



Country Strategy Paper 2010-2014
Summary

Uganda

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

Ireland's
commitment
to a world
without poverty
and hunger



SUDAN

KENYA

UGANDA

DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF
THE CONGO

Arua

Nimule

Kaabong

Loyoro

Gulu

Moroto

Masindi

Soroti

Mbale

Fort Portal

Mubende

Bombo

Tororo

Jinja

Kampala

Entebbe

Masaka

Kalanga

Lyantonde

Mbarara

Kabale

RWANDA

TANZANIA

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Foreword

Ova go vile vile, Ova go dra dri (The kudu that visits the same grazing ground each evening risks death). This is an old Lugbara saying that we have kept in mind in the transition to a new Country Strategy for Uganda. The renewal of our Country Strategy will give new impetus and direction to our efforts to help Uganda reduce poverty and increase opportunity for its people. While the strategy has many recognisable features, there are also additional elements that will be both challenging and exciting.

Irish Aid has been working in Uganda since 1994 and has played its part in the country's social and economic progress. Since 2000, annual economic growth has averaged above 7% and significant investment has been made in the social sectors, all of which has led to a decrease in poverty from 56% in 1990 to 31% today.

Uganda still faces significant challenges. 26% of the population, or about 7 million people, live in chronic poverty. The quality of service delivery needs to improve. Corruption remains a major challenge. With the onset of significant oil revenues during the course of this Country Strategy Paper (CSP), it will be important to ensure that real benefits from this natural resource are delivered to the people of Uganda.

This CSP is the product of 18 months of intensive analysis and design, involving consultations between the country team, HQ colleagues, Government, donor partners and civil society. It is informed by Ireland's commitment to poverty reduction and by the Ugandan Government's National Development Plan. The outcome reflects the need for continuity in critical sectors such as governance, HIV and AIDS and education. However, it also involves a significant departure by committing Ireland to addressing hunger and vulnerability in the most disadvantaged Northern Region in Uganda, especially Karamoja.

Ireland's partnership with Uganda is based on a commitment to human rights, democratic participation, safety, security and prosperity for all. We will continue to work in a spirit of open and constructive dialogue with Uganda to ensure that resources provided by the Irish taxpayer continue to reduce poverty, especially in Karamoja.

In Irish we have a proverb, *Ní neart go chur le chéile* (we are only strong when we work together). This Country Strategy outlines how Ireland will work hand-in-hand with Uganda over the next five years. *Beir bua leis an obair!* Let the work begin!

Kevin Kelly
Ambassador
Embassy of Ireland
Kampala

1. About Irish Aid

Development cooperation is about reducing poverty....It is about enabling people to take control of their own lives and providing hope for the future

White Paper on Irish Aid 2006

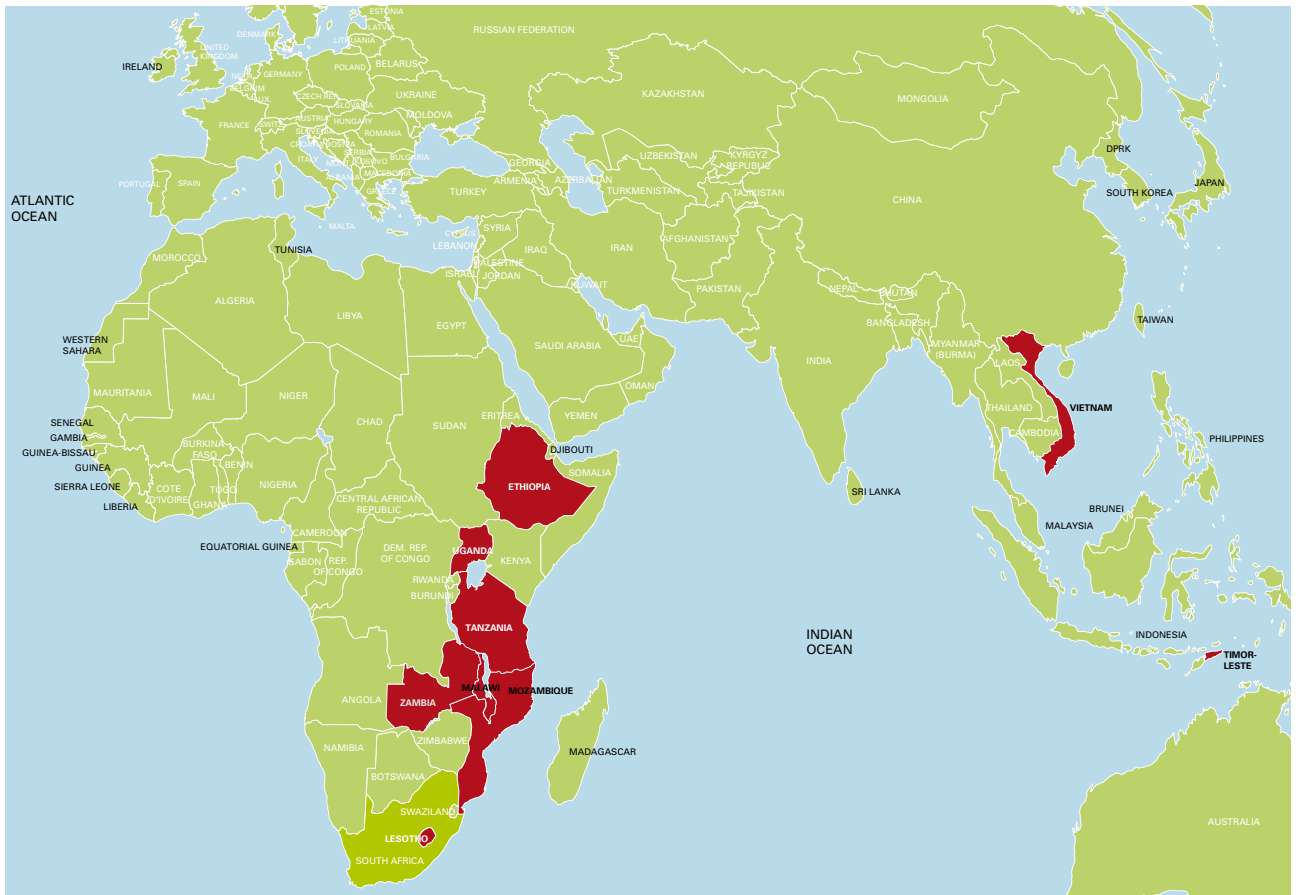
Irish Aid is the Government of Ireland's programme of assistance to developing countries. Ireland has had an official development assistance programme since 1974. It has grown steadily over the years, with total ODA of €671.4 million planned in 2010. Ireland's development cooperation policy is central to Ireland's foreign policy.

The Irish Aid programme has as its core priority the reduction of poverty, hunger and inequality in developing countries. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the set of targets established by the world's leaders at the UN in 2000, focusing on the main causes and manifestations of extreme poverty in today's world. The MDGs underpin the work of Ireland's aid programme.

Africa is the main geographic focus of Ireland's programme. Of the world's 49 least developed countries, 33 are in Africa. Over 80% of Ireland's overseas development aid goes to Africa. The primary regional focus of the programme is on the nine programme countries, seven of which are in Africa: Ethiopia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and two in Asia: Timor-Leste and Vietnam.

This document describes Irish Aid's Strategy for Uganda. It sets out a realistic, strategic, programme of work over the next five years that will allow Irish Aid to build on the achievements and progress it has made to date and respond to the changing development environment in Uganda.

Ireland's Partner Countries



2. Uganda in context

Uganda basic facts:	
Population (2008)	31.6 million
Position on UN HDI 2009	157 out of 182 countries
GDP per capita (PPP)	700
Adult Literacy	73.6%
Life Expectancy	51.9 years
HIV Prevalence	6.4%

Source: UNDP Human Development Report 2009, World Bank

Since 1986, Uganda has transformed from a nearly failed state to a country with consistently high economic growth rates. Uganda's GDP growth rate is currently approximately 5%, significantly higher than the 3.3% recorded for the Sub-Saharan region. Poverty levels have declined significantly from 56% in 1992 to 31% in 2005. More recently, peace has returned also to the north, allowing the Government and development partners to begin the process of reconstruction, rehabilitation and development. The rule of law has been strengthened and Uganda enjoys a very healthy free press compared with other countries in the region.

Sizeable deposits of oil reserves have been discovered in western Uganda. It is estimated that the country has some 2 billion barrels of oil, equivalent to about 100,000 – 150,000 barrels per day over a possible 25-year production period. This could yield between US\$2 and US\$5 billion in additional revenues per year. If used wisely, the revenue from Uganda's oil reserves could make an enormous contribution to its future development.

There have also been steady improvements in health, with an increase in immunisation from 63% in 2002 to 89% in 2009, and in education - 84% of children are now enrolled in primary school. Within the region, Uganda has been a leader in the fight against HIV and AIDS, with prevalence dropping significantly during the past decade.

However, Uganda still faces many challenges. Democracy in Uganda will be tested in the run-up to and aftermath of the elections in 2011. There has been an improvement in Uganda's overall human rights situation, especially since the cessation of hostilities in northern Uganda, but a number of human rights issues continue to feature in the dialogue between the Government of Uganda and her international partners. The country remains vulnerable to conflict in a number of areas. The security situation in Karamoja, the poorest and most neglected region in Uganda, is a major concern. Much of the conflict there is linked to economic and cultural marginalisation, discrimination and acute challenges in maintaining peoples' livelihoods.

Irish Aid is working in partnership with the Government of Uganda and civil society to strengthen good governance and tackle corruption. An important focus is on developing legislative, institutional and regulatory provisions for governmental accountability, and strengthening enforcement and follow-up on malpractice.

Uganda has the highest dependency ratio in the world, with more than half the population below the age of 15 years. Income inequality and one of the highest population growth rates in the world have combined to counteract the positive effects of growth on poverty, with average per capita income growth falling to 2.4%, compared to the Low Income Country (LIC) average of 2.9%. Maternal and infant mortality rates are high. There is a chronic lack of trained health workers. Poverty in northern Uganda, particularly Karamoja, is especially severe and the social indicators are the lowest in the country.

3. The Country Strategy 2010-2014

Uganda was designated an Irish Aid programme country in 1994. Support has increased significantly over the years, from an initial programme worth less than €1 million per annum, to a budget of over €33 million in 2010. The Programme is administered by the Embassy of Ireland in Kampala, which is headed by the Ambassador and supported by the development management team.

This Country Strategy Paper sets out Ireland's strategy for development assistance to Uganda for the period 2010-2014.

This CSP proposes a deeper and more sustained approach to tackling chronic poverty in Uganda, involving expanded engagement in Uganda's most impoverished region, Karamoja. Irish Aid will also ensure a particular focus on Karamoja through its engagements in education, HIV and AIDS and the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS).

Governance remains a key support area for Irish Aid, though there will be a rationalisation of engagements in the sector involving withdrawal from local government reform and public sector reform in 2010. In education, support will concentrate on the Sector Strategic Plan, the quality education initiative and the Karamoja education programme. This represents a significant reduction in interventions in the sector. Gender and HIV and AIDS are critical to addressing chronic poverty and vulnerability. Irish Aid will ensure that these priorities inform all of its interventions and are advanced across the programme. Finally, the new CSP will see a scaling up of support to private sector development and capacity building in the energy sector.

The goal of the strategy is:

- > To reduce chronic poverty and vulnerability in Uganda in line with the National Development Plan

Three outcomes are envisaged at the end of the CSP:

- > Government is more responsive and accountable to the poor and vulnerable
- > Poor and vulnerable people have better health, higher levels of educational achievement and a more stable and secure environment
- > There is increased economic opportunity for the poor and vulnerable

4. Programme Components

4.1 Addressing Chronic Poverty and Vulnerability in Karamoja

The enhanced programme in Karamoja will see chronic poverty addressed in the region through support for the Government's Peace, Recovery and Development Plan (PRDP) for northern Uganda, a pilot programme on social protection in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and the UK Department for International Development (UKaid), and a livelihoods support programme through civil society partners.

4.2 Education

Irish Aid supports the Education Sector Strategic Plan which prioritises infrastructural improvements, curriculum reform and teacher education in the primary education sector, and curriculum reform in secondary education. Irish Aid is currently completing the rehabilitation of 13 post primary institutions in the Karamoja region and will continue to support a secondary school bursary scheme. Ireland is also working with Japan on a joint teacher training initiative that is helping to improve the quality of instruction in science and mathematics in Karamoja.

4.3 HIV and AIDS

UGANDA: Karamoja region



Uganda now needs to consolidate the gains it has made in reducing HIV prevalence. The disease accounts for one third of all adult deaths and over half of all deaths among children under the age of five. Recent trends are a cause for concern. For this reason, Irish Aid, the UK Department for International Development and the Danish Government are supporting the implementation of a harmonised HIV prevention programme, with the objective of increasing access to quality prevention services for the most vulnerable. Irish Aid will also continue to provide support to civil society in Uganda to help scale up prevention activities and improve access to services. Irish Aid is also assisting the 11 UN agencies which make up the Joint UN Team on AIDS, to deliver the single Joint UN Programme of Support on AIDS.

4.4 Governance

Irish Aid plays a lead role in the Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS), which aims to increase access to justice for poor and vulnerable people. This is complemented by support to the Uganda Human Rights Commission and to legal aid service providers. Irish Aid is also working to strengthen public financial management through a reform programme that will help to improve efficiency, effectiveness and accountability within central and local governments. In addition, Irish Aid supports a programme to deepen democracy in Uganda and provides assistance to a number of key civil society partners with a focus on human rights and accountability issues.

4.5 Gender Based Violence

Irish Aid is strengthening its approach to prevention and response programmes, working through local government and civil society organisations, focusing on regions such as Busoga, Teso and Karamoja, which have the highest prevalence of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the country. Irish Aid will, in collaboration with other development partners, continue to promote and advocate for the development and implementation of a national GBV strategy. An advocacy programme on domestic violence launched by the Ugandan Catholic Bishops Conference, Irish Aid and Trocaire in 2009 will continue during the course of this CSP.



4.6 Traidlinks

Traidlinks, an Irish not-for-profit organisation, was established in 2006 by a group of prominent business leaders in Ireland to support private sector development in Africa. Traidlinks currently assists 12 companies in Uganda to improve their standards, production capacities and marketing strategies. Irish Aid is supporting Traidlinks to expand its training programme to 60 companies over a five year period. The programme will assist in identifying regional market opportunities for these companies and in increasing output and profitability. As a result of this support, potential sales orders have been identified in the region worth approx €1.3million.

4.7 Strengthening capacity and transparency in the energy sector

Ireland is in discussion with the Ministry of Finance to explore how we can help Uganda with its longer term planning to ensure that the oil resources now coming on-stream will benefit the Ugandan people. Assistance will also be considered for civil society initiatives that help to promote transparency in this sector.



5. Budget 2010-2014

The budget below is indicative and is intended for planning purposes over the five years timescale of the CSP.

(figures in €millions)

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Governance	10.79	10.79	10.79	10.79	10.79	53.95
Education	8.08	8.08	8.08	8.08	8.08	40.4
HIV and AIDS	6.58	6.58	6.58	6.58	6.58	32.9
Karamoja	5.77	5.77	5.77	5.77	5.77	28.85
Gender Based Violence	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	2.55
Private Sector Development	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	3.85
Programme Development	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	3.75
Total	33.25	33.25	33.25	33.25	33.25	166.25

With Irish Aid support the following results have been achieved in Uganda

Governance

- > Over 90,000 local government officials have been trained in financial management
- > Local development grants have been provided to 900 counties nationwide for projects such as irrigation, dam construction, upgrading of infrastructure and community development
- > Legal aid provision has been improved significantly – over 7,700 persons received legal aid between January and June 2008 alone
- > There have been significant reductions in time on remand.

Education

- > Uganda will be one of the few countries in sub-Saharan Africa that will meet the Millennium Development Goal of access to Universal Primary Education (UPE) by 2015
- > The number of children in primary school has risen from 2.4 million in 1996 to over 7.5 million in 2010.

HIV and AIDS

- > Over 150,000 people with HIV and AIDS are now accessing life-saving ARV (antiretroviral) drugs.
- > Over **88,000** people have been provided with information on how to prevent HIV and AIDS, **40,000** have been counselled and tested, **9,000** have benefited from palliative care and **33,000** orphans and vulnerable children have received targeted community services.



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