

Engaging Learning Transforming

# Annual Review 2019



Institute of  
Development Studies





Photo: Shipping port in Bangkok, Thailand. China has been promoting economic and trade cooperation with Thailand in recent years to advance its One Belt, One Road initiative. Some applaud the initiative's potential to progress global sustainability; others argue that it poses considerable social, economic, environmental, political and security risks. © Thatree Thitvongvaroon / Getty Images

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



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Photo: Zaatari (Za'atari) Refugee Camp, Jordan. Syrian refugee Khaled holds up a kite he has made himself. On it he has written his personal message of peace for his country. "We left Syria because we didn't have freedom anymore," explained Khaled, who was forced to leave Syria four months ago to become a refugee in the camp. He wanted to write his dream on his kite and wrote "I want my freedom in my land." When asked to give his personal opinion of freedom Khaled said "Freedom to me is to be able to run, play, and go places without being afraid." © Chris de Bode / Panos Pictures.

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



# Director's foreword

During the past year, international development has involved grappling with a series of dramatic social and political shifts. We have seen extreme right-wing populism taking hold in more countries; the US retreating from the global stage while China grows its influence through the Belt and Road Initiative; protest movements such as Extinction Rebellion and Women's March gathering global momentum despite shrinking civil society spaces; and growing recognition and action on major global challenges from plastics pollution and urbanisation to epidemics and anti-microbial resistance.

IDS' work continues to bring important new evidence, insights and engagement in this shifting context. Our three defining challenges – reducing inequalities, accelerating sustainability and building more inclusive and secure societies – continue to provide a strong matrix for our research and learning. This year we have produced new analysis on citizen voice, digital technology and accountable governance, smart cities, circular economy approaches to waste management, resilient rural livelihoods, and much more.

Our work is making a difference to debates, policy and practice in critical areas, as the impact stories here show – from reducing inequalities in women's participation in politics and influencing pro-poor growth through agriculture, to providing new evidence for policy on improving the wellbeing of refugees, and an extraordinary collaboration for peace-building in Myanmar. We have worked through equitable, innovative partnerships that have shaped policy on waste management in

India and approaches to climate innovation in Kenya. We have also fostered mutual learning between China and the UK on how to adapt health and welfare systems.

Our development studies postgraduate degrees continue to make their mark. In partnership with the University of Sussex, IDS has retained the number one ranking in Development Studies (QS World University Rankings 2019) – a position now held for three consecutive years. We continue to enjoy record-high numbers of wonderful, engaged postgraduate students, with 250 MA students and nine PhD researchers graduating in the past year. Our professional development learning programme continues to grow, with rising numbers of short-course participants and learning partnerships with development agencies.

2019 heralds an important moment for global development, as more than 40 countries, including the UK, report on progress against the United Nations Global Goals for Sustainable Development (Global Goals). At IDS, we will continue to bring evidence and learning to bear on efforts to achieve these goals. Most importantly, our contributions are helping to build an understanding of the political choices and power relations that fundamentally shape transformations towards fairer, more sustainable societies, irrespective of geography – and where necessary, our work is challenging these forces, and supporting alternatives.

I would like to thank all our partners and friends for working with us during this past year, and look forward to our continued engagement and shared learning in striving for more equitable and sustainable futures.

**Melissa Leach**  
IDS Director



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

# Our strategy and what sets us apart

We work with partners to achieve our vision of equal and sustainable societies, locally and globally, where everyone can live secure, fulfilling lives free from poverty and injustice. We do this by delivering and mobilising high-quality research and knowledge that informs policy and practice, and through our world-recognised postgraduate degrees, PhD research and professional development services.

## 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.

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

## Engaged Excellence is:

- Co-constructing knowledge
- Delivering high-quality research
- Building enduring partnerships
- Mobilising evidence for impact

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

Photo: Ethiopia. 19 year-old Kadija collects water from a new water facility near the little café that she runs. Before the water facility was installed, Kadija struggled to make her business work as she would have to walk for hours to fetch clean water. © Petterik Wiggers / Panos Pictures



Our strategy and what sets us apart

# Honours, awards and appointments

## Honours, awards and appointments



IDS Fellow **Ian Scoones** awarded the 2019 Ester Boserup Prize for outstanding social science research on development



IDS Fellow **Danny Burns** and research partners at Adapt Peacebuilding and Myanmar's Relief Action Network for IDPs and Refugees (RANIR), won a US government award for their participatory action research work on peace-building in Myanmar



IDS Fellow **Jaideep Gupte** appointed Challenge Leader for Global Challenges Research Fund



Post-doctoral Researcher **Amrita Saha** won the Exim Bank International Economic Research Annual Award for her PhD thesis on Indian trade policy



IDS Fellow **Jeremy Allouche** appointed to the Editorial Board of International Peacekeeping, a peer-reviewed scientific journal published by Taylor and Francis



IDS PhD Researcher **Mireille Widmer** awarded the British Federation of Women Graduates' Marjorie Shaw Fellowship for her research on urban security governance in Janakpur, Nepal



IDS Director **Melissa Leach** appointed to the HMG Strategic Coherence of ODA-funded Research (SCOR) Board as an independent member



Credit: University of Sussex

# #1

Development Studies in QS World University Rankings by Subject 2019



Credit: shutterstock

# #2

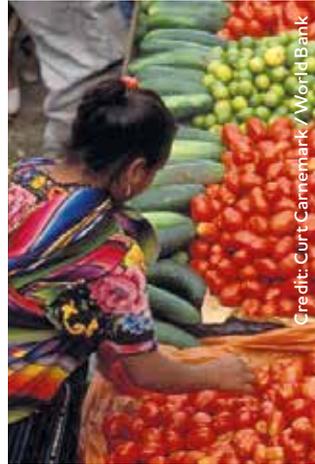
International Development think tank in *Global Go To Think Tank Index Report 2018*



Credit: Trngvte Holstad / Panos Pictures

# 49%

of our contracted partners were located in the Global South



Credit: Curt Carremark / World Bank

# 287

active research and knowledge projects



Credit: Dieter Telemmans / Panos Pictures

# 78%

of all IDS publications co-authored with external partners



Credit: IDS, Flickr

# 250

Master's degree students graduated



Credit: IDS, Flickr

# 9

PhD students graduated



Credit: Kate Hiscock, Flickr

# 129

journal articles authored by IDS staff published

# 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, business and other actors that share common goals and values. Only through collaborations across disciplines, sectors and countries can we generate the types of evidence and policy solutions necessary to tackle challenges that affect the lives of millions of people across the world and accelerate progress towards the Global Goals.

Photo: Painted hands  
at Holi festival.  
© Devesh Tripath /  
Getty Images

# Partnerships

Over the past year we have continued to strengthen our longstanding strategic partnerships and have created many new ones. Here are just a few examples.

## Extending our network of global partners

The UK government's UK Aid Connect programmes have seen the establishment of several consortia of groundbreaking research partnerships involving IDS. The Coalition for Religious Equality and Inclusive Development (CREID), led by IDS, brings together faith and human rights organisations with an emphasis on applied research. Partners at the co-creation phase include the Al-Khoei Foundation, CSW (Christian Solidarity Worldwide), Minority Rights Group and the World Organization for Al-Azhar Graduates. IDS is also a member of the two UK Department for International Development (DFID)-funded consortia that will manage the UK Aid Connect Disability and Disability Inclusive Development programmes that are being led by Sightsavers. Other consortium members include the International Disability Alliance and ADD International, and partners include Standard Chartered Bank, Youth Career Initiative, BBC Media Action, Development Initiatives, Benetech and Humanity and Inclusion UK.

The new five-year programme Tackling the Drivers of Modern Slavery and Child Labour – a Child Centred Approach, funded by DFID's Asia Regional Team and led by IDS, is being implemented with core

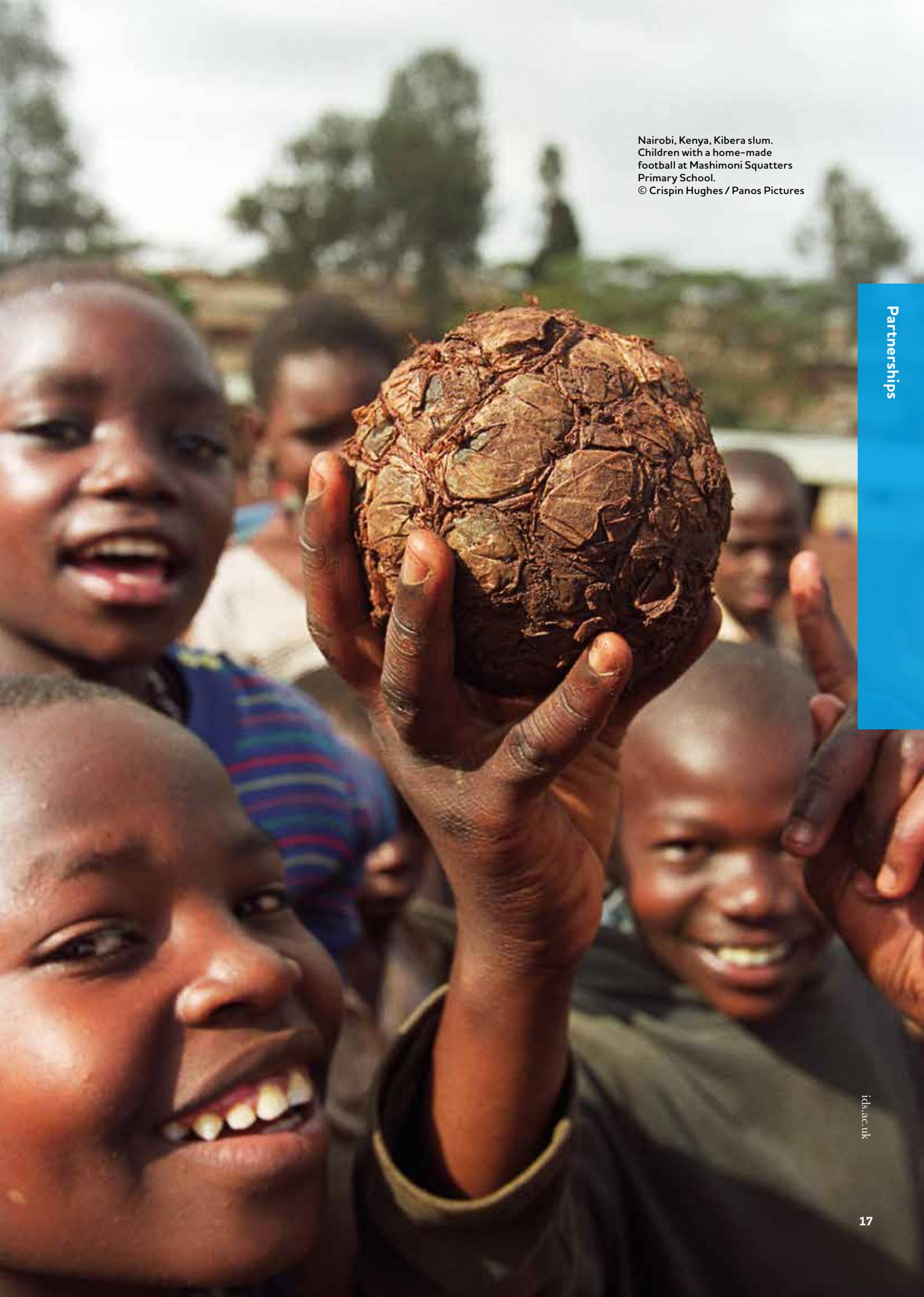
partners Terre des hommes, ChildHope, Consortium for Street Children, and the Ethical Trading Initiative.

The IDS-led International Centre for Tax and Development (ICTD) is a partner in a new three-year project with funding from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Cancer Research UK's Economics of Tobacco Control Research Initiative. This project will be conducted in partnership with the Economics of Tobacco Control Project at the University of Cape Town (project lead) and the Consortium pour la recherche économique et sociale (CRES) based in Senegal. The partnership is focused on supporting innovative fiscal policy research on tobacco control in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

IDS' involvement in four of the newly created UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Global Challenges Research Fund Interdisciplinary Hubs has led to many new international partnerships across a wide range of thematic areas. IDS is part of hubs on Accountability for Informal Urban Equity, One Health Poultry, Urban Disaster Risk, and Gender, Justice and Security. Over the next five years, the 12 interdisciplinary hubs will work across 85 countries with governments, international agencies, partners and NGOs in developing countries and around the globe, to develop creative and sustainable solutions that help to make the world safer, healthier and more prosperous.

*“The exciting thing about this programme is that, for the first time, it brings together organisations in government like DFID and the FCO, academics, advocacy organisations, religious leaders and development organisations to work together in the same direction.”*

*Archbishop Angaelos, Coptic Orthodox Archbishop of London and member of the CREID International Advisory Group, speaking on BBC Radio Four's Today Programme*



Nairobi, Kenya, Kibera slum.  
Children with a home-made  
football at Mashimoni Squatters  
Primary School.  
© Crispin Hughes / Panos Pictures

# Partnerships

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

In April 2018, IDS and the University of the West Indies – Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) – signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the University’s annual conference on Sustainable Futures for the Caribbean. IDS shares a common commitment with SALISES to teaching and research to inform social and economic development. The signing of the MoU marks the beginning of working more closely together to establish collaborative links, supporting learning and developing opportunities for joint work between researchers. The collaboration has already resulted in funding from the EU-LAC Foundation to support an IDS-SALISES roundtable and seminar on climate change preparedness and response in Caribbean small island developing states.

IDS has recently taken on the role of UK anchor institution for the Research and Learning Platform for the China International Development Research Network (CIDRN) which aims to strengthen China–UK global development

knowledge, cooperation and effectiveness. The new three-year role builds on a long history of collaborative research in China and will enable IDS to strengthen relationships with CIDRN’s 22 Chinese institutions (which include universities, think tanks and the central Chinese Communist party school), China Agricultural University and a range of UK research institutions. Activities will include a programme of exchange visits, a summer school and a series of stakeholder workshops on various issues regarding China’s engagement in development globally.

IDS reinforced its longstanding partnership with BRAC, an NGO originating in Bangladesh, by jointly hosting a highly successful expert dialogue at the Rockefeller Bellagio Center. The event explored how NGOs and civil society from the Global South, such as BRAC International, could continue to strengthen their roles and impact in achieving sustainable development outcomes.

If you would like to find out more about our partnerships, see [www.ids.ac.uk/partnerships](http://www.ids.ac.uk/partnerships)



Photo: Petit Goave, Haiti. People are carried over La Digue River. Following the collapse of a bridge during Hurricane Matthew, people were forced to wade across the water course. © Andrew McConnell / Panos Pictures

Partnerships

# Research, knowledge and global impact

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

Over the past year we have done this in a number of ways – from helping to close the persistent gender gap in electoral participation in Pakistan, to applying pioneering approaches for peace-building in Myanmar. Our impact has been demonstrated through policy and practice change, shifts in debates and attitudes, and strengthened networks and partnerships.

Photo: Bhamo, Kachin State, Myanmar (Burma). Aung Din, 12, collects water, as he does every morning, for his household at the Phan Khar Kone IDP camp where he lives with his grandmother, mother and sister. His father was killed by an explosion, possibly a landmine, while herding cattle when fighting erupted between the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Myanmar army near his village of Mung Ding Pa in 2013.  
© Patrick Brown / UNICEF / Panos Pictures



# Reducing inequalities

IDS is working to help tackle inequalities, both new and old. Leaving No One Behind in a Digital World, a report for DFID by the Knowledge, Evidence and Learning for Development (K4D) team, revealed the digital dimensions to inequality and the ways these are entrenching old patterns of poverty. IDS researchers have also provided fresh insights on agriculture – in particular agricultural commercialisation – as a pathway from poverty in Africa.

Gender inequality has long been a focus at IDS. In New York, IDS shared research with the 62nd Commission on the Status of Women on the many barriers that uniquely affect women and girls, particularly in rural areas. Our researchers contributed valuable data and insights to the Malala Fund's Full Force report on girls' education, presented to the G20. The Action for Empowerment and Accountability (A4EA) international research programme meanwhile is generating exciting evidence about boosting women's participation in political processes.



Photo: Mumbai, India.  
A child from Dharavi slum  
walks along the top of a wall  
protected by barbed wire,  
with one of the towers of the  
World Trade Centre behind.  
© Mark Henley /  
Panos Pictures



Photo: North West Frontier Province, Pakistan. The day before this portrait was taken, Tabasum had become the first ever woman to vote in the Timugarha local elections. "Usually the men do not allow the women out," she explained. "When I reached the polling station they were shocked - they never had a woman come before." After much debate, however, and some negotiation, Tabasum triumphed, casting her vote. "It's good to vote," she said, "women will be involved in decision-making."  
© Jenny Matthews / Panos Pictures

# Understanding and strengthening women's roles in politics and work

For more than 40 years, IDS has been forging its well-earned reputation for progressive gender research, knowledge sharing and teaching. That work continues apace today with IDS programmes and researchers continuing to deepen understanding of how to strengthen women's political and economic empowerment.

A dynamic example was the recent work on women's political engagement in Pakistan led by the Action for Empowerment and Accountability (A4EA) international research programme. A4EA as a whole seeks to further understanding about empowerment and accountability for people who live in fragile, conflict-affected and violent settings.

In Pakistan, the project helped to close the persistent gender gap in electoral participation by eight per cent in some of the localities where it worked. Its research revealed that women felt 'invisible' and disillusioned with politics, rather than held back by social conservatism. Engaging with both women and men at household level – rather than community level as many donor projects tend to – helped reduce that disconnect.

Findings were presented at a high-level event organised by Pakistan's National Commission on the Status of Women. This prompted the Election Commission of Pakistan to request a seminar on the findings, which it will consider in future strategic planning.

## Influencing gender programming

IDS gender research is influencing how organisations work to help women in developing countries. A leading NGO praised the work by IDS Fellow Sohela Nazneen into how intersecting forms of inequalities affect women's political participation at local levels in South Asia.

Sohela Nazneen's book on women's use of informal networks and gender-equitable policies for the Effective States and Inclusive Development Research Centre (ESID) project has since attracted acclaim from leading academics, UN Women and DFID.

## Raising awareness of women's unpaid care work

Women in developing countries face a double burden of unpaid care responsibilities and poorly paid work to meet basic needs. The issue received wide attention over the past year thanks to IDS Fellow Deepta Chopra's research on improving the balance of paid work and unpaid care to promote women's economic empowerment.

Part of the Growth and Equal Opportunities for Women (GrOW) programme led by IDS, Deepta's work covered four countries in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Findings were shared in various formats, including a report, an animation and audio-photo videos. Deepta was interviewed about the research on BBC Radio Four's Woman's Hour and was invited to present at a UN Women Expert Group meeting.

Deepta also produced a background paper for the 63rd Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March 2019, highlighting the limitations of existing social protection programmes for empowering women.

*"Given the dearth of research in this area, Sohela Nazneen's research on gender, intersectionality and local government in Bangladesh and Pakistan will be an invaluable resource to support our programme design in this area... More please!"*  
Tam O'Neil, Senior Gender Adviser at CARE International UK

# Generating new insights on agriculture as a pathway from poverty in Africa

With more than half of Africa's workers employed in agriculture, the sector offers a valuable pathway out of poverty for the continent.

The contribution of market-based agriculture to improving incomes and reducing poverty and inequality is a key thematic focus for the five-year, DFID-funded Agricultural Policy Research in Africa (APRA) programme.

## Exploring impacts of rice expansion

New insights from APRA's longitudinal research into the commercialisation of rice farming in Ethiopia have opened up new avenues to influence rice development in Africa.

APRA researchers looked at the Fogera Plain, where rice production and processing have expanded enormously since the crop was first introduced in the 1990s. Their investigation revealed positive and negative impacts on local livelihoods, disadvantaged people and rural economies. Benefits were seen in terms of improved diets, livelihood diversification into non-farm businesses, employment creation and increased household income. However, the income has not always led to an improvement in household wellbeing.

With the Ethiopian Institute of Agricultural Research (EIAR) and EthioRice, APRA co-convened the country's first National Rice Research Conference in November 2018. APRA researchers presented findings from the Fogera study to delegates including government officials, regional research institutes, development partners, technology importers and commercial farmers.

That conference will become an annual event and, thanks to APRA's involvement, is expected to be the springboard for a larger

Regional Conference on Rice Sector Development in Africa in 2019–20.

## Tracking medium-sized farms' growth

Several countries in Africa are seeing a rise in numbers of medium-sized farms, which in places account for around half of nationally marketed agricultural produce. Signs are that medium-sized farms – many owned by African professionals, entrepreneurs or civil servants – are contributing to agricultural growth.

APRA researchers have been tracking the impacts of this growth on smallholder farmers. Their findings reveal clear gains for smallholders, with medium-sized farms enabling access to wider markets, services and increased mechanisation. But there are downsides too, including rising land prices and reduced access to land for young people.

As with rice production research, APRA aims to produce evidence to help policymakers minimise the hardships arising from commercialisation, while building on the gains offered by a shift to more market-oriented farming.

In September 2018, APRA researchers in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, met representatives from government and industry alongside Michigan State University (MSU)-APRA community leaders and medium-scale farmers, to call for better land policy and raise awareness of APRA's work.

APRA's MSU partners later shared insights at a USAID-sponsored conference in Washington DC, with presentations planned at the World Bank, African Development Bank and the 6th African Association of Agricultural Economists Conference in Abuja in late 2019.

Photo: Abuja, Nigeria. A boy plays next to grain silos. © George Osodi / Panos Pictures.



# Accelerating sustainability

IDS' work with global partners on sustainability draws on a long tradition of social science engagement with environmental issues. Our forward-looking interdisciplinary research maps pathways to sustainability, considering green transformations and equitable access to key resources like water, land and food.

Work over the past year includes building capacity in India to develop cities that are sustainable and inclusive; making the case for a circular economy in order to tackle challenges such as plastics pollution; and informing international debate on China's Belt and Road Initiative and sustainable development.



Photo: India. A view of Chandni Chowk Street in Old Delhi with traffic and crowds of people.  
© Martin Roemers / Panos Pictures

# Building capacity to ensure smart, sustainable and inclusive cities

‘Smart cities’ are using new technologies to become more sustainable. IDS researchers have been investigating how inclusive these solutions really are for the most marginalised, with a focus on the Indian government’s Smart Cities Mission.

The Capacity Building for Smart Data and Inclusive Cities (SDIC) project involves IDS Fellows Jaideep Gupte and Eric Kasper, India’s National Institute of Urban Affairs and municipal authorities in two northern cities (Bhopal and Jabalpur) and two southern cities (Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi).

## Linking inclusivity to sustainability

In Jabalpur and Bhopal, the IDS team used a research technique called process-tracing to show how the city’s revamped solid waste management and household waste collection service was in fact missing some of the most marginalised communities – and failing to achieve its full sustainable potential. Other Indian cities have since used the technique to conduct in-depth evaluations of their new solutions and ensure these are really achieving their sustainable aims.

For IDS, the research highlights how a city cannot genuinely be ‘smart’ or sustainable unless it meets the needs of its most disadvantaged populations. On the strength of the work so far, Jaideep Gupte was invited to participate in the first UN-Habitat Assembly in Nairobi in May 2019. He was also a speaker at a UCL event in London, on Empowering Citizens Through Data. Bhopal and Jabalpur were shortlisted for the second stage of India’s Smart City Awards 2019.

## Managing waste and the circular economy

Waste and pollution pose one of the biggest challenges to sustainability, with life-threatening impacts for many people, particularly those in poverty. A potential solution lies in the circular economy – a key focus of IDS work on green transformations.

IDS is contributing evidence on plastics pollution and waste management to strengthen advocacy on the issue, working with a coalition of NGOs including Tearfund, Flora and Fauna International and WasteAid.

IDS researchers have also been shaping government and donor thinking on sustainable consumption and production. For example, working with the Philippines government through the Asian Development Bank on a National Action Plan; and with the German Federal Environment Agency and environmental think tanks to identify sustainability criteria for the bio-economy.

Businesses are central to accelerating sustainability. IDS has been seeking to shape private sector debates around sustainability through activities such as a speaking slot at the 2018 Textile Sustainability Conference in Milan; a circular textiles background paper for the Clean Clothes Campaign; and a British Council award for IDS alum Mamunur Rahman’s Ella Pad business model on textile waste and gender equality in Bangladesh’s garment sector.

Photo: Shanghai, China.  
A man places plastic bottles on a scrap heap in an area slated for redevelopment.  
© Qilai Shen/Panos Pictures



# Bringing much-needed rigour to debates on China's Belt and Road Initiative

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is the world's largest infrastructure plan with the potential to accelerate progress towards global sustainability. Whether it can live up to this promise is the subject of intense, often polarised debate. Some point to the BRI's alignment to the Global Goals; others argue that it poses considerable social, economic, environmental, political and security risks. Building on IDS' established record of work with its Centre for Rising Powers and Global Development, the Institute is at the forefront of efforts to produce a strong evidence base to assess the realities of the BRI's impact on development.

## High-level global participation

At the heart of IDS' activities is the need to understand China's rapidly evolving role on the world stage and in international development. It was a point underlined by IDS Director Melissa Leach in her speech at a Wilton Park event in March 2019. The high-level event was supported by DFID and IDS. Around 60 senior financial and sustainable development experts attended alongside government officials from the UK, China and BRI countries such as Pakistan and Myanmar. Topics debated included how the BRI contributes to sustainable development impacts; handling risk; and strengthening partnerships.

Continuing this work, IDS will be the anchor institute for the China International Development Research Network (CIDRN), aiming to improve the international development policy effectiveness of China and the UK through quality research and policy processes.

IDS has also worked with partners such as the Centre for International Knowledge on Development in China on a series of publications that look at BRI-related issues in detail. These were produced under the K4D programme, based at IDS and funded by DFID.

Further events involving IDS include a debate at the UK parliament, and the launch of the Belt and Road Studies Network, with an address by Melissa Leach calling for global think tanks to work together to generate much-needed evidence on BRI.

Photo: Colombo, Sri Lanka. A small fishing boat sails past cranes and containers waiting to be exported at the port. Under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, China has heavily invested in Sri Lanka's infrastructure, including highways, seaports and railroads. © Mark Henley / Panos Pictures



Graphic: © MicroOne / Shutterstock



Amid international responses to conflict, disease or disaster, there is a growing call to pay more heed to local perspectives. Whether this means considering local customs including burial practices during an epidemic such as Ebola or the wellbeing of refugees, the underlying concept is that more inclusive and secure societies cannot be imposed from above.

Over the past year, IDS has won an award for community-led peace-building in Myanmar and helped to shape policymaking for Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon. With 'disease preparedness' high on health agendas, our Pandemic Preparedness project is using engaged approaches in Sierra Leone and Uganda to forge more socially sensitive approaches. IDS also expanded online disease response resources, building on the success of our original Ebola Response Anthropology Platform in the broader Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform.

# Building more inclusive and secure societies



# Award for IDS-led action research for peace-building in Myanmar

IDS and partners have won a US government award for a community-led peace-building process in Myanmar that uses a participatory approach developed by an IDS fellow. Thousands of people have benefited from the process and the award has attracted more funding for this type of programme.

The winning case study, led by Adapt Peacebuilding in partnership with IDS and Myanmar's Relief Action Network for IDPs and Refugees (RANIR), was awarded the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Collaborate, Learn, Adapt Case Competition prize in October 2018.

The work focused on the northern region of Kachin, a site of heavy conflict between the Myanmar Army and the Kachin Independence Army. During 2013–16, IDS and Adapt Peacebuilding supported a consortium of local organisations to design and implement activities to strengthen local communities against the worst effects of the fighting, and to ensure that resolutions to the conflict incorporated their concerns.

## 'Incredible' achievements amid the war

Despite the unpredictable conditions and ongoing hostilities, more than 17,000 people have benefited from the activities, many of which are described as 'notable firsts' for such a situation. These included: life-saving mine risk education, efforts to combat the youth drug epidemic, initiatives to mitigate conflict between host communities and tens of thousands of internally displaced people, and activities to strengthen dialogue and accountability between local communities and peace process leaders.

According to Patrick Kum Jaa Lee, the local programme manager, "what made their efforts more remarkable were the conditions

under which they achieved it, with no international access for international organisations and risky, unpredictable security conditions. To think of the firsts that they achieved under those conditions ... it's incredible."

## Ahead of the community-led curve

Underpinning the programme was a Systematic Action Research methodology developed by IDS Professor Danny Burns, designed specifically for locally led change in a highly complex environment. It was ideally suited for this type of situation, with competing stakeholders with diverse interests, locations and roles.

As well as developing the methodology, Danny Burns was the lead technical adviser. He co-developed the programme strategy and facilitated training and learning processes for RANIR, the main local implementing partner.

IDS and Adapt Peacebuilding have been pioneering systems and complexity approaches to peace-building and development for more than a decade. Their work pre-empted and now reflects a shift towards programmes that put local community leaders in charge of development priorities, rather than imposing externally pre-planned interventions.

On the strength of the award, USAID quadrupled its initial investment in the programme. The success has also attracted other donor interest, leading to a further \$4.5 million for a community-based peace programme in Mali, funded by Humanity United.

IDS is also spreading the learning through its highly successful Participatory Action Research short course, now in its fifth year.

Photo: Laiza, Burma (Myanmar). Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and civilian militia trainees with wooden rifle replicas during a three-month basic military training course on a base near Laiza in KIA-controlled territory of Kachin State.  
© Adam Dean / Panos Pictures



Building more inclusive and secure societies,  
impact case study

# Exploring how to improve wellbeing for urban refugees and their hosts

Huge numbers of people continue to flee the world's most intractable conflicts. Many of these refugees are not destined for camps, but are increasingly channelled into urban informal settlements, chiefly in developing countries. With few signs of this abating, IDS has been working to improve understanding of urban refugees' wellbeing.

Three projects at IDS on refugees in urban situations are producing evidence for policymakers, informing practitioners and engaging the public.

## Filling an evidence gap

How the host country receives refugees – through policies, programmes and implementation – could significantly influence their wellbeing and that of host communities. The Wellbeing of Refugees project looks at how Jordan and Lebanon have coped with a 20 to 23 per cent hike in their populations as a result of Syrian refugees.

By looking at housing, legal status and economic participation, IDS researchers and partners found clear and unequal wellbeing outcomes arising from how both countries treated refugees.

Their findings were shared at national policy workshops in Amman and Beirut with representatives from government and agencies such as UN-Habitat, and with the Global Alliance for Urban Crises.

## Multi-partner project for peaceful relations

Cascading from that work, the Public Authorities and Legitimacy-Making (PALM) project began in December 2018 to explore how diverse public authorities in Jordan and Lebanon have contributed (or not) to peaceful host-refugee relations.

Led by IDS, the PALM project aims to generate evidence-based advice for humanitarian and development practitioners and policymakers to advance peaceful relations, inclusive, legitimate governance, and strengthened human security in host countries.

Due to report in late 2019, this is a distinctly multi-partner initiative – funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research/WOTRO Science for Global Development; delivered with Impact Initiatives, ACTED, Occlude and the University of Sussex; and closely involving end-users UN-Habitat (Lebanon), World Vision (Jordan and Lebanon) and the Global Alliance for Urban Crises.

## Reaching out to the public

Displacement, Placemaking and Wellbeing in the City looks at how far displaced people become part of European and Indian cities.

Taking a cross-disciplinary approach involving architects, urban designers and development specialists, the project aims to offer policymakers in urban governance, development agencies and NGOs insights to support greater equity, reduced inequalities and wellbeing in cities; and to engage and better inform the general public.

Photo: Zahle, Lebanon. Young Syrian refugees play at a water distribution point in the Fayda informal settlement in the Bekaa Valley. © Andrew McConnell / Panos Pictures





# Universal framing of development

Good-quality health services, decent jobs and access to sustainable energy, roads and public transport. These are common priorities for citizens across the world, in rich and poor countries alike, and are essential to meeting the ambitions set out in the Global Goals.

This universal framing of development, embodied by the Global Goals framework which applies to all countries and against which the UK will be reporting its own progress in 2019, is a guiding force for IDS' work. We have adopted an approach that looks beyond traditional aid and development models and promotes collaboration and mutual learning within and between countries, sectors and disciplines.

IDS' contributions to achieving universal health coverage, with their focus on convening global events, mutual learning and interdisciplinary working, typify this approach.



Photo: Amy the super midwife  
Sandor Weisz, CC BY 2.0  
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# Mutual learning and accountability for universal health coverage

Ensuring everyone in the world has access to decent healthcare is the concept behind universal health coverage (UHC). This ambition is part of the Global Goals, but has been on international agendas since 1978, when the Alma-Ata Declaration identified primary healthcare as key to attaining health for all people.

With 2018 marking the 40th anniversary of Alma-Ata, IDS researchers have emphasised the importance of mutual learning between and across countries, disciplines and sectors, as well as strengthened mechanisms of accountability for achieving UHC.

IDS, as co-host of the Health Systems Global (HSG) secretariat, has, since 2016, played a central role in coordinating and managing HSG's growing global membership of more than 1,800 members in 120 countries. We were at the forefront of the highly successful HSR2018 – the Fifth Global Symposium on Health Systems Research – in Liverpool in October 2018. IDS was an active member of a consortium of UK partners that co-convened the event alongside HSG, the World Health Organization, and the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research. The event was the largest of its kind and was praised for fostering interconnections across research and policy.

IDS had a strong presence at HSR2018. Researchers from the K4D programme facilitated learning for DFID's health cadre. The Impact Initiative programme coordinated sessions to support ESRC-DFID researchers to engage their research with health policymakers, researchers and activists attending the conference. IDS alum Professor Asha George was also appointed

Chair of the Board of Health Systems Global at the Liverpool Symposium.

Over 2019, HSR2018 outcomes include cross-institutional engagement around the Alma-Ata Declaration, the World Health Assembly and the UN General Assembly; a new coalition to advance implementation research and delivery science; and planning for HSR2020 in Dubai.

## Accountability for health equity

To achieve universal health coverage, health resources must reach the people most in need – often those most marginalised in society. Putting the universal framing of development into practice, IDS explored different ways to strengthen accountability as a means to promote health equity.

The Unequal Voices project, comparing experiences of implementing pro-equity health reforms in Brazil and Mozambique, ended in 2018 with a successful series of policy events in both countries. Project staff engaged with decision makers including Mozambique's Minister of Health, representatives from the World Bank, the municipal health secretariat in São Paulo, and the district indigenous health office in the remote Rio Negro region of the Amazon.

The project's principle investigator, Alex Shankland, worked with Tom Barker and Laura Bolton of IDS and a team led by Professor Stephen Peckham of the University of Kent to study the same issues in the NHS in England, commissioned by the Brazilian Ministry of Health Research and Training Agency, Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz). This contributed to the key aim of supporting mutual learning not only between Brazil and Mozambique, but between countries of the South and the UK.

Photo: Makeni, Sierra Leone. Sia Sandi, a student midwife from The School of Midwifery in Masuba, examines a pregnant patient while on placement at the Makeni Regional Hospital. © Abbie Trayler-Smith/H4+/Panos Pictures



#### HSR2018 in numbers

- 2,247 delegates from 146 countries
- 125 parallel sessions
- 451 poster presentations from academics across the world
- 283 scholarship recipients
- 62,391 unique visitors to HSR2018 website (July 2017 to October 2018)
- 6.7 million users of #HSR2018 hashtag during Symposium

# Teaching and learning

## First in the world for development studies

In partnership with the University of Sussex, IDS has been ranked first in the world for development studies for the third consecutive year in the QS World University Rankings by Subject. The ranking reflects the quality, impact and range of international development research and courses offered across the Sussex campus – at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), and the University’s School of Global Studies, Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU) and Centre for International Education (CIE).



## Learning in a world-class research environment

IDS is home to some of the world’s leading thinkers on development. Those teaching our master’s 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, all aspiring to bring about progressive change.

## Supporting IDS scholars from the Global South

Thanks to an extremely generous pledge to the IDS scholarship fund from one of our postgraduate alumni, combined with funds from other sources, we were able to offer a number of 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 jointly endowed five of these scholarships; a sixth was partly supported by a generous bequest from the estate of Sir Hans Singer. The scholarships were available to international students from lower- or middle-income countries and priority was given to students with the greatest potential to make a difference in their home countries after completing the degree.

## Helping to build careers for lasting change

Our talented and dedicated graduates go on to work as ministers in national governments, as high-level officials in development organisations such as the United Nations Development Programme (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. In the past year, we were thrilled to see IDS alum Isatou Touray appointed Vice President of The Gambia, and Ahmed Shide appointed Ethiopia’s Finance Minister. It is wonderful to see so many of our graduates applying their learning 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 how humanitarian development should be 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

### 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
- MSc Sustainable Development (online)
- PhD Development Studies by Research

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

# IDS alumni making waves

IDS has a proud tradition of producing graduates who go on to become local, regional and global change-makers. The past year has been no exception and we have celebrated some incredible achievements by our alumni:

## **Mamunur Rahman received the British Council Study UK Alumni Award for entrepreneurialism**

Mamunur Rahman was awarded the Entrepreneurialism prize for his innovation that transforms leftover clothing material into sanitary towels. ‘Ella Pads’ support more than 50,000 women with improved health, hygiene and employment opportunities. Mamunur studied an MA in Gender and Development, where he was encouraged to apply his learning to develop practical solutions to strengthening women’s empowerment.

## **Disability project led by IDS scholarship graduate Olusola Owonikoko awarded Google Impact prize**

Project Enable Africa, led by Olusola Owonikoko, won ‘The Google Impact Challenge Nigeria’ prize in recognition of its work to promote the access of persons with disabilities and their caregivers to information and communication technologies (ICT) skills and opportunities. On receiving the prize, Olusola said: “We are thrilled to receive this award, which would not have been possible without the knowledge gained and skills developed during my studies at IDS.”

## **Melanie Robinson appointed UK Ambassador to Zimbabwe**

Melanie graduated from IDS in 2001 with an MPhil in International Development. After studying at IDS, Melanie worked in a variety of positions for the Department for International Development (DFID) in London as well as the World Bank Group in Washington DC.

## **Isatou Touray appointed Vice President of The Gambia**

In a major cabinet reshuffle on 15 March 2019, Isatou Touray became Vice President of The Gambia. Isatou is a politician, activist and social reformer. A noted campaigner against female genital mutilation (FGM), she completed a PhD by Research in development studies at IDS in 2004 with supervision from Professor Melissa Leach.

Photo: Dr. Isatou Touray.  
© Ollivier Girard/EIF, CC BY-NC-ND-2.0, (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/>)

*“IDS creates leaders and shapes the world development agenda. IDS has contributed to what I am today and I am proud to be a product of this great and reputable institution.”*  
Isatou Touray, IDS alum and Vice President of The Gambia.



# IDS alumni making waves

## **Ahmed Shide appointed Ethiopia's Finance Minister**

Ahmed Shide was appointed as Minister of Finance of Ethiopia in October 2018. Previously he served as government spokesman and Minister of Transport. Before that he was State Minister of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development for more than eight years, where he made a major contribution to Ethiopia's economic reforms and development achievements. Ahmed completed an MA in Participation, Power and Social Change at IDS in 2004–05.

## **Asha George appointed Chair of the Board of Health Systems Global**

Professor Asha George was appointed as Chair of Health Systems Global – the first international membership organisation fully dedicated to promoting health systems research and knowledge translation. Asha completed her PhD at IDS on women's maternal mortality and the accountability of health workers in 2007. She has also worked as an adviser to UNICEF, the World Health Organization (WHO) and USAID on community-based approaches since 2008.

## **Building strong global alliances through our alumni network**

The IDS alumni network is a truly global community, with more than 3,300 individuals working in 100-plus countries. IDS' unique approach to studying, with an emphasis on mutual learning, provides a strength and depth to the alumni network that deepens IDS' global connections and forges new alliances for the future. For example, this year alumni have organised events in Mexico, India, Mozambique and Brazil to facilitate the sharing of IDS knowledge and research and to develop emerging agendas for research and action.

Visit the IDS alumni website for more information:

<https://alumni.ids.ac.uk/>

Photo: © Toby Phillips / Health Systems Global

*“I never saw myself as an academic and I think that’s why I chose IDS, because of its interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach that embraces activists, policymakers and practitioners, as well as researchers.” Professor Asha George*

# Professional development and learning

In addition to its postgraduate teaching programme, IDS has a long history of providing products and services that enhance professional learning, strengthening the capacity of development and social change professionals, projects and partner organisations to bring about positive transformations for a fairer and more sustainable world.

Our portfolio includes: short courses hosted at IDS on a range of critical development issues; bespoke courses designed and delivered in partnership and often hosted by partners; and several online and blended learning packages.

We also tailor 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 with 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: Participants of the Transforming Nutrition short course take part in a walking workshop. © Sarah King, IDS



Professional development and learning

# Professional development and learning

*“It was a wonderful learning experience, well-shaped and considered, offering moments to be challenged, to introspect and to plan. I leave with much to bring to my work and my colleagues.”*

*Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation for Learning short course participant, 2019*

## Highlights of our professional development and learning activities in 2018–19

### Short courses

In January 2019, 27 participants attended the five-day course Contribution Analysis for Impact Evaluation, hosted at IDS. Led by researchers from IDS and the Centre for Development Impact, the course equipped individuals and organisations to more effectively design impact evaluations using a contribution analysis framing.

This was just one of six successful short courses to run over the past year. Others were:

- Engaging Evidence and Policy for Social Change
- Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation for Learning
- Social Protection: Policies, Programmes and Evidence
- Transforming Nutrition: Ideas, Policies and Outcomes
- Using Participatory Action Research to Improve Development Practice

### Sustainability summer school

In May 2018 IDS hosted 42 students from 25 countries over two weeks for the annual STEPS Centre Summer School on Pathways to Sustainability. Through a mix of lectures, outdoor events and focused interaction with STEPS Centre members, participants developed their capacity to analyse and mobilise for sustainability.

### Building capacity to improve China’s global health engagement

IDS organised a bespoke training session for representatives of the Chinese Ministry of Health who will play a vital implementation role in China’s newly created aid agency. Twenty-one participants attended the two-week training course at IDS in autumn 2018: government officials and researchers from the China Nation Health Commission, the Chinese Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, and several Chinese universities. Visits to UK government departments such as the Department for International Development and Department of Health as well as other relevant institutions were also included to facilitate opportunities for mutual exchange and learning. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. In particular, the speakers’ expertise, the information and utility of the content gleaned, and the logistical organisation of the course were praised.

### Shaping perspectives and policies on digital development

IDS leads K4D, which supports the professional development and learning of several hundred thematic advisers at DFID on a range of cutting-edge global themes. In the past year, K4D produced over 400 reports, and designed and facilitated 14 learning journeys for DFID staff. As part of the learning journeys, face-to-face and virtual facilitated learning activities enable learners to explore emerging development issues that require interdisciplinary solutions. In the 'Leaving No One Behind in a Digital World' learning journey, DFID staff came together with academic and civil society partners to explore issues of technological exclusion, digital governance, internet gatekeepers and platforms, artificial intelligence, and the impact, risks and benefits of digital technology on society.

### Increasing Albanian researchers' skills to access research funding

IDS staff delivered dedicated training for Albanian academics to help them access international funding and networking and professional development opportunities. The training was delivered as part of the Collaborative Online and Offline Research Platform (COORP) – a project of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation implemented by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and the University of Fribourg. Fourteen participants successfully completed the four-day training, which focused on the preparation of competitive funding proposals.

### Embedding innovative pedagogy for education in Africa

Since 2018, IDS has been working with partners as part of the PEDAL initiative (Pedagogical Leadership for Africa) to help to transform higher education by embedding innovative pedagogy within graduate social science programmes. Initially focused on five universities in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda, the project's reach is expanding to additional faculties in these and other countries, due to high demand. In the first year, a team of pedagogical experts from the participating universities trained 320 teachers, with IDS staff providing quality assurance support.

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)

*“Having an on-demand service for advisors, given how incredibly busy people are, is absolutely essential to be able to do our jobs properly.” DFID staff user of the K4D research helpdesk*

Photo: Governance and inclusive development expert Esther McIntosh joined the IDS Board of Trustees in January 2019. © World University Service of Canada (WUSC)



# How we are organised

**Governed by a Board of Trustees from around the world, IDS is home to more than 200 staff and 300 students at any one time. But the IDS community extends far beyond, encompassing an extensive global network of more than 360 partners, 3,300 alumni and hundreds of former staff.**

## We comprise:

### Board of Trustees

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

The Board is chaired by Professor Jonathan Kydd.

Gareth Davies chaired the Resources, Audit and Risk Committee (until March 2019).

Professor Frances Stewart chairs the Programme Advisory and Review Committee.

### Strategic 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  
*Directors of Human Resources*

### 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, Inclusion and Social Change

Power and Popular Politics

Resource Politics

Rural Futures

# Building a sustainable organisation

**We have ended the financial year in a robust position with an operating surplus of £667k, and our annual income has been boosted by securing a number of competitively won grants for research consortia. These have established important new international partnerships across a wide range of thematic areas, from disability and modern slavery to freedom of religion and belief.**

**We are delighted to retain the number one ranking in Development Studies (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2019) for the third consecutive year and expect healthy levels of unrestricted income from teaching to continue into the next financial year as demand for our master's degrees continues to grow.**

## 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.

## 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 think tanks. It awarded IDS the highest five-star transparency rating in July 2018.

## Accountability

IDS is registered in England and Wales as a charitable company (no. 00877338) limited by guarantee, and with registered charity number 306371. You can see detailed information about our finances and compliance history on the Charity Commission and Companies House websites.

## A thriving organisation that lives its values

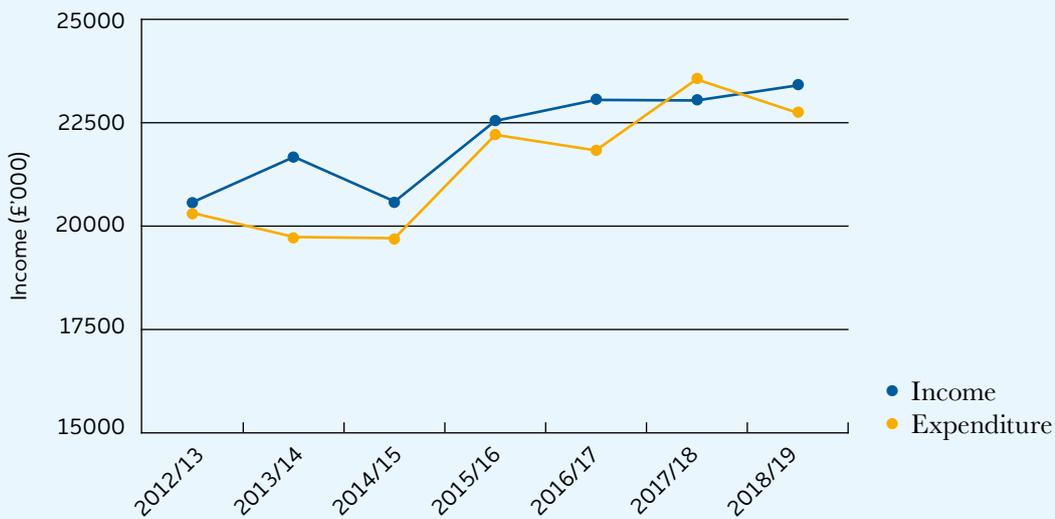
IDS has signed up to the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), which aims to mobilise a global movement of sustainable companies and stakeholders to create the world we want. This year our work has been guided by the ten principles of the Compact that speak to issues of human rights, labour, the environment and anti-corruption in a number of different ways.

We continue to protect and uphold human rights through our newly implemented safeguarding and disciplinary policies and our updated bullying and harassment policy. In relation to this, safeguarding training has been provided for staff and trustees, with a safeguarding lead on the Board appointed. We have revised our equality and diversity and recruitment policies, ensuring that we offer a place of employment that is free from discrimination. The Institute has also developed and delivered training on anti-bribery and corruption and whistleblowing for staff and trustees.

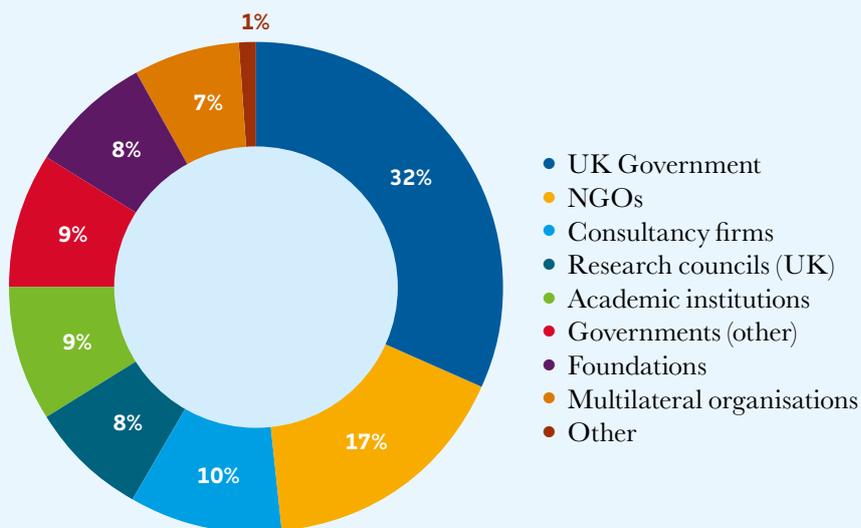
We also continue to seek to embed sustainability into the way we work through operational initiatives such as putting in place a Climate Action Taskforce, designing our procurement and maintenance policy for minimum waste and energy conservation, and promoting sustainable modes of transport.

# Finances and governance

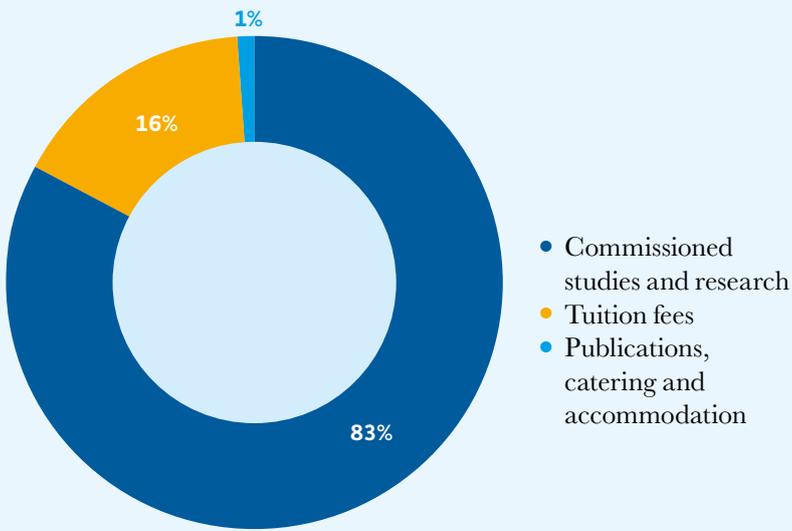
Total income and expenditure



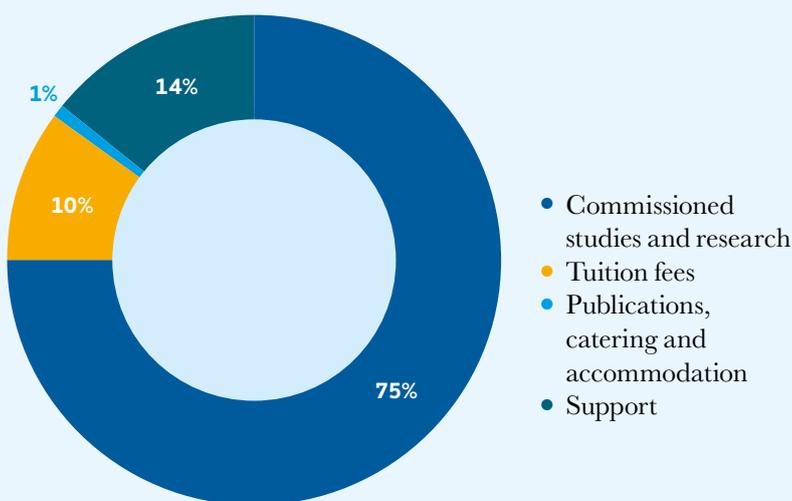
Research income by direct contractor category



Total income by type



Total expenditure by type



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

To view details of our 2018/19 audited financial statements, containing the Trustees' and Auditors' reports, visit [www.ids.ac.uk/governance](http://www.ids.ac.uk/governance)

Cover photo: Savar, Dhaka, Bangladesh.  
Women sweep grains of drying rice into  
mounds at a rice mill.  
© G.M.B. Akash / Panos Pictures

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IDS is registered in England and Wales as a charitable  
company (no. 00877338) limited by guarantee, and with  
registered charity number 306371.

ISBN 978-1-78118-570-4

