

Pre-Budget Submission 2022

June 2021



NowMore
ThanEver
dóchas

dóchas

The Irish Association
of Non-Governmental
Development Organisations

Ireland's Global Solidarity

Dóchas, the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations, calls on the Irish Government to act now on its commitment to reach the target of spending 0.7% of its GNI on Official Development Assistance (ODA) by 2030.

In Budget 2022, funding to ODA is needed **#NowMoreThanEver** if we are to show global solidarity in the wake of the triple crisis caused by the pandemic, climate change and conflict.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) remain a critical roadmap to allow Ireland to meet these complex challenges in partnership with the EU, the UN, Irish NGOs and other critical partners.

We must act now so that no-one is left behind. We must act now because no-one is safe until everyone is safe.

We welcome the Programme for Government commitment in 'Our Shared Future' to reach the internationally recognised target of 0.7% spend of GNI by 2030. To make this ambition a reality the Government needs to increase the pace by committing to reaching 0.5% over the course of its tenure to Budget 2025.

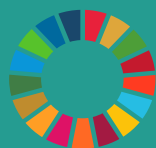
We are also encouraged by the Irish public's continued support for Official Development Assistance¹, and their recognition that the work of Irish NGOs makes a huge difference to people's lives and to local communities. It is this strong global solidarity that gives Ireland a platform to punch above its weight on development, humanitarian and human rights issues. It is part of who we are and the kind of society we want to be.

In light of the devastating impact of COVID-19, now more than ever, Budget 2022 needs to show leadership, solidarity and urgency.

ODA is vital if Ireland is to help tackle the triple threats of Covid-19, Climate Change and Conflict.



ODA is vital if Ireland is to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals, and its own international development policy, "A Better World".



ODA is vital if Ireland is to show principled leadership during its term on the UN Security Council.



¹ Dóchas' recent 'Worldview' survey found that two thirds of respondents expressed support for Official Development Assistance (ODA).

In Budget 2022, Dóchas urges the Government to act in five key areas:

1 Increase Ireland's Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget in Budget 2022. Increasing ODA in real terms will allow Ireland to keep pace with global needs now and in the post-COVID environment. This will also set Ireland on a targeted pathway to achieving 0.5% by 2025 and 0.7% by 2030.



2 Ensure additional and targeted financing for climate change mitigation and adaptation to support Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). This is critical to addressing the climate emergency, recognising the intricate relationship between the impacts of climate change - poverty and conflict.



3 Step up its call to protect human rights defenders and promote civil society at the EU, the UN Security Council, and in other international fora, in order to ensure inclusive approaches to humanitarian aid, development, conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building. In particular, Ireland needs to continue to recognise the value of women and girls, people living with a disability, and other marginalised groups.



4 As an EU member state, Ireland needs to advocate to ensure that the global community produces enough vaccine doses for everyone, everywhere. EU member states must ensure that COVID-19 vaccines are produced as widely as possible, through the sharing of technical knowledge and know how, free from patents.



5 Strengthen Ireland's global leadership on Zero Hunger by ensuring our ODA is responding to rapidly rising needs. In particular, use the opportunity of the UN Food Systems and Nutrition for Growth Summits to scale up significantly Ireland's investments in food security and nutrition between now and 2030, applying a food systems approach, which actively advances the right to food.



Official Development Assistance (ODA) is needed #NowMoreThanEver

Ireland is recognised globally for its principled and high-quality aid programme which lies at the heart of its “Global Ireland” strategy, and its international policy “A Better World”. In 2020, the OECD DAC’s (Development Assistance Committee) peer review of Ireland’s development cooperation programme said it was “strong, with many areas of excellence”, and that Ireland “walks the talk” in prioritising the furthest behind. Ireland was also said to be “a leading advocate for multilateralism”.

However, the OECD DAC did re-iterate its concern that despite growth in Ireland’s ODA budget, GNI relative to ODA had ‘stagnated.’ It therefore recommended that action was needed in order to match its political willingness to reach the target of 0.7% of GNI by 2030².

Dóchas welcomes the fact that the Government recognised last year that “as serious as the economic implications of restrictive measures to respond to Covid-19 are in Ireland, they do not compare to the potential impacts of the coronavirus in the global south”. Maintaining its promise in the Programme for Government to reach 0.7% of GNI is more urgent than ever.

“The crisis has a woman’s face, violence against women and girls in all forms has skyrocketed”

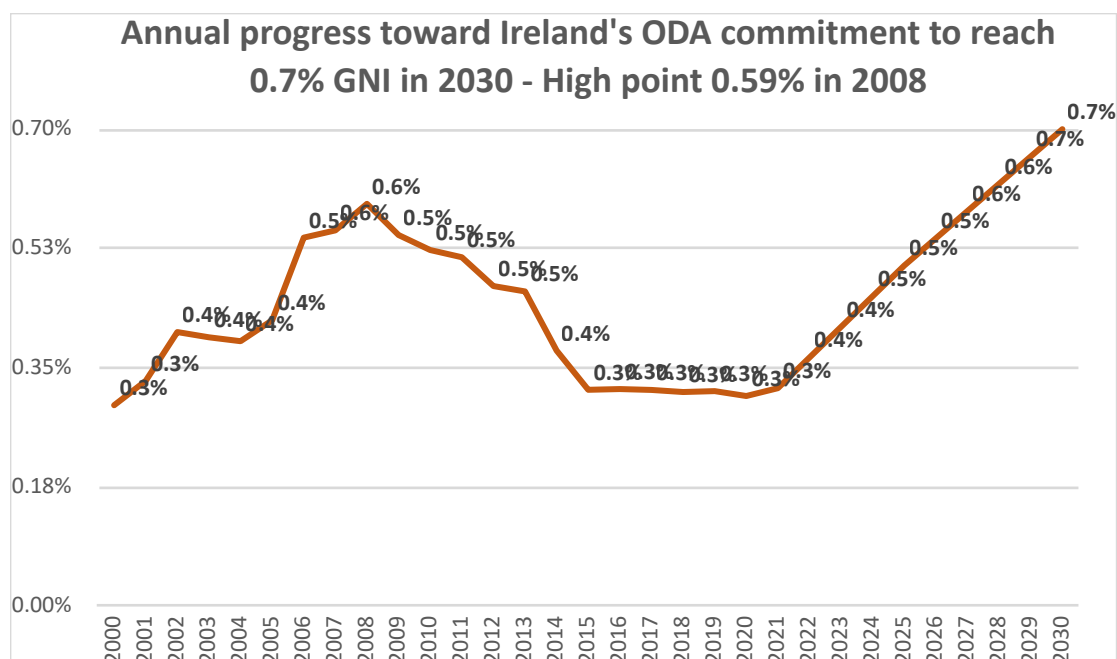


Table above based on 2021 ODA Figures announced by the Irish Government on 3 June 2021. Projections 2021 – 2030, calculations based on GNI growth figures 2020-2025 from <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/d3e2f-stability-programme-update-2021/> and linear growth in ODA as a percentage of GNI to reach 0.5% in 2025 and 0.7% in 2030.

The reality is that extreme poverty is expected to rise for the first time this century as a result of the economic devastation wrought by Covid-19³. The 2021 Global Report on Food Crises stated that 142 million people in 55 countries and territories were “in crisis or worse” last year, an increase of around 20 million people from 2019⁴. Those in need of humanitarian assistance and protection have risen in a single year from 1 in 45 people to 1 in 33 people in 56 countries globally.

We know also that women and girls in particular have been impacted by the “shadow pandemic⁵”. “The crisis has a woman’s face, violence against women and girls in all forms has skyrocketed, from online abuse to domestic violence, trafficking, sexual exploitation and child marriage,” said UN secretary general, Antonio Guterres.

At a time when people in to Least Developed Countries are facing stark choices, we cannot even temporarily step back from our commitments to international development, humanitarian action and climate change.

Dóchas calls on the Government to increase ODA in real terms in Budget 2022 to allow Ireland to keep pace with global needs now and in the post-COVID environment. Ireland’s spend on ODA stands at 0.31% (2020), and without a pathway to 0.5% by 2025 we will not be able to reach the target of 0.7% by the end of this decade.



³ The World Bank estimate that up to 163 million people will be pushed into extreme poverty in 2021 <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/updated-estimates-impact-covid-19-global-poverty-looking-back-2020-and-outlook-2021>

⁴ FSIN and Global Network Against Food Crises. 2021. Global Report on Food Crises 2021. Rome.

⁵ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/in-focus-gender-equality-in-covid-19-response/violence-against-women-during-covid-19>

COVID is eroding decades of development gains, but Dóchas members are working hard to respond.



In Zimbabwe, the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdown contributed to a 75% increase in demand for services for women suffering from gender based violence (GBV). In response, Irish Aid supported Oxfam Ireland and partner Musasa, to scale up services to respond to domestic violence and advocate for women's rights.

As a result, 1,500 individuals per month were able to take the first step to find shelter and access GBV support services; the capacity of two Musasa shelters in Harare and Mberengwa was doubled; and an additional 274 women and 121 children accessed shelter and medical, legal, and counselling services.

Irish international development and humanitarian charities employ 5,153 people in Ireland and many more globally, supporting local communities in over 100 countries across the world. Aggregate income for the international charity sector at the start of 2020 was €540.7m, according to Benefacts' 'Charities In Ireland 2021' report ⁶, and it was only one of two sectors not to see an increase in direct State funding.

Visit www.dochas.ie to find out who our members are and where they work

⁶ <https://www.benefacts.ie/insights/charities2021/>



The Climate emergency demands additional financing

Climate change is having a devastating impact on the poorest people in the world, increasing poverty and inequality, food insecurity and water stress, as well as conflict over scarce natural resources. The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that between 2030 and 2050, climate change will cause approximately 250,000 additional deaths per year from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea, and heat-stress; diseases that are highly sensitive to climatic conditions. We also know that developing countries are expected to bear 75% of the cost of the climate crisis, despite the fact that the poorest half of the world's population are responsible for just 10% of historical carbon emissions⁷.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) set out unequivocally that the planet will face severe consequences if we fail to limit global greenhouse gas emissions to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels⁸. Beyond the 1.5°C limit, the direct and indirect impacts of climate change would be catastrophic and increasingly unpredictable for all of us, but the poorest will suffer most. Despite the warnings of the IPCC, national commitments are projected to fall short, with warming expected to rise to approximately 3°C.




We urge the Government to ensure additional ODA to meet the needs of the climate emergency in developing countries. It is vital that ODA for sustainable development and humanitarian programming is not diverted towards, but complements climate action.

Additional financing needs to be targeted at climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes in the global south and should continue to be focused on public, grant based finance. Ireland also needs to develop a comprehensive and equity-based position on loss and damage in advance of COP 26, which should include supporting the call from developing country and civil society to identify new funding streams to respond to current and future loss and damage needs.

We also urge the Government to engage in targeted climate diplomacy on the international stage to ensure our global partners honour their commitments to reduce emissions. To do that effectively, it needs to deliver on Ireland's domestic climate commitments including cutting emissions in half in advance of 2030, in order to achieve net zero in advance of 2050.

⁷ Alston, P. 2019. 'Climate Change and Poverty: Report of the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights'.

⁸ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. 2018. 'An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty'.



The Climate emergency has worsened due to COVID but NGOs are being innovative and collaborative in the face of multifaceted challenges.

The adverse impact of human activity and climate change on one of Uganda's most popular natural amenities provided the impetus for an innovative conservation project that has created over 500 'green enterprises' in the country's south-west.

Tree planting, terracing, check dams and other measures have been introduced along the steep mountain slopes that fringe one of Uganda's most popular visitor attractions, situated close to the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Bwindi Impenetrable Forest.

40-year-old Jackson Mugathara (pictured proudly displaying his honey) has worked with Self Help Africa support and is now a leading green entrepreneur who has planted passion fruit trees and beans on the small hillside farm where he also keeps 17 beehives, which provide him with his main source of income. *"Changing climate has made life more difficult, but we're adapting,"* he says.

"Changing climate has made life more difficult, but we're adapting" says Jackson Mugathara.



Inclusive peace remains a vital goal

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognise the relationship between development, climate and peace. They cannot be achieved without addressing the root causes of conflict and promoting, supporting and sustaining inclusive peace-building⁹. If current trends persist, by 2030 more than half of the world's poor will be living in countries affected by high levels of violence¹⁰. Much of this violence is due to protracted, forgotten or unseen conflicts.

Covid-19 has exacerbated existing pressures on conflict-affected countries' economic, health and societal fragility¹¹. The United Nations Security Council called for a global ceasefire at the beginning of the pandemic in recognition that in contexts where violence is concentrated or on the rise, mitigating the impact of Covid-19 needed to start by focusing on preventing violent conflict in the first place. However, with few exceptions, the call went unanswered¹².

Ireland has a unique opportunity during its two-year term on the UN Security Council to be a strong voice for peace, human rights and climate security. The Government on its election to the Council, committed Ireland to using its presence to champion peace and security, conflict resolution, climate action, sustainable development and gender equality.



International development co-operation, particularly ODA funding to and partnership with civil society organisations, is central to this commitment.

We also urge the Government to step up its efforts to protect human rights defenders and promote civil society at the EU, the UN Security Council, and in other international fora. To do that, it needs to continue to ensure a strong and inclusive voice for civil society in shaping and influencing the Council's agenda. We know that women in particular are vital to preventing conflict and building peace.



9 UN. 2015. "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", United Nations General Assembly, New York

https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_70_1_E.pdf

10 OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development). 2015. "States of Fragility 2015: Meeting Post-2015 Ambitions". Paris: OECD.

11 https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/ba7c22e7-en/1/3/2/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/ba7c22e7-en&csp_=89578a182071559ff79c670c40753038&itemGO=oeed&itemContent-Type=book

12 ACLED. 2020. "Call Unanswered: A Review of Responses to the UN Appeal for a Global Ceasefire, Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED)", Madison, WI, <https://acleddata.com/2020/05/13/call-unanswered-un-appeal/>

COVID has exacerbated the drivers of conflict, but NGOs continue to work on the frontline.

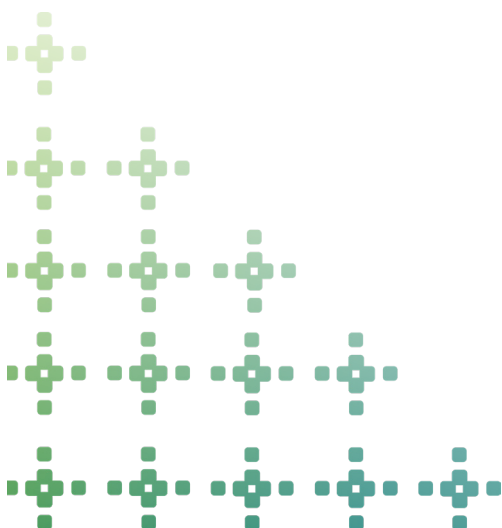


Burkina Faso is experiencing one of the world's fastest growing displacement crises, with over one million people forced from their homes since 2015, 54% of whom are under 14 years old. Villages have been attacked, teachers threatened, and schools looted, affecting children like 13-year-old Larissa (pictured above).

An attack in October 2019 which killed nine civilians prompted her whole family to flee to an Internally Displaced Persons camp joining tens of thousands of others.

This sudden displacement interfered with Larissa's education. However, Plan International has made provisions for displaced children by building a school.

In the months that followed, before she was able to return home, Larissa and her family also received assistance from Plan International to cover health and shelter expenses, basic supplies and support for protection from COVID-19.





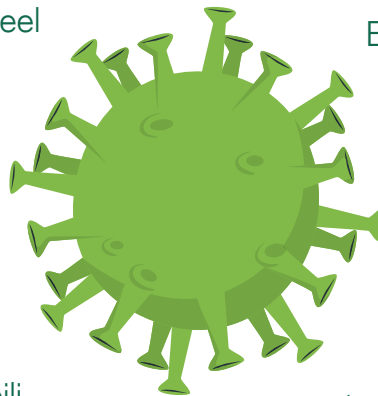
COVID-19: “same storm, different boats”

No-where and no-one has been left untouched by COVID-19. The Irish people have suffered sickness, the death of loved ones, disruption of health services, closure of businesses and significant unemployment with knock on effects on incomes, housing, education and mental health. Life as we know it has changed dramatically. However, thanks to our public health system and our successful vaccination programme, things are beginning to improve. People are beginning to feel hope again.

Unfortunately, that is not the case for those in the global south. The impact of COVID-19 has been particularly traumatic on those communities who were already living on the margins of society, including people living with a disability, women and girls, refugees, migrants or other persecuted minorities who rarely have a voice.

Ireland needs to advocate to ensure that the global community produces enough vaccine doses for everyone, everywhere. EU member states must ensure that COVID-19 vaccines are produced as widely as possible, through the sharing of technical knowledge and know how, free from patents. Given the failure to create an open and distributed vaccine production system throughout the world, large scale vaccination programmes are unlikely to be completed for some until at least 2023 and it could take much, much longer.

We urge Ireland to continue to support and advocate for greater financial contributions for the COVAX facility as the principal global COVID-19 vaccine procurement and allocation platform for Low-Income Countries (LICs) and humanitarian contexts. COVAX has thus far raised \$9.7 billion, and negotiated 2.2 billion doses for 2021 delivery and to date less than 1% of people in LICs have received at least one vaccine dose¹³.



Even if enough vaccine doses are eventually made available through multilateral and other channels, success will be constrained by challenges in the health systems of many developing countries. These challenges range from a lack of trained medical personnel and inadequate health infrastructure (including adequate vaccine storage facilities) to limited tracking mechanisms. Despite the clear evidence on the importance of a more holistic approach, as of January 2021 the ACT Accelerator’s pillar on strengthening health systems had received less funding than any other area¹⁴.

Failing to act now on vaccine equality will lead to needless suffering and loss of life as well as deepening the hunger, poverty, education and health challenges in these countries.

In many countries Dóchas members are working with national and district level health authorities to ensure that when vaccine supplies do roll out, health workers can play a critical role in ensuring acceptance of the vaccine as well as deliveries to the most vulnerable first.

¹³ <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/world/covid-vaccinations-tracker.html>

¹⁴ <file:///win-510rq3u3tg7/Folder%20Redirection/programme/Downloads/ACT-Accelerator-Strategy-Budget-2021-Version-12Apr2021.pdf>

Irish NGOs have risen to the public health crisis presented by COVID.



Ireland has generously supported UNICEF's COVID-19 response efforts including in Cambodia, Jordan, Laos, Malawi, Sierra Leone and Tanzania.

UNICEF has provided over 107 countries with more than 10.9 million gloves and 11.5 million surgical masks, over 2.75 billion people could

be reached with COVID-19 messaging, including migrant and refugee populations, over 217.6 million children were supported with distance home-based learning, while 29.2 million children and women have received essential health and nutrition services in UNICEF supported facilities.





Zero Hunger: Still within grasp

COVID-19, conflict and climate change are conspiring towards a catastrophe. Since the start of the pandemic, the world has lost more than a decade of progress in the fight against hunger. This year's Global Report on Food Crises warns that 142 million people will face severe food shortages in 2021 and forecasts famines in at least two countries. If we are to stop the slide towards catastrophe and get back on track to Zero Hunger, a new level of political leadership is urgently needed.

Ireland is well placed to offer this leadership as it prepares for the UN Food Systems Summit in September and the Nutrition for Growth Summit in December and through its membership of the three UN Rome based agencies¹⁵. Through those preparations, Ireland has already signalled its intention to become a global leader in sustainable food systems by 2030 and to strengthen its longstanding leadership in tackling malnutrition within this endeavour and far beyond. This ambition is both critical and welcome.



As Ireland adopts a sustainable food systems approach and maps out its policy and financial commitments to these Summits we ask that in the resulting outcomes and actions up to 2030 they commit to supporting peoples' right to food, strengthen small-scale farmers' resilience to climate change and enable those same farmers to regenerate the soils upon which agriculture and various ecosystem services depend.

We further ask that all these commitments are programmed in a way which delivers better nutrition outcomes for those left behind, and preferences local markets in low-income countries. Finally, we ask that Ireland's food systems approach recognises and responds to the concerns of those advocating from the perspective of human rights and food sovereignty.

As we prepare to commemorate the Irish famine next year, it is timely and fitting that Ireland scales up its political, policy and financial leadership on Zero Hunger through Budget 2022.

This year's Global Report on Food Crises warns that 142 million people will face severe food shortages.

¹⁵ <https://www.wfp.org/rome-based-agencies#:~:text=Together%2C%20three%20United%20Nations%20Rome,and%20internationally%20recognized%20forums%20for>

Hunger levels are rising for the first time in a decade, but Irish NGOs know how to make a difference if the support and funding is available.



Since October 2020, Josephine (33) has been an active member of Concern's Irish Aid-funded Graduation project. Prior to the project, it was difficult for Josephine to get enough food and she used to eat only once a day: *"Sometimes I had to forgo the meal to feed my children"*.

Her family had not enough clothes while only two of her five children attended the school. Making the best use of the cash transfers she received, Josephine has bought kitchen tools and set up a small and simple restaurant where she sells rice, potatoes, beans and vegetables: the typical meal of the area.

"Sometimes I had to forgo the meal to feed my children" says Josephine

Conclusion

Now more than ever we need to apply the principles of equality, sustainability and justice at home and abroad, as well as creating a stronger social dialogue. In accepting that these principles lie at the heart of Irish foreign policy, we need to have much more ambition towards resourcing Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Mike Ryan of the World Health Organisation (WHO) spoke recently of his hope that his home nation, Ireland, could be a “beacon of hope for so many across the world” as it extends its leadership on the international scene “in multilateral diplomacy, on ODA and in international development”.

In Budget 2022, Dóchas urges the Government to do more than make incremental increases to ODA. We need to see sustained progress towards reaching our stated commitments and an increase of pace to meet the target of 0.5% of GNI by 2025 and 0.7% by 2030.

In light of the devastating impact of COVID-19, #NowMoreThanEver we need leadership, solidarity and urgency to tackle the triple threats of Covid-19, Climate Change and Conflict.



Dóchas

Dóchas is the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations. It provides a forum for consultation and cooperation between its members, and helps them speak with a single voice on development issues.

Full Members

1. A Partnership with Africa
2. ActionAid Ireland
3. Addressing the Unaddressed
4. Afri
5. Aidlink
6. Bóthar
7. Brighter Communities Worldwide
8. CBM Ireland
9. Centre for Global Education
10. CHEEERS: Developing Healthcare Together
11. ChildFund Ireland
12. Children in Crossfire
13. Christian Aid Ireland
14. Comhlámh
15. Concern Worldwide
16. Development Perspectives
17. Edmund Rice Development
18. Financial Justice Ireland
19. Front Line Defenders
20. GOAL
21. Habitat for Humanity Ireland
22. Irish Development Education Association (IDEA)
23. Irish League of Credit Unions International
Development Foundation
24. Irish Red Cross
25. Irish Rule of Law International
26. Misean Cara
27. Nepal Leprosy Trust Ireland
28. Nurture Africa
29. Operation Smile
30. Oxfam Ireland
31. Plan International Ireland
32. Proudly Made in Africa
33. Salesian Missions – Don Bosco Aid Ireland
34. Self Help Africa
35. SERVE in Solidarity Ireland
36. Sightsavers Ireland
37. Suas Educational Development
38. Tearfund Ireland
39. The Hope Foundation
40. Trócaire
41. UCD Volunteers Overseas
42. UNICEF Ireland
43. Vita
44. Voluntary Service International
45. Volunteers in Irish Veterinary Assistance
46. World Vision Ireland

Associate Members

1. Age Action Ireland
2. Aiding Resources
3. ATD Fourth World
4. DSA Ireland
5. Eco Unesco
6. Global Action Plan
7. Irish Family Planning Association
8. Irish National Teachers Organisation
- Global Solidarity Network
9. National Youth Council of Ireland
10. Special Olympics Europe/Eurasia
11. The National Council of Ireland YMCA Trust