



# MDG 8

## MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL

Develop a Global Partnership for Development

### TARGETS

- Address the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked countries and small island developing states
- Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system
- Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt
- In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries
- In cooperation with the private sector, make available benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications



## CURRENT GLOBAL STATUS

- In 2009, total net official development assistance (ODA) from members of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) rose slightly in real terms (+0.7%) to US\$119.6 billion. In 2009, the only countries to reach the UN target of 0.7% were Denmark, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden.
- In 2009, net bilateral ODA to Africa was US\$27 billion, representing an increase of 3% in real terms over 2008. US\$24 billion of this aid went to sub-Saharan Africa, an increase of 5.1% over 2008. Net bi-lateral ODA to sub-Saharan Africa has risen by 300% over the past decade, from a figure of US\$8 billion in 2000<sup>1</sup>.
- Failure to reach agreement in the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations represents a major gap in strengthening the global partnership for achieving the MDGs by depriving developing countries of the benefits of a truly developmental round of negotiations.
- Since 2002, Ireland has sharply advocated for total debt cancellation for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Initiative have reduced the debt service burden of developing countries. Relief under the two initiatives amounting to US\$117 billion in nominal terms has been committed to 35 HIPC's as of end April 2009<sup>2</sup>.
- Before the HIPC Initiative, eligible countries were, on average, spending slightly more on debt service than on health and education combined. Now, they have increased markedly their expenditures on health, education, and other social services. On average, such spending is about six times the amount of debt-service payments.
- South-South Cooperation is gaining in importance and momentum.

## IRELAND'S POLICY POSITION & RESPONSE

- Ireland is committed to achieving the UN target for spending 0.7% of our GNP on ODA by 2015 and to providing untied aid.
- Irish Aid is committed to improving the quality of aid through implementing the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action.
- Irish Aid support for Aid for Trade aims to foster the kind of trade that will reduce poverty and promote inclusive growth.
- Since 2002 Ireland has sharply advocated for total debt cancellation for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).
- Ireland supports engagement by pharmaceutical companies in an appropriate ethical and regulatory environment, to promote the availability of technologies and drugs for major diseases.

<sup>1</sup>www.oecd.org

<sup>2</sup>World Bank, IMF and Asian Development Bank websites.

Ireland's commitment to developing a global partnership for development is demonstrated in the following actions:

- Ireland provides 100% of its aid as untied<sup>3</sup>.
- Ireland has increased the volume of aid from €254 million in 2000 (0.3% of GNP) to €722 million in 2009 (0.54% of GNI). In 2010 we have been allocated a budget of €671.4m, placing our contribution at 0.52% of GNI (at current projections) and enabling us to exceed the interim EU target of 0.51% by 2010, making Ireland one of the most generous donors in the world on a per capita basis. Approximately two thirds of Ireland's bi-lateral aid is allocated to sub-Saharan Africa and least developed countries (LDCs). In 2008 62% of Ireland's bi-lateral aid was allocated to sub-Saharan Africa, with 56% allocated to least developed countries (LDCs)<sup>4</sup>.
- Irish Aid works to strengthen partnerships for development including the promotion of mutual accountability for development results.
- The OECD-DAC Peer Review of Ireland's development cooperation programme found that Irish Aid is highly appreciated as a genuine partner by the developing country governments and others with whom it works. Irish Aid is considered to respond quickly and flexibly to local needs and priorities.
- Irish Aid is applying the Management for Development Results principle to its programming instruments, in particular to its work and contributions at the country level. In addition, a results based management strategy is being developed and applied at the organisational level.
- Irish Aid has provided in excess of €20 million since 2006 to Geneva based UN and WTO organisations to assist developing countries to integrate into the multilateral trading system, and to benefit from liberalized trade and increased market access.
- Irish Aid is a strong international supporter of the Fair Trade movement and engages in the various World Trade Organisation Summits advocating for a better trade deal for least developed countries.
- The Irish Government has consistently maintained that the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) should result in agreements that are supportive of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries' development needs and their poverty reduction efforts.
- In the World Bank and in other international fora, Irish Aid advocates that funding for debt relief is additional to resources already committed for development cooperation and that the relief provided results in more resources being made available in LDCs for poverty reduction activities.
- Ireland contributed directly over €20 million to the HIPC Initiative by 2008 and paid the full commitment of €59 million for multilateral debt relief through the World Bank in 2006.
- Irish Aid contributes €5 million annually to Product Development Partnerships, which include commercial pharmaceutical companies, to promote research on, and wide availability of, new vaccines and drugs to combat HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, the main causes of mortality and sickness in developing countries.

## EXAMPLES OF IRISH AID PROGRAMME INTERVENTIONS IN SUPPORT OF MDG 8



### NATURE OF INTERVENTION

### SPECIFIC EXAMPLE OF IRISH AID RESPONSE

### RESULTS

#### IMPROVING THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

In 2007, Irish Aid joined with a number of other donors and private sector companies to support the Investment Climate Facility for Africa (ICF). The ICF is an independent trust whose objective is to "make Africa an even better place to do business" by improving the legal, regulatory and administrative environment for business and to facilitate small business development.

A three year ICF sponsored project to prepare the East African region for the introduction of the fully fledged Customs Union is currently being rolled out.

The project will result in a speeding up of the average transit time along northern and central corridors which are the trade arteries for the region, thus assisting the development of trade throughout East Africa, especially in landlocked countries such as Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi.

<sup>3</sup>In line with the OECD definition of untied ODA

<sup>4</sup>[www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org)

NATURE OF INTERVENTION	SPECIFIC EXAMPLE OF IRISH AID RESPONSE	RESULTS
<p><b>SUPPORT FOR PRO-POOR PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEKONG REGION OF SOUTH EAST ASIA.</b></p>	<p>Ireland supports the International Finance Corporation (IFC) - Mekong Private Sector Development Facility (MPDF) programme in the Mekong region of South East Asia. This programme is managed by the IFC and supported by a number of donors in the region. It recognises the importance of regional trade and works jointly with the governments of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop supply chains in agribusiness</li> <li>• Simplify business start up and tax administration</li> <li>• Develop alternative uses of funding for infrastructure</li> <li>• Helping microfinance institutions reach small and medium enterprises</li> <li>• Promote energy efficiency, renewable energy and cleaner production</li> <li>• Promoting labour standards and compliance in the garment sector</li> </ul>	<p>Small farming communities involved in both food and energy crops as well as renewable construction materials such as bamboo have been successfully linked with global markets.</p> <p>Improved working conditions and job tenure secured for up to 2000 women in two garment factories through the Better Work Vietnam Programme of MPDF.</p>
<p><b>IMPLEMENTING THE PARIS DECLARATION AND THE ACCRA AGENDA FOR ACTION</b></p>	<p>Ireland co-chaired, with Tanzania the round table on mutual accountability at the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra in 2008 and has since then chaired the OECD DAC working group on mutual accountability. In 2010, Ireland has been working closely with the UN Development Cooperation Forum on enhancing accountability and transparency in development cooperation and with the European Commission in developing concrete EU actions on donor accountability.</p>	<p>The number of partner countries which are developing accountability frameworks for aid is increasing. The 2008 survey on the implementation of the Paris Declaration concluded that only 14 partner countries had such mutual accountability mechanisms. The 2010 UN Development Cooperation Report found that in around 30 countries, there are active steps under way to increase accountability. Clear EU actions on mutual accountability and transparency will further advance this key Paris Declaration commitment.</p>
<p><b>WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNITED NATIONS JOINT PROGRAMME</b></p>	<p>Ireland along with other international donors, supports the UN Joint Programme on Maternal and Newborn Mortality. Under the programme, six UN agencies in conjunction with the Government of Tanzania, are working to improve maternity care in a country with one of the highest maternal and newborn mortality rates in the world.</p>	<p>Working in partnership; increasing investment for better maternal health care in rural districts in Tanzania</p>

# CASE STUDY



*Happy Jonas who benefited from the UN Joint Programme on Maternal and Newborn Mortality, with baby Brandina at her local health dispensary, in Dodoma Region*

## UN Partnership for Better Maternal Health in Tanzania

WHEN 17 year old Happy Jonas went into labour she was taken to her local health dispensary at Chamkoroma village, in Dodoma region in central Tanzania.

Thirteen hours later, however, progress was worryingly slow. Happy was exhausted and the situation was becoming critical. Like many in Tanzania, the dispensary was unequipped to deal with birth complications, so Happy was rushed by ambulance to Kongwe District Health Centre.

Thanks to a UN Joint Programme on Maternal and Newborn Mortality, the Centre is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, including delivery beds and operating tables, and the ambulance in which Happy travelled is one of eight provided in the region under the scheme. In the Health Centre the young woman was administered oxytocin, and later delivered her daughter, Brandina, safely. "I knew that I was in danger, so I was very scared. I'm very grateful that the ambulance was available to me," she said afterwards.

In just four months the ambulance has helped to save the lives of 25 women in Kongwe District, according to Eugene Kidyala, the local Ministry of Health Coordinator. Happy Jonas is thus one of many to benefit from improved local facilities provided under the "Delivering as One UN Reform" programme, which is being piloted in Tanzania and seven other countries. The programme aims to deliver greater efficiencies and better development results.

Under this UN Joint Programme, which is supported by Ireland and other international donors, six UN agencies in conjunction with the Tanzanian government are working to improve maternity care in a country with one of the highest maternal and newborn mortality rates in the world. A woman in Tanzania is over 500 times more likely to die in childbirth than a woman in Ireland. The high mortality rate has been linked to poor access to medical treatment for basic birth complications.

The campaign is succeeding. Under-five child mortality has fallen from 147 to 91 per 1,000 live births between 2004 and 2008.

Irish Aid has also supported the Tanzanian Government in increasing investment in the health sector. Government expenditure on health per person increased five-fold between 2000 and 2008, with the support of Irish Aid and other international donors.

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

Ireland's  
commitment  
to a world  
without poverty  
and hunger

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