



**Tithe an
Oireachtais
Houses of the
Oireachtas**

An Comhchoiste um Ghnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádáil, agus Cosaint

Athbhreithniú ar Chlár Chúnamh Éireann

Feabhra 2018

Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade and Defence

Review of the Irish Aid Programme

February 2018

32/JCFA&T&D/02



An Comhchoiste um Ghnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádáil, agus Cosaint

Athbhreithniú ar Chlár Chúnamh Éireann

Feabhra 2018

Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade and Defence

Review of the Irish Aid Programme

February 2018

32/JCFA&T&D/02

Table of Contents

Chair's Foreword	1
Stakeholder Engagement	2
Executive Summary	3
Chapter 1: Introduction and Global Context	4
Chapter 2: The Sustainable Development Goals.....	12
Chapter 3: Policy Coherence for Development	21
Chapter 4: Bilateral and Multilateral Aid	23
Chapter 5: Development Education and Communicating the Irish Aid Programme.....	27
Chapter 6: Reaching 0.7%	31
Chapter 7: Conclusion	32
Summary of Recommendations.....	33
Appendix 1: Travel Report Visit to Malawi and Northern Mozambique	36
Appendix 2: List of Submissions Received	51
Appendix 3: Committee Membership and Terms of Reference	53
Appendix 4: List of Acronyms	58

Chair's Foreword



2017 saw some of the worst statistics ever for the state of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. Yet it can be difficult to focus on such high levels of extreme poverty and vulnerability in places far away, particularly when we are faced with such a myriad of challenges at home and within our nearest neighbourhood. It is understandable that concerns around Brexit, around health and homelessness, around employment and education, around security and justice and much more, dominate people's day to day concerns.

Despite this, I was greatly heartened at the results of a poll last year which showed that 80% of those surveyed believe we should increase our support to efforts to eradicate poverty. It is a clear demonstration of Ireland's commitment to global solidarity and a continued validation of Ireland's long standing, historic role in addressing the needs of others beyond our own borders.

As is clearly outlined in this report, the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Defence is also supportive of doing more within the Irish Aid programme, and indeed across the whole of government, within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. Irish Aid is something we can *all* be very proud of but there is always scope to do more and to do more better.

I wish to thank the great many organisations and individuals who contributed written submissions for this review and the witnesses who participated in our series of meetings and contributed significantly to constructive and informative discussions. I would also like to thank all those whom Committee Members met with on our visit to Malawi and Northern Mozambique.

Finally I wish to thank the staff of the Committee Secretariat for compiling this report which I am confident will be an important contribution to the development of Ireland's new international development policy.

I commend this Report to both Dáil and Seanad Éireann and I look forward to full debates in both Houses on the important issues raised.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brendan Smith'.

Brendan Smith T.D.

Chairman

Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Defence

Stakeholder Engagement

5 October 2017
<p>Mr. Niall Burgess, Secretary General, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</p> <p>Mr. Ruairí de Búrca, Director General, Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</p> <p>Ms. Nicola Brennan, Policy Unit, Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</p> <p>Ms. Nicole McHugh, Policy Unit, Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</p> <p>Ms. Emer O’Connell, Humanitarian Unit, Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</p>
19 October 2017
<u>Session A</u>
<p>Ms. Suzanne Keatinge, CEO, Dóchas</p> <p>Mr. Dominic MacSorley, CEO, Concern</p> <p>Mr. Éamonn Meehan, CEO, Trócaire</p> <p>Ms. Heydi-Foster Breslin, CEO, Misean Cara</p> <p>Ms. Noreen Gumbo, Trócaire, Chair of the Humanitarian Aid Working Group</p> <p>Ms. Louise Finan, Head of Programme and Policy, Dóchas</p>
<u>Session B</u>
<p>Mr. David Donoghue, Former Permanent Representative of Ireland to the United Nations</p>
16 November 2017
<u>Session A</u>
<p>Mr. Patrick Paul Walsh, Professor of International Development Studies, UCD</p>
<u>Session B</u>
<p>H.E. Mr. Redwan Hussein Rameto, Ambassador of Ethiopia</p> <p>H.E. Mr. Richard A.Opembe, Ambassador of Kenya</p>
30 November 2017
<p>Mr. Ciarán Cannon, Minister of State with special responsibility for the Diaspora and International Development</p> <p>Mr. Ruairí de Búrca, Director General, Irish Aid</p> <p>Ms. Nicola Brennan, Policy Unit, Irish Aid</p> <p>Ms. Nicole McHugh, Policy Unit, Irish Aid</p>
14 December 2017
<p>Mr. Jamie Drummond, Co-Founder & Executive Director, ONE</p>

Executive Summary

Since October 2017, the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Defence, has been undertaking a review of the Government's official development assistance programme – Irish Aid. The review has included several meetings with stakeholders, a strong response to a call for written submissions, and a visit to two of Irish Aid's Key Partner Countries in November 2017.

This is a timely review given the significant global changes that have taken place in recent years, in particular: the negotiation of, and agreement to, a new global framework for sustainable development: the Sustainable Development Goals; an unprecedented escalation in conflict driven humanitarian crises in places such as Syria, Myanmar and Bangladesh, Yemen, South Sudan, northern Nigeria and the Horn of Africa; associated with that the deepening migration crisis; the ongoing and pressing need to address the effects of climate change, which disproportionately affects the poorest and most vulnerable people throughout the world; and the impending population explosion that will imminently affect the global south, specifically large parts of sub-Saharan Africa. These are but a few of the challenges that must be considered in the implementation of the Government's overseas aid programme.

The positive reputation of the Irish Aid programme and its high quality was a recurring theme in discussions with, and submissions from, stakeholders. Committee Members, based on their visits to Key Partner Countries and engagement with stakeholders, overwhelmingly endorse that positive reputation and urge that the focus on quality, untied aid, directed to addressing the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable people and communities, continues.

Major themes emerged throughout the Committee's review, in discussions with stakeholders and in the large number of written submissions received. This report does not cover every aspect of the Irish Aid programme but seeks to highlight those areas stakeholders felt need to be addressed as the programme grows and develops. These themes include: taking forward the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (with a specific focus on gender, education, climate change and agriculture); ensuring a 'whole of Government' approach to overseas development; the balanced use of both bilateral and multilateral channels for disbursing aid; lessons learned from the Committee's recent visit to Malawi and Northern Mozambique, Key Partner Countries for Ireland; and how to ensure better development education and communication of the Irish Aid programme at home. Lastly, the UN commitment to spending 0.7% of GNI on Official Development Assistance (ODA), which Ireland is some way off achieving (0.33% in 2016) is examined in some detail and a proposal by the Committee on how this could be achieved on a phased basis is outlined.

As the development of a new White Paper on Ireland's International Development Policy gets under way, the Committee calls on the Government to ensure that all recommendations contained in this review are implemented.

Chapter 1: Introduction and Global Context

The Context

The Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Defence, has spent recent months focusing on Ireland's overseas development programme – Irish Aid – undertaking a comprehensive review with a view to developing a set of clear, realistic and achievable recommendations to put to the Government for implementation.

The current global context is central to the future trajectory of the Irish Aid programme and has changed significantly in recent years.

The main policy document currently underpinning Ireland's international development policy, *One World One Future*¹, dates from 2013. *The Global Island*², the Government's principal foreign policy document, is also central to Ireland's international development policy, and was published in early 2015. It is now timely to develop a new international development policy for Ireland.

Both documents pre-date the historic agreement by all 193 United Nations' Member States to the **Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030)** in September 2015. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) must underpin not just the Irish Aid programme but our own national, regional and global development framework also. In the words of Uachtarán na h'Éireann,

“one of the basic premises of the new framework for sustainable development is that all countries are inherently unfinished projects. No country is ever fully ‘developed’; all of them are ‘developing countries’, continuously transforming and seeking new ways to respond adequately to fluctuating global circumstances and to the fundamental challenge at the heart of every society: that of guaranteeing the well-being, flourishing and full participation of all its citizens, both today and in the future.”³

Ireland has a long, proud **history of engagement** in the Global South, promoting poverty eradication, justice and prosperity and working in partnership and solidarity. This has been demonstrated through the work of our missionaries, the footprint of our long established NGOs, through the work of private enterprise and individuals, through parliamentary initiatives and contacts and through the Government's long standing engagement and commitment on behalf of the people of Ireland.

Yet despite the decades of engagement, the **level of need** among the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world remains stark.

While the negotiation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs was a significant accomplishment and provides a framework for all nations to make progress, the agreement to this agenda took place at a time when **crises were escalating**. Migration crises have deepened throughout the world. Conflict fuelled humanitarian crises are on an unprecedented scale. Climate change and the consequent

¹ <http://irishaid.gov.ie/about-us/policy-for-international-development/>

² <https://www.dfa.ie/our-role-policies/our-work/casestudiesarchive/2015/january/the-global-island/>

³ “Achieving Sustainable Development” Opening Address at the 2016 Irish Summit on the Sustainable Development Goals <http://www.president.ie/en/media-library/speeches/achieving-sustainable-development>

increase in the scale and severity of natural disasters is becoming ever more pronounced and the need to address it ever more urgent⁴. And levels of inequality are rising with knock on effects on peace and stability. These are but a few of the global challenges we all face and are in addition to the long term endemic poverty that affects hundreds of millions of people. It is the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world who feel the impact of these crises the most.

A few of the specific **challenges** currently faced are outlined below:

141 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. (UN OCHA)

65 million people displaced from their homes by war and conflict. (UNHCR)

Over 3 million children under 5 die each year due to preventable and treatable diseases. (WHO)

263 million children (aged between 6 and 17) not receiving an education. (UNESCO)

Inequality is increasing. Eight billionaires own as much wealth as the bottom half of humanity. (Oxfam)

Over 4 out of every 5 people with disabilities live in the developing world. (World Report on Disability)

By 2030, 60% of the world's poorest will be in a fragile or conflict-affected place, compared to 25% today. (OECD DAC)

The population on the African continent is expected to double by 2050 to 2.5 billion people. Africa will then be home to 40% of the world's youth. (UN)

The impact of climate change is projected to slow down economic growth, make poverty reduction more difficult, further erode food security, and prolong existing and create new poverty traps. (IPCC)

About 70% of sub-Saharan Africa's population depends on agribusiness for their livelihood, and the sector is responsible for generating over 30% of national incomes. (Górta Self Help Africa)

⁴ Concern Worldwide submission, p.2

The scale of need is undeniable. As the Committee was reminded of by Suzanne Keatinge of Dóchas, there are personal stories of people and families behind every statistic.⁵

Underpinning all this is the context of **population growth in low income countries** – long flagged and known of but becoming much more of a reality. Current projections indicate that the combined population of the Least Developed Countries is projected to increase by 33% between 2017 and 2030 (currently 1 billion, expected to reach 1.9 billion in 2050⁶). In Africa, the populations of 26 countries on the continent are projected to increase by at least 100%.

As noted by the UN “the concentration of global population growth in the poorest countries presents a considerable challenge to governments in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which seeks to end poverty and hunger, expand and update health and education systems, achieve gender equality and women’s empowerment, reduce inequality and ensure that no one is left behind.”⁷

Most of these are young people. According to World Vision, “the last 10 years has seen the largest ever population of young people...in the world’s 48 least developed countries, children or adolescents make up a majority of the population....the median age in Uganda is 15.9; 18.5 in Sierra Leone; 17.3 in Tanzania and 20.8 in Syria. Ireland’s median age is 36.9.”⁸ This presents both challenges and opportunities.

A further major challenge which is explored more in Chapter 2 is that of **climate change** and the critical need to deliver on the commitments made in the Paris Agreement.

In addition to the level of need, population growth and the worrying escalation in humanitarian crises globally, the **global political context** is also a concern for the future of ODA. Increasingly isolationist trends undermine the basic human solidarity and empathy that underpins what development assistance is all about. Moreover, it presents a challenge for the quantity and quality of ODA, including in the European neighbourhood. As noted by Trócaire, “there is a notable international trend towards the instrumentalisation and manipulation of development assistance funding away from poverty reduction needs.”⁹

Finally, the impact of **Brexit** will also be felt by developing countries and will change policy discussions and focus within the EU. Anglophone developing countries risk losing a strong voice at the EU table and Ireland will lose a valued and important like-minded partner in terms of development policy issues. While the commitments made by the UK to development in its August 2017 Position Paper¹⁰ are welcome, details are unclear and the full impact of Brexit on development – both in terms of challenges and potential opportunities – remains to be seen. **Ireland’s voice will become all the more important in this context.**

⁵ <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017101900001?opendocument>

⁶ <https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/population/world-population-prospects-2017.html>

⁷ <https://www.un.org/development/desa/publications/world-population-prospects-the-2017-revision.html>

⁸ World Vision submission, p.2

⁹ Trócaire submission, p.1

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foreign-policy-defence-and-development-a-future-partnership-paper>

Overall, this is a global context which presents many great challenges and concerns and which must be addressed by Ireland and through the Irish Aid programme as comprehensively as possible.

Long term development work, which seeks to address the root causes of many of these global crises, continues apace. Irish Aid, the Government's official overseas development programme, managed by the Development Cooperation Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, is an important player, particularly in its Key Partner Countries.

This report takes a detailed look at how Irish Aid is working to address a range of global development challenges and makes recommendations on changes the Committee believes will enhance the Irish Aid programme, for the benefit of the poorest and most underprivileged people in the world.

The Importance of Aid

As referred to by ONE, **aid works**. Oxfam states that "aid will remain important for many countries for a long time to come – especially for fragile and conflict affected states."¹¹

Hugely important results have been achieved such as a drastic reduction in child mortality rates since 2000.¹² HE Mr Richard A Opembe, Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya to Ireland, stated that "aid makes an important but small contribution to a country's sustainable economic and social development."¹³ He outlined the huge achievements made through targeted aid in controlling diseases such as smallpox and tuberculosis; the countless lives saved through the administration of vaccinations for measles; the huge progress in fighting HIV and AIDS and malaria; and targeted aid in the provision of mosquito nets, cash transfers, education subsidies, education programmes on sexual and reproductive health and schemes addressing water provision and quality.¹⁴ The Ambassador went on to say that "Ireland remains one of the most respected partners in the national well-being of the Kenyan people and continues to play an integral part in the development objectives of the nation."¹⁵ HE Mr Redwan Hussein Rameto, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia to Ireland, further spoke of the vast improvement in human development in Ethiopia where, in 1996, 46% of the population lived below the poverty line; today that figure is 23%. He stated that "Irish Aid has played its fair share in that achievement."¹⁶

This was echoed in the remarks of Niall Burgess, Secretary General at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, who said that the effects of long term work and investment by Irish Aid in many regions is now bearing results, one example being Irish Aid's investment in watershed management

¹¹ Oxfam submission, p.5

¹² ONE submission, p.1

¹³ <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017111600001?opendocument>

¹⁴ <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017111600001?opendocument>

¹⁵ <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017111600001?opendocument>

¹⁶ <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017111600001?opendocument>

in the Tigray region of Ethiopia which was picked up by the Ethiopian Government and mainstreamed across its policies. The Secretary General noted that “when one looks at fragility in the region now one can see there is resilience in that area which was once one of the most vulnerable areas, for reasons in which we can take some considerable pride.”¹⁷

Yet it is widely acknowledged that **ODA alone is not sufficient**; for true sustainable development to take place, improvements across a range of sectors within an economy need to take place. This includes private sector development, trade and investment, domestic resource mobilisation and good governance, to name but a few. What is more, peace and security are prerequisites for sustainable development. The Irish Aid programme is underpinned by Ireland’s foreign policy, currently articulated in the policy document, *Global Island*. As such, the aid programme does not operate in isolation but is intrinsically linked to Ireland’s broader foreign policy goals - a reflection of the interconnectedness of the world. As stated by Secretary General, Niall Burgess, “our peace, our security, our wellbeing are linked umbilically to the peace, security and wellbeing of others.”¹⁸

Following on from that, it is clear that in order for aid to yield more results, and broader sustainable development to take place, coherence across a range of policies and sectors is required. A closer focus on **policy coherence for development** – involving closer coordination by a wide range of government departments and stakeholders and broader commitment to aid policies – will follow in Chapter 3.

The nature of ODA and how to measure progress

Irish Aid is 100% untied. That means that there is open competition for Irish Aid funded projects and no preference is given to Irish companies. However that is not the case for all other donors. Ireland has been recognised as a leader in maintaining untied aid.

The Committee commends Ireland’s 100% record in untied aid, calls on the Government to ensure that Irish Aid remains untied and for Ireland to step up in its advocacy role in encouraging other donors to provide untied aid.

In the course of this review, the Committee was informed of the ongoing debate on the definition of Overseas Development Assistance at OECD and EU level and proposals to include some in-country refugee costs and defence, security and peacekeeping costs as official aid. This could lead to some donors diverting resources away from beneficiaries in partner countries and thereby undermine the focus on poverty alleviation as well as respect for good donorship, accountability, human rights and transparency.¹⁹ Trócaire notes that total ODA for refugee hosting accounts for 0.1% of Irish Aid’s budget and further states that “Irish in-country domestic spend on migration and refugees should not come from overseas ODA.”²⁰

¹⁷ <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017100500001?opendocument>

¹⁸ <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017100500001?opendocument>

¹⁹ Dóchas submission, p.5; Trócaire submission, p.2,3,4, Oxfam submission p.3

²⁰ Trócaire submission, p.5

The Committee notes Ireland has been a strong advocate for maintaining a poverty focused definition of ODA and must continue to be so, working where possible with other like minded donors.

It is important to underline that the way in which progress is measured must be according to **disaggregated data** which will take into account the multidimensional aspects of poverty, and not just according to national growth figures and other macro level indicators.²¹ UNICEF Ireland referred to the need for better disaggregated data in relation to disadvantaged children²² – this will help inform donors much more clearly in relation to results being achieved and where best to direct funds. The importance of gender and age differentiation in relation to climate risks was underlined by the IIED.²³ CBM Ireland and the Dóchas Disability Working Group further noted the need for better data on disability which will reflect how Irish Aid is addressing disability in its programme²⁴. The challenge in collecting such detailed data applies to all donors and it is recognised that Irish Aid has ensured its decision making is informed by available data and detailed poverty analysis at all times.

The Committee calls on the Government to play a strong role in developing better disaggregated data on development to inform decision and policy making and to measure results.

The Focus of Irish Aid

A majority of stakeholders consulted maintain that the **poorest and most vulnerable must remain at the centre of Ireland's aid programme** and overwhelmingly endorse such a pro-poor focus.

The Committee fully agrees with and endorses this important principle which underpins Ireland's aid programme. However, the Committee is also of the opinion that such a focus should never be in isolation and must be coupled with continued and enhanced work on human rights, sustainable development, peace and stability, private sector development, climate action and much more, as will be further outlined through the course of this report. In relation to Human Rights, the recent publication of the National Plan on Business and Human Rights by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade²⁵ is acknowledged and all organisations, including with an international development focus, are called on to be guided by its principles and actions.

The Committee recognises and strongly supports the central focus within the Irish Aid programme on addressing the needs of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

A breakdown of how Irish ODA is disbursed by sector follows²⁶:

²¹ Oxfam submission, p.2

²² UNICEF Ireland submission. P.3

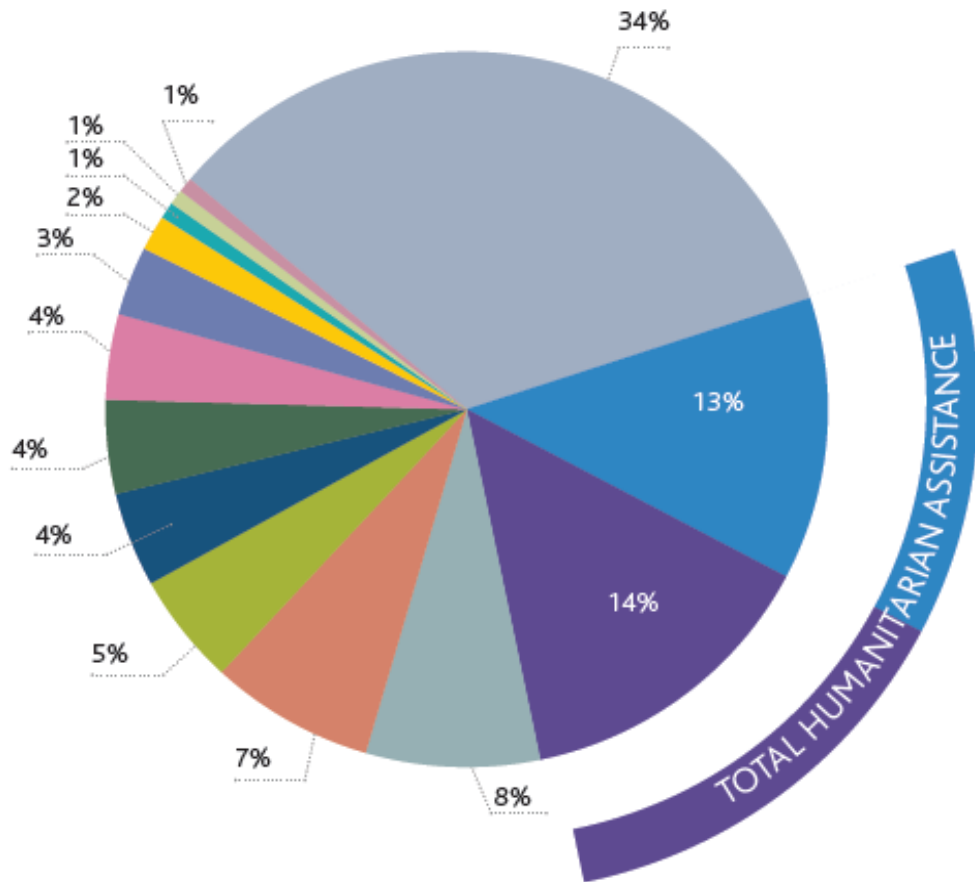
²³ IIED submission, p.3

²⁴ CBM Ireland submission, p.2; Dóchas Disability Working Group, p.2

²⁵ <https://www.dfa.ie/media/dfa/alldfawebsitemedia/National-Plan-on-Business-and-Human-Rights-2017-2020.pdf>

²⁶ Irish Aid Annual Report 2016

Total ODA by Sector - 2016



Sector	€000s	As % of Total ODA
Core Support to Multilaterals - Development	244,984	34%
Core Support to Multilateral - Humanitarian Assistance	92,503	13%
Humanitarian Assistance - Bilateral	101,271	14%
Total Humanitarian Assistance	193,774	
Human Rights, Governance and Gender Equality	56,357	8%
Health HIV and Aids	53,224	7%
Multi Sector	36,595	5%
Agriculture	30,859	4%
Education	30,667	4%
Programme management and Administration	27,997	4%
Social Protection	22,592	3%
Basic Nutrition	11,605	2%
Water and Sanitation	5,414	1%
Development Education and Public Outreach	4,967	1%
Environmental Protection	4,680	1%
Grand Total	723,714	100%

Ireland has a positive reputation when it comes to the management and delivery of overseas aid. The most recent Peer Review of the Irish Aid programme, carried out by the OECD's Development Assistance Committee in 2014, found that the aid programme was of **high quality, highly effective and impactful**.²⁷

In this report the Committee examines that assessment, based on a wide range of submissions by and meetings with stakeholders, and makes recommendations to the Government on the future direction of the Irish Aid programme.

²⁷ <http://www.oecd.org/ireland/peer-review-ireland.htm>

Chapter 2: The Sustainable Development Goals

On September 25th 2015, countries adopted a set of goals to **end poverty, protect the planet** and **ensure prosperity for all** as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved by 2030.

The Sustainable Development Goals are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. They are an inclusive agenda for change that applies to ALL countries and represent a comprehensive sustainable development framework encompassing environment, economy and society.²⁸



The SDGs are about much more than development in aid-recipient countries (as the MDGs focused on). As such Official Development Assistance (ODA) is but a very small element of the SDGs.

Throughout Committee hearings, and in written submissions, members repeatedly heard of the “exemplary leadership”²⁹ shown by Ireland in the development of the SDGs, personified by Ireland’s former Permanent Representative to the UN in New York, Ambassador David Donoghue, who co-facilitated the negotiation of the SDGs, alongside his Kenyan counterpart.

The open negotiation process including all UN Member States, has lent a high level of legitimacy and ownership.

The Committee heard directly from Mr Donoghue who made the following key points:

- It is important to keep the momentum going worldwide in terms of getting early progress on the 17 goals and 169 targets

²⁸ www.un.org

²⁹ Concern Worldwide submission, p.1

- We must ensure there is a whole of government approach to implementation of the SDGs as well as involvement of civil society, the private sector, parliaments, and the scientific and research community;
- There are opportunities through the Irish Aid programme and other international interactions to help developing countries reach the goals
- We need to use political peer pressure in order to achieve the goals
- We will never see lasting peace and security in any part of the world if problems of serious underdevelopment are not addressed
- Every country in the world is now operating to the same plan for the next 15 years, on equal terms, with no special arrangements for any country. This is the first time the UN has ever done this. The first time that every country has agreed to the same vision for what its society should be achieving.
- Young people have a key role to play – we must start teaching the SDGs in the classroom and raise public awareness more generally
- It may be useful to invite the private sector, in addition to Ministers and civil society, to come before Committee(s) to report on progress in advance of Ireland’s first report being presented in July 2018

Now, the challenge for Ireland broadly, and Irish Aid specifically, is to implement these Goals and to assist partner countries in implementing them. As pointed out by Concern³⁰, it will be important for Irish Aid to be a strong national advocate for the SDGs and to provide support to its Key Partner Countries and others in their implementation of the SDGs.

Ireland is expected to present its first Voluntary National Review in July 2018. In this regard, Irish Aid needs to reframe its strategy to meet the SDGs by 2030.³¹ More generally the SDGs should provide the overarching framework and rationale for development assistance over the next decade and beyond.”³² At EU level, Irish Aid also needs to ensure the SDGs are central to programming of all development assistance.

While the importance of strong nationally driven, country owned processes in implementation of the SDGs cannot be overstated, Ireland could look at ways of supporting both national and regional initiatives in Key Partner Countries (i.e. the nine country initiative referred to by IIED which includes Liberia, Tanzania and South Africa.³³)

A point that was clearly made throughout Committee meetings related to benefits of the inclusive approach taken by Ambassador David Donoghue in his negotiation of the Goals, particularly the close consultation with and involvement of civil society in the process. In his appearance before the Committee, Professor Patrick Paul Walsh also referred to that innovative, participatory approach, which included women’s groups, youth groups, indigenous people, trade unions, local authorities,

³⁰ <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017101900001?opendocument>

³¹ Dóchas submission, p.7

³² IIED submission, p.4

³³ IIED submission, p.5

academics, business people, farmers' groups and more.³⁴ The Committee supports the continuation of such a strong spirit of partnership in the implementation of the Goals.

A further strong point referred to by both witnesses and Committee members is that no funding should be taken from the ODA budget to cover any costs associating with Ireland attaining the SDGs.³⁵

The Committee calls on the Government to ensure that the SDGs explicitly underpin the work of Irish Aid and are across all Government policies and programmes; and that the proposed new White Paper on Irish Aid has the SDGs at its core.

A closer look at a select number of SDGs follows. These SDGs emerged as key themes in submissions to the Committee and meetings with stakeholders. However, it must be noted that no SDG should be viewed in isolation. They are all inter-linked, which reinforces the importance of a more coherent, joined up approach to development cooperation.

SDG 4: Quality Education

The huge strides made in education provision were illustrated in the presentation of the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia's presentation to the Committee; he informed Members that just 25 years ago, access to primary education in Ethiopia was in the region of 20% and there were only two universities in the entire nation. Today, there is universal primary education and there are 45 universities.³⁶ These achievements cannot be underestimated but much remains to be done.

Quality education is key to broad based social and economic sustainable development. However, Irish Aid's support to the education sector has declined in recent years.

As noted by ONE:

"Globally, over 130 million girls are not in school, not only are they missing out on opportunities to fulfil their potential, this is also a greatly missed opportunity for the global economy and global security. Education is one of the most powerful weapons in the fight against extreme poverty – an educated country is healthier, wealthier and more stable. Educating girls to the same level as boys could benefit developing countries by at least \$112 billion a year.³⁷ Education allows women to make

³⁴ <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017111600001?opendocument>

³⁵ <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017111600001?opendocument>

³⁶ <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017111600001?opendocument7>

³⁷ ONE Campaign, Poverty is Sexist 2017 Report, https://s3.amazonaws.com/one.org/pdfs/ONE_Poverty_is_Sexist_Report_2017_EN.pdf

better-informed decisions about their lives, have smaller and planned families, lower levels of malnutrition and diseases such as HIV/AIDS and dramatically reduces child marriage.”³⁸

Plan International Ireland also underlines the importance of **girls’ education**: “giving girls access to schooling is a central part of eradicating global poverty...which says that better educated women tend to be healthier, participate more in formal labour markets, have fewer children and marry later.”³⁹

UNICEF Ireland further emphasises the importance of providing quality education and notes that “investments in early childhood often prevent more serious and complicated problems such as malnutrition and non-communicable diseases or poor educational performance.”⁴⁰

Both the Global Partnership for Education and the Education Cannot Wait Fund were referred to by a number of stakeholders as being very effective channel for funds.

Tertiary education was also an important theme in the Committee’s discussions with stakeholders: Professor Walsh noted the need to scale up the successful partnerships already in place and also to focus on teacher training; HE Mr Redwan Hussein Rameto, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia, spoke of Irish universities twinning with their Ethiopian counterparts. HE Mr Richard Opembe, Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya, also spoke of the wish to see further cooperation with Ireland in tertiary education.⁴¹

The Committee calls on the Government to review and consider an increase in support to education, given the decline in support to the education sector in recent years, placing a particular emphasis on quality education and girls’ education.

SDG 5: Gender Equality

The Committee heard how SDG 5 on Gender Equality should be a particular and continued focus for Irish Aid and indeed should extend right across Ireland’s foreign policy with a particular focus on increasing efforts to support women’s civil and political rights.⁴²

SDG 5 also covers the serious challenge of gender based violence – “a universal problem rooted in the underlying inequality between men and women and rooted in deeper societal norms of gender inequality, driven by factors such as traditional patriarchal and religious norms, conflict, insecurity and poverty.”⁴³

³⁸ ONE submission, p.3-4

³⁹ Plan International Ireland submission, p.2

⁴⁰ UNICEF Ireland submission, p.3

⁴¹ <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017111600001?opendocument>

⁴² Oxfam submission, p.6

⁴³ Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence submission, p.1

Ireland has been recognised for its role in promoting gender equality. The OECD DAC 2014 Peer Review stated that “Ireland is particularly appreciated by its partners for the effective agenda-setting role it plays on gender equality and women’s empowerment.”⁴⁴

The positive impact of **social cash transfers for women**, an approach championed by Irish Aid, was noted by a number of stakeholders.

Members of the Committee had the opportunity to witness this programme at first hand during its study visit to **Malawi**. In December 2012, Irish Aid approved a grant agreement for Euro 2.7 million to support the Government of Malawi to scale up the Social Cash Transfer Program (SCTP) to Balaka District. This targeted a total of 8,376 ultra-poor households, of which 75% are female headed. According to the most recent household survey, Balaka is the 6th poorest district in Malawi: 68% of the population is poor and 33% is ultra-poor compared to 50.7% and 24.5% respectively at national level. In addition, 23.8% of children under five are underweight and 34.4% are stunted (Demographic and Health Survey, 2016).

The SCTP in Balaka has reported impact in the areas of education, asset accumulation, housing, nutrition, health as well as income poverty. In 2016 Irish Aid expanded its support to the district of Ntcheu targeting an additional 14,378 households. The cash payments provide for a minimum diet but may also support school fees, and allow savings for other livelihood investments - such as livestock.

The delegation met with beneficiaries of the scheme who are identified as ultra-poor.

Balaka is the first district under the Malawi National Social Cash Transfer Programme (SCTP) to use electronic payment systems and this is providing valuable lessons to inform the national roll out of electronic payments in Malawi. It is now a Government policy that future SCTP be delivered through electronic systems.

The SCTP programme has direct linkages with other programmes that Irish Aid is supporting for example energy, nutrition, and agriculture.

World Vision and Christian Aid call on Irish Aid to maintain and strengthen its voice on gender and **gender based violence** at the EU and international level and refer to opportunities for Ireland to promote **gender equality** as Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women and as a member of the Irish Consortium for Gender Based Violence.⁴⁵ The latter, in its submission, noted the opportunity provided to Ireland as Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women to “advance an agenda which promotes the empowerment of women and girls and challenges deeply rooted gender based discrimination. Transforming social norms, practices and attitudes and instilling gender equitable attitudes and behaviours in men, women, boys and girls is essential to eliminating all forms of violence against women.”⁴⁶ The Committee urges the Government to ensure this opportunity is fully seized.

⁴⁴ OECD DAC Peer Review of Ireland, p.15

⁴⁵ World Vision submission, p.5

⁴⁶ Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence submission, p.3

As noted by the Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA), SDG 5 includes a target on universal access to **sexual and reproductive health and rights**. SDG 3 (Good Health and Well Being) also includes a target on universal access to sexual and reproductive rights and services including family planning, information and education.⁴⁷ The IFPA notes the devastating impact of failure to provide such rights and services. Some Committee members referred to the importance of family planning in discussions with Departmental officials. Officials noted how keeping girls in school for as long as possible and ensuring economic opportunities are available to them are key to ensuring better outcomes for girls, working with local leaders and bearing in mind local culture.⁴⁸ The need to address this area is all the more important given cuts announced by the US government in the past year. The IFPA calls on the Government to increase its level of funding to UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund), prioritising countries most affected by US cuts. The Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence further calls on Irish Aid to meet new and emerging funding deficits.⁴⁹

Both the IFPA and the Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence refers to the need to update Ireland's gender policy and propose a Department wide policy.

On Gender Equality, the Committee calls on the Government to ensure the opportunity to promote the empowerment of women and girls is advanced as Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women; further increase levels of funding; and commit to updating the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's gender policy in the coming year.

SDG 13: Climate Action

SDG 13 is one the Committee wishes to draw particular attention to. The following submission from Trócaire articulates exactly the concerns associated with Ireland's record on climate action and how it adversely affects the poorest people in the world. This is a matter where increased policy coherence across Government is essential if the Irish Aid programme is to have maximum impact.

"The lack of urgent action by Ireland to implement adequate measures on climate change mitigation (despite its commitments under international and EU agreements) threatens to undermine Ireland's strong reputation on international development. Climate change is a major global injustice with impacts being felt first and most profoundly by communities in poor countries who have contributed least to global carbon emissions. As vividly evidenced in 2016 and 2017, climate change is accelerating extreme weather events with tragic human consequences. The need to fully integrate climate change mitigation and the realisation of the SDGs across all government policy is more critical than ever. Delivering on the 2015 Paris Agreement is the best chance we have of ensuring gains in global poverty eradication are not decimated by climate change. Irish Aid's longer term development work focuses on helping communities in priority partner countries to find effective ways of responding to climate change – yet the Irish government's own National Mitigation Plan is not acting at the scale and pace required to deliver on the Paris Agreement..." "...a whole of government approach

⁴⁷ IFPA submission, p.2

⁴⁸ <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017100500001?opendocument>

⁴⁹ Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence submission, p.2

is necessary to ensure Policy Coherence for Development with respect to Ireland's wider foreign policy, and most urgently Irish government action on climate change mitigation.”⁵⁰

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) notes in its submission that “supporting climate adaptation as a component of development should reduce the need for humanitarian responses to climate-related disasters such as extreme weather events. However, the escalating climate risks to the wellbeing of the poorest in Key Partner Countries means that climate adaptation elements of development investments must be more effective and taken to scale.”⁵¹ The IIED cites Ireland's innovative work in aligning social protection programmes with climate change adaptation as a very positive intervention which should be closely considered by other donors also.

The IIED also notes Ireland's potential to take on a leadership position in advocating for a greater level of transparency among donors in improving the quality of climate finance.⁵²

As already referred to above, a more holistic approach across development policies is required – IIED refers to Irish Aid's pioneering work in Mozambique where local climate adaptation planning is being aligned with the delivery of social protection.⁵³

Policy coherence is critical to success in achieving the Climate Action targets of the SDGs. The Committee calls on the Government to report annually on this matter.

The Policy Coherence challenges in respect of climate change and more broadly are further explored in Chapter 3.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

As referred to in Chapter 1, over two-thirds of sub-Saharan Africa's population depends on agriculture for their livelihood. Support to this sector is clearly essential.

Committee Members witnessed the impact that investment in the agricultural sector can have during their visit to Malawi when they visited RTC-ACTION, Malawi. The purpose of this programme is to increase the contributions of root and tuber crops (RTC) to food security, nutrition, and incomes in Malawi. The total project budget is €8.5 million for years 2016/17 to 2020/21.

Root and tuber crops were selected due to their strong resilience to climate change and variability, their contribution to food security, nutrition and incomes. The potato (Irish Potato) has a short maturing cycle with only 2 to 2.5 months of rainfall required to produce a successful crop while the staple maize crop needs more rainfall. Sweet potato is drought tolerant and can survive and produce with minimal rainfall. Cassava is also drought tolerant and resumes growth when rainfall resumes.

RTC-ACTION Malawi is led by the International Potato Center (CIP) with close ties to the Root and Tuber Crops Development Trust for policy engagement. The International Institute for Tropical Agriculture leads on the cassava component and the Department of Agriculture Research Services in

⁵⁰ Trócaire submission, p.2 and p.3

⁵¹ IIED submission, p.1

⁵² IIED submission, p.3

⁵³ IIED submission, p.4

the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development is involved in all the three crops as a relevant agency mandated to coordinate the release of the agricultural technologies in the country.

The project is targeting a total of 160,000 direct beneficiaries (50% women) with distribution and training activities for potato in 10 districts, sweet potato in 10 districts and cassava in 5 districts. The project is in its second year of implementation and during the first year a total of 4,168 farmers (1,891 females) benefitted from high-quality seed potato and training to produce their own seed. Under the interventions implemented on Orange flesh sweet potato, 9,443 (5,764 females) directly received vines.

Górta Self Help Africa noted the steep decline in support for agriculture in recent years though acknowledged there had been a recent increase in support linked to Irish Aid's emphasis on food security and nutrition.

The below table provided by Górta Self Help Africa⁵⁴ demonstrates why sustainable agricultural development along with decent work is at the centre of the SDGs:

Why rural employment is vital for agricultural growth:

- 3 billion people in developing countries live in rural areas, including 75% of the world poor (IFAD).
- Agriculture is the main source of income for 86% of rural people (2.6 billion) (WB).
- Agriculture provides 1.3 billion jobs for small farmers and landless workers (FAO).
- There are 450 million wage workers in agriculture (FAO).

In its submission, ONE noted the strong potential role for the Irish agriculture sector in contributing to agricultural development in developing countries.⁵⁵ Ireland is already a leader in addressing food security and nutrition. Strengthening the focus on sustainable agricultural development in a climate resilient way should be a central priority within the Irish Aid programme. It is also very important that any focus of Irish Aid in this sector is fully coherent with the development work of other Government Departments (and vice versa), particularly the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, which manages Ireland's relations with, and grants to, the FAO and the WFP.

Any focus on agriculture must also take close account of the very important role of **female smallholders** and ensure they continue to be strongly supported. Tying in with SDG 5 -gender equality - is key to achieving zero hunger:

"Of those women in the least developed countries who report being economically active, 79% identify agriculture as their primary economic activity. Yet, despite many communities' dependence on women to grow food, women often lack access to productive assets, such as land and services like extension services, credit and quality inputs, that can enhance farm productivity. For example, women receive less than 10% of all credit going to smallholder

⁵⁴ Górta Self Help Africa submission, p.3

⁵⁵ ONE submission, p.2

farmers. Women farmers could grow 30% more food if they had access to the same resources as men: by helping women farmers boost production, we could reduce global hunger by 150 million people and countries could see an increase of 2.5 to 4 percent in agricultural output.”⁵⁶

Off farm activities such as beekeeping are also very important. This was mentioned by the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia, who noted that Ethiopian land holdings have become too small to be sustainably used.⁵⁷

The potential of **agri-business** was referred to frequently in the Committee’s discussions with stakeholders.

As noted by Gorta Self Help Africa, “currently in Africa, agri-businesses account for more than 30% of national incomes as well as the bulk of export revenues and employment. The sector is currently worth about \$313 billion, and already provides jobs for 70% of the poorest. Strengthening targeted investments in agri-business has the potential to generate sustained income flows and prosperous livelihoods in both rural and urban areas.”⁵⁸

Irish Aid has a proven track record and expertise in providing support to nutrition and food security. Moving forward, that should now include a stronger focus on business development and job creation within the agriculture sector, while acknowledging the long term nature of such investment. It was encouraging to hear that there have been visits by delegations from Key Partner Countries to some of the Irish agribusiness companies – the Committee supports these and calls for continued engagement. It was also encouraging to hear of the successful experience of the nutrition company Devenish in Uganda and Fyffes in Mozambique,⁵⁹ as well as the partnership between Teagasc and the Kenya Agricultural Livestock and Research Organisation whereby several researchers have been trained by Teagasc.⁶⁰ The Africa Agri-Food Development Programme is an encouraging step forward in further developing such initiatives. The Ambassadors of the Republic of Kenya and the Federal Republic of Ethiopia both called for increased private sector investment and joint ventures.⁶¹

The Committee calls on the Government to continue engagement with Irish agribusiness companies and to ensure best practice from Ireland, including from bodies such as Teagasc, is used for agricultural research and development in partner countries.

SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)

⁵⁶ Gorta Self Help Africa submission, p.3

⁵⁷ <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017111600001?opendocument>

⁵⁸ Gorta Self Help Africa submission, p.3

⁵⁹ <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017100500001?opendocument>

⁶⁰ <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017111600001?opendocument>

⁶¹ <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017111600001?opendocument>

Finally, with the strong link between violent conflict and poverty, stakeholders noted there should be an increased focus on peacebuilding within the Irish Aid programme, in line with **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)**.⁶² Should Ireland be successful in securing a seat on the UN Security Council in 2021, this would provide an excellent opportunity to advocate for stronger and improved work on peacebuilding.

Chapter 3: Policy Coherence for Development

‘One World, One Future’ states that:

“We know that development results can best be achieved when Government policies and actions complement each other.

In the coming period, we will identify specific policy areas where coherence can be enhanced, as well as indicators to track performance. We will strengthen the oversight role of the Inter-Departmental Committee on Development. This Committee will be responsible for producing a biennial report on Ireland’s progress on policy coherence for development, which will be submitted by the Minister of State for Trade and Development to Government, and to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade.

We will also promote greater coherence of EU policies.

We will continue to ensure effective collaboration across Government in achieving our policy goals, including through joint programming across Departments in areas such as agri-food industry development, climate change mitigation, human resources for health, tax and development, and peace and security.”⁶³

The OECD DAC Peer Review in 2014 recommended that: “Ireland can build on its whole of government approaches to develop a clear cross-government plan of action on a few policy issues of strategic priority which it can influence.”⁶⁴ The follow up OECD DAC Mid Term Review in February 2017 further noted that “Ireland is not developing a cross government plan of action on selected priorities”.

The Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Niall Burgess, in his presentation to the Committee, stated that “Ireland’s commitment to international development is a whole of government commitment.”⁶⁵

Despite these commitments, there is currently no framework in place for ensuring a **whole of Government approach to international development policy**. This has been somewhat addressed in the recent establishment of coordination mechanisms to oversee Ireland’s implementation of the

⁶² Christian Aid submission, p.3, Dóchas statement 19th October:
<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017101900001?opendocument>

⁶³ One World, One Future, p.28

⁶⁴ OECD DAC Peer Review Ireland 2014, p.14

⁶⁵ <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017100500001?opendocument>

SDGs, which the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade participates in, and which provides a platform for policy coherence in relation to the SDGs. However, in the focus on the SDGs, there is a risk that policy coherence in international development policy does not receive adequate attention.

Many stakeholders⁶⁶ also referred to the need to ensure greater policy coherence and greater overall coordination across a wide range of policy areas, both within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and externally with other Government Department and state agencies⁶⁷. Such a structure should also include representatives from civil society and other key stakeholders depending on the subject matter being discussed.

The SDGs give a stronger impetus to enhancing such coordination and coherence and could provide the framework for discussions. On that basis, there is merit in considering the establishment of a sub-group of the existing SDG Working Group. A strong point made by Professor Patrick Paul Walsh was the broad nature of partnerships required; that this is not just about governments but the responsibility and onus lies on all sectors of society. He particularly emphasised the role of the private sector.⁶⁸

To ensure a fully coherent approach to implementation of Ireland's development policy, the Government needs to look closely at how best to adopt a whole of Government approach with the SDGs as guiding principles. Given the role Ireland played in brokering the agreement to the SDGs, it is essential that Ireland is a leader in implementing those same Goals.

Based on submissions and discussions held during Committee meetings, it is clear that such a whole of government coordination structure should look at a broad range of policies across government that impact Ireland's international development aid and policy. This includes policies on trade⁶⁹, climate⁷⁰, agriculture, education, immigration, health, peace and security. Professor Walsh spoke of "competing stories that are not helping us."⁷¹ Greater coherence is essential if the Government is fully committed to the effectiveness of its aid.

The Committee calls on the Government to develop a cross government plan of action, as recommended by the OECD, and to immediately establish a cross departmental body to ensure better coordination and coherence of development policy right across Government and in line with the SDGs.

The Committee further calls on the Government to ensure its approach to implementation of the SDGs is fully coherent with Ireland's international development policy at all times.

⁶⁶ For example, Oxfam submission, p.5;

⁶⁷ Oxfam calls for the establishment of a whole of government structure to ensure that Irish corporation tax policy does not negatively impact revenue mobilisation in developing countries or jeopardise the progress achieved by Irish aid spending in our partner countries (Oxfam submission, p.7).

⁶⁸ <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017111600001?opendocument>

⁶⁹ See Comhlámh Trade Justice Group submission

⁷⁰ See IIED and Trocaire submissions

⁷¹ <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017111600001?opendocument>

Chapter 4: Bilateral Aid and Multilateral Aid

The importance of both the bilateral and multilateral systems in the delivery of overseas aid was apparent in the evidence provided to the Committee.

The Committee underlines its support for both modalities of disbursing aid, which play vitally important and diverse roles.

Much of Irish Aid's reputation for high quality derives from bilateral disbursement: through Irish Aid's own programmes in Key Partner Countries and through the bilateral aid distributed to civil society organisations and missionaries. Some of Irish Aid's achievements in its Key Partner Countries are referred to in Chapter 1 and are further outlined in Appendix 1.

Members were informed by Misean Cara of the ongoing important role played by missionaries and their overwhelming commitment, compassion and dedication to improving the lives of poor and vulnerable people throughout the world.⁷² In its submission, Misean Cara noted that "extraordinary achievements have come about as a result of missionaries living and working in communities over many years, coming to understand the challenges faced by a community by being part of it every day."⁷³ Members were told that "missionaries can manage, with grants of €10,000 to transform lives." This year, however, Misean Cara was unable to meet the needs of its members and had to cut all grants by 10%, curtailing the activities planned by members.

At a time when the overall aid budget is increasing, it was disappointing to hear that missionary groups face such challenges.⁷⁴

The Committee calls on the Government to examine opportunities to increase funding to missionary bodies.

Dóchas, in its submission to the Committee, notes the decline in the percentage of ODA allocated to NGOs - down from 26% in 2015 to 23% in 2016 - and the parallel increase in the level allocated to multilateral aid (up from 52% in 2015 to 61% in 2016).⁷⁵ This disparity was also noted by a wide range of other organisations.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade referred to obligatory increases in Ireland's assessed contributions to the European Development Fund and to Ireland's share of the EU development cooperation budget as accounting for the increase in funding to multilateral organisations and noted that levels of ODA allocated to NGOs has remained consistent in recent years. Further detail on the breakdown of bilateral and multilateral funding can be found in the most recent Irish Aid Annual Report (2016)⁷⁶ and is shown in the chart below⁷⁷:

⁷² <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017101900001?opendocument>

⁷³ Misean Cara submission, p.5

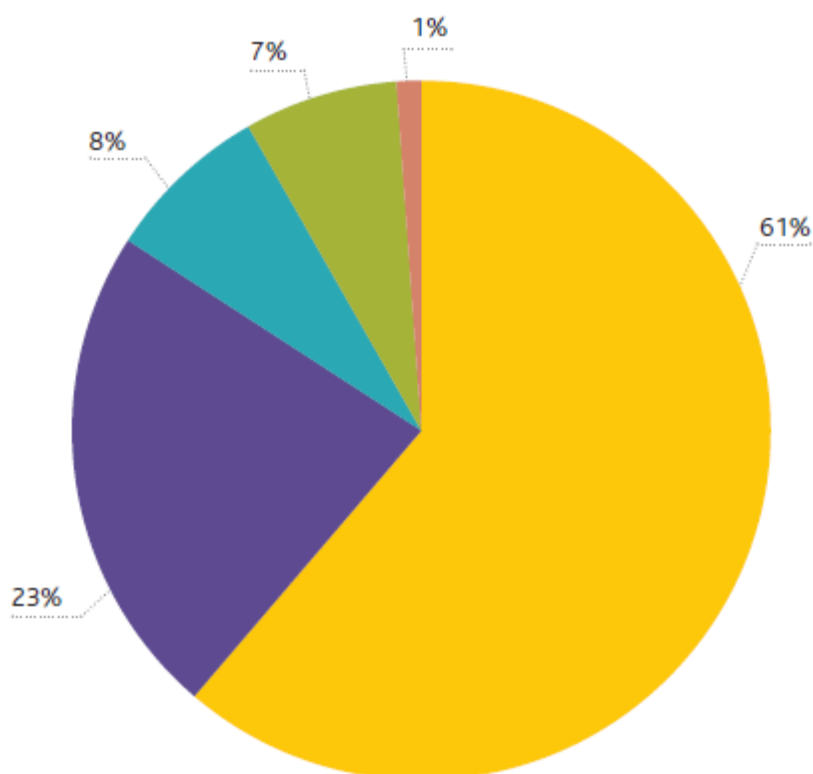
⁷⁴ Also referred to in submission from Mr Matt Moran, p.1

⁷⁵ Dóchas submission, p.3

⁷⁶ <https://www.irishaid.ie/news-publications/publications/publicationsarchive/2017/september/irish-aid-annual-report-2016/>

⁷⁷ <https://www.irishaid.ie/news-publications/publications/publicationsarchive/2017/september/irish-aid-annual-report-2016/>

Total ODA by Channel of Delivery - 2016



Channel	€000's	As a % of Total ODA
Multilateral Organisations	443,347	61%
Non Governmental Organisations	165,644	23%
Other Channels	55,090	8%
Government Systems in Partner Countries	51,402	7%
Delegated Cooperation	8,231	1%
Grand Total	723,714	100%

Further to the above, Oxfam notes in its submission that there is a need for enhanced partnerships with **local civil society organisations** within Irish Aid's partner countries. Ireland's commitment to channelling 25% of humanitarian aid through local actors by 2020 is particularly important in this regard and would allow greater flexibility and quicker responses in emergency contexts.

Committee Members also referred to the importance of engagement at parliamentary level and the importance of meeting parliamentarians from partner countries and building relationships at every opportunity.

It should be noted that a number of organisations raised concerns at the reduced percentage and volume of **humanitarian funding** being channelled through NGOs (20% of overall budget in 2015 to 12% in 2016) and the increase in funding to multilateral organisations at a time when the overall budget is increasing. Trócaire maintains that "the trend of reducing funding to NGOs in favour of

increased support to multilateral agencies and pooled funding mechanisms should be reversed.”⁷⁸ The Dóchas Humanitarian Aid Working Group submission sets out a number of implications of reduced humanitarian funding to NGOs that give rise to concern and should be addressed.⁷⁹ A very clear, transparent rationale for the decisions being made in allocating humanitarian expenditure should be provided to account for this disparity.

In this context, **the Committee calls on the Government to assess the value for money aspect of pooled funding versus funding NGOs directly, endorsing reform of the mechanisms, or re-directing funding as appropriate.**

The Committee further calls on the Government to ensure that the commitment to channelling 25% of humanitarian aid through local actors by 2020 is fulfilled.

In relation to bilateral aid channelled directly to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), the Committee was disappointed to learn that Ireland is no longer meeting the UN target of 0.15% of ODA, after having exceeded it from 2011-2014.⁸⁰ While Ireland remains ranked amongst the highest of OECD DAC donors for the share of bilateral aid allocated to LDCs, **the Committee calls on the Government to make a binding commitment not to fall below the UN target again.**

The strong role that Ireland has played to date in supporting LDCs was noted by a number of stakeholders. The IIED noted that the SDGs will be most difficult to achieve in many of the African LDCs⁸¹; a further reason for Ireland to maintain and increase its focus on the poorest and most fragile states.

The Committee calls on the Government to closely consider an increased focus in Least Developed Countries and Fragile States where Ireland has a clear and positive track record and can make significant positive contributions.

Ireland’s engagement at policy level in the multilateral system is more important now than ever before, given the challenges outlined in Chapter 1.

While recognising the value in channelling aid through multilateral organisations, Concern Worldwide and Oxfam Ireland request that Irish Aid demonstrate greater accountability and show increased oversight of multilateral agencies to show their effectiveness.⁸² This includes greater oversight of EU aid and Ireland’s sizeable contributions to both the EU’s general budget for development aid and the European Development Fund (EDF).

It was particularly noted by Committee Members and stakeholders that further detail and clarity around Ireland’s contributions to the EU Trust Fund for Africa is required.⁸³ Oxfam Ireland notes that

⁷⁸ Trócaire submission, p.4

⁷⁹ Dóchas Humanitarian Aid Working Group submission, p.3

⁸⁰ Trócaire submission, p.3

⁸¹ IIED submission, p.3

⁸² Concern Worldwide submission, p.2; Oxfam submission, p.4

⁸³ Oxfam submission, p.4

“Ireland’s position as a member of the Board, and the Operational Committee of the EUTF places it in a central position to influence spending within this mechanism.”⁸⁴

Such oversight will also be particularly important in the context of an increasing aid budget, and appropriate balance in how aid is disbursed must be found. As noted by Dóchas, “it will be important to strike an effective balance between support to Irish NGOs and support to multilaterals based on clear, transparent processes that maximise the potential of both.”⁸⁵

A strong voice at the table is important in ensuring Ireland’s priorities are achieved and it was useful to hear Minister of State Cannon outline Ireland’s commitment to advocating for core foreign policy priorities across a range of multilateral fora, including the EU, the UN and the OECD.⁸⁶

While recognising the many benefits derived from delivering aid through multilateral programmes, **the Committee calls on the Government to enhance the oversight measures it has in place, in view of the concerns raised by stakeholders in relation to oversight and accountability within the multilateral system.**

The Committee further calls on the Government to ensure Ireland does more to increase its voice and participation on development issues at EU and multilateral level, particularly in light of BREXIT.

⁸⁴ Oxfam submission, p.4

⁸⁵ Dóchas

⁸⁶ <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017113000002?opendocument#N00100>

Chapter 5: Development Education and Communicating the Irish Aid Programme

Public support and awareness is key to achieving the goals of the Irish Aid programme and more broadly is essential for maintaining Ireland's high levels of solidarity with the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world. The Government must be consistently active in raising awareness of the overseas aid programme and in communicating Irish Aid's results. Encouragingly, a recent Dóchas survey found high levels of support – 80% - for increasing levels of ODA.⁸⁷ However, there is no room for complacency.

It has become clear in the meetings held and submissions received as part of this review that there is a concern around the low levels of funding for communicating the results of Ireland's development programme and educating people throughout the country about overseas development. The importance and long term value of supporting development education is clear; as noted by the Centre for Global Education, "development education equips individuals and organisations to understand the cultural, economic, social and political influences on their lives that result from our growing interdependence with other countries and societies. It also provides learners with the skills, values, knowledge and understanding necessary to facilitate action that will contribute to poverty eradication both locally and globally."⁸⁸

However, the Centre for Global Education went on to note that "limited and inconsistent investment, and a lack of strategic prioritisation risk the sustainability of the sector and prevent the delivery of its potential impact for our society."⁸⁹

Despite these challenges, the scale and strength of the Development Education sector was striking and it merits greater attention by the Government – this should be carefully considered in the preparation of the White Paper on Irish Aid. As referred to by NYCI and VSO Ireland, the level of participation of young people and the culture of volunteering is a unique strength within Irish society and sets us apart from our European neighbours.⁹⁰ This is despite the fact that Irish volunteers are significantly less likely than their counterparts to receive state support for their placements, indicating a high level of motivation and engagement.⁹¹

The following graphic, provided by NYCI⁹² gives a sense of the scale of the development education sector:

⁸⁷ <http://dochas.ie/news/press-release-80-irish-people-think-ireland-should-spend-more-aid>

⁸⁸ Centre for Global Education submission, p.1

⁸⁹ Centre for Global Education submission, p.2

⁹⁰ NYCI submission, p.4

⁹¹ VSO Ireland submission, p.2

⁹² NYCI submission, p.5



As noted by Dóchas, Irish NGOs, Volunteering agencies and the diaspora have important contributions to make on development education and public engagement but funding has been falling.”⁹³

“In 2015 the Irish Aid Development Education budget was 0.5% of ODA. This amounts to an annual investment in Ireland of approximately €0.71 per person⁹⁴. However, as referred to in a number of submissions⁹⁵, the rate of investment in Development Education has not been in line with overall increases in the aid budget and as a percentage of ODA, development education has declined between 2011 and 2017 (in 2011, 0.73% of the ODA budget was allocated to Development Education⁹⁶).

Development education is also enshrined in the SDGs, particularly under target 4.7 which calls on states to provide education to ensure “all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development. The principles enshrined in the SDGS of sustainability, global solidarity, universality and local to global interdependence are at the core of Development Education.”⁹⁷ Strong national development education is integral to awareness raising of the SDGs and progress on achieving them, at personal, local, national and global levels; this should be explicitly recognised by the Government. Returning volunteers also contribute significantly to public

⁹³ Dóchas submission, p.4

⁹⁴ Based on CSO population figures <http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-cpr/censusofpopulation2016-preliminaryresults/> and Global Education in Ireland, GENE, p38

⁹⁵ NYCI, IDEA, Dóchas

⁹⁶ Dóchas Development Education Working Group submission, p.3

⁹⁷ Dóchas Development Education Working Group submission, p.2

awareness of development issues; support for the international volunteering sector should be continued and increased.⁹⁸

VSO Ireland provided a clear example of the long lasting benefits of volunteering:⁹⁹

Today, through the Volunteering Initiative, Irish and Ugandan volunteer teachers are improving the quality of education for girls in the Karamoja region of Uganda, and from early 2018, they will be joined by community development workers who will support Ugandan families and communities to be more involved in their children's education. There is enormous scope for Irish people, including retirees, to use their skills and experience to contribute to Ireland's efforts in the fight against global poverty by volunteering. We hope to see the Irish Aid Volunteering Initiative strengthen and expand in the coming years, and engage more Irish volunteers.

“Whilst the new Development Education Strategy is very welcome, the resources behind it do not match the ambition of the Strategy. In addition, with a potential new strategic partnership between Irish Aid and the youth sector, the resources required to meet the need and potential are not currently in place.”¹⁰⁰

What is more, “a strong development education strategy requires a strong development education sector for the delivery of high quality and impactful development education in Ireland.”¹⁰¹

Trócaire also welcomes the Development Education Strategy and the commitment to provide €25million but notes that funding must be long term and sustainable in order for results and impact to be fully demonstrated.¹⁰²

World Vision’s proposal to have active youth participation in designing and implementing the Irish Aid programme, drawing on the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, in the same way as the Women, Peace and Security agenda, should be strongly considered.¹⁰³

Close engagement with groups including the African diaspora in Ireland is essential. Their “crucial expertise and insights could greatly increase the effectiveness of aid if they are engaged with effectively.”¹⁰⁴ Africa Day has been a very effective way of engaging with the Irish public and communicating the Irish Aid programme. Proposals by the Africa Centre to ensure a greater focus on Ireland’s relationship with the African continent more generally and including greater involvement of representatives from the African community in Ireland, should be considered by Irish Aid.¹⁰⁵

Throughout the Committee’s meetings with stakeholders, it became clear that improved communications regarding the priorities, results and impact of the Irish Aid programme should be taken forward. Use of video footage was encouraged as well as developing more programmes with schools and youth groups and harnessing the experiences of returned volunteers. David Donoghue

⁹⁸ VSO Ireland submission; Comhlámh submission

⁹⁹ VSO Ireland submission, p.3

¹⁰⁰ NYCI submission, p.6

¹⁰¹ Centre for Global Education submission, p.3

¹⁰² Trócaire submission, p.3

¹⁰³ World Vision submission, p.2

¹⁰⁴ Africa Centre submission, p. 3

¹⁰⁵ Africa Centre submission, p. 6

provided an example from Germany of using advertising space on public transport to raise awareness of the SDGs.¹⁰⁶ Stakeholders further called for an increased focus on innovation – using new technology, involving the diaspora and the private sector more.¹⁰⁷

A further good example of improving development education activities was provided by Mr Matt Moran in his submission, referring to the positive effects of twinning partnerships between towns and cities, leading to “significant benefits in terms of exchanges at community level, and development awareness/ public education here in Ireland including a keener understanding of Ireland’s ODA, and practical support to less well-off communities in developing countries.”¹⁰⁸ This is an area where Irish Aid could provide increased levels of support.

The Committee calls on the Government to find ways to strengthen support and funding for innovative ways of engaging with the public, particularly young people, to communicate the achievements of the Irish Aid programme, and encourage ongoing participation in initiatives focused on development education and volunteering.

¹⁰⁶ <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017101900001?opendocument>

¹⁰⁷ <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017101900001?opendocument>

¹⁰⁸ Submission from Mr Matt Moran, p.3

Chapter 6: Reaching 0.7%

In 2016, Ireland only spent 34 cents for every 100 euro on development assistance.¹⁰⁹ With the scale of need outlined throughout this report, it is clear that the Government must do more.

Announcing the Department's 2017 budget, Minister Coveney stated that:

*"We...remain committed to making incremental, sustainable progress towards the UN target of providing 0.7% of GNP in ODA. As the Taoiseach has said, we need a clear roadmap towards the achievement of this target and I will be bringing proposals in this respect to Government early next year." ...*¹¹⁰

The Committee welcomed Minister of State Cannon's further confirmation of the Government's intention to grow Ireland's overseas aid budget in the coming years.¹¹¹

It is worth noting that in 2016, the following countries reached, or surpassed, the 0.7% target: Norway (1.11%), Luxembourg (1%), Sweden (0.94%), Denmark (0.75%), Germany (0.7%) and the UK (0.7%).¹¹²

Members were informed by the Secretary General at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade that if Ireland is to reach 0.7% of GNI by 2030, the overall aid programme, on current projected rates, would be approximately €2.5 billion (it is currently €707 million). That would require an increase of approximately €150 million per annum. The Secretary General referred to the need to consider oversight, good governance and control in the context of an increasing budget.¹¹³

A large number of stakeholders, as well as a number of Committee members, called for a multiannual framework to set out how Ireland will achieve and maintain the commitment to 0.7% by 2030. Stakeholders noted that the Government must prioritise building the required human resource and technical capacity in order to successfully manage the delivery of additional funds.¹¹⁴

The Committee is of the view that a firm commitment to achieving ODA expenditure of 0.7% of GNI by 2030 is critical to the future of international development and calls on the Government to set out the way in which it proposes to reach this target. In this regard, the Committee unanimously and unequivocally supports calls for a multiannual plan to increase the aid budget on an incremental, phased basis.

Based on projected growth rates, an increase of approximately €400 million in the aid budget would be required in order to reach 0.4% by 2022.

The Committee further proposes that the Government submits a clear, multi-annual plan to the Committee on Budgetary Oversight for consideration.

¹⁰⁹ Dóchas submission, p.5

¹¹⁰ <https://www.dfa.ie/news-and-media/press-releases/press-release-archive/2017/october/minister-coveney-budget-2018/>

¹¹¹ <http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/committeetakes/FDJ2017113000002?opendocument#N00100>

¹¹² <http://www.oecd.org/dac/development-aid-rises-again-in-2016-but-flows-to-poorest-countries-dip.htm>

¹¹³ [Transcript 5 October 2017](#)

¹¹⁴ See Christian Aid and Oxfam submissions

Chapter 7: Conclusion

Based on the detailed discussion with and submissions received from stakeholders, this report contains a number of findings and recommendations for the Government to consider as it takes forward the process of developing a new international development policy.

As Ireland's economic recovery continues, and the Taoiseach's plan for a doubling of Ireland's global footprint takes shape, the Committee endorses the call to ensure the expansion of the global network will include "a strong commitment to maintaining Ireland's proud tradition of a foreign policy based on equality, human rights and solidarity with those suffering from poverty and injustice"¹¹⁵ and that expanding the global footprint also has to be about "building a stronger, well-resourced and ambitious Irish Aid programme, of which Ireland can be proud."¹¹⁶

As noted by ONE, "you can be confident of the role Ireland and the Irish hold in the global partnership for progress and social justice. This is a role that this committee should be proud of and should encourage the government to build on through increasing the quality and quantity of aid."¹¹⁷

The Committee strongly supports the Irish Aid programme, a pillar of Irish foreign policy, and acknowledges the very important results achieved through long term programmes in some of the poorest communities in the world.

Given the centrality of international development cooperation in Ireland's foreign policy and the importance of all members of the Houses having an opportunity to contribute to the development of Ireland's new international development policy, the Committee will submit this report to both Houses of the Oireachtas for full Dáil and Seanad debates.

The Committee calls on the Government to closely consider the findings and recommendations contained in this report as a new international development policy is developed for Ireland.

¹¹⁵ Trócaire submission, p.2

¹¹⁶ Christian Aid submission, p.2; Dóchas

¹¹⁷ ONE submission, p.1

Summary of Conclusions and Recommendations

It should be noted that the following conclusions and recommendations refer only to the areas of the Irish Aid programme focused on as part of this review; as stated in the Introduction, this report does not cover all sectors in which Irish Aid works.

General:

- 1) **The Committee recognises and strongly supports the central focus** within the Irish Aid programme on addressing the needs of the world's **poorest and most vulnerable** people.
- 2) The **Committee notes** Ireland has been a strong advocate for maintaining a **poverty focused definition of ODA** and must continue to be so, working where possible with other like minded donors.
- 3) **The Committee commends Ireland's 100% record in untied aid, calls on the Government to** ensure that Irish Aid remains untied and for Ireland to step up in its advocacy role in encouraging other donors to provide untied aid.
- 4) **The Committee calls on the Government to** play a strong role in developing better **disaggregated data** on development to inform decision and policy making and to measure results.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- 5) **The Committee calls on the Government** to ensure that the SDGs explicitly underpin the work of Irish Aid and are across all Government policies and programmes.
- 6) On **Quality Education** the **Committee calls on the Government** to review and consider an increase in support to education, given the decline in support to the education sector in recent years, placing a particular emphasis on quality education and girls' education.
- 7) On **Gender Equality**, the **Committee calls on the Government** to ensure the opportunity to promote the empowerment of women and girls is advanced as Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women; further increase levels of funding; and commit to updating the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's gender policy in the coming year.
- 8) Policy coherence is critical to success in achieving the **Climate Action** targets of the SDGs. **The Committee calls on the Government to** report annually on this matter.
- 9) On **Agricultural Development**, the **Committee calls on the Government to** continue engagement with Irish agribusiness companies and to ensure best practice from Ireland, including from bodies such as Teagasc, is used for agricultural research and development in partner countries.

Policy Coherence for Development:

- 10) On **Improving Policy Coherence**, the **Committee calls on the Government** to develop a **cross-Government plan of action**, as recommended by the OECD, and to **immediately establish a cross-Departmental body** to ensure better coordination and coherence of development policy right across Government and in line with the SDGs.

Multilateral Aid and Bilateral Aid:

- 11) **The Committee calls on the Government** to examine opportunities to increase funding to **missionary bodies**.
- 12) **The Committee calls on the Government** to ensure Ireland does **more** to increase its voice and participation on development issues at EU and multilateral level, particularly in light of **BREXIT**.
- 13) While recognising the many benefits derived from delivering aid through multilateral programmes, **the Committee calls on the Government to enhance the oversight measures it has in place**, in view of the concerns raised by stakeholders in relation to oversight and accountability within the multilateral system.
- 14) In relation to **humanitarian aid**, **the Committee further calls on the Government** to assess the value for money aspect of pooled funding versus funding NGOs directly, endorsing reform of the mechanisms or re-directing funding as appropriate.
- 15) **The Committee further calls on the Government** to ensure that the commitment to channelling **25% of humanitarian aid through local actors** by 2020 is fulfilled.
- 16) In relation to bilateral aid channelled directly to the **Least Developed Countries (LDCs)**, the Committee was disappointed to learn that Ireland is no longer meeting the UN target of 0.15% of ODA, after having exceeded it from 2011-2014. **The Committee calls on the Government** to make a binding commitment not to fall below the UN target in the future.
- 17) **The Committee further calls on the Government** to closely consider an increased focus in **Least Developed Countries and Fragile States** where Ireland has a clear and positive track record and can make significant positive contributions.

Development Education and Communicating the Irish Aid Programme

- 18) **The Committee calls on the Government** to find ways to strengthen support and funding for **innovative ways of engaging with the public, particularly young people** to communicate the achievements of the Irish Aid programme and encourage ongoing participation in initiatives focused on development education and volunteering.

Reaching 0.7%:

- 19) **The Committee is of the view that** a firm commitment to achieving ODA expenditure of 0.7% of GNI by 2030 is critical to the future of overseas development and calls on the

Government to set out the way in which it proposes to reach this target. The **Committee unanimously and unequivocally supports calls for a multiannual plan to increase the aid budget on an incremental, phased basis.**

- 20) **The Committee further proposes that the Government submits a clear, multi- annual plan to the Committee on Budgetary Oversight for consideration.**

Conclusion:

- 21) **The Committee strongly supports the Irish Aid programme, a pillar of Irish foreign policy,** and acknowledges the very important results achieved through long term programmes in some of the poorest communities in the world.
- 22) **The Committee calls on the Government to** closely consider the findings and recommendations contained in this report as a **new international development policy** is developed for Ireland.

REPORT OF VISIT TO MALAWI AND MOZAMBIQUE

05th – 10TH NOVEMBER, 2017.

Introduction:

The Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade and Defence as part of its work programme for 2017 identified as one of its priorities the necessity to conduct a comprehensive review of the programme of overseas development aid administered by the Development Cooperation Division Trade (Irish Aid) of the Department of Foreign Affairs. The delegation comprised of the Chair of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade and Defence, Mr. Brendan Smith TD, Vice Chair, Ms. Maureen O’Sullivan TD and Mr. Noel Grealish TD. The delegation was accompanied by the Clerk to the Committee, Mr. Noel Murphy and Ms. Elaine Hollowed, First Secretary, East Africa Division at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The itinerary is attached at *Appendix A*,

Background to Visit:

As part of the review being undertaken by the Joint Committee it was agreed that a delegation of the Committee undertake a visit to see at first hand a range of projects in 2 of the country’s that are officially partner countries for Irish Aid. The Joint Committee identified Malawi and Mozambique as destinations where Irish Aid have a strong footprint of development in the past and also a number of new initiatives underway. It afforded the opportunity to Members to view several projects within the limited time available. The visit also afforded Members the opportunity to evaluate the added value to overseas communities through Irish Aid programmes.

Monday 6th November, 2017

The first engagement for the delegation was to receive a de-briefing from the Ambassador to Malawi, Mr. Gerry Cunningham along with his Head of Development, Ms. Columba O’Dowd and embassy development staff. The Ambassador set the scene for the visit by giving a brief history of both Irish Malawian relations and the current political situation in Malawi. He also gave the delegation an overview of the itinerary with specific emphasis on the projects to be visited and the purpose of their selection for the visit. The proposed itinerary was composed in such a way to give the delegation a wide a varied view of the way in which overseas development aid was being utilised to its maximum effect.

The focus of the initial aid in Malawi is based on agriculture and nutrition where Ireland has a strong level of expertise.

This de-briefing was followed by a working dinner with the Honorary Consul Mr. Sean O'Neill who has been acting in this capacity prior to the establishment of an embassy and continues to do so representing Ireland in the southern region of Malawi.

Tuesday 7th November, 2017

Visit to Bvumbwe Agriculture Research Station:

The delegation travelled to the Government Agricultural Research Centre outside Blantyre which is supported by Irish Aid through the International Potato Centre. The Members viewed a number of sites to produce disease resistant potato varieties and also see Government efforts to control “Fall Army Worm” and Banana “Bunchy Top” disease. The delegation were informed that through funding provided by Irish Aid that great developments had been made in the production of seed in legumes (nuts and seeds), cereals, roots and tuba (orange flesh sweet potato) and kasaba. This development was assisting in the fight against starvation and offering nutritional value by developing seed for disease free vegetables etc, rich in other vitamins.

The main food crop in Malawi has traditionally been Maize. The reduction in “stunting” in children by 10% and the reductions of numbers facing starvation, down from 6.7 million in 2015 to 1.4 million currently, has been as a direct result of the development work being done through investment and cooperation by Irish Aid and the Malawian Ministry for Agriculture and the International Potato Centre.



Deputies Smith, O'Sullivan and Grealish and Ambassador Cunningham are shown a range of produce grown. The International Potato Centre (CIP).

1. Cash Transfer programme

Programme: Social Cash Transfer Program (SCTP)

Partner: Government of Malawi, Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare

The delegation next visited a local village to meet beneficiaries benefitting from Irish Aid work on Social Cash Transfers; energy efficient Cook-stoves and solar lanterns; and activities promoting livestock production and improved nutrition.

In December 2012, Irish Aid approved a grant agreement for Euro 2,7 million to support the Government of Malawi to scale up the Social Cash Transfer Program (SCTP) to Balaka District - targeting a total of 8,376 ultra-poor households, of which 75% are female headed.

The Social Cash Transfer Program programme in Balaka has reported impact in the areas of education, asset accumulation, housing, nutrition, health as well as income poverty.... The cash payments provide for a minimum diet but may also support school fees, and allow savings for other livelihood investments, such as livestock. The delegation got to see how the cash was distributed through the availability of a mobile bank and electronic I.D. cards. The delegation met with a grandmother caring for 6 grandchildren. Through the provision of direct funding from the SCTP she was able to provide the grandchildren with school books and equipment along with replenishing her livestock in the form of purchasing 3 goats.



The delegation and Ambassador Cunningham visiting with a beneficiary of the Social Cash Transfer Scheme

2. Sustainable Energy Solutions for the poor

Partner: United Purpose

Programme: Accelerating Commercial and Community Energy Supply Sustainably (ACCESS)

The project ‘**Accelerating Commercial and Community Energy Supply Sustainably**’(ACCESS) is being implemented by United Purpose and draws on the experience and lessons from a successful energy programme completed last year. The overall objective of the project is to improve the livelihoods of 80% of the population anticipated to be living in ‘energy poverty’. Specifically, the project aims to increase energy access to rural and peri-urban households to meet their cooking and lighting needs in a number of districts in Southern and Central Malawi and to strengthen stakeholders’ voice to advocate nationally for sustainable energy for all. Since 2012, Irish Aid has invested €865,000 in the Energy programme and the 2017 budget for 2018 is €300,000.

The delegation met with a stove production group who explained the supply chain for cook stoves at local level and representatives of United Purpose (UP). UP is one of the lead organizations contributing to the national target of 2 million cook stoves by 2030 contributing significantly on awareness and creating rural value chains. As part of project in this area the committee were informed that the ultra-poor households are provided with a solar lamp and a cooking stove and that most have availed of the opportunity to purchase more.



Demonstration of making a cooking stove.

3. Visit to community based organisation (NAYORG)

Programme: Tilitonse Programme (civil society fund for governance)

Partner: DFID managed fund for civil society organisations in Malawi

The delegation visited this programme which provided an opportunity to meet with the youth and community leaders and stakeholders involved in this project. The overall goal of the project is to provide support to civil society organisations to ensure that governance in Malawi is increasingly inclusive, accountable and responsive to citizens. The delegation were given a very informative presentation on the work of the group and several young people gave a first hand account of the way this had changed their attitude and made them more involved in their communities and region.

Wednesday 8th November - MOZAMBIQUE

Visit to Niassa Province, Mozambique

Due to the proximity to Niassa Province, the delegation availed of the opportunity to cross the border into Mozambique. The purpose was to see varying programmes delivered in the area of governance, education, health and sanitation and water provision.

Mandimba Customs and Border Post

The delegation was received and greeted by the Governor of Niassa Province, Arlindo Gonçalo Chilundo who gave an overview and detail of the function of the border crossing. In 2004 the provincial government recognised the need to increase its revenue collection and the Mandimba border was seen as a potential source of income. The government decided to build a new post with new facilities, which started its operations in 2006 and since then, the annual revenue has increased from € 6,500 to € 130,000 in 2016. Ireland provided support to construction and upgrading of the border post at the Mandimba crossing.

The border post has also improved the control of immigration flows to and from Mozambique. Before the construction of border post, the immigration authorities were not able to account for the movement of those actively involved in cross-border informal trade. In 2005 only seven people were officially counted as crossing the border at Mandimba.

The Governor thanked the delegation and the people of Ireland for their support. He explained that a Strategic Plan for 2018 to 2029 was now in place listing the priorities for improvement in areas such as Agriculture, tourism, mineral resources and WASH. The Governor explained that the aim is to have 65% of the population having direct and easy access to water. He expressed his concern at the high level of education drop-out particularly amongst girls mainly as a result of child marriage. Also in attendance was the province's Director of Finances, Dir. of Health.

From here the delegation visited:

Mitande Girls Dormitory Project

In 2010, Ireland provided support for construction of a dormitory for secondary school girls in Mitande. The result of this facility is that girls from afar, who would otherwise not have attended secondary school, have been given the opportunity. Additionally, boarding is safer as these girls may have, as in the past, sought board and lodging in local homesteads and this raised concerns for their personal safety.

As evidence of the sustainability of the support, the dormitory currently is being renovated and, there is a new borehole, which is powered by solar panels, and it delivers sufficient water for school and community.



The delegation met with Velentina, Bernardo, who is 26 years old. into a family of 8 children and she is the eldest. Her parents are poor, After completing grade 10, Velentina was fortunate to get a place at the newly opened building where she completed her grade 11 and 12 while staying at the dormitory. She applied for a teacher training course, was accepted, trained and graduated and placed at Mitande primary school as a teacher. She became an inspiration to all her siblings. One has finished secondary education and is working as technician for the government and the other 6 are all in school thanks to the big sister who is paying for them. She has invested in education and it has changed the fortune of the entire family. The delegation commended Velentina on her success and thanked her for her dedication and commitment.



Mitande Health Centre

The delegation next visited Mitande health centre which serves approximately 52,521 people and Irish Aid funded the construction of all buildings. It is equipped to provide basic services including diagnosis and testing of malaria and HIV. Besides the 18 staff that work at the health centre, the delegation met with 4 community health workers that provide assistance to remote communities designed to facilitate access to health services. Ireland has funded the training and support for Community Health Workers in Niassa.

In meeting the Community Health Workers, the delegation was informed as to how they link with the health centre and also received a first hand account of how the community scheme works.



Ambassador Carlos informing the delegation that the assistance provided by Irish Aid ensures this community hospital continues to provide vital services

Lusangaze water project

The delegation visited a water project in Lusangaze. Ireland through Irish Aid financed the establishment of a borehole here in 2013. As a result, a large number of families now have a reliable supply of safe drinking water. This reduces water-borne diseases that have a particularly devastating effect on children and are major factors behind stunting. Women and girls have benefitted hugely from this intervention as they are the ones normally tasked with fetching water and would have to travel long distances if this facility was not available.

Lusangaze is a large community with a population of around 12,000 people. They have a water management committee composed of 12 members, half of which are women. This is the only borehole that supplies the community with water. There is a river close by but it is frequently dry due to lack of rain. Water statistics in Mandimba indicate that only 36% of people have access to potable drinking water.

The delegation was informed of the number of families that benefit from the borehole and the imposition on people before the borehole was built.

Thursday 9th November, 2017 - MALAWI

Enhancing Community Resilience Programme (ECRP) –

Programme: Enhancing Community Resilience Programme (ECRP)

Partner: DFID and United Purpose

The members of the delegation saw a range of interventions supported by Irish Aid since 2011 including development of drought tolerant crops, a village Savings and Loans schemes,

With the aim of addressing chronic vulnerabilities within the wider-risk prone communities, the Enhancing Community Resilience Programme (ECRP) 2011 -2017 was supported by and in cooperation with DFID, Irish Aid and the Royal Norwegian Embassy. Irish Aid contributed €2 million.

The programme addresses climate and disaster resilience through multiple integrated approaches: increasing capacity of local authorities; supporting households improved and resilient livelihoods; strengthening early warning systems and humanitarian response; and strengthening national policy. The programme reached 16,136 households, of which 75% are female headed.

The delegation met with a number of beneficiaries who discussed the multiple interventions for building household and community resilience. The delegation also visited Mthetsanjala irrigation scheme and had the opportunity to see at first hand the innovative gravity based irrigation scheme, changing the lives of people here. The delegation also had the opportunity to meet with mainly local women to see how the scheme has changed their lives and given them opportunities to develop small enterprises.



VISIT TO DEDZA PRISON

Programme: Access to Justice

Partner: Irish Rule of Law International

The delegation were briefed on systemic problems facing Malawi's criminal justice system including lack of access to legal representation, overcrowding in prisons, a tendency to incarcerate even for minor crimes.

Members were greeted by the Governor who described the conditions and general statistics of the prison. The delegation met with a representative of Irish Rule of Law International (IRLI) who described the work IRLI does to promote rule of law and deliver greater access to justice for the most vulnerable. IRLI uses a secondment approach with programme lawyers (volunteers) allocated to key justice institutions, namely, the Malawi Police Service, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Judiciary, and the Legal Aid Bureau.

The visit provided the delegation with an opportunity to see the conditions within the prison and experience a demonstration of a legal clinic in progress. The delegation were informed of the lack of trial process and detention of people awaiting trial. This programme funded in partnership with Irish Aid provided much needed legal access and assistance to those people interned.

Meeting with the Ambassador of the European Union to Malawi – Marchel Germann

Following the usual greetings and pleasantries the Chair outlined the purpose of the visit and gave the Ambassador a brief overview of the visit up to that stage. Deputy O'Sullivan reflected on the visit and commented on the effectiveness of the aid programmes particularly in empowering women. Deputy O'Sullivan also reflected on the policy coherence and the concerns of members of the committee regarding multi-lateral aid administered through the various EU programmes and that fact that this should remain transparent and untied. Deputy

Grealish remarked on how the provision of quality education was paramount in future programmes administered through the EU.

The Ambassador thanked the Members for visiting and assured the delegation that the EU works well with all the representatives of Member states in Malawi and that Irish Aid had established a strong footprint at all levels in Malawi society. He indicated that corruption in so far as a lack of accountability was a problem that was being addressed. He also informed the delegation that there is freedom of the press in Malawi which is positive from ensuring that the Government continues to deliver on its ambition to address issues. The Ambassador stated that the intentions of the mission is to allocate in the region of €250 million on food security programmes and agreed of the importance of working more with women in Government and in the community. The Ambassador also recognised the current poor quality of education with classes sometimes catering for 200 students. The conversation touched on many more issues in Malawi including, Agriculture, Governance, the use of multi-lateral aid. The Ambassador also referred to Brexit and the concerns for aid as it may be that following the exit the British may concentrate on former colonies.

Meeting with NGOs – Ambassadors Residence

In the evening Ambassador Cunningham invited representatives of various NGOs to meet with the members of the delegation. The discussion concerned the role and work undertaken by the NGOs and the obstacles that they have to overcome in order to operate in the region. This included the reluctance on behalf of Government to engage fully with overseas NGOs and the cost of licenses to operate there. The delegation proposed to raise the issue at subsequent meetings with both the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Parliamentary Committee for Foreign Affairs.

Friday 10th November, 2017

Meeting with Minister for Foreign Affairs – Dr. Emmanuel Fabiano

The meeting opened with the usual welcome and greetings and Ambassador Cunningham gave a brief overview of the visit and its purpose.

The Minister thanked the delegation and the Irish people for their generous assistance over the years. Chairman Smith assured the Minister of the resolve of the Irish people in continuing to support overseas development aid. Deputy O’Sullivan again reflected on the visit stating that she had been impressed by the role of and delivery of aid directly to women and the need to increase the quality of education. The matter raised by the NGOs concerning bureaucracy of Government and increasing costs was also raised. The Minister responded by saying that the programmes “raised those at the bottom” by empowering through the cash transfer scheme and the deliberate policy by Government to get women involved. Regarding the NGOs concerns, the Minister noted the difference between local and International NGOs and wanted to move

towards all NGOs publishing their audited accounts. Deputy Grealish agreed on the benefit of the cash transfer scheme. The Minister in response to questions from the delegation indicated that the biggest challenge to face Malawi and indeed the continent of Africa is population growth and how this can be managed.

Meeting with members of the Foreign Affairs Committee – Malawi Parliament Buildings

Following opening remarks the Chair of the Malawian FA committee outlined some of the challenges facing Malawi at home and internationally. The Chair did not feel that there is much interaction between parliament and the international NGOs and parliament has no role in monitoring their activities. He also outlined how the concerned the committee are at the urban-rural divide with not a lot of aid reaching villages with poor justice systems and particularly the impressions that education was becoming elitist.

Deputy O’Sullivan stated that she thought it is important for the Committee to meet with the NGO Forum in Malawi.

The meeting provided an opportunity for a sharing of views and provided a further appreciation to the delegation of the many challenges facing Malawi.

FIELD VISIT TO NATIONAL REGISTRATION BUREAU OPERATIONAL HUB FOR MASS REGISTRATION OF MALAWIAN CITIZENS CURRENTLY IN PROGRESS

Programme: National Registration and Identification System (NRIS) project

Partner: UNDP supporting the National Registration Bureau (NRB)

The delegation were informed that Malawi is the only country in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) without a national ID system and that the majority of Malawians are effectively undocumented and this has implications for development programmes.

The National Registration and Identification System (NRIS) will assist in the development of a vital statistics system that can support economic, development, social protection and humanitarian programs in Malawi.

The total budget was estimated at \$50 million over 3 years and a strong business case was presented to donors. Irish Aid has to date contributed €2.1 million.

The delegation visited the operational hub for the coordination of mass registration of 9 million Malawians (over 16 years). The details the way in which the programme is implemented was outlined and a practical demonstration of the innovative equipment was given to Members. The delegation had the opportunity to see the current and future benefits of the scheme.

Conclusions

The Members of the delegation concluded that the visit to Malawi and Mozambique provided a first hand experience of the work being carried out by Irish Aid in these 2 key partner countries. The programme afforded an opportunity to view vital schemes being pioneered and developed by Irish Aid staff including locally recruited members of staff, and the impact this is having on society in Malawi.

The delegation also concluded that funding provided through Irish Aid and its partners was adding greatly to the quality of life of ordinary people through all the schemes being administered and partnered by Irish Aid including agricultural research ensuring greater yield and disease free crops, the social cash transfer schemes, the engagement in Mozambique in Education and Health and the through the various governance programmes in all areas.

The delegation on behalf of the Committee would like to thank all of those people involved in such a worthwhile visit and in particular Ms. Elaine Hollowed who accompanied the delegation on behalf of the Department, His Excellency Mr. Gerry Cunningham Ambassador of Ireland to Malawi, His Excellency Mr. William Carlos Ambassador of Ireland to Mozambique and all of their staff.

Appendix A

PROGRAMME

DAY	TIME	MEETING	LOCATION
Monday 6th November	14.40	Arrive Chileka International Airport, Blantyre; Flight ET 877 from Addis Ababa- Greeted by Ambassador - Transfer to Sunbird Mount Soche Hotel	
	17.00	Briefing at Hotel on the Programme by Ambassador and Embassy Team	Sunbird Mount Soche Hotel, Blantyre, Malawi
	18.00	Dinner with Honorary Consul Mr Sean O'Neill and spouse Ms Omega Ntonya	
Tuesday 7th November	07.30	Check-out from Hotel for 7.30 departure	Sunbird Mount Soche Hotel, Blantyre, Malawi
	8.15-10.15	<u>Bvumbwe Agricultural Research Station</u> Partners: Ministry of Agriculture / International Potato Centre (CIP) Lead Person: Dr Thomson Chilanga, Station Manager (Ministry) and Dr Felistus Chipungu (CIP)	Bvumbwe Agricultural Research Station
	12.00-13.30	<u>Mbengo Village (Phalula) Enhancing Community Resilience Programme</u> Partners: Ministry of Gender (Cash Transfers) / United Purpose (NGO / Balaka District Lead Person: Ms Tamandani Ntepa (Social Welfare Officer) and Esther Mweso (United Purpose)	Mbengo Village, Balaka District, Malawi
	14.00-14.30	<u>Balaka – Tilitonse Programme - Nkhadze Alive Youth Organisation (NAYORG)</u> Partner: Tilitonse Multi Donor Civil Society Pooled Fund Lead Person: Mr Charles Sineta, Executive Director, NAYORG	Balaka District, Malawi
	17.00	Dinner with Ambassador and staff from Embassy Maputo at Hotel Sunbird Nkopola, Mangochi	Hotel Sunbird Nkopola, Mangochi, Malawi
Wednesday 8th November	7.30	Check out from Hotel for 07:30 departure	Hotel Sunbird Nkopola, Mangochi, Malawi
	9.00-14.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Met at Mozambique Border by Governor of Niassa - Visit of Mandimba Border post and briefing by Governor on Niassa Province and Irish Aid support - Depart for Mitande Girls dormitory project with solar panel and borehole - Depart for Mitande Health Centre - Depart for Lusangaze water project 	Niassa, Mozambique
	14.00	Depart border and travel to Monkey Bay, Mangochi	

	16.30	Arrive hotel	Alcon Cottages, Monkey Bay, Mangochi, Malawi
	TBC	Dinner	
Thursday 9th November	07.30	Check out from accommodation for 07:30 departure	Alcon Cottages, Monkey Bay, Mangochi, Malawi
	08.30- 10.00	<u>Mthetsanjala Irrigation Scheme and United Purpose Dedza District Nutrition Coordination Committee</u> Partners: United Purpose (NGO) - Enhancing Community Resilience Programme (ECRP) Lead Person: Esther Mweso (United Purpose)	Dezda District, Malawi
	10.00- 12.30	<u>Dedza Prison Legal Literacy Clinic</u> Partners: Irish Rule of Law International (IRLI) Lead Person: Erin Greggs (IRLI) <i>Including lunch at Dedza Pottery at 11:30</i>	Dezda District, Malawi
	15.30	Meeting EU Ambassador, Marchel Gerrmann	Lilongwe, Malawi
	17.30	Dinner with Irish NGOs	Lilongwe, Malawi
	19.00	Reception for Irish Community and invited guests	Lilongwe, Malawi
Friday 10th November	08.00	Meeting with Malawian Parliamentary Committee on International Relations	Lilongwe, Malawi
	10.00	Visit to <u>National Registration and Identity Card Centre</u> Partners: UNDP & National Registration Bureau (NRB) Lead Person: Tariq Malik, Chief Technical Advisor, National Registration and ID Project	Lilongwe, Malawi
	11.00	Return to Residence / Final debrief meeting	Lilongwe, Malawi
	12.00	Depart for Airport	Lilongwe, Malawi
	13.40	Depart Lilongwe International Airport Flight ET 877 to Dublin via Addis Ababa / Heathrow	Lilongwe International Airport, Malawi

Appendix 2: List of Submissions Received

The following is a list of all organisations / individuals which responded to the call for submissions for this review. Links to the full text of all submissions can be found on the Oireachtas website on the following page: http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/oireachtasbusiness/committees_list/foreign-affairs-trade-defence/

- Dóchas
- Concern
- Oxfam Ireland
- ONE
- Plan International Ireland
- Trócaire
- World Vision Ireland
- Christian Aid Ireland
- GORTA Self Help Africa
- UNICEF Ireland
- Uplift Ireland
- Liberia Solidarity Group
- Africa Centre
- Irish Syria Solidarity Movement
- NGO Monitor
- Irish4Israel
- Irish Christian Friends of Israel
- Palestinian Media Watch
- International Institute for Environment and Development
- Irish Family Planning Association
- Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence
- Front Line Defenders
- Dóchas Disability Working Group
- Christian Blind Mission Ireland
- The Comhlámh Trade Justice Group
- Mr Robert Moodie
- Dóchas Development Education Working Group
- Centre for Global Education
- National Youth Council of Ireland

- Irish Development Education Association
- VSO Ireland
- Comhlámh
- Dóchas Humanitarian Aid Working Group
- Misean Cara
- Mr Matt Moran
- Mr Sebastian Kevany and Mr Ruairí Brugha

Appendix 3: Terms of Reference and Membership

a. Functions of the Committee – derived from Standing Orders [DSO 84A; SSO 70A]

(1) The Select Committee shall consider and report to the Dáil on—

(a) such aspects of the expenditure, administration and policy of a Government Department or Departments and associated public bodies as the Committee may select, and

(b) European Union matters within the remit of the relevant Department or Departments.

(2) The Select Committee appointed pursuant to this Standing Order may be joined with a Select Committee appointed by Seanad Éireann for the purposes of the functions set out in this Standing Order, other than at paragraph (3), and to report thereon to both Houses of the Oireachtas.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), the Select Committee appointed pursuant to this Standing Order shall consider, in respect of the relevant Department or Departments, such—

(a) Bills,

(b) proposals contained in any motion, including any motion within the meaning of Standing Order 187,

(c) Estimates for Public Services, and

(d) other matters

as shall be referred to the Select Committee by the Dáil, and

(e) Annual Output Statements including performance, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of public monies, and

(f) such Value for Money and Policy Reviews as the Select Committee may select.

(4) The Joint Committee may consider the following matters in respect of the relevant Department or Departments and associated public bodies:

- (a) matters of policy and governance for which the Minister is officially responsible,
- (b) public affairs administered by the Department,
- (c) policy issues arising from Value for Money and Policy Reviews conducted or commissioned by the Department,
- (d) Government policy and governance in respect of bodies under the aegis of the Department,
- (e) policy and governance issues concerning bodies which are partly or wholly funded by the State or which are established or appointed by a member of the Government or the Oireachtas,
- (f) the general scheme or draft heads of any Bill,
- (g) any post-enactment report laid before either House or both Houses by a member of the Government or Minister of State on any Bill enacted by the Houses of the Oireachtas,
- (h) statutory instruments, including those laid or laid in draft before either House or both Houses and those made under the European Communities Acts 1972 to 2009,
- (i) strategy statements laid before either or both Houses of the Oireachtas pursuant to the Public Service Management Act 1997,
- (j) annual reports or annual reports and accounts, required by law, and laid before either or both Houses of the Oireachtas, of the Department or bodies referred to in subparagraphs (d) and (e) and the overall performance and operational results, statements of strategy and corporate plans of such bodies, and
- (k) such other matters as may be referred to it by the Dáil from time to time.

(5) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), the Joint Committee appointed pursuant to this Standing Order shall consider, in respect of the relevant Department or Departments—

- (a) EU draft legislative acts standing referred to the Select Committee under Standing Order 114, including the compliance of such acts with the principle of subsidiarity,

(b) other proposals for EU legislation and related policy issues, including programmes and guidelines prepared by the European Commission as a basis of possible legislative action,

(c) non-legislative documents published by any EU institution in relation to EU policy matters, and

(d) matters listed for consideration on the agenda for meetings of the relevant EU Council of Ministers and the outcome of such meetings.

(6) The Chairman of the Joint Committee appointed pursuant to this Standing Order, who shall be a member of Dáil Éireann, shall also be the Chairman of the Select Committee.

(7) The following may attend meetings of the Select or Joint Committee appointed pursuant to this Standing Order, for the purposes of the functions set out in paragraph (5) and may take part in proceedings without having a right to vote or to move motions and amendments:

(a) Members of the European Parliament elected from constituencies in Ireland, including Northern Ireland,

(b) Members of the Irish delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and

(c) at the invitation of the Committee, other Members of the European Parliament.

b. Scope and Context of Activities of Committees (as derived from Standing Orders) [DSO 84; SSO 70]

- (1) The Joint Committee may only consider such matters, engage in such activities, exercise such powers and discharge such functions as are specifically authorised under its orders of reference and under Standing Orders.
- (2) Such matters, activities, powers and functions shall be relevant to, and shall arise only in the context of, the preparation of a report to the Dáil and/or Seanad.
- (3) The Joint Committee shall not consider any matter which is being considered, or of which notice has been given of a proposal to consider, by the Committee of Public Accounts pursuant to Standing Order 186 and/or the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act 1993.
- (4) The Joint Committee shall refrain from inquiring into in public session or publishing confidential information regarding any matter if so requested, for stated reasons given in writing, by—
 - (a) a member of the Government or a Minister of State, or
 - (b) the principal office-holder of a body under the aegis of a Department or which is partly or wholly funded by the State or established or appointed by a member of the Government or by the Oireachtas:

Provided that the Chairman may appeal any such request made to the Ceann Comhairle / Cathaoirleach whose decision shall be final.
- (5) It shall be an instruction to all Select Committees to which Bills are referred that they shall ensure that not more than two Select Committees shall meet to consider a Bill on any given day, unless the Dáil, after due notice given by the Chairman of the Select Committee, waives this instruction on motion made by the Taoiseach pursuant to Dáil Standing Order 28. The Chairmen of Select Committees shall have responsibility for compliance with this instruction.

Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade and Defence

Deputies: Seán Barrett (FG)

 Seán Crowe (SF)

 Noel Grealish (RTG)

 Tony McLoughlin (FG)

 Darragh O'Brien (FF)

 Maureen O'Sullivan (I4C)

 Brendan Smith (FF) [Chairman]

Senators: Ivana Bacik (LAB)

 Mark Daly(FF)

 Billy Lawless(IG)

 Gabrielle McFadden(FG)

Notes:

1. Deputies nominated by the Dáil Committee of Selection and appointed by Order of the Dáil of 16 June 2016.
2. Senators appointed to the Committee by order of the Seanad on 22 July 2016

Appendix 4 - List of Acronyms:

ACP: Africa Caribbean Pacific

Dóchas: the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations

EDF: European Development Fund

EUTF: European Union Trust Fund

GBV: Gender Based Violence

GNI: Gross National Income

IFPA: Irish Family Planning Association

IIED: International Institute for Environment and Development

IPCC: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

KPC: Key Partner Country

LDC: Least Developed Country

NGO: Non Governmental Organisation

NYCI: National Youth Council of Ireland

ODA: Official Development Assistance

OECD DAC: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development - Development Assistance Committee

SCTP: Social Cash Transfer Programme

SDG: Sustainable Development Goal

UN OCHA: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

UNESCO: United Nation Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation

UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund

UNHCR: United Nations High Commission for Refugees

WHO: World Health Organisation