

Irish Aid is Ireland's official programme of assistance to the poorest countries in the world.

Addressing the HIV and AIDS pandemic is one of the key challenges to reducing poverty and inequality in our world. Progress achieved over decades in many developing countries is being threatened and in places reversed as a result of the impact of HIV and AIDS.

Worldwide, 25 million people have died of AIDS and over 33 million people are today living with HIV. Annually about 2.5 million people become newly infected with HIV and 2.1 million people die of AIDS related illnesses.

AIDS is now the world's leading cause of premature death among adults aged between 15 and 59. Women are more affected by HIV than men and there are over 2.5 million children under 15 years living with the virus. There are millions more children who have been orphaned as a result of losing one or both parents to AIDS related deaths.

What is Ireland doing to support the fight against HIV and AIDS?

Ireland has gained international recognition for its leadership and contribution in addressing the threat of AIDS worldwide. The United Nations Joint Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS) has said that Ireland has taken on the kind of leadership role that will help bring us closer to a world without AIDS.

The Government made HIV and AIDS a key priority in its 2006 White Paper on Irish Aid. HIV and AIDS is one of four priority issues that influence all of Irish Aid's work to reduce poverty and inequality. Ireland now leads the way within the European Union in terms of the proportion of overseas development assistance allocated to HIV. Over the period 2001 to 2006, Irish Aid spent over €250 million on HIV and AIDS prevention, care and treatment. In 2005, the Taoiseach announced that Ireland would double its overseas budget in this area. Irish Aid now spends over €100 million a year tackling HIV and AIDS and other communicable diseases in developing countries.

Who does Irish Aid work with to encourage prevention and provide treatment and care?

Irish Aid supports organisations active in the prevention of the spread of HIV, the provision of life-saving drugs and critical care and support for those living with HIV and AIDS. These partners range from developing country governments, civil society organisations, missionaries and faith based organisations, to international agencies and other donors.

Ireland prioritises the protection of children and young people in its response, as well as ensuring that those in need, in particular women, get access to HIV services.

"The fight against AIDS remains one of the greatest challenges of our generation. We will be judged by the generosity of our response and by the strength of our leadership."

An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern TD, addressing the United Nations General Assembly in June 2006.
– White Paper on Irish Aid

Working with the Government of Mozambique and the Clinton Foundation to save lives

In Mozambique, Irish Aid through a partnership with the Clinton Foundation and the Government of Mozambique is making a huge impact in the treatment of people living with HIV. Irish funding has enabled the Government of Mozambique to provide over 78,000 people with anti-retroviral treatment and build and staff 50 health clinics offering anti-retroviral drugs and 222 offering services to prevent the transmission of HIV from mother to child during delivery.



President Clinton at a meeting of the Clinton Foundation.

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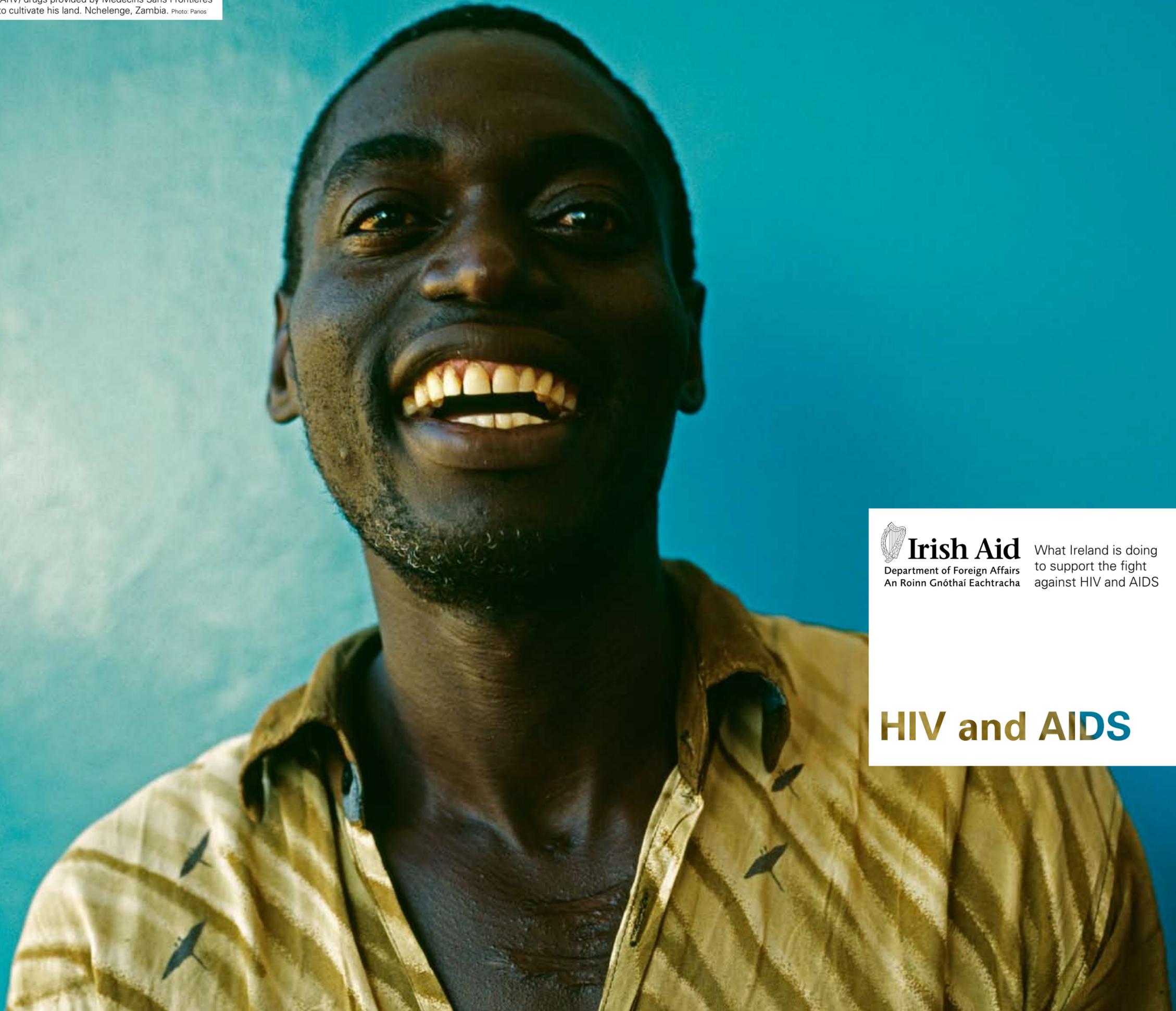
About **2.5 million** people become infected with HIV annually.

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Anthony Mpundu (40) found out he was HIV positive when he went for a test after his wife died in 1998. He has been on antiretroviral (ARV) drugs provided by Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) since 2002 and feels strong enough to cultivate his land. Nchelenge, Zambia. Photo: Panos



 **Irish Aid**
Department of Foreign Affairs
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha

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to support the fight
against HIV and AIDS

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