

Capital of Northern Ireland: Belfast
Languages: English, Irish
Religions: Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Church of Ireland, Methodist, Other
Population: 1,691,824 (1999)
Population Below The National Poverty Line: Not Available
GDP (at market prices): Not Available
GDP per Capita: \$13,685 (1998)
First Minister:: Ian Paisley
Ambassador to U.S.: David G. Manning

Capital of Ireland: Dublin
Languages: English, Irish
Religions: Roman Catholic, Church of Ireland, Other
Population: 4,015,676 (2005 estimate)
Population Below National Poverty Line: 10%
GDP (purchasing power parity): \$126.4 billion (2004 est.)
GDP Per Capita: \$31,900 (2004 est.)
President: Mary McAleese
Prime Minister: Bertie Ahern
Ambassador to U.S.: Noel Fahey



National Interest: The primary U.S. interest is promoting an end to sectarian conflict in Northern Ireland. This issue remains a major preoccupation for both the Irish and British governments and a source of instability in western Europe. Deep ties of kinship, culture, history and shared values coupled with increasingly important economic and commercial interests also underpin the long-standing U.S. determination to help bring about sustainable peace in Northern Ireland. The full implementation of the April 10, 1998, Good Friday Agreement, presently at an impasse over the issues of decommissioning of weapons and reform of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, would serve to stabilize political structures and unleash important untapped economic potential.

OVERVIEW OF USAID'S FOCUS IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND IRELAND

FY 05: Total ESF - \$22 million, USAID Total - \$18.352 million (Includes Rescission)

FY 04: Total ESF - \$22 million, USAID Total - \$18.390 million (Includes Rescission)

International Fund for Ireland (IFI): USAID administers USG assistance to the IFI, which was established on December 1, 1986 pursuant to an Agreement between the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The objectives of the Fund are to promote economic and social advancement and to encourage contact, dialogue and reconciliation between nationalists (Catholics) and unionists (Protestants). Implementation of those objectives is achieved through projects financed and overseen by the Fund. The Anglo-Irish Agreement Support Act of 1986, as amended, authorizes U.S. contributions to the Fund. To date, the United States has contributed a total of \$421 million in Economic Support Fund (ESF) monies to the Fund. Monetary support is provided for Northern Ireland and six border counties in the Republic of Ireland. Since 1992, USAID has prepared the Presidential Certification package to Congress indicating that the Fund is in compliance with statutory requirements for the obligation and disbursement of funds.