

Strengthening Education in Sierra Leone

Building an Equal and Inclusive Education For Girls and Young Women in Sierra Leone

Policy Considerations and Priorities of Irish Aid in Sierra Leone



An Roinn Gnóthaí
Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of
Foreign Affairs and Trade



Ireland and Sierra Leone

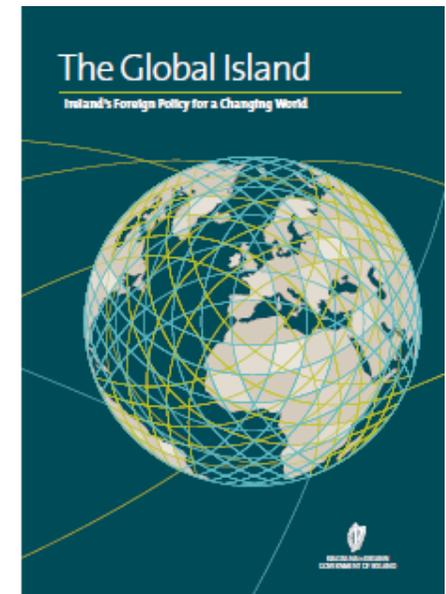
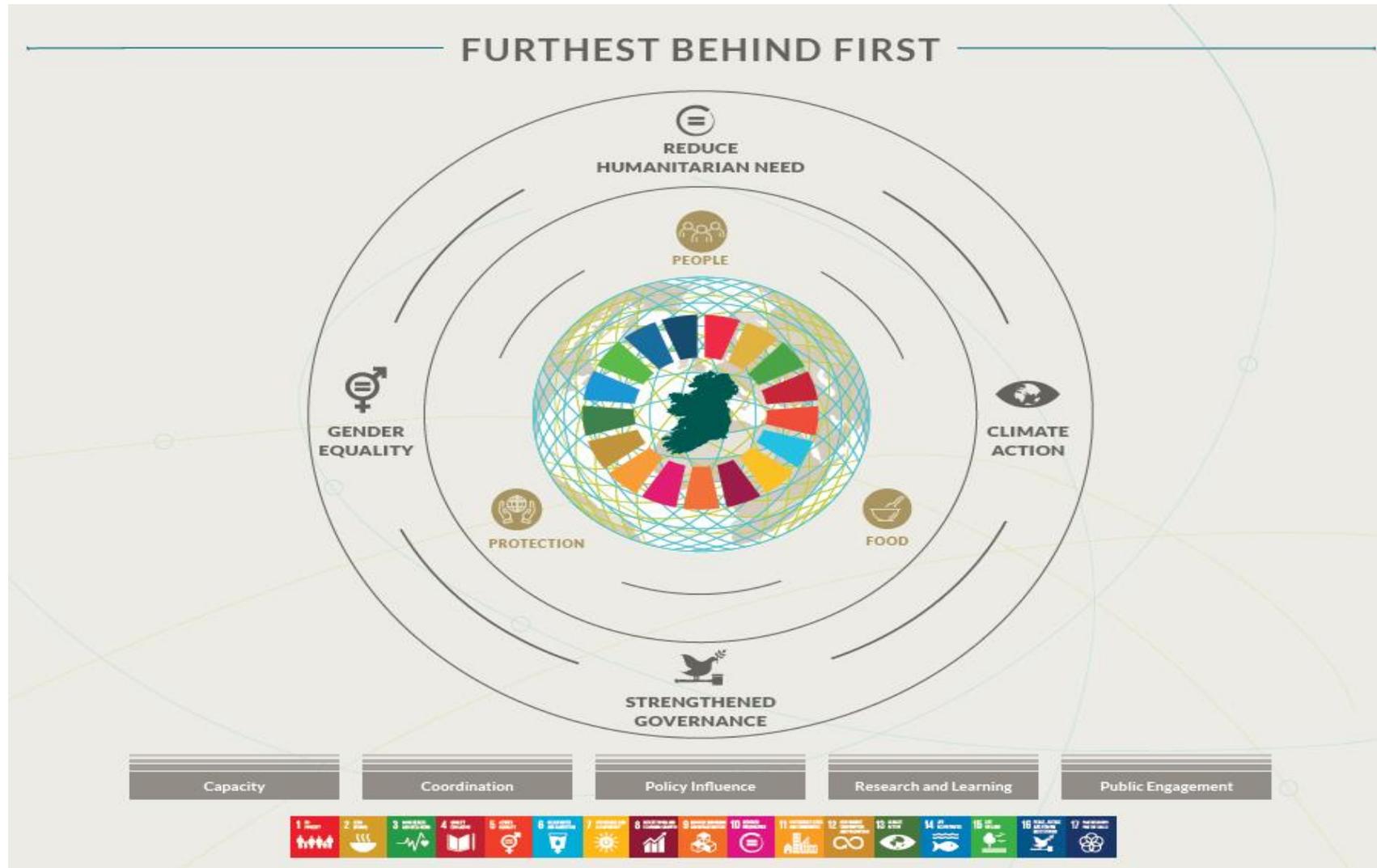


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- 2000 Diplomatic relations
- 2005 Development Cooperation Office
- 2011-2012 Development Cooperation Strategy for Sierra Leone (Nutrition/Food Security, Governance/Gender)
- 2013 Emergency and Recovery => Key Partner Country
- 2014 Upgraded to Embassy and Ambassador appointed
- 2014-2015 Annual Plans (incl Ebola response)
- 2016-2018 Transitional Country Strategy
- 2019 Mission Strategy 2019-2023



A Better World Ireland's Policy for International Development



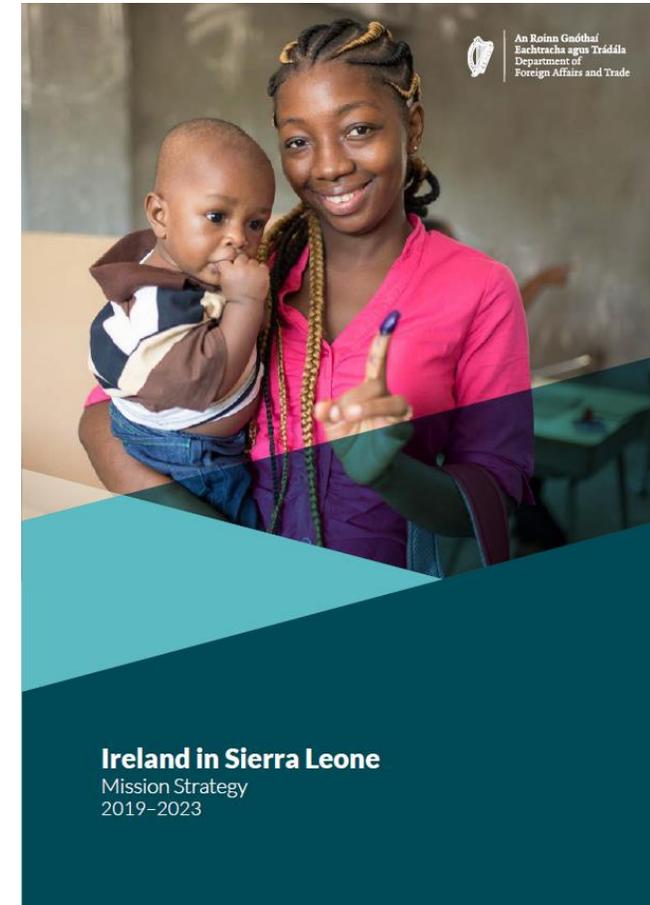
Mission Strategy 2019-2023

“seek opportunities to deepen political, economic and cultural ties”

“promoting Ireland’s values and interests in Sierra Leone with a focus on the empowerment of women and girls”

Our long-term ambition is that

“women and girls living in poverty will contribute and benefit from a more inclusive, resilient and equitable Sierra Leone.”



Women and girls, living in poverty, contribute to and benefit from a more inclusive, resilient and equitable Sierra Leone.

Women and children have improved nutritional status.

Women and girls are empowered to realise their potential and rights.

More girls access and benefit from quality education.

Citizens, especially women, are more empowered to engage with inclusive and accountable democratic institutions and processes.

1. Adolescent girls and women access improved nutrition services at facility and community level.
2. Evidence of effective and climate smart approaches for nutrition and food security generated and informing national policy.
3. Improved national coordination for nutrition.

4. More enabling environment for adolescent girls to realise their full potential.
5. Improved prevention of sexual and gender based violence and access to services for survivors particularly adolescent girls.
6. Adolescent girls and boys have information, knowledge and confidence to make informed decisions.

7. Increased participation of poorer girls in quality education.

8. Citizens, especially women, are more empowered to engage with inclusive and accountable democratic institutions and processes.
9. The role of civil society in promoting accountability, human rights and social cohesion is strengthened.
10. National systems for delivering credible and inclusive elections and guaranteeing human rights are strengthened.

HUMAN RIGHTS, GENDER, RESILIENCE



Political Engagement & Policy Dialogue

Partnership & Local Ownership

Systems Strengthening

Flexible & Adaptable Programming

Learning & Evidence Based

GOALS

OUTCOMES

OUTPUTS

CROSS-CUTTING

APPROACHES

2019 Strategy builds on previous work

- Nutrition, gender equality and governance
 - Continuing need
 - Track record, established networks, respected expertise,
 - Lessons from previous work
 - Trusted relationships with government, civil society and international community

And Education?

- Builds on work on education for pregnant girls
- Opportune time – Government priority, Free Quality Education Programme
- Necessary for transformative change for women and girls
- Strong links to other programme areas
- Commitments to girls' education in A Better World



Output: Increased participation of poorer girls in quality education

Interventions

- Support the design and roll-out of the Free Quality Education Programme
- Advocate for better access to education for marginalised groups particularly poor adolescent girls and children with disabilities
- Advocate for an enabling environment for girls education incl lifting the ban on pregnant girls attending school and sitting exams
- Explore initiatives to improve the quality of education incl links with Irish education institutions



What we are currently doing...

- Support for FREE through a multi-donor trust fund contributing to a combination of interventions aimed at strengthening the education system and improving learning outcomes at primary and Junior Secondary level.
- Supporting MoBSSE and UNICEF to carry out an Out-of-School Children Survey, analyse findings and design radical inclusion initiatives
- Joint UNFPA/UNICEF/MoBSSE programme to support implementation of an anticipated new policy on retention/re-entry of pregnant girls in school

Policy Priorities for 2019-2023

- **Furthest Behind First**

‘Radical inclusion’- Improving education access for the most vulnerable children

- **Safe Learning Environment-**

Ensuring schools are safe places for learners.

- **Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE)**

Introduction of CSE in school curriculum



Other support



- Global Partnership for Education

2019-2022 USD 17.2 million grant "Getting it right; building strong foundations for learning"

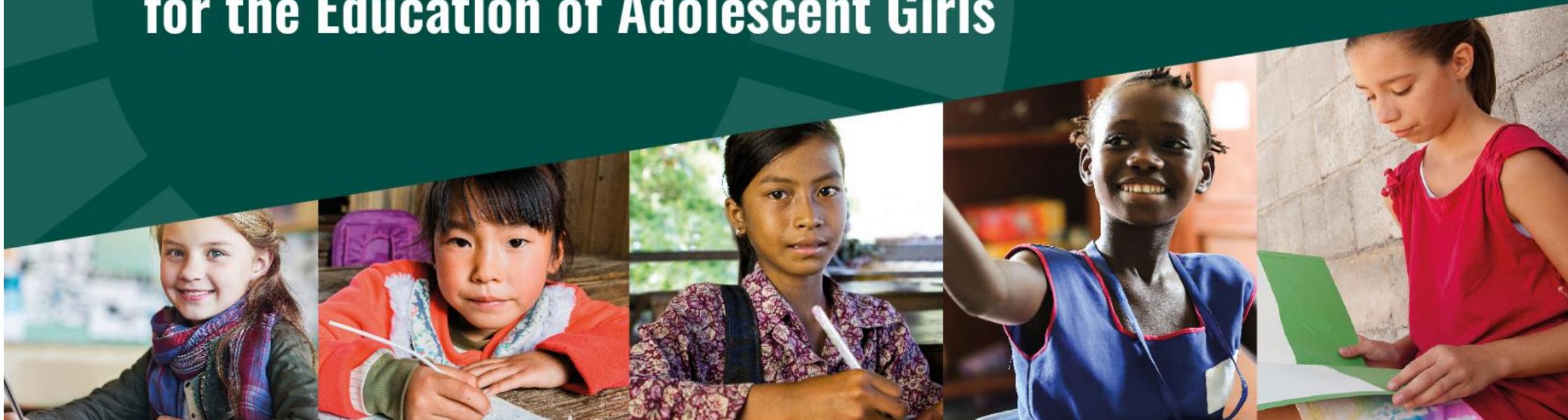
- Increased access to early learning for 3-5-year-olds
- Improve learning outcomes in reading, writing, and math for early grade 1-3 students
- Improve systems for decentralized school monitoring, data collection and management, create a learning assessment unit, and increase the availability of comprehensive sector analysis data.

- Interventions

- Expansion of preschool classes in primary schools and community-based early childhood education
- In-service teacher training for grades 1-3 in conjunction with the newly established Teaching Service Commission
- Streamlined data collection and information feedback systems to schools and communities.



A Global Call to Action for the Education of Adolescent Girls



THE DRIVE FOR 5

We will work with partners including the Global Partnership for Education, UN Women, One and Malala Fund to put a spotlight on adolescent girls' education. We will call on all Governments to commit to five transformative actions to get all adolescent girls into school and provide them with quality, relevant education in supportive, safe and healthy environments.



1. SHE HAS A DESK

Guarantee that every girl receives 12 years of free quality education.



2. SHE IS CONFIDENT

Provide supportive school environments through gender-sensitive curriculums, mentoring and menstrual hygiene facilities. Work with boys and men to challenge negative social norms and eliminate harmful traditional practices.



3. SHE LEARNS THE SKILLS SHE NEEDS

Strengthen teacher training and provide girls with quality, relevant education for life facilitating employment and leadership opportunities.



4. SHE IS SAFE

Ensure that every girl is safe from violence in school and on the journey to and from school.



5. SHE IS HEALTHY

Keep girls healthy and in school by providing adequate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in all schools and ensuring adequate nutrition for all girls.

Thank you

