

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

aidlink
Third world development through partnership



30 years working in development

Students using a 'tippy tap' as part of VAD's improved hygiene and sanitation campaign, Wakiso Uganda





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Cover Photo: Florence Seiwa, participant in the food security project, Yapei, Ghana

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT



It will not be a surprise that 2011 was another very difficult year for the Irish economy and Aidlink. Revenue generated for the year was down significantly on the prior year at just over €1 million. While some of this can be accounted for as a result of strategic changes with key stakeholders which were flagged in last year's report, much of the balance was attributed to the timing of funding allocations from Irish Aid.


Our changed relationship with the Spiritans meant that Aidlink would no longer manage Spiritan funds allocated by Mísean Cara. In 2010 this represented revenue of over €0.5 million which would not be repeated in 2011. Aidlink also experienced a change to the timing of our Irish Aid programme grant allocation and instead of the usual 12 month allocation (€0.96 million), we received a 6 month grant to cover the period of June to December 2011. Adjusting for both of these factors meant that other revenue generated was in line with 2010. Income from Third World Groups (public and private organisations' voluntary staff schemes) has increased by one third on 2010 income and for that we are most grateful. The deficit of €607k reflects the timing of income and expenditure. Projects previously funded by grants and donations in 2010 and prior years had such funds held back until required in Restricted and Unrestricted Reserves. In 2011, despite the reduction in current revenue, it was possible to fund these important projects from the reserves maintained. Irish Aid's programme of funding for the period 2012-15 was recently announced

with the result that Aidlink's annual grant from Irish Aid is to be cut by 43%, the implications of which are more fully developed in the Executive Director's Statement.

During a visit to Kenya with the Executive Director in April 2011, I saw at first hand the excellent work being undertaken by our partners. I visited a number of schools in Kadjiado, meeting students, staff and parents who were grateful for the support of Aidlink in meeting their needs. It was important to brief our partners on the economic situation in Ireland and they appreciated the insight provided as we sought to plan a way forward together. My thanks to our Kenyan partners who were able to facilitate meetings and briefings with senior education and local government officials.

The drought in East Africa has had a significant impact on our targeted communities in Kenya. Our partners scaled up their operations to meet the increased demands of target communities, particularly the Maasai and Turkana. The Kadjiado Schools feeding programme during the school holiday period in Autumn 2011 was particularly important in supporting local communities.

During 2011, Irish Aid reported on their Monitoring visit to our partners and programmes in Kenya and Uganda and their positive feedback on the effectiveness of our programmes and the work of our partners was welcome. Separately, Aidlink initiated a formal, independent, external evaluation process of our work by INTRAC UK.



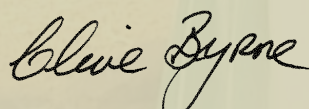
Aidlink's development education programme continues to increase awareness among young people of causes and challenges facing people living in poverty in Africa. 2011 saw our first all-girls immersion programme with students and their teachers from Seamount College, Kinvara, in Galway. The students and staff were hosted by the Spiritan Province of Ghana and Notre Dame Girls' School, Sunyani, Ghana. This turned out to be another unique and tremendous development education programme. A further highlight was the immersion programme coming full circle when Aidlink, with St Mary's College Rathmines, welcomed and hosted 18 students and 4 teachers from St James' Senior Secondary School, Sunyani, Ghana. This visit further enhanced links between the schools.

On behalf of the Board I would like to express our deep gratitude to all the people who supported us throughout the year. The constant support of so many, even in difficult economic times, is a reassuring acknowledgement of our work in seeking to improve the lives of people living in poverty. I would particularly like to thank several donors for their continued support. Irish Aid facilitates much of our work and their Monitoring & Evaluation visits to our programmes emphasises their belief in the value for money provided by Aidlink's partners. I would also like to express our gratitude to the many public and private institutions through their various voluntary staff schemes and the private individuals who provide such significant support that enables Aidlink and our partners to carry out vital development projects.

During the year Frances Wallace was promoted to Programme officer and Zoe Liston joined as Administrator. In the light of the current economic situation, the Board decided to reduce staff salaries but acknowledges the continued hard work of staff, working under the guidance of our Executive Director, Anne Cleary.

Ms Paula McGovern joined the Board in 2011 and we welcome her advice and contributions. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Kevin O'Donnell who retired from the board this year and remains a member of Aidlink. Board members are assiduous in their work for Aidlink and my sincere thanks to them for their ongoing commitment and support.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the ongoing work of our partners. Through them, Aidlink continues to prioritise its commitments to those people living in greatest poverty ahead of any other consideration and means we can bring about real and sustainable benefits to some of the most marginalised in Africa.



Clive Byrne
Chairman

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



The global recession continues to impact developing countries and disproportionately on the poor. Rapid inflation and fluctuation of currency values in countries of operation has resulted in greater hardship and challenges for many of the people with whom we work. Aidlink itself has had to respond to the Irish recession, and in order to ensure the sustainability of the organisation and maintain vital programmes in Africa, a number of cost cutting decisions were made during the year. Staff salaries were cut across the board. While there have been some cuts to programmes, Aidlink remains committed to all 6 partners across Kenya, Uganda and Ghana.

2011 saw a significant drop in income. This in part is a direct result of the changed relationship with the Spiritans and in itself had no impact on Aidlink's core programme. Irish Aid granted Aidlink a 6 month extension to the 3 year block grant programme for the period June to December 2011. We are grateful for their valuable support. Our sincerest thanks you for the continued support of the public through direct action, participation in fundraising events and though voluntary staff deduction schemes.

It is our great pleasure and privilege to continue working in partnership with Voluntary Action for Development, EMESCO and Caritas MADDO in Uganda, the Girl Child Network and the Diocese of Lodwar in Kenya and the Spiritans in Ghana. Even in these testing times, extraordinary work is being done by our partners on the ground. In April, Aidlink facilitated a partner workshop in Nairobi. It was a great opportunity to share elements of innovation and best practice that create lasting and positive change on target communities.

Much of Aidlink's and our partners' work will never make the headlines, but the quiet long term work of improving water quality, health and education systems, farming techniques and increasing the capacity of individuals and communities to cope with extreme poverty is the foundation of long term development and the essence of Aidlink.

In Uganda, 70 natural springs/wells have been protected, providing access to safer water to more than 17,500 people; 20 Traditional Birth Attendants and 90 Community Health Workers have been trained, providing community health services to almost 50,000 people; and 100 famers' groups have been trained in improved farming techniques and supplied with improved seeds and animals. In Kenya, adequate water and toilets were installed in 10 targeted primary schools and sanitary towels were distributed to approximately 4,000 school girls from 66 schools in Kajiado district. This has contributed to a 25% increase in enrolment and a 65-70% reduction in absenteeism in programme schools. In Turkana, we are continuing to support the Diocese of Lodwar's health programme - providing primary health care, mother and child health care and curative services to a semi-nomadic and nomadic pastoralist population of approx 450,000 people. In Ghana, the focus is education, with improvements to primary school infrastructure. In Trede Primary School, attendance and performance increased by 5% in the first year of the project and girls transitioning to secondary school increased by 6%.

The impact of the drought in Kenya was particularly devastating for the nomadic pastoralists in Turkana. Aidlink's immediate response included support to the

Diocese of Lodwar's food for work programme, targeting particularly vulnerable female headed households during the early weeks of the crisis. These households were later included in emergency relief programmes offered by the larger INGOs. This enabled Aidlink and DoL to refocus on the 'Shamba' or small farm programme – targeting a total of 800 families. This programme included elements of food for work, water installation, improved varieties of seeds and improved breeds of livestock. As we enter into 2012 and it appears that the drought will return, we anticipate these families will be better able to feed themselves.

Receiving students and teachers from St James' Secondary School, Ghana was a delight. Sincere thanks to St Mary's College, Rathmines for the hospitality and friendship extended to our visitors. This long-anticipated immersion of Ghanaian students and teachers in an Irish school brought this extraordinary programme full circle. Another first in 2011 was the participation of the girls from Seamount College, Kinvara, Galway in an immersion visit to Notre Dame Girls' School, Sunyani. Another really successful learning programme. Sincere thanks to all involved.

Aidlink invested in fundraising and communications with improvements to the website and the use of new media and social networking to connect with a growing new generation of supporters. In 2012 Aidlink will mark its 30th year working in development. We will use the opportunity to raise the profile of our work and our partners.

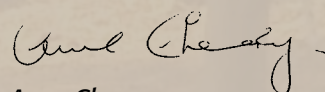
Irish Aid invited Aidlink to apply for the new four year programme funding scheme for the period 2012 –

2015. At the time of writing, April 2012, we have been advised that our submission was successful but there will be a cut of 43% on the previous year's funding. Aidlink appreciates Irish Aid's support but is concerned the impact the cut will have on programmes with a proven track record. For now, Aidlink will continue to work with all 6 partners in Uganda, Kenya and Ghana. In the coming months we will review individual programme strategies, monitor and evaluate the programmes and engage in further prioritisation processes. In addition we will explore alternative donor and fundraising opportunities.


In these challenging times I want to acknowledge the volunteer Board of Aidlink. Their commitment, professionalism and support is sincerely valued. Special thanks to Kevin O'Donnell who retired this year after over 20 years of service. We are delighted that Kevin has agreed to continue his involvement as a member of Aidlink. I also want to thank my colleagues who, although few in number, are making a real impact on the lives of the poor.

We will continue to strive to improve the lives of people living in poverty, through a partnership model, focusing on basic needs: water, health, education and food security. We are sincerely grateful to all of you who support our work.

THANK YOU!



Anne Cleary
Executive Director



Aidlink's development programmes integrate water, health, education and agriculture.

ABOUT AIDLINK

AIDLINK'S VISION

The vision of Aidlink is 'a world that recognises the dignity of each individual person having the right, duty and the means of self and community development'.

AIDLINK'S MISSION

Aidlink exists to improve the lives of those living in poverty in the developing world. Its mission is inspired by a philosophy which recognises the dignity of the individual person, and each person having the right, the duty and the means of self and community development. Its mission is realised by:

- Supporting the development of international partners; missionaries, community groups and local NGOs involved in suitable programmes.
- Accessing and distributing funds to these programmes that are aimed at community development and which are likely to become self-sufficient with a long term impact.
- Empowering and building capacity so that partners and those they work with can operate, manage and control their own development programmes.
- Giving priority to projects that focus on basic needs such as primary education and vocational skills training, primary health care, water and sanitation, HIV and AIDS, gender and food security.
- Fostering development education in Ireland by promoting an understanding of the causes of poverty and inequality in the world.



*Parents of children attending the Endoinyo
Olasho Primary School, Kajiado County, Kenya*



PARTNERSHIP

Aidlink Executive Director, Anne Cleary with management and staff from Caritas MADDU, Masaka, Uganda



Partnership for Aidlink means: a shared vision and a commitment to work together to bring real and sustainable benefits to the poor and marginalised. Over its 30 year history, Aidlink's concept of partnership has evolved from providing financial assistance to a range of organisations in a wide number of developing countries, to a strategic relationship with a smaller number of partner organisations.

Aidlink's partnership approach harnesses the unique contribution and strengths of each partner, working in an open, accountable and transparent manner to bring about real, community-owned and sustainable change in the lives of those living in poverty. The agreed programmes of work are anchored in a participatory approach; in consultation with local communities, local/district government authorities, partner organisations and targeted beneficiaries.

Aidlink partners promote and mobilise local communities' capacity to participate in their own development process to leverage basic rights, a key means of addressing poverty. Partner organisations have a long term presence in the communities they work. Interventions are needs driven and, while basic needs are being met, partners also work with communities building local capacity to empower communities to realise and demand what is rightfully theirs, sensitive to their operating environments. Interventions are based in the community and the homes of people who are particularly vulnerable, such as women, people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA), the elderly and people with disabilities.

Research has confirmed development practices which benefit women will also have positive outcomes for the economy and society as a whole, particularly for the health of their children. Aidlink targets a minimum of 50% girls and women through the integrated rural community development programme. Aidlink supports the mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS into the programme. Geographically, Aidlink concentrates its efforts in Kenya, Uganda and Ghana.

PARTNERSHIP: WHAT OTHERS SAY

In early 2011, Irish Aid reported on their monitoring visit to Aidlink, during which they visited programmes in both Kenya and Uganda and stated that "the first overarching finding of the visit is that Aidlink partners are doing relevant work in the different sectors in which they are involved, which have generated improvements in the lives of target communities. The second overarching finding is that Aidlink has close, constructive relationships with partners, and that Aidlink is highly valued by its partners".

In April of 2011, Aidlink's partners from Kenya (Diocese of Lodwar and GCN), Uganda (VAD, EMESCO and CARITAS Maddo), and Ghana (The Spiritans) along with Staff and the Chairman of Aidlink, participated in a capacity building workshop in Nairobi. The workshop aimed to enhance the participants' project cycle management skills, offer an opportunity to share working approaches and learn from each other. Aidlink at this time was also undergoing a formal external evaluation facilitated by INTRAC UK. Among the findings was that Aidlink's partnership "is in line with the international 'effective aid' agenda" and "the evaluator found a relationship of trust between the partners and Aidlink and learned that these relationships have been built on many years of experience of working together, understanding each other and the building of mutual respect". In addition, INTRAC found that "Aidlink support has no doubt enhanced the partners' capacity as functioning organisations and has stimulated and enriched their development approach and practice. Partners have grown in order to better meet the needs of their constituents and to be accountable to both constituents and donors".

KENYA

Map of Kenya



Map of Africa

*Student in traditional Maasai dress,
Endoinyo Olasho Primary School,
Kajiado County, Kenya*

	Ireland	Kenya
Total population (UNICEF)	4.47 million	40.51 million
Total adult literacy rate (UNICEF)	99%	87%
Literacy Rates in Turkana County (Northern Kenya) (UNDP)	-	17%
Life expectancy at birth (UNICEF)	80 yrs	57 yrs
Population using improved drinking water sources (UNICEF)	100%	59%
Population using improved sanitation facilities (UNICEF)	99%	32%
Population undernourished (MDG Indicators)	-	12.4 million
Total Aidlink Expenditure in Kenya 2011: €430,107		
Aidlink Partners in Kenya:		
■ The Girl Child Network		
■ Diocese of Lodwar		

THE GIRL CHILD NETWORK

BACKGROUND

The Girl Child Network (GCN) is a network of over 300 organisations committed to advancing the rights of girls in Kenya. They focus on the implementation of Article 12 of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child. GCN's mission is to advocate, promote and protect the rights of the girl child through advocacy, networking and capacity building of stakeholders. GCN engages at all levels, from school, community and local levels to regional and the international arena, in order to promote the rights of children, especially girls, to access education.

AIDLINK AND THE GIRL CHILD NETWORK

Aidlink and the GCN have been working together since 2003. Aidlink supports GCN's operational activities in two areas. The first, the Kajiado Schools Sanitation Improvement Programme, focuses on removing barriers Maasai girls face when accessing education and the second focuses on building the capacity of the GCN chapter members to advance the rights of the girl child.

Kajiado Home to the Maasai, is one of the poorest districts in Kenya, these semi-arid lands south of Nairobi are prone to recurrent drought and human development indicators often fall below the national standards.

SOME KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2011

The main goal of the Kajiado School Sanitation Programme is to enhance the access, enrolment, retention and transition of girls in education. Interventions are not only aimed at delivering girl children their fundamental right to an education, but also contribute to the delay and abandonment of the harmful practices of early marriage

and female genital mutilation (FGM, also known as female circumcision). School management committees and members of the community are trained on how to promote education, especially for the girl child. This programme aims to empower girls with the skills and knowledge to articulate and defend their own rights. The successful implementation of this programme is in no small part due to collaboration and partnership with various stakeholders including the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Water and the Teachers' Service Commission. These state bodies have now begun to incorporate gender sensitive policies and lessons learnt from the GCN programme into the national child protection initiative. The GCN actively lobbied through the National Sanitary Towel Steering Committee and in 2011, the Kenyan finance minister, for the first time ever, has allocated almost €3 million from the current national budget to provide free sanitary towels to vulnerable schoolgirls in Kenya.

15 girl friendly latrines were constructed in 2011, bringing the total number of latrines constructed under this programme to 56 of the 66 targeted schools. GCN provide schools with water tanks to ensure schools have an adequate water supply so that girls don't waste time fetching water, missing valuable class time. GCN constructed 10 water tanks at schools bringing the total number of tanks constructed or renovated under this programme to 36 of the 66 schools. Not all schools require water tanks and/or latrines as existing facilities may already be in place. The GCN also promoted and supported the formation of 24 Rights of the Child (ROC) clubs in 2011 which sensitise members on children's rights. One significant impact is that while the prevalence of FGM among the Maasai community is 73%, in schools targeted by the programme, the prevalence rate of FGM now stands at 62%.

Distribution of sanitary towels and underwear to menstruating girls was carried out to over 3,800 girls from 66 schools. All menstruating girls were given 4 packets of



sanitary towels per term and 3 pairs of underwear per annum. This has had a huge impact on the academic results of girls in the district and reports are showing that girls have performed better and have become more participative in classes and school activities. The increased performance of girls in primary schools has contributed to the increased transition to secondary school in the District where it is currently at 63.62%. The programme has also seen an increased enrolment of girls by 25% and reduced absenteeism by 65-70%.

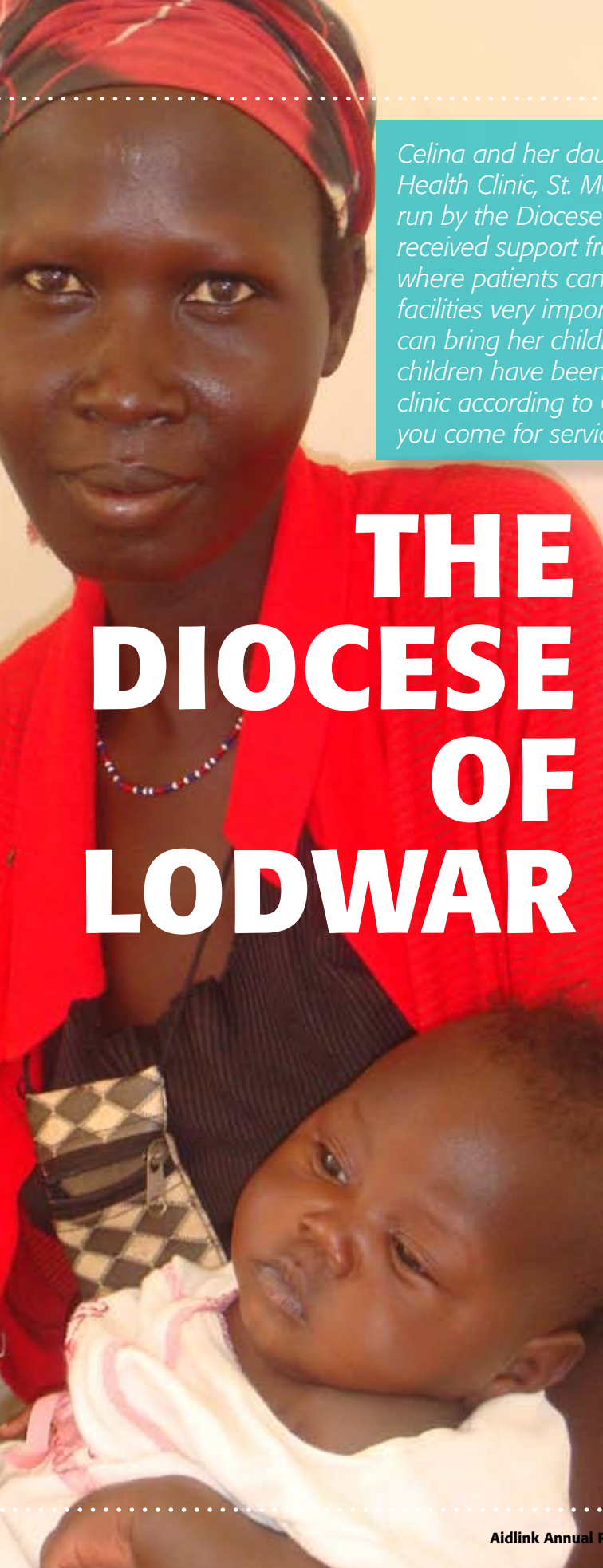
THE 2011 DROUGHT

2011 saw severe drought across Kajiado; communities were deprived of water and households were left food insecure and hungry. Also livestock, a staple in a Maasai family's diet and their source of wealth, began to die off. Drought is a threat to education as nomadic pastoralist families leave home in search of water and may never return. In response to the 2011 drought the GCN, the Kajiado District Education Authorities and primary school teachers, with Aidlink support, kept 31 schools

Sisters Gladis and Tupet

Tupet is an 11 year old Maasai girl. She is in Standard 5 at Shompole Primary School, Kajiado District, Kenya. FGM is considered a rite of passage, from childhood to womanhood, by the Maasai. Once circumcised, a girl is deemed ready for marriage and forced to drop out of school, sometimes as young as 12. Gladis was circumcised before the GCN began working in the community. The GCN started to work with the school community (students, teachers and parents) of Shompole Primary School in 2011 and with the help of Gladis, the GCN and the School Management Committee, Tupet was thankfully spared the ordeal of FGM. In addition, Gladis was allowed to return to school to finish her primary education, delaying marriage and early pregnancy.

open during the school summer holiday, implementing a school feeding programme. Water and food was delivered to the 31 participating schools, guaranteeing children at least breakfast and lunch. The feeding and water combined reduced pressure on families and kept children in school. For girls, this directly mitigated against FGM, early marriage and early pregnancy. Girls as young as 12 are often married off during drought, the bride price seen as the only means of survival for the family. The school feeding programme was extended to the first six weeks of the autumn term 2011, supporting school communities through the most acute phase of the drought.



Celina and her daughter Esther (10 weeks) at their local Health Clinic, St. Monica's, Nakwamekwi. The clinic is run by the Diocese of Lodwar's Health Programme and received support from Aidlink including an extension wing where patients can be admitted. Celina considers the facilities very important for the local community as she can bring her children here when they are ill and both her children have been vaccinated. The best thing about the clinic according to Celina is "nobody turns you away when you come for services".

THE DIOCESE OF LODWAR

BACKGROUND

Turkana County, North West Kenya, is a vast, remote, semi-arid area, larger than the island of Ireland. The majority of the 850,000 people of Turkana are nomadic and semi-nomadic pastoralists. The Diocese of Lodwar (DoL) has been working to improve the livelihoods of the Turkana for 50 years. The Diocese is made up of a network of 25 parishes with over 300 outstations. The development office is comprised of a number of departments including health, water, education, women and livelihoods, youth, vulnerable children and justice and peace.

AIDLINK AND THE DIOCESE OF LODWAR

With a 10 year history of working in partnership, the focus of Aidlink support to the 2011 programme was primary health care, integrated food security and 'second chance' education for vulnerable youth.

SOME KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2011

The Health Programme focuses on improving the health status of the Turkana people by providing greater access to quality health care, improving maternal and child health (MCH), improving the nutritional status of children, improving the health and hygiene practices of the community and responding to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Facilities at 8 health centres were renovated including the provision of pit latrines and staff houses. 1 hospital, 3 public health clinics, 2 health centres and 2 dispensaries were supported with their running costs for Primary Health Care programmes including medical staff, food for patients and essential drugs. 81 staff were

trained on a variety of health management topics, e.g. malaria case management, hygiene and sanitation, tuberculosis updates, reproductive health, paediatric antiretroviral and the prevention of mother to child transmission. 59 Traditional Birth Attendants and 48 Community Health Workers were trained. Almost 9,000 expectant mothers attended Maternal Child Health Clinics and mothers delivering at a health facilities increased 41% on 2010. The DoL ran school health awareness campaigns, visiting 186 pre-primary, primary and secondary schools. Students received de-worming treatment and training on best practice hygiene and sanitation, HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases.

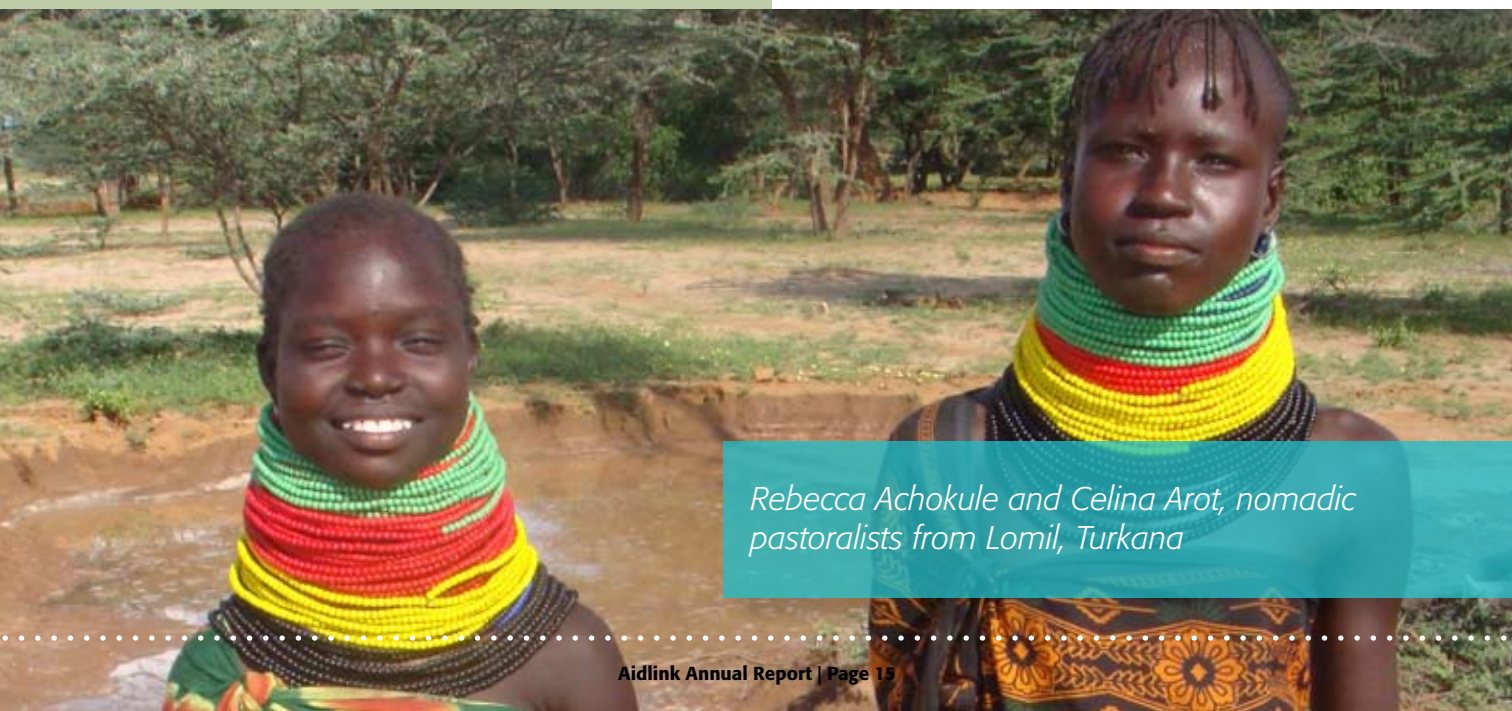
The most significant challenge to the people of Turkana and the core development work of the DoL in 2011 was the severe drought which saw parts of Turkana classified as being in a state of 'emergency' and even 'catastrophe/famine' (OCHA, 2011). The DoL were instrumental in the co-ordination of the emergency drought response headed by the United Nations' OCHA.

The drought and resulting increase in patient numbers strained the already stressed health services in the County. Health service coverage is still relatively sparse with the distance between health facilities approximately 50km (the World Health Organisation recommends 5km maximum). Over 53,500 children were weighed, assessed and monitored in DoL facilities in 2011. Food relief was provided to the sick through the clinics and reached the most remote communities via outreach services. Aidlink provided approximately 15% of the DoL Health Programme costs in 2011.

Due to the irregular rains in Turkana and the nature of the pastoralist way of life, communities have not engaged traditionally in agro-farming. The diet of the Turkana has relied entirely on livestock, milk and blood. Given the

increased frequency of drought, this is leaving communities extremely vulnerable to hunger: when water is scarce, animals die. Following a successful pilot period, one long-term hunger and drought response supported by Aidlink, is an innovative integrated food security programme. In 2011, 800 households participated; 300 households in immediate drought response food-for-work activities and 500 semi-nomadic families. Households are organised into farmers' groups and are trained in agro-practices, setting up and tending to 'shambas' or 'vegetable gardens' along fertile land of dry river beds. The development of small-scale irrigation schemes comprise part of the food for work component of the programme. Crops produced reduce the risk of sole dependency on livestock for food and the nutritional status of communities improves. Despite the drought in 2011, there was a harvest of sorghum, a drought resistant crop in Kangalita. Maize was also successfully harvested as part of this project from Turkwell, Katilu, Marulem, Elelea and Lekubae irrigation schemes. The DoL continues to work with communities on alternative livelihood strategies and communities are increasingly engaging with agriculture. Aidlink support to the integrated food security programme in 2011 was 50% of the total programme.

Literacy rates in Turkana are strikingly low, with 17% literacy in the County. DoL runs a 'second chance education' programme which provides the opportunity for young adults who had to drop out of school due to inability to pay school fees, early marriage or pregnancy as children to return and complete their primary cert (KCPE). Aidlink supported one class through the programme in 2011 and 30 students (74% female) sat the primary cert exam. Based on the results, of which 29 of the 30 students passed, a third of the 2011 class have been enrolled in secondary schools. The other students will proceed to vocational training (home craft), business classes under the DoL livelihoods department and computer courses.



Rebecca Achokule and Celina Arot, nomadic pastoralists from Lomil, Turkana

UGANDA



Map of Uganda



Map of Africa

Children collecting water from a protected spring, Buyaga County, Uganda

	Ireland	Uganda
Total population (UNICEF)	4.47 million	33.43 million
Total adult literacy rate (UNICEF)	99%	73%
Life expectancy at birth (UNICEF)	80 yrs	54 yrs
Population using improved drinking water sources (UNICEF)	100%	72%
Population using improved sanitation facilities (UNICEF)	99%	34%
Population undernourished (MDG Indicators)	-	6.7 million
Total Aidlink Expenditure in Uganda 2011: €837,490		
Aidlink Partners in Uganda:		
I Caritas MADDO		
I EMESCO Development Foundation		
I Voluntary Action for Development		

CARITAS MADDO

(MASAKA DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT OFFICE)

Caritas MADDO is the development office of the Diocese of Masaka, Uganda. This Diocese covers the four government districts of Masaka, Rakai, Kalangala and Sembabule, covering a population of nearly 1.5 million people. Over 90% of the population live in rural areas where they survive through subsistence agriculture.

BACKGROUND

Caritas MADDO was initially established in 1979 to provide relief to those affected by the civil war, but since the late 1980s it has become more focused on sustainable community development and has a dedicated development office with qualified personnel. The development office works in an integrated nature across the following sectors: water and sanitation, health, education, agriculture and social welfare.

AIDLINK AND CARITAS MADDO

Aidlink and Caritas MADDO have worked in partnership since 2000 in the areas of water and sanitation, health, education and agriculture. The partnership has brought added value to both organisations. It has enabled Aidlink to realise its mission of supporting community-led development initiatives for those living in poverty while providing Caritas MADDO with programme management and capacity building support.

SOME KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2011

2011 saw the continuation, and extension into new communities, of the Community Empowerment Programme to address Health, Environmental, Water and Agricultural issues (CEHEWA Programme), first instigated in 2007. The CEHEWA Programme expanded to include government run Universal Primary Education schools located in the programme area.

Access to clean and safe water remains a challenge in the programme area. In 2011, 12 community

wells were drilled and constructed and are now fully functional, providing access to clean and safe water for approximately 3,000 people. To ensure the sustainability and maintenance of the water sources, 'water source committees' received training in the operation and maintenance of water wells.

In 2011, 30 'Village Health Teams' (VHT), comprising of approximately 6 members each, were trained to provide basic health care in target communities. VHT members are key mobilisation and sensitisation agents in communities across programme sectors. VHTs ensure water sources remain clean and that families continue drinking safe water. Where possible VHTs are also members of farmers' groups and/or trained as 'community based extension agents' to ensure programme interventions are fully integrated.

In Caritas MADDO's target communities, farm work falls mainly upon the women and the men control the resources, land and income. In response, Caritas MADDO work with farmers' groups to promote communal labour, peer learning and joint decision making. Women participating in the programme have taken up leadership positions and over 60% of group leaders are now women. In 2011, 22 farmers' groups were trained on sustainable agriculture techniques and were provided with improved farming inputs. In addition, over the year 100 existing farmers' groups (from previous programme years) received refresher training to ensure the continued adoption of improved farming techniques and the maintenance of improved household food security.

In 2011, 44 'Community Based Extension Agents' (CBEAs) were trained in extension services and 22 demonstration plots at group leaders' homes were established to train farmers' groups on sustainable agricultural practices. Households are trained in farming techniques and in the reduction of the use of artificial pesticides and herbicides by replacing them with low cost organic materials. Crops include coffee, bananas, cassava and sweet potatoes. 'Kitchen gardens' or vegetable plots are promoted and have been introduced by approximately 90% of participating households, improving the nutritional status of households, especially children, as well as

overall household food security. Improved food security improves the overall health of the communities and subsequently reduces households' expenditure on health care and medicines, increasing disposable income for school fees.


Households are now growing surplus fruit and vegetables for sale on the local markets. Networks are facilitated between farmers' groups and buyers and/or other relevant institutions. 66 group leaders and CBEAs were trained on financial, saving and credit management in order to support households' micro enterprises.

The 2011 programme focused on improving the students' learning environment. Four water tanks of 30,000 litres each were constructed at Luzinga, Lusaka, Kattabakooki and Kyantale primary schools. 6-stance pit latrines were also constructed at the former 3 schools and 3 classrooms were constructed at Kitanga Primary School. In addition, 2 classrooms at Narozaali and 5 classrooms at St Paul Kitovu Primary Schools deemed unsafe were renovated. Across the board in Uganda, Kenya and Ghana, Aidlink and partners are recording significant improvements, particularly for girls, in enrolment, retention & performance in school when facilities, particularly water and sanitation (WATSAN), are improved.

MADDO also focus on the quality of education and engage teachers in training and up-skilling. In November 2011 MADDO organized a 'Teachers' Day' to disseminate key health messages to teachers. Education activities in 2011 reached 7 primary schools, benefiting a student population of approximately 2,500.



Mrs. Latifa Bagonza is a member of a farmers' group. Latifa has received training on sustainable agriculture and improved farming inputs. Before the 'space was wasted', but training has allowed Latifa to produce sufficient food for her household with a 'kitchen garden'. Latifa sees an improvement in her family's health, allowing her children to go to school more often. Latifa's farmers' group sells their excess produce as a team which allows them to secure better prices, increasing household income.



Martha received training as a Traditional Birth Attendant as part of EMESCO's Integrated Community Development Programme in 2008. Aidlink visited Martha in October 2011 and in that month Martha delivered 4 healthy babies and had another 25 expectant mothers visiting her for regular check-ups. Martha has four girls of her own. She is a subsistence farmer and is part of a women's farmers' group. Martha is thankful for her training and recognises that with experience and up-skilling she is continually improving.

EMESCO DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

BACKGROUND

The EMESCO Development Foundation is a Ugandan non-governmental organisation founded in 1998 in Kibaale District. EMESCO's Integrated Community Development Programme targets subsistence farmers and operates with the principal goal of improving the standards of living of about 12,000 rural households (approx 72,000 people) located in Kagadi, Kyanaeso and Mabaale sub-counties, Buyaga County. EMESCO's integrated programme focuses on water and sanitation, health, education and agriculture.

AIDLINK AND EMESCO

Aidlink and EMESCO have been working together since 2002 on a range of integrated community development initiatives. EMESCO facilitates the empowerment of rural poor communities through a participatory approach to development, in line with Aidlink's mission and approach. Aidlink continues to work closely with EMESCO on the extension and development of the Integrated Community Development Programme, focusing on programme quality and improved monitoring and evaluation practices.

SOME KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2011

The 2011 programme has produced remarkable improvements in areas of Primary Health Care using a community based health care approach. Household food security, community participation and the general livelihoods of target beneficiaries has improved, all underpinned by increased access to safe and clean water.

Water remains the foundation for many development interventions. In 2011, a total of 28 shallow wells were constructed in 28 different communities. These shallow wells provide approximately 7,000 people with access to clean and safe water for domestic use. Improved access to and quality of water has contributed to a substantial reduction in the incidence of water-borne diseases over the programme period. In the 28 communities where shallow wells were constructed, 'water source committees' have been trained. In addition, 8 community based masons have been trained to provide technical assistance for any maintenance and repairs of the water sources.



Ferro-cement water tanks were constructed at 10 primary schools, reaching almost 6,000 students. Evidence has demonstrated that access to water impacts on student performance, reduces absenteeism and ensures a healthier student population. This is particularly significant for girls who no longer have to travel out of school in order to collect water. Ventilated improved pit latrines were also constructed at the 10 target schools and the pupil to stance ratio was reduced from an average of 80:1 to 50:1.

Access to safe water was brought to the homes of the most vulnerable community members, including the elderly, disabled and people living with HIV/AIDS, through the construction of approximately 250 water jars for rainwater harvesting. These water jars allow access to potable water for domestic use and are also used to support household vegetable production. Water jars are also constructed at the homes of Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs), ensuring they have adequate water supplies for deliveries.

Every day in Uganda an estimated 16 women die in child birth (Millennium Development Goals Report for Uganda, 2010). EMESCO, as part of the Integrated Community Development Programme, train Traditional Birth Attendants to improve

Maternal and Child Health. In 2011, 20 new TBAs were trained and 74 trained TBAs received refresher training and up-skilling. Nearly 2,000 babies were delivered safely under the watchful eye of EMESCO trained TBAs in 2011 and a further 421 mothers were referred to health facilities for further management.

20 new Community Health Committees (CHCs) were formed and trained. CHCs monitor community health and deliver basic health care services to communities. 80 existing CHCs received training and up-skilling. 72 Community Health Workers (CHWs) were trained and significantly contributed to promoting further good health and hygiene practices among the target rural communities. Incidences of common preventable diseases (diarrhea, worm infestation and upper respiratory tract infections) have reduced in programme communities. 2,000 mosquito bed-nets were distributed to pregnant mothers, children under 5, people living with HIV/AIDS and TBAs. Health centres in the programme area have recorded a 50% decrease in the incidence of malaria in the population.

Training was given to 40 farmers' groups with an average of 20 members each in sustainable agricultural practices, followed by the distribution of improved banana suckers, seed varieties and animals including pigs, sheep, rabbits and cockerels. This has led to approximately 60% of the farmers diversifying their farming practices and adopting sustainable agricultural practices. Target communities now have greater food security and surplus produce to generate household income. EMESCO also operates a tree planting programme with target communities to mitigate against the high levels of de-forestation in the area. In 2011, 36,000 calliandra, 21,000 eucalyptus and 24,500 grevillia seedlings were raised and distributed to 60 target communities.



Hours old baby born under the supervision of a trained Traditional Birth Attendant, Buyaga County

VOLUNTARY ACTION FOR DEVELOPMENT (VAD)

BACKGROUND

Voluntary Action for Development (VAD) is a Ugandan, non-governmental organisation established in 1996. VAD's main focus is water, hygiene and sanitation improvement and food security. VAD targets the rural poor in Wakiso District including particularly vulnerable community members such as the elderly, the disabled and people affected by HIV/AIDS. VAD's vision, similar to Aidlink's own, is of a self reliant rural community that is able to sustain itself, and aims to empower the rural poor to participate in their development through community-based programmes.

AIDLINK AND VAD

Aidlink and VAD have been working together since 2003 supporting rural communities to access safer water and sanitation, engage in home improvement activities and improve food security.

SOME KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2011

The focus for VAD in 2011 continued to be the 'Integrated Community, Managed Water Hygiene and Sanitation Improvement Project' in Masulita and Namayumba sub-counties, Wakiso District. The project aims to increase access to clean water, promote better hygiene and empower rural poor communities.

30 shallow wells were protected at source with the participation of local people to improve access and quality of water available in communities. These wells provide clean and safer water to approximately 7,500 people. 50 water jars for rainwater harvesting were constructed at the homes of the most vulnerable: the elderly, the disabled and those suffering from HIV/AIDS.

This eliminates the need for them to travel long distances for clean water, a journey the majority cannot make unaided. In addition a pit latrine was constructed at each of these homes. These latrines have two stances (cubicles), with one designed to meet the user's specific needs. The individual beneficiaries of these facilities were selected by the local leaders and the community during community mobilisation meetings. The local community, particularly the youth, helped with the construction under the supervision of qualified and experienced VAD programme and technical staff.

To promote and strengthen the capacity of the communities to manage and maintain these facilities, a number of training courses were held and 30 Water User Committees, along with 5 community masons, were selected by the community and trained to ensure the maintenance and upkeep of the water sources. Demonstrations of good hygiene and sanitation practices were conducted, two in each targeted village and one in each of the targeted schools. The training involved water treatment methods, hand washing as an effective way of avoiding illness and disease, approaches to sanitation promotion and school sanitation requirements. Community members were encouraged to continue these good practices at home. 16 village community monitoring teams were elected by the communities and trained in the promotion and monitoring of hygiene and sanitation activities in their respective villages.

Rainwater-harvesting tanks and hand washing facilities were installed in each of the 8 targeted primary schools with a student population of approximately 3,200. A ventilated improved pit latrine block for students was constructed at each of the targeted schools, with separate facilities for boys and girls. Teachers also received training in hygiene and sanitation. School health clubs were set up in each school, where members could acquire knowledge and skills in hygiene and sanitation promotion.



Concrete water jars provide safe and accessible water to vulnerable households

VAD continually promote good WATSAN practices and a particular highlight was the community sensitisation and mobilisation during World Water Week, March 2011. VAD worked side by side with the local leaders and community members, including schoolchildren from Masuliita sub-county, Wakiso District, at village and sub-county level. Home improvement activities conducted as part of the WATSAN programme included house to house sensitisation visits, demonstration trainings and construction of hygiene and sanitation facilities such as improved latrines, dish racks, outdoor bathing facilities, tippy taps (for hand washing) and kitchens.

The community members and school pupils endorsed the project by becoming actively involved in a community clean-up of all existing water sources in Lugungudde parish, both protected and unprotected. The most outstanding households that observed good hygiene and sanitation standards were identified and recognised by the community monitoring team members and the local leaders.

2011 agriculture activities targeted 200 rural poor subsistence farmers from communities where WATSAN

interventions were complete. The farmers utilised the access to water not only for domestic purposes but also to improve productivity on their farms. Community Agricultural Trainers (CATs) were selected and trained on sustainable agricultural practices and provided ongoing advice and training to targeted farmers. Farmers were trained in improved agricultural practices and post harvest and integrated pest control management. Farmers were also trained in group dynamics and development, record keeping and simple book-keeping.

Improved farming inputs were provided to farmers, including improved seed varieties of maize, bean and cassava cuttings for diversification. Households who are food secure and produce a surplus, received training on value addition activities and packaging of their crops for sale at the local market. Cows and goats for cross breeding were provided to communities to improve local breeds. Pigs were also provided. Farmers with proven capacity could apply for micro loans to invest in agribusiness and receive appropriate training on micro credit management and savings mobilisation.

GHANA

Map of Ghana



Map of Africa



	Ireland	Ghana
Total population (UNICEF)	4.47 million	24.4 million
Total adult literacy rate (UNICEF)	99%	67%
Life expectancy at birth (UNICEF)	80 yrs	64 yrs
Population using improved drinking water sources (UNICEF)	100%	86%
Population using improved sanitation facilities (UNICEF)	99%	14%
Population undernourished (MDG Indicators)	-	6.7 million
Total Aidlink Expenditure in Ghana 2011: €73,333		
Aidlink Partner in Ghana:		
I The Spiritan Province of Ghana		

THE SPIRITANS PROVINCE OF GHANA

BACKGROUND

The Spiritans work across eight different dioceses and in some of the most deprived and marginalised areas of Ghana. 2011 marked the 40th Anniversary of the Spiritans in Ghana, now under Ghanaian Spiritan management. The provision and promotion of education is and has always been at the forefront of their work.

AIDLINK AND THE SPIRITANS PROVINCE OF GHANA

Aidlink and the Province of Ghana have been working together since 2004. The partnership focuses mainly on education, enabling both organisations to succeed in their mission, focusing on basic needs inclusive of primary education whilst also providing the Spiritans with support in terms of programme design and management, as well as funding for its development activities. Aidlink works closely with the Spiritans to build the capacity of their local school managers to not only improve school infrastructure but also to augment the standards and quality of education in government-run, Spiritan managed schools. In addition, the Province of Ghana co-hosts the Aidlink facilitated immersion visits to Ghana. 2011 saw the first girls' school immersion to Ghana with Seamount College, Galway.

In 2011, Aidlink supported the development activities of the Province which focused on education and food security, particularly in the semi-arid district of Yapei, Northern Region, Ghana. Project priorities were selected in direct response to the needs of the local communities.

SOME KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2011

The northern region was identified as a core area of support in 2011. Yapei in Northern Ghana is a semi-arid area that experiences extreme levels of rural poverty. The Spiritans were committed to improving primary school facilities with the construction of a new 6 classroom block at St. Francis Xavier Primary and Junior High School, Yapei catering for over 600 students. Funding was secured by the Spiritan Province in Ireland for this work and Aidlink has provided funding for the construction of 10 KVIP Toilets to complete the essential works and it is anticipated that the improved facilities will enhance enrolment, attendance and performance of students. Work is due to be completed in the first half of 2012.

A pilot farming project was established to enhance the food security and household income of women living in the Ntereso, SanKpala and Chama communities in Yapei. 50 farmers (30 women, 10 men and 10 youths) were provided with a 2 acre plot, agricultural inputs and agricultural training. Results include an average yield of approximately 15 bags of crops (including maize, beans and groundnuts) per farmer. For many, the first 5 bags were retained for household consumption and the balance was sold. This project has increased farming activity, household income and food security for the 50 participants and their extended family & community. A similar project is being carried out in Fumbusi, targeting a further 50 women.

Aidlink also provided co-funding for the purchase of a vehicle for the Spiritan Development Officer in the Yapei Parish. This has allowed for the distribution of farming inputs for the food security project and also for monitoring and evaluation of this and other projects.



Students from Trede Primary & Junior High School, located just outside Kumasi, Ashanti Region

During 2011, work was completed on the four classroom unit in Trede Primary and Junior High School (JHS) just outside Kumasi in the Ashanti Region. Prior to the build the school infrastructure could not support the student numbers and almost 200 students were being taught in rented makeshift classrooms off the school compound. Children's parents had started to build additional classrooms but funds dried up. Aidlink provided funds for the completion of the new four classroom block which was completed this year. The new building has centralised the students of Trede primary and JHS to one location. It has already increased attendance by 5% and academic performance by 5%. Since the completion

of the building, there has also been a 6% increase in the transition of girls to Junior High School from primary school in Trede. Nynahin in the Ashanti region is populated mainly by rural farmers and cocoa growers. Following the renovation of two classroom blocks in St. Joseph's Primary School and Junior High School in Nynahin, attendance rates of students has improved by 5% and performance levels have improved by 8%.

In 2011, students from Seamount College Kinvara, Co. Galway travelled to Notre Dame Senior Secondary Girls' School, Sunyani in Ghana for a successful two week immersion visit.



Students from Masaka, Uganda

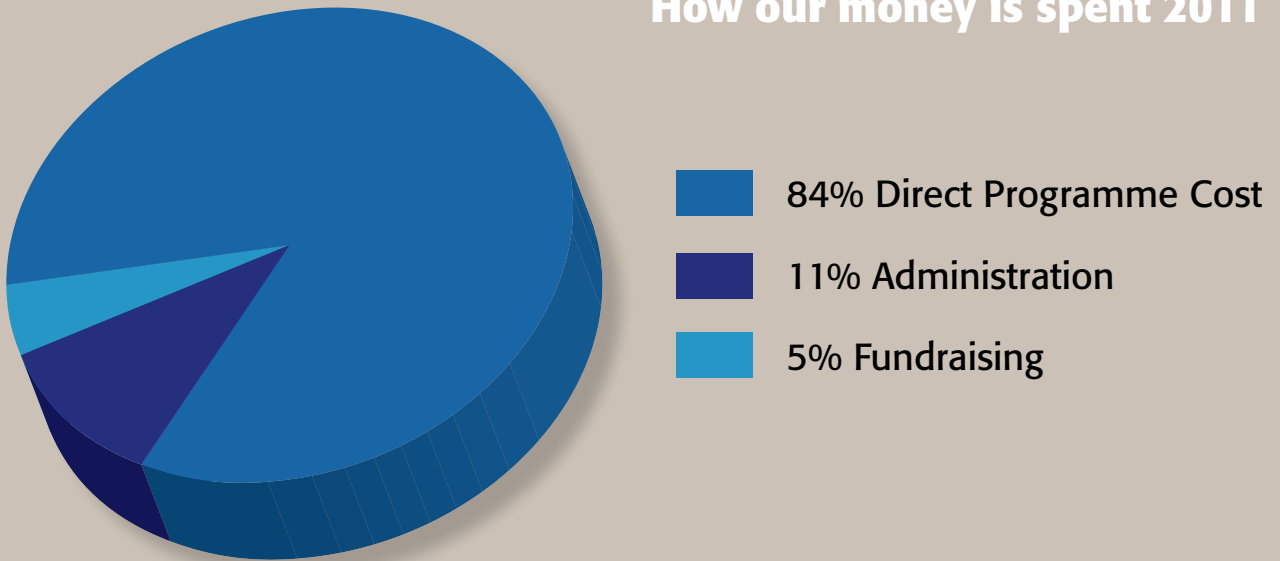
THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Aidlink and our partners would like to thank all of our donors whose support in 2011 enabled Aidlink to bring about a positive change to the lives of thousands of people living in poverty in Kenya, Uganda and Ghana. Donors included Irish Aid, Voluntary Staff Funds, the corporate sector and many invaluable individuals. In addition, thank you to all who supported and participated in our fundraising events, including the Women's Mini Marathon and the 60km inaugural Summer Cycle to Brittas Bay. Thank you to our dedicated regular givers through standing order, to all of the organisations listed below and also to our individual donors and supporters who wish to remain anonymous.

In 2011 Aidlink received grants and donations from

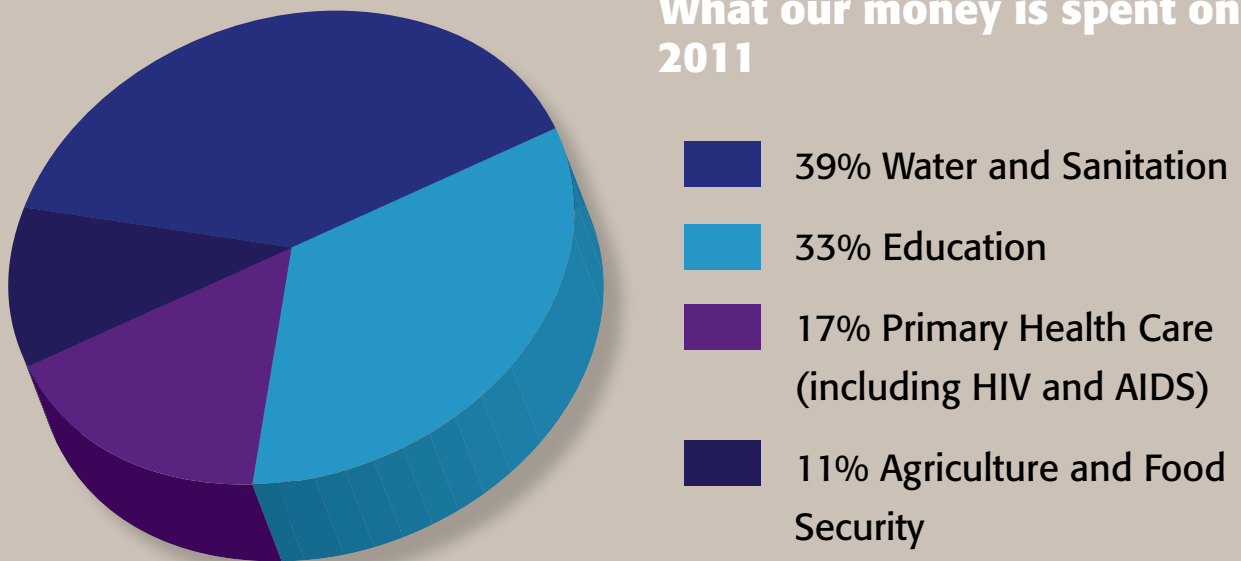
- Association of Secondary Teachers, Ireland (ASTI)
- ATA Group
- Atlantic Philanthropies Director/Employee Designated Gift Fund
- Bank of Ireland Group Staff Third World Fund
- Blackrock College, St Patrick's Day Badge Campaign
- British Petroleum (BP), UK, Employment Matching Scheme
- Church of Ireland Bishops Appeal
- Dublin City Council Staff World Development Fund
- Electric Aid
- Gort and District Lions Club
- Irish Aid
- Irish National Teachers' Organisation (INTO)
- Irish Province of the Spiritans
- Methodist World Development and Relief Fund
- Milltown Golf Club
- National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD)
- Pan American Cycle Test (PACT)
- PEI Surgical Ltd.
- Redemptorists/SERVE
- RTE, One World Fund
- Scoil Naithí, Ballinteer, Dublin
- Seamount College, Kinvara, Galway
- Staff of HSE (Cork and Kerry)
- Association for the Relief of Poverty (S.H.A.R.P.)
- St Mary's College, Rathmines, Dublin

How our money is spent 2011



Note: the term Administration incorporates all operational costs including Governance and all Aidlink salaries.

What our money is spent on 2011



DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

Since its foundation, a core objective of Aidlink is to inform people in Ireland, especially the young, of the causes of poverty and inequality in the world. Development education should empower young people to make informed decisions on how they interact with the developing world, now and into their adult lives. For 14 years Aidlink has worked closely with 80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World on a number of development education programmes. Aidlink and 80:20, together with our partners Concern, Self Help Africa, Trócaire, IDEA and the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI), continue to work on a dedicated development education website (www.developmenteducation.ie) that provides information to teachers, students, and the wider school community on issues relating to international development and underdevelopment, justice and equality, race and human rights.

SCHOOLS IMMERSION PROGRAMME

Aidlink also works with secondary schools in Ireland on a dedicated Schools Immersion Programme to promote a greater understanding of the causes of poverty and inequality. The overall goal of the Immersion Programme is to build a constituency of people who actively engage, participate and support Ireland's international development agenda. The strategic objective of the immersion programme is to sensitise and immerse Irish students to school life in Africa and the issues that face African people of their age. The programme has been running since 2004. There is scope to expand this programme and opportunities are being explored in the context of developing partnerships with schools with a shared core development education ethos or curriculum.

RETURN VISIT FROM ST. JAMES' SEMINARY SECONDARY SCHOOL, SUNYANI, GHANA

Dublin school St. Mary's College, Rathmines has been participating in the immersion programme since its inception in 2004. Students from St. Mary's College travel to Ghana for two weeks every second year. Here they spend one week attending school and extracurricular activities in St. James' Senior Secondary School, Sunyani and the other week participating in an after-school English language programme with primary school students in St Anthony's primary school, Bantama, Kumasi. In March

2011 and for the first time, Aidlink and St. Mary's College, hosted Ghanaian students and accompanying teachers from St. James' Senior Secondary School for a return visit to Ireland. 18 students and 4 teachers travelled to Ireland for 2 weeks where the students attended school in St. Mary's College and participated in a variety of extracurricular and cultural activities while living with families of St. Mary's students.

SEAMOUNT COLLEGE IMMERSION TO GHANA

In June 2011, Aidlink facilitated its first all-girls' school immersion programme with Seamount College Kinvara, Co. Galway. 5 Irish students and 3 leaders travelled to Ghana and went to school in Notre Dame Senior Secondary Girls' School, Sunyani in Ghana for one week. The students attended classes and also participated in the school's extracurricular activities. This gave them the opportunity to spend time with their Ghanaian peers,

experience Ghanaian culture and learn more about life in the developing world. Maighread Mhic Dhomhnaill, Principle of Seamount College, Kinvara, also part of the group who travelled, said, "I believe that the highlight for all of us and for different reasons was the time we spent in school. This was what it was all about, having an immersion into a new culture, an experience of a developing country first hand."



Maria O'Meara, student from Seamount College Galway in class with Notre Dame Secondary Students - Sunyani, Ghana

AIDLINK

**ANNUAL REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2011**



AIDLINK
REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

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AIDLINK DIRECTORS' AND OTHER INFORMATION

DIRECTORS

Mr. Clive Byrne (Chairperson)
Mr. Kieran Cooney (Treasurer)
Ms. Elaine Brennan
Mr. Michael Dunne
Mr. Philip Owende
Fr. Gerard O'Connor C.S.Sr.
Mr. Kevin O'Donnell
(resigned 26 September 2011)
Mr. Stephen Ranalow
Ms. Mary Scully
Fr. Brian Starken C.S.Sp
Mr. Martin Tormey
Ms. Paula McGovern
(appointed 13 June 2011)

SECRETARY

Ms. Elaine Brennan

REGISTERED OFFICE

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Harolds Cross
Dublin 6

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS

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Dublin 6
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Fax +353 1 4533794
E-Mail info@aidlink.ie
Website www.aidlink.ie

AUDITORS

Deloitte & Touche
Chartered Accountants
Deloitte & Touche House
Earlsfort Terrace
Dublin 2

BANKERS

Bank of Ireland
Blackrock
Co. Dublin

CHARITY NUMBER

CHY 9078

AIDLINK DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements of the company for the year ended 31 December 2011.

LEGAL STATUS

Aidlink is a company limited by guarantee, not having a share capital, incorporated in Ireland in 1982 under the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2009, registered number CHY 9078.

ACTIVITY AND REVIEW

The company is a registered charity, the objective of which is to relieve poverty in the third world. A detailed review of the aims and activities of Aidlink is set out on pages 36 to 38.

RESULTS	31/12/2011	31/12/2010
	€	€
Net movement for the year	(606,472)	(131,674)

The deficit of €606,472 reflects the timing of income and expenditure. Projects previously funded by grants and donations in 2010 and prior years, had such funds held back until required in Restricted and Unrestricted Reserves. In 2011, despite the reduction in current revenue, it was possible to fund these important projects from the reserves maintained. The future financial support of the company depends on the continued support of government agencies and other donors.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The directors do not envisage any change to the activity of the company. Aidlink was successful in applying for a new Irish Aid sponsored multi-annual programme for the 2012 to 2015 period with grant approval of €548,000 per annum. This grant is a significant reduction from prior years and will negatively impact on the level of activity that Aidlink can provide. The directors are disappointed with this reduction in Irish Aid funding and are committed to reducing the impact by fundraising from other sources.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

The directors are committed to maintaining the highest standard of Corporate Governance and they believe that this is a key element in ensuring the proper operation of the Company's activities. As part of this policy an effective Board and a competent Executive Director head the company.

The board is responsible for providing leadership, setting strategy and ensuring control. It comprises of eleven non-executive directors. The Board's non-executive directors are drawn from diverse backgrounds including development, business, education and health, who bring to the Board significant professional and decision-making skills achieved in their respective fields, together with a broad range of experience and views.

There is a clear division of responsibility at the company with the Board retaining control of major decisions under a formal schedule of matters reserved to the Board for decision, with the Executive Director responsible for devising strategy and policy within the authorities delegated to her by the Board.

The company has a comprehensive process for reporting management information to the Board. The Board is provided with regular information, which includes monthly management accounts. The board meets regularly as required and met eight times during 2011 and eight times during 2010.

All non-executive directors are appointed for an initial three year term, which may be renewed for one further three year period, giving a maximum of six continuous years for any director. Directors may if eligible offer themselves for re-election at the end of the first term. The role of Chairman and Executive Director are separate and all directors are independent of the management of the Company.

As a member of Dochas, Aidlink subscribe to the principles contained in the Irish Development NGOs Code of Corporate Governance.

INTERNAL CONTROLS

The directors acknowledge their overall responsibility for the Company's systems of internal control and for reviewing its effectiveness. They have delegated responsibility for the implementation of this system to the Executive Director. This system includes financial controls, which enable the Board to meet its responsibilities for the integrity and accuracy of the Company's accounting records.

The Board has established a process of compliance which addresses the Boards wider responsibility to maintain, review and report on all internal controls, including financial and operational.

Key elements of internal control systems:-

1. The Company has strict policies and procedures in place for the receipt, recording and control of donations received from private individuals and the corporate sector.
2. The Audit Committee reports independently to the Board on all aspects of controls and risks.
3. Procedures and control systems are formally documented in a series of partnership agreements that are reviewed bi annually and project agreements on a project by project basis.
4. There is a formal organisational structure in place with clearly defined lines of responsibility, division of duties and delegation of authority.
5. A detailed budget is prepared annually, and in line with the strategic plan is reviewed and approved by the Board. Actual results and service outcomes are compared regularly against budget and prior year to ensure alignment with plan, tight administration control and value for money.
6. The Board maintains a reserve policy that exceeds the minimum recommended for charities (three months reserves) to mitigate the increasing risks of the uncertain economy and to ensure sustainability of our services.

AIDLINK

DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

BOARD COMMITTEES

1. AUDIT

The function of the audit committee is to review internal financial controls and processes. It liaises with external auditors and reports directly to the board.

2. RISK MANAGEMENT

The directors on the Risk Management committee examine the major risks that Aidlink faces each year. Systems and processes are then developed to monitor and control the risks in order to mitigate the potential impact that they may have on the future development of the organisation.

3. REMUNERATION

Responsibility is to conduct the employee reviews and to make recommendations to the board regarding salaries.

4. DIRECTOR PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Responsibility is to assess the performance of board members individually and as a body and to identify expertise requirements and the assessment of board candidates.

DIRECTORS

The current membership of the board is set out on page 35.

POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

In February 2012, Aidlink was informed that while it had been successful in applying for a new Irish Aid sponsored multi-annual programme for the 2012 to 2015 period, the annual approval would be reduced to €548,000 per annum. This will be a significant reduction from prior years, down 43% from €960,000 in 2010 and 2009, and will negatively impact on the level of activity that Aidlink can provide. While the directors are disappointed with this reduction in Irish Aid funding, the board is committed to reducing the impact by fundraising from other sources.

BOOKS OF ACCOUNT

To ensure that proper books and accounting records are kept in accordance with Section 202 Companies Act, 1990, the directors have employed appropriately qualified accounting personnel and have maintained appropriate accounting systems. The books of account are located at the company's premises at 34 Greenmount Office Park, Harolds Cross, Dublin 6.

RESERVES

At the end of 2011, Restricted and Unrestricted Reserves were €472,601 down from €1,079,073. The net movement in the reserves for the year of €606,472 reflected the timing of income and expenditure. Projects previously funded by grants and donations in 2010 and prior years, had such funds held back until required in Restricted and Unrestricted Reserves. In 2011, despite the reduction in current revenue, it was possible to fund these important projects from the reserves maintained.

The minimum recommended level of reserves to be maintained by charities is three months. The board believes that this is too low a level to maintain in the current economic climate and throughout 2011, the level of unrestricted reserves maintained by Aidlink was well in excess of this. It is Aidlink policy to maintain reserves by means of operating surpluses and judicious management of expenses and by general purpose appeals from time to time. It is the policy of Aidlink to distribute restricted and unrestricted funds to specified projects as quickly as possible. Delays in aid projects occasionally arise which necessitate the holding back of remittances. At the year end all restricted reserves were committed in full to selected overseas projects.

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the surplus or deficit of the company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

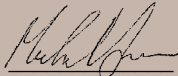
The directors are responsible for keeping proper books of account which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements are prepared in accordance with accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland and comply with Irish statute comprising the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2009. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Deloitte & Touche, Chartered Accountants, continue in office in accordance with Section 160(2) of the Companies Act, 1963.

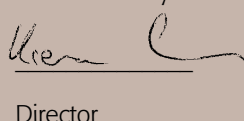
Signed on behalf of the Board:

Michael Dunne



Director

Kieran Cooney



Director

Date: 5th April 2012

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AIDLINK

We have audited the financial statements of Aidlink for the year ended 31 December 2011 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Accounting Policies, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes 1 to 11. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out in the Statement of Accounting Policies.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with Section 193 of the Companies Act, 1990. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS AND AUDITORS

The directors are responsible for preparing the financial statements, as set out in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities in accordance with applicable law and accounting standards issued by the Accounting Standards Board and published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland).

Our responsibility, as independent auditor, is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, and are properly prepared in accordance with Irish statute comprising the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2009. We also report to you whether in our opinion: proper books of account have been kept by the company and whether the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements. In addition, we state whether we have obtained all the information and explanations necessary for the purpose of our audit and whether the company's balance sheet and income and expenditure account are in agreement with the books of account.

We also report to you if, in our opinion, any information specified by law regarding directors' remuneration and directors' transactions is not disclosed and, where practicable, include such information in our report.

We read the other information contained in the Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatement or material inconsistencies with the financial statements. The other information comprises only the Directors' Report and Chairperson's Statement. Our responsibilities do not extend to other information.

BASIS OF AUDIT OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the financial statements and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

OPINION

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the state of the affairs of the company as at 31 December 2011 and of the deficit for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2009.

We have obtained all the information and explanations we considered necessary for the purpose of our audit. In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by the company. The company's balance sheet and its income and expenditure account are in agreement with the books of account.

In our opinion the information given in the Directors' Report is consistent with the financial statements.



Thomas Cassin
For and on behalf of Deloitte & Touche
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
Dublin

5 April 2012

AIDLINK STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The significant accounting policies adopted by the company are as follows:

BASIS OF PREPARATION

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland and Irish statute comprising the Companies Acts, 1963 to 2009.

ACCOUNTING CONVENTION

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

INCOMING RESOURCES

Income is accounted for when amounts receivable on grant and funding applications are approved or paid. Investment income is accounted for on a receipts basis. Public donations and similar income arising from fundraising events are accounted for when received.

As with similar charitable organisations, independent groups from time to time organise fundraising activities. However, as amounts collected this way are outside the control of Aidlink, they are not included in the financial statements until received by Aidlink.

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Income received by the company, the application of which is restricted to a specific purpose by the donor, is treated as restricted funds and any unspent amounts as restricted assets.

Such specified purposes are within the overall aims of the organisation.

UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

Other income, apart from restricted funds, is used by the company in the furtherance of its work and objectives. Such funds may be held in order to finance working capital or may be used at the discretion of the organisation for specified purposes that are within the aims of the organisation.

RESOURCES EXPENDED

Resources expended is analysed between direct expenditure and administrative expenditure. Direct expenditure is accounted for when applications are paid. Administrative expenditure is accounted for on an accrual basis.

JOINTLY-FUNDED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Certain development projects undertaken by Aidlink in overseas centres are co-funded by other development agencies. These co-funding agencies send money either to Aidlink's office in Dublin or directly to the overseas centre, where the project is being arranged. Where the money is received in the Aidlink office it is treated as revenue in the period in which it is received. Where the money is sent directly to the overseas centre by the co-funding agency, the joint funding is excluded from both the income and expenditure of Aidlink.

FOREIGN CURRENCIES

Revenues and costs arising from transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Euro at the rates of exchange ruling on the date on which the transaction occurred.

Assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Euro at the rates of exchange ruling on the balance sheet date. The resulting surplus or deficit are dealt with in the statement of financial activities.

FIXED ASSETS AND DEPRECIATION

Fixed assets are recorded at cost.

Depreciation is provided so as to write off the cost of fixed assets over their expected useful lives at the following annual rates:

Office equipment	10% straight line
Computer equipment	20% straight line

OPERATING LEASES

Annual operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities in the year that they are paid.

AIDLINK

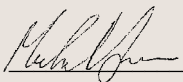
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

		Restricted Funds 2011	Unrestricted Funds 2011	Total Funds 2011	Total Funds 2010
	Notes	€	€	€	€
Incoming Resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds	1	855,713	159,983	1,015,696	2,,081,726
Interest income		-	28,691	28,691	13,728
Total Incoming resources		855,713	188,674	1,044,387	2,095,454
Resources Expended					
Direct expenditure		(1,366,536)	-	(1,366,536)	(1,957,483)
Administrative expenses		(54,626)	(229,697)	(284,323)	(269,645)
Total resources expended	3	(1,421,162)	(229,697)	(1,650,859)	(2,227,128)
Net movement in funds	8	(565,449)	(41,023)	(606,472)	(131,674)
Total funds brought forward	8	858,915	220,158	1,079,073	1,210,747
Total funds carried forward	8	293,466	179,135	472,601	1,079,073

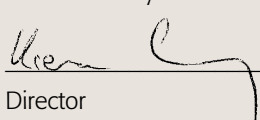
There is no recognised surplus or deficit other than the deficit arising from continuing operations disclosed.
The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 5 April 2012 and signed on its behalf by:

Michael Dunne



Director

Kieran Cooney



Director

AIDLINK

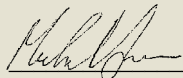
BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2011

	Notes	2011 €	2010 €
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	5	2,626	4,288
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	6	10,347	28,432
Cash at bank and in hand		497,547	1,091,012
		507,894	1,119,444
CREDITORS: (Amounts falling due within one year)	7	(37,919)	(44,659)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		469,975	1,074,785
NET ASSETS		472,601	1,079,073
REPRESENTED BY:			
Accumulated funds - Restricted	8	293,466	858,915
Accumulated funds - Unrestricted	8	179,135	220,158
		472,601	1,079,073

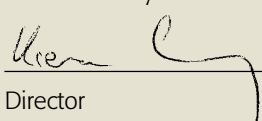
The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 5 April 2012 and signed on its behalf by:

Michael Dunne



Director

Kieran Cooney



Director

AIDLINK

CASHFLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

	Notes	2011 €	2010 €
NET CASH OUTFLOW FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	9	(622,156)	(124,447)
RETURNS ON INVESTMENT AND SERVICING OF FINANCE			
Interest received		28,691	10,576
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE			
Additions to tangible fixed assets		-	(516)
DECREASE IN CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND		(593,465)	(114,387)

ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2011 €	Cashflow €	2010 €
Cash at bank and in hand	497,547	(593,465)	1,091,012

AIDLINK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED TO 31 DECEMBER 2011

1. INCOMING RESOURCES

Income represents donations received from state departments, other charitable organisations, general donations and interest income.

2. EMPLOYEES AND REMUNERATION

2011
Number

2010
Number

The average numbers of persons employed by the company during the year were:

Administration

4

4

The staff costs are comprised of:

2011
€

2010
€

Salaries

171,455

155,535

Social welfare costs

18,589

16,887

190,044

172,422

3. NET MOVEMENT BEFORE TAXATION

2011
€

2010
€

Deficit on ordinary activities before taxation is stated after charging:

Directors' remuneration and emoluments

-

-

Depreciation

1,662

1,662

Auditors' remuneration

4,736

5,143

and after crediting:

Interest income

28,691

(13,728)

Auditors' remuneration disclosure (excluding Value Added Tax)

Audit

3,850

4,250

Tax advisory services

-

-

Other assurance services

-

-

Other non audit services

-

-

AIDLINK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011 (CONTINUED)

4. TAXATION

There is no charge to taxation in respect of the organisation as Aidlink has been granted charitable status under Section 207 of the Consolidated Tax Act, 1997, therefore no provision for taxation has been made.

5. FIXED ASSETS

	Office equipment €	Computer equipment €	Total €
Cost:			
At 1 January 2011 and at 31 December 2011	8,621	10,953	19,574
Depreciation:			
At 1 January 2011	5,839	9,447	15,286
Charge for year	421	1,241	1,662
At 31 December 2011	6,260	10,688	16,948
Net Book Value:			
At 31 December 2011	2,361	265	2,626
At 31 December 2010	2,782	1,506	4,288

6. DEBTORS: (Amounts falling due within one year)	2011	2010
	€	€
Debtors and accrued income	2,347	20,432
Rent deposit	8,000	8,000
	10,347	28,432
7. CREDITORS: (Amounts falling due within one year)	2011	2010
	€	€
Accruals	37,919	44,659

AIDLINK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011 (CONTINUED)

8. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	2011	2010
	€	€
Accumulated funds - Restricted:		
Balance brought forward	858,915	924,099
Net movement in the year	(565,449)	(65,184)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance carried forward	293,466	858,915
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Accumulated funds - Unrestricted:		
Balance brought forward	220,158	286,648
Net movement in the year	(41,023)	(66,490)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance carried forward	179,135	220,158
	<hr/>	<hr/>
9. RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH OUTFLOW FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	2011	2010
	€	€
Movement in funds	(606,472)	(131,674)
Interest income	(28,691)	(13,728)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Movement in funds before financial activities	(635,163)	(145,402)
Depreciation charge	1,662	1,662
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	18,085	(15,015)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(6,740)	34,308
	<hr/>	<hr/>
NET CASH OUTFLOW FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	(622,156)	(124,447)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

AIDLINK

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011 (CONTINUED)

10. LEASE COMMITMENTS

Operating lease commitments:

At 31 December, the company had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as set out below:

	2011	2010
	€	€
Premises:		
Operating leases which expire:		
Within one year	-	-
In the second to fifth years inclusive	32,000	32,000
Over five years	-	-
	<u>32,000</u>	<u>32,000</u>

The lease was established on 1 July 2008 for a term of 4 years and 9 months. The remaining commitment over the lease term at 31 December 2011 is €40,000 (2010: €72,000).

11. STATUS

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. Every member of the company undertakes, if necessary on a winding up during the time they are a member or within one year after they cease to be a member, thereafter to contribute to the assets of the company an amount not exceeding €1.27.

Under the provision of Section 24 of the Companies Act, 1963, the company is exempt from including word 'Limited' in its name.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

**(NOT COVERED BY INDEPENDENT
AUDITORS' REPORT)**

AIDLINK

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011

	2011 €	2010 €
INCOME:		
Restricted Funds:		
Irish Aid	480,000	960,000
Misean Cara	-	534,372
Third World Groups	265,355	178,642
Other donors	110,358	259,734
	855,713	1,932,748
Unrestricted funds:		
St Patrick's Day Badges campaign	45,500	32,715
Other Donations and Standing Orders	99,483	51,263
Spiritans Congregation Ireland	15,000	65,000
	159,983	148,978
Interest Income	28,691	13,728
	188,674	162,706
	1,044,387	2,095,454

AIDLINK

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011 (CONTINUED)

DIRECT EXPENDITURE:	2011 €	2010 €
From Restricted funds:		
Irish Aid co-funded activities	1,022,969	894,400
Misean Cara grants	3,502	569,569
Third World Groups	215,893	215,410
Other donors	124,172	250,604
	1,366,536	1,929,983
From Unrestricted funds:		
Aidlink Projects	-	25,000
Development Education	-	2,500
	-	27,500
Total project assistance	1,366,536	1,957,483
(Deficit)/surplus funds before administration expenses	(322,149)	137,971

AIDLINK

DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011 (CONTINUED)

APPENDIX 1 INCOME

	2011	2010
	€	€
Department of Foreign Affairs –Irish Aid	480,000	960,000
Misean Cara	-	534,372
Fundraising - Third World Groups	265,355	178,642
Fundraising - St. Patrick's Day Badge Campaign	45,500	32,715
Donations - General	153,874	97,908
Funding - Spiritan Congregation Ireland	15,000	65,000
Fundraising - Engineering Day	3,740	4,673
Fundraising - Golf outings	12,500	4,575
Fundraising - PACT	19,727	5,562
Fundraising - Ghana Immersion Project	20,000	198,279
	1,015,696	2,081,726
Interest income	28,691	13,728
	1,044,387	2,095,454

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DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011 (CONTINUED)

APPENDIX 2 IRISH AID AND MISEAN CARA INCOME

	2011	2010
	€	€
Overseas – Department of Foreign Affairs- Irish Aid		
Kenya - Health	50,000	100,000
Kenya - Education	110,662	220,000
Uganda - Water, Sanitation and Health	244,048	426,000
Uganda - Education	25,000	60,000
Uganda - Food	16,667	100,000
	446,377	906,000
General-Programme Quality	20,000	30,000
	466,377	936,000
Ireland-Programme support costs	13,623	24,000
	480,000	960,000
Overseas – Misean Cara		
Angola	-	10,000
Bolivia	-	6,000
Brazil	-	63,000
Ethiopia	-	101,000
Ghana	-	44,722
Kenya	-	192,600
Mozambique	-	45,891
Pakistan	-	61,000
	-	524,213
Ireland - Administration cost	-	10,159
	-	534,372

The changed relationship with the Spiritans at the end of 2010 meant that Aidlink would no longer manage Spiritan funds allocated by Misean Cara from 2011 onwards.

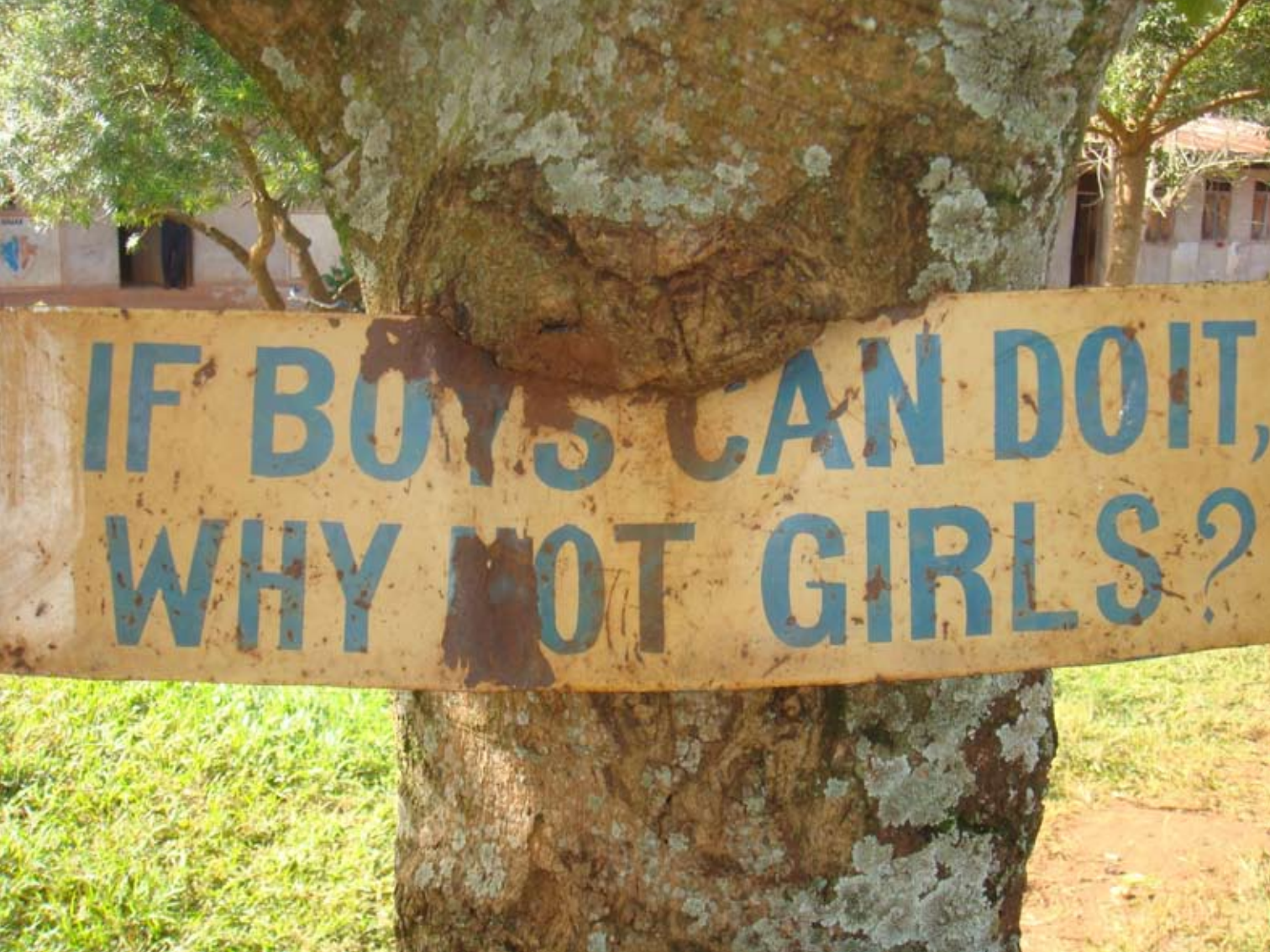
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DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

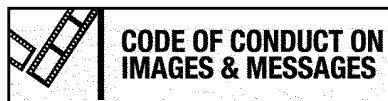
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2011 (CONTINUED)

APPENDIX 3 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

	2011	2010
	€	€
Administration from unrestricted funds:		
Rates	5,137	5,856
Salaries	154,442	139,120
Partner field visits and travel	119	1,351
Printing, stationery, light, heat and telephone	16,134	12,518
Professional fees	8,363	11,693
Office rent	16,000	8,000
Insurance	2,703	2,885
Bank interest, charges and exchange differences	371	375
Website and computer expenses	3,164	4,253
Miscellaneous	6,171	6,270
Subscriptions	2,035	2,193
Repairs and maintenance	3,872	852
Sundry expenses	931	738
Depreciation	1,662	1,662
Fundraising	221,104	197,766
Fundraising expenses	8,593	3,930
	229,697	201,696
Administration from restricted funds:		
Wages and salaries	35,602	33,302
Office rent	16,000	24,000
Professional fees	-	7,000
Printing, stationery, light, heat and telephone	500	698
Partner visits	-	2,949
Bank charges	95	-
Fundraising expenses	1,360	-
Strategic planning	1,069	-
	54,626	67,949
	284,323	269,645



Aidlink has signed up
to the Dóchas Code of
Corporate Governance



Aidlink has signed up to the Dóchas Code
of Conduct on Images and Messages



**DEVELOPMENT
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ANNUAL REPORT 2011



Third world development through partnership

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