

An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha  
Department of Foreign Affairs

**Brief for Minister of State  
December  
2022**

## Brief for Minister of State for International Development and the Diaspora

### Ireland's international development programme

Ireland's international development programme is managed and delivered by the Development Cooperation and Africa Division, coordinating with Political Division, our missions abroad and other Government Departments. The Division also has responsibility for all aspects of Ireland's bilateral relations with Africa. We will organise an early meeting for the Minister with the Senior Management Group of the Division, to discuss the programme and possible visits in the upcoming period.

**Director General: Michael Gaffey** [REDACTED]

*Alan Gibbons - Director Africa* [REDACTED]

*Michael O'Toole - Director, Horn of Africa* [REDACTED]

*Nicole McHugh - Director, Humanitarian* [REDACTED]

*Sarah Hunt - Director, Policy Unit* [REDACTED]

*Sinead Walsh - Director, Climate Unit* [REDACTED]

*Aine Hearn - Director, Multilateral UN and IFIs* [REDACTED]

*Breandan O Caollai - Director, DCAD Secretariat / Business Support Unit; Multilateral EU, Trade and Development* [REDACTED] (Note: Eamonn MacAodha from January 2023)

*Feilim McLaughlin - Director, Global Programmes and Global Citizenship Education*  
[REDACTED]

*Carina Connellan - Director, Civil Society* [REDACTED]

With the growth in our contribution to the EU development budget, and taking into account spending on development from other Departments, DFA now accounts for 58% of Ireland's total Official Development Assistance, all of which is shaped by the Government's policy, *A Better World* published in 2019.

2022 was another year of major global shocks. Our current approach is influenced strongly by the direct and global impact of the war in Ukraine, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the proliferation of conflict and the overarching context of climate change. The result is an acute global food crisis, rising global inequality, setbacks to progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and unprecedented levels of humanitarian need. In their attempts to respond, developing country governments are faced with growing need, debt and credit crises, as well as a challenging international development financing environment.

Ireland is delivering a strong humanitarian response, while maintaining a focus on resilience-building in the medium to long term, including through our bilateral programmes. This work prioritises gender equality, good governance, reducing humanitarian need and climate change.

Budget 2023 provided a development cooperation budget totalling over €1.23 billion, the highest level ever. This includes €715.4 million for Vote 27 of the Department of Foreign Affairs, an increase of €111.5 million, or 18%, on 2022. Of this increase, €75 million is targeted on the impact of the war in Ukraine, including the wider global impact, especially in Africa.

The deepening global food and nutrition security crisis will be a central concern for the coming year, and €17 million will be provided in 2023 to address acute child malnutrition, with a particular focus on the Horn of Africa. At the UN in September 2022, Ireland pledged €50 million over three years to fight child malnutrition and wasting, in cooperation with USAID and UNICEF. Following meetings with the USAID Administrator, Samantha Power, we are now working with USAID to develop Ireland – US cooperation on food and nutrition security at political level and in countries in Africa where we have shared priorities.

We will maintain our bilateral aid programmes broadly at similar levels to 2022, with some increases focused on climate action. The largest programme remains that in Ethiopia. While funding levels have been maintained throughout the conflict of the last two years, they have been refocused on humanitarian support.

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Ireland will open a new Embassy in Senegal early in 2023, and President Higgins will travel to Dakar for a Summit on agriculture, food security and nutrition organised by the African Development Bank and the African Union, from 25 to 27 January.

The programme is also increasing its focus on climate change and its impact on Least Developed Countries and other vulnerable contexts, including Small Island Development States. In 2023, we will strengthen the whole-of-government approach, through a more strategic approach to climate diplomacy and climate financing within Ireland's ODA. €25 million in additional climate finance has been provided for 2023, as we work towards the commitment to provide €225 million per year by 2025. This will be focused on the worsening effects of climate change on the world's most vulnerable communities, in line with Ireland's international climate finance commitments.

The experience of Ireland's term on the UN Security Council has demonstrated the clear linkages between our international development cooperation and humanitarian action, and our human rights and political and security policies in the work to create a more stable, secure and inclusive world. In 2023, we will build on Ireland's record in championing the Sustainable Development Goals internationally, including through the co-facilitator role, with Qatar, for the SDG Summit, to be held in New York at UNGA in September.

In addition to work on the crises in and around Ukraine and the Horn of Africa, we will seek to bring a more strategic focus on work across the themes of conflict resolution, fragility, women, peace and security, including through possible new structures across Political Division and DCAD. We will also break new ground in our geographic focus: developing a Latin America programme, bringing together the ongoing work in Colombia with new activity in Central America; expanding the scope of the regional approach in the countries of the Mekong Delta, with a strengthened emphasis on Cambodia and Lao PDR, in addition to Vietnam; and with a new strategy for partnership with Small Island Developing States, building on the successes of the 2019 SIDS Strategy.

We will strengthen our partnerships with the UN, ICRC and other multilateral agencies, where they are most effective in delivery of assistance and policy development, and with civil society. Ireland's Civil Society Partnership for a Better World will commence in January 2023, for a five-year period. It is a new, innovative funding mechanism for Irish NGOs, which will integrate three current schemes: the Programme Grant, the Humanitarian Programme Plan, and the Emergency Response Fund Scheme. The proposed budget is €500 million, over the five years. The budget

for 2023 will be €100 million, with a €10 million element of climate finance. The Partnership will represent some 8% of Ireland's ODA and uphold our position as one of the major contributors in the OECD to the work of civil society.

## Briefing Note on Africa Unit

December 2022

### Some upcoming events in Q1 2023:

- President Higgins attendance at the Africa Food Summit, Dakar, Senegal (23-28 January TBC)  
President Higgins intends to travel to Senegal for the Africa Food Summit and for a bilateral programme from 23-28 January (TBC). The Summit will be co-hosted by the African Development Bank and Senegal, in partnership with the African Union.
- EU-AU Ministerial Meeting, Brussels (precise date TBC)  
The next AU-EU Ministerial gathering has yet to be scheduled but will likely take place in the spring of 2023. This follows the sixth EU-AU Summit that took place in Brussels, on 17-18 February 2022.
- Opening of Ireland's Embassy in Dakar, Senegal  
As part of the ambition to double Ireland's global footprint in *Global Ireland 2025*, Ireland will open a new Embassy in Dakar, Senegal in early 2023.

### Africa Unit:

Africa Unit supports the work of nine of the eleven Embassies in sub-Saharan Africa (the other two being supported by Horn of Africa Unit) and is responsible for all aspects of Ireland's relationship with 42 of the 49 countries of sub-Saharan Africa (the other seven being the responsibility of Horn of Africa Unit), guided by '*Global Ireland: Ireland's Strategy for Africa to 2025*'. Africa Unit leads on EU-Africa relations, as well as Ireland's engagement with the African Union, UN Offices and regional economic communities in Africa. With over €156 million in total budgeted for 2023 (up 7% on 2022), our Embassy network in Africa manages a substantial proportion of Ireland's ODA budget, with close support from Africa Unit.

The Africa Strategy places a particular emphasis on Ireland's EU membership in facilitating deeper relationships with Africa. While the European Commission has prioritised the consolidation of a strong EU-Africa partnership, and a notable outcome of the sixth EU-AU Summit in February 2022 was the announcement of an Africa-Europe Investment Package, amounting to €150 billion up to 2030, as part of the EU's *Global Gateway Strategy*. Ireland is working in Brussels, with other Member States, and through our Embassies in Africa to contribute to and encourage an ambitious and effective EU-Africa partnership. A planned EU-AU Ministerial meeting in 2023 will build on the Summit outcomes and will likely focus on implementation of the Africa-Europe Investment Package.

Africa Unit leads on implementation of the strategic objectives set out in Ireland's Africa Strategy (encompassing political, economic, cultural and development relations). The Unit seeks to enhance political relationships in Africa through Ministerial visits and other political engagements, through strategic engagement with African partners and regional organisations, and ensure that a strong African perspective informs our understanding, relationships and messaging. As we end our tenure on the UN Security Council, Africa Unit continues to seek out opportunities at EU, UN and other multilateral fora to promote and amplify consistent and appropriate messaging in relation to peace and security in Africa, and the importance of democratic processes, the rule of law, human rights, and Women Peace and Security.

In 2023, Africa Unit will provide close and on-going support to the opening of a new Embassy in Dakar, Senegal. The Embassy in Dakar will enhance Ireland's bilateral relations with Senegal and contribute towards the advancing of Ireland's strategic interests in francophone West Africa and the Sahel. In particular, the new Embassy will support accessing the significant potential that the region holds for Irish trade in goods and services and will act as a platform for a deepening of Ireland's development cooperation programme in the Central Sahel.

Indicative Development Budget Allocations to African Partner Countries in 2023

	2023 €000s
Ethiopia	32,000
Kenya	1,850
Liberia	4,750
Malawi	16,500
Mozambique	27,000
Nigeria	160
Senegal	750
Sierra Leone	10,750
South Africa	1,700
Tanzania	23,000
Uganda	18,250
Zambia	5,000
Zimbabwe	5,800
Horn of Africa Regional Programme	5,000
Southern Africa Regional Programme	1,100
Total	153,610

## Horn of Africa

### *Current issues and priorities*



**Current context:** As an historic four-season drought devastates the region, tens of millions in the Horn of Africa (HoA) are experiencing acute food insecurity, with hundreds of thousands in famine-like conditions in parts of Ethiopia, Somalia and South Sudan. Compounding the drought's effects, Russia's invasion of Ukraine – and the impact on global grain, fertiliser and energy supplies – has had a disproportionate impact on a region facing ongoing political turmoil and conflict. From the conflict in Ethiopia, the Al-Shabaab insurgency in Somalia, to the military coup and new conflict cycles in Sudan, Eritrean regional military expansion, and tensions over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), the development and peace gains of recent years are now under threat. Further complicating effective engagement are shifting geopolitical dynamics: the HoA has seen a surge in involvement by Gulf States, Turkey, China and Russia.

**Ireland's role in the Horn:** There has been a consistent history of solidarity from Ireland with the people of the HoA, from leadership positions in the donor community (Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia) to peacekeeping and EU military and civilian defence mission deployments (Somalia, Ethiopia-Eritrea, and Chad/Sudan/CAR borders). A growing African-Irish diaspora is also creating opportunities for strengthened cultural, science, education and trade links.

Ireland has two Embassies in the HoA: Addis Ababa (accredited to Ethiopia, South Sudan, Djibouti, the African Union (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)) and Nairobi (Kenya, Sudan, Somalia and Eritrea). Embassy Addis oversees Ireland's largest development programme (€32m for 2023) that focuses on advancing peace and security; strengthening governance and gender equality; and addressing humanitarian need. The Nairobi Embassy programme (€1.85m for 2023) focuses on trade promotion; agriculture; STEM education and opportunities through Young Scientist Kenya; and addressing gender inequality and inclusive governance.

Since September, the Government announced additional emergency funding of €33.2m to address the emergency in the HoA, and a further €15m over 3 years to tackle child wasting in the Horn. This funding adds to spending of €180m in the Horn in 2021/2022, including over €82 million in the five countries of secondary accreditation (Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan).

**Political engagement and priorities:** Ireland has taken a prominent policy role on the HoA within the EU and at the UN Security Council, while deepening bilateral relations with states in the region.





## Brief for Minister of State, December 2022

### Humanitarian Unit (HU), DCAD

#### Overview

Reducing humanitarian need is one of the four key priorities set out in A Better World<sup>1</sup>. Ireland is recognised as a strong, predictable donor, whose assistance is provided based on the humanitarian principles of independence, neutrality, impartiality and humanity. We have a focus on those most in need, including women, girls and people living with disabilities.

During our term at the UN Security Council Ireland has consistently called for respect for international humanitarian law and has underlined the need for full, safe and unhindered humanitarian access. On 9 December Ireland, with the US, secured the landmark adoption of a resolution providing a horizontal humanitarian carve-out across all UN sanctions regimes.

Over the last year the numbers of people in need of humanitarian assistance has increased by 50 million, now a staggering 324 million. The financial ask is the largest ever at €51 billion – with funding levels at 47%. The increasing number and duration of humanitarian crises means that the gap between humanitarian needs and available funding is widening, and the illegal war in Ukraine, including its wider impacts on global food security, has stretched the humanitarian system to its limits.

In the face of these escalating needs, Ireland's funding for humanitarian response has increased steadily in recent years. Ireland provided over €228 of humanitarian funding in 2021 (across Government and including EU and multilateral contributions). This accounts for over 23% of total ODA. Ireland ranks amongst the top twenty humanitarian donors in terms of total humanitarian support, and averages around 10<sup>th</sup> when considering humanitarian assistance as a % of GNI.

Ireland was able to respond at speed in 2022 to sudden emergencies including the invasion of Ukraine, the earthquake in Afghanistan and the floods in Pakistan. A significant additional contribution of €30m to support millions of people across the Horn of Africa facing famine, was released in December. The UN has warned of unprecedented levels of need in 2023 with the situation in many crisis hit countries compounded by the lingering impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, conflict and economic shocks. To respond effectively the Humanitarian Unit's budget has increased from €113 million in 2022 to €132 million in 2023.

While Ireland supports large-scale crises such as Syria and Ukraine, protracted and more low profile crises such as Sudan and Central African Republic remain front and centre to our response. At least 90% of our country specific funding supports the most severe crises.

Ireland's funding is directed through a range of trusted partners – primarily the UN, the International Red Cross Movements (ICRC & IFRC) and NGOs. These partners have the experience and capacity to deliver assistance to the most vulnerable and hard to reach populations.

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<sup>1</sup> Ireland's Policy for International Development launched in 2019

Ireland provides life-saving assistance when necessary, but ultimately, our focus must remain on addressing the root causes of humanitarian need – in particular, conflict and climate change. In this regard, we support early action that anticipates shocks before the onset of a large-scale humanitarian crisis. This approach is both more effective and better value for money.

### 2023 Priorities

In 2023 HU will programme €74 million for crisis-specific appeals – this significant increase in dedicated funding for crises around the world includes funding to Ukraine, the Middle East, the Sahel, Sub Saharan Africa, Afghanistan, Myanmar and Venezuela. This funding is delivered for the most part through UN agencies and other international humanitarian organisations best placed to respond on the ground.

A total of €28.4 million is allocated as core funding to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA). These organisations are key actors within the international humanitarian assistance and emergency response system.

€12.5 million is allocated to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) which supports rapid response, at scale, and €6.5 million is budgeted for sudden onset emergencies, ensuring that Ireland supports its partners to respond immediately to unforeseen emergencies which may occur in 2023. €1.9 million is allocated to the START Network, an innovative initiative that helps countries prepare for future disasters. €3.6 million is allocated to the Rapid Response Initiative, which funds the rapid deployment of experts to support UN partners' humanitarian efforts and prepositioning of emergency stocks for immediate release when disasters strike.

Support to Irish NGOs providing humanitarian aid will, from 2023, be part of the new NGO partnership scheme 'Ireland's Civil Society Partnership for *A Better World*' (ICSP) which brings together funding for humanitarian and development work under one umbrella grant under the budget of the Civil Society Unit. Humanitarian Unit will continue to engage closely with Irish NGOs on their humanitarian work.

Further smaller amounts are allocated to key thematic areas including Humanitarian Mine Action (€2.5 million) and Humanitarian Research and good practice (€800,000) to support a strengthened humanitarian system and ensure that Ireland's humanitarian response is informed by international best practice.

A commitment to gender equality is one of the four key priorities in Ireland's development policy. €2 million will be allocated to Gender and Protection programmes in humanitarian situations in 2023 through the International Rescue Committee (IRC), a longstanding partner.

## Policy Unit

### Overview

The Policy Unit of the Development Cooperation and Africa Division (DCAD) of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) provides policy leadership for the implementation of the overarching priorities guiding Ireland's international development and humanitarian work.

A Better World, Ireland's policy for international development, provides the framework for our development cooperation programme. A whole-of-government policy, A Better World affirms Ireland's commitment to realising the central pledge of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to reach 'the furthest behind first'. To do so, Ireland focuses our efforts on four policy priorities: gender equality, reducing humanitarian need, climate action and strengthening governance. The policy also outlines a commitment to intensively work in three clusters of interventions where Ireland has proven expertise - protection, food and people. Policy Unit engages substantively across these development policy priorities and most of Ireland's core sectors of operation, including health, education and food.

Policy Unit also represents Ireland in relevant global policy fora (UN, EU, OECD DAC), generates policy analysis, evidence and recommendations through a range of research and policy-focused partnerships, and leads on support to a range of domestic partners with international development programmes and interests. The Unit also provides technical support to our bilateral programmes and other units and divisions, particularly in the implementation of A Better World.

### 2023 Priorities

2023 will see a 31% increase in Policy Unit funding, amounting to more than €23 million, and largely in response to an evolving development landscape. The 2023 budget includes increases for major multi-annual pledges across the unit – including in investment by education, health and food teams.

In response to the alarming global food and nutrition security crisis and its pronounced impact on the poorest countries, 2023 will see Policy Unit lead on a new commitment to tackle wasting and child malnutrition, with associated financial increases in the Food, Health and Social Protection teams. Ireland will look to match this targeted support with systemic efforts to advance solutions that transform food systems with a focus on sustainable agriculture and nutrition.

Global Health continues to be a major priority for Ireland, and in 2023 this will be reflected in increased contributions to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, as well as the World Health Organisation (WHO). This will be complemented by a deepening of Ireland's support to public health in emergencies, and a new initiative on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights. As Ireland's approach to Conflict and Fragility evolves, additional funding will enable a more strategic and coherent approach to DFA's work across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Triple Nexus, to be led by Policy Unit, to be complemented by new work on misinformation and disinformation.

### Selected 2023 High Level Events

- African Food Summit, Dakar, January 25-27
- Education Cannot Wait, High-Level Financing Conference in February 2023
- Ireland's Participation in the Commission of Status of Women, March 6-17, 2023.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> US-led Summit for Democracy taking place end of March 2023.
- World Health Assembly on May 21-30, Geneva
- UNGA High Level Week – event on Tuberculosis and Universal Health Coverage, as well as the SDG Summit – Ireland will co-facilitate the Summit's Political Declaration (with Qatar)
- Stocktake of the UN Food Systems Summit, July
- Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Global Gathering for 2023
- COP 28 in Dubai, with a strengthened focus on food systems and agriculture

## Policy Unit Teams Overview

### Gender

A Better World establishes gender equality as one of four central policy priorities for Ireland's development cooperation. The majority of Ireland's ODA expenditure in advancing gender equality is integrated through other budget lines including for humanitarian assistance, civil society, and multi-lateral and bilateral country programme support. The Gender Equality team's priority is to support the mainstreaming of gender equality across the ODA. It does this through convening a community of practice on gender equality across vote 27 missions and a network of gender equality focal points in the department, organising seminars, preparing guidance and resources, and the provision of technical assistance. The goal of 2023 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment budget line of €900k is to support specific commitments on gender equality in A Better World through targeted partnerships.

The gender equality team engages in a number of fora and networks. In 2023 Ireland will be co-chair of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee GenderNet Bureau. The team is also the Irish Focal point for EU Gender Experts Group and the Global Alliance for Feminist Movements. The gender team is also the focal point on the Oversight Group for National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security. The team will work closely with the Human Rights Unit in supporting Ireland's Participation in the Commission of Status of Women, March 6-17, 2023.

### Education

A Better World makes a commitment to scale up support for education, with a focus on education in emergencies and girls' education, and the overarching principle to reach the furthest behind first, including through a commitment to spend €250M on education by 2023. The Global Partnership for Education is Ireland's largest global education partner, and funding will continue to strengthen national education systems to deliver equitable, inclusive and quality education for all children, including through the Girls' Education Accelerator. In 2023 it is intended that GPE's hosting arrangement is finalised with positive impact on GPE, and that the MOPAN Organisational Assessment of GPE is completed and followed with appropriate management response.

Ireland's support prioritises response to the crisis of children and young people affected by emergencies and conflict. Our support to Education Cannot Wait in 2023 will help to ensure that the new Strategic Plan is implemented and adequately resourced, including at the High-Level Financing Conference in February 2023. Support to the Africa Code Week Women Empowerment Workshops programme strengthens digital skills for educators, and research is undertaken on the impacts for education systems and learners.

### Health

The Department of Foreign Affairs' global Health budget of €39 million supports major multilateral partners, NGOs, and Irish domestic health partners for the delivery of SDG 3 health and wellbeing for all, with a focus on women and children. Recent years have seen a significant evolution in the financial and human resources devoted to global health issues within DFA, largely led by the Policy Unit Health Team.

A key priority for 2023 includes sustaining a response against HIV, TB and malaria, primarily through a €21 million payment to the Global Fund for HIV, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic, another critical priority will be ensuring more equitable access to vaccines and vaccination as an effective approach to disease prevention, including a €4 million award to GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance. The World Health Organisation (WHO) remains a key partner for Ireland – in 2023, DFA will provide up to €7.55 million in voluntary contributions to WHO in 2023, including our contributions to WHO's core budget, crisis response work, as well as efforts to tackle wasting.

A new initiative on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) will be launched in 2023, alongside €1 million to UNESCO's O3 comprehensive sexuality education programme, €1 million to International Planned Parenthood Federation. Of major importance to Ireland's global health work are our domestic Irish partnerships, including the Irish Global Health Network (€120,000), the Health Service Executive's (HSE) Global Health Programme (up to €200,000) and €500,000 to the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland/College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECA) partnership. Major global health events in 2023 include the World Health Assembly on May 21-30, three High Level events during UNGA in September on TB, universal health coverage and PPR, and World AIDS Day on 1 December with the Irish Aid-sponsored Fr Michael Kelly event.

### **Disability**

The Department of Foreign Affairs launched its Gender Equality Diversity and Inclusion Policy (GEDI) in February 2022 and DFA plays an important role in bringing disability inclusion into the international arena. Different units deliver this across the department, including Human Rights Unit, Policy Unit and others. Development Cooperation and Africa division promotes inclusion and support to civil society, including organizations of persons with disabilities, to strengthen the drivers of inclusion in the development cooperation programmes worldwide.

15% of the world's population experiences a disability of some form. 80% of those people live in developing countries. In A Better World, Ireland commits to addressing the rights and needs of vulnerable people, including those with disabilities, and translate global commitments into tangible development impact. Ireland adopts a twin track approach to disability inclusion therefore integrating disability across all areas of work (mainstreaming) as well as provision of direct support to civil society working with Persons with Disabilities. In 2019 DFA adopted the OECD DAC Disability Marker to track progress on disability expenditure and joined the UN Global Action on Disability (GLAD) network which is a coordination network of likeminded donors committed to Disability Inclusive Development. Given the impact of Covid-19 on Persons with Disability, in 2022 DFA is conducting a mapping of the disability initiatives to inform and define a longer-term strategic approach to Disability Inclusive Development across the department and enhance alignment with article 32 of the UN CRPD.

### **Social Protection**

In A Better World, the Government of Ireland identifies social protection as an important policy instrument to reduce poverty and inequality, and progress many of the sustainable development goals including human development, gender equality and inclusive economic growth.

Irish Aid's Social Protection priorities include strengthening social protection systems and advancing a rights based and universal approach to social protection, particularly in the context of UN's Secretary-General Calls for accelerated action on jobs and social protection to avoid an uneven global recovery and prevent future crises. This includes advocating for sustainable financing for social protection, through enhanced domestic resource mobilisation, strengthened public administration, and international solidarity, especially for low income countries.

To ensure that our social protection work informs and is guided by international best practice we are active in a number of global social protection bodies, including the Social Protection Inter-Agency Coordination Board (SPIAC-B) and the OECD Steering Committee on Policy Dialogue for Social Protection. The DFA also collaborate with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Innovation (D/ETE) and with the Department of Social Protection (DSP) on a needs basis including on the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and on the International Labour Conference.

## Food

There have been significant disruptions in the world's food systems in 2022, resulting in a major deterioration in food and nutrition security. Prior to the invasion of Ukraine, global food and nutrition security was already considerably strained - driven by the effects of climate change and the lingering impacts of COVID-19 - and has only worsened in the time since. In 2023 the Department of Foreign Affairs Food Team will redouble Irish efforts and investments to deliver on commitments made at the UN Food Systems and Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summits in 2021 and at UNGA 2022, while enhancing engagement with global food and nutrition security platforms and governance.

This will include close collaboration with partners such as CGIAR, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), the World Bank, Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Networks and others. This effort will be underpinned by significant additional financial resources allocated to our work to advance sustainable food systems transformation, combat wasting and childhood malnutrition, and to develop our work on women's economic empowerment and private sector engagement in rural settings.

Major Events in 2023 include the African Food Summit taking place in Dakar in January; the July Stocktake of the UN Food Systems Summit (date & location tbc); the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Global Gathering for 2023 and; COP 28 due to take place in Dubai, with a strengthened focus on food systems and agriculture.

## Fragility

Ireland is increasingly working in fragile and conflict affected contexts where enhanced coordination and context analysis is required to ensure that we are operating effectively with others, and doing no harm. Ireland's efforts to implement the OECD DAC Recommendation on the Humanitarian Development Peace Nexus will be enhanced by internal coordination across teams in DFA working on peace and conflict issues, and by increased engagement with missions on peacebuilding and conflict sensitivity. This new work programme (€115,000) will capitalise on cross-DFA coordination to support a strategic regional approach to the food security and climate crisis in the Horn of Africa, which could exacerbate political instability and conflict drivers. Finally, Ireland relies on robust international measurements of poverty to guide our development cooperation work. In 2023, we will support the international infrastructure on poverty measurement through the World Bank Umbrella Fund on Poverty and Equity with a €100,000 grant.

## Research & Learning

Research and learning is identified as one of the five criteria for action to enable 'doing things differently' in *A Better World*. This acknowledges the need to prioritise learning and to situate research and evidence centrally within Ireland's development cooperation programme. DFA view research as a public good, and support research for development through partnerships with the state agencies including Science Foundation Ireland, Irish Research Council, and the Marine Institute. The partnerships are based on research challenge calls, supporting multi-disciplinary international teams, with researchers in Ireland and Irish Aid partner countries.

A small number of other partnerships support academia, capacity building and impact evaluation within the Irish research and civil society space. Our funding to research partners contributes to strengthening the focus of the research sector on international development. For 2023, our research agenda will build on existing partnerships, the dissemination of results of the projects we have funded, and engagement within DCAD and with the Department of Further and Higher Education on a new research strategy.

## Governance

The Governance team in the Policy Unit manages a portfolio of partners working on accountability, domestic resource mobilisation and democracy initiatives. The team also supports the wider Governance Network comprised of mission colleagues working in these areas and related areas such as support to human rights defenders and civil society space.

Priorities in 2023 will include advancing the whole-of-Government *“strengthening domestic resource mobilisation in developing countries”* initiative with Department of Finance and the Revenue Commissioners. The Governance team will also seek to develop new partnerships working on information integrity and public interest media. Following through on the action areas for improved mission programming (on governance) will also be a central focus, as will engaging with the Team Europe Democracy initiatives, including at country-level. 2023 will also see the second US-led Summit for Democracy taking place end of March 2023.

*DCAD Policy Unit*

*13 December 2022*

## Climate Unit Overview

Climate Unit was established in Q4 2020 pursuant to the Programme for Government to strengthen Ireland's contribution to international climate action, including via support to climate financing and diplomacy, in collaboration with other Government Departments.

As part of this, the Climate Unit currently undertakes ongoing capacity building across the Department on climate issues and provides on-demand support for Embassies and HQ Units.

Climate Unit also leads on the Department's main climate policy and financing priorities, which are currently: supporting climate adaptation and loss and damage; protecting oceans and promoting a sustainable blue economy; and promoting the links between climate and security. In 2022, Loss and Damage was a major focus contributing to Ireland's key role at COP27 in helping to reach a historic agreement in this area. These priorities will be reviewed in early 2023 as part of an enhanced approach to scaling-up climate diplomacy across the Department.

A key focus of our work is working across Government to achieve the climate finance target announced by Taoiseach Micheál Martin at COP26 in November 2021, to more than double Ireland's climate finance to at least €225 million per year by 2025. The Government approved Ireland's International Climate Finance Roadmap in July 2022 and Climate Unit leads on the implementation of this Roadmap in collaboration with other Government Departments.

At the heart of the Roadmap is the over-arching commitment to *Reaching the Furthest Behind First*. This includes explicit targeting for climate support in the poorest and most climate vulnerable countries, and reaching the most vulnerable people, including women and those living in fragile contexts.

As part of the implementation of the Roadmap, Climate Unit provides strategic direction and support to the scaling up of climate finance within Ireland's international development programme. The Unit manages partners who provide analysis, evidence and knowledge to inform programme development, and provides direct support to HQ and Embassy-based colleagues. The Unit also finances a number of initiatives focused on key global opportunities, challenges and gaps within the climate action space, particularly within Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

In line with the Roadmap commitments, €25 million in additional climate finance has been allocated to DFA for 2023, to address the worsening impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on the world's most vulnerable communities. In line with Ireland's international climate finance commitments, this represents a significant increase in dedicated resources for strengthening resilience of communities that feel the impact of climate change first, and most fiercely.

Another key priority for 2023 is climate-proofing all of Ireland's Official Development Assistance (ODA) in order that all of our programming takes into account the increasing and diverse impacts of climate change.



**Key 2023 Outputs**

- An enhanced approach to integrating climate action across DFA HQ units and Missions including targeted climate diplomacy based on a refreshed set of Departmental priorities.
- The implementation of key commitments made in Ireland's International Climate Finance Roadmap, including scaling up climate financing through Ireland's bilateral development programming via a First Mover Fund and through our support to Irish NGOs working in developing countries.
- Conclude implementation of a methodology for climate proofing ODA.

**Key 2023 Events:**

- Our Oceans Conference – Panama, March 2023
- Berlin Climate and Security Conference – Berlin, October 2023
- COP28 – Dubai, November 2023

## Multilateral Unit - UN & International Financial Institutions

The UN & IFIs Unit coordinates Ireland's funding and engagement with the multilateral development system (United Nations agencies, World Bank and other international financial institutions). The mandates and programmes of our UN and IFI partners align with the goals and targets of Ireland's international development priorities, as set out in *A Better World*. Support to the UN and IFIs complements our bilateral programmes, in delivering development results; contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It allows Ireland to have an impact at a global level and in geographic locations where DFA does not have a strong development presence as well as enabling Ireland to respond to crises quickly and flexibly.

The Unit is responsible for engagement with, and coordinating Ireland's position in, a number of policy areas - including the SDGs, and UN development policy and reform. The unit works in close co-operation with other Units within DCAD and across DFAT, and with other Government Departments. The Unit will support the Permanent Representative to the UN in carrying out his role as co-facilitator of the SDG Summit negotiations in 2023.

The total proposed expenditure for UN & IFIs Unit in 2023 is €57,317,000, a 44% increase (€18m) on 2022. The bulk of the increase will be allocated towards countering the direct and broader global implications of the invasion of Ukraine. The expenditure is broken down as:

- €35.375m to UN Multilateral Voluntary and Assessed Contributions (e.g. UNICEF, UNDP, UN Women, UNFPA)
- €18m to World Bank Group, IMF and Regional Development Banks
- €3.73m to UN Trust Funds and Projects (e.g. Trust Fund for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Women Count)
- €212,000 to other International Organisations (Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network)

### Priorities

Ireland supports efforts by the multilateral system in achieving the SDGs worldwide, in building and keeping peace, improving human well-being and advancing human rights and the rule of law. Core funding is provided to UN agencies that have a strong track record in supporting democratic governance, providing critical services such as education and health for children, responding to humanitarian disasters and ensuring sexual and reproductive health and rights. It also supports a range of other international and regional institutions involved in development activities, including peacebuilding and electoral reform, education and training, assistance to refugees, protection of human rights, combating HIV/AIDS, developing health systems and environmental protection.

The funding allocated to the World Bank Group, IMF and Regional Development banks support a range of development initiatives, including food systems research, support to Ukraine and Moldova in 2023; the Ireland-Small Island Developing States Trust Fund at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the provision of funding through the African Development Bank (AfDB) to support climate resilience in Africa.

Multilateral UN & IFIs Unit

### **Multilateral Unit EU input to Ministerial Brief**

Approximately a quarter of Ireland's Official Development Assistance goes through the European Union institutions – the Commission and the European Investment Bank – mostly as assessed contributions (which includes both Ireland's contribution to the EU's general budget and assessed contributions to EU instruments outside the general budget). *This amounted to over €260 million in 2021.*

Multilateral Unit-EU in the Development Cooperation and Africa Division in DFA is the Divisional focal point for EU development financing and engagement, working with the Perm Rep in Brussels, our Missions network, and across DFA and other Departments to ensure that Ireland plays a strong role in shaping, and monitoring the effectiveness of, EU development policy. This is significant, as the EU and its Member States contribute over half of all ODA globally.

There are several aspects to the work of the Unit.

First, the Unit has an informal coordination role for Team Europe Initiatives (TEIs) and Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI – Global Europe). TEIs grew out of the EU's collective global response to Covid-19 - encompassing the European Commission, the Member States, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) – known as *Team Europe*. TEIs are about bringing together those different actors to achieve an additional development impact, and many of these will help deliver the Global Gateway initiative. NDICI-Global Europe brings together 10 previous development and external action instruments under one Regulation with an almost €80 billion budget over 7 years. There are geographic and thematic priorities as well as a Rapid Response Pillar and a reserve/cushion for unforeseen crises. The ongoing implementation of NDICI-GE, TEIs and GG will be a point of focus for the Unit in 2023.

Secondly, the new legal treaty between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of states, to replace the Cotonou Partnership Agreement of 2000. The initialling ceremony took place on 16 April 2021 attended (virtually) by EU and ACP leadership, including Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica (representing the Caribbean). In attendance also was Jutta Urpilainen, EU Commissioner for International Partnerships (the EU chief negotiator) and Robert Dussey, Minister for Foreign

Affairs, African Integration and Togolese Abroad, Republic of Togo (the OACPS chief negotiator).

This new agreement will govern the relations between the EU and 79 developing countries - 1.5 billion people in all - spanning political relations, trade and development cooperation. It was expected that the Agreement would be ratified by the end of 2021, but just before Christmas of that year Hungary indicated that they would block ratification due to references in the Agreement to legal migration. A transition arrangement of the existing agreement was put in place and an extension of this arrangement is in place until June 2023.

*The Post-Cotonou agreement will require a legislative process in the Oireachtas, as each Member State will need to ratify it.*

Finally, there are a number of related engagements that over the coming period will see engagement by DCAD across DFA and other Government Departments. Multilateral Unit-EU continues to work across the Department and with the Department of Justice and Equality and others on the issue of **migration**, with a focus on the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Ireland is also supporting a number of important 'aid for trade' initiatives, working with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and others on World Trade Organisation (WTO) and other efforts aimed at addressing the trade-related constraints identified by developing and least-developed countries. Priorities foreseen for 2023 include conclusion of a revised EU Generalised Scheme of Preferences (preferential trade regime for developing countries); conclusion of an interim Economic Partnership Agreement with Kenya and a deepened Economic Partnership Agreement with Eastern and Southern African countries; and preparations for the 13<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference due to be held in early 2024.

MLU-EU is also active in the development finance space and is active in influencing the EU's policy in this space via our roles in the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD+), and the EIB's new development/international branch EIB Global. This work builds on the Council Conclusions on the European Financial Architecture for Development (EFAD) from 2021 and is an area where we work in collaboration with colleagues in the Department of Finance.

## Business Support Unit

The overarching role of the Business Support Unit is to support the Division in the delivery of the Department's international development programme. In particular, the Unit has responsibility for

- The promotion of transparency and accountability through effective data analysis and meeting our reporting obligations, both domestic and international.
- The development of processes and guidance to inform strategic planning and drive results based management.
- The facilitation of Knowledge Management and Learning within the Division and across the Department.
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### Priorities for 2023

- o Building on from the work on the updated Missions Strategy Guidance and on the Recommendations of the DAC Peer Review, strengthening capacities to manage for results across the system;
- o Ensuring that best practice in safeguarding is at the core of our work, both internally and externally. Specifically for Development Cooperation and Africa Division supporting Human Resources Division where necessary with rollout of Safeguarding training and associated Standard Operating Procedures and the Designated Safeguarding Officer training. BSU will take the lead on the Grants Management and Safeguarding guidance;
- o Building on recommendations of the DAC Peer Review, agree a coherent approach to knowledge management with a plan in place for strengthening our overall approach;
- o Support the development, rollout and implementation of an optimal single end-to-end electronic grant management system;
- o Ensure Ireland's policy priorities are reflected in the standards and recommendations for development cooperation that the DAC leads on;
- o Delivering a positive DAC Mid Term Peer Review for Ireland that demonstrates progress against the 2020 DAC Peer Review with constructive recommendations that strengthen Ireland's programme;
- o Completing a Peer Review of the Czech Republic, and assisting them in their growth as a development cooperation provider;
- o Successfully negotiate a High Level Ministerial communique that ensures ODA is targeted to where it will have the most benefit;

- Contributing to an OECD Africa Strategy that responds to the needs of sub Saharan Africa and our programme countries.
- Continuing to invest in the reform of the OECD Development Centre ensuring it delivers for its membership.

## DCAD Secretariat

The role of the Secretariat is to provide a range of support functions to the Division. It is responsible for ensuring the coordination of all PQs, the timely provision of briefing material and the answering of Ministerial correspondence and website queries from members of the public.

It acts as Secretary to the Senior Management Group (Director General and Heads of Units), which meets twice a month to agree expenditure proposals, approve policy initiatives and generally assist the DG in the management of the Irish Aid programme.

The Secretariat is also responsible for the management of the office premises in Dublin and Limerick and related issues, as well as liaising with the Department's Human Resources Division on workforce planning and the filling of vacancies as they arise.

In addition, the Secretariat coordinates the production of the Irish Aid Annual Report and assists, together with Policy Unit, in the development of the IDC document, which sets out our detailed spending plans for the following year. The 250 page document is approved by an Inter-Departmental Committee each December.

Key priorities in 2023 include:

- Managing the move of the Division from its current location in Hatch Street to new premises in Bishops Square;
- Overseeing the completion of a Management Review of Ireland's development assistance programme;
- Publication of the 2022 Annual Report;
- Ensuring that staff vacancies are filled as quickly as possible;

## Global Programmes and Global Citizenship Education Unit

The Global Programmes and Global Citizenship Education Unit is responsible for:

- Development programmes outside of Africa, in particular in South East Asia and Palestine, and the implementation of Ireland's Strategy for Partnership with Small Island Developing States;
- The Ireland Fellows scholarship programme;
- Global Citizenship Education activity in Ireland, which supports efforts to strengthen formal and non-formal education and public engagement with issues such as Climate Change, hunger, human rights and global inequality, including via the Irish Aid centre.
- The Stability Fund, which supports projects designed to promote peace and stability, and the In-Country Micro Projects Scheme, which provides Irish diplomatic missions with funding for small projects in their countries of accreditation.

### Development programmes outside of Africa

Ireland's primary development programmes outside of Africa are in Palestine and South East Asia.

#### **Palestine**

The Palestine programme is run from Ireland's Representative Office to the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah in the West Bank of the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt). Ireland's overall expenditure in the oPt in 2023 will be in the order of €16m, with €14m coming from the Palestine programme budget and the remaining €2m provided to NGOs from the Civil Society budget.

The programme's stated aim is to contribute to preserving the space for a two-state solution. It has four interlinked areas of intervention: (i) the enhancement of Palestinian institution-building and national development capacity; (ii) humanitarian assistance and protection for vulnerable populations; (iii) promotion of human rights and democratisation; and (iv) humanitarian support for Palestine refugees.

Primary elements of the programme include support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine refugees in the Near East which provides critical services such as education and healthcare to Palestine refugees. In 2023, Ireland will provide €6m to UNRWA under the terms of a funding agreement concluded in 2021.

The programme has a strong focus on education, and in 2023 we will provide €3m to the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Education to strengthen the education system. Ireland also brings 25 Palestinians to Ireland each year to undertake a post-graduate degree under the Ireland Fellows programme (see below).

Other programme strands include support for NGOs working in the areas of accountability, human rights and democratisation; and a project with the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and Palestinian Water Authority to develop a solar energy project in Gaza to power a sewage treatment plant, reducing demand from the grid, alleviating the pollution of the Gaza aquifer and allowing treated water to be used for irrigation.



## South East Asia

The South East Asia programme, also known as the Mekong Delta programme, is run from our embassy in Hanoi, Vietnam. It covers Vietnam, Cambodia and Lao PDR and has a budget of €8m in 2023.



Vietnam has had impressive success in reducing poverty in recent decades and is making good progress towards graduating to middle income country status. However, pockets of poverty and deprivation persist in some areas - mostly in remote mountainous parts of the country populated by ethnic minorities and these areas are the focus of much of Ireland's support.

Cambodia and Laos are less developed, with substantial proportions of the population living below the national poverty lines: 18% in Laos and 13% in Cambodia. Literacy rates are significantly lower than in Vietnam and economic challenges are considerable, in particular as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of which has fallen disproportionately on the most vulnerable citizens. Incomes have reduced significantly and this has reduced poor people's ability to meet basic needs and access health care services. Vulnerable communities are being pushed deeper into poverty, potentially reversing decades of poverty reduction.

DFA will adopt a new multi-year strategy for this programme in early 2023. It will involve a stronger focus on Cambodia and Lao, given their relative weakness compared to Vietnam and will target the poorest ethnic minority communities. Priority areas are likely to include governance, education, nutrition, climate action and demining. The latter is a longstanding focus of this programme given the large quantities of unexploded ordnance in all three countries as a consequence of the Vietnam War.

## Small Island Developing States, Central America

Global Programmes Unit is also responsible for coordinating Ireland's relationship with Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and is in the process of developing a second national strategy for our relationship with these countries, with a view to its launch in the first half of 2023. SIDS are spread across the African, Asia-Pacific and Caribbean regions and are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and economic shocks. The new strategy is likely to have a strong focus on Climate Change, ocean management and capacity building.

2023 will also see the development of a new policy for development in Central America. A scoping visit to Guatemala and Honduras will take place in the first quarter of 2023 with a view to developing a package of assistance to be managed from Ireland's new Office for Central America in Mexico.

## Ireland Fellows Programme

Since 1974, the Ireland Fellows Programme has brought promising candidates to Ireland from partner countries to study for a Master's level qualification. Beneficiaries can opt for a wide range of courses designed to equip them to contribute to their home country's development. 166 Fellowships were awarded in 2022, with the majority of Fellows coming from Africa countries. Others come from Small Island Developing States, Latin America, Palestine and South East Asia. The Ireland Fellows budget in 2022 is €9.8m and the programme is managed on a day-to-day basis by the Irish Council for International Students (ICOS).

**Global Citizenship Education**

Global Citizenship Education (GCE) aims to inform and equip the public to engage with issues such as Climate Change and sustainability, hunger and global inequality. The Unit's work is guided by the Department's Strategy for GCE, which was launched in 2021 and encompasses a range of partnerships to promote GCE, including in the primary, secondary, Further and Higher Education, youth, adult and community sectors. The programme includes nine multi-annual strategic partnerships and 30 projects supported through the GCE grants scheme. Projects supported include the provision of class materials to teachers to facilitate the inclusion of GCE in lessons, the provision of training courses for educators and support for student societies as well as youth and community groups. These programmes include Global Village, which operates at primary level and World Wise Global Schools at post-primary. The Unit is also responsible for the Irish Aid Centre, which runs workshops for school children, including those in Transition Year. The GCE budget for 2022 is €7.3m.

**Stability Fund**

The Stability Fund budget line supports initiatives to promote peace and stability at a global, regional, national or local level. The 2023 budget is €7.22 million, which includes approximately €1.7 million for the deployment of Irish experts to EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) Civilian Crisis Management Missions. The balance of the budget will be allocated between approximately 40 partners, including civil society partner organisations, UN and other international bodies and regional organisations. The focus of these projects will be: conflict prevention and post-conflict stabilisation, peacebuilding, disarmament and non-proliferation and activities contributing to the implementation of Ireland's commitments under UNSCR 1325. 2023 funding will also support the peace process in Colombia and possible new initiatives in Central America.

**In-country Micro Projects Scheme**

The In-Country Micro Projects Scheme enables Irish diplomatic missions in a number of countries to support small projects carried out by local civil society organisations. 16 missions participate in the programme, namely Abuja, Amman, Ankara, Bangkok, Beijing, Bogotá, Brasília, Buenos Aires, Cairo, Canberra, Jakarta, Manila, Mexico, New Delhi, Santiago, and Wellington and the total budget in 2023 will be €900,000.

## Civil Society Unit Overview

### Civil Society Unit Overview

Ireland is amongst those donors which provides the highest proportion to aid to civil society organisations. The Civil Society Unit provides funding to a range of primarily Irish international NGOs for programmes and projects focused on reducing poverty in developing countries, responding to humanitarian need and promoting the understanding of global poverty in Ireland. The Unit provides support to almost every single country on the Global Development Index.

Ireland has a particularly strong indigenous international NGO sector. Some organisations existed before the aid programme was established and now have an excellent international reputation for effectiveness and leadership. These organisations are well placed to ensure aid reaches those to whom it is intended and this was well demonstrated during the COVID pandemic. The role of NGOs will continue to be essential given the significant erosion of development gains as a result of COVID, as well as increasing global food, energy and financial insecurity arising from the invasion of Ukraine.

The 2020 OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Peer Review of Ireland found that: *"Ireland's partnerships with civil society are particularly strong and are characterised by mutual trust, quality funding based on clear criteria and an open culture for substantive, regular dialogue... Partnerships with civil society are a hallmark of Ireland's development co-operation, exemplifying its global leadership in promoting civic space"*.

In 2023, the majority of support (€100 million) to Irish international development NGOs will be provided through a new funding scheme, entitled Ireland's Civil Society Partnership for A Better World. Approximately €19.12 million will be allocated for other strategic partnerships, including in relation to global citizenship education and international volunteering, human rights and the overseas projects of missionary organisations and €6 million will be provided to small and medium sized NGOs for overseas development projects.

The Civil Society Unit also manages Ireland's international election observation roster (€180,000). In addition, the Unit covers the pensions and PRSI contributions of eligible returned volunteers through the Public Service Pension Scheme and the Volunteer Development Worker Scheme (€50,000).

### Civil Society Unit Funding Streams

Ireland's Civil Society Partnership for A Better World (ICSP) is a major new five-year funding scheme for key Irish international development NGOs. It is an integrated and innovative scheme which covers long-term development programmes, long term humanitarian programmes for protracted crises, emergency humanitarian response and global citizenship education in Ireland. The 2023 budget totals €100 million. The scheme is worth

## Civil Society Unit Overview

€500 million over the planned five year period of its existence. The ten recipients will be *Concern, Trócaire, GOAL, Gorta, World Vision Ireland, Christian Aid Ireland, Plan Ireland, Oxfam Ireland, Sightsavers Ireland and Action Aid Ireland.*

The Civil Society Fund (CSF) provides funding to NGOs for overseas projects of between one and three years' duration. Currently, the maximum available grant is €400,000 per year. An annual funding round is advertised, usually in September. The 2023 Round was launched in September 2022 and applications are expected in January 2023. Recommendations will be sent to the Minister and Minister of State for approval. The current recipients are *A Partnership with Africa, Aidlink, Brighter Communities Worldwide, Christian Blind Mission Ireland, ECPAT International, Fields of Life Northern Ireland, Global Witness Trust, Gorta, Health Poverty Action, ILGA World, International Federation for Human Rights, Irish League of Credit Unions International Development Foundation, International Service For Human Rights, Martin Ennals Foundation, Minority Rights Group International, Nepal Leprosy Trust, Nurture Africa, Orbis Ireland, Proudly Made in Africa, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Saferworld, Serve in Solidarity, Social and Health Education Project, Tearfund Ireland, The Carter Center, The Leprosy Mission Northern Ireland, UCC, and UPR Info.*

The Unit also manages several other partnerships outside of these schemes. *Misean Cara* was established in 2004 with the support of the Department and provides grants to Irish missionary organisations for their projects in Africa, Asia and South America. It focuses on education, health, livelihoods, human rights and climate resilience. It currently receives €15.5 million per year from the Department. As such, amongst Irish NGOs, it is the third highest recipient of grants from the Department, after Concern and Trócaire. The Unit also supports *Dóchas*, the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Agencies. The funding includes support for a 'Worldview' research project which aims to deepen engagement with the Irish public on issues of global development, equality and citizenship. In addition, the Unit supports *Comhlámh*, the Association of Development Workers and Returned Volunteers. This partnership particularly contributes towards the National Volunteering Strategy and the Global Citizenship Education Strategy. In addition, the Unit supports *Frontline Defenders, Children in Crossfire, VITA and HelpAge.*

### Election Observation Roster

The Unit manages Ireland's international election observation roster, which is comprised of people who are available to participate in international election observation missions. Ireland nominates a combination of long and short-term observers. OSCE missions take place in OSCE participating States, while EU missions are mostly in Africa and, from time to time, in Latin America or Asia. The current roster is due to expire at the end of 2023. However, Ministerial approval will be sought to extend the term of the roster by eighteen months. This

## **Civil Society Unit Overview**

is approximately the length of time for which nominations were suspended due to COVID pandemic restrictions.

### International Volunteering

In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, the Unit continues to implement the relevant objective of the National Volunteering Strategy regarding international volunteering and provision of support to returned volunteers. This includes supporting returned volunteers through the Volunteer Development Worker Scheme and the Public Service Pension Scheme for volunteer development workers.