

IRELAND

WHAT IS YOUR AID FOR TRADE STRATEGY?

1. Do you have an aid-for-trade strategy and what are the key elements in this strategy?

Ireland's trade strategy *Trading for Economic and Social Development* published in June 2005 outlines the National Agenda for Developing Countries in this context. It underlines the commitment of the Irish Government to trade capacity building for less developed countries. Aid-for-Trade is addressed in Ireland's *White Paper on Irish Aid* which was published in September 2006. Irish Aid is the Government of Ireland's programme of assistance to developing countries and the White Paper maps out priority areas of work for Irish Aid into the future.

It is planned to develop an Aid-for-Trade strategy in the coming year. To help ensure complementarity between and amongst EU member states, it is proposed to base this strategy on the framework which it is anticipated that the EU Aid for Trade Strategy (to be agreed in the Autumn) will provide for aid-for-trade activities by EU members. Ireland's planned strategy will focus on core agencies, geographical areas and meeting agreed commitments.

2. How has this strategy evolved since the December 2005 WTO Ministerial Conference?

Since the December 2005 WTO Ministerial Ireland's approach to overseas development assistance has seen a great focus on the area of Aid-for-Trade. Ireland is committed to ensuring that we play our part in the EU meeting its pledge of collective MS and EU expenditure of €2 billion per annum on Aid for Trade by 2010. In the *White Paper on Irish Aid* Ireland gave a commitment to increasing funding for multilateral 'Aid for Trade' initiatives. The *White Paper* also highlighted the importance of support for the private sector in our programme countries.

3. How does this strategy address regional aid-for-trade challenges?

The *White Paper on Irish Aid* highlighted the importance of supporting closer regional economic cooperation between developing countries, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. Regional level engagements will be further assessed in Ireland's planned Aid for Trade strategy, mentioned previously under 1 above.

HOW MUCH AID-FOR-TRADE DO YOU PROVIDE?

SCOPE

4. How do you define aid-for-trade (i.e. which types of programme and project do you consider trade-related)?

We adopt the WTO Task Force's definition of aid-for-Trade. However for the purpose of reporting in respect of the EU's pledge on Aid-for-Trade announced at the December 2005 WTO Ministerial Conference we use categories [a] trade policy and regulations (incl. trade facilitation); and [b] trade development.

METHODOLOGY

5. How do you allocate the aid-for-trade share in individual projects and programmes?

Having regard to the WTO Task Force definition of aid-for-trade, where a project/programme is multisectoral we apply a weight of 100%, 75%, 50%, or 25% depending on the trade element of the project/programme.

COMMITMENTS

6. According to your aid-for-trade definition, what were your commitments by category for the period 2002-2005 and in particular for 2005?

Category	2002	2003	2004	2005
Trade Policy and Regulations	€896,076	€259,000	€575,990	€1,002,000
Trade Development	€440,440	€327,000	€424,484	€2,344,239
Building Productive Capacity	€11,747,436	€10,898,013	€12,413,971	€13,636,519
Trade Related Infrastructure	€5,216,887	€4,331,934	€5,500,000	€3,388,198
Total	€18,300,839	€15,815,947	€18,914,445	€20,370,956

7. Describe any aid-for-trade pledges you have made at or since the December 2005 WTO Ministerial Conference.

The *White Paper on Irish Aid* published in September 2006 contains a commitment whereby Ireland will substantially increase its multilateral Aid for Trade initiatives.

8. What is your medium-term (beyond 3 years) financial plan for aid-for-trade?

Having increased our spending on Aid-for-Trade in line with the EU commitment in this regard, Ireland would propose to review our Aid-for-Trade spending in 2012 with a view to deciding on how best to continue to meet the demands of developing countries in this area in the following years.

HOW DO YOU IMPLEMENT YOUR AID-FOR-TRADE STRATEGY?

MAINSTREAMING

9. How do you ensure that aid-for-trade is effectively integrated in your overall development strategy and programming both at head quarters and in-country?

The key principles outlined in the *White Paper on Irish Aid* guide our Aid-for-Trade spending, namely, a focus on poverty, working in partnership with developing countries, ensuring that our efforts are sustainable in the long term and keeping our aid untied.

10. Have you recently strengthened your in-house aid-for-trade expertise and how is this expertise deployed to link policies with operations?

Ireland keeps Aid-for-Trade capacity under review. In-house aid-for-trade expertise comprises both administrative and technical specialist personnel who work together to link Aid-for-Trade policies and operations.

OWNERSHIP

Refers to developing countries exercising effective leadership over their development policies and strategies and co-ordinating development efforts.

11. What approach do you follow in your country assistance plan, when national development strategies lack a strong trade development component?

Traditionally Ireland has not been a major bilateral donor in the area of trade.

Our Country Strategy Plans are aligned to national development strategies but are flexible to shift if development strategies lack a trade component e.g. by having regard to trade elements of annual budgets and budget speeches.

12. How do you encourage and support policy dialogues on aid-for-trade among key stakeholders in partner countries?

Stakeholders in our programme countries are engaged as part of Poverty Reduction Strategy or National Development Strategy reviews.

Since 2004 Ireland has supported the Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation in Geneva which promotes policy dialogues on aid-for-trade among stakeholders from developing countries.

ALIGNMENT

Refers to donors basing their overall support on partner countries, national development strategies, institutions and procedures.

13. Are you using the partner countries' policy planning and budgeting framework as the basis for the provision of your aid-for-trade programmes?

Yes, but without adopting a prescriptive approach e.g. by having regard to trade elements of annual budgets and budget speeches.

HARMONISATION

Refers to donor' actions being more harmonised, transparent and collectively effective.

14. Do you coordinate aid-for-trade analyses and programming with other donors at the country level, given that its scope often exceeds the capacity of any single donor?

As a signatory to the Rome and Paris Declarations we support joint analysis and programming approaches. Given that we are not currently the lead agency in any country we most often contribute through sector programmes or delegated co-operation.

We also see the potential for greater co-ordination of aid-for-trade analyses and programming with other donors at country level in the context of the planned EU Aid-for-Trade strategy and recent EU Conclusions on Complementarity and Division of Labour.

15. Are you increasing the amount of aid-for-trade for regional and/or multilateral programmes? (If you are a regional or multilateral agency, are you managing an increasing amount of aid-for-trade?)

Yes – Ireland’s White Paper on Irish Aid includes a commitment to increase funding for multilateral Aid for Trade initiatives. It also includes a commitment to support the development of closer regional cooperation between developing countries, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa.

MANAGEMENT FOR RESULTS

Refers to both donors and partner countries managing resources and improving decision making for results.

16. What objectives and timeframes do you set for your aid-for-trade strategy and programmes? How do you measure success?

With regard to our multilateral Aid for Trade spending we would have annual objectives and timeframes. We measure success by liaising closely and meeting with the multilateral bodies which we support, attending relevant donor meetings organised by these bodies and reviewing financial and other reports produced by these bodies, including reports particular to specific projects which we would support within their broader programmes.

Ireland is also a member of the joint venture of the OECD DAC Managing for Development Results Group.

17. What evaluation methodologies do you apply to your aid-for-trade projects and programmes?

Ireland is a member of the Nordic Plus Group and uses a mixture of the evaluation methodologies as set out by that Group. These basic evaluation guidelines are contained in *Looking Back Moving Forward* published by SIDA (Swedish development agency).

18. Do you cooperate with partner countries, other donors and stakeholders in joint monitoring and evaluation of aid-for-trade projects and programmes?

With regard to our multilateral Aid for Trade spending we cooperate with other donors in joint monitoring and evaluation of aid-for-trade projects and programmes e.g. Ireland is currently actively involved in preparations for an evaluation of the Agency for International Trade Information and Cooperation.

DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY ARRANGEMENTS?

Mutual accountability refers to donors and developing countries providing timely, transparent and comprehensive information in order to jointly assess development results.

19. Do you engage with partner countries, regional organisations, other donors and stakeholders in reviewing progress towards the fulfilment of your aid-for-trade policy and programme commitments?

Ireland has submitted information to the WTO/OECD Trade Capacity Building Database since its inception. Ireland also supplies information on its Trade Related Assistance to the Monterrey report on EU progress on financing for development and aid effectiveness.