

Ireland

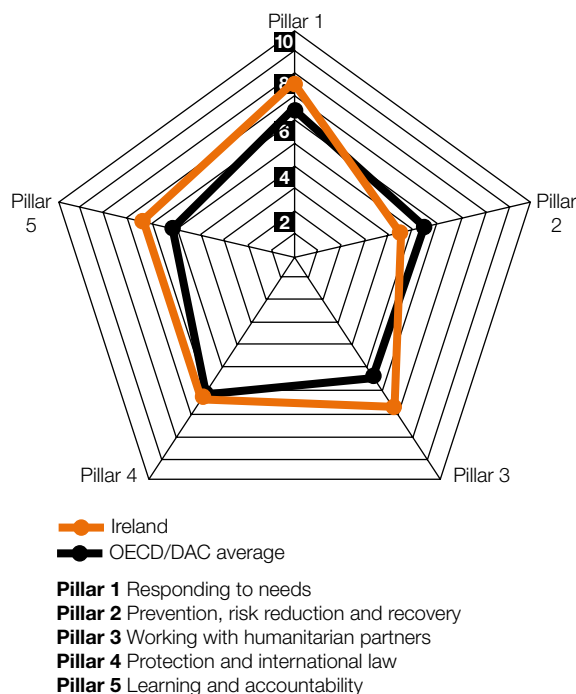
HRI 2010 ranking: 2nd

Policy framework

Ireland's humanitarian aid is managed by Irish Aid, which falls under the Development Cooperation Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Irish Aid coordinates an Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Fund (EHAF), an Emergency Preparedness and post-Emergency Fund (EPPR) and a Sierra Leone and Liberia Fund. Through its Rapid Response Initiative (RRI), Irish Aid has prepositioned humanitarian relief supplies and experts are on stand-by to respond rapidly to humanitarian emergencies. Irish Aid updated its humanitarian policy in May 2009, emphasising the importance of disaster risk reduction and linking relief, rehabilitation and development. Its *Operational Plan 2008-2012 and 2007-09* strategy are intended to improve aid effectiveness. The 2009 Management Review recommended greater integration of Irish Aid into the Department of Foreign Affairs. While Ireland has made a commitment to meet the UN target of providing 0.7% of its GNI in ODA, financial challenges have led to a slight decrease from 0.59% in 2008 to 0.54% in 2009. Humanitarian aid comprises 17.35% of ODA and 0.078 of its GNI.

The 2009 OECD/DAC Peer Review praised Ireland for its strong commitment to the *Principles of Good Humanitarian Donorship* and high standards of good practice. The key components of its 2005 GHD Implementation Plan are also included in its overall humanitarian policy. Irish Aid's Evaluation and Audit Unit participates in joint evaluations on humanitarian assistance. Ireland co-chaired the GHD initiative with Estonia in 2009-2010.

HRI 2010 scores by pillar



* The OECD/DAC average does not include scores for Austria, Greece or Portugal.

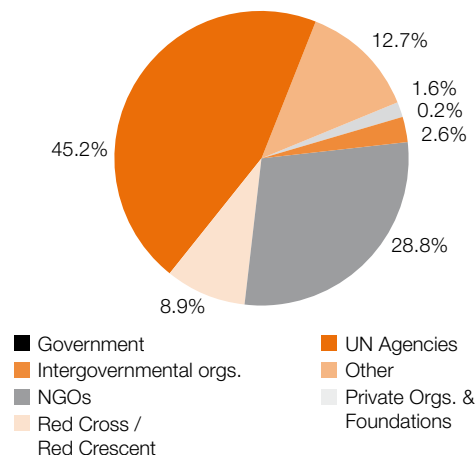
Performance

Ireland ranked 2nd in the HRI 2010. Based on the patterns of its scores, Ireland is classified as a Group 2 donor. Donors in this group tend to perform around average in all pillars, with slightly better scores in Pillar 1 (Responding to needs) and somewhat poorer in Pillar 2 (Prevention, risk reduction and recovery). Other donors in the group include Australia, Canada, the European Commission (EC), Germany, Greece (based on quantitative scores only), the United Kingdom and the United States.

Ireland received its highest average score in Pillar 1, scoring above the OECD/DAC and Group 2 averages. Ireland received its lowest score in Pillar 2, with marks well below the OECD/DAC and Group 2 averages. In fact, its score was lower than most Group 3 donors. Ireland scored well above the OECD/DAC average in Pillar 3 (Working with humanitarian partners) and also above its group average. In Pillar 4 (Protection and international law), Ireland's score was very close to the OECD/DAC average and above its group average. Like other donors in its group, Ireland scored above the OECD/DAC average in Pillar 5, also scoring above the Group 2 average.

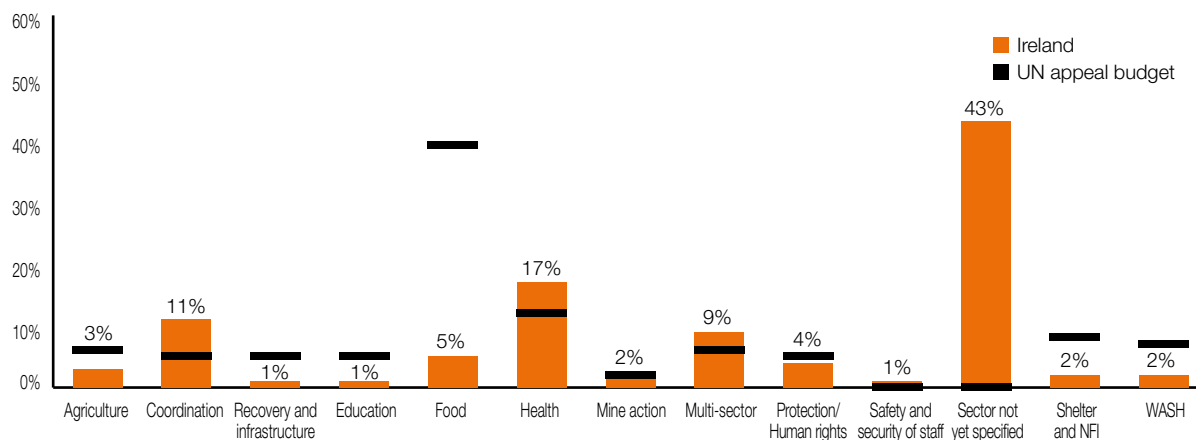
Ireland did better than its OECD/DAC peers in the indicators on *Funding for accountability initiatives; Timely funding to complex emergencies; Funding UN and Red Cross Red Crescent appeals; Participation in accountability initiatives and Funding to NGOs*. Its scores were relatively the lowest in the indicators on *Funding of risk mitigation mechanisms; Linking relief, rehabilitation and development; Beneficiary participation in programming; Accountability towards beneficiaries and Facilitating humanitarian access*.

Aid distribution by type of organisation



Source: OCHA/FTS October 2010.

Sectoral distribution of funding to UN appeals, 2009 (%)



* Distribution of donor funding to these sectors includes flows within and outside an appeal that has been reported to OCHA/FTS. This is compared to the “distribution of needs” based on the 2009 UN appeal budget allocation.

Source: OCHA/FTS October 2010.

Recommendations

Ireland is the best Pillar 1 donor, especially in terms of timeliness, yet has the greatest room for improvement in Pillar 2, where it is one of the lowest-scoring OECD/DAC donors.

In 2008, Ireland allocated 17% of its humanitarian aid to reconstruction and prevention, while Group 3, the best donor group for this indicator, spent an average of 25%.

- Ireland should consider finding ways to increase its funding of reconstruction and prevention.

Most donors in Group 1 allocated somewhere between 1.1% to 1.9% of their ODA to risk mitigation mechanisms. Ireland, on the other hand, allocated only 0.38%. Ireland was the donor with the lowest score for the indicator *Funding of risk mitigation mechanisms*.

Ireland should look into ways to increase its funding of risk mitigation mechanisms.

With the exception of Pillar 2, Ireland scores at or below average for all qualitative indicators. In particular, Ireland’s partners consider that Ireland does not verify sufficiently that partners include beneficiaries in all stages of programming and establish mechanisms for accountability toward beneficiaries. (It received two of its lowest qualitative scores in *Accountability toward beneficiaries* and *Beneficiary participation in programming*.)

- Ireland should engage in dialogue with its partners to discuss their perceptions regarding its support for beneficiary participation and accountability towards beneficiaries.

Ireland scored above, or close to, average in all indicators that make up Pillar 4, with the exception of two qualitative indicators, *Facilitating humanitarian access* and *Advocacy towards local authorities*.

- Ireland should engage in dialogue with its partners to discuss their perceptions regarding facilitation of humanitarian access and advocacy towards local authorities.

For more information, please see www.daraint.org.

Strengths

| Indicator | Donor score | OECD/DAC donor average | % over average |
|---|-------------|------------------------|----------------|
| Funding for accountability initiatives | 6.45 | 2.75 | 135% |
| Timely funding to complex emergencies | 10.00 | 4.35 | 130% |
| Funding UN and Red Cross Red Crescent appeals | 9.61 | 5.05 | 90% |
| Participation in accountability initiatives | 8.72 | 4.73 | 84% |
| Funding to NGOs | 6.89 | 4.40 | 56% |

Areas for improvement

| Indicator | Donor score | OECD/DAC donor average | % below average |
|--|-------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Funding of risk mitigation mechanisms | 2.44 | 5.49 | -56% |
| Linking relief, rehabilitation and development | 3.53 | 6.32 | -44% |
| Beneficiary participation in programming | 4.14 | 5.71 | -28% |
| Accountability towards beneficiaries | 4.11 | 5.38 | -24% |
| Facilitating humanitarian access | 4.36 | 5.22 | -17% |