

To: #HQ-DCD PP&E White Paper Review  
Subject: brief submission

Dear Colleagues

I wish to make a small number of points in relation to the review of the White Paper process.

1. Irish Aid should aim to focus on a more limited range of issues, so as to develop deeper expertise and play to strengths. Focus should be based on niche areas where a small country can have some impact. The issue is to identify areas where we have strengths.
2. Irish Aid policy should dovetail better with wider government policy
3. Irish Aid should rely more on supporting technical assistance in areas where Ireland has proven and recognised know - how
4. Irish Aid should focus on poverty issues in any country where it is active, and on the poorest groups, minorities , people with disability.
5. Education should be the overarching theme and focus of Irish Aid efforts. Whatever about short term glitches, Irish education is widely respected and valued by our own citizens, by our immigrants and by people abroad who have had personal knowledge of Irish education through missionaries and the reputation of their efforts. The knowledge society is a focus of government policy at home, it should be the focus of IA efforts abroad - to promote and support education at all levels, drawing on Irish traditions and expertise. this would be good for the countries IA serves, for the issues we prioritise which can all be advanced by education, and good for Ireland since it would help to highlight the status of education in Ireland and the value we place on it. this would be consistent with efforts to promote Ireland as a destination for education. Engaging the education system in this endeavour - supporting IA focus on education - would help to reenergise the Irish education system - yet another benefit from this coherence of IA and wider national policy around education. Irish expertise - individual and institutional can be harnessed to provide technical assistance in this great effort that I would argue would command huge legitimacy, goodwill and pride among Irish people.

with best wishes

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