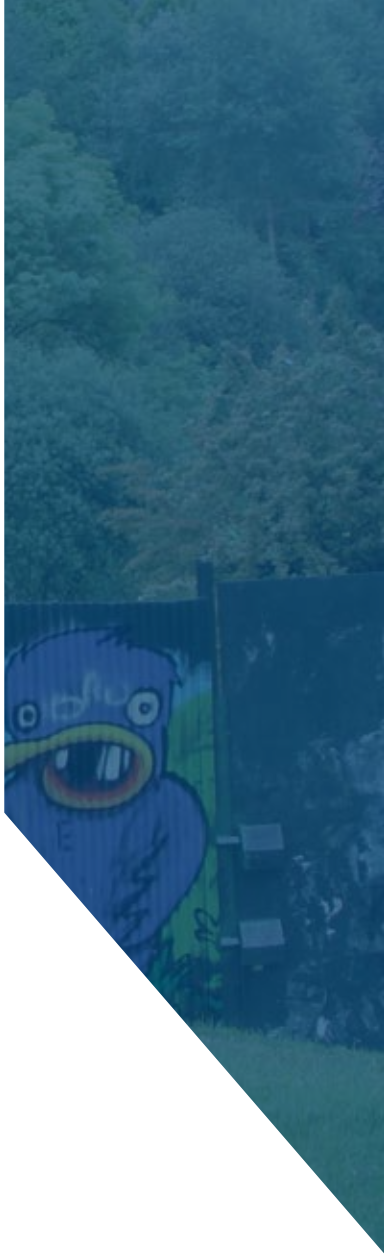




INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND



Removing barriers to a lasting peace

Annual Report & Accounts 2019

OUR KEY PRIORITIES

Developing and funding initiatives that tackle segregation and promote integration to build a lasting peace in Northern Ireland and the southern border counties of Ireland.





INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

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LEFT COVER IMAGE:
The Peace Wall that
separates Alexandra
Park in North Belfast.

RIGHT COVER IMAGE:
Drone photography
of Peace Walls in
North Belfast.



Chairman's Foreword

Uncertainty was a consistent theme in 2019, for communities in Northern Ireland and the border counties who were unsure of how their lives would be affected post Brexit and of the outcome of the political stalemate in NI.



In spite of this challenging backdrop the International Fund for Ireland has continued to engage and support local communities in their individual journeys towards peace and reconciliation.

Our Peace Impact Programme (PIP), Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP) and Peace Walls Programme (PWP) have continued to make a real difference to people's lives and have consistently demonstrated tangible outcomes that justify the commitment of the many project managers and teams within these programmes.

We are moving into 2020 with cautious optimism. Following the announcement of the restoration of the NI Assembly and Executive and progress being made on a Brexit Deal, local communities can start to feel they have a voice and can engage in how they shape the future of their communities. The restored Assembly and Executive, which has been lacking for more than three years, will provide a renewed sense of hope for those who are only starting to take the first steps towards peace and reconciliation.

The International Fund for Ireland recognises that considerable work is required to deliver significant changes. In order to make the most of this progress it is important that partnership and collaboration is the key focus for 2020 and beyond. Working across government, community and statutory agencies will be vital in continuing this progress in the right way and in the best interests of communities and residents.

There is a growing need for the independent support delivered by the Fund, especially in the many hard to reach communities

witnessing rising tensions and apathy throughout this period of uncertainty.

In 2019, the International Fund for Ireland commissioned its second Attitudinal Survey of residents living beside interfaces in Northern Ireland. What we learned from this survey was that fears still exist, but a steady increase in inter-community engagement has allowed a level of confidence to emerge with renewed hope for a future without barriers.

Twenty years after the Good Friday Agreement, over 100 barriers remain as visible signs of community segregation. This is preventing much needed progress for those most impacted by the conflict. The International Fund for Ireland recognises that considerable work is required to deliver significant changes around barriers. The IFI Peace Walls Programme, now in its 8th year, is working hard at local level to break down the mental barriers and stigma around interfaces, encouraging community engagement and dialogue while tackling fears, tensions and divisions.

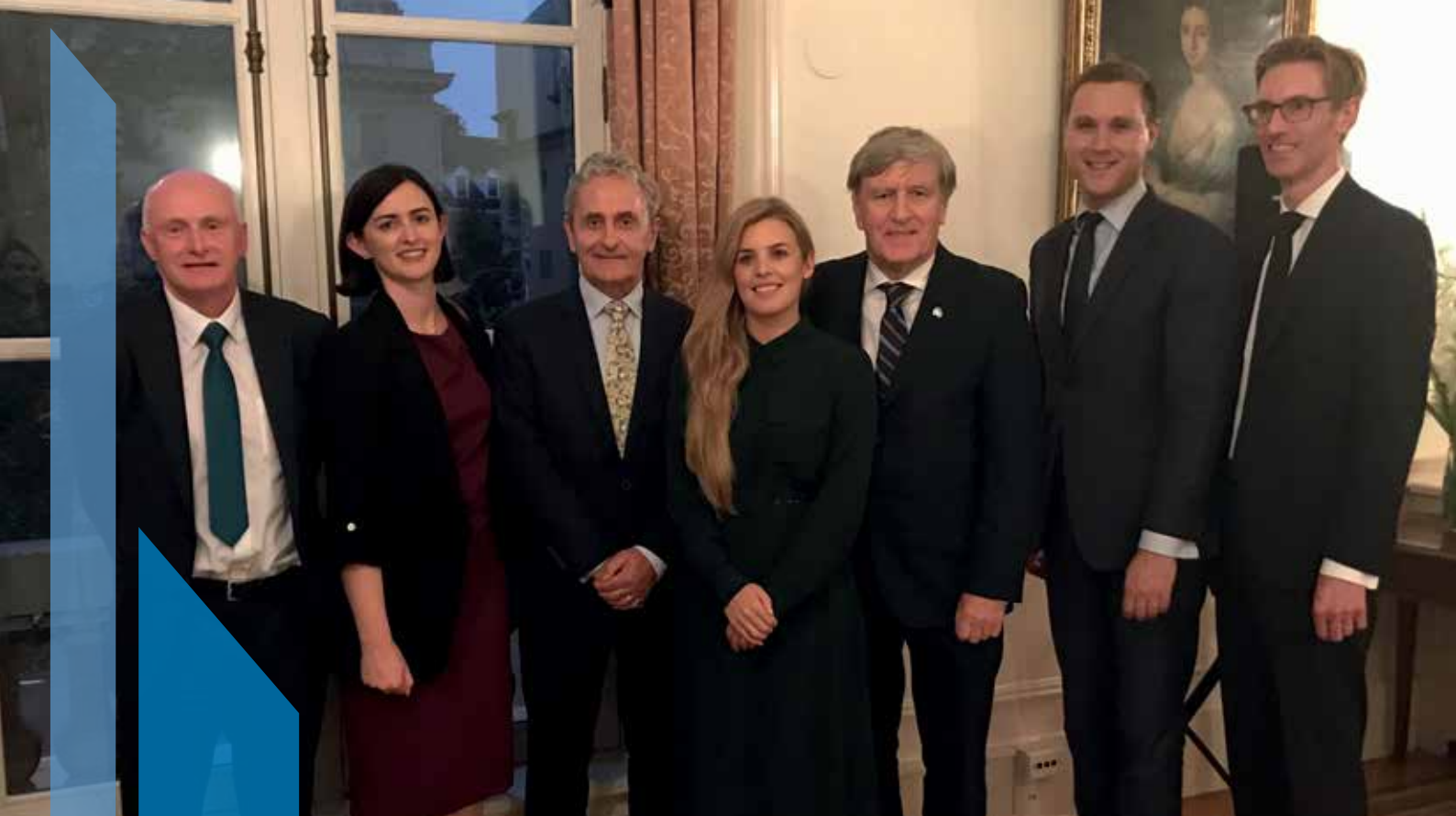
Since 2012, the Fund has invested more than £5.2m in the programme to enable six Peace Walls groups to deliver interventions in their area that have led to the successful alteration or removal of some physical barriers and the re-imaging of others.

In this report you will get the chance to read about some of the work of PWP projects including Greater Whitewell Community Surgery (GWCS) which supports communities across several well-known interfaces that have been blighted with segregation and sectarianism for a number of years.

MAIN:
The Chairman of the Fund at a recent Board Meeting in Fermanagh.

ABOVE LEFT:
Paddy Harte, Chairman of the Fund with a successful participant from Sperrin Cultural Awareness' PYDP Celebration event.

ABOVE RIGHT:
The Chairman addressing guests at a project event in Larne.



ABOVE:
Pictured on a trip to Washington L-R: Joe Mullan, Joint Director General, IFI; Nora Delaney, Joint Director General, IFI; Paddy Harte, Chairman, IFI; Sarah Lorimer, Imagine Peace Walls Project; HE Dan Mulhall, Irish Ambassador to the United States, James Hooley, Head of Political Section at the British Embassy in Washington and Richard Cushnie, Deputy Director, Northern Ireland Bureau.

We have seen progress in a number of areas in the last 12 months including the completion of the Serpentine Road/ Navarra Place shared space which involved the removal of a peace fence and installation of a multi-use games area and play park.

This is also a time to acknowledge and celebrate the work of so many community leaders, who have stepped up in the absence of local decision making to support and progress the prospects of their own communities. Without their commitment and dedication, many communities would be isolated and disengaged. We have seen some inspirational stories in which local people have worked hard to engage with other communities to gain perspectives different to their own.

Our Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP), now in its 4th year focuses on building resilience among vulnerable young people who have endured very difficult challenges in their lives. Throughout the year, fellow Board Members and I have been able to see first-hand the work of the PYDP groups and the great impact they are having on young people's lives.

You will read more about these groups in the report, including the Clanrye Group, who are based in South Armagh. Their

'Regener8' project, helps young people develop real life skills that offer them an alternative path to long term employment or further education. Offering young people an alternative journey gives them a choice about how they see and shape their futures.

During the year the Fund has supported 46 PYDP projects - 34 in NI and 12 in the border counties.

The Fund's Peace Impact Programme (PIP) is aimed at transforming communities that have not yet committed to reconciliation. In many cases this is due to specific sensitivities and requires both a knowledge of the area and an understanding as to the most effective intervention for that community. This is where community leadership comes to the fore for many of these projects.

For example, the HUBB Community Resource Centre recently launched its Community Cohesion Project in North Belfast. Since its launch, the project has worked with key groups to develop a strategic plan and facilitate a transformation process for those people involved or on the fringes of anti-social and criminal behaviour.

In the reporting period, 46 projects were operational, 30 in NI and 16 in the border counties. The IFI has invested over £11.5m (almost €14m) in PIP to date.



The Fund continues to play a valuable role in challenging all stakeholders responsible for reconciliation efforts across the island of Ireland to meet their obligations. The Fund has been active in engaging with senior officials and Ministers highlighting the continued need for support in our communities.

We have met with Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD and NI Secretary of State Julian Smith MP to highlight the work of the Fund and the need for collaboration for the benefit of local communities. The Fund is committed to developing these relationships, including through engagement with the new NI Executive, and supporting them in their commitment to addressing paramilitary activity.

Recently, a group from Creggan Enterprises, visited Yale University as part of a delegation from NI to participate in a conference, 'Twenty Years of Peace: Progress and Possibilities in NI'. The conference discussed the future of NI following the 20th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement and the importance of cross-community representation in conversations aimed at resolving difficult issues linked to conflict and division.

I welcome the commitments made by the UK and Irish Governments under the 'New Decade, New Approach' Agreement to provide further support to the Fund in recognition of the important role it plays in peace building across the island of Ireland.



In December 2019, the Fund welcomed the announcement of a further \$2m for peace programmes in Northern Ireland and the border counties from the United States as part of their Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations. With work ongoing on our new Strategy, this is an important juncture for the IFI and the communities we support.

We would not be able to provide the support we do without the ongoing commitment of our international donors.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank the Joint Chairs and Members of the Inter-Governmental Advisory Committee for their guidance and advice; and the Secretariat, our Programme Managers, Managing Agents and partners for their commitment and hard work. I would also like to welcome our new Board Members who joined in March 2019, Bernie Butler, Avila Kilmurray and Sadie Ward-McDermott, and Peter Osborne who joined the Board in late 2019.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remember a friend of the Fund, Ricky O'Rawe, who sadly passed away in June 2019. Ricky was appointed to the Board in March 2019 after a long association with the organisation and brought with him a wealth of knowledge and experience in peace building and reconciliation. He left a lasting impression on anyone he met and will forever be admired for the work he did in building peace in communities across the island of Ireland.

ABOVE LEFT:
The IFI Chairman Paddy Harte pictured with Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD.

ABOVE RIGHT:
The Chairman pictured with participants and team from the Glasgowbury project.



The Board

The Board of the International Fund for Ireland is appointed jointly by the British and Irish governments. Representatives of the United States of America, the European Union, Canada, Australia and New Zealand attend meetings of the Board.



The United States of America, the European Union and governments of Canada, Australia, and New Zealand were represented this year by: Mr John Feehery and Ms Stella O’Leary, United States of America; Ms Tamara Pavlin, European Union; Mr Brian Doherty, Canada; HE Richard Andrews, Australia; HE Brad Burgess and Mr Deighton Condor (who deputised for HE Sir Jerry Mateparae) New Zealand.

Pictured are (L-R back row): Mrs Bernie Butler; Mrs Sadie Ward-McDermott; Mr Allen McAdam; Mrs Avila Kilmurray, Mrs Hilary Singleton and (front row) Mr Paddy Harte, Chairman.

The International Fund for Ireland was established as an independent international organisation by the British and Irish governments in 1986. With contributions from the United States of America, the European Union, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, the total resources committed by the Fund to date amount to £745m and €933m.



THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FUND ARE:

- To promote economic and social advance; and
- To encourage contact, dialogue and reconciliation between Unionists and Nationalists throughout Ireland.

*THE STERLING/EURO CONVERSION RATE AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2019 IS APPLIED THROUGHOUT THIS REPORT

Introduction

The Board of the Fund is appointed jointly by the British and Irish governments. It is assisted by an Advisory Committee comprising of officials appointed by the two governments.

The administration of the Fund is provided by a Secretariat, headed by Joint Directors General, based in Belfast and Dublin. A range of bodies act as Managing Agents for the Fund in Northern Ireland. In addition, the Fund has three Programme Managers, located across the southern border counties, who act as local contact points and assist prospective applicants to identify and develop proposals. They also monitor the ongoing operation of projects, providing assistance as necessary.

This Report, which covers the period 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2019, is presented by the Board to the Government of the United Kingdom, the Government of Ireland, the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Fund's donors in accordance with Article 12 of the Agreement of 18 September 1986, as amended, by which the International Fund for Ireland was established.

The Fund's Community Consolidation – Peace Consolidation Programmes cluster around key areas, which include: Peace Walls, Peace Impact and Personal Youth Development. All programmes are characterised by:

- A clear focus on reconciliation as the overriding objective;
- a focus on community transformation rather than conflict management;
- an emphasis on engaging with individuals and communities that have not previously, or only partially, participated in peace building and community development activities;
- an independent and credible approach with strong international backing;
- a cross-community, cross-border approach;
- a willingness to take risks on behalf of local communities;
- early support for community initiatives;
- co-operation with other funders and leverage of funds from other sources;
- a willingness to innovate and to break new ground in support of reconciliation; and
- a responsive approach to donor priorities.

Peace Walls Programme

Peace Walls are the most visual remaining symbols of division in Northern Ireland. Today, more than 100 barriers remain mostly in Belfast stretching a distance of 21km.



MAIN:
A barrier situated on
the Crumlin Road in
North Belfast.

BELOW:
A drone image
highlighting Peace
Wall barriers in
North Belfast.



Launched in January 2012, the Programme focuses on helping interface communities to bring about the conditions that can allow for the removal of Peace Walls. It provides a range of confidence and relationship building initiatives within and between interface communities to help residents arrive at a position where they feel it is safe and appropriate to discuss and consider the removal of Peace Walls in their area.

The programme is designed for communities that have expressed their willingness and readiness to begin building the levels of

trust required before starting the process of engaging with statutory authorities about removing the barriers.

The programme, which was developed by the Fund following consultation with all the key stakeholders, is designed to be the first stage in a process leading to the physical removal of barriers. This includes assisting interface communities to lever financial and political investment from statutory authorities for any associated infrastructure and community regeneration needs when the barriers are removed.



ABOVE:
The Chairman
(centre) pictured
with representatives
of the six IFI funded
Peace Walls projects
at the launch of the
'2019 Community
Attitudes to Peace
Walls Survey.



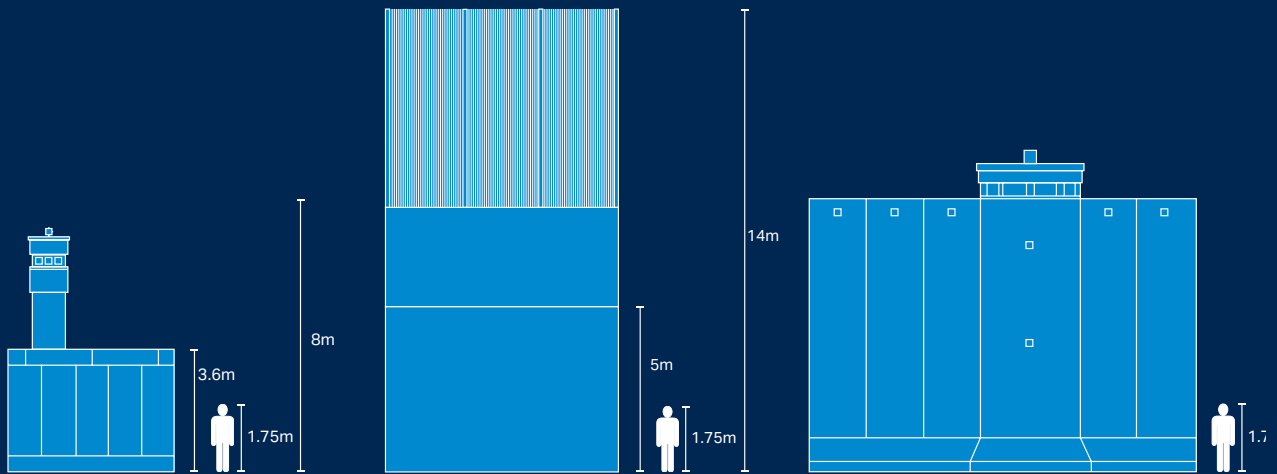
LEFT: An interface
barrier in Duncairn
Gardens, North
Belfast.



- KEY**
- 1. Blackmountain Shared Space Project (BMSS)
 - 2. Twaddell, Ardoyne, Shankill Communities in Transition (TASCIT)
 - 3. Duncairn Community Partnership (DCP)
 - 4. Greater Whitewell Community Surgery (GWCS)
 - 5. The Imagine PWP (LOCA/CCRF)
 - 6. TRIAX (Bogside and Brandywell Initiative BBI) Neighbourhood Partnership Board, Londonderry/Derry

Peace Walls Programme

The Peace Walls Programme is breaking new ground in interface areas and assisting communities to imagine life without barriers.



BERLIN WALL

CUPAR WAY, BELFAST

PALESTINE WALL

30

YEARS

51

YEARS

20

YEARS



1240

local people have engaged in Peace Walls discussions

47%
of the target group were engaged in discussions focussed on Peace Wall removal and reduction

6 PROJECTS

The programme aims to develop and deliver a range of confidence and relationship building interventions within and between interface communities to help residents reach a position where they feel it is safe and appropriate to proceed with the removal of Peace Walls in their area.

1249

people involved in site specific consultations

56%

engaged in INTRA and 55% INTER community events

205

intra- and inter-community events

11

agreements reached

10247

participants

The 2019 Community Attitudes to Peace Walls Survey, Key Findings

Community Safety and Local Concerns

- 86% of all respondents either feel 'very safe' or 'fairly safe' compared to 80% in 2017
- 34% of all respondents reported anti-social behaviour (including drug misuse) as the key issue of local concern compared to 10% in 2017

Current Views of Peace Walls

- 76% of all respondents were strongly in favour of barriers being removed within the lifetime of their children or grandchildren compared to 68% in 2017 Survey

- 67% believe barrier retention will have a negative impact on health and wellbeing of residents
- 45% believe that additional employment opportunities would promote greater attitudinal change to removal of barriers
- 40% believe that more community facilities would provide greater attitudinal change to removal
- 38% say that greater development of housing (in waste land) will promote greater attitudinal change to removal

Interaction and Community Relations

- 57% of all respondents stated that interaction with the 'other' community occurred 'very often' or 'fairly often' compared to 51% in 2017
- 40% of all respondents reported that they had regular contact with the community on the other side of the Peace Walls in comparison to 26% in 2017

Looking to the Future

- There is positive attitudinal change towards positive barrier removal since the last 2017 survey. Both communities favour change although CNR favour change at a faster pace
- 85% of CNR respondents were strongly in favour of the barriers being removed within the lifetime of their children or grandchildren compared to 73% in 2017
- 72% of PUL residents were strongly in favour of the barriers being removed

CASE STUDY Greater Whitewell Community Surgery



Greater Whitewell Community Surgery (GWCS) is located on the Shore Road in Lower North Belfast and has been part of the IFI Peace Walls Programme (PWP) since 2012. Located close to several well-known interfaces, the area has been a flashpoint for trouble, segregation and sectarianism at times of heightened tension over past years.

ABOVE:
Local residents enjoy the official launch of the new shared space at Navarra Place.

Geraldine O’Kane is Manager at GWCS: “We see ourselves as one community working for the benefit of all although we are, of course, sensitive to identity and cultural difference.”

There has been success in the last year with a Shared Space facility in the Serpentine Road/Navarra Place area in conjunction with Belfast City Council and the Department of Justice (DoJ). A harsh high solid metal Peace fence on the Serpentine Road was removed and replaced with an open-mesh boundary fence, with artwork designed by local children, around a shared space play park and a multi-use games area.

It has taken several years to negotiate, receive finance and other permissions to see the work completed but GWCS persevered to bring it to fruition for residents.

“Over several years we negotiated, had meetings with key stakeholders and most importantly, with the community who highlighted their concerns about the project. We worked slowly with them to alleviate those concerns. The new capital project started in February 2019 and was completed early July. The new play park and other facilities have brought the kids together and residents worked with us to reach our goal. We had an official opening in September, bringing everyone together to celebrate this new community chapter.”

The project intends to continue its work on the remaining segregation barriers in the area. Conversations continue in Lower Whitewell and Graymount on the potential removal of an automated gate with replacement by a ‘normal’ boundary gate as a first step.



“We hope it will be replaced with an open gate in the future and eventually removed with the consent of the community.”

Work also continues around potential change to a 9m high solid fence with mesh top running across back gardens dividing Serpentine Gardens and Gunnell Hill.

Geraldine says: “We are in exploratory talks with the Housing Executive and DoJ at the moment to see what can be achieved for residents at this site. It takes time to reach agreement with residents but seems to take even longer for agencies to bring forward plans and then to source the necessary finance when agreement is in place. This can be a slow and frustrating process.”

A long standing peace fence in the grounds of Hazelwood Integrated Primary School could also be part of future work if DoJ was to agree an appropriate Aftercare Package for local residents. If new security glass for windows and doors were part of this, a new school boundary fence would be erected abutting resident’s gardens, followed by the removal of the fence within the school grounds.

“This is currently a ‘no man’s land’ between the peace fence at the school and the gardens of the houses, which is attracting anti-social behavior, so we are working with the community to find a solution.

“A Peace Wall is more than the physical structure. It is a psychological barrier in people’s minds so it takes time to break

that down. It’s slow work, but we always have hope and you can see positive attitudinal change taking place as a result of our work.”

The team knows it is vital to keep conversations going, to give hope, so they welcome the sharing of views whatever they may be.

Parents from the interface, who would rarely have mixed previously, are meeting organically when their children meet. Young people flourish as a result of engaging with the programmes and training offered, with many going on to be youth workers and progressing through education.

“We can see how the challenges of society can get them down but, with help and support, they find a purpose and belonging and we see the changes - they are maturing. As part of our work, we offer advice services and residents really appreciate this. It provides opportunities to talk to them about our work and joint aspirations for the area.”

Geraldine is ambitious about the future. Her dream is to see all the Peace Walls down, housing values increasing and the young people from interfaces being viewed more positively by society.

“After all this time, there is still a stigma that comes with Peace Walls and living on an interface, it inhibits opportunities and social mobility and I want to see that go.”

ABOVE LEFT:
Guests and local school pupils pictured at a GWCS event.

ABOVE RIGHT:
The new look Navarra Place, Play Park and Shared Space.

CASE STUDY **Black Mountain Shared Space Project**



ABOVE:
Residents
involved in BMSSP
building trust and
understanding on
a visit.

Black Mountain Shared Space Project (BMSSP) has been funded by the IFI since 2013. Based in West Belfast, it focuses on work in the PUL Upper Shankill, Highfield, Springmartin and the CNR Upper Springfield, Springfield Park, Sliabh Dubh and Moyard areas. The project has had many successes in the past few years, both in terms of removal or alterations to peace barriers and much increased inter-community engagement.

The project has recently secured an offer of £6.4m Peace IV funding for an exciting Shared Space facility at the derelict 32,000 sq foot Finlay's factory site. It will provide community space with social enterprise units in what was once a contested space surrounded by peace fences. It will enable ongoing community engagement, with new resources and services, including employment opportunities for this previously neglected area of high social and economic need. Belfast City Council will act as lead partner, working with the BMSSP, to deliver over the next three years. Securing the European funding has been a major boost but the remaining challenge is to raise a further £1.2m to cover the shortfall for the social enterprise element of the project.

Seamus Corr, Manager of BMSSP says: "Capital investment brings new jobs, more investment and new programmes. Our overarching aim has always been for both communities to share a contested site as a shared space where both are benefiting directly from its use. We have always believed that regeneration leads to reconciliation and opportunities for people to engage are naturally created".

This development will enable sections of peace fences to be removed to allow safe cross-community access to the site. Ongoing work has also resulted in a new social housing development for Moyard Parade which is due to begin in the next few months. It will create 14 much-needed homes, enhanced play facilities and



parking spaces, which will design out a peace fence at an area where anti-social behavior has caused problems for many years.

BMSSP will also continue its engagement with primary schools, which are currently developing at pace. Younger members involved in this 'My Space Our Place' project are building shared knowledge, breaking down social barriers, growing in confidence and enjoying new friendships.

"Young people we work with now socialise together, which is fantastic. Women are building bridges after breakdowns in relationships caused by displacement and they are saying their self-esteem and confidence is better. They feel empowered by personal development programmes and this is great to see."

A lack of trust, fueled in part by the political vacuum and Brexit uncertainty impacts the removal of Peace Walls but positive results are happening slowly.

"The last barrier removal we were successful with was a security wall at our Springhill Avenue site. Opening up barriers is important in terms of breaking down segregation and fear while offering new opportunities.

"For all of this to work, both communities must trust each other again. We need investment to make people feel respected and valued. The lack of peace dividend in these communities is well documented. They need to see things change. IFI funding allows us to support projects and initiatives that others wouldn't and couldn't."

"We are talking to people and dealing with what flows from historical incidents and families impacted by the conflict. Establishing and maintaining good communication is ongoing. People need assurance that they can be upfront with each other.

"The political atmosphere plays a big role and the divisive impact of Brexit is a huge talking point, with communities mainly supporting their traditional political allegiances. People are interested in what impact it will have locally, nationally and internationally.

The team at BMSSP remains focused on its ongoing engagement efforts, developing respect and trust and safe space for discussion, despite the challenges.

"We will keep engaging, that is the critical bit. We will keep talking, meeting and developing programmes. The driving force for us is seeing the opportunities and the difference made."

Future plans include building confidence to bring down or alter more walls, a shared history multimedia project, continuing to deliver on the current capital projects while evolving new programmes and ideas and delivering ongoing projects.

"We have had people telling us our heads were cut, laughing at our efforts to work across both communities, but the results now show that both communities have shared with each other, have engaged on a cross-community basis and they continue to support us and we want more of that."

ABOVE LEFT: Image illustrating how the former Finlay's factory site will be transformed.

ABOVE RIGHT: Local women engage in discussions around plans for the local area.

CASE STUDY **Bogside and Brandywell Initiative**



The Bogside and Brandywell Initiative (BBI) has delivered community-based initiatives over the past two decades in the Brandywell, Bogside, Creggan, Fountain Estate and Bishop Street areas of Londonderry/Derry.

Funded by the IFI since 2013, its practice is based on strong community development principles ensuring that delivery is resident-led from the outset. While it is challenging work, there has been significant positive change since the project began.

Donna McCloskey, Manager at BBI, says: “We are a community in transition and much more work will be needed in the coming period.”

As well as delivering many high profile and successful, well-attended inter-community events and activities over the past year, a focus has been on the ‘Dogleg’ interface tunnel and gate structure at the entrance to the Fountain Estate on Bishop Street. That part of the interface is increasingly used as a shared space for specific events organised by the project, with the Dogleg gate opened to enable access for attendees from the two communities.

Residents responded positively to having increased access so, following consultation, a trial opening of the Dogleg gate was agreed for daylight hours in 2018. The trial ended after a few weeks due to a setback but thanks to ongoing conversations a redesigned structure was offered in early 2019. Further consultations, coupled with concerns about the risk to the health and safety of residents having to walk on a busy main thoroughfare to access Bishop Street within, have resulted in the Dogleg gate recently re-opening for daylight hours.

Donna notes: “It has increased access and people feel safer as a result. While the whole community has not bought into the opening of the gate as yet, the majority have. We continue to consult on this and on other structures in the area so that residents, agencies and businesses can have their say.”

ABOVE:
Ongoing engagement through a range of activities brings both sides of the community together in the city.



“Most people are happy with the work of the Peace Walls project. Ongoing inter-community engagement is helping to change people’s attitudes towards segregation, and many are now realising just how multi-cultural the city has become as well. However, there remains frustration about repeated consultation processes requested by agencies and what is seen as government departments moving too slowly to deliver on agreed changes.

“Strong inter-community friendships have been formed, with socialising taking place outside the events and activities directly organised by the project. We see this as a natural progression and a big positive. Halloween celebrations involved both communities and the Awakening of the Walls festival has been brilliant for the city. People of many different nationalities have been settling in Derry in recent years, so efforts have been made to integrate and mingle people from outside Ireland with the local community. Derry’s cultural initiatives have been key to that, with people keen to share their art and practices.

“BBI organised a Mela festival in September, replicating the Belfast festival and, on the interface, we had over 3,000 people from across the city taking part in the fun and in cultural workshops and I can see a thirst for future events and projects like this that help integration and break down barriers.

“We know that there is an element of the community who do not want to engage but

we must continue with our efforts to make positive progress.”

Over the last year, there has been an increase in tension across the city, with summer rioting, a rise in dissident Republican attacks including a car bomb outside Bishop Street courthouse, and the killing of journalist Lyra McKee in Creggan. The rise in dissident Republican activity sent a shock wave across the whole city.

“While people may see Derry as a big city, it is actually quite a small community. A small minority of people are causing these problems. Most people want the city to flourish. Throughout this recent unrest, there was a change in the interface community response in that the two communities in the Fountain and Bishop Street continued with engagement and community-led projects indicating that their confidence has built sufficiently to enable them to continue to engage with workers on the ground rather than close their doors.”

The PWP project is also engaging with wider efforts to tackle paramilitarism in the city with local women coming together to talk about and understand the complexities involved. A series of plays, and engagement with former combatants from both communities, is helping to change attitudes with versions of the past viewed from both perspectives in efforts to break down perceptions. This work will also continue in the year ahead.

ABOVE LEFT: Women come together for a weekly art class as part of BBI's Peace Walls work.

ABOVE RIGHT: Interface barriers in Londonderry/Derry still exist alongside the city's famous walls.

Peace Walls Programme

During this financial year the Fund has committed additional financial assistance to the following projects:

NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	NORTH £
Antrim and Newtownabbey		
Greater Whitewell Community Surgery 878 Shore Road Newtownabbey Co Antrim BT36 7DQ	Greater Whitewell Community Surgery will focus on strengthening relationships and work towards developing positive inter- and intra-attitudinal changes required to complete the journey towards Peace Wall/barrier removal/reduction at four remaining sites.	104,222
Belfast City		
Black Mountain Shared Space Project Innovation Factory 385 Springfield Road Belfast Co Antrim BT12 7DG	The Black Mountain Shared Space PWP's vision is to play a lead role in transforming the Peace Walls structures across the Black Mountain area making positive life changes for local residents offering alternatives to those that have been most impacted by the conflict.	158,864
Duncairn Community Partnership 290 Antrim Road Belfast Co Antrim BT15 5AA	Duncairn Community Partnership aims to strengthen relationships and broaden engagement with residents to build stronger and more stable relationships in the area.	159,562
Lower Oldpark Community Association & Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum (The Imagine PWP) 185 Cliftonpark Avenue Belfast Co Antrim BT14 6DT	The programme will work towards increasing positive attitudinal change towards Peace Wall/barrier removal and/or reduction in interface communities. This outcome will be achieved through increasing community confidence and agreement towards Peace Wall/barrier removal and/or reduction and increased intra- and inter-community engagement in interface communities focused on Peace Walls/barrier removal and/or reduction.	112,905
TASCIT Cliftonville Road Belfast Co Antrim BT14 6JR	The TASCIT PWP's vision is to play a lead role in transforming the Peace Walls structures across the Upper North Belfast area making positive life changes for local residents offering alternatives to those that have been most impacted by the conflict.	181,003

NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	NORTH £
Derry City and Strabane		
TRIAX (Bogside and Brandywell Initiative - BBI) Neighbourhood Partnership Board The Gasyard 128 Lecky Road Derry Co Londonderry BT48 6NP	Build on existing community engagement to broaden support, reflect on current consultation statistics in order to create community consensus around barrier alterations. The main Peace Wall is a key issue for both communities in the area with BBI aiming to focus on changing attitudes to examine the potential for it to be seen as an area boundary wall rather than a Peace Wall.	117,265

Peace Impact Programme

MAIN:
North Leitrim
Glens Development
Company's 'Across
the Lines' project
brought young
people together
to perform a
cross-border drama
production.



BELOW:
(L-R) Rodney
Champion, Project
worker, Winston
Irvine, Intercomm
Carrickfergus
Project Manager,
Paddy Harte, IFI
Chairman and
Jamie-Lee Moagy,
Project worker
at a recent event
that reflected on
the legacy of the
conflict.



The Peace Impact Programme (PIP) is designed to deliver real and positive community transformation through sensitive interventions in communities that have not previously, or have only partially, participated in peace building and reconciliation activities. Such interventions are critical to building a truly integrated, shared and peaceful society.

PIP works with communities to build sustainable peace and prosperity in areas

suffering from high levels of economic and social deprivation, where there are low levels of engagement in peace building and where the Peace Process has delivered limited benefits.

The programme places particular emphasis on engaging with disaffected and marginalised young people who are vulnerable to recruitment or attack by those opposed to the Peace Process.

PIP Projects

During the financial year the Fund committed financial assistance to the following projects:

- BELFAST**
1. Black Mountain Shared Space Project, West Belfast
 2. REACH Project, East Belfast
 3. Springboard Opportunities Ltd, North Belfast
 4. Twaddell Woodvale Residents Association (TWRA), North Belfast

- ANTRIM**
5. Carson Project, Ballymena
 6. Ulidia Training, Ballymoney

- LONDONDERRY/DERRY**
7. West Bann Development, Coleraine
 8. Bready & District Ulster Scots Development Association, Strabane
 9. Leafair Community Project, Londonderry/Derry

10. Londonderry Bands Forum (LBF), Londonderry/Derry
11. Sperrin Cultural Awareness Association, Magherafelt
12. Sperrins & Glens Teach Na Failte, Bellaghy

- TYRONE**
13. Ealu, Dungannon

- ARMAGH**
14. Drumbeg North & South Residents Association, Craigavon
 15. Community Restorative Justice - Newry Armagh, Newry

- CAVAN**
16. Swanlinbar Development Association, Swanlinbar
 17. Tulacmongan Resource Centre, Cavan Town

- DONEGAL**
18. Lifford /Clonleigh Resource Centre, Lifford

- LEITRIM**
19. Ballinamore Area Community Council, Ballinamore
 20. North Leitrim Glens Development Company, Manorhamilton

- LOUTH**
21. Ait na Daoine, Dundalk
 22. Ardee and District Community Trust (& Dunleer Community Development Board), Ardee





The Peace Impact Programme has expanded and intensified efforts to build sustainable peace and prosperity in areas where there have been low levels of engagement in peace building. Projects have developed innovative community-led solutions to address difficult issues linked to the legacy of conflict and many have successfully engaged with young people who are at risk becoming involved in sectarian or anti-social activity.

ABOVE:
Young People
involved with
Drumbeg North
& South Residents
Association
performed as part
of a celebration
event for the
project.

Peace Impact Programme

Launched in 2013, The Peace Impact Programme (PIP) has achieved significant success within communities where there has been limited or no previous participation in peace building activities.

IN THE LAST YEAR:



5974

FIRST-TIME PEACE BUILDERS

3174

GENERAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

98

GRANTS TO DATE

1841

CROSS-BORDER/CROSS-COMMUNITY EVENTS, ENGAGEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES.

To build sustainable peace and prosperity in areas suffering from high levels of economic and social deprivation, where there are low levels of engagement in peace building and where the Peace Process has delivered limited benefits.

7624

people indicated positive attitudinal change

46

projects were active during the year

2506

accreditations and qualifications received

7936

people involved in capacity building events and training

Programme Summary

98 grants have been awarded: 22 projects received 2 grants (16 in NI and 6 in the SBC's) and 9 projects received 3 grants (6 in NI and 3 in the southern border counties).

In the reporting period, 46 projects were operational, 30 in NI and 16 in the southern border counties.

The IFI has invested over £11.5m (almost €14m) in PIP to date with 76% allocated to NI and 24% to the southern border counties.

July 2018–June 2019

HOW MUCH
DID WE DO?

3174

Number of core and general events and activities

HOW WELL DID
WE DO IT?

5974

participants engaged in peace building for the first time

IS ANYONE
BETTER OFF?

7624

participants expressed positive attitudinal change towards people from different backgrounds

1841

Number of intra/inter-community and cross-border events

2506

Participants received accreditations and qualifications

622

new inter/intra and cross-border relationships forged.

CASE STUDY **The HUBB, Community Resource Centre**



In 2018, The HUBB Community Resource Centre launched a community cohesion project in North Belfast. Although relatively new to the IFI, 'FUSE' is encouraging partnership working, fostering positive relationships and developing local community capacity in the city.

Historically, North Belfast has experienced some of the worst of the conflict alongside paramilitary feuds between rival organisations such as the UDA and UVF. Internal disputes have been extremely volatile and resulted in murders, intimidation, assaults, beatings and property damage.

The legacy of the past and the internal feuding between Loyalist groupings is still affecting the community 20 years after the signing of the Good Friday Agreement.

Jim Crothers manages FUSE: "We are working closely with communities who have suffered for many years and want to see change. The driving force behind FUSE originally came from former Loyalist prisoners who wished to empower the local community and bring about positive change through engaging with one another."

Since its launch, the project has worked with key groups to develop a strategic plan and

facilitate a transformation process for those people involved or on the fringes of anti-social and criminal behaviour.

"This approach allows people to start to understand the negative affects their behaviour has on communities, sets a path for them to disengage from this behaviour and have a more meaningful role."

FUSE is delivering activities that are based around addressing the needs of all: people, place and prosperity; education and training; mother and toddler and youth groups; good relations and conflict transformation.

Jim believes the need to develop good relations is vital for the project's success, engaging hard to reach Loyalists and developing community roles among people in areas of North Belfast such as Tigers Bay, White City and Newtownabbey. As with any peace and reconciliation work, there are always challenges that need to be approached with care.

ABOVE:
Residents engage positively with the Fuse project in North Belfast.



“Young people are being targeted by paramilitaries to support criminal activity and often can be punished by rival organisations and made to pay protection money. One outcome of this is punishment beatings and many local residents remain fearful because they have lost faith in agencies to deal with these issues. Some have gone as far as to say that their situation is worse now than it would have been during The Troubles.”

Challenges aside, the Loyalist area in which the project operates has missed out on peace dividends and Jim believes it is time for change and growth.

“We have engaged positively with combatants and created a real understanding of community. Lots of people are engaged in positive work. A problem remains that drug dealers and people in organised crime gangs are professing to be paramilitaries but this script has to be changed.”

He gets frustrated by the mainstream view that Loyalism is not moving on and by those he claims use the past to try to exert control and fear within local communities.

“These gangs are a scourge on society. They are not paramilitaries - they are criminals.”

Ongoing community efforts however are showing resilience and leadership. Over the last year the group has helped many people get into employment, there are reduced instances of violence and a range of intra-community programmes that have brought

people together who wouldn't have spoken in the past.

“We see this all as positive leadership. People are starting to feel a real sense of community where it was lost for a long time.”

Future plans include trying to expand and engage in what Jim describes as more controversial work and more cross-community work.

“Learning to understand one another is a big focus as well as incorporating more educational opportunities into our offering. Young males aren't being given the necessary tools so we want to address that. We are developing collaborations to help bring careers to the community and we also plan to engage with the tourism industry to encourage more meaningful and quality jobs in this sector.”

Building trust and confidence in the community is rewarding for the team and vital for the future success of the people of North Belfast.

Jim adds: “From my heart I can see it's working, changing Loyalism and the community for the better.

“The IFI funding is unique for this Loyalist community, which for a long time was left with a vacuum of intra-violence and feuds. That stops collective work. What we have done with this funding is bring people together to lay the foundations for positive interactions and outcomes.”

ABOVE LEFT: Pictured at the launch of the project (L-R): Adree Wallace, Mentor; IFI Chairman, Paddy Harte and Jim Crothers from the HUBB Community Resource Centre.

ABOVE RIGHT: The project continues to develop good relations, engaging hard to reach Loyalists and developing community roles.

CASE STUDY West Bann Development



West Bann Development operates across The Heights and the Killowen estates in Coleraine, Co. Londonderry and is on an interface where a Nationalist community worker was killed by a mob in 2009.

The attack is well documented and has had a lasting impact on residents. Deep scars have created distrust between both communities.

IFI funded since 2016, West Bann works with those who have received little from the Peace Process and engages with youths who are more vulnerable to paramilitary recruitment.

The project initially targeted young CNR people at risk from interface violence but this has evolved over time. It now engages with interface residents from both sides of the community, ex-prisoners, Loyalist community groups, Loyalist cultural groups, Orange Order and Republican ex-prisoners.

Eugene McFeely is the manager and Catherine Regan has the role of coordinator at the project. Eugene says: "Our first attempts to work with the PUL community were not entirely successful and there was a certain amount of trepidation regarding engagement.

"We are pushing for new forms of dialogue across the interface and want to help educate young people around culture and identity. We must continue to challenge

sectarian attitudes and actions. Relationship building is key and this has never been attempted here before."

Culture, Community, Skills, and Youth are the core pillars of work, offering a wide range of activities from practical employability skills to challenging discussions on culture and identity and how these issues can impact the local communities.

The group has also worked hard to establish a youth hub on the interface. It operates throughout the week and takes in around 300 marginalised youth, giving them a safe space to meet.

Eugene says: "There were no neutral venues just church and school halls until we came along. It's now a shared space meeting the needs of all the community and everyone mixes together rather than a forced way of engagement."

Developing skillsets, youth work, culture and identity exploration are all vital to the project's success. Building community relations and developing women's groups alongside traditionally hard to reach youths for personal development is ongoing.

ABOVE:
Residents come together for women's hour workshops to help build community relations further.



“We are exploring cultures and agendas, building people’s confidence in their own skin to make them comfortable to engage with others.”

In terms of challenges, some residents do not wish to engage with outsiders particularly when the pain of the past is raised.

Eugene says it is a challenge: “People want to know our agenda. Some are more reticent than others. Sectarianism and fragmentation among the Loyalist and Republican communities impact willingness to engage. Progress is slow as we are always conscious of sensitivities involved.”

Issues with dissident Republican flags are a key concern so the group is collaborating with other IFI funded projects on this problem.

He adds: “On both sides of the divide there are people trying to control groupings. Not much happens without their say so. That too can make engagement difficult.

“The situation on the Republican side of the Heights is that sectarianism is compounded by issues of substance abuse and criminality both of which play a role in controlling the community. Unfortunately, taking this path often means death threats from other organisations as well as criminal convictions.”

The project and community continue to be resilient despite these challenges, which must be met head on.

Catherine believes that project success is evident through small gestures that make the world of difference.



“Very good relationships have developed between Catholic and Protestant ladies because of their engagement with programmes - from celebrating birthdays to praying for each other in times of difficulty.

“There is also a dedicated community worker meeting people face to face, among what is known as the (Good Friday) Agreement Generation and the ex-offenders in the community.

“We work with them to encourage volunteering opportunities and also help rehabilitation. One young man is on the path to university and we are reaching young people who are the future. It’s really important to be able to continue this. If we didn’t have the PIP Programme our community would be worse off.”

“The Active Resilient Communities’ (ARC) programme will continue to build community development and political participation, the women’s leadership programme ‘Women in Community’ transformation is evolving and the 2020 vision will educate young people about life highs opposed to the dangers of substance abuse.

Catherine said: “We love having support from the IFI.”

“More of the same please,” Eugene adds.

“People need to build knowledge and have a good sense of their own identity so they can learn to integrate fully. It must be a long-term commitment. We want to develop meaningful interactions to create real, lasting change for the Coleraine area.”

ABOVE LEFT:
Working directly with residents encourages good levels of participation with the project.

ABOVE RIGHT:
Strong friendships have been formed thanks to IFI support.

CASE STUDY Redeemer Family Resource Centre



Donna Conroy and Emma Maguire are joint coordinators of the women's project at The Redeemer Family Resource Centre in Dundalk. There are high levels of unemployment and socio-economic disadvantage in the area and the centre provides opportunities for educational, leisure and social activities.

The area was severely impacted by The Troubles and many families displaced from Northern Ireland were rehoused there. The legacy of the conflict is still visible on walls and in public spaces and many living in the area have family members who were involved.

Redeemer is funded through the PIP Programme, which aims to deliver real and positive community transformation through sensitive interventions with those who have not previously participated in peace building and reconciliation activities.

From small beginnings when just three young women got involved, two groups are now supporting around 22 women mainly aged 18-24 and some into their 40s. The project gives young women confidence, self-belief and hope.

Investing time and engaging with the local community to spread the news of what was on offer was key to building trust.

Donna says: "It's a stepping stone to get back into full-time or part-time education or employment. We posted information but recruitment was mainly door to door to reach women suffering from low self-esteem and low confidence.

"They felt isolated from the community and didn't have skills to access support. Many of the women are single parents and childcare can be a challenge but we are working it out. Life sometimes does get in the way so attendance at times can be affected by this."

Women involved are embracing a variety of skills including: accredited barista training; human resource management; interview skills; DIY skills; forklift licensing; childcare; health and beauty; CV writing; arts and crafts; horticulture; movement for health and care; mindfulness; meditation and yoga.

It's key that every woman involved in the project has the opportunity to overcome

ABOVE:
A participant from the Redeemer Project is given the opportunity to learn new skills through the Peace Impact Programme.



any challenge. Providing suitable facilities is one area that Donna and Emma are determined to conquer so that women can take part in cookery classes.

“Renovations are being carried out in the centre at the moment and we have expressed our interest in a large kitchen so that could open up cookery skills.”

Donna says the youth club on Mondays sees great results but it too presents challenges: “We are targeting kids that are falling through the net so it can be hard to facilitate certain programmes because of commitments the children have in their lives.”

Cross-border engagement is another key element of the work done at Redeemer, with hate crime initiatives and visits from Belfast groups a welcome addition. Trips have included the Peace Walls in Belfast and visits to similar groups and projects are planned in the future.

The project is also establishing a cross-border women’s network with a number of other IFI projects, which will bring women together to work around the theme of Social Inclusion.

On the challenges they face, including high levels of unemployment and socio-economic disadvantages, the community is resilient.

Emma said: “The benefits of the group are unique. Some will use it as their way to get back into education and training and another side will tell you it’s a social outlet to escape, get out of the house and make new friends.”



Donna recalls the story of a young single mother with three children who approached the project.

“She had been suffering from low self-esteem and social anxiety. Initially the group was a social outlet but she engaged with the courses, showed an interest in healthcare and working with older people, so eventually took part in a people moving training course, and manual handling course.

“She was keen to progress, went back and did level five in her local college to be a healthcare assistant, got off all social welfare payments and is going back to study nursing. She didn’t have the confidence to think she was brave enough or good enough to do the course and now she is soaring.”

A recent event at a hotel in Louth was important for women to network further and share their experiences.

Donna adds: “One woman in her early 40s said she was going through massive personal problems in her life with a broken marriage and was in the process of filing for divorce. Despite this, socialising with the other women in the group has given her light and hope, routine and structure again.”

As for the future, big plans are afoot to increase what’s on offer.

Donna says: “Our project is the stepping stone to gain confidence, self-belief and hope when nothing else is going right. New friendships grow and women make the move into employment and education. And, most importantly it’s fun. The girls love coming here.”

ABOVE LEFT: Women involved in the project embrace a variety of skills including forklift licensing.

ABOVE RIGHT: The project has helped to transform women’s lives and rebuild confidence.

Peace Impact Programme

During this financial year the Fund has committed financial assistance to the following projects:

NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	NORTH £
Belfast City		
Black Mountain Shared Space Project Innovation Factory 385 Springfield Road Belfast Co Antrim BT12 7DY	To continue the delivery of peace building, training and education across the areas of Highfield, Springmartin, Moyard and Springfield Park.	142,365
REACH Project Newtownards Road Belfast Co Antrim BT4 1HE	REACH is a project, which will engage the wider PUL community within East Belfast to deliver solutions to the tensions faced in the area and deliver bespoke training to REACH members as well as to the wider community.	213,600
Springboard Opportunities Ltd North Street Belfast Co Antrim BT1 1NA	To work in partnership with community groups in both Carrickhill and East Belfast to deliver projects with both young people and local volunteers around good relations and peace building, enhancing skills and developing pathways to change.	105,741
Twaddell Woodvale Residents Association (TWRA) The Cabin Twaddell Avenue Belfast Co Antrim BT13 3LE	The project's key elements will be conflict transformation and peace building, skills for employment, supporting young people as well as continued cross-community and cross-border development.	226,877
Causeway Coast and Glens		
Ulidia Training Main Street Ballymoney Co Antrim BT53 6AL	An innovative peace building and traditional skills project which will engage young people and the wider Loyalist community in a multi-phased programme in Mid/North Antrim and East Tyrone. The project will also involve Restorative Justice, mediation and cross-community engagement.	223,562

NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	NORTH £
West Bann Development Killowen Court Coleraine Co Antrim BT52 3TP	This project will operate across four programme streams in the greater Heights Killowen area of Coleraine and will focus on local relationships, building capacity and cohesion, creating new structures, deal with gatekeeping and other difficult issues. The programme will involve some single identity work as well as cross-community activity.	145,079
Derry City and Strabane		
Bready & District Ulster Scots Development Association Victoria Road Bready Strabane Co Tyrone BT82 0EB	This project will offer skills, training and employability in the cultural sector through a cross-community cultural apprentice programme, focusing on peace building and reaching people who are marginalised.	170,535
Leafair Community Project Skeoge House Leafair Park Derry Co Londonderry BT48 8JT	This innovative project will involve Leafair CA working to engage disaffected communities in the outer north area of Londonderry/Derry to tackle difficult peace building and conflict legacy issues.	58,255
Londonderry Bands Forum Hawkin Street Co Londonderry BT48 6RE	The project will enable the LBF to establish itself as a stand alone organisation. The project will continue to expand its education programmes, enhance the number of bands and participants involved in Capacity Building Programmes and cultural workshops and contribute towards the further development of North West Cultural Forum.	67,457
Mid and East Antrim		
Carson Project Queen Street Ballymena Co Antrim BT42 2BQ	The project will work primarily within the PUL communities in North and Mid Antrim and will target both marginalised communities and those who have not previously engaged in peace building or community development. The project will additionally provide capacity and skills training.	152,379

NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	NORTH £
Mid Ulster		
Ealu Shamble Lane Dungannon Co Tyrone BT70 1BW	A community transformation and peace building programme in East Tyrone and North Armagh addressing the legacy of the conflict and the issues it has created.	246,107
Sperrin Cultural Awareness Association Union Arcade Union Road Magherafelt Co Londonderry BT45 5PS	Sperrin SCAA will deliver a programme in Co Londonderry engaging disaffected young people and the wider community in new structures that will build capacity, interest and knowledge in peace building and deliver new skills and opportunities.	215,480
Sperrins & Glens Teach Na Failte Main Street Bellaghy Co Londonderry BT45 8HT	The project will engage Republican and Republican Socialist groupings and wider communities with an interest in peace building. The programme will develop and build the capacity of a volunteer base, provide training and services to the wider community.	230,431
Newry, Mourne and Down		
Community Restorative Justice - Newry Armagh Ballybot House Cornmarket Newry Co Armagh BT35 8BG	To deliver a bespoke intervention to support communities deal with difficult issues, build peace and support young people to make better life choices who are vulnerable to dissident and criminal gangs.	210,709
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon		
Drumbeg North & South Residents Association Drumbeg South Tullygally Craigavon Co Armagh BT65 5AH	Working with residents who are under threat of recruitment by disaffected Republicans. The programme will develop skills to keep young people safe and to support the community to deal with contentious issues.	136,042
NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	SOUTH €
Cavan		
Swanlinbar Development Association Trivia House Swanlinbar Co Cavan	24-month cross-border, cross-community development project which will provide skills and personal development training to support and create opportunities for learning and education, community transformation and peace building in West Cavan and Fermanagh.	198,031

NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	SOUTH €
Tullacmongan Resource Centre Tullacmongan Kilmooney Drive Cavan Town Co Cavan	An 18 month cross-border, cross-community capacity and peace building programme to facilitate and enable the development of relations between disadvantaged areas of Cavan and their cross-community neighbours in Fermanagh and Tyrone.	164,926
Donegal		
Lifford/Clonleigh Resource Centre Croghan Heights Lifford Co Donegal	12-month programme for men over 25 in the Finn Valley area to address the high levels of economic, educational and social deprivation that resulted from the Troubles. Will help to equip participants with the ability to become self sustainable groups in their own areas.	93,531
Leitrim		
Ballinamore Area Community Council Kiltymoodan Ballinamore Co Leitrim	18-month cross-community development project to provide skills and personal development training to support and create opportunities for learning and education, community transformation and peace building.	134,720
North Leitrim Glens Development Company The Glens Centre New Line Manorhamilton Co Leitrim	Cross-border, cross-community programme of capacity building and community participation with specific employment driven interventions with facilitated conflict resolution and reconciliation.	171,194
Louth		
Ait na Daoine Muirhevnamor Dundalk Co Louth	21-month cross-border project to engage with residents, families and young people in the area to increase their involvement with community development and peace and reconciliation.	177,782
Ardee and District Community Trust (& Dunleer Community Development Board) Main Street Ardee Co Louth	18-month community development project to support both groups to develop their capacity and their relationship to facilitate the development of comprehensive youth and community support services and infrastructure in the Mid Louth area.	140,000

Personal Youth Development Programme

MAIN:
Participants involved in 'The Pathway Programme: Empowering Young People for their Future' pictured at a celebration event at Crumlin Road Gaol in Belfast.



BELOW:
IFI Chairman Paddy
Harte pictured
at Glasgowbury's
PYDP celebration
event.



The Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP) was launched in late 2015 within the Fund's Community Consolidation – Peace Consolidation 2016 – 2020 Strategy. The programme aims to help risk young people build and develop life skills that foster good relations, build confidence and resilience and make them more employable.

The programme is unique in the way it engages and sustains contact with participants. Each PYDP project builds enduring relationships with young people and establishes highly personalised development plans tailored to the needs of the individual. The tiered nature of the programme and continued contact with project coordinators – even after completion

of initial level – means participants can progress or reconnect with the programme at different levels as circumstances change.

In this sense, the programme adapts and adjusts to the needs of the individual providing personal guidance and encouragement as they develop. The PYDP seeks to connect young people aged 16-25 to personalised learning, skills and employment opportunities with a central focus on good relations and preparing young people for the world of work. It is interested in engaging young people that are vulnerable to polarisation/recruitment to organisations opposed to the Peace Process and face barriers to participation in mainstream provision.

PYDP Projects

During the financial year the Fund committed financial assistance to the following projects:

BELFAST

1. Workforce Training Services, West Belfast

LONDONDERRY/DERRY

2. Roe Valley Residents Association, Limavady
3. Glasgowbury Cornerstone Creative Hub, Draperstown

TYRONE

4. Galbally Youth & Community Association, Galbally

DONEGAL

5. Downstrands Family Resource Centre, Portnoo
6. Inishowen Development Partnership CHANCE project, Bunrana

LOUTH

7. Connect Family Resource Centre, Drogheda





The Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP) focuses on the needs of young people who are at risk of isolation, polarisation and/or recruitment to organisations opposed to the Peace Process. It enables each participant to take control of their own personal development through a multi-tiered approach that offers significant individualised support with community, social and economic elements.

ABOVE:
Barry Torrens,
Unit Commander
of Coleraine Unit,
Community Rescue
Service (CRS);
Leanne Abernethy,
IMPACT Project
Manager and IFI
Board Member, Allen
McAdam pictured
at the unveiling of
a new mural that
marks the end
of a successful
community based
wellbeing initiative
around the North
Coast.

Personal Youth Development Programme

Launched in November 2015, the Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP) is designed to help young people build and develop life skills that foster good relations, build confidence and resilience and make them more employable.



528

**YOUNG PEOPLE
PROGRESSING
TO EDUCATION
AND TRAINING**

3278



ACCREDITATIONS

46

**STEERING/ADVISORY
GROUPS**

390

**YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE
SECURED EMPLOYMENT
10 APPRENTICESHIPS**

46*

**PROJECTS
(*31 PROJECTS EXTENDED)**

Helping at risk young people build and develop life skills that foster good relations, build confidence and resilience and make them more employable

1888

young people
participating

1166

completing
accredited training

1126

received
employment
related training

974

taking good
relations training

359

completing
work placements

CHARACTERISTICS OF PYDP PROJECTS

PYDP engages 16-25 year olds that are vulnerable to polarisation and face barriers to participation in mainstream provision. It is designed to engage young people who may have:



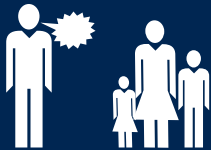
Left education with no or low qualifications or who left the education system early



Been or currently are involved in substance abuse



Become affected by homelessness



Come from a difficult family background



Been in, or close to, the criminal justice system



Suffered from poor health including mental health issues



Mistrust of statutory institutions



Not participated in civic society in a positive manner



Come from communities with a negative view of their future

CASE STUDY North West Alcohol Forum



The Alcohol Forum's youth worker Jane McGill engages with 14-16 year olds affected by drink or drug misuse. Based in Letterkenny, the project is funded through the IFI'S PYDP Programme.

No similar project is being currently delivered in Donegal targeting children from families experiencing the impact of a parent or guardian's alcohol and drug misuse.

Donegal suffered significantly during The Troubles and people are still dealing with legacy issues. Many families suffer from intergenerational trauma as a result of family involvement or from the impact it had on their lives.

Jane works with 12 young people and hopes to set up another group: "Because of the geography of Donegal my referrals are from across the county. We help promote positive relationships, make participants more resilient and help improve their future prospects."

Working across a county that is affected by many challenges, ongoing uncertainty isn't helping vulnerable young people.

"Many of these young people are isolated rurally so that means they are susceptible

to being recruited to paramilitary groups particularly those living closest to the border. Brexit uncertainty and potential new border controls that could impact daily life are compounding the problem."

For Jane, this is a rewarding project to work on but the geography of the county can be daunting because it is time consuming to travel and the complexity of the needs among the young people is great.

"Young people being referred to us are level three and four of the Hardiker model of need. That means they have multiple adverse childhood experiences and require a lot of support.

"A lot have social anxiety, poor school attendance, some have experienced domestic violence in the home. There are many single parent families- it's a lot to cope with at a young age."

Most of Jane's referrals come from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

ABOVE:
Participants on a recent trip to Londonderry/Derry pictured at the famous Derry Girls mural, which illustrates the hit TV show's stars, on the side of Badger's Bar on Orchard Street in the city.



Many young people are dealing with self-harm and suicidal feelings, with some arriving at the project via the Garda Youth diversion Programme.

The majority of cases involve intense and complex matters so each young person receives tailored support according to their individual needs.

"I work closely with other professionals and have links with parents to see best how to assist – there is currently a waiting list for one-to-one support. Poor school attendance is one of the biggest difficulties here with around 90% of the young people either not in school at all or rarely there. I really think we have tapped into an unmet need in the county."

Jane feels the Donegal project in particular is experiencing optimistic results in a relatively short period of time.

"We have had really positive feedback from parents, the young people and professionals and have also built up a good reputation in the midst of other services."

Among the achievements so far are young people sitting their Junior Cert exams. Meeting young people, planning their futures, finding out what they want to achieve and working out the steps to get there is a vital part.

"Sometimes depending on how complex the case is, it's more about keeping that young person safe. The next priority is then around education and getting them out and socialising.

"It's fantastic to see this group interacting because the reality is at home they often have no one to share experiences with. They are in their bedroom all the time so the fact they are attending the group is quite remarkable in itself.

"It can be challenging at times getting young people to attend the group because of how anxious they are. It is such a rewarding project to work on and its having a positive impact on the whole family. We have also had some unexpected positive outcomes in relation to parents.

"One mother thought she may have to give up work because of everything going on with her family but she managed to keep her job and another mother who had been unemployed for years got a job after seeing an improvement in her children's lives thanks to this project."

An element of the Alcohol Forum's work focuses on strengthening families and building family cohesion and resilience in families. A waiting list shows the popularity of the project and future plans include another support worker and setting up at least four groups across the county. Jane is also taking referrals of those affected by siblings' substance misuse.

"You can really see the difference we are making to help transform lives here. It's a really nice feeling coming into work knowing you are right there, improving someone's journey."

ABOVE LEFT:
Jane finds the work extremely rewarding and looks forward to transforming more young lives.

ABOVE RIGHT:
The visit to Londonderry/ Derry involved a walking tour of the city's history through the years.

CASE STUDY **Clanrye Group**



Clanrye Group based in South Armagh has redoubled its efforts to show young people a different life path involving personal development and social action rather than destruction.

Dara O'Hagan is the youth and family support manager at the Group in Killeavy and also runs the 'Regener8' project through the Fund's PYDP Programme. This cross-community initiative supports young people aged 16-25 who are not in education, employment or training, and who live within the Newry, Mourne and South Armagh areas.

Dara said: "It aims to develop young people's skills and qualifications to help them break down their barriers and move into employment or further education whilst providing opportunities to interact in the local community and increase social inclusion."

In the last year, 29 young people have been through the programme, with work ongoing for those who remain engaged. Seven have gained full time employment and two are into part time employment. Three have also progressed to Further Education within Southern Regional

College in Newry and are taking courses in Beauty, Travel and Tourism.

Through the PYDP Programme, Regener8 targets young people who are often the most marginalised in society. As a result they will have faced many challenges including mental health stresses in some cases as a result of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), the impact of domestic violence, substance abuse and fragmented family situations.

"The introduction of a one-to-one counselling service for our young people has had a tangible positive effect and a bond of trust has formed, which is of great benefit to our young people.

"They feel they can discuss the issues they face in a safe and confidential setting and this has had a calming and supportive effect. The use of recreational drugs outside of programme hours has had a noticeable influence on some of our young

ABOVE:
Participants from
Clanrye's Regener8
project on a recent
trip to Hillsborough
Castle in Co Down.



people and this has further impacted on their mental health.”

Homelessness, social isolation, vulnerability and low levels of confidence and self-esteem are also facing those involved.

Dara adds: “Many would also be very vulnerable due to difficult or traumatic events they have gone through in their lives. Tutoring, gaining qualifications, good relations trips and workshops, helps their confidence start to grow and blossom.”

Concerns around the fallout of Brexit alongside the role of paramilitaries in border communities continues to be a hot topic of discussion for participants.

“Paramilitarism has always been present in the border areas and although quiet over recent years the looming threat of Brexit has compounded the fear within the locality of a hard border and therefore tensions are at an all-time high.”

The local community has at large remained resilient with the majority of young people remaining unengaged in negative activities. Instead, many are opting for employment,



accredited qualifications and embracing training opportunities. Social action projects are also flourishing and young people are openly talking about their positive experiences with the project.

“One young person said before they were extremely shy but they are now talking to others, making friends, feeling a sense of leadership and have increased confidence levels.

“It’s a lottery where you are born and what effects your upbringing can have. All this has a knock on effect and how you look at the world so we are about creating positive links”.

Future plans for Regener8 include developing partner relationships and further work on the PYPD model which is experiencing positive results.

Dara adds: “Listening and expanding to meet the needs of young people and families remains at the heart of what we do. It has to be bespoke, listening to what they need and require, and looking at what employers in the area need to help carve out long-term career opportunities for our young people.”

ABOVE LEFT:
The project helps instill confidence and encourages friendship.

ABOVE RIGHT:
Community based projects are another important element of Regener8 and allow young people to give back.

CASE STUDY **Strabane AYE**



Strabane AYE (Access Youth Engagement) is based in an area that has experienced a surge in dissident Republican activity in recent years.

Supported through the PYDP Programme, Roísín McGinley, its project coordinator, works with young people from the Strabane district at risk of being involved with drugs and alcohol and being radicalised by anti-peace process elements in society.

The young people are marginalised, from deprived areas, are disengaged and have fallen through the system so need support to help transform their lives.

Roísín says: "They have lost their way in life so our aim is to build resilience and confidence. We do mentoring, mediation, break down barriers and work closely with them to keep them on track."

The biggest challenge is to keep the young people safe from violence and armed groups.

"We want them to stay away from convictions and lifelong stigma. We also have problems with drugs and alcohol so we are out and about where young people are doing this and we try to intervene."

A lot of the work being done is about building relationships with young people rather than immediately calling police in an effort to try and keep them away from the criminal justice system.

The group works closely with the PSNI and youth justice to resolve problems. Thankfully, this year punishment shootings and beatings have not been taking place which is a massive success for the project.

"It's all down to working together on the ground. We are seeing massive changes and the young people are growing in confidence."

Unemployment among youths, mental health issues and the benefits trap are other areas that are being focused on. Universal credit is also causing a lot of problems and poverty is a big threat to many families here.

"We have families relying on food banks and see this on a daily basis. People surviving for weeks without money, they then get

ABOVE:
Celebrating
success helps to
boost participants
confidence and
develop skills.



into debt. It's a spiral and people are at the end of their tether."

Brexit is also a concern in the area and some people perceive trouble. The group is attempting to minimise risk but it is not easy.

"It's the uncertainty. There is a vacuum, which creates fear about how they will move freely across the border and what it all means. There is not enough information out there to give to people."

Roísín has also been invited to sit on a range of committees and engages with other agencies for the betterment of all of society.

Young people are engaging in training, getting involved in community events, some have got their driving tests and even taking it upon themselves to sign up for training and courses because they now have the confidence to do so.

Residential trips, cross-community work and meeting up with other groups from places such as Londonderry/Derry have been other boosts for the project.

"We are making them realise that they are important, removing them from risk and the confidence is growing. The young



people want to learn, they are stronger and more independent which the rest of the community benefits from."

One young person told Roísín she was concerned about the future of Strabane AYE and she wants to make sure it continues.

"She said she would fundraise to keep us going if she needs to."

Social media has been a great outlet to showcase events and young people's achievements which boosts further all their self-esteem and confidence.

She adds: "They aren't being viewed or seeing themselves as young hooligans in the community. It is fantastic to see the changes in every participant."

The project is recruiting for a new intake and taking on referrals from across the district.

Roísín is hopeful about the future and gets great satisfaction from her role.

"They call me their second mammy. I love my job. We celebrate the young people and their success and give them a chance to show off their success. It means so much to me and to them. I love it. It's like a wee family in here."

ABOVE:
Participants are pictured taking part in Mental Health workshop.

Personal Youth Development Programme

During this financial year the Fund has committed financial assistance to the following projects:

NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	NORTH £
Belfast City		
Workforce Training Services Springfield Road Belfast Co Antrim BT12 7AJ	A collaboration between Workforce and Impact Training targeting 14-16 year olds from targeted areas in West Belfast and Greater Shankill.	91,385
Causeway Coast and Glens		
Roe Valley Residents Association 13-14 Keady Way Limavady Co Londonderry BT49 0AU	Building Brighter Futures is a structured youth based programme within Limavady focusing on four housing estates.	163,438
Mid Ulster		
Galbally Youth & Community Association 36 Lurgylea Road Galbally Co Tyrone BT70 2NX	'Game Changer' is a structured programme based on a person centred approach to learning for young people aged between 16-25.	127,999
Glasgowbury Cornstore Creative Hub High Street Draperstown Co Londonderry BT45 7AA	A structured youth based programme for those with an interest in pursuing a career within the creative industry across Mid Ulster.	122,929
NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	SOUTH €
Donegal		
Downstrands Family Resource Centre The Dolmen Centre Kilclooney Portnoo Co Donegal	Programme to engage with young people and support positive mental health and well being by helping them overcome social isolation, build peer support and begin to develop critical thinking and independence.	82,529

NAME/ADDRESS	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	SOUTH €
Donegal		
Inishowen Development Partnership St Marys Road Buncrana Co Donegal	Project to deliver an intervention programme for young people who feel isolated and marginalised due to geography, poor education choices, lack of employment opportunities, deprivation and health and well being issues.	98,810
Louth		
Connect Family Resource Centre 171 Moneymore Drogheda Co Louth	A consortium application bringing together a range of key organisations in Drogheda working on a personal development, training and education programme for young people.	188,856

AMBIT

AMBIT is a long running successful outreach study programme to the United States for the International Fund for Ireland, facilitated by the US Consulate in Belfast and coordinated by the Washington Ireland Program (WIP).

MAIN:
Participants visited
the city of Detroit.

BELOW:
Participants
from AMBIT 2019
pictured.



AMBIT is an intensive study visit that brings together 16 local community leaders mainly from IFI funded projects in Northern Ireland and the southern border counties.

Now in its 16th year, AMBIT has enabled more than 160 participants to benefit from a specialised learning and networking approach. The group visit a range of exemplar projects in the US to explore a range of hard-hitting themes affecting communities, to learn from their experience and share good practice. The schemes are often located in some of the most deprived inner city areas.

In recent years themes have included influencing policy, young leader development, community development, supporting young people at risk and establishing alternatives to mainstream provision.

These shared experiences of intervention with other organisations are then invested back into participant's fields of work that closely align with the Fund's

interests. It also aims to create new connections between IFI supported organisations and deepens understanding around the work of the Fund.

Many past participants have gone on to claim prominent roles in politics, civic life and community development and have gained a considerable base of expertise and influence thanks to their AMBIT experience.

This year, AMBIT brought participants to a new city, Detroit as well as Washington DC to look at the wider theme of community division over a 12-day period. The group met with a total of 25 diverse organisations who are developing innovative approaches, businesses and social enterprises working with community redevelopment and those directly involved in the policing implications of community division.

Detroit city has multiple levels of division- racial, economic as well as physical and the participants



ABOVE:
Participants
attended a Capitol
Hill Roundtable in
the U.S House of
Representatives in
Washington hosted
by Congressman
Brendan Boyle (left).



were able to relate to these issues based on their own experience.

Other highlights from Detroit this year included: meeting with HOPE, a community organisation focused for 50 years on an underserved and divided community of Detroit and a visit to the Detroit Police's Realtime Crime Center.

In Washington DC, the group attended a Community Policing Seminar, which examined successes and challenges from Northern Ireland, a roundtable with the Washington DC Police Foundation and they also met with an advocate of the Fund's work, Congressman Brendan Boyle.

Participants also attended a number of high profile events hosted by the NI Bureau; Irish Embassy and Northern Irish and Irish political/community leaders.

Damien McKenna was involved in this year's AMBIT trip. He works with Dee Hub based in Ardee in County Louth. The Hub aims to provide a range of programmes and services to address the needs of young people, adults and families in the area targeting those most at risk from social exclusion and giving them support and tools to empower their lives.

Damien says: "AMBIT gave me the opportunity to explore other methods of youth and community work that are effective in cities that have been affected by many harsh conditions including division.

"Two engagement opportunities that really opened my eyes were the Ceasefire project in Detroit and Sasha Bruce House in Washington. The work they are doing inspired me and I wanted to translate and implement it at a local level in my own project.

"Having the chance to meet a range of organisations has given me a huge amount of insight into effective practices and delivery models. A tailored youth work approach in some projects alongside greater inter-agency collaboration are key to ensure everyone is working towards the same outcomes and goals.

"Through AMBIT I have built a number of good relationships with other participants I met including the Peace Walls project, BBI in Londonderry/Derry, Edgarstown Resident's Association in Portadown and the Bready Ulster Scots Development Association in Tyrone to name a few. We look forward to working together more in the future to see how we can develop cross-border and cross-community engagement with people involved in our projects.

"Since AMBIT, I have implemented policies around the importance of cross-agency work to the betterment of the youth and community. I also have looked at using restorative justice/practice pieces around work involving gang violence in the schools and community we are based. The process is slow but we have seen some progress so we are happy to continue on this path."

AMBIT remains an integral part of the Fund's work. The trip helps to form an understanding of shared experiences, awareness of other approaches, builds confidence and boosts networking opportunities to encourage future collaboration.

AMBIT will continue to work in partnership with policy makers and funding bodies at a local and international level. It is essential that the Fund continues to collaborate and engage with other organisations and regions who are ready to move beyond conflict.

Accounts

Annual Report for the year ended
30 September 2019

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Board Members' Statement

The full annual financial statements, from which this summary financial statement is derived and on which the auditors gave an unqualified opinion, were approved on 20 February 2020.

These summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the International Fund for Ireland ("the Fund") because they do not reflect the performance of the venture capital companies, which are wholly owned subsidiaries of the Fund. For further information the full annual financial statements, the auditors' report on those financial statements and the Board Members' Annual Report should be consulted; copies of these can be obtained from The International Fund for Ireland at either 28-32 Alfred Street, Belfast BT2 8EN or PO Box 2000, Dublin 2.

Statement of Board Members' responsibilities in respect of the Annual Report and the financial statements

The Board Members are responsible for preparing the financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the International Fund for Ireland ("the Fund") and of the surplus or deficit of the Fund for that period. In fulfilling that responsibility, they have decided to prepare the financial statements in accordance with accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.

In preparing those financial statements, the Board Members have:

- selected suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- stated whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Fund will continue in business.

The Board Members confirm that they have complied with the above requirements in preparing the financial statements.

The Board Members are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Fund and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with best practice. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Fund and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Board Members are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Fund's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

By order of the Board



Mr. Paddy Harte
Chairman

20 February 2020

Independent Auditors' Report to the Board of the International Fund for Ireland

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of the International Fund for Ireland (the "Fund") for the year ended 30 September 2019 which comprise: the income and expenditure account; the statement of total recognised gains and losses; the balance sheet as at 30 September 2019; the cash flow statement; the accounting policies; and the notes to the financial statements. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Fund's affairs as at 30 September 2019 and of its surplus/deficit for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Board Members' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Board Members have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the Fund's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The Board Members are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other information

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the Board Members' statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Board Members' statement has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements

Other required reporting

We conducted our audit in accordance with ISAs (UK & Ireland). An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error.

This includes an assessment of:

- whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Fund's circumstances and have been consistently applied
- and adequately disclosed;
- the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Board Members; and
- the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We primarily focus our work in these areas by assessing the Board Members' judgements against available evidence, forming our own judgements, and evaluating the disclosures in the financial statements.

We test and examine information, using sampling and other auditing techniques, to the extent we consider necessary to provide a reasonable basis for us to draw conclusions. We obtain audit evidence through testing the effectiveness of controls, substantive procedures or a combination of both.

In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Annual Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Responsibilities of Board Members

As explained more fully in the Board Member's statement, the Board Members are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Board Members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Board Members are responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board Members either intend to liquidate the Fund or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Independent Auditors' Report to the Board of the International Fund for Ireland (CONT)

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

This report is made solely to the Funds' members, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Funds' members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Fund and its members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

**Dr R I Peters Gallagher OBE FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Moore (N.I.) LLP**

20 February 2020

**Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor**

4th Floor Donegall House
7 Donegall Square North
Belfast
BT1 5GB

Income and Expenditure Account

for the year ended 30 September 2019

	Notes	Total transactions expressed in £ and €			
		2019 £'000	2018 £'000	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Income	2	594	675	669	759
Expenditure					
Approved projects	7	5,808	11,389	6,543	12,786
Net administrative expenses	3	249	234	280	259
		6,057	11,623	6,823	13,045
Gain on disposal of fixed asset investment		5,375	–	6,055	–
Excess of expenditure over income		(88)	(10,948)	(99)	(12,286)
Movement in the Fund balance					
At 30 September 2018		4,395	15,352	7,682	20,105
Exchange differences on retranslation at 1 October 2018		18	(9)	89	(137)
		4,413	15,343	7,771	19,968
Excess of expenditure over income for the year		(88)	(10,948)	(99)	(12,286)
At 30 September 2019		4,325	4,395	7,672	7,682

The amounts above relate to the continuing operations of the Fund. There is no difference between the excess of expenditure over income and its historical cost equivalent. Accordingly, no note of historical cost excess of expenditure over income has been prepared.

Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses

for the year ended 30 September 2019

	Total transactions expressed in £ and €			
	2019 £'000	2018 £'000	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Excess of expenditure over income	(88)	(10,948)	(99)	(12,286)
Currency translation difference charged to the Fund balance	18	(9)	89	(137)
Total recognised gains and losses relating to the year	(70)	(10,957)	(10)	(12,423)


The notes on pages 66 to 71 form part of the financial statements

Balance Sheet

as at 30 September 2019

	Notes	Total transactions expressed in £ and €			
		2019 £'000	2018 £'000	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Fixed assets					
Investments	4	4,844	5,791	8,187	9,256
Current assets					
Cash at bank and on deposit	11	3,859	11,672	4,347	13,102
Donor contributions due	5	617	583	695	654
Other amounts receivable	6	6,325	1	7,125	1
		10,801	12,256	12,167	13,757
Current liabilities					
Approved project expenditure outstanding	7	(8,467)	(10,833)	(9,538)	(12,161)
Creditors	9	(2,853)	(2,819)	(3,144)	(3,170)
		(11,320)	(13,652)	(12,682)	(15,331)
Net current assets		(519)	(1,396)	(515)	(1,574)
Net assets		4,325	4,395	7,672	7,682
Fund balance at 30 September 2019		4,325	4,395	7,672	7,682

Approved by the Board on 20 February 2020 and signed on its behalf by:



Mr Paddy Harte
Chairman



Mrs Hilary Singleton
Member of the Board

The notes on pages 66 to 71 form part of the financial statements.

Cash Flow Statement

for the year ended 30 September 2019

	Total transactions expressed in £ and €			
	2019 £'000	2018 £'000	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
Cash flows from operating activities				
Excess of expenditure over income	(88)	(10,948)	(99)	(12,286)
Adjustments for:				
Decrease /(increase) in donor contributions due	(34)	(15)	(41)	(10)
(Decrease)/increase in approved project expenditure outstanding	(2,366)	3,741	(2,623)	4,109
Decrease/(increase) in other amounts receivable	(6,324)	10	(7,124)	9
(Decrease)/increase in creditors and accrued expenses	34	14	(26)	17
(Gain)/loss on disposal of assets	(5,375)	–	(6,055)	–
Interest received	(17)	(89)	(19)	(99)
Exchange difference in opening balance	20	(15)	44	62
Net cash generated from operating activities	(14,150)	(7,302)	(15,943)	(8,198)
Cash flows from investing activities				
Purchase of fixed asset investments	–	–	–	–
Disposal of fixed asset investments	6,324	–	7,124	–
Interest received	17	89	19	99
Net cash from investing activities	6,341	89	7,143	99
Net increase/(decrease) in cash	(7,809)	(7,213)	(8,800)	(8,099)
Balance at 1 October 2018	11,672	18,850	13,102	21,400
Retranslation to current year exchange rates	(4)	35	45	(199)
Balance at 1 October 2018 retranslated to current year exchange rates	11,668	18,885	13,147	21,201
Balance at 30 September 2019	3,859	11,672	4,347	13,102

The notes on pages 66 to 71 form part of the financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in the preparation of these financial statements consists of the accounting standards issued by the Financial Reporting Council and applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland including Financial Reporting Standard 102. These financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis under the historical cost convention. They are prepared in order to present financial information relating to the International Fund for Ireland (“the Fund”) on a non-consolidated basis.

These summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Fund because they do not reflect the performance of the Enterprise Equity venture capital companies, which are wholly owned subsidiaries of the Fund. For further information the full annual financial statements, the auditors’ report on those financial statements and the Board Members’ Annual Report should be consulted; copies of these can be obtained from the Fund at either 28-32 Alfred Street, Belfast BT2 8EN or PO Box 2000, Dublin 2.

The full annual financial statements, from which this summary financial statement is derived and on which the auditors gave an unqualified opinion, were approved on 20 February 2020.

The principal accounting policies are set out below.

Currencies

The Fund’s transactions are effected in the currencies of each part of Ireland. The financial statements are presented in both currencies, each representing an aggregation of all of the transactions for the year in each part of Ireland translated at the respective exchange rates at the year end. Differences arising on the restatement, to the year end exchange rate, of monetary assets and liabilities (e.g. amounts due from funders, amounts due to projects and bank balances) at the start of the financial year are adjusted against the Fund balance, reported in the statement of total recognised gains and losses and accounted through reserves.

Non-monetary assets (e.g. equity or debt investments in subsidiaries) are not subject to retranslation at each year end. However, any foreign exchange gains or losses arising on the disposal of non-monetary assets are recognised in the income and expenditure account in the period that they arise.

Approved projects

The Fund make grants to fund or assist in the funding of projects and to make or enter into arrangements which are designed to meet expenditure that promotes economic and social advance and to encourage contact, dialogue and reconciliation between nationalists and unionists throughout Ireland.

The income and expenditure account reflects the anticipated cost of projects approved in the year (after deduction of projects which did not proceed) and related administration expenditure. The projects approved in the year are considered as a hard commitment, which is defined as the grant sum payable over the life of a project on which we have a written contractual agreement with the applicant. Hard commitments are charged to the income statement in the year that the contracts are signed. Project approvals are shown on the balance sheet as a liability, the balance being reduced as payments to grant recipients are released.

Loans

Funds disbursed to projects by way of loans are reflected in the total of the programme disbursements and are not included in the balance sheet. Any loan repayments received during the year are credited to the income and expenditure account.

Interest income

The income and expenditure account includes interest credited to the bank deposit accounts during the year together with interest accrued, but not actually credited, at the year end.

Investments

Fixed asset investments are stated at their purchase cost less any provision for diminution in value. Investment income is included in the income and expenditure account on an accruals basis.

Income recognition

Donor countries allocate funds on the basis of calendar years. The whole amount allocated is recognised in the financial year when it has been contractually allocated by the donor country.

Judgments in applying accounting policies and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the process of applying the fund's accounting policies, no significant judgements have been made. There are no key assumptions concerning the future or other key sources of estimation, that have a significant risk of raising a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

2. INCOME

	2019 £'000	2018 £'000	2019 €'000	2018 €'000
From donors after exchange rate adjustments				
United States of America (2019: US\$0.75m; 2018: US\$0.75m)	610	576	687	647
Exchange rate adjustments	(33)	20	(37)	23
	577	596	650	670
Interest receivable	17	79	19	89
	594	675	669	759

The exchange rate adjustments relate to exchange gains and losses arising from the translation of US\$ and Euro denominated donor contributions. The exchange translation losses consist of £8k/€9k of realised gains and £41k/€46k of unrealised losses (2018: £13k/€14k of realised gains and £7k/€9k of unrealised gains). The extent to which any unrealised gain or loss is realised will depend on exchange rate movements up to the date of receipt of contributions due.

Notes to the Financial Statements (cont)

3. NET ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES

	2019	2018	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000	€'000	€'000
Board Members' fees	104	86	117	96
Board Meetings	42	37	47	41
Consultancy and other fees	184	190	207	212
Auditors' remuneration	29	20	33	22
Travelling and subsistence	55	46	62	52
Postage, stationery, telephone and office	12	19	14	21
Promotional and advertising expenses	36	75	41	84
Miscellaneous	18	24	19	27
	480	497	540	555
Less: Contributions receivable from the Governments of the UK and Ireland in respect of an element of the above expenses	(231)	(263)	(260)	(296)
	249	234	280	259

4. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Unlisted investment	
	£'000	€'000
Cost		
At 1 October 2018	6,717	10,759
Disposals	(947)	(1,069)
At 30 September 2019	5,770	9,690
Provision		
At 1 October 2018	926	1,503
At 30 September 2019	926	1,503
Net book value		
At 30 September 2019	4,844	8,187
At 30 September 2018	5,791	9,256

5. DONOR CONTRIBUTIONS DUE

	2019	2018	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000	€'000	€'000
United States of America				
- 2015 (US\$0.01m)	7	7	8	7
- 2018 (US\$0.75m)	–	576	–	647
- 2019 (US\$0.75m)	610	–	687	–
	617	583	695	654

6. OTHER AMOUNTS RECEIVABLE

	2019	2018	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000	€'000	€'000
Disposal of EE LLP	6,324	–	7,124	–
Bank interest receivable	1	1	1	1
	6,325	1	7,125	1

7. APPROVED PROJECT EXPENDITURE OUTSTANDING

The totals of the Fund's project disbursements and associated fees in the year ended 30 September 2019 and the movements in approved projects outstanding are as follows:

	2019	2018	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000	€'000	€'000
Approved project expenditure outstanding at 30 September 2018	10,833	7,092	12,161	8,052
Foreign exchange re-translation	(10)	22	31	(66)
Approved project expenditure outstanding at 30 September 2018	10,823	7,114	12,192	7,986
Project approvals in the year	5,808	11,389	6,543	12,786
Project disbursements and associated fees in the year	(8,164)	(7,670)	(9,197)	(8,611)
Approved project expenditure outstanding at 30 September 2019	8,467	10,833	9,538	12,161

Notes to the Financial Statements (cont)

8. CUMULATIVE APPROVED PROJECTS AND DISBURSEMENTS TO DATE

Cumulatively, the totals of the Fund's approved projects and project disbursements to date are summarised:

	2019	2018	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000	€'000	€'000
Total approved projects to date	745,205	739,907	933,360	927,350
Less contributions to investment companies	(27,142)	(27,142)	(40,023)	(40,023)
	718,063	712,765	893,337	887,327
Total disbursements to projects and administration costs to date	(709,596)	(701,932)	(883,799)	(875,166)
Approved project expenditure outstanding at 30 September 2019	8,467	10,833	9,538	12,161

To date the Fund has approved total payments in respect of specific projects and administration costs to a total of £745m/€933m (2018: £740m/€927m) after deduction of approved projects which did not proceed.

The approved project expenditure outstanding at 30 September 2019 reported in the balance sheet represents the unspent balance of the projects approved for which a claim for payment of grant has yet to be received.

9. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER LESS THAN ONE YEAR

	2019	2018	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000	€'000	€'000
Accruals	62	82	70	96
Deferred income	66	66	74	74
Loan – IFI Financial investments	2,725	2,671	3,000	3,000
	2,853	2,819	3,144	3,170

10. LOANS

The aggregate of euro denominated loans made by the Fund and outstanding at 30 September 2019 amounted to €160k (2018: €160k). The equivalent sterling value as translated at the relevant year end rate amounted to £142k (2018: £142k).

11. COMPONENTS OF CASH AT BANK AND ON DEPOSIT

	2019	2018	2019	2018
	£'000	£'000	€'000	€'000
Cash	3,859	11,672	4,347	13,102
	3,859	11,672	4,347	13,102

Notes to the Financial Statements (cont)

ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMME DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR AND OF APPROVED PROJECTS OUTSTANDING AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2019 (UNAUDITED)

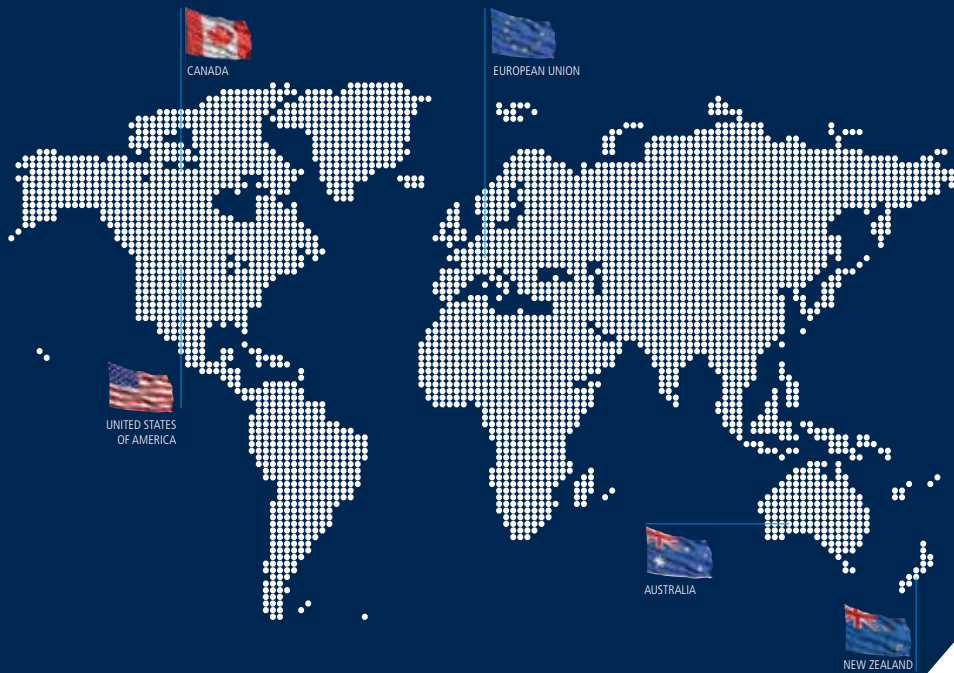
	Approved projects outstanding at 30 Sept 2018	Retranslated at 30 Sept 2019	Approved projects outstanding at 30 Sept 2018 (retranslated)	Project approvals and admin costs	Project and admin disbursements	Approved projects outstanding at 30 Sept 2019
Expressed in £'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
AMBIT	–	–	–	114	(114)	–
Peace Projects						
Peace Walls	301	(1)	300	832	(775)	357
Peace Impact	3,678	(4)	3,674	3,855	(3,788)	3,741
Personal Youth Development	6,854	(5)	6,849	1,007	(3,487)	4,369
	10,833	(10)	10,823	5,808	(8,164)	8,467
Expressed in €'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000	€'000
AMBIT	–	–	–	128	(128)	–
Peace Projects						
Peace Walls	338	(1)	337	937	(873)	401
Peace Impact	4,128	11	4,139	4,343	(4,268)	4,214
Personal Youth Development	7,695	21	7,716	1,135	(3,928)	4,923
	12,161	31	12,192	6,543	(9,197)	9,538

Notes





INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND



The International Fund for Ireland was established as an independent international organisation by the British and Irish governments in 1986. With contributions from the United States of America, the European Union, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, the total resources committed by the Fund to date amount to £745m and €933m.

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