



FÓRSA

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

REPORT 2026



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Foreword

Fórsa is dedicated to international solidarity, focusing on advancing workers' rights, quality public services, human rights, and equality globally. The union's commitment is embodied in the Fórsa Developing World Fund, which allocates 3% of union subscriptions to support education, development, trade union and human rights projects worldwide, including responses to humanitarian emergencies.

Fórsa Developing World Fund contributions

The fund distributes proceeds through trade union federations such as Public Services International (PSI), Irish NGO's and smaller organisations engaging in supporting communities and humanitarian work. Applications are carefully selected based on strict Fórsa criteria to maximize impact and align with union values, with rigorous monitoring in place. In 2024 and 2025, Fórsa has contributed over €1.4 million to various initiatives.

Key recipients and initiatives include:

- Action Ireland
- Concern
- Cuba Solidarity Campaign
- Ethiopia Aid
- Fórsa Youth Committee fundraising for Trucks for Peace
- GAA Palestine
- Gaza Scholars Evacuation
- Irish Red Cross
- Justice for Colombia
- Mary's Meals in Malawi
- Migrant Rights Centre Ireland
- MSF
- Public Services International trade union organising projects
- Schools and Health Foundation
- SeeBeyondBorders
- Self Help Africa
- UNICEF
- Vita Ireland

Fórsa also supported global trade union organising, research supporting LGBTQIA+ workers, and initiatives for women workers.

Emergency appeals and crisis support

The union has actively supported emergency appeals and crisis initiatives in Myanmar following the earthquake, as well as in Sudan and Gaza, addressing urgent humanitarian needs.

International affiliations and campaigns

Fórsa is affiliated with several prominent international trade union federations, including:

- European Federation of Public Service Trade Unions (EPSU)
- European Transport Federation (ETF)
- International Transport Federation (ITF)
- Public Services International (PSI)
- Uni Global Union

Additionally, Fórsa is an active affiliate of the Justice for Colombia (JfC) campaign, established in 2002 to support Colombian civil society in human rights, labour rights, peace, and social justice struggles. The union also plays a leading role in Trade Union Friends of Palestine (TUFPP), founded by ICTU in 2007, which educates members on Palestinian issues, promotes policies addressing Israeli human rights abuses, and mobilises solidarity activities.

Please find a number of reports provided by organisations that Fórsa has partnered with over the last two years, in 2024 and 2025.

Concern Worldwide programme



Fórsa and its membership has generously supported Concern Worldwide for over thirty-four years. Most recently, Fórsa's Developing World Fund has supported three projects in Burundi, Afghanistan and Malawi which educate, empower, and advocate for marginalised groups in the developing world.

Burundi

Thank you for helping Concern to support communities to build their economic and social resilience and progress out of extreme poverty.

Running from August 2024 to September 2025, the fund's programme in Burundi used a community-led agro-forestry approach to support 1,749 extremely poor and marginalised households (9,620 people), to improve their livelihoods and restore the local environment.

With a population of 12.5 million people, 87% estimated to live in poverty, Burundi is one of the most densely populated and poorest countries in the world. Large-scale deforestation has exacerbated climate change-induced extreme weather events such as drought, flash floods, landslides, and mudslides which threaten not only the lives and safety of the predominantly rural population but also livelihoods dependent on small-scale agriculture.



Participants planting seeds and tree seedlings in nurseries.

Working across communities in Bubanza, Cibitoke and Kirundo, the project established 22 community tree nurseries, trained 62 local farmers and agricultural monitors in agro-forestry techniques and fruit tree grafting, and enabled households to produce and plant over 256,000 agro-forestry and fruit tree seedlings, with 9,750 pineapple suckers also distributed to local households. The tree seedlings were used in communal reforestation, covering 62 km of degraded hillsides, helping to stabilise soils, protect water sources, strengthen food security, household income and climate resilience.

Training in fruit tree grafting and improved cookstove production created new green income opportunities, reduced pressure on existing tree coverage and improved household health.

By embedding these activities within Concern's long-term Green Graduation programme, the project has delivered lasting environmental, economic and social impact whilst also building the skills, ownership and systems needed to sustain and scale results beyond the life of the programme.



Practical training on fruit tree grafting on the Rugano hill of Bukinyanya commune.

Afghanistan

From March to November 2025, a key objective of the programme in rural Afghanistan was to build Afghan women's economic empowerment in a context of gender apartheid where they are prohibited to work in most sectors and face severe restrictions on movement and work, severely limiting income-generating opportunities. The Fund supported Afghan women in the few areas where they can still legally work, strengthening 286 female farmers' skills and income, and financially supporting 950 businesswomen. It also tackled grassroots issues, creating a work-enabling environment through advocacy towards men and women of the surrounding communities. Overall the programme reached more than 33,660 people.



Afghanistan, particularly the targeted provinces of Takhar and Badakhshan, faces severe food insecurity, disrupted livelihoods and harsh climatic conditions. Households primarily depend on agricultural and non-agricultural wage labor, making them highly vulnerable to economic shocks. Recent surveys show 56% of households lost employment, 66% experienced reduced income and 73% faced sharp increases in food prices.



Awareness raising session on the rights of women and persons with disabilities.

The project provided cash grants to 45 self-help groups, 950 women in total, building financial literacy and business planning and supporting them as they established income-generating activities such as grocery, weaving, fabric and garment businesses which subsequently increased household incomes and financial independence.

The grants also enabled these groups to start revolving loans so that their members could access credit independently, fostering sustained economic activity, group solidarity and financial resilience.

286 women received agricultural training and equipment which improved sustainable practices, harvests and livestock nutrition and resulted in higher incomes. 1,000 women were trained in



Distribution of dairy processing materials.

dairy, fruit and vegetable preservation and processing, using innovative and locally-adapted approaches to improve product quality, increase value and reduce post-harvest losses, which helped to boost household income and food security.

The project employed a participatory, community-based approach throughout, which fostered strong local ownership and ensured sustainability beyond the life of the project itself. Advocacy sessions reached 4,375 people, including 2,000 women, engaging religious leaders to promote gender equality messaging and community acceptance of women's work. The programme improved women's skills, confidence, financial independence, and social inclusion. At the start of programming, 4% of participating women reported that they were satisfied with their lives and after it, 96% reported that they were satisfied, a transformation in quality of life as a direct result of this programme support.

BIORESET in Malawi

Most recently, Fórsa's Developing World Fund has funded a Biogas for Renewable Energy and Sustainable Environmental Transformation (BIORESET) programme in Nsanje district, Malawi which began in February 2026 and is set to conclude at the end of 2026.

BIORESET is a gender-responsive, sustainable solution in Nsanje District which turns waste into economic opportunity, improves sanitation, and reduces dependence on fossil fuels, targeting and empowering women in poor households.

This project will fund the installation and operation of biogas digesters, and support establishing and training female cooperatives to transform organic waste into clean energy and marketable bio-fertilizer. It will empower 40 women in Nsanje to lead renewable energy and waste-to-wealth enterprises by building cooperative structures, fostering economic independence and leadership skills.

By organising participants into well-trained cooperatives, it will strengthen community collaboration, shared responsibility, and collective problem-solving. It will also drive local economic and social development by creating employment and income opportunities through the production and sale of bio-fertilizer and biofuel, improving local farmers' access to both these inputs, and promoting cleaner, healthier cooking solutions, delivering tangible benefits for both women and the wider community in Nsanje District.

See: <https://youtu.be/T6ZTcEshxDA> for brief video of the pilot of this programme in action.



Background

In the Afar region of Ethiopia, 91% of women and girls have undergone Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), despite it being outlawed in 2005. This practice causes lifelong physical and psychological harm and contributes to high maternal and infant mortality. Afar Pastoralist Development Association (APDA), in partnership with Ethiopiaid Ireland, is addressing this urgent need through grassroots, community-led approach which empowers women, educates communities, and equips local leaders to end harmful practices such as FGM.



Currently, these challenges are compounded by ongoing drought and high levels of malnutrition affecting children, as well as pregnant and breastfeeding women across the Afar region. When communities are under this level of pressure, it becomes much harder to address long-standing practices like FGM, particularly where these are closely linked to social acceptance and identity. This is why APDA's community-led approach is critical.

Through training of female extension workers, health workers, literacy teachers and traditional birth attendants, APDA takes a holistic, systems-level approach to opposing harmful practices. The project is entirely community-led; all staff are recruited and trained locally, and community members are actively involved in planning and delivery through development committees, public forums and monitoring processes. Former FGM practitioners are publicly recognised as change agents, helping to shift social norms and strengthen community ownership of change.



Community outreach educating women and girls on harmful practices.

Project achievements

APDA's work is essential in combatting FGM in some of the most hard to reach areas in Ethiopia.

In the Afar region, APDA has projects running in Sibaybi and Kilaalu, where 20 female extension workers have been trained in delivering education in hygiene, nutrition and maternal care, as well as raising awareness around the risks and dangers associated with FGM.

Thanks to the generous support of Fórsa Developing World Fund, APDA has had the opportunity to extend the project to the newly demarked district Mabay, an extremely remote area which was identified by the organisation as having a long-standing history of FGM practices in the region.

This project extension into the Mabay district is now equipped with five health workers, five women extension workers, five literacy teachers and 40 traditional birth attendants. Since the project's formal start in January 2026, the five health workers, previously trained and supported by APDA, have begun initial outreach within the community. Early engagement with local leaders has also taken place to support the introduction of the programme and ensure community understanding.



Women extension workers working to end FGM.

Key challenges

The project is being delivered within a challenging wider context. Prolonged drought in the Afar region has contributed to high levels of malnutrition, placing additional pressure on communities. In addition, ongoing insecurity in parts of northern Ethiopia has created uncertainty around travel and logistics. Rising fuel costs and the need to prioritise limited resources have constrained the ability of senior APDA staff to travel to Mabay as planned to support implementation and provide a detailed in-person update. A visit is expected to take place shortly, after which further information will be shared.



Women and girls in Afar region.

Future plans

During the month of Ramadan (mid-February to mid-March), project activities were briefly paused. In line with their community-led approach, APDA scheduled project activities outside of this period to ensure stronger participation and engagement. Following the celebration of Eid on 19th March, marking the end of Ramadan, the project aims to begin training for five women extension workers, five literacy teachers and forty traditional birth attendants. Thus, enabling a full rollout of community-level awareness raising, education and behaviour change activities.

As the project moves into full implementation, we look forward to sharing more updates on the important impact of this outreach.

Thank you very much to the Fórsa Developing World Fund for your generous support to help end FGM practices and empower women and girls throughout the Afar.



Sustainable livelihoods, Nepal

Fórsa has supported the Irish Red Cross for many years. Through the union's Developing World Fund, Fórsa has donated €105,000 to date. This contribution has been instrumental in strengthening long-term, climate-resilient livelihoods for vulnerable rural communities in Nepal. This partnership between the Irish Red Cross and the Nepal Red Cross provides marginalised households with the tools, skills and opportunities needed to withstand climate-related shocks.



2025 marked a significant milestone for the initiative, beginning with the final phase and successful handover of the livelihood and resilience programme in Myagdi District from January to August. This was followed by a strategic shift from October to December, which saw the launch and initial rollout of a new programme cycle in the Tanahun District.

From tools to harvest, Fórsa's support enables farmers to adopt new agricultural practices, such as kiwi farming, to build more sustainable and diverse income streams.

In 2025, the programme directly reached 914 people comprising 524 women and 390 men.

Key impacts include:

- 94% of targeted farmers gained knowledge on climate-smart techniques with 100% of these participants successfully applying new sustainable practices such as crop rotation, mulching and composting.
- 75% of trained farmers have fully adopted conservation agriculture practices.
- 33% of tunnel greenhouse farmers reported increased yield by 25-50% while 29% saw increases exceeding 50%.
- 500 new participants are engaged for income generating activities in Tanahun District.



Fórsa's sustained funding ensures vital continuity between programme phases, allowing the Irish Red Cross to maintain its commitment to remote, climate-affected areas. Beyond providing agricultural inputs, this support advances critical cross-cutting goals by empowering marginalised women and men through gender equality and social inclusion. Furthermore, it builds long-term climate resilience by equipping communities with the tools to survive environmental instability and promotes economic stability by helping households shift from subsistence farming to sustainable income generation.

From tools to harvest, Fórsa's support enables farmers to adopt new agricultural practices, such as kiwi farming, to build more sustainable and diverse income streams.

Ukraine crisis

Fórsa's contribution of €4,500 to the Irish Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal comes at a critical moment. As the conflict enters its fifth year, humanitarian needs remain severe and, in many areas, are worsening rather than stabilising. While global headlines may shift, the reality on the ground remains dire. Millions of people still lack access to basic essentials, and an estimated 15 million require mental health and psychosocial support to cope with the trauma of displacement and the destruction of their livelihoods. Following a brutal winter where temperatures plunged to -21°C, repeated attacks on energy infrastructure have left thousands more without heat or light.

In an environment where international attention is beginning to wane, Fórsa's sustained commitment is vital. This funding allows the Red Cross to move beyond immediate emergency aid, fuelling long-term recovery programs and ensuring that essential services remain a lifeline for those in need.

With support from donors like Fórsa, the Irish Red Cross and Ukrainian Red Cross continue creating safe spaces where people can access vital services and rebuild their lives.



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Humanitarian Awards 2025

At the 2025 Irish Red Cross Humanitarian Awards, the Fórsa Developing World Fund played an important role in honouring Ireland's future leaders by sponsoring the Young Humanitarian Award. Through their generous contribution, Fórsa ensured that the extraordinary efforts of young change-makers were celebrated on a national stage. This award recognises individuals who embody the core principles of compassion, volunteerism and tireless humanitarian action.



Lauren Jones Brennan, recipient of the 2025 Young Humanitarian of the Year Award.

The 2025 recipient, Lauren Jones Brennan, was named Young Humanitarian of the Year. Her inspiring leadership and unwavering commitment to social justice perfectly mirror the shared values of both the Irish Red Cross and Fórsa. Lauren's work serves as a powerful testament to the impact one individual can have on the lives of many.

Fórsa's involvement, however, reached far beyond financial sponsorship. Michael Smyth, National Treasurer of Fórsa, lent his expertise to the independent judging panel, providing critical insight during the selection process. His presence on the panel reinforced the deep-rooted partnership between the union and the Irish Red Cross, grounded in a mutual dedication to service and solidarity.



Fórsa is an active international trade union affiliate of the Justice for Colombia (JfC) campaign, and provides ongoing solidarity, support, and funding in respect of this work. JfC responds to the ongoing demands of its partners in Colombia: the political activists, trade unionists, peasant organisations, human rights defenders, and other civil society groups who are on the front line in demanding peace and social justice.

DEPAZES Social Movement for Peace Project

This project aims to help communities build peace agendas, influence armed groups to apply humanitarian law, and reduce tensions in conflict regions, under the leadership of former High Commissioner for peace Danilo Rueda.

DEPAZES organises meetings where social leaders and local activists can identify obstacles to this agenda, and agree common messages to the armed groups. The meetings take place in the communities themselves, fostering trust and dialogue.



DEPAZES has held 31 workshops that include former members of all parties to the conflict – the Colombian armed forces, police, security services, and paramilitaries, as well as former members of various guerrilla groups and negotiators from recent peace talks.

DEPAZES also organises ‘Schools of Thought’ sessions where participants discuss issues of national and regional importance, to come up with common agendas on issues such as external debt, social inequality, drugs trafficking and illegal economies, defining the armed conflict, types of violence, impunity and justice, and ways of improving politics.



'De Mano en Mano' House of Peace Project, Cali

De Mano en Mano (from hand to hand) is a project led by signatories to the 2016 Colombian Peace Agreement. The collective is part of the ECOMUN federation of cooperatives set up by the landmark agreement, and the project aims to provide a space for dialogue and exchange between rural and urban communities near Cali, a place where former signatories can also market the products that they make (coffee, honey, beer, leather goods, clothing and so on). The Colombian government gave the collective a large disused building in Cali in 2024, and since then they have been working hard to get it into a usable state.



The support of Fórsa has been vital to enabling them to kick-start construction work that will enable the use of the top floor of the building for events, helping them to get further funding in future.

CEHEHUPAZ Human Rights Centre, 'Casa Pazifico', Cali

This project brings together various organisations and human rights defenders across Southwest Colombia. Their activities promote and educate on human rights, and enable communities at risk of abuses to discuss human rights strategies.

The centre also provides refuge for community leaders, social activists and human rights defenders and their families when they are forcibly displaced. The members of the centre provide psychosocial assistance to victims, carry out health checks and provide legal assistance. In the last year, 25 people have been given refuge, with 13 legal cases taken up on their behalf.

The centre also runs courses on human rights with the local university, human rights training with the ministry of Equalities, and they work with the SINTRAUNAL union on developing human rights demands.

CORPEIS-USO 'Yira Castro' Trade Union Organising School

This project was conceived by the USO oil workers' union, one of Colombia's most historic unions, and the CORPEIS trade union school, so as to help promote unionisation, better defend labour rights, and develop strategies to promote positive change in society and the workplace. It includes a focus on various important issues, including women and young workers, and the ways in which the 2016 peace agreement creates new opportunities and spaces for worker organising.

The school began in Bogota in March 2026 and will eventually cover 12 regions of Colombia. Each consists of a three-day workshop and will eventually train 600 organisers across different sectors. It will include an analysis of the current political situation, the values and history of the union movement, changes in the world of work, organising tools and collective bargaining methods, labour rights as human rights, gender in the workplace, and the importance of building a culture of peace.

3 million children, 3 million smiles

In September 2025, we announced the amazing news that we are now serving vital meals to more than three million children every day across 16 countries, an extraordinary increase of more than 805,000 children since the start of 2024. This wouldn't have happened without the support of donors like the Fórsa Developing World Fund, the dedication of thousands of volunteers serving meals and raising funds across the world, and the work of our local partners and teams. Thank you for being part of our global movement.



Your impact in Malawi

Hunger and undernutrition remains widespread across Malawi, with children bearing the greatest burden. This is despite a national effort to improve food security. Child undernutrition remains deeply entrenched, with 33% of children under the age of five stunted, reflecting long-term deprivation that limits physical growth and cognitive development. 2.8% of children under five are wasted, a dangerous form of acute malnutrition that significantly increases the risk of illness and death.¹ Diet quality is also a major concern: 24% of children under five are experiencing severe child food poverty, meaning they consume two or fewer food groups per day, dramatically increasing the risk of malnutrition.² These impacts of malnutrition on children sit within a broader, protracted national food crisis.

According to the Global Report on Food Crises, Malawi remains in its ninth consecutive year of food crisis, driven by climate extremes (droughts, dry spells, cyclones), economic instability, and limited livelihood opportunities.³ Currently, nearly 2.5 million people need food assistance in Malawi - around 12% of the population. Crisis (IPC Phase 3) outcomes are predicted to continue throughout 2026, particularly among the urban poor and low-income, rural populations who are unable to produce sufficient food and rely heavily on markets.

"We are extremely grateful for your continued commitment to our school feeding programme and are pleased to share this interim report highlighting the meaningful change made possible in 2025/26 so far by the Fórsa Developing World Fund. During the past few months, your donation of €25,000 has been providing 1,136 children at Nang'ombe Primary School in Malawi with a nutritious daily meal at school."

Mary's Meals

1 Global Hunger Index - (<https://www.globalhungerindex.org/malawi.html>)
2 UNICEF Child Food Poverty report - (Child Food Poverty | UNICEF)
3 FSIN - (GRFC2025-country-MW.pdf)

Within this context, our school feeding programme plays a critical role. It brings children into the classroom and ensures they stay and learn all day, rather than leaving early due to hunger. Mary's Meals contributes to closing these gaps by delivering dependable daily meals, strengthening both educational access and the broader fight against hunger.

Based on our most recent enrolment data, we are pleased to share that enrolment at Nan'gombe has risen over the past year. This positive trend means we are now able to reach even more children through our school feeding programme.

Together, the Fórsa Developing World Fund and Mary's Meals have been providing daily meals to all 1,924 students enrolled at Nan'gombe, with Mary's Meals contributing thanks to grassroots fundraising which ensures each child receives a meal.

At Nang'ombe Primary School in Malawi, the story of your donation's impact is told best by the people living it every day. Ten-year-old Vanessa is in Standard 5, and like many children in her community, she comes from a large household where food is scarce.



"Before I eat porridge, I feel so hungry. At home, I don't have a chance to be given a meal in the morning", she explains. But the moment she sits down with her classmates and eats, that hunger lifts entirely. "When I eat porridge, everything changes. I become full, hunger goes away, I gain energy", she shares, and with that renewed energy she throws herself into her lessons with focus and enthusiasm.

When asked what she loves most about school, she answers with a wide smile: "The best thing about going to school is that I love to eat porridge a lot. I also enjoy my lessons when I am full."

Beyond the classroom, Vanessa is cheerful and sociable, and loves playing netball with her friends. But it is her ambition that is perhaps most striking. With quiet determination, she looks ahead to her future: "I would like to be a doctor when I finish my education. I want to have a job that helps people who cannot help themselves. I also would like to have a job that I can use to help my family when I grow up", she says. For Vanessa, the porridge she receives each morning is far more than a meal. It is the foundation on which her future is being built.

Her teacher, Susan, has watched that transformation take shape. Having taught at the school for more than five years, Susan has witnessed first-hand how deeply hunger can undermine a child's ability to learn. Her class is full of eager, capable pupils, but before the feeding programme was in place, empty stomachs stood in the way. Since Mary's Meals began serving daily meals at the school, Susan has observed a remarkable shift, not just in concentration and participation, but in attendance and punctuality too. For Susan, the feeding programme has become a catalyst for partnership between families and educators, and a source of renewed hope for the entire community, made possible each and every morning by supporters like you.

Thank you

We are deeply grateful for the Fórsa Developing World Fund's support. Your generosity provides not only school meals but hope to the children we serve together and their wider communities.

As we look ahead and continue shaping our strategic plan to reach four million children in 2027, our resolve has never been stronger. We are deeply committed to keeping our promise to the children we already serve while expanding our school feeding programmes in communities facing the harsh realities of acute food insecurity.

Thank you for standing with us, for believing in the power of education and nourishment, and for helping us build a brighter future for millions of children like Vanessa. We look forward to continuing this journey with you, bringing hope and opportunity to those who need it most.

Aim of the project

The overall aim of the project is to identify and support migrant workers that face severe labour exploitation – including those in trafficking situations – to come forward and assert their rights.



Outcomes

1. More migrant workers facing severe labour exploitation are reached, supported and empowered to take action to assert their fundamental rights.
2. Migrant workers are less fearful and more resilient in standing up for their rights.
3. Improved data and analysis of severe exploitation trends in Ireland is built to inform and promote better government responses and proactive policies.

Impact

1. Migrant workers have better conditions, safer workplaces, and decent living conditions free from exploitation.
2. The growing trend in Ireland of severe exploitation of migrant workers in vulnerable employment sectors is lessened.

Project activities

In brief MRCI's project activities so far are happening in the following three main areas (and significant progress is being made in each):

- To provide a specialist and comprehensive service to support the coming forward of potential and suspected victims of Trafficking for Labor Exploitation (TLE).
- To increase the detection of potential and suspected victims of TLE and improve strategies to reach very vulnerable and 'hard to reach' workers to increase identification.
- Produce and contribute to the analysis of trends and dynamics of TLE in Ireland.

Progress in 2025

1. **Providing a specialist service to support people coming forward**
 - MRCI's National Information and Support Centre carried out preliminary TLE screenings of 3,602 people in 2025 to identify potential victims.
 - 53 detailed TLE assessments carried out and a range of high-level supports provided to those labour exploitation victims.

Supports include:

- Emergency needs support in exiting exploitation situations.
- Advocacy with immigration change of status applications inc. reactivation applications with DETE and DOJ and obtaining alternative employment.
- Compensation assessments and representation with redress claims.
- Accompaniment with Gardaí/WRC investigations and appearances.
- Advocacy and referrals inc. social welfare, housing, health needs.
- Seven victims of Trafficking for Labour Exploitation formally referred for identification to the National Referrals Mechanism for Human Trafficking.
- Five victims of other crimes (illegal recruitment fees, money laundering, threats) referred to An Garda Síochána.
- 21 people (victims of TLE and TLE related crime) from previous years provided with a range of ongoing supports.
- 49 compensation assessments carried out and advice provided to people involved.
- 20 cases of severe exploitation have been accepted by MRCI for representation at labour tribunals to seek redress for the exploitation faced.
- 45 cases represented with formal WRC and Labour Court employment rights claims (cases from 2023, 2024 and 2025).
- 51 active cases of severe labour exploitation are pending representation.

2. Increasing reach and detection of potential victims

- Three awareness raising posts shared through MRCI online communications channels (social media and email).
- A new active list of nationality specific communities (e.g. Indians in Ireland) has been developed that reaches 66 Facebook groups and 53 WhatsApp groups covering 27 different nationalities. Three posts also shared through this network of channels in 2025.
- Communication established with five foreign embassies, including Brazil, China, India, Pakistan, and South Africa. An initial meeting was conducted with the Brazilian ambassador, and a meeting was also held with the Muslim interfaith group to initiate awareness and relationship-building efforts. A new plan was devised to enhance the effectiveness of communication with embassies and faith communities in 2026.
- Flyer/poster distribution: Geographical mapping for organisations and distribution locations is complete. Planning for the leaflet and poster content is finished. Companies to translate the material for distributions identified. A detailed distribution plan has been created. Two distribution activities are planned for 2026.
- 19 organisations provided with advice and awareness sessions. We are continually developing a comprehensive list of target organisations to further build connections for the provision of additional TLE awareness sessions.
- 25 articles in the national media covering victims' stories and redress decisions

3. Producing and contributing to the analysis of trends and dynamics of TLE in Ireland

- Attended meetings with GRETA, IHREC, DETE Employment permits division, HTICU and DETE Seasonal Permit working group regularly.
- Contributed to TIP, IHREC, OSCE Ukrainian, La Strada reports.
- Hosted OSCE special representative on our TLE work.
- Attended and presented to La Strada International in Poland.
- 2024 spotlight paper circulated to key government stakeholders in Q1 2025.
- MRCI participated in 2 meetings with the Labour Exploitation Subgroup and attended a meeting with the DOJ Victims of Crime Policy Team.



Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF) is an independent, impartial and neutral international medical humanitarian organisation that delivers emergency medical assistance to people affected by conflict, epidemics, natural disasters and exclusion from healthcare. Guided by medical ethics and the principles of humanity, independence and impartiality, MSF works alongside affected communities in some of the world's most challenging environments. When disaster strikes, MSF teams are often among the first on the ground to provide urgent medical and humanitarian support.

Myanmar

Despite violent attacks on our facilities and movement restrictions for our staff, MSF, with generous support from our donors including Fórsa, continues to work in Myanmar to assist people affected by widespread violence and recurrent extreme weather events. In 2024, monsoon flooding and Typhoon Yagi displaced more than 3.5 million people, adding to the severe suffering already faced by communities since the military seized power from the elected government in 2021.



Children draw pictures at a group recreational activity run by MSF counsellors at a camp in Sinka, Mandalay. Displaced families have been living in tented shelters in the grounds of the school since the earthquake. MSF teams conducted 55 group recreational activities with 1,115 children displaced by the earthquake in Mandalay and Sagaing.

On 28 March 2025, a powerful 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck central Myanmar, devastating the regions of Mandalay, Naypyidaw, Sagaing and Shan State. The earthquake struck a country already gripped by several health crises and conflict, compounding the challenges faced by affected communities. Limited resources, staff and supplies have left some facilities over-burdened and struggling to respond to the growing health needs.

In response, within days MSF teams were on the ground providing clean drinking water and distributing Non-Food Items (NFI), along with practical items like buckets, jerry cans, hygiene kits with toothpaste, soap, brushes, menstruation packs and mosquito nets to combat the threat of malaria. MSF also established mobile clinics in the gathering points or in areas difficult to access to treat patients badly affected by the disaster.

Sudan

The humanitarian crisis in Sudan is one of the largest in the world - and for the past three years, civilians have been enduring extreme violence that has devastated every aspect of their lives. The fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has caused the world's largest displacement crisis, where more than 11 million people have been forcibly displaced by the conflict. This includes many who have crossed international borders to seek safety in South Sudan, Chad and Egypt. Displaced people across the country and region are now sheltering in crowded and often precarious conditions.



As the war destroys infrastructure, displaces communities and blocks the movement of aid, millions of people are now facing acute food insecurity and recurring disease outbreaks. Sexual violence is also being used systematically against civilians amid an intensifying conflict.



MSF paediatrician Giulia cares for severely acutely malnourished Abdul in Tawila Hospital's Intensive Care Unit. A Chest ultrasound is performed to investigate suspected pulmonary tuberculosis, with images sent via MSF telemedicine.

The suffering in Sudan is not just a humanitarian crisis but a political failure on a collective global scale. To date, the international humanitarian response to the crisis has been insufficient. MSF teams face numerous challenges in the delivery of care, including restrictions imposed by both warring parties, disruptions to supply routes due to insecurity, as well as attacks on our facilities and staff. Despite these obstacles, MSF medical teams are active in 9 of 18 Sudanese states.

MSF ran a range of activities in Sudan to respond to the immense needs in 2025:

Hospitals run by MSF	3
Hospitals supported by MSF	17
Primary Health Centres supported by MSF	16

Types of medical activities

MSF teams provide surgical care, wound management, physiotherapy, maternity, nutrition and paediatric services, primary healthcare, routine vaccination and reactive vaccination campaigns, and mental health support. We are also constructing boreholes, latrines and distributing food and water in displacement camps. Alongside providing healthcare in overcrowded camps and urban battlegrounds, MSF also continues to deliver medical services to remote and isolated communities supporting a network of community healthcare workers in these areas.

From January to November 2025, MSF has seen:

Outpatient consultations	729,295
Emergency presentations	194,806
Inpatient therapeutic centre admissions	11,378
Inpatients admitted	57,270
Ante-natal consultations	151,652
Deliveries	23,899
Mental health consultations	8,540
Non-communicable disease consultations	21,223

Gaza

The situation in Gaza remains catastrophic. MSF is working to preserve services for patients in an increasingly constrained environment in Gaza. Sustained violence and persistent aid restrictions imposed by the Israeli authorities are resulting in enormous challenges in providing much-needed medical humanitarian services. Since January 1, 2026, MSF has been prevented by the Israeli authorities from bringing international staff and additional supplies into Palestine. Despite these policies, MSF is committed to remaining to provide assistance for as long as possible. Today, more than 1,400 Palestinian MSF staff remain in Gaza, providing vital healthcare services.



An MSF nurse measures the mid-upper arm circumference of one-year-old Adam, who has suffered from severe acute malnutrition since birth.

MSF plays a vital role in Gaza. In 2025, we supported one-in-five hospital beds and assisted one-in-three mothers during childbirth. We continue to operate clinics for people with traumatic injuries and chronic illnesses, treat malnourished children and burn patients. As the primary provider of water in Gaza, MSF distributed 700 million litres last year. Programmes of this scale cannot be easily replaced. If MSF and other major NGOs cannot continue their work in Gaza and the West Bank, hundreds of thousands of people will be unable to access the healthcare, water and other essential services they need. Inevitably, more people will die from preventable causes.

MSF-supported medical facilities

MSF currently supports five hospitals: Nasser, Al-Aqsa, Al Helou, Al Shifa and Al Ranteesi. MSF runs two field hospitals in Deir Al-Balah.

MSF runs four primary healthcare centres (PHCC) in Al Mawasi, Al Attar, Khan Yunis and Gaza City.

MSF has also recently opened six new medical points providing wound care and other primary health care services for some of them, on top of its Wound care clinic in Gaza City and Deir El Balah.

In 2025, MSF supported:

Outpatient consultations	913,284
Emergency presentations	431,460
Surgical procedures	26,193
Inpatients admitted	53,569
Deliveries	13,622
Ante-natal consultations	46,774
Individual mental health sessions	54,292
Non-communicable disease consultations	68,726
Drinking water production	2,106m ³
Drinking water distribution	4,166m ³
Domestic water distribution	1,453m ²

Public Services International (PSI)



The impact of Fórsa support on building worker power and defending public services

Support from the Fórsa Developing World Fund has enabled Public Services International (PSI) and its affiliated trade unions to expand and deepen work across Africa, Asia and Latin America, strengthening organising, advancing workers' rights, and building coordinated responses to some of the most pressing challenges facing public services today. At a time marked by spreading austerity, the growing climate crisis, increased threats to public services and jobs, and the continued expansion of precarious work, this support has been critical in sustaining union activity and enabling growth in areas that are often under-resourced but strategically essential. Through 2024 and 2025, Fórsa funding has contributed to building stronger public service unions, supporting worker-led advocacy, and advancing a vision of quality public services grounded in equity, gender justice, and accountability.



Fórsa's support has enabled PSI to strengthen its work on migration, refugees, and displaced workers, advancing both global advocacy and national-level union engagement. In a context shaped by climate displacement, conflict, and increasingly hostile migration policies driven by far-right narratives, public service workers often face ethical and professional risks, including pressure to enforce exclusionary policies. At the same time, the migration of skilled health workers from developing countries to the Global North continues to undermine national health systems and weaken union bases. Through this support, PSI has expanded its influence in global policy spaces, particularly within United Nations and World Health Organization processes, promoting the WHO Global Code of Practice on the Ethical Recruitment of Health Personnel as a key framework to protect workers' rights and safeguard public health systems. This work has been complemented by efforts to strengthen affiliates' capacity to engage governments and stakeholders, and by the establishment of a global network of health unions to monitor migration trends and advocate for more equitable approaches.

A central area of impact of Fórsa's funding has been the strengthening of organising among some of the most marginalised public service workers. In Pakistan, PSI affiliates have expanded unionisation of Lady Health Workers, a female workforce of community health workers. Through sustained organising, leadership development, and policy engagement, unions have grown significantly in membership and coordination, culminating in the establishment of a national federation in 2024 representing over 20,000 workers. This has translated into tangible gains, including increased government recognition and improvements in working conditions, while also strengthening women's leadership and positioning community health workers as key actors in national policy debates.

This funding has also supported efforts to strengthen organising capacity and build more effective, worker-led unions in Africa and Brazil. Training initiatives have equipped union leaders with practical tools to recruit, mobilise, and sustain membership, resulting in measurable growth in union structures and increased confidence among organisers, including expansion into previously under-organised sectors such as private healthcare.

Fórsa support has enabled unions to respond more effectively to the growing impacts of climate change, strengthening both practical capacity and strategic engagement. Following devastating floods in Pakistan, PSI worked with affiliates to build capacity on disaster preparedness, occupational safety and health, and workers' rights in emergency contexts. Training and coordination across sectors improved the ability of unions to protect frontline workers while contributing to broader policy discussions on climate resilience and public service delivery, reinforcing the role of unions as essential actors in crisis response and recovery.

A Regional Conference held in November 2025 for African and Arab public service trade unions combined policy analysis with knowledge of how public services and workers are affected by climate change, alongside the formulation of collective bargaining strategies. This enabled unions to articulate context-specific responses, strengthened shared approaches across countries, and fostered an informal network of unions addressing climate change in both service delivery and working conditions. Together, these interventions have provided a stronger foundation for sustained trade union action on climate justice.

The Fórsa support has also enabled PSI and its affiliates to engage more effectively in policy and advocacy work in response to austerity and privatisation. In South Africa, unions and policy experts came together to develop a coordinated response to budget cuts, regressive taxation, and the erosion of public services. The process strengthened collaboration across trade union federations and resulted in the articulation of clear, progressive alternatives centred on tax justice, public investment, and the expansion of public services.

Fórsa support has strengthened trade union action on gender justice, particularly in addressing violence and harassment in the world of work, including gender-based violence (GBV), which disproportionately affects women in public services, frontline roles, and the informal economy. A regional conference for African and Arab public service unions sustained momentum toward the ratification and implementation of ILO Convention 190, strengthened coordination across unions, and reinforced alignment around prevention strategies within broader labour and policy agendas. The work has supported the integration of violence and harassment prevention into occupational health and safety systems and collective bargaining frameworks, framing Convention 190 implementation as part of workplace compliance and governance reform.

The organisation of care workers has been a key area of focus across Latin America, where Fórsa support has contributed to advancing the recognition of care as a public good and a labour issue. Trade unions have played an increasingly visible role in shaping national and regional debates on care systems, linking the expansion of public services to decent work, gender equality, and social protection. Women's leadership has been central to this work.

Fórsa support has enabled PSI to prioritise youth engagement as a central strategy for trade union renewal and membership growth. Programmes in Latin America and Africa have focused on developing young leaders, strengthening youth structures, and equipping a new generation of trade unionists. In Africa, the Young Workers Education and Mentorship Programme (YEMP) has engaged over a thousand participants, combining digital learning and in-person exchanges to build leadership, strengthen organising strategies, and advance advocacy on climate change, just transition, and gender equality.

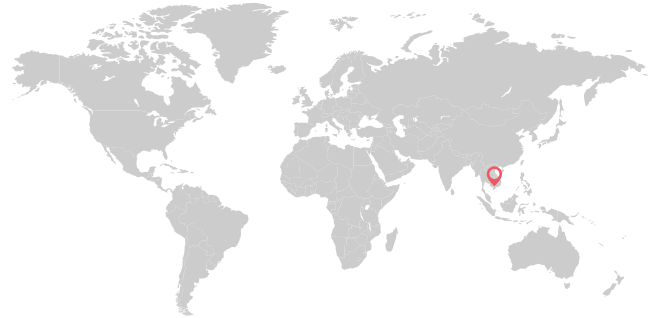
Taken together, the impact of Fórsa support extends beyond individual activities or projects. It has contributed to building stronger, more resilient trade unions in developing countries that are better equipped to organise workers, influence policy, and defend public services. It has enabled PSI to work across sectors and regions in a more integrated way, linking organising with advocacy, and local struggles with global campaigns. At a time of increasing pressure on public services and workers, this support has made a significant difference, enabling unions to respond to immediate challenges while advancing longer-term strategies aimed at transforming systems and securing decent work for all. PSI takes this opportunity to thank Fórsa for their vital and unwavering support to international solidarity.



Fórsa and SeeBeyondBorders: Transforming education in rural Cambodia

The education challenge in Cambodia

Improving teaching and learning outcomes is particularly challenging in early-grade education in provinces such as Siem Reap, one of Cambodia's most disadvantaged regions. Children face major barriers to accessing quality education, leading to what the World Bank describes as a "learning crisis."



Legacy of conflict

The Khmer Rouge regime devastated the education system, killing 75% of teachers and 96% of graduates. Its effects persist today. By age 15, 97% of students lack basic literacy and numeracy. In Siem Reap, children receive just 3.7 years of schooling on average, compared to 8.7 in Phnom Penh.

Only 35% of teachers have higher education, and most receive minimal training. Professional development is limited, leaving teachers underprepared and unsupported. Teaching often remains rigid and hierarchical, while only 6% of principals have leadership training.

These challenges are closely linked to poverty, inequality, and low economic growth. Cambodia's human capital indicators lag behind comparable countries, making investment in education systems essential for long-term development.

How SeeBeyondBorders meets the challenge

SeeBeyondBorders Ireland (SBBI), founded in 2020, supports SeeBeyondBorders Cambodia (SBBC) to improve learning outcomes by working directly with educators. Our focus is on effective governance, partnerships, awareness, research, and fundraising.

Since 2009, SBBC has improved primary education by training and mentoring teachers in maths, literacy, and classroom management. Working within the national system, SBBC enhances the curriculum with proven teaching methods and professional development resources, ensuring sustainable, scalable impact. This work has been recognised by Cambodia's Ministry of Education and awarded the UNESCO Prize for Outstanding Practice in Enhancing Teacher Effectiveness.

Fórsa and SeeBeyondBorders: Partners for change

Since 2024, Fórsa has partnered with SeeBeyondBorders Ireland to improve the quality of primary education in Cambodia through the Fórsa Developing World Fund. This partnership aims to strengthen primary education services in Cambodia by empowering school leaders and teachers to drive improvement in teaching and learning in 20 rural primary schools. This is being achieved through enhancing Teacher Professional Identity and School Leadership.

Teacher professional identity

This area of focus is novel in Cambodia and supports teachers in building confidence and reflecting on their role in improving student learning. By encouraging a shift from traditional to inquiry-based teaching, the initiative helps develop more reflective and motivated educators. The Teacher Professional Identity initiative has been developed with input from the Professional Identity for Khmer Teachers research collaboration-led by Professor Leo Casey, Director of the Centre for Education and Lifelong Learning at the National College of Ireland. Research findings have influenced Cambodian education policy, with Teacher Professional Identity now recognised in the National Teacher Policy Action Plan.

By the end of 2025, 85 teachers had actively engaged in their professional development through workshops, monthly reflective sessions, and ongoing mentoring, leading to increased confidence and noticeable improvements in classroom teaching practice.

Key outcomes include:

- 100% of teachers improved their teaching practices, reaching Level 2 (out of 3) on the competency scale, with 65% reaching Level 3, up from a 30% baseline at Level 2.

These findings highlight substantial improvements in teaching practice and confirm the effectiveness of sustained mentoring and reflective observation in strengthening teacher quality and classroom learning.

Leadership in learning

The Leadership in Learning initiative provides school leaders with opportunities to engage with national and international education experts and deepen their understanding of effective leadership. Through leadership workshops and ongoing support over the past year, including school visits, online meetings, and reflective sessions, 31 school leaders have deepened their knowledge and skills in leading progressive teaching practices across 20 primary schools.

Key outcomes included:

- School leaders effectively implemented all five of their planned school improvement targets during the first academic year ending July 2025, including enrollment campaigning in the community, classroom observations and parent/guardian engagement.
- 97% of school leaders achieved Level 2 or above (out of 4) on the competency scale, exceeding the 75% target.

Impact: Improving student learning outcomes

Student learning outcomes increased through effective leadership and teaching practices in schools that foster thriving learning environments where students are valued and can succeed. In maths, 53% of Grade 1-3 students achieved the Minimum Proficiency Level in 2025, a 10% increase from 2024. In literacy, 35% of students reached proficiency, representing a 13% increase.

Fórsa's continued partnership and support plays a vital role in addressing Cambodia's learning crisis and creating lasting change for children and educators. In 2025, the programme worked with 20 primary schools in Siem Reap province, reaching: 2,817 children, 85 teachers and 31 school leaders.

"Because I didn't have the opportunity to study much myself, I made it a priority to support my children through to their university graduation. I'm so proud to see how hard they worked, and now I encourage my grandchildren to study just as their uncles did - because education is truly vital for our future."

Grandfather of a child in a SeeBeyondBorders participating school.

A growing movement of solidarity between Ireland and Cambodia

With support from Irish partners like Fórsa, we continue to strengthen ties between Ireland and Cambodia. In 2025, we received Irish Government funding to expand our Transform Education Programme to Oddar Meanchey Province, reaching an additional 15 primary schools. This expansion reflects the strength of SeeBeyondBorders as a trusted development organisation in Cambodia and Ireland, as well as the quality and impact of our work - an investment proudly supported by you and others in Ireland, including INTO, RTAI, TUI and Cornmarket. From our teams in Ireland and Cambodia, we want to express our heartfelt thanks to Fórsa for your support. Ní neart go cur le chéile.



Fórsa's Developing World Fund has been supporting Self Help Africa projects in Sub-Saharan Africa for ten years and during this time we have received just under €100,000 in support for projects in Burkina Faso, Kenya, Malawi, Gambia and Ethiopia.

Various projects have been funded such as rehabilitation of boreholes and the provision of irrigation kits in Kenya, support of women in cashew production in Burkina Faso, the improvement of solar pumps in Gambia, a covid response in Malawi, adult literacy training in Ethiopia, and the provision of 125 latrines in West Africa. Literally hundreds of thousands of lives have been supported, enhanced and changed for the long term due to this generous and vital support from Fórsa Trade Union.

Building climate resilience in Baringo County, Kenya

In 2023, Fórsa awarded a grant of €15,918 to Self Help Africa to support our climate resilience project in Baringo County, Kenya. This was to support seven schools with nutrition and WASH interventions. The funding was used to improve nutrition for households, schools and wider communities. We were able to provide roof water harvesting and storage tanks and also train 60 teachers with this contribution.

The schools nutrition work was complemented for pre-schoolers by household nutrition interventions, with Mother2Mother support groups trained and supported on breastfeeding, dietary diversity, improved incomes through rearing and selling poultry and improved hygiene.



10,000L tank (bought with funding from Fórsa) at Marigut primary school which collects rainwater from new guttering installed around the school roof. The water is collected and a standpipe tap used by the children for washing their hands. The run-off then waters the school garden (centre) which has been planted with a range of nutritious vegetables and fruit.

"I have worked here for 10 years and have noticed a big difference, there is far less absence through sickness like diarrhoea and the children are healthier."

Teacher, Marigut Primary School

Access to safe water for communities in rural Gambia

Self Help Africa received a donation of € 13,996 from Fórsa in October 2022 to improve access to safe water for communities in rural Gambia. It included the rehabilitation of three solar powered water supply schemes in the Central River Region of Gambia. SHA identified that three communities' boreholes (Touba Pakala, Kerr Mod Warr and Ballagharr Tabaworo) had a lack of water due to non-functioning solar. These districts benefited from rehabilitation and complete restoration of the solar schemes which were fully funded by Fórsa.



The borehole rehabilitation project successfully addressed the challenges associated with declining water quality and reduced water yield. The project contributed to the sustainable provision of clean and reliable water for the target area. Thanks to Fórsa, 3,700 people directly benefitted from this project. We prioritised those most in need – pregnant and lactating women to prevent stunting, and the poorest members of the communities. The primary benefit was the decrease in childhood diseases – particularly in children under 5. It also ensured that women and children did not have to take long trips to collect water.



The first picture (left) shows the complete installation of Borehole upgraded with solar powered water pumping, and improved storage, the second image (right) a briefing of water committee members who have caretaker roles to manage and maintain the boreholes.

Self Help Africa is extremely grateful for the continued partnership and support from the Fórsa Developing World Fund. On behalf of the communities we work with – a huge and heartfelt THANK YOU!

Gazan Scholars Fund

South East Technological University (SETU)



Gazan students mental health fund

Wellbeing retreats for Gazan University students in Ireland at Glencree Peace and Reconciliation Centre

In 2024, in response to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, South East Technological University (SETU) welcomed three full-time undergraduate students through a collaboration with the Gazan Scholarship Initiative for Displaced Students (GSI). GSI is a volunteer-based coalition of writers, academics, artists, professionals, and concerned individuals that formed in response to Israel's scholasticide in Gaza.

The collaboration between SETU and GSI expanded SETU's Sanctuary Scholarship that supports access annually to eight refugees and international protection applicants (based in Ireland) through the provision of a fee waiver and an annual stipend. SETU became a designated University of Sanctuary Ireland (UoSI) in 2024 and commits to learning, embedding and sharing UoSI principles that include creating a culture of welcome for refugees and IPAs.

In 2025, SETU, together with Trinity College Dublin, took part in efforts on a sectoral level to share our experience of collaborating with GSI. Multiple higher education institutions in Ireland joined the call to host displaced Gazan scholars. Supported by Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, in April and again in September 2025, more Gazan students arrived in Dublin having been evacuated through Israel, to continue their education in safety. This brought the total number of students from Gaza through the GSI collaboration to six in SETU, and more than 70 nationally. The universities involved meet weekly to share learnings, to manage future student intake, and to discuss evolving issues, one of which concerns the mental health of this cohort.

All the students supported through this wonderful initiative with GSI are adjusting not only to a new country and higher education system, but also to ongoing traumatic stress linked to war, displacement, family separation, and future uncertainty. In 2025, SETU met with and subsequently applied to Fórsa for financial aid to support the mental health and wellbeing of Gazan students, which while crucial to students' capacity to meet the high-stakes, academic demands of their scholarships, is outside the bandwidth of "normal" university counselling services. In this instance, we identified that dedicated trauma-informed supports were needed to complement existing university services and practices.

With support from Fórsa in place, SETU established a Gazan Students Mental-Health Fund Steering Group that began the organisation of two wellbeing weekend retreats for Gazan scholarship students from ten universities around the country. The retreats were facilitated at the Glencree Peace and Reconciliation Centre, which has been bringing individuals and groups impacted by conflict together in a quiet, strong space, surrounded by nature and steeped in history. In this safe, nurturing hub, connections are made, knowledge is shared and relationships are re-humanised.

Two three-day retreats took place in February 2026 for 40 Gazan students, supported by nine volunteers from South East Technological University (SETU), Trinity College Dublin and GSI.



Impact

The retreats were offered to all Gazan students in the sectoral partnership, and the 40 Gazan students who signed up to take part from seven universities across Ireland were brought to the Wicklow mountains on private coaches. The weekends combined structured wellbeing workshops with time for rest, shared meals, and peer connection. The facilitation expertise provided by Glenree in the form of workshops, together with attractive residential accommodation at Knockree Eco Hostel, and quality Halal catering, provided a calm and conducive environment to stepping back from academic demands and engaging in wellbeing activities.

Crucially, the Gazan Students Mental-Health Fund enabled students to access a form of support that would not otherwise have been available to them through typical university structures. It also recognised that student success is shaped not only by fee waivers, living expenses and student accommodation, but is underpinned by the ability to study, which can be dependent on the ability to manage and relieve stress and ongoing trauma.

From the initial feedback gathered by SETU, which will inform the development of future initiatives with our university colleagues sectorally, we found the following:

- Students reported feeling more grounded and relaxed following the retreats.
- 84% respondents felt that they left with a practical stress-management technique.
- 100% of participants expressed a desire for another retreat.
- 92% respondents requested a follow-up workshop for practical stress-tools.

Significantly, the retreats also strengthened collaboration between our institutions of higher education as we work together to support the integration of our Gazan scholars into their new life in Ireland.

We thank Fórsa for their generous donation as we strive to provide these students with the support they need to not only cope but thrive.



23 students attended the female retreat in February 2026.



17 students attended the male retreat in February 2026.

Schools and Health Foundation



Schools and Health Foundation, an Irish foundation committed to improving education and health in Africa, has benefitted greatly from the support of Fórsa, and the union's Developing World Fund.

To date, the partnership has delivered school blocks in Rothana and Rogballan Madina, two poor remote communities in Sierra Leone.

With the help of a grant of €25,000 from Fórsa, Rothana received a school, teacher housing and clean water.

On 13 July 2023 a new school block was opened in Tukuyu, a small poor community in northern Malawi.

The total cost was €32,000, and €20,000 of this was funded by Fórsa's Developing World Fund.

At the opening ceremony the head teacher thanked Fórsa and Schools and Health Foundation, and said "this gift will go a long way, generation after generation."



Rothana school opening.

Another Forsa contribution to education in Africa was in Kalama community in Malawi where a contribution of €25,000 enabled SHF build a school block.

The opening ceremony on 30th Nov 2024 was attended by around 600 happy members of the community.

Housing for teachers in Rogballan Madina, Sierra Leone will be completed and opened at Easter 2026. It was mostly funded by a Fórsa grant of €25,000.

A school pupil spoke to the importance of the new school block. "Receiving this classroom block means much more to me than just a simple object. It represents new possibilities, growth, and endless opportunities for learning. It symbolises a place where imagination can soar, where friendship can be built and where knowledge can be gained," they said.



A student spoke to the importance of the new school block in Rogballan Madina, Sierra Leone.



Project overview

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains one of the most severe threats to women and girls in South Africa. Communities in Cape Town's townships continue to experience high levels of violence, including sexual abuse, gang violence, and gender-based violence that disproportionately affects adolescent girls.

With support from Fórsa, UNICEF partnered with the award-winning NGO Justice Desk Africa to implement the "Empowering Girl Survivors of Gender-Based Violence" initiative. The project seeks to strengthen resilience among girl survivors of GBV, promote positive masculinity among boys, and empower youth leaders to advocate for safer communities.



Empowering girl survivors of Gender-Based Violence.

Key activities implemented

The programme is on track and has made strong progress in its KPIs by reaching young people, building youth leadership structures in schools, and fostering dialogue around violence prevention and gender equality.

Among three outcomes, the Youth Ambassador programme has achieved particularly strong outreach, with its annual conference. See video the end of this progress report.

Outcome 1: Strengthened resilience and leadership among girl survivors of GBV

The programme is reaching 90 young GBV survivors, equipping them with the skills to advocate for safer communities and support peers in navigating trauma recovery.

Since the start of the 2026 academic year, UNICEF has supported the development of a structured facilitators' manual for the Mbokodo (Rock) programme. This programme combines psychological support, human rights education, and leadership development, enabling survivors to transform their experiences into a platform for community change.

Outcome 2: Increased knowledge and positive behaviours among boys

The programme engaged 90 adolescent boys, building their life skills and equipping them with knowledge and practical tools to reduce GBV among their peers and within their communities.

Recognising that prevention of GBV requires addressing harmful gender norms, the programme also engages adolescent boys through workshops and dialogue sessions through its "Pillar of Hope" programme. These sessions encourage boys to critically reflect societal expectations of positive masculinity, develop empathy, and adopt positive behaviours that promote respect and gender equality,

Similar to the Mbokodo programme, UNICEF is supporting the development of a structured facilitators' manual for this programme to strengthen its delivery and scale anti-violence campaign activities.

Outcome 3: Strengthened youth leadership and peer-to-peer advocacy

The programme is training 160 Youth Ambassadors as anti-GBV advocates, with a projected reach of at least 1,600 young people through youth-led initiatives.

A core component of the programme is the development of youth leadership through Youth Ambassadors and Justice Desk Africa Justice Clubs in participating schools through peer-to-peer model. UNICEF has also mobilised additional funding to strengthen the outreach and the coverage of the Youth Ambassador initiative. A notable achievement of these clubs in participating schools to engage young people broadly. These clubs collaborated closely with the Representative Council of Learners (RCLs). During the reporting period, 30 Justice Clubs were successfully established in participating schools, and over 9,000 learners were reached through school-based training and advocacy activities by youth ambassadors.

Please see this video produced by UNICEF https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EVe9nI9j_Q



Rooted in the values of solidarity and justice, the Fórsa Developing World Fund has long partnered with Vita Impact, an Irish international development organisation, to implement programmes in Ethiopia that are aimed at transforming the lives of rural communities through decent income opportunities, strengthened community enterprises and skills training.

Funded through Fórsa's Developing World Fund, this six-year partnership has reached more than 70,000 people in Ethiopia – a testament to what collective solidarity can achieve. Below is a summary of some of the programmes that have been supported.

Potato farmer groups training and support

Farmers have been trained in modern production techniques including quality potato seed multiplication, harvest and storage, access to markets, business literacy skills and good governance – the building blocks of a more equitable rural economy.

The impact of the programme has been strengthened enterprise growth among seed producers and increased availability of quality potatoes at the local market. This means more farmers can plant healthy yielding seeds which translates into increased yield, whose success can be witnessed from the successful integration of potatoes into local Ethiopian diets.

The programme has increased farmers yields from less than ten tonnes per hectare to 28 tonnes, directly increasing income and food security.



Seed potato storage

Support towards construction of diffused light storage systems. This simple yet intelligent technology helps farmers store seed potatoes in thin layers on shelves in natural, diffused (indirect) light with good ventilation. This increases potatoes resistance to pests, allows the farmer to store the crop for longer periods and reduces sprouting. Proper storage further helps farmers use their own seed potatoes for planting, avoiding the high costs of commercial seed at planting time.

Women's cookstove co-operatives

The programme supports women cookstove producers to make improved fuel efficient cookstoves, providing decent livelihoods and real financial independence. Women are organising collectively, earning their own income and gaining a stronger voice in their communities.

The stoves have the following benefits:

- Use 65% less fuel compared to traditional ones, reduces the amount of fuel and time needed to collect firewood from distant forest.

- The produce less smoke, reduced respiratory infection especially among women and children as they spend the most time in the kitchen.
- Safer to use compared to traditional stoves, they are designed to contain the flames. This not only makes them more heat efficient but also reduce burns.

The stoves programme is complemented by a community-led forestry programme which aims to reforest areas in southern Ethiopia which have been severely depleted due to the high demand for cooking fuel. The woodlots are cleverly selected in areas that allow farmers to add beehives underneath the trees – an added nutritional and food security layer of the programme, which also provides beekeepers with an extra source of income.

Poultry programme

For many women in rural Ethiopia, small-scale poultry rearing has long been considered a domestic task rather than a source of meaningful income. The programme set out to change that. Working with groups of women in villages across South Gonder and Gamo Zones, Vita Impact provided each participant with improved breed chicks, feed and the materials to build a small chicken house on their homestead. Alongside the practical inputs, women received training in poultry management, financial literacy and cooperative business skills- equipping them not just to raise chickens, but to run a sustainable enterprise.

The results have been quietly transformative. Women are now collecting between 37 and 46 eggs per week, generating a monthly income of up to 1,000 Ethiopian Birr. By pooling savings through village savings and loans groups, women have been able to invest in sheep, purchase additional land, buy a cow etc — assets that were previously far out of reach.

Two women tell their stories of clean cooking and new opportunities

Meslech Choea is a member of a women-led cookstoves co-operative. Just a few kilometres away lives Felakech Girma, a mother of four who recently received two improved stoves for her household. Their stories illustrate how Vita Impacts programme supported by Fórsa's Developing World Fund tackles challenges linked to traditional three-stone fire cooking: poor health, environmental degradation and the heavy time burden placed on women and girls.

Before the project, Meslech's days were dominated by unpaid domestic labour and seasonal farm work with little income. Like most women in her community, she relied on firewood collected from increasingly distant forests. When Vita Impact introduced Community-Led Total Stoves workshops in her village, Meslech was encouraged to take part in the women-led stove production co-operative.

Today, she spends four days a week along with other women producing fuel-efficient cookstoves distributed to households across the target area, including Felakech's.

For Felakech, the change is felt immediately. Previously, thick smoke filled her kitchen daily, causing persistent coughing and eye irritation, while her youngest child inhaled nearby fumes. Since receiving the improved stoves, the air is noticeably clearer and respiratory problems have reduced significantly.

Crucially, the stoves programme provides women a gift of time. With reduced time needed to collect firewood, women and girls now have time to rest, socialise or engage in economic or civic activities – a small but profound shift in the balance of power in their daily lives. The stoves further contribute to climate action as they reduce by 65% the amount of fuel needed when compared to traditional open fire stoves.



Felakech Girma.



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