

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND
OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE
ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Cover: Children at Kasimeri
Primary School in Karamoja
Region of Northern Uganda

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Select Glossary

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AfDB	African Development Bank
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DAFM	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
DFA	Department of Foreign Affairs
EU	European Union
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GCE	Global Citizenship Education
HDI	Human Development Index
HSE	Health Service Executive
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDRC	In-Donor Refugee Costs
IFIs	International Financial Institutions
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECD DAC	OECD Development Assistance Committee
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
UNV	UN Volunteers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WBG	World Bank Group
WHO	World Health Organization

Ireland's ODA impact in 2023

We supported people in over **100 countries**





Ranked **2nd** in the world for principled aid giving



Our total ODA was **€2.6 billion**

Foreword

Tánaiste, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence, Micheál Martin TD



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Fifty years ago, the Government established Ireland's international development programme. The Ireland of 1974 faced many economic and social challenges, but the establishment of Irish Aid was reflective of a desire to look outward and to play our part in creating a better world for everyone.

The world – and Ireland - has changed massively over those years. There have been huge advances in technology and transformative progress in fighting disease and increasing agricultural production. However, as a global community we still face the shameful challenge of poverty and inequality, accentuated increasingly by the existential threat of climate change.

Those challenges were all too clear in 2023. The world faced unprecedented levels of humanitarian need, with overlapping crises of conflict, hunger and climate change.

Collectively, the international community must do more. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Summit in September heard that just 15% of the targets set in 2015 were on track to be met by 2030. That was a wake-up call for us all.

This Government has strengthened Ireland's leadership role in tackling the issues that continue to leave too many people facing hunger, exclusion and displacement.

2023 saw Ireland invest a record amount in Official Development Assistance (ODA). This included our highest ever level of humanitarian assistance in response to natural disasters, the worsening impact of climate change, and the continuation of brutal wars.

From Ukraine to Sudan to Gaza, civilians continue to be killed, injured and have their lives torn apart by conflict. Ireland continues to use every opportunity to emphasise the need to address the root causes of conflict, to find political solutions, and to reassert the centrality of respect for international law, including international humanitarian law, and fundamental human rights.

As well as providing humanitarian assistance, Ireland continues to invest in long-term support for people caught in conflict.

In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, we have been strongly supportive of the vital role of UNRWA in providing basic services to Palestinian refugees. We also strongly continue to support Education Cannot Wait, the UN body that provides education to children caught in conflict.

Long-term development assistance to transform communities remains the bedrock of Ireland's ODA.

Ending poverty and inequality requires a strong focus on building gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, not least through education. We have also strengthened our work to end hunger and the needless scandal of malnutrition, especially among children.

Our partnerships with multilateral, bilateral and civil society partners are vital. 2023 saw the development of a close and effective partnership with USAID. Our joint transformative food systems initiative in Malawi addresses the challenges of climate resilience, nutrition, crop diversification and support for sustainable economic growth.



Tánaiste, Micheál Martin TD with school children in Mozambique © DFA

President Biden highlighted our collaboration in fighting hunger in his address to the Oireachtas in April, rooting it in our own historical experience. Our partnership offers valuable lessons for future partnerships elsewhere.

At COP28 in Dubai in December, Ireland played an influential role on loss and damage, one of our key priorities. This reflects our work on adaptation and our promotion of locally-led adaptation in developing countries.

I saw for myself in Mozambique the impact on coastal communities of locally-led work, in partnership with Ireland, in building climate resilience. I am proud that we played a key role at COP28 in ensuring that the agreement on a new Loss and Damage Fund has special provision for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Also at COP28, I was pleased to launch Ireland's second strategy for partnership with SIDS.

Our work to address hunger, malnutrition and inequality remains at the heart of Ireland's foreign policy. The strength of our partnership with developing countries has given Ireland a strong and credible voice internationally. We use that voice consistently to underline the urgency of collectively tackling global challenges and realising the vision of the SDGs.

We will maintain the focus of our work on the most vulnerable, prioritising the furthest behind first. This Annual Report is a reflection of our commitment to account for this work on behalf of the Irish people, to them and to the countries and communities we are partnering with in developing countries.

The world has changed significantly since 1974, but Ireland's determination to stand in solidarity with the displaced, marginalised and most vulnerable has only increased. I believe this should be an enormous source of pride for us all.



Micheál Martin TD
Tánaiste, Minister for Foreign Affairs
and Minister for Defence

Foreword

Minister of State for International Development and Diaspora, Sean Fleming TD



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2023 was a year in which Ireland was called upon to live up to our values and rise to meet the challenges of our time.

The war in Ukraine entered its second year, while new and devastating conflicts erupted in Sudan and Gaza. Climate change continued to cast a long shadow, threatening life and livelihoods across the world. Beyond the headlines, inequalities persisted - in gender, health, access to education and income.

Ireland continues to lead the way in the delivery of a principled and effective aid programme. I am proud that 2023 saw the Government increase our Official Development Assistance (ODA) to record levels. This was the correct response given the scale of crises facing people in some of the countries least able to respond to them. It is also in line with Ireland's long-held reputation for standing in solidarity with people around the world.

Ireland's ODA programme is rooted in a desire to make real and sustainable changes to better the lives of the most vulnerable. Eradicating poverty remains at the heart of that work. In 2023, our development assistance reached some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

We have continued to prioritise gender equality, reducing humanitarian need, climate action and strengthening governance. In all of these areas, we recorded significant achievements in 2023.

The year was bookended by humanitarian crises to which Ireland responded quickly and decisively. In February, Ireland provided €10 million to support recovery efforts following the devastating earthquake in Türkiye and Syria. As 2023 drew to a close, we provided partners in Gaza with €20 million to address people's needs following the latest outbreak of conflict.

At COP 28, we took global action to anticipate and mitigate the worst effects of the climate crisis. Ireland pledged €25 million - one of the largest per capita contributions - to the new Loss and Damage Fund, and ensured that the Fund will address the needs of least developed countries and small island developing states.

At a time when democracy and good governance is under threat across the world, we supported efforts to increase citizen participation in the democratic process in many countries across sub-Saharan Africa, funding several projects to increase the number of women running for office.

We continued to act as global leaders in the fight for gender equality, ranking among the OECD members with the highest proportion of aid directed towards gender equality.

One of the areas where women and girls continue to face discrimination is education. Too many girls are denied schooling. In November, I visited Ethiopia and Uganda – among the 16 high level visits undertaken by Ireland to 14 countries in Africa in 2023. I visited schools in both countries where Ireland's support is keeping young people, particularly girls, in education.



Minister of State, Sean Fleming TD with students from the Ireland Fellows Programme at the fellowship Orientation Day in Dublin, September 2023 © Simon Peare Photography

Education is the key to unlocking brighter futures. Ireland's impact in this area is making a lifelong difference to children, their families and their entire communities.

We are continuing to invest in education, with a particular focus on education for girls and for children in humanitarian situations - we pledged €18 million to Education Cannot Wait, the Global Fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises.

The impact of Ireland's work around the world is transformative. Since taking up my current position at the end of 2022, I have been fortunate to see this first-hand in seven countries across Africa. From the classrooms of northern Uganda to the farms of Malawi, Ireland continues to deliver real and practical impact in people's lives.

That support is delivered in partnership with our multilateral, bilateral and civil society partners.

Irish NGOs have a long and proud history of working in every corner of the world. Since my appointment, I have met with each of our NGO partners to discuss how we can maximise our partnership. In 2023 we launched our new funding mechanism, Ireland's Civil Society Partnership for A Better World. This will further strengthen our collective impact.

I have also worked with our NGO partners to ensure representation from the Global South on their boards. Ireland's development assistance has always been based on strengthening people's voices and being responsive to the needs, asks and rights of the people we support. I believe this initiative is vital for ensuring that remains at the heart of what we, collectively, do.

Ireland may be a small country, but we have an outsized impact in the fight against poverty and suffering. We can be very proud of our achievements in 2023, and I have great faith that we will continue, through our actions and our advocacy, to meet the many challenges that lie ahead as we strive for a better and fairer world.



Sean Fleming TD
Minister of State for International Development and Diaspora

Overview of Our Work

Ireland's official development assistance (ODA) programme aims to create a more equal, peaceful and sustainable world. We fund programmes across the world, with a specific focus on Sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia.

We are guided by the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of the global community, and by *A Better World; Ireland's Policy for International Development*, which lays out our four priority areas;

- Gender Equality
- Reducing Humanitarian Need
- Climate Action
- Strengthening Governance

Our efforts are focused on reaching those who are the most vulnerable and marginalised, with a priority on addressing the needs of those who are furthest behind in all areas.

In 2023, the Government of Ireland provided over €2.6 billion in Official Development Assistance to people and organisations to help achieve these ambitions, representing 0.67% of our GNI. This figure includes support for Ukrainian refugees during their first year of resettlement in Ireland, excluding those costs our ODA was €1.467 billion.

How we work

Ireland's Official Development Assistance is an All-of-Government programme. This means that Irish Aid is a collaboration across many different government departments and agencies, including the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), the HSE, the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), the Department of Finance and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). DFA coordinates and oversees ODA across these different organisations.

We work through a number of different channels to maximise the efficiency of our support. We contribute to multilateral organisations including EU and UN bodies, coordinating with other countries to impact the world beyond what one country can achieve. We fund non-governmental organisations (NGOs) across the world, and in 2023 we launched a new innovative 5-year funding stream for Irish NGOs called Ireland's Civil Society Partnership (ICSP) for A Better World. Ireland's embassies and consulates in our partner countries also fund programmes to support communities and strengthen their links with Ireland. Ireland also provides direct assistance to countries, including technical expertise, medical supplies, and agricultural supplies. Ireland's Official Development Assistance also provides support to refugees during their first year of resettlement in Ireland.

Benna Iolem and Esther Chepengat in Karamoja, northern Uganda. Benna studied in Trinity College as part of the Ireland Fellows Programme, while Esther is a recipient of the Ireland Bursaries which supports school students in the region © DFA



Syria, Tal Al-Karama. August 2023. Children displaced by the earthquake play games. Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund partner Al-Sham Humanitarian Foundation provided child-protection services, including family reunification, to affected children © OCHA

Accountability and Transparency

We are committed to ensuring that our development assistance meets the highest standards of accountability and transparency, and that public funds are used appropriately and to the greatest effect. The Evaluation and Audit Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs conducts independent evaluations of our programmes to assess the efficiency and efficacy of our work and to identify lessons to take forward. The DFA Audit Committee, which provides an independent appraisal of the audit and evaluation function, reviews the work of the Evaluation and Audit Unit.

Ireland is a member of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI), and we follow best practice around the prevention, detection, and management of instances of fraud. We strongly support their efforts to increase transparency in the international aid system. Ireland is also a member of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the OECD. DAC sets standards for best practice in international development, and provides external accountability. In 2023, DAC conducted a mid-term review of Ireland's international development programme and concluded that Ireland had made good progress since our last review in 2020. The review noted our strengths in multilateralism and working cross-government. Additionally, in 2023 ODI, an independent global affairs think tank, ranked Ireland as 2nd in the world for principled aid giving, a great endorsement of Ireland's commitment to our values.

Ireland's support for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Ireland is proud of its long and ongoing commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2015, when the Goals were first agreed, we played a leading role in building consensus on an ambitious set of targets as we served as co-facilitator, alongside Kenya, negotiating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We continued this support in 2023, when Ireland's Permanent Mission to the UN worked alongside Qatar to co-facilitate the negotiations on the Political Declaration adopted at the SDG Summit in New York in September. These 17 Goals, each with targets to be met by 2030, are central to Ireland's development policy and work around the world.



In 2023, we contributed for the first time to the Umbrella Facility for Poverty and Equity. Managed by the World Bank, this facility is the first global trust fund to focus on crosscutting poverty and equity interventions at scale (see page 39).



Ireland announced a pledge of €25 million over three years (2025-2027) to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). This includes support to IFAD's climate financing mechanism (see page 31).



In 2023, Ireland provided a total of €10 million in voluntary funding to the World Health Organisation (WHO), more than double pre-pandemic levels (see page 24).



In 2023, Ireland pledged €18 million to Education Cannot Wait, the global fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises (see page 34).



In 2023, Ireland launched a new initiative on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) with up to €25 million of funding for new and scaled partnerships over the period of 2023 – 2025 (see page 28).



Ireland continues to support the renovation of water pumps, toilets and sanitation facilities for thousands of displaced people around the world (see page 40).



In Malawi, Ireland launched the Green Economic Transition Facility (GET-F), in conjunction with UNDP to promote innovation around energy and clean cooking solutions for the most marginalised people, especially women and girls (see page 51).



In Zambia, Ireland supports Build It International Zambia (BIIZ) to implement a programme to promote greater participation of women and girls in the construction sector (see page 71).



In South Africa, the Irish Tech Challenge expanded beyond its pilot phase. This programme encourages tech entrepreneurship and knowledge sharing between South African start-ups and established tech companies in Ireland (see page 63).



In 2023, Ireland provided €8.2 million in core funding to the UN Development Programme (UNDP) to help tackle poverty, inequalities and exclusion (see page 38).



In partnership with UNHCR, we provided funding to Uganda's Nsamizi Institute to pilot a number of ecological initiatives with refugees and local host communities to improve the sustainable management of natural resources in refugee settlements (see page 22).



Ireland continued to support the creation of more sustainable and resilient global food systems through our funding to Irish company FoodCloud for their partnership with Food Banking Kenya. This project aims to reduce food waste and improve food security for vulnerable people, through the use of mobile technology (see page 31).



Ireland continued the scale up of Ireland's climate financing in 2023 through our bilateral development programming and our support to NGOs in developing countries. Our level of climate finance has more than doubled since 2015 and we are on track to reach the commitment of €225 million per year by 2025. At the COP28 climate negotiations, we also pledged €25 million of funding to the new Loss and Damage Fund (see page 21).



In 2023, Ireland provided €1.75million in funding to the Blue Action Fund, a non-profit foundation set up to support projects to conserve the ocean and improve the livelihoods of coastal communities (see page 23).



In 2023, Ireland launched a new 'Furthest Behind First' programme in Cambodia focusing on protecting the land rights of indigenous communities; protecting natural resources and preventing biodiversity loss (see page 64).



The Department of Foreign Affairs established a new Peace and Stability Unit in 2023. The Unit will provide direct and practical support for peacebuilding and conflict prevention actions (see page 20).



2023 saw the first year of Ireland's five-year innovative partnership, **Ireland's Civil Society Partnership for *A Better World***, which supports ten Irish civil society partners to deliver long-term development and humanitarian programmes overseas as well as Global Citizenship Education in Ireland. This funding mechanism provides flexibility and predictability in order to strengthen approaches and deepen focus on issues that underpin strong humanitarian and development programming, and to work towards the achievement of the SDGs (see page 42)

The Year in Review

Reducing Humanitarian Need

AN IMMENSELY CHALLENGING YEAR

In 2023, many countries around the world continued to struggle with decades-long conflict, economic turmoil, and the devastating effects of climate change. At the beginning of the year, the UN estimated that 339 million people were in need of life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection. By the end of 2023, an additional 30 million people were dependent on humanitarian assistance for their survival.

The year began with devastating earthquakes in Syria and Türkiye. In April, intense conflict erupted in Sudan, plunging the region into crisis and forcing over 7 million people to flee their homes. In September, an earthquake caused widespread destruction in Morocco and unprecedented flooding hit eastern Libya. This was followed in October by the conflict in Gaza, which resulted in the displacement of 1.7 million people; a staggering 80% of the population. Separate to these events, millions of people continued to endure tragedy and suffering in forgotten and protracted crises across the globe – from Ukraine, Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa, to Yemen, the Democratic Republic of Congo and beyond. Record levels of displacement upended lives, and global food insecurity reached new heights.

Humanitarian Support 2023

Ireland supported the work of **23 humanitarian partners,** including **UN agencies, The Red Cross**, and **NGOs**

72% of funding targeted **forgotten and underfunded emergencies** including **Syria**, **Yemen**, **the Sahel** and **the Horn of Africa**

Reacted quickly with funding to emergency situations such as the **earthquakes** in **Syria, Türkiye** and **Morocco**, flooding in **Libya** and the **conflict in Gaza**

23 Rapid Response members deployed to UN agencies in **14 countries**. **55 new experts** added to the Roster

385 tonnes of emergency stocks deployed to **Türkiye** and **Syria, South Sudan, Afghanistan** and **Gaza**

Ireland remains a **Top 10** donor to the **UN Central Emergency Response Fund**. In 2023, Ireland was appointed to the **CERF Advisory Group**

At **COP 28, Ireland** was one of the first donors to announce **funding** to the **CERF's new Climate Account (€5m)**

IRELAND'S RESPONSE

Ireland stepped up to the challenge and played its part in the global effort to respond to the sharp rise in humanitarian needs throughout 2023. Ireland's humanitarian funding is channelled through a range of experienced and trusted partners – primarily UN agencies, the Red Cross (the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies), and NGOs. In 2023, we increased the amount of humanitarian funding directed towards local humanitarian organisations that are often the first responders in complex settings.

Ireland is swift to respond to sudden onset humanitarian disasters. We were among the first donors to provide funding to our partners following the earthquakes in Syria and Türkiye and released funding to partners on the ground within days of the floods in Libya and the earthquake in Morocco. This provided life-saving assistance to those most affected.

When fighting erupted in Sudan and humanitarian needs escalated, Ireland responded at scale. By the end of 2023, we had provided €7.9 million to our partners on the ground. We also responded quickly and decisively to the conflict in Gaza. An initial package of support worth €13 million was provided in October and €7 million of additional funding in December. Beyond new emergencies, Ireland stood with those involved in protracted crises that sometimes fall below the radar. We continued to provide significant levels of support to partners on the ground in crises such as the Central African Republic, Myanmar, Niger and Syria.

Ireland also provided expertise to respond to humanitarian crises across the globe. In 2023, 23 experts were deployed from our Rapid Response Register to UN agencies in 14 countries. They provided advice in areas such as nutrition, child protection, water and sanitation, and gender based violence.

THE SUDAN HUMANITARIAN FUND

In 2023 Ireland was a top donor to the Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF), contributing €3 million. The SHF provided a lifeline to over 4.6 million people in desperate need of humanitarian assistance, including shelter, food, basic health services, water and sanitation, and protection from gender based violence. When the conflict erupted in April 2023, as security risks soared it became very difficult for humanitarian actors to access vulnerable populations, particularly in hard-to-reach areas.

As many international actors had to scale back operations, local civil society stepped up and provided critical assistance to communities on the front line of the crisis.

The SHF responded quickly to this changed context, adapting its processes to provide fast, flexible funding to a range of community initiatives. One such initiative – the emergency response rooms – played a critical role, evacuating families from active conflict zones, operating soup kitchens, supplying essential medicine to house-bound individuals and creating safe and child-friendly spaces for women and children.

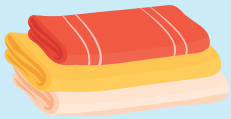
Ireland is proud to be consistently ranked as a top ten donor for the provision of quality funding

In 2023, we used our voice to inform and influence multilateral action within the United Nations and in the European Union. As Co-Chair of the Group of Friends on Conflict and Hunger, we underscored the links between conflict and hunger and called for urgent attention and action on global food security. We consistently highlighted how the increasing disregard for international humanitarian law in crises such as Gaza, Sudan, and Ukraine poses serious challenges to the safe, unhindered delivery of aid. Ireland was also nominated as a new member of the Advisory Group of the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) in 2023.

In 2023, Ireland provided 350 metric tonnes of emergency relief items to help families affected by conflict and disasters in Afghanistan, Gaza, South Sudan, Syria and Türkiye including:



1,700
tents



44,000
blankets



6,000
hygiene kits

5,500
kitchen sets



BREAKING THE CYCLE

Humanitarian crises are lasting longer and are becoming harder to solve. In line with Ireland's policy commitment to reduce humanitarian need, we are working hard to break the cycle of repeated humanitarian interventions.

In 2023, we strengthened ways of working that pave the way for impactful and lasting change in fragile contexts by increasing funding for:

- *Sustained engagement to build the resilience of affected populations*. Ireland responds at speed and stays the course to help communities strengthen their capacity to withstand future shocks.
- *'Anticipatory action'* – an approach that anticipates shocks and acts early, rather than waiting for a crisis to happen. The ability to predict many of today's crises, such as the impending famine in the Horn of Africa, means we can saves lives, prevent losses and reduce costs.
- *Locally led humanitarian action*. Local and national actors are there when a crisis hits and are often best placed to reach those most in need.
- *Programming that addresses climate as a key driver of humanitarian need*. In 2023 Ireland more than tripled its support to humanitarian partners working to address the climate crisis in humanitarian settings, from €2.7 million to €8 million.

Underpinning these ways of working is Ireland's commitment to the provision of quality funding – both flexible and multi-year. We believe this is key to effective and responsive humanitarian action. It allows our partners to work in a meaningful way with communities, local authorities, and local and national NGOs in fragile settings. Ireland is proud to be consistently ranked as a top ten donor for the provision of quality funding.

Ireland's Response to the Humanitarian Crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Ireland is a long-standing supporter of the Palestinian people. Prior to the horrific attack by Hamas on Israel in October and the subsequent conflict in Gaza, €16 million had already been provided in 2023 through our development programmes in Gaza and the West Bank as well as to Palestinian refugees across the region.

Ireland responded swiftly to the crisis in Gaza after the October 7th attacks, providing €20 million in humanitarian assistance. This included €10 million to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), a key humanitarian partner for Ireland. UNRWA plays a key part in delivering critical services such as healthcare, education, humanitarian relief and social services to 5.7 million Palestine refugees in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. It performs a vital role as the backbone of all humanitarian action in Gaza, facilitating all other actors with logistical and security supports. Ireland remains a firm supporter of UNRWA.

Other support included €4.4 million to the UN-managed Humanitarian Fund for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, €2.6 million to the World Food Programme, €1 million to the World Health Organization and €2 million to the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. These agencies play a critical role in providing humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza in extraordinarily difficult circumstances. Ireland's response to the Gaza crisis also included in-kind assistance, through providing relief materials and medical supplies.

Ireland also reacted to the crisis through globally prepositioned funds such as UN CERF which reacts rapidly and at scale when crises happen. CERF provided funding of US$18 million in response to the Gaza crisis. Ireland is a major contributor to CERF, providing €14.5 million in 2023.

RAPID RESPONSE STOCKS IN GAZA

Irish Aid provided 500 family tents and 3,000 tarpaulins to people in Gaza through our partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS). The shelter materials were flown from Ireland's prepositioned stocks in the UN Humanitarian Response Depot in Dubai to Al Arish in Egypt, and then onwards into Gaza. CRS distributed the tents and tarpaulins to almost 2,000 internally displaced families in Rafah, with priority given to families living in open areas across the Rafah district in Gaza.



CRS Distribution of Tents and Plastic Tarps donated by Irish Aid to Gaza Internally Displaced Households © CRS

Jamal Abedallah, his four sons, daughter and grandchildren were one of many families forced to flee their homes to escape the conflict in Gaza. Along with 1.5 million others, they fled to the southern city of Rafah in search of safety. There was a severe shortage of shelter in the face of such a sudden and massive influx of people and for the first few days Jamal's family were forced to sleep in the open. CRS provided the family with a tent from Irish Aid's emergency stocks.

"The CRS team found us sleeping on the street in the cold." said Jamal. "The tent provided us warmth and protection. Literally, the day we got the tent was the first day we felt warm."

Ireland's Response to the Humanitarian Crisis in Ukraine

Ireland was among the first countries to provide humanitarian support to those affected by the war in Ukraine, with a significant aid package announced on the first day of the invasion.

Since February 2022, our financial support to Ukraine has reached over €90 million, including significant contributions to the humanitarian response through trusted partners in the region. In 2023, we allocated €20 million in humanitarian aid. Ireland also supported the humanitarian response through the EU. The European Commission has allocated €785 million in humanitarian aid for Ukraine, and €58 million for Moldova.

Ireland's aid to Ukraine prioritises the most vulnerable and hard to reach, such as women and children, displaced people, those closest to the conflict lines, and marginalised populations. Our assistance has provided shelter, functional healthcare, and protective services. We also prioritised preventing and responding to sexual and gender based violence, and supported local actors to strengthen their capacity through partnerships with Irish NGOs.

We responded to the destruction of the Nova Kakhovka Dam in southern Ukraine. The dam held back an amount of water equal to that of the Great Salt Lake in the USA. This vast amount of water was unleashed downstream along the Dnipro River. The devastating flooding swept away entire villages and destroyed farmland. In the aftermath of the disaster up to 700,000 people were left without shelter, water or electricity.

Ireland was among the first countries to provide humanitarian support to those impacted by the war in Ukraine

Ireland responded swiftly with €1 million to support the emergency operation. This support was provided through our long-term partner, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, in support of the Ukraine Red Cross Society (URCS). The URCS activated its Emergency Response Teams and volunteers to provide emergency shelter, clean drinking water, ready-to-eat food and mobile healthcare in the communities impacted by the disaster. This rapid response saved numerous lives and prevented the spread of disease.

In addition to funding, Ireland also provided several types of in-kind assistance, including medical supplies and energy network items through the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). This is the largest UCPM operation to date with the European Commission and EU Member States providing in-kind assistance to Ukraine amounting to almost €800 million.

SENDING SEED POTATOES TO UKRAINE

Ukraine is among the top five potato producers in the world and the bulk of its production is by smallholder farmers. Since the outbreak of the conflict, the normal structures of seed potato supply in Ukraine have been interrupted and the imports of certified seed input stocks have been severely hampered.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) funded a project implemented by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Ukraine to transport 500 tonnes of certified seed potatoes to Ukraine, cultivated especially for Ukraine's climate. FAO Ukraine distributed these seed potatoes to 10,000 highly vulnerable smallholder farmers located in rural areas in eastern and southern Ukraine near the frontline.

In addition to saving 10% of the harvest as seed potatoes for the next growing season, this volume of quality seed potatoes has the potential to produce up to 7,000 tonnes of ware potatoes, yielding the average annual consumption of potatoes for 45,000-50,000 people per year. This FAO project will support efforts to build back agricultural capacity and to assist rural families to resume production for their own household consumption and, in doing so, to meet their immediate food needs

Olena, 36, from Borodianka whose home was destroyed when she was heavily pregnant with her second child. © UNHCR Ukraine



INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) AND THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT SOCIETIES (IFRC)

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, independent and neutral organisation mandated under the 1949 Geneva Conventions to protect the lives and dignity of people affected by conflict and violence. The ICRC's history, mandate, and its application of the principle of neutrality, allow the organisation to respond rapidly, including in otherwise closed-off contexts, such as Tigray, Ethiopia or Rakhine State, Myanmar. In addition to its essential work in humanitarian assistance, the ICRC also plays a specific role as the guardian of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). Furthermore, the ICRC directs, and coordinates, international relief activities conducted by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Since 2006, Ireland has provided over €160 million in funding in support of the ICRC's operations and activities, with over €20 million in funding provided in 2023.

The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest volunteer-based humanitarian organisation, comprising 191 Red Cross and Red Crescent member societies, including the Irish Red Cross. Acting before, during and after disasters and health emergencies, the Federation coordinates relief operations to meet the needs and improve the lives of vulnerable people, and combines relief assistance with development work to strengthen the capacities of its member National Societies. The IFRC also maintains a Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF), which provides immediate assistance to communities affected by floods, epidemics, social unrest, forced migration and other crises. In 2023, Ireland provided the IFRC, including the DREF, with €2.4 million in funding.



Volunteers from the Ukrainian Red Cross Society rescuing people following the destruction of the Nova Kakhovka dam. © IFRC

Peace and Stability

Building on Ireland's work during our time on the UN Security Council in 2021-2022, the Department of Foreign Affairs established a Peace and Stability Unit in 2023. The Unit aims to strengthen policy coherence and impact by bringing together the political and development cooperation aspects of Ireland's peace and stability work.

The Unit will provide direct and practical support for peacebuilding and conflict prevention, including by supporting the work of our embassies in this area. It will take a strategic, coordinated and sustained approach to this work, and will draw on lessons learned from the Northern Ireland peace process. The Unit will continue Ireland's leadership in the area of Women, Peace and Security. It will also seek to strengthen the links, or 'nexus' between humanitarian, development and peacebuilding work to deliver the maximum impact.

Ireland will prioritise a number of countries for focused work in peacebuilding. For example, Ireland was requested by Colombia to act as a guarantor in the peace negotiations with the EMC armed group as part of the implementation of the Paz Total policy. Our embassies in Ethiopia, Kenya and Mozambique have also developed peacebuilding programmes in recent years. Other geographic priorities will emerge.

This work is guided by Ireland's core foreign policy values including our commitments to inclusive locally led approaches, human rights and international humanitarian law. Though the Unit is still in its infancy, it has already carried out several scoping missions, including to Colombia and the Nordic countries. These missions have allowed the Unit to successfully identify avenues for more strategic engagement in multilateral peacebuilding work, learn from other countries' approaches, and scope potential cooperation with specialist peacebuilding organisations.

Climate

SUPPORTING CLIMATE ACTION

Action on climate change is one of Ireland's prime focuses in international development. Key priorities include increasing international climate finance to support communities to adapt to the effects of climate change and engagement to increase the international flow of Loss and Damage finance. Different government departments collaborate closely to maximise Ireland's impact on the climate crisis, in particular the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, and the Department of Foreign Affairs. In 2023, Ireland's annual contributions to climate finance increased significantly to approximately €147 million. This represents a significant step towards our commitment to provide annual funding of at least €225 million by 2025.

INCREASED CLIMATE FINANCE ALLOCATION

As outlined in Ireland's Climate Finance Roadmap published in 2022, the majority of Ireland's expenditure supports adaptation and resilience to climate change in some of the most climate-vulnerable countries around the world. In 2023, Ireland committed €40 million to the second replenishment period of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Trust Fund, which runs from 2024 to 2027, more than doubling Ireland's previous pledge. We provided €6 million to the Adaptation Fund, €5 million to the Global Shield Against Climate Risks, and €2.5 to the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), of which €1 million went to the Special Climate Change Fund which provides adaptation finance aimed at supporting vulnerable nations to address the negative impacts of climate change.

COP28

The 28th Conference of the Parties, COP28, took place in Dubai in December 2023. Ireland was actively involved in the EU negotiating team, focusing on climate finance, adaptation, and Loss and Damage.

Loss and Damage is a key priority for our efforts on climate change. Ireland works with and supports many of the world's Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, who are on the frontline of devastating climate change events and require Loss and Damage support. Throughout 2023, Ireland was heavily engaged in Loss and Damage discussions after the decision to set up a new Fund at COP27, including through the Transitional Committee on Loss and Damage. Ireland played a key role in designing the scope and structure of the new Fund, particularly ensuring special provision for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

COP28 kicked off with a historic consensus agreement on the new Loss and Damage fund. In line with our commitment to support those furthest behind first, Ireland pledged €25 million to the new fund. Ireland's pledge was the second highest pledge per capita, coming just after the UAE.



Tánaiste, Micheál Martin TD was joined by Mary Robinson to launch Ireland's second strategy for partnership with Small Island Developing States (SIDS) at COP28, Dubai, UAE © DFA

The outcome document of COP28, the Global Stocktake, covered the full scope of climate issues, including reducing emissions, adapting to a changing climate, and how to finance and implement these changes, and provided direction for the next round of national climate commitments, due in 2025. Though Ireland supported greater ambition and urgency than what was included in the final text, the document reflected the best achievable negotiated outcome. It represents marked progress and a real 'step change'. The COP28 decision calls for accelerated short-term actions and an orderly transition away from fossil fuels towards climate-neutral energy systems – the first COP decision to directly address 'fossil fuels' since UN climate negotiations began 30 years ago.

SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

At COP28, the Tánaiste Micheál Martin TD launched Ireland's Second Strategy for Partnership with Small Island Developing States (SIDS) with the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan TD, as well as former President of Ireland Mary Robinson and SIDS' leaders. The strategy reflects Ireland's commitment to deepen our relationship with SIDS. It was prepared through extensive consultations with stakeholders from government departments, SIDS' representatives and international partners to identify key priorities and implementing actions. These actions fall under four inter-linked pillars:

- Building our Partnership
- Climate and Oceans
- Capacity
- Advocacy



Taissa, age 13, from the Amazon rainforest, was supported by the Irish Government to attend COP 28 with World Vision to highlight the need to protect indigenous people © DFA

LOCALLY LED ADAPTATION

Current estimates indicate that less than 10% of climate finance reaches local levels and at-risk groups including women and indigenous peoples. Stakeholders in climate-vulnerable countries are calling for greater commitment to supporting and addressing local adaptation priorities. Ireland worked closely with the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to promote the Principles for Locally Led Adaptation (LLA). The Principles for LLA are grounded in the belief that countries and communities know best what they need to adapt to the climate impacts they face. These Principles were launched by the Global Centre on Adaptation at the Climate Adaptation Summit in 2021 to guide global actors to shift funding and programming practices toward adaptation that is increasingly owned and led by local partners.

As part of our joint campaign, Ireland and USAID put a call out to other climate finance providers and recipients to endorse the Principles, which resulted in seven additional governments committing to the Principles, including Burkina Faso, Estonia, France, Italy, Malawi, Mozambique and Switzerland. So far, 23 countries have committed to the LLA. Ireland and the US hosted a joint high-level event at COP28, which brought together newly endorsing governments to discuss how they are approaching LLA in their specific contexts.

CASE STUDY

CLIMATE ACTION FOR REFUGEES

In Uganda, Ireland supported local organisations to improve the sustainable management of natural resources in refugee settlements. Through our partnership with UNHCR, we provided funding to Uganda's Nsamizi Institute to pilot a number of ecological initiatives with refugees and the local host community. These projects included the establishment of fast-growing agroforestry plots to improve food security and reduce dependence on indigenous trees for firewood. Projects also included work to improve water security through the protection of local wetlands.

BLUE ECONOMY

As an island nation with a maritime area seven times the size of our land area, marine protection, biodiversity, and the promotion of a sustainable blue economy are priority issues for Ireland.

Irish Aid supports several initiatives in this regard:

- In 2023, Ireland provided €1.75 million in funding to the Blue Action Fund, a non-profit foundation set up to support marine conservation projects to conserve the ocean and improve the livelihoods of coastal communities.
- In 2023, Ireland provided €1.5 million to Climate KIC, Europe's leading climate innovation agency and community. Through Climate KIC we support innovation, female entrepreneurship and the sustainable blue economy, particularly in SIDS. This is achieved through Climate KIC's Climate Launchpad, the world's largest green business ideas competition, which through Ireland's support has now been extended to numerous Pacific Islands.
- There was an important development in international ocean governance in 2023, as a historic agreement was reached on Marine Biodiversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (the 'BBNJ Agreement'), after nearly two decades of talks. This area comprises around two thirds of the ocean. Ireland played an active and constructive role in negotiating this agreement and was one of the first signatories.

Health

During 2023, Ireland continued to consolidate its approach to global health in a post-COVID-19 world. This included increasing our support to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund) to regain lost ground in achieving the SDG health targets and strengthening of our partnership with the World Health Organization Ireland's commitment to the most vulnerable, in particular women and girls, was reflected in a new initiative on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), approved in September 2023. In addition, the Department of Health and the Department of Foreign Affairs started working closely together in an EU-led Joint Action on Global Health Impact, to engage EU Member States on the implementation of the EU Global Health Strategy, launched in late 2022.

In March 2023, Ireland provided €21 million to the Global Fund, the first portion of its pledge for the period 2023-2025, a total of €65 million. In December 2023, this was increased by €750,000 to coincide with the unveiling of a new HIV and AIDS National Monument in the Phoenix Park in Dublin.

Ireland's Health Service Executive (HSE) provided partner countries with essential supplies, training and technical assistance throughout 2023. The HSE provided Zambia with three 40-foot containers of supplies, sent €1 million worth of supplies to Sudan, and donated 10 forty-foot containers of medical equipment and supplies and four ambulances, worth over €1.4 million to Ukraine. They also provided workshops on quality improvement and developing standards in Ethiopia, Mozambique and Tanzania.

WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION

In 2023, Ireland committed to strengthening its partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), in recognition of its leadership role at the heart of the global health architecture. The WHO provides leadership on global health matters within the United Nations system, sets norms and standards, provides technical support and coordinates health emergency responses.

Ireland increased its financing for the WHO during the COVID-19 pandemic. In spite of numerous challenges, including limited financing, the WHO proved to be a credible and effective institution at the centre of the global health architecture.

Since that time, Ireland has actively supported proposals for more robust and sustainable resourcing for this important multilateral organisation. Irish Aid provided a total of €10 million in voluntary funding to the WHO in 2023, more than double pre-pandemic levels. The Department of Health awarded €1million in assessed contributions in the same year. The quantifiable return on investment for the WHO is substantial with the estimated return on investment exceeding €35 for every €1 invested. Ireland's funding is oriented towards the Organization's general programme of work, health in humanitarian crises, and the prevention and treatment of wasting, sexual and reproductive health, and disability inclusion.

A Department of Health Attaché was appointed to the Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva, increasing our capacity to engage in WHO processes, including intergovernmental negotiations to develop an international pandemic agreement.



Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organisation visited Ireland in December 2023

© DFA

DR TEDROS GHEBREYESUS VISITS DUBLIN

In December 2023 WHO Director General Dr Tedros Ghebreyesus, travelled to Ireland at the invitation of Taoiseach Leo Varadkar. Accompanied by the Executive Director for Emergencies, Dr Mike Ryan, Dr Tedros met with President Michael D. Higgins, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Defence, Micheál Martin, Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly, and Minister of State for International Development and Diaspora, Sean Fleming. During the visit, there was a particular focus on the proposed pandemic agreement, and the health of populations affected by crises including in Gaza, and Ukraine.

Governance

Strengthening governance and supporting democracy is at the heart of Ireland's development cooperation. In the face of multiple crises, including Russia's ongoing illegal invasion of Ukraine, international cooperation on good governance is particularly urgent. In 2023 there were further challenges and pressures on democratic processes and institutions across the world.

Our programmes and projects focus on issues such as electoral reform support, anti-corruption efforts, support for parliamentarians and the strengthening of national institutions. Ireland's support helps promote civil society oversight of democratic processes, the political participation of women and young people, and civic education and awareness. Both our foreign policy and development cooperation policy are based on the fundamental principles of justice, human rights and the rule of law. We seek to promote the norms and principles that support key freedoms, and to ensure that these enable sustainable development. In 2023, Ireland participated in the Summit for Democracy co-chaired by Costa Rica, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, the US, and Zambia.

Multilaterally, we support international efforts to advance democracy and good governance. We continued to engage with the Team Europe Democracy (TED) initiative to promote democracy and human rights worldwide. TED is a partnership of 14 EU Member States and the European Commission, which supports work on accountability, rule of law; apolitical and civic participation, and safety and professionalism in the media and digital realm. Ireland is an active member of the Governance Network and the Anti-corruption Task Team within OECD DAC.

In 2023, Ireland engaged in initial analysis and work on information integrity in the wake of Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, exploring new partners and projects focused on mitigating the risks of mis- or disinformation in developing countries. There is increasing evidence around the harms of poor regulation, which incentivise disinformation, in the Global South.

Our advocacy for the rights of those left furthest behind is at the centre of our work to deliver transformative change, for example through our work on rule of law. Ireland is a long-standing supporter of Irish Rule of Law International (IRLI), which organised several successful training and country visits in 2023, including a visit to Ireland by the Chief Justice of Zambia, Dr Mumba Malila.



Ireland continues to strive for the highest standards of integrity, transparency and accountability. We recognise that institutions, such as anti-corruption commissions or public procurement agencies, are essential to democracies and provide extra oversight of our aid expenditure. For these reasons, we support a range of partners – globally, nationally and locally – working in this area. Strong institutions are vital for democracy. We are continuing our long-standing support to organisations such as the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) and tax administrations across Africa through our support to the African Tax Administration Forum.

The DFA, the Department of Finance, and the Revenue Commissioners of Ireland work closely together to support initiatives to strengthen Domestic Resource Mobilisation (DRM) as part of Ireland's commitment to the Addis Tax Initiative.

This initiative aims to improve the transparency, fairness and efficiency of tax systems in the Global South. Work on DRM includes engagement with the African Tax Administration Forum and partner tax administrations to develop effective approaches, including through monitoring and country visits, technical assistance and online training for key partner countries. This collaboration will help generate domestic sources of finance for development. In July 2023, the Commissioner General of the Ugandan Revenue Authority, John R. Musinguzi, made a visit to Ireland as part of an emerging institutional partnership between Revenue and the Ugandan Revenue Authority. Bilateral DRM engagement also began with Malawi and Vietnam.

A woman casts her ballot in Liberia's election © DFA



Two women stand near the UNFPA-supported women's safe space. Established with CERF funding, the safe space offers a refuge for women at the displacement site © OCHA

Gender Equality

Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is fundamental to achieving Ireland's overarching foreign policy goal of a more equal, peaceful and sustainable world.

Halfway towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the world remains considerably behind in achieving gender equality. In September, a UN review found that only two out of the five indicators for SDG 5 – gender equality - are 'close to target' and none are 'met or almost met'. If current trends continue, by 2030, an estimated 8% of the world's female population is projected to live in extreme poverty, 110 million girls and young women will be out of school and close to one in four women and girls are expected to be moderately or severely food insecure.

The impact of multiple and overlapping crises – conflict, climate, food – and a growing pushback against gender equality are contributing to a worsening situation for women and girls in many parts of the world. Globally, aid to support gender equality is inadequate with just 4% of total official development assistance (ODA) focused on gender equality. Worryingly, overall ODA for gender equality dropped in 2023 for the first time in over a decade.

Ireland consistently ranks amongst the OECD member countries with the highest annual proportion of ODA invested in gender equality. Internationally recognised as a credible voice for gender equality, we will continue to strive to protect and strengthen language on gender equality and champion the women peace and security agenda. We take a transformative approach to gender equality and recognise the need to address the key structural and institutional barriers that underpin gender inequality. We are committed to integrating gender equality across all our interventions and in our wider foreign policy, including through our humanitarian assistance, support to civil society, multilateral and bilateral country-programme support.

In 2023 we reached the midway point of the Generation Equality Forum (GEF), a leading global initiative to accelerate equality, leadership investment and opportunity for women and girls launched in 2021 to accelerate action towards SDG 5. Ireland is on track to meet the financial commitments we made against the GEF Action Coalitions around ending gender based violence, girls' education, sexual and reproductive health and rights, feminist movements and women peace and security.

A BETTER WORLD'S NEW SRHR INITIATIVE

Ireland's policy statement for Gender Equality in *a Better World* includes a commitment to develop a new initiative around sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), recognising that SRHR is necessary to secure better health outcomes for women and men, and, is a precursor to full gender equality. In September 2023, we fulfilled this promise when Tánaiste Micheál Martin approved a new initiative on Sexual and Reproductive Rights.

Ireland has demonstrated strong alignment with SDG commitments on SRHR, in particular around reducing violence against women and girls, improving maternal health, and combatting HIV and AIDS. Our new initiative retains this focus while expanding our efforts to reduce unmet need for family planning; reduce adolescent birth rates; and increase the number of countries that guarantee access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education.

Specifically, we will scale up action to reduce unmet need for contraception amongst adolescent and young women. We will consolidate current engagements with a revitalised focus on crisis settings. Priority interventions include greater support for comprehensive sexuality education, and financing for family planning supplies. Key partners for this include UNFPA, UNESCO, and WHO, along with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, the International Planned Parenthood Federation, and the Population Council.

To complement these actions, we will participate in key UN-led processes, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Population and Development, the UN General Assembly, UN Human Rights Council, and the World Health Assembly. Within these, and EU spaces, we will work to expand our influence, leveraging Ireland's experience and expertise.



2023 Gender Equality highlights:

- Ireland was vice-chair of the OECD DAC Network on Gender Equality (GenderNet) for the second consecutive year. GenderNet provides a platform for peer learning and collective action on gender equality.
- 2023 marked the 67th Session on the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Ireland held several events with partners on issues from supporting adolescent girls' activism to inclusive representation of women in decision-making systems. Our main event was with the Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence, on the challenges affecting the rights of women and girls to be safe in the digital age.



Ireland consistently ranks amongst the OECD member countries with the highest proportion of ODA invested in gender equality © DFA

- The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), published its annual Women in Parliament report showing that for the first time, every functioning parliament in the world has at least one woman member. Sierra Leone reached a milestone, with 30% of parliamentary seats held by women. Both IPU and the Irish Embassy worked with Sierra Leone on gender equality.
- Through the Purposeful's Girls' Fund, which provides resources to young feminists, we supported 26 groups globally working on issues including disability, trans rights, sexual and reproductive health, and climate change.
- The IFRAH Foundation surpassed 82,000 pledges to their Dear Daughter Campaign to end Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). This campaign raises awareness of FGM's negative consequences, in support of the elimination of FGM in Somalia.
- ODI published *Gender-transformative approaches: good practices and future frontiers* based on a collaborative research, which brought together civil society, governmental and international organisations partner staff from the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), Sierra Leone and Tanzania.



Minister of State, Sean Fleming TD meets with potato farmers in Malawi © DFA

Food

The global food and nutrition crisis continued in 2023 resulting in insufficient progress to reach the targets of the 2025 World Health Assembly (WHA) and Sustainable Development Goal 2 on zero hunger. In January, President Higgins gave opening and closing addresses at the Dakar Africa Food Summit on Unleashing Africa's Food Potential, setting out a vision for a collective journey towards global food security. Later in the year, President Higgins delivered the opening statement and the closing address at the World Food Forum in Rome, stressing the need to tackle the scourge of global hunger and food insecurity and the urgency of transforming agri-food systems as a central part of global climate action.

Through our development cooperation, Ireland continued to champion global efforts to reduce hunger and malnutrition and work towards food system transformation with a range of global development and humanitarian partners. In 2023 Ireland provided €20.2 million for nutrition programmes and €20.9 million on agriculture. Inspired by Food Vision 2030, Ireland's agri-food strategy, we take a food systems approach, addressing the connections between food, health, nutrition and climate, with particular attention to sustainability and resilience. At the The UN Food Systems Summit +2 Stocktaking Moment in Rome, Ireland reiterated the importance of ending hunger while promoting more sustainable, inclusive and resilient agriculture and food systems.

Our work with global partners, including the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub, and the Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition, has allowed Ireland to play a pivotal role in addressing malnutrition and promoting food systems globally. At multilateral level, Ireland continued to serve on the board of the UN International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and on the System Council of the Consortium of International Agriculture Research Centres (CGIAR). In 2023, Ireland also took up a seat on the Executive Board of World Food Programme (WFP), where we continue to build upon our legacy at the UN Security Council, focusing on conflict and hunger. Ireland contributed €39 million to the WFP (€25 million from the DAFM, €14 million from the DFA) as well as €4.9 million to the FAO (€3.7 million from the DAFM, €1.2 million from the DFA), supporting responses to food crises in countries facing humanitarian crises such as Sudan, Ukraine, South Sudan, and countries impacted by the Syrian crisis. We also provided support to the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD). This sees Ireland contribute to the African Union's development of the post-Malabo Framework of the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme.

At COP28, the Tánaiste announced a pledge of €25 million over three years (2025-2027) to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), doubling our support. This includes support to the new Additional Climate Contribution funding instrument. A further highlight at the Summit was Ireland's support to the UAE Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems, and Climate Action.

In 2023, we launched a new Women's Economic Empowerment initiative in partnership with IFAD and the Irish League of Credit Unions Foundation, investing €2.5 million over three to five years. The initiative focuses on improving investments for women's empowerment, particularly around access to rural finance and value chain support in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Rwanda.

CASE STUDY

REDUCING FOOD WASTE

Ireland continued to support the creation of more sustainable and resilient global food systems through our funding to Irish company FoodCloud for their partnership with Food Banking Kenya. This project aims to reduce food waste and improve food security for vulnerable people through the use of mobile technology, which connects donors of surplus food directly with beneficiaries through community food banks. By distributing surplus food more efficiently, the project will reduce emissions from both food waste and from transport.

In 2023, Ireland began the implementation of a €50 million three-year child wasting initiative, working with UNICEF, the World Health Organization and Concern Worldwide in countries across Africa. In addition, through the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement, Ireland supports nutrition work in 65 countries. Complementing this, we partner with the Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN) to reduce undernutrition globally. In 2023, ENN's technical advice reached 66,776 visitors from 170 countries through their educational platform.

The food systems programmes in our African missions have an emphasis on value chain development and food safety through engagement with Sustainable Food Systems Ireland (SFSI). SFSI is a partnership of State Agencies (Teagasc, Bord Bia, Enterprise Ireland, and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland) and a division of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, offering technical assistance in all aspects of agri-food development and regulation.

Abubakar Adamiu (1), from Pulka, Nigeria, making a recovery from malnutrition with the support of Plan International © OCHA



Our global and country partnerships are complemented by our continued engagement with the Irish Forum on International Agricultural Development (IFIAD), which coordinates Irish development NGOs, universities, researchers, government, private sector and farming organisations who work on international food systems partnerships, to support knowledge sharing and strengthen collaboration.

At EU level, Ireland supports the Team Europe response to global food insecurity. This includes providing solidarity through emergency relief, boosting longer-term food systems transformation, and facilitating trade by assisting Ukraine in exporting agricultural goods. Ireland also continued to engage at EU level with the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (INTPA), the Heads of Agriculture and Rural Development (HARDs) group, and the European Initiative on Agricultural Research for Development (EIARD) on food systems and support for climate action.

CHILD WASTING

In 2023, UNICEF and the World Health Organization began implementing Ireland's Child Wasting Initiative in three countries: Malawi, Madagascar and Democratic Republic of the Congo, aimed at reducing severe acute malnutrition and increasing the coverage of treatment services. Significant progress has been made since the programme started.

In Malawi, 474 healthcare workers were trained in managing severe acute malnutrition. This has significantly improved the quality of care for malnourished children, increasing their chances of recovering from this preventable condition. Over 100,000 children were screened for malnutrition with 1,600 referred to health centres for treatment. Over 1,300 caregivers of children under two years of age were reached with nutrition advice and counselling through the care group approach. This ensures that caregivers are armed with the knowledge to prevent malnutrition in their children. In Madagascar, UNICEF supported the Government to treat 8,884 children with severe wasting. Left untreated, these children were 11 time more likely to die from common childhood illnesses. A social protection programme has been developed and cash transfers were provided to 2,590 households in January 2024, during the lean season of food security.

In DRC, UNICEF signed an agreement with VODACOM, the implementing partner for cash transfers to 3,000 vulnerable households. UNICEF also ordered essential nutritional supplies including micronutrients tablets for pregnancy, iron folic acid for adolescent girls and packs of deworming to treat over half a million pregnant women and 100,000 children during the three-year initiative.

The initiative will reach its full potential in 2024, improving the lives of hundreds of thousands in the three countries and delivering on Ireland's commitment to address global malnutrition.

EDUCATION CANNOT WAIT

In 2023, Ireland pledged €18 million to Education Cannot Wait (ECW), the Global Fund for education in emergencies and protracted crises. Education Cannot Wait has been a key education partner for Ireland since 2019. Education Cannot Wait supports crisis-affected children by providing timely education responses in sudden onset emergencies and escalating crises, and by investing in education systems in countries facing protracted crises. With funding from Ireland, Education Cannot Wait is supporting Sudanese children, including refugees in neighbouring countries, whose education has been impacted by war. Since April 2023, conflict in Sudan has forced 11 million people from their homes and resulted in 19 million children losing access to education.



Shaimaa Abd Al-Malik in an ECW-funded child friendly space in Sudan. The space ensures children affected by the ongoing conflict in the country can access critical services including structured learning and e-learning
© UNICEF/Mohamdeen

Ireland believes that returning to education cannot wait until a cessation of hostilities or the establishment of a durable ceasefire. Education Cannot Wait's programmes in Sudan and neighbouring countries hosting Sudanese refugees establish safe learning environments, construct temporary learning spaces, rehabilitate classrooms, provide school supplies and materials and support teachers. Embedded in Education Cannot Wait's Sudanese programmes are measures to address the mental health and psychosocial needs of conflict-affected students and teachers. Activities include training for teachers on child protection, child safeguarding, and on how to teach children who are dealing with the aftermath of trauma and violence.

Education

In 2023, Irish Aid continued to support the delivery of quality global education, a human right and basic need for all children. Global education is experiencing a crisis of equity, inclusion, and quality. More than 260 million children are out of school and too many children in school are not learning. Globally, many educational systems struggle to equip their citizens with the skills needed to thrive in a changing world. Aligned with Ireland's commitment to delivering for those furthest behind first, Irish Aid's development programme continues to invest in education, with a focus on girls' education and education in emergencies. To ensure efficiency, effectiveness and relevance, our investments in global education are delivered through Ireland's embassies and bilateral missions, and our civil society and multilateral partners.

IRISH FORUM FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION

In 2023, Irish Aid developed its support to the Irish Forum for Global Education. The forum brings together NGOs, trade unions, education providers, faith-based organisations, and individuals from across Ireland with regional and global networks, to promote inclusive and equitable quality education.

GEM

In September, Minister of State, Sean Fleming TD joined with the Irish Forum for Global Education to host the Irish launch of UNESCO's 2023 Global Education Monitoring Report. With funding from Ireland, the report provided updates on global progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 4, equitable quality education. The report presents evidence and research to support policymaking in education at a country and global level.

ODI

Collaboration between ODI, an independent, global affairs think tank and our missions resulted in the publication of a report exploring gender-transformative approaches to education. Drawing on the experience of the support of our embassies to education projects, the report examined the positive role donors can play in supporting gender-transformative change, through challenging inequitable norms, practices and curriculum content, and by building synergies across different approaches increases the likelihood of transformative change.

IRELAND FELLOWS PROGRAMME

Established in 1974, the Ireland Fellows Programme brings students from Ireland's partner countries to study for a masters-level qualification at an Irish Higher Education Institution. The aims of the programme are to nurture future leaders, to develop partner countries' capacities to achieve the SDGs, and to build positive relationships with Ireland. In 2023, 206 Fellows studied in Ireland. Students came from 42 countries across Africa, Latin American, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Palestine, Vietnam, and Cambodia.

CASE STUDY

'FROM BOGOTÁ TO CORK'

Elisa Castrillón is a Colombian journalist currently pursuing a master's degree in Women's Studies at University College Cork (UCC). She is one of nine recipients awarded a fellowship in the first year of the Latin America strand of the Ireland Fellows Programme.



Elisa Castrillón, Ireland Fellow from Colombia at University College Cork. © Simon Peare Photography

Before coming to Ireland, Elisa reported on issues such as gender and the environment. She also coordinated courses on politics, democracy, and media, an experience that she says has enriched her understanding of the intersection between gender, politics, and media.

Elisa says that her experience in Ireland has gone beyond academia. The Ireland Fellows Programme has presented Elisa with a unique opportunity to expand her global network and discover new ways of thinking: "Fostering a network of friendships is my main goal because it can significantly enhance my understanding of the issues that I am passionate about and provide fresh perspectives on potential solutions," she said.

In particular, Elisa highlights the relationships she has developed with other Fellows on the programme as providing her with a supportive community that shares similar aspirations and obstacles. These friendships have proven invaluable to Elisa in coping with cultural adjustments and homesickness.

Reflecting on her journey, Elisa believes that the Ireland Fellows Programme offers a holistic experience that nurtures personal growth and fosters a strong sense of community among its Fellows.

Our Partners



Tánaiste, Micheál Martin TD in Ramallah during a visit to Israel and Palestine in September 2023 © DFA

Bilateral engagements

2023 saw a significant increase in the number of high-level visits to Sub-Saharan Africa, 15 in total, including President Higgins' visit to Senegal in January, where he attended the Dakar Food Summit. The full return of the Government's St Patrick's Day travel programme saw ministers travel to South Africa, Tanzania and Kenya, and the Cathaoirleach of Seanad Éireann, Jerry Buttimer, visiting Liberia and Sierra Leone. In July, the Tánaiste visited Mozambique and South Africa, where he met with President Cyril Ramaphosa and the Minister for International Relations and Cooperation Naledi Pandor. In September, Minister Charlie McConalogue undertook the first Ministerial trade mission to Sub-Saharan Africa since 2019, visiting Nigeria, while in the same month Minister Eamon Ryan attended the Africa Climate Summit in Kenya. Minister of State Sean Fleming undertook several visits to Africa over the course of 2023, visiting Senegal, Zambia, Malawi, Ethiopia and Uganda.

The Tánaiste also made two visits to Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory in 2023, before and after the events of October 7th.

AFRICA–IRELAND RELATIONS

In 2023 Ireland continued to advance the strategic objectives of Global Ireland: *Ireland's Strategy for Africa to 2025*, and had some significant achievements. The number of in-person political engagements with African stakeholders increased significantly in 2023. Ireland continued to expand its diplomatic footprint in Africa, with the opening of a new Embassy in Dakar, Senegal in January 2023, as well as the restoration of a full complement of diplomatic staff at our Embassy in Ethiopia for the first time since 2021. Trade in goods between Africa and Ireland reached €2.5 billion in 2023, a 16% increase from when the strategy was introduced in 2019. Ireland continued to contribute to peace and security in Africa, through the deployment of both Defence Forces personnel and civilian experts to EU Common Security and Defence Policy missions in Africa. Irish Election Observers also participated in the EU Election Observation Missions to Sierra Leone, Zimbabwe, Liberia and Senegal. Ireland provided humanitarian assistance to the severe humanitarian crises in Sudan, Somalia and South Sudan.

Multilateral institutions

Ireland supports a range of multilateral partners, including the European Union (EU), United Nations (UN) and International Financial Institutions (IFIs). They play a vital role in fostering development, reducing inequality, promoting human rights and addressing humanitarian crises around the globe. In 2023, we increased our core funding to a number of UN and other multilateral partners to assist the organisations in dealing with the additional strains placed on them as a result of the invasion of Ukraine and its broader implications.

EUROPEAN UNION

The EU is a key partner for Ireland in international development cooperation. The EU and its Member States are the largest donors of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the world, accounting for 42% of global funding. Almost a quarter of Ireland's Official Development Assistance (ODA) goes through EU institutions.

The total Irish contribution to EU ODA in 2023 amounted to approximately €368 million.

Throughout 2023, Ireland continued to engage in the third full year of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument 'Global Europe' (NDICI-GE). NDICI-GE is the EU's main tool to support development and external action in developing countries. It has a budget of almost €80 billion for 2021-2027.

In line with our development priorities, we aim to influence the planning and implementation of the thematic and geographic components of NDICI-GE, particularly in the context of the mid-term review of programming and mid-term evaluation of instruments.

We also continued our involvement in Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs), which are delivering positive change in many parts of the world by bringing together the European Commission, Member States and financial institutions such as the European Investment Bank, to combine resources to achieve additional impact. Ireland is involved in over 30 Team Europe Initiatives. These span Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and Asia. They support a diverse range of areas including climate action, peacebuilding, sustainable growth, gender equality and support for democracy.

Global Gateway, the EU strategy for major investments in infrastructure development around the world, continued to develop in 2023. Between 2021 and 2027, Team Europe – the EU institutions and EU Member States jointly – aim to mobilise up to €300 billion worth of investments. Africa will receive around €150 billion of this investment in the form of the EU-Africa Global Gateway Investment Package. Ireland is committed to the success of Global Gateway with a particular focus on dialogue and cooperation with our partners in Africa and beyond.

We continue to advocate for a strong development focus and an appropriate balance between social and infrastructural development.

Aid for Trade aims to make global and regional trade more inclusive and sustainable by supporting the development of trade policy and regulation, simplifying the process of trading cross-border, building human resource capacity for trade, and building the capacity of the private sector to export. In 2023, Ireland contributed €1.95 million to a number of Geneva-based Aid For Trade organisations and programmes namely, the Advisory Centre for World Trade Organization (WTO) Law, the WTO French-Irish Mission Internship Programme, the WTO Standards and Trade Development Facility, the International Trade Centre, and the Port Management Programme of the UN Conference on Trade and Development.

United Nations

Ireland provides flexible core funding to UN agencies, funds and programmes. In 2023, we supported UN bodies working on priority areas, including governance, gender inequality, reducing humanitarian need, and climate action. Our flexible, core funding provides these organisations with three key tools: the predictability to plan and implement long-term programmes; the flexibility to address complex and rapidly changing contexts; and the efficiency that comes from reducing transaction costs, which maximises the resources that go directly to those in need to achieve the greatest possible impact.

» **UNDP (UN Development Programme)**

UNDP tackles poverty, inequalities, and exclusion. In 2023, Ireland gave €8.2 million in core funding, helping UNDP's work on poverty, governance and crisis response. Ireland made a new contribution of €50,000 to a UNDP SDG Study which synthesised evidence of achievements towards SDG 17, strengthening partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals.

» **UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**

Ireland provides core funding to support OHCHR's work to promote and protect all human rights for all people. In 2023, Ireland increased its funding to OHCHR to €3.8 million.

» **UNDCO (UN Development Coordination Office)**

UNDCO supports the capacity and effectiveness of Resident Coordinators and the broader UN development system in support of national efforts for sustainable development. In 2023, Ireland increased its voluntary contribution to the Special Purpose Trust Fund for the new Resident Coordinator system by €500,000 to €1.5million.

» **UNV (United Nations Volunteers)**

In 2023, Ireland funded 13 volunteer assignments with UNV in locations ranging from Ghana to Laos. We provided over €1.1million in core funding, as well as additional programme funding.

» **UNFPA (UN Population Fund)**

UNFPA works to increase access to sexual and reproductive health services and eliminate gender-based violence. In 2023, Ireland increased its core funding to €4.5million. In addition, Ireland provided specific funding to UNFPA to support their humanitarian response in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, and in drought-affected Horn of Africa.

» **UN Women**

Ireland's core funding of €2 million to UN Women helps to implement activities at country and regional level to further gender equality and women's empowerment and contributed €270,000 to the Women Count programme to help to improve the production, accessibility and use of gender statistics to help advance gender equality. In 2023 Ireland served on the Executive Board of the agency.

» **UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)**

UNICEF focuses on young children's survival and development, including health and basic education. In 2023 Ireland increased our contribution to €7.7 million in core funding. This helps the organisation to achieve the greatest impact for children, meeting their needs throughout childhood and adolescence, and being there before, during, and after an emergency

» **UNAIDS (Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS)**

UNAIDS plays an important role in the UN response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. In 2023 Ireland pledged core funding of €10 million to UNAIDS over four years (2023-2026). This multi-year commitment gives UNAIDS predictability to plan its activities.

» **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

UNHCR is one of Ireland's largest humanitarian partners and recipient of funds. UNHCR has a mandate from the UN General Assembly to lead and coordinate the international response to the assistance and protection needs of refugees. In 2023, Ireland provided €11.5m in core funding to UNHCR in addition to funding for specific crises.

International Financial Institutions

Ireland is a member of several global and regional International Financial Institutions, including the World Bank Group, the Asian Development Bank, and the African Development Bank. Our engagement, lead by the Department of Finance in cooperation with the Department of Foreign Affairs, allows us to participate in their efforts to address the globally intertwined challenges of climate change, conflict, food insecurity, and fragility. These institutions, supported by Ireland, are implementing core projects to advance gender equality, prioritize climate action, improve food security, and actively address fragile and conflict-affected situations.

» **World Bank Group**

The World Bank Group (WBG) is a partnership of five institutions working to end extreme poverty. With a focus on aiding those furthest behind, in 2023 we contributed for the first time to the Umbrella Facility for Poverty and Equity. Continuing our response to the invasion of Ukraine, we contributed to funds for reconstruction and development needs in Ukraine. We also directed funds towards the Africa Fragility Initiative and the Food Systems 2030 multi-donor trust fund. We supported gender equality through contributions to the International Finance Corporation's (IFC) Gender Partnership and the Umbrella Facility for Gender Equality

» Asian Development Bank

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank, whose aim is to foster economic growth and cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region. In 2023, the ADB committed a record amount to climate finance, providing more than US$10.4 billion in cumulative adaptation financing from 2019 to 2023. Ireland's most notable partnership with the ADB is the Ireland Trust Fund to Support Climate Change and Disaster Resilience in Small Island Developing States.

» **African Development Bank**

Through the African Development Bank (AfDB) both governments and private entities invest in its regional member countries, with the aim of alleviating poverty across the region. In 2023, the AfDB continued its contributions to Africa's development in five priority areas, totalling US$8.2 billion. Ireland continued its support to the Africa Climate Change Fund in 2023. This fund helps African nations build their resilience against the adverse effects of climate change and helps them transition towards, low-carbon economies.

World Bank Group Headquarters, Washington DC © Grant Ellis



Working with Civil Society

Ireland's Partnership with Civil Society 2023 saw the inception of Ireland's Civil Society Partnership for *A Better World* (ICSP), a five-year funding mechanism which supports ten Irish civil society partners to deliver long-term development and humanitarian programmes as well as Global Citizenship Education in Ireland. This unique funding mechanism provides flexible and predictable funding to civil society partners, €100 million was dispersed in 2023, and the same amount will be provided every year until 2027. ICSP partners are implementing programmes across countries in Africa, Latin America, Middle East, Asia and Oceania, with a strong focus on reducing humanitarian need, gender equality, climate action and governance.

IRELAND'S CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERSHIP FOR *A BETTER WORLD (ICSP)* SUPPORTS GOAL IN SIERRA LEONE

Freetown is a growing city of 1.05 million people, and produces half a million barrels of raw faecal sludge each year. In the absence of a treatment plant, this sludge was dumped on top of solid waste on the town landfill, without any treatment, and allowed to seep through the waste and enter into waterways which was proving to be a critical health hazard. Under its ICSP Programme in Sierra Leone, GOAL in partnership with WaterShare Ireland is delivering vital improvements in sanitation for over a million people in Freetown, through the operationalisation of the Kingtom Faecal Sludge Treatment Plant.

Using innovative technology called Geobags, which separates liquid from solid waste without the need for manual and harmful treatment, the Plant processed over 20% of the city's liquid waste in 2023 under ICSP, bringing substantive health benefits to the local community.

Momodu Conteh, a community member in the suburb of Kingtom and worker at the Plant spoke to the value of the programme and its role in reducing the outbreak of disease and improved economic opportunities to the local community.

"Before the establishment of this treatment plant, the vacuum truck would openly dislodge waste at the dumpsite in Kingtom," he said. "The sludge would find its way into the community and overflow into people's homes, especially during the rainy season. We had high disease outbreaks from direct exposure to the waste."

"The people who constructed this facility are from the local community," says Momodu. "All the casual workers that are recruited to empty the Geobags are also from this community. Their wage is helping them to take care of their families' needs."



Momodu Conteh at the liquid waste management plant
© GOAL

Ireland's Partnership with USAID

For many years, Ireland has cooperated with the US Agency for International Development (USAID). In 2023 we developed that relationship even further, working together on projects across a variety of sectors, including food, climate and gender.

FOOD SYSTEMS IN MALAWI

In 2023, Ireland began a collaboration with USAID in Malawi on food systems transformation and climate resilient crop diversification. The joint project incorporates investments from Ireland and USAID that contribute to improved production and trade; support the growth of agri-business and a diversified food system for nutritional outcomes. The total investment for the joint initiative is at least $75 million over four years, which is approximately €68 million: €33.5 million from Ireland and €34.5 million from the United States, with hopes of leveraging $200 million (€181 million) from private sector investment. Ireland joined USAID and the Government of Malawi at a high-level side event at COP28 to discuss the ongoing collaboration and its impact in Malawi.

LOCALLY LED CLIMATE ADAPTATION

In March 2023, Irish Aid launched a joint advocacy campaign with USAID to promote awareness of the Principles for Locally Led Adaptation (LLA), which centre on the need to channel more climate financing and resources to and through local actors and organisations.

The purpose of our campaign is to encourage more governments to endorse the Principles and commit to empowering local actors to build climate resilience. In 2023, the campaign resulted in resulted in new endorsements from Estonia, Italy, Malawi, Switzerland, France, Mozambique and Burkina Faso, and we co-organised a side event on the Principles at COP28 for countries to discuss how to approach LLA in their specific contexts.

GENDER EQUALITY AND CLIMATE ACTION

In 2023, Ireland joined USAID's flagship initiative Women in the Sustainable Economy (WISE), which focuses on enhancing gender equality and women's empowerment in climate action. Ireland made an aligned commitment of €5m over five years in support of the WISE initiative. Our planned funding will support feminist movements in climate action. Ireland formally announced our commitment at a high-level WISE event at COP28.

PARTNERING IN ZAMBIA

Following our successful cooperation throughout 2023, Samantha Power, the head of USAID, and Tánaiste Martin announced in February 2024 their commitment to develop a new partnership aimed at strengthening resilience in Zambia.

This co-designed collaboration will be realised through programmes for the economic empowerment of women and youth, by connecting USAID's work in their Feed the Future and nutrition programmes with Ireland's work around sustainable food systems, nutrition, and social protection.



Tánaiste, Micheál Martin TD and Samantha Power, USAID Administrator, at an event to highlight our cooperation

© DFA

Global Citizenship Education

Global Citizenship Education (GCE) is an important component of Irish Aid's work. GCE aims to increase public understanding of our changing, inter-dependent and unequal world. In 2023, Irish Aid provided €2.1 million to 33 organisations working in schools and communities across Ireland to build awareness and understanding of global issues including climate change, hunger, and injustice, and to support the public to take action to make the world a better place. Irish Aid engages adults and young people directly and through partner organisations.

Highlights from 2023 include:

- The Our World Irish Aid Awards, which aims to promote engagement with global development in primary schools, received 301 entries from 61 schools.
- Irish Aid partnered with Self-Help Africa to sponsor the Science for Development Award at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition. The 2023 winners travelled to Zambia, alongside previous winners who were unable to travel during the pandemic.
- Youth 2030's Global Youth Work Learners Network held online sessions with collaborators in the Global South to improve youth workers' knowledge and participation in issues affecting Ireland and the world.
- Over 100 teachers attended the WorldWise Global Schools teacher conference to learn how to embed GCE into their classes.
- Ubuntu began partnerships with UL and UCD, and established a new funding mechanism to help universities embed GCE into teacher education programmes. This is now a Teaching Council requirement.



Africa Day flagship event in Dublin's Royal Hospital Kilmainham © DFA

Public Diplomacy

Promoting the impact of Irish Aid to the public is a key priority and both media and social media engagement relating to Ireland's ODA programme increased in 2023. A key development was the expansion of the Africa Day programme of events. Africa Day is an opportunity to highlight Ireland's ODA, as well as our growing economic, political and people-to-people links with the continent. Working with local authorities nationwide, over 50 events were held across Ireland in May 2023, including a flagship event in Dublin's Royal Hospital Kilmainham attended by 6,000 people.



Our World Irish Aid Awards, Minister of State, Sean Fleming TD and students from Our Lady's Primary School, Ballinteer, Dublin © Finbar O'Rourke

Irish Aid
An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs

Irish Aid Global Citizenship Education Strategy

Making progress on global citizenship education across Ireland 2022-2023

4,739
learners in the adult and community education sector reached



Learners reached nationally
362,806



10,947
young people
accessed **Global Citizenship Education** through youth organisations



33%
primary schools

74%
post-primary schools



were supported across **all counties in the country**

3702
primary teacher trainees
received training on Global Citizenship Education, and



4451 **Primary, post-primary, and adult and community educators**
attended Irish Aid supported continuous professional development.

8,849
people attended Irish Aid Centre workshops



Embassy Highlights



Ethiopia:

POPULATION:
125,384,287

GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
USD $2,369*

POSITION IN UN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
176

LIFE EXPECTANCY:
65.6 YEARS

Minister of State, Sean Fleming TD meets with School Gender Club participants in Goljano, Somali Region, Ethiopia 2023

© DFA

Highlights

- A visit in October by Minister of State for International Development and the Diaspora, Sean Fleming TD, contributed to the restoration of normal relations with the Government of Ethiopia, and was reflected in the resumption of funding by Ireland to flagship Government programmes on social protection, healthcare and economic reforms during the visit.
- In 2023, the Irish Embassy in Addis Ababa supported the monitoring of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement that ended a brutal conflict in northern Ethiopia, enabling continued political dialogue to consolidate peace. Ireland also supported inclusive national dialogue and transitional justice processes aiming to promote reconciliation, unity and lasting peace, while ensuring access to appropriate support for the many survivors of sexual violence.
- Ireland's gender equality partnership with Save the Children and ODI in Somali and Afar regions reached 135,000 people in 2023. Its social norms approach helped to address harmful practices. As a result early school leaving and marriage among girls was reduced. When drought struck, crisis modifiers enabled emergency water trucking support to over 6,500 households, saving the lives of children and reducing livestock mortality. Ireland then scaled up our climate-smart livelihood support to build the resilience of women and girls in the target areas.
- The Embassy worked with a range of humanitarian partners to provide life-saving and recovery assistance to more than 20 million people in crisis across Ethiopia, including 4.6 million internally displaced people and almost a million refugees. The crises included the effects of conflict, drought, floods and disease outbreaks.



Doti Hushi
© IRC

CASE STUDY:

SUPPORTING LIFE-SAVING CASH TRANSFERS

Doti Kushi is an 85-year old woman who resides in Dibe Gaya village in Oromia, Ethiopia, with her three grandchildren.

Doti and her family are pastoralists; raising cattle is their main source of income. However, they have been severely impacted by climate change-driven drought.

"All of the cattle that I relied upon to support my family and myself had perished during the previous severe drought," she said, *"This left me hopeless as the drought claimed all of my goats and cattle."* She did not have enough food to eat every day.

Doti explained how she found relief through the IRC-led Emergency Response Mechanism that Ireland co-funds.

"I felt extremely tired," she said *"- I made long journeys in search of food and begging for food every day. But one day I heard that Help Age International was conducting screening for a cash support in our locality, so I decided to go check my chance."*

Doti and her family were offered Multipurpose Cash Transfers. These cash payments have allowed Doti to purchase sufficient food and basic essentials for her family to get through the drought and, may enable them, in time, to rebuild their pastoralist livelihood.



Kenya:

POPULATION:
54,252,460.5

GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
USD $4,808*

POSITION IN UN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
146

LIFE EXPECTANCY:
62.1 YEARS

Women Rise session at Women's Centre
© IRC Kenya

Highlights

- The Embassy's strong support of Young Scientists Kenya (YSK) on STEM promotion continued. In 2023, YSK conducted outreach and mentorship sessions, reaching 29,341 students and 356 teachers or mentors in 325 schools in 32 counties.
- The Embassy renewed its partnership with UN Women/OHCHR and UNDP on inclusive governance, youth empowerment and gender equality.
- Three projects funded under the Ireland Kenya Agri-Food Strategy (IKAFS) continued their work on dairy and potato value chains.
- Locally led small grants projects, women in trade, and efforts to scope climate action opportunities were rolled out.



Margaret Mbira – Human Rights Defender offering refuge for GBV Survivors © UN Women

CASE STUDY:

SUPPORTING VICTIMS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Ireland works with UN Women and OHCHR to amplify women's voices and enhance their participation in decision-making processes on governance and peace and security in Kenya's Bungoma and Vihiga counties.

According to the 2022 Kenya Demographic Health Survey (KDHS), GBV prevalence is 62.2% in Bungoma and 33.8% in Vihiga including election-related GBV – some of the highest rates in the country. The need for shelters and safe spaces for survivors of GBV is urgent. With only 54 operational shelters and rescue centres in 18 of Kenya's 47 counties and 1 in 3 Kenyan women experiencing physical or sexual violence, the lack of shelters is putting lives at risk. Shelters provide critical services such as temporary housing, psychosocial and legal support, and skills training to increase survivor's economic empowerment. Shelters provide relief from violence and enhance protection for women and girls.

Margaret is a Human Rights Defender with the community-based organisation Women Concern Centre in Vihiga County and has been providing refuge for GBV survivors in her homestead for 17 years. In June 2023, Margaret and another four shelters in Vihiga, Bungoma and Kisumu counties received essential supplies to support survivors directly. *"Without access to safe and secure shelters, survivors may be unable to escape their abusers and could be at risk of further violence. With this support, we'll continue to give women hope, dignity, safety and a smile"*, said Margaret.

The partnership has enhanced collaboration between grassroots organisations, human rights defenders, the police, judiciary and health professionals enabling a more comprehensive and joined-up approach to responding to the needs of survivors and pushing for an end to GBV. As a result of ongoing advocacy, Vihiga and Bungoma counties have committed to develop GBV prevention and response policies to pave the way for formally allocating much-needed resources for government action.



Liberia:

POPULATION:
5,373,294

GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
USD $1,330*

POSITION IN UN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
177

LIFE EXPECTANCY:
61.1 YEARS

A woman demonstrating a water pump in Granda Bassa county. Ireland supports the Liberia WASH consortium

© DFA

Highlights

- Ireland partnered with UN Women to strengthen the capacity of women candidates in national elections. This contributed to the historic win of the first woman in Grand Gedeh county to be elected to the National Legislature. Seven project participants were nominated for statutory positions, and four were appointed to customary leadership positions. Peace hut women, trained in mediation, helped settle local disputes including the successful resolution of domestic violence cases, land conflicts, and restoring women's property rights.
- With support from Irish Aid, UNICEF's nutrition project reached 353,824 adolescent girls and school aged children with Iron Folate Acid supplementation, nutrition education, handwashing and hygiene promotion.
- Irish Aid supported the Liberia WASH Consortium, which provided communities with cassava grating machines, making it faster and easier to add market value to cassava. They established village saving and loans associations, helping communities manage their finances and pay for expenses such as school fees and medical care. They improved latrines and now each household has access to a home latrine, reducing open defecation.
- Irish Aid's support has contributed to a significant increase in the reporting of cases of gender based violence and behaviour change in Liberia. There were 2,867 cases documented and referred by local partners to health facilities and other service providers across the three counties; 1020 girls benefited from a programme to improve their self-worth, while 1,360 men and boys benefited from a transformative behaviour change programme.

CASE STUDY:

FROM GATHERING SNAILS TO SNAIL FARMING

As a child, Kilo Kaweh had always imagined himself as a farmer but had never heard of 'snail farming'. His parents were small-scale rice and cassava farmers. In 2022, Concern Worldwide Liberia introduced a snail farming initiative to help people produce nutritious food while developing their entrepreneurial skills. Kilo saw this new venture as an opportunity to widen his knowledge of farming.

Kilo was a member of his local Community Savings and Loans Association, which was given 25 snails to start with. Due to his passion for farming, he took on the responsibility of feeding the snails and cleaning their shelter. A few months later, he purchased a plastic container and began snail farming on his own with just two snails in June 2023.

To keep the snails safe, Kilo built a snails' shelter using locally collected material. He received training organised by the Liberia WASH Consortium through Concern Worldwide. He took part in a knowledge exchange visit to share experiences with other project participants.

"I learned that the snails need water and food every day and that if the shelters are not cleaned properly, there are chances of ants coming in to feed on the leftovers thereby destroying eggs and young snails," he said.

By July, one of the snails had laid 250 eggs. He searched for snails in the nearby rubber farms and purchased an additional 2 snails. As of November 2023, Kilo has 21 full-grown snails and 27 young snails.

When asked about his plans, he says, *"I would want to be an agri-entrepreneur. I want to supply marketers with several bags of snails which will in return improve my economic status".*



Mr Kaweh and his snails © Concern Worldwide



Malawi:

POPULATION:
20,568,728

GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
USD $1,432*

POSITION IN UN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
172

LIFE EXPECTANCY:
62.9 YEARS

Highlights

- Ireland and USAID agreed to develop a country-level food system transformation initiative for Malawi together called Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM4C). It aims to support the transformation of Malawi's food system to be climate resilient, provide more nutritious food, and support sustainable economic growth.
- The Embassy of Ireland continued to support the Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP) through the Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare (MCGCSW) in Balaka and Ntcheu districts. Over 24,000 households received their monthly transfers electronically, enabling them to buy food and other necessities.
- Through UNICEF, the Embassy also provided support towards National Cholera Response through Social Behaviour Changes Communication (SBCC), provision of WASH facilities and preventative messages through phone-based messages, reaching over 80,000 people.

Top
Children operating a water pump
© DFA

Right
School Children in Malawi
© DFA



CASE STUDY:

GREEN ECONOMIC TRANSITION FACILITY

Ireland supports a range of climate projects in Malawi, recognising the challenge of promoting green economic growth, especially around energy and clean cooking and the impact the climate crisis is having on the most marginal in Malawi, including women and girls.

This year the Embassy launched the Green Economic Transition Facility (GETF), in conjunction with UNDP. This innovative facility addresses social barriers to promoting green growth, while also supporting new and novel solutions to some of the climate problems facing Malawi.

The facility is innovative in both the solutions being funded, and in the funding mechanism itself. The GETF focuses on “de-risking” (reducing risks) for private sector and accelerating the growth of innovative ideas around green energy and fuel-efficient solutions. These solutions are those that were considered too risky or behaviourally difficult for the private sector, or as having too low a financial return to do alone, but which can have a big environmental and social impact in Malawi.

Under the initiative, GETF will be offering co-financing of between US$40,000 and US$300,000, and up to US$35,000 in technical assistance on demand for projects led by a private sector company with capacity to develop or scale up business solutions in the form of a Product, a Service, a Business Model or a Technology. It is anticipated that by the end of the project, 400,000 low-income households, 30% of which will be women-led households, will have access to cleaner cooking fuels. In the process, companies benefiting from this initiative will create 170 green permanent jobs. Additionally, the programme is predicted to increase the market share of sustainable biomass fuel sources by 10%, replacing unsustainable and illegal charcoal.



Ambassador O'Grady at the launch of the GETF © DFA



Mozambique:

POPULATION:
32,656,246

GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
USD $1,219*

POSITION IN UN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
183

LIFE EXPECTANCY:
59.6 YEARS

Oscar Emilio, 27, preventative medicine technician and mobile brigade member, arrives on his motorbike at the Muebe community in Zambezia province with vaccines and other medical supplies.

© UNICEF Mozambique/Ricardo Franco

Highlights

- Through support to the peace process, Ireland contributed to the completion of the disarmament and demobilisation of RENAMO former combatants, a historic milestone for the country. The 16 military bases were closed and all 5,221 former combatants demobilised.
- Ireland's efforts allowed 400,000 people (internally displaced people and host families) in conflict- and climate-affected communities to access sanitation, shelter kits, essential healthcare services and referrals, while preventing the spread of communicable diseases and ensuring treatment continuity for the chronically ill.
- Ireland supported the response to the deadliest cholera outbreak in the last 25 years, targeting critical life-saving support to over 50,000 people. Approximately 183,310 households received water disinfectant and emergency WASH kits, while the country's safe water provision was enhanced.
- A total of 35,851 children under 5 and 22,705 pregnant and breastfeeding women received treatment for Moderate Acute Malnutrition in Cabo Delgado, Niassa and Nampula provinces.

CASE STUDY:

MOBILE BRIGADES PROVIDING VACCINATIONS

"The road was blocked by water at different points, and I had to cross flooded sections twice by putting my motorbike in a canoe," - Oscar Emilio, mobile brigade.

In Mozambique, access to healthcare can be a journey fraught with challenges, especially for those living in remote regions vulnerable to climate shocks. Imagine walking 15 kilometres, with a baby on your back, just to reach the nearest healthcare centre. This was the reality for many women in the Muebe community until the introduction of mobile brigades. These brigades, comprised of dedicated healthcare workers like Oscar Emilio, traverse the rugged terrain of Zambezia province on motorbikes, bringing vaccines and essential medical supplies to isolated rural communities. Their mission? To ensure that every child receives life-saving vaccinations, regardless of their distance from traditional healthcare facilities.

Before their arrival, vaccination coverage rates were declining due to various challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters like cyclones. However, thanks to the efforts of Oscar and his colleagues, vaccination rates are on the rise once again. Now, 100% of children in Muebe are receiving vaccines on time. Vaccines remain the world's safest method to protect children from life-threatening diseases such as polio, measles, and hepatitis B.

This success story is made possible through Irish Aid's support to UNICEF, which provides the training and equipment of these mobile brigades. This investment has transformed healthcare delivery in Mozambique's remote regions, demonstrating the power of partnerships in addressing complex healthcare challenges to ensure that no child is left behind.

"Before the mobile brigade came around, some women in the community went to the traditional healers instead. They did not have the time or money to travel to the hospital - and some children lost their lives because of this." – Elazia Mandito Tavares (mother).



Oscar Emilio, 27, preventative medicine technician and mobile brigade member, gives vaccine to Luzinha (meaning Little Light), 5, who sits on the knee of her mother, Jonita Santos, 36, in the Muebe community in Zambezia.

© UNICEF Mozambique/Ricardo Franco



Elazia Mandito Tavares, 23, with her 3 year old son Mandito Samuel who has just received a vaccination at the mobile brigade in the Muebe community in Zambezia.

© UNICEF Mozambique/Ricardo Franco



Nigeria:

POPULATION:
223,150,895.5

GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
USD $4,755*

POSITION IN UN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
161

LIFE EXPECTANCY:
53.6 YEARS

Participants in the Farmers Field school on climate smart agriculture

© Ajwad Humanitarian Initiative

Highlights

- As part of the Ireland Fellows Programme, the Embassy expanded the Roger Casement Award to study in Ireland for the 2024/25 academic year to 10 Nigerians, increased from 3 places in 2022. The programme aims to nurture future leaders and support Nigerian capacity to achieve the SDGs, while fostering the relationship between Nigeria and Ireland.
- Through the Emergency Humanitarian Relief Fund, the Embassy supported over 2,000 households from vulnerable communities affected by extreme weather conditions on livelihood restoration, resilience building, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- The Embassy supported efforts to promote gender, youth, and disability inclusion during Nigeria's 2023 elections. Local NGOs received funding for election-related projects focusing on: (i) governance and democratic values; (ii) gender equality, Women, Peace and Security, and gender based violence responses; and (iii) human rights.



Participants in the Farmers Field school on climate smart agriculture © Ajwad Humanitarian Initiative

CASE STUDY:

PRESIDENTIAL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN NIGERIA

Presidential and National Assembly elections took place in Nigeria on 25 February 2023. Throughout the election cycle, the Embassy worked with a variety of stakeholders from across the political spectrum, international partners, and local and national CSOs, including specific support for efforts to promote gender, youth, and disability inclusion and participation. A number of NGOs were supported through funding including:

- The Youth Network for Community and Sustainable Development to establish a digital youth network to increased youth participation in elections in Abuja Federal Capital Territory. This intervention aimed to educate young people on how to monitor and track issues with the potential to trigger election violence and political intolerance, in order to help de-escalate such issues.
- The Centre for Women, Youth and Community Action in conjunction with the Centre for the Advocacy of Justice and Rights and Legal Awareness for Nigerian Women. These organisations focused on voters' education and election monitoring activities for women and persons with disabilities in suburban and rural communities of north-central states. The objective was to support measures to ensure that women and vulnerable people could vote freely for candidates of their choice.
- The Girls Education and Maternal Health Support Foundation (GEMHSF) for their work to promote voter education and participation of young women and persons with disabilities in Zamfara and Katsina States in north-western Nigeria. This project was aimed at reducing voter apathy and countering the suppression of women's participation in the election process through advocacy, capacity building, community dialogue sessions, and media engagement.



Occupied Palestinian Territory:

POPULATION:
5,305,270

GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
USD $6,936*

POSITION IN UN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
111

LIFE EXPECTANCY:
73.4 YEARS

Humanitarian stocks from Ireland making their way to Gaza

© UNHCR

Highlights

» Following the Hamas attacks on Israel on 7 October 2023 and the Israeli military offensive in Gaza, Ireland swiftly supported the humanitarian response to the unfolding crisis. Ireland responded decisively with a total package of €20 million, which was provided to agencies delivering essential services to 2.2 million people affected by the war in Gaza, including UNRWA, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

» A total of 22 students from Gaza and the West Bank came to Ireland in 2023 to commence one-year Master's programmes under the Ireland Palestine Scholarship Programme (IPSP).

» Ireland continued its established support to human rights and civil society organisations in Palestine under the Human Rights and Democratisation scheme. That scheme supports eight organisations who deliver a range of rights defence programmes, including Gisha, the Legal Centre for Freedom of Movement. Gisha seeks to protect the right to freedom of movement of Palestinians, particularly residents in Gaza, through legal and public advocacy and through the challenging of restrictions on the movement of Palestinians. Against a changing backdrop, Gisha's legal and public advocacy continued, resulting in a large increase in its advocacy reach, including an appearance before the UN Security Council in June 2023.

CASE STUDY:

UNRWA'S RESPONSE TO THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN GAZA

Ireland supported the humanitarian response to the unfolding crisis in Gaza in October 2023, providing an additional €20 million in humanitarian assistance to address urgent humanitarian needs arising from the devastating conflict. Of the €20 million, €10 million was core funding to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which is a key partner for Ireland. Prior to the outbreak of the crisis in Gaza, Ireland had provided €8 million to the Agency, bringing Ireland's total support to UNRWA to €18 million in 2023.

UNRWA delivers critical services including healthcare, education, humanitarian relief and social services to 5.7 million Palestine refugees in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. In spite of the unprecedented violence that killed 142 UNRWA staff in Gaza in 2023, and extreme operational challenges, UNRWA continued to assist Palestinians affected by the hostilities in Gaza, including refugees and non-refugees, by delivering a number of essential services. UNRWA assistance included food and non-food items, shelters, primary healthcare, fuel, psychosocial first aid, and mental health and psychosocial support, among others. UNRWA also under pinned the efforts of the humanitarian community in Gaza by providing logistics, fuel, and distribution support.

Between 7 October and 30 November 2023, 733,536 patients were treated by UNRWA staff at health facilities in Gaza. Between 21 October and 10 December 2023, UNRWA distributed 11,122 metric tonnes of flour to families affected by the hostilities in Gaza. In the same period, UNRWA delivered 419 metric tonnes of medicines and medical supplies to Gaza, as well as 11.6 million litres of water.



Packages of food are delivered to people taking shelter in communal spaces. With support from the OPT Humanitarian Fund, ACTED provided emergency food for displaced people taking shelter in a community center © ACTED



Senegal:

POPULATION:
17,651,103

GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
USD $3,464*

POSITION IN UN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
169

LIFE EXPECTANCY:
67.9 YEARS

President Higgins holds bilateral meeting with Senegalese President Macky Sall during his visit to Dakar as part of the Dakar 2 Summit: Feed Africa

© Maxwell Photography

Highlights

» The opening of Ireland's newest Embassy in Senegal in January 2023 was a significant step towards fulfilling the commitment to extend Ireland's diplomatic footprint in francophone West Africa. Embassy Dakar provides the opportunity to strengthen Ireland's political, development and economic relations with Senegal and in the broader region, including in the Sahel.

» In 2023, Ireland initiated a development programme focusing on strategic partnerships in the areas of food security, climate action, gender equality, research and policy. The Ireland Fellows Programme was also extended to Senegal for the first time.

» An official trade delegation visit to Senegal took place in 2023, seeking to strengthen economic links between Ireland and Senegal. The visit included meetings with business networks, the Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock, and the regional directors of IFAD, FAO and WFP.

CASE STUDY:

PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO SENEGAL

President Michael D. Higgins undertook an official visit to the Republic of Senegal in January 2023. The focus for the visit was the President's participation at the Dakar Summit 2 on Food Security, hosted by the Government of Senegal and the African Development Bank (AfDB). The President delivered keynote opening and closing remarks at the Summit that included the participation of 34 African Heads of States, 70 government ministers, representatives of international organisations, development partners, research institutions and the private sector. As the only non-African Head of State, attending the Summit the participation of President Higgins was very well received and created significant positive profile for Ireland. The President's participation was specifically welcomed by the President of Senegal and current Chairperson of the African Union, Macky Sall, and the President of the African Development Bank, Dr Akinwumi Adesina.

Bilateral meetings were also held with the President of Nigeria, President of Sierra Leone, President of the AfDB and President of IFAD around the summit. The President was accompanied throughout by Minister of State for International Development and Diaspora, Sean Fleming TD. Minster Fleming participated at a meeting of development partners hosted by the President of the AfDB and underlined Ireland's commitments on agriculture, food and nutrition including funding of €230 million for agri-food systems and nutrition over the next three years.

Coinciding with the opening of Ireland's new Embassy in Dakar, the visit provided a significant opportunity to deepen Ireland and Senegal's bilateral relations and included an official visit to meet President Macky Sall at the Presidential Palace. Issues discussed included food security, climate change, debt servicing, education, the empowerment of women and girls and the potential for future partnerships in agriculture. President Higgins visited Gorée Island, a historic site commemorating the transatlantic slave trade and the Museum of Black Civilisations in Dakar. The President was accompanied throughout by Sabina Higgins who attended both his speeches at the Summit and separately also participated in a visit to the Presidential Palace hosted by Senegal's First Lady.



President Higgins delivers the opening address during the Dakar 2 Summit: Feed Africa © Maxwell Photography



Sierra Leone:

POPULATION:
8,276,806.5

GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
USD $1,613*

POSITION IN UN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
184

LIFE EXPECTANCY:
60.4 YEARS

Community members receiving training in beekeeping from partner organisation Welt Hunger Hilfe

© WHH

Highlights

- Ireland supported Women in Governance networks that provided support and training for a network of women who advocated for increased women's participation, as well as capacity building for female candidates, contributing to the record number of women elected in Sierra Leone
- The Free Quality Education Project co-funded by World Bank, EU, Ireland and the UK increased participation of poorer girls in quality education. The project provided 948,072 children with a conducive learning environment, trained 27,780 teachers, and facilitated 3,851 school-level improvement plans.
- With Irish support, Rainbo Initiative provided services to 2,762 survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV). Support was also provided to the Government of Sierra Leone's SGBV one-stop centres to deliver medical and psychosocial services to 358 survivors and legal support leading to 70 cases charged to court.
- Ireland helped increase the confidence and capacities of over 18,000 adolescent girls and young women by providing 'girls safe spaces', mentoring, training, and education. The participants gained an awareness of their rights, increased their skills, and gained access to resources and for individual and social change.



Momoh has successfully recovered from malnourishment © CUAMM

CASE STUDY:

EMPOWERING HOPE: THE JOURNEY OF A TEENAGE MOTHER AND HER MALNOURISHED CHILD TO WELL-BEING

The Yaamoh family sustains itself primarily through subsistence farming and petty trading supporting a household of 11 members. Twenty-month-old Momoh was identified as malnourished during routine screening by a community health worker who was receiving on-the-job mentorship support from CUAMM, one of Ireland's nutrition partners. Momoh was referred to Bomu Samba health facility where he was diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition (SAM), and was admitted to the Out-Patient Therapeutic Feeding Program. His mother, Wuya, received information and counselling on her child's health, giving her the knowledge to best support her child.

While Momoh received treatment, CUAMM ensured ongoing support for Wuya through the mother support group in her community. Here, she received regular follow-ups and nutrition guidance tailored to her child's needs. She participated in cooking demonstrations at the health facility, equipping her with essential skills in meal preparation for herself and her child.

"I'm happy to have learned many things since the arrival of the project and I have continuously applied the acquired knowledge that has helped my child," she said.

Through Wuya's dedication to her child's recovery, Momoh successfully recuperated and was discharged. Inspired by her transformative experience, Wuya would like to help other teenage mothers learn about nutrition and childcare practices while ensuring Momoh stays healthy for years to come.



South Africa:

POPULATION:
62,378,410

GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
USD $13,186*

POSITION IN UN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
110

LIFE EXPECTANCY:
61.5 YEARS

Tánaiste Micheál Martin TD at tree planting at Bophelong Community Centre in Mamelodi, during his visit to South Africa in July 2023 © DFA

Highlights

- During the 16 Days of Activism against gender based violence the Embassy hosted an event in Cape Town to explore policy responses to gender based violence, which was attended by policymakers including the Deputy Minister for Justice.
- The Embassy supported the School of Hard Knocks programme (Next Gen Men) which reached approximately 300 men and boys. Initial evaluations show the programme has positive impacts on the thinking of participants around relationships, gender and violence.
- The Embassy agreed a new partnership with 'I'M IN Accelerator' on a pilot programme to support young women entrepreneurs in underserved third-level institutions in South Africa.



Winning entrepreneurs of the 2023 Irish Tech Challenge South Africa arrive in Dublin for a week long curated visit to Ireland's tech ecosystem © Dogpatch Labs

CASE STUDY:

FIRST FULL YEAR OF THE TECH CHALLENGE FUND

In 2023, the Irish Tech Challenge expanded beyond its pilot phase and generated considerable positive publicity for Ireland in South Africa. The number of applications increased to 266, from 120 in 2022, reflecting a growing interest and engagement within the tech community. This substantial increase underscores the growing relevance and impact of the challenge in fostering innovation and collaboration.

The heightened attention was not only evident in the numbers applying but also in media coverage. The Irish Tech Challenge was prominently featured across various platforms, including morning live broadcasts, prime time slots, and reputable online media platforms such as the Mail and Guardian. This broad coverage raised Ireland's profile and highlighted the programme's role in spotlighting emerging tech talent and promoting Ireland's tech ecosystem.

The success of the Irish Tech Challenge in 2023 can be attributed to several factors, including its ability to attract top talent, the quality of mentorship provided, and its focus on real-world problem solving. By nurturing innovation and providing a platform for aspiring tech start-ups to showcase their skills, the challenge has become a catalyst for creating new links in Africa for Ireland's tech ecosystem. As interest and participation continue to grow, the programme's goal for 2024 is to increase the number of winning entrepreneurs from five to seven, with two places reserved for start-ups that are specifically focused on climate change.



Project team member and students examining quinoa plant

© Nguyen Van Loc, Vietnam National University of Agriculture

Vietnam

POPULATION:
99,680,655

GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
USD $10,814*

POSITION IN UN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
107

LIFE EXPECTANCY:
74.6 YEARS

Laos

POPULATION:
7,559,007.5

GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
USD $7,745*

POSITION IN UN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
139

LIFE EXPECTANCY:
69 YEARS

Cambodia

POPULATION:
17,201,723.5

GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
USD $4,291*

POSITION IN UN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
148

LIFE EXPECTANCY:
69.9 YEARS

Highlights

» In 2023, Ireland launched a new 'Furthest Behind First' programme in Cambodia. The programme focuses on protecting the land rights of indigenous communities and supporting sustainable livelihoods. Jointly funded by the Embassy of Ireland and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and implemented by Dan Church Aid and local organisations, the programme also works to protect natural resources and prevent biodiversity loss.

» Ireland funded a workshop that shared international experiences on gender recognition frameworks, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice and in the context of the preparation of Vietnam's new Gender Affirmation Law. During the workshop, the Department of Social Protection shared details of Ireland's Gender Recognition Act and the process that led to it.

» Ireland's Minister of State for Research and Development, Farm Safety and New Market Development, Martin Heydon, TD and Vietnam's Vice-Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development, Phung Duc Tien, signed a Memorandum of Understanding which will frame Embassy Hanoi's agricultural cooperation activities in Vietnam in 2023-2027, implemented in partnership with Sustainable Food Systems Ireland.

CASE STUDY:

LANDMINE CLEARING IN LAOS

Between 1964 and 1973, more than two million tonnes of ordnance were dropped on Laos making it per capita the most heavily bombed country in the world. An estimated 87,000 square kilometres of land remains potentially contaminated. Over 50,000 people have been killed or injured since 1964. In the last decade, over 40% of casualties have been children. This level of unexploded ordnance remains a critical barrier to rural development.

Darn is a widow and mother of three from Savannakhet Province. She farms a small plot of land, which is the main source of income for her family. Last year she expanded the amount of land she has under rice cultivation, even though she had a fear of unearthing unexploded ordnance. Unfortunately, this fear is borne out of experience. Three decades ago, while Darn's mother was working in a rice paddy, an explosion resulted in her receiving serious injuries. Although her mother recovered, the psychological trauma from the incident remained.

Darn herself has regularly encountered unexploded ordnances on her land. With support from Ireland, a HALO Trust mine clearance team cleared 16,758 square metres of Darn's land in 2023. This demining team found and destroyed 68 items of unexploded ordnance in the process.

Across this rural province, the Embassy of Ireland continues to fund demining teams to remove explosives and make hazardous areas safe. This land is then returned to farmers in order to grow extra food and provide additional income.



Female de-miner clearing unexploded ordnance in Savannakhet Province, Laos © HALO Trust Laos



Darn in her rice field © HALO Trust Laos



Tanzania:

POPULATION:
64,711,821

GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
USD $2,578*

POSITION IN UN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
167

LIFE EXPECTANCY:
66.8 YEARS

Women participate in discussions around vulnerability for Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) assessment for World Vision's NOURISH project.

© World Vision

Highlights

- 30,000 smallholder farmers (50% female) were trained in climate-smart agriculture practices and assisted to access markets in Dodoma.
- 6,123 primary healthcare facilities received transfers from the Health Basket Fund, to which Ireland is a core donor.
- 1.36 million households in 17,260 villages received cash transfers, including 100,474 households receiving disability grants through Tanzania's national social safety nets programme, PSSN II, supported by Ireland.
- 2 million community radio listeners were encouraged to take action on climate change, gender equality and governance issues in their community.

CASE STUDY:

PANGANI WOMEN READY TO LEAD

Since 2016 UZIKWASA has been facilitating mentorship sessions for women in Pangani. Strong women leaders have been identified as role models. In turn, they engage with local women in leadership positions or with leadership potential to share their skills and experience. In the last mentorship session in March 2023, the women expressed their frustration about the absence of female councillors in the district.

"I always asked myself, does that mean that there is no strong woman in the whole district who has the ability to contest for leadership positions as men do?" asked Maifu Bakari from Mikocheni village.

The group was determined to change this. They formed coalitions and developed clear strategies for preparing themselves to run for Councillor in the next election. They used village assemblies to raise awareness of equal gender rights and they established local mentorship sessions in different villages for confidence building. In some villages, they have already identified women with the capacity to contest leadership positions. These women are being coached to gain confidence and strengthen their leadership skills.

UZIKWASA's radio station Pangani FM helped to promote the mentorship initiative among listeners. Through *Sauti ya Mwanamke* (*Woman's Voice* radio programme) women share their mentorship experience and the changes that they have undergone as they pursued their leadership ambitions. Another forum has been the International Women's Day commemoration when women leaders present their achievements and showcase how the women's coalition inspired more women in the community.

"Every day I meet with my fellow women, either individually or in meetings." Said one woman from Mikocheni village. *"I encourage them to support each other as leaders. For instance in Mikocheni, we have prepared a woman who we will support to run for the village chairperson position. From other villages with women leaders like Kimanga and Mwembeni we learned that they have been performing so well. Our neighbouring village Kwa Kibuyu was led by a woman who did her best …and she left a very strong legacy."*

The mentorship initiative has empowered Pangani women to believe in themselves and become confident, pro-active, and accountable leaders. Women have been building each other up so that they can realise their strength and ability to contest leadership positions in their community and to obtain men's support.



Woman at community meeting © UZIKWASA



Uganda:

POPULATION:
47,312,719.5

GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
USD $2,241*

POSITION IN UN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
159

LIFE EXPECTANCY:
63.6 YEARS

A student at the St Daniel Comboni Vocational Training Institute in Karamoja, northern Uganda

© DFA

Highlights

» Ireland supported Uganda's education sector to address low levels of school access and completion in the region of Karamoja. In partnership with UNICEF, the programme reached over 280,000 pupils in 368 primary and 32 secondary schools. It reported increased enrolment, improved primary school pass rate, and greater literacy.

» Due to ongoing conflict in neighbouring Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda hosted an influx of refugees in 2023. Through Ireland's support to UN agencies, 1.36 million refugees received cash and food assistance and 13 primary schools were established.

» The Embassy closely monitored developments related to the Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023. Reports from civil society indicate that LGBTQ+ people face evictions, arrest, violence, and extortion. To mitigate the impact, the Embassy continues to engage with government interlocutors and supports a range of stakeholders working for LGBTI rights.



Kasimeri Primary School in Karamoja Region of northern Uganda

© DFA



A school feeding programme at Kasimeri Primary School in Karamoja Region of northern Uganda © DFA

CASE STUDY:

IMPROVING NEONATAL UNITS AND MATERNAL HEALTH SERVICES IN KARAMOJA

As part of a CUAMM (Doctors for Africa) project supported by Ireland, the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) in Moroto Regional Referral Hospital in Karamoja was upgraded in order to improve outcomes for critically ill babies in the region. The project aims to strengthen district health systems and increase access to reproductive, maternal, neonatal, and adolescent services.

Olivia (36 years), mother of eight, comes from a village 40 kilometres from Moroto town. She was gathering sticks alone in woods near her home when she went into labour. After giving birth, she cut the cord with her knife and carried the baby home. A week after the birth her son got ill. She took him to a local clinic and he was referred to Moroto Regional Referral Hospital where doctors diagnosed meningitis and admitted him to the NICU.

"I am very worried, but I know that my son is getting the best care here." said Olivia *"I am happy that the hospital has the facilities we need here to help my son."*

Fortunately, under the care of the NICU staff, his condition improved and he was able to move to the general children's ward.

As a result of this Unit, the number of newborn infants with neonatal conditions managed in the region has increased from 649 in 2021 to 945 in 2023. Perinatal deaths in health facilities also dropped from 23 per 1,000 in 2021 to 14 per 1,000 in 2023.



Zambia:

POPULATION:
20,152,938

GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
USD $3,157*

POSITION IN UN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
153

LIFE EXPECTANCY:
61.8 YEARS

Zambian Drummers
© DFA

Highlights

- Supported by Ireland, the World Bank Girls' Education and Women's Empowerment and Livelihoods (GEWEL) Programme supported 1,100,998 vulnerable households with timely and predictable monthly social cash transfer payments.
- The Scaling Up Nutrition Programme reached 12,904 households comprising of mothers and caregivers of children under two years of age linked to Nutrition Support Groups with agriculture, health and wash interventions.
- A two-day conference on economic and financial crimes was held in Lusaka led by Irish judicial and prosecution experts.



Fireside panellists at Build It International Zambia © Straight Up Media

CASE STUDY:

BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING DREAMS: WOMEN'S CONTRIBUTION TO ZAMBIA'S CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Ireland supports Build It International Zambia (BIIZ) to implement a programme to promote greater participation of women and girls in the construction sector.

This programme was aimed at stimulating dialogue and awareness of women's participation in the construction sector through a series of media discussions targeting contractors, vocational education providers, and private companies providing service to the construction industry. In addition, there was a study to understand barriers affecting women's participation in the construction sector which informed the discussions and culminated in the first ever conference on women in construction. One of the panellists, Racheal Njobvu (seated on far left of photo above), provided the following feedback:

"I was one of the fireside panellists at the Build It International Women's Conference: Breaking barriers, building dreams: Women's Contribution to Zambia's Build Industry. I had an opportunity to share my insights and experiences as the founder of Modern Refinements Limited, a company that specialises in refurbishments and renovations. I initially did not have a formal education in construction, but I learned on the job and obtained various certifications including Building Works Supervision from the National Council for Construction.

"I was eager to connect with the students and graduates who attended the conference and offer them opportunities to develop their skills in the industry. I understand the challenges of entering a field that is not very welcoming to women, and I wanted to create more space for them. I have gone ahead and taken two young women from the conference to work with me, a carpenter and a plumber. I am determined to mentor them and develop their skills.

"I felt privileged to be part of a panel that featured remarkable women from different backgrounds and levels of expertise. The panel was a lively and inspiring conversation that highlighted the voices and visions of women who were determined to make a difference in the industry and society. The conference was a valuable platform for networking and learning that enriched everyone who participated."



Zimbabwe:

POPULATION:
16,069,055.5

GROSS NATIONAL INCOME (GNI) PER CAPITA:
USD $2,079*

POSITION IN UN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX:
159

LIFE EXPECTANCY:
59.4 YEARS

Ireland and other funding partners in the Health Resilience Fund handed over e-learning equipment to support Government of Zimbabwe health worker training programmes and to improve patient – health staff ratios, a major contributor to Universal Health Coverage and improved health outcomes

© HRF/UNFPA Zimbabwe

Highlights

» Ireland, together with the EU, supported the Zimbabwe Resilience Building Fund (ZRBF), a €17 million programme that works with poor and vulnerable rural communities to improve sustainable management of natural resources to improve food and nutrition security and reduce the impact of natural disasters.

» Ireland, in partnership with Government and UN partners, supported continued access to reproductive, maternal, newborn child and adolescent health and nutrition services for over 3.3 million poor and vulnerable women, girls and children.

» Ireland, in partnership with WFP, provided monthly cash payments for nutrition support to over 5,000 households with pregnant and lactating women, children and adolescent girls from poor and vulnerable households in urban areas. This is particularly important in the face of a record drought and increasing poverty.

CASE STUDY:

WOMEN'S ELECTORAL VICTORY FUELS GENDER EQUALITY ACTIVISM

Lizzy Sibanda has always been an advocate for gender equality and women's rights, with a vision for a democratic society where women could thrive and have their voices heard. This influenced her decision to contest the harmonised elections in Zimbabwe in August 2023, despite knowing the challenges she would face as a woman in a male-dominated field where the political arena is marred with violence – one of the many factors hindering women's participation.

"I was aware that women in politics face countless obstacles as they navigate the political terrain – stereotypes, discrimination, and the pervasive belief that women were not fit for leadership roles," she said.

Lizzy was one of the 80 candidates who participated in the transformative leadership training for women leaders across Zimbabwe, provided by Hivos under the Irish Embassy-supported Women's Voices Matter project.

Lizzy pointed out that while her political journey was not easy, the training and support empowered her and strengthened her resolve to soldier on, following her nomination to contest the 2023 as a candidate in the 2023 elections. She was nominated to represent Ward 27 in Pumula, Bulawayo, as a Councillor – the only female among six male counterparts.

She remained undeterred, participated in the programme and refused to let the barriers define her path. Now that she is in office, Lizzy has convened meetings with women in her ward to strategise ways to dismantle the barriers that hinder women's progress in all spheres of life. Drawing on her experience as a vendor, she has introduced saving schemes among young women and women vendors in her ward to subsidise family income.

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Figures are correct at time of publication.

ANNEX ONE

Ireland's Official Development Assistance 2023

Ireland's Official Development Assistance	€ Millions 2023	€ Millions 2022
Department of Foreign Affairs - Vote 27	733.47	636.71
Other Government Departments (excluding Ukraine In-donor refugee costs)	387.28	449.19
Ireland's share of the EU Development Cooperation Budget*	346.46	325.22
Subtotal ODA	**1,467.21**	**1,411.12**
Ukraine in-donor refugee costs**	1,137.59	880.00
Total ODA	**2,604.81**	**2,291.13**
GNI	388,351	363,582
ODA less Ukraine in-donor refugee costs as a % of GNI	0.38%	0.39%
Total ODA as a % of GNI	0.67%	0.63%
Department of Foreign Affairs Vote 27 as a % of total ODA	28%	28%
Other Government Departments as a % of total ODA	15%	20%
Ireland's share of the EU Development Cooperation Budget as a % of total ODA	13%	14%
Ukraine in-donor refugee costs as a % of total ODA	44%	38%
Bilateral / Multilateral Analysis* **		
Bilateral ODA		
Department of Foreign Affairs - Vote 27	596.38	513.89
Other Government Departments (excluding Ukraine in-donor refugee costs)	241.79	336.03
Subtotal Bilateral ODA	838.17	849.92
Ukraine in-donor refugee costs	1,137.59	880.00
Total Bilateral ODA	**1,975.76**	**1,729.93**
Multilateral ODA		
Department of Foreign Affairs - Vote 27	137.10	122.82
Other Government Departments	145.48	113.16
Ireland's share of the EU Development Cooperation Budget*	346.46	325.22
Total Multilateral ODA	**629.04**	**561.20**
ODA less in-donor refugee costs Ukraine	1,467.21	1,411.12
Total ODA**	**2,604.81**	**2,291.13**
Bilateral ODA as a % of Total ODA	76%	76%
Multilateral ODA as a % of Total ODA	24%	24%

* Ireland's share of the EU Development Cooperation Budget is the proportion of Ireland's overall contribution to the EU that is allocated by the EU to the Development Cooperation Budget

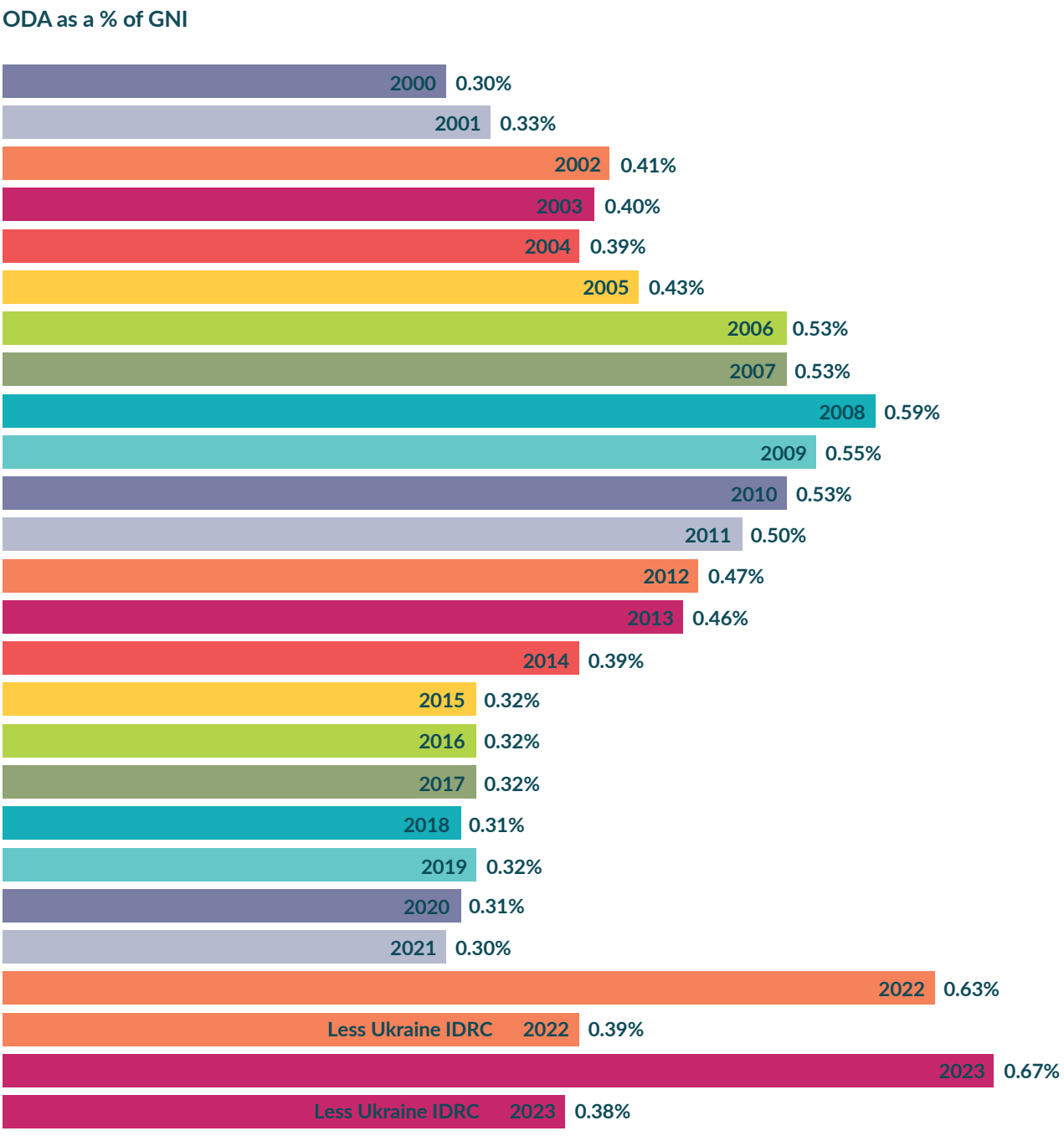
** Since 2022 the war of aggression by Russia in Ukraine has resulted in Ireland providing refuge for over 100,000 Ukrainian people. A portion of Ireland's domestic expenditure to support Ukrainian Refugees is ODA eligible.

*** These annexes use the OECD definitions for Bilateral and Multilateral Aid. The OECD defines multilateral ODA as core support to eligible multilateral organisations. These eligible multilateral organisations also report their ODA to the OECD. Bilateral ODA is defined as funding allocation by donors for specific projects and programmes in ODA eligible countries. Bilateral funding can be delivered though NGOs, multilateral organisations, research bodies etc.

**** At time of printing figures in these annexes are awaiting final verification by the OECD

ANNEX TWO

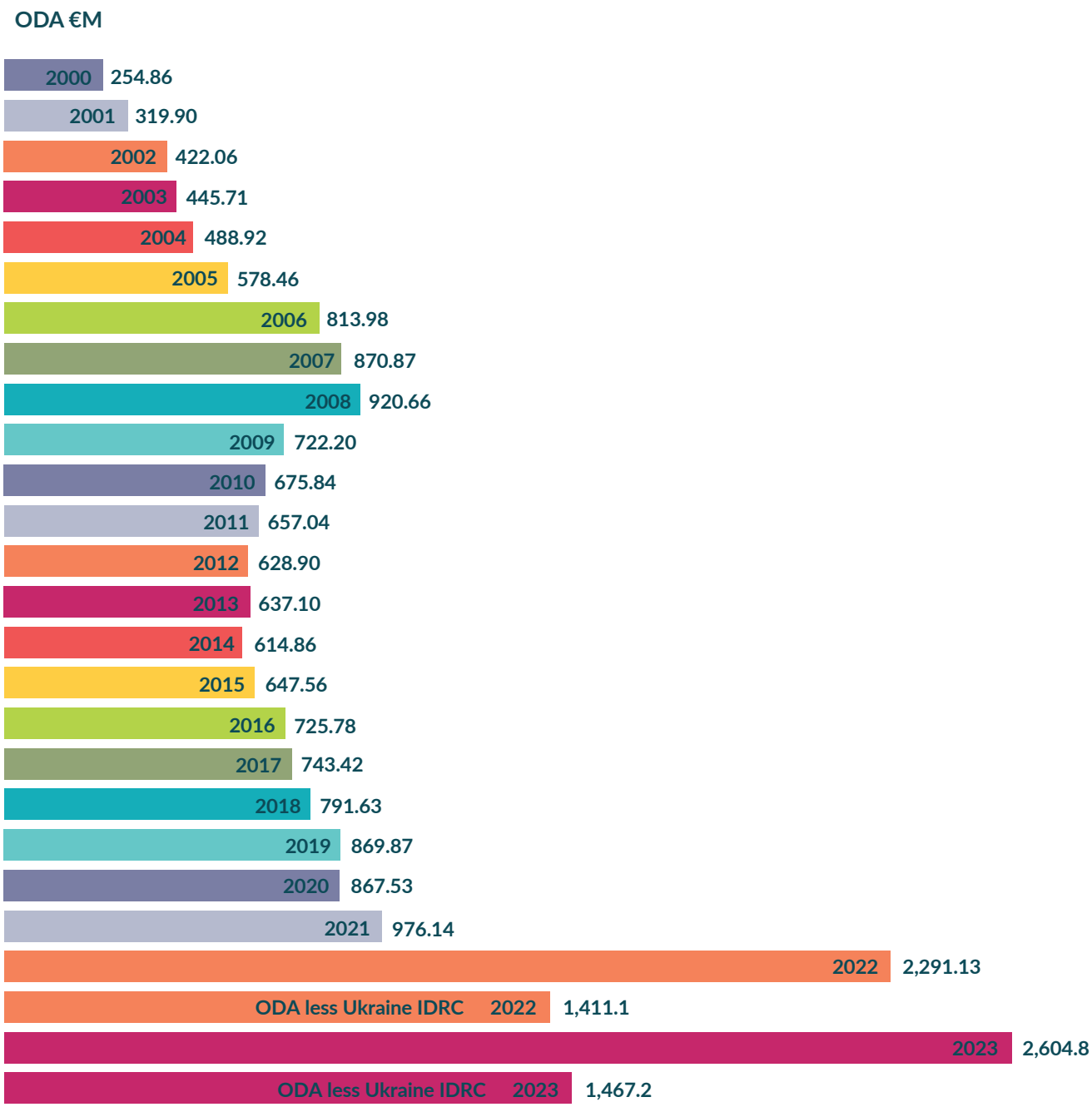
Ireland's ODA as a % of GNI: 2000 - 2023



Since 2022, the war of aggression by Russia in Ukraine has resulted in Ireland providing refuge for over 100,000 Ukrainian people. A portion of Ireland's domestic expenditure to support Ukrainian Refugees during their first 12 months in Ireland is ODA eligible.

ANNEX THREE

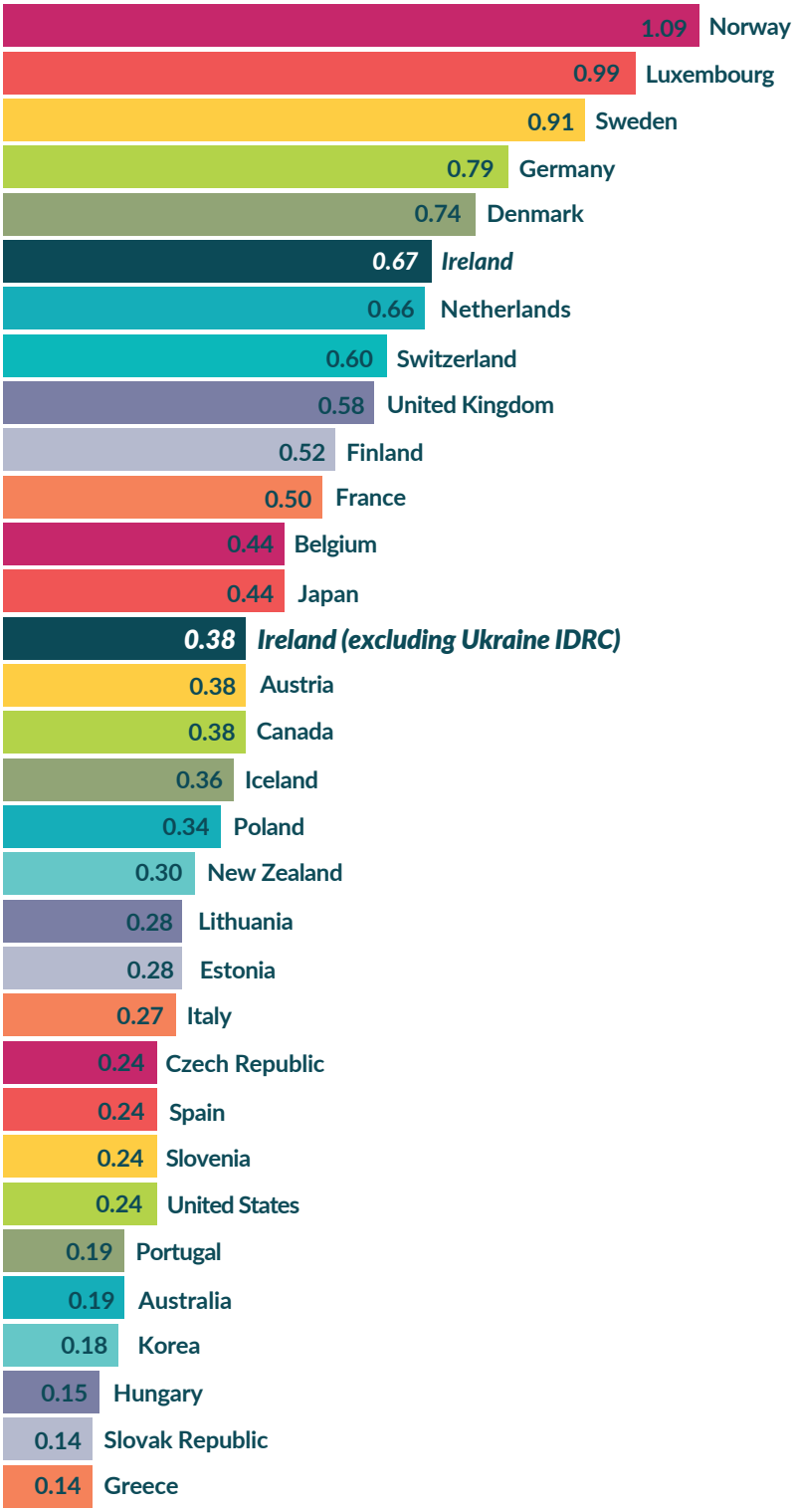
Ireland's ODA Volumes 2000-2023



Since 2022, the war of aggression by Russia in Ukraine has resulted in Ireland providing refuge for over 100,000 Ukrainian people. A portion of Ireland's domestic expenditure to support Ukrainian Refugees during their first 12 months in Ireland is ODA eligible.

ANNEX FOUR

Net ODA as a % of GNI: DAC Donors 2023



Country	ODA % GNI
Norway	1.09%
Luxembourg	0.99%
Sweden	0.91%
Germany	0.79%
Denmark	0.74%
Ireland	0.67%
Netherlands	0.66%
Switzerland	0.60%
United Kingdom	0.58%
Finland	0.52%
France	0.50%
Belgium	0.44%
Japan	0.44%
Ireland (excluding Ukraine IDRC)	0.38%
Austria	0.38%
Canada	0.38%
Iceland	0.36%
Poland	0.34%
New Zealand	0.30%
Lithuania	0.28%
Estonia	0.28%
Italy	0.27%
Czech Republic	0.24%
Spain	0.24%
Slovenia	0.24%
United States	0.24%
Portugal	0.19%
Australia	0.19%
Korea	0.18%
Hungary	0.15%
Slovak Republic	0.14%
Greece	0.14%
AVERAGE DAC	0.44%

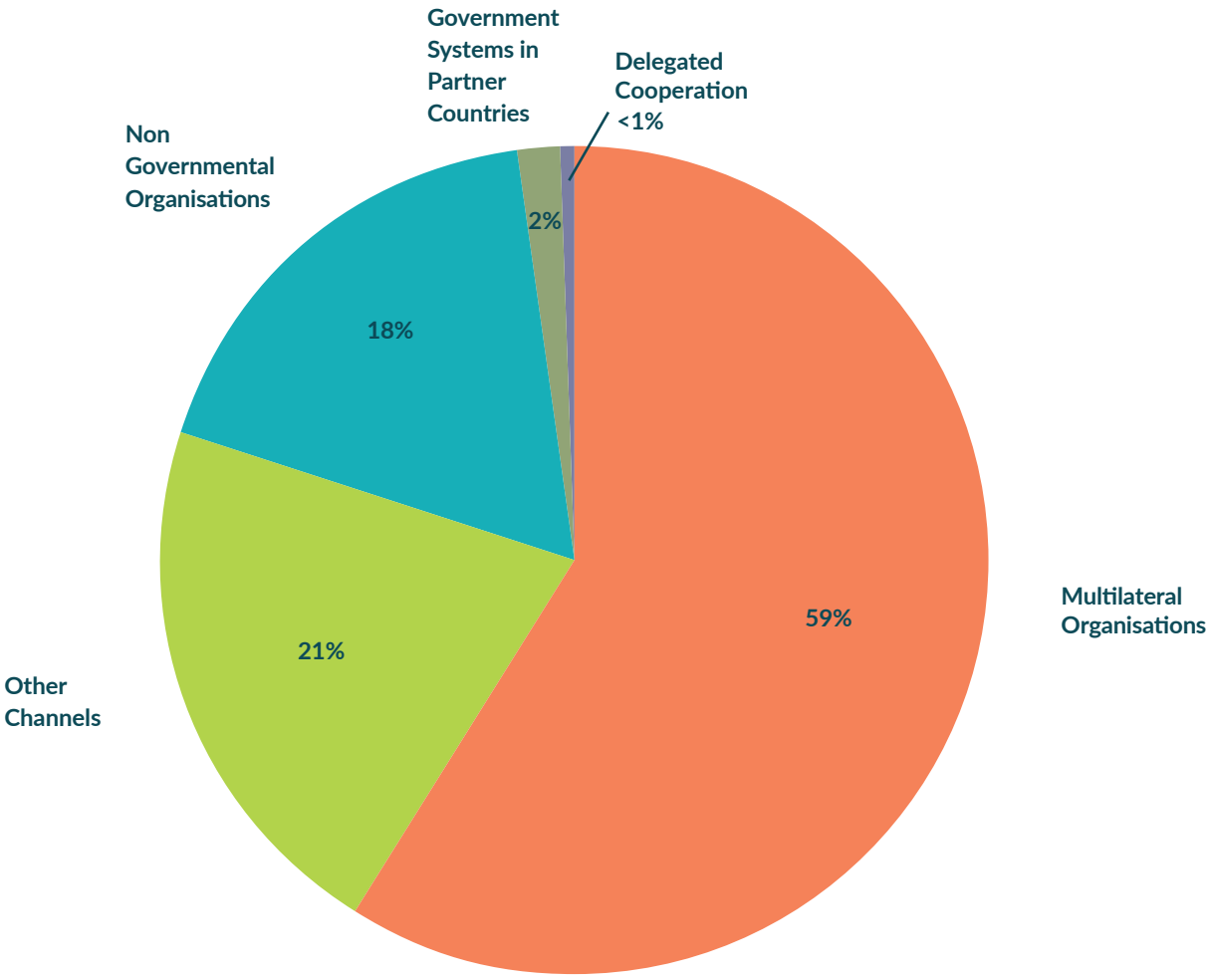
* To enable comparison with other donors, figures used here are the OECD DAC estimate at April 2024.

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 2023

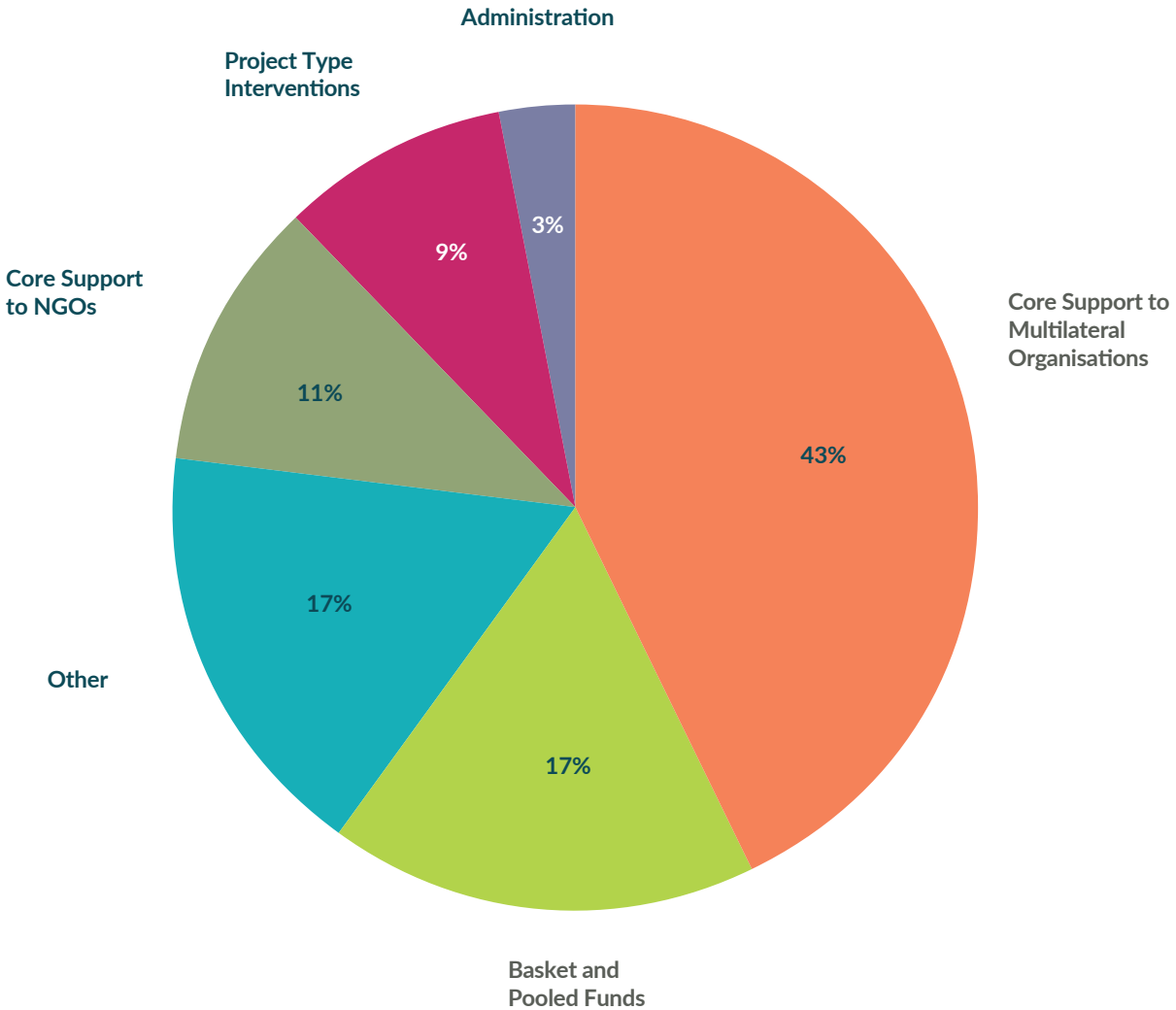
Channel	€000's	As a %
Multilateral Organisations	871,716	59%
Other Channels	301,201	21%
Non Governmental Organisations	267,437	18%
Government Systems in Partner Countries	23,725	2%
Delegated Cooperation	3,134	<1%
Subtotal	1,467,212	100%
Ukraine In-Donor Refugee Costs	1,137,594	
Grand Total	2,604,806	



ANNEX SIX

Total Irish ODA by Aid Modality 2023

Aid Modality	€000's	As a %
Core Support to Multilateral Organisations	629,042	43%
Basket and Pooled Funds	252,764	17%
Other	245,845	17%
Core Support to NGOs	155,613	11%
Project Type Interventions	136,551	9%
Administration	47,396	3%
Subtotal	1,467,212	100%
Ukraine In-Donor Refugee Costs	1,137,594	
Grand Total	2,604,806	



ANNEX SEVEN

Top 30 Recipient Countries of Ireland's Bilateral ODA 2023

Recipient Country	€000's
Ethiopia	39,469
occupied Palestinian territory	35,795*
Ukraine	28,224
Mozambique	25,851
Tanzania	24,913
Malawi	23,687
Uganda	20,358
Sierra Leone	17,997
Zimbabwe	10,651
South Sudan	10,327
Pakistan	10,000
Sudan	9,755
Syrian Arab Republic	9,566
Somalia	9,496
Kenya	7,972
Democratic Republic of the Congo	7,713
Liberia	7,048
Zambia	6,924
Lebanon	6,523
Yemen	6,408
Türkiye	5,496
Central African Republic	5,464
Viet Nam	5,337
Afghanistan	4,210
Niger	3,578
Colombia	3,499
Burkina Faso	3,346
Haiti	3,068
Myanmar	2,861
South Africa	2,812

Please note that in the case of countries with major humanitarian crises, funding may be allocated to neighbouring countries or on a non-country specific basis.

* This figure represents the overall support to the Palestinian people across the Middle East region. This includes €18 million in support through UNRWA, who directly support Palestine refugees in five locations across the region: the West Bank, Gaza, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

ANNEX EIGHT

Funding to Multilateral Organisations 2023 (Detailed in €ooos)

	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
European Union Institutions		
European Commission - EDF		
European Commission - Development Share of Budget		
European Commission Turkey Refugee Facility		
European Investment Bank - EDF		
European Union Institutions Total	-	-
Other Multilateral Institutions		
Adaptation Fund		6,000
African Tax Administration Forum		
African Union Commission		
CGIAR Fund		
Council of Europe		
GAVI Alliance		
General Secretary of OAS/Inter American Commission		
Global Environment Facility - Least Developed Countries Fund		
Global Environment Facility - Special Climate Change Fund		1,000
Global Environment Facility Trust Fund		2,500
Global Partnership for Education		
Global Shield Against Climate Risks		5,000
Intergovernmental Authority on Development		
International Criminal Court Trust Fund for Victims		
International Monetary Fund - Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust		
International Renewable Energy Agency		56
African Union Development Agency		
OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development		
OSCE Organisation for Security and Co-operation		
The Global Fund to Fight Aids T.B. & Malaria		
Other Multilateral Institutions Total	-	14,556
Regional Development Banks		
African Development Bank		
African Development Fund		
Asian Development Bank		
Asian Development Fund		
Council of Europe Development Bank		
Regional Development Banks Total	-	-

Department of Finance	Department of Foreign Affairs	Ireland's Share of the EU Development Cooperation Budget	Other Departments	Total
	16,658			16,658
	-	346,460		346,460
	2,084			2,084
	2,820			2,820
-	**21,562**	**346,460**	-	**368,023**
	-			6,000
	400			400
	300			300
	5,875			5,875
	387			387
	4,000			4,000
	850			850
	2,000			2,000
	2,190			3,190
	-			2,500
	13,000			13,000
	-			5,000
	430			430
	300			300
24,000	-			24,000
	-			56
	375			375
	2,772			2,772
	844			844
	21,750			21,750
24,000	**55,473**	-	-	**94,029**
13,817	2,000			15,817
8,128	-			8,128
	3,000			3,000
3,236	-			3,236
4	-			4
25,185	**5,000**	-	-	**30,185**

ANNEX EIGHT (CONTINUED)

UN Agencies Fund or Commission	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)		
Convention to Combat Desertification		
Food and Agricultural Organisation	3,739	
Green Climate Fund		9,000
International Agency for Research on Cancer		
International Atomic Energy Agency		
International Fund for Agricultural Development		
International Labour Organization		
International Organisation for Migration		
Joint Sustainable Development Goals-Fund		
Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol		883
UNAIDS		
United Nations Children's Fund		
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development		
United Nations Department of Peace Operations		
United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs		
United Nations Department of Economic & Social Affairs		
United Nations Development Coordination Office		
United Nations Development Programme		
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation		
United Nations Environment Programme		800
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change		3
United Nations General Trust Fund		
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights		
United Nations Industrial Development Organisation		
United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research		
United Nations Office for Project Services		
United Nations Office of Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs		
United Nations Office of the High Representative for the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS		
United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees		
United Nations Office to the African Union		
United Nations Peacebuilding Fund		

Department of Finance	Department of Foreign Affairs	Ireland's Share of the EU Development Cooperation Budget	Other Departments	Total
	14,500			14,500
	33			33
	1,250			4,989
	-			9,000
	-		315	315
	363			363
	5,267			5,267
	1,500		952	2,452
	2,317		199	2,516
	2,000			2,000
				883
	2,510			2,510
	42,411			42,411
	300			300
	3,374			3,374
	654			654
	475			475
	2,800			2,800
	19,948			19,948
	2,000		820	2,820
				800
	700			703
	6,565			6,565
	4,980			4,980
	422			422
	94			94
	1,845			1,845
	35,845			35,845
	100			100
	32,550		39	32,589
	198			198
	3,000			3,000

ANNEX EIGHT (CONTINUED)

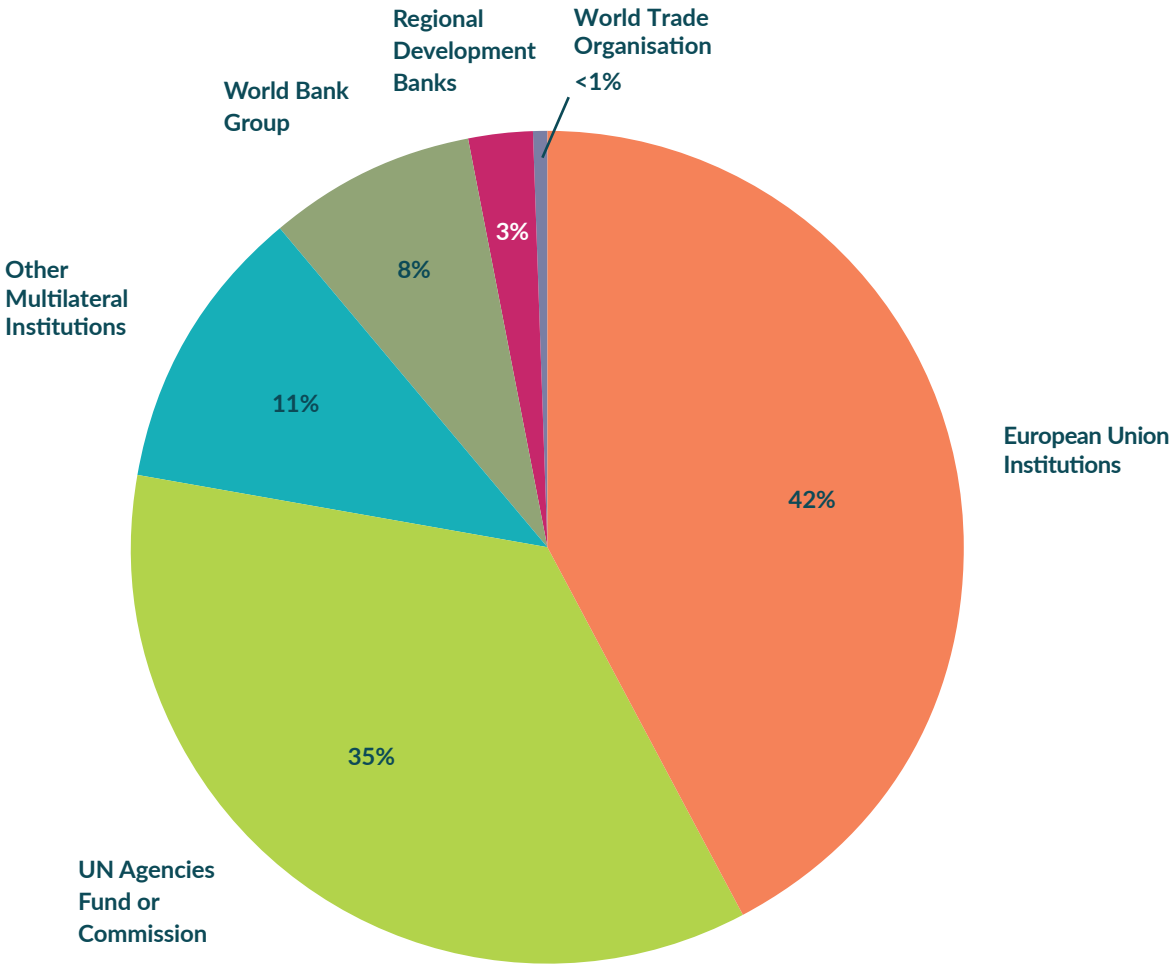
	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
UN Agencies Fund or Commission (continued)		
United Nations Population Fund		
United Nations Volunteers		
UN-Multi Partner Trust Fund Office		
UNRWA		
UN Women		
World Food Programme	25,000	
World Health Organisation		
World Intellectual Property Organisation		
United Nations Total	28,739	10,686
World Bank Group		
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development		
International Development Association		
International Finance Corporation		
World Bank Multi-Donor Trust Funds		
World Bank Group Total	-	-
World Trade Organisation		
International Trade Centre		
World Trade Organisation		
World Trade Organisation Advisory Law Centre		
World Trade Organisation Total	-	-

Department of Finance	Department of Foreign Affairs	Ireland's Share of the EU Development Cooperation Budget	Other Departments	Total
	10,256			10,256
	1,152			1,152
	15,060			15,060
	18,000			18,000
	5,520			5,520
	14,310			39,310
	10,220		1,558	11,778
			14	14
-	**262,516**	-	**3,898**	**305,839**
4,754	1,600			6,354
37,150	10,486			47,636
2,008	1,241			3,250
	14,550			14,550
43,912	**13,327**	-	-	**71,790**
				-
	1,000			1,000
	450			450
	400			400
-	**1,850**	-	-	**1,850**

ANNEX NINE

Funding to Multilateral Organisations 2023

	€000's	As a %
European Union Institutions	368,023	42%
UN Agencies Fund or Commission	305,839	35%
Other Multilateral Institutions	94,029	11%
World Bank Group	71,790	8%
Regional Development Banks	30,185	3%
World Trade Organisation	1,850	<1%
Grand Total	871,716	100%



ANNEX TEN

Civil Society Organisations in receipt of €20K or more, in 2023 in €000s

Organisation Name	€000's
A Partnership with Africa	250
Access to Nutrition	200
Action Against Hunger	3,437
ActionAid Ireland	950
Addameer Prison Support and Human Rights	100
Afri	52
African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes	345
Aidlink	380
Aidspan	100
AkiDwA	39
Al Haq, Law in the Service of Man	100
Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa	46
Amideast	61
Amref Health Africa	300
An Taisce - Green Schools	120
APHEDA Vietnam	150
ARD Family Resource Centre	41
Associação ALPS Resilience Mozambique	400
Associação de Limpeza e Meio Ambiente	33
Associação Focus Fistula	150
Associação Inst. Para Democracia Multipartidaria	180
Associação Osuwela	75
Association for Inclusive Peace	340
Association for Women's Sanctuary and Development	60
Auschwitz Institute for the Prevention of Genocide	149
Australian Volunteers International	20
AVSI Foundation Uganda	1,000
BBC Media Action	450
Benjamin William Mkapa Foundation	800
Berghof Foundation	100
Bimkom Planners for Planning Rights	100
Blue Action Fund	1750
Brighter Communities Worldwide	320
Britain Nepal Medical Trust	25
Budget Advocacy Network	130
Care International	800
Carter Center	257
Catholic Relief Services Liberia	300
Center for Development and Integration	120
Centre for Counselling Nutrition and Health Care	700

ANNEX TEN (CONTINUED)

Organisation Name	€000's
Centre for Global Education	75
Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue	150
Centre for Social Concern	150
Chicoa Fish Farm	150
Children in Crossfire	640
Christian Aid Ireland	5,740
Christian Blind Mission Ireland	185
CHS Alliance	150
Climate KIC	1,497
Clinton Health Access Initiative	1,800
Cloyne Diocesan Youth Services	55
Coalition of Ethiopian Civil Society Organizations	100
Comet ME	100
Comhlámh	401
Committee for Free and Fair Elections in Cambodia	20
Community Healthcare Intitiative	100
Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation	550
Concern Worldwide	37,400
Conciliation Resources	1,100
Crisis Action	80
DanChurchAid	463
Danish Institute Against Torture	50
Democratic Progress Institute	75
Development Perspectives	307
Dóchas	515
Doctors with Africa CUAMM	1,305
ECO-UNESCO	120
ECPAT International	150
EducAid Sierra Leone	200
Educate Together	22
Elections Coordinating Committee	171
E-LICO Foundation	600
Emergency Nutrition Network	1,080
Engineers Without Borders Ireland	49
Escola Primaria Completa de Guava	50
European Centre for Development Policy Management	320
European Endowment for Democracy	100
European Institute for Peace	100
Family Health International - FHI 360	900
Femina Hip	400

ANNEX TEN (CONTINUED)

Organisation Name	€000's
Fields of Life	200
Financial Justice Ireland	100
Focus 1000	300
FoodCloud	223
Forum Against Harmful Practices	300
Forum of Federations	240
Forward Thinking	70
Friends of the Earth Ireland	70
Front Line Defenders	700
Frontline AIDS	300
Fundação Hakuna Matata	65
Fundação MASC	400
Fundo Socioambiental Casa	400
Gaisce – The President's Award	70
Generations for Peace	80
Geneva Call	150
Geneva Initiative	34
Gisha-Legal Centre for Freedom of Movement	100
Global Action Plan	60
Global Witness Trust	250
GOAL	14,680
HALO Trust	3,520
Health Poverty Action	100
Heifer International	240
Helen Keller International	711
HelpAge International	760
Hivos Foundation	300
Human Rights Centre Uganda	250
Human Rights Centre Viasna	30
Human Rights Defender Network - Sierra Leone	200
Human Rights Defender's Project	505
i4Life	50
Ifrah Foundation	60
ILGA World	170
I'm In	38
Inishowen Development Partnership	100
Inspiration Lifeline	31
Institute for Justice and Reconciliation	150
Instituto Socioambiental	600
International Alert	150

ANNEX TEN (CONTINUED)

Organisation Name	€000's
International Committee of the Red Cross	21,503
International Crisis Group	400
International Federation for Human Rights	250
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent	15,400
International Fertiliser Development Centre	245
International Institute for Environment and Development	3,700
International Institute for Sustainable Development	2,000
International Justice Mission Uganda	250
International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center	550
International Planned Parenthood Federation	1,000
International Rescue Committee	6,500
International Rescue Committee Sierra Leone	1,000
International Service for Human Rights	250
International Union for Conservation of Nature	600
Interpeace	150
Ir Amim	25
Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence	75
Irish Council for International Students	9,028
Irish Development Education Association	548
Irish Forum for International Agricultural Development	100
Irish Girl Guides	70
Irish Global Health Network and ESTHER Ireland	120
Irish League of Credit Unions International Development Foundation	320
Irish Red Cross Society	60
Irish Rule of Law International	1,260
Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Centre	100
Jordan Young Scientist	38
Justice Rapid Response Association	50
Latin America Solidarity Centre	32
Legal and Human Rights Centre	400
Leprosy Mission Northern Ireland	130
Lifeline Ukraine	20
Lourdes Youth and Community Services	125
Luwire Wildlife Conservancy	115
Malawi Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence	170
Marine Megafauna Foundation	150
Martin Ennals Foundation	50
Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation	125
Maternal Child Health Advocacy International	252
MIFTAH	100

ANNEX TEN (CONTINUED)

Organisation Name	€000's
Minority Rights Group	200
Misean Cara	15,500
Movement Towards Peace and Development Agency	300
National Association of Women Organisation in Uganda	100
National Smallholder Farmers	1,500
National Youth Council of Ireland	500
Negotiation Strategies Institute	60
Nepal Leprosy Trust Ireland	90
Norwegian Refugee Council	400
Nurture Africa	320
Orbis Ireland	250
Oxfam Ireland	4,900
Palestinian Centre for Human Rights	100
Peace Brigades International	66
Plan International Ireland	3,700
Plan International Liberia	510
Plan International Vietnam	1,400
Proudly Made in Africa	125
Purposeful	700
Rainbo Initiative	636
Raising Voices	250
Renew Vietnam	350
REPOA	500
Royal National Lifeboat Institution	125
Saferworld	400
Save the Children Fund	6,680
Scouting Ireland	100
Self Help Africa	6,036
SEND Sierra Leone	600
Serve in Solidarity Ireland	307
SIDS Funding Wellness Centre	38
Sierra Leone Association of Journalists	250
Sightsavers Ireland	2,200
Sisterhood is Global Institute	25
Slí	25
Social and Health Education Project	90
Social Change Assistance Trust	450
Social Change Initiative	23
Sonke Gender Justice Network	200
Southern African Institute for Policy and Research	200

ANNEX TEN (CONTINUED)

Organisation Name	€000's
Straight Talk Foundation	1,400
Suas Educational Development	600
Talking Drum Studio Sierra Leone	700
Teach Sierra Leone	160
Tearfund Ireland	374
Terrestrial Jerusalem	42
Timran	316
Tools for Solidarity	22
Total Land Care	650
TradeMark Africa	1,458
Transparency International	380
Trócaire	31,760
Tumaini La Maisha	300
Türkiye Kadın Dernekleri Federasyonu	40
UCD Volunteers Overseas	67
University College Cork	74
UPR Info	100
UZIKWASA	400
Viatores Christi	20
Vita	530
Voluntary Service International	23
Welthungerhilfe	750
West African Citizen's Think Tank	100
Women in Law and Development in Africa	250
Women's Environment and Development Organization	390
World Organisation Against Torture	75
World Vision Ireland	4,600
Yesh Din Volunteers for Human Rights	100
YMCA Ireland	49
Young Scientist Kenya	170
Youth Work Ireland Tipperary	131
Zimbabwe Institute	362

Notes



Irish Aid

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha
Department of Foreign Affairs