion at making aid more effective, as a result of our cutting edge development programme

and the genuine spirit of partnership in which we work with developing countries.


The economic downturn has imposed severe pressures on aid budgets across the developed world, at the same time as it has heightened need in the poorest countries. The Government has had to take very difficult decisions in relation to all aspects of public expenditure, and funding for the development programme has been affected. We are determined to provide for the resumption of economic growth, which is the indispensable basis for a growing aid programme. We are equally determined that Ireland will continue to play its role internationally. In 2009 the Government provided 0.54% of GNP for Official Development Assistance, making Ireland the seventh most generous aid donor in the world in per capita terms. In 2010 we will exceed the target of 0.51% which we agreed at EU level five years ago.

Ireland is putting forward the strong position internationally that there is now an urgent need to coordinate a comprehensive approach to ending global hunger. The fight against hunger is a cornerstone of the Irish Aid programme. We are also calling for a stronger international focus on the needs of the people of sub-Saharan Africa. We recognise that, at a time of great economic difficulty, we have a duty to focus on key priorities and sectors, and to ensure that, together with our partners in developing countries, we constantly improve the effectiveness of our aid. More than ever, the challenge is to deliver value for money, focusing rigorously on the link between aid and sustainable improvements in the lives of the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities. Duplication between the activities of different donors must be minimised. Joint accountability with our partner countries must become more of a reality. We need to work more effectively with non-governmental organisations, through which Ireland delivers over 20% of its development assistance, to ensure that they too coordinate and cooperate to better effect to achieve our common objectives.

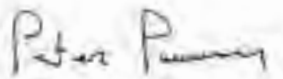
Innovation and the harnessing of new technology and new ideas are key. The impact of mobile communications technology in Africa has been remarkable in recent years. It has revolutionised approaches to disaster planning, to the delivery of

essential services and to the working of markets. Non-governmental organisations and governments are working together on new approaches. And the Fairtrade movement has leveraged the power of consumers to provide a fair price to growing numbers of producers in developing countries. The Irish Aid programme is supporting a wide range of innovative approaches, as well as sharing Irish business knowledge and ideas with small and medium companies in Africa and elsewhere. The Government is also encouraging Irish businesses to build on the links being forged through our development programme and to consider the opportunities for partnerships in Africa, where growth rates have increased significantly over the past decade.

By working in partnership with Governments and communities in developing countries, on the basis of their own national development plans, and coordinating closely with other donors, Ireland is making a real difference in the fight against global poverty and hunger. The responses to the earthquake in Haiti earlier this year and to the recent floods in Pakistan have highlighted once again the generosity of the Irish people to those most in need, and their sense of solidarity with those in the poorest countries. The responses are all the more remarkable when set against the difficult background at home. It is this sense of solidarity and justice which must continue to underpin Ireland's foreign policy, and the development programme managed by Irish Aid, which is at the heart of that foreign policy.



Micheál Martin
Minister for Foreign Affairs



Peter Power
Minister of State for Overseas Development

September 2010

THE CHALLENGE OF GLOBAL POVERTY AND HUNGER

In a world already facing serious global development challenges, including the impact of climate change, food insecurity, population growth and persistent and growing inequality, the economic and financial crisis has had a particularly severe impact on people living in the poorest and least developed countries. Coming in the wake of huge increases in food prices in 2007 and 2008, the crisis will make it more difficult for the poorest developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

In the context of diverse challenges, it is important that we do not lose sight of the fact that over one billion people in the world are hungry. Despite progress in some areas, there are now 92 million more people in sub-Saharan Africa living in extreme poverty than there were in 1990.

Global food insecurity remains a significant and growing challenge, and one of the most fundamental obstacles to ending poverty. It is also preventable. The first Millennium Development Goal (MDG 1) is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. It sets the target to reduce by half the number of people living in extreme poverty and hunger. This is far from being achieved, and the slow progress on MDG 1 is impeding progress across the whole range of Development Goals.

During 2009, Ireland continued to concentrate its development activities on the poorest developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, which is the primary geographic focus of the Government's development assistance programme. Within these countries, the focus has been on the poorest communities and regions.

Implementing the September 2008 recommendations of the Government's Hunger Task Force has placed the livelihoods and food security of the poorest and most vulnerable people firmly at the heart of the Irish Aid programme. Increasingly, the reduction of poverty and inequality, food security and better nutrition are cross-sectoral objectives for Irish Aid, against which all components of the programme must deliver results.

On the global stage, Ireland continues to work for increased support for the Least Developed Countries and for Africa. Ireland is working with key partners, including the UN, OECD, US and EU, to build coordinated international action on hunger, to ensure that the new resources, such as those committed in the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative, are used effectively in the poorest countries to deliver real and sustainable improvements in the household economies and nutrition of the poorest communities.

Developing countries themselves are central to efforts to reduce poverty and hunger and achieve the MDGs. Country ownership and leadership, strong poverty reduction plans and systems, and institutions that can deliver services, are essential if progress is to be sustained. Without a more effective agricultural sector and stronger governance mechanisms, many developing countries will struggle to increase agricultural production to feed their rapidly growing populations. Effective agricultural sectors require the right policies. Delivering on policy reform, improving systems and ways of working, as well as finance, are key to ensuring stronger performance in agriculture.

Ireland is supporting these efforts in our partner countries. The new Irish Aid country programme in Malawi supports the Government's programmes which provide targeted support to the poorest households and regions. These involve direct impact measures, like cash and food transfers, and measures to build sustainable and productive livelihoods, such as subsidies for farmers for seeds and fertiliser. In Uganda, Ireland has redirected much of its funding and technical support to the Karamoja region, where poverty rates are double the national average and chronic hunger has been endemic for generations.

Particular emphasis is being placed on the needs of smallholder women farmers, as well as targeting maternal and infant undernutrition. Irish Aid is working with central and local governments in partner countries, to strengthen their capacity to address gender inequality and the role of women in agriculture and rural development. In Ethiopia, support has been

provided to local government in the Tigray Region to target women more effectively within agricultural extension services, with particular attention to the uptake and utilisation of credit by women.

Although the scourge of poverty and hunger will not easily be eliminated, it is possible if the international community acts collectively to turn commitments and policy positions into action. The impact of strengthened partnerships and collaborative action by partner governments and other development stakeholders is becoming apparent in improved poverty targeting in national development plans, strengthened systems for delivery of services, and better results for poor people.

In Tanzania, Ireland, as lead donor in the agricultural sector, has ensured a more focused programme of support which has contributed to increases in farmers' rice yields from 2.5 to 6 tons per hectare in recent years. In Timor Leste, Irish Aid supports the International Labour Organisation's programmes which are injecting capital into rural communities and providing access to public transport and markets. In Mozambique, there has been a tremendous increase in access to antiretroviral drugs, which enables those living with HIV and AIDS to lead active and productive lives.

For the world's poor, climate change is an additional and growing threat to their present and future well-being. Measures to address the adverse impacts of climate change on agriculture are being taken, including strengthening smallholder farmers' ability to adapt and improve their resilience to stresses, drought and floods. Examples include support provided to the Directorate of Agriculture in Inhambane Province, in Mozambique, to promote drought resistant crops, and support to the National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi for the promotion of conservation agriculture.

As we prepare for the Review of the Millennium Development Goals in September 2010, Ireland's key message to the MDG Summit will be on what can and should be done to address hunger, livelihood security and income poverty between now and 2015, particularly for those most vulnerable to extreme poverty and hunger in sub-Saharan Africa. Working together, developed and developing countries can maintain their commitments to the world's poorest people, in the face of increased global challenges and continuing international economic difficulty.

Climate change and hunger

For the world's poorest and most vulnerable communities, climate change is an additional and growing threat to their well-being. There is an inextricable link between climate change and the capacity to respond to the challenge of global hunger.

Governance and hunger

Without a more effective agriculture sector and stronger governance, many developing countries will struggle to increase agricultural production to feed their rapidly growing populations.



Minister of State, Peter Power, with farmers in Gergera, Ethiopia. Photo: Abate Damte

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS



GOAL 1 ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER

EXAMPLES OF PROGRESS SO FAR

In Malawi, 1.6 million smallholder farmers have been able to purchase fertiliser and improved seeds through the Government Farm Input programme. In 2009, only 10% of households had less than adequate food consumption, down from 38% in 2007. See case study on page 19.



GOAL 2 ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

In Tanzania, enrolment in primary school increased from 59% to almost 100% between 2000 and 2007, while the number of girls receiving secondary education increased by 20% between 2008 and 2009. See also case study on page 31.



GOAL 3 PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

In Timor Leste, the promotion of gender equality was prioritised in the preparation of the Government's 2010 budget, and a new law was passed making domestic violence a crime. See case study on page 25.



GOAL 4 REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

The number of children who die before their fifth birthday as a result of poverty, has been reduced from 12 million in 1990 to under 9 million in 2008. That means 10,000 fewer children under five are dying every day. See also case study on page 23.



GOAL 5 IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

In Mozambique, 90% of women are now receiving ante-natal care from skilled personnel, compared with 79% in 2003. See case study on page 21.



GOAL 6 COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

In Uganda, the HIV prevalence rate in 2009 was 6.4% compared with 18% in the 1990s. 150,000 people are accessing antiretroviral treatment and 49,000 orphans are receiving community services. See also case study on page 17.



GOAL 7 ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

In the Tigray region of Ethiopia, over 450,000 hectares of land were reforested and 185,000 households, many headed by women, benefited from additional irrigation in 2009. See case study on page 15.



GOAL 8 DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

Global partnerships in the health sector have led to dramatic improvements in child health. In sub-Saharan Africa measles-related deaths decreased by 91% between 2000 and 2007. See also case study on page 49.

WHERE WE WORK

Ireland provides assistance to over 90 countries worldwide and works closely with governments in nine partner countries in Africa and Asia to support poverty reduction and development.

ETHIOPIA 14

LESOTHO 16

MALAWI 18

MOZAMBIQUE 20

TANZANIA 22

TIMOR LESTE 24

UGANDA 26

VIETNAM 28

ZAMBIA 30

Population

79 million

Percentage of population living on less than \$2 a day¹

77.5%

Ranking on the UN Human Development Index

171 out of 182 countries

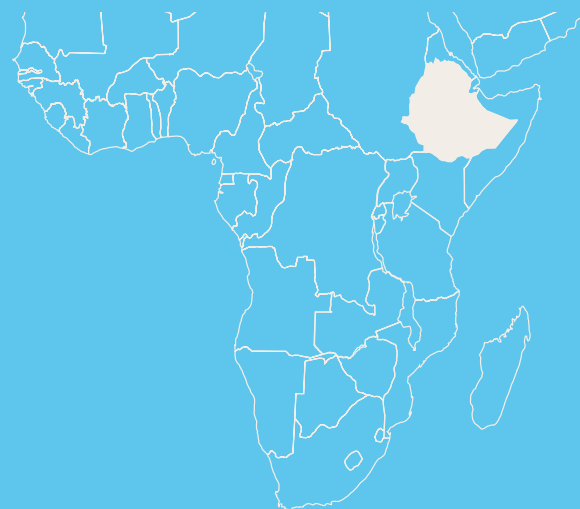
Partner Country Since

1994

Partner Country

Ethiopia

TACKLING HUNGER AND CLIMATE CHANGE



Ethiopia continues to make impressive progress in poverty reduction and is on track to meet six of the eight Millennium Development Goals by 2015. Economic growth in recent years has been consistently high at around 7% and, according to the UN, since the year 2000 Ethiopia has witnessed the world's second-fastest rate of improvement in the area of human development. However, despite these achievements, the country remains one of the poorest in the world. Average life expectancy is just 55 years and about 40% of children are underweight for their age.

With a large population involved in small-scale agriculture and relying mainly on rain-fed crops, many people are unable to provide enough food for themselves and their families. Poor rainfall during 2009 pushed some six million people into a crisis situation where emergency food assistance was required. The Government has prioritised the improvement of agricultural production by expanding land under irrigation and using higher yielding seeds.

In 2009, Ireland provided support of €11 million for the Protection of Basic Services programme. This initiative finances health, education, water, sanitation, agriculture and rural roads across the country. Nearly €4 million was provided to support health and HIV activities, including a new fund which targets the needs of vulnerable mothers and babies. Nine organisations working in poverty research, gender equality, civic education and legal rights also received €1.7 million in Irish support. In addition, Irish Aid funded training to assist civil society organisations to adapt to new legislation affecting their work.

In response to hunger and climate change, Irish Aid provided almost €4.5 million through a programme of cash or food transfers for almost eight million

Ethiopians in return for public works. Beneficiaries of this programme were able to significantly increase their food intake, and a range of environmental improvements were put in place across the country. A further six million people were provided with emergency food aid during the year.

Ireland continued to support the Tigray region with €4.3 million through a grant, to the Women's Affairs Bureau for agricultural research and an MSc programme in Rural Development in partnership with University College Cork. Smallholder farmers received in the region of €1.7 million in Irish Aid support to help them diversify their incomes through community tourism, participatory forestry management, and innovative micro-finance and savings schemes.

Achieving results:

- **Food and cash was provided to eight million chronically food insecure people in exchange for carrying out environmental public works. This resulted in one million kilometres of erosion control structures being built, and 60 million trees planted in 2009.**
- **The percentage of children enrolled in primary schools increased from 68% to 83% over the last four years, with equal numbers of boys and girls now attending school;**
- **Over 450,000 hectares of land in Tigray were enclosed for reforestation, and 185,000 households, 20% of which are headed by women, benefited from additional irrigation in 2009.**

Case Study

Ethiopia



MDG 7 HELPING TO ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



Forest management group in Bale Eco Region. Photo: Richard More O'Ferrall

The Bale eco-region in southern Ethiopia is home to 1,600 varieties of plants, 300 types of birds and about 250 endangered Ethiopian foxes. The 2,200km² area comprises the second largest moist tropical forest in Ethiopia. The close connection

between nature and livelihoods is demonstrated by the Bale region's 40 water sources, which benefit over 12 million people in Ethiopia, neighbouring Kenya and Somalia.

Irish Aid has been supporting the conservation of this important natural resource since 2006, through the Bale Eco-Region Sustainable Management Programme which is delivered jointly by FARM-Africa and SOS Sahel Ethiopia. It promotes community forestry management to conserve the forest, so that local people can benefit from its products whilst protecting the resources for future generations.

Gadise Tadesse, from Chiri Village, is a member of one of the Savings and Credit Groups, established by the Programme. Gadise used a small loan to buy honey, which she made into mead, and sold at a profit of 280%. With the proceeds she bought a milk cow and 1,000 eucalyptus seedlings, which she plans to harvest for building materials. Gadise's credit group has doubled its savings from the original grant provided by the programme. This enables more families to have alternative, environmentally sustainable sources of income, and so avoid harmful use of the forest.

Ali Beker's father taught him how to keep bees in the forest, and the community forestry management programme has helped Ali to build on traditional practices. He has received training in bee-keeping and now has more modern and efficient hives. The volume of wild honey now produced by Ali has increased, and his income has doubled.

Community leader Hassen Lemo, 65, explained how the programme has benefited the community: "Six years of the programme provides us with knowledge that will benefit us for sixty years. We are managing the forest and value it today differently from the past so that our children will also be able to benefit".

One long-term idea being investigated under the programme is the potential for climate change financing. This would provide funds to the Government and communities in exchange for maintaining the forest, and would assist Ethiopia in meeting the Millennium Development Goal 7 of environment sustainability. Such an initiative would ensure that the value of the Bale eco-region was fully recognised, and the benefits shared at local, national and international levels.

Population	Percentage of population living on less than \$2 a day	Ranking on the UN Human Development Index	Partner Country Since
2 million	62%	156 out of 182 countries	1975

Partner Country

Lesotho

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF RURAL HEALTH SERVICES



Lesotho made some progress in the areas of gender equality, enrolment in primary education and access to safe drinking water in 2009. However, challenges still remain in the battle against HIV and AIDS and other diseases. High levels of child mortality and maternal mortality continue to give cause for concern.

The impact of the global economic crisis began to be felt in Lesotho in 2009, with a sharp decline in demand for key exports such as textiles and diamonds, which resulted in GDP growth of less than 2% for the year. Loss of revenue from the Southern Africa Customs Union was of particular concern. This income, from which Lesotho benefited through a long standing customs and tax agreement with its southern African neighbours, is expected to decline significantly in the coming years as a result of the downturn.

The Country Strategy Plan 2008-2012 represents a new approach in strengthening Ireland's long-term relationship with the government of Lesotho. Under this plan, Irish Aid will take a "whole of government" perspective, assessing systemic weaknesses affecting the implementation of programmes.

The new approach focuses on four outcome areas: health, education, water and sanitation to promote more effective delivery of much-needed basic services.

As part of a drive to encourage more efficient allocation and use of resources, Irish Aid has supported the Government in the management of the public finances.

This approach has yielded excellent results. Better planning enabled the country to qualify for Education-For-All Fast Track Initiative funding of \$30 million over three years, from 2010.

A joint donor approach to the staffing crisis in the health sector was agreed, while the development of a two-year plan assisted the Ministry of Natural Resources to prepare for European Commission and Irish Aid sector budget support in 2010/11 and 2011/12. The shortage of skilled personnel has been particularly acute in the health sector. Irish Aid agreed to assist the sector's Human Resources Operational Plan for 2009/10, through backing for a HR Management Information System, and the funding of some key strategic positions for the Health Ministry and the Christian Health Association of Lesotho.

As part of its support for the provision of better access to improved HIV and AIDS services, Irish Aid worked in partnership with the Clinton Foundation and the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to improve rural health services. By the end of 2009, seven of the nine mountain clinics supported through the partnership were operational, while almost every clinic in the country

benefited, either through the provision of nurses, the availability of antiretroviral treatment, or mentoring. Another partnership with Catholic Relief Services on food security complemented the activities being undertaken in some of these mountain clinics.

The main focus in encouraging enhanced Government accountability to citizens, was on rolling out a joint programme with the United Nations Development Programme in support of the Parliament, the Independent Electoral Commission and human rights institutions in Lesotho.

Achieving results:

- **Net enrolment for primary education increased from 60% in 1999 to 80% in 2009, and 500 teachers graduated through the Distance Teacher Education Programme.**
- **The percentage of people with advanced HIV who received antiretroviral treatment increased from 25% in 2008, to 52% in 2009.**
- **Improvements in democratisation and governance have enabled Lesotho to receive an additional 25% of funding from the European Union's Development Fund.**

Case Study

Lesotho

MDG 6 SUPPORT FOR COMBATING HIV AND AIDS



Matšoanelo Khasipe working in her keyhole garden.
Photo: Thomas Geoghan

Lesotho is a rugged, beautiful country. Many people live in remote areas, especially the mountainous highlands, where droughts are common, food supplies insecure and roughly one-quarter of the population is living with HIV and AIDS.

Matšoanelo Khasipe from Nohana in Mohale's Hoek District, lost her husband some years ago as a result of an AIDS-related illness. Since then, the 37-year-old has struggled to keep herself and two daughters, aged five and eleven, happy and healthy.

"My husband was a carpenter. After he died, I tried to take over the business but I was not skilled enough and could not make it work. I had some savings which I used to buy food, but we couldn't eat as much as we did before. I became ill and I was worried for my children."

Fortunately, through a project by Catholic Relief Services (CRS), supported by Irish Aid, Matšoanelo was provided with seeds, fertiliser, homestead farming techniques and a 'keyhole garden' - a specially designed vegetable bed, raised high to ensure easy access, particularly for the elderly and those living with HIV and AIDS. "Now I have vegetables

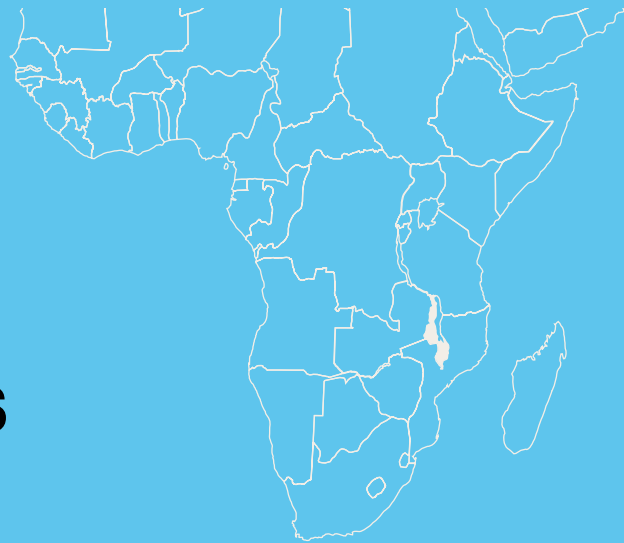
throughout the year, even in winter. The garden produces so much; I have even been able to sell food to buy other things for the family, like chickens, which I keep in the yard."

Matšoanelo, who is HIV positive, also benefits from the nearby mountain clinic, where she and others can access free medical care, medication and counselling services daily. This is one of the clinics, built through a partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Clinton Foundation and Irish Aid, to bring high quality medical treatment to vulnerable mountain communities.

Patients must be well nourished to benefit from AIDS antiretroviral treatment, and the CRS projects and partnership clinics are located near each other, so that improved food security and nutrition will assist those living with AIDS to live longer, better lives.

"I'm much happier and healthier now," says Matšoanelo. "As a single parent, I did not know how to cope with raising my children and doing household work, but with the help I get from CRS and the clinic, I feel much stronger - I can live like other people in the village."

Population	Percentage of population living on less than \$2 a day	Ranking on the UN Human Development Index	Partner Country Since
13 million	90%	160 out of 182 countries	2007



Partner Country Malawi

SUPPORTING SMALLHOLDER FARMERS

Malawi is still one of the poorest countries in the world, with more than half of its population living below the poverty line and chronically undernourished, and 85% engaged in subsistence farming. Although agriculture accounts for three-quarters of total employment and 90% of export earnings, the sector remains deeply reliant on a single annual crop of maize, produced in the short four-month rainy season. Poor farming practices have caused serious land degradation. However, thanks to an innovative subsidy scheme for small farmers, introduced by the Government in 2006, with support from international donors, including Ireland, there has been a significant improvement in food security, and the country now produces a surplus of maize.

In 2009, the Irish Aid Malawi programme focused on governance, food and nutrition security. It built upon activities that had been supported in 2008, as well as developing a country strategy for the period 2010 to 2014.

Irish Aid supports the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in Malawi, through the Sustainable Seed Industry Development Programme, which provides more drought-resistant seeds for the production of groundnuts, peas and beans. An important objective of this programme is to assist in the development of small agricultural

businesses (agri-businesses), so that smallholder farmers have easier access to good quality seed and fertilisers.

Conservation farming also holds a key to some of Malawi's agricultural problems. Following a successful pilot project in 2008, Irish Aid continues to support the National Smallholder Farmers Association of Malawi in rolling out a national programme which strongly encourages the adoption of conservation agriculture and agro-forestry practices by smallholder farmers. These practices have helped to increase soil fertility and reduce dependence on chemical fertilisers.

In addition, support for small-scale irrigation projects, and improved preparations for droughts or erratic weather patterns, reduces the risk of hunger. These are important developments in terms of the country's future food needs; Malawi's population is projected to double by 2035.

Irish Aid has also helped to address the serious problem of childhood malnutrition through working with a number of agencies, including the International Potato Centre, to improve nutrition, crop productivity, diversification and income security in rural households. A programme to increase the Vitamin A and energy intake of mothers and young children through the distribution of better and cheaper potato varieties is being implemented in cooperation with

the Ministry of Agriculture, the Catholic Development Commission in Malawi, Concern Universal, World Vision and the Millennium Village Programme.

Presidential and parliamentary elections were held in Malawi in May 2009. Working with other donors such as the United Nations Development Programme and with the Malawi Electoral Commission, Irish Aid supported the updating of the voter list and modernising the electoral process.

Achieving results:

- **1.6 million smallholder farmers have been supplied with fertiliser and improved seeds, and this has led to greatly improved food and nutrition security. In 2009, only 10% of households faced food insecurity, compared with 38% in 2007.**
- **Thanks to a new improved potato cropping programme, more than 7,000 smallholder farmers were able to double their income and ensure year round access to food for their families.**
- **The outcomes of the 2009 Presidential and Parliamentary elections were verified by international observers. Three quarters of the MPs were newly elected, and the percentage of women in Parliament increased from 14% to 22%.**

Case Study

Malawi



MDG 1

HELPING TO ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER



Smallholder farmer Sharon Bomba exchanges her farm input voucher for supplies at Peter's store.
Photo: James Anubi

Agri-businessman and small farmer, Peter Cornordi, has run his agribusiness from Bua in the District of Kasungu since 2003. A married man, with nine young children, Peter participated in the Government farm inputs subsidy programme, to which Irish Aid contributes. This provides seeds and fertiliser to poor farmers to improve family food security. Peter is a model agri-businessman who also farms his own smallholding, producing a variety of food crops.

His smallholding displays brand signs to advertise the crops being grown, so that Peter can show his neighbours examples of maize, soybean, pigeon pea, and groundnuts, grown from the seeds he distributes and sells. These include two disease-resistant groundnut varieties recommended by the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT).

In December 2009, Peter participated in an ICRISAT training programme in legume production, the first in a series of modules on agro-economic, production, marketing and sales issues. On his return to Bua, he trained local smallholder farmers in the new methods he learned, showing them how to reverse the loss of valuable nutrients from the

soil, as well as boosting legume production. Everyone in Malawi eats "nsima", a local food made from maize, and there is often little else available. The shortage of foods such as beans and groundnuts means the local diet is often lacking in essential nutrition.

Sharon Bomba is one of the small farmers who has benefited from the easy availability of essential farming supplies such as fertiliser, maize and groundnuts from Peter Cornordi, which has made her life easier. The 28 year old can now exchange the input subsidy voucher she received last year, for groundnuts and fertiliser at Peter's store, which means she no longer has to travel long distances to get what she needs. Sharon will keep most of the crops she grows to feed her family of four and diversify their diet. She will sell the remainder in the local market to buy essential items.

Population	Percentage of population living on less than \$2 a day	Ranking on the UN Human Development Index	Partner Country Since
20.2 million	90%	172 out of 182 countries	1996



Partner Country Mozambique

SUPPORTING PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV AND AIDS

Mozambique has experienced impressive growth rates (averaging almost 8% between 1993 and 2008) following its horrific civil war which ended in 1992. Although Mozambique remains one of the world's poorest countries, ranked 172 out of 182 countries in the UN Human Development Index, GDP per capita grew from €224 in 2004, to €331 by the end of 2009. Despite a slowdown caused by the international economic crisis, growth in 2009 was still impressive at 4.7%. However, poverty remains pervasive with more than 90% of the population still classified as poor. Mozambique also has to deal with the serious and debilitating problem of HIV and AIDS, though there were indications in 2009 that the prevalence rate, currently at 11.5%, was levelling out.

Considerable progress has been achieved in education, an area that is central to poverty reduction, with major increases in primary school enrolment and school construction. There is now a 100% gross enrolment of children in primary school. Key areas now of focus for Irish Aid include the improvement of quality in primary education and the promotion of girls' education. Gender parity has now been reached for girls entering primary school.

HIV and AIDS is a major obstacle to long-term development in Mozambique, where the current HIV prevalence rate is estimated at 11.5%. Ireland is helping

in the fight against HIV and AIDS on several fronts, primarily through its support for the Government's health sector support programme in partnership with the Clinton Foundation. There has been a remarkable increase in access to antiretroviral drugs which enable those living with HIV to lead active lives, and over 66,000 women have received treatment to prevent mother to child transmission, compared with just 877 in 2003. This was due to a significant increase in clinics offering this treatment. Irish Aid also supports a number of NGOs working in HIV prevention, care and support, at national and provincial level.

Health sector statistics also demonstrate progress. Now 90% of women are receiving ante-natal care by skilled personnel. In Niassa Province, where Irish Aid is supporting the extension of essential health services through community health workers, the number of births attended by skilled personnel is well above the national average of 55%. Mozambique has also been declared free of leprosy.

Irish Aid's focus in the agriculture sector is on improving market opportunities for smallholder farmers, and promoting agricultural extension services. In Inhambane Province, where Ireland is supporting improved business environments and market linkages for smallholder farmers, there was an increase of 50% in cashew production

by selected factories in 2009, and better prices for cashew farmers, many of whom are women.

Ireland is also supporting good governance in Mozambique. This has included support to civil society organisations to monitor and participate in Government planning and budgeting.

Achieving results:

- **There is now gender parity at primary school level with the enrolment of girls at 73%, up from 70% in 2007, and girls' completion rates in primary education have increased from 14% in 1999 to 42%.**
- **In 2009, the number of people infected with HIV receiving antiretroviral treatment reached 170,000, compared with 10,000 in 2003, and 222 clinics were offering treatment, up from 12 six years before.**
- **The number of farmers supported through improved agricultural services and access to market opportunities, increased from approximately 285,000 in 2007, to 378,000 in 2009.**

Case Study

Mozambique



MDG 5 IMPROVING MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH IN MOZAMBIQUE



Técnico de Cirurgia, Silva Chironda, working in the Buzi district hospital. Photo: One Planet Pictures

As a “Técnico de Cirurgia” or surgeon nurse, Silva Chironda runs the Buzi district hospital in Sofala province. His duties include everything from administration, to patient care and surgery. He recently acted as both an ambulance driver and surgeon for Lurdes, who was pregnant with

twins and required emergency obstetric care. Without the emergency caesarean performed by Silva, the young woman, who had been in labour for four days, could have died.

In 1984, the government initiated a three-year training programme for nurses wishing to learn surgical techniques. Silva Chironda was one of them. These mid-level providers are called “Técnicos de Cirurgia,” and can carry out major surgical procedures.

In Mozambique, 473 women died in every 100,000 live births in 2007. The high maternal mortality rate results from a health system weakened by 15 years of civil war and an acute shortage of skilled human resources. Mozambique has about 900 doctors for a population of 20 million. Only 55% of all deliveries are carried out in health institutions. Maternal mortality is highest in rural areas where pregnant women have to travel long distances to reach a district hospital.

Emergency caesareans are the most common surgery performed in the districts. While all doctors leave district hospitals after a few years, about 90% of Técnicos de Cirurgia remain on. By 2007, Mozambique had 61 Técnicos de

Cirurgia who currently perform about 90% of obstetric surgeries in rural areas. Meeting the MDG 5 on improving maternal health can only be achieved if there is substantial improvement in the access to quality emergency obstetric care nationally. The use of Técnicos de Cirurgia is one of the Government’s strategies to achieve that Goal.

Técnicos de Cirurgia, like Silva, are underpaid, overworked but committed, and have proven to be a life saving, cost-effective option to increase access to quality health care in Mozambique. The lack of adequate infrastructure, equipment and supplies is still a major obstacle.

Irish Aid provided €11 million to the state budget and €14.8 million to the health basket fund in Mozambique in 2009. This helped to fund the use of Técnicos de Cirurgia. Irish Aid is also supporting a research project on the impact of Técnicos de Cirurgia on maternal and newborn health. The results will help to influence policy dialogue on expanding the use of these professionals to improve maternal and newborn health services at district level throughout Mozambique.

Population

42 million

Percentage of population living on less than \$2 a day

96.6%

Ranking on the UN Human Development Index

151 out of 182 countries

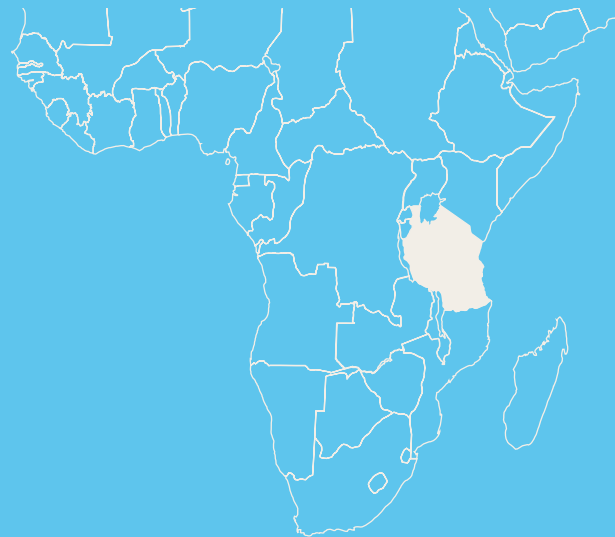
Partner Country Since

1975

Partner Country

Tanzania

PROGRESS IN HEALTH CARE



Tanzania remains one of the most politically stable countries in Africa. Gross Domestic Product grew by about 7.8% per annum between 2001 and 2008 before falling to 5% in 2009, partly as a result of the global economic crisis. A 2009 UN Report on the Millennium Development Goals in Tanzania showed progress on primary school enrolment, under-five and infant mortality, and declining HIV prevalence.

However, significant development challenges remain. Tanzania is one of the world's poorest countries. Life expectancy remains low at just 53 years for males and 56 for females. An annual population growth of 2.9%, one of the highest in Africa, means that Tanzania's population is expanding by more than one million people a year. Drought, particularly in the northern and central parts of the country, has resulted in food shortages for an estimated 1.5 million people.

Agriculture is a key sector for Irish Aid in Tanzania, as it employs up to 80% of the labour force. Irish Aid, with four other donor partners, is working with the Government of Tanzania through the Agricultural Sector Development Programme (ASDP). During 2009, the ASDP increased the availability of improved seeds and fertiliser, as well as adding to land under irrigation schemes. The depth of Ireland's engagement in the agriculture sector is reflected in the Arumeru District where a dam was built

by the local community with the support of the World Food Programme, the ASDP and a local NGO, the Archdiocese of Arusha Integrated Development and Relief, all of which receive funding from Ireland.

Sustained poverty reduction cannot be achieved without good governance and service delivery at local level. Irish Aid supports the local government reform process and a local government capital development grant system. Tanzania is performing well on important aspects of governance, with indicators from several sources pointing to a positive trend.

Ireland and other donors provide technical and policy support for the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to strengthen health services at district and village level.

In recent years districts have benefited from a steady increase in funds from the central Government budget, through the pooling of resources from Irish Aid and ten other donors, and the establishment of a Joint Rehabilitation Fund for Local Authorities. An example of the improved national health strategy and local planning can be seen in Misungwi District, which has been able to renovate its health clinics, upgrade village dispensaries, purchase an ambulance for emergencies, maintain basic equipment and recruit and retain qualified medical staff.

It is expected that MDG 3, the promotion of gender equality, will be achieved by Tanzania by 2015. Gender parity has been achieved in primary school enrolment, along with higher rates of enrolment in secondary and tertiary education. However, completion rates are higher for boys at all levels.

The widespread problem of gender-based violence has a serious negative impact on women's lives and significant socio-economic consequences. In 2009 Ireland's funding to the NGO, Women in Law and Development in Africa, enabled the "16 Days of Activism" campaign against gender-based violence to be held, for the first time, in all regions on the Tanzanian mainland.

Achieving results:

- **In 2009, an additional 21,500 hectares were added to land under irrigation through the Government of Tanzania Agriculture Sector Development Programme.**
- **Net enrolment rates in primary school increased from 59% to almost 100% between 2000 and 2007 and the number of girls accessing secondary education increased by 20% between 2008 and 2009.**
- **Tanzania now ranks 12th out of 53 African countries, and second in East Africa, in the 2009 Index of Governance.²**

Case Study

Tanzania



MDG 4 HELPING TO REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY IN TANZANIA



Agnes Emmanuel with her son John at Misasi Health Centre.
Photo: Danny Rowan

Agnes Emmanuel was worried about the health of her seven-month old son, John. His appetite was poor and he was very irritable. Agnes (23) suspected that he might have malaria, and carried John seven kilometres on foot to the health centre in Misasi. Medical staff took a blood sample from John and analysed it in the laboratory. It was confirmed that John had malaria. He was given anti-malarial medication and Agnes took him home to recover.

Agnes and her baby benefited from a better service at Misasi Health Centre, as a result of improvements implemented by the Ministry of Health, with financial and technical assistance from Ireland and ten other donors. Misasi is in Misungwi District in north western Tanzania, close to Lake Victoria. Five years ago the district, which has an estimated population of 302,000, had no medical doctor and no ambulance, and patients requiring surgery had to travel approximately 100 kilometres to Mwanza city. Increased health funding, combined with technical and policy support for the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare to strengthen health services, led to improvements on the ground.

Misungwi has been able to renovate its health facilities, upgrade village dispensaries, purchase an ambulance for emergencies and maintain basic equipment, including an x-ray machine and laboratory supplies for its clinics. The district now has a total of 38 health facilities, consisting of two hospitals, four health centres and 32 village dispensaries.

The district has been able to recruit and maintain qualified staff, including a medical doctor for Misasi Health Centre – the same doctor who treated John. Misungwi District continues to face serious health challenges, including high HIV prevalence and high infant and maternal mortality rates. Half of the clinical staff positions and the health facilities still remain vacant. However, the progress in the past five years, supported by Ireland, has resulted in significantly improved services to the community.



Population	Percentage of population living on less than \$2 a day	Ranking on the UN Human Development Index	Partner Country Since
1.1 million	77%	162 out of 182 countries	2002

Partner Country

Timor Leste

BUILDING STABILITY

Timor Leste is currently enjoying the most stable period of its short history. The political situation remains calm and more than 100,000 refugees, who had been living in makeshift camps since the security crisis in 2006, have returned home. A national police force has begun to assume its responsibilities. Economic development is clearly evident in the capital Dili, though less so in the provinces.

Timor Leste remains the poorest country in Asia, with very significant challenges remaining in the areas of infrastructure, health services, education, food security and employment. However, the improved security situation over the past two years has allowed both the Government and donors to focus on development issues.

Throughout 2009, Irish Aid continued to work with the Government to strengthen the newly created institutions of the state. Irish Aid contributes to a pooled donor fund which helps the Ministry of Finance to manage Timor Leste's Petroleum Fund in a transparent, efficient and accountable way. The budgeting process for 2010 was streamlined and the budget published on schedule.

Irish Aid also works with local government and community organisations, primarily outside Dili, to improve the delivery of basic services, such as roads, healthcare and water, to rural communities. Working with the Government and the International Labour Organisation, Irish Aid has also supported a highly successful programme of labour-intensive road building. The programme also trains local contractors in the maintenance of roads to serve the community in the years ahead.

The creation of jobs for women and young people is a priority - and seen as vital for the prevention

of conflict. More than one million work days were created in 2009, 30% of these for women. Irish Aid continues to work with the Secretary of State for the Promotion of Equality (SEPI) and this has had an impact, particularly in the promotion of gender equality.

The stability of Timor Leste still remains fragile. The Irish Government's Conflict Resolution Unit (CRU), which like Irish Aid, is based in the Department of Foreign Affairs, is working in Timor Leste with other partners and the Government to address problems and deal with the legacy of past conflicts. Funding of €1 million was provided by the CRU in 2009. The integration of Ireland's conflict resolution and development programmes is helping to build a stable and prosperous state in Timor Leste.

Achieving results:

- **In 2009, the promotion of gender equality was prioritised in the preparation of the 2010 budget in the line ministries, and a new law was passed which now makes domestic violence a crime.**
- **Almost 20,000 part-time jobs were created, 30% for women and 59% for youth, through a highly successful programme of labour-intensive road building which also led to the rehabilitation of over 150 km of rural roads.**
- **Improved national financial management means that the Government is now allocating ten times more to the delivery of basic services, like roads and clean water, than it did in 2005.**



Case Study Timor Leste

♀ MDG 3 PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY



Gender Advisor with farmer in Timor Leste
Photo: Kanchan Lama

My name is Francisca Asis, and I work in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. In Timor Leste, about 85% of people are employed in agriculture, mostly as subsistence farmers. Mountainous land and poor soil makes it hard for farmers to feed their families, and malnutrition is a big problem here. Women carry out much of the farming work, as well as running the household, so it is crucial that the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries implements gender-sensitive policies.

When I was first appointed as the Gender Focal Point in the Ministry, I didn't see the connection between gender equality and agriculture. However, an International Gender Advisor, called Kanchan, was appointed with support from Irish Aid, through the UN Development Fund for Women. With her support, I began to understand how equality can have a positive impact on agriculture and help to improve household-level food security, nutrition and health, as well as generating income.

With the help of the Gender Advisor, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has incorporated gender action planning into its planning process. A training manual was produced on gender

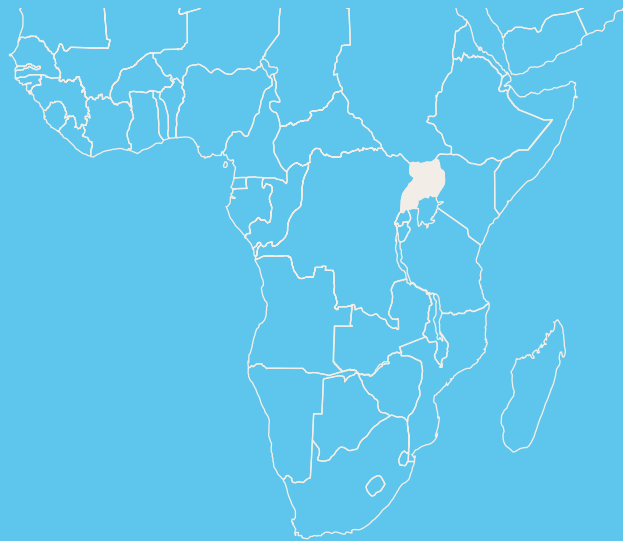
equality in agriculture, and 23% of the agricultural extension field staff from the Ministry have been recruited and trained to promote gender equality. We have established strong relationships with the Secretary of State for Promotion of Equality and the national women's umbrella organisation, and together we have ensured a gender perspective in the National Food Security Policy.

Now we have Gender Focal Points at national and district levels appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture, while internally the Ministry has taken steps to promote female staff as Heads of Departments. I am now working as the Head of the Department of Agricultural Land Geographic Information System. As a result of the new gender-sensitive policies, the Ministry has provided technical assistance and hand tractors to 1,202 women's agricultural groups, while more than 6,000 women have received free assistance to help them develop their smallholdings and feed their families better. The Ministry has drafted a Gender Equality Policy and will also conduct a gender analysis on its 2011 budget submission.

Population	Percentage of population living on less than \$2 a day	Ranking on the UN Human Development Index	Partner Country Since
31 million	75.6%	157 out of 182 countries	1994

Partner Country Uganda

PROMOTING SOCIAL PROTECTION



Peace and security was restored to most of Uganda in 2009 and an estimated 80% of the people displaced by the war in Northern Uganda returned to their homes. Despite the global downturn, the economy continued to record strong positive growth at 5.6% and growth rates are projected to increase over the next few years. Revenues from sizeable deposits of oil discovered in Western Uganda, if wisely managed, could help to make a significant impact on poverty levels. In 2009 Uganda became a member of the UN Security Council, and Ugandan troops played an active part in the African Union peacekeeping mission in Somalia.

However, significant challenges remain. Approximately 7 million people still continue to live in chronic poverty. Democracy will be tested in the run up to, and aftermath of, the elections in 2011. A number of human rights issues continue to feature in the dialogue between the Government of Uganda and international partners. The country remains vulnerable to conflict.

Education is central to reducing poverty, and Irish Aid's support to the education sector contributed to an increase in primary school enrolment in 2009. In the poorest region of Uganda, Karamoja, Irish Aid continued to support a Post-Primary Education and Training Programme, which includes construction of classrooms, laboratories, libraries, latrines and water points in 13 institutions. Eleven completed institutions were launched jointly by the Minister of Education and

Sports and the Irish Ambassador in September 2009.

Irish Aid is also helping to improve the participation of vulnerable children in post-primary education in Karamoja through a bursary scheme. In total 720 students are benefiting from the scheme and 65% of the bursaries are allocated to girls.

A second priority for Irish Aid in Uganda is HIV and AIDS. Support for prevention and control activities continued in 2009, in collaboration with other donors. This included assistance to over 41,000 orphans and vulnerable children, the provision of counselling and testing for over 150,000 people, and assistance to over 2,300 pregnant women to prevent mother to child transmission.

A new and important area in 2009 is social protection, which offers poor households the potential, to escape from chronic poverty. A pilot programme was designed jointly between the Government of Uganda, Irish Aid and the UK Department for International Development that will involve cash transfers to very poor households in eight districts. Ireland's support will target 16,500 poor households in Karamoja. Irish Aid also played a major role in successfully advocating for the inclusion of social protection as a policy priority in the new National Development Plan. Strengthening governance is a major pillar of our work in Uganda. This is achieved through political dialogue with the Government, and targeted financial assistance for programmes to promote

democracy, the rule of law, and the fight against corruption. Access to justice remains a major challenge, especially for the poor. With the support of Irish Aid, legal aid was provided to 5,911 disadvantaged Ugandans. Irish Aid's support to a legal advisory service helped to reduce overcrowding in prisons.

Irish Aid has worked hard with the Ugandan Government to encourage gender-responsive legislative reforms, especially in relation to gender-based violence, and to mainstream gender considerations into national plans and policies.

Achieving results:

- **There was a 9% increase in total primary school enrolment from 7.5 million pupils in 2008 to 8.2 million in 2009. In the Karamoja region, eleven primary schools and two teacher training institutions have been rehabilitated, and bursaries provided to 1,000 very poor students.**
- **The HIV prevalence rate is currently at 6.4%, compared with 18% in the 1990s. 150,000 people are accessing antiretroviral treatment, 88,000 people have been provided with prevention information, and 41,000 orphans are receiving care.**
- **A major achievement in 2009 was the passing of legislation on gender-based violence, a problem that is endemic in Uganda. This legislation is expected to make a significant difference to the lives of women in Uganda.**

Uganda Case Study



MDG 1 HELPING TO ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY IN NORTHERN UGANDA



Agnes Auma, who was awarded an Irish Aid bursary.
Photo: Amy Rose McGovern

Free universal primary education is a benefit that Ugandan children cherish dearly. The Ugandan Government, with the support of Ireland and other donors, provide this for all. However, ask a Ugandan child how they will afford secondary education and most will reply 'with great difficulty'. Finding the money for school fees is a constant challenge in a country where poverty is a daily reality.

The Irish Aid Programme is helping to reduce poverty in Northern Uganda, a region which has been devastated by a 20-year war between the Ugandan Government and the Lord's Resistance Army. With the recovery now underway, secondary education has a crucial role to play in rebuilding human capacity in the region.

The Acholi Education Bursary Initiative provides access to free secondary education for war-affected children in Northern Uganda. All of the children benefiting from the scheme have grown up in extreme poverty. They have also suffered trauma, with stories of abduction and violence very common. A total of 175 children are currently benefiting from the initiative, and girls are particularly encouraged to apply. Agnes Auma is 16 years old. In

2008, Agnes was awarded an Irish Aid bursary to attend secondary school. Agnes remembers the day a neighbour brought news of the bursary. With no money for fees, she had been out of school for three months, so she was overjoyed and remembers dancing with happiness that whole day. Agnes is one of eight children and the only one from her family to reach secondary level. The war, in which her father was killed and her brother abducted by rebels, had been traumatic for her family.

The bursary scheme provides her with school fees, a uniform, school supplies and basic necessities. It also provides transport to visit home, as well as psychosocial support, such as career guidance and counselling. When asked how this bursary has affected her life, Agnes replies that without it, she, like her siblings, most certainly would not be in school. This opportunity will help her to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor.

Population	Percentage of population living on less than \$2 a day	Ranking on the UN Human Development Index	Partner Country Since
86 million	48%	116 out of 182 countries	2007

Partner Country Vietnam

DEVELOPING THE PRIVATE SECTOR



Politically and economically stable, Vietnam is maintaining a strong level of economic growth and is moving towards middle income status at a faster pace than other partner countries with which Ireland works. Impressive reductions in poverty rates have been achieved - from 20% in 2005, to a projected 10% in 2010. However, Vietnam is still a poor country, with more than eleven million people living below the national poverty line in 2009.

Global integration, and especially membership of the World Trade Organisation, have helped to lift many people in Vietnam out of poverty. However, while the country has benefited from access to global markets, it is now also vulnerable to global economic shocks and increasing inequality. Vietnam suffered from a number of severe weather events in 2009 and is the fifth most vulnerable country in the world to the effects of global warming.

Irish Aid's focus in Vietnam has been on reducing poverty and inequality through programmes to strengthen the delivery of basic services and social protection to the poorest and most vulnerable sectors of society. Other key priorities include the promotion of inclusive economic development, the growth of private sector economic activity and employment and the enhancement of State accountability to citizens.

Irish Aid is supporting the Programme for Ethnic Minorities, which was established to assist the poorest communities in

Vietnam. This programme, to which Irish Aid contributed €7million in 2009, is implemented in 1,848 communes and 3,274 villages in 47 provinces. Overall, pro-poor programmes in Vietnam received Irish Aid funding of over €9 million in 2009.

The development of a dynamic private sector will be crucial to Vietnam's future economic prosperity and progress towards middle-income status. Ireland concentrated its support in this area on knowledge transfer, and engagement with key institutions in areas such as health, the private sector and economic governance.

In the health sector, the Ireland-Vietnam Blood Borne Virus Initiative, a programme of engagement between Ireland's National Virus Laboratory at UCD, and the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE) in Hanoi, has led to the establishment of sophisticated diagnostic facilities for blood-borne viruses at the NIHE.

Specialised advisory services to support the Government of Vietnam with its private sector liberalisation and growth agenda continued through the multi-donor Mekong Private Sector Development Facility. In 2009, there were exchange visits to Ireland with Lao and Cambodia delegations, with a particular focus on Special Economic Zones and tourism. Irish Aid's most ambitious programme for capacity building - the Irish Development Experience Sharing (IDEAS) programme - continued to expand in 2009.

The IDEAS programme was developed at the request of the Vietnamese Government to share Ireland's experience of business and economic development with Vietnam, through knowledge transfer from Irish institutions, such as the Central Bank, the ESRI and the Financial Regulator, and through post-graduate educational exchange with the UCD Smurfit Business School.

In 2009 Irish Aid support to Vietnam, including funding of €1 million for projects in Cambodia and Laos, was €14.75 million.

Achieving results:

- **Vietnam has achieved impressive reductions in poverty rates – from over 20% in 2006, to less than 13% in 2009. Over the same period Vietnam's Programme 135 Phase II, which attracts over half of Irish Aid's funding, has seen poverty levels in the poorest ethnic communities drop from 47% to 30%.**
- **In 2009, a sophisticated national level diagnostic facility was established for the conduct of research into blood-borne viruses, as the result of collaboration between Ireland's National Virus Laboratory and the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology in Hanoi. The work of the centre will inform public health decision making by the Government of Vietnam in relation to blood-borne viruses, and HIV and AIDS in particular.**

Case Study

Vietnam



MDG 6 SUPPORT FOR COMBATING HIV AND AIDS



HOPE Cooperative workshop in Thai Binh province. Photo: Le Viet Hung

Pushing hard on the pedal of her sewing machine, Tran Thi Hoa rushes to finish the last jacket of the day. She wants to reach the district health clinic for her antiretroviral medication before closing time. This is her third month working in the HOPE cooperative workshop. Along with her 38 co-workers,

most of whom are women, Hoa's life has been transformed since she completed vocational training and got a job as a tailor. Hoa still remembers the day she received her first wage packet. "1.2 million Dong (equivalent to €46 a month) is even higher than a farming income. I now have a steady wage to help care for my son". In her home town in Dong Hop commune, Hoa is now a role model of a HIV positive woman contributing to and benefiting from economic activities.

The HOPE cooperative, located in Thai Binh province, 100 km from Hanoi, is unique in the area in that it was founded and is now being managed and staffed by a group of people living with HIV. The head of the cooperative is 40-year-old Pham Cong Chuan, who himself is HIV positive. Chuan founded the HOPE support network for people living with HIV. Chuan is faced with the difficult task of securing employment and wages for 38 workers. "Without financial support from Irish Aid, it would have been impossible to make my dream and the dreams of many others come true".

The HOPE cooperative is supported by Irish Aid's local partner, the Centre for Community Health and Development, under

a civil society grant. The project supports new approaches to social protection and empowerment for HIV and AIDS-affected rural households. By moving from welfare to livelihood responses, the aim is to both improve living conditions and to counteract stigma. Workshop employees have weekly appointments with doctors for antiretroviral treatment. Their access to health care is facilitated by flexible working hours. In addition, the HOPE network makes small loans to 48 HIV affected households who would otherwise have no access to credit.

With the combined efforts of all members, strong support from the local authorities and the local community, and certain tax exemptions, the HOPE cooperative will continue to grow and provide an important voice for people and communities living with HIV. "The HOPE cooperative has become the first group in Vietnam helping people living with HIV to gain full legal status", Chuan notes with pride.

Population	Percentage of population living on less than \$2 a day	Ranking on the UN Human Development Index	Partner Country Since
13 million	81%	164 out of 182 countries	1980



Partner Country Zambia

IMPROVING ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR THE POOREST CHILDREN

Zambia has faced significant challenges in the four decades since independence in 1964. Economic mismanagement, severe fluctuations in the price of copper, (which accounts for 80% of national exports) an influx of more than 280,000 refugees from neighbouring countries, and an HIV and AIDS pandemic resulting in about one million deaths have contributed to deep economic and social instability.

However, recent years have seen real progress. Since 2005, economic growth rates have averaged 6% despite the global financial crisis, while life expectancy has increased from 37 to 44.5 years since 2003. The most recent Millennium Development Goals Progress Report indicates that the 2015 targets for hunger, education, gender, and HIV and AIDS are likely to be met, while there is potential to reach the remaining targets, with the exception of environmental sustainability.

In 2009, Ireland provided almost €25.5 million to Zambia, of which €22.8 million was channelled through the bilateral country programme, with additional funding provided through civil society partners and missionary organisations. A major strand of our support focuses on improving access to education, particularly for the most vulnerable children. Overall, good progress has been made. An additional 360,000 children have enrolled in school since 2006, and the number of additional classrooms built annually has increased to 1,500 compared with 250 in previous years.

As in many developing countries, Zambia faces challenges in the area of good governance. Irish Aid provides support to the Parliament, fifteen community radio stations and a number of NGOs, in a campaign to promote government accountability. The Office of the Auditor General and the Public Accounts

Committee in Zambia, for example, are now leading the fight for better financial accountability. Zambia's progress from 115th to 99th of 180 countries in the Global Corruption Perceptions Index is evidence of significant improvement in this area.

The recent economic growth does not always sufficiently benefit the poorest and most vulnerable in society and the Irish Government, in partnership with the Government of Zambia, has designed a three-pronged approach which targets social protection, HIV and AIDS, and gender inequality. The results have been encouraging.

Achieving results:

- **The number of poor and vulnerable people receiving social cash transfers increased from 1,027 in 2004 to 11,654 by 2009.**
- **HIV and AIDS prevalence amongst those aged 15-49 years has dropped from 16.4% in 2002 to 14.3% in 2007.**
- **In 2009, an additional 2,500 classrooms were under construction and the Government recruited an additional 5,000 teachers, prioritising deployment to the most rural districts.**



Zambia

Case study



MDG 2 SUPPORTING EDUCATION FOR ALL – YOUNG PEOPLE IN RURAL ZAMBIA



Naomi Isaac, a student in Maxamaedi community school school.
Photo: Aidan Mulkeen

Fourteen year old Naomi Isaac is a Grade Five student in a community school near her home in Senanga district, where she lives with her mother, three brothers and a sister. Naomi is determined to get a good primary-level education as she wants to attend secondary school and eventually qualify as a nurse.

The local community built the Maxamaedi school which has mud walls, a thatched roof and only two classrooms for lower grades. Because of the lack of space, the school uses a two-shift system to cater for all 176 pupils. Yet, since the school was established in 2003, a number of pupils have gone on to middle-basic in other schools, and a few are completing upper-basic primary level education.

When Zambia became independent in 1964, just over 50% of children were enrolled in school, and only 10% of those completed primary school. In the decades prior to 2000, the Government of Zambia did not adequately support education, and only those students who could afford to pay the fees attended school. In 2002, with promises of donor support, the Government abolished fees for primary school attendance leading to a huge expansion in enrolment. Between 2000 and 2008, enrolment in primary education grew by 1.3 million children.

Most of these additional students attend community schools; typically small, low-cost schools built and managed by the communities. With government support, the number of community

schools has grown from under 900 in 2000, to nearly 3,000 in 2008. Community schools are a lifeline in providing access to education to the poorest people in rural areas who are out of reach of government schools.

Ireland and the Netherlands coordinate the work of donor countries and organisations who are financing education in Zambia. Working with the Government and non-governmental organisations, Irish Aid provides grants to almost 8,000 government and community schools for the provision of books, desks, teaching materials and small maintenance funds.

Eventually, these community schools will be integrated into the government school system. About 1,500 mud-and-thatch classrooms are being replaced by permanent classrooms annually. With the Government also recruiting an additional 5,000 teachers per year, Naomi and her fellow students now have a real opportunity to join the growing number of students attending secondary school.

In addition to the nine partner countries
Irish Aid has programmes in a number of
other countries

PALESTINE 34
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OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

RESPONDING TO CRISIS



ACTIVITY

HUMANITARIAN AID FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEES

KEY OUTCOME

DELIVERY OF BASIC SERVICES AND HUMANITARIAN AID

The year 2009 was one of humanitarian crisis for the people of Gaza. A major Israeli military operation in December 2008 and January 2009 resulted in almost 1,400 deaths. More than 5,000 people were injured, and there was widespread destruction of homes and infrastructure. In addition, the continuing Israeli blockade of Gaza prevented or limited the entry into Gaza of many essential items, thereby deepening the humanitarian crisis.

In the West Bank, Palestinians continued to face widespread restrictions on their ability to move around and access their lands. However, movement between West Bank urban centres improved, largely as a result of changes at a number of key staffed checkpoints.

Irish Aid's total contribution to the Palestinian people in 2009 was more than €10.2 million, including €1.5 million allocated for the major humanitarian crisis that affected Gaza in early 2009. Our support included the following key elements:

- Ireland provided more than €4 million to the General Fund of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). This supported UNRWA in delivering basic services, such as education and health, to 4.6 million Palestinian refugees in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. In Gaza, where 60% of the population depends on food aid, the provision of emergency food assistance is an important element of UNRWA's work;

- €1.5 million was provided to the Palestinian Authority for public service salaries, thereby helping to maintain basic public services. A further €1.5 million supported allowances for the most vulnerable Palestinian families. Through support to the Palestinian Authority, Ireland has helped to reinforce the institutions of democratic statehood in the Palestinian Territories;
- Irish Aid provided €500,000 to both Israeli and Palestinian civil society organisations working to protect and promote the human rights of the Palestinians. These organisations successfully documented and highlighted breaches of human rights in areas such as freedom of movement and prisoners' rights, while providing legal and other assistance to victims of human rights violations;
- A further €1 million was provided to support civil society organisations involved in a range of humanitarian, development and peace building programmes.



SIERRA LEONE AND LIBERIA MEETING BASIC NEEDS

ACTIVITY

SUPPORTING MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION, AND PEACE-BUILDING INITIATIVES

KEY OUTCOME

IMPROVED HEALTH AND WATER AND SANITATION SYSTEMS

Sierra Leone and Liberia are among the world's poorest countries. Each has suffered a long and bitter civil war during the last 20 years and both still experience the effects of division and violence.

Ireland, through the Irish Aid office in Freetown, Sierra Leone, and its Emergency and Recovery Section at headquarters, manages programmes in the two countries. These aim to meet immediate humanitarian needs, while working closely with the Sierra Leonean and Liberian Governments and other partners, to promote longer-term reconstruction and development. The Irish Aid programmes are tailored to local needs and implemented in line with international principles on working in fragile states. They include a mixture of support for Government, the United Nations, missionary and non-governmental organisations.

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone faces severe economic and development challenges. In 2009 it was ranked at 180 of 182 countries on the United Nations Human Development Index. More than 90% of the population lives on less than \$2 a day, maternal and under-five child mortality rates are among the highest in the world and an estimated 63% of the population is undernourished. The average life expectancy is 47 years.

In 2009, Irish Aid spent €5.85 million through its country programme in Sierra Leone, in addition to funding provided to civil society organisations. The Irish Aid programme focused primarily on health, in particular maternal and child health, food security and nutrition, and peace-building initiatives. In the health sector, Irish Aid contributed to improved medical care for the people of Kenema district through support for the local hospital. This included funding for the purchase of essential drugs, a blood transfusion service and additional doctors and nurses.

Irish Aid also supported the provision of equipment and infrastructure to 1,200 farming families to help them increase their rice production, both for their own consumption and as a means of making a living.

At a meeting with the President of Sierra Leone, Mr Ernest Bai Koroma, in November 2009, the Minister of State for Overseas Development, Mr. Peter Power, pledged funding of €10 million

over 18 months in support of the Government of Sierra Leone's poverty reduction strategy.

Liberia

Liberia continues to suffer from extreme poverty and fragility, despite the strong commitment of its Government to development. It was ranked at 169 of 182 countries on the United Nations Human Development Index in 2009, and in many areas even the most basic of services are unavailable, due to a lack of infrastructure. Access to health services is extremely poor; maternal and infant mortality rates are very high, and lack of access to safe water and sanitation has compounded health challenges. Life expectancy is estimated at 57 years.

In 2009, Irish Aid spent €6.15 million on activities under its country programme, in addition to funding provided to civil society organisations. The main focus of Irish Aid's programme was support to strengthen the country's health systems and basic primary health care services. Irish Aid also provided support to the water and sanitation sector, contributing to improved access to water for 240,000 people, and to sanitation for 59,000 people. Other programmes supported by Irish Aid included a World Bank administered trust fund to rehabilitate Liberia's road network, allowing citizens greater access to services and markets

SOUTH AFRICA

SUPPORTING THE POOREST COMMUNITIES



ACTIVITY

SUPPORT FOR EFFECTIVE HIV AND AIDS POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

KEY OUTCOME

HIV AND AIDS STRATEGIES DEVELOPED WITHIN EDUCATION AND WATER PROGRAMMES

Although it has achieved middle income status, South Africa is still characterised by high levels of inequality, poverty and violence. Irish Aid's strategy in South Africa is designed to tackle these problems in line with the South African Government's own policies and targets. The current programme, which runs from 2008 to 2012, focuses on three key areas:

- 1 Improving service delivery for poor communities, with a focus on water and sanitation and education programmes in Limpopo Province, one of South Africa's poorest regions;
- 2 Preventing the spread of HIV and AIDS and responding to the needs of those affected, particularly women and children;
- 3 Responding to the widespread problem of gender-based violence. Women and young girls in South Africa experience high levels of rape and domestic abuse.

A number of key results that have been achieved to date, in the following sectors:

Water and Sanitation:

- Ten water services authorities in Limpopo developed Water

Services Delivery Plans. Since 2007, household access to water increased by 15% and access to household sanitation increased by nearly 12%;

- Twenty three rural communities now have water and sanitation services, including food gardens, water supply, health promotion and village sanitation.

Education:

- A strategy to address HIV & AIDS and improve the health of employees, teachers and students has been developed with the Limpopo Department of Education;
- A literacy strategy has been developed to improve poor levels of literacy in the region.

Governance:

- Projects aimed at the prevention of corruption and improved monitoring and evaluation by the regional government in Limpopo have commenced;
- Twenty five community leaders were successfully trained in human rights, democratisation and leadership.

Responding to HIV and AIDS:

- Two District AIDS Councils have been established in Limpopo;
- Twenty community-based organisations in Limpopo received training.

Preventing and responding to gender-based violence:

- In Arkoenhoeck, a rural area of Limpopo, legal and counselling services are being provided on a pilot basis. A referral system is operating between the health and police services and a centre for women who have been raped and abused has assisted over ninety clients. A baseline audit of clients was published based on this pilot project. The Department of Justice has now commissioned similar research in three other provinces; Northern Cape, Eastern Cape and Northwest.
- A pilot programme has been launched in two provinces, Limpopo and Gauteng, to improve the impact of primary prevention programmes, and to examine the links between alcohol consumption and also between HIV and GBV.



ZIMBABWE TARGETING THE MOST VULNERABLE

ACTIVITY
SUPPORTING HIV AND AIDS
TREATMENT, PARTICULARLY
HOME-BASED CARE

KEY OUTCOME
IMPROVED HIV AND AIDS
PREVENTION AND CARE
SERVICES

Despite the formation of a new government, the political situation in Zimbabwe remains volatile. Given the unpredictable environment, Irish Aid funding is targeted at the country's most vulnerable citizens, and is disbursed through multilateral or non-governmental organisations.

Throughout 2009, Ireland's bilateral development programme in Zimbabwe focused primarily on the HIV and AIDS epidemic. Zimbabwe continues to be one of the countries in sub-Saharan Africa most severely affected by HIV and AIDS. While still relatively high, there has however been a marked decline in HIV prevalence rates in recent years. In the adult population the rate has declined from a high of almost 24% in 2001 to just over 14% in 2009.

In 2009, Irish Aid contributed €1.5m in aid to NGOs which provide 20% of home-based care in Zimbabwe. The number of people benefiting from Irish Aid support in these programmes has increased from 23,000 to 36,000 since 2005. Partner NGOs also provide support for 65,000 children affected by HIV and AIDS. Funding from Irish Aid has enabled the Zimbabwe AIDS Network to strengthen its capacity, expand its core functions of advocacy, capacity building, information exchange, networking and resource mobilisation, and enhance its credibility.

The UNDP's Expanded Support Programme (ESP), has continued to be an effective and flexible funding mechanism, which has been able to respond rapidly to

emerging needs and address bottlenecks, including for example, financing for a health worker retention scheme. The ESP trained more than 2,000 community leaders and 1,000 behaviour change facilitators in 16 districts. There was evidence of increased demand for HIV testing and counselling, and of positive changes in community attitudes and norms. All 16 districts had at least one site providing antiretroviral therapy, and almost 18,000 people were receiving treatment in these districts. Throughout 2009, preparations were made for the transfer of programme management from the Irish Aid office in Zambia to its South Africa office from the start of 2010.

In 2009, NGOs and Irish missionary organisations received almost €2 million in funding from Irish Aid's Civil Society Section for their work in Zimbabwe. This support focussed on the provision of basic services, including food security, health and education. Partners in receipt of Irish Aid funding include Concern, Trócaire, Progressio, Sightsavers, Oxfam Ireland and Camfed International.

In addition, the Irish Government provided over €2 million in humanitarian assistance funding in Zimbabwe in 2009, primarily for food relief, school feeding programmes, livelihoods programmes, and the provision and coordination of healthcare services.

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME FOR EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA (PPECA)

ACTIVITY
SUPPORTING POVERTY REDUCTION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE IN EMERGING DEMOCRACIES

KEY OUTCOME
ESTABLISHMENT OF CREDIT UNIONS ACROSS 15 REGIONS IN ALBANIA

The Partnership Programme for Europe and Central Asia covered the countries of South Eastern Europe, including the Western Balkans, the Commonwealth of Independent States (the former Soviet Union), the Caucuses, and Central Asia. Due to the need to focus resources on the poorest and most vulnerable communities in sub-Saharan Africa, the programme is being wound down with effect from 2010, although certain projects will continue to receive support.

Projects funded under the programme were implemented by Irish and international NGOs and multilateral organisations. In 2009 initiatives supported included First Step Georgia and The Irish League of Credit Unions Foundation. First Step Georgia provides services for children in Georgia with intellectual and physical disabilities. Irish Aid funding was used to support a range of activities including residential care, home-based care, training of personnel, support for parents, awareness building, and support for independent living and work placements for young adults. The Irish League of Credit Unions, through its Development Foundation, supported the development of the credit union movement in Albania since 1995. With Irish Aid support, the ILCUF facilitated the establishment of 26 formal credit unions spread across 15 regions, with close to 10,000 members.



RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES

EMERGENCY AND RECOVERY

During 2009, over €88 million in emergency and recovery funding from Ireland helped save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity during and in the aftermath of humanitarian crises.

Irish Aid responded to sudden onset natural disasters, including severe flooding in Burkina Faso, tropical storms in the Philippines, and the West Sumatra earthquake in Indonesia, which left hundreds of thousands homeless and in need of life-saving relief.

In 2009, Irish Aid continued to provide funding in response to protracted humanitarian crises in Sudan, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Afghanistan. Assistance was also provided to the needs of those displaced as a result of conflict in Sri Lanka, Pakistan and Gaza.

In Ethiopia, where food insecurity and malnutrition affect many parts of the country every year, Irish Aid funding of over €1.4 million in 2009 helped more than 50,000 of the most vulnerable people to access food, health and nutrition support programmes, run by NGO and UN partners. In Zimbabwe, Irish Aid funding of €1.65 million in 2009 targeted those in the population with immediate food needs, prioritising highly vulnerable households and school feeding programmes. In flood-affected regions of North Eastern Afghanistan, Irish Aid supported a programme to meet the immediate needs of food-insecure households through cash-for-work initiatives.

Pre-positioned funding continued to form a core element of Ireland's humanitarian response efforts in 2009, enabling an immediate Irish response to international crises. In 2009, Ireland provided €13.5 million to the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), a fund established to allow for a rapid response to humanitarian crises around the

globe. The CERF enables the UN system to release funds in a much shorter time than would otherwise be the case, and helps to ensure that the projects which are supported are those which best address the needs of people affected by humanitarian crises.

The Rapid Response Initiative also continued to be integral to Ireland's humanitarian response capacity. In 2009, there were 26 deployments of the Rapid Response Corps and a number of large scale shipments of relief items from Ireland's pre-positioned supplies to emergencies in Burkina Faso, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Sudan.

Case study

Gaza



Minister Martin with teachers and students at UNRWA girl's primary school Rafah, Gaza. Photo: John Ging

In January 2009, the Government responded rapidly to the humanitarian consequences of the twenty-two day Israeli bombardment and ground assault against Gaza. Before the crisis, Irish Aid had pre-allocated humanitarian funding with the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). CERF funds were released immediately to provide life-saving support, including food, shelter and medical assistance, to the people of Gaza. Because of the scale of the crisis in Gaza, Irish Aid also responded with additional direct funding of €1.5 million.

€1 million was provided to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA). Given that an estimated 1.1 million of Gaza's population of 1.5 million are refugees, UNRWA was at the centre of the crisis response. Under the leadership of Irishman John Ging, and with the support of Irish Aid and other donors, UNRWA in

Gaza maintained critical services throughout the crisis, including the provision of health care to more than 12,000 people per day and, from 1 January onwards, food parcels to around 3,000 families per day. During the conflict, more than 50,000 Palestinians sought refuge in UNRWA schools and other installations that served as temporary shelters.

€500,000 was provided to a Humanitarian Response Fund administered by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. This Fund supported non-governmental organisations and UN agencies in a range of emergency response projects. As a result of projects supported by the Fund:

- 8,000 people received water tanks;
- 10,000 non-refugee families received food packages;
- Essential medical supplies and equipment were provided to

clinics, hospitals and mobile clinics;

- The land of more than 200 impoverished farmers was rehabilitated.

Other projects supported by the Fund helped to clear mines and save livelihoods through the repair of fishing boats and nets. While support from the international community helped to save lives and meet the immediate humanitarian needs of the people of Gaza, longer term recovery from the devastation of the conflict has been compromised by the ongoing Israeli blockade of Gaza and continuing difficulties in the search for a sustainable political solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

HIV AND AIDS

TACKLING HIV AND AIDS AT AN INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Ireland's leading role in the fight against HIV and AIDS is internationally recognised. In 2009, Ireland accepted a seat on the board of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. This allows Ireland to further influence international policy and efforts to improve the quality and impact of interventions in this area.

Ireland contributed over €114 million to the fight against HIV, AIDS and Communicable Diseases in 2009, including €10 million to the Global Fund. The number of HIV testing and counselling sessions supported by the Global Fund increased by 69% from 62 million to 105 million in 2009. Global Fund programmes distributed 450 million male and female condoms, and provided 445,000 HIV positive pregnant women with treatment to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT). Over 4.5 million basic care and support services were provided for orphans and other children affected by AIDS.

There is growing evidence that Global Fund financing has resulted in reductions in AIDS mortality in countries in which provision of antiretroviral treatment has been scaled up rapidly. Other significant impacts are improved survival and productivity of key professionals and other workers, and system-wide improvements in health care delivery. To date efforts to tackle AIDS, TB and malaria have saved an estimated 4.9 million lives.

Ireland's partnership with the Clinton Foundation has contributed to significant progress. In Mozambique, over 173,000 people are now on HIV treatment, up from 130,000 in 2008, and over 66,000 women have accessed PMTCT services through 832 clinics. In Lesotho, the partnership has been equally impressive, helping to expand national coverage of counselling and testing from 8.5% in 2007 to 63% in 2009.

Raising public awareness of the adverse impact of HIV and AIDS on development, and of Ireland's support for efforts to tackle this pandemic, is an important part of Irish Aid's work. In Ireland, Irish Aid supports the "Stamp out Stigma" campaign and initiatives to mark World AIDS day on 1 December.

In 2009 "Universal Access to Prevention: Making it Work for Women" was the theme of the annual Father Michael Kelly Lecture, held at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin. Dr Seth Berkley, the President of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, outlined how 2009 was a "breakthrough year" with the development of a partially effective AIDS vaccine for the first time in history, and the discovery of numerous potentially crucial components of future vaccines. In 2009, Ireland remained a key global supporter of research and development of a new effective microbicide against HIV and AIDS, through its support for the International Partnership for Microbicides.

A recent review of Irish Aid support for HIV and AIDS initiatives has contributed to the development of a revised strategy, "Tackling HIV and AIDS to Reduce Poverty and Vulnerability" which will be completed in 2010.



Minister for Overseas Development Peter Power launching World Aids Day at the Irish Aid Centre, Dublin, with RCSI Medical students and Dr Seth Berkley IAVI. Photo: Maxwells

OUR PARTNERS

**NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS
MULTILATERAL ORGANISATIONS**

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

PROMOTING LOCALLY DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT

Irish Aid provides financial support to Irish and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in Asia, Africa and South America. These organisations raise much of their own finances due to the generosity of the Irish public, and independently define their own contribution to tackling poverty. Irish Aid supports them to deliver programmes planned in consultation with local communities, organisations and governments in countries across the developing world.

Ireland continues to channel over 20% of its aid programme through development NGOs and missionaries, one of the highest proportions of any international donor. This reflects the Government's commitment to support the NGOs in their work with some of the most vulnerable communities worldwide, in line with the support of the Irish public.

Irish Aid provides multi-annual funding to organisations in three ways:

- through core programme support based on organisations' strategic plans;
- through a block grant to fund specified projects in specified countries;
- and through individual project funding.

In 2009, five Irish NGOs; Christian Aid, Concern, GOAL, Self Help Africa, and Trócaire, received core programme support totalling more than €56m. The missionary organisations received €16m through the misean cara network to support development work in three continents. A further 22 organisations received block grant funding totalling more than €18m. In addition, over 80 organisations received grants for individual projects, amounting to over €10 million.

Irish NGOs work on a wide variety of issues, including human rights, health, education, water and sanitation, and food security. Irish Aid worked closely with NGOs during 2009 to encourage them to examine their work from the perspective of aid effectiveness. In the case of NGOs, this involves ensuring that programmes and projects maximise coordination, are based on a strong analysis of context, use appropriate and sustainable strategies that enable participation, and work towards the achievement of clear positive change for communities where they work.



Theresa Moyo feeding her son specialised food at Concern Community Therapeutic Centre in Malawi. Photo: Daniel Rowan

The following are some examples of Irish Aid's work with NGOs:

– **Concern**

As a result of support from Irish Aid, Concern continued to implement its community management of acute malnutrition across a range of countries where hunger is a daily reality. This new approach to treating malnutrition allows people to treat their children in their own homes, rather than forcing them to stay in residential facilities. Supported by Irish Aid and pioneered by Concern and Valid International, this approach has proven extremely effective. Children who are admitted to Concern's programme are provided with weekly medical treatment and given one week's supply of vitamin enriched therapeutic food to take home. This food can be used even where there is no access to clean water. Concern has broadened its scope beyond treatment of children in particular communities to advocating that governments and other agencies adopt this very successful community management treatment of acute malnutrition. The aim is to integrate the approach into health systems, so that countries where malnutrition is a problem can systematically and consistently treat malnutrition more effectively on a countrywide basis;

– **Self-Help Africa (SHA)**

SHA receives support from Irish Aid for their food security programmes. An example of this is in Malawi, where agriculture depends on erratic rainfall and food security is a major problem. SHA coordinates closely with 15 local NGOs and farmer organisations working with rural communities. Food security is a major problem in Malawi. SHA distributes improved seeds, which can be used and saved by farmers for a number of seasons. SHA is also developing small-scale irrigation options for farmers, and new methods for increasing crop production in the dry season;

– **Anti Slavery International**

Irish Aid provides support for Anti Slavery International (ASI) for its projects which address human rights violations against bonded labourers in Nepal, India and Pakistan, and also in West Africa and Malawi. These projects are part of a wider international campaign against slavery. ASI works to unionise bonded labourers and increase their political voice. It campaigns for minimum working standards and supports constructive engagement with governments to ensure effective implementation of existing legislation against bonded labour. For example, as a result of ASI's work with the General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions, the Nepali Parliament has declared the bonded labour system illegal. ASI is working to ensure that this and similar laws are applied and that incidences of slavery are abolished.

MULTILATERAL ORGANISATIONS

SUPPORTING UN REFORM

More than one third of Ireland's Official Development Assistance is provided through multilateral organisations, such as the European Commission, the United Nations and the World Bank.

Irish Aid provides funds to multilateral organisations in a variety of ways including:

- Core contributions to organisations;
- Funding for specific programmes or projects, such as a joint UNICEF/UNFPA global project to reduce maternal mortality;
- Support for humanitarian crises, such as funding to the World Food Programme for Haiti ;
- Support for global events and summits managed by multilateral organisations;
- Support in partner countries in areas such as election observation, anti-corruption, drug control or infrastructural development;
- Funding multilateral organisations enables the provision of more cost-effective and coordinated assistance to particular countries and regions, and in response to crisis situations. For instance, our support to Zimbabwe, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Chad has depended heavily on the presence and capacity of multilateral agencies.

Furthermore, the Government's policy priorities are advanced through partnership with multilateral organisations, as evidenced by Ireland's contribution to the establishment of UN Women, the new UN organisation for gender equality and women's empowerment, and also to programmes that respond to global hunger and HIV and AIDS. In each case Ireland not only provides funding, but also uses its position to influence policy and supports programme implementation in these areas. As such, Ireland can promote its vision for fighting poverty at the highest global policy level.

Irish Aid works to ensure that the funding provided to multilateral organisations is effective, predictable, relevant and sustainable, and that the partners we work with carry out their programmes to the highest possible standards.

Ireland's contribution in 2009 to the European Commission's 10th European Development Fund, (2008-2013), was €21 million. Irish Aid continued to promote a strong poverty focus for the European Commission's development work, which included extending support to the most vulnerable in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific countries. Irish Aid also works to implement the EC's aid effectiveness agenda, for instance by implementing the EC Code of Conduct on Division of Labour, in our partner countries.

In 2009, Ireland provided funding to the World Bank in priority areas such as the private sector and the Conflict Affected States in Africa initiative. The Bank was also an implementing partner for Irish Aid's work in 2009 on social protection in Ethiopia, and education, through the Fast Track Initiative for Education for All.

Irish Aid's funding to the UN totalled nearly €100 million in 2009. Core funding was provided, principally to priority partner agencies such as UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS, WHO and UNHCR, as well as to the humanitarian Central Emergency Response Fund. This allowed Irish Aid to make important interventions in the development of UN Women, to advance progress on System Wide Coherence, which makes the UN's development work more coordinated, and to speak out on humanitarian reform.

In addition, Irish Aid funded the UN in 2009 to work on justice reform in Timor Leste, HIV and AIDS in Ghana, drug control in Afghanistan, food security in Ethiopia, humanitarian coordination in Chad, and the Delivering as One UN Reform Initiative in Tanzania, Malawi and Vietnam.



Case Study

MDGs 5 and 8

One UN – Tanzania Maternal Health



Happy Jonas who benefited from the UN Joint Programme on Maternal and Newborn Mortality, with baby Brandina at her local health dispensary, in Dodoma Region.

Photo: Daniel Rowan

When 17 year old Happy Jonas went into labour she was taken to her local health dispensary at Chamkoroma village, in Dodoma region in central Tanzania. Thirteen hours later, however, progress was worryingly slow. Happy was exhausted and the situation was becoming critical. Like many in Tanzania, the dispensary was unequipped to deal with birth complications, so Happy was rushed by ambulance to Kongwe District Health Centre.

Thanks to a UN Joint Programme on Maternal and Newborn Mortality, the Centre is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, including delivery beds and operating tables, and the ambulance in which Happy travelled is one of eight provided in the region under the scheme. In the Health Centre the young woman was administered oxytocin, and later delivered her daughter, Brandina, safely. "I knew that I was in danger, so I was very scared. I'm very grateful that the ambulance was available to me," she said afterwards.

In just four months the ambulance has helped to save the lives of 25 women in Kongwe District, according to Eugene Kidyala, the local Ministry of Health Coordinator. Happy Jonas is thus

one of many to benefit from improved local facilities provided under the "Delivering as One UN Reform" programme, which is being piloted in Tanzania and seven other countries. The programme aims to deliver greater efficiencies and better development results.

Under this UN Joint Programme, which is supported by Ireland and other international donors, six UN agencies in conjunction with the Tanzanian government are working to improve maternity care in a country with one of the highest maternal and newborn mortality rates in the world. A woman in Tanzania is over 500 times more likely to die in childbirth than a woman in Ireland. The high mortality rate has been linked to poor access to medical treatment for basic birth complications. The campaign is succeeding. Under-five child mortality has fallen from 147 to 91 per 1,000 live births between 2004 and 2008.

Irish Aid has also supported the Tanzanian Government in increasing investment in the health sector. Government expenditure on health per person increased five-fold between 2000 and 2008, with the support of Irish Aid and other international donors.

EFFECTIVE AID

Aid is effective when it delivers maximum results for poor people and helps countries achieve their own development goals.

Ireland provides aid in a way that respects partner country priorities, builds the skills and capacity of people and institutions and makes greater use of local systems to deliver services and improve accountability to citizens. Aid that is delivered through a country's own systems promotes national responsibility and transparency and allows donors to ensure that accountability is strengthened.

Irish Aid's Country Strategy Plans set out the key areas of support to the national development plans of partner countries and the budgets allocated over a four to five year period. This enables governments and other partners to plan and budget more effectively. Results frameworks identify the contribution that Ireland will make to the country's own targets and goals. All partners are accountable for the results achieved. Annual reviews undertaken jointly by partner governments and donors measure progress against agreed targets. Irish Aid is working with multilateral and non-governmental partners to ensure the aid delivered through these partners contributes to the reduction of poverty and hunger.

Evaluation and Audit

Evaluation and audit of Irish Aid funding involve two distinct but complementary processes designed to ensure that Irish Aid is working towards achieving its overarching objective of poverty reduction; that public funds are used for the intended purpose; and that value for money is achieved.

Evaluation

The Evaluation and Audit Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs conducts evaluations of primary strategic importance to Irish Aid. In addition, evaluations are conducted by Irish Aid's operational business units, including field offices.

Key evaluations completed in 2009 include:

- Evaluation of Irish Aid's interim strategy for Sierra Leone.
- Review of the Irish Aid Dóchas partnership.
- Evaluation of Uganda Country Programme.
- Review of World Vision's work in Southern Sudan.
- Value for Money and Policy Review of Irish Aid support to HIV and AIDS, 2000-2007.

In keeping with commitments to work closely with other donors, the Evaluation and Audit Unit also takes part in joint evaluations. Multi country and joint evaluations currently underway include evaluations of the implementation of the Paris Declaration, the impact of Budget Support, Public Financial Management Reform Programmes and Public Sector Governance Reform Programmes.

During 2009, the Evaluation and Audit Unit reviewed the way it undertakes country programme evaluations in order to make them more useful and more consistent with the Accra Agenda for Action.

Joint country programme evaluations are a key element in this new approach. A further example is an evaluation of Irish and UK aid programmes in Tanzania to be carried out shortly. This will examine the contributions to poverty reduction, the different approaches adopted and the lessons to be learnt from the experiences of both countries. Host governments and other partners will be increasingly involved in the planning and implementation of evaluations and evaluation preparation will be integrated at an earlier stage of country strategy planning.

Audit

The Evaluation and Audit Unit has responsibility for internal audit and reports to the Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs who acts as the Accounting Officer for the overseas aid budget.

The work of the Unit is also overseen by an independent Audit Committee. Its role is to report on whether funds have been utilised for the purposes intended, and in accordance with proper procedures.

Audit focuses on areas of more significant risk and takes into account recent developments in the overall aid agenda. The work of the Evaluation and Audit Unit combines audit work conducted by the Unit itself, work commissioned by Irish Aid and carried out by internationally recognised audit firms, as well as work carried out in programme countries by national audit institutions.

The processes involved in the decision to grant funds for expenditure by Irish Aid partners are reviewed and advised on by internal audit - this is referred to more commonly as 'front auditing'. This provides more 'up front' assurances on the systems of the partners in receipt of Irish Aid funds, their management of the funds, and the structure of the programmes being funded. With the constant changes to the provision of aid and the modalities used, this is increasingly becoming a more focused area for audit, and one where audit can bring additional added value.

Identifying, Managing and Mitigating Risk

The identification, management and mitigation of risk is an essential aspect of any overseas aid programme. The Irish Aid programme is sharply focused on the reduction of global poverty and hunger. By its nature, it operates in a complex and difficult environment in some of the poorest countries in the world, and through a diverse range of partners.

Irish Aid is sensitive to all forms of risk – strategic, financial, operational and reputational, and is guided in its approach to risk management by the wider Risk Management Policy and Programme of the Department of Foreign Affairs. This provides a framework for risk identification and monitoring, under the auspices of the Department's Risk Management Committee.

Within Irish Aid, there is a strong emphasis on risk awareness and mitigation at all levels and in all areas of the programme. Identification and management of risk is an integral part of management processes for sections at HQ and missions in the field. Risks are assessed in terms of their likelihood to occur and the impact they could have on achievement of programme objectives, and are ranked and prioritised accordingly.

The most serious risks facing Irish Aid are financial, relating to the possibility of financial loss or fraud, and operational, relating to capacities to meet our programme objectives in a context of reducing human and financial resources. To mitigate these risks, Irish Aid has put in place and implements a range of control measures, including robust appraisal and approval processes, and continually reviews financial controls and audit systems. Irish Aid also works closely with the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development and relevant partners in our partner countries, on strengthening work practices and country systems.

Irish Aid's approach ensures that the inevitable risks involved in working to reduce poverty and hunger in some of the least developed countries are at all times subject to proper assessment and management.

Report of the Management Review of Irish Aid

Arising from the 2006 White Paper on Irish Aid, a review of the programme's systems, structures and procedures was undertaken by the consultancy company FGS, on behalf of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Finance.

The report, which was approved by the Government in July 2009, highlights a number of issues and makes a number of recommendations. It emphasises that the Irish Aid programme has become an increasingly important part of the work of the Department of Foreign Affairs and a core element of foreign policy and international influence for Ireland.

The Management Review considered whether existing governance arrangements are adequate, or whether a new model, such as the creation of an agency, was required to ensure the most effective delivery of the programme. The Review strongly recommended that the aid programme should remain an integral part of the Department of Foreign Affairs, and that there should be further and more structured integration of the programme into the work of the Department, and consequently, into Ireland's foreign policy. The Management Review report includes the following specific recommendations:

- The Irish Aid programme should be more fully integrated with the functions of the Department of Foreign Affairs.
- The Advisory Board of Irish Aid should be replaced by an independent, non-executive body, comprising national and international experts, reporting to the Minister.
- A new Steering Group, chaired by the Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs, should oversee the full integration of the aid programme within the Department of Foreign Affairs, and guide the strategic direction of development cooperation within overall foreign policy.

The Government has endorsed the report and its main recommendations, with the exception of a recommendation that the name of the Department of Foreign Affairs should be changed, taking the view that the present name of the Department, widely

recognised both at home and abroad, clearly conveys, and is widely understood to convey, the full sense of work of the Department, including its aid programme. Implementation of the report is underway. The full text is available on the Irish Aid website: www.irishaid.gov.ie

Inter-Departmental Committee on Development

The Inter-Departmental Committee on Development, which is chaired by the Minister of State for Overseas Development, provides a forum for inter-departmental dialogue on the development implications of non-aid government policies and activities. Ireland has played an important role in advancing Policy Coherence for Development, which aims to remove inconsistencies between development policy and those in the areas of trade and finance, climate change, global food security, migration and global security. The Committee also identifies opportunities for harnessing expertise and skills from across the public service to support Ireland's official development assistance (ODA) programme.

To promote greater coherence between ODA and non-ODA policies, Irish Aid, on behalf of the Committee, organised Development Awareness Seminars in eight Government Departments, building awareness of Ireland's development objectives and programmes.

The Committee also commissioned a study of Irish Aid programme countries' technical support needs and an audit of relevant development skills and expertise across the public service. At an international level, Irish Aid contributed to discussions and agreements at the European Union and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development on how policy coherence for development should be advanced.

ENGAGING THE IRISH PUBLIC

Informing the Irish Public



More than 15,000 people attended Irish Aid's Africa Day celebrations in Iveagh Gardens, Dublin, in May 2009.
Photo: Daniel Rowan

The Irish Aid programme represents a significant investment of public funds. It is important that there is increased public awareness of global development issues, and of the contribution that Ireland makes to tackling global poverty and hunger. Activities to achieve this include the promotion of more in-depth media coverage of these issues and of the aid programme; public outreach through participation in national events and information provided through the Irish Aid Volunteering and Information Centre, the Irish Aid website and publications.

Participation in national events promotes awareness and encourages feedback from the general public, on both the Irish Aid programme and on global development issues. Highlights of Irish Aid's outreach activities in 2009 included the organisation of national family day events to mark Africa Day and participation in the National Ploughing Championships and at the Electric Picnic music festival

Africa Day

In 2009 national family day events were held in Dublin and Limerick, and 29 community events were supported throughout the country, in all attracting over 30,000 people. These events allowed people throughout Ireland to join in an exploration and celebration of African music, dance, film, history, art, social and political life. They also raised public awareness of Irish Aid's work in partnership with African countries to promote sustainable development.

[FOR MORE ON IRISH AID'S SUPPORT FOR AFRICA DAY PLEASE VISIT THE AFRICA DAY WEBSITE WWW.AFRICADAY.IE](http://WWW.AFRICADAY.IE)

Irish Aid in the Media

The media play a crucial role in promoting public understanding of global issues. The Simon Cumbers Media Fund was established by Irish Aid in 2005 in memory of the late Irish journalist and cameraman, Simon Cumbers. Irish Aid has invested in the Fund to help broaden and deepen coverage of global development issues in Ireland. The Fund is intended to facilitate coverage which presents a balanced and realistic picture of the challenges, and also the opportunities that developing countries face, and of progress achieved. In 2009, Irish Aid supported 39 articles on overseas development and provided seed funding for 10 development-related television projects.

FOR MORE ON THE SIMON CUMBERS MEDIA FUND, INCLUDING A FULL LIST OF IRISH AID SUPPORTED PROJECTS, PLEASE SEE THE SIMON CUMBERS MEDIA FUND WEBSITE WWW.SIMONCUMBERSMEDIAFUND.IE

Irish Aid Volunteering and Information Centre

The Irish Aid Volunteering and Information Centre in O'Connell Street, Dublin, was opened in 2008 to provide information and advice on overseas volunteering and on global development and the work of the Irish Aid programme.

The Centre, which attracts some 1,000 visitors a month, has become a significant resource for the development sector. Over 230 development-related events were held in the Centre in 2009, up from a total of 171 events in 2008.

In addition, the Centre's school programme was further developed with the opening in 2009 of "Khulungira", a new food and hunger exhibition based on a village in Malawi, and the development of new workshops on food security. Over 3,300 students took part in the Centre's educational programmes in 2009.

The Centre hosted two Irish Aid Volunteering Fairs which attracted nearly 700 participants. The Centre also held 10 temporary exhibitions and dealt with over 2,200 volunteering and development-related queries.

Irish Aid Volunteering and Information Centre,
O'Connell Street, Dublin.
Photo: Dennis Gilbert



Development Education

Development education helps build public engagement with development issues. The peer review of Ireland conducted by the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD and published in May 2009, praised Irish Aid for its comprehensive development education strategy, backed by a dedicated budget.

The five year strategy, "Promoting Public Engagement for Development 2007-2011", sets out clear aims and priorities, and identifies key partners. Funding is channelled through the Development Education Funding Scheme, multi-annual partnerships in the areas of youth work and primary teacher education, and through schools awards schemes. In total, Irish Aid expenditure for development education in 2009 was over €5 million.

Highlights of development education activity in 2009 included:

- Award of grants, totalling over €1 million, to non-governmental organisations, educational institutions and other civil society organisations, under the Development Education Funding Scheme;

- 34 schools and four schools clusters were awarded funding under the WorldWise schools linking and immersion scheme managed by Leargas;
- Over 500 primary schools in Ireland, North and South, participated in the "Our World Irish Aid Awards", which promote awareness of the Millennium Development Goals;
- Presentation Secondary School, Tipperary, won the Irish Aid sponsored "One World" category in the Young Social Innovators (YSI) programme. The students of St. Peter's College, Meath and Coláiste Bhríde, Wicklow, also in the "One World" category, were the overall 2009 YSI winners;
- The 2009 "Science for Development" Award, supported by Irish Aid and Self Help Africa, as part of the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition, was won by Muckross Park College, Dublin;
- The publication and dissemination of "One World Our World", a storybook for 10 -12 year old pupils, which focuses on five of Irish Aid's partner countries.



Our World Irish Aid Awards 2009-10. Minister of State, Peter Power, with the pupils and teacher of Crehana National School, Waterford, overall winners. Photo: Maxwells

**HIGHER EDUCATION
PARTNERSHIPS**

Programme of Strategic Cooperation with Higher Education Institutes.

Ireland's higher education institutes have an important contribution to make to the fight against global poverty and hunger through enhanced research in these areas, and academic exchanges and capacity building efforts with Universities and Institutes of Technology in developing countries.

The Programme of Strategic Cooperation with Higher Education and Research Institutes, 2007-2011, promotes linkages and increased cooperation between Irish institutions, and those in countries supported by Irish Aid. There is a strong focus within the programme on ensuring that academic staff in African universities acquire the skills and expertise needed to contribute effectively to poverty reduction.

Expenditure for the programme in 2009 was €1.4 million, which mainly comprised funding to eight projects. To date, a wide range of partnership programmes have been established. These have resulted in the development of joint educational and research programmes in key development areas, including: health, education, water and sanitation, and the environment.



Case Study Water is Life Project Uganda



Dr Paul McArtain of Dundalk Institute of Technology, with some of the local community in Makondo parish, Uganda.
Photo: Dr Suzanne Linnane

The Water is Life Project 'Amazzi Bulamu' is a partnership between Dundalk Institute of Technology, Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, and the Medical Missionaries of Mary. The goal of the project is to conduct research that supports water resource management as an essential element of sustainable economic and social development in rural Uganda.

Seven Ugandan and one Malawian student were recruited in 2009 to undertake research as part of their PhD studies. These students will be co-supervised by academics both in Ireland and Uganda. Their research topics include: sustainable technologies for water pumps, assessing the water needs of communities, and exploring new technology for disinfection of drinking water, using solar energy.

Research

Research is indispensable in tackling the many problems which contribute to poverty in developing countries. These include the onset of climate change, population growth, food insecurity, gender inequality, inadequate governance, conflict and deteriorating public health. Research in these areas is a sound investment which improves knowledge and choices available for both policy development and programme implementation and evaluation.

Irish Aid has given significant support, totalling over €70 million, to research across a range of sectors for a number of years. The majority of research funding has gone to the Health and HIV sectors. This support has been given through a variety of funding mechanisms and arrangements with partner countries, academic institutions and like-minded donors. In addition to the Programme of Strategic Cooperation examples include:

- A partnership with the Health Research Board (HRB) since 2005, through a Memorandum of Understanding titled “In Support of Better Health for the Poor”. The aim of the partnership is to stimulate interest in global health issues among Irish researchers and research institutions, and to help build health research capacity in developing countries. Funding of more than €4 million has been provided annually to the HRB to support a Global Health Awards Scheme and a Global Health Networking Grant.
- Irish Aid supports the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), which is the largest publicly funded international agricultural research system serving developing countries. It aims to increase, in a sustainable way, the production of nutritious food for poor people. Ireland provided €8 million to CGIAR in 2009, which supported both research centres and programmes in countries such as Malawi, Uganda and Ethiopia.

Fellowship Training Programme

The Irish Aid Fellowship Training Programme enabled 116 students from partner countries to undertake postgraduate studies in issues relating to development in 2009, at a total cost of €1.62m. This included students continuing their studies from previous years, as well as 31 new fellowship recipients for 2009. The students pursued their studies either at universities in Ireland, or in their own region.

The Irish Aid Fellowship Training Programme provides opportunities for individuals with experience and commitment to development to participate in further education and training. On completion of their studies, fellows are committed to returning to their home countries and applying their skills for the benefit of the organisations and communities in which they work.

Significant progress was made in 2009 to link the programme more closely to the poverty reduction strategies in Irish Aid partner countries, by promoting fellowships within partner organisations and ministries.

Irish Council for International Students

The Irish Council for International Students received €274,280 for the provision of administrative and support services for fellowship holders.

Kimmage Development Studies Centre

Kimmage Development Studies Centre provided courses in development for more than 100 students in 2009. The Centre received funding of just over €390,000, under a five year partnership agreement finalised in 2009 with Irish Aid.

Case study Irish Aid Fellowships 2009

James Lewanika Mlamba, from Malawi, was awarded an Irish Aid Fellowship in 2009. James opted to study for a Master of Science in Environmental Resource Management at University College Dublin.

For James the 16-month study programme in UCD was a very deliberate choice:

“I chose this course because it is very relevant to the job I do in Malawi, working in the area of land and water management in the Ministry of Agriculture,” he explains.

“The Fellowship is very important to me because it has given me an opportunity to broaden my understanding of the relationship between agriculture and the environment.” The course has also given him more insight into how activities outside the agriculture sector can impact on production.

“My job in Malawi involves the training of field staff in land and water management, and the programme has components on soil and water conservation, which is absolutely crucial to my work as a trainer.”

The course, he believes, will enable him to better play his part in combating the problems in Malawi. “The course has given me new skills – for example the modules on geographical information systems and remote sensing systems will be of huge benefit to me and the Ministry of Agriculture in Malawi.”

James Mlamba was among those students who received an Irish Aid Fellowship in 2009. The group was diverse, with students from Mozambique to Zambia and from Burundi to Vietnam, participating in a wide range of programmes at third level institutes in Ireland and in their own regions.

His studies at University College Dublin have equipped James Mlamba to assess the problems in Malawi’s agriculture sector more effectively, and train field staff in up-to-date land and water management techniques.



James Lewanika Mlamba from Malawi, an Irish Aid Fellow, in O’Connell Street, Dublin.
Photo: Daniel Rowan

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IRELAND'S OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE - DEFINITIONS

Definition and Key Statistics

The OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) defines **Official Development Assistance (ODA)** as:

Flows to countries on the DAC list of ODA recipients and to multilateral institutions for flows to ODA recipients which are:

- (i) provided by official agencies, including state and local governments, or by their executing agencies; and
- (ii) each transaction of which:
 - (a) is administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as its main objective; and
 - (a) is concessional in character and conveys a grant element of at least 25%.

Bilateral ODA is undertaken by a donor country directly with a developing country. Bilateral ODA includes transactions with national or international non-governmental organisations active in development and other development-related transactions such as spending on promotion of development awareness and administrative costs.

Multilateral ODA is made up of contributions to international agencies, institutions or organisations whose members are Governments, and which conducts all or part of their activities in favour of development. Contributions are classified as multilateral ODA when the recipient organisation 'pools' the contribution so that it become an integral part of that agency's financial assets.

For 2009 Ireland's total contribution to ODA was €722.2 million which represented 0.54% of GNI. €572.8 million was managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and a further €150.3 million was accounted for through other Government Departments - predominately the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Department of Finance - and Ireland's share of the EU Development Cooperation Budget.

Ireland's ODA programme is sharply focused on poverty reduction and hunger eradication - concentrating on a limited number of very poor, mainly African, countries. Programmes are delivered through a variety of aid modalities, mainly in the health, education, governance and democracy-building, community development, local government and agriculture sectors.

Funding is provided to a range of partners including partner countries governments, non-governmental and missionary organisations, the United Nations and other multilateral and international organisations.

Key Facts - 2009

- Total Official Development Assistance €722.2 million
- Ireland contributed 0.54% of GNI to ODA
- 69% delivered as Bilateral ODA - 31% as Multilateral ODA
- Over 80 countries benefited from Irish Bilateral ODA
- 80% of Bilateral ODA was directed to Least Developed Countries
- Approximately one third of Ireland's Bilateral ODA was delivered through non-governmental organisations
- Over half of Bilateral ODA was delivered to Ireland's nine partner countries
- Almost 60% of Ireland's Bilateral ODA was directed to the key sectors of Health, Education, Governance and other social infrastructure
- Approximately 6% of Bilateral ODA was spent on programme management, audit and evaluation.

ANNEX 1

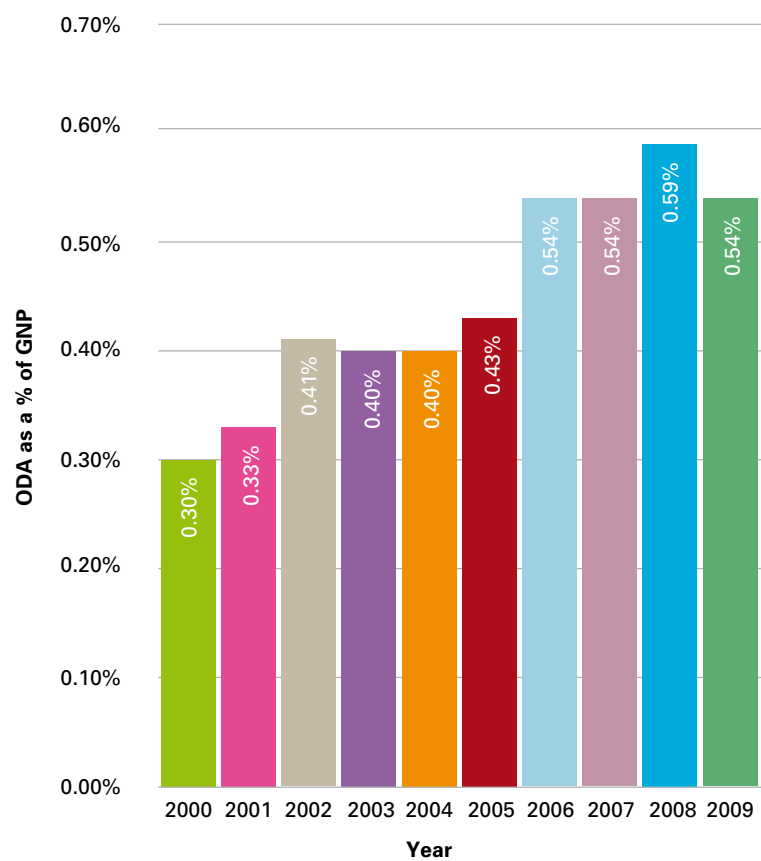
Ireland's Official Development Assistance

	€ Millions 2009	€ Millions 2008
Total ODA		
Department of Foreign Affairs - Vote 29	571.835	768.737
Other Government Departments and Contributions to the EU Development Cooperation Budget	150.365	151.926
Total ODA	722.200	920.663
GNI	132,601	155,909
ODA as a % of GNI	0.54%	0.59%
Department of Foreign Affairs - Vote 29 as a % of Total ODA	79.18%	83.50%
Other Government Departments and Contributions to the EU Development Cooperation Budget as a % of Total ODA	20.82%	16.50%
Bilateral / Multilateral Analysis		
Bilateral ODA		
Department of Foreign Affairs - Vote 29	493.510	641.605
Other Government Departments and Contributions to the EU Development Cooperation Budget	7.249	8.346
Total Bilateral ODA	500.759	649.951
Multilateral ODA		
Department of Foreign Affairs - Vote 29	78.325	127.132
Other Government Departments and Contributions to the EU Development Cooperation Budget	143.116	143.580
Total Multilateral ODA	221.441	270.712
Total ODA	722.200	920.663
Bilateral ODA as a % of Total ODA	69%	71%
Multilateral ODA as a % of Total ODA	31%	29%

ANNEX 2

ODA as a % of GNP: 2000 - 2009

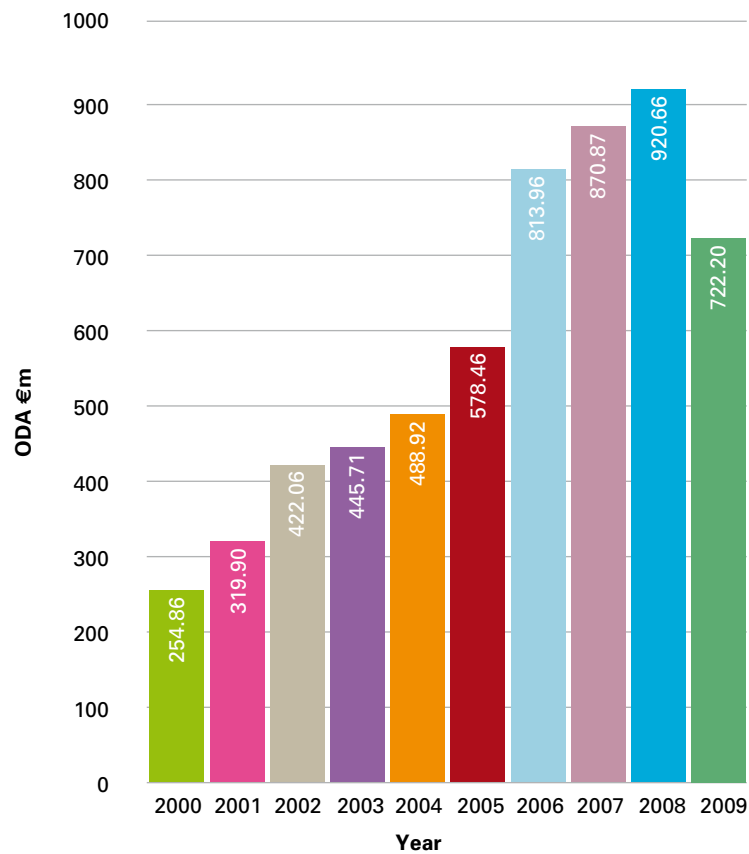
Year	ODA as a % of GNP
2000	0.30%
2001	0.33%
2002	0.41%
2003	0.40%
2004	0.40%
2005	0.43%
2006	0.54%
2007	0.54%
2008	0.59%
2009	0.54%



ANNEX 3

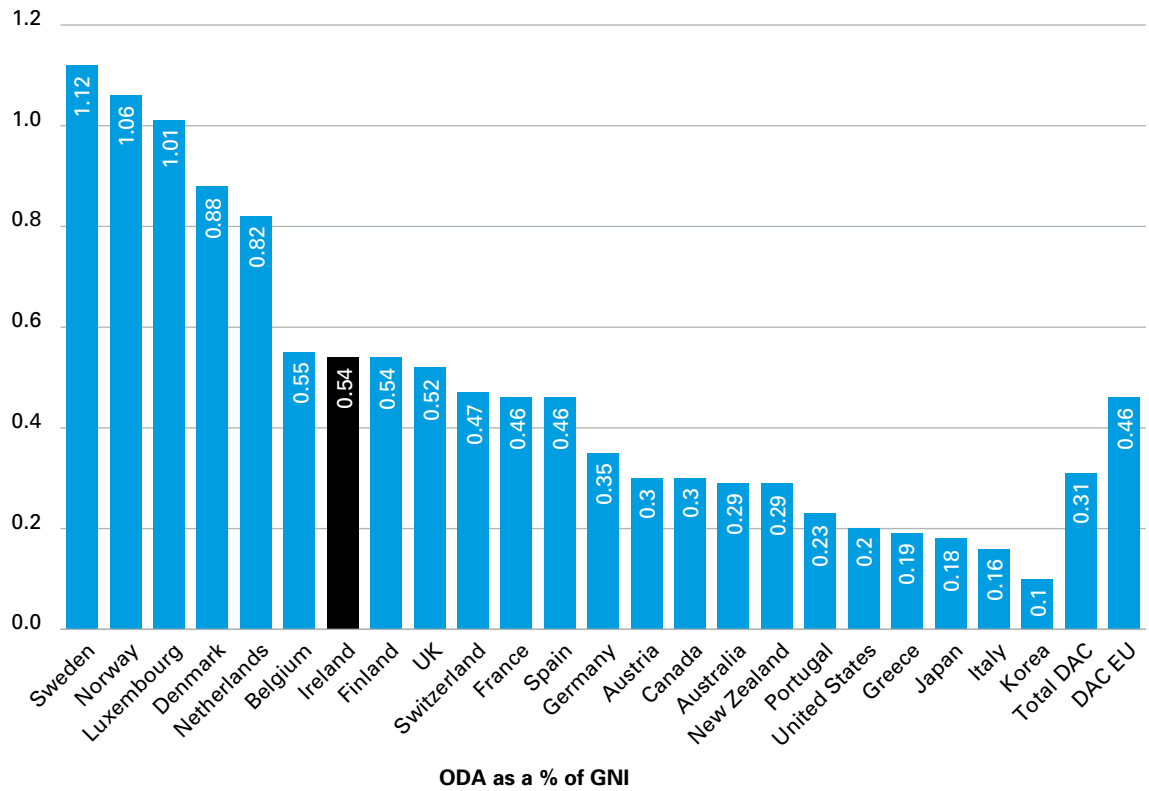
ODA Volumes: 2000 - 2009

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



ANNEX 4

Net ODA as a Percentage of GNI - DAC Donors 2009



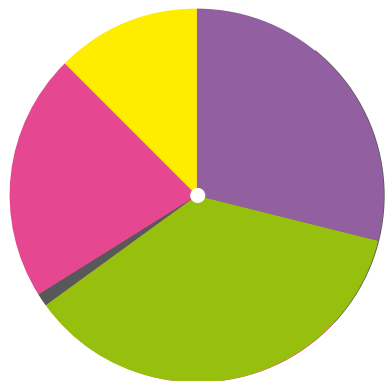
ANNEX 5

Analysis of Bilateral ODA

	2009 €000s	2008 €000s
Bilateral ODA : Department of Foreign Affairs - Irish Aid		
Programme Management and Administration	32,188	35,083
Partner Countries		
Ethiopia	27,554	36,058
Lesotho	11,451	9,167
Mozambique	41,435	34,244
Tanzania	33,469	37,995
Malawi	8,782	9,800
Uganda	35,371	41,666
Zambia	22,821	23,946
Timor Leste	3,356	5,003
Vietnam	13,898	20,717
Other Countries		
Zimbabwe	1,509	2,913
South Africa	6,294	11,361
Sierra Leone	5,893	7,085
Liberia	6,130	7,615
Other Countries	5,456	9,195
Civil Society Funding Schemes	104,980	137,337
Volunteer Programmes	1,827	1,853
Global Education Initiatives	8,610	9,002
Global Health Initiatives	9,099	15,642
Global HIV and AIDS Initiatives	15,957	42,948
Global Hunger Initiatives	6,688	-
Other Cross Cutting Programmes	4,046	9,843
Strategic Cooperation with Third Level Institutions	1,392	3,643
Development Education	4,956	5,719
Fellowships / Courses etc	2,002	3,038
Public Information	1,790	2,281
Other Programmes	1,957	1,164
Rapid Response Initiative	4,502	4,500
Recovery Assistance	7,170	16,962
Stability Fund	6,927	8,825
Emergency Humanitarian Assistance	56,000	87,000
Total Bilateral ODA : Department of Foreign Affairs - Irish Aid	493,510	641,605
Bilateral ODA from other Government Departments		
Various Departments - eligible payments in respect of refugees (in Ireland)	309	796
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food - World Food Programme Country Appeals	-	2,000
Revenue Commissioners - Tax Deductibility Scheme	6,940	5,550
Total Bilateral ODA from Other Government Departments	7,249	8,346
Total Bilateral ODA	500,759	649,951

ANNEX 6

Analysis of Bilateral ODA by Channel of Delivery



Channel	€000s	%
Government Systems in Partner Countries	145,970	29.1%
NGOs and Civil Society	179,758	35.9%
Public Private Partnerships	6,500	1.3%
Multilateral Organisations	106,572	21.3%
Other	61,659	12.4%
Total	500,759	100%

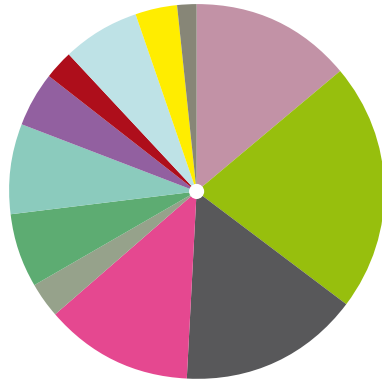
ANNEX 7

Analysis of Bilateral ODA by Sector

Sector	2009		2008	
	€000s	as a % of Total Bilateral	€000s	as a % of Total Bilateral
Emergency Recovery and Disaster Preparedness	70,104	14.0%	124,240	19.1%
Health, HIV and AIDS	106,860	21.3%	138,193	21.3%
Governance and Civil Society	77,464	15.5%	97,607	15.0%
Education	64,188	12.8%	83,407	12.8%
Multi Sector and Rural Development	15,632	3.1%	28,207	4.3%
Programme Management and Administration	32,188	6.4%	35,051	5.4%
Agriculture	38,500	7.7%	38,773	6.0%
General Budget Support	23,653	4.7%	24,265	3.7%
Water and Sanitation	12,567	2.5%	19,703	3.0%
Development Awareness	7,225	1.4%	10,564	1.6%
Social Infrastructure and Development Food Aid	33,775	6.7%	28,097	4.3%
Other Sectors	18,603	3.7%	21,844	3.4%
Total	500,759	100.0%	649,951	100%

ANNEX 8

Analysis of Bilateral ODA by Sector



Sector	€000s	as a % of Total Bilateral
Emergency, Recovery and Disaster Preparedness	70,104	14.0%
Health, HIV and Aids	106,860	21.3%
Governance and Civil Society	77,464	15.5%
Education	64,188	12.8%
Multi Sector and Rural Development	15,632	3.1%
Programme Management and Administration	32,188	6.4%
Agriculture	38,500	7.7%
General Budget Support	23,653	4.7%
Water and Sanitation	12,567	2.5%
Social Infrastructure and Development Food Aid	33,775	6.7%
Other Sectors	18,603	3.7%
Development Awareness	7,225	1.4%
Total	500,759	100.0%

ANNEX 9

Analysis of Bilateral ODA by Recipient Country

	Admin- istration €000s	Country Programmable Aid €000s	Support through Civil Society Funding Schemes €000s	Emergency & Recovery €000s	Other Programme Areas €000s	Total Bilateral ODA €000s
Uganda	1,924	35,371	7,178	673	861	46,006
Mozambique	1,909	41,435	2,329	0	8	45,680
Ethiopia	2,072	27,554	6,442	1,420	15	37,503
Tanzania	1,532	33,469	2,471	250	557	38,279
Zambia	1,632	22,821	2,821	0	26	27,300
Malawi	1,060	8,782	3,064	250	2,502	15,659
Vietnam	884	12,812	59	0	0	13,755
Lesotho	846	11,451	0	0	32	12,328
Sudan	0	0	5,636	4,545	609	10,790
South Africa	674	6,294	1,162	0	2,652	10,782
Sierra Leone	430	5,893	3,316	150	0	9,789
Kenya	0	0	6,561	1,778	0	8,339
Liberia	0	0	754	6,288	0	7,043
Democratic Republic of Congo	0	0	2,516	4,175	0	6,691
Occupied Palestinian Territories	0	0	678	5,736	0	6,415
Zimbabwe	97	0	2,503	2,152	1,510	6,262
Somalia	0	0	513	4,856	0	5,369
Timor Leste	455	3,356	391	1,054	34	5,290
Afghanistan	0	0	1,233	3,869	1	5,103
Chad	0	0	14	3,772	0	3,786
India	0	0	3,506	100	2	3,608
Honduras	0	0	2,880	0	0	2,880
Central African Republic	0	0	7	2,734	0	2,741
Burundi	0	0	1,788	275	4	2,067
Pakistan	0	0	1,866	550	0	2,416
El Salvador	0	0	1,748	200	1	1,950
Angola	0	0	1,588	130	0	1,718
Bangladesh	0	0	1,606	80	0	1,686
Ghana	0	0	1,002	155	500	1,657
Rwanda	0	0	1,468	0	0	1,468
Iraq	0	0	0	1,400	0	1,400
Cambodia	0	0	848	0	500	1,348
Nicaragua	0	0	1,228	0	0	1,228
Columbia	0	0	1,206	0	0	1,206
Guatemala	0	0	1,152	0	0	1,152
Nigeria	0	0	1,151	0	0	1,151
Haiti	0	0	1,017	0	0	1,017
Laos	0	0	390	0	622	1,012
Sub-Saharan Africa - Regional	0	0	7,025	13,423	6,750	27,198
Far East Asia - Regional	0	0	496	2,430	1,210	4,136
Central America - Regional	0	0	2,232	0	1,500	3,732
South East Asia - Regional	0	0	0	1,650	1,500	3,150
Middle East - Regional	0	0	0	1,000	0	1,000
South East Europe - Regional	0	0	0	0	407	407
Other Countries	0	0	8,507	2,840	2,252	13,599
Not Country Specific	18,675	0	12,625	15,811	46,552	93,664
Totals	32,188	209,237	104,980	83,748	70,607	500,759

ANNEX 10

Summary of Partner Country Expenditure by Sector

Sector	Ethiopia	Lesotho	Malawi	Mozambique	Tanzania	Uganda	Zambia	Vietnam	Timor Leste	Total
	€000s	€000s	€000s	€000s	€000s	€000s	€000s	€000s	€000s	€000s
Agriculture	3,300	268	4,240	2,531	4,765	-	-	-	-	15,104
Health, HIV and Aids	3,894	4,565	1,082	16,685	8,976	6,436	2,182	872	-	44,692
Education	-	2,300	260	7,539	15	11,547	14,935	192	-	36,789
Governance	1,523	2,379	1,415	1,828	6,008	8,238	1,868	1,197	2,045	26,500
Water and Sanitation	-	1,800	-	454	-	1,302	942	-	-	4,498
General Budget Support	-	-	-	11,163	12,491	-	-	-	-	23,653
Multi Sector Support / Rural Development	4,636	-	1,457	235	-	6,689	210	7,000	-	20,228
Social Infrastructure and Services	11,602	-	169	-	700	-	2,684	1,960	763	17,879
Emergency Response and Disaster Preparedness	1,850	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,850
Private Sector and Economic Development	750	-	-	1,000	514	-	-	1,943	223	4,430
Support to Other Sectors	0	139	158	-	-	1,158	-	734	325	2,514
Total	27,554	11,451	8,782	41,434	33,469	35,371	22,821	13,898	3,356	198,137
Programme Management and Administration Costs	2,072	846	1,060	1,909	1,532	1,924	1,632	884	455	12,313
Total Partner Country Expenditure	29,625	12,296	9,842	43,344	35,001	37,295	24,453	14,782	3,811	210,450

Multilateral ODA

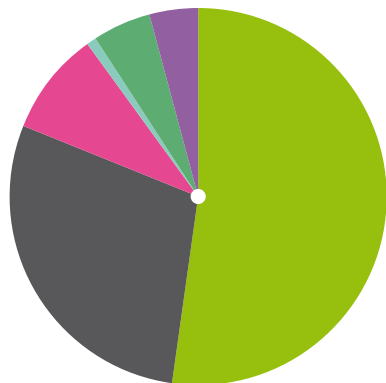
Source of Multilateral ODA		Vote 29	Other ODA	Total
		€000s	€000s	€000s
European Community				
EU Budget (Development Cooperation)		95,060		95,060
European Development Fund	Department of Foreign Affairs	21,960		21,960
Sub-total European Community		21,960	95,060	117,020
World Bank, United Nations and Other Multilateral Institutions				
World Food Programme - Food Aid Convention	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food		1,524	1,524
International Development Association (IDA)	Department of Finance		18,000	18,000
IMF - PRGF	Department of Finance		100	100
Asian Development Bank	Department of Finance		11,046	11,046
Co-financing with World Bank Group	Department of Foreign Affairs	1,000		1,000
World Trade Organisation	Department of Foreign Affairs	1,620		1,620
International Fund for Agricultural Development	Department of Foreign Affairs	2,000		2,000
United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations	Department of Foreign Affairs		1,140	1,140
Global Environment Facility	Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government		1,364	1,364
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government		100	100
OECD	Department of Foreign Affairs	695		695
Other International Organisations	Department of Foreign Affairs	1,725		1,725
Sub-total World Bank, United Nations and & Other Multilateral Institutions		7,040	33,274	40,314

Multilateral ODA (continued)

Voluntary Contributions to United Nations Agencies				
World Food Programme - Voluntary Food Aid Convention	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	8,633	8,633	8,633
Food and Agriculture Organisation	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	1,263	1,263	1,263
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Department of Foreign Affairs	8,700	8,700	8,700
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	Department of Foreign Affairs	8,000	8,000	8,000
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Department of Foreign Affairs	6,000	6,000	6,000
World Health Organisation (WHO)	Department of Foreign Affairs	1,500	1,500	1,500
United Nations Population Fund	Department of Foreign Affairs	3,000	3,000	3,000
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	Department of Foreign Affairs	2,000	2,000	2,000
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS - UNAIDS	Department of Foreign Affairs	3,000	3,000	3,000
UNRWA (Support to Palestinian Refugees in the Near East)	Department of Foreign Affairs	3,800	3,800	3,800
UN Development / Environment Programmes	Department of Foreign Affairs	750	750	750
United Nations Fund for Women's Development	Department of Foreign Affairs	300	300	300
United Nations International Drugs Control	Department of Foreign Affairs	250	250	250
Other Payments	Department of Foreign Affairs	3,200	3,200	3,200
Sub-total - Voluntary Contributions to United Nations Agencies		40,500	9,896	50,396
Co-Financing with Multilateral Agencies	Department of Foreign Affairs	8,825		8,825
Miscellaneous Voted Expenditure - UN Contributions	Various Other Departments		4,886	4,886
Total Multilateral ODA		78,325	143,116	221,441

ANNEX 12

Analysis of Multilateral ODA by Multilateral Agency



Agency Channel	€000s	%
European Union Institutions	117,299	53%
United Nations	63,305	29%
World Bank Group	19,000	9%
World Trade Organisation	1,620	1%
Regional Development Banks	11,046	5%
Other Multilateral Organisations	9,171	4%
Total Multilateral	221,441	100%

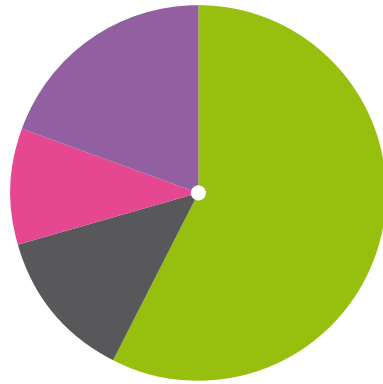
ANNEX 13

Emergency and Recovery Funding Schemes by Recipient Country

	€000s	as a % of Total
Liberia	6,288	8%
Occupied Palestinian Territories	5,736	7%
Somalia	4,856	6%
Sudan	4,545	5%
Democratic Republic of Congo	4,175	5%
Afghanistan	3,869	5%
Chad	3,772	5%
Central African Republic	2,500	3%
Zimbabwe	2,152	3%
Kenya	1,778	2%
Ethiopia	1,620	2%
Iraq	1,400	2%
Other Countries	6,741	8%
Sub-Saharan Africa Regional	13,423	16%
Asia Regional	4,080	5%
Middle East Regional	1,000	1%
Common Humanitarian and Pooled Funds	15,813	19%
Total	83,748	100%

ANNEX 14

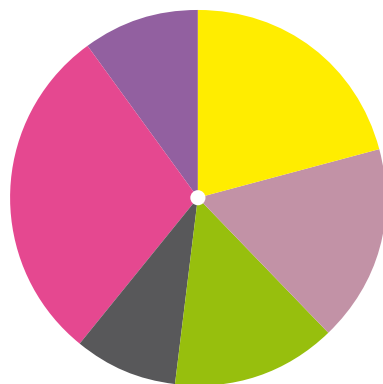
Emergency and Recovery Funding Schemes Geographical Analysis



	€000s	as a % of Total
Africa	47,966	57%
Asia	11,278	13%
Middle East	8,460	10%
Common Humanitarian and Pooled Funds	16,044	19%
Total	83,748	100%

ANNEX 15

Emergency and Recovery Funding Schemes by Channel of Delivery



	€000s	as a % of Total
UN Agencies	17,547	21%
Central Emergency Response Fund	13,800	17%
Common Humanitarian Funds	11,800	14%
International Red Cross	7,811	9%
Non-Governmental Organisations	24,370	29%
Other	8,420	10%
Total	83,748	100%

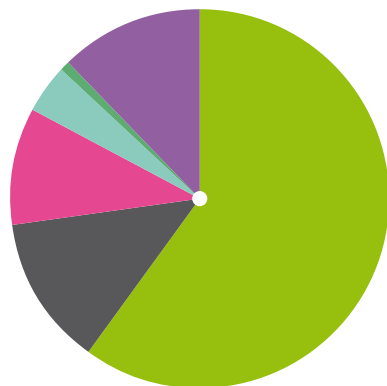
ANNEX 16

Civil Society Funding Schemes by Recipient Country

	€000s
Uganda	7,178
Kenya	6,561
Ethiopia	6,442
Sudan	5,636
India	3,506
Sierra Leone	3,316
Honduras	2,880
Malawi	3,065
Zambia	2,821
Democratic Republic of Congo	2,566
Zimbabwe	2,503
Tanzania	2,471
Mozambique	2,329
Pakistan	1,866
El Salvador	1,748
Bangladesh	1,606
Angola	1,597
Rwanda	1,468
Burundi	1,373
Cambodia	1,263
Afghanistan	1,233
Nicaragua	1,228
Colombia	1,206
South Africa	1,162
Guatemala	1,152
Nigeria	1,151
Haiti	1,017
Ghana	1,002
Brazil	906
Bolivia	840
Liberia	754
Nepal	750
Peru	715
Niger	697
Occupied Palestinian Territories	678
Myanmar / Burma	594
Somalia	513
Eritrea	437
Timor Leste	391
Laos	390
Philippines	375
Indonesia	367
Sub-Saharan Africa Regional	7,025
Central America Regional	2,232
Asia Regional	496
Other Countries	2,866
Not Country Specific	12,608
Total	104,980

ANNEX 17

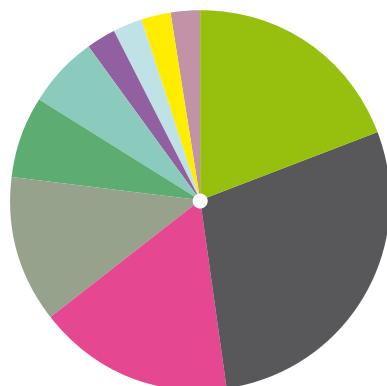
Civil Society Funding Schemes Geographical Analysis



	€000s	as a % of Total
Africa	63,229	60%
Asia	13,257	13%
Central America	10,940	10%
South America	4,066	4%
Middle East	872	1%
Non Region Specific	12,616	12%
Total	104,980	100%

ANNEX 18

Analysis of Civil Society Funding Schemes by Sector



	€000s	as a % of Total
Health, HIV and AIDS	20,179	19.2%
Governance and Civil Society	30,013	28.6%
Agriculture	17,521	16.7%
Education	13,034	12.4%
Programme Management and Support	7,351	7.0%
Social Infrastructure and Development Food Aid	6,388	6.1%
Water and Sanitation	2,768	2.6%
Multi Sector and Rural Development	2,641	2.5%
Emergency Recovery and Disaster Preparedness	2,537	2.4%
Other Sectors	2,548	2.4%
Total	104,980	100.0%

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