



## IDEA Pre-Budget Submission 2019

**IDEA, the Irish Development Education Association**, is the national network for Development Education in Ireland and a leading voice for the sector. We represent over 70 members involved in the practice, promotion and advancement of Development Education in formal, non-formal and informal settings. Together we work to strengthen Development Education in Ireland and to grow understanding of the crucial role of Development Education in achieving an equal, just and sustainable future.

**IDEA's vision** is of an equal, just and sustainable world where empathy, solidarity and active citizenship are fostered and people are empowered to analyse and challenge the root causes of injustice, poverty and inequality.

**IDEA members' work** encompasses global citizenship education, education for sustainable development, human rights and equality, delivered through formal, non-formal and informal education. This breadth of engagement is one of the sector's core strengths, enabling it to engage with a wide array of audiences using a range of tools drawn from education and development practices.

*'Strong national development education is integral to awareness-raising of the SDGs and progress on achieving them, at personal, local, national and global levels; this should be explicitly recognised by the Government.'*

Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade and Defence  
Review of the Irish Aid Programme, February 2018.

### **Context: Ireland's ambitious aid programme and commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals**

In its current consultation process around Ireland's new international development policy, the government has clearly stated Ireland's ambition to play 'a continued leadership role in transforming our world'<sup>1</sup>. This includes Ireland's implementation of the Sustainable

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<sup>1</sup> Irish Aid White Paper Consultation: Public Consultation Paper: 3, [www.irishaid.ie/media/irishaid/publications/Irish-Aid-White-paper-Consultation-Process.pdf](http://www.irishaid.ie/media/irishaid/publications/Irish-Aid-White-paper-Consultation-Process.pdf)

Development Goals (SDGs). To achieve Ireland's national implementation of the SDGs and our ambitious development programme, it is essential that the Irish public are actively engaged. Achieving the SDGs requires both a whole of government and a whole of society approach. Development Education is crucial to this as informed citizens are best placed to understand and support Ireland's commitment to taking action on these issues. Information and awareness-raising are not enough: education and active participation of the Irish public are key for the success of the SDGs and Ireland's overall development effort. This is recognised in SDG 4.7 which calls for all states to ensure their citizens are educated on global citizenship, sustainable development and human rights.

#### **In this context, in advance of Budget 2019, IDEA:**

- Supports the call by Dóchas for Ireland to fulfil its promise to reach the UN target of spending 0.7% of Gross National Income on Official Development Assistance by 2025.
- Calls on the government to increase Development Education funding to 1% of ODA in Budget 2019, with a clear commitment to the phased increase towards the target of 3% of ODA within an agreed timeframe.
- Joins with our colleagues across Irish civil society to call for the inclusion of a specific line in Budget 2019 with dedicated resources for Ireland's national implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Asks that the National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development, led by the Department of Education and Skills, is resourced adequately.

#### **Why move towards 3% of ODA for Development Education?**

Development Education is a huge resource for international development and education in Ireland. The Development Education sector in Ireland is recognised as a valued, professional and vibrant sector that is accountable and progressive. However, underinvestment presents a significant barrier to Ireland reaching its fullest potential in this area. The 2018 *Report of the Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade and Defence* stated that:

'[i]t has become clear in the meetings held and submissions received as part of this review that there is a concern around the low levels of funding for communicating the results of Ireland's development programme and educating people throughout the country about overseas development.'<sup>2</sup>

In 2005, a European Commission conference of member state ministries, including Irish Aid, Department of Foreign Affairs, and civil society representatives proposed that member

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<sup>2</sup> Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs and Trade and Defence (Feb 2018) Review of the Irish Aid Programme:27

states consider allocating a percentage of ODA to Development Education in order to ensure and secure quality and impact. It concluded that:

'National and European authorities should ensure there is adequate funding for development education and awareness-raising in their planning. It is proposed that the European Commission and Member States move towards or beyond a figure of 3% of ODA, as proposed in a UNDP Report<sup>3</sup>.<sup>4</sup>

IDEA strongly advocates that Irish Aid increases the Development Education budget to 1% of ODA in 2019, and commits to the phased increase towards the target of 3% within an agreed timeframe.

### **Development Education investment: A strategic approach**

Irish Aid's *Development Education Strategy 2017 – 2023*, which guides all of Irish Aid's Development Education funding, is a clear signal of the strategic importance of Development Education in Irish Aid's work. The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment pointed to this strategy as a 'key enabler' in Ireland's Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan 2018 -2020.<sup>5</sup>

The success of Irish Aid's Development Education strategy and the achievement of Ireland's SDG commitments require a strong and secure Development Education sector for the delivery of high quality and impactful Development Education in Ireland. The Development Education sector's professionalism and expertise means the capacity exists to deliver on additional investment. All of IDEA's work within the Development Education sector as a whole, as well as members' ongoing commitment to quality and impact in their own work across the various sectors where Development Education organisations are active, has contributed to a strong, established sector ready to deliver on the potential of the Irish Aid development Education Strategy.

### **Sustainable Development Goals: Ireland's National Implementation Plan**

In April 2018 Ireland launched our *National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals*. This ambitious plan requires action from all government departments. It also requires all government departments to prioritise investment in the SDGs. To date, sufficient funding for the delivery of the SDG National Implementation Plan has not been made available. Budget 2019 must change this. IDEA joins with our colleagues across Irish

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<sup>3</sup> The European Consensus on Development: The contribution of Development Education & Awareness Raising 2007: 16 [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/publication-development-education-for-the-european-consensus-200806\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/publication-development-education-for-the-european-consensus-200806_en.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> European Conference on Public Awareness and Development for North-South Solidarity, Brussels, May 2005, quoted in The European Consensus on Development: The contribution of Development Education & Awareness Raising, 2007

<sup>5</sup> Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan 2018 -2020: 28

civil society to call for the inclusion of a specific line in the 2019 budget with dedicated resources for the national delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals. We have 13 years to tackle some of the world's biggest problems. We must act together now. Prioritising Development Education and the Sustainable Development Goals in the 2019 budget will take Ireland one step closer to a better world.

**Department of Education and Skills: National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development 2014 – 2020.**

IDEA believes that adequate investment does not currently exist for the Department of Education and Skills *National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development*, with its key objective to support 'informed active citizens who take action for a more sustainable future'<sup>6</sup>. This national strategy underpins progress in Our Sustainable Future: the Framework for Sustainable Development in Ireland and is another important component of achieving a whole of society approach to the achievement of the SDGs as well as a whole of government one. It is essential that this strategy, led by the Department of Education and Skills, is resourced adequately in the 2019 budget and that the Department of Education and Skills prioritises the funding needed to achieve the aims of integrating Education for Sustainable Development across lifelong learning in Ireland.

**In summary**, IDEA supports the call by Dóchas for Ireland to fulfil its promise to reach the UN target of spending 0.7% of Gross National Income on Official Development Assistance by 2025. IDEA urgently calls on the government to increase Development Education funding to 1% of ODA in Budget 2019, with a clear commitment to the phased increase towards the target of 3% of ODA within an agreed timeframe.

IDEA joins with our colleagues across Irish civil society to call for the inclusion of a specific line in Budget 2019 with dedicated resources for Ireland's national implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Finally, IDEA asks that the National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development, led by the Department of Education and Skills, is resourced adequately.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Education-Reports/National-Strategy-on-Education-for-Sustainable-Development-in-Ireland-2014-2020.pdf>: p. 3