

Submission by IDEA Youth Taskgroup to the Consultation Process for Development of new Irish Aid Development and Global Citizenship Education Strategy 2021-2024

- 1. Nature of views (indicate personal / on behalf of an organisation):** On behalf of organisation - Youth Work Ireland Tipperary
- 2. Organisation (if applicable):** Youth Work Ireland Tipperary (YWIT)
- 3. Role in organisation (if applicable):** Development Education Worker
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- 8. Freedom of Information:** Responses are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Acts and may be released in total or in part. Please indicate if there are aspects of your response that you seek to have withheld, and the reasons for same.

wishes to have all of its submission released publically. - YES
- 9. Date of posting response:** 19th March 2021

Strategy Questions

The response should address some or all of the following questions:

- *How can Irish Aid support life-long learning and increase public understanding of and engagement with development and global citizenship issues as well as increasing awareness of the Irish Aid programme?*

Investing in having a Youth Development Education Officer on the Irish Aid team who strong understanding, experience and commitment to transformational education experience that can be created in a supportive youth work environment. That this person could be a champion for the potential and power of Global youth work as good youth work in practice and highlight the impact it can have for young people in relation to the 7 proximal outcomes as outlined by The National Youth Strategy 2015 – 2020. By having a member of team being able to link the outcomes from life-long learning through the understanding and engagement with development and global citizenship with the 7 personal and social outcomes of the UBU Your Place, Your Space funding for youth projects, it could create way to increase the awareness of the Irish Aid programme.

If there was a simpler application process or a beginner's starter fund for organisation who haven't access Irish Aid funding before more organisation might be able to engage with Irish Aid programme and in turn increasing awareness of the Irish Aid programme or more organisation would be able to advance to the current application process after initial funding to grow their baseline awareness and understanding of the Irish Aid Programme and their own organisation ability to take action around growing development and global citizenship with the young people they work with.

- *Are there other groups or organisations we should seek to work with in order to build this awareness and engagement?*
- *What has changed in the external environment since 2017, both in the education sector and broader societal changes nationally and globally, and how should that be reflected in our priorities, our relationships and in our revised strategy?*

A lot has changed over in the external environment the last 4 years form more Youth lead engagement climate justice and drive in for action, the increase in momentum with the Black Lives Movement and a Global Pandemic throw into the mix also.

In relation to reflecting this in the priorities, Youth Lead movements around different issues of equality/inequalities, social justice, climate change have been part of history for long time and will continue into to the future.

Therefore a key area to focus on, that could support the changing environment in the future is the supporting financially is the expansion of the training of youth worker and volunteers in the key principles of Global Youth Work, Global Citizenship Education, Development Education methodologies, so that in turn the Youth Worker will have the tools, so they can support the young people they work to find their voice on issues that matter to them, effecting their lives daily, to support the young people who have an interest in change making and support young people to have the opportunity engage in various external influences which could occur between 2021-2024 and beyond.

- *What do you consider to be the key areas of progress made since 2017 in the implementation of the Irish Aid Strategic Planning process? Are there any key lessons learnt or gaps in the current response?*
- *With reference to the five output areas of the current Irish Aid Development Education Strategic Plan, what do you consider the key priorities for 2021- 2024 should be?*

The including of racism and intercultural work in the local (Irish) context also under the Irish Aid programme.

The training and upskilling of Youth Workers and volunteers to enhance knowledge around Global Youth Work principles and development education methodologies in the delivery of good youth work.

Looking at running a Global Citizenship Education - Youth Work Showcase event to spot light transformative Youth lead education experiences, initiates and in the non-formal education sector that are a result of Irish Aid funding and education strategy.

- *Irish Aid is considering changing the name of the programme and strategy to Global Citizenship Education, do you have any comments or concerns in relation to this suggestion?*
- *What opportunities have arisen from the COVID-19 experience and how can we learn from it in order to reach a broader audience?*
- Through continue running group work session during a global pandemic with young people, it is has allowed to create impactful learning environment to support the young people to connect the local to global, allowing to a greater insight to the interconnectedness and interdependence in an unequal world while focusing the session around the various SDGs and UN days. Through the connection to the SDGs created an environment for the young people to challenge the status quo and look at

change and actions they can take in a time of a global pandemic, where there is a loss of power, control at times about our daily lives.

- *How can technology and digital outreach help us?*

Throughout the last year you could see how technology has help keep connection with young people and has allowed for the continuation of Global Youth Work with in Youth Work Ireland Tipperary, however it have highlighted the greater barriers young people face daily in access both formal and informal education online given the different levels of access.

The heavy focus on technology has greaten the divide between young people and has left more young people behind due to a number of reasons so as their lack access devices, absence of private space within their home to allow full engagement online, households not having broadband, young people reliant on phone credit and data, lack of broadband or weak unreliable phone signals and broadband connections in rural communities which YWIT operate.

Submissions should not exceed 2,500 words and should be forwarded to barry.watts@dfa.ie by close of business on Friday 19 March, 2021.