

# Submission to the Irish Aid White Paper Consultation 2018

Nature of views: on behalf of an organisation

Organisation: All Together in Dignity Ireland - ATD

Role in organisation: NA

Postal address: Mountjoy Square 26, Dublin

Web-address: [www.atdireland.ie](http://www.atdireland.ie)

Email: [board@atdireland.ie](mailto:board@atdireland.ie)

Daytime telephone number: 01 855 81 91

Date of posting response: 30 August 2018

=====

All Together in Dignity Ireland's Submission to the public consultation  
on Ireland's International Development Policy:

**Prioritising and supporting the active participation of people with lived experience of poverty  
to strengthen Ireland's contribution to a more equal, just and sustainable world.**

30<sup>th</sup> August 2018

**ATD, All Together in Dignity Ireland** is a registered Charity founded in 2009 and one of the 30 national organisation members of the international human-rights movement ATD that works through grass-roots projects in partnership with people living in poverty.

For the past 17 years, ATD volunteers in Ireland have been working with family members facing persistent poverty and struggling daily to live in dignity. ATD Ireland is member of the **Coalition 2030, Dóchas, the Children's Rights Alliance, the Community Platform, the ESC Rights Initiative, the Irish 17 October Committee, IDEA, EAPN Ireland, Social Justice Ireland and The Wheel.**

**ATDs vision** is to work in partnership with the most vulnerable to end poverty in all its forms

\*\*\*\*\*

Inspired by the work of ATD Ireland and ATD International, our response to the consultation will address the following points from the White Paper:

***Priorities for transformation***

*3.4 Our priorities will be framed by the SDGs and their call to Leave No One Behind*

*3.8 Governance*

***Criteria for action and partnership***

*4.4 Reinforce collective action*

*4.5 Strengthen public support and engagement*

*4.9 We recognise the need for more innovative partnerships.*

Ireland's New International Development Policy **requires more explicit resources and structures to support the participation of people experiencing severe poverty and social exclusion.**

In order to reach and empower marginalised and excluded members of any society, customised mechanisms are needed.

ATD Ireland's submission focuses on five key areas:

- (i) Planning of projects and practices designed to include the most vulnerable through active participation in consultations about the International Development policy such as the White Paper consultation
- (ii) Considering new measures of poverty to make this strategic prioritisation a reality.
- (iii) Designing Development Education as an opportunity for the marginalised population in Ireland to share their skills and knowledge about what it means to struggle against poverty and social exclusion
- (iv) Supporting the on-going conversation about the ways to walk the talk of the 2030 Agenda promise: to reach the furthest behind first (or the Leave No One Behind Promise)
- (v) Promoting the Human Rights framework adopted by the United Nations in 2012 in the "Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights".

**(i) Planning and Implementing together with the poorest communities**

With other members of the Irish Coalition 2030, ATD Ireland are currently starting a dialogue about ways to create a genuine, long-term and fruitful participation of delegates from marginalised communities in the new Irish SDG Stakeholder Forum. ATD's approach of development is based on a key statement: local people "left behind" have an understanding and an intelligence of their needs as well as a vision of the way forward. This expertise should be at the heart of any support

project. In the Global South as in the countries of the industrial North of the world, experimentation with structured participation of representatives of “hard to reach” communities have been undertaken in various ways. ATD Ireland invites the Irish Government to make sure that pilot experiments in “power sharing” with the most marginalised are included in the projects Ireland will support abroad.

### **(i) Measuring development in new ways**

ATD International have an ongoing research project that focuses on ways in which the participation of the most vulnerable can help measure “real” poverty dimensions. **“Participation of the most vulnerable: An international participatory research”** run by the International Movement ATD Fourth World and Oxford University has two main goals;

- To identify old and new “dimensions” of poverty: their salience and relative importance in different contexts; and the extent to which they are complementary (additive) or substitutable (with trade-offs between certain dimensions)

- To assess the implications of these findings for existing understandings of poverty and its constituent dimensions and what “Development” means, the development of appropriate policy responses, and the specification of comparable new national poverty measures and indicators.

In seeking to “End poverty in all its forms”, the 2015-2030 Sustainable Development Goals explicitly recognise the multidimensional nature of poverty and require progress to be measured, nationally and globally, with respect to multidimensional measures of poverty. Latest measures, for example the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), represent a progress compared to one dimensional measures. Yet, most of the measures have generally been developed without direct reference to people experiencing poverty and have questionable face and construct validity. The current Oxford University – ATD research proposes to address these deficiencies and omissions so as to inform the development of robust measures.

In this project, people with lived experience of poverty are involved from the beginning to the end. People with lived experience of poverty are on Research Teams; doing outreach, organising, and facilitating peer groups; designing projects and activities that are used to determine the dimensions of poverty. People with lived experience of poverty then review and help create findings reports. From there, they will create an international report that will be presented in side events at the UN HLPF 2019.

ATD Ireland invites the Irish Government to make sure that its new International Development policy will have the flexibility to **adapt to new ways of measuring Development and Poverty issues** especially when these new assessments or monitoring tools are designed by people who have a lived experience of the key issues.

### **(iii) Making Development Education Work for People with Experience of Social Exclusion**

With many of the organisations mainly involved in Development Education such as IDEA, ECO UNESCO, Development Perspective, we do believe that Ireland's new policy on international development must continue to maintain and build on Ireland's experience and reputation for quality Development Education and public engagement. The framework suggested by IDEA "**Awareness, Engagement and Participation**" matches the work ATD Ireland has been delivering since the adoption of the Agenda 2030. We support this framework.

Similarly to point (i) and (ii) we would invite the Government to include in its new policy, **provision for creative experimentation to enable people with experience of social exclusion to become the leaders and facilitators of "workshops" or "trainings" regarding development education.**

We believe there is still an important space for innovation in projects which are valuing the skills and knowledge of people who know what it means to face hardship and marginalisation. These win-win projects would benefit trainees but also trainers who will gain self-confidence and new skills.

In this context, one pillar of Development Education could become the development of the relationship and behavioural skills needed to create and sustain inclusive communities.

### **(iv) Discussing and monitoring the way we leave no one behind with the most affected**

The Irish policy's focus regarding the 'Leave No One Behind' promise will be women and girls. Inspired by the current project run by ATD Ireland "The Leave No One Behind Conversations", we would invite the Government to plan for:

–Regular conversations here and abroad with citizens from all backgrounds to monitor our collective and individual abilities to leave no one behind.

–Structured consultation and partnership with groups of women and girls in Ireland who have strong experience of being left behind (women in addiction, in custody, mothers without their children after separation due to child protection intervention, sex workers, girls leaving school early, women facing high isolation because of mental health issues...) to inform the way to walk the talk overseas.

### **(v) Implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights**

As referred to in the White Paper, Ireland launched in 2017 the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights. The preparation of this National Plan was facilitated by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) after the 2011 adoption by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

As the realisation of Human Rights is one of the key objectives of the new International Development Policy, ATD Ireland would invite the DFAT and Irish Aid to refer to the "UN 2012

Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights” as one of the key Human Rights frameworks for the future Irish Policy.

As DFAT did it for the 2011 Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the new policy could include a plan to run a national process of consultation regarding the 2012 Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights. This consultation could lead to the launch of a National Action Plan providing guidance on Poverty and Human Rights for all Development Organisations delivering the Irish Development Policy overseas.

END

\*\*\*\*\*