

Dear Irish Aid Team,

Please find attached HIV references and commitments in the 2006 Irish Aid White Paper which were excellent.

I hope that continued emphasis on supporting the global HIV and AIDS response will be visible in the next Irish Aid White Paper.

In the 2011 Irish Aid Africa Strategy –

Page 8: What is clear is that Ireland's development cooperation policies will continue to place emphasis on building local systems and the capability to deliver local solutions to the challenges of poverty, in line with international best practice, on making aid more effective and on the thematic priorities of hunger, climate change, gender equality, the fight against global pandemics such as HIV and AIDS, and the promotion of good governance.

Page 25: Maintain the emphasis of Ireland's development cooperation policies on building local systems and the capability to deliver local solutions to the challenges of poverty and hunger, in line with international best practice, on aid effectiveness, and on the thematic priorities of hunger, climate change, gender equality, the fight against HIV and AIDS, and the promotion of good governance.

I hope that Irish Aid will deliver on commitments made in the Africa Strategy last year.

20 instances of 'HIV' in Irish Aid's Consultation Paper. Key ref/s below.

Continued attention to governance, gender, the environment and HIV and AIDS.

A continued focus on programmes in health, HIV and AIDS, and education in particular.

Progress has been made in reducing HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths worldwide, including in Africa (see Chart 2). 6.6 million people are now receiving treatment in low- and middle-income countries: nearly half those eligible. Achieving sustainable progress remains a challenge however, especially in Sub Saharan Africa which accounted for 70% of new HIV infections in 2010.

Since the publication of the White Paper in 2006 to date, Irish Aid has delivered on this commitment and spent over €100 million annually on HIV and AIDS and other communicable diseases in developing countries through multilateral and bilateral support and through support to the work of NGOs and a number of Irish institutions.

Since 2007 Irish Aid's Programme of Strategic Cooperation has promoted collaborative partnerships for research and learning between higher education institutes in Ireland and in developing countries.

A transition phase has recently been launched with a focus on Hunger, Health and HIV and AIDS and Education.

To today, -

Since 1981, more than 60 million people have been infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and nearly 30 million have died of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). Most of these deaths have been in the developing and poorest countries of the world.

\*Globally over 7000 new HIV infections a day were transmitted in 2010.

\*About 1000 were in children under 15 years of age.

Prevention-of-mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) is now achievable in most countries and cost-effective.

Positive gains but no time for complacency as more than 50% of people in low-and middle income countries eligible for HIV treatment are still not able to access treatment at the end of 2011.

Likewise, as I've said and witnessed many times unfortunately in the Sub-Saharan African countries in which I've lived in particular, the spread of HIV continues to thwart development efforts. Irish Aid needs to continue to provide strong leadership, and to reaffirm its financial commitments.

It was very encouraging to hear the former Irish Minister of State for Trade and Development, Jan O'Sullivan, T.D., speaking ahead of World AIDS Day on December 1<sup>st</sup> last highlighting the importance the Government attaches to the focus on HIV and AIDS in Ireland's overseas aid programme. Given Irish Aid's geographic targeting in Sub-Saharan Africa, support to the global HIV and AIDS response must be enshrined as a strategic priority within Irish Aid's new White Paper.

UNAIDS OUTLOOK 30 (2011) at

[http://www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/documents/unaids\\_publication/2011/20110607\\_JC2069\\_30Outlook\\_en.pdf](http://www.unaids.org/en/media/unaids/contentassets/documents/unaids_publication/2011/20110607_JC2069_30Outlook_en.pdf)

\*See on four pages 160-163:

How achieving the Millennium Development Goals supports the AIDS response and How the AIDS response supports the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

One depends on the other for successful outcomes in extreme poverty reduction.

Every success in analysis of the feedback and in the development of the next Irish Aid White Paper.

Sincerely, Breda Gahan