

An NGO Response To The White Paper on Irish Aid

Dublin, 23 October 2006

Document 2: "Key Words – a question of emphasis"

Though not a proven scientific method for policy analysis, word counts do give an indication of the extent to which certain issues are addressed within a document.

The searched for this document was on the basis of keywords in the Dóchas submission on the White Paper, as well as additional words that suggested themselves on reading the White Paper.

Word	No. of references	Context in which the word was presented
Poverty	90	Poverty reduction the <i>overarching objective</i> . Particular focus on health, HIV/AIDS, food security and pro-poor economic activity (ref. EPAs).
Humanitarian/ Emergency	62 24	Key decision area, scaling up response, "distinctively Irish" Rapid Response Initiative, focus on prevention, preparedness, capacity-building, rehabilitation and recovery links.
Partnership	53	References to partnership with programme country governments, NGOs and wider civil society – North and South, private sector, educational institutions, other donors, multilateral/international orgs.
Human rights	53	High priority, engagement with programme countries, civil society, UN bodies, human rights defenders. No rights-based approach.
Security	52	Key references to peace and security, security and development, as well as 18 to food security. One reference only to Human Security
Governance & Corruption	42 27	Including 25 references to Governance/corruption. Key references to corruption, transparency, democracy, southern civil society, Africa, new programme countries. Of 27 addition references to Corruption, 16 in a southern context and 9 in a broad context. Key: strengthening governance, prog. countries, Africa, accountability to Irish taxpayers.
Civil society	47	Key references (32) to southern civil society. Also reference to NGOs, media, human rights bodies, capacity building.
Programme countries	46	Criteria. Malawi. LDCs, activities poverty-focused. Government partner, long-term, mixed modalities, aligned with national planning. Also civil society, media, human rights, private sector support.
Private sector	43	Refers to supporting private sector in south, role for Irish business, novel partnerships, media, volunteering, Private Sector Forum/Traidlinks, private sector support in programme countries
NGOs	43	Key partner but wider approach, policy dialogue, funding high, funding mechanisms, accountability, partnering with southern NGOs
HIV/AIDS	41	High priority, crosscutting issue, funding commitment, child focus
Trade	41	Vital for economic growth, support for fair and ethical trade, Aid for Trade, better trade deal for LDCs; main role through EU/WTO; EPAs must be fair to LDCs; Inter-Departmental Committee - coherence.
Volunteering	32	Main focus of 'Irish Aid and the Irish Public'. Volunteering Centre, Volunteering Corps Unit in DFA, public body and private sector role.

Gender	32	Key references to guiding principle, gender equality, key crosscutting theme, mainstreaming approach, MDGs, strategic partnership with Dutch on GBV
Environment (mostly in bio/climate sense)	32	Key crosscutting issue, poverty link, global threats (climate change), environment and health concerns, Ireland to support developing countries' planning and environment policy, play its part multilaterally
Coherence	30	Included as a principle underlying development. Focus on Irish Aid/DFA, Irish government (new mechanisms) and bilateral activities. Also commits to addressing coherence within the UN (partner agencies and as a specific criterion for engagement) and being a "strong advocate" for EU coherence (little detail). Acknowledges Limerick move as a challenge to coherence.
Multilateral/ Multilateralism	29	Key references to greater finance available for; HIV role, support for UN (key partner agencies/ humanitarian coordination), coherence, hunger/food security, trade agreements, peace and security, Aid for Trade, 5-year funding cycles,
Research	23	References relate especially to health (8) and agricultural (9) research. Also references to planned strategic links with Irish higher education sector
World Bank IMF WTO	14 6 8	Key references to Irish voice for coherence – Dept of Finance role, fair trade (especially for LDCs), Aid for Trade, aim for macro environment conducive to development, debt relief additional to ODA
Principles	21	Key references in relation to Irish Aid principles. Is this a coherent vision? Also humanitarian principles.
MDGs	21	Roadmap that informs Ireland's approach
Evaluation	19	Key references to strengthening Audit and Evaluation Unit for effectiveness, relevance, impact and value. Also more robust engagement with UN, management review to look at systems, and commitment to publish external evaluation reports
Training	14	Refer mostly to providing training for partners (educational, legal, media, humanitarian). One reference to training for programme staff – ref. Limerick move
Sustainable development	13	Environment, governance, democracy, relief, rural development - mostly southern focus, but principles to integrate and multilateral role
(Economic) growth	12	Will facilitate pro-poor growth (rural devt, infrastructure, education, fair trade, ICT) with equity (governance, civil society).
Consultation	11	Key references to White Paper process (5), UN and donor engagement, civil society role with governments in South
Development education	8	Key references in relation to greater public understanding of development and ownership of Irish aid programme; more integration with school system
0.7%	7	Commitment and time-frame set out, but no commitment on legislation.
Decentralisation	5	Limerick move going ahead. Quality hard to sustain given decentralisation and rapid programme growth. Move presents coherence challenges internally and across govt departments.
Dialogue	5	Policy dialogue with NGOs benefits both sides, but no specific commitment to strengthen that. Other refs to ABIA and between different divisions of DFA
Transparency	3	Main references to NGOs and their operating environment
Staffing	3	Key references to Limerick challenge, proposed management review, need to maintain prog. quality
Learning	2	Reference to learning organisation and commitment to lesson-learning