development dp perspectives

DEVELOPMENT PERSPECTIVES

OUR STRATEGIC GOALS 2024 -2028

See the World Differently

VISION
To live in an equitable, just and sustainable world.

MISSION
To tackle the root causes of poverty, inequality and climate change through transformative education and active global citizenship.

PURPOSE
To explore perspectives, narratives and stories about development. We catalyse informed, impactful action.



VALUES

Courage: Bravery in Action

Honesty: Expose Root Causes

Justice: Equality for all

Connection: Reciprocal Care for People and the Planet

BELIEFS

We believe in challenging global injustices through a diversity of perspectives and actions.

We believe in the interdependence of humanity and its connection with the environment.

We believe in collective responsibility and partnerships.

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OUR STORY

Development Perspectives (DP) was founded in Drogheda, Ireland, in 2006 by co-founders Mog Downey and Bobby McCormack, whose determination to confront injustice, inequality and environmental harm inspired the organisation's beginnings.

Following a visit to Sri Lanka in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami, they came to an important realisation: they had just as much to learn from the resilience, culture and lived experiences of the communities they visited as they had ever hoped to contribute. This shift in perspective became the foundation of Development Perspectives.

From this experience, DP emerged as a platform for social justice, transformative education and the celebration of diverse perspectives, encouraging people to see the world differently.

DP's story is not simply the story of one organisation. It is a collective journey, shaped by the hundreds of individuals, communities and partners who have contributed to its growth and impact over the years. At its core, DP exists to support people in exploring, understanding, questioning and taking action towards a more just, equitable and sustainable world.

For over two decades, DP has worked across Ireland to deliver innovative Global Citizenship Education programmes. Today, the organisation employs 17 staff members and collaborates with a wide network of partners, including Irish organisations such as Concern Worldwide, Trócaire and IDEA, as well as international partners including DEN-L in Liberia, Uvikiuta in Tanzania and CSDS in Vietnam.

OUR CULTURE

Development Perspectives' culture is about creating an environment where people can develop, thrive and contribute to the organisation's overall goals. Our culture is shaped by our values: courage, honesty, justice and connection, and a shared commitment to living the values we advocate for. Together, these values encourage continuous growth, openness to different perspectives, flexibility, new thinking and creative problem-solving.

OUR CALL TO ACTION

We live in an ever changing, interdependent and unequal world. Issues of poverty, widening inequality and climate change are increasingly having negative impacts on marginalised populations. We believe that informed and engaged citizens are best placed to address these complex social, economic and environmental issues. Development Perspectives provides transformative education opportunities, encouraging individuals and communities to explore, understand, challenge, and act. Join us to make the world a better place.

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TRANSFORMATIONAL GOALS

Build Just, Equitable & Inclusive Communities

What this mean to us:
Global justice, equality and inclusive narratives and stories and their associated values become more dominant in our communities.

How we will achieve it:

- Resource and facilitate the capacity development of strategic education and development sector stakeholders and multipliers.
- Facilitate, support and contribute to global justice, equality and inclusion communities of practice.
- Generate and amplify narratives and stories, which catalyse justice, equality and inclusion.
- Develop and disseminate educational materials and resources, which focus on Global justice, Inclusion and equality.
- Nourish and incubate the leadership potential and capacity of Global Justice, equality and inclusion advocates.
- Build inclusive communities locally and nationally through increasing social capital.

Implement & Embed Global Citizenship Education

What this mean to us:
The power and potential of Global Citizenship Education (GCE) is embraced, embedded and implemented across the Adult and Community Education (ACE) and development sector.

How we will achieve it:

- Increased accessibility, quality and effectiveness of GCE within the Adult and Community Education (ACE) sector in Ireland.
- Play an active and leading part in the GCE Ecosystem (Policy and practice) at a national and international level.
- Design and implement high-quality GCE opportunities for adult learners who are key multipliers and stakeholders in Ireland and abroad with partners.
- Develop GCE resources, materials and modules that can be used in formal and non-formal educational settings.
- Embed GCE into development projects and programmes in selected geographical (overseas) areas.
- Develop an advocacy plan and build advocacy capacity within and for DP.

Achieve Sustainable Development.

What this mean to us:
Sustainable development is the dominant model and theory of development that is practiced in Ireland.

How we will achieve it:

- Build the knowledge, understanding, values and capacities of key educational, development and political stakeholders to achieve and implement sustainable development.
- Increase public awareness and understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals in Ireland and with partners internationally.
- Implement Education for Sustainable Development projects across the lifelong learning spectrum.
- Develop and deliver climate action projects on a local and national level.
- Increase awareness, knowledge and understanding of water quality and catchment science.
- Advocate and lobby for delivery of the Governments commitment to .7% for ODA and that 3% of ODA is allocated to GCE.
- Complete policy submissions to Local Authorities to ensure that the SDGs and GCE is integrated into the fabric of County Development Plans and associated documents

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ENABLING GOALS

Learning and Reflection

What this mean to us:
Development Perspectives will maximise the impact of its work in Ireland and internationally through ongoing reflection, evaluation, learning and innovation. We actively and consistently reflect and learn from our own practice and participant's feedback. We encourage critical thinking and use participatory, creative methodologies.

How we will achieve it:

- Cultivate an environment and culture of ongoing curiosity, innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Ongoing Investment and resourcing for continuous professional development is made available
- Support an active network of GCE practitioners critically engaging with efforts to improve our practice.
- Engage in research and innovation projects, activities and networks.
- Implement the IDEA code of good practice for GCE.
- Play an active and leading role in impact measurement nationally and internationally.
- Examine, explore and position Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its use across the organisation

Organisational Capacity

What this mean to us:
Consolidating our recent growth by increasing and diversifying our income, increasing our reserves and retaining talent by investing in our people. We will continue to strengthen our finance, human resource and governance capacities.

How we will achieve it:

- Implement and deliver our fundraising strategy between 2024 and 2028 to meet our objectives of growing unrestricted income and reserves.
- Continue to attract and retain skilled, motivated and empowered staff.
- Conduct an external Governance review in 2025 to identify priorities and recommendations to implement during the strategy cycle.
- Conduct a mid-term Strategy Review in 2026
- Increase HR capacity across the org between 2024 and 2028.
- Support personalized learning and development plans for staff

ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Partnership and Collaboration

What this mean to us:
We will work collaboratively with a diverse set of partners that share our vision in order to maximise reach, impact and influence. We work with others to build knowledge, skills and attitudes for informed action that is collective in nature.

How we will achieve it:

- Nationally, lead the Saolta consortia until the end of 2026 with a view to extending the consortia post 2026 to 2030 and beyond.
- Play an active and leading role in the GCE and Development eco systems in Ireland.
- Nurture existing relationships and partnerships
- Develop a European strategy for 2025 - 2028
- Work with European partners to implement high quality Erasmus+, Horizon Europe and DEAR projects.
- Deepen our relationships with existing international partners (DEN-L in Liberia, Uvikiuta in Tanzania and CSDS in Vietnam) by implementing civil society projects.

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