

# International Fund for Ireland

External Evaluation 2016 – 2020

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## Final Report



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activity approach areas barriers border building challenges change  
community conflict contributed covid dealing delivery development  
economic engagement evaluation funding groups impact interface  
involved issues learning levels local participants peace people political  
positive process programme projects reconciliation  
relationships removal report result social support walls workyoung

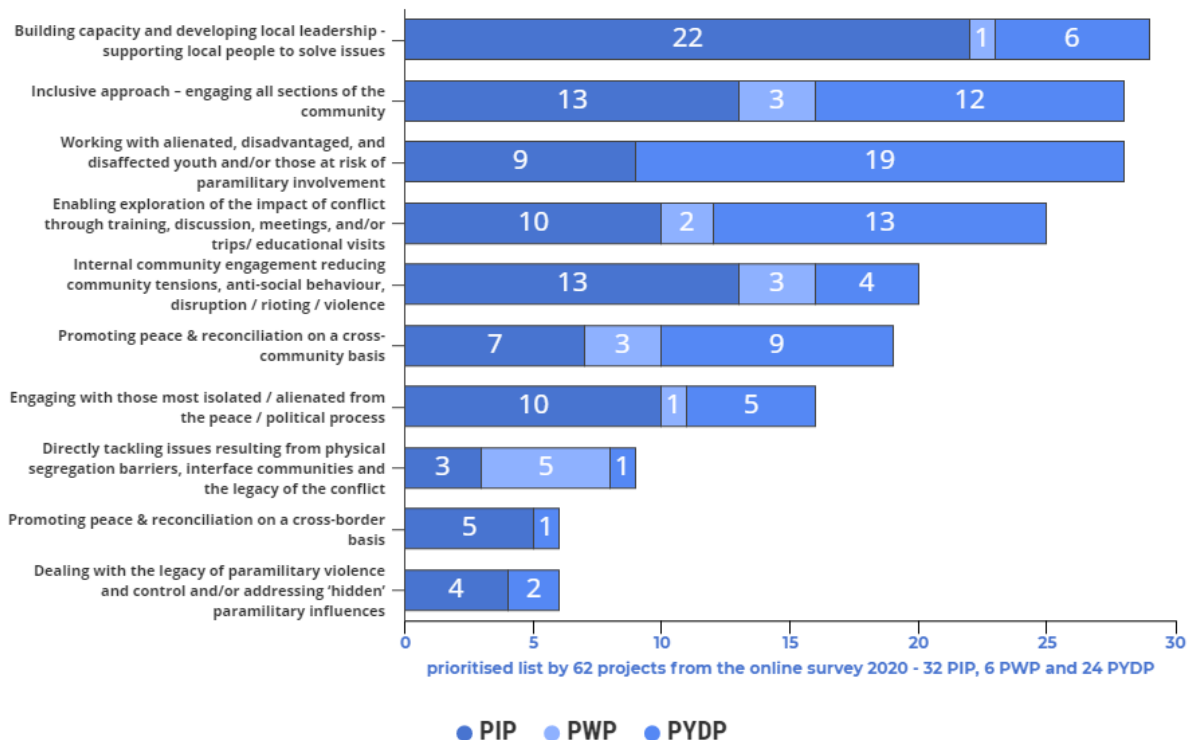
## Executive Summary

Over the period 2016-2020, IFI supported 115 projects across NI and the SBCs and invested £32m (€38.6m) in a wide range of peace building initiatives through three key programmes: Peace Walls Programme (PWP), Peace Impact Programme (PIP) and the Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP). Each had a distinctive focus, and the evaluation identified the unique impact these have made to building peace and reconciliation and to promoting economic and social advance, as evidenced in the diagrams outlined below.

The IFI Strategy aimed to assist the two governments to consolidate the Peace Process by continuing to tackle persistent challenges to lasting peace, “with a particular focus on young people”. The evaluation has found that the work supported under the three programmes achieved this and has made a substantial contribution to stability, social cohesion, and reconciliation on both sides of the border and on a inter-community and cross-border basis.

However, it has also identified that much more work is required considering the risks posed by existing tensions and divisions being exacerbated through a combination of political uncertainty, economic recession, and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, the IFI should maintain and develop these programmes to meet current and emerging needs and challenges.

### IFI Peace & Reconciliation Impacts

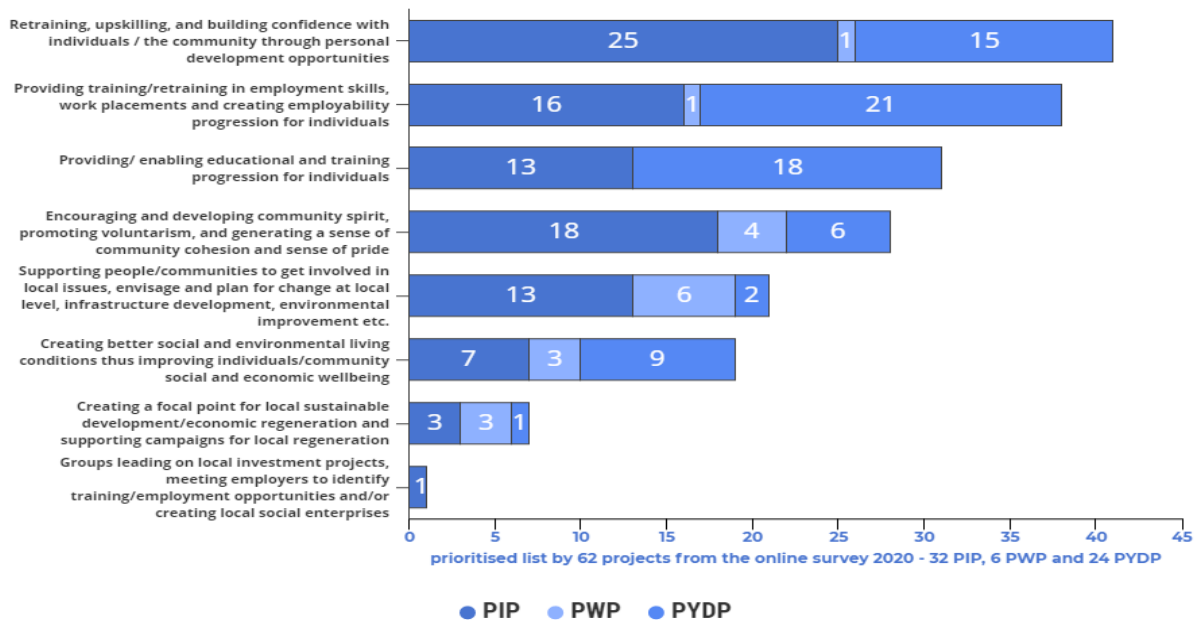


The priority of the Fund has been targeting resources at communities and constituencies that have not engaged in or are opposed to the Peace Process, where people are alienated from the political process, where there is high level of exclusion and a legacy of conflict and paramilitary influence. This approach has permeated the work of the three programmes and has enabled the Fund to reach out and provide relevant support. The PIP programme has provided space and mediation support that has prevented/mitigated conflict, dealt with the legacy of paramilitary control and feuding and helped to resolve tensions around contested parades and bonfires.

PWP projects delivered a range of intra/inter-community activities to build confidence and relationships within and between interface communities. Two independently analysed surveys conducted (2017/2019) identified a positive attitudinal shift towards barrier removal/reduction and this led to physical change at various peace walls sites, although work is also ongoing. The individualised, yet structured, PYDP programme delivered positive impacts for young people around employability, education, good relations, and personal development. This has delivered a wider impact in the community through the delivery of social action, a more positive view towards these young people and a knock-on positive impact on family and community life.

A key strength of the Fund's work has been the ability to respond relatively quickly with support to areas/communities where there is an identified need or emerging tension, and this has enabled interventions to prevent situations deteriorating. The Fund, the Managing Agents (Mas) in NI and Programme Managers (PMs) in the SBCs and the projects themselves have taken risks and demonstrated a willingness to work with communities “where they are at” by providing both financial and other supports to develop local leadership. This has mobilised communities to take ownership and to address local problems, contentious issues, and sectarian tensions.

### IFI Economic and Social Advance Impacts



The fallout from Brexit will shape the economic context in the border region and will be a key factor influencing relationships on these islands in the coming years. As evidenced above, the IFI has invested in social and economic development and strengthened cross-border relationships and this contribution has been highly valued. Targeted interventions to promote social and economic development and strengthening cross-border and all-Ireland relationships will be critical to peace and reconciliation and the IFI should continue to provide this support.

The main factors that have contributed to the successful implementation of the programmes are: 1) The implementation of a strategic approach to Programme Development, Programme Management and Project Management; 2) active community engagement moving at their / the participants' pace and led by project staff and management/steering committees with a strong track record; and 3) a flexible and supportive approach taken by the IFI Belfast and Dublin Secretariats, Programme Managers in the SBCs, and the Managing Agents in NI.

This work is not without its challenges, not least those caused by the political environment, most notably, the lack of an accountable government in NI for 3 years and the divisive impact of Brexit and the resultant fears for the future. The other main challenges are the localised conflict-related issues and circumstances, for example, increased levels of intra- and inter-community tensions, anti-social behaviour, sectarian disturbances and threats to life. A key challenge in 2020 has been the Covid-19 pandemic and the unprecedented impact of this on vulnerable communities: facilitated by the Funds flexibility and support, projects changed course with a shift to more general community support e.g. preparing food packages, delivering medicines, making PPE and keeping a sense of community.

## **Summary of Recommendations**

The IFI should continue to:

- Ensure that the MAs/PMs target resources to those projects working with those most impacted by the legacy of conflict and who feel marginalised from the Peace Process.
- Ensure that the MAs/PMs and the projects have the mandate and confidence to take risks and target resources to work on key issues responding to identified needs.
- Support intra-community and preventative work in priority areas to build a more solid and sustainable foundation for peace and reconciliation.
- Maintain a strong focus on inter-community work, reducing sectarianism and building relationships that lead to addressing/resolving contentious issues.
- Be proactive in working with targeted communities to support existing and emerging leaders who can develop and facilitate community transformation processes.
- Provide support to targeted interventions to promote social and economic development in disadvantaged communities as critical to building peace and reconciliation.
- Invest in the border region, to provide increased resources for cross-border and strategic all-island initiatives and to respond to unfolding Brexit challenges.
- The IFI should disseminate the learning from this work and use this experience and their reputation to influence policy and encourage other stakeholders to go further in building peace.

## Section One      Background and Context

### The Fund

The International Fund for Ireland (IFI) is an independent international organisation which was established by the British and Irish Governments in 1986. Financed by contributions from the United States of America, the European Union, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, the Fund's objectives are to promote economic and social advance, and to encourage contact, dialogue and reconciliation between Nationalists and Unionists throughout the island of Ireland.

The Fund focuses its efforts in Northern Ireland (NI) and the Southern Border Counties (SBCs) of Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo. The total resources committed to the Fund to date amount to £728m/€914m, funding over 6,000 projects across the island of Ireland.

The IFI implemented its *Community Transformation Strategic Framework 2012–2015* which focused on community transformation rather than conflict management, primarily through the Peace Walls and Peace Impact Programmes. The 2016–2020 Strategy aimed to build on this work and to assist the two governments to consolidate the Peace Process by continuing to tackle persistent challenges to lasting peace, “with a particular focus on young people”.

### The Programmes

IFI's 2016-2020 Strategy focused on four key areas of activity: Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP); Peace Impact Programme (PIP); Peace Walls Programme (PWP), and Shared Education Programme (SEP), with the remit of the external evaluation to focus on the first three. PYDP and PIP operate in NI and the six SBCs and PWP operates in NI only.

**Peace Walls Programme (PWP)** – aimed to develop and deliver a range of confidence and relationship building interventions within and between interface communities in order to maximise the potential whereby residents feel safe, content and have a positive attitude towards Peace Wall/barrier removal and/or reduction, re-imaging or de-classification.

**Peace Impact Programme (PIP)** – aimed to build sustainable peace and prosperity in areas where there have been low levels of engagement in peace building and where the Peace Process has delivered limited benefits.

**Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP)** – aimed to help 'at risk' young people build and develop life skills that foster good relations, build confidence and resilience, and make them more employable.

The Programmes are supported by Managing Agents (MAs) in NI appointed by the IFI Secretariat and Programme Managers (PMs) in the SBCs employed by IFI.

## Financial Overview: funding committed Jan 2016-Dec 2020

Programme	No. of Projects	NI	SBCs	Total
PYDP	NI: 31 projects	£9,340,296	£3,136,340	£12,476,636
	SBCs: 15 projects	€11,208,355	€3,920,425	€15,128,780
PIP	NI: 43 projects	£12,029,201	£3,234,944	£15,264,145
	SBCs: 19 projects	€14,435,041	€4,043,680	€18,478,721
PWP	NI: 7 projects	£4,177,530	Not Applicable	£4,177,530
		€5,012,712		€5,012,712
<b>Total IFI commitment</b>	<b>NI: 81 projects SBCs: 34 projects</b>	<b>£25,546,757 €30,656,108</b>	<b>£6,371,284 €7,964,105</b>	<b>£31,918,041 €38,620,213</b>

Exchange Rate: €1.2 to £1GBP and €1 to £0.80GBP.

### The Context

2016-2020 witnessed a period of uncertainty and upheaval with the Fund delivering its programmes in a context which posed significant challenges for peace building and reconciliation. The most significant strategic factors included the suspension of the Stormont institutions from January 2017-January 2020 and the uncertainty, not least about future border arrangements, caused by the UK Governments decision to leave the European Union.

At different times, many issues and circumstances have impacted programme development and delivery at a local level. These included increased levels of intra- and inter-community tensions at certain times of the year; anti-social behaviour and sectarian disturbances on interfaces and, most disturbingly, ongoing threats to life, bombings, and murders. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and resulting restrictions/lockdown in 2020 has also been unprecedented.

### The Evaluation

This final report has been informed by the content of previous reports, an online survey completed by 62 projects (32 PIP/24 PYDP/6 PWP) and interviews with key staff and strategic external stakeholders. The report provides an overview of the impact/outcomes on the communities in which the IFI works, captures the challenges and learning that might inform the IFI's work moving forward and assesses the contribution the IFI has made to peace building and reconciliation in NI and the SBCs.

## **Section Two      Peace Walls Programme (PWP)**

### **Introduction**

Six local projects have been funded continually from 2016-2020, four based in North Belfast, one in West Belfast and one in Derry/Londonderry with the total funds invested since 2016 reaching over £4m (£4,177,530). The Peace Walls Projects (PWPs) are: Bogside Brandywell Initiative (BBI), Black Mountain Shared Space Project (BMSSP), Duncairn Community Partnership (DCP), Greater Whitewell Community Surgery (GWCS), Twaddell, Ardoyne, Shankill, Communities in Transition (TASCIT) and The Imagine Project: Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum (CCRF) and Lower Oldpark Community Association (LOCA). Funding for a seventh project, Suffolk Lenadoon Interface Project (SLIG), ended December 2016.

The PWP aimed to develop and deliver a range of confidence and relationship building interventions within and between interface communities in order to maximise the potential whereby residents feel safe, content and have a positive attitude towards Peace Wall/barrier removal and/or reduction, re-imaging or de-classification. The evaluation has identified three primary areas where PWP projects have impacted positively:

1. Building of intra- and inter-community relationships.
2. Attitudinal change leading towards barrier removal / reduction.
3. Contributed to broader peace and reconciliation and economic and social advance.

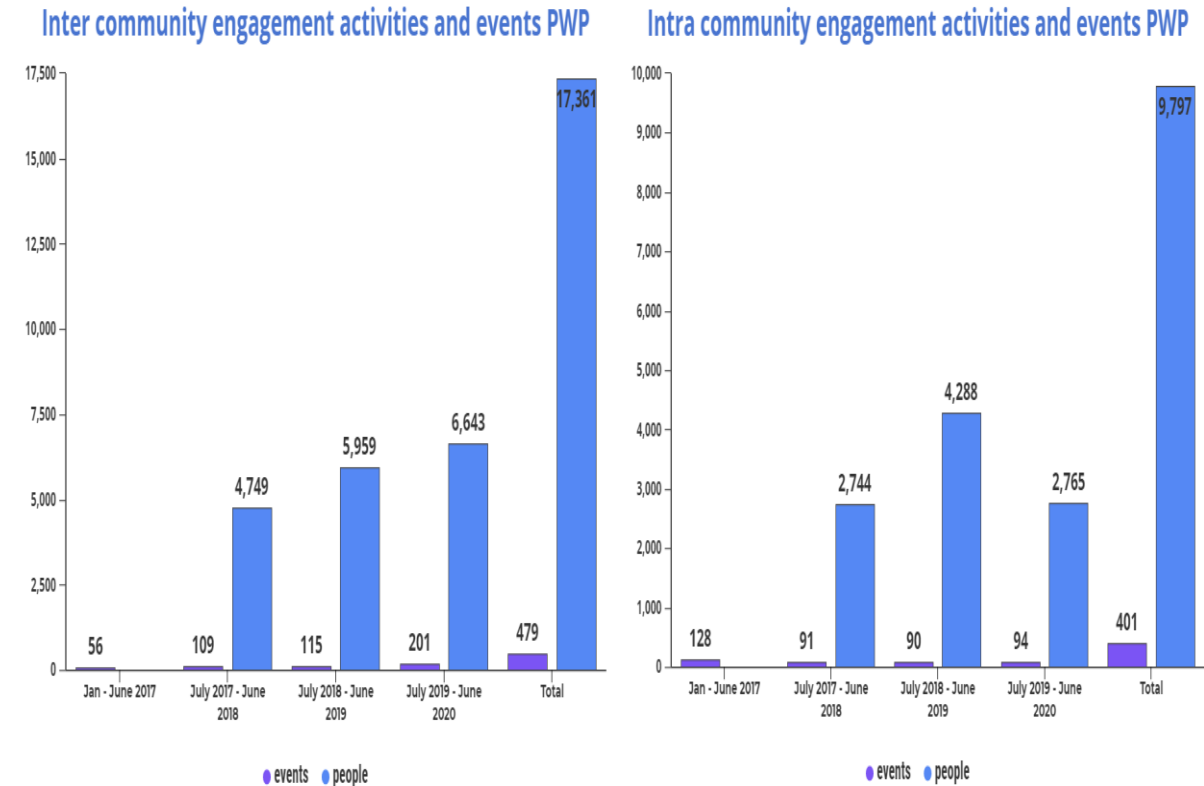
### **Building of intra- and inter-community relationships**

PWPs have delivered a broad range of intra- and inter-community activities and events designed to build confidence and relationships within and between sensitive interface communities. These have ranged from large scale fun days, market-place events, and diversionary interface activities to smaller scale focused group engagement through shared history / cultural identity events, challenging conversations, and planning residential. From January 2017-June 2020, OBA (Outcomes Based Accountability) Report Cards reflected an increase in number and attendances at both intra- and inter-community events, training and activities as recorded in surveys, vox pops and video/oral history projects.

The survey results showed that new relationships had been achieved with all projects recording they built new relationships with people and projects across the community divide, some of which were developed as a result of working together over the Covid-19 pandemic. The relationships are wide and varied and include: youth/community/sporting organisations; local residents; schools; regional community/voluntary agencies; statutory government departments/public bodies; elected representatives; funding and philanthropic bodies and other specific groups e.g. Loyal Orders, ex-prisoners and ex-combatants. The building of these new relationships, and the strengthening of existing relationships, has helped to break down negative perceptions of the 'other' community, reduced fear and encouraged attitudinal change to positive engagement and barrier removal.



*“At the start of our programme some residents who were wary of change are now participating in our programmes. We established a new joint women's group across the interface who have built their own relationships and tackle difficult issues.”*



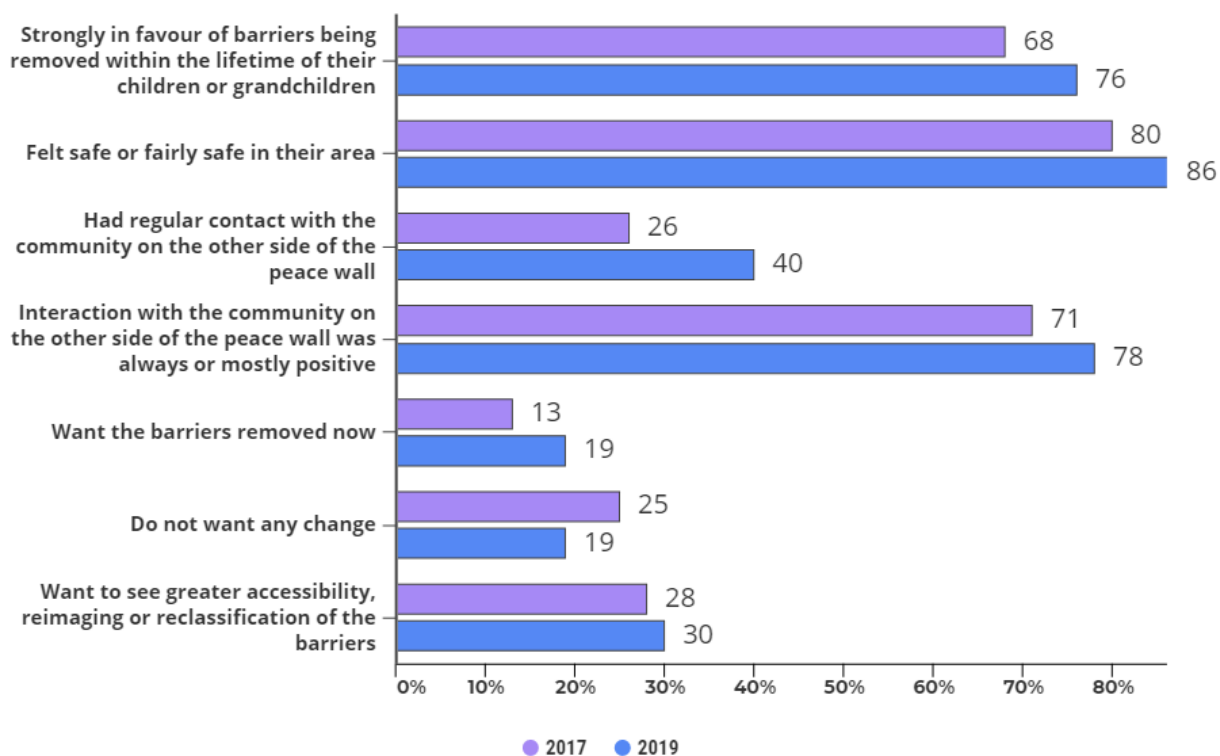
Footnote: participant numbers were not recorded in early 2017

*“We have engaged with un-supportive community groups who are opposed to any form of peace building or making improvements, re-imaging or changing interface structures. We have entered mediation and tried to engage positively, but with limited successes. We have recently begun a process of political engagement whereby we encourage politicians to play a lead role in developing positive interface leadership.”*

### **Attitudinal change leading towards barrier removal / reduction**

The Fund supported the delivery of two major attitudinal surveys (2017/2019), the results of which were independently analysed, to assess community views towards considering/working for change. The 2019 findings analysed the views of 637 households in closest proximity to the peace walls and provided an insight into attitudes in relation to future reduction, re-imaging, declassification, or removal of barriers. The report concluded: “there is growing support for immediate change to the barriers, lessening support for retaining the status quo and stronger evidence that both communities are open to greater change in the future.” In addition, there was measurable change in relation to interaction levels, a growing awareness of the negative impacts of barrier retention and how their removal could impact positively on socio-economic improvements.

## Attitudinal Survey Comparisons 2017 - 2019



The Fund was clear from the outset that the physical removal of peace walls was not their responsibility and that decisions to make changes to interface barriers must have both community support and involvement and happen at a pace dictated by those communities most affected. It was clearly evident from the survey results that IFI’s approach to support projects that enable local communities to engage with each other and with those who hold this responsibility was definitely achieved as the PWP groups primarily engaged local residents across each catchment area with relevant stakeholder government departments and public bodies. This resulted in an enhanced awareness of agencies responsibilities and citizen’s rights and built the community confidence necessary to engage with political representatives, and/or with those opposing any potential change.

*“The PWP has added ‘weight’ to the interface conversations that was not there previously i.e. a more considered and inclusive approach to barrier transformation and/or removal.”*

Over the period of the current strategy, the groups supported through PWP made progress in dealing with the challenges relating to peace wall/barrier removal and/or reduction, re-imagining or declassification leading to physical change to barriers in each funded area. This has resulted in a direct benefit to those most impacted in terms of the improved environment, provision of or access to additional services, facilities and resources and increased social mobility.

*"We held cross-community resident consultations with two communities (one Catholic and one Protestant) who live in a segregated interface area and managed to achieve 24/7 opening of a gate that hadn't been opened in 40 years."*

*"IFI PWP is making important physical changes to interface structures and communities whilst also influencing major attitudinal change in our communities. This is all substantiated in evidence recorded by each PWP group."*

In terms of progress towards physical change, Peace Walls Projects listed 65 sites at the outset of the PWP programme with work on six sites completed prior to the reporting period of 2016/2020. 59 Sites were then on the 2016/2020 list across the six projects: to date work on 25 sites has been completed including removals, reductions and re-classifications and several other sites have been reimaged; work is ongoing at nine sites with the capital works either partly completed or delayed due to Covid-19 or with aftercare still to be completed and at 25 sites across the six projects negotiations/discussions remain ongoing.

### **Contributed to broader peace building and reconciliation and promoted economic and social advance**

With the core focus of PWPs being to work with communities or individuals most impacted by the conflict and who continue to experience its legacy, primarily due to the presence of the peace walls/barriers, the Fund has pro-actively contributed to broader peace and reconciliation. In this regard, five projects who responded to the survey identified the most pertinent impact/difference made was to directly tackle issues resulting from physical segregation barriers, interface communities and the legacy of the conflict.

PWPs made a unique contribution to promoting economic and social advance in communities suffering extremely high levels of economic and social deprivation. All projects identified that they had supported people/communities to get involved in local issues, envisage and plan for change at local level, infrastructure development, environmental improvement, etc. They have connected positive attitudinal change to locally led regeneration, built more positive inter-community relations that have supported the creation of shared spaces and resources/services, and enabled the development of social enterprises. With further resources, the Fund is well-placed to advocate for further regeneration opportunities to enhance peace and reconciliation within and between communities while boosting essential economic and social advancement.

# IFI Programme Impacts

The online survey sent out to all the IFI funded projects in September 2020 asked:

What did you do to make a positive difference to peace and reconciliation?

What did you do to promote economic and social advance in deprived communities?

These are the programmes top four



## PWP

6 responses from 6 projects



Directly tackling issues resulting from physical segregation barriers, interface communities and the legacy of the conflict

Internal community engagement reducing community tensions, anti-social behaviour, disruption / rioting / violence

Inclusive approach - engaging all sections of the community

Promoting peace & reconciliation on a cross-community basis



Supporting people/communities to get involved in local issues, envisage and plan for change at local level, infrastructure development, environmental improvement etc.



Encouraging and developing community spirit, promoting voluntarism, and generating a sense of community cohesion and sense of pride



Creating better social and environmental living conditions thus improving individuals/community social and economic wellbeing



Creating a focal point for local sustainable development/economic regeneration and supporting campaigns for local regeneration

advance area attitudinal barrier building built change  
 communities completed contributed development economic engagement  
 events evidence fund groups impacted inter-community interface intra local  
 peace physical positive projects re-imagining reconciliation reduction  
 relationships removal residents results sites social support survey towards  
 walls work

## Section Three Peace Impact Programme (PIP)

### Introduction

The primary focus of PIP was to target communities and constituencies that have not engaged in or are opposed to the Peace Process, where people are alienated from the political process and where there is a legacy of paramilitary influence and a willingness to engage in armed violence. The objectives focus on the engagement of these communities and constituencies, increasing contact, dialogue, sharing and integration within and between communities; dealing with contentious issues; reducing sectarianism and promoting participation of women and disaffected young people.

The IFI has invested a total of £15.26m (€18.5) in 62 PIP projects over the 2016-2020 period with 78% (£12m/€14.35m) allocated to projects in NI and 22% (£3.25m/€4m) allocated in the SBCs. The Fund provided a total of 113 grants to groups on both sides of the border with 21/34% of groups receiving two rounds of funding (15 in NI and 6 in the SBCs) and 15/24% of projects receiving three rounds of funding (12 in NI and 3 in the SBCs).

PIP projects have addressed a range of interconnected issues which have impacted on communities in NI and the SBCs, and which have contributed to tension and violence and blocked progress towards peace and reconciliation. PIP projects have made valuable contributions to peace building at local community level, on wider NI level and on an all-island basis. The evaluation has identified three primary areas where PIP projects have impacted positively:

1. Dialogue and relationship building.
2. Conflict prevention and dealing with contentious issues.
3. Capacity building and leadership development.

### Dialogue and relationship building

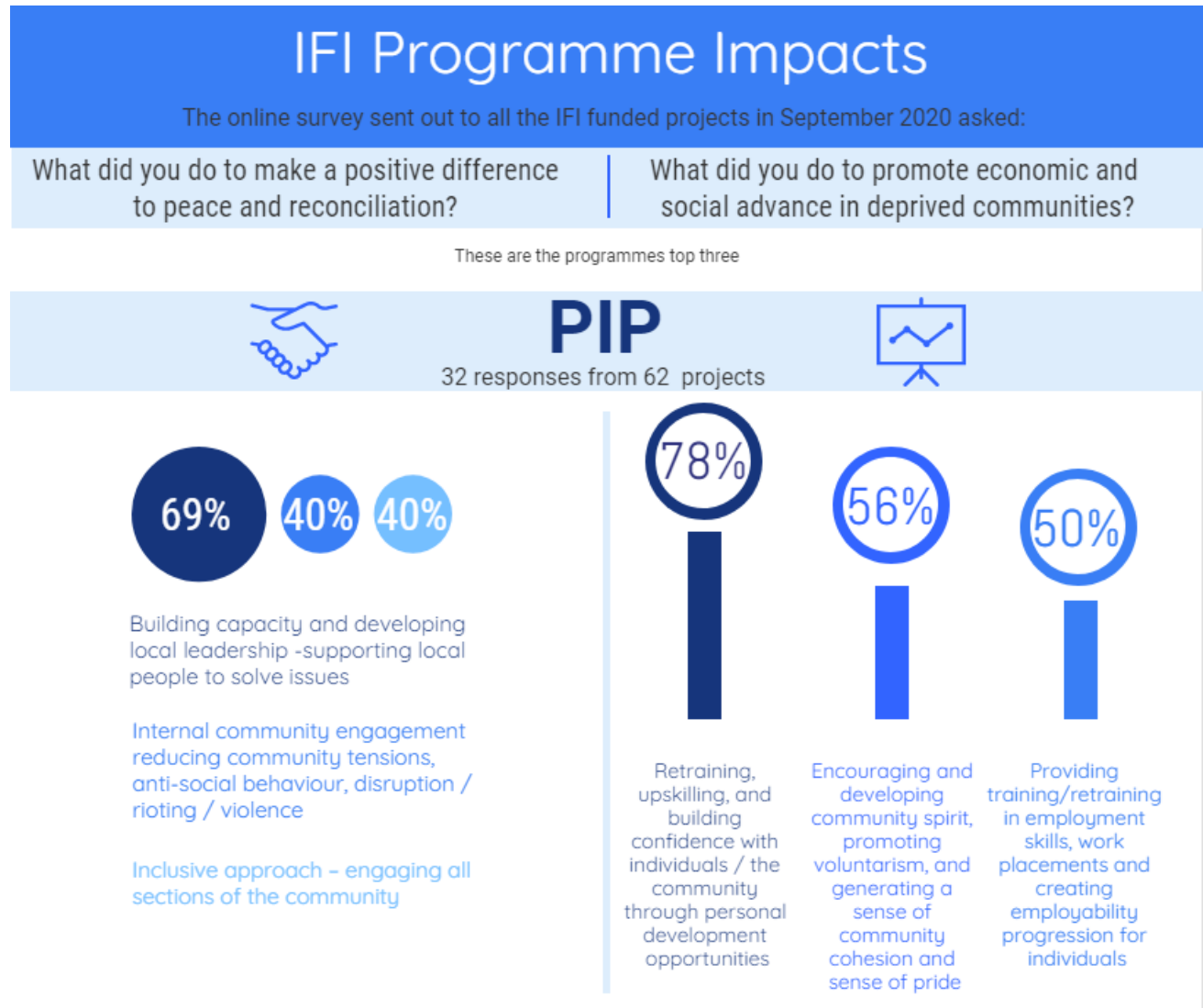
Building and rebuilding relationships, engaging with “the other” and having difficult conversations with people from different backgrounds are all key elements in peace building and PIP projects were highly active in this regard. Over the last few years projects supported under PIP have worked on several fronts to develop and sustain critical relationships including internal work in fractured communities, engaging with people who are alienated from the political and Peace Process, building cross-community and cross-border links and building links between communities and statutory agencies, particularly the PSNI and Gardai.

*“Partnership & networking locally and across the province has proved extremely valuable in terms of delivery methods and dealing with areas and issues of concern/conflict.”*

The importance of dialogue and relationship building among PIP projects was highlighted in the survey of projects with 53% of PIP projects stating that they had developed new cross-community relationships and almost one third developed new cross-border relationships. There was also a strong emphasis on networking and engagement with other stakeholders with 25%

of respondents stating that they had developed new relationships with statutory and government agencies and 80% with voluntary and community organisations.

*“Over the lifetime of the project we built strong cross-community relationships that never existed that allow for immediate resolutions to problems that arose from bonfires, graffiti, marching, local sectarian disturbances. The trusted relationships meant lasting resolutions.*



PIP projects are in a number of interface areas in Belfast, Derry/Londonderry and Portadown and in other urban and rural locations where there are ongoing sectarian tensions and potential for violence, particularly among young people. Managing these tensions, building relationships, and maintaining stability in these interface areas is critical to the wider processes of peace building and reconciliation. PIP has also supported a range of dialogue and relationship building initiatives in rural areas across NI and the SBCs and has supported an extensive range of cross-border activity which is very relevant in the context of Brexit, increasing fears around a hard border and recent issues around the cross-border management of the Covid-19 pandemic.

*“Cross border/cross community relationships have been formed with several groups who would be skeptical about crossing the border into Southern Ireland. Through activities and interests long time friendships have been formed between people from Fermanagh and Leitrim, both young and not so young.”*

## **Conflict prevention and dealing with contentious issues**

The IFI strategy targeted resources at areas and communities where there are high levels of alienation, ongoing paramilitary control, internal tension and feuding as well as risks of sectarian incidents. PIP projects have worked on some of the most contentious issues in these communities, providing space and mediation support to prevent and mitigate conflict, dealing with the legacy of paramilitary control and feuding and helping to resolve tension and conflict around contested parades and bonfires. The scope of work being carried out, and the outcomes achieved, is reflected in the survey responses by PIP projects:

- Over 40% of PIP projects had to deal with internal tension within their community.
- 33% were engaging with those most isolated/alienated from the peace/political process.
- 30% were working to enable exploration of the impact of the conflict.

PIP projects have undertaken and facilitated structured mediation and dialogue processes to deal with specific problems and conflicts. A lot of this work is informal, quiet diplomacy where projects work behind the scenes with all parties (local communities, political leaders, PSNI, statutory agencies and former paramilitaries/representatives of dissident groups) to defuse situations and prevent escalation. PIP projects have made several significant interventions in disputes in different areas and have contributed to prevention and containment work at several potential flashpoints. A number of factors are critical to the effectiveness of this work including the fact that projects: have built up a track record of work on the ground; have the right people involved with credibility to work in these contexts; have strong relationships with key stakeholders; and the willingness by the IFI, the MA / PMs and the projects to take risks.

The legacy of paramilitary violence and gate keeping, the threat from dissident Republican groups, feuding within Loyalist groups and the increasing links with organised crime are critical problems for both PUL and CNR communities in NI and communities along the border presenting serious challenges for policing on both sides of the border. PIP projects have been actively working in these complex environments and engaging with key individuals and constituencies to reduce tension, open channels of communication and facilitate dialogue.

*“We have found that managing intra-community issues is much more complex and challenging than inter-community issues; we have found that there are many groups (across the divide so to speak) who face very similar challenges as ourselves - including issues in relation to community gatekeeping; lack of effective political leadership and counterproductive security measures; we have found that it is important to always leave room for accommodation, dialogue and engagement - the politics of exclusion and demonisation only serves to further disaffect already marginalised constituencies.”*

## Capacity building and leadership development

Building local capacity and leadership is one of the key building blocks of PIP and has been critical to a lot of the interventions outlined above. It also creates good potential for the sustainability of the work as this capacity will enable individuals and communities to continue to address these issues and new challenges arising from Brexit and the Covid-19 pandemic. PIP support has strengthened the groups, built confidence, and empowered communities and has given a voice to people and constituencies who have felt excluded and marginalised from decision making and from the political and Peace Process. Through PIP, projects have developed capacity and leadership to enable ex-combatants to play a positive role in their communities.

Two thirds of PIP projects identified capacity building/developing local leadership/supporting local people to solve issues, as one of the main impacts of their work. The IFI has adopted a proactive approach by targeting support at specific areas and communities, identifying, and supporting new local leaders and establishing support networks for the projects.

*“Development of community leadership is vital, and these natural leaders are already out there in the community working in bands, etc. They need support, guidance and training to develop their skills and instill confidence for the future.”*

PIP funding has targeted a number of critical gaps, supporting women’s empowerment, engaged with excluded young people and targeted communities where there is weak community infrastructure and a legacy of paramilitary influence. This has been achieved through a number of strategies: mentoring of projects before and after they receive funding; encouraging and facilitating networking among projects; giving projects ownership; allowing them to take risks; and through structured leadership training programmes.

*“We have learned communities have different roles to play in our project. The learning is both for us as much as it is for individuals. We have encouraged individuals and communities to challenge what they believe is not right and to make positive changes to their communities.”*

Establishing a PIP project has empowered and stimulated communities and unlocked local energy and resources leading to the development of new follow up initiatives. PIP projects, or associated projects, have also leveraged additional funding from Peace IV, DFAT Reconciliation fund and local funding from Councils, Leader programmes, and Education and Training Boards. This funding has helped develop new cross-community/border initiatives and new community facilities and resources, including social economy initiatives which will assist sustainability and continued engagement.

areas border **building** capacity challenges **communities**  
conflict constituencies critical cross cross-border dealing **developed** dialogue  
**engaging** funding groups ifi impact individuals **issues** leadership local networking  
ni number paramilitary **peace** people political prevention process  
**projects** relationships sbcs support targeted tension  
work young



## Section Four      Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP)

### Introduction

The aim of the PYDP is to help at risk young people build and develop life skills that foster good relations, build confidence and resilience, and make them more employable. The programme connects young people aged 16-25 to personalised learning, skills, and employment opportunities with a central focus on Good Relations and preparing for the world of work.

The programme seeks to engage with young people who are vulnerable to polarisation/ recruitment to organisations opposed to the Peace Process, who face a range of barriers to participation in mainstream provision and are not being catered for through engagement with any other service providers. The projects have been working with alienated, disadvantaged, and disaffected youth and/or those young people at risk of paramilitary involvement.

Work with these young people is highly relevant to the building of peace. Those who are most disaffected within our societies are those most likely to engage in anti-social or criminal behaviour. The increased levels of personal medication in disadvantaged areas can evolve rapidly into addiction issues with alcohol or drugs. Mental health issues such as depression and anxiety are high. Likewise, the lack of educational attainment in the most deprived areas has restricted the opportunities for people to progress and gain employment.

The IFI has invested a total of £12.47m (€15.1m) in 46 PYDP projects over the 2016-2020 period with 75% (£9.3m/€11.2m) allocated to projects in NI and 25% (£3.1m/€3.9m) allocated in the SBCs. The Fund provided a total of 89 grants to groups on both sides of the border with 23/50% of groups receiving two rounds of funding (13 in NI and 10 in the SBCs) and 10/22% of projects receiving three rounds of funding (9 in NI and 1 in the SBCs). The evaluation has identified three primary areas where PYDP projects have impacted positively:

1. With the participants themselves.
2. Wider community impact.
3. Relationship building.

### With the participants themselves

Young people are now in employment or education today because of PYDP who otherwise would not have been. Over a dozen participants have gone on to set up their own businesses in health and beauty, gardening, painting, and decorating, craft and security. Approximately 15 young people have got university places.

*“Two young women who were never employed, got their first jobs whilst on an IFI programme MANY years ago and are still employed today - post IFI.”*

The support and time required with each young person to assist them in employability and/or education is immense, due to the complex and multiple issues they bring with them to PYDP.

*“Many of our huge successes through the PYDP Programme has been personal battles like crossing the border for the first time, a young person learning to read, someone overcoming their stutter.”*

The flexibility and duration of PYDP projects to be creative and innovative in their engagement with each individual young person, to meet their specific needs around employability, education, good relations, and personal development goes far beyond the provision of other youth programmes. Other youth programmes offer some aspects of PYDP provision but none of them offer it all. Removing barriers to engagement for young people with assistance in, childcare, transport, food supplies, interview clothes, etc. is over and above the norm in Youth Work provision. PYDP projects have the flexibility around a core structure, however, the core structure is still needed to give pattern and order to combat the chaos in young people’s lives.

*“Not a tick box exercise, staff have a genuine desire to help the young people and see them progress”.*

Young people with links to paramilitaries or criminal activity have been taken onto PYDP projects, breaking the negative cycle of behaviour/activity they are stuck in as they gain opportunities and choices that give them more positive outcomes, such as employability or educational accreditation in a supportive environment.

*“IFI funding has been instrumental for our organisation to be able to work with 85 young people who would not have engaged in any form of education or training, and as a result, we have seen positive life choices being made by these young people, steering them away from negative influencers in the community.”*

Enabling exploration of the impact of conflict through training, discussion, meetings, and/or trips/educational visits has led to some young people learning more about their own family history and has helped in dealing with intergenerational trauma of the troubles.

### **Wider community impact**

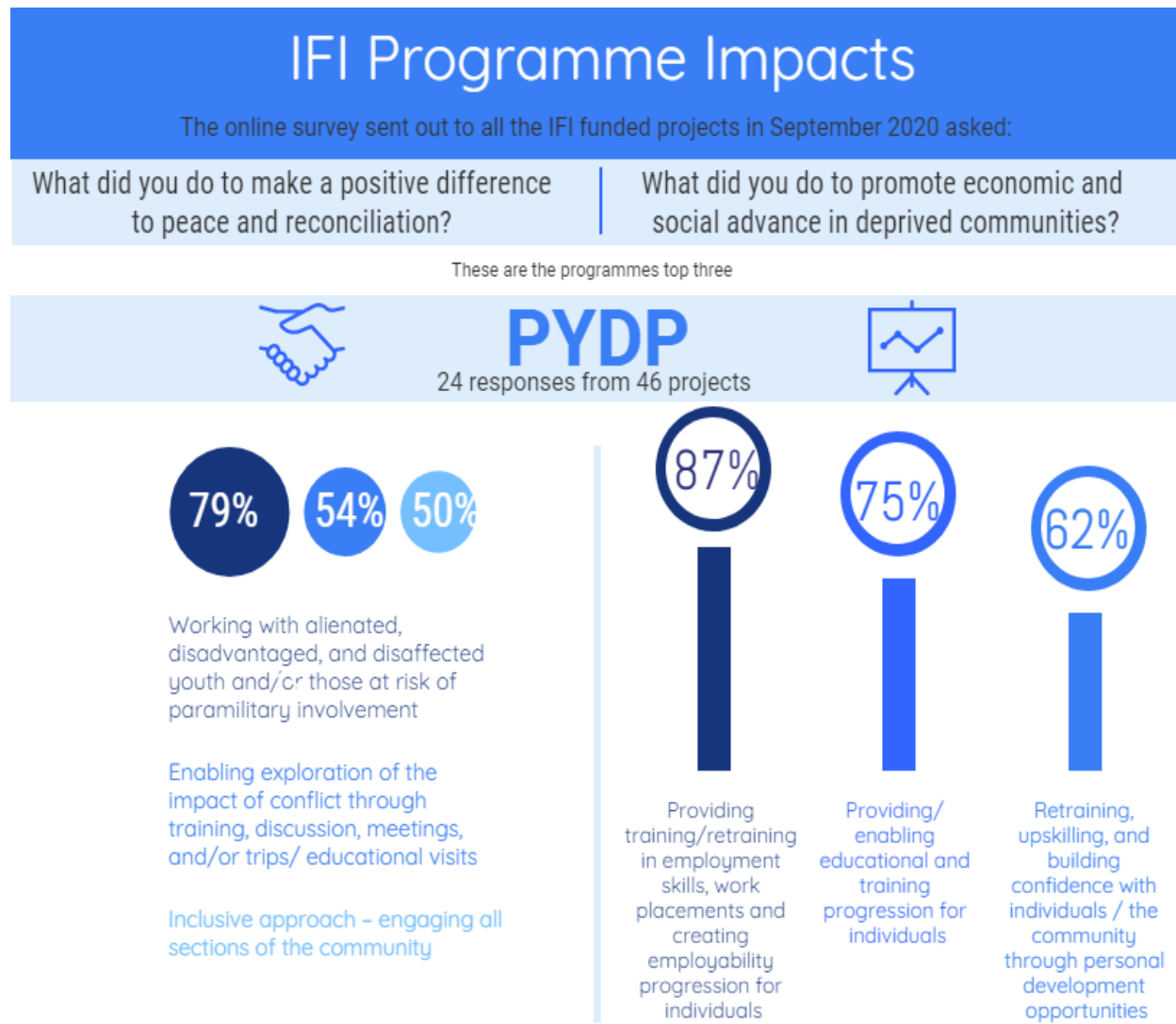
Social action projects designed by young people themselves through PYDP projects include volunteering in their community. For many this is re-engagement, an opportunity to be involved in civic engagement, increasing their skills base and experience and therefore the possibilities and choices available to them. For the wider community, they gain the benefit of the social action project in their area and a better perception of the young people involved.

The impact on the wider family and community in disadvantaged areas, when a local young person does well in education or gets a job, demonstrates the possibilities to others. Several projects have cited cases where a young person has been the first in four generations of a family to get a job, and subsequently other family members have done so too.

When young people are engaged positively in a local PYDP project it is believed that there is less anti-social behaviour locally, and that they are less likely to get involved in paramilitary activity, violence, drugs, and alcohol.

*"The amazing contribution that young people can make within their community, the environmental impact, the community cohesion, the awareness raising for other young people on issues important to them. This contribution from our young people has left a legacy for all ages to benefit."*

Some of the PYDP projects were working in areas with high local unrest due to feuds and intra-community tensions. In these areas the PYDP projects were something positive happening as well as a respite for the young people to remove themselves from potential trouble. In some of these projects some of the participants would have been known for previously getting involved in the trouble, but now staying out of it, illustrating that no-one was beyond redemption to those watching from the community.



## Relationship Building

With the current Covid-19 pandemic and the finality of Brexit looming at the end of 2020, the border has become more visible. The different policies and procedures in the two jurisdictions have been highlighted and made the need for good relations work even more relevant. The inclusive approach – engaging all sections of the community, promoting peace & reconciliation on a cross-community basis was prioritised by half of the PYDP projects who responded to the recent survey as a tangible example of the peace and reconciliation work achieved by their project. PYDP projects have enabled young people to engage with others from different communities in safe and supported environments. Many projects have explored cross-border activities, particularly but not restricted to the border areas.

*"Our IFI project enabled us to create a programme that brought together individuals that would not normally interact with each other. We have seen relationships develop and have been maintained throughout the duration of the programme."*

The survey also demonstrated that alongside projects building relationships with other groups, organisations, employers and youth groups, usually cross-community, many cited the building of new relationships with local residents as most significant to their project and participants.

The steering groups attached to each PYDP project assisted in the building of relationships with other groups, providers, and statutory agencies, including statutory support services. These steering groups allowed for the collaboration of projects in an area and helped remove some of the competition between groups. Steering group members were able to showcase what they could do and how they could help each other and made referrals of young people suitable for the PYDP project. Some steering groups had police/garda as participants, which as well as being of value to the project also sent a message to the community and had a positive ripple effect. A good steering group used for the right purposes greatly added value to a PYDP project.

The cluster events within PYDP and those with PIP and PWP were cited as positive experiences allowing projects to learn from each other and to work in more collaborative ways and to sometimes have joint pieces of work.

*"The PYDP project has enabled our organisation to build and form new relationships with disengaged young people who are at risk of paramilitary involvement, or drugs and alcohol misuse. We have also been able to connect with other community groups in other areas through the various cluster events; and both the organisation and its participants have developed a level of mutual respect for the varying attitudes and beliefs that exist in society."*

able activity areas building community develop education  
employment enabled engagement family groups help impact  
involved issues learning local meet opportunities organisation paramilitary  
participants peace people person positive programme  
projects provision ps relations relationships risk steering support wider  
work young youth

## Section 5: Main Findings & Challenges

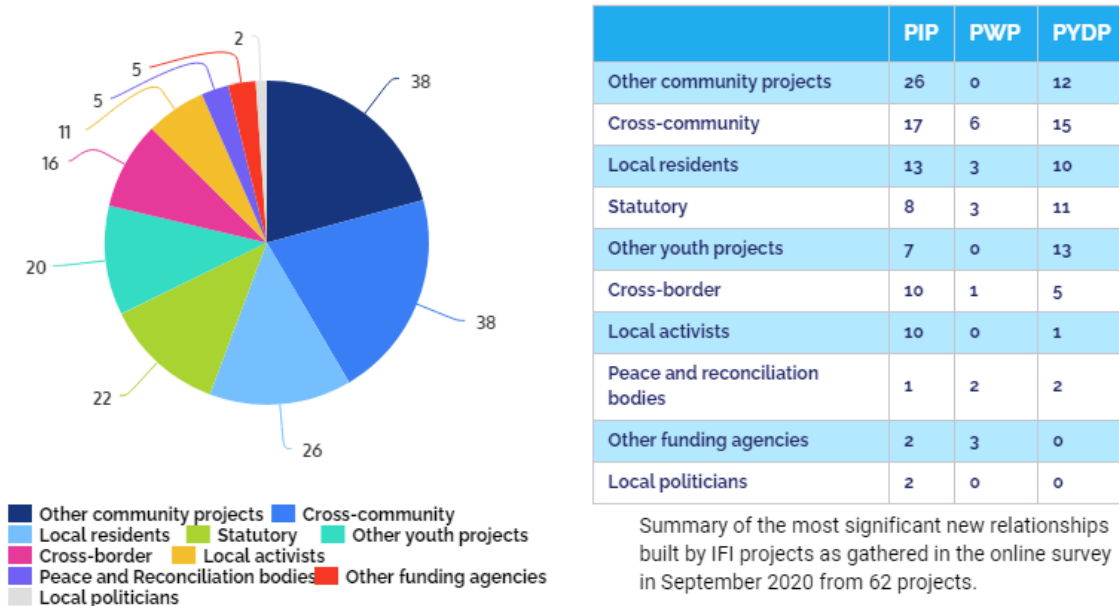
### Main Findings

There are three main findings: the ability of the IFI funded projects to: build relationships, work with vulnerable/at risk young people and tackle the persistent challenges to lasting peace.

### Building relationships

This evaluation has evidenced that a key strand running through all three programmes has been the ability of the projects to build and maintain intra-community and cross-community relationships, to strengthen and develop cross-border relationships and to engage with statutory agencies and government departments. PIP Projects have been particularly strong in building cross-border relationships and with those groups most marginalised and alienated from the Peace Process which has helped to reduce isolation and tensions and address some of the outstanding obstacles to peace building. PWP resources and supports the delivery of a range of targeted programmes to enable communities to meet, talk, break down perceptions and build relationships and there is now a greater willingness to engage in dialogue about peace walls, one of the biggest obstacles to reconciliation and integration. PYDP projects have built new relationships with a range of youth and community agencies and with statutory bodies that has had a positive impact on the lives of the disadvantaged 'at risk' young people they work with.

### Summary of the most significant new relationships built by IFI projects



Summary of the most significant new relationships built by IFI projects as gathered in the online survey in September 2020 from 62 projects.



Notably all six PWP projects, over 60% of the PYDP project responses and over 50% of the PIP project responses indicated they had built new relationships on a cross-community basis.

## Working with young people

Work with young people from the most disadvantaged circumstances is highly relevant to the building of peace. Those who are most disaffected within our societies are those most likely to engage in anti-social and criminal behaviour or become involved with paramilitary and dissident groups. Working to support and engage alienated youth has been a priority for the IFI and both PYDP and PIP projects have targeted youth who are excluded, at risk of involvement with paramilitary groups or under threat from these groups. The PYDP is specifically designed to engage and address this issue and has supported projects in areas on both sides of the border with high levels of unemployment and youth alienation. PWP projects have specifically facilitated work with young people to engage them in discussions around peace wall barrier removal or reduction and in community visioning and re-imaging processes.

*"We created avenues for young people caught up in a drug feud and supported them to build confidence and re-engage with education and training. We supported young people to rebuild relationships within the community."*

## Tackling the significant challenges to lasting peace

Tackling the most contentious and divisive issues in disadvantaged PUL and CNR communities and with constituent groups adversely affected by the conflict and dealing with the legacy of the conflict are complex, multi-faceted and multi-layered. These issues represent the most significant challenges to lasting peace and have remained at the core of the work of the IFI and the projects that they fund. For example:

- PIP projects worked on some of the most contentious issues, provided mediation support to prevent/mitigate conflict, dealt with the legacy of paramilitary control and feuding and helped to resolve tension and conflict around contested parades/bonfires.
- Young people with links to paramilitaries or criminal activity have been taken onto PYDP projects, breaking the negative cycle of behaviour/activity they are stuck in and they gained opportunities and choices that give them more positive outcomes.
- Five PWP projects who responded to the survey identified the most pertinent impact/difference made was to directly tackle issues resulting from physical segregation barriers, interface communities and the legacy of the conflict.

IFI projects have also undertaken work on policing both at a local level and at a strategic North/South level. In 2017 the IFI supported a Policing Conference which was attended by representatives of the PSNI, An Garda Síochána and over 40 IFI funded projects from North and South as well a number of external stakeholders. At local level, the IFI has supported initiatives dealing with policing communities in the South Armagh/Louth area. This support has enabled projects to address issues related to policing, anti-social behaviour, and community safety, working with the community to build awareness around the concept of community policing.

## Challenges & Changes

The ever-changing political environment impacts negatively at times. This has included the lack of an accountable government in NI for 3 years, the divisive impact of Brexit and the resultant fears for the future, sensitive and highly contested elections on both sides of the border and sensitive Centenary events and anniversaries due in 2021. The Fund is not in a position to “fix” those challenges, but it is uniquely placed to build relationships and assist the two governments to consolidate the Peace Process by continuing to tackle persistent challenges to lasting peace.

The other main strategic factors that have challenged or hindered programme and project delivery, sometimes resulting in the need to make adjustments or changes, are broadly related to the current contextual factors particularly when dealing with the many localised conflict-related issues and circumstances. These included increased levels of intra- and inter-community tensions at certain times; anti-social behaviour and sectarian disturbances on interfaces and, most disturbingly, ongoing threats to life, bombings, and murders.

*“Local, national and transnational events showed that our project did not operate in a vacuum (e.g. bombing of local courthouse and killing of a journalist during riots), political changes (e.g. rise of Sinn Fein in the Republic). Sometimes we had to respond directly (e.g. theatre of witness programme to tackle stereotypes). Sometimes we had to take a 'softer approach' (e.g. coffee mornings) to ease the heightened fears.”*

The other key challenge in 2020 has been Covid-19 and the unprecedented circumstances of the impact of this pandemic on vulnerable communities in NI and the SBCs. As noted in the Fund’s observation paper on Covid-19 produced in June 2019, there was evidence of increased tensions in the border region feeding into rising disquiet over Brexit, increased incidents impacting project participants, an adverse impact on people’s mental health, financial hardships and concerns of the widespread economic impact caused by an expected lengthy recession. At the time of writing this final evaluation report these issues remain starkly evident.

The impact of the pandemic on project delivery also resulted in projects changing course with a shift to more general community support, for example, preparing food packages, delivering essential medicines, making PPE, offering support and keeping a sense of community. Projects showed an enormous level of resourcefulness and commitment during this time, developing innovative approaches to continue work with participants and communities through online virtual engagement to maintain daily contact/support for vulnerable participants/community members and delivery of training and workshops whilst returning to their offline face-to-face engagement and scheduled programme activities once it was safe to proceed.

*“In relation to Covid-19 we have had to review how we can safely engage with our residents and young people. This has involved online working and social distancing. We also had to look at what our role was in helping the most vulnerable in our community during the pandemic.”*

*“Due to Covid-19 and the prohibition of face-to-face contact, we had to take our programmes online or design them to work remotely. e.g. we had a weekly movie group (all participants given a Netflix*

subscription and met to discuss the films weekly via Zoom). Home delivery of weekly recipe packs with virtual cooking videos via a private cross-community Facebook group."

There have also been several previously reported challenges and it is important that these are addressed as the Fund moves forward with its 2021-2024 Strategy:

- Opportunities for networking, participation in cluster events, strategic programme initiatives and thematic collectives were implemented, however projects indicated the need to sustain and expand these approaches developing further opportunities to network and collaborate within and between programmes on themes and issues of relevance and importance and to develop area-based integrated approaches.
- Feedback from groups who are tackling these persistent problems reported the need for a longer-term approach matched with a longer-term commitment to funding organisations/groups, rather than being totally dependent upon periodical reviews.
- PWP projects have reported ongoing challenges and frustrations associated with their engagement with DoJ as the lead department and it is important for the Fund, DoJ and the other statutory agencies to work more collaboratively to address these matters.
- OBA proved to be problematic and was not an effective mechanism to assess the work carried out by two of the three programmes. IFI should either review the existing OBA reporting mechanism for PIP and PWP to make it more effective for measuring qualitative change or develop a bespoke Monitoring and Evaluation framework.





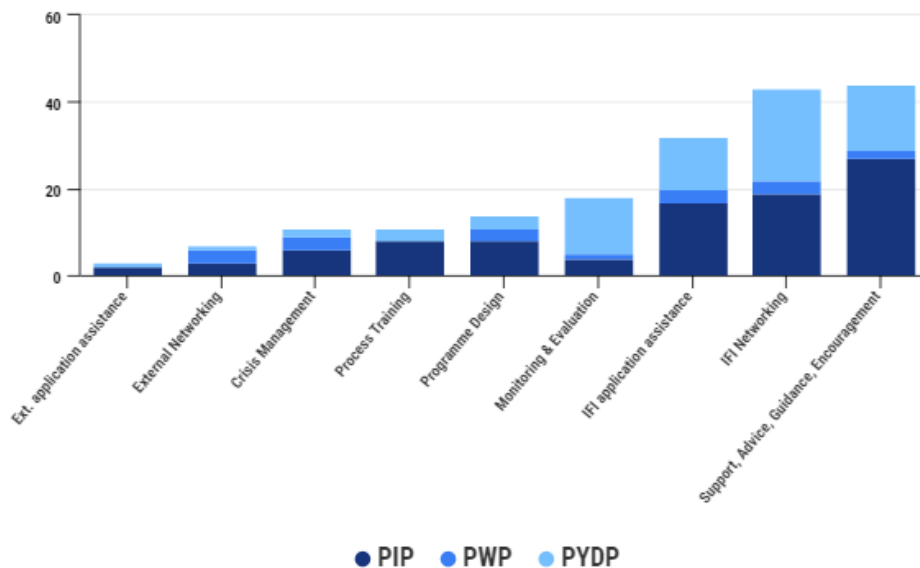
## Support

The main factors that have contributed to, and enabled, the successes of the three IFI Programmes are summarised under three broad headings:

- The implementation of a strategic approach to Programme Development, Programme Management and Project Management,
- Active community engagement moving at their / the participants' pace and led by project staff and management/steering committees with a strong track record,
- A flexible and supportive approach taken by the IFI Belfast and Dublin Secretariats, Programme Managers in the SBCs, and the Managing Agents in NI.

### Support valued most from the IFI, Managing Agents and Programme Managers

IFI survey results 2020



The graph above gives the prioritised results from 62 IFI funded programmes in September 2020. Responses came from 32 PIP projects, all 6 PWP projects and 24 PYDP projects. All categories of support from IFI are valued, projects were asked to select which three they valued most, resulting in this prioritised graph.



#### S.A.G.E.

The support, advice, guidance and encouragement from the IFI, their Managing Agents in NI / Programme Managers in the Southern Border Counties was rated the most valued support by over 70% of projects.



#### Networking

Networking within and across the IFI programmes is highly valued by the majority of projects. The external networking with statutory and other agencies is also important to the effectiveness of projects.



#### Monitoring & Evaluation

Notably valued more in PYDP which works with individuals, than PWP and PIP which work with groups and communities.

## Section 6: Conclusions and recommendations

### Conclusions

The IFI Strategy aimed to assist the two governments to consolidate the Peace Process by continuing to tackle persistent challenges to lasting peace, “with a particular focus on young people”. Over the period 2016-2020, the Fund supported 115 projects across NI and the SBCs and invested £32m (€38.6m) in a wide range of peace building initiatives.

### Engaging key communities and constituents

The priority of the Fund which has permeated the work of the three programmes was to target resources at communities and constituencies that have not engaged in or are opposed to the Peace Process, where people are alienated from the political process, where there is a clear legacy and past impact from the conflict, where there is a legacy of paramilitary influence and a willingness to engage in armed violence. PWPs have facilitated residents most impacted by the barriers at the interfaces, and residents in the wider catchment areas, to engage with each other and with those who hold the responsibility for physical change. Working to support and engage alienated youth has been a priority for the IFI: PYDP and PIP projects have targeted excluded youth at risk of involvement with paramilitary groups or under threat from them.

*The IFI should maintain this approach and ensure that the MAs/PMs target resources to those projects working with those most impacted by the legacy of the conflict and who feel marginalised and alienated from the Peace Process.*

### Agility to respond effectively

The Fund, the MAs/PMs and the projects themselves have taken risks and demonstrated a willingness to work with communities and individuals “where they are at” by providing both financial and other supports to build local leadership and facilitate transitions. A key strength of the Fund’s work has been the ability to respond relatively quickly with support to areas/communities where there is an identified need or emerging tension, to intervene to prevent situations deteriorating and to work with individual young people in order to meet their identified needs. This has enabled the IFI to provide much needed support to communities and has enabled projects to respond more effectively to changes on the ground.

*The IFI should maintain this approach and ensure that the MAs/PMs and the projects have the mandate and confidence to continue to take risks to target resources to groups working on key issues responding to identified needs.*

### Dealing with internal divisions

The IFI has maintained its emphasis on cross-community work and reducing sectarianism, but has recognised the need for and the value of intra-community work to build capacity, to tackle difficult and potentially dangerous issues, to strengthen social cohesion and reduce tensions. The three programmes have supported peace building interventions in some of the most disaffected and challenging PUL and CNR communities and addressed a range of intra-community issues e.g. paramilitary control, feuding within Loyalism, dissident republican activities and criminality linked to paramilitarism and that this has contributed to significant

positive shifts. A considerable amount of the work being carried out by IFI funded projects is preventative and behind the scenes but is critical to stability and peace building as it creates space for more moderate voices to be heard, opportunities for new leaders to emerge and shift the dynamics. This empowers communities and individuals, creates a more inclusive environment, and allows them to come up alternatives.

*The IFI should continue to support intra-community and preventative work in priority areas to build a more solid and sustainable foundation for peace and reconciliation.*

### **Dealing with inter-community issues**

Without doubt, issues related to peace building and reconciliation in disadvantaged PUL and CNR communities and with constituent groups adversely affected by the conflict and dealing with the legacy of the conflict are complex, multi-faceted and multi-layered. The evaluation has identified several areas where the three programmes have addressed the critical issues faced within and between CNR and PUL communities, supported peace building interventions and contributed to the overall goal of building peace and reconciliation. The IFI has maintained a strong emphasis on cross-community work and reducing sectarianism and this has enabled relationships to be built and networks created which bridged the sectarian divides. These in turn created the environments where, for example, community infrastructures were strengthened, peace walls were removed, contentious parading and bonfire situations were resolved and young people were steered away from conflict and given a more positive future. Projects reported the importance of working in an open, transparent, and fully accountable way free from political influences and with no hidden agendas.

*The IFI should continue to maintain a strong focus on inter-community work, reducing sectarianism and building relationships that lead to addressing/resolving contentious issues.*

### **Developing local leadership**

A key element of the IFI's work has been the development of leadership and supporting local leaders to develop and facilitate community transformation processes. There has been a strong focus across the programmes on promoting participation of women and disaffected young people, mobilising communities to analyse local problems, identify workable solutions and encouraging and enabling communities to take ownership. The IFI has been proactive in supporting target communities and constituencies by identifying and supporting local leaders and establishing support networks for these projects. This has enabled groups to take on a leadership role in their own communities and has built the capacity of projects to challenge gatekeepers and respond to developments on the ground, to intervene at flashpoint areas to prevent situations deteriorating and to support disadvantaged 'at risk' young people.

*The IFI should continue to be proactive in working with targeted communities to support existing and emerging leaders who can develop and facilitate community transformation processes.*

### **Focused interventions to promote economic and social development**

There are concerns that the levels of alienation are increasing in PUL and CNR communities with increasing numbers feeling marginalised, socially, economically, and politically. Developing inclusive processes at local level, giving people a voice and a sense of ownership, and building

capacity and confidence are all critical to combat this threat. The focus on social and economic development is critical in this context and there is a strong emphasis on training and employment in PYDP and PIP and community regeneration and renewal in PWP and PIP. The combination of austerity, Brexit, and the impact of the Covid pandemic will present challenges for those already disadvantaged and will impact most severely on communities in border regions. The Fund is well-placed to push for locally led regeneration projects that enhance opportunities for peace and reconciliation and create shared spaces, resources, and services.

*The IFI should continue to provide this support to targeted interventions to promote social and economic development in communities as critical to building peace and reconciliation.*

### **Enhancing the cross-border dimension**

The Brexit issue has damaged relationships and will be a key issue on these islands in the coming years. A hard Brexit will further strain relationships at community and political levels and damage an already fragile economy in the border region. Through proactive work by the MAs and PMs, the IFI has engaged new areas and communities in the border region in peace building, kept the cross-border dimension to the forefront and maintained the momentum of the Peace Process. Building cross-community relations and promoting the engagement of the Protestant community has been one of the priority areas for the IFI and both PIP and PYDP projects along the border have worked to develop and strengthen these relationships and supported an extensive range of cross-border activity, including historical, cultural identity and good relations programmes. The cross-border dimension also extended beyond the actual border region with PIP projects in disadvantaged PUL communities taking part in cross-border visits and political engagement and dialogue with the Irish government and representatives.

*The IFI should continue to invest in the border region, to provide increased resources for cross-border and strategic all-island initiatives and to respond to unfolding Brexit challenges.*

### **The ability to influence policy**

The work of the IFI is valued by key stakeholders on both sides of the border, DFAT, the NIO, the Gardai/PSNI, statutory agencies and the communities themselves. The Fund has been a valuable conduit for international support, and it provides an independent voice and perspective on the situation in NI and the SBCs. It has a solid track record and credibility on both sides of the border and in PUL and CNR communities and this has enabled it to go where Governments cannot. The three programmes have contributed significantly to peace and reconciliation in NI and the SBCs and the IFI should sustain and, if possible, expand this support to address current and emerging issues and tensions both within NI and on a cross-border basis as a result of the fallout from Brexit. It is a respected voice on peace building and is well positioned to shape and influence policy around peace building, reconciliation, and cross-border co-operation.

*The IFI should disseminate the learning from this work and use this experience and their reputation to influence policy and encourage other stakeholders to go further in building peace.*

## Appendices

- i. Peace Walls Programme Monitoring information table & Infographic
- ii. Peace Impact Programme Monitoring information table & Infographic
- iii. Personal Youth Development Programme Monitoring information table & Infographic

# Peace Walls Programme (PWP)

## Summary

- Since January 2016, the IFI has invested almost £4.2m in PWP with 27,158 participants
- There are currently 6 Peace Walls projects funded: 5 in Belfast and 1 in Derry/Londonderry
- The 6 groups have identified 65 peace walls/barriers where transformation was desired, with 6 transformations completed prior to 2016
- The groups work to develop and deliver confidence and relationship building interventions within and between interface communities

How much did we do

How well did we do it

Is anyone better off

## The period to June 2020

- 401 intra-community activities/events to build community confidence involving 9,797 people (3,539 PUL / 6,258 CNR)
- 479 inter-community activities/events to build community confidence involving 17,361 people (7,866 PUL / 9,434 CNR / 61 other)
- 6,919 people from the target group engaged in discussions focused on peace wall / barrier removal or reduction
- 148 site specific consultations involving 5,934 people
- 34 agreements reached and 25 sites where negotiations are ongoing.
- 25 peace walls sites where work has been completed. These include removals, reductions and re-classifications.
- Work is ongoing at 9 sites with the capital works either partly completed or delayed due to C19 or with aftercare still to be completed.

- 47% engaged in intra-community engagement activities
- 53% engaged in inter-community engagement activities
- 59% of people from the target group engaged in discussions focused on peace wall barrier removal / reduction
- 39% of target group involved in reaching intra and/or inter-community agreements

Attitudinal Surveys took place in May / June 2019 and responses were received from 627 people across the 6 PWP projects. 76% of all respondents were strongly in favour of the barriers being removed within the lifetime of their children or grandchildren in comparison to 68% in 2017 survey findings. 86% of all respondents either felt 'safe' or 'fairly safe' living in their areas in comparison to 80% in 2017 survey findings. 40% of all respondents reported they had regular contact with the community on the 'other side of the peace wall' in comparison to 26% in 2017. 78% of all respondents reported that interaction with the community on the 'other side of the peace wall' was always or mostly positive. Key Finding 5 of the Survey states "There is positive attitudinal change towards the removal of barriers since 2017 across both communities although those from the CNR community favour change at a faster pace."

## Peace Walls Programme

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND

OBA start - June 2020



To develop and deliver a range of confidence and relationship building interventions within and between interface communities to help residents reach a position where they feel it is safe and appropriate to proceed with the removal of Peace Walls in their area.



# Peace Impact Programme (PIP)

## Programme Summary

- 113 grants have been awarded to 62 projects: 21 (15 NI / 6 SBC's) projects received two rounds of funding and 15 (12 NI / 3 SBC's) projects received three rounds of funding.
- The IFI has invested over £15.26m (almost €18.5m) in PIP to date with 78% allocated to NI and 22% to the SBC's

How much did we do

How well did we do it

Is anyone better off

## The period to June 2020

- No. of core & general events & activities **7,981**
- No. of people involved in first time peacebuilding **15,069**
- No. involved in capacity building events **12,468**
- No. of intra / inter & cross-border relationships built **2,476**

- **Every** project that responded to the online survey had developed new relationships in their area. Over **80%** of survey respondents built these with other local groups
- **53%** of projects built new cross-community relationships
- **2,506** participants received accreditations & qualifications

- **69%** of projects that responded to the online survey believe they have contributed to building capacity and local leadership in their area - supporting local people to solve issues.
- **78%** of projects that responded to the online survey believe they have contributed to economic and social advance through the retraining, upskilling, and building confidence with individuals / the community through personal development opportunities

# Peace Impact Programme

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND  
OBA start - June 2020



**2,476**  
intra / inter  
cross-border  
relationships



**12,468**  
people involved in  
capacity building  
events and training



**7,981**  
core & general  
events &  
activities



**2,506**  
accreditations &  
qualifications  
received

**To build sustainable peace and prosperity in areas suffering from high levels of economic and social deprivation, where there are low levels of engagement in peace building and where the Peace Process has delivered limited benefits.**



**62**  
projects funded  
between 2016 and  
2020



**113**  
grants to date  
totalling £15.26m /  
€18.5m

**£12 m/  
€14.35m**  
funding  
allocated in NI

**£3.25 m/  
€4m**  
funding allocated  
in SBC's

# Personal Youth Development Programme (PYDP)

## Summary

- Over this reporting period there have been 46 projects (31 in NI and 15 in the SBCs).
- A total of 89 grants were allocated with 23 projects receiving two grants and 10 projects receiving three grants.
- The IFI has invested almost £12.5m (over €15m) in PYDP to date with 75% being allocated to projects in NI and 25% to projects in the SBCs.

## The period to June 2020

How much did we do

- 46 projects funded - 33 projects extended
- 2233 young people have / are participating in PYDP
- 1272 young people have undertaken good relations training
- 1509 young people have received employment related training
- 1544 young people have completed accredited training
- 515 young people have completed work placements

How well did we do it

- 1589 young people have completed PYDP
- 4373 accreditations have been achieved
- 46 local strategic steering groups have been developed

Is anyone better off

- 1641 young people indicating a positive attitude to others
- 1578 young people have increased confidence
- 1681 young people have increased skills
- 749 young people have progressed in education and training
- 566 young people have secured employment
- 27 young people have secured apprenticeships

# Personal Youth Development Programme

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND  
OBA start - June 2020

**749**  
young people progressing to education and training

**566**  
young people have secured employment  
**27**  
Apprenticeships

**4373**  
accreditations

**46**  
steering / advisory groups

**46\*** projects  
(\*33 projects extended)

Helping at risk young people build and develop life skills that foster good relations, build confidence and resilience and make them more employable.

**2233**  
young people participating

**1544**  
completing accredited training

**1509**  
received employment related training

**1272**  
taking good relations training

**515**  
completing work placements