



Pre-Budget Submission 2019
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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The work of the Age Action policy team is supported by the Scheme to Support National Organisations, funded via the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, and administered by Pobal.

Recommendations

1. Commit to achieving the 0.7 per cent of GNI (as proxy for GNP) and implement the timetabled plan to achieve 0.59 per cent of GNI by 2022 outlined by Social Justice Ireland. As a first step, provide an additional €136 million to overseas development assistance in Budget 2019
2. For Ireland to participate in the UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing
3. To ensure data disaggregation by age in all programmes and consider adopting the Titchfield questions

1. Introduction

Age Action is the leading advocacy organisation on ageing and older people in Ireland. Our mission is to achieve fundamental change in the lives of all older people by eliminating age discrimination, promoting positive ageing and securing their right to comprehensive and high-quality services.

We want to make Ireland the best country in the world in which to grow old and we work with older people to build a society free of ageism where their rights are secured.

While our work predominantly focuses on older people in Ireland, our Ageing and Development programme works on global ageing and issues faced by older people in developing countries: access to social protection, healthcare, and the inclusion of older people in policies and programmes.

The aim of this work is to raise awareness about these issues among the general public in Ireland.

We achieve this through public engagement, producing materials, engaging in campaigns and building support among key groups on ageing and development issues and the rights of older people.

This submission outlines our recommendations to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade with regard to the budget allocation for 2019.

Separate to this we will make individual submissions to the following Government departments:

- Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
- Department of Education and Skills
- Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection
- Department of Health
- Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

2. Context

Population ageing is a major global phenomenon that affects all countries, reflecting significant achievements in human development such as greater longevity, improved health outcomes and lower mortality.¹ This is occurring faster in developing countries, which have less time to adjust to the consequences of this change.

In 2015 figures, some 12.3 per cent of the global population (901 million people) was over 60, with Europe having the largest percentage of population of this age (24 per cent of total population).

Projections show that between 2015 and 2030, the number of people aged 60 years or over will grow by just under 60 per cent to reach 1.4 billion by 2030. By 2030, older persons are expected to account for over 25 per cent of the population in Europe and North America, 17 per cent in Asia and in Latin America and the Caribbean, and 6 per cent in Africa.²

Growth will be particularly marked in Africa, with a 64 per cent increase in those aged 60 or over between 2015 and 2030 (105 million).

Age Action – as a partner network member of Help Age International – works to build solidarity between older people in Ireland and in developing countries. Shared concerns and worries about growing older are expressed by older people in Ireland and in developing countries: namely concerns about access to social protection, healthcare and loneliness.

Given the ever increasing older population, there is a clear and urgent need for policymakers in Ireland and in developing countries to identify the needs and contributions of older people when devising policies and programmes.

¹ See UNDP et al (2018). Ageing, Older Persons and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. See https://www.un.org/development/desa/ageing/wp-content/uploads/sites/24/2017/07/UNDP_AARP_HelpAge_International_AgeingOlderpersons-and-2030-Agenda-2.pdf.

² Ibid.

3. Official Development Assistance

Age Action urges the Government to outline a credible plan to achieve its commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of GNP in official development assistance (ODA).

While the Government has committed to achieving the 0.7 per cent target by 2030, needs exist today. The target must be reached before then and a plan is urgently needed to outline how this will be achieved.

Budget 2018 saw a welcome allocation of €707m in overseas aid, representing approximately 0.36 per cent of GNI. Age Action welcomes Social Justice Ireland's recommendation in their Budget Choices for 2019 which sets out a realizable timetable to incrementally increase overseas aid to reach 0.7 by 2025.

Table 1: Social Justice Ireland Pathway to reach ODA target of 0.7 per cent of GNI by 2025

Year	GNI (€m)	% of GNI to achieve 0.7 target by 2025	Required budget for ODA in each year in €m's	Increase in Budget allocation for ODA in €m's
2018	198,850	0.36	707	-
2019	207,725	0.42	843	136
2020	216,000	0.48	982	139
2021	224,550	0.53	1,125	143
2022	233,532	0.59	1,271	146
2023	242,873	0.63	1,379	108
2024	252,588	0.66	1,490	111
2025	262,692	0.70	1,605	115

Social Justice Ireland (2018) *Budget Choices* – available at www.socialjustice.ie

Overseas aid is crucial as it explicitly focuses on the poorest countries and poorest people, including older people.

More stable and predictable than private finances, aid invests in public goods and in the foundations of the economy such as education, health, infrastructure and governance.

Recommendations

1. Commit to achieving the 0.7 per cent of GNI (as proxy for GNP) and implement the timetabled plan to achieve 0.59 per cent of GNI by 2022 outlined by Social Justice Ireland. As a first step provide an additional €136 million to overseas development assistance in Budget 2019

4. Ireland's International Role

The Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing is a new UN working group established in 2010 to provide a forum for the discussion and strengthening of older people's rights. It aims to examine the current international framework in relation to the human rights of older people and identify possible gaps and how best to address them, including the possibility of human rights mechanisms to protect the rights of older people.

The OEWG meetings bring together UN Member States, civil society and national human rights institutions to examine how to enhance the enjoyment of human rights by older people worldwide.

Age Action calls on Ireland to participate in the UN Open-ended Working Group on Ageing in order to fully realise and protect the rights and needs of older people.

Recommendations

2. For Ireland to participate in the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing

5. Mainstream data disaggregation by age

The Sustainable Development Goals contain a commitment to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data, which should be 'disaggregated by age' among other characteristics. This is essential for addressing the serious lack of data in key geographical countries and for ensuring effective policies and interventions.

Data gaps prevent understanding of the full picture of wellbeing in later life, and make older people invisible to policymakers. As a result, the developing and implementing of effective policies to realise the rights of older people are delayed.

The gaps and challenges in relation to the collection, analysis and use of data on ageing and older people include:

- A lack of coverage of older people in much of the survey data currently available
- Lack of harmonization of age disaggregation and small sample sizes at older ages which makes the little data available inadequate or not comparable.
- Lack of age standardization
- Paucity of data on older people living outside traditional households e.g. in institutions
- Lack of age disaggregation, and disaggregation in intersections of age, sex, disability, location and other characteristics
- Challenges adequately capturing data on the contributions (both economic and non-economic) of older persons, which are often hidden.³

In March 2018 the United Nations introduced a new mechanism to address the significant gaps in both national and international statistics on ageing, with a view to introducing better disaggregated data to cover critical areas of older people's lives: the Titchfield City Group on Ageing and Age-disaggregated Data.⁴

The Group is led by the UK's Office for National Statistics, and brings together national statistical offices and other stakeholders to establish new standardised tools and methods that can be used globally to improve data on ageing. It will

³ See HelpAge International (2018) Q&A: *The Titchfield City Group on ageing-related statistics and age-disaggregated data*. See www.helpage.org.

⁴ Ibid.

operate for five years and is open to all national statistical offices that wish to take part.

Age Action urges the adoption of the Titchfield questions throughout programming in order to ensure effective and robust data disaggregation by age.

We also ask for the Central Statistics Office (CSO) to be supported to take part in this process.

Recommendations

4. To ensure data disaggregation by age in all programmes and consider adopting the Tichfield Questions

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