

IRELAND



0.30% GENUINE AID/GNI

0.31% TOTAL AID/GNI



“Ireland is recognised as a principled and high-performing provider of official development assistance (ODA). The delivery of Irish ODA follows international best practice approaches and is guided by principles for development effectiveness.”

– Colm Brophy, Minister of State for Overseas Development Aid and Diaspora, 2 June 2021.¹

MAIN CHANGES IN 2019

Following a general election in February 2020, a coalition government formed in June and its programme for government promised to put in place “a floor to ensure that the aid budget does not fall below the level of recent years in cash terms” and to make progress towards 0.7%.

Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic became a priority, and while no additional funding was provided, Ireland redirected over €140 million to the global COVID-19 response,² including by quadrupling its financial contribution to the WHO and supporting Gavi and the Global Fund, as well as working with EU partners on the COVAX initiative.³ The government was also receptive to NGOs’ request for flexibility to allow them maintain their grant funding in the face of the pandemic.

Significantly, Ireland also succeeded in its election bid to join the United Nations Security Council for the 2021-2022 term. It took its seat in January 2021, setting out three key priorities: build peace, strengthen conflict prevention and ensure accountability.

TRENDS AND PROJECTIONS FOR 2021 AND BEYOND

In October 2020, the government announced a cash increase of €30 million in the ODA allocation for 2021, bringing the total to €868 million. This is likely to result in a small percentage increase on the previous year to 0.32% GNI (estimate). While this is welcomed, given the COVID environment, the trajectory is far below what is required to get to 0.7% by 2030. Nor is Ireland meeting the second commitment: to allocate between 0.15% and 0.2% of GNI to LDCs.⁴ Ireland was at 0.12% in 2019.

¹ <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2021-06-02/123/> (June 2021).

² <https://www.kildarestreet.com/committees/?id=2020-11-12a.508&s=%22team+europe%22#g510>.

³ <https://www.dfa.ie/news-and-media/press-releases/press-release-archive/2020/december/minister-simon-coveney-participates-in-un-general-assembly-special-session-on-covid-19.php>.

⁴ Addis Ababa Agenda for Action p. 6, UNDESA.



CASE STUDY BOX:

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. Forty-year-old Jackson Mugathara has worked with funding from Ireland through Irish development agency Self Help Africa, and is now a leading green entrepreneur. He 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. “The changing climate has made life more difficult, but we’re adapting,” he says.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE IRISH GOVERNMENT

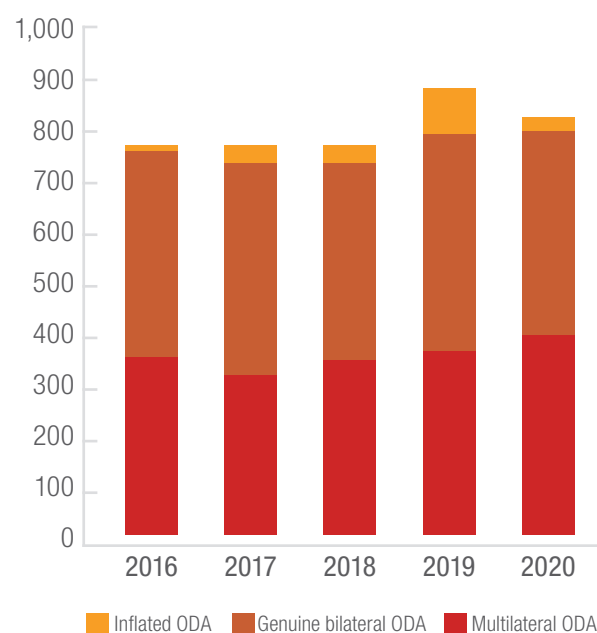
- Increase official development assistance to ensure Ireland keeps pace with global needs now and in the post-COVID environment. An increase of ODA in the budget for 2022 is therefore essential to set Ireland on a pathway to achieving 0.5% by 2025, and onwards to 0.7% by 2030.
- Ensure additional and targeted financing for climate change mitigation and adaptation to support Least-Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
- Use Ireland’s voice at the UN Security Council, at the EU and in other international fora to champion human rights defenders and the role being played by civil society.
- Advocate to ensure that the global community produces enough vaccine doses for everyone,

everywhere. EU member states in particular must ensure that COVID-19 vaccines are produced as widely as possible, through the sharing of technical knowledge and know-how, free from patents.

- Strengthen Ireland's global leadership on Zero Hunger. Ireland needs to play a leading role ahead of the UN Food Systems and Nutrition for Growth Summit in September.

IRELAND – GENUINE AND INFLATED ODA

(€ million, constant 2019)



ODA TO LDCS (€ million, constant 2019)

LDC	ODA to LDCs	ODA to LDCS (% GNI)	ODA to LDCS (% total ODA)
2016	335.59	0.14	43.93
2017	335.47	0.14	44.11
2018	318.96	0.13	41.36
2019	330.56	0.12	38.02

ODA TO DRM (€ million, constant 2019)

DRM	ODA for DRM	DRM (% bilateral)	DRM (% total ODA)
2016	0.00	0.00	0.00
2017	0.41	0.09	0.05
2018	0.39	0.09	0.05
2019	0.60	0.12	0.07

AID MODALITY (€ million, constant 2019)

Year	Bilateral gross	Grants	Loans	Loans (% of gross bilateral)
2016	406.42	406.42	0.00	0.00
2017	447.09	447.09	0.00	0.00
2018	437.80	437.80	0.00	0.00
2019	507.61	507.61	0.00	0.00

ODA TO SUPPORT GENDER EQUALITY (€ million, constant 2019)

Gender focus	Bi allocable	Total Screened	Not Screened	None	Significant	Principal	Significant (% of screened)	Principal (% of screened)
2016	372.63	354.79	17.84	56.94	251.65	46.20	70.93	13.02
2017	377.50	360.78	16.72	46.69	255.30	58.80	70.76	16.30
2018	359.02	358.40	0.62	79.81	252.51	26.07	70.46	7.27
2019	391.92	375.91	16.00	75.76	247.04	53.12	65.72	14.13

ODA TO SUPPORT CSOs (€ million, constant 2019)

CSO support	Non-CSO	Donor-CSO-Earmarked	International-CSO-Earmarked	Recipient-CSO-Earmarked	Donor-CSO-Core	International-CSO-Core	Recipient-CSO-Core	Total bilateral CSO support, % bilateral	Total bilateral CSO support, % total ODA	Core bilateral CSO support, % bilateral	Core bilateral CSO support, % total ODA
2016	233.12	25.28	31.51	11.57	83.28	15.75	5.92	42.64	22.69	25.82	13.74
2017	276.12	25.66	25.35	13.16	89.43	15.95	1.43	38.24	22.48	23.89	14.04
2018	272.85	26.06	25.32	13.26	82.14	16.92	1.24	37.67	21.39	22.91	13.01
2019	323.79	31.08	31.65	16.31	86.22	16.93	1.63	36.21	21.14	20.64	12.05