

## Global Issues

Table 10.1: Possible pathways to ODA targets 2024-2029

Year	ODA €m	% of GNI*	Increase Required €
2024	1,480.0	0.48	
2025	1,685.4	0.53	205.4
2026	1,906.2	0.57	220.8
2027	2,146.8	0.61	240.6
2028	2,405.5	0.66	258.7
2029	2,683.5	0.70	278.0

**Source:** Social Justice Ireland based on estimates of Ireland’s macroeconomic prospects contained in Budget 2024 Economic & Fiscal Outlook and author’s calculations.

Table 10.2: United Nations development indicators by region and worldwide

Region	GNI per capita (US\$ PPP)*	Life Expectancy at Birth (years)	Expected Years Schooling	Maternal Mortality Ratio**
Least Developed Countries	3,006	64.9	10.1	354
Arab States	14,391	71.3	11.9	128
East Asia and Pacific	16,138	76.2	14.5	78
Europe and Central Asia	19,763	73.6	15.5	21
L. America and Caribbean	15,109	73.7	14.8	85
South Asia	6,972	68.4	11.9	132
Sub-Saharan Africa	3,666	60.6	10.3	516
OECD	46,318	80.1	16.6	21
Worldwide total	17,254	72.0	13.0	215

**Source:** UNHD Report Human Development Index 2023/24, Tables 1 and 5, pp.277, 296

**Notes:** \* Gross National Income (GNI) Data adjusted for differences in purchasing power

\*\* ratio of the number of maternal deaths to the number of live births expressed per 100,000 live births. The comparable rates for Ireland are: GNI per capita: \$87,468; Life Expectancy: 82.7; Expected Years Schooling: 19.1; Maternal Mortality 5.

## Global Issues

### *Official development assistance*

Increases to Official Development Assistance (ODA) in recent budgets are to be welcomed.<sup>1</sup>

However, Ireland still lacks a strategy for reaching the UN-agreed 0.7 per cent target. Government must develop such a strategy with a view to reaching this target by 2029. We must continue to recover lost ground in relation to our ODA commitments. Given Ireland's current and projected economic growth, Government should commit to reaching the UN target of 0.7 per cent of GNI\* to be allocated within the next five years. A possible pathway to reaching the UN target of 0.7 per cent over the next five years is set out in Table 10.1. GNI\* is used as a more realistic measurement of Ireland's national income. This makes the target all the more achievable.

Moreover, these allocations should not include the increase in expenditure in respect of the Ukrainian crisis which should be ring-fenced and warehoused. They should also not include our commitments to Climate Finance or Loss and Damage.

### *Inequalities*

Our world is becoming increasingly unequal. According to Oxfam, the wealth of the five richest people in the world has more than doubled since 2020, while 5 billion people have become poorer.<sup>2</sup> Billionaire wealth has grown at three times the rate of inflation, with billionaires now 34 per cent richer than they were at the start of 2020. Large corporations have enjoyed windfall profits in recent years, with a study showing that 82 per cent of profits by major companies were returned to

shareholders through dividends and buybacks, disproportionately benefiting the wealthiest in society. This continued focus on profit extraction and wealth accumulation perpetuates inequality, keeps wages low and erodes capacity to invest in sustainable production methods. Oxfam estimates that 1.6 per cent of the money flowing to the wealthiest in society would be sufficient to eliminate extreme poverty if reallocated.

The UN Human Development Report<sup>3</sup> points to some of these inequalities between various regions of the world, as shown in Table 10.2. Today, average life expectancy is 20 years higher for people in the richest countries compared to those in Sub-Saharan Africa.

### **Policy Priorities**

- Renew Government commitment to meet the UN target of contributing 0.7 per cent of national income to ODA by 2028 and set a clear pathway to achieve this.
- Disaggregate commitments to Climate Finance and Loss and Damage from ODA target.
- Play a prominent role in the support and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Take a far more proactive stance at government level on ensuring that Irish and EU policies towards countries in the Global South are just and in line with human rights obligations.
- Champion a human rights-based approach to migration and challenge any breaches of humanitarian obligations by EU member states and agencies.

<sup>1</sup>Data for 2019-2022 refers to the actual amounts spent as per the Government of Ireland's Irish Aid Annual Reports

<sup>2</sup><https://policy-practice.oxfam.org/resources/inequality-inc-how-corporate-power-divides-our-world-and-the-need-for-a-new-era-621583/>

<sup>3</sup><https://hdr.undp.org/content/human-development-report-2023-24>