

Irish Aid — Ireland's official overseas aid programme

CARING FOR OUR WORLD

OUR WORLD IRISH AID AWARDS 2015



Irish Aid

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



WHAT IS IRISH AID?

Irish Aid is Ireland's official programme of overseas assistance to developing countries. It is managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Irish Aid works with governments and development organisations in over 80 countries. In **humanitarian emergencies** Irish Aid saves lives by quickly providing vital funds and assistance to organisations on the ground. Most of Irish Aid's work, however, is focused on **long-term development**, especially in nine key partner countries, where it works with governments and other agencies to tackle the root causes of hunger, poverty and inequality and support human rights. Ireland is one of the most generous aid donors in the world, and the Irish Aid programme is seen as a model in terms of its effectiveness.

WHAT ARE THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

Irish Aid is working to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In the year 2000, leaders of 189 nations, including Ireland, signed up to achieving a set of eight goals to eliminate world poverty and improve the quality of life for all by the end of 2015. The MDGs include promoting environmental sustainability, gender equality and achieving universal primary education.

As the deadline draws close, although significant progress has been made towards achieving the MDGs, poverty and hunger are still a reality in our world, and much more remains to be done beyond the timeframe of the MDGs. For this reason governments around the world are currently working together to come up with a new set of sustainable development goals.

THE AIM OF IRISH AID'S OUR WORLD AWARDS

Irish Aid established the Our World Awards in 2005 to increase pupils' understanding of the MDGs and the work of Irish Aid, and to help them to explore the links between their lives and the lives of children in developing countries.

THE THEME FOR THE 2015 OUR WORLD IRISH AID AWARDS 'CARING FOR OUR WORLD'

This year's theme is linked to all of the eight MDGs, but has particular relevance to MDG 7: ensure environmental sustainability. In the last decade, developing and developed countries have worked together to fight hunger, promote gender equality, achieve universal primary education, improve health and ensure environmental sustainability. Ireland, through Irish Aid, has contributed significantly to this effort. Substantial progress has been made in relation to some of the MDGs, for example:

- The number of people living in extreme poverty (surviving on less than \$1.25 every day) has fallen by 1.09 billion since 1990
- the number of undernourished people has fallen by 209 million since 1990
- the primary school enrolment rate is now at 90% in developing regions
- international cooperation has almost totally eliminated ozone-depleting substances, and the proportion of terrestrial and coastal marine areas under protection has been increasing.

While progress has been made, significant work remains to be done. In our world of over 7 billion people:

- just over 1 billion are still living in extreme poverty, with many of these in sub-Saharan Africa and in some parts of Asia
- 58 million children are still out of school, with those living in conflict affected areas particularly at risk, and the quality of schooling offered in many countries is very poor
- global emissions of carbon dioxide continue to rise, marine stocks continue to be overexploited, forests are disappearing at an unsustainable rate, renewable water sources are becoming scarcer and animal diversity is on the decline.

(see: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2014%20MDG%20report/MDG%202014%20English%20web.pdf>).

Pupils participating in the Our World Irish Aid Awards are invited to think about children living in developing countries, and the importance of the eight MDGs as a way to improve lives and a means of empowering these children to lift themselves out of poverty and hunger. The Awards ask children in Ireland to care for our world as a way of contributing to a better future for all the world's children.

WHO CAN TAKE PART?

Projects can be undertaken by pairs, a group, a class, or as a whole school.

Republic of Ireland: 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes

Northern Ireland: Years 5, 6 and 7

Special Schools: Pupils aged 7 - 18 years

WHAT CAN THE AWARDS CONTRIBUTE TO CLASSROOM PRACTICE?

Taking part will provide pupils with learning opportunities directly related to the primary curriculum, including:

Curriculum Areas Republic of Ireland:

- Language
- Social, Personal & Health Education
- Arts Education
- Social, Environmental & Scientific Education
- Religious/Ethical Education (integrated Literacy & Numeracy strategies)

Areas of Learning Northern Ireland:

- Language & Literacy
- Mathematics & Numeracy
- Personal Development & Mutual Understanding
- The Arts
- The World Around Us
- Religious Education

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF OUR WORLD AWARDS PROJECTS 13TH MARCH 2015



**BRING THE WORLD INTO YOUR SCHOOL
 WITH 5 EASY STEPS TO PARTICIPATION!**



1 EXPLORE!

The Awards website (www.ourworldirishaidawards.ie) has a range of classroom materials relevant for this year's Awards theme including:

- best practice ideas
- detailed lesson plans
- teacher resource sheets
- worksheets for pupils

These materials will help you and your pupils to think and talk about development issues and explore this year's theme. All the materials provided on the website are designed to support curriculum areas/areas of learning, and Literacy and Numeracy strategies are integrated throughout the lesson plans.

Fill out the Our World Awards Entry Form (included with this booklet) with your group/class. Use the 'Entry Diary' section to record the activities you do with your pupils as they explore global development issues and progress with their project. The 'Entry Diary' is used as part of the judging process so it is very important that you record all the work done by you and your pupils.

2 CHOOSE A TOPIC!

This year's theme 'Caring for Our World' is linked to all of the eight MDGs, but has particular relevance to MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability. Choose the topic under this theme which most interests your pupils. Projects could focus, for example, on any or all of the following:

- the importance of the eight MDGs as a way to improve the lives of children in developing countries (for a list of countries officially classified as developing visit www.ourworldirishaidawards.ie)
- the experiences of children in a particular developing country or countries
- the importance of taking care of the environment (MDG 7) as a way of fighting hunger, poverty and inequality in developing countries

Whatever the chosen topic, it is important to ensure that the project addresses the theme 'Caring for Our World', with a focus on the developing world context.

3 CREATE!

Create a project that demonstrates your group/class response to this year's theme. The list of possible projects is endless, and you will find plenty of ideas on the Our World Awards website (www.ourworldirishaidawards.ie). You can use any medium to present your pupils' understanding of the theme. If the pupils take photos, make a film or create materials, send them in, along with their entry.

4 ENGAGE OTHERS!

Once your group/class completes their project work, it is time for the pupils to communicate what they have learned to the rest of the school and/or the wider community. Pupils could, for example: talk to the other classes in the school about what they learned — put up posters or assembly or exhibition of their work — host an assembly or exhibition of their work — compile and show to help eradicate poverty in the world, e.g. buy fairtrade products — write to public representatives — send a letter or email to the local paper or community newsletter — record a radio show — write a blog about your progress — use your school's facebook page.

ALL IDEAS WELCOME!

5 ENTER!

Make sure to complete the entry form, including the 'Entry Diary' section. Send it, along with the project, to:

**The Our World Irish Aid Awards Project Office,
 Real Nation, Fumbally Court, Fumbally Lane, Dublin 8.**

Or you can email the project to: ourworld@realnation.ie
 Deadline for receipt of Awards entries: **13th March 2015**
 For further details about submitting Awards entries or judging criteria visit www.ourworldirishaidawards.ie.



For more projects ideas, information and lesson plans visit:

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)

The United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are a set of eight specific goals which Ireland, along with 188 other countries, agreed upon in the year 2000 as a framework for eliminating poverty and promoting fair and sustainable development.



For further information on the MDGs visit

www.ourworldirishaidawards.ie

You might find it useful to display the MDG poster, included with this booklet, on your classroom wall.

This year Irish Aid's Our World Awards programme invites teachers and pupils to explore how the Goals are working to create a better future for all children in the world. Whatever focus your pupils choose for their project, we hope they will consider:

- how our lives link with the lives of children in the developing world, for example through trade, shared environment, aid, immigration, tourism etc
- what we can do to make the world a fairer and better place for all the world's children, through, for example supporting fairtrade, environmental protection, campaigns for human rights etc.