



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



# **Implementation of 'Global Ireland: Ireland's Strategy for Africa to 2025'**

Report to Government - Year 3

May 2023



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## Strategic Objectives



## Summary

2022 was the third full year of implementation of the Government's Africa Strategy under the Global Ireland programme, and marked the midway point of the Strategy's implementation period.



Then Taoiseach Micheál Martin speaks to press during a Special European Council meeting, attended by President Macky Sall, Chair of the African Union. © European Union

While the COVID-19 pandemic continued to play a role both in Ireland and in Africa, the defining global event of the year was the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia, beginning on 24 February and continuing through the rest of the year. The global ramifications of the invasion, including higher prices for fertiliser, fuel and staple crops, had a profound impact on many African countries, exacerbating the impact of the pandemic on already-strained economies and food systems.

In spite of these significant challenges, Ireland continued to advance the objectives of the Africa Strategy and there were some significant achievements in 2022.

- > During our second year as an elected member of the **United Nations Security Council**, Ireland continued to contribute to peace and security in Africa, working closely with African partners on the Council. Ireland took on a leadership role in a number of areas, including in efforts to respond to the humanitarian situation and conflict in northern Ethiopia and as co-penholder on a Security Council resolution introducing a humanitarian carve-out across all UN Sanctions regimes.
- > The then Taoiseach participated in the **6<sup>th</sup> EU-AU Summit** in Brussels in February, and co-chaired a Roundtable on Agriculture and Sustainable Development. Following the Summit, EU and African leaders announced an **Africa-Europe Investment Package** amounting to €150 billion by 2030.





Dr Akinwumi A. Adesina, President of the African Development Bank Group, delivers the keynote address at AIEF 2022. © DFA

- > In-person **high-level political engagement** between Ireland and the continent of Africa resumed during the course of the year. A delegation led by the Taoiseach attended the COP27 conference in Egypt, while ministerial visits were undertaken to Mozambique, South Africa, Kenya, South Sudan and Tunisia. A number of inward visits were also made, including ministerial delegations from Nigeria, Somalia, Sierra Leone and Malawi, the latter three in the context of the Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas Conference hosted in Dublin Castle in November.
- > **Total two-way trade** between Ireland and Africa reached an all-time high of €7.91 billion in 2021 (latest year for which full-year data is available), well in excess of the target set in the Africa Strategy.
- > The strong trade performance continued into 2022 with **trade in goods** reaching €2.8 billion, 17% higher than in 2021 and an increase of 30% on 2019, when the Strategy was launched. The agri-food sector remained key to Irish exports to Africa, reaching a record €1.1 billion with dairy, seafood and beverages all growing strongly over the year. Trade in services has also continued to grow strongly through the Strategy's implementation period, reaching €5.5 billion in 2021.
- > The **7<sup>th</sup> Africa Ireland Economic Forum** was hosted in Dublin by Minister Coveney and attended by a record number of people, over 400, on the theme of "Prospering Post-Pandemic: Towards a Sustainable, Greener Future". Keynote addresses were given by the President of the African Development Bank and Nigeria's Minister of State for Industry, Trade and Investment. Panel discussions considered topics including regional trade, green growth, women's economic empowerment, and technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship.
- > **Air connectivity** between Ireland and Africa continued to grow, with a new Dublin-Cairo direct flight added. This brings the total number of direct air routes between Ireland and the continent of Africa to 3, supporting two-way trade, tourism, investment and mobility.



© DFA

- > A successful pilot of the **Irish Tech Challenge South Africa** was launched, with 5 winning South African entrepreneurs travelling to Ireland for a programme of meetings with Irish tech companies, an Enterprise Ireland Innovation representative and participation in the Africa Ireland Economic Forum.

- > In the challenging context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the global impact of Russia's illegal war in Ukraine, Ireland worked with our African partners to help countries return to making progress on the **Sustainable Development Goals**. For example, Ireland increased our contribution to the Global Fund by 30%, to assist with strengthening health systems and reducing inequalities in health services. Funding was also increased to the WHO, including in response to the outbreak of the Ebola virus in Uganda.
- > In the context of the **food security crisis in the Horn of Africa**, driven by the cascading impacts of COVID-19, climate change, conflict and deprivation, Ireland's total spend in the region increased to over €100 million in 2022. Ireland's support comprised lifesaving humanitarian aid, development assistance, and support to partners working to build peace and address climate change.
- > Ireland donated more than **2.7 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines** through the COVAX mechanism in 2022, mainly to African countries including Botswana, Burkina Faso, Djibouti and Sudan.
- > In September, the Government announced an increased allocation to international development aid to over **€1.2 billion** for 2023, an increase of 17% on 2022 and the highest amount ever provided for Ireland's development programme.
- > Ireland made its first pledge to the **African Development Fund** at the 16<sup>th</sup> Replenishment Conference in December. Having become a member of the African Development Bank in 2020, this was Ireland's first opportunity to contribute to the Fund, which plays an important role in fostering sustainable and inclusive social and economic growth and prosperity in Africa. Ireland's membership of the Bank is also an important springboard for increased trade and investment opportunities for Irish businesses.
- > At the COP27 conference in Sharm-el-Sheikh, Egypt, Ireland continued to strengthen our **leadership on climate action**, in particular supporting climate adaptation and resilience in Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States. A funding package of €5 million announced at the conference will support these countries, many of which are in Africa, with climate adaptation efforts.
- > In April, Ireland co-hosted a regional conference on **Climate Change, Peace and Security** in West Africa and the Sahel in Dakar, Senegal, building on Ireland's championing of Climate and Security issues throughout our membership of the UN Security Council.



Minister of State for International Development and the Diaspora, Seán Fleming TD, with attendees of the Dakar Summit 2 in Dakar, Senegal. © DFA

- > Ireland continued to **increase our diplomatic footprint** in Africa, with the formal establishment of diplomatic relations with Mauritania and the first presentation of credentials in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by an Irish ambassador. Ireland's first Permanent Representative to the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP), of which the majority of members are African, presented credentials at the organisation's headquarters in Lisbon.
- > Notable progress was made in 2022 in **expanding educational and research links**. Considerable progress was made towards the target in the Africa Strategy of doubling the number of Ireland Fellowships awarded to African students by 2025, with 121 students from Africa awarded Fellowships for Master's-level study in Ireland, up from 72 in 2019.

## Introduction

'Global Ireland: Ireland's Strategy for Africa to 2025' was launched in Dublin Castle on 28 November 2019. The Africa Strategy elaborates upon the commitments set out in the Global Ireland 2025 programme to expand Ireland's engagement in Africa.

'Global Ireland: Ireland's Strategy for Africa to 2025' is a whole-of-Government roadmap facilitating the deepening of Ireland's political, economic, cultural and development relations with African countries.

The six strategic objectives identified to deliver on the ambition of Global Ireland and the vision for our relationships with Africa are as follows:

1. Ireland will build stronger political partnerships with African countries to address national, regional and global challenges.
2. Ireland will promote peace, security, and respect for human rights and the rule of law.
3. Ireland will support inclusive economic growth and deeper trade and investment relations.
4. Ireland will work with African countries in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular focus on reaching those furthest behind first.
5. Ireland will promote and contribute to a more ambitious and effective EU partnership with Africa.
6. Ireland will pursue a collaborative 'Team Ireland' approach across all our work in Africa.

The first and second reports to Government on progress under the Africa Strategy were published in May 2021 and 2022 respectively, and highlighted a range of achievements in the first two years of implementation.



A mural commissioned for Africa Day 2022, painted by Arthur Oner and highlighting the unique connections between Ireland and Africa, in Tallaght, Dublin. © DFA



# Africa Strategy progress in 2022 and since 2019

## Vision 2025

To deepen and strengthen Ireland's political, economic and cultural relationships with Africa, contributing to peace, prosperity and sustainable development.

## Key achievements in 2022



7th Africa  
Ireland  
Economic  
Forum hosted  
in Dublin

Successful  
pilot of the  
Irish Tech  
Challenge  
South  
Africa



Record level of two-way  
trade in goods (€2.8  
billion)

**€2.8** **BILLION**

Leadership of  
climate action at  
COP27  
conference in  
Egypt



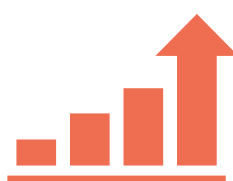
Expansion of  
diplomatic  
footprint on  
the African  
continent

**6**

6 high-level  
visits to, and 4  
high-level  
visits from,  
Africa during  
the year

## Since the launch of the African Strategy in 2019

Opening of new  
Embassy in  
Morocco,  
bringing Ireland's  
Embassies on the  
continent to 13



29%  
increase in  
total two-way  
trade  
(to end  
2021)

**ODA**

18% increase in Ireland's ODA  
budget, exceeding €1 billion for  
the first time in 2022

Ireland  
becomes 81st  
member of  
African Bank  
Development



Successful campaign and tenure  
on the UN Security Council



68% increase in  
awards offered  
to African  
students under  
the Ireland  
Fellows  
Programme

## Spotlight: Africa Ireland Economic Forum

The 7th Africa Ireland Economic Forum (AIEF) took place at the RDS in Dublin on 30 June 2022, hosted by then Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence, Simon Coveney TD, and attended by a record number of participants, with over 400 people in attendance.



Minister Simon Coveney delivers the opening address at AIEF 2022.  
© DFA

In his opening address, Minister Coveney focused on the **enormous potential of the trade and investment relationship** between Ireland and Africa, and announced an **additional contribution of €2 million** towards the African Development Bank Group's work on climate adaptation. He also announced the **establishment of the Ireland Africa Agri-Business Network**, which will bring together a diversity of actors across the Irish and African agri-business eco-systems to generate momentum towards further investment and new partnerships.

Keynote addresses exploring the theme of “**Prospering Post-Pandemic: Towards a Sustainable, Greener Future**”, were delivered by Dr Akinwumi A. Adesina, President of the African Development Bank Group, and Ambassador Mariam Katagum, Minister of State for Industry, Trade and Investment of Nigeria.

Moderated panel discussions at the Forum took a detailed look at topics including **regional trade, green growth in the agriculture, food and energy sectors, women's economic empowerment**, and how **technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship** are being leveraged for Africa's growth. Panellists included representatives from across Government and Team Ireland, including Minister of State for Agriculture with responsibility for Land Use and Biodiversity, Senator Pippa Hackett, and Enterprise Ireland CEO Leo Clancy.

Closing the Forum, then Minister of State Brophy reflected on key opportunities and areas for strengthened partnership, and announced the four winners of the **inaugural Irish Aid Enterprise Fund for International Climate Action**.

The Africa Strategy commits to hosting AIEF triennially. The last AIEF was held in 2018 with the 2021 Forum delayed to 2022 due to COVID-19 restrictions on in-person events. The aim of AIEF is to bring business and political leaders together with public and private sector stakeholders from across Ireland and the continent of Africa to share thinking and ideas and to explore new opportunities to strengthen and diversify relations, and to increase trade and investment in both directions.



Africa Ireland  
Economic Forum

## 1

## Stronger political partnerships with African countries

### Strategic objective:

Ireland will build stronger political partnerships with African countries to address national, regional and global challenges.

We will deepen and broaden partnerships with African countries as a foundation for more comprehensive and coherent engagement bilaterally, regionally and globally. This work will build on the strong and vibrant people-to-people ties that underpin Ireland's relationships with African countries.

Travel restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic eased over the first part of 2022, allowing greater in-person engagement than had been possible over the previous two years. Ireland continued to focus on building strengthened political partnerships in Africa, through engaging virtually and in-person with stakeholders across Africa. The continued expansion of Ireland's diplomatic and economic network in Africa, and strong people-to-people links, facilitated this enhanced engagement.

Then **Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD**, attended the EU-AU Summit in February 2022, alongside all other EU and 40 African Heads of State and Government. At the Summit, the Taoiseach co-chaired the Roundtable on Agriculture and Sustainable Development, along with the Prime Minister of Greece and Presidents of Kenya and Côte d'Ivoire. He also had a bilateral meeting with President of Kenya Uhuru Kenyatta. Following the Summit the **Africa-Europe Investment Package** was announced, amounting to €150 billion up to 2030, as part of the EU's Global Gateway Strategy.

Speaking at the **UN General Assembly** in September, the Taoiseach emphasised Ireland's continued commitment to work with countries to achieve food and nutrition security. Food security is a key priority for African countries, with 2022 designated by the African Union as the 'Year of Nutrition'. On the margins of the General Assembly, the Taoiseach and then **Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence, Simon Coveney TD**, met with several African leaders, including leaders from Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia and Uganda. The Taoiseach also participated in a High-Level discussion on the Sahel, where he emphasised Ireland's continued commitment to the region beyond our membership of the Security Council.



Then Taoiseach Micheál Martin at a roundtable discussion on the Sahel, during the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly. © UN Photo / Ariana Lindquist





Minister Simon Coveney with the President of Somalia, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, at COP27. © DFA

The Taoiseach, Minister Coveney, **Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan TD** and then **Minister of State for Oversea Development Aid and Diaspora, Colm Brophy TD** attended the COP27 climate change conference in Egypt in November. The delegation held a number of bilateral meetings with leaders from African countries, including Kenya, Egypt and Somalia. The Taoiseach joined the President of Ghana, Nana Akufo-Addo for a high-level meeting on The Global Shield Against Climate Risks, a new initiative which aims to scale up the finance needed to protect against climate risks in vulnerable developing countries, and announced Ireland's contribution of €10 million to the initiative for 2023.

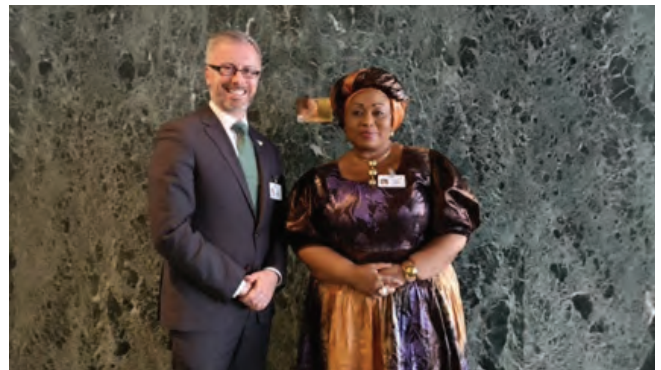


Then Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar TD, meets with the Minister of Industry and Trade of Morocco, Ryad Mezzour, on the margins of the Farnborough Air Show in the UK. © Enterprise Ireland

Ireland's relations with **North African countries** have continued to develop since the opening of a resident Embassy in Rabat, Morocco. In July 2022, then **Tánaiste and Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Leo Varadkar TD**, met with Moroccan Minister for Industry and Trade, Ryad Mezzour, en marge of the Farnborough Air Show in the UK, to discuss opportunities for collaboration in the aerospace and automotive sectors. In November, Morocco hosted Ireland for political consultations at senior official level, which provided an opportunity for substantive engagement on issues of international peace and security. The Irish Embassy in Rabat also expanded its accreditation to Tunisia, with Ambassador James McIntyre presenting credentials in 2022.

Minister Coveney convened the 7<sup>th</sup> Africa Ireland Economic Forum in Dublin in June, attended by a record number of participants, with over 400 delegates. On the margins of the Forum, Minister Coveney held bilateral consultations with Ambassador Mariam Katagum, Minister of State for Industry, Trade and Investment of Nigeria, and the then **Minister of State for Oversea Development Aid and Diaspora, Colm Brophy TD**, met with the President of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB), Dr Akinwumi A. Adesina. AfDB President Adesina paid a courtesy call on President Higgins while in Dublin at the beginning of July.

**Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, Roderic O'Gorman TD**, attended the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March, and met with the Minister for Gender and Children's Affairs of Sierra Leone, Manty Tarawalli.



Minister Roderic O'Gorman with the Minister for Gender and Children's Affairs of Sierra Leone, Manty Tarawalli, at the UN Commission on the Status of Women. © DFA

Ireland continued to forge strong bilateral ties with Southern Africa in 2022. In February, then Minister of State Brophy visited **South Africa**, where he co-chaired the second meeting of the South Africa-Ireland Joint Commission for Cooperation, the structured mechanism for bilateral cooperation between Ireland and South Africa. Minister of State Brophy also visited **Mozambique** in May, where he held



bilateral consultations with the Minister for Gender, Children and Social Action, Nyeleti Brooke Mondlane. The meeting was a valuable opportunity to reiterate the longstanding bilateral cooperation between the two countries, and to exchange views on key priorities including climate, and Ireland's support for Mozambique's campaign for election to the UN Security Council for 2023-2024. During the visit, Minister of State Brophy visited partners working in the health, education, climate and nutrition sectors, and met with the Governor of Inhambane Province. Minister of State Brophy also **announced €8 million in funding** to the Health Sector in Mozambique, to improve health services for mothers and children. The visit highlighted the evolving partnership between Ireland and Mozambique, including promoting opportunities for business, trade, investment and youth entrepreneurship.

In August-September, then Minister of State Brophy visited the **Horn of Africa**, witnessing first-hand the severity of the food insecurity crisis devastating the region. The Minister visited Nairobi and Turkana in Kenya, and Juba and Bentiu in South Sudan, becoming the first Irish Government Minister to visit South Sudan. Minister of State Brophy held bilateral meetings at ministerial level in both countries, as well as discussions with Ireland's partner NGOs and UN agencies on and the need for a radically scaled-up international response to the situation. Shortly after Minister of State Brophy's visit, the Government announced **additional emergency funding of €33.2 million** to address the emergency food security needs in the Horn of Africa in 2022, and identified a further €15 million to tackle child wasting in the region over the next three years.



Then Minister of State Brophy meeting staff from Concern Worldwide in Turkana, Kenya. © DFA

In June, **Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan TD**, met with the Minister of the Sea of Cabo Verde, Dr Abraão Vicente, in the margins of the UN Ocean Conference held in Lisbon. The meeting afforded an opportunity to brief on Ireland's Strategy for Partnership with Small Island Developing States and to identify opportunities for future collaboration with Cabo Verde in oceans-related and other areas.

Then **Minister of State for European Affairs, Thomas Byrne TD**, represented Ireland at the 18<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie ('OIF') in Djerba, Tunisia in November. Created in 1970, La Francophonie is a global community representing French-speaking countries and regions. 32 of its 88 member states and observers are African, and Ireland's observer status grants access to a multilateral platform with deep roots in the continent that is home to the largest number of French speakers in the world. During the Summit, Minister Byrne met the Secretary-General of the OIF, Louise Mushikiwabo, and participated in a roundtable discussion on digitalisation with the Foreign Minister of The Gambia, Dr Mamadou Tangara, among others.

**Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development, Joe O'Brien TD**, attended the annual EU-Southern Neighbourhood Ministerial, chaired by the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs, Josep Borrell, in November. The meeting brought together EU Member States and countries from the Mediterranean region, including from North Africa. This marked the first time Ireland has been represented at Ministerial level, signalling Ireland's enhanced engagement with the opportunities and challenges faced by this strategically important region.

Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Joseph Hackett, visited Tanzania in June, meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Liberata Mulamula.

In March, Ambassador Ralph Victory presented credentials as Ireland's first Permanent Representative to the **Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries (CPLP)**, which is headquartered in Lisbon, Portugal. Ireland became an associate observer member of the CPLP in 2021. In November, Ambassador Mary O'Neill presented credentials to President Félix Tshisekedi of the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, the **first Irish ambassador** to do so.



Ambassador Ralph Victory, Ireland's first Permanent Representative to the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP), presenting credentials to CPLP Executive Secretary Zacarias da Costa. © CPLP

In December, Ireland formally established **diplomatic relations with Mauritania**. The signing of a Joint Note at a ceremony in the Embassy of Ireland in London marked an important step in advancing bilateral relations between Ireland and the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. Ireland will be accredited to Mauritania through the Embassy in Rabat, while Mauritania will be accredited to Ireland from its Embassy in London.



## EXPLOSIVE WEAPONS IN POPULATED AREAS

Dublin Conference 2022

Ireland hosted a number of incoming visits from high-level delegations from African countries, including for the **Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA)** conference in November. On the margins of the conference, Minister Coveney had bilateral consultations with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Somalia, Abshir Omar Jama 'Huruse,' and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Cabo Verde, Miryan Vieira. Then Minister of State Brophy had bilateral consultations with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malawi, Nancy Tembo, and Minister Francis of Sierra Leone.

Ireland's Embassies in Africa engage on an ongoing basis with their host countries on a wide range of political issues. In many cases in 2022, the global impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine has intensified the level of political engagement with

African governments by Ireland's embassy network. Embassies joined EU-led demarches throughout the year, setting out our position and encouraging African states, who make up more than a quarter of UN members, to support key resolutions relating to Ukraine at the UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council.



*Princess Ibrahim and Victoria Doyeni, two of the 5th year students at Old Bawn Community School, Tallaght, who helped design the Africa Day mural. © DFA*

2022 saw continued engagement with African communities in Ireland to support and grow the people-to-people and cultural connections between Ireland and Africa. In May, the largest ever **Africa Day** celebrations took place in Ireland, with 20,000 people attending events held in 30 local authorities around the country and more than 250,000 people reached through social media channels. Bespoke cultural events, including an African Film Festival and an exhibition at the EPIC Museum, were held in Dublin to promote contemporary African cultures and celebrate the rich connections between Ireland and Africa.

## 2

## Peace, Security and respect for Human Rights

### Strategic objective:

Ireland will promote peace, security, and respect for human rights and the rule of law.

As a small island with a recent experience of conflict, Ireland is firmly committed to a just and peaceful rules-based international order.



A peacekeeper serving with the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). © Harandane Dicko / UN Photo

Ireland consistently sought to make a substantive and principled contribution to peace and security in Africa in 2022, including through our role as an **elected member of the UN Security Council**, through the deployment of Defence Forces personnel to UN peacekeeping missions, and through deployment of Defence Forces personnel and civilian experts to EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions in Africa. Ireland continued to champion the Women, Peace and Security agenda and to bring a strong focus to the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular the protection of civil society space and support to human rights defenders. Key achievements during the year included Ireland's leading role, along with the US, in a UN Security Council resolution introducing a humanitarian carve-out in UN Sanctions regimes.

Defence Forces personnel were deployed with the **EU Training Mission (EUTM) Mali** and to the operational HQ of **EU NAVFOR Med/Operation IRINI** (Libya), while civilian CSDP experts were deployed to missions in the Central African Republic, Libya, Niger, and Somalia. Ireland has also engaged closely on the provision of non-lethal support to African countries through the **European Peace Facility**, which saw total funding of approximately €247 million agreed for the year. The **UN peacekeeping** missions in Africa to which Defence Forces personnel were deployed were MINUSMA in Mali (until September 2022), and MONUSCO in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (until August 2022).

As a UN Security Council member, Ireland contributed to the mandate renewal of **UN peacekeeping operations and special political missions** across Africa, working with African and other partners on the Council to secure important improvements. This included the mandates for UN missions in Western Sahara (MINURSO), Mali (MINUSMA), Central African Republic (MINUSCA), Sudan/South Sudan (UNISFA), South Sudan (UNMISS), Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) as well as the UN-authorized African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS). In advance of discussions on these and other African issues at the Council, Ireland engaged closely with African partners, including the governments hosting UN Missions, and civil society organisations. Ireland's focus for all negotiations on the renewal of peacekeeping operations mandates was to ensure a responsiveness to needs on the ground; that mandates are clear, credible, and realistic; and that all UN peacekeeping missions are adequately resourced to carry out their duties and responsibilities effectively. Ireland worked to ensure that resolutions, and the mandates they renewed, continued to focus on the protection of civilians, the promotion of human rights, and the full participation of women. In November, then Minister of State Thomas Byrne, participated in a UN Security Council High Level Open Debate, which focused on ensuring that UN Peace Operations are capable of addressing complex, often rapidly-changing security dynamics, as well as the underlying drivers and causes of conflict.





*Ireland's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Fergal Mythen, speaks at a UN Security Council meeting on the situation in Somalia. © Eskinder Debebe/UN Photo*

Ireland continued its strong and effective engagement on **Horn of Africa** country-specific mandates and related thematic files at the UN Security Council. This engagement ensured that Ireland's priorities, including addressing root causes of the complex crises affecting the region, the protection of civilians, humanitarian access and the preservation of space for civil society and women peacebuilders, were reflected in Council outcomes, despite often-difficult negotiations. Ireland's influence was particularly notable in relation to resolutions and other Council products on ATMIS, UNSOM, UNISFA, Somalia (where Ireland chaired the sanctions committee), Sudan sanctions, UNITAMS and Ethiopia.

Ireland has a long history of partnership with **Ethiopia**, which remains the largest bilateral recipient of funding from Ireland's international development assistance. During our two-year term, Ireland helped lead the UN Security Council's engagement in responding to the deteriorating humanitarian situation and the suffering wrought by the conflict in northern Ethiopia. Ireland used its Council tenure to draw attention to the dire humanitarian consequences of the conflict, and secured the adoption of two Council statements addressing the situation. Ireland consistently called for unimpeded humanitarian access, the need to protect civilians, for a cessation of hostilities, accountability for violations of human rights, and political dialogue to reach a peaceful, sustainable solution to the conflict. The Agreement on a Permanent Cessation of Hostilities (CoHA) reached in November 2022 by the Ethiopian government and the Tigrayan People's Liberation Front provides an opportunity to put an end to the violence, and to ensure humanitarian assistance reaches all those in need. Our tenure on the UN Security Council has ended, but the situation in Ethiopia will remain a priority for Ireland's peace and security work. Ireland will continue to support the people of Ethiopia, and the full implementation of the CoHA through our engagements bilaterally, through the EU, and at the UN.

Ireland remained active on UN Security Council country-specific mandates and related thematic files concerning **West Africa and the Sahel**, including on MINUSMA, the Mali Sanctions regime, the G5 Sahel Joint Force, and as co-penholders with Ghana on the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS). Our engagement at the Council on files relating to the region was guided by our broader commitment under the Africa Strategy to enhance engagement in francophone West Africa. 2022 saw an overall deterioration in the security and humanitarian situation in the region, with continued political instability including two coups d'état in Burkina Faso and ongoing challenges with respect to the operation of MINUSMA in Mali. In September 2022, then **Taoiseach Micheál Martin** attended a **High Level Event on the Sahel at the UN General Assembly**, convened by UN Secretary General António Guterres. The session addressed rising insecurity, including the proliferation of terrorist and other non-State armed groups, coupled with political instability.



*Ireland's Special Envoy for francophone Africa and the Sahel, Kenneth Thompson, meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Mali, Abdoulaye Diop, during a joint visit with Norway's Special Representative for the Sahel, Ambassador Rigmor Koti, to Bamako, Mali. © MAECI Mali*

In 2022, Ireland's **Special Envoy for francophone Africa and the Sahel**, Kenneth Thompson, undertook an extensive programme of travel and meetings in support of Ireland's engagement at the UN Security Council on relevant files. This included meetings of the Global Network of Special Envoys for the Sahel in Madrid and Prague, convened by the EU Special Representative for the Sahel to allow EU Member States and likeminded countries to discuss international engagement in the Sahel. The Special Envoy also undertook a joint visit to Mali with his Norwegian counterpart in May and attended the Dakar International Forum on Peace in October. There was further engagement with the international coordination structures of the Coalition for the Sahel and the Sahel Alliance, including the biannual steering committee meetings of both in June and December. The Coalition for the Sahel focuses on bringing together all actors involved in the Sahel to ensure coherent regional action, while the Sahel



Alliance enhances cooperation and coherence among development partners and international organisations seeking to support security and development in the Sahel.

In April, alongside Ghana, ECOWAS and UNOWAS, Ireland co-hosted a regional conference on **Climate Change, Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel**. Over a hundred participants, including government, regional bodies, and civil society representatives from seventeen countries in the region attended the conference in Dakar, Senegal. The conference sought to identify opportunities to strengthen international responses to the security risks faced by the region due to climate change, with a focus on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. A Call to Action, issued at the end of the conference, highlighted the need for evidence-based policy-making, integrated approaches and improved access to finance.



*Delegates attending the regional conference on Climate Change, Peace and Security in West Africa and the Sahel in Dakar, Senegal. © DFA*

Ireland engaged on several Security Council files concerning **Central Africa and the Great Lakes** region, including on the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Great Lakes region, the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals, the UN Regional Office for Central Africa, as well as the MINUSCA and MONUSCO missions. Ireland also participated in a UN Security Council 1533 Sanctions Committee visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Uganda in November 2022.

Ireland played an important role in the introduction of new humanitarian language into multiple UN sanctions regimes, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, and Mali in 2022. In December, Ireland and the U.S. led on a UN **Security Council resolution that introduced a humanitarian carve-out across all UN sanctions regimes**. Together with the US, Ireland initiated and led negotiations on this landmark resolution, which will help to ensure that crucial humanitarian assistance can be delivered, even where UN sanctions are in place. The resolution was adopted with the support of 14 of the 15 members of the Council, with co-sponsorship by over 40 states. Supporting

principled humanitarian action and preserving humanitarian space was an overarching priority for Ireland during our time on the Council. Ireland has sought to ensure that UN sanctions regimes do not result in unintended negative consequences on the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the places where they are in effect.



*The UN Security Council adopts Resolution 2664, introducing a humanitarian carve-out across all UN sanctions regimes. © DFA*

In **North Africa**, Ireland continued to support the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), and the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), throughout 2022. On Western Sahara files, Ireland advocated for stronger human rights provisions and secured improvements in a challenging negotiating environment. Ireland also actively supported the one-year renewal of UNSMIL's mandate in Libya, after a series of short extensions, which places the Mission on a more predictable footing.

Ireland's embassy network across Africa continued to promote and support peace and security in 2022. In **Mozambique**, Ireland supported peace efforts through channels such as the disarmament and demobilisation process, part of the Maputo Peace Accord, providing funds for NGOs and four United Nations Volunteers to support the reintegration programme for former combatants. By the end of 2022, 4,695 of the 5,221 former combatants had been demobilised, and 15 out of 16 Renamo bases had closed. As co-chair of the ICCT Crisis Task Force until August, Ireland also facilitated political dialogue with the Government to better respond to humanitarian need in **Cabo Delgado**, with a particular focus on promoting and protecting human rights.

In **Zimbabwe**, Ireland also expanded its support to strengthen governance and human rights, through providing support to a consortium of local human rights organisations, the Zimbabwean Constitutional Commissions, including the Human Rights Commission, the Gender Commission and the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission, as well as to inter-party dialogue and support for the preparation of National Elections in 2023.



Delegates at the Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas conference in Dublin Castle. © DFA

In addition to engagement at the UN and the EU, Ireland is supporting African institutions in their work to further **peace, security and accountability** on the continent. Through our partnership with the Africa Union Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS), as well as its Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, Ireland provided support for their work strengthening regional, national and local peacebuilding efforts and advancing the WPS Agenda. Advancing the WPS agenda and gender equality was further supported through Ireland's partnership with the UN Office to the AU which included a focus on building capacity of electoral bodies on gender inclusion and deployment of experts and women leaders to observe elections in Kenya and Senegal. Ireland also provided support to regional and national bodies, including the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in its critical role in monitoring the implementation of the peace agreement in South Sudan, and to the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission to strengthen their capacity for human rights monitoring and reporting.



The Palais des Nations, home of the UN Office at Geneva, including the UN Human Rights Council. © UN Photo / Violaine Martin

Ireland engages proactively with African partners on the promotion and protection of **human rights**, with a particular focus on civil society space and support to human rights defenders. Ireland delivered National Statements on a wide range of country-specific and thematic issues at the Human Rights Council in 2022, including on South Sudan, Sudan, Central African Republic, Burundi, Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Mali. Ireland also made recommendations at the UN Human Rights Council as part of the Universal Periodic Review processes for 9 African countries in 2022. Ireland made constructive recommendations across key priority areas, including on the abolition of the death penalty, freedom of expression and association, and protection of human rights defenders. Ireland also delivered a statement on Ethiopia during the Third Committee of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly.

In Sierra Leone, Ireland, through UNDP, supported the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone to strengthen its work in popularising the Third Cycle UPR recommendations, develop a national policy on Business and Human Rights and strengthened decentralized human rights structures. Ireland also worked with civil society to develop a Human Rights Defenders' Policy and Bill. Support was also provided to revise the NGO policy in order to improve civil society space and overall environment for NGO operations in Sierra Leone.

After taking a lead role in negotiations to address the harm caused to civilians by the use of **explosive weapons in populated areas** (EWIPA), Ireland welcomed delegates from across the world, including Ministerial delegations from four African countries, to an international conference in Dublin Castle in November. The conference saw the formal adoption of a Political Declaration by 83 countries, including 13 African states. The Declaration is a significant milestone, which recognises the humanitarian consequences of the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, and sets out a number of ambitious actions to address those impacts.



Ireland has a strong humanitarian disarmament tradition, and this Political Declaration builds on this legacy as a leading voice on disarmament.

Consistent support for the effective implementation of UN Resolution 1325 on **Women, Peace and Security (WPS)** has long been a priority for Ireland, including during our membership of the UN Security Council. As co-chair, along with Mexico, of the Council's Informal Expert Group (IEG) on WPS in 2022, Ireland consistently worked to ensure that the role of women as peacebuilders, and as agents of change, was at the heart of UN peacekeeping and political missions. In 2022, the IEG discussed challenges to the WPS Agenda in meetings on the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan, among other countries, as well as a thematic meeting on the issue of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. The WPS Presidency Trio, established by Ireland, Mexico and Kenya in 2021 to coordinate WPS activity across consecutive monthly Presidencies of the UN Security Council, was carried forward by a further seven member states in 2022. With the commitment of four newly elected member states in 2023, this brings the total to 15, including Niger and Gabon. Ireland is also a member of the Group of Friends of the African Women Leaders Network.

Ireland's embassy network in Africa continued to fund several partners working on WPS in 2022. In Sierra Leone, Ireland worked with UN Women and civil society to promote **women-led approaches** to peace and social cohesion, and women and young women's participation in politics, governance, decision-making and local accountability processes. In September, Ireland supported the Sierra Leonean Independent Commission for Peace and National Cohesion to mark the International Day of Peace with an event that brought together political leaders to commit to peaceful, credible and inclusive elections in June 2023. The Strategic Initiative on Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA), a partner organisation of Embassy Nairobi, facilitated two civil society briefings to the Security Council during Ireland's tenure, while participating in negotiations around the ongoing democratic transition in Sudan. In Tanzania, Ireland is supporting the development of the first National Action Plan (NAP) on WPS, and participated in a regional conference to share lessons on NAPs and Ireland's experience of NAPs to date.

Ireland is also contributing to the promotion of youth leadership in the implementation and advancement of the **Youth, Peace and Security (YPS)** Agenda. In December, Ireland co-hosted an informal meeting of the UN Security Council with Ecuador and Ghana to mark the seventh anniversary of the YPS Agenda, and supported the contribution of Nynar Koul, a young peacebuilder from Sudan.

Ireland continues to strengthen ongoing partnerships with a range of organisations working in **conflict prevention and peacebuilding** in Africa. Support to organisations such as

Dialogue Advisory Group, European Institute of Peace and International Alert helps to facilitate mediation, local and national dialogues, capacity building for civil society organisations, and implementation of the WPS and YPS Agendas.

Ireland, through the EU, deployed observers from our national **election observation** roster to monitor the elections which took place in Kenya and Lesotho in 2022. Three of our observers, one Long-Term and two Short-Term, took part in the EU Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) to Kenya, while two observers from Ireland, one Long-Term and one Short-Term, took part in the EU EOM to Lesotho.



*Disability inclusion activists from the Foundation for Justice, Development and Peace, Benue State, Nigeria. © DFA*

In 2022 the Embassy of Ireland in Abuja supported enhanced electoral participation through partnership with locally-led civil society organisations throughout Nigeria in the run up to national elections in 2023. Across six states, the Embassy partnered with CSOs to promote the **involvement of women, youth and people with disabilities** in electoral processes. In each state, our partners engaged with traditional and religious leaders, state security agencies, media and other stakeholders to sensitise them to issues surrounding the participation of minority groups in elections. These activities took several forms, including radio campaigns, stakeholder forums, targeted advocacy engagements and public information campaigns.

As part of an Electoral Diplomatic Watch in Sierra Leone, Ireland participated in the observation of by-elections and voter registration for the 2023 national and local elections. Ireland supported election preparations through a UNDP-led elections fund and supported civil society organisations to promote citizens' engagement, electoral justice, and women's political participation. Ireland worked also with the Office of National Security on the first nationwide elections threat assessment, which supported the development of the National Elections Security Strategy, Elections Security Communications Strategy and a Training Manual for elections security personnel.

## Spotlight: European Union – African Union Summit

The then Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD, participated in the 6th EU-AU Summit in Brussels on 17-18 February, co-chaired by the President of the European Council, Charles Michel, and the President of Senegal and Chairperson of the AU, Macky Sall.



*Then Taoiseach Micheál Martin TD and President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya at the 6th EU-AU Summit in Brussels. © D/Taoiseach*

The Summit was attended by all 27 EU and 40 African Heads of State and Government. The Summit was an important occasion for EU and African leaders to agree joint priorities and actions to further the EU-Africa partnership.

In a departure from the format of previous Summits, leaders participated in Roundtable discussions on seven thematic issues. This allowed for a more interactive exchange than the usual plenary format. The Taoiseach co-chaired the Roundtable on **Agriculture and Sustainable Development**, along with the Prime Minister of Greece and Presidents of Kenya and Côte d'Ivoire. The Taoiseach highlighted **Ireland's strategic leadership on food systems and nutrition** at an EU, African, and global level, emphasised the need for action on food systems transformation as an outcome of the Summit. He also focused on the crucial role of women and girls in agriculture and food production.

The then Taoiseach also participated in a Roundtable on **Peace, Security and Governance**, co-chaired by the Prime Minister of Spain and Presidents of Ghana and Mauritania, and with the participation of EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Josep Borrell and African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security, Bankole Adeoye. During the Roundtable, the Taoiseach highlighted Ireland's priorities including Women, Peace and Security, UN Peacekeeping, and the importance of good governance.

Leaders agreed a Summit Declaration setting out a joint vision to consolidate a renewed partnership. They announced an **Africa-Europe Investment Package of at least €150 billion** to 2030, as part of the EU's Global Gateway Strategy. The Joint Declaration reiterated the EU's support to the COVAX Facility and the EU's commitment to provide €425 million to ramp up vaccination, as well as support to Africa to prepare for, and respond to, future public health emergencies. Leaders also agreed to an enhanced and reciprocal partnership for migration and mobility, a renewed EU-Africa peace and security architecture and strengthened EU-AU cooperation in the multilateral system.

Ireland will continue to be fully engaged in advocating for a strengthened EU-Africa partnership. Through the EU's Team Europe approach and through implementing the actions of the Joint Declaration, Ireland will seek to enhance EU-Africa cooperation within the multilateral system, so that the EU and Africa can further develop a mutually beneficial partnership which supports the global rules-based multilateral system.



## 3

## Inclusive economic growth and deeper trade relations

### Strategic objective:

Ireland will support inclusive economic growth and deeper trade and investment relations.

Supporting inclusive economic growth and boosting trade and investment between Ireland and Africa is of benefit to both sides.

The Africa Strategy recognises the mutual benefits of increased trade and investment relations between Ireland and Africa. As Africa's economic growth continues, business links are growing in both directions, in both goods and services. Ireland's support to international financial institutions, and to innovation and entrepreneurship in Africa, contributes to inclusive and sustainable economic growth, while also providing opportunities to Irish businesses.

The **trade relationship between Ireland and Africa** continued to strengthen in 2022. Total two-way trade reached a record high of €7.91 billion in 2021 (latest year for which full-year data is available), well in excess of the €5 billion target set in the Africa Strategy. Two-way trade in goods reached a record peak of €2.80 billion in 2022, 17% higher than in 2021 and 30% higher than in 2019, when the Africa Strategy was launched. Trade in services has seen a particularly strong rise, growing by 48% over the lifetime of the Africa Strategy from €3.7bn in 2019 to €5.5bn in 2021, the latest year for which full-year data is available.

In June 2022, the **7th Africa Ireland Economic Forum (AIEF)** was hosted by Minister Coveney in Dublin. The AIEF is a centrepiece of Ireland's economic engagement with the countries of Africa and presents an opportunity to showcase the significant potential for trade and investment flows between Ireland and Africa. The AIEF was attended by a record number of participants, with over 400 people in attendance, and saw keynote addresses delivered by Dr Akinwumi A. Adesina, President of the African Development Bank Group, and Ambassador Mariam Katagum, Minister of State for Industry, Trade and Investment of Nigeria, on the theme of "Prospering Post-Pandemic: Towards a Sustainable, Greener Future". Moderated panel discussions took a detailed look at topics including regional trade, green growth in the agriculture, food and energy sectors, women's economic empowerment, and how technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship are being leveraged for Africa's growth. The Forum was closed by then Minister of State Brophy.



Ambassador Mariam Katagum, the Minister of State for Industry, Trade and Investment of Nigeria, addresses the AIEF in Dublin. © DFA

Of particular importance to Ireland's trade relationship with Africa is the **agri-food industry**, with a 32% rise in exports to Africa to a record €1.1 billion in 2022.

**Dairy** exports to Africa reached a record €840 million in 2022, an increase of 21% on 2021, and exports to Africa now make up 14% of the value of Ireland's total dairy exports. Growth in West African markets including Nigeria, Senegal and Ghana are particularly driving growth in this area. Bord Bia organised the second North Africa Dairy Seminar in Morocco to promote Irish dairy and strengthen the agency's footprint in the region. A third iteration of the Seminar will take place in Algeria in 2023, focusing on recruiting new customers in Algeria and Tunisia for Irish dairy clients. Bord Bia also supported a World Milk Day activation in Nigeria and South Africa aimed at celebrating the benefits of dairy consumption and driving awareness of Irish dairy.

After dairy, **seafood** is the second largest export sector for Irish agri-food producers. Seafood exports grew 9% in 2022 to reach €90 million, with Nigeria and Egypt the two major markets in Africa that are driving demand for Irish seafood.

Irish **beverage** exporters also saw an increase in demand in 2022, with exports of drinks growing by 18% to reach a value of €65 million. Whiskey is by far the most popular type of Irish beverage exported to Africa, accounting for 90% of exports by volume, with South Africa and Nigeria the two main markets.

A series of high-profile events and activities drove engagement with Irish agri-food across Africa. An Africa Trade Seminar, hosted by **Bord Bia** at the Gulfoods exhibition in Dubai in February, showcased opportunities in Ireland to major African buyers. Bord Bia also hosted the first-ever Mixologist contest in Nigeria, driving awareness of Irish drinks and targeting mixologists to become indirect ambassadors for Irish spirits. Both of these engagements will be built on in 2023 to continue to grow Irish agri-food exports to the continent.



Minister of State Seán Fleming and Minister of State Pippa Hackett with Mary Van Dijk from Bimeda, Pat Cussen and Martin Ormonde from Healy's Honey for the launch of the Africa Agri-Food Development Programme. © DFA



Olanrewaju Babatunde, winner of the Bord Bia Irish Mixers Club Mixology Competition in Lagos, Nigeria. © Bord Bia

The **Africa Agri-food Development Programme (AADP)**, a collaboration between the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, continued to promote partnerships between the Irish Agri-Food Sector and African companies. The AADP provides matched grant funding to support sustainable pro-poor growth of the local food industry in 18 sub-Saharan African countries, building markets for local produce and supporting mutual trade and investment between Ireland and Africa. 2022 saw investments in Tanzania and Kenya, in locally sourced honey production and black soldier fly larvae cultivation.

Ireland continued to support **trade facilitation and inclusive economic growth** in Africa through partnerships with TradeMark Africa and the International Trade Centre. In Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique and Tanzania, TradeMark Africa programmes supported by Ireland facilitated women and small-scale, cross-border traders through capacity building and infrastructure. In Tanzania, with Ireland's support, TradeMark Africa opened truck scanners at Tunduma border post with Zambia which helped to reduce the transit time on the Tanzanian side from 6 days to 1. A one-stop centre for the Tanzania Investment Centre, which reduces bureaucracy for potential investors and businesses operating in Tanzania was also established with the support of the Embassy.

Ireland supported African participation at the **World Trade Organisation (WTO)** in 2022 through the Advisory Centre on WTO Law, and through the the French-Irish WTO Mission Internship Programme, which supported trade officials from 12 African countries to serve at their countries' Missions to the WTO in Geneva. Ireland also supported the WTO Standards and Trade Facility, which approved 7 project preparation and project grants promoting plant and animal health and food safety in African countries and regions during 2022.

Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority, Nigeria Ports Authority, and Tanzania Ports Authority participated in the Irish-supported United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) **Port Management Programme**, which also benefits from the expertise of ports across the island of Ireland, including Belfast Harbour, Port of Cork and Dublin Port Company.



WTO Director General Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Deputy Director General Xiangchen Zhang and Chief of Staff Dr Bright Okogu, with officials from the French-Irish WTO Mission Internship Programme. © World Trade Organisation

South Africa continued to be a key target market for **IDA Ireland's** Growth Markets Division in 2022. In recent years IDA has welcomed investments from South Africa in the key sectors of Technology, Financial Services and Life Sciences, with a growing number of South African companies having FDI operations in Ireland. IDA engaged with several South African companies during the year, and hosted 7 itineraries for technology and fintech firms interested in investing in Ireland.

**Enterprise Ireland** has also built up its team in South Africa to expand and deepen the support given to Irish client companies across Sub-Saharan Africa, with South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya all priority markets. In November, Enterprise Ireland hosted a delegation of five Irish telecoms companies at a dedicated Ireland stand at **AfricaCom**, the largest telecoms trade fair on the African continent, in Cape Town, South Africa.



Promotional material related to the Irish Tech Challenge South Africa pilot © DFA

At the beginning of the year, Embassy Pretoria launched a successful pilot of the **Irish Tech Challenge South Africa**, in collaboration with the South African Department of Science and Innovation and the Technology Innovation Agency. Five winning South African entrepreneurs travelled to Ireland for a programme of meetings with Irish tech companies, developing their business networks and benefitting from access to Irish tech leaders' expertise and mentoring and support with partnership development. The winners also met with an Enterprise Ireland Innovation representative and participated in the Africa Ireland Economic Forum.

In July, a **Nigeria-Ireland Trade and Investment Summit (NITIS)** took place at UCD at the initiative of the Embassy of Nigeria in Dublin hosted by Nigeria's Minister of State for Industry, Trade and Investment, Ambassador Mariam Katagam, and Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Timipre Sylva. Minister Ryan and then Minister of State for Trade Promotion, Robert Troy TD, addressed the summit, and held bilateral consultations with Minister of State Katagam and Minister of State Sylva.

On the margins of the Africa Ireland Economic Forum, a delegation from **Business Ireland Kenya** hosted the organisation's first event in Ireland, with the theme "Kenya, A Strategic Trade and Investment Hub" which highlighted the opportunities for two-way trade in both countries: Kenya as the gateway to East Africa, and Ireland as the English-speaking gateway to the European Union. The Embassy of Uganda to Ireland, based in London, also hosted an event for Irish businesses interested in doing business in Uganda, which included participation from the **Uganda Investment Authority** and TradeMark Africa. Attendees included representatives from the agribusiness, finance and tourism sectors.

To support Irish businesses in **Mozambique** and others seeking to enter the market, Ireland's Embassy in Maputo engaged with the Association of European Entrepreneurs in Mozambique, EuroCam, contributing to a European Business mapping exercise and the identification of Irish businesses operating in the country.



In Liberia, Irish engineering consultancy ESB International's management service contract for the **Liberia Electricity Corporation** came to an end in 2022, and control of the company, which produces and supplies electricity, is now in the hands of a local management team. The contract, which began in 2018, was managed by the World Bank.

Throughout 2022, Ireland sustained engagement with a range of **international financial institutions** providing support to Africa. Ireland committed €106 million to the 20<sup>th</sup> replenishment of the International Development Association (IDA20), the **World Bank's** fund for the poorest countries globally, of which 70% is projected to benefit Africa. The replenishment amounts to approximately €88 billion in total and includes increased support to Ireland's priorities of fragile states, refugees, crisis response and small states.

Through membership of the **African Development Bank (AfDB)**, Ireland continues to influence AfDB policy in the areas of debt, climate and gender. In May, Ireland participated in the Governors' Dialogue at the AfDB's Annual Meetings, which focused on the strategic positioning of the AfDB Group over the next 10 years to build "a prosperous Africa, based on inclusive growth and sustainable development". Ireland pledged €35 million to the **African Development Fund's** 16th Replenishment (AfDF-16) in December. The Fund will provide crucial support to Least Developed Countries and regions in Africa. Representatives

of Ireland's Governor to the AfDB, the Minister for Finance, helped shape the policy commitments to ensure that Ireland's priorities were reflected in the strategic focus of the Fund. This was the first time Ireland has had the opportunity to contribute to the Fund, having become a member of the AfDB Group in 2020. Ireland also joined the AfDB's Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF) with a contribution of €2 million, becoming the seventh member of the ACCF. Projects funded by the ACCF support African countries to build resilience to the negative impacts of climate change.

In 2022, **Ireland's Tax Treaty Policy Statement** was published by the Department of Finance. This policy statement has a particular emphasis on the specific considerations and principles that will guide Ireland's approach in respect to double tax agreements with Least Developed Countries (LDCs), including those in Africa, and Ireland's broader international commitments in that area. The policy statement provides for the creation of a cost benefit analysis framework to ensure economic benefits will accrue to a prospective LDC treaty partner prior to a treaty negotiation request being accepted. Ireland will continue to engage with existing treaty partners in Africa and to enhance and, where appropriate, expand our network of tax treaties in Africa, in line with the policy statement, in 2023 and beyond.



## 4

## Work with African countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

### Strategic objective:

Ireland will work with African countries in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, with a particular focus on reaching those furthest behind first.

Building on our role as co-chair, with Kenya, of the negotiations of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Ireland is committed to advancing the vision of the SDGs of a safer, more equal and sustainable world.



Kenyan political leadership candidates at a dialogue hosted by UN Women, with Ireland's Ambassador to Kenya, Fionnuala Quinlan. © DFA

In the UN's **Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022**<sup>1</sup>, UN Secretary General António Guterres states that “[a]s the world faces cascading and interlinked global crises and conflicts, the aspirations set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are in jeopardy. With the COVID-19 pandemic in its third year, the war in Ukraine is exacerbating food, energy, humanitarian and refugee crises – all against the background of a full-fledged climate emergency”.

Ireland's international development policy, ‘A Better World’, continued to guide our engagement with African partners in 2022 to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in these challenging circumstances, with a particular focus on gender equality; reducing humanitarian need; climate action; and strengthening governance.

Advancing **gender equality** is central to the work of Ireland's embassy network in Africa, and contributing to the fight against gender-based violence is a key priority. Our embassies supported partner organisations and research institutions to combat gender-based violence (GBV) in countries throughout the continent.

In Somalia, support was provided to the Ifrah foundation for their advocacy to **end Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**. In the Somali and Afar regions of Ethiopia, our Embassy is partnering with Save the Children, the Overseas Development Institute and local authorities to change social norms and advance gender equality, including the ambition to contribute to end FGM and child marriage. Through our support to UNICEF and UNFPA, health systems have been rehabilitated and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) response services were provided for those who have been affected by conflict in Northern Ethiopia.

In-country collaborative networks in Malawi and Sierra Leone, modelled on the Irish Consortium on Gender-Based Violence, were active in promoting shared learning and collaborations on the **prevention of GBV**. The Malawi-Irish Consortium on Gender-Based Violence (MICGBV) established a secretariat in 2022 and continued to play a pivotal role in the fight against GBV in Malawi. Through the MICGBV, Ireland-based NGOs were provided with a platform to discuss issues affecting women in Malawi. Ireland's Embassy in Malawi also supported a UNFPA-led project, the Technology and Empowerment Enhancing Networks in Safe Spaces (TEENS) project, which aimed to empower women and girls to ensure that they have spaces to discuss issues affecting them. Ireland's Embassy in Liberia also continued to support Plan International programmes that focus on preventing and responding to SGBV.

<sup>1</sup> <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/>

Ireland provided core funding to Uganda-based NGO Raising Voices to develop best practice, capture learning and influence policy on the **prevention of violence against women and children**. In 2022, the organisation, along with Trócaire, published an independent study which focused on the work done by organisations in Malawi, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Kenya, Fiji, and Ethiopia to prevent violence against women and people with HIV.

Advancing **women's participation in decision-making** is a key focus for Ireland. In 2022, Ireland provided funding to the Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) to support its work in increasing representation and leadership of women in political decision-making. The IPU held its 145<sup>th</sup> Assembly in Rwanda, in September 2022, which focused on gender-sensitive parliaments as drivers of change for a more resilient and peaceful world. Following a regional study on sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Africa, workshops for parliamentarians and their staff were organized by the IPU in Benin, Gabon, Morocco, Niger, CAR, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and the Arab Parliament (the legislative body of the League of Arab States). IPU also convened a regional conference on violence against women in politics in Togo in November 2022.



*The Women in Governance Network meeting with Minister of Gender and Children's Affairs of Sierra Leone, Manty Tarawalli, on the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Bill. © DFA*

Ireland's Embassy in Sierra Leone worked closely to support the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs, UN Women, the Women's Caucus and civil society organisations working on the passage of the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Act, with a particular focus on ensuring widespread consultation. The Act, passed in 2022, provides for increased representation of women in the public and private sector, equal pay and conditions in employment, equal access to financial services, and mainstreaming of gender across government activities. In neighbouring Liberia, Ireland supported projects with UNDP and UN Women to promote women's political participation, peace and security, and civic and voter education.

In Tanzania, Ireland funds UNDP to work with the National Assembly and with parliamentary committees to scrutinise draft legislation with respect to gender equality and gender budgeting. In Zimbabwe, Ireland supported **training for women parliamentarians** in the run up to by-elections in 2022 and national elections in 2023. Ireland also supports the Zimbabwean chapter of the African Women Leaders Network which brings together Zimbabwean women leaders of all ages and backgrounds to address gender inequality.

The scale of **humanitarian need** across the African continent has expanded drastically in 2022, driven by climate change and conflict. Ireland's humanitarian funding to Africa is essential to making progress towards the SDGs, particularly the commitment to leave no-one behind. Our support provided life-saving humanitarian assistance in response to urgent needs, whilst also working towards reducing humanitarian need over the longer term. Ireland's multi-annual and flexible humanitarian funding to our UN, NGO and Red Cross partners enabled them to provide assistance in a way that builds community resilience to shocks and stresses. It also facilitated a more joined-up way of working with development and peace actors to provide a pathway to recovery and development.

In line with Ireland's **needs based approach** to humanitarian assistance, funding was focused on those crises with the most severe need. Approximately 35% percent of our country-specific spend was allocated to Africa. Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan were the top three recipients of humanitarian assistance funding (after Ukraine), with allocations of €15.3 million, €9.4 million and €7.1 million respectively. In addition, Ireland's humanitarian partners used our core and flexible funding to respond to pressing needs in Africa. One such example was in Ireland's response to the food security crisis in the Horn of Africa, where climate shocks, drought, conflict and deprivation are creating a crisis affecting more than 36 million people. In September, a supplementary €30 million brought Ireland's total funding support to the Horn of Africa to €100 million for 2022. Ireland remains committed to maintaining the level of support to countries in Africa that are experiencing high levels of humanitarian need in 2023.

The African Union declared 2022 the 'Year of Nutrition' with the aim of strengthening resilience in **nutrition and food security**. In 2022, building on momentum from the UN Food Systems and Nutrition for Growth summits, Ireland participated in a USAID/UNICEF-led Child Malnutrition Crisis Event at the UN General Assembly in September. At the event, then Minister Coveney pledged an additional €50 million over three years to support the Global Action Plan on Child Wasting, including a special programme on wasting in the Horn of Africa.





Lead farmer Qasam Mumin Warsame, shows off his farm and crops in Shirwac Village, Adwal Region, Kenya. © Concern Worldwide

Sustainable Food Systems Ireland (SFSI) is the Government of Ireland initiative to share Ireland's government-sponsored expertise and skills in agri-food with partner countries. SFSI offers capability-building services for the development and regulation of all aspects of agri-food. The objective is to strengthen Ireland's reputation and profile in the sector, thereby leading to enhanced trade opportunities for Ireland in food and agri-tech.

Key SFSI projects active in 2022 included Dairy Kenya Ireland and Maziwa Faida Tanzania. Dairy Kenya Ireland focused on climate smart innovations for the dairy sector, through applied research, innovation management and outreach to farmers via a network of innovation nodes. The Maziwa Faida Tanzania project focused on profitable and resilient dairy systems in north-eastern Tanzania. SFSI also carried out project design assignments for strengthened institutional relationships between Irish and local agri-food counterparts in Uganda, Zambia and Malawi. SFSI also worked in Africa with the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation in areas like agri-entrepreneurship and food systems transformation, using Ireland's experience and the skills of State Agencies.

Ireland's Embassies in Africa also continued to provide support to **resilient food systems** and to address nutrition and food insecurity. In Zimbabwe, in 2022, Ireland provided additional humanitarian support to address food insecurity in urban areas. In Sierra Leone, Ireland supported partners to build farmers' capacity for climate smart agriculture to build community resilience, as well as continuing to support

stunting reduction programmes, with the National Nutrition Survey 2021 (released in February 2022) showing a significant reduction in stunting levels from 31.3% (2017) to 26.2% (2021).



Embassy of Ireland, Lilongwe Social Protection Adviser Phina Rocha is welcomed by Social Cash Transfer recipients in Balaka, Malawi. © Malawi Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare

Ireland remained focused on **strengthening social protection** systems in fragile and conflict-affected contexts and reaching those furthest behind through inclusive, gender transformative, and shock responsive social protection systems. Ireland is currently supporting social protection systems and measures in several African countries, including





Representatives from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and malaria and the Point 7 Delegation (Ireland, Netherlands, Luxembourg and Denmark) visit the Central Medical Stores, Mozambique. © DFA

Tanzania, Uganda, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. For example, Ireland's Embassy in Malawi has been supporting the National Social Cash Transfer Programme since December 2012, enabling the Malawian government to reach over 24,000 ultra-poor households in two districts, reducing hunger and improving school enrolment.

Ireland is a member of the OECD Steering Committee on the Policy Dialogue for Social Protection and Development. In 2022, the OECD Policy Dialogue focused on Social Protection in times of vulnerability and poverty crisis, and Ireland shared experiences on how social protection systems and cash transfers can be leveraged to respond to a highly inflationary context and rising food and energy prices, to protect those furthest behind. In 2022, Ireland also supported research on shock responsive social protection in the Horn of Africa, and Central and West Africa. Findings from these research efforts will be disseminated in 2023 via an International Social Protection conference.

The Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) is Ireland's largest partner in **global health**, and programmes supported by the Global Fund partnership have saved at least 50 million lives to date. In September, at the Global Fund's 7th Replenishment Conference in New York, then Minister Coveney pledged an additional contribution of €65 million for the period 2023-2025, an increase of 30% to Ireland's contribution, reaffirming our commitment to ending the epidemics of the three diseases by 2030. This new funding will assist the Global Fund in reducing inequalities in health services through a more people-centred approach, and strengthen health systems for resilience, sustainability and broader pandemic preparedness. Much of this funding will go towards eradicating these diseases in African countries, which still bear a disproportionate burden with over 95% of

global malaria cases and deaths, 25% of global tuberculosis deaths, and two-thirds of global new HIV infections.

In response to multiple cholera outbreaks on the continent of Africa and beyond, and the outbreak of the Ebola virus in Uganda, in 2022 Ireland increased its funding to the World Health Organisation (WHO) for its health crisis coordination and response functions. Our annual core funding contribution was increased by €1 million to €3 million, while an award of €1.6 million was made for the WHO's operational response in Uganda. A new partnership with the WHO in Zambia began in 2022, aimed at improving national disease surveillance capacity. A renewed and strengthened relationship with the WHO is anticipated for 2023, building on an enhanced engagement with the organisation since the onset of the pandemic, and in recognition of the WHO's key role at the heart of the global health architecture.

Deliveries of **COVID-19 vaccine donations** continued over the course of 2022, with more than 2.7 million doses delivered during the year via the COVAX facility. The majority of Ireland's donations in 2022 were delivered to countries in Africa, including Botswana (100,800 doses), Burkina Faso (376,800 doses), Djibouti (93,600 doses) and Sudan (1,591,200 doses). In its financial contribution to COVAX this year, Ireland has prioritised funding for actions to strengthen country-level vaccine delivery systems as a means to support rapid and safe rollout of mass COVID-19 vaccination campaigns. Ireland will continue to fund Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, in fulfilment of its pledge of €18 million over the period 2021-25. These resources will be used to support the development, procurement and equitable delivery of vaccines more generally to children in the world's poorest countries, including in Africa.

At the country level, Ireland provides **support to national health ministries** through our bilateral programmes, with the largest such programmes in Mozambique and Tanzania, focusing on primary health care and sexual and reproductive health. These country-level partnerships complement our multilateral support to build partnerships and capacity. The Health Service Executive visited Tanzania in November to explore ways to support Tanzania to improve the quality of care in the public health system. Ireland also donated PPE equipment for Ebola preparedness in Tanzania. In Zimbabwe, Ireland provided crucial support to the health-sector pooled fund, which supported approximately 24,000 health workers who reached approximately 9 million people with community based services in 2022. The fund also supported health care staff retention in a context of hyperinflation, the provision of free primary healthcare services, cervical cancer screening and free family planning commodities among other services.

Ireland's Ambassador to Namibia, Bronagh Carr, was guest of honour at the College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) graduation in Windhoek, Namibia in December. The partnership between the RCSI and COSECSA saw the graduation of 148 young African surgeons from training programmes supported by Ireland in 2022.

Supporting **adaptation and resilience to climate change** is a central priority for Ireland in our international climate finance. Ireland is committed in its support to African partners as they seek to strengthen their efforts to adapt to climate change impacts and respond to losses and damages that are a direct result of our changing climate.

In July 2022, the Government published *Ireland's International Climate Finance Roadmap*.<sup>2</sup> This whole-of-government strategy sets out the pathway for Ireland to realise the target, announced by the then Taoiseach at COP26, to provide at least €225 million annually in climate finance by 2025. This target represents a more than doubling of Ireland's climate finance from 2019 levels.

As set out in the Roadmap, Ireland will increase our expenditure through our existing channels of bilateral, multilateral and CSO funding, in addition to establishing new mechanisms for scaling up **climate finance**. The Roadmap re-asserts Ireland's commitment to maintain its focus on supporting adaptation and resilience to climate change in some of the most climate vulnerable countries around the world. It also expands the scope of support to areas where Ireland can bring further added value to international climate action, such as ocean protection, enhancing biodiversity and responding to climate-induced loss and damage.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.irishaid.ie/media/irishaid/publications/2022-Irelands-International-Climate-Finance-Roadmap-Digital.pdf>



Then Taoiseach Micheál Martin and President Lazarus Chakwera of Malawi at the COP27 conference in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. © UNFCCC



Ireland made a number of significant funding announcements at **COP27** in Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt in November. Minister Ryan announced a funding package of €26 million to support **climate action in developing countries**, with a wide range of initiatives including: €1 million to the Climate and Clean Air Coalition Trust Fund; €2m to the Special Climate Change Fund; €2.5m to the UN Development Programme support the SDG Pipeline Builder programme; €5.5m to the Adaptation Fund; €10million towards the Global Shield Against Climate Risks in 2023; and €11m to the Global Environment Facility over the period 2022-2026.

Then Minister of State Brophy also announced a funding package prioritising **climate adaptation**, particularly in LDCs and SIDS, with a total value of €5 million. A new partnership with the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) was also announced, with a pledge of €4 million over the period 2022-2025. SOFF supports disaster preparedness and response through supporting national meteorological infrastructure and technical capacity-building to LDCs and SIDS.

The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications also provided funding during 2022, including €4 million to the Green Climate Fund, which helps developing countries, particularly LDCs and SIDS, to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. €100,000 was provided to the NDC Partnership, an informal platform of countries and international institutions whose objective is to collectively mobilise support for developing country State Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to develop and implement their Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement. A further €25,000 was provided to the UNFCCC Trust Fund for Participation to support participation of delegates from LDCs, SIDS and youth in UNFCCC negotiation processes.

Ireland supported the participation of 13 **women, youth and developing country delegates** in the COP27, and supported the participation of developing country delegates in the Convention on Biological Diversity COP15 negotiations and preparatory meetings. Ireland also continued to support the design and implementation of National Adaptation Plans in African countries through our funding partnerships and our participation in the bodies and processes of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Ireland's work on **education** in our development cooperation programme is guided by the principle, articulated in *A Better World*, of reaching those furthest behind first. Ireland is particularly committed to supporting girls' education, and ensuring that all girls access their right to 12 years of high-quality learning in safe environments. As part of this work, Ireland has committed €60 million to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), which aims to strengthen education systems to provide high quality and accessible learning to the children most in need. The GPE is active in over forty

countries in Africa. In Sierra Leone, through the FREE education programme, funded by Ireland and partners including the World Bank, UK and EU, almost 950,000 students have benefited from improved learning environments. Ireland is also focused on children in **fragile and conflict or emergency-affected areas** through our support to Education Cannot Wait, where we support the immediate educational needs of children and young people in humanitarian emergencies, and bring together humanitarian and development actors to provide sustainable education responses in protracted crises.



*Ugandan teachers and representatives from the Ugandan Ministry of Education visiting the west of Ireland. © DFA*

In September a delegation of teachers and representatives from the Ministry of Education and Sports of Uganda travelled to Ireland for a study visit as part of the Teachers Making a Difference programme, which is sponsored by Ireland's Embassy in Kampala and recognises the exceptional dedication of teachers working in challenging environments. Eleven award-winning teachers participated in a programme of professional development offered by Mary Immaculate College in Limerick, met with then Minister of State Brophy and the Secretary General of the Department of Education, and engaged with Irish teachers to share their experiences and insights.

Institutional partnerships are a key part of Ireland's work with partner countries on **governance**. For example, in Tanzania, the Embassy funds Irish Rule of Law International (IRLI) to facilitate exchanges between the judiciary and police in Tanzania, Ireland and Northern Ireland on issues relating to prosecution of perpetrators of child sexual abuse. In 2022, a team of Tanzanian judges visited Ireland to exchange practices. Ireland's Embassy in Malawi also supported IRLI in 2022. IRLI has advocated for improved conditions and decongestion in Malawian prisons, and strengthened collaboration with likeminded civil society organisations around human rights and justice, including on arbitrary detentions and the use of torture, and the use of forced confessions as evidence.





Tanzanian judges visit Ireland and Northern Ireland for mutual learning and knowledge exchange on child sexual abuse cases. © Irish Rule of Law International

Embassy Maputo continued its support to **people with disabilities**, through supported to the Forum of Organisations of Persons with Disabilities of Mozambique (FAMOD) and its engagement with the Ministry for Gender, Children and Social Welfare, to progress with the third National Disability Action Plan covering 2022-2029. The Embassy also supported TV Surdo, a local NGO promoting the inclusion of people with disabilities. With Ireland's support, TV Surdo trained two people with disabilities to become journalists, producing 25 news items with voice narration, subtitles and sign language.



A woman at a mobile cash transfer facility operated by Oxfam in Kenya. © DFA

With funding support from the Government, in 2022 **Irish NGO partners** were at the forefront of efforts to draw global attention to, and alleviate, the suffering of people affected by crises. For example, Concern Worldwide provided water, hygiene and sanitation support to drought-afflicted communities in Somalia, while Trócaire worked with farmers in Ethiopia to help them adapt to the daunting challenges posed by worsening drought and desertification, while also

providing access to psychosocial support for women traumatised by sexual violence in Tigray. In South Sudan, Oxfam provided emergency food aid, and access to clean water and hygiene kits to prevent the spread of diseases like cholera among internally displaced people. Ahead of COP27, Christian Aid published research demonstrating the devastating economic impact climate change will inflict on the African continent if global carbon emissions are not reduced.

In Burkina Faso, Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Mali, Plan Ireland worked to promote education for all, tackling, in particular, the barriers faced by girls and children with disabilities in accessing quality schooling. World Vision Ireland worked closely with health authorities in Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Uganda to reduce maternal and child mortality rates. Sightsavers Ireland strengthened eye-health services in Senegal, Sierra Leone and Liberia, transforming the lives of many people afflicted by cataracts and trachoma, in addition to their award-winning work boosting civic participation by people with disabilities in Senegal and Cameroon. Action Aid Ireland's work with women's groups in Ethiopia and Kenya has helped to reduce the prevalence of GBV, while raising women's incomes and influence. In Sierra Leone, Ireland's partners reached 17,000 girls with information on their rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, and built their capacity as change agents for their peers and communities.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Irish Charities Regulatory Authority was signed in 2022, to facilitate responsible and proactive oversight of the work of Irish NGOs who are registered as charities in Ireland and who operate in countries eligible for ODA, including African countries. The MoU will lead to closer collaboration in response to partner malpractice, where it arises.

## Spotlight: Ireland's Humanitarian Assistance in the Horn of Africa

The Horn of Africa is in the midst of a rapidly deteriorating food security crisis, as an unprecedented five-season drought devastates the region against the background of accelerating climate shocks, protracted conflict, and unsustainable food systems.



*Bentiu camp, South Sudan's largest camp for displaced people, is home to over 90,000 people. © Bebe Joel*

More than 36 million people have been affected by a severe drought centred on southern Ethiopia, northern Kenya and Somalia. As a result, at least 20.5 million people are facing high levels of acute food insecurity and rising malnutrition. The food security crisis has been driven by the cascading impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, conflict and socio-economic deprivation. Average annual temperatures in the Horn of Africa are increasing by almost double the global rate, making it one of the most climate-vulnerable regions in the world. Compounding these challenges has been Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the resulting impact on global grain and fertiliser supplies, which has disproportionately affected the Horn of Africa region.

Then Minister for Overseas Development Aid and Diaspora, Colm Brophy TD, visited the region in August-September 2022, to raise awareness of the complexity and scale of the challenge. The Minister's visit to South Sudan was the first visit of an Irish Government Minister to the country since it gained independence in 2011.

During the visit, Minister of State Brophy announced an additional funding package of €3.2 million to respond to growing needs in the region. During the 2023 Budget announcement, a further €30 million was made available for the Horn of Africa in late 2022. The supplementary package supported a range of UN and civil society partners active in the region, including UNOCHA, UNICEF, UNFPA, and seven Irish NGOs – Concern, Trócaire, GOAL, World Vision, Oxfam, Plan International, and Christian Aid. A further €5 million was also programmed by Ireland's Embassy in Addis Ababa, to meet escalating humanitarian needs in Ethiopia.

This additional contribution brought Ireland's total spend in the Horn of Africa in 2022 to over €100 million, comprising lifesaving humanitarian aid and development assistance, as well as contributions to partners working to build peace and address the climate crisis. In 2023 Ireland will begin implementation of a €15 million 3-year programme to address child wasting in the region, as part of a broader global programme.

In addition to programming on the ground, the political and policy dimensions of the crisis have been the focus of consistent diplomatic engagement at bilateral and multilateral level. Ireland has taken on a leadership role on UN and EU discussions relating to peace and security issues affecting the Horn of Africa. In addition, as UN Security Council Focal Point on hunger and conflict, Ireland consistently sought to highlight the underlying causes of food insecurity, including the links between conflict and hunger, and the increasing impact of climate change.

## 5

## A more ambitious EU partnership with Africa

### Strategic objective:

Ireland will promote and contribute to a more ambitious and effective EU partnership with Africa.

As a reflection of Ireland's steadfast commitment to our membership of the European Union, the EU will be central to our enhanced engagement with the African continent.

The EU is committed to strengthening its partnership with Africa, and Ireland is active in seeking to make this partnership more ambitious, more effective and to ensure it is beneficial for both EU and African countries.

In February 2022, the **6<sup>th</sup> AU-EU Summit** took place, following its postponement in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Taoiseach participated in the Summit alongside all 26 other EU and 40 African Heads of State and Government, and co-chaired the Roundtable on Agriculture and Sustainable Development. Leaders agreed a Summit Declaration which included an announcement on an **Africa-Europe Investment Package** of at least €150 billion to 2030, as part of the EU's Global Gateway Strategy.

Ireland continued to engage actively in the second full year of EU development programming under the EU's **Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe)** and **Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs)** to boost the impact of EU engagement in Africa. Through engagement in Brussels and through our Embassies in Africa, Ireland worked to ensure that the development of Annual Action Plans for NDICI-Global Europe funding in Africa reflected Ireland's priorities and values.

Ireland also worked alongside EU Member States and EU institutions in a Team Europe approach to engagement with our African partners. For example, Ireland is in a core drafting team for the Team Europe **Social Protection Initiative**, working alongside Belgium, Germany, France and the Netherlands to contribute to increased access to effective universal social protection in Sub-Saharan Africa. Ireland's Embassies in Africa are also actively engaged in the preparation and implementation of TEIs at the country level.



President Macky Sall, Chair of the African Union, speaks at the EU-AU Summit in Brussels. © European Union



EU-Africa relations and issues relating to Africa, including the development of the new EU Strategy for the Great Lakes Region, were also discussed throughout the year at several **European Council** meetings, Foreign Affairs Councils (including FAC Trade), meetings of EU Development Ministers, COREPER II and Political and Security Committee. At meetings of the Africa Working Group (COAFR), the Working Party on Development Cooperation and International Partnerships (CODEV), the ACP Working Party and the Trade Policy Committee, Ireland was actively engaged on geographic and thematic discussions relating to Africa.



Closing plenary session of COP 27 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. © UNFCCC

Ireland was actively engaged at the **COP27 Climate Change Conference negotiations** in November, including in the negotiation of a historic agreement on the establishment of a Loss and Damage fund. Ireland played a leading role in the EU negotiation team on loss and damage under the UNFCCC, and used this to convene workshops, roundtables and bilateral meetings to broker progress in advance of the negotiations. Minister Ryan was appointed as the EU ministerial lead negotiator on loss and damage in the high-level week of COP27. In this role, supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, Minister Ryan worked with the EU and key Parties such as LDCs and SIDS to include vulnerability criteria in the agreement on funding for loss and damage.

Throughout 2022, Ireland continued to engage proactively in **EU peace and security activities in Africa**, contributing 14 Defence Forces personnel to the EU Training Mission in Mali and three naval personnel to the Operational HQ of EUNAVFOR Med/Operation IRINI (Libya). Ireland is also currently funding the deployment of two civilian experts in both EUBAM Libya and EUCAP Somalia, having also had experts deployed with EUCAP Sahel Niger and EUAM Central African Republic earlier in 2022.

Ireland also engaged in the negotiations on the mandate renewals for the various EU CSDP military and civilian missions across 2022, working to ensure that Irish cross-cutting thematic priorities such as the WPS Agenda and the promotion and protection of human rights were sufficiently represented in the mandates of these missions. In 2023, Ireland will seek to increase the number of our civilian CSDP Deployees, in line with Ireland's **National Implementation Plan for the Civilian CSDP Compact**, including increasing the number of deployees in CSDP missions in Africa.

Ireland supported the political agreement reached by the Foreign Affairs Council in December 2022 to ensure the financial sustainability of the **European Peace Facility (EPF)**, by increasing the overall financial ceiling by €2 billion in 2023, with the possibility of a further increase at a later stage up to a total of €5.5 billion. This will allow the EU to continue to meet its commitments under the Facility in terms of its continued support to Africa, as well as support for Ukraine and other partners.

Following on from the European Council Conclusions on enhancing the **European Financial Architecture for Development** in 2021, a roadmap to improve the European financial architecture for development was published in March alongside the 2021 progress report. This detailed the achievements to date and outlined specific measures the Commission is putting forward to enhance the European financial architecture for development by building on the Team Europe approach.

The **European Investment Bank (EIB)** established its new development branch, **EIB Global**, in January 2022. EIB Global will be a major contributor to the EU's Global Gateway strategy, which aims to mobilise €300 billion in investments outside the EU up to 2027, of which €150 billion will be from the Africa-Europe Investment Package. One of the main components of this Global Gateway funding is the **European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+)**, an innovative instrument that helps generate investment through guarantee capacity and blending grants. Ireland has been active in steering the direction of EFSD+ through our involvement in its governing bodies. EIB Global is governed by the newly established EIB Advisory Group on Global Operations. Ireland, as a shareholder in the EIB, is represented by a full and alternate member to the Advisory Group. EIB Global signed **€4.3 billion** for projects in Africa in 2022, out of which €3.4 billion (79% of the signed amount) is benefiting or expected to benefit least developed, fragile or conflict-affected countries. The projects include investments in climate action, food and water resilience, infrastructure, economic empowerment of women and youth employment.

## 6

## Team Ireland in Africa

### Strategic objective:

Ireland will pursue a collaborative ‘Team Ireland’ approach across all our work in Africa.

A strong Team Ireland approach will increase our impact and ensure the success of this Strategy.

To meet the Government’s objectives for Ireland’s engagement in Africa, the Strategy calls for a strong **Team Ireland approach** to increase our impact and effectiveness. Team Ireland worked effectively together in the delivery of the Africa Strategy in 2022, from advancing Ireland’s work on climate action in Africa at COP27, to collaboration on economic activities aimed at expanding two-way trade, in supporting peace and security across Africa, and in enhancing people-to-people connections.

The Strategy commits Ireland to **expand our presence** in Francophone West Africa. 2022 saw preparations advance for the opening of a new Embassy in Dakar, Senegal, in early 2023. The new mission will mark a major achievement in this aim, enabling Team Ireland to deepen engagement in the economically dynamic West Africa region and providing an important entry point to emerging markets. Work also continued during 2022 on the development of a new flagship Chancery in Abuja, Nigeria, a mark of Ireland’s deep commitment to growing and deepening our presence in West Africa.

Ireland’s Embassies across Africa continued to work to deepen partnerships through developing **cultural and people-to-people links**. Coming in the immediate aftermath of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Ireland’s Embassies marked **St Patrick’s Day** in solidarity with the people of Ukraine, expressing our Irish identity which includes a strong commitment to democratic and humanitarian values. A programme of virtual and in-person events brought together Irish communities, political and government representatives and business contacts.



Staff from the Embassy of Ireland in Mozambique appear on a television programme around St Patrick’s Day, to discuss Ireland’s development programme, as well as Irish culture, music and sports. © DFA



Participants in St Brigid's Day artists' workshops in Lilongwe, Malawi at a film screening event hosted by the Embassy. © DFA

The embassy network also increased the breadth of activities around **St Brigid's Day**. For example, Embassy Lilongwe organised a series of music and poetry workshops with Malawian women artists. The workshops were filmed by a Malawian documentary-maker and the Embassy hosted a screening event and panel discussion around the nine-minute film, "WOMEN EXTRAORDINARY". Two of the film's stars were panellists at the event: Irish-Malawian DJ Mona-Lisa and Malawian musician and educator Ellen Chilemba (DJ Chmba). They were joined by Jessica Mandanda, a gender rights activist, journalist and author who is studying in Galway under the Ireland Africa Fellowships programme in 2022-23.

**Bloomsday** was celebrated across the African continent in 2022 with events held in Zambia and South Africa, where the Embassy celebrated 100 years of Ulysses with a Bloomsday-themed dinner which showcased the first ever performance of Molly Bloom's Soliloquy in isiZulu, the translation having been commissioned by the Embassy.

In South Africa, the Embassy opened an exhibition on the **Irish Anti-apartheid movement** in Freedom Park in Pretoria. The event was opened by South African Minister of Foreign Affairs, Naledi Pandor and highlighted the strong history of solidarity between Ireland and South Africa.





Displays from the Irish Anti-apartheid movement exhibition in Freedom Park, Pretoria, South Africa. © Victor Ngobeni

Ireland's Embassies and **State Agencies** continued to bring a strong Team Ireland focus to work in Africa, with collaboration taking place across a number of countries. In Kenya, for example, Enterprise Ireland and Embassy Nairobi have worked closely together throughout the year, with Enterprise Ireland moderating a panel discussion at a Business Ireland Kenya event in September. Team Ireland has also been active in hosting and convening meetings and events to bring together key Kenyan business contacts and Irish businesses. In Nigeria, Bord Bia, Enterprise Ireland and the Embassy worked to enhance awareness and engagement with Ireland through events around St Patrick's Day. Good collaboration also took place in South Africa, with quarterly meetings of the Local Market Team chaired by the Ambassador and attended by Johannesburg-based EI and IDA representatives. This is set to continue and expand with Local Market Team meetings due to take place in South Africa and Kenya in 2023.

**Science Foundation Ireland (SFI)** and the Department of Foreign Affairs continued to collaborate on challenge-based funding, which directs research activity towards addressing societal and technological problems. In 2022, research teams from Malawi, Uganda and South Africa were funded under the SDG Challenge 2021 programme, working on projects that address UN SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), with each team including researchers based in Ireland and in the partner country. Following review of these projects by international peer reviewers in 2023, a prize of €1 million will be awarded to one research team to continue their project for a further two years to 2025. The SDG Challenge 2022 programme closed for applications in September, and will provide funding for research projects that address UN Sustainable Development Goals 13, 14 and 15, relating to Climate Action, Life Below Water, and Life on Land. The research projects to be funded will be announced in early 2023, and teams that progress to second phase in August 2023 will compete for a €1 million prize in 2024 to continue their project for a further two years to 2026.



*Ireland Africa Fellows at an Orientation Day for the 2022-23 Fellows in Dublin. © Simon Pearce*

Ireland continued to increase the number of awards offered to African students under the **Ireland Fellows Programme** to study for a master's-level qualification at an Irish Higher Education Institution, in courses aligned with achieving their country's national SDG goals. 121 Fellows from 19 countries in Africa are studying in Ireland for the 2022-2023 academic year. These include three Fellows from African Small Island Developing States (SIDS) under the SIDS Programme, which has a focus on addressing the challenges posed by climate change, one of a number of commitments in the Government's Strategy for Partnership with SIDS. The Programme offers Fellows the opportunity to develop new skills and achieve their full potential in their respective fields. The personal and professional links that Fellows build in Ireland are an integral part of the Programme.

There was a return to face-to-face **Education fairs** in 2022, with 9 fairs taking place across 6 countries (Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania and Morocco) led by Enterprise Ireland, to promote higher education opportunities in Ireland. 14 Irish Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) travelled to reconnect with students and their education partners, and all 14 HEIs now have local representation on the ground across multiple markets, either directly or through Education Agent partnerships. Digital marketing promoting awareness of Ireland as a world-class third level study destination,

supported all this activity. 3 new countries featured in the programme for the first time: South Africa, Morocco and Tanzania. In addition to promoting Ireland as a study destination, transnational education partnerships are also being explored in South Africa. A further 11 education fairs are planned across 6 markets in 2023, with a mix of face-to-face and virtual events. 2023 will also include Uganda in the HEI's Education fairs itinerary, along with additional cities in South Africa and Kenya.

The **Education in Ireland Student Ambassador Programme** has been running for over 10 years and uses the experience of international students in Ireland to showcase Ireland as a destination for third-level study. Student Ambassadors from Irish HEIs are chosen from a wide background and their testimonials are published online. In 2022, 14 students from Africa participated in the Student Ambassador Programme and Government of Ireland Scholar Programme.



*Minister for Further & Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science Simon Harris with Nigeria's Ambassador to Ireland Ijeoma Chinonyerem Arimanwa Obiezu, and students at the Education in Ireland, Government of Ireland Student Ambassador Awards. © Education in Ireland*

33 early career researchers from Africa were supported by **Irish Research Council** postgraduate and postdoctoral research funding awards in 2022, and four African Principal investigators were supported by research funding awards. The Irish Research Council also supported a number of projects with connections to Africa across a diverse range of disciplines.







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