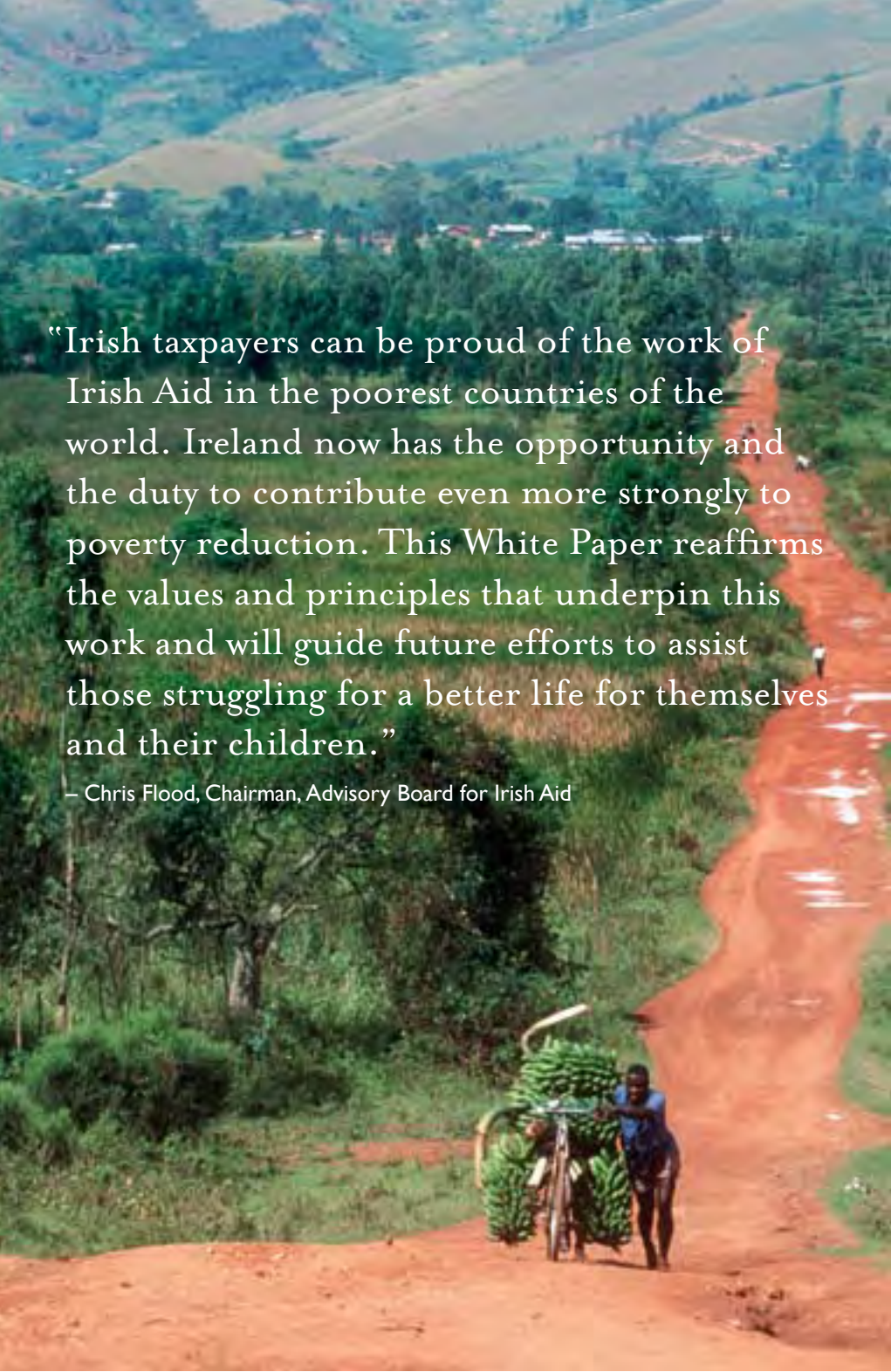




Every day you are helping
the world's poorest people

A SUMMARY OF
THE GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER
ON IRISH AID

A photograph of a rural landscape with rolling green hills and a dirt road. In the foreground, a person is pushing a bicycle heavily loaded with green produce, likely bananas, down a muddy red dirt road. The road is wet and reflects light. In the background, there are more hills and a small cluster of buildings. The overall scene suggests a developing region.

“Irish taxpayers can be proud of the work of Irish Aid in the poorest countries of the world. Ireland now has the opportunity and the duty to contribute even more strongly to poverty reduction. This White Paper reaffirms the values and principles that underpin this work and will guide future efforts to assist those struggling for a better life for themselves and their children.”

– Chris Flood, Chairman, Advisory Board for Irish Aid

Every day you are helping the world's poorest people

Today, 30,000 children will die from preventable diseases and more than 130 million will not go to school. Tonight, over 100 million people will go to bed hungry. We have a duty to help.

The Irish people expect a stronger Ireland to help build a fairer world.

Irish Aid is the Government's programme of assistance to the poorest countries in the world. It is Ireland's contribution to the fight against global poverty and a practical expression of our values as a nation.

The aid programme belongs to the Irish people. It is your programme and it will soon deliver over €1 billion every year to help bring an end to the suffering and injustice overwhelming more than half our planet.

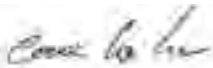
To guide how that money should be spent the Government published Ireland's first ever *White Paper on Irish Aid* in September 2006. A statement of Government policy, the *White Paper* places the cause of development at the heart of Ireland's foreign policy.

It is based on the views of many Irish people, expressed through submissions and at public meetings held throughout the country. The *White Paper* sets out the high quality, effective and accountable aid programme demanded, and deserved, by the Irish people.

In the *White Paper* we committed to letting the Irish people know how their money is being spent. This leaflet is a summary of what Irish Aid is doing on your behalf to help end world poverty.



Mr. Dermot Ahern T.D.
Minister for Foreign Affairs



Mr. Conor Lenihan T.D.
Minister of State for Development
Cooperation and Human Rights

Why Should We Give Aid?

The short answer is that we should, we need to and we can provide assistance to the world's poorest people and countries.

We should – because there is an overwhelming moral imperative to act.

More than four billion people worldwide live on less than \$2 a day. Every day, more than 20,000 people die from hunger or hunger-related causes. That is roughly equal to the population of a large Irish town dying needlessly each and every day.

Our history, particularly of famine, gives us a unique understanding of the difficulties borne by developing countries. As a people we have always been generous and we are also conscious of the assistance Ireland has received which has contributed to our own development.

We need to – providing assistance also helps make the world a safer and more prosperous place for all of us.

Underdevelopment in one part of the globe has repercussions for the rest. Conflict, terrorism, international crime, the trade in illicit drugs and arms and the spread of diseases do not respect national borders. They are caused or made worse by poverty.

We can – Ireland is now a wealthy and creative country with a strong voice in the world. In 1981, Ireland's total aid budget was €22 million; in 2007 it will be €813 million. Now, more than ever, we are in a position to help.

“We are bound together by more than globalisation. We are bound together by a shared humanity. The fate of others is a matter of concern to us. From this shared humanity comes a responsibility to those in great need beyond the borders of our own state.”

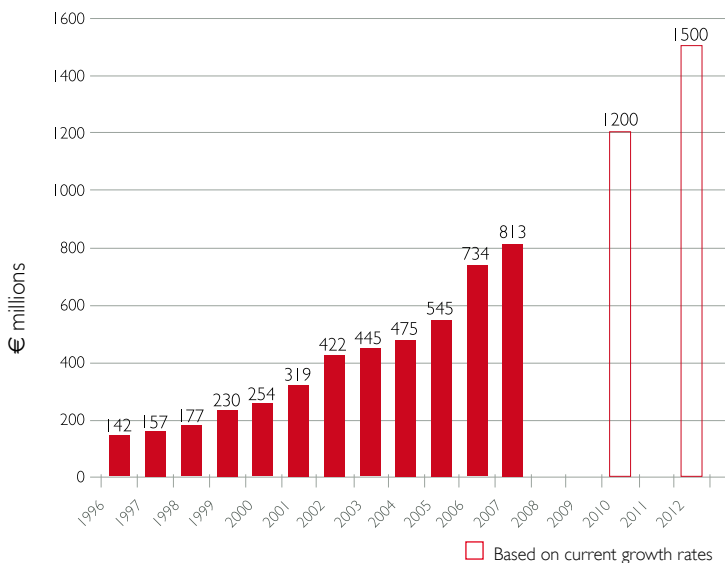
– *White Paper on Irish Aid*

Ireland's Commitment

At the United Nations in September 2005, the Taoiseach committed Ireland to reaching the UN target for spending 0.7% of our GNP on Official Development Assistance (ODA) by 2012.

By this date, the Government will be spending a total of over **€1.5 billion** per year – making Ireland one of the most generous countries in the world.

Irish ODA Levels 1996 - 2012 (€ millions)



A commitment of this size demands a matching determination on our part to ensure that we spend it well. It requires that we plan carefully for the future and show you, the Irish people, how and where your money will be spent.

The *White Paper on Irish Aid* is the blueprint that will guide the expansion of the aid programme over the coming years.

Where does Irish Aid Work?

- Partner Countries
- Other aid recipient countries

Ireland has eight partner countries. We provide substantial funding through government structures in these countries to support long-term development.

In addition, we work with our UN, aid agency and missionary partners across the developing world.

Central America: Irish Aid supports coffee producers and cooperatives in building incomes and allowing workers to benefit from fair and ethical trade.

Brazil: Irish Aid funds HIV prevention programmes for adolescents in Brazil's major cities.

Ghana: Irish Aid funds a supply depot in Accra designed to respond to major crises. The centre will stock high-energy biscuits, drinking water and medical equipment for rapid distribution within 48 hours of an emergency being declared.

Democratic Republic of the Congo: In 2006, the DRC held its first multi-party elections since 1960. Irish Aid provided €1.3 million to assist the electoral process.

ZAMBIA

LESOTHO

Ireland: Through **Irish Aid Fellowships**, over 130 students from developing countries are undertaking post-graduate studies in Irish universities.

Bosnia-Herzegovina: Irish Aid has supported efforts to find and identify casualties of the civil war in the Balkans and is helping to fund a new justice system.

Darfur: Irish Aid funds the UN and NGOs working in the Darfur region of Sudan, providing food, water and shelter to the over 2 million people displaced by the conflict in this area – over €16 million since 2004.

ETHIOPIA

UGANDA

TANZANIA

MOZAMBIQUE

Ethiopia: Irish Aid supports a social protection programme keeping hunger at bay for over 7 million Ethiopians each year and saving the lives of very many.

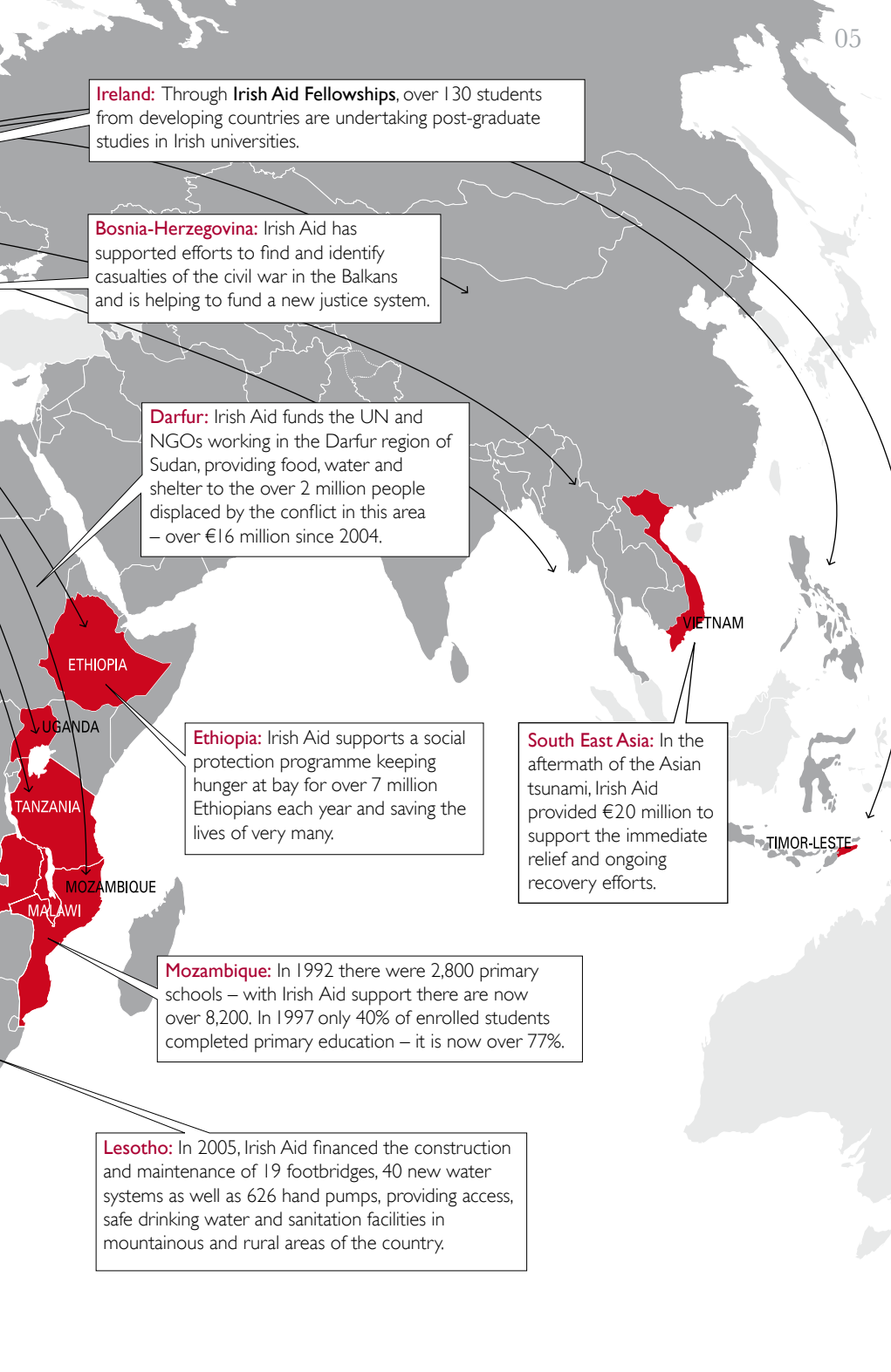
Mozambique: In 1992 there were 2,800 primary schools – with Irish Aid support there are now over 8,200. In 1997 only 40% of enrolled students completed primary education – it is now over 77%.

Lesotho: In 2005, Irish Aid financed the construction and maintenance of 19 footbridges, 40 new water systems as well as 626 hand pumps, providing access, safe drinking water and sanitation facilities in mountainous and rural areas of the country.

VIETNAM

South East Asia: In the aftermath of the Asian tsunami, Irish Aid provided €20 million to support the immediate relief and ongoing recovery efforts.

TIMOR-LESTE



How does Irish Aid Work?

Irish Aid works throughout the world providing assistance where it is needed most.

In humanitarian emergencies Irish Aid saves lives by quickly providing vital funds and assistance to organisations on the ground.

We also help communities and families rebuild their lives after emergencies.

The bulk of Irish Aid's work, however, is focused on long-term development where we work to tackle the root causes of poverty and inequality.

Irish Aid has a special relationship with eight developing countries, six in Africa and two in Asia (see map). As announced in the *White Paper*, Malawi will soon become Ireland's ninth partner country.

We do this because we believe that development can only occur with countries themselves as owners and leaders of their own development. No amount of charity can replace the role of the state. Lasting progress can only be achieved if the institutions of state are in a position to serve the needs and aspirations of their citizens.

“We will help build government systems. We will build capacity to plan, deliver, manage and monitor services. We will support efforts to combat corruption and help make governments more responsive to the needs of their citizens. Working with civil society, we will help citizens articulate those needs.”

– *White Paper on Irish Aid*

In short, our aim is to build better functioning societies, by helping governments deliver vital services and by helping people and communities demand better governments.

“Ireland will be an advocate for collective and coherent solutions to the most pressing global problems of poverty, instability and conflict.”

– *White Paper on Irish Aid*

Ireland has led calls for greater debt relief, an increased international response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the resolution of conflicts and fairer trade. In particular, we have called for much greater attention to be focused on Africa.

We have backed up our positions with funding increases and political support for global responses to these issues, primarily through the United Nations and its different agencies. We will continue to work as advocates on the world stage in order that developing country voices are heard and heeded.

Support for Development Agencies & Missionaries

Each year Irish Aid supports the work of development agencies in over 90 countries throughout the world. In 2006, Irish Aid allocated over **€140 million** to support the critical work of non-governmental agencies, such as Concern, Trócaire, Goal and others. Over the next five years Irish Aid will provide close to **€1 billion** to these important development organisations and to civil society in developing countries.

Irish missionaries have been pioneers in the area of development. For many years Irish Aid has supported their work at grassroots level and in 2007 we will allocate **€16 million** to Irish missionary organisations; through the Irish Missionary Resource Service.

We Are Getting Real Results

In many of our partner countries we are seeing real and lasting results. With Irish Aid's support:

- > In Northern Province, **Zambia**, a programme of well and borehole building has been completed which now provides a sustainable source of fresh clean water to over 113,000 people;
- > In **Mozambique**, 83 HIV/AIDS counselling and testing centres have been built and staffed, with over 250,000 people accessing their services since 2004;
- > In 1999, enrolment in **Lesotho** primary schools was at 57%. By 2003, this figure had increased to 82%;
- > 70% of **Ugandans** now have access to a basic health centre within 5km of their home and immunisation rates against childhood diseases are at 89% for the entire country;
- > Between 2002 and 2004, 32,000 new teachers were recruited and 30,000 new classrooms were built in **Tanzania**. Primary school enrolment is now at 95% with an equal number of girls and boys in school;
- > In the last ten years, 75 minefields have been cleared in the Niassa province of **Mozambique** through our partnership with the Halo Trust;
- > In 2005, 145 primary schools were constructed, 500 wells and 100 water points built in the Tigray region of northern **Ethiopia** – supporting education and sanitation services for thousands of Ethiopians.

Liberia and Sierra Leone - From Conflict to Peace

By 2003, Liberia in West Africa had endured 14 years of brutal civil war and misrule. An estimated 250,000 people died and over 500,000 were displaced.

Since a peace agreement was signed in August 2003, Irish UN peacekeepers have helped to secure the fragile peace in Liberia. Irish Aid has supported the United Nations Development Programme to disarm and reintegrate tens of thousands of soldiers back into the community, many of them children.

In the autumn of 2005, Irish Aid assisted the election process which resulted in Mrs. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf becoming the first elected woman head of State on the continent of Africa.

Irish Aid supports the work of the UN Special Court of Sierra Leone, charged with bringing to justice those responsible for crimes against humanity. Irish soldiers were instrumental in the transfer of former Liberian President Charles Taylor to the Special Court, where he stands indicted.

Ireland, through our Defence Forces and Irish Aid, is helping to secure peace, to foster democracy and justice and ensure the future development of these countries.



What's in the White Paper?

The *White Paper on Irish Aid* builds on the experience gained over our 33-year history. In the first instance, it sets out those things we are doing well and will keep doing. It places a particular emphasis on protecting taxpayers' money. In line with significant increases in expenditure, Irish Aid's monitoring and audit functions are being further strengthened.

The *White Paper* also outlines a number of new initiatives that will greatly enhance Ireland's unique contribution to development.

New Initiatives in the White Paper

Rapid Response Initiative

will include a corps of highly-skilled Irish people and the pre-positioning of vital supplies for rapid deployment to disasters as they occur.

Hunger Task Force

will develop a distinctive role for Ireland in addressing chronic hunger in developing countries, particularly in Africa.

Schools Linking and Immersion Scheme

will fund Irish schools to build links with their counterparts in the developing world to help increase mutual understanding.

Governance Unit in Irish Aid

will oversee our work in helping to create better and more accountable governments, reduce corruption and ensure our money is getting to where it is most needed.

Unit for Conflict Resolution in the Department of Foreign Affairs

will draw on Ireland's own experience of conflict resolution and seek to support the resolution of long-standing conflicts in developing countries.

As part of the Government's decentralisation programme Irish Aid will be moving to Limerick in late 2007. The move is being carried out in a planned, phased way to ensure the high quality of the programme is retained.

You Can Get Involved

Learn More and Speak Out

A good place to start is at the Irish Aid website www.irishaid.gov.ie which explains in detail the Irish Government's work in developing countries. Use this knowledge to engage in debate on development.

Join one of many organisations working in development education and awareness raising in Ireland.

Be a voice for change.

Volunteer

In 2007, Irish Aid will open a new **Volunteering and Public Information Centre** in Dublin city centre. The centre will act as the hub for people interested in volunteering to work overseas and as an information centre for the Irish Aid programme.

Irish Aid recently launched a website, with the Irish development organisation Comhlámh, for people who are interested in volunteering. www.volunteeringoptions.ie provides a comprehensive list of international opportunities for people with a variety of skills to offer.

There are also many opportunities for volunteering here in Ireland. You could volunteer to work in charity shops, support the cause of your choice, help staff phone lines or organise fundraising/awareness events.

Make a Donation

Regular donations to aid agencies allows them to plan and respond better in emergencies and fund longer term development programmes. A list of Irish aid agencies is available at www.dochas.ie

How to Help in Humanitarian Disasters Overseas

In an international humanitarian emergency, such as the tsunami or the conflict in Darfur, Sudan, giving money to established and experienced aid agencies is a very effective way to provide real and practical help.

A common human response to disasters overseas is to organise the collection and donation of goods that you think are urgently needed. However a cash donation helps agencies to purchase whatever is needed most.

If food, clothing and medical supplies are needed, the United Nations and the major Irish aid agencies will provide bulk supplies quickly and at a far cheaper rate.

Buy Fair and Ethical Products

You can use your purchasing power to ensure that the products you buy are ethically produced in a way that gives a fair deal to all along the production chain. More information is available at: www.fairtrade.ie

Travel to Developing Countries

Many of the most beautiful countries in the world are also amongst the poorest and tourism is increasingly becoming a vital source of income and jobs. Check carefully before travelling that it is safe, be sure to get the necessary inoculations and remember to be sensitive to local traditions and cultures.



To download the full *White Paper on Irish Aid* go to:
www.irishaid.gov.ie/whitepaper

or contact Irish Aid (see details on back cover)
and we will post out a copy to you.

“Irish Aid will be there, on behalf of Irish people, as we work to heal wounds of poverty and injustice in a world divided in two parts: those who have and those who want only a fair chance for a fair life.”

– *White Paper on Irish Aid*



For More Information

To find out more about the work of Irish Aid
please visit our website at:

www.irishaid.gov.ie

or contact the Public Information Unit at:

Irish Aid
Department of Foreign Affairs
Bishop's Square
Redmond's Hill
Dublin 2

Email: irishaid@dfa.ie

As Gaeilge

Má tá leagan Gaeilge den leabhrán seo uait déan teagmháil linn agus seolfaimid cóip chugat sa phost agus fáilte. Is féidir cóip a íoslódáil ó shuíomh gréasáin Chúnamh Éireann chomh maith.