



MDG 1

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL

Eradicate Extreme Hunger and Poverty

TARGET

- Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day.
- Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people.
- Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.



CURRENT GLOBAL STATUS

- The number of people living in extreme poverty fell from 1.8 billion in 1990 to 1.4 billion in 2005. The number is expected to fall to 900 million in 2015¹. In percentage terms, the proportion of extremely poor in 2005 accounted for more than a quarter of the developing world's population, compared with almost a half in 1990. While it is expected that the MDG poverty reduction target will be met for the world as a whole, some regions, particularly sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, will fall short and as many as 1 billion people will remain in extreme poverty by the target date.
- Since 2000, 49 countries have attained the rate of poverty reduction needed to cut 1990 poverty rates by half and achieve the target. And 57 countries – 22 of them in sub-Saharan Africa – lack sufficient survey data to measure progress since 1990².
- In Sub Saharan Africa, the incidence of extreme poverty has reduced little, from 53 percent in 1981 to 51 percent in 2005. According to the World Bank World Development Indicators: 2010, the incidence of extreme poverty in sub-Saharan Africa will likely fall to just below 40 percent in 2015 and thus it will not achieve MDG 1.
- The region has the largest poverty head count ratio compared with all other developing regions, with the number of people living on less than \$1.25 a day almost doubling between 1981 and 2005, from 212 million to over 388 million.
- There is also disparity within this region, with several countries showing encouraging growth rates and reductions in poverty over the last ten years and others experiencing little or even negative growth rates and increases in poverty.
- It is currently estimated that 1.02 billion people are hungry in the world, increased from an estimated 815 million in 1996, when the target was originally agreed. The Asia-Pacific and Sub-Saharan Africa regions, accounted for some 642 million people and 265 million of people who went hungry in 2009 respectively.

IRELAND'S POLICY POSITION & RESPONSE

- Poverty reduction, to reduce vulnerability and increase opportunity is the overarching objective of Ireland's aid programme as stated in the White Paper on Irish Aid. Irish Aid recognises that poverty is multidimensional and changes over time. Poverty reduction that is inclusive of the poorest and most vulnerable will only be possible when the challenges and the solutions are owned and managed by the countries in question and the local people involved are able to meet their own basic need to provide for fully productive, active and healthy lives.
- In addition to maintaining a strong focus on the immediate well-being of the poorest, it is crucial to address the factors that cause and perpetuate their poverty in particular, reducing hunger, gender inequality and HIV and AIDS, poor governance and environmental degradation.
- Ireland understands that hunger is more than food production and is ultimately the result of systemic failures related to agriculture, development, trade, economics, governance and health and that the lack of household access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food for healthy living is a consequence of these failures³. Priority is given to increasing the productivity of smallholder - mainly women - farmers in Africa, targeting maternal and infant under nutrition, and maintaining the political commitment to eradicate hunger at national and international levels.

¹The World Bank, April 2010. 2010 World Development Indicators. The World Bank, Washington DC pp. 4

²The World Bank, April 2010. 2010 World Development Indicators. The World Bank, Washington DC pp. 4

³2005, UN. Progress Towards the Millennium Development Goal One, 1990—2005. New York, UN Statistical Division.

Ireland believes that failure to reach the targets of MDG 1 will ultimately undermine the achievement of all other MDGs. In contributing to the realisation of MDG 1 Ireland adopts a comprehensive approach to tackling, extreme poverty, hunger and inequality.

In particular Irish Aid;

- Supports governments and other partners in its Programme Countries, to reduce poverty and inequality and address vulnerability while improving resilience to shocks and enhancing opportunities for poor women and men.
- Provides ongoing support for agriculture and places particular emphasis on improving production and efficiency of smallholder agriculture production. Irish Aid has a particular focus on women farmers.
- Works to ensure that the natural resource base is protected through additional funding for rural infrastructure, farm inputs, conservation agriculture and other sustainable land management initiatives.
- Provides funding for agricultural research which has a vital role to play in developing disease and drought-resistant crops and other technologies to cope with the challenge that climate change poses for food security. Innovative research programmes to tackle maternal and child under nutrition, with a particular emphasis on children under the age of two years are also supported.
- Works to remove the sector divide between agriculture, food security, health and nutrition and to link initiatives that result in improved nutrition for poor people.
- Places particular emphasis on supporting institutions at country level to implement national roll-out of Community Therapeutic Care, nutrition education, infant and young child feeding strategies and micronutrient fortification programmes.
- Supports disaster risk reduction programmes to diminish the effects of persistent food shortages, and to prevent widespread famine while working to address the root causes of vulnerability in regions and countries particularly vulnerable to chronic food and nutrition insecurity.
- Provides effective responses to humanitarian emergencies including the provision of food aid and targeted direct nutrition interventions to address under nutrition; and engages in recovery and peace-building processes which enable countries to work towards stability.

EXAMPLES OF IRISH AID PROGRAMME INTERVENTIONS IN SUPPORT OF MDG 1



NATURE OF INTERVENTION

SPECIFIC EXAMPLE OF IRISH AID RESPONSE

RESULTS

INTENSIFICATION OF SMALLHOLDER AGRICULTURE

In Tanzania Irish Aid supports the Governments Agriculture Sector Development Programme which aims to enable farmers to have better access to and use of agricultural knowledge, technologies, marketing systems and infrastructure, all of which contribute to higher productivity, profitability, and farm incomes. A review in October 2009 reported some notable achievements.

Increased production and productivity of crops and livestock, farm income and adoption of improved agricultural technologies. For example, in the Morgogoro region, villagers in Wami Dakawa are benefiting from projects such as an irrigation scheme and the formation of a farmers association. Through these initiatives, farmers are introduced to improved technology, seeds and fertiliser, and research and extension officers report that rice yields have increased from 2.5 tonnes per hectare in 2006/2007 to 4.5-5.6 tons per hectare in 2008/2009.

NATURE OF INTERVENTION	SPECIFIC EXAMPLE OF IRISH AID RESPONSE	RESULTS
AGRICULTURE RESEARCH	<p>Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) - €4.43 million in core funding in 2008. This is a strategic alliance of fifteen agricultural research centres; partners and members, which together work to foster agricultural productivity, achieve sustainable food security, improve nutrition and reduce poverty in developing countries.</p>	<p>Research findings foster sustainable agricultural growth, strengthen food security, improve human nutrition and health and mitigate the effects of HIV/AIDS and climate change for poor smallholder farmers, especially women, in developing countries. For example, research by the World Agro forestry Centre and its partners has established that the use of fertilizer trees can significantly boost crop yields and improve soil quality.</p>
	<p>Irish Aid is funding a programme in Malawi targeting 200,000 farmers, particularly women, to plant 50 million trees (fruit trees, fertilizer trees, woodlot trees and fodder trees).</p>	<p>This will enable 1.3 million of the poorest people in Malawi to increase their food production and enhance their nutrition. At the same time, the programme will do much to improve soil fertility and restore degraded farmland.</p>
PRO-POOR ECONOMIC GROWTH	<p>In Timor Leste Irish Aid supports ILO's Rural Infrastructure Development and Employment Generation programme.</p>	<p>This programme contributes to employment generation, improves access to social services and markets and thus reduces poverty and promotes economic growth.</p>
	<p>In Tanzania Irish Aid's private sector support programme was initiated in 2009 with the launch of a cocoa production and marketing programme in Mbeya in October. Ireland supports small-holder farmers in a cocoa value chain and developed a model for other commodity value chains. Irish Aid also helped to increase access to seeds and fertilisers for small rural producers.</p>	<p>Employment opportunities provided where there were no others. Infrastructure quality. improved capital injected into rural communities and access to public transport and markets provided.</p>
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION - SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES (INCLUDING SAFETY NETS)	<p>In Ethiopia, Irish Aid, through Ethiopia's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, supports the Productive Safety Nets Programme, contributing €67 million for the period 2008-2010. Most of those benefiting from the programme take part in public works projects in return for which they receive cash or, in some cases where it is more suitable, food. Public work projects include the construction of local roads, water and sanitation facilities and schools and health posts. There is also a focus on land regeneration projects, so that people can earn an income from the land in the future.</p>	<p>7.2 million of the poorest people (approximately 11% of Ethiopia's population) receive predictable support which allows households to ensure basic needs are met. This reduces the risk of further erosion of assets and allows them to plan for the future and to engage in alternative and sustainable livelihood options.</p>
RESPONDING TO PROTRACTED CRISIS	<p>Consolidated Appeal Process - Ireland contributed €19.6m in 2009 to the CAP which brings together all UN agencies, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and NGOs in a coordinated approach to address humanitarian emergencies.</p>	<p>The CAP results in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • better coordination of the humanitarian response • better linking of relief and development through predictability of funding allocated according to need

MALAWI CASE STUDY



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

Helping to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

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.

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

Ireland's
commitment
to a world
without poverty
and hunger

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