

IRELAND

1. Measures to accelerate progress towards the MDGs by 2015

Ireland considers that slow progress on MDG1 is impeding progress on other MDGs. It has therefore prioritised addressing hunger and food insecurity across its development cooperation programme. It now appraises its programmes and projects through a “hunger lens” and focuses substantial resources on hunger reduction in Programme Countries, particularly in Tanzania and Ethiopia. New country strategy papers (CSPs) for Malawi and Uganda approved in 2010 have a stronger focus on hunger reduction activities. These CSPs also address the adverse impacts of climate change on agriculture as a food security challenge, supporting smallholder farmers to improve their resilience to natural disasters. Hunger related actions are coordinated with other priorities such as HIV/AIDS, good governance, and education. To strengthen the focus on results, Ireland has improved its planning and monitoring processes, introduced results frameworks in all programme strategies and plans, and provided training on managing for development results to staff over the past year.

2. Changes in development policy, and what drives them:

Ireland recognises that failure to address the global challenge presented by food insecurity will significantly undermine some of the progress made towards achieving the MDGs. The Government is committed to giving effect to the findings of its Hunger Task Force (2008) which recommended a stronger focus in the Irish Aid programme on increasing smallholder agricultural productivity, targeting under-nutrition, especially maternal and infant under-nutrition, and promoting governance and leadership action on tackling global hunger. The pivotal role of women farmers and the particular vulnerability of women and children to food and nutrition insecurity is being more fully integrated into analysis and planning.

3. Measures to increase the predictability of aid

Forward planning information is available through the countries strategy papers, which are signed with priority partner countries. These papers provide indicative multi-year funding approvals. To improve predictability of aid to partner countries, the timeframe for Country Strategy Plans has been increased from 3 to 5 years.