



You are making a difference

How Ireland is tackling world poverty and hunger

Irish Aid



Irish Aid

Department of Foreign Affairs

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha





Irish Aid's partner countries

Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi,
Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda,
Zambia, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.

Irish Aid

Irish Aid is the Government's programme for overseas development. It is a Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The main aim of Ireland's aid programme is to reduce poverty and hunger, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa where the needs are greatest.

By supporting long term development and providing humanitarian assistance in over ninety countries on behalf of the Irish people, we are helping to build better futures for some of the world's poorest communities.



In 2008 the Zambian government trained 5,000 teachers and built 1,500 classrooms with the support of Irish Aid and other international donors. This is helping to improve the quality of and access to education for children throughout Zambia.

Helen Mulenga teaching at Nyangi Primary School, Mpika, Zambia. Credit: Daniel Rowan

Where we work and who we work with

Long term progress at national level can only be achieved by working closely with governments, local authorities and communities in developing countries. These countries need to own and lead their own development, if poverty reduction programmes are to be effective and sustainable over the long-term.

Ireland works in partnership with governments **in nine countries** in Africa and Asia: **Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia in Africa and Vietnam and Timor-Leste in Asia.**

Other partners

Aid agencies, both local and international, play a key role in helping to improve the lives of poor people. Irish Aid provides considerable financial support to agencies such as Concern, Trócaire, Christian Aid, Goal and many others, and funds the development work of missionary organisations. The Government also supports the long-term development and emergency response programmes of the United Nations and the European Union.

Something we can all be proud of:

Primary school enrolment in Uganda has increased from 2 million in 1998 to 7 million children in 2008

A woman in Tanzania is over 500 times more likely to die in childbirth than a woman in Ireland, according to the UN. This is often because women cannot access proper medical treatment when there are complications in childbirth. For these women an ambulance can often make the difference between life and death.

When Happy Jonas, from Kongwe in Tanzania, experienced labour complications, she was rushed to her local hospital by ambulance and was able to deliver her daughter, Brandina safely. In the four months since Kongwe District was provided with an ambulance by the UN, with the support of Irish Aid, it has helped save the lives of 25 women and their babies.

Irish Aid is supporting the Tanzanian Government to invest substantially more in its health service. This is delivering results and the investment is having a positive effect on the health of the nation. For example under-five child mortality has been reduced from 147 to 91 per 1,000 live births between 2004 and 2008.

Happy and Brandina alongside the ambulance which helped to save their lives. Credit: Daniel Rowan

DFP 5631





Irish Aid supported the Malawian government to provide high quality seed and fertiliser to over 1.7 million poor farmers in 2009, including Loyce Kachambira and Seveline Banda (pictured). In the past Loyce and Seveline could not afford fertiliser, and their yields were very low. This highly successful scheme has helped Malawi, once reliant on food aid, to become a net exporter of food.

Loyce (right) and Seveline (left) have increased their maize yields with their improved seed and fertilizer.
Credit: Daniel Rowan

Irish Aid's Focus on Hunger

Ireland is taking a leading role in the fight against global hunger.

- > Over 1 billion people, or one in six of the world's population, do not have enough food
- > 195 million children under five have stunted growth as a result of malnutrition
- > More than 30,000 people – the population of a large Irish town – die from hunger or hunger-related causes every day.

Something we can all be proud of:

1.7 million small farmers in Malawi received high quality seed to plant in 2009

The eradication of hunger is a cornerstone of the Government's aid programme and Ireland is taking a strong leadership and advocacy role internationally on the global hunger crisis. Our efforts to tackle hunger are focussed on three areas:

1. Helping small farmers in Africa, 80% of whom are women, to increase their productivity;
2. Reducing maternal and infant undernutrition;
3. Promoting real political commitment, in our partner countries and internationally, to ensure that the global hunger crisis gets the absolute priority it deserves.

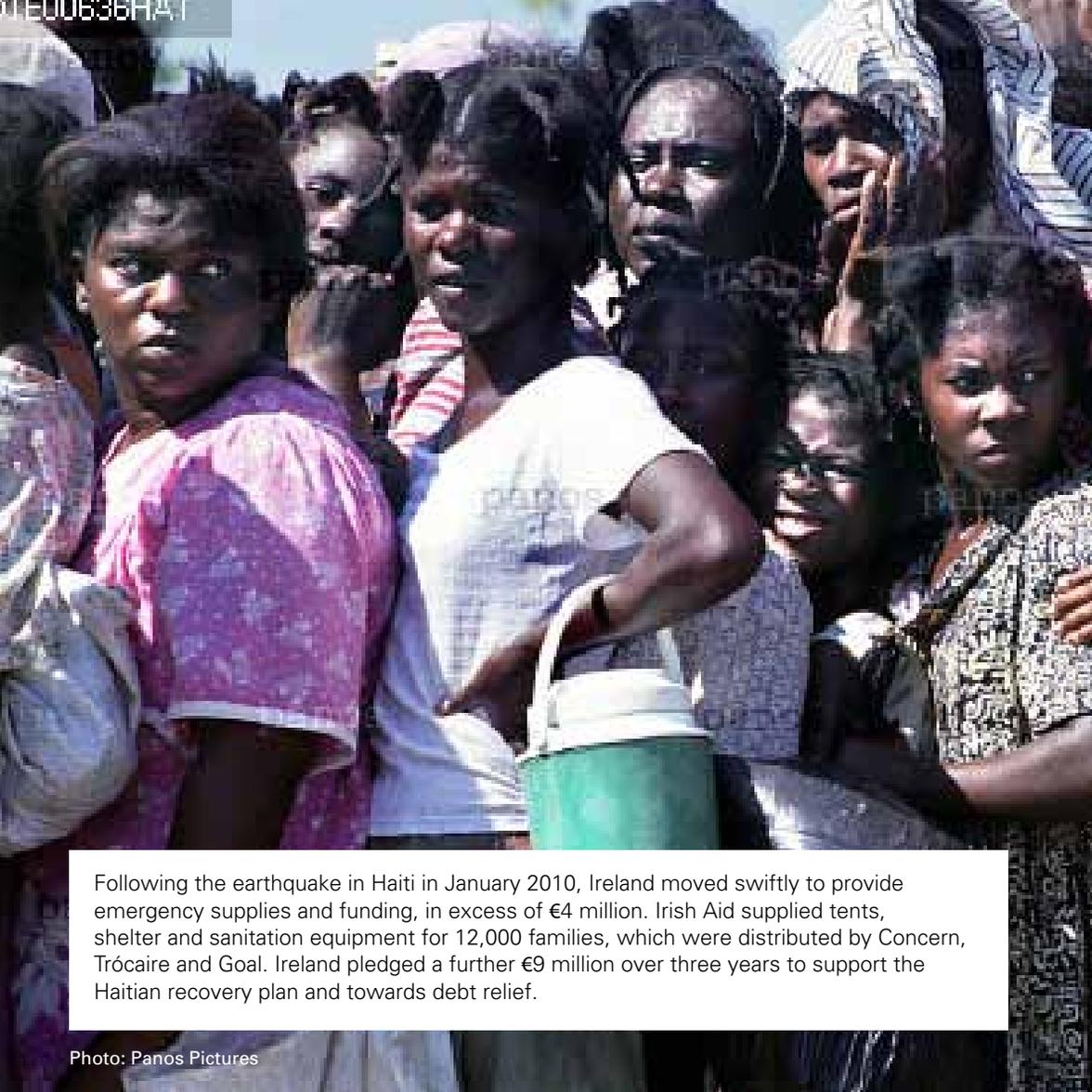
Something we can all be proud of:

The number of rural health centres in Ethiopia rose from 1,432 in 2001 to nearly 10,000 in 2008



Husband and wife William and Marjory Situla from Zambia are living positively with HIV. They are receiving life-saving Anti-Retroviral (ARV) drugs which enables them to lead healthy, productive lives and to look after their four children.
Photo by Daniel Rowan

A peer review of Irish Aid by the OECD last year concluded that Ireland is a “champion in making aid more effective” that “Irish Aid is a strong cutting edge, development cooperation programme” and that Ireland is a “genuine partner” of developing countries.



Following the earthquake in Haiti in January 2010, Ireland moved swiftly to provide emergency supplies and funding, in excess of €4 million. Irish Aid supplied tents, shelter and sanitation equipment for 12,000 families, which were distributed by Concern, Trócaire and Goal. Ireland pledged a further €9 million over three years to support the Haitian recovery plan and towards debt relief.

Responding to disasters

Irish Aid helps to save lives by providing vital funds, supplies and personnel in response to humanitarian emergencies.

Our support also helps communities and families to rebuild their lives after emergencies. This assistance is channelled through international relief organisations such as the Red Cross and the United Nations, as well as aid agencies such as Concern, Trocaire and Goal.

The Government has stocks of emergency materials ready to distribute to victims of humanitarian crises, including blankets, stoves, kitchen packs, first aid, sanitation equipment, water purification units, food and medical supplies. These supplies can be dispatched within hours of a disaster occurring. Irish Aid has established the **Rapid Response Corps**, which is a register of Irish experts in humanitarian relief who can be deployed at short notice.

Effectiveness and Accountability

Ireland's development assistance is internationally recognised for its high quality and impact. It supports locally-led development and has a very strong poverty focus.

Irish Aid has stringent audit and evaluation systems in place both in Ireland and in partner countries. Regular audits and evaluations of all programmes are carried out by the Evaluation and Audit Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs. This ensures accountability for all funds; that Irish Aid programmes are effective and that lessons are learnt. The Irish Aid programme is subject to the scrutiny of the Oireachtas Public Accounts Committee.

Reducing corruption, building democracy, improving governance and accountability are integral to the work of Irish Aid. In its partner countries Irish Aid supports the strengthening of public sector capacity and local government reform. Irish Aid also supports initiatives that promote the development of independent media in its partner countries.

Something we can all be proud of:

Primary school enrolment in Zambia has increased from 68% in 2000 to 94% today.

The Irish Aid Volunteering and Information Centre

The Irish Aid Volunteering and Information Centre on O'Connell Street, Dublin was opened in 2008. The Centre provides information on the work of Irish Aid and development in general, including volunteering opportunities, for both individuals and groups. Workshops on development are provided for schools and colleges throughout the year.

Visit **www.irishaid.gov.ie/centre** for news on exhibitions, lectures and cultural events taking place in the Centre.

Something we can all be proud of:

Over 60% of Zambians living with HIV have received life saving medication

This page: Malawian farmer,
Agnes Malcolm in front of her
healthy maize crop

Front page: Mildred Malanga
and son Kwamas (2) from
Zambia received high quality
cassava clippings with the
support of Irish Aid

Credit: Daniel Rowan



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