

# Removing barriers to a lasting peace



## OUR KEY PRIORITIES

The Fund delivers peace and reconciliation work across the six counties of Northern Ireland and the six southern border counties as illustrated in the map.



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# Chairman's Foreword

As the Fund looks ahead to how we deliver our new strategy – *'Connecting Communities 2021 - 2024'* it is important to reflect on the past year, the challenges that have been faced and how our projects have continued to adapt against the changing environment of Covid-19 restrictions and the effects of prolonged political and social uncertainty.

Whilst the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) continued to support projects throughout this period, facilitating engagement and programme delivery, the leadership demonstrated across our communities and projects is commendable.

Significant progress has been made across the island of Ireland, in areas including removal of interfaces, addressing coercive control, critical intervention in some of the hardest to reach communities and enhanced community relations. Young people have been successfully diverted away from paramilitary/criminal involvement towards greater employability through the Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP). Sensitive engagement continued through the Peace Impact Programme (PIP) when stability and peace was threatened.

In the last year alone, the Fund has diverted more than 3,000 young people away from paramilitary recruitment, with more than 3,200 young people achieving a range of accreditations and a further 528 in further education and training.



*LEFT: Communities Minister Deirdre Hargey, IFI Chair Paddy Harte and First Minister Paul Givan pictured at an IFI conference at Girdwood Hub in North Belfast. The event looked at need for collaboration to deliver long term solutions to the removal of Peace Barriers in Northern Ireland.*

Civil unrest across Northern Ireland in April 2021 threatened to undo much of the positive relations built between communities in these areas. However, thanks to interventions by many of our project leaders, who were among the first responders to the violent breakouts and were on the ground throughout the period, an end to the turmoil was achieved through their diversionary work. It is this commitment to understanding the concerns of those involved and engaging directly with them in a safe space that ultimately resulted in a more measured response to what could have developed into a more serious situation.

While events and face to face engagement were hampered to an extent throughout 2021 as well, projects continued to adapt to ensure key relationships were developed. The work of conflict resolution was particularly challenging with these restrictions in place, but projects again showed great resilience in adapting to the situation through engaging in sensitive interventions when required.

You will read more about the real tangible outcomes of the other IFI funded programmes – Peace Impact Programme (PIP), Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP) and Peace Barriers Programme (PBP) – how they have worked within local communities to find solutions tailored to the needs of each community.

Recognising the importance of increased engagement on a cross-border basis has led to the development of an exciting new programme aimed at supporting co-operation on projects that provide a meaningful benefit for local communities in border areas. The Communities in Partnership Programme (CIPP) will complement our existing initiatives which are aimed at developing long term sustainable opportunities across communities.

Our projects have continued to progress throughout the pandemic, but it is now becoming clear that many societal issues are emerging because of the crisis that

pose even further challenges to peace and stability. Issues around mental health, food poverty and an economic downturn combined with existing legacy issues present significant challenges that require our urgent attention.

Furthermore, the ongoing effects of intergenerational trauma felt across communities as a result of the Troubles, reinforce the need to strengthen relationships and break the cycle of mistrust and violence. This approach will play a key role in empowering the next generation who live in these communities to work towards a shared society.

As we enter an election year in Northern Ireland, we are going to see continued tensions around key issues such as legacy, Covid recovery, Brexit and the Northern Ireland Protocol, with further pressure on our projects to manage the impact of these issues on the ground. There is a growing need for the independent support delivered by the IFI, especially in the many hard to reach communities witnessing rising tensions, and for increased collaboration with partners and statutory agencies as we continue our efforts to deliver sustainable peace.

There were many examples of this collaboration throughout 2021, including a very successful Peace Barriers Conference held in November which saw significant contributions from Executive Ministers, as well as an event in London hosted by the Embassy of Ireland highlighting the Fund's Strategy and a programme of engagement undertaken with our key stakeholders and donor countries.

Our flagship outreach and capacity building programme AMBIT has now been a successful initiative for 18 years and is facilitated by the US Consulate In Belfast and coordinated by the Washington Ireland Program (WIP).

In the reporting period, the IFI announced funding of £6.5m/€7.4m to further support community projects across Northern Ireland and the southern border counties. In the same reporting period, 61 projects across all programmes were operational, 49 in Northern Ireland and 12 in the southern border counties.

Since its inception, the Fund has committed more than £754m/ €944m to a wide variety of projects in Northern Ireland and the southern border counties of Ireland.

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.

It's important to acknowledge the financial support and encouragement of the International Fund for Ireland's donors – the United States of America, the European Union, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, all of whom have shown their commitment to our work.



ABOVE: IFI Chair Paddy Harte addresses guests at the recent Peace Barriers Conference.

BELOW: IFI Chair Paddy Harte (left) pictured with NI Secretary of State Brandon Lewis and Rt Hon Michael Gove MP at Crumlin Road Gaol in Belfast.



ABOVE: IFI Chair discussing recent achievements and ongoing work at a Board Meeting.

## 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 Edward Reilly and Mr John Feehery, United States of America; Ms Joanne Knight, European Union; Mr Brian Doherty, Canada; HE Gary Gray, Australia and HE Brad Burgess, New Zealand.



### Paddy Harte – Chairman

Mr Harte has been a member of the Board of the International Fund for Ireland since March 2015 and was appointed Chairman in March 2019. He has more than two decades of experience and expertise in economic development and peace building work.

He is a former Board Member of the cross-border finance company Ulster Community Investment Trust (now Community Finance Ireland) and the Collins Institute think-tank. He has served on the boards of a number of economic development boards including chairing the very successful Donegal Gathering. He has also worked as a leadership coach with a coalition of cross-party MLAs at the William J Clinton Leadership Institute, Belfast.



### Bernie Butler – Board Member

Mrs Butler is a successful business person in the Food sector, as the CEO and one of the founder members of the family run business Good4U with sites in Sligo and Tyrone. Bernie has been at the cutting edge of the food industry for the past 30 years.

In addition to being a Board Member of the International Fund for Ireland, Bernie serves her local community as a member of the Sligo Economic Forum. Other positions held by Bernie include: Chair of Fáilte Ireland North West, Chair of The Model, Sligo, one of Ireland's leading contemporary arts centres and well known art collections, Member of the Creative Sligo Initiative, and Board Member of St Angela's Food Technology Centre Sligo.



### Avila Kilmurray – Board Member

Mrs Kilmurray has a strong background in peace building and reconciliation. As a founding member of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition, she was involved in negotiations for the Good Friday Agreement. Currently, Avila is a Programme Manager with The Social Change Initiative, working to strengthen civil society activism and advocacy in human rights and peace building.

Avila was the Director of the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland, she also acted as Regional Coordinator of the Rural Action Project (NI) and was Development Officer with the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action. Avila has served on Amalgamated Transport & General Workers' Union and held key positions in the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.





### Allen McAdam – Board Member

Mr McAdam is a rural development consultant, entrepreneur and is a part-time farmer in County Monaghan. He is recognised as an experienced and influential advisor in the field of rural and local development in the border region and has previously held management positions with Lakeland Dairies, Terralift Fertilisers, DCI Energy and Cavan Monaghan LEADER.

He holds several voluntary and community roles including a Board Member of Monaghan County Enterprise Fund and Monaghan Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Appraisals Committee, Board Member of the Ulster Scots Agency, National Secondary Education Committee, Monaghan County Enterprise Fund and Monaghan Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Appraisals Committee.



### Sadie Ward-McDermott – Board Member

Mrs Ward-McDermott has been working in Education and Training for over 25 years. Sadie started her career as a teacher and then took a post with the Louth VEC (Vocational Education Committee) working as an Adult Education Officer.

Sadie is currently employed as Director of Further Education and Training with the Louth Meath Education and Training Board. This work encompasses working in partnership with other agencies, to deliver peace programmes alongside provision on behalf of Government in the following areas: Adult and Community education, programmes targeting young persons not engaged in education/training, training to enable up-skilling of current workforce, supporting employers to grow skills development in company, and Further Education Colleges.



### Peter Osborne – Board Member

Mr Osborne has been involved in political engagement, policy, participation, dispute resolution and reconciliation. He leads Rubicon undertaking a number and range of audits, strategies, mediations and planning. Peter is chair of the regional board of Remembering Srebrenica; and chairs the ARK Advisory Board, a joint social policy initiative by Northern Ireland's two universities (QUB and UU).

Peter was an elected representative for 12 years during which time he was a delegate to the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation and to the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement process. He was a director of the Building Change Trust; led the founding of the Open Government Network; chaired the Community Relations Council and chaired the Parades Commission for Northern Ireland.



### Hilary Singleton – Board Member

Mrs Singleton is a former practising solicitor and has been a member of the Board of the International Fund for Ireland since March 2015. She has a strong background in community development and strategic planning, having served as a Director of Mid-Armagh Community Network since its formation in 1998, as a member of the Compact Civil Advisory Panel and as Chair of the Southern Zone Steering Group of the Social Investment Fund. In the latter role Mrs Singleton led a multi-disciplinary team in the development of a Strategic Area Plan for the Zone, tackling issues of social deprivation, physical dereliction and unemployment.

Mrs Singleton currently serves as Deputy Chair of the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland and is a member of the Local Government Staff Commission. She has also recently been appointed as a Board Member of the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service.

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 £754m and €944m.



## 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 2021 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 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 2020 to 30 September 2021, 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.

## Communities In Partnership

It has been clear for some time that Brexit is likely to have significant consequences for the island of Ireland. Borders are in danger of, once again, becoming a significant barrier, physically and psychologically, to harmonious relationships on these islands. The issues impacting border counties (North and South) are still evolving but it is likely they will represent significant challenges for governments.



The Covid-19 pandemic is a very different type of challenge and will undoubtedly have a serious impact on vulnerable communities in the coming years.

While very different in nature, what these challenges have in common is the risk of individuals and communities becoming isolated and alienated. The IFI must continue to further its mission of encouraging contact and dialogue across this island. The IFI will work to ensure that the bonds of friendship, neighbourliness and partnership built over the past number of years continue to flourish.

The IFI has introduced a new Communities in Partnership programme that will embed cross-border co-operation. This will build resilience in the face of uncertainty and friction, and support the development of local leadership. Community innovation under the new programme, we will invite applications for cross-border projects submitted jointly by organisations North and South.

In line with our strong belief that communities are best placed to design their own future, we are encouraging groups to put forward initiatives that show innovation and creativity in addressing the challenges they face. We will encourage groups to design the project and its associated funding requirements in an inclusive and participatory way.

Projects involved in the programme must meet two criteria; build genuine connections on a cross-border basis and provide meaningful benefit to the communities involved. Ideally these would bring people together to serve their communities in imaginative ways such as:

- Using culture and the arts to create a space for people to deepen their understanding of the past and set a path for their future
- Launching initiatives that strengthen civic engagement thereby empowering communities to face difficult conversations and set a path for their future
- Facilitating contact and discussion between diverse groups working on peace and reconciliation across the island
- Creating projects that engage and empower young people from both sides of the border
- Taking practical steps to improve people's social and material wellbeing
- Creating the conditions necessary for the development of social enterprise and innovation.

## Peace Impact Programme

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.





LEFT: Riots with police officers in the Creggan Estate in Derry.

These 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 supports projects to be creative and innovative with their approach to dealing with contentious issues within marginalised communities.

The Peace Impact Programme has expanded and intensified its efforts to build sustainable peace and prosperity in areas through increased contact and dialogue, within and between communities, to build cohesion and improve relationships.

OPPOSITE: A PIP Participant painting banners as part of a cultural identity initiative.

# PIP Projects

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

## ARMAGH CITY, BANBRIDGE AND CRAIGAVON

1. REGENERATE, Portadown

## BELFAST CITY

2. Centre for Civic Dialogue & Development Ltd (CCDD), Belfast
3. INTERCOMM, Belfast
4. The ACT Initiative, Belfast
5. Twaddell Woodvale Residents Association (TWRA), Belfast

## CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS

6. Ulidia Training, Ballymoney

## DERRY CITY AND STRABANE

7. Creggan Enterprises Ltd – Unheard Voices, Derry

8. North West Cultural Partnership – Bready & District Ulster Scots Development Association, Londonderry

9. Resolution North West, Londonderry

## FERMANAGH AND OMAGH

10. Turas Na nDaoine, Lisnaskea

## MID AND EAST ANTRIM

11. Carson Project, Ballymena
12. Factory Community Forum, Larne

## MID ULSTER

13. Ealu, Dungannon
14. Sperrin Cultural Awareness Association, Magherafelt

## NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN

15. Community Restorative Justice – Newry / Armagh, Newry

## CAVAN

16. Swanlinbar Development Association, Swanlinbar

## LEITRIM

17. Ballinamore Area Community Council, Ballinamore
18. North Leitrim Glens Development Co., Manorhamilton

## LOUTH

19. Ait na nDaoine, Dundalk
20. Redeemer Family Resource Centre, Dundalk





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.



# 7441

NI people involved in capacity building, events and training



# 1238

NI intra / inter cross-border relationships

# 1882

NI core and general events and activities



# 236

NI accreditations and qualifications received



*OUR AIM: 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.*



# 14

grants allocated in Northern Ireland



# 753

participants in SBC projects this year



# 13

SBC projects



# £727k / €822k

this reporting period funding allocated in SBC

## Peace Impact Programme (PIP) – Summary

- From 2016 a total of 147 grants have been awarded to 63 projects.
- The IFI has invested over £18.97m / €21.44m in PIP to date with 79% allocated to NI and 21% to the SBC's.

CASE STUDY:

## North West Cultural Partnership and Bready & District Ulster Scots



A newly formed partnership between Bready and District Ulster Scots Development Association (BDUSDA) and led by North West Cultural Partnership (NWCP) is going from strength to strength.

*ABOVE. The project team at New Gate Fringe festival.*



LEFT: Planning meeting for Envisioning the Future conference which was held earlier in 2021.

The partnership was formed to take forward the key PIP themes within both organisations in order to merge the Rural/Urban and cross-border work in the NW geographical area. The project works primarily with PUL communities particularly those most marginalised, however there has been a strong focus on cross-border work and networking with others.

A key element of the project is leadership and supporting and creating new leaders in the target PUL communities. The joined up approach of the two organisations will ensure that the broadest sections of the PUL community, urban and rural are supported. The areas the project is working in still have unresolved issues around community cohesion and have seen a deficit in cultural activity, which has then impacted on the confidence of local people to express or be involved in the development of positive cultural activity. There is a feeling of marginalisation and fear in these communities, and many have the additional burden of gate-keeping and paramilitary control.

The highly contentious issues of Brexit, the Northern Ireland Protocol and the border have impacted strongly in the PUL estates where NWCP's work is focused. Covid has also had an impact on young people who struggled because of lockdown.

James and Derek, as Project Co-ordinators, are proactively addressing issues communities are facing by supporting and encouraging volunteers and emerging activists, offering leadership training to help build capacity and confidence, enabling them to play a more positive, active role within their community.

They are also facilitating challenging conversations and striving to improve the cohesion and partnership within the PUL community and have already built trusting relationships with their fellow PIP groups both cross-community and cross-border.

Derek explains: "We had some tensions on the ground among young people but it has a lot to do with frustrations around Covid and the fact that nothing was happening for a year.

"For many young people there was no school and no work and no real structure to their lives for a long time. A lot of our work this year involved going into communities to try and keep a lid on things and talking about the Northern Ireland Protocol and Brexit and dispelling some of the myths about them.

"We wanted to defuse the situation long before it got out of control. This also involved talking to government departments and we had meetings via Zoom with senior Government Officials on attitudes around the Northern Ireland Protocol and language being spoken by politicians."



LEFT: Derek Moore addresses guests at conference.



RIGHT: Collaboration, partnership and creating new leaders is a core part of the project's work.

Another major focus this year was on defusing tensions among young people at bonfires. They had successful engagement with local residents and young people throughout the Bonfire season and carried out a wide range of interventions in a number of communities following the unrest at Easter time.

Derek explains: "We worked with about half a dozen bonfire clubs. We tried to get the young people to look at the impact of bonfires on their own communities and how they could do things better.

"Again, Covid tensions and frustrations had built so young people were looking to get attention. This summer bonfires right across Derry in the PUL communities were well controlled and well managed."

Now looking forward to the year ahead, the group is hoping to build on its success further by forming new relationships and promoting shared learning across their key areas. Their conference in October on 'Envisioning the Future' was a key first step towards building leadership & confidence in PUL communities.

Derek says: "The event was a huge success and a massive step forward. We had over 60 people from PUL groups all over Northern Ireland talking about how we want Northern Ireland to work for everyone who lives here.

"We want a strong Northern Ireland for future generations and there are lots of good groups doing great work and we wanted to pull that all together so that we can work collectively to ensure positive change.

"The whole thing was focused on positivity and trying to normalise society. Instead of looking at issues of the past the real focus needs to be on the present and the future."

The content of the event will now form the basis of a document, which the groups hope to bring to political parties and statutory agencies, helping to shape future policy and bring about that positive change in building a future where everyone belongs.

CASE STUDY:  
**Turas Na nDaoine**



A group of former Republican prisoners is behind an initiative which has been helping bring about positive change in communities throughout the border county of Fermanagh.

*ABOVE: Turas Na nDaoine are bringing real benefits to the local community through their work.*



LEFT: The project has brought the local community together in Lisnaskea.

Turas Na nDaoine (Journey of the People) has come a long way since it started in 2012 when a group of 20 ex-prisoners realised they needed a new focus and decided to work for the benefit of their local community.

The project is supported through the IFI's Peace Impact Programme (PIP). Based in Lisnaskea they have continued to extend their reach across Fermanagh and now work in Enniskillen, Roslea, Maguiresbridge and Newtownbutler.

As a group, Turas is made up of activists with a strong cultural and political identity who hold respect within the communities where their work is concentrated.

The overall aim of PIP is to help 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.

And who better to persuade these vulnerable young people that violence is not the answer than the Republicans who were active in and lived through the conflict.

Turas is headed up by Barry Murray, an ex-prisoner who recalls how it all started: "The idea was to develop our community work and particularly talk to young adults and youths and persuade them that violence is not what you do to get your way politically.

"There is no justification or rhyme or reason for violence.

"Republicans of all standards have a degree of standing within the community and a degree of respectability and people will listen to what you have to say. Whether or not they act on it you can never tell.

"However, when people hear something or learn something, it is pretty difficult to unlearn it. Once you've got that knowledge it opens a wider picture and other possibilities."

Turas has been funded by the IFI's PIP since 2018 and has continued since then to grow as an organisation and widen its reach.



*LEFT: The project has delivered a number of workshops in the local area.*

*RIGHT: Improving dialogue and quiet diplomacy is a key part of project delivery.*

Its main focus is on mediation, conflict resolution and quiet diplomacy work across their rural communities, including engaging with loyalist ex-combatants and those from other Republican groups, communities and organisations.

They operate with a strong social conscience, raising awareness around mental health issues, substance abuse, and suicide.

This year saw them move from a single office in Lisnaskea to an old derelict school building on the outskirts of the town.

These new larger premises have opened up new possibilities for the team in terms of organising workshops and courses to engage young people, especially around the issue of mental health and drug abuse.

Work with Loyalists is also continuing as Barry explains: “We have been meeting with Loyalist ex-prisoners and other Republican groups with dialogue between us on a wide range of issues including housing, health, employment and all sorts of stuff affecting both communities.

“It has brought home that any major differences (between the two communities) have been created over the last 100 years or more and that in fact the real differences are quite narrow between working class Protestants and Catholics.

“The dialogue has shown that the situation isn’t what communities are encouraged to believe – that the other side is very different from us. They are not.”

Covid did make things difficult for the group but the move to larger premises allowed them to immediately put their new premises to good use during the pandemic.

Barry explains: “We started to manufacture scrubs for health workers and made thousands of face visors for nursing staff and key workers.

“We also delivered food and medical supplies and shopping to people in rural areas. It was a big operation and we had loads of volunteers from the local community helping out.

“Now that things are opening up again we have lots of plans.

“Whilst not part of our PIP project, we’ve been involved in a lot of mental health work which we plan to continue. People are desperate and waiting lists are so long and there has to be a conversation held to see what can be done.

“One of the things we are looking at is training people in mental health techniques which have been shown to be effective in Finland and we are also looking at local groups and what they are doing.

“Restorative Parenting is another area we are looking at. All these things are important to our community. The last 30 years has shown the neglect of communities after the pacification process started and today it is worse than ever. West Belfast had three or four food banks in the 1990s and now it has 27. That’s a measure of how bad things are. There is a lot of work to be done.”

CASE STUDY:  
**Ait na Daoine**



Poverty, drugs, dissident activity and criminality present significant challenges to those living in Dundalk's largest housing estate Muirhevnamor where an IFI funded PIP project is making significant inroads by helping to improve the quality of life for people of all ages.

*ABOVE. Participants of all ages from the Muirhevnamor estate pictured at a recent residential.*





LEFT: Outreach has been successful with a group of young teenage girls from the area.

**Ait na Daoine** has been at the heart of the community for 25 years and launched its IFI-funded 'Invictus Project' two years ago.

This cross-border outreach project works with disaffected Republicans, young people, families and local residents, all of whom have been affected by the Troubles.

Headed up by ex-Republican prisoner John Connolly, the group is four months into its latest delivery, engaging five groups of men and women in projects that aim to improve individual quality of life and support the creation of a more inclusive, cohesive community.

John explains: "Our mission is to improve the quality of life for people who live in Muirhevnamor and the satellite estates around it. We have a very big drug and drug intimidation problem in the estate which has had a series of shootings, bombings and fires. There are a lot of issues and we are working with local people in groups. We have three women's groups of different ages - the oldest is 60-83 years and some of them will have come down south because they were burnt out of their homes in the North during the early part of the Troubles. They meet weekly and we engage with them to make sure they are safe and their needs are met - we also advocate for them with agencies to help make their lives better."

He adds; "We also have a group aged 17-27 years who are just finishing a youth leadership course to give them more confidence to work within their communities in positive engagement. These girls are pretty sound and sorted but need a little bit of support in trying to access employment or further education. We also have a group of young teenage girls who are grandchildren of former prisoners who came here because they were fleeing the Troubles."

The project also works with a group of teenage boys and men. Many of the teenagers are developing new skills to help draw them away from a life of drugs and crime.

John says: "We work with young boys aged 15 and 16 years to give them positive role models and help them to see things a wee bit differently. Many of them have complex backgrounds and we don't want them to be the next generation of drug dealers. There is a lot of poverty in the area and people make bad choices when they are living with poverty."



*LEFT: Regular workshops and discussions are helping build relationships.*

*RIGHT: The project has kept the local community engaged throughout a challenging year.*

The project has a strong emphasis on cross-border and cross-community relationship building with regular workshops and discussions around legacy issues. The project works closely with a similar IFI funded project in the Loyalist Shankill Road area of Belfast, coordinated by an ex-Loyalist prisoner.

Cross-border group visits are an opportunity for both groups to get a glimpse into the perspectives of the other community with frank discussions helping to open minds and hearts leading to a more peaceful way forward.

John explains: "We have very good relations with a group on the Shankill Road which is working at the coalface there trying to make their community better. We've had exchanges around the Northern Ireland Protocol, expressing our points of view to try and keep things calm. They've been down here in groups hearing about Republican issues they wouldn't normally be exposed to. We also have exchanges with Republican groups in Belfast as well as those in Loyalist areas to see it from both sides. It all helps to broaden peoples' viewpoints and reach a better accommodation in our lives so that whatever happens in the future, there will be no violence on the table. There has been a lot of hurt on both sides but there is a responsibility on people who have lived through it to ensure it doesn't happen again."

He adds: "Covid really challenged the day-to-day operations of the project as group meetings were no longer possible because of lockdown. The team attempted to keep things going with one-to-one contacts and took drastic steps when they realised that the impact of lockdown was proving detrimental to the health of many of its participants."

John explains: "We had been giving people a structure to their week and that collapsed very quickly because of Covid. We could see the impact on peoples' mental health and some of our young people were at risk of relapsing back into drink and drugs. We had to make a call as we felt it was more dangerous out there than it was in our centre, so we got a risk assessment of the building and knocked down a wall to create a bigger space for social group meetings."

Going forward John aims to build on the good work already achieved, which includes liaising with the police and other agencies to improve life for everyone on the estate.

## Peace Impact Programme Financial Assistance

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

Name/Address	Project Description	North £
<b>Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon</b>		
<b>REGENERATE</b> Address Park, Portadown Co Armagh BT62 3TP	To deliver a programme of capacity building across 5 PUL housing estates in Portadown. The work will tackle capacity issues, lack of a cohesive voice and intra and inter-community relations.	<b>155,307</b>
<b>REGENERATE</b> Address Park, Portadown Co Armagh BT62 3TP	Financial assistance to support emergency/diversionary activities in April 2021.	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Belfast City</b>		
<b>Centre for Civic Dialogue &amp; Development Ltd (CCDD)</b> Falls Road, Belfast Co Antrim BT12 6FB	To develop their model of intervention and mediation within the area of West Belfast, to engage with those communities who feel they have not benefited from or are removed from the Peace Process.	<b>97,124</b>
<b>Centre for Civic Dialogue &amp; Development Ltd (CCDD)</b> Falls Road, Belfast Co Antrim BT12 6FB	Financial assistance to support emergency/diversionary activities in April 2021.	<b>3,500</b>
<b>INTERCOMM</b> Antrim Road, Belfast Co Antrim BT15 5AA	A conflict transformation programme. The project will engage with those furthest from the Peace Process, support local communities deal with contentious issues facing their areas.	<b>288,410</b>
<b>INTERCOMM</b> Antrim Road, Belfast Co Antrim BT15 5AA	Financial assistance to support emergency/diversionary activities in April 2021.	<b>10,000</b>
<b>The ACT Initiative</b> 140 Shankhill Road, Belfast Co Antrim BT13 2DB	A conflict transformation project delivered through three key elements: Developing the Peacebuilding Capacity of Women, Conflict Transformation Interventions & Community Leadership.	<b>378,008</b>
<b>The ACT Initiative</b> 140 Shankhill Road, Belfast Co Antrim BT13 2DB	Financial assistance to support emergency/diversionary activities in April 2021.	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Twaddell Woodvale Residents Association (TWRA)</b> The Cabin, Twaddell Avenue Belfast, Co Antrim BT13 3LE	The programme will build partnerships at a local level, it will also seek to establish relationships on a cross-community and cross-border basis to ensure that tension factors can be identified early and addressed.	<b>209,960</b>
<b>Twaddell Woodvale Residents Association (TWRA)</b> The Cabin, Twaddell Avenue Belfast, Co Antrim BT13 3LE	Financial assistance to support emergency/diversionary activities in April 2021.	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Causeway Coast and Glens</b>		
<b>Ulidia Training</b> Main Street, Ballymoney Co Antrim BT53 6AL	A conflict transition programme to address issues such as social justice, mediation around threats and feuds and promoting positive engagement in peace building and legacy issues.	<b>246,877</b>

Name/Address	Project Description	North £
<b>Derry City and Strabane</b>		
<b>Creggan Enterprises Ltd (Unheard Voices)</b> Rath Mor Centre, Blighs Lane Derry, Co Londonderry BT48 OLZ	Quiet diplomacy. Establishment of a Critical Engagement Forum, Increased inclusion of women in peacebuilding. Mediation, negotiation and relationship building with the PUL community.	<b>273,795</b>
<b>Creggan Enterprises Ltd (Unheard Voices)</b> Rath Mor Centre, Blighs Lane Derry, Co Londonderry BT48 OLZ	Financial assistance to support emergency/diversionary activities in April 2021.	<b>9,668</b>
<b>North West Cultural Partnership – Bready &amp; District Ulster Scots Development Association</b> 20-22 Hawkin Street The Fountain, Londonderry Co Londonderry BT47 6RE	To deliver a programme to support the PUL communities both Urban and Rural deal with contentious issues. To engage with cross-border groups and network with other PUL and CNR groups in the North West Area.	<b>122,943</b>
<b>North West Cultural Partnership – Bready &amp; District Ulster Scots Development Association</b> 20-22 Hawkin Street The Fountain, Londonderry Co Londonderry BT47 6RE	Financial assistance to support emergency/diversionary activities in April 2021.	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Resolution North West</b> 55 - 59 Heron Way Waterside, Londonderry Co Londonderry BT47 6LE	Mediation and negotiation, challenging paramilitary control, core identity work, community development and cohesion-building.	<b>153,029</b>
<b>Fermanagh and Omagh</b>		
<b>Turas Na nDaoine</b> Mullynaburtin Road Eshnascreen, Knock, Lisnaskea Co Fermanagh BT92 5AR	The project will focus on building cross-community engagement, developing social economy initiatives and working with disaffected young people both in Enniskillen and in the wider border area.	<b>171,071</b>
<b>Mid and East Antrim</b>		
<b>Carson Project</b> Queen Street, Ballymena Co Antrim BT42 2BQ	Financial assistance to support emergency/diversionary activities in April 2021.	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Factory Community Forum</b> 164 Old Glenarm Road, Larne Co Antrim BT40 1TS	To deliver a community cohesion project targeting young people vulnerable to criminal elements in the area. Develop an education and employment programme for young people, women and ex combatants in the area.	<b>187,336</b>
<b>Factory Community Forum</b> 164 Old Glenarm Road, Larne Co Antrim BT40 1TS	Financial assistance to support emergency/diversionary activities in April 2021.	<b>7,640</b>
<b>Mid Ulster</b>		
<b>Ealu</b> 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.	<b>185,147</b>
<b>Sperrin Cultural Awareness Association</b> Union Arcade Union Road, Magherafelt Co Londonderry BT45 5PS	The project will work closely with statutory agencies and the PSNI to deliver peace and reconciliation and to develop positive relationships on a cross-community and a cross-border basis.	<b>212,510</b>

Name/Address	Project Description	North £
<b>Sperrin Cultural Awareness Association</b> Union Arcade Union Road, Magherafelt Co Londonderry BT45 5PS	Financial assistance to support emergency/diversionary activities in April 2021.	<b>8,500</b>
<b>Newry, Mourne and Down</b>		
<b>Community Restorative Justice - Newry / Armagh</b> Ballybot House Cornmarket, Newry Co Armagh BT35 8BG	A project that supports communities to respond to the challenges of Brexit. The project will develop cross-border responses to Brexit and protect and build on cross-border relationships.	<b>203,945</b>
<b>Community Restorative Justice - Newry / Armagh</b> Ballybot House Cornmarket, Newry Co Armagh BT35 8BG	Financial assistance to support emergency/diversionary activities in April 2021.	<b>8,900</b>
Name/Address	Project Description	South €
<b>Cavan</b>		
<b>Swanlinbar Development Association</b> Trivia House, Church Rd Hawkswood, Swanlinbar Co. Cavan	West Cavan West Fermanagh capacity and peace building project focused on and delivered through an area based approach, bringing Protestant and Catholic Communities together in this Border Region.	<b>168,828</b>
<b>Leitrim</b>		
<b>Ballinamore Area Community Council</b> The Den, Swanlinbar Road Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim N41 R522	A 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.	<b>193,797</b>
<b>North Leitrim Glens Development Co.</b> The Glens Centre, The New Line Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim	A cross-border cross-community programme of capacity building and community participation.	<b>178,148</b>
<b>Louth</b>		
<b>Ait na nDaoine</b> 1 Park 1, Muirhevnamor, Dundalk, Co Louth, A91 A5DO	A 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.	<b>201,867</b>
<b>Redeemer Family Resource Centre</b> Demesne, Dundalk Co. Louth	Community based project to support women to access training and education, to promote youth leadership in the community and to develop and promote a cross- border cross-community women's support programme.	<b>79,084</b>

## Peace Barriers 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.





*LEFT: An interface in North Belfast that has been transformed into a play park.*

The Peace Barriers Programme (formerly known as Peace Walls Programme) was launched in January 2012. It 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.

*OPPOSITE: Peace Wall situated in Londonderry/ Derry.*

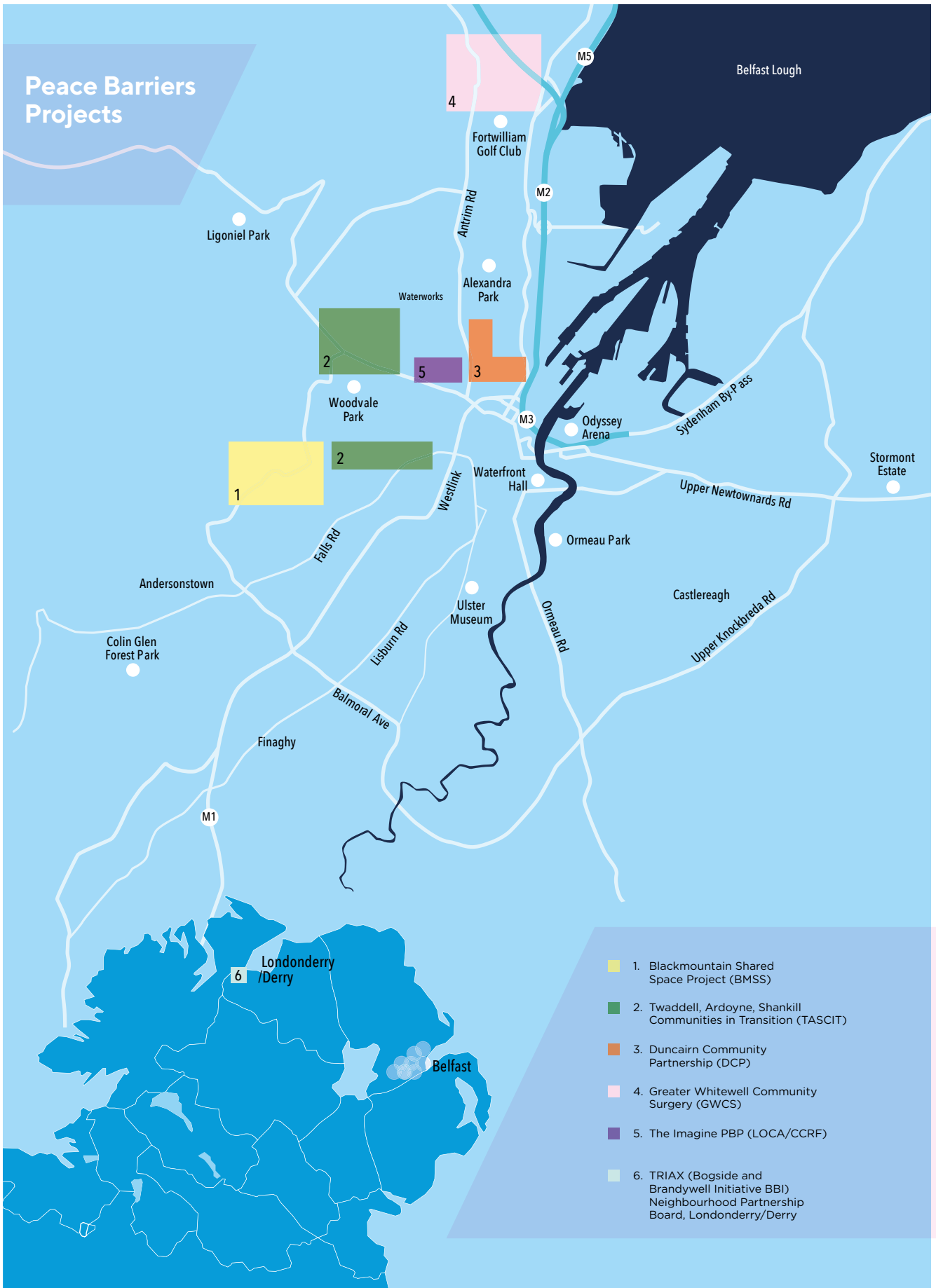


LEFT: Guests contribute to workshops that were held at a recent Peace Barriers conference.

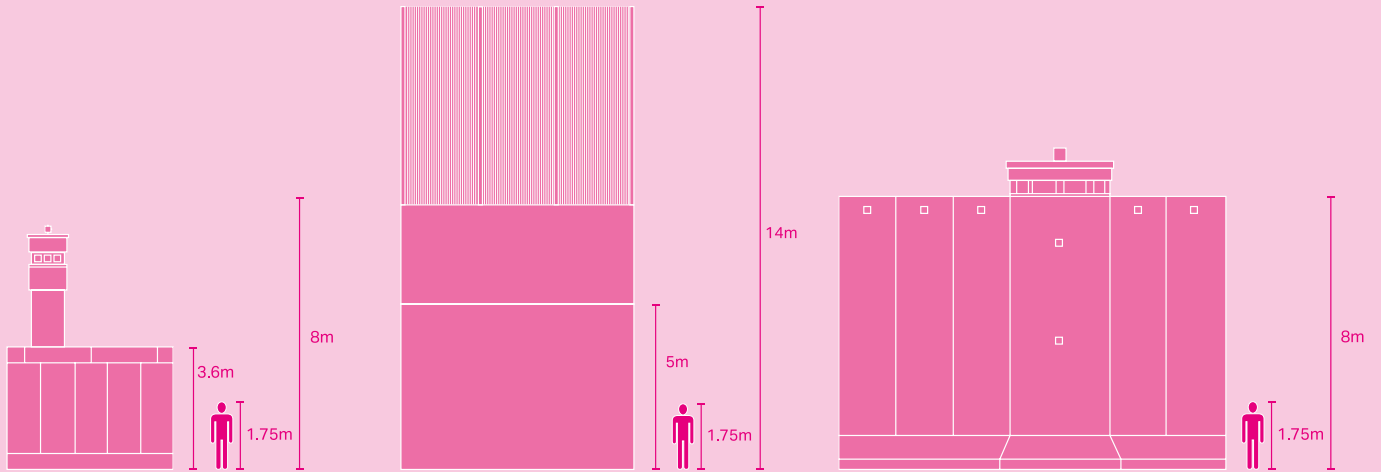


LEFT: A number of cross-community initiatives are bringing interface residents together regularly.





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



**Berlin Wall**

**Cupar Way, Belfast**

**Palestine Wall**

**31**  
YEARS

**52**  
YEARS

**21**  
YEARS



In the past year our Peace Barriers Programme has delivered:



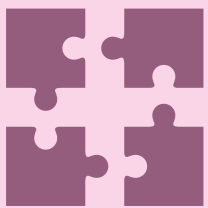
**3453**

residents have been involved in discussions

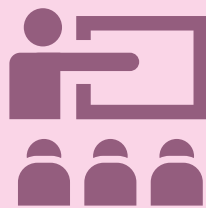


**77%**

were in favour of Peace Barrier removal or reduction



**6** PROJECTS



**49%**

of the target group engaged in discussions focussed on Peace Barrier removal, reduction or change in 2020/21

**OUR AIM:** To develop and deliver a range of confidence and relationship building interventions within and between communities to help residents reach a position where they feel it is safe and appropriate to proceed with the removal of peace barriers in their area.



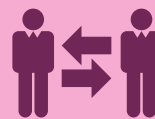
**3453**

people were involved in site specific discussions in 2020/21



**9**

sites with agreements reached and ongoing talks for change



**3**

Intra-community agreements were reached

**6**

Inter-community agreements were reached



**17%**

of target group were involved in Intra-community activities

**83%**

of target group were involved in Inter-community activities

## Peace Barriers Programme (PBP) – Summary

- Since 2016, the IFI has invested £5,008,847 on the Peace Barriers Programme with 38,496 participants (27,158 between 2016/2019 and a further 10,978 in 20/21) involved in Inter-community Engagement Activities.
- There are currently six Peace Barrier Projects funded: five in Belfast and 1 in Derry/Londonderry.
- Since 2016, the PBP groups have been involved in projects enabling:
  - Nine Barrier Removals
  - Two Barrier Reductions
  - Four Gate opening hours extended
  - Two Re-imaging or Design out of Barriers
  - One Aftercare Scheme
  - One Barrier De-classification.

CASE STUDY:  
**DCP & TASCIT**



The pandemic had a huge impact on the work of two Peace Barrier Programmes in North Belfast – the Duncairn Community Partnership (DCP) and Twaddell Ardoyne Shankill Communities in Transition (TASCIT).

*ABOVE. Residents who helped design and make the Covid quilt pictured at its launch in Belfast.*



LEFT: Local councillors from both sides of the community have united in support for on going Peace Barriers work.

Faced with new communication barriers created by Covid-restrictions both organisations stepped up and found ways to keep their community relations on track.

Early in the pandemic, they joined forces to coordinate the community response for those most in need with the formation of a North Belfast Residents Collective.

TASCIT partnered with DCP to get the communities making and delivering thousands of face masks and scrubs from donated materials which they shared across the divide.

They also worked together to coordinate a huge food bank operation, with volunteers crossing the peace lines to reach those most in need.

And now as a lasting testament to this amazing cross-community Covid response, surplus material from the PPE scheme has been used to create a very special Covid quilt.

Made by women who started sewing PPE, the quilt reflects some of the many personal stories of how people in the community were impacted by the virus.

Rab McCallum project manager at TASCIT explains: “The group was tasked with designing a square each for the quilt and the conversations started out as a general reflection of communities supporting each other.

“As the participants began to share their stories, a more personal and emotive theme began to emerge.

“Each square reflects these stories and the impact of Covid-19 and the restrictions associated with it had on mental health, trauma of addiction, separation from families and the sense of detachment and isolation that many endured.”

TASCIT’s work on Peace Walls has been supported by the IFI for eight years.

It focuses on inter-community engagement to bring about positive change at Peace Barrier sites in North Belfast.

One area of work hugely impacted by Covid was the group’s Challenging Conversations initiative which brings together 10 people from each side of the religious divide for an eight week course on mutual understanding.

These had to stop immediately because of lockdown but Rab was determined that the good relations fostered through the course would not be undone.



LEFT: Transformation of North Queen Street.

He says: “We knew we had to keep communications open and keep the momentum going so we set up a WhatsApp group.

“A lot of people we work with are not IT savvy so we arranged computer training classes and we also provided IT equipment so that people could keep in touch.

“Challenging Conversations is all about bringing people to places that are out of their comfort zone so that they can experience what life is like for the other side.

“With Covid those trips couldn’t happen so we looked at other ways to keep people involved and bring the communities together and we started by sewing masks and gowns for PPE to help maintain the connectivity.”

With restrictions now eased the course is back on track, as are delayed plans for the removal of the harsh barrier preventing access to Flax Street/Ardoyne from Crumlin Road.

Working with the community and Department of Justice, it has been agreed to replace the barrier with an automated gate to enable vehicles and pedestrians to access it for the first time in over 30 years.

Looking ahead the group also hopes to see the opening of the barrier at Columbia Street which has also been closed off for 30 years.

Rab says the group’s next major peace building initiative will be focused on the Ardoyne roundabout, one of Northern Ireland’s most notorious interfaces.

He adds: “We have a master plan to bring people together to talk about the Ardoyne roundabout and work out what we can do to improve community relations at this flashpoint.”

Peace building work in lower North Belfast has been just as progressive thanks to the Duncairn Community Project which has been funded by the IFI since 2012.

Community life has been transformed as a result of the group’s work in areas which have been overshadowed by peace barriers for decades.

DCP’s approach is to tackle these physical divisions between communities by building relationships between people in the New Lodge, Tiger’s Bay, Mount Collyer and Newington/ Parkside areas of lower North Belfast.

The programme focuses on helping people living in and around the peace lines to make their own decisions.

The past year has seen some of the most significant of these changes with the completion of Peace Wall projects at Hillman Court and North Queen Street.

Hillman Court has been transformative according to DCP manager Harry Smith: “The previous wall was so high and in such a poor condition that chunks of corrugated iron were flying off it.

“We got local residents to help in the design of a new interface and it is a complete transformation to a lovely green link fence which you wouldn’t even know is a Peace Wall.

"It's absolutely brilliant and some of the houses in the New Lodge are enjoying the sun shine coming in for the first time in 30 years!

"We are now working with the Department of Justice to develop an aftercare programme.

"The North Queen Street scheme was slightly delayed by Covid and also by Brexit slowing down supply of materials. However, it is now finished and has also completely changed the area for householders.

"People living at this Peace Wall couldn't use their front doors as they were opening onto a barrier.

"Now they are not only using the front of their homes but are getting new gardens and the whole area has been opened up and completely transformed.

"IFI really is at the forefront of helping to develop and re-imagine interfaces in Northern Ireland. Without their continued support and commitment, we wouldn't see so many positive changes across the city."

Harry and his team have had their fair share of challenges this year during what he describes as a 'summer of discontent'.

Fuelled by controversy over the Adam Street bonfire, tensions caused by Brexit and the sea border as well as the frustrations of lockdown, saw an increase in rioting and anti-social behaviour among youths at major interfaces and in both communities.

Harry says: "We had a difficult summer of sectarian anti social behaviour at a few interface sites in North Queen Street with kids fighting each other and also causing criminal damage to houses and vehicles.

"We had managed to get the Adam Street bonfire off the site for 10 years and when it returned last year it impacted on both communities and we knew the same thing could happen again this year.

"We recently had our first event to try and repair the damage to community relations by inviting 150 primary school children and their parents to a Teddy Bear's Picnic.

"It provided a chance for them to meet in a safe environment and enjoy good relations with each other and enabled us to ask them about their feelings on the interfaces and what they would like to see changed.

"For the first time this year we have enabled a meeting of elected representatives from both communities who are now sitting down together.

"To have these politicians involved in dialogue to help create safer interface areas through dialogue with each other is a major development and gives us great hope for the future."



LEFT: Hillman court in North Belfast with new fencing.

CASE STUDY:

## Black Mountain Shared Space Project (BMSSP)



West Belfast is one step closer to a new state-of-the-art shared space that will unite communities in an area which has suffered deep divisions for decades.

*ABOVE. A former interface flash point is currently being regenerated into much needed housing for the local area.*





LEFT: A drawing of how the new shared space will look from the outside.

After 12 years in the planning, the IFI was delighted to help the Black Mountain Shared Space Project (BMSSP) over the line by contributing to final funding in October.

Initial activity has now started on site, representing an exciting step forward for the (BMSSP) whose long held vision for this special space will now become a reality in September 2023.

The new hub will transform a flashpoint site between Ballygomartin and the Springfield Road by creating a welcoming, safe and accessible state-of-the-art building used to deliver cross-community programming.

BMSSP project manager Seamus Corr says: "We started conversations about the shared space back in 2009 and it has been a long, challenging road but all the pieces of the puzzle have finally fallen into place.

"This is an area where two communities have high unemployment, little job creation and general poor wellbeing as well as a lack of opportunity.

"The major regeneration of this site will bring a number of advantages to both communities, not least bringing them closer together.

"It is exciting times for both communities and we look forward to the next number of months and years, seeing it come to fruition."

BMSSP has been funded by the IFI since 2013. The group works to build relationships with people living on both sides of the Peace Wall through community-based initiatives and by conducting critical conversations with key influencers.

It is sensitive work, but BMSSP has reached some of the most vulnerable members of the communities in terms of conflict legacy and poverty.

As a result, hundreds of people have crossed the peace line for the first time.



*LEFT: Demolition of Peace Wall at Moyard in West Belfast.*

*RIGHT: A new play park has replaced an interface area.*

Covid brought its challenges, but determination to keep hard-won relationships going in the community, saw the team find ways to continue to run many of its programmes.

One of these was The Critical Dialogue Programme – a cross-community engagement course which deals with conflict-related issues.

Participants commit to a mix of workshops on divisive issues dealing with memories of local conflict-related events that divided the communities and caused the peace barriers to be erected in the first place.

Seamus says: “We kept the course going during Covid by taking it outdoors walking and talking in small groups.

“We were delighted to be able end phase 1 in June with a residential. It was a great success and we launched phase 2 at the beginning of October.”

Participants got to put the benefits of the course to the test early when they stepped in to help after rioting erupted at a flashpoint in Lanark Way in April 2021.

Youths clashed as tensions built round the Northern Ireland Protocol.

Working with interface youth workers from the Clonard Mid-Shankill Initiative, course participants got involved in a critical dialogue diversionary project, engaging with the young people to calm tensions.

Their good work resulted in one of the quietest summers in years for this conflicted area.

Parades passed off peacefully as course participants continued to be involved in tension-monitoring and ensuring that communication across communities was good, helping to avert any potential for trouble.

Brexit and the sea border formed the basis of discussions for the second programme which launched in October.

Seamus says: “Lanark Way saw running battles in April and May as tensions over the Northern Ireland Protocol boiled over.

“Our groups are made up of people who have influence in their communities and they have been working with the young people for the past six months to try and ease tensions.

“The first phase has been so successful that we have turned it from a 12 week programme into a 12 month programme this year.”

Another major project which has been well advanced in the past year is the regeneration of the former Moyard flashpoint, a Catholic estate to the left of the Million Brick Wall on the interface on Upper Springfield Road.

The area had been waste ground and often the site of anti-social behaviour and rioting.

Now it is well on track to being regenerated, providing much needed housing as well as a new play park for children.

The project ended a difficult year on a high note when another key flashpoint at Springmartin Road and Springfield Road replaced community clashes with a new era of celebration to mark the festive season.

Seamus adds: “We had a great community fun packed day with a Santa’s grotto, a number of stalls and music. This was a real milestone for us and was the first time both communities came together to celebrate Christmas.”

## Peace Barriers Programme Financial Assistance

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

Name/Address	Project Description	North £
<b>Belfast City</b>		
<b>Greater Whitewell Community Surgery</b> 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/ and/or reduction at four remaining sites.	<b>101,178</b>
<b>Black Mountain Shared Space Project</b> Innovation Factory Forthriver Business Park 385 Springfield Road, Belfast Co Antrim BT12 7DY	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.	<b>163,264</b>
<b>Black Mountain Shared Space Project</b> Innovation Factory Forthriver Business Park 385 Springfield Road, Belfast Co Antrim BT12 7DY	Financial assistance to support emergency/diversionary activities in April 2021.	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Duncairn Community Partnership</b> Antrim Road, Belfast Co Antrim BT15 3BG	Duncairn Community Partnership aims to strengthen relationships and broaden engagement with residents to build stronger and more stable relationships in the area, increasing community confidence and agreement towards Peace Wall/Barrier removal and/or reduction.	<b>159,549</b>
<b>Duncairn Community Partnership</b> Antrim Road, Belfast Co Antrim BT15 3BG	Financial assistance to support emergency/diversionary activities in April 2021.	<b>9,500</b>
<b>Lower Oldpark Community Association &amp; Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum (The Imagine PBP)</b> 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.	<b>109,722</b>
<b>TASCIT</b> 123 Cliftonville Road, Belfast Co Antrim BT14 6JR	The TASCIT PBP'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.	<b>204,760</b>
<b>Derry City and Strabane</b>		
<b>TRIAX (Bogside and Brandywell Initiative - BBI) Neighbourhood Partnership Board</b> The Gasyard, 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.	<b>92,844</b>

# Personal Youth Development Programme

The Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP) was launched in late 2015 within the Fund's Community Consolidation – Peace Consolidation 2016 – 2020 Strategy.





*LEFT: Participants help many local community initiatives through their involvement in the Programme.*

The programme aims to help at 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.

The Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP) enables each participant to take control of their own personal development through a multitiered approach that offers significant individualised support with community, social and economic elements.

*OPPOSITE: Participants take part in a number of learning and employment training opportunities under the PYDP.*



*LEFT: Support is offered throughout and the PYDP is tailored to each individual and their needs.*



*LEFT: The Programme aims to make young people more employable and work experience helps build confidence.*

# PYDP Projects

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

## ARMAGH CITY, BANBRIDGE AND CRAIGAVON

1. Edgarstown Residents Association - Evolve Programme, Portadown

## BELFAST CITY

2. Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum - YOLO (Youth Opportunities Learning Outcomes), Belfast
3. Springboard Opportunities Ltd - Directions, Belfast

## CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS

4. Roe Valley Residents Association - Building Brighter Futures, Limavady
5. Causeway Rural & Urban Network - BRAKE, Coleraine

## DERRY CITY AND STRABANE

6. Creggan Enterprises Ltd - Lifehack, Derry

7. Have your Tomorrows (HURT) - Right Here Right Now, Derry

8. St Columbs Park House, Derry

9. Strabane AYE - Strabane Youth Support Programme, Strabane

## FERMANAGH AND OMAGH

10. Fermanagh Sports & Cultural Awareness Association, Ballinamallard

## MID ULSTER

11. Coalisland Training Services - Assist Youth, Coalisland

12. Galbally Youth & Community Association, Galbally

13. Maghera Cross Community Link - Link Youth Achievement Project, Maghera

## NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN

14. Clanrye Group - Re-Gener8 Project, Newry

## CAVAN

15. FOCUS Family Resource Centre - FUSE Project, Killashandra

16. Foróige Cavan - YETI, Cavan Town

## DONEGAL

17. Donegal Youth Service, Letterkenny

## LOUTH

18. Ardee & District Community Trust, Ardee

19. Connect Family Resource Centre (Moneymore), Drogheda

20. Foróige Drogheda - Turning Point, Drogheda

## SLIGO

21. Foróige Sligo - YESS, Sligo



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.



**2569**

young people  
have participated



**915**

have progressed to  
education and training

**5146**

accreditations



**23**

projects in current  
reporting period



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



**1533**

taken good  
relations training



**1752**

taken employment  
related training



**34**

have secured  
apprenticeships



**738**

have secured  
employment

## Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP) – Summary

- Over the reporting period there have been 23 projects (16 in NI and 7 in the SBC's.)
- A total of 23 grants were allocated to 21 projects.
- The IFI has invested over £14.5m / €16.39m in PYDP to date with 74% being allocated to projects in NI and 26% to projects in the SBC's.



CASE STUDY:

## IgnYte



The crucial role of community groups in helping defuse conflict in Northern Ireland was taken to a new level this year by an IFI funded project in Londonderry/Derry.

*ABOVE: SIA security training and experience is one of the many courses offered to young people.*



LEFT: Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council Graham Warke pictured with participants who took part in work experience with local businesses.

Helping young people heal is at the heart of IgnYte which operates out of St Columb's Park House in Londonderry/Derry and has been funded by the IFI's Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP) for almost four years. The PYDP aims to help at risk young people develop life skills that foster good relations, build confidence and resilience and make them more employable.

A special project in response to unrest in the Waterside area also ran alongside IgnYte's usual programme which works with 16-25-year-olds across the city of Derry.

The team went above and beyond to rescue young rioters caught up in trouble as tensions created by the Northern Ireland Protocol boiled over into street violence in April.

IgnYte went into the emotionally fraught Loyalist Tullyally and neighbouring Nationalist Curryneirin estates to reach out to youths caught up in the rioting.

Thinking on the spot, they devised a brand new initiative, which launched immediately to bring young people from both sides together and help them to turn their lives around.

As a result of the scheme which ran from April until August, 16 youths have not only made friends across the divide for the first time but are on the pathway to a new future, either through studying or employment.

Michelle Simpson, IgnYte project coordinator explains: "Youngsters clashing in these estates are very much encouraged by elements in their communities to participate in the rioting.

"We did outreach in both estates working with local community centres to identify the young people most at risk and set up a special programme for them which was possible thanks to the IFI.

"They came into the programme initially with their hoods up and full of fear and our first challenge was to get them to engage and talk to each other.

"We then developed individual learning pathways for each of them and worked with them to find something they wanted to do.



*LEFT: An IgnYte participant on his work placement with a local taxi firm in the city.*

*RIGHT: Young people celebrate success and achievement thanks to the project.*

“We looked at cross-community culture and good relations and the young people started to open up to each other.

“It wasn’t easy, just getting past the gatekeepers in the estates in the first place was a challenge and it was probably the hardest work I’ve ever done in my life but also the most rewarding.

“Each of the young people made benches for their local community and planted flowers and herbs; they went from being involved in rioting to working with each other.

“These communities have suffered a lot and two of the young people even had death threats against them which we managed to get sorted out.

“Some of them have now started work in construction; another has begun an apprenticeship, others going to further education colleges and more with new job placements.

“Many of these youngsters didn’t think they could change so much in 20 weeks.

“It just shows what can be done and it was only with the help of the IFI that we were able to help these youngsters to heal and allow them to move on.”

Michelle adds: “The project targets young people that come from a range of complex backgrounds. Substance abuse, homelessness, poor mental health and susceptibility to paramilitary recruitment are just some of the issues we deal with daily.

“More than half of all paramilitary shootings in NI in recent years have happened in Derry or Strabane.

“Suicide rates, particularly among young males, and unemployment rates remain high. Many young people struggle, becoming dependent on prescription drugs and in some cases have been drawn into criminal activity.

“Up until now we have had to reach out to the young people but now word is getting out about the project, and this year we’ve even had grannies ringing to ask if a loved one can join and some young people have come direct to the scheme asking for help.

“It’s an incredible process seeing how our young people flourish from where they have come.

“When you see them get their first job – it’s almost like they gain a set of wings to freedom. They now have the skills that make them employable alongside money management, better health and living independently.”

Michelle’s future plans for the project include cultivating more relationships with organisations and further education providers to help young people grow through personal development, apprenticeships and employment.

CASE STUDY:

## Roe Valley Residents Association – Building Brighter Futures



In an area of work where face to face contact with some of our most vulnerable young people is crucial to progress, Covid had a shattering impact on Roe Valley Residents Association 'Building Brighter Futures' project.

*ABOVE: Young people get a guided tour and history lesson on a recent trip.*



LEFT: The Building Brighter Futures Group pictured outside The Siege Museum in Derry.

Forced to abandon classroom contact during lockdown – a lot of which requires intensive one-to-one mentoring – the Limavady-based team had to think outside the box.

Taking classes online wasn't straight forward as a lot of the impoverished youth they work with didn't have internet, and few had phones, never mind computers.

After a lot of work to secure funding for broadband and digital tablets to keep lines of communication open, just getting the young people to accept them was a challenge.

Project Manager Karen Campbell explains: "Covid was a bit of a disaster for us. The young people we work with would have issues with digital poverty, food poverty, emotional wellbeing as well as drug and alcohol addiction.

"It was so important not to lose contact and we did secure funding to buy tablets and broadband for them so that we could keep in touch through Zoom.

"However, there was a real reluctance with many of them to take the tablets because they worried how they would look after such a thing.

"Some were afraid they would be tempted to sell it to feed their addiction and others were afraid if they were under the influence it might get broke. We had to make a lot of phone calls! It was also a challenge just to keep them involved in a routine, as most of them would sleep all day and be up all night, so we even had to make wake up calls!

"This had an adverse effect on the opportunities of our project participants at the end of our Cohort 4 group.

"Isolation, loneliness, poverty, poor levels of mental health and wellbeing all played a major part in young people being able to successfully move onto either further training or employment.

Only 40% of our last participants (those that completed in March 2021) moved into either employment or further training or education."

The team was relieved to get back to face to face contact for the latest programme, which launched in April and is funded by IFI.



*LEFT: The project team have worked hard to keep young people engaged throughout the pandemic.*

*RIGHT: Participants giving back to their local communities through a litter picking exercise.*

In just six months, 15 young people have accumulated 60 qualification accreditations alongside completing programmes addressing good relations, mental health and wellbeing, as well as drugs and alcohol in what has involved around 1100 contact sessions.

Overall, in just five years Building Brighter Futures has helped over 100 youths transform their lives for the better.

Set up by Roe Valley Residents Association, the programme has been funded by IFI since 2016.

PYDP's aim is to help young people build and develop life skills which foster good relations, build confidence and resilience.

It also seeks to connect young people aged 16-25 to personalised learning, skills and employment opportunities.

And that's exactly what Building Brighter Futures is achieving.

To date the project has seen 252 accredited qualifications achieved, 26 work placements set up with local employers, supported 25 young people to secure employment, two to become self-employed, two starting apprenticeships and 58 back into education and training.

As a group they have also been involved in community projects which have included creating a youth drop-in space that is a safe, neutral place for young people with mental health issues to visit.

Many of the latest recruits were caught up in anti-social behaviour in the summer months so a lot of extra work has had to be done in the classroom this year.

Karen explains: "This current group is one of the most challenging we've had to date. A lot of them have problems with drugs and alcohol and everyday there are different issues and problems.

"That's why we need a very person-centred approach and it's this which makes PYDP so unique.

It is a long term programme as it takes time to work with these young people, tackling the issues and guiding them down new pathways to work or education."

With such a challenging bunch already making marvellous progress, looking ahead the team now hope to secure additional funding to extend the current course from 12 months to 18 months.

Karen adds: "We have still so far to go with them and we know we can only take them so far but really to make a lasting difference we have learnt that the programme needs to last at least 18 months.

"Our main focus is to continue to work with the current cohort and lobby for additional funding to extend the current 12-month programme. Ultimately we want to them to turn their lives around and find new pathways to a better life."

CASE STUDY:  
**Donegal Youth Services**



Lasting friendships across the border are just one of the many benefits of young people taking part in a cross-border PYDP programme run by Donegal Youth Services (DYS).

*ABOVE: Young people from the project pictured on a day trip to the beach.*



LEFT: Life skills and friendships have been developed successfully through the project.

The **Reactive-8/2** programme brought together 17 young people from Letterkenny, Ballybofey, Strabane, St Johnston and Buncrana to complete a cross-border training course on 'Youth Work Practice'.

The OCN Level 2 course empowered young people from both sides of the border with the skills needed to lead youth work at a local level within their communities.

The course was only one part of the overall Reactive-8/2 programme coordinated by Donegal Youth Services (DYS) in Donegal and Tyrone. DYS has partnered with the IFI to deliver engagement programmes for young people living in border communities for the last 9 years.

As well as friendships, young people from both sides of the border in Donegal and Tyrone have benefited from increased confidence, engagement and resilience, as well as working closely on peace and reconciliation issues.

Charlene Logue, Youth Outreach Manager said: "Through the provision of IFI funding, young people were able to meet and work alongside people they hadn't previously met or who they may have been previously reluctant to meet. They have developed friendships and maintained contacts long after each IFI funded programme has ended.

"Participants engaged in education, training, work experience, inter-cultural work and experienced fun activities whilst moving through the various levels of engagement.

"Cross border work isn't easy, it requires patience and understanding and a willingness to engage with the 'other'. The staff worked through this with participants and enabled mutual understanding and respect to develop and grow. In recent years, our work has moved to also focus on engaging with new communities and towards accepting diversity."

Charlene adds that the work in partnership with the IFI started nine years ago and says that her team has worked with young people who have struggled with their mental, social and physical health.





LEFT: Young people learn about history and culture as part of the project delivery.



RIGHT: The project team meet the French Ambassador and IFI Chair Paddy Harte on a recent visit to Donegal.

Through the Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP) specifically, the young people taking part have been able to re-engage in employment, education or training. The programme targeted young people aged between 16 and 25 years and, as well as helping increase their employability, has helped to build and develop their life skills.

The Covid-19 pandemic had a huge impact on both the team and the participants.

Charlene explains: "We had invested considerable time and effort in building relationships with the participants in order to best support them to achieve their potential. It was imperative that these relationships were protected and that project staff continued to support the 17 participants – even more so now that we were suddenly immersed in a very difficult situation. Over the course of a few hours we went from being able to meet and work as a group to being locked down. Project workers had to work from home and group engagement had to become innovative and move online. Zoom calls, WhatsApp and one to one sessions over the phone became the new way of engagement. Lockdown generated a lot of fear among the young people which team leaders worked hard to address."

Charlene continues: "Some of the young people expressed anger and concern regarding comments they had read on social media about 'locking down the border' and 'keeping the Northerners or the Southerners out.'"

She explains: "Project staff had to reassure the groups that it is a minority of people who would be exchanging such thoughts online. We reminded the young people that as a group we already had huge opportunities to mix and that such opinions and thoughts are something that we challenge in a respectful manner. Project staff continued to support learning with online material and educational YouTube videos on good relations, reconciliation and diversity, to encourage open discussion on these topics via zoom group calls. It also became obvious very quickly that the lockdown restrictions were having a serious negative impact on mental health."

Charlene adds that: "For some young people dealing with complex issues such as depression and anxiety, this was exacerbated by the fact that their movements were severely restricted, they could not meet as a group and they could only see project staff via Zoom or other similar platforms. Project staff reacted to these emerging issues by increasing one to one contact, availability and referral where necessary to other services such as Pieta House, GPs, counselling services, etc."

Despite the challenges, excellent results were achieved with 14 of the 17 young people who took part in the programme now in full-time employment. It is notable that prior to the start of this programme, only one person on the course had a full-time job, while 8 of those 17 young people have now entered further education or training.

The team has identified a need for more intensive one-to-one mentoring with young people who are 'at risk' struggling with complex needs including anxiety, addiction and depression. Consequently, a new project to meet these needs – the IFI funded 'Unlocking My Potential Project – The Up Project,' which is funded under PYDP, commenced in August 2021.

# Personal Youth Development Programme

## Financial Assistance

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

Name/Address	Project Description	North £
<b>Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon</b>		
<b>Edgarstown Residents Association – Evolve Programme</b> 18/19 Union Street, Portadown Co Armagh BT62 4AD	Changing the Landscape will provide further support to a cohort of 15 at risk young people through one-to-one mentoring support, individual and group activities to help them increase their employment opportunities and/or progress onto further educational courses.	<b>134,178</b>
<b>Belfast City</b>		
<b>Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum – YOLO (Youth Opportunities Learning Outcomes)</b> 185 Cliftonpark Avenue, Belfast Co Antrim BT14 6DT	To work with 15 at risk young people to help further develop their personal development and employability skills through intense one-to-one mentoring support and group training activities.	<b>87,428</b>
<b>Springboard Opportunities Ltd – Directions</b> Lourene House 112-114 Donegall Street Belfast BT1 2GX	The project plans to recruit 15 at risk young people primarily targeting areas suffering high levels of economic and social deprivation and affected by sectarianism, racism, division and/or conflict. The core activities comprise design and delivery of cross-cultural learning opportunities for individuals and groups on community relations and diversity, developing people across arenas of personal growth, community participation and employability and as an OCN accredited centre developing bespoke accredited and informal training programmes.	<b>189,618</b>
<b>Causeway Coast and Glens</b>		
<b>Roe Valley Residents Association – Building Brighter Futures</b> 13-14 Keady Way, Limavady Co Derry BT49 OAU	The Project will recruit 15 young people not in education, employment or training, who are vulnerable to paramilitary recruitment and/or been in, or close to, the criminal justice system. It will deliver Level 1 Good Relations and Personal Development; Level 2 Skills and Social Development and Level 3 Education and Employability Development.	<b>89,514</b>
<b>Causeway Rural &amp; Urban Network – BRAKE</b> 1 Brook Street, Coleraine Co Londonderry BT52 1PW	The project will work with 15 at risk young people who are unemployed and not engaged in training or education. It will deliver Level 1 Good Relations and Personal Development; Level 2 Skills and Social Development; and Level 3 Education and Employability Development.	<b>93,379</b>
<b>Derry City and Strabane</b>		
<b>Creggan Enterprises Ltd – Lifehack</b> Rath Mor Centre Blighs Lane, Derry Co Londonderry BT48 0LZ	A structured youth based programme covering the TRIAX areas (Creggan, Bogside & Brandywell), which helps support vulnerable and hard to reach young people in terms of personal development, good relations and employability. The Project plans to recruit 15 young at risk and vulnerable young people.	<b>89,874</b>
<b>Creggan Enterprises Ltd – Lifehack</b> Rath Mor Centre Blighs Lane, Derry Co Londonderry BT48 0LZ	Financial assistance to support emergency/diversionary activities in April 2021.	<b>9,610</b>
<b>Have your Tomorrows (HURT) – Right Here Right Now</b> Clarendon Street, Derry Co Londonderry BT48 7ET	A youth based programme focused on personal development, good relations, skills development and employment opportunities. This project 'Right Here Right Now' plans to recruit 15 young people who are likely to be known to the criminal justice system and not in employment, education or training. The participants will not currently be engaged in any other programmes.	<b>92,426</b>

Name/Address	Project Description	North £
<b>St Columbs Park House</b> Limavady Road, Derry Co Londonderry BT47 6JY	The Project will recruit 15 young people not in education, employment or training, who are vulnerable to paramilitary recruitment and/or been in, or close to, the criminal justice system. It will deliver Level 1 Good Relations and Personal Development; Level 2 Skills and Social Development and Level 3 Education and Employability Development.	<b>88,241</b>
<b>St Columbs Park House</b> Limavady Road, Derry Co Londonderry BT47 6JY	Financial assistance to support emergency/diversionary activities in April 2021.	<b>9,890</b>
<b>Strabane AYE - Strabane Youth Support Programme</b> Patrick Street, Strabane Co Tyrone BT82 8DQ	The Project will work with 15 disengaged and marginalised young people most at risk from criminalisation or punishment from armed groups, vulnerable to recruitment to armed organisations, opposed to the Peace Process and with little or no qualifications. It will deliver Level 1 Good Relations and Personal Development; Level 2 Skills and Social Development and Level 3 Education and Employability Development.	<b>89,855</b>
<b>Fermanagh and Omagh</b>		
<b>Fermanagh Sports &amp; Cultural Awareness Association</b> Ard Roe House, Glen Road Tirkeenan, Monaghan	The Project will recruit 15 young people not in education, employment or training, who are vulnerable to paramilitary recruitment and/or been in, or close to, the criminal justice system. It will deliver Level 1 Good Relations and Personal Development; Level 2 Skills and Social Development and Level 3 Education and Employability.	<b>86,216</b>
<b>Mid Ulster</b>		
<b>Coalisland Training Services - Assist Youth</b> Dungannon Road, Coalisland Co Tyrone BT71 4HP	The Assist Youth Project will recruit 12 young people not in education, employment or training, who are vulnerable to paramilitary recruitment and/or been in, or close to, the criminal justice system. It will deliver Level 1 Good Relations and Personal Development; Level 2 Skills and Social Development and Level 3 Education and Employability Development.	<b>76,981</b>
<b>Galbally Youth &amp; Community Association</b> 36 Lurgylea Road, Galbally Co Tyrone BT70 2NX	The Game Changer project will work with 15 at risk young people, hard to reach, have been involved, or close to the criminal justice system, marginalised from society or not in education, employment or training. It will deliver Level 1 Good Relations and Personal Development; Level 2 Skills and Social Development and Level 3 Education and Employability Development.	<b>89,550</b>
<b>Maghera Cross Community Link - Link Youth Achievement Project</b> St Lurach Road, Maghera Co Londonderry BT46 5EJ	The Project will recruit 15 young people not in education, employment or training, who are vulnerable to paramilitary recruitment and/or been in, or close to, the criminal justice system. It will deliver Level 1 Good Relations and Personal Development; Level 2 Skills and Social Development and Level 3 Education and Employability Development.	<b>89,661</b>
<b>Newry, Mourne and Down</b>		
<b>Clanrye Group - Re-Gener8 Project</b> Slieve Gullion Courtyard Drumintee Road, Newry Co Down BT35 8SW	The Regener8 project will work with 15 young people not in education, employment or training, who are vulnerable to paramilitary recruitment and/or been in, or close to, the criminal justice system. It will deliver Level 1 Good Relations and Personal Development; Level 2 Skills and Social Development And Level 3 Education and Employability Development.	<b>97,446</b>

Name/Address	Project Description	South €
<b>Cavan</b>		
<b>FOCUS Family Resource Centre - FUSE Project</b> Main St, Portaliff Glebe Killashandra, Co. Cavan	Providing an individual centric approach this innovative project continues to support at risk 16 to 25 year olds in the border region, in order to strengthen their connection and place in the community.	<b>97,000</b>
<b>Foróige Cavan - YETI</b> c/o Foróige, Block 12D, Joyce Way, Parkwest, Dublin 12, D12 YOA6	Training, education and employment programme aimed at vulnerable and at risk 16-25 year olds. The programme aims to develop a variety of skills including communication, social and teamwork skills to help divert young people away from anti-social behaviour.	<b>97,020</b>
<b>Donegal</b>		
<b>Donegal Youth Service</b> 16-18 Port Rd, Letterkenny Co. Donegal F92 N2KC	A support programme targeting at risk 16-25 year olds in South West Donegal; incorporating personal support, skills development, good relations, employment and training progression opportunities.	<b>83,196</b>
<b>Louth</b>		
<b>Ardee &amp; District Community Trust</b> Drogheda Road Ardee, Co. Louth	An employment education & training programme for disadvantaged young persons in the Ardee and mid Louth region.	<b>96,448</b>
<b>Connect Family Resource Centre (Moneymore)</b> 171 Moneymore, Drogheda Co. Louth A92 WE19	A personal development, training and education programme for young people from both sides of Drogheda town, which works closely with statutory services and other youth projects in the area.	<b>81,668</b>
<b>Foróige Drogheda - Turning Point</b> c/o Foróige, Block 12D, Joyce Way, Parkwest, Dublin 12, D12 YOA6	A programme targeting hard to reach young people at pivotal points to support them to make meaningful and positive life changes. Encourages participants to engage them in training, further education and employment.	<b>68,038</b>
<b>Sligo</b>		
<b>Foróige Sligo - YESS</b> c/o Foróige, Block 12D, Joyce Way, Parkwest, Dublin 12, D12 YOA6	A programme targeting at risk 16-25 year olds to develop their personal effectiveness, develop resiliency and good relations to divert them away from anti-social behaviour. Enhance education, training and employability capacity and prospects for participants.	<b>97,000</b>

# 35 years of the Fund

# 35

- 

**1986**



The IFI is created


- 

**1987**



USA first contribution to the Fund signed by President Ronald Reagan


- 

**1994**



Shannon-Erne Waterway Opening


- 

**2002**



Fund moves away from economic development to focus on reconciliation


- 

**2012**



Launch of Peace Walls and Peace Impact Programmes


- 

**2016**



Personal Youth Development Programme is launched


- 

**2021**



New Connecting Communities Strategy launched



## AMBIT

AMBIT is an annual outreach and capacity building programme in the United States with the IFI. It has now been a successful initiative for 20 years and is facilitated by the US consulate in Belfast and coordinated by the Washington Ireland Program (WIP).





LEFT: AMBIT 2020 moved online and sessions exploring a number of themes were discussed with participants.

More than 200 participants have benefitted from the once in a lifetime experience to date, knowledge sharing with one another and their Peers in the US.

Individuals from a range of sectors with unique experience come together to take part from Northern Ireland and the southern border counties. Many participants involved with AMBIT work with young people at risk and in communities that live with the legacy of The Troubles.

Each year AMBIT explores a series of themes and participants have the chance to experience first-hand how these challenges affect communities in some of the most deprived inner city areas in the US. Themes explored to date include policy, community development, supporting young people at risk, mental health and establishing alternatives to mainstream provisions.

Many of those previously involved have gone on to achieve great success in politics, civic life and community development and have gained a considerable further expertise thanks to AMBIT.

A key element to the programme is to create new partnerships, collaborate further on shared experiences and ultimately deepen awareness and understanding of the ongoing work of the IFI across a range of community initiatives.

Kyra Reynolds from Peace Barriers Project BBI in Londonderry/ Derry shares her AMBIT experience: “As a peace builder, the programme allowed me to see how others address inequality, environmental injustice, poverty, segregation and racism. This inspired me for my own peacebuilding/community development work back home.

“Community development is a hard job. It can sometimes seem like you are fighting a losing battle, particularly in peace building where goals are few and far between due to the nature of the issue. This is especially so during the Covid period. AMBIT connects you with others who are doing such work and allows you to share problems, resources and opportunities. It is a significant learning process and personal development opportunity for community workers. Ultimately, it makes us more informed and confident to serve the communities we work in.”

Brian Dougherty, community worker from North West Cultural Partnership talks about the important role the programme plays:

“The AMBIT programme proved a very valuable experience. As a community worker for number of years, I believe it is important at times, to spend a period away from one’s own environment and in the company of colleagues and peers. Not only does this provide for a period of reflection but is crucial in forming relationships, sharing ideas and building contacts that remain long after the two week programme ends. This networking has paid dividends in my work in the years since. A key lesson I took away from the trip was the belief within the NGO sector there, as with wider US society, that it is ok to take risks, to try new models, learn from any mistakes, but to go again. A lesson which we could all benefit from in Northern Ireland.”

Due to the global pandemic, AMBIT 2021 was delivered virtually and participants were invited to apply to be involved in the programme. There were 23 successful AMBIT Alumni who attended seven online sessions consisting of team-building/group networking, discussions with peers drawn from multiple US cities and with D.C. legislators and policy makers who the group would usually meet in person.

Themes covered the impact of the pandemic on community work and the future delivery of the IFI’s

new strategy, as well as racial tensions, community impact of covid 19 and employability.

Guests who took part provided important expertise and insight and included a range of guests such as former Congressmen Bruce Morrison and Jim Walsh, representatives from the National Juvenile Defender Centre, Eran Nissan (an Israeli peace activist) and IFI Chair Paddy Harte.

The sessions provided a strong platform for leaders in community development and peace building to reflect on their experiences of the last 12 months. It also gave scope for consideration to the long-term effects the pandemic is likely to have in peace and reconciliation work and communities.

The programme’s approach this year demonstrated that there is an appetite for AMBIT Alumni to continue to engage and share experiences from global speakers across a range of topics. There is also ample opportunity for further progress and focus on the issue of succession planning and developing community leadership.

AMBIT will work in partnership with policy makers and funding bodies at a local and international level. The programme will continue to collaborate, share and engage with other organisations and regions who are ready to move towards lasting peace.



LEFT: The 2018 AMBIT delegation pictured on their trip to the United States.



# Accounts

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Annual Report for the year ended  
30th September 2021

## 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 28 February 2022.

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 ("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' land 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 applied 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.

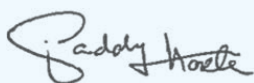
The Board Members are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Fund and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with best practice. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the 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 Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

### Covid-19

Covid-19, a pandemic. The outbreak of Covid-19 affected business and economic activity around the world, including the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. The Board Members continue to closely monitor the development of the coronavirus outbreak and its impact on market conditions. Given the inherent uncertainties it is not practical at this time to determine the impact of Covid-19 on the organisation or to provide a quantitative estimate of its impact.

By order of the Board



**Mr. Paddy Harte**  
Chairman

28 February 2022

# Independent auditors' report to the members of 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 2021 which comprise: the income and expenditure account; the statement of total recognised gains and losses; the balance sheet as at 30 September 2021; 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 charitable company's affairs as at 30 September 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, 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

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Boards' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

### 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' report and governance statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Board Members' report and governance statement have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

## Independent auditors' report to the members of International Fund for Ireland (continued)

### 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 Members' report, 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 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 Fund or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### Auditor's 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 auditor's 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.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed over.

### Explanation as to what extent the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

The objectives of our audit in respect of fraud, are; to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud, through designing and implementing appropriate responses to those assessed risks; and to respond appropriately to instances of fraud or suspected fraud identified during the audit. However, the primary responsibility for the prevention and detection of fraud rests with both management and those charged with governance of the company.

## Independent auditors' report to the members of International Fund for Ireland (continued)

Our approach was as follows:

- We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the charitable company and considered that the most significant are the UK and Republic of Ireland financial reporting standards as issued by the Financial Reporting Council.
- We obtained an understanding of how the company complies with these requirements by discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We assessed the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, including the risk of material misstatement due to fraud and how it might occur, by holding discussions with management and those charged with governance.
- We inquired of management and those charged with governance as to any known instances of noncompliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Based on this understanding, we designed specific appropriate audit procedures to identify instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. This included making enquiries of management and those charged with governance and obtaining additional corroborative evidence as required.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK) we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purposes of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board Members.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

### Use of our report

This report is made solely to the Fund's Members, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Fund's 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.

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.

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

28 February 2022

**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 2021

Total transactions expressed in £ and Euro €					
	Notes	2021 £'000	2020 £'000	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
<b>Income</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7,795</b>	9,056	<b>9,100</b>	10,017
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Approved projects	7	5,547	5,808	3,926	6,543
Net administrative expenses	3	81	249	180	280
		<b>5,628</b>	6,057	<b>4,106</b>	6,823
Write down of investment	4	-	4,844	-	8,204
<b>Excess/(deficit) of income over expenditure</b>		<b>2,167</b>	505	<b>2,530</b>	(2,293)
<b>Movement in the Fund balance</b>					
At 1 October 2020		4,765	4,325	5,327	7,672
Exchange differences on retranslation at 1 October 2020		(243)	(65)	(47)	(52)
		<b>4,522</b>	4,260	<b>5,280</b>	7,620
Excess/(deficit) of income over expenditure for the year		2,167	505	2,530	2,293
<b>At 30 September 2021</b>		<b>6,689</b>	4,765	<b>7,810</b>	5,327

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

## Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses for the year ended 30 September 2021

Total transactions expressed in £ and Euro €				
	2021 £'000	2020 £'000	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Excess/(deficit) of income over expenditure	2,167	505	2,530	(2,293)
Currency translation difference charged to the Fund balance	(243)	(65)	(47)	(52)
<b>Total recognised gains and losses relating to the year</b>	<b>1,924</b>	440	<b>2,483</b>	(2,345)

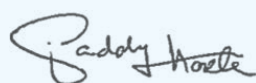
The notes on pages 70 to 75 form part of the financial statements.

# Balance Sheet

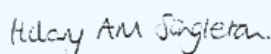
## as at 30 September 2021

Total transactions expressed in £ and Euro €					
	Notes	2021 £'000	2020 £'000	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
<b>Fixed assets</b>					
Investments	4	-	-	-	-
<b>Current assets</b>					
Cash at bank and on deposit	11	9,638	9,556	11,254	10,513
Donor contributions due	5	2,008	589	2,345	652
Other amounts receivable	6	152	-	177	-
		<b>11,798</b>	10,145	<b>13,776</b>	11,165
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Approved project expenditure outstanding	7	<b>(5,003)</b>	(5,197)	<b>(5,842)</b>	(5,745)
Creditors	9	<b>(106)</b>	(183)	<b>(124)</b>	(93)
		<b>(5,109)</b>	(5,380)	<b>(5,966)</b>	(5,838)
<b>Net current assets/(liabilities)</b>		<b>6,689</b>	4,765	<b>7,810</b>	5,327
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>6,689</b>	4,765	<b>7,810</b>	5,327
<b>Fund balance at 30 September 2021</b>		<b>6,689</b>	4,765	<b>7,810</b>	5,327

Approved by the Board on 28 February 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



**Mr. Paddy Harte**  
**Chairman**



**Hilary Singleton**  
**Member of the Board**

The notes on pages 70 to 75 form part of the financial statements.

# Cash Flow Statement

## for the year ended 30 September 2021

	Total transactions expressed in £ and Euro €			
	2021 £'000	2020 £'000	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>				
Excess/(deficit) of income over expenditure	<b>2,167</b>	505	<b>2,530</b>	(2,293)
<b>Adjustments for:</b>				
Decrease/(increase) in donor contributions due	<b>(1,419)</b>	28	<b>(1,691)</b>	43
(Decrease)/increase in approved project expenditure outstanding	<b>(194)</b>	(3,270)	<b>96</b>	(3,793)
Decrease/(increase) in other amounts receivable	<b>(152)</b>	6,325	<b>(177)</b>	7,125
(Decrease)/increase in creditors and accrued expenses	<b>(76)</b>	(2,679)	<b>30</b>	(3,051)
Foreign exchange gain/(loss) on intercompany transfers	<b>(416)</b>	-	<b>(486)</b>	-
Write down of investment	-	4,844	-	8,204
Interest received	<b>(5)</b>	(10)	<b>(6)</b>	(11)
Exchange difference in opening balance	<b>572</b>	(76)	<b>260</b>	(16)
<b>Net cash generated from operating activities</b>	<b>477</b>	5,667	<b>556</b>	6,208
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>				
Interest received	<b>5</b>	10	<b>6</b>	11
<b>Net cash from investing activities</b>	<b>5</b>	10	<b>6</b>	11
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash</b>	<b>482</b>	5,677	<b>562</b>	6,219
Balance at 1 October 220	<b>9,556</b>	3,859	<b>10,513</b>	4,347
Retranslation to current year exchange rates	<b>(400)</b>	20	<b>179</b>	(53)
Balance at 1 October 2020 retranslated to current year exchange rates	<b>9,156</b>	3,879	<b>10,692</b>	4,294
<b>Balance at 30 September 2021</b>	<b>9,638</b>	9,556	<b>11,254</b>	10,513

The notes on pages 70 to 75 form part of the financial statements.



# Notes to the Summary 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 28 February 2022.

The principal accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently throughout the year.

### 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.

## Notes to the summary financial statements (continued)

### Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised when a liability is incurred. Contractual arrangements and performance related grants are recognised as goods and services are supplied. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to a particular heading, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with use of resources. Staff costs and overhead expenses are allocated to activities on the basis of staff time spent on those activities.

### 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

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
<b>From donors after exchange rate adjustments</b>				
United States of America	<b>1,455</b>	581	<b>1,699</b>	642
UK Government/NI Office income	<b>1,000</b>	240	<b>1,168</b>	266
Irish Government	<b>4,283</b>	-	<b>5,000</b>	-
Exchange rate adjustments	<b>(26)</b>	(19)	<b>(31)</b>	(20)
	<b>6,712</b>	802	<b>7,836</b>	888
Interest receivable	-	10	-	11
Miscellaneous Income	-	29	-	32
	-	39	-	43
Dividend Received	<b>1,083</b>	8,215	<b>1,264</b>	9,086
	<b>7,795</b>	9,056	<b>9,100</b>	10,017

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 £26k/€31k of unrealised losses (2020: £49k/€54k of realised gains and £31k/€34k of unrealised losses). 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 summary financial statements (continued)

### 3. Net administration expenses

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Board Members' fees	104	103	123	113
Board Meetings	10	23	12	25
Consultancy and other fees	162	166	189	185
Auditors' remuneration - Audit	18	13	21	15
Travelling and subsistence	21	41	25	45
Postage, stationery, telephone and office	8	9	9	10
Promotional and advertising expenses	30	62	34	68
Miscellaneous	5	19	5	20
	<b>358</b>	436	<b>418</b>	481
Less: Contributions receivable from the Governments of the UK and Ireland in respect of an element of the above expenses	<b>(277)</b>	(273)	<b>(324)</b>	(301)
	<b>81</b>	163	<b>94</b>	180

### 4. Fixed asset investments

	Unlisted Investment	
	£'000	€'000
<b>Cost</b>		
At 1 October 2020	-	-
<b>At 30 September 2020</b>	-	-
<b>Provision</b>		
At 1 October 2020	-	-
Charge for year	-	-
<b>At 30 September 2021</b>	-	-
<b>Net book value</b>		
<b>At 30 September 2021</b>	-	-
At 30 September 2020	-	-

The International Fund for Ireland held the following shareholdings in subsidiaries and joint ventures:

IFI Financial Investments Limited – 100% shareholding

Enterprise Equity Investment Fund Limited – 50% shareholding

The investment in IFI Financial Investment Limited was written down in the financial year ended 30 September 2020 due to a reduction in share value in the subsidiary accounts. The investment in IFI Financial Investment Limited was reported at the cost value of €125.

## Notes to the summary financial statements (continued)

During the year ended 30 September 2021, both subsidiaries entered into a company voluntary liquidation on the 29th September 2021. Both entities ceased to be under the control of The International Fund for Ireland upon the appointment of the liquidator.

At the year end 30 September 2021, the process of liquidation was ongoing and any potential return from surplus funds is yet to be determined therefore it has not been recognised in these financial statements. A dividend of €1,265,000 was received in the year from IFI Financial Investments Limited.

The International Fund for Ireland has not prepared consolidated financial statements in the current year in accordance with FRS102 section 9.2. as the entity was no longer deemed to be a parent at 30 September 2021.

### 5. Donor contributions due

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
United States of America				
- 2015 (US\$0.01m)	8	8	9	9
- 2019 (US\$0.75m)	545	581	637	643
- 2020 (US\$2m)	1,455	-	1,699	-
	<b>2,008</b>	589	<b>2,345</b>	652

### 6. Other amounts receivable

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Government contribution	129	-	150	-
Bank interest receivable	23	-	27	-
	<b>152</b>	-	<b>177</b>	-

## Notes to the summary financial statements (continued)

### 7. Approved project expenditure outstanding

The totals of the Fund's project disbursements and associated fees in the year ended 30 September 2021 and the movements in approved projects outstanding are as follows:

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Approved project expenditure outstanding at 1 October 2020	5,197	8,467	5,745	9,538
Foreign exchange re-translation	(96)	82	212	(92)
Approved project expenditure outstanding at 1 October 2020	5,101	8,549	5,957	9,446
Reclassification of project spend	-	23	-	26
Project approvals in the year	5,547	3,521	6,476	3,899
Project disbursements and associated fees in the year	(5,645)	(6,896)	(6,591)	(7,626)
<b>Approved project expenditure outstanding at 30 September 2021</b>	<b>5,003</b>	5,197	<b>5,842</b>	5,745

### 8. Cumulative approved projects and disbursements to date

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

	2021 £'000	2020 £'000	2021 €'000	2020 €'000
Total approved projects to date	754,099	748,649	943,680	936,993
Less contributions to investment companies	(27,142)	(27,142)	(40,023)	(40,023)
	<b>726,957</b>	721,507	<b>903,657</b>	896,970
Total disbursements to projects and administration costs to date	(721,954)	(716,310)	(897,815)	(891,225)
<b>Approved project expenditure outstanding at 30 September 2021</b>	<b>5,003</b>	5,197	<b>5,842</b>	5,745

To date the Fund has approved total payments in respect of specific projects and administration costs to a total of £754m/€944m (2020: £749m/€937m) after deduction of approved projects which did not proceed.

The approved project expenditure outstanding at 30 September 2021 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.

## Notes to the summary financial statements (continued)

**9. Creditors: amounts falling due after less than one year**

	<b>2021</b> £'000	2020 £'000	<b>2021</b> €'000	2020 €'000
Accruals	<b>51</b>	126	<b>60</b>	31
Deferred income	<b>55</b>	57	<b>64</b>	62
	<b>106</b>	183	<b>124</b>	93

**10. Components of cash at bank and on deposit**

	<b>2021</b> £'000	2020 £'000	<b>2021</b> €'000	2020 €'000
Cash	<b>9,638</b>	9,556	<b>11,254</b>	10,513
	<b>9,638</b>	9,556	<b>11,254</b>	10,513

# Analysis of programme disbursements

for the year and of approved projects outstanding at  
30 September 2021 (unaudited)

	Approved project expenditure outstanding at 30 Sept 2020	Retranslated at 30 Sept 2021	Approved project expenditure outstanding at 30 Sept 2020 (retranslated)	Reclassification of project spend 01 Oct 2020	Project approvals and admin costs	Project and admin disbursements	Approved project expenditure outstanding at 30 Sept 2021
Expressed in £'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Peace Projects</b>							
Peace Walls	446	(31)	-	-	879	(850)	<b>444</b>
Peace Impact	2,238	(49)	-	-	3,488	(2,538)	<b>3,139</b>
<b>Personal Youth Development</b>	2,513	(16)	-	-	1,179	(2,256)	<b>1,420</b>
	5,197	(96)	-	-	5,546	(5,644)	<b>5,003</b>
<b>Expressed in €'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>	<b>€'000</b>
<b>Peace Projects</b>							
Peace Walls	496	(11)	-	-	1,025	(992)	<b>518</b>
Peace Impact	2,472	85	-	-	4,073	(2,964)	<b>3,666</b>
<b>Personal Youth Development</b>	2,777	138	-	-	1,377	(2,634)	<b>1,658</b>
	5,745	212	-	-	6,475	(6,590)	<b>5,842</b>

**International Fund for Ireland**

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