

EXPLORING OVERSEAS AID

Note: Please be aware of the situation of children in your class before delivering this activity. If there are children in your class who have become homeless or have been forced to move from their homes for any reason or have experienced the effects of a humanitarian disaster of any kind, check in with them or their parents in advance.

Irish Aid

Irish Aid is Ireland's official international development aid programme. Part of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Irish Aid's job is to manage Ireland's overseas aid budget, which is used to reduce poverty and hunger around the world, and to support emergency assistance and longer-term development in over eighty of the world's poorest countries.



Note: When exploring overseas aid it is important to ensure that students approach the topic and view it through a human rights lens. Countries, communities and people receive overseas aid because of injustices, and it is critical that students talk about rights rather than needs, injustices rather than misfortune, and that overseas aid is a way for countries like Ireland and the UK to show solidarity with those people experiencing injustice.

Activity 1: What is Overseas Aid?



Aim

Explore the concept of overseas aid (official development assistance) and understand why it is important.



Resources

Overseas Aid Explained by Trócaire video



Time

45–60 minutes

Official development assistance, also known as **overseas aid**, is when one country helps another country. Aid is especially needed when a humanitarian disaster happens; for example, after a natural disaster like an earthquake, flood or like what is happening at the moment in Somalia. Sometimes this help comes from a country's government and sometimes people give money to organisations like Trócaire.

Note: It is recommended that you show the Introduction to Somalia slide show, located on the Somalia branch of the Tree of Justice, and the [Overseas Aid Explained](#) by Trócaire video to the children first so that they will have context for this activity.

Step 1

Explain to the class that we are going to talk about the concept of overseas aid. Explain what this term means and ask them if they remember a time when they raised money to help another country; for example, when they put money in the Trócaire box or when schools fundraised for Ukraine.

Step 2

Create a KWL chart and begin to fill in the first section, K: What do we **know** about aid? Include some of the answers from step 1 and ask if the class wants to add more things.

KWL charts are graphic organisers that help students organise information before, during and after a unit or a lesson.

What I Know	What I Want to Know	What I Learned

Step 3

As a class, brainstorm some things that they would like to know about overseas aid. Fill in W: What do we **want to know** about aid?

Step 4

Watch the [Overseas Aid Explained](#) by Trócaire video again. Set the following questions for the class before playing:

- What is overseas aid?
- Why is overseas aid needed?
- Why is overseas aid important?
- How much do you think your government should give to overseas aid for every 100 pounds/euro?

Step 5

The United Nations (UN) has said that all countries who are members should aim to give 0.7 per cent of their national income to overseas aid. However, current estimates are that Ireland gives 0.31 per cent to overseas aid. The United Kingdom for many years managed to deliver on its 0.7 per cent commitment, but reduced this to 0.5 per cent in 2020 due to financial pressures on the UK economy.

- Is this enough? Why or why not?
- Why is overseas aid important for what is happening in Somalia at the moment?
- Which of Nasteha's basic needs are being fulfilled because of overseas aid?

Step 6

Fill in the L section of the KWL chart: What have we **learned** about overseas aid?