



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND
OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Cover: Juba. Tournament, co-organised by the ICRC and the South Sudan Wheelchair Basketball Association. The city's first-ever women's wheelchair basketball team. The Stars (in red) compete against Peace (in white). Photo: ICRC

Tailoring training forms part of a skills programme for young mothers in Save the Children's 'Fambul Welbodi' ('Family Health') project, funded as part of Ireland's work to empower women and girls. Photo: Noel Molony/ DFAT

04	Forewords
08	The Year in Review
14	Ireland's Work for Gender Equality
21	Gender Case Study 1: Women, Peace and Security, and Gender-Based Violence in Colombia
22	Ireland's Response to Humanitarian Crises around the World
28	Global Ireland – Focus on Partner Countries
28	Malawi in Focus
30	South Africa and Zimbabwe in Focus
32	Ethiopia in Focus
34	Tanzania in Focus
37	Gender Case Study 2: Women's Economic Empowerment in Zambia
38	Liberia in Focus
40	Palestine in Focus
42	South East Asia Programme in Focus
44	Colombia in Focus
45	Gender Case Study 3: Women's Economic Empowerment in Ethiopia
46	Promoting Global Citizenship Education and Public Engagement
54	Our Partnerships
54	Working with the EU
57	Working with the UN
61	Working with International Financial Institutions
65	Gender Case Study 4: Education for Girls in South Sudan
66	Ireland in Partnership with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO)
70	Gender Case Study 5: Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Uganda
71	Accountability and Transparency
73	Annexes

Foreword

Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Simon Coveney, TD.



Ireland's international development programme is an expression of our values as a people. We believe in fairness and solidarity and we understand that humanity is interdependent. Events, policies and decisions in one part of the world can affect lives all over our planet.

This perspective is at the heart of *A Better World*, our new strategy for International Development, which I had the pleasure to launch this year. We also launched our new Africa Strategy and a Strategy for Partnership with Small Island Developing States. Together, these three documents will help to shape our foreign and development policy in the years ahead.

In Ireland we are acutely aware, through our own national experience, of the power of gender equality in transforming societies and unlocking the potential of individuals. While there remains much work to do, we have experienced at first-hand the social and economic transformation that derives from progress in advancing equal rights and opportunities for women and girls.

We understand that gender equality is not only a fundamental human right but also an essential driver of sustainable development. Closing the gender gap in workforce participation significantly improves economic growth. Greater numbers of women in parliament decrease the risk of conflict and human rights abuses. Women's meaningful participation in peace processes makes agreements more likely to be implemented and to last. Ensuring equal access to agricultural resources for women could reduce global hunger for up to 150 million people. Investing in girls' education results in healthier and educated societies that are better prepared to address the challenges of climate change. The bottom line is clear - advancing gender equality is key to a better world.

Yet, we still live in a world where women and girls remain hardest hit by the effects of extreme poverty, climate change and conflict. It is unacceptable that women and girls today routinely experience violence, have fewer legal rights and access to essential resources and services, are blocked from economic opportunity, are politically underrepresented and marginalised and are left with the overwhelming burden of unpaid care and domestic work.

We know that if we are to make progress in achieving a better world, accelerated action is needed towards achieving a more equal one.

We are living at a time of growing conservatism and increasing pushback against the advancement of rights for women and girls globally. At a time when even the most basic rights of women and girls are being called into question, we are committed to standing up for what we believe in. I am proud that Ireland is taking a leading role as a champion for gender equality on the global stage. We played a critical role, alongside Kenya, as Chair of the intergovernmental negotiations which agreed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We worked hard to achieve consensus on the need for a stand-alone goal on gender equality (SDG 5) as well for a focus on gender equality across all of the SDGs.

In 2019, Ireland completed a two-year term as the Chair of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. As Chair, Ireland led in promoting women and girls' rights, documenting the reality of their lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

It is also vitally important that our actions match our convictions. I am particularly proud that Ireland consistently ranks among the highest OECD countries in terms of the proportion of our official development assistance (ODA) expenditure that targets gender equality. In 2019, more than three quarters of our bilateral allocable aid targeted gender equality.

In addition to ensuring a focus on gender equality across all our work, *A Better World* outlines a number of areas where we will specifically target our support in advancing the rights of women and girls through our multilateral, civil society and bilateral country partnerships.

Recognising the critical role of education as a pathway to gender equality, we are prioritizing education for girls in our work on education. Climate change represents the single greatest global risk facing humanity. We are committed to ensuring women and girls are supported as agents of change in international climate action.

We are committed to strengthening our already significant investments in improving the quality and availability of health services, and to expanding our support to access comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services for women and girls. We recognise that women should have the ability to plan the number of children they want to have.

We are also increasing our work in women's economic empowerment, with a particular focus on women in agriculture, women's leadership in business, and in research and learning to ensure women are centrally involved as agents of change in our work on climate action.

We are committed to supporting women's leadership at all levels, including women's political representation and investment in women-led organisations. We support approaches that engage with men and boys to challenge the underlying gender stereotypes, patriarchal values and harmful social norms that present barriers to gender equality.

This Annual Report highlights some of the important contributions which Ireland made during 2019 in working to advance gender equality. In 2020 when we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Platform and Declaration for Action, we look forward to building on these efforts and to delivering on our promise of putting the rights of women and girls front and centre of our work for a better world.



Simon Coveney, T.D.
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Foreword

Minister of State for Overseas Development Aid and Diaspora, Colm Brophy, TD.



I am delighted to have this opportunity to reflect on Ireland's effort to promote gender equality in more than 130 countries worldwide. Equality for women and girls is at the heart of our international development activity and our new governing policy - *A Better World*.

More than 130 million school-age girls are out of education worldwide. We know from our own history that education is essential to unlocking the potential of women and girls and for advancement of society. For this reason, in 2019, Ireland worked with partners such as the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), to support the most marginalised girls to complete primary school and to transition to secondary school and beyond. We also pledged €6 million to Education Cannot Wait, a global fund hosted by UNICEF for education in emergencies, which aims to provide access to quality education for 4.4 million girls by 2021.

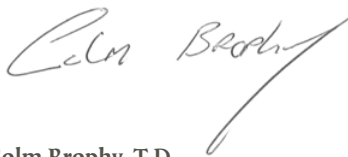
We understand that inequality means that women and girls are disproportionately exposed to the effects of climate change. Ireland is working to ensure a fundamental shift in how international climate action takes account of the needs and roles of women and girls and we are encouraging others to do likewise. This will be a particular priority for me as Minister for Overseas Development Aid.

In 2019 our actions in this area included support for gender-responsive approaches to clean energy in Malawi by targeting the most vulnerable female households with clean energy. In Ethiopia, our efforts to 'green' the health sector have been complemented by the donation of solar lights to new mothers, improving household health and well-being. In our multilateral partnerships, Ireland is championing a gender responsive approach to climate action including through dedicated funding to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Gender Action Plan. This work is a good foundation for the dedicated Climate Unit which I am establishing within Irish Aid.

Ireland has put women and girls at the heart of our work to prevent and resolve conflict. We know from peacebuilding efforts in Northern Ireland the impact of conflict on women and girls. In 2019, we launched Ireland's Third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. Our NAP sets out an ambitious agenda for Ireland as a champion for the Women, Peace and Security agenda. We are mindful that 2020 will also mark the anniversary of the first Women, Peace and Security resolution (UNSCR 1325) and yet significant gaps remain in its implementation. We are committed to addressing these gaps through action to support women and girls affected by conflict at home and internationally.

Ireland is also committed to gender equality in our humanitarian assistance and I am particularly proud of the role played by Irish NGOs in reaching some of the most disadvantaged women and girls in conflict and crisis scenarios. In 2019, our Humanitarian Programme Plan supported programmes prioritising protection, gender mainstreaming, and the prevention and response to gender-based violence. We also agreed a three-year strategic partnership with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to address Gender-Based Violence and provide life-saving services for women and girls in the most protracted, underfunded humanitarian settings in the world.

25-years-ago the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, declared that 'human rights are women's rights and women's rights are human rights'. As we look to 2020 and beyond, this statement and the aspiration behind it – full equality for women and girls – will continue to be the foundation stone of Ireland's work for international development.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colm Brophy', with a long, sweeping flourish extending downwards and to the right.

Colm Brophy, T.D.

Minister of State for Overseas Development Aid and Diaspora

The Year in Review

New Beginnings

2019 was the beginning of a new era for Ireland's development cooperation programme. In February, An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, An Tánaiste and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney, and Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs, Ciaran Cannon, launched *A Better World*, Ireland's new policy for international development.

The policy sets out a cross-Government strategic framework for Ireland's development cooperation for the decade ahead as we aim to deliver our commitment to allocate 0.7% of GNI to Official Development Assistance (ODA) by 2030.

The philosophy behind *A Better World* is that our work should benefit people in our partner countries, but also the broader global community, and by extension the people of Ireland. The point of departure is our understanding that the global community is inter-linked and that events in one country or region can have profound effects for us all. This is the basis of our commitment to multilateralism, to a rules-based international order and global cooperation in addressing the challenges we all face – whether they be climate change, global health, or issues of gender equality. We believe that Ireland can act as a link between global institutions and civil society and a conduit for ideas, experience and action. The four pillars of our work in the coming years will be Climate Action, Strengthening Governance, Gender Equality and reducing Humanitarian Need and we are conscious that these are interlinked and have implications for each other. Our work will be multi-layered, beginning in communities in our partner countries, and using the lessons from that experience to inform the way we participate in national and global-level conversations and initiatives.

The Government underscored its commitment to this ambition by allocating €838 million for ODA in 2020, an increase of almost €21 million on 2019 and a sixth consecutive annual increase in ODA.

In addition to *A Better World*, in 2019 Ireland launched a new Africa Strategy, *Global Ireland: Ireland's Strategy for Africa to 2025*, and a *Strategy for Partnership with Small Island Developing States (SIDS)* – the latter an important but sometimes neglected global constituency.



Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney, at the launch of Ireland's Strategy for Africa with Minister of State Ciarán Cannon; Permanent Representative of Zambia to the United Nations, H.E. Lazarous Kapambwe; Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations, H.E. Cheikh Niang; and Ireland's UN Youth Delegate, Valery Molay.
Photo: DFAT

The Africa Strategy reaffirmed Ireland's commitment to working with our African partners to achieve peace, prosperity and sustainable development, and to supporting sustainable economic growth by increasing Ireland's trade and investment ties with Africa. Launched by the Tánaiste and Minister Cannon, the Strategy will see Ireland strengthen political partnerships with African countries and institutions, including the African Union. We will expand our footprint on the continent by opening three new Embassies in French-speaking Africa by 2025. Ireland will work in partnership with African countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and to address national, regional and global challenges in our interconnected world. By 2025, the number of postgraduate students from Africa on the Africa Ireland Fellows programme will double, and Ireland will build new opportunities for stronger cultural connections.

The Strategy also emphasises the importance of Ireland's European Union membership in strengthening relations with African countries, committing Ireland to work with EU and African partners in building an ambitious and effective political infrastructure to underpin a strengthened EU-Africa partnership. Ireland will also deepen engagement with African partners through multilateral bodies such as the United Nations.

The central focus of the SIDS Strategy was on how Ireland could help to amplify SIDS' voices at global level – in particular within the EU and UN. It contained a series of commitments to work with SIDS in their priority areas and Ireland also set up a €12 million Trust Fund at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support SIDS in the Asia-Pacific to adapt to climate change and improve their disaster resilience. Projects funded are agreed in partnership between the ADB and participating States and must have a significant gender element.



In June 2019, President Michael D. Higgins invited representatives of the group of Small Island Developing States to Áras an Uachtaráin. The meeting followed the 'Our Ocean Wealth Summit', an international meeting assessing the impact climate change is having on small island states.
Photo: Áras an Uachtaráin / Maxwell Photography

2019 – Some Highlights

2019 saw significant progress in development and humanitarian efforts that benefitted the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable across Africa, Asia and the Middle East. This ranged from direct engagement and support for national efforts to progress the SDGs to meeting increased needs of populations affected by humanitarian crises and disasters. These efforts were reinforced by strong political and advocacy engagement aimed at influencing national and global policies and programmes. Ireland was proactive in advancing collective and joined up solutions to global poverty, working in partnership with national governments, multilateral and civil society organisations and the private sector.

Ireland's eleven Embassies in sub-Saharan Africa were responsible for the allocation of much needed funding for programmes in education, health, social protection, governance, agriculture and livelihoods and nutrition to the value of €127m. With a strong focus on needs of women and girls in particular, the programmes responded to the needs of minority groups, refugee and displaced populations, those affected by conflict and disaster as well as those living below the poverty line. Midterm reviews in 2019 of Ireland's programmes in South Africa and Tanzania concluded that both were on track in delivering on their planned objectives.

More than 390,000 people affected by humanitarian emergencies in 23 countries received life-saving assistance from Irish NGOs funded by Ireland's aid programme in 2019. €21.7 million was provided to eight NGOs, including through our Emergency Response Funding Scheme which allocates funding to partners within 48 hours, enabling partners to respond quickly to humanitarian emergencies.

In addition, Ireland made 33 deployments of humanitarian experts from Ireland's Rapid Response Corps to support UN crisis operations in 16 different countries, namely Albania, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Myanmar, Palestine, South Sudan, Sudan, Turkey, Venezuela, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Ireland also deployed five consignments of emergency relief supplies from our stockpiles around the world, providing 261 metric tonnes of supplies such as emergency shelter, cooking and hygiene supplies to more than 30,000 households displaced by natural disasters, conflict and violence in Nigeria, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Burkina Faso.

In Ethiopia, critical food and cash transfers were provided to 8 million people through the government's Productive Safety Net Programme supported by Ireland. This included direct support to 35,000 pregnant and lactating women and prevented them and many other highly vulnerable people from falling into severe food insecurity. Ireland's contribution to the Ethiopian Humanitarian Fund helped provide timely and efficient support to 9.86 million people suffering from complex humanitarian crisis across the country, including the protection of 400,000 of those most vulnerable as well as 400,000 people with disabilities.

2019 was a busy year for high-level visits between Ireland and Africa, with more than 150 Governmental and senior official-level engagements between Ireland and African countries. On a visit to Mali and Ethiopia, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar met political leaders, visited Irish Defence Forces at the EU Training Mission (EUTM) in Mali, visited the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa, met a number of Irish NGOs, and visited a UNHCR refugee camp.

In February, Minister Katherine Zappone took part in the *African Leadership Meeting – Investing in Health* as part of the 32nd Assembly Summit of the African Union. In March, Minister Zappone visited South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana and Namibia to deepen political and economic links, and engage with the Irish community. In November, Minister Zappone participated in the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, co-convened by the Governments of Kenya and Denmark. Also in November, Minister Heather Humphreys led a trade mission of 42 Irish companies to South Africa and Kenya.

In December, Minister Cannon's visit to Mozambique provided an opportunity to build on our strong political relationship and to review the progress and results of one of Ireland's largest bilateral development cooperation programmes. The visit followed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by Minister Cannon and Mozambique's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, José Pacheco, at the UN General Assembly in September, establishing a formal mechanism for bilateral consultations. In 2019, Ireland also accredited its first Ambassador to Eswatini as part of our commitment to expand our global footprint.



Minister Katherine Zappone at the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), Nairobi Summit 2023.
Photo: Brian E. Inganga

Ireland also hosted a series of high-level visits from Africa, including the President of the Seychelles, H.E. Danny Faure; Sierra Leone’s Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Alie Kabba; Uganda’s Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, Amelia Kyambadde; and Ethiopia’s Minister for Culture and Tourism, Dr. Hirut Kassaw. November also saw Ireland host the inaugural meeting of the South Africa-Ireland Joint Commission for Cooperation (JCC) in Dublin. The meeting was jointly chaired by Minister Cannon, and the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, Alvin Botes. The JCC was established in 2017 to provide a formal platform for consultations between Ireland and South Africa and to promote cooperation in agriculture, education, gender equality, science, technology, tourism and trade.

Ireland’s work in the area of Governance in 2019 included the launch of the Domestic Resource Mobilisation (DRM) initiative by the Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohoe and Minister Cannon. DRM is a whole of government collaboration between the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Department of Finance and the Office of the Revenue Commissioners to strengthen partner countries’ tax administrative capacity. It aims to support them in raising revenue fairly and effectively, through equitable and inclusive means, while also promoting good governance. Ireland’s long-term support of the African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) was recognised at the 2019 General Assembly of ATAF, where Ireland was awarded a ‘Most Valued Development Partner’ award.

Partnership with civil society has always been a key element of Ireland’s overseas development programme. In 2019, Ireland supported 44 civil society organisations with more than €85 million in grants for work in education, social protection, health, agriculture, governance and human rights in more than 70 developing countries.

Ireland also served as the donor chair of the Task Team on Civil Society Organisations’ Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment. Keynote addresses were delivered by Minister of State Helen McEntee during the OECD-Task Team Civil Society Week in Paris in June and by Minister of State Seán Canney during the UN’s High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York in July. In November 2019, Ireland hosted Civil Society Week in Dublin, where Minister Cannon welcomed civil society, partner countries and donors from over 30 countries from all five continents for a series of events to discuss how best to support and strengthen the effectiveness of civil society.

Also during 2019, Irish Aid worked with partners across the country promoting global citizenship amongst close to 280,000 children, young people and adults in primary and post-primary schools and Higher Education Institutions and with youth, adult and community groups. We also welcomed 7500 people to the Irish Aid Centre to learn more about the work of Ireland’s ODA programme.

Global and Multilateral Initiatives

Ireland was active across a range of global-level development initiatives in 2019, including in the area of education where Ireland joined Education Cannot Wait (ECW), a global fund dedicated to supporting education for children and adolescents in emergencies and protracted crises, with a particular focus on participation by girls. Ireland contributed €4 million to the Fund in 2019 and also committed €7.5 million to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), which works to achieve equality between girls and boys in terms of access to education opportunities. This work is a significant contribution to Sustainable Development Goal 5 - achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. Ireland also expanded its University Fellowship programme – the Ireland Fellows – to candidates from the occupied Palestinian Territory in 2019, with 25 Palestinian students coming to Ireland to study for a post-graduate qualification.

In the area of global health, Ireland was one of the first donors to pledge support for the sixth replenishment of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria's (GFATM). Ireland will provide €50 million over the 2020-2022 period to the Global Fund – an increase of more than 50 percent. This will help save lives, prevent the further spread of disease and suffering, and strengthen the health systems of some of the poorest and most fragile countries in the world.

Ireland pledged almost €102 million to the International Development Association (IDA) – one of the largest sources of funding for the world's poorest countries, providing highly concessional and long-term loans and grants. This funding, which is an increase of more than 10 per cent on our previous contributions, reaffirms Ireland's commitment to supporting the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries.

A quarter of Ireland's ODA goes through EU institutions, contributing to programmes such as the Spotlight Initiative, a UN programme to eliminate violence against women and girls which received €500 million in EU support. In 2019 EU funding benefitted at least 39,000 women and girls through programmes in post-conflict peacebuilding and conflict prevention, while more than five million women of reproductive age, adolescent girls and children under five were reached by EU-supported nutrition programmes. Ireland also participated actively in negotiations related to the next EU budget, the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-27, advocating enhanced EU efforts to achieve the SDGs, as well as negotiations on a new agreement between the EU and 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific States with a combined population of 1.5 billion. Minister Cannon represented Ireland at the May 2019 ministerial meeting between the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.

Overall, 2019 was a busy year for Ireland in overseas development. We look forward to building on the foundation of *A Better World* and *Global Ireland* in 2020 and beyond, enhancing the effectiveness of our global presence, development activity and partnerships to meet the challenges of our evermore interconnected world.



Ireland's Work for Gender Equality

"Gender equality is fundamental for transformation and reaching the furthers behind first"

A Better World, Ireland's Policy for International Development

Ireland's development and humanitarian assistance reaches more than 130 countries worldwide. Gender equality is at the heart of what we do.

In 2019, more than 75 percent of Ireland's bilateral allocable aid targeted gender equality.

Our commitment to supporting women and girls is central to *A Better World*, our international development policy. Gender equality is fundamentally an issue of human rights. It cuts across all areas of life and society and we are committed to ensuring it features

in all of our work in the coming years. In particular, we have decided to focus on a number of areas that impact directly on women and girls in our partner countries. These include education for girls, sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender-based violence (GBV), women's economic empowerment and the relationship of women to armed conflict. The aim of our activity is to level the playing field between men and women, to give women a stronger voice in their communities, in political decision-making and international peacebuilding.

However, the struggle for equality isn't only an issue for women – if equality is to be achieved we need to involve men and boys and to encourage society to reflect on its conception of masculinity and the relationship between genders.



Participant at Panlap - UNFPA Gates teenage Girls Education programme, Makeni Town, Sierra Leone.
Photo: DFAT



Salome Mbugua speaking at the National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security in Iveagh House. Photo: DFAT.

Ireland, Gender and Climate Action

The vast majority of Ireland's climate-related expenditure is on climate adaptation, and channelled into sectors which are of most relevance to women, such as smallholder agriculture, household energy needs, and social protection. In 2019, Ireland provided at least €80 million in climate finance increasing its contributions from previous years.

Ireland champions a gender-responsive approach to climate at multilateral level and invests in policy and programming on gender and climate in its partnerships with research bodies. In 2019, Ireland supported the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Gender Action Plan, which works to ensure that women can influence climate change decisions and that women and men are represented equally in all aspects of the UNFCCC.

In Malawi, Ireland supports gender-responsive approaches to clean energy by targeting the most vulnerable female households with clean energy. Ireland also supports a range of activity in partner countries, such as Ethiopia, where efforts to 'green' the health sector have been complemented by cook stoves and the donation of solar lights to new mothers; in Tanzania, where Ireland has supported women in securing rights over communal land and in running for elected positions on village councils where decisions on land management are made.

Women, Peace and Security and Gender-Based Violence

Ireland recognises the distinct impact of conflict on women and girls and the importance of women's participation in leadership and decision-making in conflict and post-conflict situations. In 2019 we launched our third National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security, an ambitious five-year agenda to strengthen our work in conflict-affected contexts. The UN Secretary General's Report on Women, Peace and Security commended Ireland's approach to the development of the NAP in 2019.

A key priority for Ireland across both the NAP and A Better World is addressing gender-based violence. In 2019, we launched a three-year, €4.5 million strategic partnership with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to address GBV in emergencies and support the empowerment of women and girls in humanitarian crises. The IRC will deliver life-saving services for women and girl survivors of GBV in five of the most protracted, underfunded humanitarian settings in the world. In addition, Ireland's support provides for emergency response funding which will enable the IRC to rapidly put GBV services in place during the very earliest phase of an emergency. This strategic partnership will also focus on strengthening leadership to improve GBV prevention and response within the humanitarian system.

At a Glance

Ireland's development and humanitarian assistance reaches more than

130

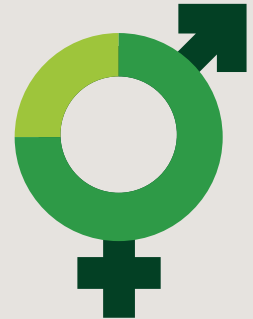
countries worldwide



In 2019, more than

75%

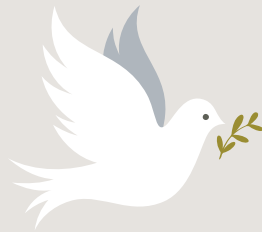
of Ireland's bilateral aid targeted gender equality



WPS & GBV

In June 2019, the Government launched Ireland's Third National Action Plan on

Women, Peace and Security



Our Humanitarian Programme Plan provided

€14.9 million

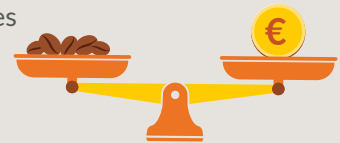
in funding to support Irish NGOs to respond to humanitarian crises with an estimated **10%** of programming prioritising protection, gender mainstreaming, and the prevention of GBV in 2019



Women's Economic Empowerment

In Ethiopia, Ireland's Africa Agri Food Development (AADP) helped

women coffee farmers receive improved prices for their produce



In Kenya, Ireland supported the Kenya Private Sector Association, an umbrella organisation representing some **500,000** SMEs in Kenya, to support a

Women in Business mentorship and training programme



GBV in Emergencies:

Through a new **three-year partnership** with the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Ireland has committed to provide

€4.5 million

to deliver life-saving services for women and girl survivors of GBV in five of the most protracted, underfunded humanitarian settings in the world



In Malawi, Ireland's support for climate smart agriculture has included a focus on women's economic empowerment that has benefited over

40,000 women farmers



Education for Girls

In 2019, Ireland continued to support the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) with funding of **€7.5 million**. GPE works with close to

70 developing countries 

to reach the most marginalised and vulnerable children, including girls, children with disabilities and those in emergency settings.

With more than 120 million girls out of school, GPE focuses on ensuring girls' access to quality education continues to remain essential.

Ireland will provide at least

€250 million to global education by 2024



SRHR

In Tanzania, Irish funding supported community health volunteers in reaching **15,226** pregnant women, **60,131** caregivers of young children and **98,467** adolescents, and reduced high-risk unattended home deliveries in the region by **86%**.



Climate Action

In 2019, Ireland provided at least €80 million in climate finance exceeding the commitment made in the Programme for Government to **€175 million** in climate finance over the period 2016-2020.



Education in Emergencies

In 2019 Ireland pledged **€6 million** over three years to Education Cannot Wait – a fund hosted by UNICEF, dedicated to education in emergencies and protracted crises. Ireland's funding supports efforts to provide access to education for 8.9 million children living in crisis by 2021, including over

4.4 million girls



Multilateral Engagement

Ireland's Permanent Representative to the United Nations completed a **two-year term** as Chair of the Commission of the Status of Women (CSW) in 2019



In 2019 Ireland provided **€3.25 million** in core and bilateral funding to UN Women as a key partner in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment globally



In 2019 Ireland supported and attended the Nairobi Summit marking the 25th anniversary of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and **called for women's sexual and reproductive health to take centre stage** in national and global development efforts

In 2019, the Government launched a **national report** on the implementation of the Beijing Platform and Declaration for Action





Women’s Economic Empowerment (WEE)

Encouraging women’s involvement and leadership in business is an important part of Ireland’s work to promote gender equality - in particular in our partner countries in Africa. Our embassies in partner countries work with civil society organisations and we support programmes and research by the World Bank, EU and UN agencies.

One of our flagship programmes is the Africa Agri Food Development Programme (AADP), co-funded by Ireland’s Departments of Foreign Affairs and Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The AADP promotes women’s economic empowerment while developing partnerships between the Irish agri-food sector and African countries. The aim is to build the food industry in partner countries, increase markets for local produce and support mutual trade between Ireland and Africa. In 2019, the programme supported a project in Ethiopia to train coffee farmers and provide new employment opportunities for women. In Uganda it supported a feasibility study for research on the dairy sector in Uganda and Rwanda, focused on women dairy farmers and employment opportunities for women in rural areas. Ireland plans to build on this experience to enhance to AADP in 2020 and beyond, including working with women’s agri-business networks and female leaders in the agri-food sector.



Education for Girls

Quality education is a right for all children, and the education of girls, in particular, is essential to sustainable development. Ireland has committed to providing funding of at least €250 million to global education by 2024 and we are focused on helping more girls complete primary school and transition to secondary school and beyond. With more than 130 million girls out of school, this focus on girls' access to quality education is essential.

Girls in crisis-affected countries are especially likely to miss out on education, being two and half times more likely to be out of school than boys. In the Sahel region of Africa, girls on average complete only four years of education. In 2019, Ireland's humanitarian partnerships involved a range of interventions to improve the education of girls in emergencies.

In 2019 Ireland provided funding to girls from poor, marginalised, and vulnerable households to improve school attendance, as well as working to create safe school environments and to reduce gender-based violence. We provided €7.5 million to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) to strengthen education systems and improve learning opportunities in 70 developing countries targeting the most marginalised and vulnerable children, including girls, children with disabilities and those in emergency settings. In partnership with UNESCO, we supported the delivery of appropriate comprehensive sexuality education programmes via education curricula in Ethiopia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The partnership also aims to reduce gender-based violence and create safer, healthier and more inclusive school environments.



Mariam, 6 years, and her sister Malak, 9 years, are Syrian refugees living in an informal tented settlement in Jordan. 'We're going to school on a bus and we're going to study,' says Malak. 'I like school. I need to keep going so I can grow up and become a teacher.' Photo: UNICEF/Herwig

In 2019, during the United Nations General Assembly, Ireland pledged €6 million over three years to Education Cannot Wait – a global fund, hosted by UNICEF, dedicated to education in emergencies and protracted crises. Ireland's funding supports access to education for 8.9 million children living in crisis by 2021, including over 4.4 million girls. Other partnerships committed to education equality include:

- » In West Africa, Plan International Ireland works with communities, schools and government to improve the quality of education by increasing inclusion, particularly of girls and children with disabilities, in early childhood and primary education.
- » In Zambia and Malawi, Ireland's partner, Camfed, helps vulnerable girls at risk of dropping out of school to complete secondary education.
- » In Uganda, Ireland focuses its education work on supporting girls' access to quality education in the Karamoja region, assisting local government, schools and communities to overcome persistent barriers to girls progressing through formal education.
- » In Sierra Leone, Ireland backs government efforts to reduce early and unintended pregnancies, as well as promoting the continuation of girls' education during pregnancy or reintegration into school after pregnancy.

Gender Case Study 1

Rory O'Neill spoke about how the Colombian police might improve their relationship with the Colombia's LGBTI community, who often are victims of violence and homicide. Photo: Rory O'Neill



Women, Peace and Security, and Gender-Based Violence in Colombia

Ireland opened its Embassy in Colombia in January 2019 but has actively supported peacebuilding efforts in the country since the final stages of negotiation of the Peace Agreement with the FARC in 2016. This has been through a blend of policy and practical assistance, including financial support to the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund for Peace (UNMPTF) and the EU Trust Fund for Colombia.

Irish support to the UNMPTF has focused on women in policing, training local police on how to respond to sexual and gender-based violence and devising innovative ways of reaching and building trust with isolated communities in remote areas affected by the conflict. The project – known as UNIPEP – also trains trainers in this area to enhance its reach and ensure its longer term sustainability.

The results of the project are highly significant in the context of Colombia's efforts to bring its society together after years of conflict. Nearly 500,000 people in seven municipalities have benefitted from the programme, leading to an increase in reported cases, an important shift in mind-set within the police force and greater demand for training in how to deal sensitively with cases of sexual assault and abuse. Relations between the police and local communities have improved, as has knowledge of gender rights. The police have also gained access to some indigenous communities in Cauca where they had been unwelcome for more than 20 years and vulnerable populations like the LGBTI community and victims of the conflict have greater confidence in the police than before.

Ireland's Response to Humanitarian Crises Around the World



Rebeca lives in an informal internally displaced people settlement on the outskirts of the city. Her husband has been missing for four years and she works as a daily worker in nearby farms to feed her six children. To supplement her income, Rebeca collects leftover grains of rice in the fields after the harvest.
Photo: Alyona Synenko/ICRC

A record 132 million people around the world needed humanitarian assistance in 2019. Reducing humanitarian need has been central to Ireland's foreign and development policy for many years and is one of the four pillars of A Better World.

When crises hit, community and non-governmental organisations are often the first to provide assistance to people in need. Ireland's NGO sector is a crucial partner in responding to emergencies around the globe and in 2019 we provided €21.7 million to eight NGOs responding to humanitarian crises. Our Emergency Response Funding Scheme was created to respond quickly to emergency situations and provides funding to our humanitarian partners within 48 hours of a request. In 2019, more than 390,000 people in 23 countries received life-saving assistance from Irish NGOs under this scheme.

Ireland also operates a Rapid Response Initiative – a roster of humanitarian experts for deployment to the field and stocks of emergency relief supplies pre-positioned in depots around the globe. In 2019 we deployed 33 members of our Rapid Response Corps to UN crisis operations in 16 different countries, including Albania, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Colombia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Myanmar, Palestine, South Sudan, Sudan, Turkey, Venezuela, Zambia and Zimbabwe. We also sent five consignments, totalling 261 metric tonnes, to more than 30,000 households displaced by natural disasters, conflict and violence in Nigeria, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Burkina Faso. These included emergency shelter, cooking and hygiene supplies, blankets and water purification kits.



A woman in a displaced persons camp.
Photo: S.N/ ICRC

As well as responding to emergencies, Ireland also works at a global level to improve the international community's response to humanitarian emergencies. The world's main humanitarian coordination organisation is the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and for the first six months of 2019 Ireland chaired OCHA's Donor Support Group. Our aim during this period was to work with OCHA and other donors to improve the efficiency of global humanitarian response, reacting more quickly and in a more coordinated way to crises. Ireland hosted the annual meeting of the OCHA Donor Support Group in June 2019 at Malahide Castle, welcoming senior OCHA staff, including the UN's most senior humanitarian official, Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock, and around 80 representatives from 27 of the largest donor countries.

In 2019 Ireland also chaired the Advisory Group to the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund. This \$800 million fund held by the UN is used to respond to humanitarian crises, and the Advisory Group provides guidance on behalf of contributors. Ireland encouraged the CERF to become even more agile and responsive, allocating funding quickly when crises emerge.

Ireland also co-chaired the Donor Support Group for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 2019. The group involves donor representatives and the ICRC's senior management, discussing the organisation's strategy and operations and wider challenges in the humanitarian sector. Ireland used the leadership of this group to ensure reflection on key issues faced by humanitarians, including the challenge of responding to protracted crises, and the importance of a gender sensitive approach to humanitarian action.



The UN's most senior humanitarian official, Emergency Relief Coordinator Mark Lowcock, addressed the OCHA Donor Support Group in June 2019 at Malahide Castle.
Photo: OCHA

The destroyed city of Homs. Ireland continued to support partners in Syria to deliver vital assistance to those whose lives have been devastated by years of conflict. Photo: IOM



Middle East

Yemen remained the world's worst humanitarian crisis in 2019, with more than 23 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Minister of State for Development Ciarán Cannon, T.D., attended the Yemen pledging conference in Geneva in February, committing €5 million in Irish support to the Yemen Humanitarian Fund.

The Syrian conflict entered its ninth year in 2019, leaving more than 11 million people in need of humanitarian assistance within Syria itself, and more than 5 million refugees in neighbouring countries. Ireland supported operations by our partners inside Syria, and with refugees and communities in the region, including Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Iraq. We allocated more than €25 million to Syria in 2019, bringing our total contribution to more than €142 million – Ireland's largest ever response to a single crisis.

Africa

Several countries in Africa suffered from protracted humanitarian emergencies in 2019, often driven by conflict and the impact of climate change. Ireland provided support to humanitarian relief in Somalia (€5.8 million), the Central African Republic (€4.7 million), South Sudan (€8.3 million), Chad (€1.3 million), Sudan (€3.6 million), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (€4.9 million), Ethiopia (€5.2 million), Nigeria (€1.1 million), Niger (€1.6 million), Mali (€1 million), Burundi (€0.4 million), Cameroon (€0.6 million), Eritrea (€1 million) and Zimbabwe (€0.6 million).

2019 also saw two devastating cyclones in Southern Africa, Idai and Kenneth. Mozambique was worst hit, and Ireland responded with funding and emergency supplies worth more than €4.5 million. In the Democratic Republic of Congo more than 2000 people died in the second largest Ebola outbreak in history – Ireland's response totalled nearly €5 million.



Nana Malam Tsalha, Assaga, Diffa, Niger.
Photo: Hamed Ali/DFAT

CASE STUDY

Nana Malan Tshala, Niger

Ireland supports Plan International to implement an accelerated education programme for students affected by the conflict in the Diffa region of Niger. Nana Malam Tshala is fulfilling her wish to be educated, to become a member of the school leadership and to advocate for children's rights.

'My name is NANA MALAM TSALHA, I am 12 years old and a student at the Assaga centre. I am a member of the school government and take part in other activities at the centre.

There is now a positive change in my life. Before I was a doughnut seller and I travelled miles to sell my doughnuts because I was out of school.

Thanks to the accelerated education classes, I can read and write now. I was given a second chance. I also learned a lot about child protection and children's rights. That is why I would like to become a child protection officer [within the school government]. This is very important for me. It will allow me to enter the formal cycle and continue so that I can stand up for child protection in my community.

At the beginning of the project, it was not easy. Thank goodness, with the language courses we could quickly learn through French. Now I can read and write. Truly, community involvement was also an essential factor.

I thank my community, my teachers and especially Plan who ran this happy initiative for us.'



Toufic at the Habilitation Preschool of the Ghassan Kanafani Cultural Foundation (GKCF)
Photo: Lebanon Humanitarian Fund

CASE STUDY

Refugees

Conflict and climate change are responsible for the displacement of ever-greater numbers of people. In 2019 more than 70 million people were displaced, a record figure which included more than 25 million people officially registered as refugees. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, visited Ireland in July 2019, where he discussed the challenges facing refugee populations with the President, Taoiseach, Tánaiste, Minister of Justice and Minister of State for Development.

In December, the High Commissioner hosted the first Global Refugee Forum in Geneva, which brought together countries from around the world to make pledges in support of refugees and countries hosting them. Minister of State for Immigration David Stanton, T.D., represented Ireland, pledging support for UNHCR and the International Organisation for Migration, including a pledge of €250 million development assistance dedicated to education over the next five years and peacebuilding - including €4.5 million to the UN peacebuilding fund over the period 2020-2022.

The story of Toufic

Toufic is a six-year-old Palestine refugee living in Beirut. He is one of the children enrolled in the Habilitation Preschool of the Ghassan Kanafani Cultural Foundation (GKCF), a Lebanese grass-roots organization specializing in services for children with disabilities.

For children like Toufic, a Palestinian refugee living with a disability, proper treatment and education is far from certain. GKCF has been providing specialised services in Lebanon for many years, its preschool established as far back as 1986. Every year the foundation provides services for around 90 children and support to their families.

When Toufic was registered with the pre-school, he did not have an interest in other children, avoided social contact and did not express himself easily. It was difficult for him to perform simple physical movements, even brushing his teeth. He was diagnosed with autism by the GKCF staff and underwent special education and therapy tailored to his special needs. In addition to this, Toufic's parents were trained in special educational and techniques. The pre-school staff could see important progress after one year - he could concentrate better, communicate better and had started to play with other children. Thanks to this progress Toufic could be integrated with a group of children with other disabilities as a step towards entering formal education. He advanced through the second year, further improving his social, physical, emotional, and education skills. Now, in his third year at the preschool he is being prepared for enrollment in a normal kindergarten and in the future for formal education.

GKCF was supported by the Lebanon Humanitarian Fund (LHF) in 2019. Ireland was the third largest of nine donors to the LHF, giving a total of €2 million. The LHF works with NGOs, such as GKCF to provide strengthened local support for vulnerable populations.

Ireland Responds to Cyclones Idai and Kenneth in Mozambique

In March 2019, Cyclone Idai made landfall near the city of Beira in Mozambique. The cyclone caused widespread devastation, damaging over 90% of infrastructure, including 3,000 classrooms, and destroying over 715,000 hectares of crops. 400,000 people were displaced from their homes and more than 600 people were confirmed to have died – one of the deadliest storms to ever hit the southern hemisphere. Less than six weeks later, Cyclone Kenneth hit Mozambique’s northern province of Cabo Delgado, impacting more than 250,000 people. In total, Cyclones Idai and Kenneth left more than 2 million people in urgent humanitarian need.

In immediate response, Ireland provided just over €3 million to NGO and UN partners, to assist their efforts to meet emergency shelter, healthcare, education and food needs. In December 2019, during a visit to Mozambique, Minister Ciarán Cannon announced an additional €1 million for Mozambique’s cyclone recovery efforts, providing shelter, healthcare, and livelihoods supports to communities still struggling to cope.

During his five-day visit, the Minister also held political and Irish community engagements in the capital Maputo, and travelled to the central province of Inhambane to visit number of health, education, and water and sanitation projects, funded by Ireland, as well as being briefed on the impact of Ireland’s assistance to communities recovering from the impacts of the cyclones.



Plan International Ireland distributing supplies following Cyclone Idai.
Photo: Plan International Ireland



Irish funded WFP voucher distribution in Beira, Mozambique.
Photo: WFP



Irish Ambassador Nuala O'Brien visits a temporary camp in Beira.
Photo: DFAT/IOM



Irish Ambassador Nuala O'Brien visiting communities in Mozambique devastated by Cyclone Idai.
Photo: DFAT/ Concern

Global Ireland – Focus on Partner Countries

Lezita Massa, a potato farmer in the Dedza district in Malawi.
Photo: Hugh Rutherford/ CIP

Malawi in Focus



POPULATION:
18.6 million



GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$1159



POSITION IN UN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
172



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
63.8 years

KEY RESULTS



Following severe weather events, including impacts from Cyclone Idai which displaced 97,500 people in southern Malawi, 5,500 families received support to meet immediate needs and help with early recovery, including multi-purpose cash transfer, safe water, seed for winter cropping and energy saving stoves and solar lamps.



22,153 energy saving cook stoves and 5,993 solar lamps were distributed to social cash transfer beneficiaries and flood affected communities as part of a 'Green' humanitarian response.



240,510 farmers benefitted from Irish support in 2019. 44% of these were women.



98,215 farmers, of which 57% are female, benefitted from improved technologies such as climate resilient and nutritious potato seed, Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP) vines, certified bean, pigeon peas, rice and ground-nut seed, nutrition training, and improved access to markets. As part of our drive to diversify production and consumption, and engage private sector actors in the effort, a total of 430,086 MT of legume seed were traded via formal markets in 2019.



Ireland's support to UNDP enabled over 6.8 million people to register to vote in May 2019 elections using the National ID card. 56% of those registered were female. Ireland's support to strengthening governance also saw a noticeable success on women's participation in politics, with a 38% increase in female MPs in parliament between 2014 and 2019.



5,664 village savings group members (1,221 men & 4,443 women) accumulated €200,000 in savings, which will be used to develop small enterprises for members.



By year-end, 292,575 ultra-poor households nationwide received timely and predictable monthly social cash transfer payments, Ireland's support directly benefitted 23,000 households in Balaka and Ntcheu Districts to receive cash transfers through electronic payments. This is having positive impact on the household wellbeing, school retention and enrolment, consumption, and asset accumulation.

Malawi in Focus



Ivy Grandson, in her eighties, SCTP beneficiary who uses her month cash transfer to pay her grandchildren's school fees and buy fertilizer for her small farm. Photo: Anne Holmes/ DFAT

Since our first development programmes in Malawi started in 2002, Ireland has supported a wide range of partners working with communities at risk from climate related disasters and other shocks.

Ireland's ODA programme assists farmers with growing climate resilient crops and using climate smart farming practices; encouraging families to diversify their source of income and be less dependent on farming; and supporting communities to have disaster plans in place so they can take quick action to minimise damage when crises strike.

As well as reducing risk and building resilience, Irish funding also provides support in the aftermath of a crisis. In response to the floods in March 2019, Ireland rapidly allocated €750,000 for relief and early recovery activities. This money was used by NGOs, including Trócaire, Goal, Christian Aid and others to provide shelter; water and sanitation; and multi-purpose cash transfers for the worst affected communities. The support included a particular focus on nutritional needs of women and children. Recognising that crisis situations and displacement can leave people, especially women and children, more exposed to incidents of violence and abuse, the organisations that were supported worked with displaced communities to provide protection services.

CASE STUDY

Women at the centre of cyclone recovery efforts

Ennifer Malambo is chair of her village's civil protection committee. She is highly regarded by everyone at the temporary camp in Kathebwe, in Zomba District, Southern Malawi. Kathebwe is the short-term home for hundreds of families forced to leave their homes in March in the build up to Cyclone Idai. Some 436 families based here are waiting for flood waters to recede so they can return home and start the long, costly process of recovery.

When government officials, health-care workers, and aid organisations come to the camp, Ennifer is the first to provide accurate and detailed information.

Esme Mvula and Deborah Almson recount their experience of the night the waters came. The waters came rapidly and in no time it was waist high. *'It all happened so quickly'* Esme recalls. Esme has six children and was struggling to evacuate the whole family. Esme said *'It was terrifying for the children. They were crying and very scared'*. Esme's ten-year-old son nearly drowned during the evacuation. *'Now the children are too scared to go back to the house. They think the water is still there'*

Deborah's house began to collapse as the water rushed in so she escaped with her husband and five-year-old son. *'It was an unbearable situation. We feared for our lives. This (the floods) has never happened to this level before'*

It was Ennifer's quick action as chair of the civil protection committee that saved the lives of many in the community.

The floods brought devastation to many parts of the country, but this story of an active and committed village civil protection committee with a strong female leader demonstrates the value of communities being able to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to disasters.



South Africa and Zimbabwe in Focus

SOUTH AFRICA



POPULATION:
58.5 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$11,756



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
113



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
63.9 years

ZIMBABWE



POPULATION:
14.4 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$3,020



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
156



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
60.81 years

KEY RESULTS SOUTH AFRICA



74 students have successfully completed their Masters programmes in Ireland through the Embassy's Kader Asmal Ireland Fellows Programme.



160 community paralegals from all nine provinces were trained to provide legal advice and track GBV criminal and legal cases.

KEY RESULTS ZIMBABWE



17,729 men and boys in tertiary institutions participated in dialogues on GBV and child marriage



3,450 survivors of gender-based violence received comprehensive support at shelters supported by Ireland



A survey released in 2019 shows a 29% reduction in maternal mortality in Zimbabwe

Community paralegals receive training to help deal with gender discrimination and gender-based violence.

Photo: Social Change Assistance Trust

South Africa and Zimbabwe in Focus

During 2019, Ireland's embassy team in Pretoria continued to put gender equality at the centre of its work in a region where gender norms, violence, and poverty drive stark inequality between women and men, girls and boys.

Ireland's gender equality work comprises two streams. At a national level, support is provided to civil society and research organisations, and to the UN, to influence policy and national processes which address gender equality. At community level, direct interventions support women and children affected by violence and work with men and boys to reduce the incidence of violence.

In South Africa, where the Government of President Cyril Ramaphosa is providing strong political leadership, Ireland supported the development of a national plan to address GBV. Policy briefs from the University of Pretoria and the Institute of Security Studies guide policy makers to choose the most effective measures to tackle violence. So effective was one Irish funded policy brief: 'What It Will Take To End Violence', that it was used by the UN's Global Partnership to End Violence as part of its briefing package for all international conferences in 2019.

In Zimbabwe, the Embassy worked with UNFPA to lobby for the review of laws and policies to prevent child marriage, and to hold perpetrators of intimate partner violence to account.

In South Africa, at community level, the Embassy's three civil society partners undertook a range of projects that included engaging with men and boys to encourage behaviour change, and training paralegals to advise survivors of GBV.

In Zimbabwe, civil society organisations supported by the Embassy, continued to run shelters for women fleeing domestic violence and provided training for second level students and teachers to address early pregnancy and early marriage.



CASE STUDY

Piloting new ways to address maternal death in rural Zimbabwe

In the Hurungwe district of Mashonaland West Province in Zimbabwe, Ireland is working with the Clinton Health Access Initiative to reduce high rates of maternal death caused by post-partum haemorrhage. With Ireland's support, WHO-approved neoprene garments have been distributed to isolated health centres and training has been provided on their use. If applied to mothers who have started to bleed post-partum, the garments can arrest the bleeding and prevent death, allowing the much needed time to stabilise the mother until she reaches the nearest hospital for treatment.

Ireland invests more broadly in maternal and child health in Zimbabwe by contributing to a large programme implemented by UNICEF and the Ministry of Health. This pilot project adds value to Ireland's larger investment. The learning from low cost innovations such as this can be absorbed by the bigger programme and then taken to scale. As a result of Ireland's support for this pilot in 2019, the use of the 'non-pneumatic anti shock' garment is being scaled up to the provincial level.

Ethiopia in Focus



POPULATION:
112 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$1782



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
173



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
66.2 years

Main Picture:

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar visits Addis Ababa and meets with Prime Minister Abiy.
Photo: DFAT

Picture on the Next Page:

Scenario Team declaring their commitment. The Scenario team holding hands while the declaration was read aloud during the launch. Skylight hotel, Addis Ababa. Photo: Destiny Ethiopia Communication team.
Photo: DFAT

Ethiopia’s political and economic transition continued in 2019, with historic reforms gathering momentum.

The gradual opening up of civic space strengthened democratic participation as the country looks towards its first free and fair elections in more than a decade. Prime Minister Abiy was awarded the Nobel Prize for his efforts to achieve peace with neighbouring Eritrea.

A visit by Taoiseach Leo Varadkar marked 25 years of diplomatic relations between Ireland and Ethiopia. The Taoiseach met with Prime Minister Abiy and President Sahle-Work. He also visited development cooperation programmes supported by Ireland and a number of historical sites where he announced a cultural heritage partnership with the Ethiopian Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

Unfortunately, 2019 also saw outbreaks of inter-ethnic conflict, while climate-driven drought led to increased internal displacement and severe food insecurity that affected 8 million people.

Ireland continued to support the Government of Ethiopia and partners to tackle these challenges through our largest bilateral development assistance programme globally.

KEY RESULTS



Ireland’s activity in maternal and child health in Ethiopia has contributed to significant improvements in national indicators from 2016-2019, including an 80 percent increase in births attended by a skilled provider, and an increase in the Contraceptive Prevalence Rate from 35 percent to 41 percent.



A €3.5 million investment by Ireland over five years in community-based seeds policy has resulted in 190,000 farmers per annum accessing improved agricultural inputs, and the production of an estimated 8800 tons of food grains with an approximate value of €20-30 million.



Critical food and cash transfers were provided to 8 million people through the Government’s Productive Safety Net Programme supported by Ireland. This included direct support to 35,000 pregnant and lactating women and prevented them and many other highly vulnerable people from falling into severe food insecurity.



Ireland’s contribution to the Ethiopian Humanitarian Fund helped provide timely and efficient support to 9.86 million people across the country, including the protection of 400,000 of those most vulnerable as well as 400,000 people with disabilities.



UNCHR, with support from Ireland, worked with the government to provide basic services, food, and protection to 735,000 refugees fleeing conflict, drought and persecution in neighbouring countries.

Ethiopia in Focus

New, innovative initiatives to build peace and strengthen political and economic reforms were a priority in 2019. A high-profile transformative scenario-planning approach with Destiny Ethiopia helped political, academic, business, and community leaders produce a collective vision for a peaceful and prosperous Ethiopia. Catholic Relief Services supported community partnerships in conflict-affected areas to engage youth in promoting social cohesion and reconciliation. As reforms gradually open up the economy, Ireland helped to establish Trade Mark East Africa's Ethiopia programme which will support job creation and economic growth through enhancing regional trade integration.

Our long-term support to strengthening successful health, social protection, and agricultural extension systems that reach millions of the most vulnerable and furthest behind continues to be at the core of our partnership. The Productive Safety Net Programme provided 8 million people facing severe food insecurity with food and cash transfers, while the SDG Performance Fund ensured better health outcomes, especially for women and girls, through continued improvements in family planning, maternal and child health services. Ireland's work in Ethiopia and the Embassy's leadership in promoting civic space, advocating for gender equality and advancing humanitarian-development links was recognised by the OECD in its review of Ireland's international development programme.

Ireland also increased its engagement with African Union (AU) – which is head-quartered in Addis Ababa. In 2019 we supported the AU's Special Envoy on UN Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in her mission to deliver on the continent-wide objectives under the Resolution.



Planting the seeds of peace and reconciliation in Ethiopia

On the evening of 3 December, 2019 Ethiopians were stunned to see 50 influential individuals, including political representatives, leaders of previously banned organisations, former rebels, academics and business people, holding each other's hands on live television reading seven declaration points on Ethiopia's Destiny in the presence of senior government officials and numerous dignitaries. This was the launch of the Transformative Scenario Planning (TSP) process, aimed at building relationships, mutual understanding and trust among polarised groups.

A year earlier, Destiny Ethiopia, approached the Irish Embassy seeking support and Ireland was the first partner to engage in what appeared to be a high-risk initiative. A year later, supported by Destiny Ethiopia and their partner The Forum of Federations and Reos Partners, 50 individuals, known as the Scenario Team had formed and deliberated for six months on Ethiopia's future and came up with 4 possible scenarios. All stakeholders agreed to work towards the most desired scenario, 'Dawn'.

The project has developed a high profile with strong buy-in from Government at the highest level including the Prime Minister's Office. The Minister of Peace, HE Mufriat Kamil recognised the initiative saying that the process showed the power of dialogue and created a conducive context to build a new political culture in Ethiopia.

Partners and Government praised Ireland's role as a silent and constructive partner, along with the Netherlands and Denmark who later joined the TSP. Destiny Ethiopia is disseminating the results of the TSP process as a contribution to further dialogue and debate on addressing the challenges facing the country and in determining the future pathway to achieving long-term peace and reconciliation.

Tanzania in Focus



POPULATION:
58 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$2,805



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
159



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
65 years

KEY RESULTS



A 50 percent increase in reporting of gender-based violence cases to the police in Pangani district as a result of community-led interventions.



An Garda Síochána hosted members of the Tanzania Police to learn from Ireland's approach to the policing, investigation and management of cases of gender-based violence.



5,432 Rural Primary Health Facilities across Tanzania funded through the Health Basket Fund supported by Ireland.



Nine health facilities renovated to provide quality, basic emergency obstetric care.



Programming launched ensuring 2600 young women and men are provided with access to quality employability and vocational training.



127,282 sunflower and maize farmers (43% women) provided with access to improved seed and agribusiness services and 6,000 sorghum farmers (36% women) supported to improve their yields and incomes.

A local leader in Kipumbwi village, Pangani, addresses the community after watching theatre, organised by UZIKWASA, depicting the realities of Violence Against Children.
Photo: UZIKWASA

Tanzania in Focus



Ireland's assistance in Tanzania aims to contribute to a fairer, more just, secure and sustainable society, with a specific focus on women and girls.

During 2019, Ireland expanded its work on gender inequality, providing funding to an increased number of organisations working on women's rights, as well as ensuring a stronger focus on gender equality across interventions on health, livelihoods, nutrition and governance.

Evidence across the globe points to the importance of strong women's movements in securing and sustaining women's rights. In Tanzania, Ireland is supporting women's rights actors to build and sustain the women's movement and to increase financing to Women's Rights Organisations. Through a partnership with Women's Fund Tanzania, grants to local organisations across Tanzania increased by 50%, enabling them to conduct training, campaigning, convening and advocacy on themes such as gender-based violence and women's political participation.

Ireland continued to prioritise support to ending gender-based violence, particularly the more difficult areas of transforming deeply entrenched attitudes and behaviours that allow violence to prevail. Programmes supported by Ireland have increased community awareness and collaboration and strengthened services, resulting in increased reporting of gender-based violence incidents to the authorities.

In 2019, Ireland expanded its engagement on sexual and reproductive health and rights. This enabled community health workers to provide key services, including identification and monitoring of high-risk pregnancies, health facilities renovation, and provision of emergency obstetric care. In partnership with UNFPA and Femina HIP, more than 10,000 adolescents and young people were reached with education and information.

Ireland has deepened its investment in more inclusive agricultural value chains, resulting in improved livelihood opportunities for over 55,000 women. Ireland also supported initiatives addressing gender-based constraints on women's ability to participate in cross-border trade, including the provision of tailor-made training on customs rules and regulations for 600 women traders.

Tanzania in Focus



A woman on a bodaboda proudly holds a sign during phase 3 of WAJIKI's Break the silence, Safe travel for girls without Sextortion in Kinondoni and Temeke Districts. Photo: WAJIKI

Saying NO to Sextortion

In Tanzania, one in five women report experiencing sexual violence in their lifetime. Sextortion is defined as the practice of using power to extort sexual favours, often in exchange for money or another reward. Many girls face sextortion on their journey to and from school, especially in urban settings like Dar es Salaam.

Ireland's partner, Women Fund Tanzania, is working to build the women's movement from the grassroots level by providing grants to women rights' organisations and by building national-level coalitions.

With a grant from the fund, WAJIKI, a community-based organisation implemented an anti-sextortion campaign focused on safe travel by mobilising public transport operators.

WAJIKI worked to change the environment around transport pick-up points. Awareness was raised through peer education and outreach. Dialogue with drivers, workers' associations and unions, public

bodies and the police, ensured their buy-in to the campaign. Bus drivers and conductors were appointed as anti-sextortion ambassadors. Over time, more drivers wanted to take part and the campaign grew.

Local campaigning was reinforced by work on sextortion at the national level, securing the collaboration of decision-making bodies including the national Corruption Bureau, Tanzania Police Force and Local Government Authorities. Sextortion legislation has been enacted and a whistleblowing hotline introduced.

While much remains to be done, the increased awareness and collaboration in communities has significantly shaped how issues of sextortion are now perceived and addressed. Many women and girls are now getting the priority and visibility they deserve. More men are taking responsibility for denouncing and stamping-out gender-based violence.

Gender Case Study 2

Women's Economic Empowerment in Zambia

Almost half of Zambians are hungry at certain times of the year, contributing to malnutrition which can have devastating impacts on children under five.

Traditionally Zambian agriculture focuses on a limited number of crops with 80 percent cultivating less than four varieties. This means farmers and their families consume a limited variety of food, and are vulnerable should one of their main crops fail.

Ireland is partnering with Musika, a Zambian organisation which supports small farmers to grow a more diverse range of crops - both to help to feed their own families and to sell in the markets. A particular approach of Musika is to develop ways that link small holder farmers with companies who wish to buy their produce.

With Musika and Irish Aid's assistance, Dorothy Munengo has been growing a variety of indigenous vegetables which she dries and sells to a private

company, Silva Food Solutions. Dorothy, a mother of seven children, has been encouraged by her success to date and says:

'This has encouraged me to continue working hard. My plans are to sink a borehole at my farm so that I can produce and supply vegetables throughout the year.'

Silva Food Solutions also promotes the nutritional and health benefits of indigenous vegetables at community meetings that it hosts throughout Mabele.

In addition to the nutritional benefits of diversification of crops, the approaches promoted by Musika mitigate the effects of climate change. Zambia has suffered from severe droughts in recent years, which has led to the failure of staple crops. By enabling small farmers like Dorothy to grow a variety of crops, Irish Aid is also supporting Dorothy's family to generate income that ensures her children can afford education and health services.



Dorothy Munengo prepares the vegetables to be supplied to Silva Food Solutions.
Photo: Jonathan Mwewa/ Musika.

Liberia in Focus



POPULATION:
4.8 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$1040



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
176



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
63.7 years



A village near Boegessay in Rivercess county comes together to build an improved pit latrine with Irish support through Oxfam International. Photo: DFAT

Liberia in Focus



Ireland established an Embassy in Liberia 2018, following the country’s first democratic and peaceful transition of power and the conclusion of the UN Peacekeeping Mission (UNMIL) after 15 years.

Ireland had deployed peacekeepers to UNMIL from 2003-2007 and set up a Development Office thereafter, but the establishment of the Embassy allowed us to enter into a new phase of cooperation.

In 2019, Ireland launched its Strategy for engagement with Liberia until 2023, whose priorities are: that citizens participate in inclusive democratic processes; and that poor women and girls are better nourished and lead healthier, safer and more empowered lives. In the first year of this Strategy, the mission has focussed on engaging with partners and developing its programming in the areas of gender, governance, and nutrition.

The Embassy has deepened its support to inclusive democracy by strengthening the capacity of the National Elections Commission and partnering with Liberia’s Peacebuilding Office to promote peaceful approaches to pre-election campaigning. A partnership with the National Civil Society Council of Liberia has improved the capacity of women’s CSOs in particular, to formulate and monitor the implementation of public policy.

In 2019, a strengthened bilateral relationship with the Government of Liberia, civil society and the international community has allowed Ireland’s newest Embassy in Africa to engage constructively on several of the pressing issues facing the country and the region.

KEY RESULTS



Through IRC’s Giving Women and Girls Choices Programme, Ireland supported One Stop Centers (OSCs) in providing medical and psychosocial care for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and mediation with the Women and Child Protection Section of the Liberia National Police. Over 50,000 people received information about these services through awareness raising, and 1,500+ SGBV survivors accessed case-management and care.



Ireland’s involvement in the UNDP Rule of Law Programme supported SGBV response through micro-grants to 25 CSOs that provide legal aid to survivors of SGBV, training of 118 informal justice actors on domestic legislation and technical support to the Human Rights Division of the Ministry for Justice.



Through IRC’s ‘She Leads’ Programme, Ireland engaged in community prevention of SGBV and women’s empowerment including by supporting 18 women’s village and savings loan associations, facilitating discussions on the domestic violence bill, and training case workers to liaise between one-stop centres and communities.



The Embassy supported Liberia’s National Elections Commission (NEC) through UNDP, ahead of mid-term senatorial elections in 2020. Ireland supported consultations on electoral reform, training on dispute resolution for electoral magistrates, awareness-raising of electoral violence among youth and political parties, and capacity building and training for NEC staff.

Palestine in Focus



POPULATION:
4.9 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$5314



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
119



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
73.9 years

The North Gaza Emergency Sewage Treatment (NGEST) plant which will be powered by Ireland's solar energy project.
Photo: Hani Boullata

Ireland's support to the Palestinian people in 2019 amounted to more than €22 million. Our programme seeks to preserve the space for a two-State solution, as well as to improve the quality of life of the most vulnerable Palestinians. Ireland works in four key areas: state-building, humanitarian action, promotion of human rights and accountability, and support for Palestine refugees.

Ireland has a long track record of support to the education sector in Palestine, working closely with the Ministry of Education and other donors to improve capacity and ensure equitable access to quality education. In 2019, Ireland provided €3 million to the Ministry of Education, our highest-ever level of financial support, and also assumed the lead role among donors in engaging with the Ministry.

In September 2019, the first cohort of 25 students travelled to Ireland to undertake one-year Master's-level studies under a new Ireland-Palestine Scholarship Programme. The programme offers enhanced academic and professional opportunities for Palestinian students, and will deepen the strong bonds that already exist between the Irish and Palestinian people.

Ireland signed an agreement with the Ministry of Women's Affairs in 2019, to support a project building institutional capacity to combat violence against women. With Ireland's support, research will be carried out into the economic cost of violence against women, in support of national initiatives to address the issue.

Ireland is a longstanding and committed supporter of the vital work undertaken by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). In 2019, Ireland provided €7.5 million in support of UNRWA's work in five fields: the West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Our support included targeted funding for Gaza, where UNRWA provides essential services to over 1 million refugees.

Palestine in Focus



Minister Simon Coveney meeting with Palestine refugee students at the UNRWA School in Jabalia Refugee Camp, Gaza. Photo: Khalil Adwan/ UNRWA



Acute humanitarian needs in Gaza are compounded by the absence of a reliable electricity supply and adequate clean water. 97% of Gaza's natural water supply is unfit for human consumption by WHO standards, and significant infrastructural investment is needed in order to rehabilitate the aquifer and reverse this crisis.

In 2019, Tánaiste Simon Coveney visited Gaza and announced a major investment by Ireland in solar energy, which will support the treatment of contaminated water. Ireland will provide €8.8 million to fund the construction of a 7.5MW solar plant that will provide clean, reliable energy to the North Gaza Emergency Sewage Treatment (NGEST) plant. Ongoing electricity shortages in Gaza mean that residents only have access to electricity for approximately 12 hours per day. Major installations such as NGEST currently depend on expensive diesel fuel to operate generators. Once completed, this project will provide for the full energy needs of NGEST and any excess power will be distributed to other water and wastewater facilities throughout northern and central Gaza.

3.5 hectares of the 10.5 hectares of land to be used for this solar plant lie within a military buffer zone imposed by Israel which extends for several hundred metres inside Gaza along the length of the security fence dividing Israel from Gaza. This land is not currently available for use to the population of Gaza. This project represents the first time that land in this zone has been made available for infrastructure and follows extensive engagement by Ireland's diplomatic network.

The French Development Agency, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), is partnering with Ireland to implement this ambitious project, which will improve the everyday lives of Gazans; building capacity, reducing humanitarian need and furthering climate action.

KEY RESULTS



Ireland's support helped to build six new schools and to rehabilitate seventy-four others throughout the occupied Palestinian territory.



In September 2019, under the new Ireland-Palestine Scholarship Programme, 25 Palestinian students started Master's-level studies at 11 Higher Education institutions in Ireland.



Irish funding helped the UN-run Occupied Palestinian Territory Humanitarian Fund support more than 45,000 people affected by gender-based violence.



With Ireland's support, the West Bank Protection Consortium delivered vital humanitarian assistance to 20,200 Palestinians at risk of forcible transfer.



Ireland's funding to UNRWA helped the Agency provide more than 8.7 million primary health care consultations to Palestine Refugees.



Ireland's funding to UNRWA helped the Agency provide quality and inclusive education for 532,857 Palestinian refugee children.

South East Asia Programme in Focus

VIETNAM



POPULATION:
95.5 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$6,220



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
118



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
75.3 years

CAMBODIA



POPULATION:
16.2 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$3,597



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
146



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
69.6 years

LAO PDR



POPULATION:
7.1 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$6,317



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
140



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
67.6 years

MYANMAR



POPULATION:
53.7 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$5,764



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
145



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
66.9 years

Ireland's international development programme in Vietnam, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar is managed by our Embassy in Hanoi, Vietnam. The programme's focus areas include the development of ethnic minority communities - the furthest behind in Vietnam, representing 70 percent of the poor - and support to institutional exchanges and skills development to enhance capacity of Vietnamese institutions.

Regional priorities across all four countries centre on reducing malnutrition through support to maternal and child nutrition, addressing the risks presented by unexploded ordnance through humanitarian mine action and support to building the capacity and impact of civil society and state agencies. In addition, the Myanmar programme has a specific humanitarian dimension aimed at protecting vulnerable communities from the worst effects of the ongoing conflict. Ireland is taking an increasingly regional approach in supporting the four countries to exchange lessons across national boundaries, as well as at sub-national level, and between government and civil society partners, in order to maximise innovation and impact in a part of the world that still faces huge inequities and pockets of poverty.

South East Asia Programme in Focus



RESULTS IN 2019 INCLUDE



Ireland supported more than 600 ethnic minority community development initiatives and 56 infrastructure projects in Vietnam in 2019 to improve access for ethnic minority communities to basic services and improved roads and water systems in 48 communes.



Ireland's support to local civil society organisations, which operate in an increasingly restrictive environment, resulted in promotion of gender equality in political decision-making processes, particularly at local levels, along with other initiatives to address inequalities and support marginalised groups such as persons with disabilities and LGBTI individuals.



45 Irish & Vietnamese exchange visits took place under the Irish Development Experience Sharing (IDEAS) Programme that support exchanges between Vietnamese and Irish institutions such as the Central Bank, Teagasc, and Higher Education Institutions in the areas of education, agri-food and business. The first Ireland-Vietnam dialogue on Education, Research and Innovation took place in Dublin in 2019 to boost beneficial development links between the two countries, with particular reference to third-level education and research cooperation.



A total of 24 Vietnamese students; 15 of whom are female, received Irish Government IDEAS scholarships for the academic year 2019-2020 to attend Masters courses in Ireland.



A husband and wife from the Cờ Tu ethnic minority group in Viet Nam welcome their baby boy at Đông Giang District Hospital. Ireland is supporting the Alive & Thrive initiative to establish roughly 40 centres of excellence for breastfeeding by 2021 in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam. Photo: Giacomo Pirozzi/ Alive & Thrive

Regional

- » Ireland supported the establishment of 13 Centres of Excellence for Breastfeeding across Vietnam. Similar centres in Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar are being set up through an Ireland-supported regional partnership to improve maternal and child nutrition.
- » In 2019, Irish funding enabled 63,687 people to receive mine risk education in Cambodia, Myanmar and Vietnam via humanitarian mine action agencies working in the region. In addition, Ireland funded the clearing of over 1,034,315m² of land of mines in Cambodia.
- » For communities affected by conflict in Myanmar, Irish support resulted in 50,720 women benefitting from nutrition sensitive interventions and 6,000 households accessing quality child protection services.

Image opposite page:

'Ireland-Vietnam Dialogue on Education, Research, and Innovation' which took place in October at University College Dublin. Photo: DFA



Colombia in Focus



POPULATION:
49.7 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$12,896



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
69



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
77.1 years

Children from San José del Guaviare sharing Joropo Llanero music in Iveagh House. Their music fosters & builds Reconciliation & Peace among children and adolescents affected by violence. Photo: Phil Behan/ DFAT

KEY RESULTS



The focus of cooperation between Ireland and Colombia in 2019 was on an already-successful lesson sharing programme on peacebuilding, taking lessons learned in Northern Ireland as a starting point.



Ireland supported a rural development project focusing on women's participation in establishing a tourist infrastructure and livelihood development project in Tenjo, Cauca.



Ireland contributed €400,000 to the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund prioritising interventions aimed at post-conflict stabilisation, reincorporation of ex-combatants, victims and transitional justice systems and communication.



A Memorandum of Understanding between Teagasc and Colombian agricultural research agency, Agrosavia, setting out cooperation in 15 areas was signed during the first-ever Ministerial visit to Colombia for St Patrick's Day, by Minister Pat Breen TD. This was expanded later the same year to include Irish and Colombian third level institutions.



Ireland supported the monitoring of local and regional elections in October with MAPP OEA – the OAS mission to Colombia.

Gender Case Study 3



Fatuma Ali preparing coffee for her customers. Legembao district of South Wollo Zone, Ethiopia.
Photo: Addino Liben/ AHRRRA

Women's Economic Empowerment in Ethiopia

Fatuma Ali is a 45-year-old woman who served a 12-year sentence in Dessie Prison, Amhara Region. She has four children who were incarcerated with her due to the lack of alternative care. *'I was sentenced due to the death of a person in the bar I used to own. None of my relatives visited me in prison. I had sleepless nights worrying my children would be harmed with revenge. I worried about my life after release.'*

Addis Hiwot Rehabilitation and Reintegration Association (AHRRRA), one of the Civil Society organisations funded by Ireland approached Fatuma and other women inmates, offering supports such as training in parenting skills, psychosocial support and peer-to-peer education, complemented by entrepreneurship training and seed money to start a business when their sentences were complete.

'The trainings changed my attitude and I became a hopeful woman. Myself and seven friends started selling spicy pepper and ingredients to prepare stew in the prison.'

Over four years, Fatuma's group savings grew to 35,000.00 ETB (€1,100). Fatuma was pardoned in 2019 and she reconciled with the victim's family. With her share from the group savings, she has begun selling food, coffee and tea in her hometown. *'My business is making my daily life so much easier. I am happy that I am able to teach my children. I have learnt what to do with the money I have.'*

AHHRA is working to scale-up its approach to prisoner rehabilitation and caring for incarcerated children. Following an independent assessment by Wollo University it is promoting re-integration guidelines with regional governments and prison authorities so that ex-prisoners like Fatuma get a second chance in life.

Promoting Global Citizenship Education and Public Engagement



Development education encourages active engagement with the rapidly changing, interdependent and unequal world in which we live. It empowers learners with an increased awareness and understanding of how global justice and transnational issues intertwine with their daily lives.

The Development Education Strategy 2017-2023 and Sustainable Development Goal 4, (which aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all), guide Ireland's approach to global citizenship education. The Department of Foreign Affairs, working closely with the Department of Education and Skills, provides funding to primary, post-primary, third level, youth, adult and community global citizenship education projects across Ireland.

A total budget of €4.3 million was provided to the development education programme in 2019. Funding was made available to six strategic partners through multi-annual partnerships, to five programme grant partners, as co-funding to the European Union DEAR (Development Education and Awareness Raising) programme and to 25 annual grant projects.

Achievements in Development Education in 2019

A total of **279,550** people attended development education activities across the country

88.9%
of those surveyed

reported improved
global literacy.



58.2%
of those surveyed

were able to give an example of
how development education has
influenced their attitudes or behaviour.



29%

primary schools

65%

post-primary schools



were supported by Ireland's
**international development
programme** to deliver global citizenship
education in every county of the State.

26,616
third-level students

attended global citizenship events across
23 Higher Education Institutes.



108
new or updated
knowledge products

were developed, shared and used to
strengthen practice.



7,952 young people

were supported to engage in 'non-formal'
development education initiatives
supported by the National Youth Council of
Ireland and its members in the first year of their
Strategic Programme.



351
early years

3,973
primary teachers

3,287
post-primary
teachers



received initial teacher education and
continuous professional development
on global citizenship education themes.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019 DEMONSTRATE THE IMPORTANCE
OF OUR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION PROGRAMMES



The development of the Irish Development Education Association (IDEA) Code of Good Practice for Development Education, the first of its kind in the world, which is now an agreed standard for all IDEA members.



The launch of a three-year strategic partnership 'Youth 2030' with the National Youth Council of Ireland, working in a Consortium with Concern Worldwide, Trócaire and NUI Maynooth, which aims to promote engagement by NYCI member organisations, young people and youth educators in global citizenship issues and achieving the SDGs by 2030.



Annual WorldWise Global Schools Student Conference in Croke Park on 4 April 2019 attended by 247 students and 63 teachers from schools across the country focused on the theme of tackling gender inequality, injustice, climate change and ensuring a more sustainable world for all. Principals and Deputy Principals from 38 schools attended the annual School Management Symposium, which was held in Iveagh House on 14 November 2019.



1,208 people attended the STAND Student Festival, which took place for seven weeks from 23 September to 8 November at seven major campus locations around the country. The Festival showcased the impact our changing climate has on vulnerable communities across the globe.

Some examples of our work and partners supported in 2019:

Takeover of the Director General's Office for International Day of the Girl

On 11 October 2019, Aoife Dunne and Grace McNally, from Plan International's Youth Advisory Panel (briefly) took over the office of the Director General of Development Cooperation and Africa Division, Ruairí de Búrca. Their action, to mark UN International Day of the Girl, was part of a global call for radical social and political change to tear down barriers of discrimination and prejudice that continue to hold girls back. The girls engaged in an animated discussion on gender equality with Shane Keenan and Emer Groarke before visiting the Irish Aid Centre where they learned about Irish aid workshops on issues which include gender equality.



Aoife Dunne and Grace McNally from Plan International's Youth Advisory Panel at the Irish Aid Centre as part of UN International Day of the Girl 2019. Photo: Plan International



IDEA Code of Good Practice for Development Education, 12 Core Principles Poster, launch 03 December 2019. Photo: Gansee Films

IDEA

IDEA, the Irish Development Education Association, is the national network for Development Education in Ireland. 2019 marked the 15th year for IDEA and saw it develop a new strategy, 2019-2023, focusing on 'Strengthening, Pioneering and Championing' which underpinned a number of initiatives that broke new ground for the sector this year. The Code of Good Practice, launched in December 2019, set out a range of standards for member organisations covering issues such as the importance of critical thinking, use of participative and creative methodologies and the need to explore the root causes of local and global injustices.

Self Help Africa/ Irish Aid Science for Development Award at BTYSTE 2019

The 2019 Science for Development Award winner at BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition was Seán Byrne from Avondale Community College in County Wicklow. Seán's project explored the use of a low cost eggshell filtration system to remove heavy metal pollutants from water. Seán later travelled to Zambia with Self Help Africa to present his project to university students and staff.

2019 was the fourteenth year that Ireland's international programme sponsored the award which encourages teachers and students to develop ideas, using appropriate scientific technology, which may prove useful at local community level in the Global South. The aim is to give students a greater insight into the wider world and their role as global citizens.



Seán Byrne from Avondale Community College in Wicklow, winner of the Science for Development award.
Photo: Maxwell's / DFAT



Students from Nakuru Girls High School in Nakuru listen on during the IoT workshop by Angaza Elimu learning more about the 21st century workforce skills at the Nakuru outreach activity.
Photo: YSK

Young Scientists Kenya

In partnership with Liquid Telecom and Angaza Elimu, Young Scientists Kenya is also breaking barriers by giving girls equal opportunities to participate in tech workshops as students learn about Internet of Things (IoT) during the Nakuru outreach activity at Nakuru Girls High School.

WorldWise Global Schools:

The WorldWise Global Schools (WWGS) is Ireland's national global citizenship education programme (GCE) for post-primary schools, providing a one-stop shop of training, funding, resources and guidance for post-primary schools to engage in GCE. WWGS is implemented by a consortium comprising Self Help Africa, Concern Worldwide and the City of Dublin Education and Training Board Curriculum Development Unit. The Global Passport Award is a Development Education (DE) quality mark, which offers schools a framework to integrate DE into their teaching and learning. In 2019, WWGS produced a new curriculum linked resources on 'Doing Development Education in Geography' and 'Doing Development Education in History' (see below). All resources are now being translated into Irish.



Panelist discussion at the 2019 SDG Advocate Programme 'Exhibition of Experience'. From left to right: Elaine Mahon, Irish Development Education Association, Mbemba Jabbi, Africa Centre Ireland and Don Tuan Phuong, Centre for Sustainable Development Studies Vietnam. Photo: Niamh Murphy, Photo: WorldWise Global Schools

Development Perspectives - The SDG challenge

The goal of the SDG challenge, implemented by Drogheda-based development education NGO, Development Perspectives, is to support a national network of community leaders and adult and community education (ACE) practitioners who are knowledgeable about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and are taking action to contribute to their successful implementation in Ireland.

A key component of the project has been to link with one Irish based partner each month to add value to that goal. In 2019, the SDG challenge engaged with 12 partners. This included working with Community Reuse Network to address SDG 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production; and the Centre for Freshwater and Environmental Studies in Dundalk Institute of Technology on SDG 6, Clean Water and Sanitation.

Our World Irish Aid Awards

Through the Our World Irish Aid Awards, Ireland's international development programme promotes awareness in primary schools of development issues; the work of Ireland's aid programme; and the Sustainable Development Goals. The theme for the 2019 Awards was *Leave No One Behind*. Sixty schools were selected from the 102 schools that entered projects for the four regional finals, held in Sligo, Limerick, Cork and Dublin in May. The top twelve schools attended the National Final in Dublin Castle on 11 June 2019. The pupils of Glór Na Mara N.S., Tramore, Co. Waterford, were declared the overall winners for their project 'Do One Thing and Leave No One Behind'.

The 'Best Newcomer School of the Year' prize was awarded to Dunboyne Senior Primary School, Dunboyne, Co. Meath. Teacher of the year was jointly awarded to Fiona Feely and Mairead McHugh of St. Michael's Special School, Castlereagh, Co. Roscommon, whose pupils' project demonstrated in-depth and meaningful learning about Ireland's development cooperation programmes.

Irish Aid Centre Workshops for Schools and Colleges

The Irish Aid Centre located in Dublin city offers free educational workshops on Ireland's development cooperation programmes and the Sustainable Development Goals, which are aimed at primary, post-primary and third level students.

In 2019, Irish Aid Centre Workshops Reached:

- » 1,805 primary school pupils
- » 4,222 post-primary school learners
- » 1,564 Third-Level students

In 2019, the Irish Aid Centre facilitators also showcased Irish development assistance through educational outreach at external events, such as the ESB Science Blast, which took place in Dublin, Limerick and Belfast, ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Award, BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition, the Our World Irish Aid Awards regional and national finals and the Comhlámh/Irish Aid Volunteering Fair.



Kill O' The Grange National School, Deansgrange, Blackrock, Co. Dublin
play the SDG Game in the Irish Aid Centre, 25 September 2019.
Photo: Irish Aid Centre / DFAT

45 Years of Ireland's Fellowship Programme

2019 was the 45th anniversary of Ireland's Fellowship programme, which supports mid-career professional women and men with leadership potential to undertake a one-year Master's-level programme at an Irish University or Institute of Technology. More than two thousand scholarships have been awarded to developing country participants since 1974.

Ireland has expanded the programme in recent years and in 2019, included Eritrea and Palestine for the first time. In 2019, 122 students from eligible partner countries came to Ireland to study in Higher Education Institutions. On their return home graduates bring new skills which contribute to the development of their home countries and also help to build a global network of influencers who have a relationship with and understanding of Ireland.

CASE STUDY

Tala Zeitawi, Palestinian Fellowship recipient

Tala is a freelance documentary photographer and filmmaker. The focus of her work is on cultural diversity, minorities, and marginalised communities in Palestine. Her most recent project focused on a refugee camp in Ramallah from the perspective of children. Tala applied to study for the MA in Creative Practice at the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT) in order to broaden her knowledge, improve her skills, and learn from people from different backgrounds and cultures. *'The course allows me to observe and learn from the creativity of different people, incorporating many types of art, and has exposed me to imaginative, experimental and interdisciplinary studies through a range of media and approaches', says Tala. 'The course focuses on our future goals and careers, which I like.'*

Tala says she has been astonished by the friendliness of the people in Ireland, and that being completely independent is one of her best experiences. Tala hopes that her time in Ireland and working on her Master's degree will enhance her creative work helping her to raise awareness of neglected communities, particularly those living in crowded refugee camps, through documentaries. *'I believe that opportunities like the one I have been given as part of the Ireland-Palestine Scholarship Programme help us to improve our country', she says.*



Tala Zeitawi, Irish Aid Fellow, 2019. Photo: Harshita Srivastava

Our Partnerships



In Fandema, a school in the west coast of the Gambia, a project by Mbolo Association with the support of the EU is empowering young women by training them in the field of renewable energies. Photo: Fatou ElIika Muloshi and Guillaume Sanchez/ EU

Working with the EU

The EU and its Member States are collectively the world's largest aid donor, providing an estimated €75.24 billion in Official Development Assistance (ODA) in 2019. This amounts to more than half of all ODA globally.

Ireland contributes to EU-managed international development funding through the European Development Fund (EDF), the EU Facility for Refugees in Turkey, and EU Trust Funds for Africa and for Colombia. In 2019, Ireland's assessed contribution to these was €54.32 million. Ireland also contributes through our contributions to the EU budget - €9 billion of which is used for ODA – and in 2019 more than €15 million of the Irish contribution to the EU was used for international development funding.

Ending discrimination against women and girls is at the core of European values and the EU works to improve the lives of women and girls across the world. In 2018 more than 68 percent of EU-funded cooperation promoted gender equality and women's empowerment and the European Commission aims to promote gender equality across 85 percent of its projects by 2020. The EU's second Gender Action Plan, which runs from 2016 to 2020, focuses on three action areas: Ensuring girls' and women's physical and psychological integrity; Promoting the social and economic rights / empowerment of women and girls; and Strengthening girls' and women's voice and participation.

EU-funded actions have led to the following results in developing countries:

- » Almost 64 million one-year-olds have been fully immunised with EU support.
- » More than 10 million children have been enrolled in education with EU support, approximately half of whom are girls.
- » 1.5 million migrants, forcibly displaced people, and members of host communities have received EU assistance.
- » More than 13 million women of reproductive age are using modern contraception methods with EU support.
- » €500 million went towards eliminating violence against women and girls around the world under the Spotlight Initiative with the UN.
- » At least 39,000 women and girls benefitted directly from EU-supported interventions that specifically aim to support civilian post-conflict peacebuilding and/or conflict prevention.
- » More than 16.8 million people gained access to electricity with EU support.
- » Over 1 million people benefitted from vocational or skills training with EU support.
- » 91 countries had climate change or disaster strategies under development or in place with EU support.
- » Nearly 7 million hectares of ecosystems were protected thanks to EU initiatives.
- » 42,000 victims of human rights violations were assisted with EU support.
- » Over 5 million women of reproductive age, adolescent girls and children under five –including boys– were reached by nutrition-related interventions supported by the EU.

EU Support for Gender Equality

The EU-UN Spotlight initiative is a partnership between the EU and the UN to end all forms of violence against women and girls. It was launched in 2017 with a budget of €500 million and two years on more than 20 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Pacific are implementing Spotlight programmes.

In Africa, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Uganda and Zimbabwe are all participating, with €250 million allocated to assist in eliminating sexual and gender-based violence. There is also a regional component to scale up existing initiatives on fighting female genital mutilation and child marriage.

In Asia the Spotlight Initiative is providing €25 million to a project titled 'Safe and Fair' to support women migrant workers in the ASEAN region. It aims to improve the protection of women migrant workers and make them less vulnerable to violence and trafficking. More than 5000 women migrant workers and their families have received information on ending violence against women and safe migration and more than a million people have been reached through public campaigns on safe and fair migration.



Gambian woman stands in her repurposed farm, which has benefited from upgrades to its facilities with EU financial support and implementation efforts of United Purpose and WASDA. Photo: Fatou Ellika Muloshi and Guillaume Sanchez/ EU



Working with the UN

UN KEY RESULTS

UNICEF, with support from Ireland and others, in 2019:

- » Provided 12.5 million children with individual learning materials.
- » Supplied more than 248,396 classrooms with educational materials.
- » Reached 8.8 million children with educational support in humanitarian situations.
- » Supported 3,500,000 children living in humanitarian crisis situations to access psycho-social support.

In 2019, Ireland continued to support efforts by the UN to sustain peace, improve human well-being, and advance human rights and the rule of law. As with our other global relationships, issues around gender equality featured strongly in our policy engagement with the UN.

Engagement with UN agencies takes many forms. In 2019, Ireland was the Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG) Vice President for the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board. Ireland also successfully chaired the Commission for the Status of Women (CSW) for their sessions in 2018 and 2019, ensuring that every paragraph of the outcome document of CSW was negotiated on a consensus basis across the 193 UN member states and was adopted by consensus by the members of the Commission. During the two weeks of CSW, Ireland hosted side events on education in emergencies; on women, peace and security; on gender-based violence in humanitarian contexts; and, on gender budgeting with a diversity of partners.



2018 UNFPA State of the World Population Report (SWOP). Minister Madigan, Executive Director Natalia Kanem, Nicola Brennan, Jacqueline Mahon, Alice Mary Higgins, Maeve Taylor, Niall Behan. Photo: DFAT



In line with the principle of good donorship and to help further the priorities set out in *A Better World*, core funding was provided to UN agencies with a central role in tackling poverty through strategic and focused investments in gender equality and women's empowerment. UN Women's normative role advocating and protecting the rights of girls and women and UNFPA's efforts to ensure reproductive health and rights is a key example of this.

Core funding was also given to agencies such as UNDP whose work includes promoting women's participation and leadership and strengthening gender-responsive strategies in crisis prevention, preparedness and recovery, including climate change. UNICEF's efforts to address gender equality include partnering with the education sector to ensure girls and boys thrive in their learning environments and finding pathways to meaningful employment and, for adolescent girls especially, investing in the expansion of digital platforms, vocational training and apprenticeships.

Western Europe and Other Group (WEOG) Vice President of the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS (2018). Orla Murphy, Stephanie O'Brien, Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason, Sarah McGrath, Jill Clements, Juliet Relihan. First Regular Session of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS (2018). Photo: DFAT



Support to the UN was also provided throughout the year in Ireland's partner countries in areas such as social protection, nutrition, education, and HIV/AIDS. It focused on ensuring no one is left behind, particularly women and girls.

Ireland also continued to support a number of key Trust Funds under the aegis of UN Women including End Violence Against Women, the only global grant-making mechanism exclusively dedicated to eradicating all forms of violence against women and girls. Since its establishment in 1996, it has supported 572 initiatives in 140 countries and territories, with grants totalling US\$175 million. The Trust Fund supports project which address, prevent and ultimately end violence against women and girls in three priority areas: improving access for women and girls to essential, safe and adequate multi-sectoral services; furthering the implementation of legislation, policies, national action plans and accountability systems; and promoting the prevention of violence against women and girls. In 2019, it was able to invest almost USD \$40 million in 79 civil society organisation projects across 47, nearly doubling its 2020 grant-giving target.

2019 marked 25 years since the Cairo International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), when world leaders articulated and adopted a Programme of Action addressing the inter-relationships between population, development and individual well-being. In November, UNFPA, with the Governments of Denmark and Kenya, co-convened the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25. With more than 8000 participants, 1200 commitments were made to end all maternal deaths, and gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls. The Summit was a significant milestone in the global effort to complete the ICPD Programme of Action. The Irish delegation, which included members from civil society, academia, youth representatives, and politicians, was led by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Katherine Zappone TD, who stated:

'Earlier this year my government launched Ireland's new policy for International Development, A Better World, reaffirming Ireland's commitment to the Cairo values and principles, as part of our efforts to achieving a more equal, peaceful and sustainable world. A Better World commits Ireland to scaling up resources and capacity in areas that directly align with ICPD+25: these include gender equality, sexual and reproductive health, and women's economic empowerment, with an emphasis on ameliorating the effects of humanitarian crises, as well as contributing to conflict prevention and resolution. Advancing and protecting the ICPD agenda will be an important contribution to the implementation of A Better World.'

UNFPA have estimated that it will take an estimated US\$264 billion to fully implement the ICPD PoA – concerted efforts are required to address the unfinished business.

The International Organisation for Migration

In 2019 Ireland provided core support to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) for the first time, becoming one of only a handful of donors to do so. The IOM is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration, working closely with governments, UN and civil society organisations. This core funding was in recognition of the leading role the IOM is playing within the UN in ensuring that the internationally agreed Global Compact for Migration is implemented on the ground. In total, Ireland has provided almost €100 million in Official Development Assistance to migration and development, and the issue of refugees, since 2015.



Agriculture Attaché in Rome, Paul Kiernan, speaking at the Kigali conference. Irish Ambassador to Uganda and Rwanda, William Carlos, to his right. Photo: FAO



The Food and Agriculture Organisation and World Food Programme

Ireland's partnership with the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and World Food Programme (WFP) is led by the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine (DAFM). In 2019 Ireland provided €19 million to WFP in un-earmarked and fully flexible support which enabled the agency's rapid response to humanitarian crisis across the globe, reaching communities impacted by natural disaster and conflict with food and other essential commodities.

Ireland's partnership with the FAO includes the support of a range of sustainable agriculture, climate action and resilience building projects primarily in sub-Saharan Africa to achieve food security and ensure people's access to high quality food. In 2019 Ireland provided €3.36 million to the FAO.

Amongst the highlights of the partnership in 2019 was a high-level private and public sector workshop for participants from Angola, Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. The Smurfit Executive Development Unit at the Graduate Business School of University College, Dublin was involved in its design and delivery, working with both the FAO and the African Union (AU).

Hosted in Kigali, Rwanda the workshop provided executive coaching for African Public Sector and Food industry leaders on sustainable national food systems development. Using a south – south and triangular co-operation approach, it was designed to maximise learning across the five participating African countries, while also drawing on the experience and expertise of FAO, the AU and Irish government and private sector actors.

The workshop drew on the Irish experience of Food Wise 2025, stressing the importance of a whole of sector and society (Government, civil society, private sector, and academic and research institutions) approach in advancing sustainable agriculture development. It aimed to inform and influence the participating countries in their development of National Agriculture Investment Programs (NAIPs).

The FAO is continuing to support participating countries in advancing the outcomes of the workshop and both the AU and a number of other African countries have expressed interest in additional support from FAO and Ireland.

Caroline Keeling, CEO of Keelings Group, speaks at the Global Review of Aid for Trade, Geneva.
Photo: Laurena Arribat/ITC



Aid for Trade

Aid makes an important but a small contribution to a country's sustainable economic and social development. Many developing countries are becoming less dependent on aid and are generating more of their own resources through trade and investment. Ireland is supporting these countries to grow their economies and use trade to generate the resources and income they need to be able lift themselves out of poverty.

In June 2019 Ireland began a year long term as President of the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). In July, 20 participants from the ports of Cameroon, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria and the Philippines received certificates at the end of the UNCTAD Port Management Programme at the office of the Belfast Harbour Commissioners. Also in July, Ireland co-hosted, with the International Trade Centre (ITC), Finland and the UK, a side event at the Global Review of Aid for Trade at the WTO in Geneva, focused on unlocking women's potential for sustainability in global value chains. In September the ITC's Executive Director, Ms Arancha González, visited Ireland, providing an opportunity to deepen Ireland's partnership with the body. In addition to meetings with Government, Ms González met the Institute of International and European Affairs, Bord Bia and Proudly Made in Africa over the course of her visit.

Working with International Financial Institutions



Hilawit Asrat and Enate Dejene from the Ethiopia Electric Utility (EEU). Through IDA, the World Bank Group is supporting The Ethiopia Electrification Program which aims to create more equitable energy institutions, starting with helping the EEU to achieve better gender balance among leadership and in its workforce. Photo: Inka Schomer/World Bank

International Financial Institutions (IFIs) such as the World Bank Group (WBG), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) provide significant financial and technical support for developing countries to eradicate extreme poverty, boost shared prosperity and help to achieve the SDGs. Support to IFIs is an important component of Ireland's ODA. IFIs provide development finance through grants and loans and build capacity through technical assistance. They build knowledge through research and have an important convening role on global development policy goals. Ireland's membership and contribution to these institutions enables us to promote our values as set out in *A Better World*. They facilitate wider global and regional reach and allow us to influence policies that benefit people and communities in developing countries and those impacted by humanitarian crises.



Minister of Finance Paschal Donohoe T.D. speaking at a meeting during the IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings in October 2019. Photo: Department of Finance

World Bank Group

The World Bank Group is one of the world's largest sources of funding and knowledge for developing countries. Its twin goals are to end extreme poverty and to promote shared prosperity. 2019 was a milestone year for the Group, with an agreement to increase its financial capacity and align its shareholding coming into effect. It will see the WBG increase its annual lending capacity to US\$100 billion by 2030.

The Department of Finance is responsible for managing Ireland's relationship with International Financial Institutions (IFIs) including the IMF, the World Bank Group (WBG), the European Investment Bank (EIB), the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the African Development Bank (AfDB). The Department's primary objective is to influence individual IFI strategies and policies to reflect and promote Ireland's economic and policy interests, including international development priorities. Department officials also work to ensure coherence, effectiveness, and value-for-money across Ireland's IFI membership.

In 2019, Department of Finance officials participated in negotiations on the periodic replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA), the WBG's fund for the poorest countries with least access to funding. IDA is funded largely by contributions from its richer members. An IDA replenishment, during which contributors to IDA make their pledges, takes place every three years.

Discussions on the strategic priorities for the Nineteenth Replenishment of IDA ('IDA 19') commenced in November 2018 and consultations continued throughout 2019. Representatives from borrower and donor countries, including Ireland, agreed an overarching theme for IDA 19 - 'Ten Years to 2030: Growth, People, and Resilience' which provided a framework for the five special themes of IDA 19 - climate change; fragility, conflict and violence; gender; governance and institutions; and jobs and economic transformation - and incorporated four cross-cutting issues - debt; disability; human capital; and technology.

Throughout the process, officials from the Department of Finance worked closely with colleagues in the Department of Foreign Affairs to ensure that IDA 19's policy objectives reflected Ireland's international development priorities, particularly in the areas of gender equality, climate action and Small Island Development States (SIDs). Having secured the necessary policy commitments, Ireland pledged €102 million, an increase of more than 10 per cent on our IDA 18 commitment, at the final IDA 19 meeting in December 2019.

IRELAND AND THE HUMAN CAPITAL PROJECT

In 2019 Ireland joined the World Bank's Human Capital Project (HCP) Network, which works with more than 60 countries to develop priorities for human capital development – investing in citizens' health, education and skills as a means to improve productivity and encourage economic growth. One of the tools developed through the initiative is the Human Capital Index (HCI), which attempts to measure the contribution of health and education to the productivity of the next generation of workers and highlights differences in the experience of the men and women, girls, and boys. Ireland ranked highly in the first HCI, was invited to become a member of the HCP Network and will participate in a case study to highlight the positive outcomes of human capital investment, especially in health and education.

WORLD BANK FUNDS SUPPORTED BY IRELAND

Ireland contributes to a number of World Bank-administered Funds which support specific development activities as a complement to core World Bank Group funding. In 2019, Ireland supported country-specific Trust Funds in Ethiopia, Lao, and Uganda and contributed to two Trust Funds through the Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC), to support the private sector in developing countries. These were the Conflict Affected States in Africa Initiative (CASA), which Ireland helped to found in 2008 and the Facility for Investment Climate Advisory Services (FIAS). CASA works to assist Fragile States emerging from conflict to redevelop private enterprise, while FIAS advises developing countries on how to improve their business environment, increase private sector activity and encourage inward and domestic investment.





Asian and African Development Banks, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

Ireland's application to join the African Development Bank Group was approved during the Annual Meeting of the Bank's Board of Governors in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea in June 2019. Membership of the group is an important step for Ireland and will underpin its portfolio of bilateral cooperation across the continent.

2019 also saw Ireland step up its engagement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) through the establishment of a ground-breaking initiative to help Small Island Developing States in the Asia-Pacific region adapt to Climate Change.

The Ireland Trust Fund at the ADB will support Climate Change and Disaster Resilience in Small Island Developing States with a €12m fund administered by the ADB in cooperation with Ireland and beneficiary States. The Fund was a commitment in Ireland's Strategy for Partnership with Small Island Developing States and one of its core principles is that projects should incorporate significant gender elements in line with the Banks gender equity strategy. Minister Ciaran Cannon signed the agreement bringing about the Trust Fund at the ADB Annual Meetings held in Fiji in May 2019.

Ireland also contributed in 2019 to the development of the Asian Development Bank's long-term strategic framework for development, *Strategy 2030*, which includes accelerated progress in gender equality as one

of its seven operational priorities. Ireland advocated strongly for the inclusion of specific numerical targets to advance and promote gender equality by 2030 during the drafting process. In addition, Ireland contributed to the development of a new Corporate Results Framework (CRF) for the ADB, which was launched in September 2019. The CRF will help the ADB better assess its performance in achieving more prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

Most-recently, in November 2019, Ireland committed €13.6 million to the Asian Development Fund (ADF) at a replenishment conference in Manila. The ADF provides grants to promote poverty reduction and improvements in the quality of life in lower-income developing member countries of the Asia-Pacific region. This latest replenishment of the ADF – known as ADF 13 – will ensure gender is a feature of funded projects and that grants are used to challenge discriminatory social norms that drive gender inequality.

Ireland became a member of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) in 2017 and with its constituency colleagues has consistently encouraged the Bank to prioritise the incorporation of Gender equality and Climate Action into its Corporate Strategy.

Gender Case Study 4



Through school Nyanyok has become passionate about ending child marriage 'We will fight child marriage and violence against women.' Nyanyok in Melut, South Sudan. Photo: Scovia Faida Charles Duku/ World Vision Ireland

Education for Girls in South Sudan

When he was alive Nyanyok's father insisted she could not go to school; instead, she had to stay at home to help her mother. After Nyanyok's father died during the fighting in 2014 the family were displaced and was forced to move to a camp for internally displaced people.

Ireland supports World Vision to promote the rights of girls and women in the camp. Nyanyok's mother has started to participate in World Vision activities to promote the rights of girls and women. Now, Nyanyok's mother believes that girls also deserve to be in school.

After moving Nyanyok enrolled in the school established by World Vision in the camp. She joined the increasing number of girls in Melut aware of her rights as a girl especially in getting an education.

'My mother supports me and encourages me to read at night after supper. I share my dreams with her, and she believes in me', says Nyanyok who now believes education will lead her to more opportunities in the future. *'The future is bright for girls'.*

Ireland in partnership with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)



Partnership with civil society is a cornerstone of Ireland's overseas development programme. In 2019, these partnerships continued to deliver vital support to the most vulnerable communities in the world.

Funding was provided to civil society organisations through a number of competitive funding schemes, including the Programme Grant and Civil Society Fund, and the competitive funding scheme for missionary organisations managed by Mísean Cara.

Organisations have used this funding to deliver critical services to the furthest behind, through education, social protection, health and agriculture support. For example, Oxfam Ireland supported 118 income-generating groups in Tanzania in 2019. These groups included women farmers involved in honey production, horticulture production, groundnut butter processing, fish farming, and sunflower production and processing. Brighter Communities Worldwide supported training for 288 community health volunteers in Remote Emergency Care, improving emergency healthcare for communities in remote parts of Kenya. With support through Mísean Cara, missionary organisations assisted over 84,000 people with sustainable livelihoods projects in 16 countries, as well as the provision of education for over 57,000 children, including over 11,000 refugee children.

Funding to civil society organisations promotes long-term improvements in governance and human rights. In 2019, Trócaire supported communities in Guatemala, Honduras, and Myanmar to take legal action to protect access to their land and natural resources; and supported engagement

with communities in Ethiopia to discuss gender equality, household division of labour, women's unpaid work, and violence against women and girls. In Uganda, Saferworld worked with local government to increase their funding to women's groups that are promoting women's rights and the prevention of gender-based violence. Front Line Defenders provided a comprehensive range of digital security support services to human rights defenders, such as securing sensitive data, training on secure communication tools, and protecting websites from attack.

Ireland's ODA programme supports civil society because it delivers results for the furthest behind, but also because it recognises the intrinsic value of a strong civil society. Without an active civil society, our societies are less inclusive and our democracies are weaker. Ireland consistently ranks among the top two providers of per capita bilateral ODA to civil society in the OECD.

During 2019, Ireland played a leadership role in promoting civil society at international level. In November 2019, Ireland hosted Civil Society Week in Dublin, which brought together civil society and donors from over 30 countries. This followed Ireland's participation (with keynote addresses by Minister of State Helen McEntee) in the OECD-Task Team Civil Society Week in Paris in June and Minister of State Seán Canney's engagement in the UN's High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York in July.

Civil society is facing increasing threats and restrictions around the world. Ireland works to protect and strengthen civil society - through continuing an open dialogue with civil society, through the Irish government funding to civil society organisations, and by being a strong advocate for civil society space on the world stage.

ActionAid Ireland - Using behaviour change to support women and girls achieving their rights

ActionAid Ireland receives funding from Ireland for its Women's Rights Programme (WRPII) in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Nepal. WRPII supports safer and more economically secure lives for women and girls. WRPII also works with men and boys to encourage the adoption of positive behaviours to ensure the rights of women and girls within their community.

ActionAid Ireland and the Centre for Behaviour Change at University College London utilise the Centre's Behaviour Change Wheel¹ for gender work. This is an analysis process used to understand the behaviours underpinning a problem such as violence against women and girls, to identify positive behaviours and to consider how capability, opportunity, and motivation can influence positive behaviours (COM-B). The Behaviour Change Wheel also guides the types of interventions and policies which can support wider change in a society.

In Nepal, one intervention responded to sexual harassment on buses. Using COM-B, the process identified the bus conductor as the key person on a bus with the opportunity to stop an incident of sexual harassment. Positive behaviour by the conductor could also have a multiplier effect on passengers. The programme now works with bus drivers, unions, and transport companies to promote wider change. In Ethiopia, WRPII works with the Menja community to eliminate negative traditional practices around menstruation (such as forcing women to sleep outside of the house during their period) and supports work on improving women's livelihoods.

Three years into the COM-B approach, ActionAid Ireland is considering how it can be expanded across the ActionAid Federation. They know that the approach needs time and must be community-led, and firmly believe that COM-B creates the conditions for more lasting social change.

¹ For further information on the Behaviour Change Wheel see <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/behaviour-change/>

CASE STUDY

Celestine Janji, Kenya

Celestine Janji, 39, is a member of Sauti Ya Wanawake - a local women's group fighting gender-based violence in Mwakirunge, Mombasa County.

'Before, I was not able to speak in front of people. I did not know how to manage a business. I learned how to grow vegetables ... [and] write proposals. I even wrote a proposal on my own to request a water pan from a foundation. The proposal was successful, and we got the water pan. Now I can go and teach my colleagues and friends about farming. Through being involved with these organizations Sauti Ya Wanawake and ActionAid, I've been able to rise.'

Maureen, Consolata, Celestine, Maola, Janet, Priscilla and Alice at the Sauti Ya Wanawake office in Mwakirunge, Mombasa County. Photo: Natalia Jidovanu/ ActionAid Kenya.





LGBTI rights defenders including Shinta Ratri (centre) at the Dublin Platform. Photo: Frontline Defenders

Front Line Defenders

Front Line Defenders was founded in Dublin in 2001 to protect human rights defenders - people who work, non-violently, for any or all of the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Each year Front Line Defenders acknowledges the efforts of exceptional human rights defenders around the globe through its Front Line Defenders Awards. In 2019 the recipients included Shinta Ratri, a transgender woman who co-founded Pondok Pesantren Waria al-Fatah, an Islamic boarding school for transgender people in Indonesia. She opened the school in 2008 in Yogyakarta, aiming to serve older transgender women who had been cut off from family and prevented from practicing their faith in most Islamic centres in the country.

The Front Line Defenders Award provided valuable visibility and recognition to Shinta Ratri and allowed her to connect with embassies and other NGOs working on LGBTI+ issues in the country. It also helped to strengthen her connection with neighbours and the community. In January 2020, the women's branch of a Sunni Islam movement in Indonesia agreed to provide female preachers to the boarding house.



Immaculée, Bernadette, Bertilde and Cansilda, members of a pineapple cooperative in Rwanda. Photo: Oxfam

CASE STUDY

Oxfam and Ireland supporting women in agriculture and economic development in Rwanda

Ireland supports Oxfam to provide women food producers with advice on farming, business, finance and economic empowerment in Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, and Zimbabwe.

Immaculée, Bernadette, Bertilde, and Cansilda are all members of a pineapple cooperative in Rwanda. The cooperative lobbied local government for an additional two hectares of state land, which doubled their growing capacity, and allowed the women to earn extra income. It has led to a positive shift in attitudes towards their role in the community. Before they got involved in the project, the group said they were not respected because their husbands were the sole breadwinners. *'Now we are proud to contribute to the upkeep of the household and have a full say on how we spend our income.'*



Katupisha Malapa Presentation School in Kaoma, Zambia. Photo: Misean Cara

Misean Cara

Misean Cara is an international and Irish faith-based missionary movement working with some of the most marginalised and vulnerable communities in developing countries. They deliver basic services in the areas of education, health, livelihoods and income generation, as well as advocacy, networking and community mobilisation.

Irish funding to Misean Cara in 2019 created nearly 5000 new school places through the construction of classrooms and student residences, and was used for more than 200 scholarships at second and third level to ensure children can access an education that they could not otherwise afford.

Katupisha Malapa teaches Grade 5 in the Presentation School in Kaoma, Zambia. He sometimes uses art to teach the children about issues affecting society. In 2019, he taught the children about the Sustainable Development Goals, and they all created hand-made Goals of their own. Misean Cara provided funding to the Presentation Sisters in Kaoma to build three new classrooms, increasing the number of students receiving a quality education at the school.

Gender Case Study 5



Rebecca Lotukumoi, FGM prevention volunteer, Karamoja.
Photo: Simon Omoding Communications Officer/ ESP Secretariat

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Uganda

Ireland supported a Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) prevention project in the Karamoja region of Uganda, which uses a community volunteering approach to mobilise girls against FGM. Embassy funding has been used to renovate schools and construct dormitories, which provide a safe haven, and also to equip these girls with skills to generate their own income. In 2019, 151 Karamojong girls sought refuge from rural areas to escape FGM and moved in to these schools.

A number of women who have been trained as FGM prevention volunteers were approached when they received their Senior Citizen's Grant – a monthly cash transfer provided to hundreds of senior citizens across Uganda through the social protection programme funded by Ireland and the UK. Out of 121 FGM prevention volunteers in Amudat in Karamoja 23 are cash transfer beneficiaries. Through continued advocacy, 11 former FGM surgeons have abandoned FGM and now advocate against the practice as well as promoting girls' education.

Rebecca, a reformed FGM surgeon, was enrolled under the senior citizens grant programme in 2012 and started receiving a monthly social grant of US\$ 25,000 (about 6 Euro). She then joined the local volunteer community initiative against FGM, formed by the National Women's Association of Uganda (NAWOU) also supported by Ireland.

'Before I started receiving that money, I was homeless and had no house to live in,' the 67-year-old says. 'This money for old people provided me with an alternative income, so it was easy for me to stop circumcising girls' she adds. From the grant, Rebecca has been able to build a semi-permanent house while fellow villagers still live in mud and wattle huts. She also uses her grant to hire labour to work on her farm and has managed to buy two goats. *'My last daughter has benefitted from this conversion. I refused her to be cut and I have sent her to school.'*

Accountability and Transparency

The Irish Government is committed to ensuring that aid is spent efficiently and effectively to tackle global challenges. Aid transparency can help to achieve this by providing governments and citizens with access to the information that they need to hold decision makers accountable for the effective use of development resources.

The Department of Foreign Affairs has a zero tolerance policy towards fraud and has established policies and procedures for the prevention, detection, and management of instances of fraud or suspected fraud. The Department disburses significant funds by way of grants and contributions to many organisations and bodies (including government partners, multilateral and international organisations, civil society, and voluntary bodies). These activities carry inherent risks, which the Department acknowledges, and seeks to manage and mitigate through a strong control environment. This includes close engagement with partner organisations to assess and appraise their systems of governance, management, and internal control on an ongoing basis.

All programmes being considered for funding assistance are rigorously appraised against clear criteria in the use of resources received. Programmes in receipt of funding are subject to regular monitoring and oversight to assess whether the intended results are being achieved and to confirm that resources have been used appropriately. This oversight is undertaken by a combination of specialist programme staff, Embassy-based internal auditors, and independent experts.

In January 2018, the Department introduced the Standard Approach to Grant Management, which is a series of templates, guidelines, and instructions covering the lifecycle of a grant from initial partner selection, to programme design, appraisal and approval, monitoring and evaluation, and closure of the grant. It is now a requirement for all grants that the Standard Approach is applied, and it is designed to ensure that those tasked with managing the resources allocated to the Official Development Assistance programme do so in such a way that will deliver optimal results, demonstrate full and transparent financial accountability, generate learning, and support timely and accurate



The Department's Audit Committee meets with NGO partners on a visit to Ethiopia in February 2019. Photo: DFAT

reporting. The current version of the Standard Approach to Grant Management is clearly aligned to the Department's International Development Policy, *A Better World*.

The Head of Evaluation and Audit is the primary contact to whom instances of fraud or suspected fraud must be reported, and has overall responsibility to determine the appropriate course of action for investigating these. The work of the Evaluation and Audit Unit is supported by the Audit Committee of the Department, which provides an independent appraisal of the audit and evaluation function. Details of the value of suspected frauds, both in euro and as a percentage of ODA, are available on the Evaluation and Audit section of the Department's website.

Ireland is an active member of the OECD and reports annually to its Development Assistance Committee on expenditure for the preceding year. Ireland also supports globally recognised transparency standards as the best means of delivering greater international aid transparency. Ireland publishes data on its aid expenditure through a number of sources including the Open Data Ireland website, the EU Aid Explorer website and the International Aid Transparency Initiative's IATI Standard. The Department will continue to work to maintain and enhance the transparency of international development assistance, playing our part in the governance of the Initiative.

<https://www.irishaid.ie/media/irishaid/whatwedo/howouraidworks/Fraud-Report-to-DCD-2016--2020---website-20200708.pdf>

<https://data.gov.ie/>

<https://euaidexplorer.ec.europa.eu/>

<https://iatistandard.org/en/iati-standard/>

Annex 1	
Ireland's Official Development Assistance	74
Annex 2	
Irish ODA as a % of GNP: 2000-2019	75
Annex 3	
Irish ODA Volumes 2000-2019	76
Annex 4	
Net ODA as a % of GNI: DAC Donors 2019	77

Correct at time of publication.

Additional financial information on Ireland's ODA is available on the Irish Aid website, www.irishaid.ie

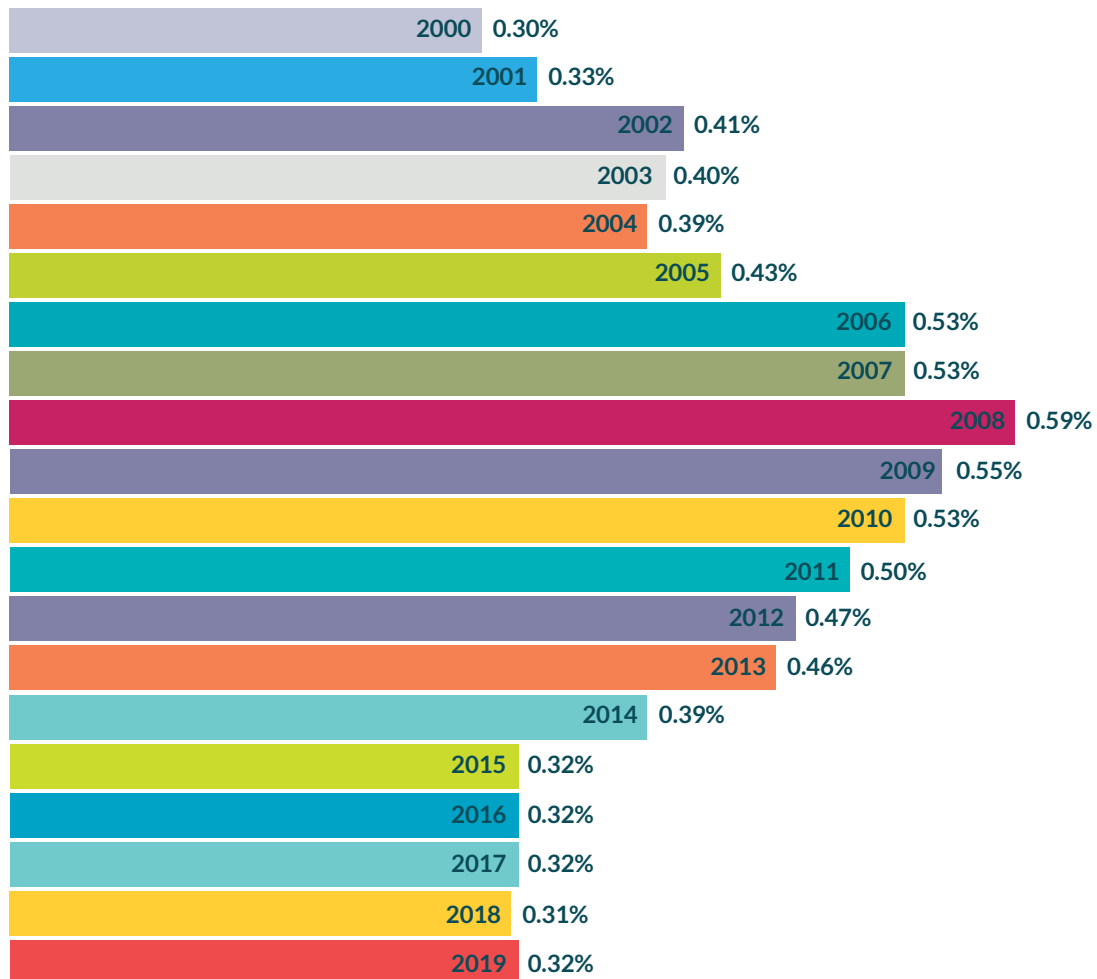
Ireland's Official Development Assistance

Ireland's Official Development Assistance	€ Millions 2019	€ Millions 2018
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Vote 27	546.18	514.82
Other Government Departments and Contributions to the EU Development Cooperation Budget	323.69	276.81
Total ODA	869.87	791.63
GNP	274,330	253,050
ODA as a % of GNP	0.32%	0.31%
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Vote 27 as a % of Total ODA	63%	65%
Other Government Departments and Contributions to the EU Development Cooperation Budget as a % of Total ODA	37%	35%
Bilateral / Multilateral Analysis		
Bilateral ODA		
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Vote 27	431.40	391.32
Other Government Departments and Contributions to the EU Development Cooperation Budget	81.04	58.11
Total Bilateral ODA	512.44	449.43
Multilateral ODA		
Department of Foreign Affairs And Trade - Vote 27	114.78	123.50
Other Government Departments and Contributions to the EU Development Cooperation Budget	242.66	218.70
Total Multilateral ODA	357.44	342.20
Total ODA	869.87	791.63
Bilateral ODA as a % of Total ODA	59%	57%
Multilateral ODA as a % of Total ODA	41%	43%

*These annexes use the OECD definitions for Bilateral and Multilateral Aid

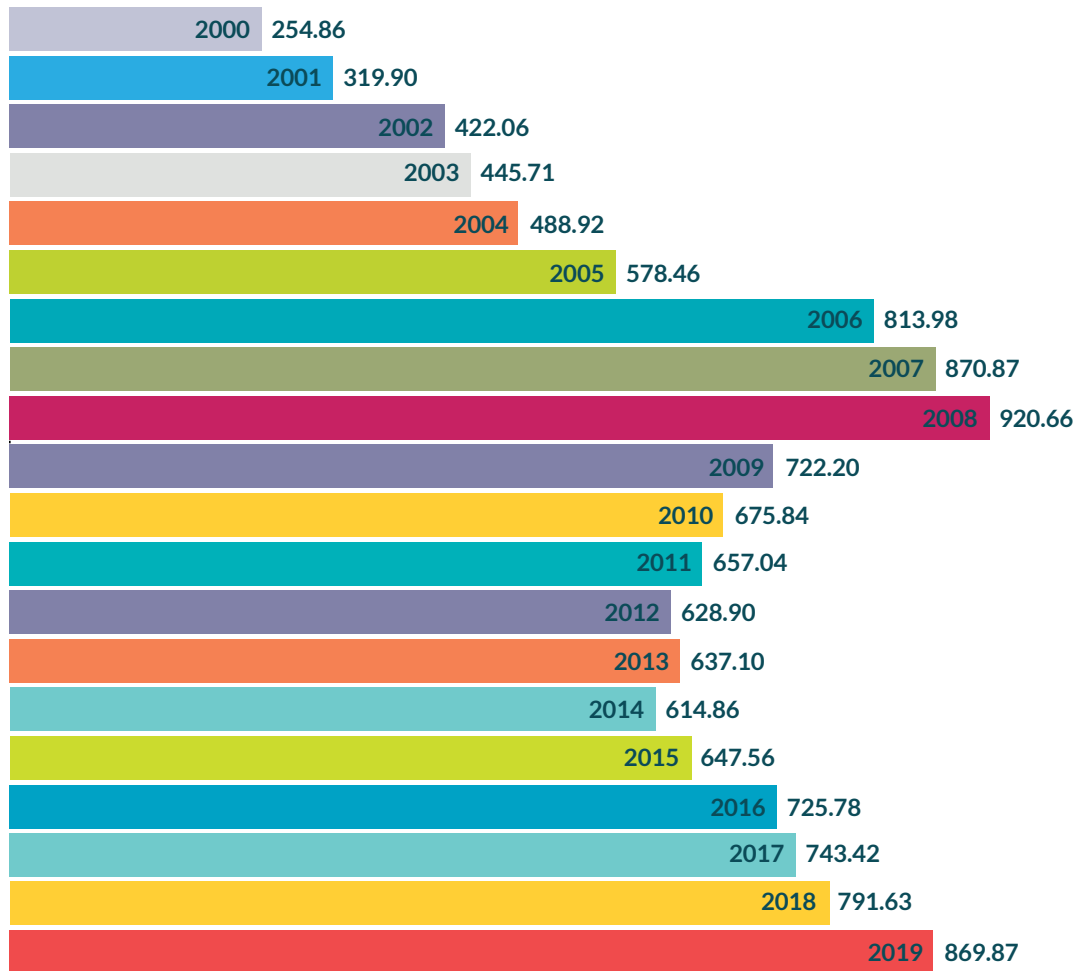
Irish ODA as a % of GNP: 2000 - 2019

ODA as a % of GNP



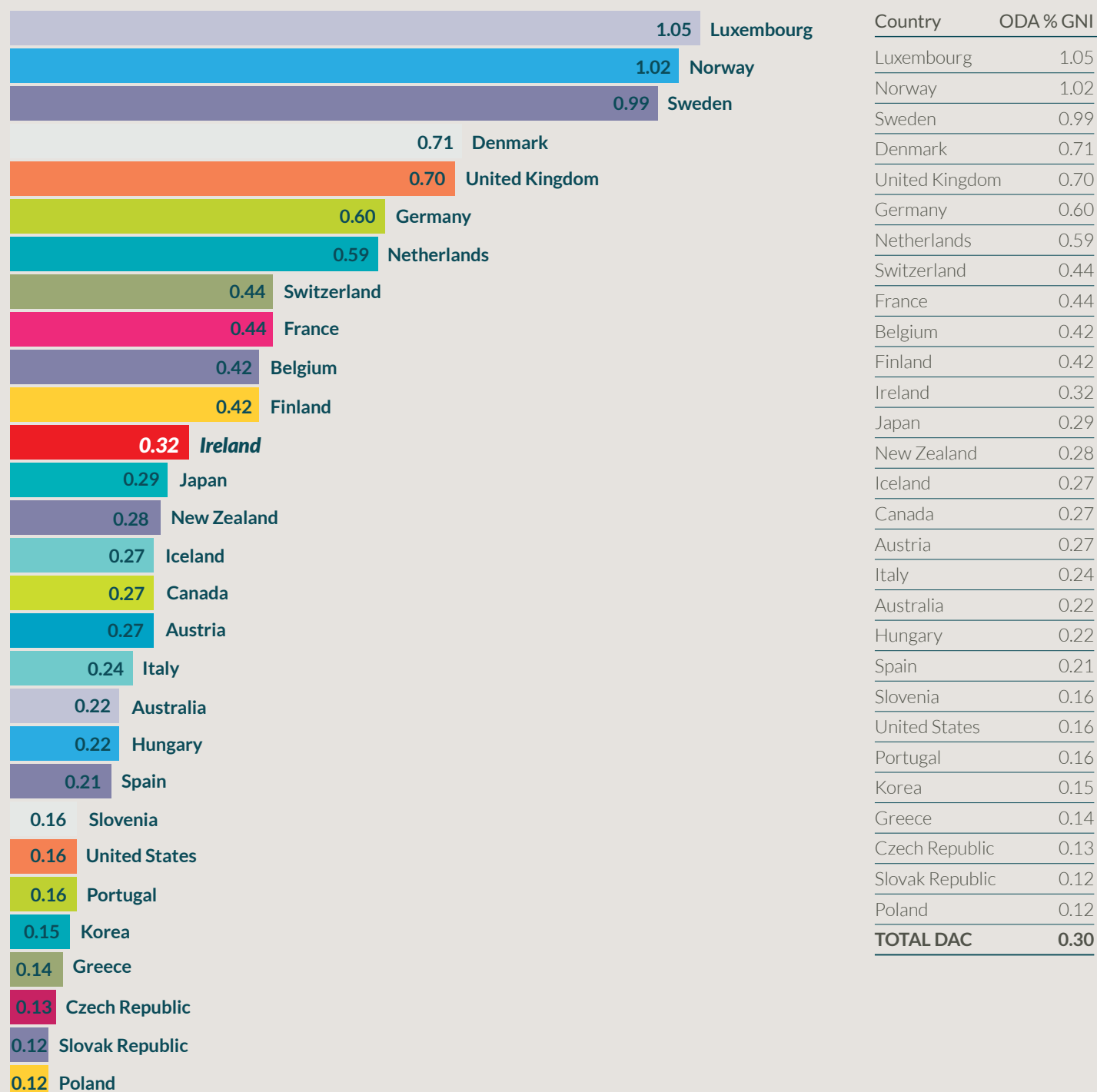
Irish ODA Volumes 2000-2019

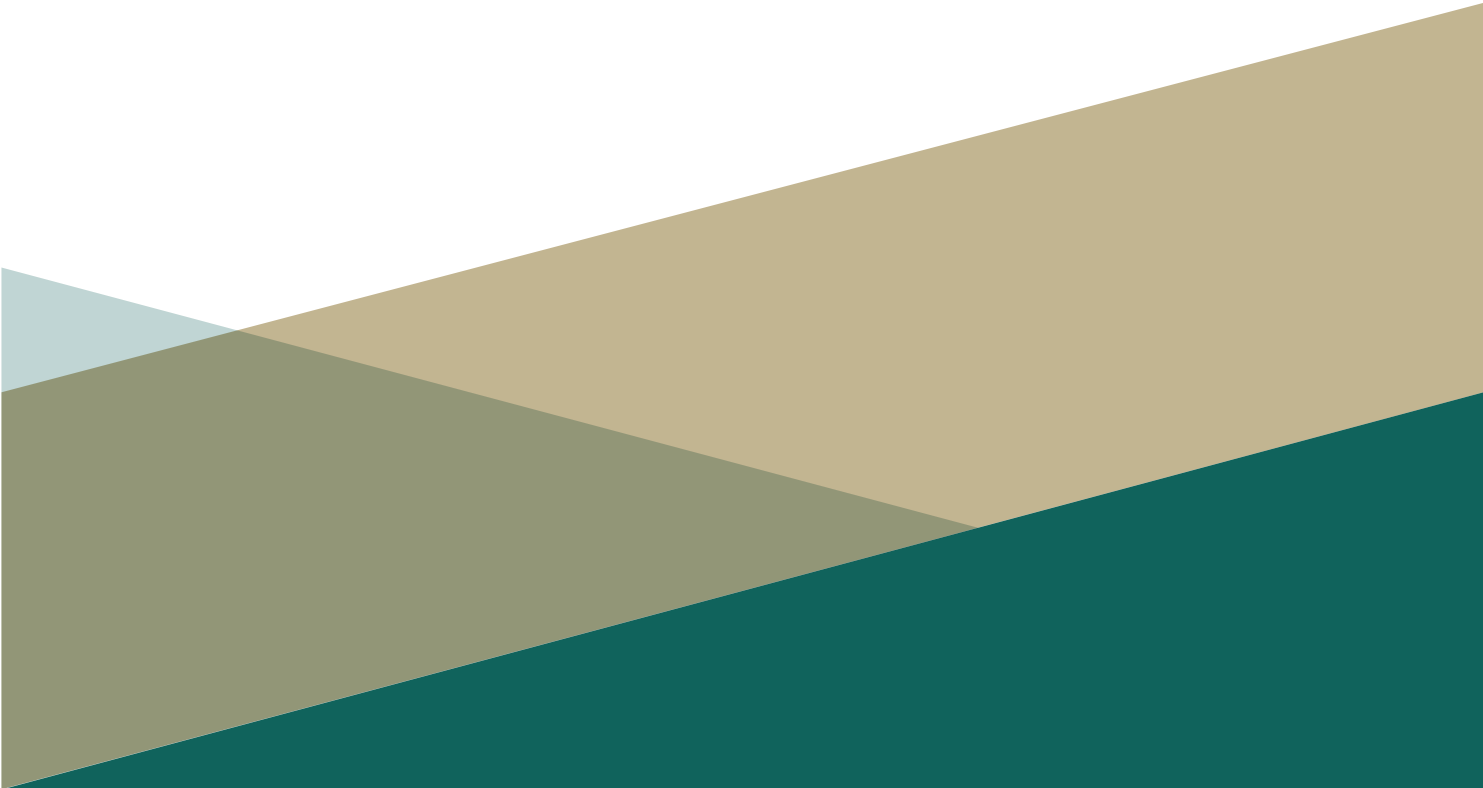
ODA €M



Net ODA as a % of GNI: DAC Donors 2019

ODA as a % of GNI





Irish Aid

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs