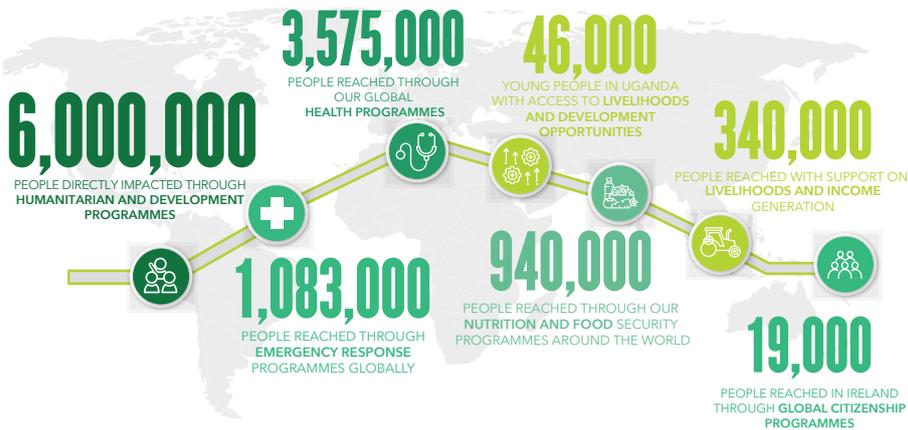




# GOAL Pre-Budget Submission 2021

## GOAL'S REACH IN 2019



GOAL is an international humanitarian response agency established in Ireland over 40 years ago, with operations in 13 countries in Africa, the Middle East and Latin America. GOAL believes in a world in which poverty no longer exists, where vulnerable communities are resilient, where barriers to well-being are removed and where everyone has equal rights and opportunities. GOAL programmes focus on Health, Nutrition, Livelihoods and currently GOAL is applying its unique expertise in Emergency Response to the global COVID-19 crisis.

## Why Ireland must secure its Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) Budget in 2021

### 1 Increasing Humanitarian Needs: COVID-19, Climate Change and Conflict

COVID-19, climate change and conflict are creating unprecedented levels of humanitarian need. GOAL is experiencing this surge of need in every field context. The UN predicts that 1 in every 45 of the world's population will need humanitarian assistance and protection this year. Climate change is expected to push more than 120 million additional people into poverty by 2030, with the most severe impact in poor countries and fragile states that have contributed the least greenhouse gas emissions. Conflict continues to wreak havoc, destroy societies, and displace communities across the world. In 2019, almost half of the 836 million people in extreme poverty were living in areas of conflict.

## 2

### Support health systems in crisis

GOAL is working across all country programmes in coordination with local partners, government ministries and key UN agencies to respond both to the COVID-19 health crisis and to continue supporting the strengthening of health systems. The impact of COVID-19 on chronically underfunded and understaffed health systems is affecting health services in the poorest countries, with a potentially devastating impact as caseloads increase. As in previous disease outbreaks, preventative health-seeking behaviour - such as taking babies and children for immunisations and women seeking

ante-natal care and choosing to birth in a health facility - is showing a dramatic decline, which will increase rates of communicable diseases and maternal mortality. 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. Health systems now require significant additional support to improve and maintain service provision.

## 3

### Fight hunger and malnutrition

GOAL is working with local partners to ensure lifesaving and life-sustaining nutrition and food security programming continues for vulnerable adults and children across all countries of operation. Even before COVID-19 hit, 135 million people globally were food insecure. The World Food Programme warns that the COVID-19 pandemic will see more than a quarter of a billion people suffering from acute hunger by the end of the year. The 2020 Global Nutrition Report warns that those suffering from malnutrition are more susceptible to COVID-19,

and risk more severe complications. Adding to the food crisis is the current locust outbreak in the Horn of Africa which is putting the food security and livelihoods of millions of people at risk. This infestation could cause up to \$8.5 billion worth of loss and damage by the end of 2020. Those living in conflict zones, displaced in their own countries, or living in refugee camps are especially vulnerable to food insecurity, including in Northern Syria where GOAL delivers lifesaving and life-sustaining services to up to one million people every year.

## 4

### Increase, protect and maintain sustainable livelihoods

Building resilience is a fundamental part of GOAL's programme approach and at the heart of our theory of change. Resilience helps communities living in complex systems to survive shocks and crises, recover quicker, and improve longer term development and wellbeing. COVID-19 threatens to roll back the development gains so hard-won by the most vulnerable communities across the globe. The global recession is increasing rates of hunger and poverty. The International Labour Organization (ILO) has warned that 1.6 billion workers in the informal economy — about half the total global workforce — are at risk of losing their livelihoods. There is also mounting evidence that COVID-19 has led to an increase in gender-based violence and child abuse. The UN population Fund (UNFPA) has issued a sober warning on the impact of COVID-19 and predicts a staggering 31 million additional cases of gender-based violence because of lockdown measures globally. Also, 64 countries globally — including 30 in sub-Saharan Africa — spend more on repaying debt than investing in public health. Governments should not have to make impossible choices between repaying debt and providing necessary support and services in the wake of COVID-19.

# Ireland's exemplary ODA efforts

GOAL welcomes the commitment in the Programme for Government to maintaining its existing investments in ODA and to striving to reach 0.7% GNI. In the OECD's 2020 Development Cooperation Peer Review of Ireland, Ireland's overseas aid is commended as an exemplary effort to leave no-one behind, seeking to achieve the clear targets set by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). Irish Aid's commitment to civil society and multilaterals was also highlighted by the OECD. It was also noted, that "Ireland has received international recognition for its development education strategies" to which GOAL is an active contributor. Ireland's recent election to the United Nations Security Council for a two-year term from January 1st 2021 is another testimony to its global influence and an opportunity to grow our global contribution even further at such an important time.

## We need to act now

While we recognise that Budget 2021 comes at a time of financial uncertainty, the commitment to funding quality humanitarian and development programmes through Official Development Assistance is needed more than ever. ODA is a vital lifeline for some of the most vulnerable communities across the world and enables people to meet their basic needs and move out of poverty.

We believe Overseas Development Assistance offers Ireland a real opportunity to show leadership on international development and humanitarian action. The call for the world to 'Leave No-One Behind' is more relevant than ever and should inform the foundation and principles employed to ensure the recovery is sustainable, putting people at the heart of social and economic development.

### GOAL'S REACH in the COVID-19 response



GOAL Haiti is training staff in applying a Community-Led Action approach, funded by Irish Aid. Photo: GOAL.

# GOAL's recommendations for the Budget 2021

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- 1 Ireland maintains its existing Overseas Development Assistance** investment by protecting the current budget levels (€838million in 2020) and makes progress towards spending 0.7% of GNI on overseas aid. This funding commitment should reflect both the critical role that civil society organisations play in front-line response, and the role of multilateral organisations such as the World Health Organisation.
- 2 Ireland continues to ensure its overseas aid programme is of high quality**, is poverty focused, grant based and un-tied, committing to deliver on both the Sustainable Development Goals and Ireland's International Development Policy, 'A Better World'. Ireland should further maintain this commitment by implementing the recommendations of the OECD 2020 DAC Peer Review of Ireland in full.
- 3 Ireland commits to fully funding a humanitarian response plan to fight COVID-19 and pre-existing crises.** Ireland should also use its recent election to the United Nations Security Council as an opportunity to support efforts to respond to the needs of vulnerable population in conflict affected regions of the world.
- 4 Ireland commits to addressing climate injustices faced by the world's poorest by ensuring adequate climate finance** targeting the most negatively impacted countries in the Global South. This must be additional to ODA funding.
- 5 Ireland continues to work with national governments to support communities at local level to protect the most marginalised girls and young women.** This includes minority groups, migrant, refugees and internally displaced populations, addressing the current sharp rise in gender based violence and child abuse.
- 6 Ireland commits to using its voice within the Multilateral Development Banks and other multilateral forums to support the cancellation, and not postponement, of all debts** payable in 2020 and 2021 for Global South countries in need. Ireland should also engage in the development of a long-term dedicated debt-relief and cancellation approach to the debt crisis facing the world.
- 7 Ireland increases its Development Education funding in the budget for 2021**, making a commitment to phased annual increases to reach the European funding benchmark of 3% of Overseas Development Assistance by 2025. This will help bring about large-scale positive societal support to fulfil the commitments of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

**We are happy to respond to any queries on this submission.**

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