



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND
OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
ANNUAL REPORT 2020



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Cover: Development workers look at their checklist during an awareness raising drive in Dhaka under the LIUPC project of UNDP Bangladesh. Photo: UN Women/Fahad Abdullah Kaizer

An ICRC surgeon and his young patient at a field hospital for internally displaced people in Syria. (Photo: ICRC/Mortvedt, Mari Aftret)

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¹ Figures are correct at time of publication.

Foreword

Minister for Foreign Affairs,
Simon Coveney, T.D.



Photo: DFA

2020 was a momentous year. Against a backdrop of pressure on effective multilateralism and international development cooperation, COVID-19 thoroughly tested the resilience of our global systems. It also proved that Ireland can play its part in responding effectively a global challenge while delivering on our commitments, while also tackling an extraordinary situation at home.

A highlight of the year was Ireland's election to the UN Security Council, for a seat in 2021 and 2022. Throughout our campaign, we promised to make a difference - to bring a principled, constructive and open approach to the Security Council's vital work of promoting international peace and security, including at critical and challenging times such as this.

Our Security Council campaign ended under the shadow of the pandemic, a reminder of our interconnectedness and of the need to ensure our multilateral systems work as effectively as possible. The connection between peace, security, and reducing humanitarian need was made clear by the UN Secretary-General when he said: 'There should only be one fight in our world today, our shared battle against COVID-19.' Ireland has risen to that challenge.

The pandemic has proven the need for effective multilateralism. It was the UN system that stepped up to help develop the necessary public health strategies to help deal with to the pandemic, with the World Health Organisation at the helm. The UN system also moved quickly to build the global humanitarian response to the emerging social and economic crises which, sadly but almost inevitably, accompanied the virus.

We benefited at home from the expert advice of the World Health Organisation, while we also sought to assist others, recognising, as Dr. Mike Ryan says, 'no one is safe until everyone is safe'. Our assistance can be expressed, if somewhat crudely, in numbers – over the course of 2020, Ireland contributed over €150 million to the global response to COVID-19. We quadrupled our financial contribution to the WHO, and increased our support to Gavi the Vaccine Alliance and to the Global Fund for HIV, AIDS and Malaria. We have also worked with EU partners on the COVAX initiative, to ensure equitable access to vaccines.

Behind all of this are people – those whose lives have been touched by the virus, or by its accompanying economic and social effects. There are those whose tragic and early deaths changed the lives of families forever. Children whose education was broken. Those who lost jobs or went hungry. Throughout the year, and through the Irish Aid programme, we responded with empathy and with effect to mitigate their circumstances – through using our influence within the UN system to help ensure the most marginalised were protected and through radically redirecting our own bilateral programmes to where it was most needed. We innovated too, introducing mental health supports for frontline health workers in Ethiopia and Jordan, for example, and through linking the health system in Mozambique with the HSE to share lessons on how to manage the pandemic.

Ireland also strongly supported the development of Team Europe, where the EU's Member States and its institutions came together to deliver a global response to the pandemic.

The delivery of our international development response to the pandemic was itself a Team Ireland undertaking, with many Government Departments engaged. For example, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine provided over €30 million in 2020, including an early disbursement to the World Food Programme to support the scaling up of the organisation's operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a significant development, Ireland became the 81st member of the African Development Bank, and I look forward to our membership of the Bank enabling a strengthening of our role on the continent in the coming years.

As Minister, I have been privileged to see the excellent contribution Ireland makes to poverty reduction worldwide through our aid programme. I was particularly pleased to see the OECD, in 2020, describe Ireland as a successful influencer of global policies, and recognise the excellence of our work in its Peer Review of the Irish Aid programme. I am ambitious for Ireland's future commitment to global development, building on the excellence of our current programme.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Coveney', written in a cursive style.

Simon Coveney, T.D.

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Foreword

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



Photo: DFA

2020 was a year of unprecedented challenge: COVID-19 left no country and very few families untouched. Its impacts will continue to reverberate for many years, as we begin to understand and address the challenges which it has posed not just to health systems but also to human development more widely.

We see these challenges at home in Ireland. We can but imagine the additional strains which the pandemic, the necessary responses and the attendant social and economic impacts are having in countries less well-equipped and less well off than ours.

At the same time, the past year has been one also of shared experiences, of lock downs, of loss, of fear. We have been reminded of our interconnectedness and our interdependency with others.

Guided by the principles set out in our policy for international development, A Better World, I am glad to say Ireland not only contributed to the global pandemic response but that throughout Irish Aid continued to prioritise helping those most vulnerable.

This Annual Report documents in large part the Irish Aid response – which was a whole of Government response – to COVID-19.

We were fast and decisive in reacting to the early stages of the pandemic. Ireland was the first country to respond to the World Health Organisation's global appeal.

We provided quick support to the new international structures established to fight COVID-19.

Throughout the year, we worked with the WHO and many other partners to support developing countries to contain the spread, and mitigate the impact, of COVID-19.

We innovated in response to the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. This included supporting national social protection systems which protected the most vulnerable families. Our colleagues at the HSE provided vital technical and mental health support to counterparts in partner countries.

Despite the effects of the pandemic, 2020 also marked some other notable achievements in the delivery of our international development cooperation.

Ireland took leadership roles responding to humanitarian crises.

In Ethiopia, we committed funding to support the humanitarian response and took principled positions at the UN Security Council. We continued to fund the essential work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees. In Mozambique, where hundreds of thousands of people lost their homes or were displaced due to the after effects of the 2019 cyclones Idai and Kenneth and ongoing conflict, we assisted the humanitarian response.

Ireland believes in a strong multilateral and humanitarian system developed to serve people, partners, and countries who need our on-going solidarity and assistance. In 2020 we continued to keep people at the centre of all our efforts and to seek to leave no one behind. In addition to a strong and positive OECD DAC Peer Review Report, recognition of the integrity of Ireland's international development programme was also noted by the Overseas Development Institute (ODI). It ranked Ireland as the number one donor in delivering principled aid in their 'Principled Aid Index 2020'. ODI has found Ireland to be the most principled aid donor since its ranking began in 2013.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the Department also established a new Climate Unit which focuses on the delivery of Ireland's international climate contributions and commitments in line with the Programme for Government.

We also continued on the delivery of Ireland's Strategy for Partnership with Small Island Developing States (SIDS). This included the launching of a SIDS' Fellowship Programme to bring promising individuals to Ireland for master's-level study; the launching of the SIDS Policy Forum, to bring together sectoral experts from Ireland and the various SIDS regions to discuss policy in areas of mutual interest; and the establishment of the Ireland Trust Fund for Building Climate Change and Disaster Resilience in Small Island Developing States within the Asia Development Bank. The Trust Fund will provide €12m in funding over the period 2019-2024.

Personally, I was proud to have championed our work aimed at addressing the crisis in education, particularly for girls, that was precipitated by the pandemic. In 2020, Ireland was at the forefront of a global call to action in getting education back on track, and working to ensure that some 150 million girls could return to school.

The past year also marked the maturing of our relationship in Africa.

Our ever-deepening ties with Africa expanded under 'Global Ireland: Ireland's Strategy for Africa to 2025', launched in November 2019. Some of the many highlights of the first year of the Strategy include Ireland joining the Sahel Alliance as an observer member, and becoming a member of the African Development Bank. Ireland's business links with

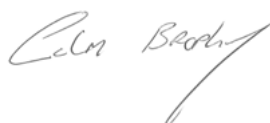
Africa are also increasing in both directions and, as Africa's economic growth continues, these links, whether trade in goods and services, or investments, will deepen and mature.

In 2020 we celebrated sixty years of an Irish diplomatic presence in Nigeria, our first on the continent of Africa. We now have 12 Embassies from Cairo to Pretoria, though our people-to-people connections which go back centuries, including missionaries, educators, health and development workers, humanitarian responders and Irish peacekeepers. These links are further enriched by the presence of African communities in Ireland.

Finally, while this was a challenging year in so many ways, I wish to conclude by expressing my appreciation to all those who helped deliver the development cooperation programme, especially those posted overseas often in difficult circumstances. Our teams rose to the challenges of the pandemic, working closely with our partners. Programmes were re-designed, staff were deployed to challenging locations, and systems had to adapt, all at very short notice. This was important to ensure that Ireland could continue to deliver support to those furthest behind, during an exceptionally turbulent time. To them thanks.

And to all those who worked with us through the challenges of 2020, thank you too.

Stay well.



Colm Brophy, T.D.

Minister of State for Overseas Development Aid and Diaspora

Overview



What we do

Ireland's development cooperation programme aims to reduce poverty, hunger and humanitarian need in the developing world.

The Government of Ireland, through its official development assistance programme, supports long-term development and humanitarian assistance overseas on behalf of the Irish people. This support is provided in over 80 countries, with a particular focus on sub-Saharan Africa.

Ireland is a small country but with a big footprint. We believe in playing a proactive and positive role in the world to achieve our ambition of a more equal, peaceful and sustainable world.

Ireland's international development priorities are:

- » Reducing humanitarian need
- » Supporting climate action
- » Promoting gender equality
- » Strengthening governance.

We focus on areas where Ireland has proven expertise and can make a real difference, including in conflict prevention and resolution, humanitarian action, agriculture and nutrition, health, social protection and education.

Through Irish Aid, Ireland is playing its part in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, at all times focusing our efforts on reaching those furthest behind first.

Our vision and values

Our vision is for a sustainable and just world, where people are empowered to overcome poverty and hunger and fully realise their rights and potential.

Our values underpin our goals and all of the work we undertake to achieve them:

Sustainability: Ensuring that our interventions bring real benefits over the long term, are environmentally sound and address the causes of poverty rather than just the symptoms.

Effectiveness: Using public resources efficiently and effectively, providing value for money and focusing our efforts on achieving sustainable results in the lives of those experiencing poverty.

Equality: Advancing equal opportunities and equality, with no discrimination of any kind, and addressing inequalities in a systematic way.

Human rights: Defending the universal and indivisible nature of human rights by promoting and protecting them in all our efforts.

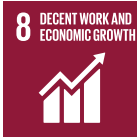
Accountability: Being accountable to Irish citizens, to those people benefitting from our support, and being transparent in all that we do.

Partnership: Strengthening partnerships built on mutual trust and supporting development that is locally owned and led.

Coherence: Striving for a coherent approach to development across all government departments by building synergies between policies.



A woman in Guinea augments her income by sewing protective masks.
Photo: UNDP Guinea





Sorghum farmers in Dodoma, Tanzania, discuss how the Irish Aid-funded climate smart agriculture project to improve farm resilience, income and nutrition. (Photo: Irish Aid)

How we work

In 2020, the Government invested over €867 million on Ireland's overseas aid programme. The bulk of this funding - €545 million – was managed by the Department of Foreign Affairs. The remaining €322 million was allocated through other government departments, mainly the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the Department of Finance, and through Ireland's contribution to the EU Development Co-operation Budget.

Ireland provides untied aid to support the most vulnerable communities and contribute to the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals.

We work closely with selected partners, including governments, international organisations, civil society and the private sector, to ensure lasting improvements in the lives of communities living in poverty.

We are accountable to the Oireachtas (Ireland's parliament) and, ultimately, to the Irish people. Our programme is regularly externally audited and evaluated to ensure it achieves effectiveness and value for money.



In addition, our aid spending is monitored by and reported on by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation's Development's Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC). The 2020 OECD DAC peer review report² concluded:

'Ireland is widely seen as an excellent partner, providing quality financing and supporting its investments with a presence on key partner bodies such as boards and donor support groups where Ireland uses its influence to improve effectiveness and coherence.'

The review confirmed that Ireland continues to be a world-class donor, a trusted partner to civil society organisations and an excellent humanitarian partner. The review also positively highlighted our principled focus on delivering development assistance to where it is needed most; our commitment to multilateralism and sustainable development; and our long-standing advocacy for poverty reduction.

Also in 2020, the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), a leading global development think tank, ranked Ireland as the number one donor in delivering principled aid in their "Principled Aid Index 2020", the second successive year in which Ireland scored highest on the Index.³

Ireland's All-Government approach

Supporting international development is a cornerstone of Ireland's foreign policy. As such, it is a cross-cutting issue across several Government departments and agencies. The Department of Foreign Affairs, through its Irish Aid programme, manages the bulk of Ireland's overseas development assistance. However, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, as well as the Department of Finance, are centrally involved in Ireland's overseas development assistance programme. The Health Service Executive (HSE) also contributes to Ireland's global health programmes.



Participants in a project aimed at protecting women's customary land rights in Sierra Leone. Photo: FAO/Benedicte KurzenGuinea



Participants at the BT Young Scientists Exhibition learn about the Sustainable Development Goals. Photo: Julien Behal

² OECD Development Co-operation Peer Reviews: Ireland 2020 | en | OECD <https://www.oecd.org/dac/peer-reviews/oecd-development-co-operation-peer-reviews-ireland-2020-c20ff6995-en.htm>

³ Principled Aid Index 2020 | ODI: Think change <https://odi.org/en/publications/principled-aid-index-2020/>



Continuing health education for people with Albinism in Malawi. Photo: HSE Global Health Programme



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND THE MARINE

International development assistance from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) totalled over €30 million in 2020. This included an early disbursement of Ireland's 2021 commitment of €25 million to the World Food Programme (WFP) to support the scaling up of the organisation's operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Flexible funds provided by the Government of Ireland to WFP in 2020 contributed to multiple response operations in the world's most critical emergencies, as well as helping those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Flexible funding from the department contributed to:

- » A rapid ten-fold scale-up of assistance operations in the Central African Republic.
- » WFP's largest emergency response operation in Yemen.
- » The provision of fortified and nutritionally-balanced food assistance to vulnerable groups in Afghanistan, including people displaced by conflict, those affected by disasters, refugees, returnees from neighbouring countries, and those affected by COVID-19.
- » Helping vulnerable communities in Somalia strengthen their resilience to the effects of conflict and natural disasters. This type of contribution from Ireland has also supported and sustained WFP's operations in 2020 in Syria, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe.



Yunus Chanzi with sweet potatoes grown as part of the Irish Aid-funded climate smart agriculture project in Dodoma, Tanzania. Photo: Irish Aid

In addition to Ireland's annual subscription of €1.64 million to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the department also announced funding of €2.14m for specific FAO projects. These projects, which are selected on the basis of Ireland's strategic engagement with the Rome-Based Agencies of the United Nations, included funding for FAO's 'Protecting the diets of the most vulnerable people as part of the COVID-19 response and recovery programme' which focused on the Organisation's work in Ethiopia, Kenya and Malawi.

Additional projects included improving food security for refugees in the conflict-affected area of the Lake Chad basin; enhancing surveillance and control of the desert locust invasion in Kenya; and support of the UN Food Systems Summit action track on access to safe and nutritious food.



In 2020, Ireland supported a multi-stakeholder national response to the European Commission's Task Force on Rural Africa (TFRA) 2019 report, overseen by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. This response, namely the National Task Team for Rural Africa (NTTRA), was subject of a Memorandum for Information to Government in June 2019. Chaired by Mr. Tom Arnold, this group was tasked with preparing a report on Ireland's potential contribution to the work of the EU's TFRA. The Task Team included representatives from academia, civil society, business, semi-state bodies and the African diaspora as well as senior officials from both Departments.

After an extensive consultative process with all stakeholders, the NTTRA report was finalised in October 2020. It set out a new framework to enhance, and improve the coordination of, Ireland's existing contribution to the transformation of Africa's agriculture and rural economy by harnessing the respective expertise of all relevant Irish stakeholders.

The report's main recommendation was the establishment of a coherent framework for Ireland's contribution to Rural Development in Africa. This included a central co-ordination function, namely the formation of the Ireland Africa Rural Development Committee (IARDC), to ensure the implementation, accountability and resourcing of the report's recommendations.

If implemented effectively, the report's recommendations would deliver a coherent national response, which harnesses the capacity of the Irish agri-food sector in its future partnership with Africa. It links to the domestic Agri-Food 2030 strategy process, which seeks to shift Irish agricultural investment and engagement to more of a sustainable food systems approach. Furthermore, it can assist Ireland in playing a proactive role as the EU and the African Union (AU) develop a deepening partnership.



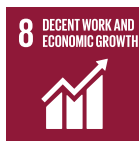
Dr. Paul Ryan, Department of Finance and AfDB Secretary-General Vincent Nmehielle during visit of the delegation of Ireland to the AfDB on February 24, 2020, in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Photo: Department of Finance

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

In April 2020 Ireland became the 81st member of the African Development Bank (AfDB). Ireland's African Development Bank membership is an important expression of our commitment to the multilateral system and of our contribution to peace, security and sustainable development in Africa.

Minister for Finance, Pascal Donohoe T.D., said the move was an important addition to the ever-deepening ties that continue to inform Ireland's relationship to Africa and its people.

'The African Development Bank and the African Development Fund play an important role in fostering sustainable and inclusive social and economic growth and prosperity, helping the African continent to realise its potential to be the continent of promise and opportunity,' said Minister Donohoe. 'I see our membership of the Bank and Fund as an investment in this potential. Ireland's partnership with these important regional multilateral institutions will both advance our shared development priorities and will open future opportunities for Irish businesses in the region.'



From April to December 2020, the World Bank delivered a record USD82.9 billion in new financing, with USD45.8 billion of this going directly to the pandemic response. The WBG's emergency support operations reached over 110 developing countries and social protection projects reached 1.1 billion people.

The IMF provided support to low-income countries via the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT). The PRGT allows the IMF to provide concessional financial support to LICs to help them achieve, maintain, or restore a stable and sustainable macroeconomic position consistent with strong and durable poverty reduction and growth. Currently, there are 45 fund members eligible to benefit from the Trust. New PRGT commitments in 2020 increased to almost €7.7 billion from approximately €2.5 billion at the end of 2019.

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) initiated a \$10 billion Crisis Recovery Facility to support AIIB's members and clients in alleviating and mitigating economic, financial and public health pressures arising from COVID-19.

Health Service Executive (HSE)

The Health Service Executive (HSE) has been collaborating with the Ministry of Health in Mozambique since 2016 with the aim of improving quality of health care. Teams of health professionals from fourteen hospitals and the Ministry of Health have been trained to address problems of poor quality care such as high in-patient mortality, medication errors, long waiting times, and patient dissatisfaction. The programme has been implemented with support from the Irish Embassy in Maputo and the International Society for Quality in Healthcare (ISQua).

A team from the HSE Global Health Programme visited Mozambique in February 2020 and observed how the hospitals have embedded a quality improvement approach in their institutions and are achieving impressive results. A visit to Jose Maçamo General Hospital revealed a sharp reduction in deaths of patients within 24 hours of admission to the medical ward, from 58 patients in 2017 to just eight in 2019. At the Mavalane General Hospital, gynaecology outpatient waiting times had reduced from 60 days in 2016 to less than a week in 2020. The hospitals in and around Maputo have achieved most and the Ministry of Health requested further training and support for the rural provincial hospitals.

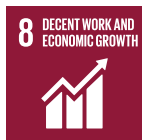
Everything changed after February as the COVID-19 pandemic took off in Europe and then spread across Africa. The HSE's response was to maintain solidarity with its partners in Mozambique despite the huge demands of addressing the pandemic in Ireland. The Global Health Programme adjusted its focus to supporting Mozambique's COVID-19 outbreak response while also helping to maintain essential health services and protect health workers. A continued focus on quality improvement proved helpful in the face of the pandemic. Hospitals were required to pay more attention than ever to quality and safety of care as they sought to implement effective infection prevention and control measures for COVID-19.



Continuing essential services at Muhimbili National Hospital, Tanzania. Photo: HSE Global Health Programme

With no opportunity to travel the collaboration shifted completely to virtual engagement. The HSE organised regular online coaching sessions with the hospital teams and Ministry of Health. The content of teaching and coaching was adapted to address quality and safety issues arising from COVID-19. The HSE developed and shared guidance documents for health facilities. Thanks to the regular contact through virtual platforms, the HSE maintained excellent relationships with the Ministry of Health and steady progress was achieved with the hospitals. The collaboration has been recognised by the WHO and, in December, the HSE and Ministry of Health were invited to co-present at a webinar organised by the WHO Global Learning Laboratory for Quality of Care and ISQua.

Dr. David Weakliam, HSE Global Health Programme Director, reflected on 2020: 'It was a challenging year working with Mozambique not being able to travel. Looking back, the most important thing was that we showed solidarity with our partners when our own health service was under pressure from COVID-19. In supporting Mozambique during the pandemic, we demonstrated our commitment to those that are furthest behind in the world and contributed to 'A Better World'.



Accountability and Transparency

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

Ireland's aid programme involves the disbursement of significant funds by way of grants and contributions to many organisations and bodies. These activities carry inherent risks, which are managed and mitigated through a strong control environment. This includes close engagement with partner organisations in order to assess and appraise their systems of governance, management and internal control on an ongoing basis.

Ireland has a zero tolerance policy towards fraud and has established policies and procedures for the prevention, detection and management of instances of fraud or suspected fraud.

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

Ireland's aid programme uses a standard approach to grant management. This includes a series of templates, guidelines and instructions covering the lifecycle of a grant, from initial partner selection to programme design, appraisal, approval, monitoring, evaluation and closure of the grant. It is designed to ensure that those tasked with managing the resources allocated to the Official Development Assistance programme do so in such a way that will deliver optimal results, demonstrate full and transparent financial accountability, generate learning and support timely and accurate reporting. It is a requirement for all grants that this approach is applied.

The Head of the Evaluation and Audit Unit is the primary contact to whom instances of suspected fraud must be reported, and has overall responsibility to determine the appropriate course of action for investigating these reports. The work of the Evaluation and Audit Unit is supported by the Audit Committee of the Department, which provides an independent appraisal of the audit and evaluation function. Details of the value of suspected frauds are available on the Evaluation and Audit section of the Department's website or through this link: <https://www.irishaid.ie/media/irishaid/whatwedo/howouraidworks/Fraud-Report-to-DCD-2018--2021---Q2-update.pdf>

Ireland is a member of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) and supports its globally recognised standard as the best means of delivering greater international aid transparency. The Department works with other members of IATI to maintain and enhance the transparency of international development assistance, playing our part in the governance of the initiative.

Programme Highlights



2020 in review

The year 2020 was an extraordinarily difficult period in global history.

The arrival of COVID-19 brought suffering, loss, and hardship to every country, but particularly to those most vulnerable - a stark reminder of our common humanity.

The World Health Organisation's Dr. Mike Ryan said, 'no one is safe until everyone is safe', a reminder that we are all interdependent. Global safety in the face of the pandemic requires global institutions and a global response. This in turn requires investment in effective multilateralism – the very heart of Irish foreign policy over decades.

OECD PEER REVIEW REPORT

In May 2020 the OECD published its review of Ireland's Development Cooperation programme. The review, which is undertaken every four years, highlighted the many areas of excellence of our strong official international development programme. Minister Coveney, who welcomed the publication of the OECD DAC peer review, noted it **'shows that Ireland is a strong development partner, with many areas of excellence, and can provide inspiration for other donors.'**

The review found that the quality and impact of Ireland's development cooperation programme is high. Ireland 'walks the talk', allocating ODA to Least Developed Countries and fragile states, priority partners and sectors. This clear focus enables Ireland to channel our development assistance to where it is needed most, to exercise leadership and make a visible difference. **The OECD peer review shows that though we may be small, Ireland is a donor who does things right.**

Ireland is a **leading advocate for multilateralism and a strong voice for sustainable development**, initiating and supporting dialogue at international and local levels. We are a trusted multilateral partner and advocate strongly in multilateral spaces for poverty reduction and responding to partner country needs.

Ireland is a trusted partner to civil society and our share of bilateral ODA allocated to and through civil society organisations is one of the highest among DAC members.

Ireland is an excellent humanitarian partner and has a unique approach to fragility.

The **Irish population has a positive attitude towards development cooperation** and acts in support of sustainable development. A higher proportion of people in Ireland than in other EU countries consider it very important to help people in developing countries – 49% compared to 36% across all EU member states.

In 2020, Ireland was among the first Member States to provide financial support to the Food Systems Summit, contributing €1.5 million to date. The Summit, announced on World Food Day in 2019 by the UN Secretary-General (UNSG), was convened in September 2021. Branded as a 'People's Summit' and a 'Solutions Summit', it launched bold new actions, solutions and strategies to deliver progress on all 17 SDGs. The Summit was a unique opportunity for Ireland to take a leading role in the promotion of sustainable food systems. Through the Summit, Ireland amplified the key messages and commitments of A Better World, as well as highlighting domestic and international expertise relating to food systems.

COVID 19

Described by United Nations Development Cooperation programme as both ‘the defining global health crisis of our time’, and the greatest challenge the world has faced since the end of the Second World War, the COVID-19 pandemic created a new reality and brought with it numerous secondary threats for the Global South. Though, relatively speaking, a small donor, nevertheless Ireland moved very swiftly once the scale of COVID-19 became clear.

Ireland’s overarching priority in responding internationally to the pandemic was to use the international development programme to highlight and reduce the incidence of and then mitigate the secondary impacts on Humanitarian Response, Health, Food Security and Nutrition, Economic Recovery and Gender and Protection. This is in line with Ireland’s commitment to reaching the furthest behind first, as set out in our international development policy, A Better World.

To maximise impact, the focus of the response was primarily through the multilateral system and existing development programmes. For example Ireland was the first country to respond to the WHO COVID-19 appeal while through the bi-lateral programmes in Africa, we built on decades of support for strengthening health systems in Africa to support the immediate health and humanitarian responses as well as mitigating against the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. The overall response is covered in more detail in the chapter ‘Responding to COVID-19.’

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIRST YEAR OF THE AFRICA STRATEGY

Despite challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, considerable progress was achieved in fulfilling the objectives of ‘**Global Ireland: Ireland’s Strategy for Africa to 2025**’,⁴ in what was the first full year of implementation. A detailed report on the first full year of implementation⁵ was submitted to Government in May 2021.

A stand-out achievement in 2020 was the election of Ireland to the UN Security Council, enabling Ireland to deepen our contribution to peace and security in Africa and build on the work of our peacekeepers and the contribution of the Irish Aid programme. We are working closely with African partners and engaging actively on African issues as a UN Security Council member.

Other key highlights for 2020 included Ireland becoming the 81st member of the African Development Bank; the significant contribution Ireland has made to peace and security across the continent; deepening Ireland’s engagement in the important Sahel region; and advancing Ireland’s application for Associate Observer Membership of the Community of Portuguese Language Countries (CPLP).

4 November - Global Ireland - Ireland’s Strategy for Africa to 2025 - Department of Foreign Affairs (dfa.ie) <https://www.dfa.ie/news-and-media/publications/publicationarchive/2019/november/global-ireland---irelands-strategy-for-africa-to-2025.php>
5 21-017-Africa--Strategy-Memorandum-WEB-final.pdf (dfa.ie) <https://www.dfa.ie/media/dfa/publications/21-017-Africa--Strategy-Memorandum-WEB-final.pdf>



President Michael D Higgins in New York speaking at the Review of the SAMOA Pathway at the UN in 2019. Photo: Office of the President



APPROVAL OF NEW COUNTRY STRATEGIES (ETHIOPIA, MOZAMBIQUE AND UGANDA).

In 2020, new multi-annual mission strategies were approved for Ethiopia, Mozambique and Uganda. These capture the broad range of each Mission’s engagement in their countries of primary and secondary accreditation. Each Mission Strategy places a strong focus on reaching the furthest behind and reflect the policy priorities of gender equality, strengthened governance, climate action and reduced humanitarian need.

BILATERAL ENGAGEMENT / VISITS

Although Ministerial travel was not possible for most of 2020, dialogue was maintained through a high number of bilateral meetings with African partners over the course of the year, including by VC and telephone. President Michael D. Higgins also engaged actively with a number of his African counterparts in advance of Ireland’s election to the UN Security Council.

To enhance collaboration with the African Union, three Irish diplomats attended the 33rd AU Summit in Addis Ababa in February 2020 and succeeded in meeting a total of 27 Presidents and Ministers from 24 African countries.

In March 2020, DFA officials conducted a comprehensive scoping visit to the francophone West Africa region in order to identify opportunities for Ireland’s scaled up engagement in the Sahel and West Africa. Arising from that visit, a suite of recommendations for deeper engagement was approved and work has been undertaken to develop a roadmap to support Ireland’s enhanced engagement in the region over the coming five years.

In preparation for taking up our seat on the Security Council, the Department of Foreign Affairs conducted several Ministerial and senior official consultations on UN Security Council agenda items. These included Minister Coveney engaging with South Africa and Kenya, outgoing and incoming Security Council members, respectively. DFA also engaged with key civil society, policy and research organisations to inform our engagement.

EUROPEAN UNION–AFRICA UNION RELATIONS

The future of EU-AU relations, and the EU's new comprehensive strategy towards Africa, were discussed at a number of EU fora throughout 2020. Ireland actively participated in these discussions and in the negotiations of Council and European Council Conclusions on Africa in June and October 2020 respectively, ensured that our priorities for EU-AU relations were reflected in the final conclusions.

At the European Council on 15/16 October, Taoiseach Micheál Martin expressed Ireland's full support for strengthening the EU's strategic engagement to deliver a stronger partnership between the EU and Africa.

REFERENCE TO 60 YEARS OF IRELAND'S DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN AFRICA

In 2020, Ireland marked an important milestone regarding our diplomatic presence in Africa. In 1960, Ireland opened its first African mission in Nigeria, as part of a drive to strengthen ties with newly independent African countries. This anniversary was marked in September 2020 with a month-long communications campaign around the theme, Ireland in Africa. During the year, Ireland also marked forty years of its diplomatic presence in Zambia.



Minister Brophy discusses with Mr Akeny Apalomeri (left), a beneficiary of Irish-funded social protection payments for elderly people in Karamoja, Uganda, how the grants have helped him and his family.
Photo: Kim Kinene

Responding to COVID-19

As the scale of the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded in the early months of 2020, it quickly became apparent that COVID-19 was more than just a health crisis, but also a development crisis.

COVID-19 all-but paralysed large swathes of the global economy and has cost more than USD500 billion per month in lost productivity and output. The pandemic also generated a global education crisis, locking up to 150 million girls out of school indefinitely. It has set back gender equality by decades, disrupted food systems, and generated debt crises in some countries.

In the early months of 2020 it was clear that Ireland needed to provide an agile response, addressing simultaneously both the health and development crises. Over the course of 2020, Ireland allocated approximately €150 million to the global COVID-19 response. Approximately €55 million of this went to longstanding and trusted partners - the UN, WHO, NGOs and partner countries – reacting directly to the consequences of the pandemic. Ireland was one of the first countries in the world to support the WHO's urgent appeal for funding to assist low and middle income countries in their preparedness and response to the crisis. A further €93 million of other funding was fast-tracked to partners to help to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. Ireland was also proud to contribute to the European Union's global response to COVID-19, which by the end of 2020, had mobilised more than €38 billion.

Early prioritisation was given to protecting those most vulnerable, not only to the disease but also to the impacts of lockdown restrictions. As such, the earliest responses were focused on: providing quick humanitarian response; support to health partners; addressing food security and nutrition; looking at social protection and economic recovery; and, protecting those which lockdowns had made most vulnerable, including women at risk of domestic violence.



An Taoiseach, (prime minister) Micheál Martin, T.D – receiving his COVID-19 vaccination in May 2021. The vaccine was administered by nurse Brenda Dillon, Assistant Director of Nursing at the HSE vaccination centre.
Photo: Office of An Taoiseach

Our bilateral programmes helped Ministries of Health to manage the first wave of the pandemic, create surge capacity, obtain PPE, put in place infection control protocols and establish ICU facilities.

In 2020, over €22.6 million was reallocated by our missions in sub-Saharan Africa to support immediate health and humanitarian responses to COVID-19, and a further €46.3 million was reallocated to mitigate socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. In all countries, Ireland worked closely with Government counterparts, EU delegations and UN resident coordinators to assess needs in real time and plan responses.

In each country, our responses were tailored to the specific needs at the time. For example:

- » In Mozambique, approximately €1.5m of Ireland’s support to the health sector was reallocated to buy essential PPE for frontline workers.
- » In Sierra Leone, €750,000 was provided to WFP for food assistance in COVID-19 treatment centres and food distribution to vulnerable households.
- » In Malawi, €480,000 was provided to the Minister of Gender for COVID-19 emergency cash transfers.
- » In Uganda, €1.8m was provided to WHO to support the health system and procure testing kits.

Ireland also provided leadership in some key areas, for example initiating a major UN learning event on addressing the impact of the pandemic on adolescent girls’ education. We approved a reallocation of the resilience-focused Irish Trust Fund at the Asian Development Bank for 2020 (targeted at Small Island Developing States) to address the establishment of social protection programmes in response to COVID-19 needs.

We worked closely with multilateral partners such as the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Global Fund for to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, and the Global Vaccine Alliance (Gavi) to support their responses. Ireland contributed to ensuring that these international organisations rapidly reoriented their programmes to allow countries to better prepare and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. This allowed countries to purchase much needed PPE, diagnostic equipment and therapeutics and bolster their national health systems and was in addition to the support provided bi-laterally. The Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria in particular made over \$1 billion available to countries for the response.



Ignatius Loyla being interviewed by Bob Ocilo of VSO at his home, which he has transformed into a learning centre for local children.

CASE STUDY

A garden transformed into a classroom

Rinyamoe Ignatius Loyla is a 65 year old retired civil servant with a passion for education. In June 2020, after schools in the Karamoja region of Uganda were closed due to COVID-19, he offered the grounds of his home as an alternative classroom.

UNICEF and VSO, in collaboration with the Irish Embassy, were looking for spaces to conduct home-based learning. Ignatius's garden, with its wide-open spaces and trees to provide shade, was the ideal location.

Ignatius organised a meeting of 18 families in the village to discuss how to maintain children's education during lockdown and school closure. There was huge support for his plan to use his land as a temporary outdoor classroom.

Soon, Ignatius's garden was a busy hive of activity with 56 local children (31 boys and 25 girls) attending classes. He made sure children were kept safe through taking appropriate precautions such as hand washing, social distancing and the use of masks.

The children's learning progressed well in the new environment. Teachers assessed the students every two weeks to monitor progress.

As well as regular classes, the children were also taught personal hygiene and how to protect themselves and their families from COVID-19.

Parents, as well as officers from district and sub-county education authorities, visited and witnessed the temporary classroom. Parents were delighted that their children were able to continue their education despite the lockdown.

One parent said: *'Ignatius came to my house and asked my wife and I to attend the meeting. We participated and now my 7, 9 and 13 year-old children are learning even when the schools are closed during this lockdown.'*

Ignatius was happy he could do something to help local children continue to learn throughout the pandemic.

'My love for education inspired me,' he said.



In the case of the WHO, Ireland quadrupled funding, enabling the WHO to equip teams and establish the necessary mechanisms for response. In June, Ireland also significantly increased its commitments to Gavi, to support the global vaccine development effort and support the creation of the COVAX mechanism, which has proved instrumental in providing access to vaccines to developing countries.

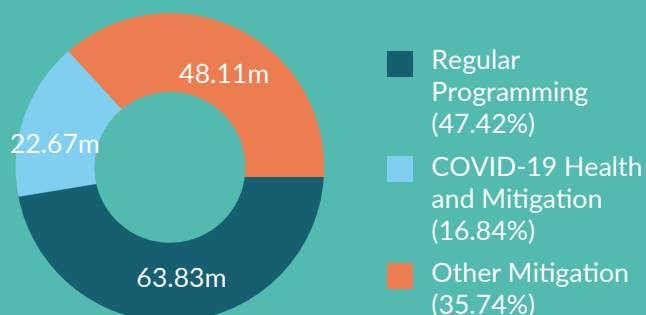
Collaboration across the health-focused multilateral bodies led to the creation in record time of the COVID-19 response architecture under the ACT-Accelerator. This included arrangements for sharing diagnostics, therapeutics, health systems support and vaccines. The latter instrument, called the COVAX Facility, hosted by Gavi, has enabled many developed countries to streamline the vaccine procurement process and distributed vaccines to low and middle income countries who otherwise would not have had access to lifesaving COVID-19 vaccines. Ireland has supported the COVAX Facility since its inception and will continue to do so.

In response to the pandemic, Ireland supported its partner GAIN to deliver a programme of targeted support to help sustain core food systems, workers and markets. This programme was developed as an emergency response to the COVID-19 crisis, providing rapid support to food system workers, to small and medium enterprises supplying nutritious foods in Africa and Asia and to keeping fresh food markets open. The global pandemic massively disrupted food systems, depressed incomes and put a strain on social protection programmes threatening the nutrition status of the most vulnerable. This programme was delivered to ensure that food systems did not collapse and to ensure that affordable nutritious foods were available to those who need it most.

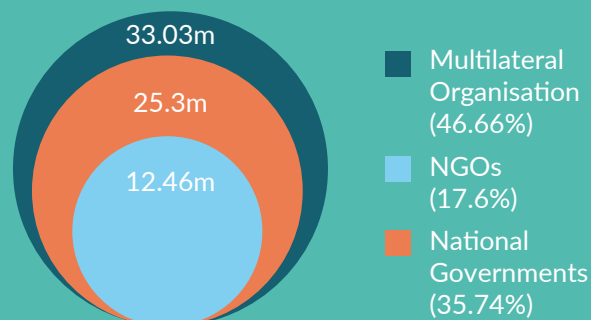
The programme successfully worked with small and medium enterprises, ensuring markets stayed open safely. It also worked at the policy level to ensure workers were protected and supported in keeping food systems operational in order to sustain the availability and affordability of nutritious and safe foods, and contribute to lowering the burden of ill-health, particularly for the most vulnerable.

Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) Embassy Network Covid-19 Response 2020

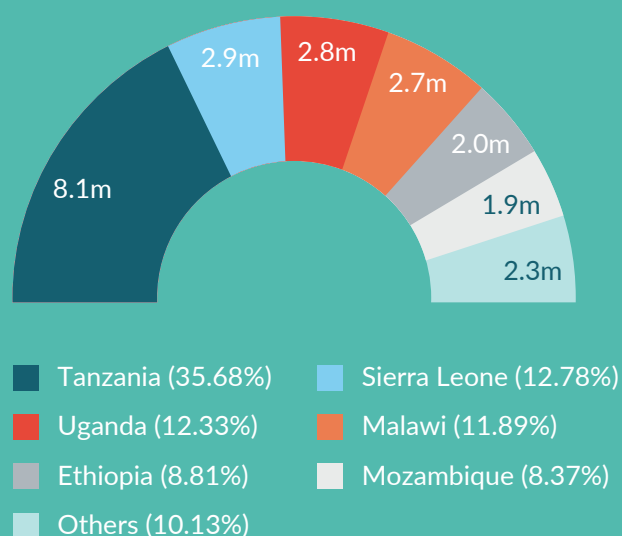
SSA Embassy Programming (€)



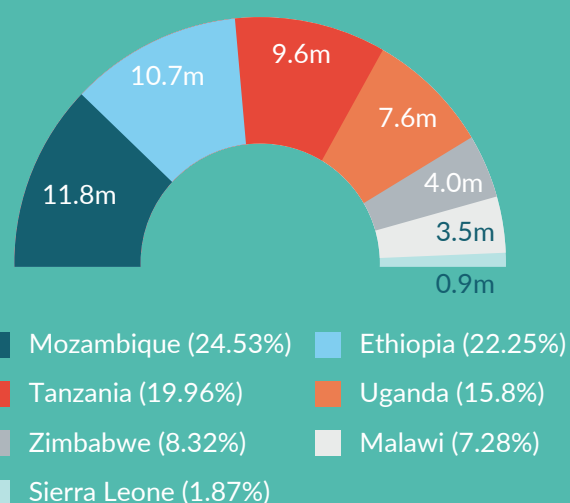
Delivery of Funding (€)



COVID-19 Health and Mitigation (€)



Mitigation Against Socio-Economic Impacts (€)



This support includes



Uganda

€1,830,000 to **WHO** to support the health system and procure testing kits.



Sierra Leone

€1,215,000 to a consortium of **Irish NGOs** for COVID-related humanitarian response.



Ethiopia

€1,000,000 to **UNICEF** for procurement of PPE for health and laboratory workers.



Malawi

€1,085,000 to support the National COVID-19 Health Response Plan.



In response to COVID-19 Ireland scaled up its social protection responses targeted at the poor and vulnerable, in particular the elderly, women and girls, and people with disabilities. For example in Zambia and Malawi, Ireland supported the ILO in partnership with other UN Agencies to provide temporary emergency cash transfers to the poor and vulnerable households in the urban informal sector affected by the pandemic.

Ireland supported efforts to build strong coherent social protection systems that could work with humanitarian responses, innovate for efficiency through digitalisation of payments, and better integrate gender considerations. For example, support was provided to TRANSFORM, an innovative initiative that is providing e-learning on social protection and helping expand initiatives to Western and North African.

Support was also provided for advocacy work on social protection. For example, with Ireland's assistance, ILO was able to consult broadly on how the pandemic was impacting on informal workers, as well as enhancing transparency and citizen engagements around social protection. In Mozambique, Ireland supported awareness-raising and civil society monitoring of national social protection payments. Building ownership of the social protection system by communities has helped to enhance efficiency and accountability, at a time when social protection has been of such importance globally.

In 2020, Ireland was active in a number of global and policy related social protection bodies, including the global Social Protection Inter-Agency Coordination Board (SPIAC B), the OECD Steering Committee on Policy Dialogue for Social Protection and Development and shared learning and good practice on social

protection. Ireland took on a number of leadership positions, including co-chairing the EU Social Protection working group, and the Uganda Social Protection Donor Group. In collaboration with the UK Institute for Development Studies, we led a discussion on 'building back better' social protection systems, that are inclusive, integrate climate, gender and are able to scale up in response to crisis.

In reorienting the international development programme, it was important to ensure accountability and rigour in grant management, as well as a strong emphasis on risk management. The senior management group of Irish Aid met throughout the pandemic with greater frequency to provide closer oversight over adjustments that were being made and to provide continuous monitoring. Staff across programme were instructed to hold meetings with partners, request feedback on how COVID-19 had affected programme results, and assess whether adjustments were necessary. In some cases funding was front-loaded to enable partners provide more rapid and scaled-up support on the ground. This also required more regular and detailed scrutiny.

Rapid adjustments had to be made to core processes, particularly related to disbursing funds and partner management. Emergency IT equipment had to be sent to local staff in missions abroad so that they could continue to oversee programmes and partners without compromising our ICT security. Extra checks and balances were introduced to manage risks associated with remote working while simultaneously accelerating our pace of funds disbursement.



Minister Coveney visiting the UN humanitarian operation at the Turkey-Syria border crossing at Bab al-Hawa. Photo: Embassy Ankara 2021



Reducing humanitarian need

For people caught up in conflict or natural disasters, or living in extreme poverty, the COVID-19 pandemic created new needs and exacerbated existing ones. It exposed and accelerated brutal inequalities at individual and international levels, in terms of wealth, safety and access to basic services. An estimated 440 million people needed humanitarian assistance and protection - a 165% increase from 2019.

In addition to COVID-19, the pre-existing drivers of humanitarian need - conflict and climate change - continued to worsen.

Over one per cent of the world's population is forcibly displaced. Conflicts in Afghanistan, DR Congo, Nigeria and Yemen showed no sign of easing, while Syria entered the eleventh year of its horrific war.

The impact of climate change in increasing extreme weather events was also evident in 2020. Flooding across East Africa displaced millions. In South Sudan alone 600,000 people were affected. In the Sahel weather patterns are becoming increasingly unpredictable with droughts and floods degrading land and destroying livelihoods.

Faced with the exponential growth in needs, the already over-stretched humanitarian system was required to do more and work in new ways. Donors gave a record \$17 billion in 2020 for collective humanitarian response, but this was still less than half of what was needed. The crisis helped accelerate innovation, including greater use of anticipatory approaches and technology, such as the ability to predict and respond to the spread of locust infestations in East Africa. However, the crisis also exposed weaknesses of a system that is too slow, reactive and overly reliant on international organisations.



WHO – Dr. Mike Ryan.
Photo: WHO/Yoshi Shimizu

‘When emergencies hit, Ireland is a consistent and generous partner, supporting timely assistance for the world’s most vulnerable communities, and staying the course to support recovery. Ireland is a strong advocate for international cooperation and solidarity, particularly at times of crisis when it is needed most.’

DR. MIKE RYAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WHO
HEALTH EMERGENCIES PROGRAMME



In 2020, Ireland continued to deliver a high quality humanitarian assistance programme. Ireland takes a principled approach to humanitarian assistance, based on the needs of affected populations. We prioritise the most severe humanitarian crises, including those that are forgotten or neglected. Our humanitarian assistance is channelled through partnerships with the UN system, the Red Cross and civil society organisations, as well as through the European Union.

In line with A Better World, Ireland seeks not only to respond to humanitarian need but also to reduce it. We do this by making linkages across our humanitarian assistance, development programming and support to peacebuilding. This joined-up approach recognises that there is no humanitarian solution to humanitarian crises. It is most evident in countries where Ireland has an Embassy and uses diplomacy and aid to address complex crises, such as those affecting Tigray in Ethiopia and Cabo Delgado in Mozambique.

IRELAND’S CO-CHAIR OF ICRC

Ireland invests considerably in humanitarian diplomacy and takes prominent roles in global policy setting fora. Ireland was honoured to be selected as co-chair of the donor support group for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 2019-20. With conflict on the rise, the work of the ICRC in providing humanitarian protection and assistance to those affected by armed conflict in over 100 countries has never been more critical. As co-chair Ireland championed an approach that prioritised the needs of women, girls and other vulnerable groups who so often bear the brunt of conflict. We also worked closely with ICRC and its donors to advocate for impartial and independent humanitarian assistance that reaches those who need it most. Ireland received high praise for its innovative approach and ways of working during a period when the humanitarian system was profoundly challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic.



A young pupil in her kindergarten class in Za'atari Refugee Camp, Syria. Photo: UNICEF/Herwig

THE FORDHAM LECTURE SERIES

A unique collaboration between the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations and the Fordham Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs (IIHA), provided a platform for prominent Irish leaders, policymakers and practitioners to explore and offer candid insights on how best to respond to the most pressing and critical challenges in the humanitarian field. A series of lectures covered a range of topics of universal concern such as climate and security, conflict and hunger, humanitarian financing structures, and human rights.

Distinguished leaders such as former President Mary Robinson and President Michael D Higgins, together with leading practitioners from their respective fields, helped to showcase and amplify Irish voices. In the words of Mary Robinson in the inaugural lecture of the series:

'If we all fail to act now; if we fail to act decisively; if we fail to act together; future generations will never forgive us for the world that we bequeath them.'

The lectures from the series have now been brought together and published in a volume entitled 'Skein of Thought'.



2020 Humanitarian Response in numbers

€192
million of
humanitarian
assistance
provided.



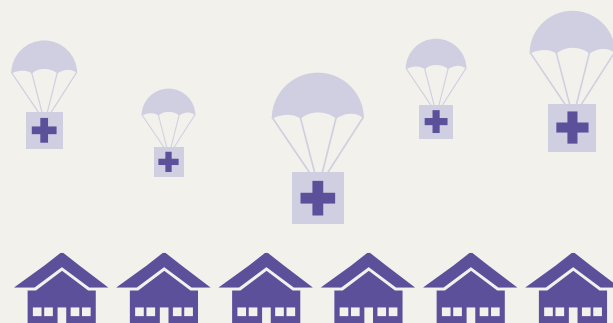
25 humanitarian experts
deployed from Ireland's Rapid
Response Corps to **support UN
crisis operations** in 15 countries.



90%
of Ireland's
humanitarian
funding went
to world's
most severe
crises.



218 metric tonnes of
emergency relief supplies



provided, supporting **22,000**
households in five countries.

Funding approved in less
than 20 hours on average for



32 sudden onset crises.

82%
of Ireland's
humanitarian
funding
contributed to
gender equality.





Deborah Akol- Volunteer with Red-Cross Society Kaabong with pupil. Lokanayona primary school Lokanayona Parish, Loyoro sub-county-Kaabong district. Photo: Flavia Akello, WFP Uganda

CASE STUDY

School meals in Uganda

As well as furthering children's education, schools in the Karamoja region of Uganda are also important for providing meals. Ireland supports the Home Grown School Feeding programme, which delivers food to schools.

However, when schools closed in March 2020 to prevent the spread of COVID-19, this vital source of nutrition was cut off for students. Ireland supported the World Food Programme to deliver the food to the homes of the students instead.

Not only did this deliver a source of healthy meals to students, it also saved on food costs for families. The Karamoja region was badly hit by the economic downturn and the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on movement, trading and livelihoods. This support to young people and families at this difficult time was vital.

One parent said: 'This food brought happiness to most families. With the beans and maize, we were able to give our families two meals a day.'

Another parent noted that the rations received helped to prevent the movement of children from rural areas to the cities: *'There were a number of schoolgirls who were set to travel to the urban areas to beg on streets. When the news of a distribution was received, the girls did not travel.'*



CASE STUDY

Responding to flooding in Afghanistan

Badi (32) and his family live in a remote rural community in northern Afghanistan that is prone to flooding. With funding from Ireland, Concern Worldwide supported Badi and over 30,000 people like him in 30 such communities.

Through this programme, Concern supports these communities to prepare for disaster, to reduce the damage it causes, and to recover from disaster when it happens.

Badi has a physical disability and due to this is unable to walk. Concern plays special attention to ensuring that people with disabilities, like Badi, are supported to recover from disasters when they happen. Due to frequent flooding in the area, Concern responded by providing Badi and other vulnerability community members cash support and a kit to replace important household items, such as, soap, blankets, kitchen items and solar powered lamps.



Yemen – A student at the Aal Okab school in Saada city stands in the ruins of one of his former classrooms, destroyed in the ongoing conflict. Photo: OCHA/Giles Clarke

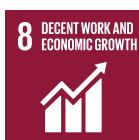
CASE STUDY

Supporting UN relief in Yemen

The ongoing war in Yemen resulted in the worst humanitarian crisis in the world during 2020. Last year, Ireland provided €6 million to the UN's Yemen humanitarian fund, a pooled fund supported by 24 donors. The fund allocated €82 million to 62 humanitarian projects implemented by 35 partners. The projects covered every type of humanitarian activity, including health, nutrition and protection for the most vulnerable.

Yemen is a complex and dangerous environment. The flexibility of the fund allows it to allocate resources to priority interventions, wherever and whenever they are most needed. This flexibility was fully required at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic when the fund had to swiftly adapt and maintain dedicated support to humanitarian partners despite additional challenges.

In a country like Yemen, where Ireland does not have a permanent in-country presence, the fund gives Ireland the ability to support much-needed humanitarian projects while the UN handles grant management, monitoring and reporting.



Promoting gender equality

2020 posed serious challenges to gender equality around the world. The COVID-19 pandemic and the ensuing impacts on society highlighted the structural inequities facing women and girls. There is a body of evidence globally to demonstrate that the pandemic has disproportionately impacted women and girls, including adverse effects on their health, education, livelihoods, nutrition and safety. For example:

- » Globally, lockdowns have been associated with a significant increase in gender-based violence (GBV).
- » Women have been disproportionately impacted economically, with some estimates stating that women are 1.8 times more likely to lose their jobs.
- » The crisis is expected to increase the gender-poverty gap significantly, with 118 women for every 100 men aged between 25 and 34 expected to be in extreme poverty in 2021.
- » An estimated 20 million more girls may be out of school after the crisis has passed.
- » Millions of women and girls have been unable to access critical services such as sexual and reproductive health services.
- » The COVID-19 pandemic has put even greater strain on the women, peace and security agenda, as resources are diverted to coronavirus response. Reduced funding and disrupted coordination has interrupted the work of many women's rights organizations and civil society groups to promote and protect women's rights, and build inclusive and sustainable peace.
- » Moreover, the pandemic is compounding many challenges faced by women peacebuilders on the ground. The pandemic has increased violence and security risks and the implementation of peace agreements has been delayed.



Ireland has ensured that gender equality is at the centre of its response to COVID-19. This has been done by supporting targeted interventions that specifically address gendered impacts of the pandemic and also ensuring that the specific needs of women and girls are integrated across all responses.

At the global level, Ireland worked with our multilateral partners to ensure that gender equality was at the centre of the global response. This included engagement with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) at technical, senior management and ministerial levels to ensure that gender equality, and in particular GBV, was and is fully addressed within the UN's Global Humanitarian Response Plan.

Ireland continues to ensure that girls' education does not become a victim to COVID-19. Almost 20 million girls are estimated to have left education since the pandemic began, adding to approximately 130 million who are already out of school. Ireland has advocated on the importance of increasing investment in girls' education in response.



A 13 year old displaced Syrian girl attends online classes in Dana district camp.
Photo: Saed Charity Association

Ireland engaged extensively with the Generation Equality Forum process, a global gathering for gender equality convened by UN Women and co-hosted by the governments of Mexico and France. This engagement, especially in the early phase of the process, focused in particular on championing the role and importance of girls' education, which emerged as an important theme for the Forum. Ireland worked to ensure that this was prioritized in the Forum's Action Coalitions in early consultations with hosts France and Mexico and UN Women. Education was integrated across the Action Coalitions as a cross-cutting issue and the rights of adolescent girls were specifically addressed across all Action Coalitions. Planned fora in Mexico and Paris to refine and launch these Action Coalitions were delayed to 2021 as a result of COVID-19.

CALL TO ACTION FOR ADOLESCENT GIRLS EDUCATION

Girls' education is a transformative force and a key priority area for Ireland. In February, Ireland hosted a high-level meeting at the United Nations to discuss how to get all adolescent girls into school and learning in safe, supportive, and healthy environments. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, Mary Robinson, Bono joined five inspiring youth advocates - Sonita Alizadeh, Marie-Claire Kaberamanzi, Nibras Khudaida, Aisling O'Boyle & Mohamed Sidibay – to launch a global call to action for adolescent girls education. The event also featured the Irish musicians from Music Generation, accompanied by the UN Choir and the Pihcintu Choir of refugee and immigrant girls.

The call to action for 12 years of free, quality education for all girls was strongly amplified and supported across the UN system, by other missions, opinion leaders, partners, and NGOs.





Girls have been disproportionately impacted by school closures due to Covid-19. This young girl studies via online classes in Dana district camp for displaced people in Syria. Photo: Saed Charity Association



COVID-19 was a disruptive force to education in 2020, and the pandemic worsened pre-existing inequalities as a result of school closures or distance learning. Those previously marginalized were most at risk of education backslide or not returning to school. In May, Ireland hosted a webinar bringing together over 200 participants including Permanent Representatives to the United Nations, thought leaders on girls' education and adolescent girls' advocates, to discuss how to address the specific impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on adolescent girls' education and agree actions required to support adolescent girls continue their education during the COVID-19 pandemic and return to school once reopened.

Ireland's work in supporting girls' education was also featured in the RTÉ Home School Hub TV broadcasts with a focus education in Sierra Leone. Ireland worked with the Sierra Leone Ministry of Education to support their COVID 19 response, including the provision of home schooling as well as improving access to water and sanitation in schools.



CASE STUDY

Savings and loan schemes creating brighter futures in Sierra Leone

Mariama Kalokoh lost both her parents when she was very young. Still just a child, she had to drop out of school and sell goods on the street to support herself.

Now a young woman, Mariama is known throughout her community in Lower Bambara, Sierra Leone, as someone who inspires women and girls to become self-reliant.

In 2016, she was one of a group of 25 women who founded the Unity Women Development Association to promote women's engagement in politics. She also became involved with the local Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA), which is run by SEND Sierra Leone with the support of Irish Aid to help women gain economic independence.

Not only did Mariama benefit from her involvement in the VSLA, she was central to organising 35 new VSLAs benefitting over 825 women. All 35 VSLAs are now active and supporting women to invest in agricultural activities and personal business ventures.

'I learned a lot during my VSLA training sessions with SEND Sierra Leone,' she says. 'I knew I had to spread this knowledge to women in a way they would understand since most of us are uneducated and uninformed. Being aware of the opportunities available for women groups made us feel more secure and empowered to take on problems.'

The Unity Women Development Association operates as an umbrella body for all 35 VSLAs under Mariama's stewardship. As part of COVID-19 emergency responses by Ireland, the Unity Women were given a gari processing machine to help process their cassava into gari, a type of flour. The income generated was saved into the VSLA to provide larger loans for group members.

The Unity Women Development Association has cultivated 15 acres of land which has been used to harvest over 100 bags of rice, 10 bags of couscous, 20 bags of okra and corn in the 2020 planting season.

All 35 VSLAs under the stewardship of the association have been registered with the Kenema Credit Union to obtain loans to strengthen and expand their agricultural and business operations.

Additionally, the Unity Women Development Association received a loan from the credit union in 2021 and used part of it to purchase two pieces of land to build a rice mill and silo to process and store their rice harvest. They plan to construct a technical vocational centre with the remaining funds from the loan and personal savings from their VSLA. This centre will conduct adult literacy classes for women and offer instruction in tailoring, soap manufacturing, and tie-dyeing, among other skills, to women and adolescent girls.

Mariama Kalokoh says it is her desire to use the skills training centre to change the lives of many other women like herself who have had little or no access to education.



Mary sharing her story at the Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW) offices in Kibera. Mary is one of the beneficiaries of the Social Safety Nets for Vulnerable Households Living in Informal Settlements programme assistance to SGBV survivors funded by the Irish Aid. Photo: Jared N. Onsongo (Concern Worldwide)

CASE STUDY

Supporting survivors to get back on their feet

Mary*, a 36-year-old mother of three and a resident of Kenya's Kibera informal settlement, was in an abusive relationship for over five years. Her partner repeatedly abused her and her 4-year-old son and left them battered and bruised.

On one occasion, the violence was so bad that Mary was left with a broken leg. Because of her limited resources Mary only received medical help after several weeks of living with the pain and she almost lost her leg as a result. This was her turning point, and she finally decided to leave her partner.

Mary had to single-handedly provide for her son, but when the pandemic hit she found herself struggling to make ends meet.

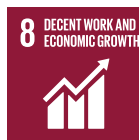
Mary came in contact with the Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW) a non-governmental organization that offers support to survivors of gender-based violence.

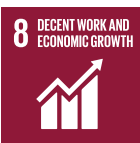
CREAW are members of a consortium, which also includes Concern Worldwide, Oxfam and others, supporting vulnerable households in informal settlements affected by Covid-19 included her in the project. Mary became one of 413 beneficiaries supported through Concern Worldwide with funding from Irish Aid, each receiving three rounds of cash transfers totalling to Ksh23,004 (€172) that helped them get back on their feet.

Mary used the money to pay rent set up a small business selling second hand shoes and clothes. Mary describes the support she received as a blessing that came just in time to change her life.

'I am grateful for the support that CREAW and Concern gave us last year,' she says. 'It helped me start afresh and gave me the start I needed at that point. I am very grateful for the help.'

* The names and identifying details have been changed to protect the privacy of individuals.





While support to girls education is a major part of Ireland’s work to address gender equality, social protection, economic empowerment and addressing Gender-Based Violence are equally important. Across their development programmes, in partner countries Ireland supported social protection programmes that meet the specific needs of women and girls as part of the COVID-19 response. For example in Zambia, Ireland supported an emergency cash transfer programme for informal workers in urban settings that specifically targeted women.

Programmes that support women’s economic empowerment and private sector engagement are also being adapted to address the specific needs of women in light of COVID-19. For example, in Kenya, Ireland supported the establishment of ‘safe trade zones’ on the border between Uganda and Kenya for female traders affected by COVID-19.

Ireland also worked with partners to adapt and maintain essential GBV services. For example:

- » In South Africa, Ireland supported UN Women on the development of rapid referral systems for survivors of GBV. In Sierra Leone, Ireland supported government efforts to roll out one-stop centres that support the provision of GBV response services. We also worked with UNFPA to adapt programmes to support the establishment of safe spaces for adolescent girls out of school.
- » In Zimbabwe, Ireland supported the UN, government and civil society partners to establish GBV mitigation and prevention measures, while strengthening referral mechanisms and disseminating information about the availability and accessibility of GBV services. In particular, Ireland is working to ensure that national response plans include a strong focus on working with women rights organisations.
- » At the recent Generation Equality forum, as board member of the Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action, Ireland advocated for the redesign of peace and security and humanitarian processes so as to include women and girls – including peacebuilders, refugees, other forcibly displaced and stateless women and girls.

The impact of the pandemic on gender equality will likely be felt for many years. Ireland will continue to put gender at the heart of its development and humanitarian programmes

CASE STUDY

A rising demand for services in Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown contributed to a 75% increase in demand for services for women suffering from gender-based violence. In response, Ireland supported Oxfam to work with its Zimbabwean partner, Musasa, to scale up services to respond to domestic violence and advocate for women’s rights. As a result, 1,500 individuals per month were able to take the first step to find shelter and access GBV support services; the capacity of two Musasa shelters in Harare and Mberengwa was doubled; and an additional 274 women and 121 children accessed shelter and medical, legal, and counselling services.

CASE STUDY

Supporting fisheries in Haiti

In Haiti, small-scale fisheries are a source of employment, income, food security and nutrition. However, small-scale fisheries tend to be unmanaged, overfished and are highly susceptible to climate change. The Resilience of the Blue Economy Programme was developed by GOAL to support local fishing communities and protect marine life. The programme introduced new ways to manage catch, storage and sale processes, in tune with sustainable fishing practices. Fishers' Association became educators on laws and strategies to preserve and protect vital marine habitats. Since the training programme began, participants have stopped using unregulated fishing nets and have been adhering to the fishing calendar.

Supporting climate action

We are already seeing the impact of global temperature rises, most prominently through extreme weather events and our diminishing biodiversity.

In response to these challenges, Ireland has embarked on a green transition. The 2020 Programme for Government recognised climate change as a major domestic and foreign policy challenge.

In October 2020, the Department of Foreign Affairs established a new Climate Unit to maximise our ability to tackle climate change. Integrating climate fully into Irish foreign policy creates opportunities to protect and further Ireland's interests and values. We know that climate change is both a local and a global challenge and so the solutions are local and global.

The role of the Climate Unit is to support, coordinate, shape and scale-up Ireland's climate diplomacy and climate financing, in close collaboration with other Government Departments. Key priorities include supporting communities to adapt to the effects of climate change in least developed countries and small island developing states, and protecting the ocean and promoting a sustainable blue economy. The Unit will also deliver on key priorities of the Programme for Government, including doubling the percentage of our Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) for climate finance by 2030 and climate proofing our ODA.

Climate action provides entry points for realising the aims of A Better World, our policy for international development, through supporting adaptation and resilience building efforts.

For example, in Sierra Leone Ireland has supported Freetown City Council to strengthen infrastructure to reduce flooding in communities at risk of increasing extreme weather events. In Tanzania farming communities are supported in drought prone areas with drought-resistant seeds and other interventions.

Through Irish Aid's climate action, Ireland also supports the least developed countries and small island developing states in climate negotiations. Climate action also cuts across key Irish priorities such as the realisation of human rights and the maintenance of international peace and security. Ireland is also playing a leading role in integrating climate into discussions of the UN Security Council.



Our partners



A child receives a routine vaccine in Kinshasa, DRC.
Photo: UNICEF/UNI357243/Desjardins



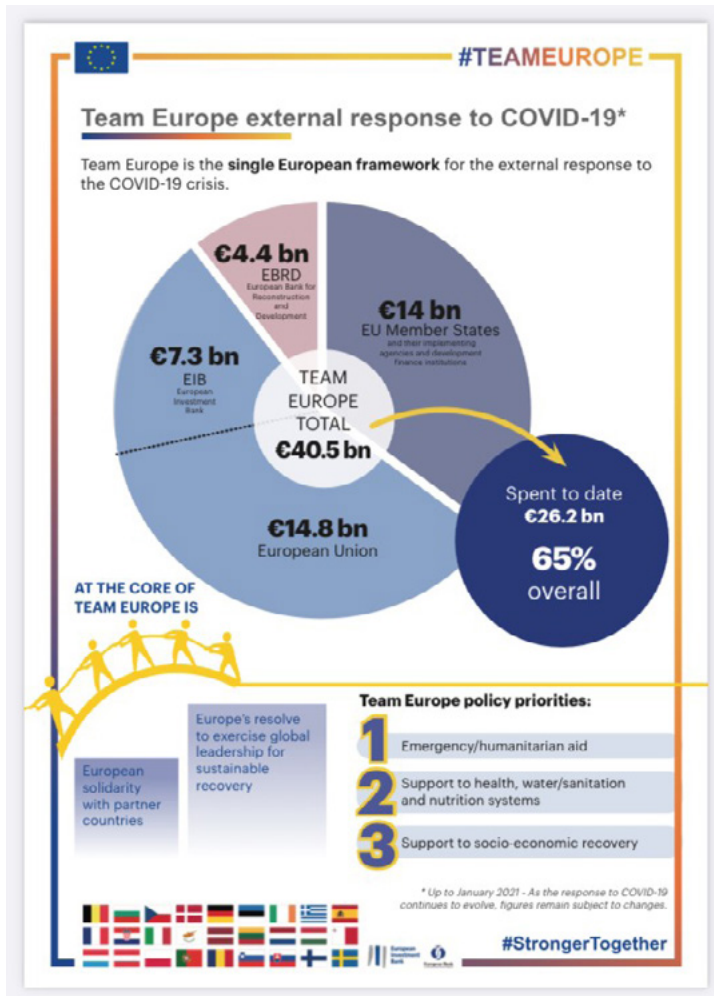
Ireland partners with international, national and local bodies and organisations to deliver change to the lives of the most vulnerable.

At a multilateral level, we support the European Union (EU), United Nations (UN), and international financial institutions. We also work with a range of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and civil society organisations.

In 2020, Ireland was an active participant in 'Team Europe' and supported a range of multilateral partners to respond to the unprecedented crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. These partners included the UN, international financial institutions and organisations such as the Global Alliance on Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

These organisations are playing a key role in COVID-19 testing, treatment and vaccines, including the establishment of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator and the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility.

These global collaboration initiatives are key to accelerating the development and production of COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines, and equitable access to them.



Working with the EU

The EU and its 27 member states significantly increased their Official Development Assistance (ODA) for partner countries to €66.8 billion in 2020, a 15% increase over 2019. This confirmed the EU and its member states as the world's leading donor, providing 46% of global assistance in 2020 in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals. The total Irish contribution to EU ODA in 2020 amounted to over €230 million, around a quarter of Ireland's ODA.

Much of this increase in 2020 was down to the fast EU response to the pandemic globally. This 'Team Europe' response, with Ireland participating centrally, was crucial at a time when so many people in partner countries faced significant health, economic and social challenges linked to the COVID-19 crisis. More than €40 billion in assistance was pledged, of which over €26 billion was spent in 2020 in support of immediate humanitarian needs; health, water, sanitation and nutrition systems; as well as tackling the social and economic consequences of the pandemic.

Team Europe also supported COVAX, the global initiative to ensure equitable and fair access to safe and effective vaccines globally. Team Europe is investing more than €2.47 billion to help secure 1.3 billion doses of vaccines for 92 low and middle-income countries by the end 2021.



In December 2020 political agreement was reached on the new Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (known as NDICI-Global Europe) for 2021-27, bringing together EU development instruments into a new consolidated and streamlined instrument with an overall budget of €79.5 billion. Ireland played a strong role in ensuring that the priorities in A Better World were taken into account in NDICI-Global Europe and that Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States were well targeted. NDICI-Global Europe was designed to give the EU the flexibility needed to respond faster and in a more coherent way to ongoing and emerging global challenges, while supporting global priorities such as peace and stability, good governance, trade and inclusive and sustainable growth.

In December 2020, the EU and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) agreed a new partnership agreement to serve as the legal framework for EU relations with 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The agreement, which succeeds the Cotonou Partnership Agreement, aims to strengthen the capacity of the EU and the ACP countries to address global challenges together.

In 2020 Ireland contributed €1.8m to the Geneva-based organisations supporting Aid for Trade, namely: the Advisory Centre for World Trade Organisation (WTO) Law; the WTO French-Irish Mission Internship Programme; the WTO Standards and Trade Development Facility; the International Trade Centre (ITC); and the Port Management Programme of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. According to the World Bank, ‘for every euro of assistance provided to support trade facilitation reform in developing countries, there is a return of up to €70 in economic benefits.’

The ‘infodemic’ associated with the COVID-19 crisis has highlighted how dangerous misleading narratives can be to informed public debate. Building on Ireland’s support of €1 million in 2020 to the core resources of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), funding of €400,000 was provided in 2020 for the Global Migration Media Academy. This initiative brings together IOM and NUI Galway, as well as number of institutions in the pilot countries of Mexico, Morocco, the Philippines and Serbia, to provide migration-related training to media professionals and students.

Working with the UN

The UN's response to COVID-19 supports action across three pillars:

- » A large-scale, coordinated and comprehensive health response
- » Measures to address the devastating socio-economic, humanitarian and human rights aspects of the crisis
- » A recovery process that builds back better.

Ireland supported this initiative by directly funding COVID-19 response measures. Ireland was the first country to respond to the WHO COVID-19 appeal. This included funding the WHO's support to developing countries to contain the spread and mitigate the impact of the pandemic, as well as measures to respond to the socio-economic impact of the crisis, including the rise in gender-based violence.

Ireland also facilitated its multilateral partners to redirect existing funding to address the immediate needs generated by the pandemic to enable a quick and flexible response.

COVID-19 has set back wider development efforts, with global human development measurements declining for the first time in 30 years. Recognising this, Ireland provided flexible core funding to UN agencies that play central roles in tackling poverty, gender inequality and climate change, as well as strengthening governance and reducing humanitarian need.

Support to the UN was also provided through trust funds targeting particular areas, such as gender-based violence and support to victims of torture, and to the UN peacebuilding fund. This fund works to sustain peace in countries at risk of or affected by conflict, which has been exacerbated by the pressures of the pandemic.

Our embassies also provided support to UN operations in our partner countries in areas such as social protection, nutrition, education and HIV/AIDS.



Clinic in Mozambique dispenses medication to patient.
Photo: UNAIDS/Cynthia Matonhodze

Ireland's core contributions to UN agencies in 2020 included:

- » €775 million to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to assist the agency respond swiftly to the COVID-19 crisis. UNDP is the technical lead for the UN's socio-economic response to the pandemic, with a focus on social protection, governance, digitalisation and supporting a green recovery.
- » €7.2 million to UNICEF to support the agency in its work on the public health response to COVID-19; supporting the continuity of health, HIV, nutrition, education, WASH, child protection, gender-based violence, social protection and other social services; advocating for child rights; and supporting the ACT Accelerator partnership.
- » €3.5 million to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to support the roll out of its Global Response Plan to the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on continuing access to sexual and reproductive health services, addressing gender-based violence and harmful practices, and ensuring the continued availability of contraceptives and reproductive health supplies.
- » €2 million to UN Women to enable the implementation of a rapid and targeted response to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on women and girls and to ensure that the long-term recovery benefits them.
- » €2.4 million to UNAIDS to support people living with and affected by HIV across the world to manage the impact of the pandemic. It also investigated how the experience of tackling HIV could help inform and guide effective, efficient, people-centred, human rights-based and sustainable COVID-19 responses, including guidance on how to combat stigma and discrimination.
- » €2 million to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to support a human-rights based approach to COVID-19 recovery. The Office's response included publishing a toolkit of treaty law perspectives and jurisprudence to strengthen the human rights-based approach to both UN and States' response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- » €1.75 million to the UN Peacebuilding Fund to mitigate and prevent conflict by supporting inclusion, social cohesion and community resilience.
- » €1.2 million to the UN Volunteers' Special Voluntary Fund, enabling the agency to mobilise national volunteers in 79 countries and with 18 United Nations entities to support the UN's COVID-19 response. Most of those volunteers were deployed in support of inter-agency coordination, joint programmes and public health response.





UN teams travel from Darfur to Golo, Sudan.
Photo: Taras Pronin



‘My United Nations Youth Volunteer assignment with the UNDP Multi-Country Office for Barbados and the Early Caribbean began early October 2020. Fully funded by Ireland, this position is providing me with an outstanding opportunity to contribute actively to building more resilient societies in SIDS [Small Island Developing States], facing intensifying climate change impacts and the repercussions of the pandemic. The latter has tremendously affected Caribbean island tourism-based economies and pushed them to consider different approaches’

UN VOLUNTEER, SAMUEL HENRI
(PROGRAMME OFFICER, UNDP, BARBADOS)



Young beneficiaries during awareness session on COVID-19 shielding measures, Antananarivo, Madagascar. Photo: UN Peacebuilding Fund, Madagascar



Working with Institutional Financial Institutions

International financial institutions such as the World Bank Group (WBG), the African Development Bank (AfDB), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) provide significant financial and technical support for developing countries to eradicate extreme poverty, boost shared prosperity and help to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2020, each of these institutions, together with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), played a significant role in providing resources to developing country partners to respond to the COVID-19 crisis, including emergency assistance to shore up national budgets, economies and the livelihoods of citizens, in addition to financing for vaccine procurement and delivery.

- » The World Bank committed to providing up to \$160 billion in financing up to June 2021 to address the health, economic and social shocks that countries around the world are facing due to COVID-19, including support to strengthen testing and surveillance, to bolster social protection and to support businesses and jobs.
- » As part of the wider \$160 billion commitment, in October 2020, the World Bank committed to providing \$12 billion to support developing countries finance the purchase and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, test and treatments. The bank also supported analysis and assessments at country level for vaccine readiness and deployment.



Sheilah Ainembabazi is one of the many women who benefited from Nurture Africa's healthcare programmes in the Wakiso and Mubende districts of Uganda. Throughout the COVID pandemic, Nurture Africa has been able to maintain its essential health services with Irish Aid support. Over 1,500 pregnant women completed their antenatal visits, over a thousand received family planning, and nearly twenty thousand received primary health care. Photo: William Musoke, Nurture Africa staff



GOAL has supported regular weekly radio talk shows in Uganda to raise awareness of COVID and help prevent its spread. Technical experts from local government and local NGOs presented findings and took questions. Here, Farouk Batambuze, GOAL Uganda's WASH Officer, gave valuable information on hand washing and other tips during a radio show on Eastern Voice FM. This was vital in reaching remote communities who had otherwise limited access to COVID prevention tips. Photo: GOAL Staff

- » Through the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Fund (CCRT), the IMF has provided debt service relief to low-income countries to free up funds for the crisis response. The first tranche of this relief was granted to 29 eligible countries in October 2020 and amounted to c.\$250 million, the second tranche to April 2021 is c.\$237 million. The European Commission provided €183 million to the CCRT to support this debt relief.
- » The Asian Development Bank announced a \$20bn COVID-19 response package to help developing member countries counter the severe macroeconomic and health impacts caused by COVID-19. The Bank also launched a \$9 billion vaccine initiative—the Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX), offering rapid and equitable support to its members so as to enable them to procure and deliver effective and safe COVID-19 vaccines.
- » Ireland redirected €2.1m from the Ireland Trust Fund for Small Island Developing States at the Asian Development Bank to provide assistance in the provision of social protection and direct aid to some of the islands worst affected by the pandemic.
- » The African Development Bank rolled out a suite of interventions to strengthen African countries' responses to the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This included a COVID-19 Response Facility of up to \$10 billion to provide flexible and emergency assistance to the Bank's members to shore up their national budget, economies and the livelihoods of their citizens.



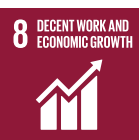
Partnership with Non-Governmental Organisations

During 2020, Ireland supported many civil society organisations working closely with vulnerable communities around the world and helped them to cope with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through Irish Aid, the Department of Foreign Affairs responded quickly to the pandemic, working with partners to assess the risks both to people in developing countries and to organisational operations. Our cooperation programmes were adjusted accordingly. This included an immediate response to the health threat as well as adjusting existing programmes to ensure they could continue despite restrictions.

Our NGO partners undertook a range of programme measures to respond to the pandemic. Examples include:

- » Self Help Africa worked with local community radio stations to deliver public health information in Uganda.
- » Concern supported COVID-19 prevention awareness-raising, including hand-washing and testing in Bangladesh, Liberia and the Central African Republic.
- » Mísean Cara supported health facilities by providing personal protective equipment, supporting locum staff salaries and supporting the establishment of isolation services.
- » Nepal Leprosy Trust held an information seminar on COVID-19 for community leaders at a local hospital.
- » HelpAge, GOAL, Trócaire and Self Help Africa provided small cash grants to support vulnerable people.
- » Aidlink pivoted the school feeding element of its programme in Kenya to work with community facilitators to distribute food.
- » In Mozambique, Serve supported young people through their vocational training programme to make face masks.



The impact of government lockdowns was particularly severe in countries with a lot of casual employment and very limited social protection programmes.

2020 was an incredibly difficult year for communities around the world. Our civil society partners once again proved their incredible commitment to a fair and just world and their capacity to adapt quickly and effectively to support vulnerable communities across over 70 countries.

Ireland continues to play a leading role in promoting and protecting civil society space around the world both in our international advocacy and through our grant partnerships. As co-chair of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Task Team on CSO Enabling Environment, throughout 2020 Ireland worked to secure agreement on donor support to, and through, civil society. At the November 2020 High Level Meeting, the OECD DAC committed to develop a new Policy Recommendation on Enabling Civil Society in Development Co-operation and Humanitarian Assistance. The Recommendation calls for the promotion and investment in the leadership of local civil society actors and will allow every UN member State, including Ireland, to be measured how we include civil society in national development.

The OECD DAC 2020 Peer Review highlighted Ireland's partnerships with civil society as particularly strong, noting relationships characterised by mutual trust, with quality funding, and an open culture for substantive, regular dialogue. In 2020, the Programme Grant II (PG II 2017-22) and Humanitarian Programme Plan (HPP 2019-22), DFA's flagship civil society funding

mechanisms, were subject to an external evaluation which found strong evidence that grants have been effectively used to respond to complex humanitarian and development challenges.

The pandemic also saw a disruption to the education of millions of children. Plan International Ireland and Children in Crossfire worked with government, schools and communities to support distance learning.

A disturbing trend across all countries has been the rise in domestic and gender-based violence associated with the pandemic restrictions. Action Aid supported women's groups to address gender-based violence as they worked to reinstate services for survivors that were affected by pandemic restrictions and ensure that information and renewed reporting pathways were made available.

While nearly all countries have implemented restrictions to protect public health, there were also worrying reports of authorities using the pandemic as a pretext for illegitimate restrictions on civil society space. Our partners worked to ensure people could continue to exercise their democratic rights. Frontline Defenders supported local human rights defenders despite intimidation and arrests, developing a number of resources for human rights defenders working from home, including a guide on secure digital tools. Trócaire and its local partners monitored government-decreed states of emergency, reporting violations and providing support to defenders.



Bodoor (17) in her school in Azraq Refugee Camp and preparing for her final exams. She and her family, including two sisters and three brothers, have lived in Azraq since it opened in 2014.
Photo: UNICEF/Herwig



Stability Fund

2020 was a year of adaptation for partners funded under the Department of Foreign Affairs' Stability Fund. Funding of €7.22m was provided to 54 organisations working to promote peace and stability at a global, regional or national level.

Partners ranged from large UN bodies and international NGOs to smaller civil society organisations and research institutes. They provided important support as Ireland prepared to take its seat at the UN Security Council, with the declared focus on accountability, conflict prevention, peacebuilding and sustaining peace.

Inevitably, the sudden onset of COVID-19 during the first part of the year impacted on partners' plans for the delivery of their projects. The department worked closely with partners to reorient programmes and projects, with many successfully moving from in-person activities to digital platforms. The Dialogue Advisory Group, for example, was able to continue its annual Amsterdam Dialogue as a webinar, providing an important networking event for mediators in the midst of the pandemic.

The pandemic also opened up new and important areas of work.

Partnerships with organisations such as the International Crisis Group were particularly important in producing high quality analysis on the impact of COVID-19 on conflict dynamics. Other partner organisations such as Crisis Action and Dialogue Advisory Group worked to promote humanitarian ceasefires, while the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue worked with communities in war zones to monitor the outbreak and facilitate humanitarian access to hard-to reach populations.

The Women Peace and Humanitarian fund focussed on supporting grassroots women peacebuilders in dealing with COVID-19 related issues by quickly opening up a rapid response window for funding. UN Women, in conjunction with the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, held consultations with grassroots women's leaders resulting in the production of a report entitled Building Peace from the Grassroots: Learning from Women Peacebuilders to Advance the WPS Agenda.



Sightsavers: Mame Diarra Thioubou's business selling homemade snacks was forced to close during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mame Diarra, who is blind, was left with no income. Sightsavers worked with local partners in Senegal to ensure people with disabilities were included in national responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. Working with local Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs), they successfully lobbied the Senegalese government to provide essential aid kits for over 61,000 households. Mame Diarra said without it, the year would have been "catastrophic". Photo: Khady Ba / Sightsavers



Promoting Global Citizenship Education

Global Citizenship and Development Education is a life-long educational process which aims to increase public awareness and understanding of the rapidly changing, interdependent and unequal world in which we live. Ireland is committed to ongoing support for development education to help the Irish public become informed and engaged on issues affecting our dynamic and globalised world.

The development education strategy guides Ireland’s approach to global citizenship and development education. In response to the changing global context, including the growing impact of climate change and the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for education and learning, a new strategy for global citizenship and development education will be developed in 2021. During 2020, we have continued to work closely with the Department of Education and other relevant Government Departments to ensure strong coherence and co-ordination.

The development education budget for 2020 was €4,500,472. Funding was made available to six strategic partners, international development NGOs working on development education (through the programme grant scheme) as well as funding 24 partners through the development education grant scheme.

Irish Aid Development Education Strategy

Making progress on global citizenship education across Ireland 2019-2020

78%

of people surveyed

can give an example of how a **development education** learning event has influenced their attitudes and behaviour



Learners reached nationally

351,712



126

new or revised **knowledge products***

*books, videos, journals and games that civil society organisations and educational institutions develop to reach learners



32%

primary schools

73%

post-primary schools



were supported across all counties in the country

4,016

primary teacher trainees have received training

on development education



2,706

primary and post-primary teachers

have attended Irish Aid supported continuous professional development (CPD)





SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR WORK IN 2020 INCLUDE:

THE LAUNCH OF THE 100 OBJECTS EXHIBITION

The Irish Global Solidarity in 100 Objects exhibition provided a snapshot of Irish engagement with many important causes over the past 50 years through 100 objects shared by members of the public and Irish organisations. The project was subsequently digitised and launched as an online exhibition on Culture Night 2020.

WORLDWISE GLOBAL SCHOOLS (WWGS) –
TEACHER TRAINING IN GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

The teacher training event for 85 teachers in January 2020 delivered training on global citizenship education for teachers, many who were relatively new to the area. Further continuous professional development was delivered online for the rest of 2020, including to 77 school principals and deputy principals in November 2020.

NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL OF IRELAND – ONE WORLD WEEK

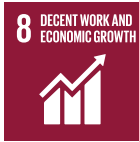
The theme of the 2020 One World Week was ‘Power and Youth’. 631 young people attended online from a range of backgrounds including people from both migrant and traveller background. The Director General of Irish Aid, Ruairí de Búrca, spoke on a panel on Racial Justice and Development Education.



Pupils from Kilcolgan Educate Together exploring global refugee and migration issues with Galway One World Centre. Photo: Vicky Donnelly, Galway One World Centre 2020



WorldWide Global Schools (WWGS) – Teacher Training in Global Citizenship Education
WorldWide Global Schools Teacher Training Event, Killashee House, Co. Kildare.
Photo: Conor Healy, Picture It Photography, 2020



SOME EXAMPLES OF PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRAMMES IN 2020 INCLUDE:

ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE - YOUTH 2030

The Youth 2030 programme continued to engage with young people and youth educators across the country. Due to the pandemic much of the engagement was online but the programme still reached 1,300 young people and youth workers. Youth 2030 is led by the National Youth Council of Ireland in partnership with Trócaire, Concern and the Centre for Youth Research and Development (NUI Maynooth). Key components of the programme include support to the Level 8 Certificate in global youth work, training of youth workers and direct engagement with young people including the annual One World Week Festival.



Engaging Young People - Youth 2030. Photo: National Youth Council of Ireland



Saolta. Photo: Saolta, 2020

SAOLTA

The Saolta Programme is a consortium led by Development Perspectives alongside AONTAS, Concern Worldwide, Irish Rural Link and the Department of Adult and Community Education in Maynooth University. The objective is to increase the accessibility, quality and effectiveness of development education within adult and community education in Ireland. The programme delivers workshops and training, as well as hosting awareness raising events aimed at adult learners, journalists, the business community, community activists, community leaders and community educators. At an institutional level the programme delivers in many ways, including by raising the profile of the Sustainable Development Goals in county development plans and by developing accredited modules for use in initial teacher education courses for adult and community educators. The programme also undertakes and publishes sector wide research on development education and adult education topics and hosts and disseminates resources for self-directed distance learning. These activities were all successfully delivered online in 2020.



National Youth Council of Ireland.
Photo: National Youth Council of Ireland, 2020

WORLDWISE GLOBAL SCHOOLS

WorldWise Global Schools (WWGS) is Ireland's national global citizenship education programme (GCE) for post-primary schools, providing a one-stop shop of training, funding, resources and guidance for post-primary schools to engage in GCE. In the 2019/2020 academic year, 507 schools engaged with the WWGS programme, which represents 70% of all post-primary schools.

The Global Passport Award is an accreditation for global citizenship education that is open to all post-primary schools in Ireland. In 2020, there were 135 Global Passport holder schools, which represents 18% of all schools. In 2020, WWGS produced a new curriculum linked to resources on 'Doing Development Education in Home Economics'. They also funded the development of Galway One World Centre's 'Beyond Borders', a toolkit of creative and participatory approaches for exploring refuge and migration and Financial Justice Ireland's 'We can solve it!', a resource to embed Global Financial Justice & Global Citizenship Education into the junior certificate maths curriculum.



Ubuntu and DICE
Photo: DICE, 2020

UBUNTU AND DICE

Ubuntu is a national network which brings together post-primary teacher educators and partner NGOs. In the academic year 2019/2020, Ubuntu-supported projects delivered global citizenship education (GCE) to 2,251 post-primary student teachers across 11 Initial Teacher Education institutions. The Ubuntu Dialogue Day, which took place in June 2020 was held online. The theme for the event was Development Education in a Global Pandemic.

The DICE Project, a national strategic educational initiative, continued to integrate development into primary level initial teacher education programmes for both student teachers and teacher educators, reaching 3,339 learners in the academic year 2019/2020. Modules were transferred online due to the pandemic with some focussing on global health. DICE continued to engage with research. One particular highlight was the publication of the book *Challenging Perceptions of Africa in Schools: Critical Approaches to Global Justice Education* by Barbara O'Toole, Eburn Joseph and David Nyaluke (Routledge Research in Education).



Irish Aid Centre facilitator, Michael Chanda.
Photo: SUAS, 2020

SUAS

The Suas Global Citizenship Programme brings about changes in third level students' knowledge, skills, attitudes and actions in relation to global justice issues. 9,400 young people from 17 institutions engaged with Suas activities in 2020, with activities delivered in six third level institutions across Ireland in the first three months of the year and moving online thereafter. Suas collaborated with 13 Students' Unions and 21 student societies in 2020 on a range of development education events, campaigns and workshops. 86 volunteers signed up for the Suas 2020 Volunteer Programme and began their training but the deployment of volunteers to India and Zambia was cancelled in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Small Island Developing States

Ireland's Strategy for Partnership with Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was launched in June 2019 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Simon Coveney TD. The Strategy set out a multi-strand approach to deepening Ireland's relationships with SIDS, building on diplomatic, bilateral, multilateral, and international development links, and fostering closer bonds between our peoples.

The Strategy contains 36 commitments. By the end of 2020, 32 of these had been fully or partially implemented including:

- » The establishment of a dedicated unit within the Department of Foreign Affairs to lead on SIDS policy;
- » The launch of a SIDS Fellowship Programme to bring promising individuals to Ireland for master's-level study – ten Fellowships were awarded in 2020 to candidates from SIDS in the Caribbean and Pacific regions;
- » Increased frequency of Ministerial-level meetings;
- » The establishment of a regular calendar of meetings between the Permanent Representative to the EU and Caribbean SIDS on EU issues;
- » The launch of an Ireland – SIDS policy forum, to bring together sectoral experts from Ireland and the various SIDS regions to discuss policy in areas of mutual interest;
- » The establishment of the Ireland Trust Fund for Building Climate Change and Disaster Resilience in Small Island Developing States within the Asia Development Bank. The Trust Fund will provide €12m in funding over the period 2019-2024.

Ireland also undertook its first-ever SIDS-specific humanitarian response in 2020, providing a €3.4 million package to support Small Island Developing

States in preparing for and mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This included €1.3 million to the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) for pandemic preparedness in the African, Caribbean and Pacific SIDS. In addition, the Ireland Trust Fund at the Asian Development Bank (established under Ireland's SIDS Strategy) released €2.1 million to assist Pacific SIDS in responding to the pandemic.

Ireland Fellows programme

Online tin whistle classes and Irish language lessons were amongst the innovations piloted in 2020 to assist Ireland Fellows studying in Ireland during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since 1974, the Ireland Fellows Programme has brought promising mid-career professionals from ODA-eligible partner countries to Ireland to study for a master's qualification at an Irish university or institute of technology.

The programme aims to help to build a cohort of people who will go on to become leaders in their home country, contributing to their country's efforts to achieve national Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while maintaining their relationship and links with Ireland.

In 2020, restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic added additional challenges for the 122 Fellows who concluded their studies remotely from their student accommodation in Ireland and the 121 students who arrived in Ireland to take up their Fellowship. The students adapted with resilience to the difficult circumstances and made the most of opportunities, including online programmes and events.

Access to learning is of fundamental importance and Ireland is expanding the opportunities under the programme, increasing the number of places and eligible countries.

CASE STUDY

From Fiji to Ireland: Sophy's story

In 2020, Ireland welcomed Fellows for the first time from Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean and Pacific regions, who are enrolled in master's programmes with a focus on addressing the challenges posed by climate change, and enhancing the protection of the blue economy and marine life.

Sophy Buinimasi is one of the first cohort of Fellows studying in Ireland under the SIDS Programme. She works for the Fijian Government with the Ministry of iTaukei (Indigenous) Affairs. As a Senior Research Officer, Sophy works with the iTaukei and other stakeholders to ensure that environmental conservation projects are implemented well and positively impact the lives of the iTaukei.

Sophy chose to study for the MSc in Environmental Leadership at NUI Galway because of its relevance to her work dealing with the impacts of climate change – her research focus is on the co-management of natural resources in Fiji.

'For a country like Fiji, with limited means and a young population, dealing with environmental challenges has become an increasing burden,' she says. 'That burden seems certain to worsen as the impacts of climate change become more intense – not only the rising seas and the impacts on our agricultural practices, but also the extreme weather events that pose an ever-present and worsening danger to our people and our infrastructure.'

Sophy says her time in Ireland will be hugely beneficial in her work back in Fiji.

'As an Ireland Fellow, I will benefit from the many opportunities provided at NUI Galway and from other professionals and organisations here in Ireland that are involved in similar areas of work,' she says. 'I hope to use newly acquired skills to upscale research efforts within the Fijian Government and help formulate and implement policies tailored to suit the iTaukei. Also, I do look forward to the transfer of knowledge with my colleagues and partners to increase efficiency and productivity of our projects and programmes.'

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Sophy says she mastered the art of online learning and took full value from her time spent in Galway.

'As one out of six of the first recipients of the Ireland Fellows Programme – SIDS, I am grateful to be pioneering this once in a lifetime opportunity,' she says. 'Ireland has some of the best universities in the world that will greatly benefit any Fijian who dares to participate.'



Country highlights

Ethiopia in Focus



POPULATION:
112.1 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$2,207



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
173



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
66.6 years

Selamawit Gezahgn (29) from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, using sewing skills she learnt to generate an income.
Photo: Barnaby Skinner / Trócaire

KEY RESULTS



Ireland continued its support to the Ministry of Health through the Sustainable Development Goals Performance Fund. Improvements in health outcomes included a significant reduction in under-five and infant mortality rates and improved nutritional status. A measles vaccination campaign saw 15 million 9-59 months old children vaccinated, meeting the national target of 95% coverage.



Ireland contributed to the WHO Ethiopia's COVID-19 programme in support of the Ministry of Health. By end 2020, 23,400 new health workers had been deployed at different COVID-19 case treatment and isolation centres.



From the beginning of the Tigray crisis, Ireland took on a leadership role in the response at both diplomatic and technical levels. The Embassy of Ireland was the first donor to provide funding for the crisis, granting €416,000 in direct funding to Save the Children. This was followed by a further €1million to the Concern-led consortium of Irish NGOs to respond to the needs of 2.3 million people in northern Ethiopia. The Embassy also disbursed €4.1 million to the Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund in support of 15 million people in need across Ethiopia.



With support from Ireland, the government's landmark social protection programme, the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) continued to protect almost 8 million (51.4% female) of the most vulnerable people in Ethiopia from falling into severe food insecurity.

Ethiopia



2020 was the first year of Ireland's new Mission Strategy 2020-25 that aims to contribute to a more equal, stable and prosperous Ethiopia and region. Working across Ireland's political, diplomatic, development cooperation and economic relations, the strategy focuses on advancing national and regional peace and security, strengthening institutions for democratic governance, supporting humanitarian response and social protection, advancing gender equality, and supporting economic reform.

The year saw an unprecedented spike in humanitarian needs, accompanied by a dramatic shift in the operating environment, arising from the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the outbreak of serious communal violence mid-year and, in November, armed conflict in the Tigray region. As the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations became clear, the Embassy worked to ensure the government's national social protection and health programmes were taking a COVID-19 sensitive approach and targeted those most in need. At the same time, recognising that an immediate life-saving humanitarian response was required, Ireland was the first donor to allocate funding to humanitarian NGOs in response to the Tigray crisis as needs emerged.

2020 saw a significant shift in Ireland's priorities in Ethiopia, with an increased focus on women and girls. The Embassy of Ireland has committed to working in ways that support partners and strategic stakeholders to address the underlying structural barriers to gender equality. Our work will focus on Ireland's policy priorities of women in leadership, women peace and security, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and gender-based violence.

Following Ireland's election to the UN Security Council, the Embassy provided accurate and timely reports on the developing situation in Ethiopia, positioning Ireland's leadership at the UNSC on the humanitarian crises in Tigray.

CASE STUDY

Combatting measles in the midst of a pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic hit Ethiopia at a time when the country was running a measles vaccination campaign reaching 14.3 million children. With funding from Ireland, UNICEF supplied personal protective equipment (PPE) and hand sanitizer to protect health workers – including those involved in the measles vaccination campaign – from COVID-19.

The PPE enabled Sister Mekdes Tesfaye to continue her day-to-day work of raising awareness of measles, COVID-19, HIV, family planning and so much more. When doing home visits, she met a one-year-old girl, also named Mekdes, who had fallen ill from measles. She insisted that Mekdes' father, Daniel, should seek medical help for his daughter at a nearby health centre.

After 10 long days of treatment, Daniel got his happy and healthy baby girl back.

'I have greatly benefitted from my decision to take my daughter to a health facility. If I hadn't taken her there, she could have died. I'm very happy with what happened,' shares Daniel as he plays with his healthy baby.

For Sister Mekdes, amid the challenges of her day-to-day work she finds satisfaction and joy in seeing a child feel better.

'I forget my exhaustion when I see a mother deliver her baby safely and when I see a child like Mekdes recover from a severe illness,' she says. *'I see a brighter tomorrow.'*

Kenya in Focus



POPULATION:
52.6 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$4,244



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
143



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
66.7 years

YOUNG SCIENTISTS
KENYA
Young People Transforming Kenya Through Science, Technology & Innovation #YSKenya

Biological
Science Ecological
Science

Cne
Mat ca
ci

KEY RESULTS



With Irish Aid funding, Concern's urban safety net programme in informal settlements in Nairobi enabled 15,046 households to receive 50% of their household requirements and supported 413 survivors of sexual and gender based violence.



The Ireland-Kenya Agri-Food Strategy reached 15,000 households through the dairy value chain and improved milk productivity and quality. The potato value chain was able to adopt a digital platform to ensure 1,800 farmers received extension training and subsidies for seeds and crop protection.



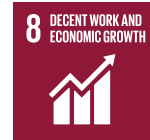
KEPSA provided 11 high level and targeted mentorship and training sessions to women-owned SMEs focused on safeguarding their businesses from the impact of COVID-19.



Young Scientists Kenya moved to an online space with their first ever online exhibition, reaching over 10,000 students with virtual outreach events.

Dancers from St. Francis of Assisi Secondary School, Korogocho, Nairobi. Young Scientists Kenya is an initiative of the Government of Ireland. Photo: DFA file photo

Kenya



The Embassy of Ireland worked with partners to pivot support to where it was most needed in response to COVID-19.

The small grants scheme supported a variety of community-based organisations to address an increase in gender-based violence caused by the pandemic, as well as, for example, supporting children with HIV. The Embassy supported Concern Worldwide to provide an urban safety net programme in informal settlements in Nairobi. In total, 15,046 households received 50% of their requirements and 413 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence were supported.

The Embassy of Ireland, in partnership with Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), funded 11 mentorship and training sessions aimed at providing women-owned small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with skills on safeguarding their business assets, business continuity and minimising the impact of the pandemic on job losses. Additionally, the Embassy supported 100 SMEs with 10,000 masks for COVID-19 prevention.

Young Scientists Kenya adapted to an online model, conducting outreaches and the annual exhibition virtually. It reached 13,000 students directly before COVID-19 and more than 10,000 through the subsequent online platform. 120 students (82 girls and 38 boys) representing 39 schools successfully participated in the first-ever online exhibition.

Ireland continued its support for small holder farmers. Under the potato capacity building project, farmers received a subsidy worth €7,700 to buy seed at 50% discount and crop protection products at 30% discount. The project also piloted a mobile messaging platform where 1,800 farmers received digital content at no cost to replace the in-person training that was no longer possible due to the pandemic.

Ireland partnered with five cooperatives to improve productivity and milk quality. This project also had a focus on strengthening gender equality and environmental conservation. Overall, the project reached 15,000 households (60,000 individuals) and a significant increase in the volume and price of milk is already evident.



Survivors listening to the trainer explaining the procedure of how to mix the ingredients.
Photo: Catherine Kamau (WKF)

CASE STUDY

SGBV Survivors Entrepreneurship Training by Wangu Kanja Foundation

Baraka Tele had been through a number of difficult years in her marriage. At the beginning of 2020, her husband physically violated her and threw her out of the marital home with her two children aged 7 and 1.

She used her savings to move to a new house, but having closed her vegetable business after the birth of her second child, she had no way to financially support herself and her two children. Soon, she found herself in rent arrears.

It was at this time that she was introduced to the Wangu Kanja Foundation (WKF), which provides support to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in Nairobi, Kenya.

With increasing demand for sanitisation products due to the pandemic, WKF, through the support of Irish Aid, provided training for the group on how to make and market these products. The women underwent a two-day training programme on production and marketing of sanitisers and soap. Baraka is now making and selling sanitiser and is able to pay her rent and feed her family.

In total, sixty-five survivors of sexual and gender-based violence were trained. Four self-help groups with fifteen members each were set up to facilitate group saving and training on financial literacy and business knowledge. This has had a life changing impact on the lives of the survivors.



Liberia in Focus



POPULATION:
4.9 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$1,258



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
175



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
64.1 years



KEY RESULTS



The Embassy of Ireland's support enabled the Liberia Institute of Statistics to collect, analyse and disseminate the demographic and health survey, which will significantly aid government planning and inform strategic decisions in the health sector.

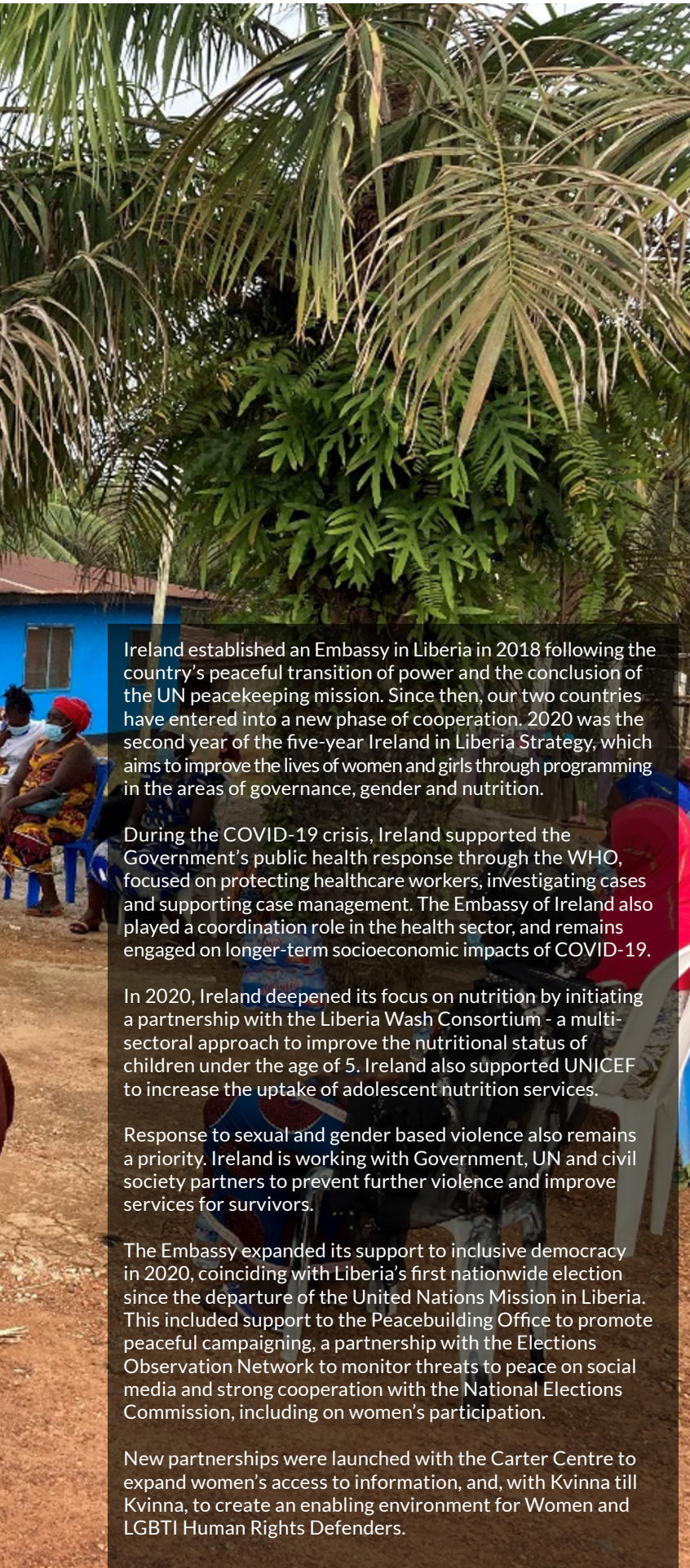


Ireland supported Maternal and Child Health Advocacy International (MCAI) to prevent and reduce avoidable maternal and neonatal deaths in nine of Liberia's 15 counties. This allowed county health teams to conduct obstetric outreach to communities located more than 5km from the nearest health facility.



Ireland partnered with United Nations Development Programme to provide protective and preventive materials to prison facilities to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among inmates, staff and visitors. Ireland's support also established isolation areas in prisons for suspected cases and assisted in training on infection prevention and control. No COVID-19 cases were reported in prison facilities.

Women have a greater involvement in decision-making in their communities.
Photo: Embassy Liberia



Liberia



CASE STUDY

Supporting women's political participation

As Liberia faced into its first nationwide election since the departure of the United Nations mission, strengthening women's political participation and promoting peaceful pre-election campaigning were key focuses for Ireland.

Working with the peacebuilding office of Liberia's Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ireland supported community dialogues with local leaders, women and persons with disabilities to identify some of the drivers of inequality. This facilitated women's inclusion in local-level democratic and peacebuilding structures.

Women reported a greater involvement in decision-making in their communities and enhanced capacity to mediate conflicts. In some notable cases, women were appointed or elected for the first time to serve in leadership positions (Quarter, Zonal and Clan chiefs) that have traditionally been held by males.

In Grand Cape Mount County, Madam Jamiyatu Konneh Watson was elected Paramount Chief of Porkpa District.

'There are men everywhere creating barriers so that you cannot succeed, but you have to be determined and strong no matter the situation,' she said.

Ireland established an Embassy in Liberia in 2018 following the country's peaceful transition of power and the conclusion of the UN peacekeeping mission. Since then, our two countries have entered into a new phase of cooperation. 2020 was the second year of the five-year Ireland in Liberia Strategy, which aims to improve the lives of women and girls through programming in the areas of governance, gender and nutrition.

During the COVID-19 crisis, Ireland supported the Government's public health response through the WHO, focused on protecting healthcare workers, investigating cases and supporting case management. The Embassy of Ireland also played a coordination role in the health sector, and remains engaged on longer-term socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19.

In 2020, Ireland deepened its focus on nutrition by initiating a partnership with the Liberia Wash Consortium - a multi-sectoral approach to improve the nutritional status of children under the age of 5. Ireland also supported UNICEF to increase the uptake of adolescent nutrition services.

Response to sexual and gender based violence also remains a priority. Ireland is working with Government, UN and civil society partners to prevent further violence and improve services for survivors.

The Embassy expanded its support to inclusive democracy in 2020, coinciding with Liberia's first nationwide election since the departure of the United Nations Mission in Liberia. This included support to the Peacebuilding Office to promote peaceful campaigning, a partnership with the Elections Observation Network to monitor threats to peace on social media and strong cooperation with the National Elections Commission, including on women's participation.

New partnerships were launched with the Carter Centre to expand women's access to information, and, with Kvinna till Kvinna, to create an enabling environment for Women and LGBTI Human Rights Defenders.

Malawi in Focus



POPULATION:
18.6 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$1,035



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
174



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
64.3 years

KEY RESULTS



Working with UNICEF and the Ministry of Health, Ireland supported COVID-19 testing for 19,416 people, of whom 3,145 tested positive. Ireland also supported 240 health surveillance assistants and volunteers to conduct trace, test and treat.



Over 175,000 people were reached with key COVID-19 prevention messages, while over 100,000 face masks were distributed to low income families and both staff and inmates in the country's 31 prisons.



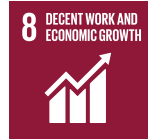
Ireland supported the distribution of 40,501 stoves and 27,827 solar lamps to ultra-poor homes.



With the International Potato Centre, 20,961 female farmers and 14,326 male farmers were supported with planting materials and other inputs to promote the growth, consumption and sale of potatoes and sweet-potatoes, as a high yielding, nutritious and climate resilient alternative to white maize.

Switching from the three-stone fire to an energy saving cook stove has a range of benefits to families and the environment.
Photo: Embassy Malawi

Malawi



Still classed as one of the world's poorest countries, Malawi has high ultra-poverty rates and is acutely vulnerable to climate change.

The arrival of COVID-19 in April caused anxiety as the country had just seven ventilators and 25 critical care beds for a population of 18 million people. The Embassy of Ireland worked closely with UNICEF and the Ministry of Health and funded a series of preparatory activities designed to reduce the risk of wide-scale and rapid transmission, protect health care workers and strengthen the system for treatment and care of patients in due course.

While a full COVID-19 lockdown was avoided, Malawi introduced and experienced the impact of extensive preventive measures such as border closure and restricted movements. Ireland worked with Government and other partners to introduce cash transfers for poor families impacted. This was instrumental in protecting families from the worst effects of the slow-down.

Ireland provided support for the equipping and staffing of emergency treatment units at the country's four main hospitals, as well as investing in testing kits and oxygenators.

The first wave was relatively mild for Malawi with 6,583 confirmed cases and 189 deaths recorded by the year end. However, it is likely the real figure was much higher as fewer than 0.5% of the population was tested. Malawi's second wave, in January 2021, was much more severe, with the death rate for one month exceeding the total for 2020 by a factor of 2.7.

In addition to preparing for and responding to COVID-19, Ireland worked with partners to improve food security. In December, the long-term target of distributing two million energy-saving cook stoves was achieved.

Politically, 2020 saw a historic transition as Malawi held a fresh Presidential election following a court-ordered nullification of the previous year's election. A multi-party alliance emerged as victor and Malawi made headlines around the world as it scored a welcome goal for democracy and set a strong example for peaceful transition of power.



A prison officer helps a fellow colleague to wear a reusable cloth mask properly. Masks were provided by Irish Rule of Law International and Mask4AllMalawi. Photo: Maria Thundu

CASE STUDY

Masks for prisoners

When COVID-19 arrived in Malawi, people living in cramped conditions were understood to be at greatest risk. Although Malawi's prison network is designed to hold no more than 5,000 people, there are 14,700 people in custody in the country's prisons. At 260% capacity, disease spreads quickly in Malawi's prisons.

Irish Rule of Law International (IRLI) works to promote access to justice in Malawi. IRLI moved quickly to understand and address the needs of inmates. In an interview with an IRLI representative, one 71-year-old inmate with tuberculosis said: *'I think I will die in prison. This corona will find me here and finish me. Once the virus finds its way here it will be impossible to prevent it spreading.'*

IRLI spearheaded efforts to ensure Government prioritised the needs of prisoners. Steps were taken to decongest prisons and take preventative measures such as screening of incoming visitors and staff, providing personal protective equipment for staff and improving handwashing facilities.

With the support of Ireland's Embassy, IRLI partnered with Mask4AllMalawi and facilitated the distribution through the Malawi Prison Service of 35,000 cloth masks for use by prisoners and staff in the country's 31 prisons. Each prisoner received two face coverings and was given guidance of correct use and care of the masks.

Providing masks was a small but important step in mitigating against the risk of a major COVID-19 outbreak in prisons. While risks and concerns around outbreaks remain very real, rates have remained at manageable levels within the prison community.

Mozambique in Focus



POPULATION:
30.4 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$1,250



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
181



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
60.9 years

KEY RESULTS



Ireland supported increased availability of COVID-19 testing, enabling 271,947 people to be tested.



The number of candidates for the Fellowship Training Programme doubled in 2020, bringing the total of scholars to date to nine since 2018;



Africa Code Week delivered training for 14 teachers and 21 students of 7th grade in a special needs education school (SNE) – the only code training delivered in an SNE school.



1,490 ex-combatants – 29% of all registered ex-combatants – completed disarmament and demobilisation and returned home to their communities. 91% of people surveyed in communities reported that ex-combatants and their families were ‘very well’ or ‘well’ integrated and that they do not feel threatened by the ex-combatants’ presence.

YAO Crochet Project in Niassa Special Reserve
Photo: Embassy Mozambique



Mozambique

Mozambique is a country rich with significant natural resources. However, the poverty rate remains high due to the multiple challenges of natural disasters, disease, high population growth, low agricultural productivity and the unequal distribution of wealth. About two-thirds of its population of more than 31.3 million live and work in rural areas.

2020 was a year of overlapping and complex crises - from the COVID-19 pandemic to the growing insecurity and humanitarian crisis in Cabo Delgado province, and the continued recovery from Cyclones Idai and Kenneth in 2019.

Ireland is committed to supporting the Government of Mozambique to find solutions to these and other challenges. Last year saw Ireland's Embassy in Maputo deliver core programmes in health, education, governance and provincial partnerships in Niassa and Inhambane. In addition, the Embassy of Ireland deepened engagement in social protection, humanitarian response and climate adaptation.

Ireland delivered an early disbursement of €8 million to the Ministry of Health to ensure it had additional capacity early in the year given the demands due to the pandemic. Additionally, the Embassy of Ireland mobilised partners to redirect significant resources to the Ministry of Health's COVID-19 response. Ireland supported the National Health Institute to reduce the number of cases through policy and direct field operations. Availability of testing services across the country increased as well as the public's awareness of COVID-19 in Mozambique.

Working with the Ministry of Education and Human Development, Ireland supported key adjustments of curricula and teaching programmes and methodologies for blended learning and transition back to formal education when viable.

Ireland played a key role in shaping the EU's €100 million response to the COVID-19 crisis to include earmarked support to the health, education and social protection sectors. Furthermore, the Embassy of Ireland was at the centre of galvanising the formation of the high level International Community Crisis Task Force, co-chaired by UK and Ireland, to co-ordinate the COVID-19 support with the government

Ireland's Embassy facilitated institutional linkages between Ireland and Mozambique through virtual platforms. This included Ireland's Health Service Executive successfully maintaining its work with the Mozambican Health authorities through webinars, as well as University College Dublin's collaboration with local universities.

In the peace and security sector, Ireland delivered tangible outcomes in both the ongoing peace process and demobilisation of ex-combatants, as well as in the humanitarian response to the insurgency in Cabo Delgado.



YAO Crochet Project in Niassa Special Reserve.
Photo: Embassy Mozambique

CASE STUDY

Building futures through crochet

The YAO project began as one person passing on her crochet and sewing skills to a few women to give them access to an independent income. Today, it is a social movement amongst the women in Manhure Village in the Niassa Special Reserve, producing crochet animals for clients around the world.

With support from Ireland, in 2020 the YAO Crochet Project trained 18 women and two men to make crochet toys inspired by the local wildlife. YAO markets and sells their creations, allowing the producers to become economically self-sufficient and improving their quality of life.

'My daughter died and left me her baby,' said Isabel Sabade. 'I have to take care of my grandchildren. I have a husband, he is a farmer. We don't have enough. Now I have my money. I can feed the family.'

In the first month, this group of women produced 130 toys. Fatima Alfredo was reluctant at first.

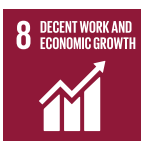
'I thought it was going to be too difficult to learn,' she said. 'Today I can make eight toys per month. I go to the machamba (family vegetable garden) in the morning and when I come back I can sit with the other women and make toys. I can make money in the village.'

The participants all bought food for the tough rainy season and helped other families in need.

The project is also supporting the people to get identification cards which will allow them to open bank accounts. The training sessions are used to promote female health education, as well as to teach about conservation through the colourful toys.

In 2020, the Embassy of Ireland provided €10,000 to fund the project. The positive impact extends beyond the project group, as there are now requests to scale up YAO Crochet to surrounding villages within the reserve to meet the growing demand.

Palestine



Ireland's approach to supporting the Palestinian people reflects our longstanding commitment to the peaceful development of a viable, sovereign Palestinian state. Ireland's total funding support in 2020 amounted to over €17.2 million. This integrated programme of development and humanitarian assistance seeks to preserve the space for a two-state solution and improve the quality of life of the most vulnerable, responding to the humanitarian context as circumstances demand.

In 2020, through its Representative Office to the Palestine Authority, Ireland worked to ensure that consistent and continued support was provided to key organisations focused on humanitarian action, state-building, the promotion of human rights and accountability, and support for Palestine refugees, with a particular emphasis on alleviating the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In recognition of the significant challenges faced by the Palestinian Authority as a result of the pandemic, Ireland allocated €1 million to the Direct Financial Support (DFS) scheme of the EU-administered PEGASE mechanism. With Ireland's support, the cash transfer programme provided financial support – social allowances in cash - to as many as 105,000 vulnerable families in the West Bank and Gaza, equating to approximately 525,000 people and covering 70% of the deep poor as identified in the 2017 census.

Ireland is a longstanding supporter of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), which provides a full range of social services, including health and education service supports, to 5.7 million Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In 2020, Ireland provided €8 million to UNRWA, of which €7 million was allocated in core funding for UNRWA's programme budget, including €1 million for use in Lebanon and €1 million for UNRWA's Syria Regional Crisis Emergency Appeal. Ireland has provided €40.5 million to UNRWA's programme budget between 2010 and 2020.

UNRWA responded to the pandemic by adopting new and innovative service delivery methods to ensure the continued provision of critical services to Palestine

refugees. These measures included a shift to telemedicine, home delivery of emergency food and medicine, and to distance learning, thereby ensuring that critical services provided by the agency continued uninterrupted.

Ireland's funding in 2020 to UNRWA supported the agency's provision of over 8.7 million primary health care consultations to Palestine refugees.

Education, which is crucial to Palestine's long-term economic viability, is a key focus of Ireland's programme. This assistance spans the full cycle of a student's education - from children attending UNRWA schools at primary level to those studying for postgraduate qualifications through the Ireland-Palestine Scholarship Programme.

Some of the biggest challenges which education faced in 2020 as a result of the onset of the pandemic was the delivery of educational lessons to students many of which were either closed or restricted in their operations. Ireland's 2020 funding supported UNRWA to continue providing quality and inclusive education for 532,857 Palestine refugee children.

In 2020, Ireland also provided €3 million to the Palestinian Ministry of Education through a Joint Financing Arrangement to support the Ministry's provision of quality education services to more Palestinian children including a shift towards the delivery of education programmes through new distance learning and remote technology options such as satellite TV. Ireland's funding also supported the establishment of two new schools, the rehabilitation/reconstruction of 36 existing schools and the construction of 421 new classrooms, including 96 in Gaza and 325 in the West Bank.

In 2020, the first group of Masters students graduated from a range of Irish Higher Education institutions under the Ireland Fellows Programme. Despite the impact of COVID-19 and the associated difficulties of international travel, the students were able to complete their studies in Ireland as planned and the majority of the new cohort were able to commence their studies, with a number deferring their studies for a year because of travel issues.

Palestine in Focus



POPULATION:
5.0 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$6,417



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
115



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
74.1 years

KEY RESULTS



With Ireland's support, the PEGASE Cash Transfer Programme provided financial support – social allowances in cash - to as many as 105,000 vulnerable families in the West Bank and Gaza in 2020, equating to approximately 525,000 people and covering 70% of the deep poor as identified in the 2017 census.



UNRWA responded to the pandemic by adopting new and innovative service delivery methods to ensure the continued provision of critical services to Palestine refugees. These measures included a shift to telemedicine, home delivery of emergency food and medicine, and to distance learning. These actions ensured that critical services provided by the agency continued uninterrupted.



UNRWA maintained uninterrupted access to healthcare services through the agency's 43 health centres, including 22 in Gaza. Mental health and psychosocial support remote counselling and follow up, through 12,597 calls, were also provided to gender-based violence cases and patients enduring mental health issues.



The Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Education, with support received through the Joint Financing Arrangement, established two new challenge schools, rehabilitated and/or reconstructed 36 existing schools and constructed 421 new classrooms, including 96 in Gaza and 325 in the West Bank.



In 2020, the first group of Masters students under the Ireland-Palestine Fellowship Programme graduated from a range of Irish Higher Education Institutions.

Sierra Leone in Focus



POPULATION:
7.8 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$1,668



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
182



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
54.7 years

KEY RESULTS



Through the 'More than a Woman' partnership with SEND, 244 Village Loan and Savings Schemes were formed. These groups collectively saved \$109,868.



The savings and loan schemes resulted in 1,106 new petty trading businesses being started. In addition, 1,770 education related loans were disbursed.



Through the Irish NGO consortium COVID response project, at least 40,105 people were reached directly (827,522 indirectly) with COVID-19 public health messaging and IPC commodities.



Two community care centres were established, with operational support provided to over 70 staff. In addition, 35 health care workers and 450 mothers were trained to disseminate nutrition and COVID-19 information. This increased the resilience of communities to the secondary impacts of the pandemic.

Regina Koroma with brother Alusine. Regina contracted COVID-19 and was helped by Trócaire partner Action for Advocacy and Development-Sierra Leone who delivered rice, cooking oil, onions and other staple foods to the family compound during their period of self-isolation. Photo: Stephen Douglas

Sierra Leone



2020 was a challenging year for Sierra Leone. While the government response to the pandemic - informed by lessons learned during the 2014-16 Ebola epidemic - was prompt and decisive, the secondary impacts of the pandemic are likely to persist for some time. Of particular concern are the rise in food insecurity and a depletion of household resources.

The Embassy of Ireland's support to COVID-19 response was guided by the Government of Sierra Leone Preparedness and Response Plan. This support included working with a consortium of Irish NGOs and established networks across the country to ensure a rapid response. With co-funding from the EU, Ireland led a comprehensive Team Europe initiative to build resilience against COVID-19 and its secondary impacts in remote and vulnerable communities.

Despite the challenges, progress was made on a number of key priority areas for Ireland, particularly in the area of human rights. Together with other development partners, the Embassy successfully advocated for a removal of the ban on visibly pregnant girls attending school and the repeal of the criminal libel provisions of the Public Order Act.

Recognising the importance of access to quality education as a key driver for sustainable development, Ireland pledged €5m over five years to the Free Education Programme, which aims to improve education outcomes in Sierra Leone and increase the participation of girls in quality education.

In Sierra Leone, Ireland co-chairs the development partner working group on gender equality. Working with UN Women, Ireland supported the Sierra Leone government to prioritise gender equality through the development of government guidelines on the integration of gender equality as part of the national COVID-19 response. In 2021 the Embassy hosted its first ever St Brigid's Day event, which led to the establishment of a women's solidarity network for female parliamentarians and politicians. Through this we supported the intervention of women peace ambassadors to diffuse political tensions during a particularly volatile by-election. We will continue to support the development of peace ambassador networks as we approach elections in 2023.



Mariama poses in front of a rice store owned by the Unity VSLA. Photo: Embassy Sierra Leone



Members of Gbonyama 1 gather round their rice harvest in the presence of the town chief. Photo: Embassy Sierra Leone

Southern Africa: South Africa and Zimbabwe



Sally Ncube, National Coordinator of the Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe. Photo: Courtesy HIVOS

CASE STUDY

Addressing gender-based violence and responding to COVID-19

COVID-19 has made life more difficult for women and girls who already face grave inequality in Zimbabwe. Ireland continued to stand with Zimbabwe's women and girls by supporting organisations focused on empowerment.

Sally Ncube is the National Coordinator of the Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe, a well-known and reputable women's rights organisation. From March, lockdown restrictions curtailed most of the coalition's planned activities. Outreach to community women leaders and a range of other face-to-face events, geared to transform women's role in society, were no longer possible.

The worldwide 'shadow pandemic', the term given to the rise in gender-based violence as a result of lockdown measures, was very evident in Zimbabwe. Sally speaks of her shock at the devastating impact of COVID-19 on women and girls in Zimbabwe. She saw a significant rise in gender-based violence in the community and an increase in childhood marriage as families struggled to survive financially.

Children suffered greatly as schools closed. Girls were less likely to continue schooling at home as they were dragged into household chores. With funding from Ireland, the coalition was able to provide support to women experiencing violence.

'We kept the phone lines open to provide counselling and support for the significantly increased incidents of gender-based violence and were able to refer women to shelters and counselling services,' she said.

Despite the unprecedented challenges that the coalition faced, Ireland's support allowed it to pivot to online platforms for leadership training, research and learning. The COVID-19 prevention messaging was particularly important to fight the common perception in poorer rural areas that the pandemic was only an issue for urban, middle class dwellers.

Ireland's support also allowed the Women's Coalition to engage with government and advocate on behalf of women as they struggled with the impact of COVID-19.

COVID-19 fundamentally marked every aspect of life in South Africa and Zimbabwe during 2020. South Africa was one of the hardest hit countries in the region, recording over 1 million positive cases by the end of the year, by which time a second wave, driven by a more transmissible variant of the virus, had taken hold.

The South African government reacted early and decisively to contain the spread of COVID-19, but crowded living conditions amongst the majority of the population made adherence to social distancing extremely challenging. Lockdown restrictions also caused widespread loss of livelihoods.

2020 was also a very challenging one for Zimbabwe. In addition to the deterioration and fragility of the political and economic context, the cumulative effect of three successive droughts, COVID-19 and the impact of lockdown restrictions on the economy, deepened an already severe humanitarian crisis. By the end of 2020 an estimated 50% of the population were in extreme poverty and in need of food assistance.

Ireland acted early to support responses to the virus in South Africa and Zimbabwe. The Embassy of Ireland engaged with the UN to provide assistance to those hardest hit. Existing programmes, already underway to address the high levels of gender-based violence in both countries, were adjusted to respond to the additional impact of COVID-19. The Embassy also joined with other donors in Zimbabwe to contribute to a UN-led humanitarian relief programme.

In Zimbabwe, Ireland increased its contribution to a health programme aimed at improving maternal and child health. The programme, implemented by UNICEF and supported by a number of other EU countries, adapted its focus in 2020 to respond to COVID-19 while maintaining essential health care services for women and children.

The Embassy of Ireland continued to convene discussions, support research and use social media and online events to contribute to advocacy and learning on critical issues that affect peace and security in South Africa and Zimbabwe, namely women's empowerment, regional security and respect for human rights.

South Africa and Zimbabwe in Focus

SOUTH AFRICA



POPULATION:
58.6 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$12,129



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
114



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
64.1 years

ZIMBABWE



POPULATION:
14.6 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$2,666



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
150



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
61.5 years



KEY RESULTS



In Zimbabwe, over 16,703 village health workers were supplied with PPE and trained on COVID-19 prevention messaging.



167,835 people in Zimbabwe received legal advice to uphold their rights and access justice.



The Embassy of Ireland convened over 25 online events which provided a platform for women to discuss leadership, participation in political processes, conflict resolution and addressing gender-based violence.



With Ireland's participation and support, maternal deaths in Zimbabwe have dropped by 29% since 2015.

Ireland-funded mobile hand sanitizing helping to protect people from COVID-19. Photo: GOAL

South East Asia in Focus

VIETNAM



POPULATION:
96.5 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$7,433



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
117



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
75.4 years

CAMBODIA



POPULATION:
16.5 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$4,246



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
144



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
69.8 years

LAO PDR



POPULATION:
7.2 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$7,413



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
137



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
67.9 years

MYANMAR



POPULATION:
54.05 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$4,961



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
147



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
67.1 years

2020 was a challenging year for communities and partners supported by Ireland across all four countries. Development work was significantly disrupted by travel restrictions, school closures and limits on gatherings.

Ireland's international development programme in Vietnam, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar is managed by our Embassy of Ireland in Hanoi, Vietnam. The Embassy of Ireland worked quickly and flexibly to re-direct funding to prevent and contain COVID-19 and to respond to the socio-economic impact of the pandemic on the most vulnerable communities.

In Lao PDR and Cambodia, Irish Aid initiated new partnerships to respond to COVID-19. Funding for the purchase of essential hospital equipment for 15 hospitals across Lao PDR to deal with severe cases was provided. In Cambodia, funding for the distribution of handwashing supplies to prevent infection and bolstered COVID-testing capacity through the Pasteur Institute in Phnom Penh was also given.

Positive results were realised in several areas that Ireland has supported over many years in the region to reduce poverty and meet the needs of the furthest behind. Newborn infants and young children had access to

Image: Emergency response to floods and landslides in Vietnam. Photo: Plan International Vietnam

South East Asia



KEY RESULTS

- 

Funding from Ireland provided 15 oxygen concentrators sets for hospitals in Lao PDR, benefitting 600 patients with respiratory infections.
- 

In Cambodia, Ireland contributed to the provision of hygiene supplies for handwashing and infection control for 88,200 people, as well as screening for malnutrition of 40,000 children.
- 

In Myanmar, 131,389 people benefitted from increased food security thanks to Ireland's support.
- 

Partners were supported in all four countries to clear unexploded mines. Ireland's funding contributed to clearance of 1,123,009m² of mined ground. A total of 914 mines and 663 unexploded ordnance were destroyed.
- 

Ireland supported almost 70,000 people following devastating typhoons in central Vietnam in October 2020. Ireland also provided 16 schools with supplies and equipment to facilitate reopening.
- 

Ireland supported 329 community development initiatives implemented by ethnic minorities, benefitting 32,915 people.

better nutrition; citizens were facilitated to voice their opinions about governance; gender equality in political representation was improved through training of women representatives; ethnic minorities were empowered to access services and contribute to development of their own communities; and scholarships in Ireland were provided to worthy applicants.

Ireland also supported humanitarian responses to COVID-19 and, in Vietnam, flooding, landslides and typhoons, while the safety of vulnerable communities was improved through clearance of landmines and mine risk education.



Tiep's flourishing home garden.
Photo: Embassy Hanoi

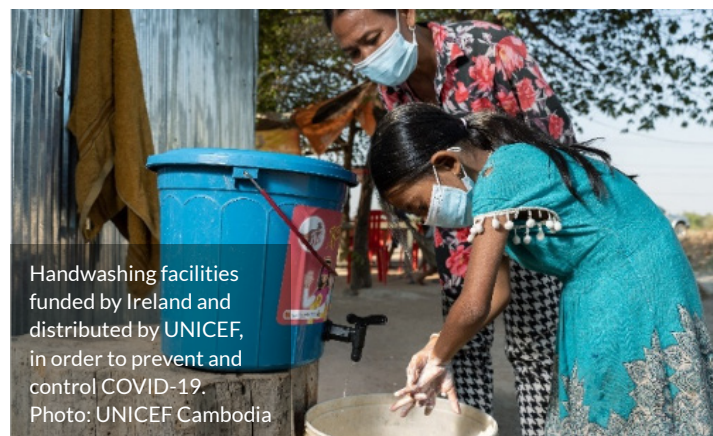
CASE STUDY

New opportunities for model farmers

Bui Thi Tiep, a Muong mother of two, lives in an ethnic minority community in northern Vietnam. Restrictions imposed in 2020 to contain COVID-19 resulted in extensive job losses, particularly in tourism and agriculture. Tiep was proud to become a village model farmer, with the support of Helen Keller International funded by Ireland.

Through dedicated support and training, over the space of a few months Tiep has gone from a shy young woman, too timid to speak in public, to one of the leading model farmers in her district in Lac Son District. She credits this change to the support she has received, particularly training on nutrition, cultivation, husbandry, sanitation and hygiene which she shares with her community in monthly communication sessions.

In November 2020, the Embassy team visited Tiep's home-garden and viewed a flourishing variety of seasonal vegetables, ducks, sows and organic compost facility. With the COVID-19 crisis continuing to have a severe impact on economies in the region, Tiep recognises that self-sufficiency and good nutrition for her family are hugely important.



Handwashing facilities funded by Ireland and distributed by UNICEF, in order to prevent and control COVID-19.
Photo: UNICEF Cambodia

Tanzania in Focus



POPULATION:
58 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$2,600



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
163



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
65.5 years



KEY RESULTS



5,335 health facilities in 184 districts were provided with medicines, medical supplies and operation utilities through the Health Basket Fund.



Ireland supported the hiring of 334 new Community Health Workers (CHWs), expanding the availability of community services to 10 districts, with a total of 891 CHWs. More health personnel (90) were deployed to rural health facilities to respond to COVID-19, especially in underserved areas.



Ireland supported the procurement and distribution of over 600,000 items of personal protective equipment at 10 border points, as well as the development of a driver tracking system to monitor truck drivers' health and to enable contact tracing.



Through Ireland's support, partners produced public communication and radio programmes airing key public health messages relating to COVID-19.



Ireland supported partner organisation UZIKWASA to launch an interactive radio show called Radio Darasa ('classroom radio') where students could call in to ask their teacher questions during school closures linked to COVID-19.

A sorghum farmer receiving her payment from selling her produce at one of the sorghum market established by the Irish Aid-funded climate smart agriculture sorghum project in Dodoma Region, Tanzania. Photo: DFA



A community health worker speaks to a client.
Photo: Embassy Tanzania

CASE STUDY

Tanzania

Tanzania reported its first COVID-19 case on 16 March 2020. By mid-May, a total of 509 cases and 21 deaths had been reported. While the government took precautions in line with WHO recommendations in the initial phase of the pandemic, overall its official response remained anchored in traditional medicines and remedies.

Following the first reported case, a survey was sent to all partners in March and again in September to assess responses to the pandemic and its impact on programmatic and operational aspects of the ongoing programmes. This survey gave the Embassy of Ireland an understanding of partner needs, guided the Embassy's reprogramming and informed adaptive management of grants in response to COVID-19 and the evolving context in Tanzania.

Budget reallocations were approved, enabling front-loading and pivoting of funds towards the pandemic response.

Rapid support to the health system allowed for the provision of personal protective equipment for medical providers and community health workers, as well as expansion of water harvesting to improve access to clean water and availability of hand-washing facilities at key points such as health facilities and local government offices. Public messaging on the impact of COVID-19 on the Embassy of Ireland's areas of work, such as gender-based violence, human rights and nutrition was also launched.

Ireland continued to support improved livelihoods for women and young people. More than 970 youths were newly equipped with enhanced vocational skills, and an additional 2,265 youths received entrepreneurship and SRHR education through the cash plus programme.

Maintaining programmes through the pandemic

Ireland supports the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to improve sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in Tanzania. As well as providing community-based SRHR information and services, Ireland also supports the construction and refurbishment of health facilities, as well as community messaging on reproductive health and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention. These supports are provided at community level, including in refugee communities.

Ireland also supports UNICEF to roll-out community health programmes, provide community nutrition, and social and child protection interventions.

In response to the pandemic, both of these programmes were redesigned to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and to ensure continuity of essential services, particularly for women and children. To alleviate the critical gap in human resources in the health sector, 160 community health workers and 20 staff were deployed across programme districts and provided personal protective equipment.

Community SRHR and nutrition services were continued on a one-on-one basis, while public health messaging on COVID-19 prevention was integrated into SRHR and GBV programmes.

Uganda in Focus



POPULATION:
44.3 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$2,123



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
159



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
63.4 years

KEY RESULTS



145,000 COVID-19 test kits and lifesaving equipment procured through WHO as part of the Ugandan COVID-19 Response.



348,000 senior citizens in 146 districts received social welfare grants thereby bolstering their ability to cope with shocks exacerbated by COVID-19 and to support family members.



3,494 youth in the poorest region of Uganda, Karamoja, received quality training and skills in construction, agriculture, ICT and mechanics.



More than 1.4 million refugees supported with cash and food transfers including provision of specialised nutritious food for malnourished pregnant and lactating women and children.

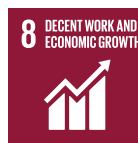


7,585 women representatives supported to engage in decision-making structures through Ireland's support to civil society organisations.

Festival celebration file photo
Photo: DFA



Uganda



The Embassy of Ireland's programme in Uganda in 2020 was well positioned to respond to the additional shocks to the economy, livelihoods, health and human rights brought about by the pandemic and severe periods of lockdown. Ireland was the first bilateral donor in Uganda to release funding amounting to €1.8 million through WHO to support the country's COVID-19 response plan.

The programme's strong focus on Karamoja - the poorest region of Uganda - was particularly relevant as the people of this region were disproportionately affected by the pandemic and economic downturn. Ireland worked with its partners UNICEF and WFP to provide learning materials and food to children impacted by school closures. The Embassy also worked with NGOs in the provision of support to women herders whose livelihoods were impacted and with local partners to ensure continuity of HIV services. In recognition of the huge challenges facing women in Uganda, including very high maternal mortality and teenage pregnancy rates, design of a programme of support for sexual reproductive health services with a focus on Karamoja was initiated and will be implemented in the coming years.

Ireland also responded quickly in March 2020 to bolster on-going work providing support to highly vulnerable groups. This included social welfare grants to 345,000 senior citizens across Uganda, a doubling of our support to the provision of cash and food, as well as education and training, to Uganda's 1.4 million refugees. Women across Uganda and in refugee settlements were affected by a significant increase in gender-based violence in 2020. Ireland continued to work on the protection of refugee women and also re-focused some of its governance support to projects working to prevent gender-based violence and support survivors. Support for strong governance and human rights remained central to Ireland's programme in Uganda in 2020 and particularly in the run up to the country's elections in early 2021.

The Embassy of Ireland's consular work also increased during this period, as two-thirds of the Irish community left under difficult circumstances. Fifteen Irish citizens and family members were directly assisted in leaving the country after borders and airports had closed, with many more receiving information and guidance.

Zambia



Maria Mutambo Maria achieved top marks in her construction trade programme. Photo: Praise Luwaile / Build It International

CASE STUDY

Building a better future brick by brick

Ireland's partnership with Build It International (BII) in Zambia trains unemployed youth, particularly women from vulnerable households, into work and a better future.

As one of ten children, Maria's family did not have the means to support her to continue her studies after completing secondary school. Determined to work hard to improve her future prospects and support her family, she enrolled in the BII entry-level construction programme.

In late 2020, just after turning 21, Maria achieved top marks in her construction trade programme assessment.

The training has dramatically changed her life and outlook on the future. After the training, she was able to find work as a Bricklayer and Health and Safety Officer, a job she not only enjoys but which helps her to support her family and save to continue her education.

Maria's new job will continue to help her work towards her hopes to further develop her construction trade skills and create a brighter future for herself and her family.

Ireland and Zambia have a unique bond forged over decades of close cooperation and through strong people-to-people ties.

Ireland's links with Zambia stretch back over a century, when Irish missionaries began to provide health and education services to the people of Zambia.

Ireland established diplomatic relations with Zambia in 1965 and provided support to the newly independent state as it emerged from colonial rule. An Irish Embassy opened in Lusaka in 1980 and Ireland has since maintained a strong and consistent commitment to its relationship with Zambia.

In 2020, Ireland marked forty years of its diplomatic presence in Zambia. Over the last four decades, Ireland has worked closely with the Government of Zambia, with civil society and faith-based organisations, and has made significant investments in education, health, the fight against HIV/AIDS, water and sanitation, nutrition, social protection, and governance. Ireland's long-running programme in Zambia's Northern Province contributed to the improvement of rural livelihoods. Ireland works with women in Zambian society to advocate for gender equality, and stands with partners who are committed to ending gender-based violence.

Ireland's 2018-2022 Strategy for Zambia seeks to encompass the broader dimensions of Ireland's foreign policy in our relations with Zambia, while maintaining our important and long-standing focus on reducing poverty and inequality. Support is provided for education, skills, social protection, nutrition, livelihoods, governance and the promotion of the bilateral relations between Ireland and Zambia.





Zambia in Focus



POPULATION:
17.9 million



GROSS NATIONAL
INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
\$3,326



POSITION IN UN HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
146



LIFE EXPECTANCY:
63.9 years

Rose Mukosha, in Kayowelo B, Muchinshi, Chingola District with a male goat on her way to the market. Photo: Embassy Zambia



Fredson Nduna with his niece and nephews in Chingola town in Zambia's Copperbelt Province. Photo: Embassy Zambia

KEY RESULTS



Ireland has supported increased access to relevant skills training for youth and women, as well as improved access to education by poor and marginalised families.



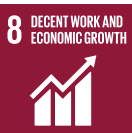
In Zambia, support was provided through the UN Joint Programme on GBV to expand the delivery of emergency shelter services for survivors of GBV.



The Embassy of Ireland supported marginalised families to cope with the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Families were able to continue paying school fees and buying necessities despite lockdowns and loss of livelihoods.



Ireland has supported an SMS text message programme providing messages on issues such as nutrition and gender-based violence to vulnerable families.



Annexes

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Figures are correct at time of publication. Additional financial annexes are available on the Irish Aid website www.irishaid.ie

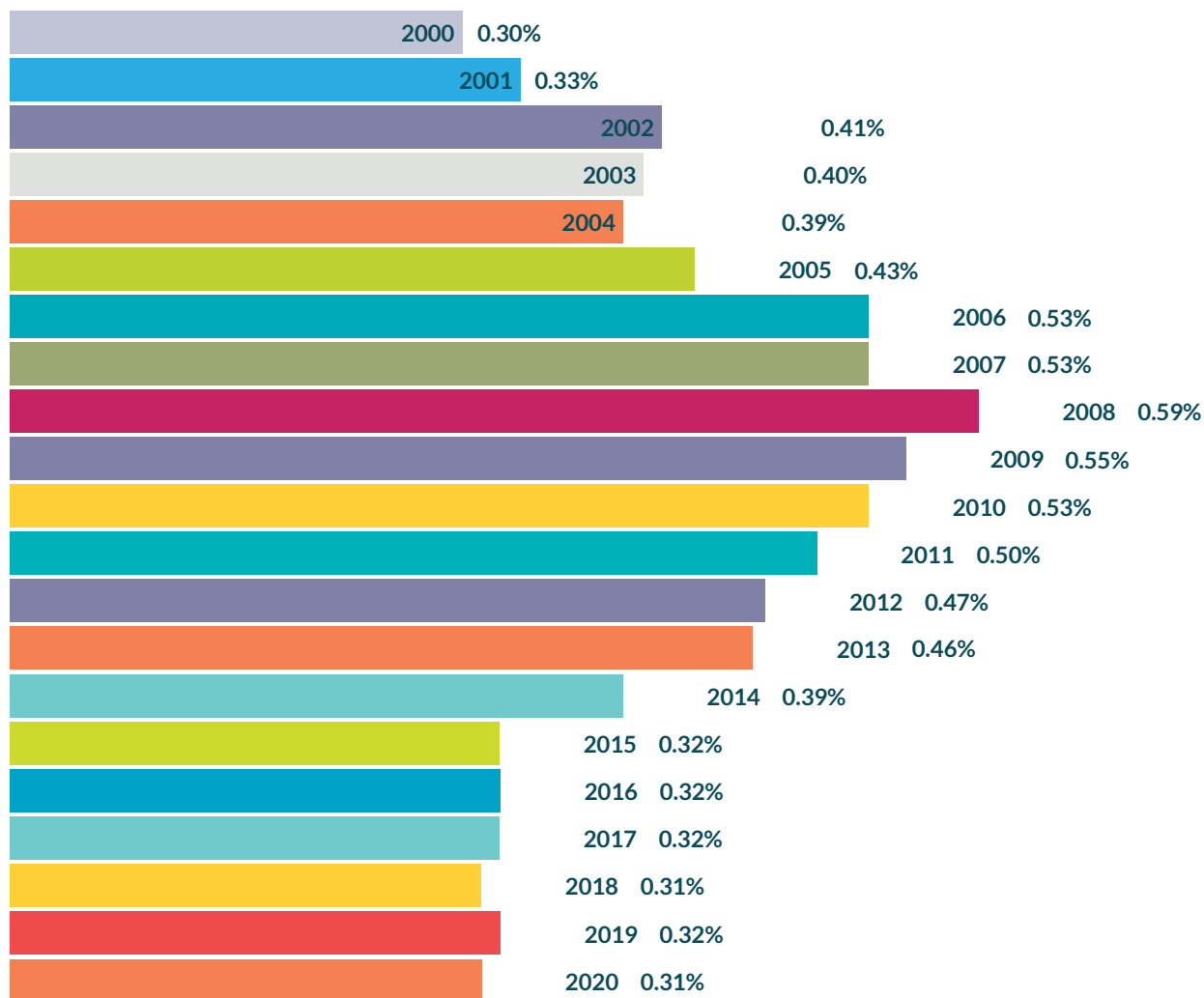
Ireland's Official Development Assistance

| Ireland's Official Development Assistance | € Millions 2020 | € Millions 2019 |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Vote 27 | 545.10 | 545.94 |
| Other Government Departments and Contributions to the EU Development Cooperation Budget | 322.43 | 323.60 |
| Total ODA | 867.53 | 869.54 |
| GNP | 282,633 | 274,330 |
| ODA as a % of GNP | 0.31% | 0.32% |
| Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Vote 27 as a % of Total ODA | 63% | 63% |
| Other Government Departments and Contributions to the EU Development Cooperation Budget as a % of Total ODA | 37% | 37% |
| Bilateral / Multilateral Analysis | | |
| Bilateral ODA | | |
| Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Vote 27 | 417.20 | 426.66 |
| Other Government Departments and Contributions to the EU Development Cooperation Budget | 40.88 | 80.94 |
| Total Bilateral ODA | 458.08 | 507.60 |
| Multilateral ODA | | |
| Department of Foreign Affairs And Trade - Vote 27 | 127.90 | 119.28 |
| Other Government Departments and Contributions to the EU Development Cooperation Budget | 281.55 | 242.66 |
| Total Multilateral ODA | 409.45 | 361.94 |
| Total ODA | 867.53 | 869.54 |
| Bilateral ODA as a % of Total ODA | 53% | 58% |
| Multilateral ODA as a % of Total ODA | 47% | 42% |

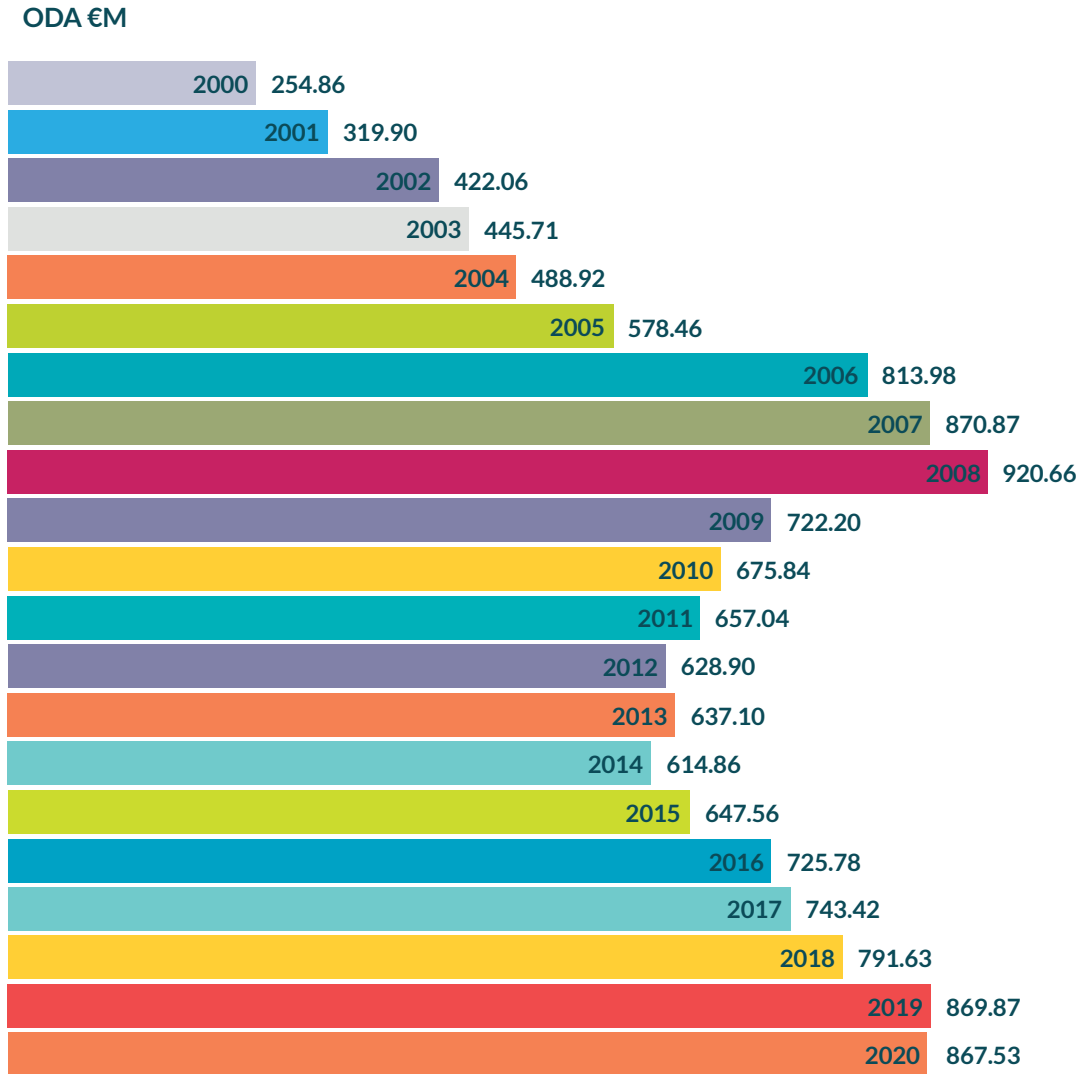
*These annexes use the OECD definitions for Bilateral and Multilateral Aid

Irish ODA as a % of GNP: 2000 - 2020

ODA as a % of GNP

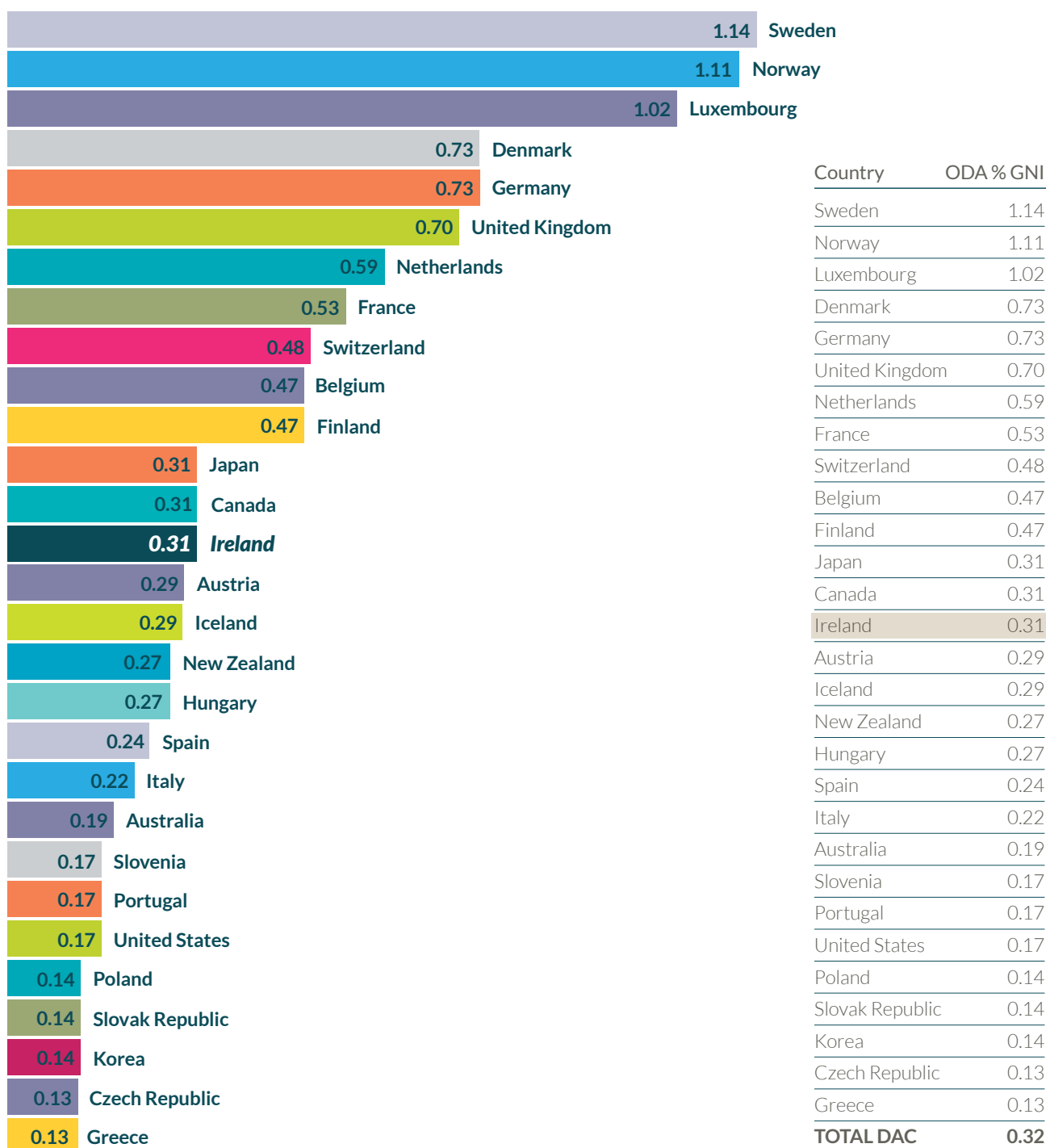


Irish ODA Volumes 2000-2020



Net ODA as a % of GNI: DAC Donors 2020

ODA as a % of GNI

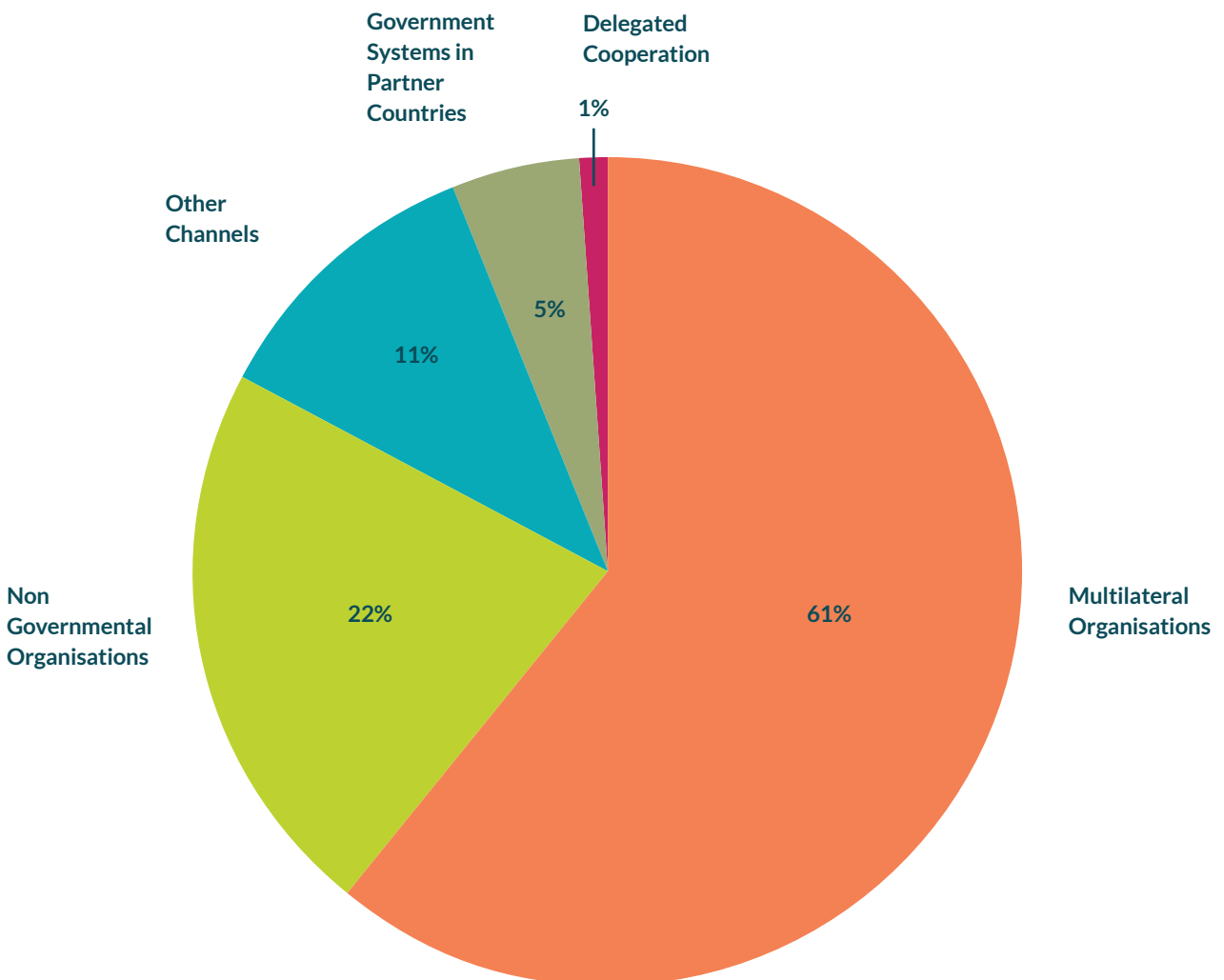


GNI (Gross National Income), DAC (Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD).

ANNEX FIVE

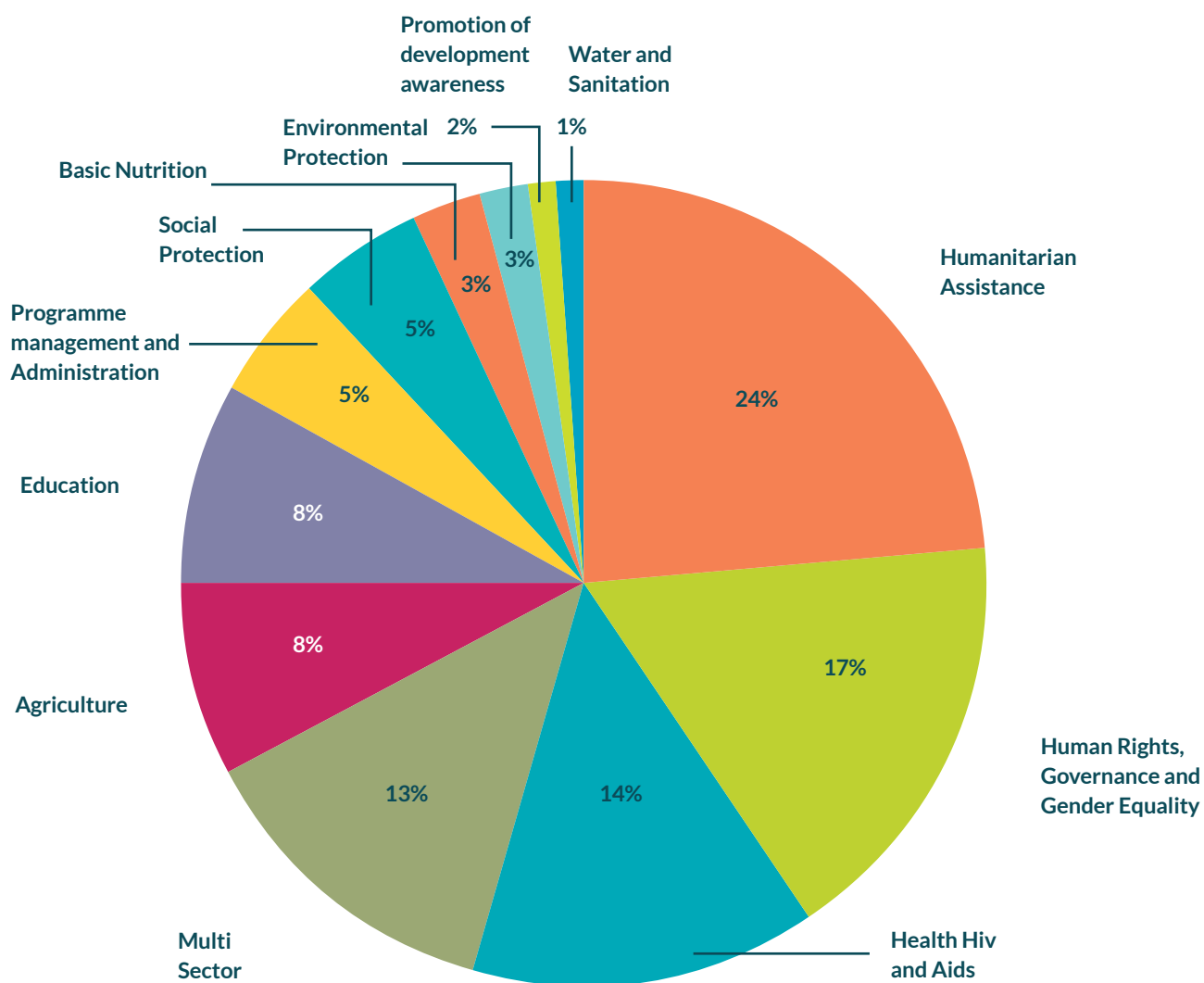
Total Irish ODA by Channel of Delivery

| Channel | €000's | As a % |
|---|----------------|-------------|
| Multilateral Organisations | 532,816 | 61% |
| Non Governmental Organisations | 186,522 | 22% |
| Other Channels | 95,331 | 11% |
| Government Systems in Partner Countries | 45,865 | 5% |
| Delegated Cooperation | 7,000 | 1% |
| Grand Total | 867,534 | 100% |



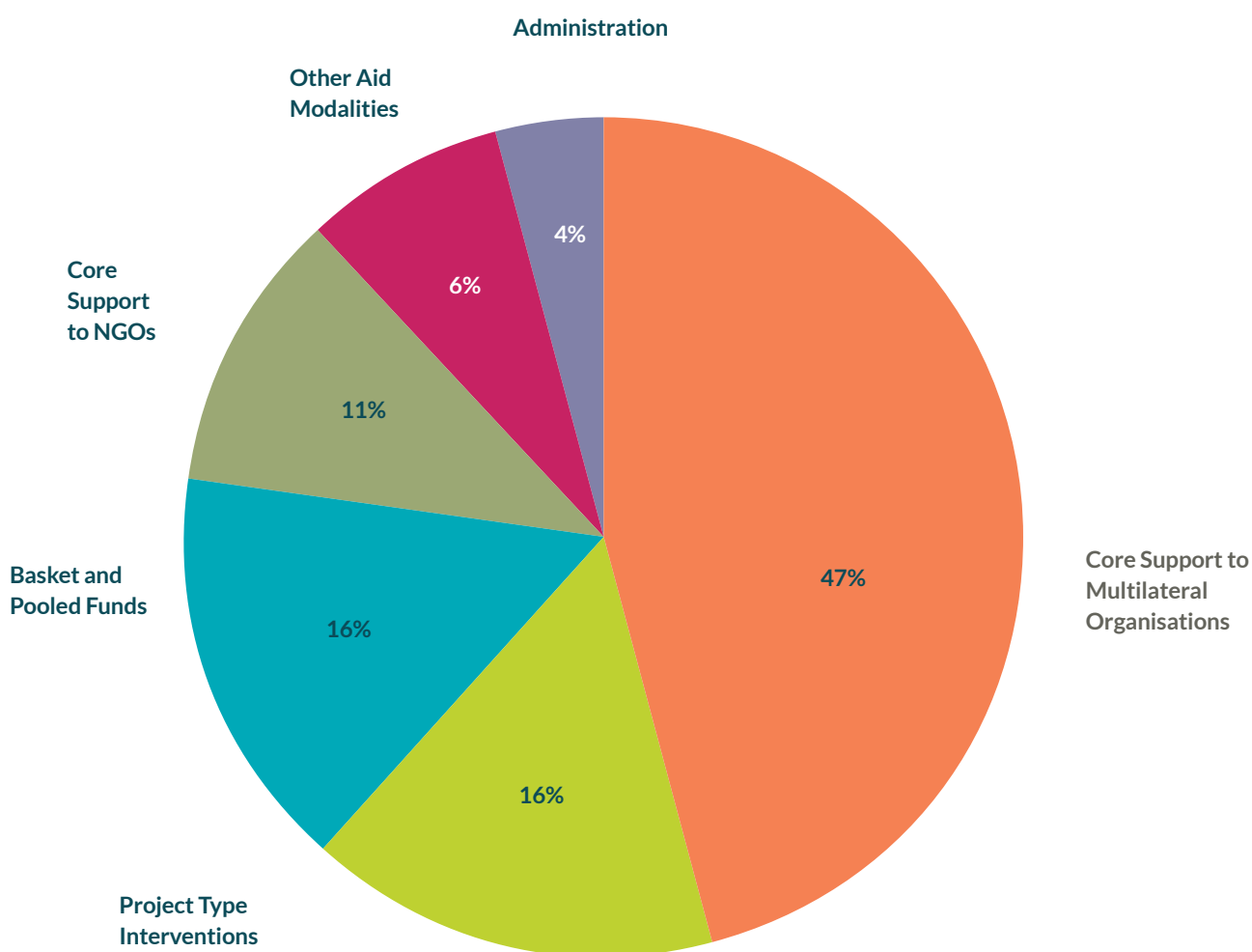
Bilateral ODA by Sector

| Sector | €000's | As a % |
|--|----------------|-------------|
| Humanitarian Assistance | 108,139 | 24% |
| Human Rights, Governance and Gender Equality | 76,801 | 17% |
| Health Hiv and Aids | 64,611 | 14% |
| Multi Sector | 58,423 | 13% |
| Agriculture | 35,448 | 8% |
| Education | 34,915 | 8% |
| Programme management and Administration | 24,322 | 5% |
| Social Protection | 23,155 | 5% |
| Basic Nutrition | 14,036 | 3% |
| Environmental Protection | 9,129 | 2% |
| Promotion of development awareness | 6,711 | 1% |
| Water and Sanitation | 2,392 | 1% |
| Grand Total | 458,082 | 100% |



Total Irish ODA by Aid Modality - 2020

| Aid Modality | €000's | As a % |
|--|----------------|-------------|
| Core Support to Multilateral Organisations | 409,452 | 47% |
| Project Type Interventions | 141,412 | 16% |
| Basket and Pooled Funds | 137,645 | 16% |
| Core Support to NGOs | 91,819 | 11% |
| Other Aid Modalities | 53,378 | 6% |
| Administration | 33,828 | 4% |
| Grand Total | 867,534 | 100% |



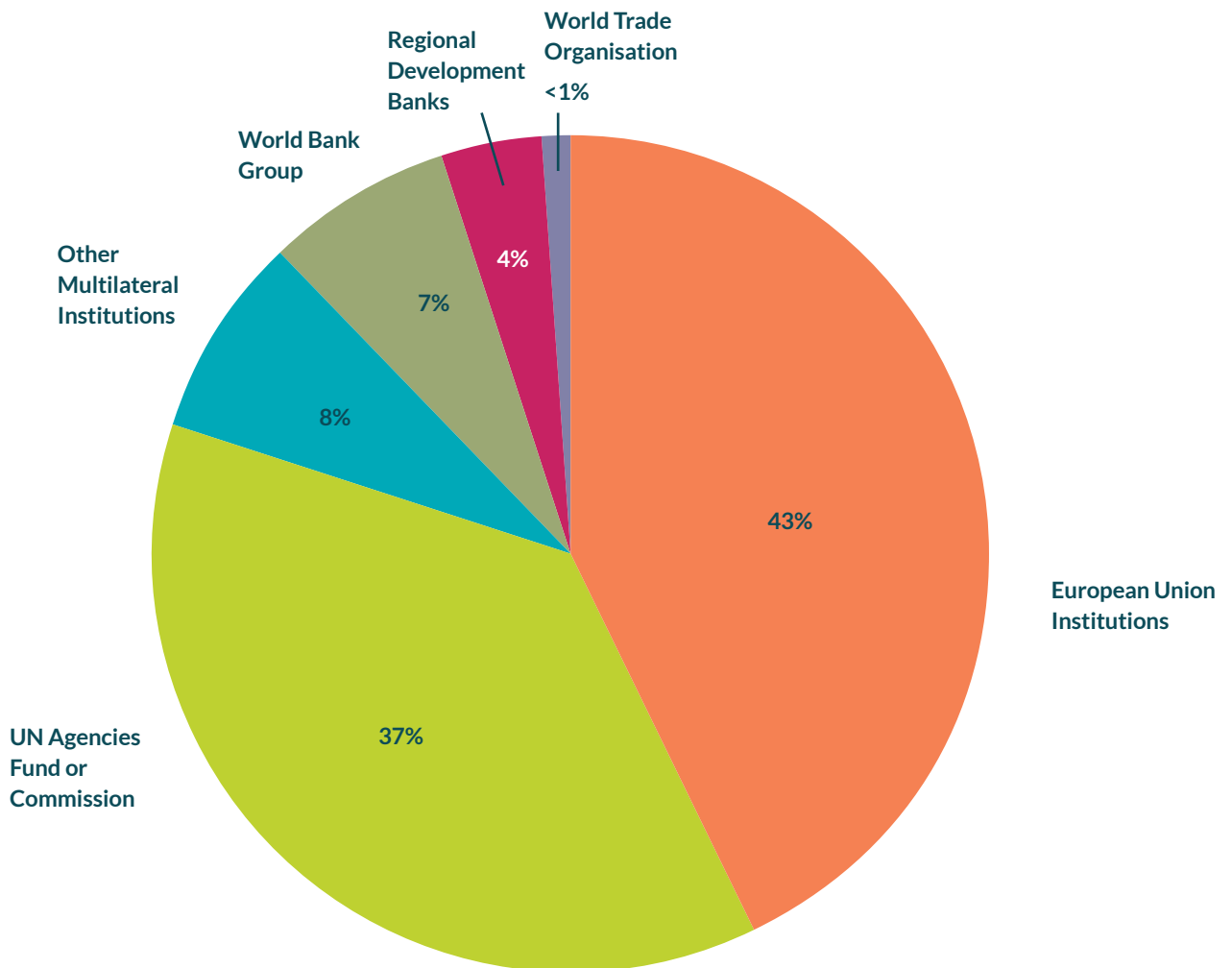
ANNEX EIGHT

Top 30 Recipient Countries of Ireland's Bilateral ODA 2020

| Recipient Country | €000's |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| Ethiopia | 39,677 |
| Mozambique | 25,784 |
| Tanzania | 22,901 |
| Uganda | 22,762 |
| Malawi | 20,844 |
| Sierra Leone | 14,626 |
| Zimbabwe | 8,771 |
| Palestine | 8,619 |
| South Sudan | 8,606 |
| Kenya | 8,060 |
| Vietnam | 7,539 |
| Democratic Republic of the Congo | 7,155 |
| Syrian Arab Republic | 6,771 |
| Somalia | 6,727 |
| Sudan | 6,142 |
| Yemen | 6,027 |
| Zambia | 5,718 |
| Turkey | 5,533 |
| Central African Republic | 5,037 |
| Liberia | 4,696 |
| South Africa | 4,622 |
| Jordan | 3,908 |
| Lebanon | 3,771 |
| Niger | 3,481 |
| Afghanistan | 2,779 |
| Colombia | 2,439 |
| Bangladesh | 2,290 |
| Myanmar | 2,263 |
| Chad | 2,248 |
| Rwanda | 1,891 |

Funding to Multilateral Organisations by Channel.

| | €000's | As a % |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| European Union Institutions | 230,106 | 43% |
| UN Agencies Fund or Commission | 198,282 | 37% |
| Other Multilateral Institutions | 40,209 | 8% |
| World Bank Group | 39,202 | 7% |
| Regional Development Banks | 23,281 | 4% |
| World Trade Organisation | 1,700 | <1% |
| Grand Total | 532,781 | 100% |



ANNEX TEN

Funding to Multilateral Organisations

(Detailed in €000s)

| | Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine | Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment | Department of Finance |
|---|--|--|--------------------------|
| European Union Institutions | | | |
| European Commission - Development Share of Budget | | | |
| European Development Fund - European Commission | | | |
| European Commission Turkey Refugee Facility | | | |
| EU Trust Fund for Africa | | | |
| European Development Fund - European Investment Bank | | | |
| EU Trust Fund for Colombia | | | |
| European Union Institutions Total | - | - | - |
| Other Multilateral Institutions | | | |
| Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria | | | |
| Global Partnership for Education | | | |
| CGIAR Fund | | | |
| Global Alliance for Vaccines & Immunization | | | |
| Global Environment Facility - LDC Fund | | | |
| Green Climate Fund | | 4,000 | |
| Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development | | | |
| Global Environment Facility | | 1,440 | |
| Montreal Protocol | | 801 | |
| Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment | | | |
| Adaptation fund | | 300 | |
| Intergovernmental Authority on Development | | | |
| International Criminal Court | | | |
| Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces | | | |
| Council of Europe | | | |
| Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe | | | |
| Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining | | | |
| Inter-American Commission on Human Rights | | | |
| Other Multilateral Institutions - Total | - | 6,541 | - |
| Regional Development Banks | | | |
| Asian Development Bank | | | 5,609 |
| Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank | | | 4,535 |
| African Development Bank | | | 13,134 |
| Council of Europe Development Bank | | | 3 |
| Regional Development Banks - Total | - | - | 23,281 |

| Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade | Ireland's Share of the EU Development Cooperation Budget | Other Departments | Total |
|---|--|-------------------|----------------|
| | 178,413 | | 178,413 |
| 41,378 | | | 41,378 |
| 4,531 | | | 4,531 |
| 2,305 | | | 2,305 |
| 2,730 | | | 2,730 |
| 750 | | | 750 |
| 51,694 | 178,413 | - | 230,106 |
| 15,000 | | | 15,000 |
| 7,000 | | | 7,000 |
| 3,000 | | | 3,000 |
| 3,000 | | | 3,000 |
| 2,000 | | | 2,000 |
| | | | 4,000 |
| 1,702 | | | 1,702 |
| | | | 1,440 |
| | | | 801 |
| 900 | | | 900 |
| | | | 300 |
| 300 | | | 300 |
| 200 | | | 200 |
| 200 | | | 200 |
| 160 | | | 160 |
| 76 | | | 76 |
| 80 | | | 80 |
| 50 | | | 50 |
| 33,668 | - | - | 40,209 |
| | | | 5,609 |
| | | | 4,535 |
| | | | 13,134 |
| | | | 3 |
| - | - | - | 23,281 |

ANNEX TEN (CONTINUED)

| | Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine | Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment | Department of Finance |
|--|--|--|--------------------------|
| UN Agencies Fund or Commission | | | |
| World Food Programme | 25,700 | | |
| UN-led Country-based Pooled Funds | | | |
| United Nations Children's Fund | | | |
| United Nations Development Programme | | | |
| UN Office of the Comm for Refugees | | | |
| UN Relief and Wks Agcy - Palestine Refugees | | | |
| UN Office of Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs | | | |
| UN Population Fund | | | |
| Central Emergency Response Fund | | | |
| United Nations - General | | | |
| World Health Organisation | | | |
| United Nations - Department for Peace Keeping Operations | | | |
| UN Women | | | |
| Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS | | | |
| UN High Commissioner for Human Rights | | | |
| International Labour Organisation | | | |
| International Fund for Agricultural Dev | | | |
| International Organization for Migration | | | |
| United Nations Peace Building Fund | | | |
| Food and Agricultural Organisation | 3,042 | | |
| UN-Multi Partner Trust Fund Office | | | |
| UNESCO | | | |
| United Nations Office for Project Services | | | |
| United Nations Environment Programme | | 476 | |
| United Nations Volunteers | | | |
| United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change | | 63 | |
| International Atomic Energy Agency | | | |
| UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs | | | |
| UN Industrial Development Organisation | | | |
| International Agency for Research on Cancer | | | |
| UN Conference on Trade and Development | | | |
| UN Resident Coordinator | | | |
| UN Office of the High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS | | | |
| Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth | | | |

| Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade | Ireland's Share of the EU Development Cooperation Budget | Other Departments | Total |
|---|--|-------------------|--------|
| 10,384 | | | 36,084 |
| 27,750 | | | 27,750 |
| 23,211 | | | 23,211 |
| 10,811 | | | 10,811 |
| 19,500 | | | 19,500 |
| 8,000 | | | 8,000 |
| 8,000 | | | 8,000 |
| 5,550 | | | 5,550 |
| 10,000 | | | 10,000 |
| 5,652 | | | 5,652 |
| 9,350 | | 1,276 | 10,626 |
| 2,801 | | | 2,801 |
| 2,800 | | | 2,800 |
| 2,400 | | | 2,400 |
| 2,209 | | | 2,209 |
| 2,000 | | 834 | 2,834 |
| 2,500 | | | 2,500 |
| 2,442 | | | 2,442 |
| 1,750 | | | 1,750 |
| | | | 3,042 |
| 1,104 | | | 1,104 |
| 1,000 | | 677 | 1,677 |
| 1,870 | | | 1,870 |
| 100 | | | 576 |
| 1,100 | | | 1,100 |
| 700 | | | 763 |
| 157 | | 449 | 606 |
| 350 | | | 350 |
| 345 | | | 345 |
| | | 312 | 312 |
| 400 | | | 400 |
| 479 | | | 479 |
| 150 | | | 150 |
| 140 | | | 140 |

ANNEX TEN (CONTINUED)

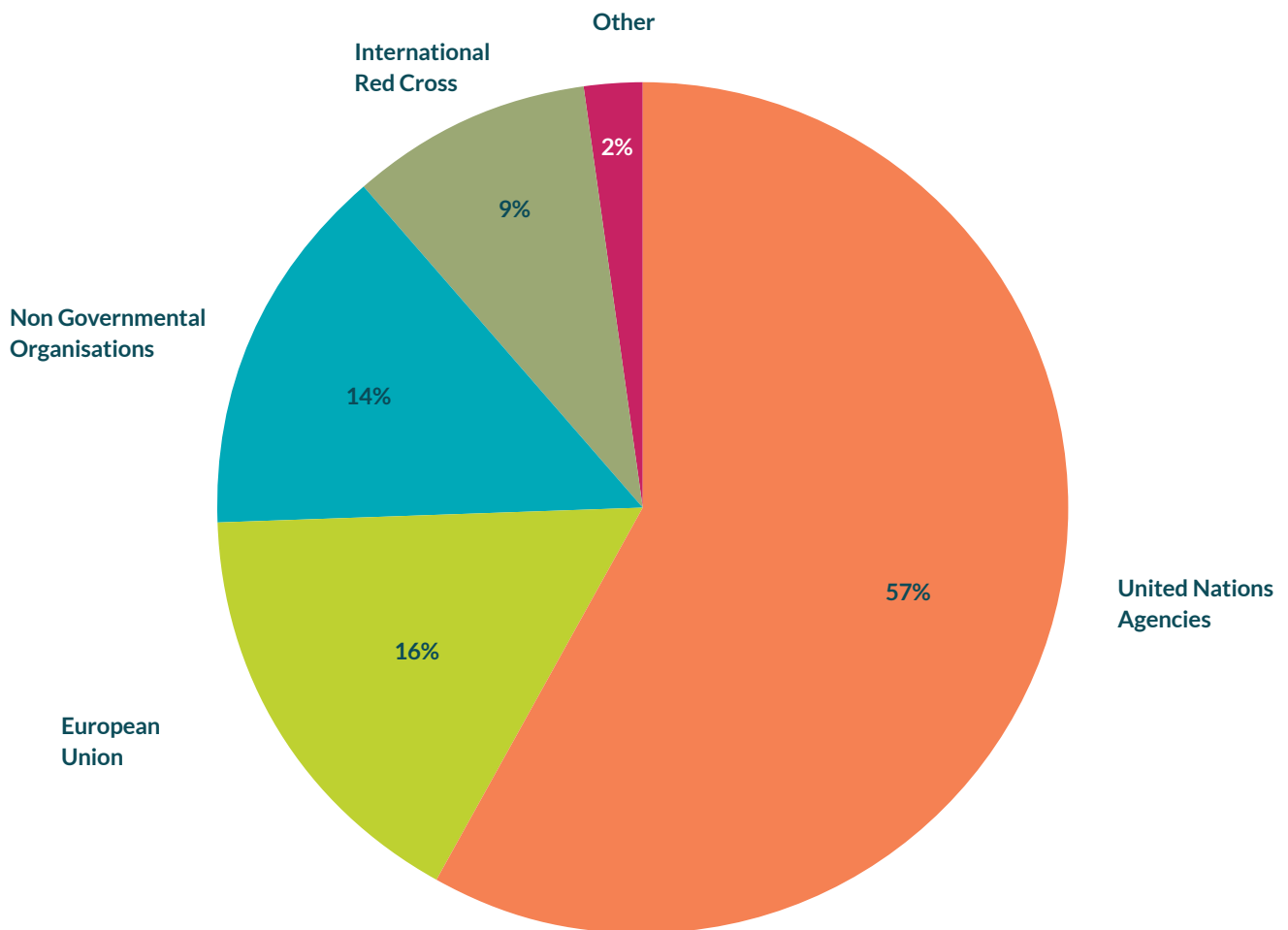
| | Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine | Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment | Department of Finance |
|---|--|--|--------------------------|
| UN Agencies Fund or Commission (continued) | | | |
| United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture | | | |
| UN Institute for Disarmament Research | | | |
| United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs | | | |
| United Nations University | | | |
| Convention to Combat Desertification | | | |
| World Intellectual Property Organisation | | | |
| International Trade Centre | | | |
| Advisory Centre on WTO Law | | | |
| World Trade Organisation | | | |
| UN Agencies Funds - Total | 28,742 | 539 | - |
| World Bank Group | | | |
| World Bank - International Development Association | | | 28,620 |
| World Bank - International Bank for Reconstruction & Development | | | 4,320 |
| International Finance Corporation | | | 1,831 |
| World Bank Trust Fund | | | |
| World Bank Group - Total | - | - | 34,771 |
| Grand Total | 28,742 | 7,080 | 58,052 |

| Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade | Ireland's Share of the EU Development Cooperation Budget | Other Departments | Total |
|---|--|-------------------|----------------|
| 135 | | | 135 |
| 95 | | | 95 |
| 141 | | | 141 |
| 40 | | | 40 |
| 27 | | | 27 |
| | | 13 | 13 |
| 1,000 | | | 1,000 |
| 350 | | | 350 |
| 350 | | | 350 |
| 167,141 | - | 3,561 | 199,982 |
| 2,268 | | | 30,888 |
| | | | 4,320 |
| 639 | | | 2,470 |
| 1,525 | | | 1,525 |
| 4,431 | - | - | 39,202 |
| 256,934 | 178,413 | 3,561 | 532,781 |

Humanitarian Assistance by Channel of Delivery

| Channel | €000's | As a % |
|--------------------------------|----------------|-------------|
| United Nations Agencies | 110,353 | 57% |
| European Union | 31,646 | 16% |
| Non-Governmental Organisations | 27,705 | 14% |
| International Red Cross | 17,800 | 9% |
| Other | 4,658 | 2% |
| Total | 192,161 | 100% |

**Humanitarian funding to UN Agencies includes contributions of €32.48M to country-based pooled funds. 78% of this funding is allocated to NGOs.



ANNEX TWELVE

Civil Society Organisations in receipt of €20K or more, in 2020 in €000s

| Organisation Name | €000's |
|--|--------|
| 80:20 Educating/Acting For A Better World | 105 |
| Action Against Hunger | 1,908 |
| ActionAid | 849 |
| Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association | 81 |
| Afri | 48 |
| African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) | 200 |
| Aidlink | 310 |
| Aidspan | 100 |
| AkiDwA | 25 |
| Al Haq, Law in the Service of Man | 81 |
| Amideast | 60 |
| Amref Health Africa | 1,000 |
| An Taisce - Green Schools | 60 |
| Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda | 100 |
| APHEDA Vietnam | 150 |
| Auschwitz Institute for the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities | 149 |
| Benjamin William Mkapa Foundation (BMF) | 500 |
| Bimkom Planners for Planning Rights | 81 |
| Brighter Communities Worldwide | 265 |
| Build It International | 90 |
| Camfed Zambia | 400 |
| Care International | 866 |
| Catholic Relief Services | 400 |
| Centre for Global Education | 58 |
| Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue | 125 |
| Centre for International Policy Africa | 35 |
| Children in Crossfire | 629 |
| Christian Aid | 5,431 |
| Christian Blind Mission Ireland | 320 |
| Clinton Health Access Initiative | 1,915 |
| Comet ME | 75 |
| Comhlámh | 456 |
| Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs Vietnam (CEMA) | 150 |
| Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation | 700 |
| Concern Universal | 1,352 |
| Concern Worldwide | 28,895 |
| Conciliation Resources | 650 |
| Crisis Action | 75 |
| Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) | 125 |

ANNEX TWELVE (CONTINUED)

| Organisation Name | €000's |
|---|--------|
| CSDS Vietnam | 39 |
| DanChurchAid (DCA) | 150 |
| Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) | 2,750 |
| Democratic Progress Institute | 85 |
| Department Of Foreign Affairs | 337 |
| Development Perspectives | 240 |
| Dialogue Advisory Group (DAG) | 150 |
| Dóchas | 455 |
| Donor country based NGOs | 5,000 |
| Dublin City University | 267 |
| ECO-UNESCO | 110 |
| ECPAT International | 100 |
| EIL Intercultural Learning | 60 |
| Emergency Nutrition Network | 450 |
| European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) | 300 |
| European Endowment for Democracy (EED) | 50 |
| European Institute of Peace | 100 |
| Family Health International - FHI 360 | 650 |
| Farm Africa Uganda | 77 |
| Fields of Life | 278 |
| Financial Justice Ireland | 46 |
| Focus 1000 | 100 |
| Forum Against Harmful Practices | 58 |
| Forward Thinking | 70 |
| Friends of the Earth Ireland | 45 |
| Front Line Defenders | 527 |
| Frontline AIDS | 150 |
| Fundação MASC Mozambique | 500 |
| Galway One World Centre | 34 |
| Garage48 | 30 |
| Generations for Peace | 50 |
| Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining | 20 |
| Geo Gecko | 40 |
| Gisha-Legal Centre for Freedom Of Movement | 81 |
| Global Action Plan | 36 |
| Global Media Campaign to End FGM | 80 |
| Global Witness Trust | 180 |
| Goal | 10,778 |

ANNEX TWELVE (CONTINUED)

| Organisation Name | €000's |
|--|--------|
| Halo Trust | 2,500 |
| Health Poverty Action | 120 |
| Helen Keller International | 986 |
| Helpage International | 748 |
| Hivos | 350 |
| HL Education for Peace | 34 |
| Human Rights Defender Network | 50 |
| IBON International Foundation | 144 |
| Ifrah Foundation | 30 |
| ILGA World | 250 |
| IMD Mozambique | 200 |
| Inishowen Development Partnership | 65 |
| Institut Pasteur du Cambodge (IPC) | 100 |
| Institute for Family Health | 75 |
| Institute for Governance Reform | 198 |
| Institute for Human Rights and Business Vietnam | 70 |
| Institute for Security Studies | 200 |
| Inter Mediate | 50 |
| International Alert | 150 |
| International Committee of the Red Cross | 15,700 |
| International Crisis Group | 400 |
| International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) | 190 |
| International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent | 3,400 |
| International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) | 300 |
| International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) | 3,000 |
| International Justice Mission Uganda | 350 |
| International Rescue Committee | 2,046 |
| International Service for Human Rights | 250 |
| Ir Amim | 22 |
| Irish Council for International Students (ICOS) | 3,730 |
| Irish Development Education Association | 315 |
| Irish Global Health Network (IGHN) and ESTHER Ireland | 105 |
| Irish League of Credit Unions International Development Foundation | 250 |
| Irish Red Cross | 610 |
| Irish Rule of Law International | 719 |
| ISEE Vietnam | 100 |
| Israel Palestine Creative Regional Initiatives | 48 |
| Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Centre (JLAC) | 81 |

ANNEX TWELVE (CONTINUED)

| Organisation Name | €000's |
|--|--------|
| Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection | 100 |
| Justice Rapid Response | 50 |
| Kvinna till Kvinna | 116 |
| Latin America Solidarity Centre | 30 |
| Legal and Human Rights Center (LHRC) | 700 |
| LIN Center for Community Development Vietnam | 100 |
| Martin Ennals Foundation | 50 |
| MCAI | 21 |
| Mercy Corps | 86 |
| MIFTAH | 81 |
| Mines Advisory Group (MAG) | 70 |
| Minority Rights Group International | 170 |
| Misean Cara | 15,500 |
| Musika | 800 |
| National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM) | 1,500 |
| National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) | 250 |
| Negotiation Strategies Institute | 54 |
| Nepal Leprosy Trust | 80 |
| Neri Clinics Zambia | 100 |
| Norwegian Refugee Council | 400 |
| Nurture Africa | 300 |
| Orbis Ireland | 125 |
| Oxfam Ireland | 3,847 |
| Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) | 81 |
| Parque Nacional da Gorongosa | 1,000 |
| PEPY Empowering Youth | 20 |
| Plan International Ireland | 3,667 |
| Proudly Made in Africa | 128 |
| Rainbo Initiative | 656 |
| Raising Voices | 250 |
| RedR Australia | 20 |
| Renew Project Vietnam | 260 |
| Restless Development | 100 |
| RIC Vietnam | 120 |
| Save The Children | 5,818 |
| Self Help Africa | 4,442 |
| SEND Sierra Leone | 380 |
| Serve in Solidarity Ireland | 280 |
| Sight Savers Ireland | 1,804 |

ANNEX TWELVE (CONTINUED)

| Organisation Name | €000's |
|---|--------|
| Smurfit Kappa Foundation | 26 |
| Social and Health Education Project | 90 |
| Social Change Assistance Trust | 100 |
| Social Science Research Council | 50 |
| Sonke Gender Justice | 150 |
| Straight Talk Foundation | 800 |
| Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA) | 116 |
| Suas Educational Development | 342 |
| Tearfund Ireland | 374 |
| Terrestrial Jerusalem | 40 |
| The Britain Nepal Medical Trust | 25 |
| The Camden Education Trust | 40 |
| The Carter Center | 498 |
| The Centre for Counselling, Nutrition and Health Care | 750 |
| The Leprosy Mission Northern Ireland | 70 |
| Trademark East Africa | 1,850 |
| Transparency International | 350 |
| Transparency International Vietnam | 100 |
| Trócaire | 21,381 |
| Tumaini La Maisha | 120 |
| UCD Volunteers Overseas | 50 |
| United Purpose | 31 |
| UPR Info | 100 |
| Vita | 522 |
| War On Want Northern Ireland | 145 |
| Welthungerhilfe | 700 |
| Women Fund Tanzania | 400 |
| Women's International League for Peace and Freedom | 70 |
| World Federalist Movement - Institute for Global Policy | 120 |
| World Organization Against Torture (OMCT) | 65 |
| World Vision Ireland | 4,063 |
| You Belong | 20 |
| Young Scientist Kenya (YSK) | 155 |
| Youth Work Ireland | 21 |
| Zambia Open Community Schools | 250 |

Notes



Irish Aid

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs