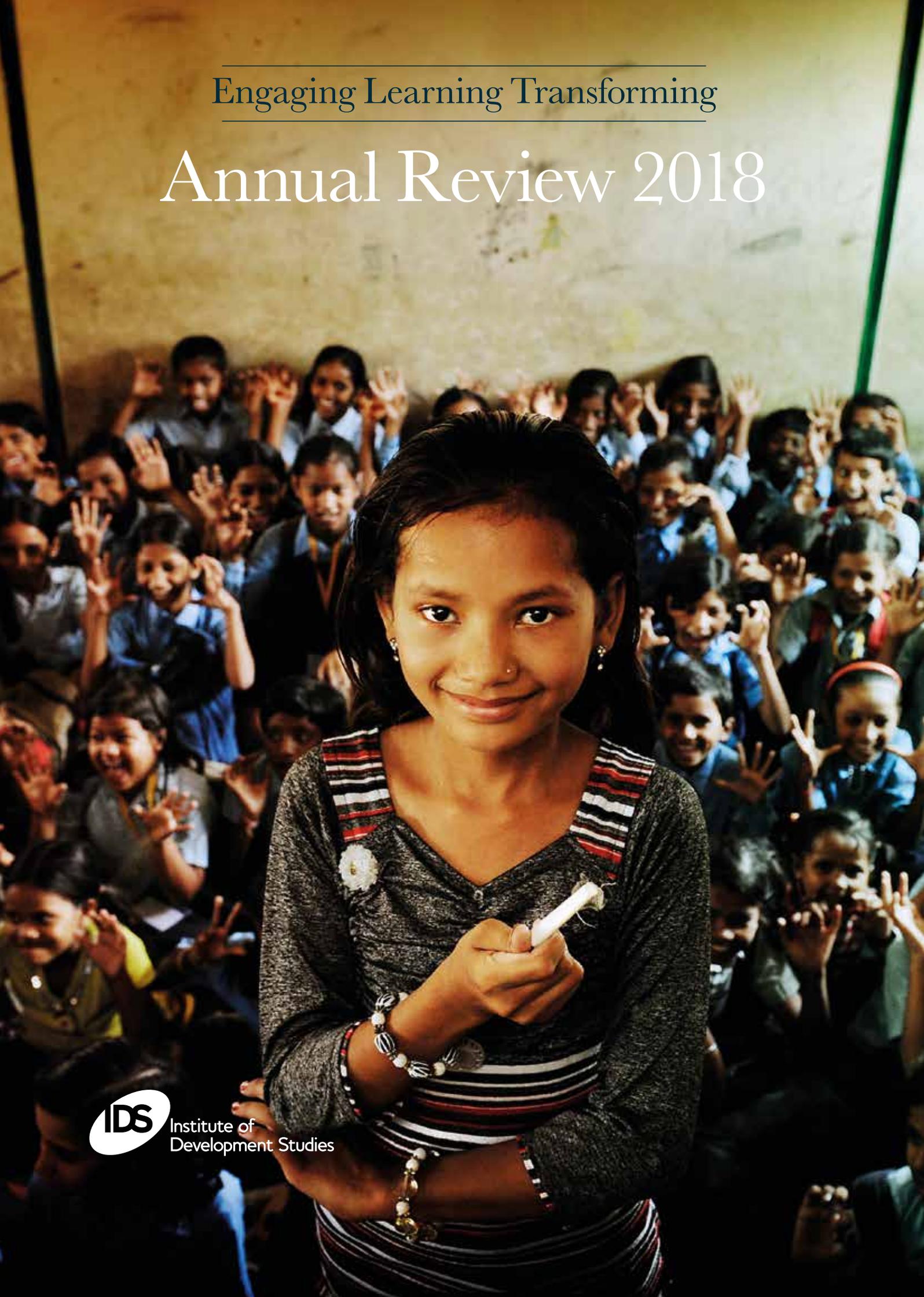


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Engaging Learning Transforming

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# Annual Review 2018





The Institute of Development Studies (IDS) is a global research and learning organisation for equitable and sustainable change.



Photo: Scene from a community engagement play entitled God Ki Delivery which seeks to highlight the need for improved maternity care. Credit: The White Ribbon Alliance.



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Photo: Bangladesh. After enquiring about using fertilizer on his crops, Info Lady Mahfuza answers farmer Nojrul Islam's question by showing him an advice video on her laptop. In rural Bangladesh the Info Ladies are bringing internet services to men and women who need information but don't have the means to access the web. Credit: G.M.B. Akash / Panos

# Director's foreword

The global context for international development over the past year has experienced some important geo-political shifts – such as US and European dynamics in an era of Trump and Brexit, and China's implementation of its Belt and Road infrastructure initiative. The #metoo campaign has shone a welcome spotlight on pervasive gender inequalities and sexual harassment around the world, and development agencies and charities have been called to account on these issues. Our democracies have faced the challenges of authoritarian populism, reduced spaces for civil society, and the 'dark side' of social media.

At IDS we too have negotiated these pressures and responded boldly. It is more vital than ever to nurture lively, open, inclusive debate, to build rigorous evidence, and to track and challenge power relations actively. I'm pleased to introduce the Annual Review 2018, which shows these longstanding features of life and work at IDS to be thriving.

In partnership with the University of Sussex, IDS has retained the number 1 ranking in Development Studies (QS World University Rankings 2017–18) – a position now held for three of the past four years. We have enjoyed record-high postgraduate student numbers, with 275 MA students taking IDS and joint IDS–Sussex degrees, and 13 new PhD researchers. Beyond the classroom, the diverse backgrounds, experiences, skills and sheer enthusiasm of our international students have enriched our thinking, enlivening the whole IDS community. Our Professional Development and Learning activities are expanding, with rising numbers of short course participants and learning partnerships with development agencies.

Our three defining challenges – reducing inequalities, accelerating sustainability and building more inclusive and secure societies – continue to provide a strong matrix for our research. Our work is making a difference to debates, policy and practice in critical areas, as the impact stories here show – from ending child poverty to tackling climate change, sanitation, anti-microbial resistance, and illicit crops. Many other important programmes have reached key stages. Making All Voices Count, concerning the role of digital technology in accountable governance, concluded successfully, with the IDS-led learning and evidence stream acknowledged in an important Market Research Society prize. This paves the way for exciting future work on citizen voice amid digital inequalities. Our major DFID-funded programme on Action for Empowerment and Accountability has started to challenge mainstream views with fascinating evidence on people's accountability struggles in very fragile and conflict-affected settings. The STEPS Centre and its Pathways to Sustainability Consortium was awarded a four-year phase of transition funding from the Economic and Social Research Council, and has embarked on an ambitious set of activities on sustainability transformations and their politics. IDS work on women's economic empowerment under the GROW programme is showing why unpaid care work matters so much and how it can be addressed.

In sum, there is much going on at IDS – a small taster of which is offered here. I hope you find it interesting, and that it inspires you to keep engaging in our work to understand and influence the critical challenges ahead.

**Melissa Leach**  
IDS Director



Photo: IDS Director, Melissa Leach.  
Credit: University of Sussex

# Our strategy and what sets us apart

Our vision is of equal and sustainable societies, locally and globally, where everyone can live secure, fulfilling lives free from poverty and injustice.

## Our goals

1. To contribute to transformations that reduce inequalities, accelerate sustainability and build inclusive, secure societies.
2. To embed engaged excellence across all that we do.
3. To work locally and globally within a universal framing of development.
4. To create an institute that is thriving financially and organisationally, and living its values.

## Engaged excellence

Engaged excellence is IDS' distinctive approach to constructing and sharing knowledge, and to teaching and mutual learning for development.

Engaged excellence means that the quality and impact of our work depends on us collaborating with governments, international NGOs, local civil society, citizens, donors, businesses and many others to achieve positive change, strategically informed by research and knowledge.

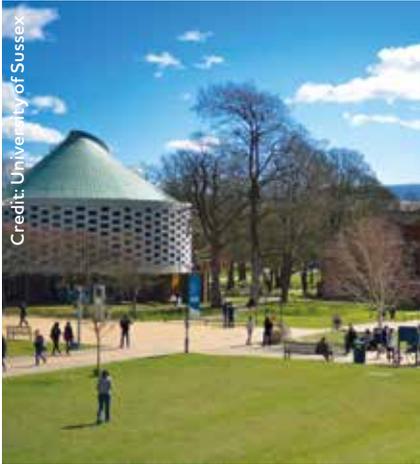
For more about who we are and what we do, see: [www.ids.ac.uk/about](http://www.ids.ac.uk/about)





Photo: Pregnant women from a maternity waiting home in Zimbabwe playing netball as part of self-care exercises. Credit: TJ Maposhere / The White Ribbon Alliance

# Summary of achievements



Credit: University of Sussex

## #1

Development Studies in QS World Rankings 2018



Credit: Paul Smith / Panos

## #4

University affiliated Think Tank in Global Go To Think Tank Index Report 2017



Credit: shutterstock

## #2

International development Think Tank in Global Go To Think Tank Index Report 2017



Credit: STEPS Centre, Flickr

## 94

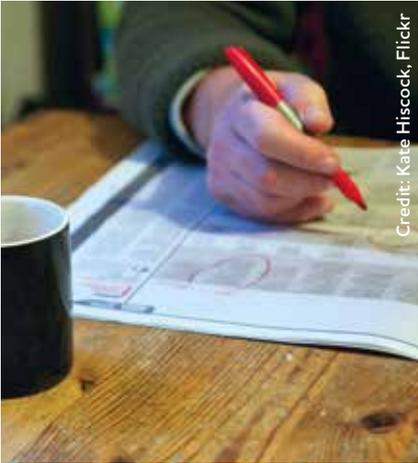
individuals participated in IDS short courses



Credit: IDS, Flickr

## 7

PhD students graduated



Credit: Kae Hiscock, Flickr

## 138

journal articles authored by IDS staff published



Credit: G.M.B. Akash / Panos

23%

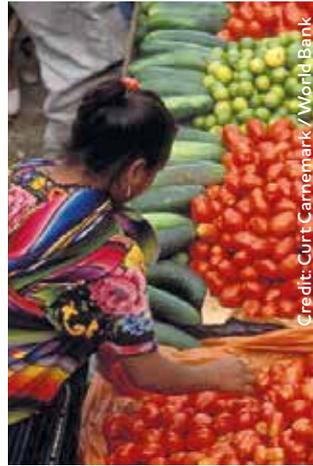
increase in IDS alumni online network members to 864 members



Credit: Trygve Bolstad / Panos

30%

of partners we worked with in 2017-18 were new partnerships

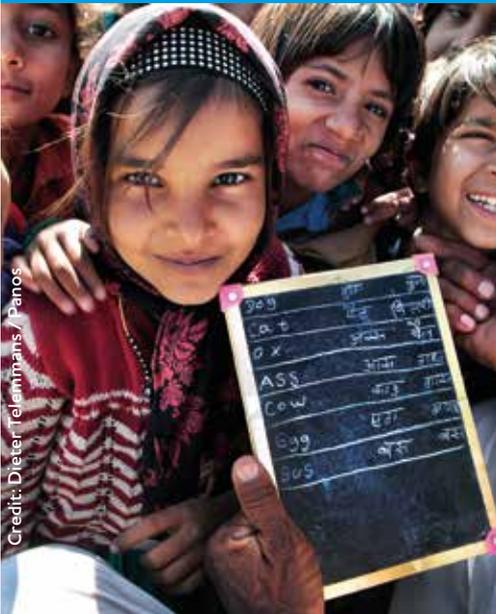


Credit: Curt Carmemark / World Bank

227

active research and knowledge projects

69%  
of all IDS publications co-authored with external partners



Credit: Dieter Telamians / Panos

Honours, awards and appointments

- ★ IDS Director, Melissa Leach, appointed Fellow of the British Academy, and CBE for services to Social Science
- ★ IDS-led Research, Evidence and Learning strand of Making All Voices Count programme recognised by 2017 Market Research Society’s President’s Medal award for extraordinary contribution to society through research
- ★ IDS alum Carlos Alvarado Quesada elected President of Costa Rica
- ★ IDS alum Sosan Aziz shortlisted for British Council Alumni Award in Pakistan’s Social Impact Category
- ★ IDS alum Mamunur Rahman shortlisted for British Council Alumni Award in the South Asia regional Social Impact Category
- ★ The Ebola Response Anthropology Platform won the International Society for Neglected Tropical Diseases award for Community Engagement
- ★ The Achieving Fairer Taxation in Africa project by the IDS-based International Centre for Tax and Development, the Ugandan Revenue Authority and the Rwandan Revenue Authority was shortlisted for the BOND Collaboration Award.

# Teaching and learning

## No. 1 in the world for development studies

In partnership with the University of Sussex, IDS is ranked first in the world for development studies by the QS University Rankings. The QS World Ranking reflects the strong academic reputation and quality of research across IDS and the University.



## Learning in a world-class research environment

IDS is home to some of the world's leading thinkers on development. Those teaching our masters degrees are all active in the field, working on high-level research programmes funded by major development agencies and philanthropic organisations.

We see teaching as an extension of our unique 'engaged excellence' approach – a way of working with individuals and organisations from across the globe aspiring to bring about progressive change.

## Supporting IDS scholars from the Global South

IDS recently received a substantial boost to the IDS scholarship fund from one of our postgraduate alums. The extremely generous pledge of £260,000 has been combined with funds from other sources enabling us to offer up to six scholarships to encourage high-achieving scholars from the Global South to study for a master's degree starting in 2018. The Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust and the Albertina Scholarship Fund have jointly endowed five of these scholarships; a sixth has also been partly supported by a generous bequest from the estate of Sir Hans Singer. The scholarships are available to international students from lower- or middle-income countries and priority will be given to students who have the greatest potential to make a difference in their home countries after completing the degree.

## Helping to build careers for lasting change

We're really proud of our graduates, many of whom go on to work as ministers in national governments, as high-level officials in development organisations such as UNDP and the World Bank, civil servants, leaders of civil society organisations including ActionAid and Mama Cash, and high-profile academics at universities across the world. This year, we were thrilled to see IDS alum Carlos Alvarado Quesada elected President of Costa Rica. No matter what level they are working at, all our graduates are striving to define and solve some of the world's most pressing global challenges.

*"What a year! Studying at IDS made me see why it is the first-ranking institute in development studies as it gives you a holistic approach to navigate the complexity of our challenging world. At IDS, I had the chance to meet dedicated and passionate people from all over the world. With them and with their commitment, I know that we will contribute to making a just world for everyone."*  
Yasmine Zeid, MA Participation, Power and Social Change graduate 2017

### Postgraduate courses

- MA Development Studies
- MA Food and Development
- MA Gender and Development
- MA Globalisation, Business and Development
- MA Governance, Development and Public Policy
- MA Poverty and Development
- MA Power, Participation and Social Change
- MSc Climate Change, Development and Policy
- PhD by Research

For more information visit: [www.ids.ac.uk/study](http://www.ids.ac.uk/study)



Photo: Postgraduate students attend a seminar.  
Credit: University of Sussex

# Professional development



In addition to its postgraduate teaching programme, IDS has a long history of providing products and services that enhance mutual learning, and strengthen the capacity and capabilities of development professionals, projects and partner organisations to bring about transformative change.

Our portfolio includes residential ‘short courses’ on a range of critical development issues, hosted at IDS or by partners, as well as online and blended learning packages.

It also includes bespoke activities such as reading weeks, learning retreats and ‘learning journeys’. Learning journeys offer professionals an opportunity to engage in a combination of training sessions and workshops around their particular field of interest, and to integrate time for peer support and reflection.

Some of our learning activities are embedded within our research and knowledge projects. All our learning activities are delivered by leaders in their various fields of expertise, and reflect our ongoing commitment to mutual learning and collaboration.

Photo: Students of the STEPS Centre Summer School take part in a walking workshop.

## Highlights of our professional development and learning activities in 2017–2018

**Short courses (UK).** In June 2017, 30 participants attended the five-day training course Social Protection: Policies, Programmes and Evidence, hosted at IDS. Led by researchers from the IDS Centre for Social Protection, the course focuses on approaches to social protection, how to design and implement effective social protection programmes and evidence of what works in social protection. (See our impact stories on page 16.)

**Short courses (non-UK/international).** The applied Multi-Methods Research Course for the Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR) provides professional training on research and methods to early- and mid-career university faculty and researchers in Africa to help them to produce more rigorous research on policy issues. The professional development and training programme, which began in 2011, is now entirely managed, designed and delivered by programme alumni.

**Summer schools.** In May 2017 IDS hosted 45 students from 23 countries over two weeks for the annual STEPS Summer School on Pathways to Sustainability. Through a mix of lectures, discussions, walks and a unique ‘conference’ devised by the participants, the summer school gathered together researchers interested in how to analyse and mobilise for sustainability.

**E-learning.** IDS held the twelfth and final session of its free e-learning courses (on Governance, Stereotypes and Masculinities themes) tailored for Nigerian professionals, for the DFID-funded Voices for Change, Nigeria programme. At the end, nearly 3,000 completion certificates were shared with course completers via the Gender Hub platform.

**Learning journeys.** As well as the learning journeys provided as part of the Knowledge for Development programme, IDS has also provided similar support during 2017–18 for the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) via its Democratisation, Decentralisation and Local Governance Network (DDLGN) and its Quality Assurance and Poverty Reduction section. (See our impact story on page 16.)

**Programme learning.** Making All Voices Count was a large multi-donor-funded programme promoting citizen voice and government responsiveness, mainly through innovation grants. Its Research, Evidence and Learning component ran a wide range of learning activities and outputs for grantees and researchers, including applied learning events, field trips, research mentoring and practitioner learning grants.

Contact us via our website for more information or if you would like to discuss your learning needs: [www.ids.ac.uk/professionaldevelopment](http://www.ids.ac.uk/professionaldevelopment)

# Professional development and learning impact

## Shaping UK development policies on SDGs, population and fertility

IDS leads the consortium implementing the Knowledge for Development (K4D) programme, which provides a rapid response research synthesis helpdesk service, as well as learning support (through activities and products) for several hundred professional advisers at DFID. At the end of its first full year of implementation, the programme had delivered more than 260 helpdesk reports in response to requests from DFID advisers on a range of topics; and initiated or completed 16 learning journeys on a range of cutting edge global themes, including ‘leave no one behind’, improving data systems, gender, scaling up complex social change programmes, and delivering essential services in protracted crises. One learning journey involved supporting DFID staff to explore the impact of population dynamics on development, and has been instrumental in shaping a new Africa strategy, introducing revised, country-based

diagnostic approaches, and in informing a new fertility and population strategy. K4D has also provided learning support to two ‘leave no one behind’ DFID professional development conferences, representing engagement with over 250 advisers across a range of four professional cadres.

## Building capacity and growing networks with global leaders in nutrition

In July 2017, for the sixth consecutive year, we ran our Transform Nutrition: Ideas, Policies and Outcomes short course. Over the past year, the course and the growing global network around it have helped to build participants’ capacity and ability to influence change.

Participants have come primarily from Transform Nutrition’s four focal countries (Bangladesh, India, Ethiopia, Kenya), plus Tanzania and Nigeria, and have included senior civil servants, civil society partners, NGO workers, practitioners and activists.

*“The course was really useful for me in this respect as it gave me the ‘nuts and bolts’ of everything I needed to know about nutrition for my new role at the World Bank. This knowledge is with me while I am working, making decisions or giving advice. For example, I have used the knowledge from the course while I have been designing a \$26 million health governance and nutrition development project in Laos, which was recently awarded the World Bank Vice-Presidential Award.”*  
Course participant from the World Bank in South Asia



The course has been consistently well received with many participants going on to build lasting connections with both their peers and the Transform Nutrition programme and researchers. Last year an evaluation of the course showed that all of those surveyed would recommend the course to a colleague. Some alumni have sought to adapt and offer the course in their own locations.

The five-day course is for both policymakers and practitioners and aims to provide a base from which participants can become future leaders for transformational change in nutrition. It plays a vital role in exposing leaders to nutrition research, placing this IDS offering in a key position to have conceptual impact in this area. It also teaches practical approaches for putting evidence into use at local and national levels, with the potential for learning to feed into policy discussions and debates.

Through this course, participants have joined a growing network of nutrition leaders and champions, working across a range of sectors, made up of previous cohorts of the course and other key stakeholders. This network now numbers more than 173 individuals, including 123 global leaders who participated in the UK summer school and another 50 from the same course run in India. Tailored versions of the course held in India for District Nutrition Officers (Bihar) and practitioners (Karnataka) have contributed to regional capacity building. As a result of this approach, participants on the 2017 course indicated several examples where the short course has influenced changes in practice, including to organisational policy and procedures as well as government policy.

*“Tanzania strategically supported participation of key decision makers to the course, especially from the Prime Minister’s Office and President’s Office, in order to improve their understanding of nutrition. This has contributed to laying the basis for the development of the National Multisectoral Nutrition Action Plan 2016–21.”*  
 Course participant from UNICEF, Tanzania



Illustration: Jorge Martin



Photo: Women brickworkers' hands, Bangladesh.  
Credit: Trygve Bolstad / Panos

# Partnerships

Partnerships are fundamental to our work. Our partners value our academic rigour, global reach and engaged approach. Together we deliver high-quality research and mobilise evidence for impact worldwide.

We work with governments, academia, civil society organisations, citizens, donors, businesses and many others who share common goals and values. Together we work to generate and share the research and knowledge needed to tackle some of the world's most pressing global challenges.

Over the past year we have both strengthened longstanding strategic partnerships and created many new ones.

**229 Research,  
knowledge and  
funding partners**

**(101 Southern and  
128 Northern)**

## **Strengthening longstanding partnerships for academic exchange and intellectual leadership**

In August 2017 IDS signed a memorandum of understanding with an existing collaborator, the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague. IDS shares a common commitment with ISS to tackle social and political challenges through interdisciplinary scholarship. The Emancipatory Rural Politics Initiative (ERPI) is an intellectual partnership between IDS/STEPS Centre and ISS, along with PLAAS (South Africa), CUNY/Cornell (US) and the Transnational Institute. It emerged as a response to the rise of authoritarian populism across the world.

In the past year ERPI published its framing paper in the *Journal of Peasant Studies*, launched a small grants call and published a series of articles with openDemocracy. In March 2018, ISS hosted a global event linking nearly 300 researchers and activists to advance the intellectual dialogue on alternatives to authoritarian politics in rural areas.

### Creating new relationships to extend our global partner network

Through the award-winning Making All Voices Count programme, IDS worked across 13 countries to support both known and new partners to conduct crucial research on citizen voice and government responsiveness. One new partnership in Indonesia was with PATTIRO – a leading organisation for research, policy advocacy, technical assistance and model development for public service and community participation.

*“We are happy to work with IDS. IDS provided technical assistance during the research by reviewing our instruments and in discussions with IDS alumni and staff in finalising our report. It is very useful to learn and improve our research skills. Hopefully, there will be another opportunity to work and collaborate in the future.”*

*Maya Rostanty, Director of PATTIRO*

### Partnering with donors to help shape research agendas

IDS partners with donors to build deeper understanding of development challenges and to shape research agendas from the outset. Our partnering to understand included projects with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation to enhance decentralised and democratic local governance, and with the World Food Programme to capture and share successful work on gender mainstreaming.

*“As a funder, the conventional path is to put out a call, and select among responses. A more fulfilling approach, however, is to work with actors in the field to co-develop thinking early on. IDS has been just that kind of partner – taking our interests as their own, and making our work richer in the concept stage. We value not only IDS’s world-leading expertise and global network, but its deftness and insight as a collaborative thought-partner.”*

*Sean Hinton, Director of the Open Society Economic Advancement Program and CEO of the Soros Economic Development Fund*

# Building our global presence through our alumni network

IDS invests in building relationships with our alumni that support life-long learning and that strengthen our global connectivity. Our 3,200-plus alumni are concentrated in a number of cities and countries, supporting IDS to build stronger and deeper global connections and new alliances for the future. In Indonesia for example, our alumni network organised a roundtable

event with new partners PATTIRO to share their research. In Brazil they facilitated a new institutional link with the National School of Public Administration (ENAP). In Mexico they connected IDS researchers working on humanitarian learning to local experts, as a result developing vital training materials to support more effective humanitarian response.

## Alumni hot spots



Building our global presence through our alumni network

# Research and knowledge impact

With partners, IDS seeks to generate and share the research and knowledge needed to tackle the world's most pressing global challenges – to reduce inequalities, accelerate sustainability and build more inclusive and secure societies.

Over the past year we have done this in a number of ways – from ensuring that evidence informs international efforts to end child poverty to shaping new policy approaches to the war on drugs in Colombia. Our impact has been demonstrated through policy and practice change, shifts in debates and attitudes, and strengthened networks and partnerships.

## Universal framing of development

The ambition to realise the truly universal framing for development, as set out in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), continues to drive IDS' work. Challenges such as growing inequalities or antimicrobial resistance affect all citizens, irrespective of where they live, albeit in very different ways. These challenges require a global response informed by evidence of what works in different contexts and why, and by the changing nature of the partnerships that can help deliver the transformations needed.

A recent IDS Bulletin brought together a wide range of universal development research at IDS, showcasing its contemporary significance in the context of implementing the SDGs. Several articles provided analysis on tackling poverty and social exclusion in the UK and USA as well as in countries such as Mexico and Nigeria. Through the Centre for Rising Powers' global network IDS has also joined discussions on the relationship between Africa and the G20 countries. In 2017 the Centre was invited to become a member of the Think20 Africa Standing Group that informed the G20 process, and was awarded a medal for its contribution.

Photo: A woman stands among racks of drying coffee beans in a cooperative in the village of Jimmate, Ethiopia.  
Credit: Graeme Williams / Panos





# Reducing inequalities

Inequality and why it matters is now firmly at the centre of research and policy agendas. Inequalities exist in all areas – from unevenly shared wealth to discrimination on the basis of gender or against those at society’s margins. At IDS, we contribute to reducing inequalities by providing and sharing new knowledge and evidence to identify their underlying causes, and identify shifts in policy and action that can drive transformative change.

Inequality causes inefficiency and harms societies – a foundational argument elaborated in one of our key outputs: an important framing paper *Inequality: Trends, Harms and New Agendas*, which helped set the tone for further high-impact work this year. This includes our contribution to the *World Social Science Report*; participation in the 61st session of the *Commission on the Status of Women*, in New York; and the final synthesis report for the *Life in a Time of Food Price Volatility* project.



Photo: High rise, low cost housing in Kuala Lumpur. Credit: Anna Tatti (Tati@ on Flickr)

# Making research evidence central to the global movement to end child poverty

IDS is committed to putting research evidence at the heart of efforts to influence policy and practice. In 2017, this commitment could be seen in IDS' active membership of the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty and in the impacts that followed.

Through partnership working, IDS successfully influenced key coalition members to make research evidence central to their messaging on and approaches to ending child poverty as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The highpoint of activities with the coalition in 2017 was a dynamic conference in October in Addis Ababa – Putting Children First: identifying solutions and taking action to tackle poverty and inequality in Africa. Around 200 delegates attended the event, co-organised by the coalition members including UNICEF, Save the Children and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) – as well as IDS and the ESRC–DFID Impact Initiative for International Development Research.

The pan-African conference was the culmination of months of groundwork by both IDS and the Impact Initiative, with the impetus coming from an IDS-hosted research day involving INGO campaigners and academics in November 2016.

Much of IDS' active involvement in the Global Coalition since its inception in 2014 has been through the work of Keetie Roelen, who was one of the primary initiators, organisers and leaders of the Putting Children First conference.

## Praise and excitement

The conference's aim was to offer a platform for bridging divides across sectors, disciplines, policy, practice and research, and an opportunity to building lasting relationships among coalition members, academics, policy actors and donors. Judging by the comments from one senior INGO representative, struck by the 'level of excitement and engagement' among delegates, the event was a resounding success.

Further praise and evidence of the conference's impact came from Saurabh Sinha of UNECA's Social Development Policy Division. He noted how the 'whole tenor of the conference has provided an additional dimension that we would have missed – the issue of child poverty in inequality. It has also helped to sharpen our messaging when we work with member states.'

During the conference, the Impact Initiative facilitated video conversations so that social scientists could interview senior policy actors and practitioners from UN agencies, the World Health Organization, the Department for International Development, INGOs and the Ethiopian Government about their use of evidence. For some participants, it offered the first opportunity to speak directly to key government and international officials and leading child poverty researchers.

For co-organiser Richard Morgan from Save the Children, the conference 'uncovered research on key issues around children in poverty that we wouldn't otherwise have been aware of, providing a platform and spotlight for Africa-related and -based research'.



# Working to align policy on antimicrobial resistance and universal health coverage

Antimicrobial resistance and universal health coverage both dominate global health debates but far too little attention is paid to the links between them. IDS' Health and Nutrition cluster is making influential contributions to integrate the two agendas, globally and regionally, through workshops, publications and meetings.

World leaders have declared antimicrobial resistance (AMR) to be a global crisis. They have also, as part of the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted universal health coverage (UHC) as a key target. But, as IDS' Dr Gerry Bloom argued in a widely disseminated 2017 paper for BMJ Global Health, neither ambition is achievable in isolation from the other.

Although research into antibiotic resistance surveillance is welcome, more action is needed to ensure that people get effective treatment for common infections to help reduce the risk of resistant organisms emerging.

The expertise of the IDS Health and Nutrition cluster on this topic has been sought nationally and internationally during 2017. The World Health Organization's Western Pacific Region Office (WPRO) approached and funded Dr Bloom to present at a workshop convened by WPRO and the Asian Development Bank at the high-level Tokyo UHC Forum hosted by the Government of Japan.

Since then, the Government of Japan, through the Asia-Europe Foundation

(ASEF), has commissioned IDS to design and facilitate a high-level meeting on UHC and on combating infectious diseases, hosted in Tokyo by ASEF and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

## Longstanding expertise

Members of IDS' Health and Nutrition cluster have for some time argued for greater alignment of the two policy agendas, so that antimicrobial resistance does not undermine efforts to achieve universal health coverage.

In 2016, the WPRO commissioned and funded an IDS team led by Dr Bloom to produce a background document on integrating concern for AMR in UHC. The briefing was used in technical discussions at two key regional meetings – the Tokyo Meeting of Health Ministers on Antimicrobial Resistance in Asia, and the Bi-regional Technical Consultation on Antimicrobial Resistance in Asia. The briefing was well received and several of its recommendations fed into actions advocated in the report issued by WPRO after both meetings.

Partnership working on this area is vital, and IDS has enjoyed fruitful partnerships throughout the work on UHC – in particular with WPRO, ASEF, the Government of Japan, and ITAD as the lead partner in the evaluation of the UK Fleming Fund and a member of the DFID-funded Future Health Systems programme.

Photo: A pharmacist prepares medicines using a pestle and mortar at a pharmacy in Penang, Malaysia. Credit: Fred de Noyelle / Godong / Panos



Reducing inequalities, impact case study

# Accelerating sustainability

The challenge of accelerating sustainability defines our era. Climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss and land degradation are widely accepted as linked. Much is now known about the problems they cause – much less about how to tackle them in a way that does not undermine people’s rights and livelihoods.

At IDS, our research focuses on how to achieve urgently needed transformations towards sustainability, through engaging with the diverse perspectives of citizens, markets, states, technologies and businesses. Substantial work undertaken this year includes Green Growth Diagnostics; IDS–IFPRI collaboration on modelling of pathways to sustainable agriculture; and a highly productive year for the STEPS Centre.

Photo: Sri Lanka, Badulla  
Thakshila Priyadarshani Dissanayake,  
a student of the Internet School for  
Farmers (ISFF), attends her organic  
garden outside her mother’s home.  
Credit: James Morgan / Panos



# More funding for prize-winning STEPS Centre's sustainability work

The STEPS Centre, co-hosted by IDS and the Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) at the University of Sussex, has been awarded another four years of 'transition funding' in recognition of the value and impact of its work in helping to shape climate and sustainability policy processes.

The UK's Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), which has funded the STEPS Centre from the outset, awarded the additional 'transition funding' in January 2018. The new funding enables the prize-winning centre to focus on alliances between scholars and activists on sustainability issues through events and learning activities linked to research.

The new funding comes as STEPS begins its second decade of activity and looks back on a fruitful first phase (2007–17) characterised by important long-term partnerships – notably with the African Centre for Technology Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, the Stockholm Resilience Centre, Beijing Normal University, Arizona State University and Fundación CENIT, Argentina.

Contributions to climate change and sustainability processes in Africa and Asia have been led by the six hubs that make up the STEPS Global Consortium, based in leading academic institutes in Africa, South Asia, China, Europe, Latin and North America.

## **Making climate innovation work for Africa**

Since the 2015 Paris Agreement, there has been a renewed push to make climate policy and processes more responsive to the needs of poorer countries. The STEPS Centre and its partners have actively explored more locally relevant sustainability processes in Africa and Asia.

In Africa, the STEPS Africa Hub advised the Green Climate Fund – the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC – on how to fund collaborative research and development for climate technology transfer under the 2015 Paris Agreement. It also trained policymakers in Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Uganda and Ethiopia.

Based on extensive STEPS research on solar PV and sustainable energy access in Kenya, researchers David Ockwell (Dept of Geography, Sussex University) and Rob Byrne (SPRU) developed a concrete proposal for revising international climate policy in favour of pro-poor, climate compatible transformations. It suggested a new approach to assisting the transfer and uptake of climate technologies in developing countries, known as CRIBs (Climate Relevant Innovation-system Builders).

Through a two-day workshop in Kenya organised by the STEPS Africa Hub, East African policymakers and practitioners received training and capacity development on integrating CRIBs into their NDCs (Nationally Determined Commitments) under the Paris Climate Agreement.



Photo: India, Tilonia, Rajasthan. Maasai women from Kenya following a course on solar energy at the Barefoot College. Credit: Dieter Telemans / Panos

### Transforming waste management in India

In work spearheaded by SPRU and Indian partners, the STEPS South Asia Hub pursued work on the links between poverty, environmental health and urbanisation. STEPS Centre research influenced the redrafting of a key piece of legislation on urban waste management in India. The research, led by Fiona Marshall (SPRU), highlighted a number of ways in which the legislation was failing to address opportunities for sustainable waste management strategies.

The redrafted rules now recognise the role of the informal sector (so-called waste pickers) in waste management, and indicate how India's policy process in this area can open up to new perspectives.

### Rapid Transition Alliance

Another new development in 2018 has been the Rapid Transition Alliance, a global network set up to counter widely held beliefs that behaviour change for more sustainable lifestyles are either impossible to achieve or will inevitably be slow and incremental.

The alliance, funded by the KR Foundation, gathers campaigners, business groups and NGOs. It will create an evidence base showing the possibilities for deep and rapid social change, building on a successful 18-month European pilot. Partners in the project include the Centre for Global Political Economy at the University of Sussex and the New Weather Institute, which leads the initiative.

# Strengthening learning and changing behaviour for better rural sanitation

Millions of people in the developing world currently suffer the consequences of inadequate or no sanitation and poor hygiene. It's a situation targeted by one of the Sustainable Development Goals, and is particularly prevalent in India – making it a focus for IDS's Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) Knowledge Hub.

Based at IDS, the Knowledge Hub works with partners around the world to ensure that CLTS goes to scale with quality and in a sustainable, inclusive manner. Using timely, rapid and adaptive sharing and learning, the Knowledge Hub has been supporting the scaling up of inclusive CLTS and rural sanitation approaches in India.

There has been a long history of failed rural sanitation schemes in India, where open defecation is widely practised. When occurring in areas of high population density, like Northern India, open defecation is thought to cause up to two-thirds of child undernutrition.

The Knowledge Hub has worked closely with the Government of India and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) to strengthen learning in a national campaign to make rural India open defecation-free by October 2019.

The high-profile, government-led campaign, Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G), is probably the world's largest current behaviour change programme – and one that has presented opportunities for influencing policy and practice.

## Busting myths

One of three key impacts of the Knowledge Hub's involvement with the campaign arose from grassroots-level research and engagement by IDS's Robert Chambers and Jamie Myers to raise awareness about the efficiency and safety of twin pit toilets. This safe and low-cost technology – whereby a full pit is left covered for a year to become fertiliser – is promoted widely in rural areas. However, uptake is hampered by myths and stigma.

Headline-grabbing activities have sought to counter these. A breakthrough came in March 2017 when a government minister and a Bollywood film star, accompanied by a team of officials, climbed into a mature pit to dig out the compost to show how harmless – and valuable – the human waste had become.

The Knowledge Hub also contributed to the SBM-G's widely distributed 'living sourcebook' by compiling more than 100 campaign actions to help reduce open defecation. This was distributed to more than 600 heads of district administration.



Photo: Saritadevi from Ittava village in Uttar Pradesh, India, goes out into a nearby field to go to the toilet. She describes some of the humiliating incidents men subject her to while she is on her way to the toilet, incidents like people throwing stones, abuse, whistling and making vulgar gestures. Credit: Atul Loke / Panos

### Practical and action-focused

Keenly aware of the need for immediate insights and practical answers, the CLTS Knowledge Hub worked with WaterAid India and Praxis to pioneer an immersive research methodology to improve policymaking. Researchers stayed with village families for up to four days to gain better understanding of their daily realities, and fed the policy implications gathered back to government.

Government officials then undertook a similar three-day immersion in Bihar, and another was planned for 100 graduate students from the University of Delhi. This uptake of immersive methodologies was another key impact of the Knowledge Hub's work in India.

A third key impact was its collaboration with the Government of India and WSSCC to co-create Rapid Action Learning Workshops to develop sharing, learning and planning at district, division and national levels. Two workshop events were held in September 2017 and January 2018 with government staff in Uttar Pradesh. The practical, action and lesson-focused outputs from the events were distributed within two days to maintain momentum and widen the reach beyond participants.

The Knowledge Hub is now working with WSSCC to train and mentor facilitators to roll out further workshops, to enhance learning and spread good practices.

# Building more inclusive and secure societies

Violence, displacement, ill health, starvation and environmental degradation cause millions of people to live in deprivation, exclusion and insecurity. Their vulnerability exposes them to wider economic, political and environmental shocks, and undermines their trust in institutions, governments and agencies.

Our work on building more inclusive and secure societies seeks to untangle the interactions between inclusion and security, equality and sustainability, at local, national and global levels. Achievements of the past year include successfully completing the inception phase of the Action for Empowerment and Accountability research programme; presenting findings into the effect of low-quality education on peace-building in East Africa; providing evidence of how digital technologies can promote citizen inclusion in the Making All Voices Count programme; and winning UNICEF funding for a pilot for social science research mobilisation for epidemic and emergency preparedness in health, following the successful Ebola Response Anthropology Platform.



Photo: Colombia. A group of youths harvesting coca leaves stand with the sacks they are filling.  
Credit: Mads Nissen / Nobel Peace Centre / Panos



Building more inclusive and secure societies

# G20 Summit briefings and Think20 Africa membership for CRPD

The Centre for Rising Powers and Global Development (CRPD) at IDS is a well-renowned source of expertise on South–South cooperation for addressing global challenges. Its ongoing contributions to high-level policymaking have led to the centre being asked to join the influential Think20 Africa Standing Group.

A network of more than 30 leading thinktanks from within both Africa and the G20 countries, the Think20 (T20) Africa Standing Group has informed the G20 process. Its invitation to the CRPD follows the centre's participation in previous T20 summits – and points to the centre's collaborative role in upcoming high-level global events.

## Groundwork for UN and G20

This role has recently included the preparation of two policy briefs to inform the G20 2018 Summit on themes related to Africa's development partnership with emerging actors, infrastructure financing and new development thinking. These briefs have been developed jointly with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the Brookings Institute and the German Development Institute.

Dr Jing Gu, who leads the CRPD, was asked to be a principal contributing author of a further report on South–South cooperation in preparation for the second UN High-Level Conference on South–South Cooperation in 2019. The report

'Changing Roles of South–South Cooperation in the Global Development System towards 2030' was published by the Finance Centre for South–South Cooperation (FCSSC).

In February 2018, Dr Gu was selected to present the report at a special launch event at the OECD Development Centre in Paris. Thanks to her participation, the CRPD's work also fed into two key preparatory meetings, with the aim of working towards a consensus agenda for action for the UN's March 2019 conference.

## Supporting North-South mutual learning

Mutual learning and building bridges with partners around North–South and South–South cooperation for international development are other aspects of recent CRPD work. In February 2018, Alex Shankland and Lidia Cabral from IDS, alongside colleagues from Brazil, convened a workshop on mutual learning and policy diffusion concerning the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). The event brought together researchers from Brazil, Italy, Germany and UK universities to discuss the theory and practice of diffusion and transfer of policies, ideas and technology across the Global South. Learning from the event will be captured and shared in a new book led by CRPD researcher Dr Osmany Porto from the Federal University of Sao Paulo.



The CRPD and the IDS Health and Nutrition cluster facilitated a constructive engagement between the Chinese Academy of Social Science, the Ministry of Health and Social Enterprise and the Brighton and Hove City Council in 2017. Dr Gerry Bloom led the workshop and discussions on how health and welfare systems can adapt and innovate to meet the realities of a rapidly growing older population. Speaking after the meeting at Brighton Town Hall the council's chief executive, Geoff Raw, said

‘The opportunity to share knowledge with professionals facing similar challenges in China was hugely beneficial for all involved. We’re working on a series of events aiming to foster economic ties between the Greater Brighton region and China.’ The City Council has since gone on to set up a thinktank to explore innovation further.

Photo: Conference: Africa and the G20: Building alliances for sustainable development - 1-3 February 2017.  
Credit: Petrus Saayman/ SAIIA/ German Development Institute/ Kiel Institute

# Informing alternative policy approaches in the ‘war’ on illicit crops

IDS has produced vital new evidence to show how land property rights could be an effective policy tool in the fight against illicit crop production in Colombia, one of the world’s largest producers of coca. The evidence has implications for policy in developing countries with similar problems relating to illicit crops, such as Peru, Bolivia, Mexico, Afghanistan and Vietnam.

The multi-year project, led by IDS researcher Juan-Carlos Muñoz-Mora stemming from his PhD work, culminated in 2018 with an article published in the *World Development* journal. The article prompted the Colombian government and USAID to invite the researchers to explain the findings and provide technical assistance to improve their interventions against illicit crops.

Since the 1990s, when Colombia first emerged as the leading coca producer, the Colombian and US governments have waged a military-led fight against drug production in the South American country. Billions of dollars were spent and yet coca production levels stayed the same, even though less land was being cultivated. Relatively little attention has been paid until now to the relationship between the strength of land property rights and illicit activities. The project showed that formal land property rights could change risk-taking behaviour among small-scale producers once law enforcement increases, reducing the total land allocated to these crops.

Of particular interest was an index developed by Juan-Carlos Muñoz-Mora and co-authors of the article, as a way of identifying informal property rights for individuals with no property deeds and no formal property recognition or rights.

## Alternative, non-military approach

In collaboration with the University of Andes, Colombia and the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) in the Netherlands, the project set out to provide much-needed evidence in support of alternative, non-military-led approaches to the problem.

Two types of impact – conceptual and concrete – emerged. Firstly, the findings helped to strengthen the wider debate on alternative development policy tools in developing countries. It also provided robust quantitative evidence on implementing land formalisation programmes as an effective tool in tackling illicit crops.

Secondly, the researchers had a series of meetings with the Colombian government and USAID focused on how the project’s findings could help to improve current interventions in regions producing illicit crops.

They encouraged policymakers to develop an intervention that was not based on military strength but rather on the fundamental reasons for the persistence of illicit crops. They provided evidence about the state of land property rights in Colombia and specific details of places where stronger rights had led to a drop in coca crops.

This level of data should enable policymakers to develop a case study approach to future work – with implications not only for the Colombian situation but also for wider USAID policies.

Juan-Carlos Muñoz-Mora’s PhD work on the micro-level analysis of civil conflict formed the basis of the project. More broadly, it builds on IDS’s rich history of analysing the relationship between violent conflict and household welfare.

Photo: A man cultivates poppies at a farm close to the city of Kandahar, Afghanistan.  
Credit: Hossein Fatemi / Panos



Building more inclusive and secure societies,  
impact case study



# How we are organised

**Governed by a Board of Trustees from around the world, IDS is home to more than 200 staff and 200 students at any one time. But the IDS community extends far beyond, encompassing an extensive global network of more than 220 partners, 3,200 alumni and hundreds of former staff.**

## We comprise:

### Board of Trustees

Our 13-strong Board includes ten non-executive directors and two IDS staff members.

The Board is chaired by Professor Jonathan Kydd.

Gareth Davies chairs the Resources and Audit Committee.

Professor Frances Stewart chairs the Programme Advisory and Review Committee.

### Senior Leadership Group

Melissa Leach *Director*

John Gaventa *Director of Research*

James Georgalakis  
*Director of Communications and Impact*

Linda Waldman  
*Director of Teaching and Learning*

Tim Catherall  
*Director of Finance and Strategic Operations*

Isobel Pearce and Paula Karalus  
*Human Resources Managers*

### Clusters and Teams

Business, Markets and the State

Cities

Conflict and Violence

Digital and Technology

Gender and Sexuality

Governance

Green Transformations

Health and Nutrition

Knowledge, Impact and Policy

Participation

Power and Popular Politics

Resource Politics

Rural Futures

Photo: Professor Ali Cheema joined our Board of Trustees in 2016. He is a founder and fellow of the Center of Economic Research in Pakistan, senior research fellow at the Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives and associate professor of Economics and Politics at the Lahore University of Management Sciences. Within the Action for Empowerment and Accountability Programme at IDS, he has been engaged in research which uses RCT (Random Control Trial) methodology to explore potential strategies to close the gender gap in voter turnout in Pakistan. Credit: CERP

# Governance, accountability and transparency

The aid and development funding environment remains challenging and we ended the year with a small deficit of £71k. We have been implementing comprehensive plans to address this shortfall and restore financial balance.

We are delighted to retain the number one ranking in Development Studies (QS World University Rankings 2017–18) and expect unrestricted income to grow further as student numbers continue to expand. Our annual income from postgraduate teaching increased by £700k in 2017/18 to £2,668k. Teaching income is expected to increase slightly in the next financial year as both applications and offers for our master’s degrees have grown again.

### How we are funded

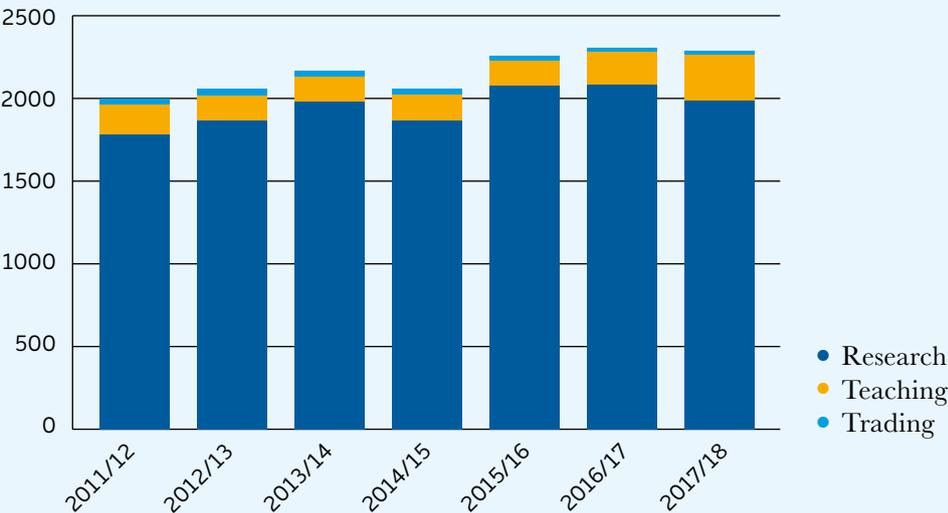
IDS receives no core funding. Funds are secured from a range of organisations and represent a combination of research grants and fees from advisory work, teaching, publication sales and some donations and legacies. Nearly all our research grants are won competitively and a significant proportion is transferred to partners, including research organisations, in developing countries.

### Committed to accountability and transparency

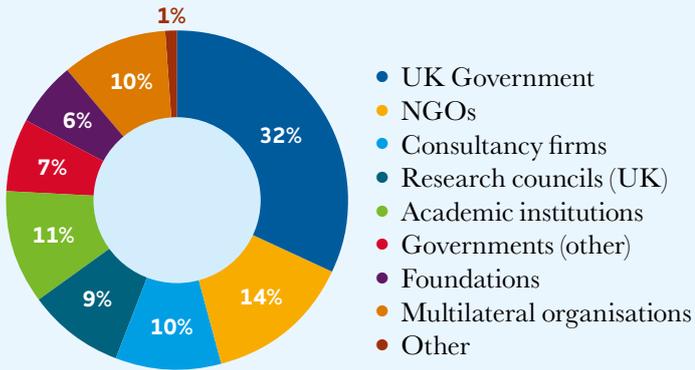
We are committed to ensuring the highest level of accountability and transparency regarding the funding we seek and receive, as set down in our funding ethics policy. Transparify has recognised this commitment in their global rating of the financial transparency of major thinktanks. For the third consecutive year it awarded IDS the highest five-star transparency rating.

### Income

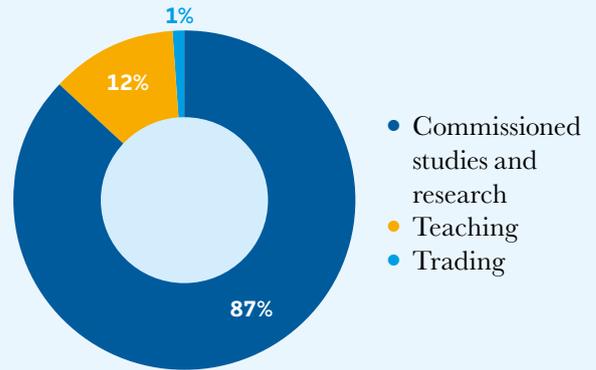
Total income over last seven years



### Income by contractor type 2017/8

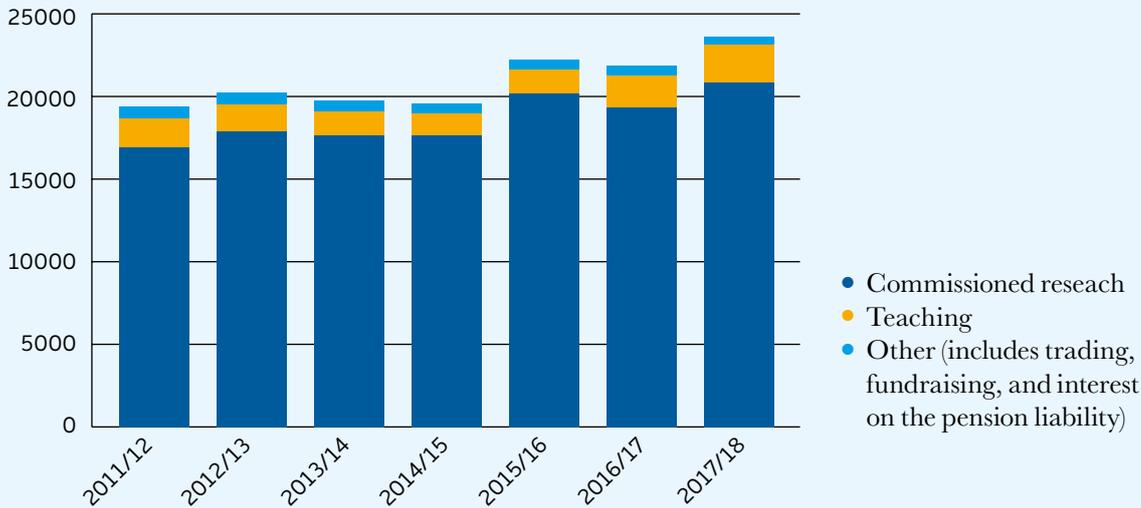


### Income by type 2017/8

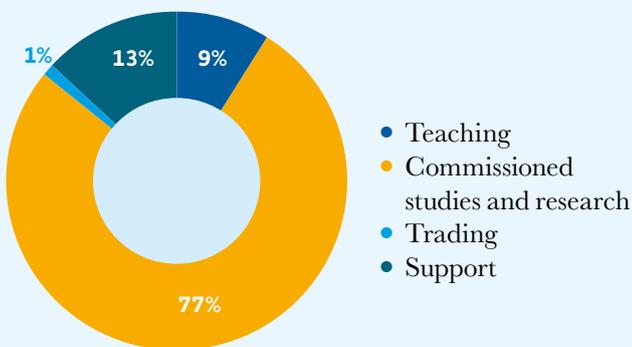


### Expenditure

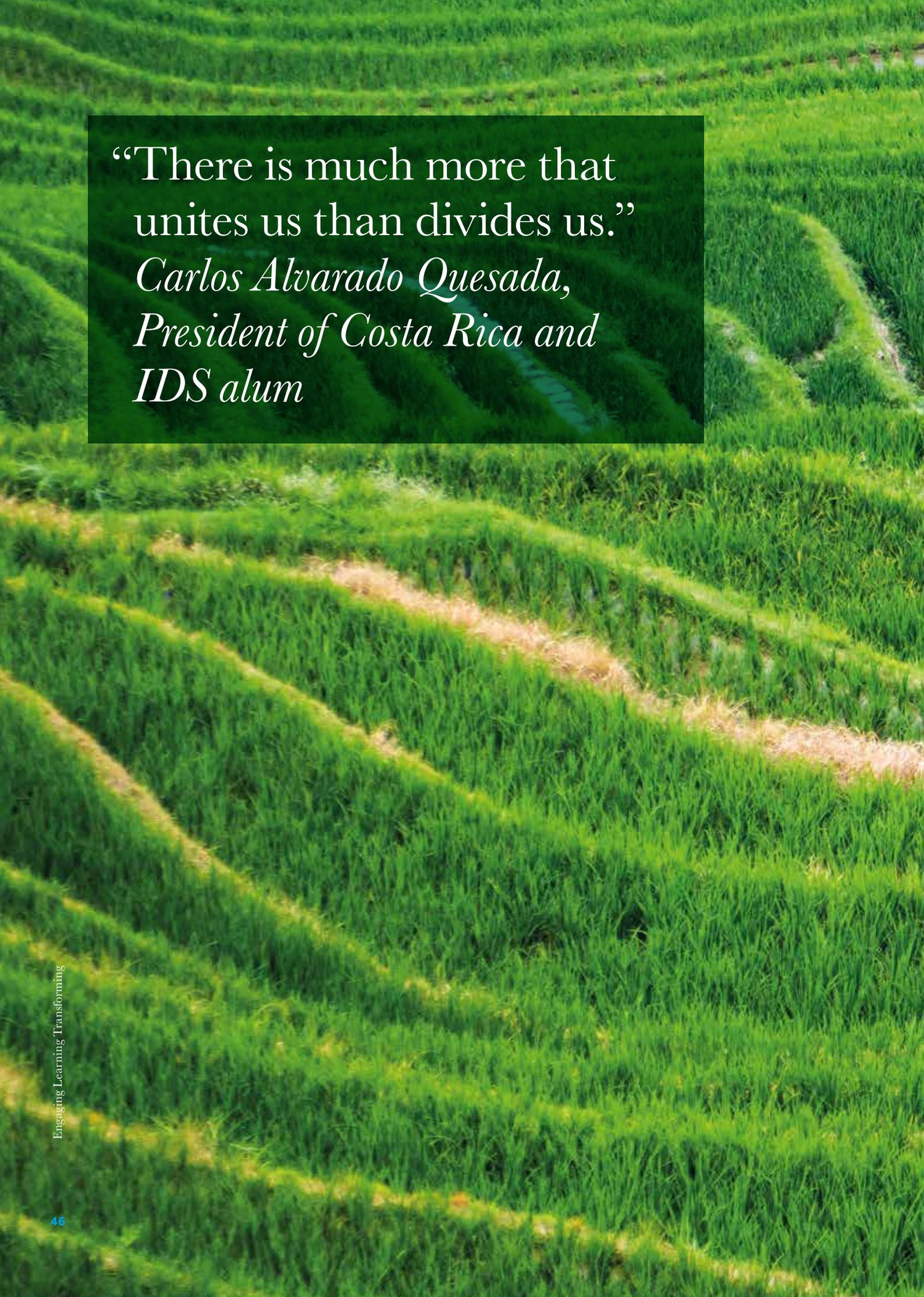
Total expenditure over last seven years



### Expenditure by type 2017/8



**IDS gratefully acknowledges the support of the many individuals, donors and partner organisations who have contributed to our work during the year.**



“There is much more that unites us than divides us.”

*Carlos Alvarado Quesada,  
President of Costa Rica and  
IDS alum*



Photo: Rice fields in Longji, China.  
Credit: Guillermo Menéndez (gmcrral on Flickr)

Cover image: India, Delhi.

Dewi stands in front of her class holding a piece of chalk. Dewi is 12 years old and lives with her parents and sister in one of the slums in Delhi. She's very chatty and very disciplined. She has a lot of friends with whom she likes to play hide and seek. "When I grow up, I want to be a teacher. Then I can teach children to read, write and count. This is very important for them since otherwise they won't get a job. I'll be a strict teacher and the kids will have to listen to me!"

Photographer: Chris de Bode, Panos

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