

HIV and AIDS: A leading donor

The numbers of people receiving HIV treatment in developing countries increased by almost 50%, to three million

The OECD Peer Review found that 'Ireland leads the way in the EU in the proportion of overseas development assistance allocated to combating HIV/AIDS'

In 2008, €140 million was provided by Irish Aid in response to HIV and AIDS, and other diseases, such as malaria and tuberculosis. This was well in excess of the Government's commitment to spend at least €100 million annually in this area. This funding was applied across the countries and programmes detailed in this report.

Ireland provided €20.6 million to support the work of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria in 2008, making Ireland one of the highest per capita donors to this fund. Ireland's profile as a strong advocate on these issues was also raised by co-hosting, in Dublin, the Fourth Global Partners' Forum on Children affected by HIV and AIDS. The Forum set out key policy priorities for this area. Ireland also provided leadership on key issues relating to HIV and AIDS through its seat on the board of the United Nations Programme for HIV and AIDS, UNAIDS.

Ireland is a key global supporter of efforts to develop new pharmaceutical products in the fight against HIV and AIDS. The search for a vaccine was supported through funding for the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative. The search for an effective microbicide (which promises to be a very powerful tool for the prevention of HIV, by empowering women to protect themselves) was supported by funding for the International Partnership for Microbicides. Irish Aid led a joint donor evaluation of this partnership in 2008, with positive results. Irish Aid also continued its support for Irish institutions engaged in research into HIV and AIDS.

Inequity in access to food is a major driver of the global HIV epidemic. Levels of nutrition have a considerable impact on HIV and AIDS, both in terms of prevention and care. An important element of Irish Aid's work in this area is support for improved nutrition and household food security. We support efforts to prevent and eliminate deficiencies in micronutrients such as Iron and Vitamin A. This is also essential in the effective prevention, treatment and care of diseases such as TB and malaria.

THE NUMBERS: MAKING PROGRESS AGAINST HIV AND AIDS

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE RECEIVING HIV TREATMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES INCREASED BY ALMOST 50% IN 2007, TO THREE MILLION, ACCORDING TO THE JULY 2008 UNAIDS REPORT ON THE EPIDEMIC. THE GLOBAL TARGET FOR THE END OF 2008 WAS TO HAVE 6.5 MILLION PEOPLE ON TREATMENT. THE NUMBER OF HIV TESTING AND COUNSELLING EPISODES SUPPORTED BY THE GLOBAL FUND INCREASED BY 84% IN 2008, TO 62 MILLION. THE NUMBER OF CASES OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS TREATED DOUBLED TO 4.4 MILLION. THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE EXPOSED TO 'BEHAVIOUR CHANGE COMMUNICATIONS' ALSO DOUBLED, TO 91 MILLION. THE NUMBER OF CONDOMS DISTRIBUTED INCREASED BY NEARLY TWO-THIRDS, TO 450 MILLION. THE NUMBER OF WOMEN GETTING TREATMENT TO PREVENT HIV BEING TRANSMITTED TO THEIR BABY INCREASED MORE THAN THREEFOLD, TO 445,000. TWO IRISH AID PROGRAMME COUNTRIES, ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA, WERE TO THE FORE IN THIS.

THE CLINTON FOUNDATION HIV AND AIDS INITIATIVE REPORTED THAT 130,000 PEOPLE WERE ON HIV TREATMENT IN MOZAMBIQUE, UP FROM 78,000 IN 2007, AND THAT THE NUMBER OF WOMEN ACCESSING PREVENTION-OF-TRANSMISSION SERVICES HAD SOARED, FROM ABOUT 350 IN 2002 TO 48,000 IN 2008.

IRISH AID IS A KEY SUPPORTER OF THE GLOBAL FUND AND THE CLINTON PARTNERSHIP.



Youth delegates at the Global Partners' Forum on Children affected by HIV and AIDS hosted by Ireland and UNICEF, credit Maxwells

Irish Aid is to the fore in international funding and advocacy on HIV and AIDS initiatives.