

Ireland is firmly committed to the effective application and further development of international humanitarian law. During our term as an elected member of the UN Security Council from 2021-2022, Ireland consistently called at the Council for compliance with International Humanitarian Law and accountability for International Humanitarian Law violations.

Perhaps given our own history, Ireland takes a particularly strong position in relation to food insecurity. Our position is that while we will provide emergency help in response to food crises, we believe the main focus must be on preventing such crises in the first place.

Today's food crises are the result of interconnected factors. Conflict, instability and climate change drive hunger in many parts of the world.

Combating hunger and under-nutrition has been a cornerstone of Ireland's development programme since its inception.

More specifically, in relation to the horrific situation in Gaza, Ireland has pledged additional funding of €2 million to support the World Food Programme (WFP) to deliver food to people in Gaza.

Announcing this funding in July, Tánaiste, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Harris, said,

“Deliberately denying food to people, including babies, in Gaza is beyond comprehension. Children are starving in what is a catastrophic situation on the ground.”

While the ceasefire is to be welcomed and we are very glad to see aid finally being delivered to Gaza, what happened in the first place is a stain on humanity. People being deliberately denied food and the risk of famine should not be used against civilians as a tactic of war. This must stop.

Ireland calls on other nations to work together to reduce food insecurity globally and ensure the end of needless suffering and we call on all nations to support the work of the World Food

Through Irish Aid, we work with a range of development and humanitarian partners. Our embassy teams around the world implement a range of food, agriculture and nutrition programmes and partnerships.

We work with partners on crisis situations but also on longer-term, chronic hunger, which affects around 735 million of the world's poorest people.

The world produces enough food to feed everyone, yet one in eight people do not have enough food to live healthy lives. Not having access to sufficient food traps people in a lifelong poverty spiral and reduces resistance to various diseases.

Ireland believes in tackling this problem at source, we have scaled up our support to a wide range of nutrition interventions across both development and emergency responses. This work has a particular focus on the prevention and treatment of child under-nutrition.

Programme as the best placed system to deliver food to people in Gaza.