

# annual review 2022-23

**Delivering world-class research, learning and teaching that transforms the knowledge, action and leadership needed for more equitable and sustainable development globally.**





Inspired by the vast stretches of land, grass, ponds and swamps, wild animals, and livestock that surround farm life, the llaneros have developed a strong intimacy with their territory in the Llanos Orientales of Colombia. Photo from the PASTRES (Pastoralism, Uncertainty and Resilience: Global Lessons from the Margins) programme, where IDS is learning how pastoralists respond to uncertainty and resilience, drawing lessons for responding to global challenges. Credit: Greta Semplici / IDS





A local government facilitator leads community members in mapping climate risks to sanitation in Lao People's Democratic Republic. Credit: Jeremy Kohlitz / IDS



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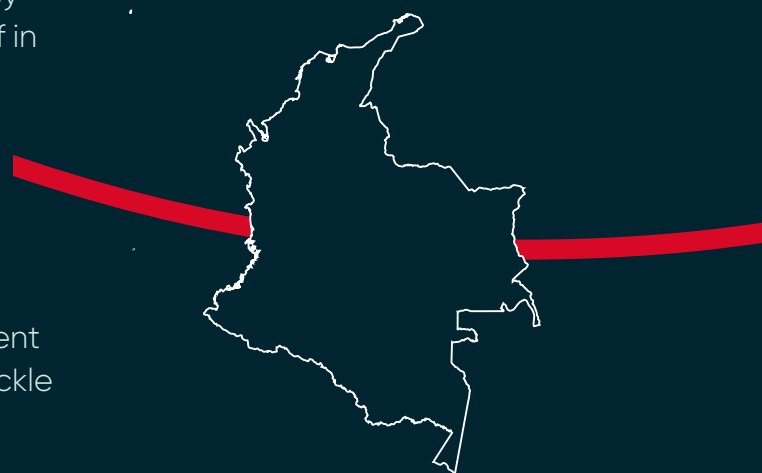
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The truly global nature of our work and impact at IDS – be it our active research projects or international partnerships – is illustrated by the artwork in this Annual Review.

The countries shown are just a snapshot of countries we've worked in with partners in the last year. They are drawn to be of equal size, reflecting our belief in equity and justice above all.

They link together in these pages with a red line that recognises the mobility, fluidity and interconnectedness of the places where we work and collaborate.

We convey through the red thread our commitment to knowledge-sharing and mutual learning to tackle universal development challenges.



Colombia



## Director's foreword

### Melissa Leach



These are deeply challenging times. Multiple intersecting crises are affecting a world still reeling from the Covid-19 pandemic and experiencing conflict, economic shocks and pressures, rising inequalities, climate and environmental change, and political turbulence. Multilateral cooperation is fragile, and authoritarianism and corporate control of key agendas are on the rise. Everyone everywhere is affected, with those who are already marginalised often suffering the most. There is therefore an urgent need to chart pathways to equitable, sustainable development that are attuned to diverse local contexts and perspectives, while building global solidarities to tackle shared challenges.

We have been working with our partners to re-cast development in these ways, whilst strengthening a 'decolonised' agenda, grounded in diverse, inclusive, equitable sharing of knowledge and resources, supported by continuous challenging of historically embedded power dynamics. This review highlights many examples of such approaches. Coming at the mid-point of our 2020–25 Strategy, it illustrates key contributions we have made to our overarching commitments, and the impact we are having in the form of new concepts and ideas, influences on policy and practice, and the building of networks and mutual learning.

Overall, it has been a successful year. We welcomed our most international student cohort ever, and their vibrant contributions have enriched our community immeasurably. Our International partnerships are flourishing and our focussed International Initiatives in Brazil, China, Europe, Ghana and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region continue to develop. We have also taken steps to ensure the Institute's own resilience and inclusivity, including an Equity and Inclusion review, strengthened climate actions and fundraising. All this has depended on teamwork and inclusive collaboration amongst many colleagues and partners. As we look back on this year and ahead to the next, thanks are due to them all.

*Melissa Leach*



## Chair's statement

### Deepak Nayyar



We live in difficult times. The world is in a state of flux. Economies are stressed, if not in crisis. Politics within countries is contentious, if not polarised. Geopolitical divides are visible and sharper than they have been for decades. International relations are strained, and there are several potential flashpoints. The situation might have improved in early 2022. But that was thwarted by the Russia-Ukraine war, which disrupted global supply chains in food, fuels and fertilisers. The sharp rise in food and fuel prices has pushed inflation to double-digit levels in most countries. Multiple crises – climate, conflict and inequality – persist. People who are poor and marginalised are the most vulnerable.

For IDS, the resource-crunch continues. The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office cuts are substantial. Brexit has limited access to EU sources. Research funding is scarcer. Yet, despite this challenging operating environment, IDS has continued to excel. And we have reason to be proud. In 2022, IDS, together with the University of Sussex, was ranked first in the world in Development Studies for the seventh consecutive year by the QS World University Rankings. This reflects the relevance, the excellence and the impact of IDS research and teaching in international development.

This Annual Review demonstrates the impressive progress we have made, at the mid-point of our strategy, in pursuit of our commitments and priorities. The impact stories highlighted here provide a vivid illustration of the wide range of contributions made by IDS to help nurture inclusive societies that improve the wellbeing of people, all people.

As Chair of the Board of Trustees, I am proud of IDS as an institution, for our operational resilience, our ability to adapt to change, and our culture of teamwork, all of which are essential for strengthening how we navigate these difficult times.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deepak Nayyar', written in a cursive style.



# Our vision and mission

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**We want a more equitable and sustainable world, where people everywhere can live their lives free from poverty and injustice.**

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## Our commitments:



**Upholding climate and environmental justice**



**Reducing extreme inequities**



**Fostering healthy and fulfilling lives**



**Nurturing inclusive, democratic and accountable societies**

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**We will transform the knowledge,  
action and leadership needed  
through our world-class research,  
learning and teaching.**

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**Our priorities:**



**Collaborate across  
sciences, sectors and  
communities to do  
research that brings  
progressive change**



**Build future leadership  
for development**



**Champion the use of  
evidence for social  
and environmental  
justice**



**Work with partners to  
expand international  
research and mutual  
learning networks for  
development**



**Create a sustainable,  
resilient and  
equitable institution**



# Highlights

# N°1

QS World University Rankings  
by subject 2023  
Development Studies

▶ 1,790

items in global print,  
online and  
broadcast media

∞ 494

contractual research,  
learning and  
funding partners

+ 771,891

engagements with IDS content including  
website, event registrations, newsletter  
subscriptions and social media

↪ 140

published journal  
articles authored  
by IDS staff

305 ↗

master's students and PhD researchers  
learnt with us between Sept 2021 and  
Sept 2022, including 74 students on  
scholarships from across 36 countries

47 ✓

participants from  
15 countries completed  
IDS specialist short courses

#15

mentions and citations  
of IDS research  
in the UK Parliament

## Awards, honours and appointments



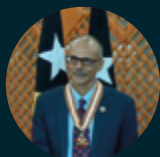
### Stephany Griffith-Jones

(Emeritus Fellow) Named in the top 100 Senior Leaders of 2022 in the newspaper *El Mercurio* and the Catholic University.



### Mujtaba Piracha

(IDS Alum) Won the Bloomsbury Pakistan Book Prize 2022 for his book *Property Taxes and State Incapacity in Pakistan*.



### Roy Trivedy

(IDS Alum) Outgoing UN Resident Coordinator, who received East Timor's highest honour, the Order of Timor-Leste, for contributing to the country's development, especially during the pandemic.



### Samirah Bello

(IDS Alum) Finalist in the Nigeria British Council Study UK Alumni Awards 2022 for her work to empower African agricultural value-chain actors.



### José A. Molinelli

(IDS Alum) Named as one of the 'top 10 most distinguished youth' in Puerto Rico in the Category of Politics and Government by Junior Chamber International; and also selected as a Junior Fellow of the Library of Congress in the Field of Law.



### John Gaventa

(Professorial Fellow) Received an honorary doctorate from St Francis Xavier University in recognition of the exceptional contributions of his work on social justice and the betterment of society.



### Jing Gu

(Research Fellow) Appointed as Chair, Professor in International Development at the College of International Development and Global Agriculture at China Agricultural University.



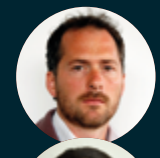
### Ian Scoones

(Professorial Fellow) Included in the annual Highly Cited Researchers List, compiled by Clarivate Analytics that recognises the global influence of academics within their field, for the third consecutive year.



### Karim Alwani

(IDS Alum) Selected as an overseas Member of the Youth Parliament Pakistan by the Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency; also elected as the Joint Secretary, Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division.



### Nicholas Nisbett and Jody Harris

(Research Fellow and Research Associate) Appointed to a new Committee on World Food Security (CFS) High Level Panel of Experts project team to work on a new report on 'Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition'.





# 1 Collaborating across sciences and disciplines, sectors and communities to do research that brings progressive change

Collaborations are central to how we work at IDS. The bedrock of this work is participation – of local communities and citizens, and of country-based researchers, businesses, advocates, activists and policymakers. We reach out across natural and social sciences, humanities and, increasingly, the arts to generate world-leading research on complex challenges.

In an evermore uncertain world, two collaborative research strands this year aimed to bring progressive change for women by highlighting the barriers that prevent them from realising their rights – and yielded widely noted research in the process. Building, sharing and valuing local knowledge was the springboard for different collaborative projects on the effects of climate change. Cross-disciplinary work on urban displacement connected affected communities to architecture students.

Through these collaborations and many others, we have furthered our commitment to co-create knowledge, to foster diverse voices and equitable partnerships, and to fully engage with debates on decolonisation. We will support more such work by continuing to reflect critically on how we position ourselves in our collaborations and contributions as a UK-based institution working on universal challenges.



Pakistan



Uganda

## Wide interest in research on boosting female voter turnout

Joint research on women voters in Pakistan has shown how engaging men could increase female political participation.

The IDS-led [Action for Empowerment and Accountability \(A4EA\)](#) programme with the Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives (IDEAS) in Pakistan investigated ways to tackle the country's gender gap in voting. A team from IDS, Lahore University of Management Sciences and Yale University led a field experiment in Lahore to try to boost the turnout of women voters for the 2018 election.

When they targeted only women with a non-partisan campaign, no effect was seen. But when they canvassed men to support the women in their household to go and vote, turnout changed substantially.

The findings have been widely cited and shared among academics and international donors:

📖 *American Political Science Review*: Published in May 2022, most-read article in June, lead and cover article of the print version in February 2023

11 Citations within the first year by scholars from Princeton, Harvard, University of Oxford, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), International Growth Centre

🐦 Shared **192** times among academics from Lahore School of Economics, University of California, University of Oxford Saïd Business School, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Pakistan

📖 Coverage in Yale News, American Political Science Association, EGAP (Evidence in Governance and Politics)



**An interesting study, and important lessons that should be incorporated into @CanadaDev 'Women's Political Participation' project in Pakistan.**

Wendy Gilmour, Canada's High Commission, tweet



To reach their findings, the team targeted only women in some places, only men in other places, and both men and women in other areas before the 2018 election.

The team was also asked to present to the Central Elections Commission in Palestine, which is working on democratisation and ways to reduce gaps in women's registration and turnout.

## **Housing collaboration links Izmir community to London's British Academy**

WHIT – the Wellbeing, Housing and Infrastructure in Türkiye project – explored informal housing and urban wellbeing in a context of displacement. In June 2022, project partners exhibited cross-disciplinary social science and architecture work at the flagship British Academy Summer Showcase in London. Live links of exhibition visitors to young refugees in Izmir, Türkiye, helped to create a community rooftop space.

The WHIT project partners working with IDS are the TIAFI (Team International Assistance for Integration) community centre in Izmir, the University of Brighton and Yasar University with support from Umeå University, Sweden.



Visitors to the British Academy on Schools Day and young refugees in Izmir designed elements of the rooftop space via live links. Credit: S. Shirke / IDS



The leisure space now sits atop the TIAFI community centre. Housed in an old shoe factory in Izmir and staffed by Syrian volunteers, the centre offers support for Syrian refugees and low-income Turkish families. Credit: R. Mull / IDS

## Turning research into action on young women's security at work

An IDS-led partnership with universities in Uganda and Bangladesh has produced findings on workplace sexual harassment of young women that are being used to raise awareness with communities, authorities and decision makers.

Entitled '[The Gendered Price of Precarity](#)', the research project spoke with more than 100 female food production and domestic workers in both countries. The findings revealed how women's empowerment is jeopardised by widespread sexual harassment in the workplace and for domestic workers in their place of employment. Partners on the project were the BRAC University Institute of Governance and Development in Bangladesh and the Makerere University in Uganda.

The project then took the findings further to conduct extensive campaigning through national-level dissemination events and media campaigns – with notable impacts. The events have prompted open discussions among multiple audiences. Local government representatives, for example, recognised that workplace sexual harassment is a widespread problem that needs to be addressed, not only by employers but by all stakeholders acting together.

Remarkable changes in attitudes and actions were seen following a workshop with Ugandan police officers. Some explained that the workshop made them realise how severely sexual harassment can affect the victims and their families. Other officers described improved ways of assisting women and girls when they are reporting harassment. 'If girls find it hard to say a particular word, I say it for them and ask if that's what they meant,' one officer explained.

In both Uganda and Bangladesh, the project involved youth researchers from civil society organisations who delivered a range of activities: presentations at international conferences, community workshops, radio interviews and TV talk shows, YouTube videos and newspaper articles, distributing stickers and using local influencers to re-tweet news stories.



**I understand sexual harassment better these days... now... when someone feels threatened, I take it seriously.**

Ugandan police officer, after workshop



## Supporting local partners on climate-resilient sanitation practices



A village in Savannakhet Province, in Lao People's Democratic Republic, where waterlogging is common in the wet season. Credit: Jeremy Kohlitz / IDS

Evidence generated from a participatory project involving the IDS-based [Sanitation Learning Hub \(SLH\)](#) has enabled rural communities to develop sanitation practices that are more resilient to climate change – addressing a key knowledge gap in this area.

The SLH partnered with the Institute for Sustainable Futures in Sydney, Australia, in the two-year project. It produced and disseminated evidence to support local communities and

organisations working in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

The project has had decisive impacts. Partner organisations such as UNICEF in Burkina Faso and SNV in Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) have incorporated climate considerations into sanitation processes and guidelines and advocated to government officials and other local actors. Another partner organisation, Catholic Relief Services, trained local government staff in Kenya.

Underlining the importance of co-creating knowledge, the project resulted in shifts in practice – such as SNV leading on community-based research, and the training by Catholic Relief Services to draw on community knowledge about climate hazards.

## Co-creating approaches to climate change and uncertainty

From 2019 to 2022, [TAPESTRY \(Transformation as Praxis: Exploring Socially Just and Transdisciplinary Pathways to Sustainability in Marginal Environments\)](#), a project co-hosted by IDS, worked alongside marginalised communities in three vulnerable coastal areas of India and Bangladesh. They explored transformative approaches to uncertainties caused by climate and other drivers of change. Roundtables between researchers and decision makers highlighted examples of positive and harmful adaptations. Digital storytelling and artwork – exhibited in the UK and India – captured the responses of islanders, fishers and herders. Partner organisation Lokamata Rani Rashmoni Mission created an app – *Beautiful Sundarbans* – for knowledge exchange between islanders, community organisations and policymakers. This project was shortlisted for the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) International Impact prize.



'Remembering the trauma', a painting by M, a school student in the Sundarbans, about the experience of leaving home during severe floods caused by the tropical cyclone Amphan. This part of the project was led by the Centre for World Environmental History at the University of Sussex.

Fishers in Versova, Mumbai, another TAPESTRY focus area. Initiatives included net filters adapted from traditional technologies.  
Credit: Nipun Prabhakar / IDS



## 2 Building future leadership for development

IDS is committed to enabling students and learners to become informed and knowledgeable leaders – individuals who can work with others to bring equitable and sustainable change to development. We are strengthening student capacity in practical and rewarding ways, including providing new mentoring methods to harness alumni experience. We are enhancing our support for those impacted by the ongoing effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our teaching modules are trialling new ways to include decolonising activities, which students report finding positive and inspiring. In Professional Development and Learning – an area of work aimed at helping organisations to increase their impact – we are improving the profile and coherence of our offer. An updated webpage showcases our expertise in this area – seen in this section in snapshots from the learning journeys of two leading development organisations.





## From IDS to founding an award-winning social enterprise



Credit: James  
Andrews / IDS

Mina Chiang studied for an MA in Development Studies at IDS in 2017, [with a scholarship from Rotary International](#) in her home country, Taiwan. She then went on to found the [Humanity Research Consultancy \(HRC\)](#), an award-winning social enterprise that works to end modern slavery and human trafficking. HRC specialises in working predominantly with researchers from the global South. Major organisations such as Oxfam, Plan International, United States Institute of Peace (USIP) and Winrock International have commissioned HRC research.

Mina explains why she chose IDS and her experience of studying here:

‘IDS doesn’t just teach but also is a thinktank and works directly on projects that shape our world. I love that my classmates were from around 50 different countries. My research ability clearly improved through the MA – without the experience at IDS, I would not have been able to establish HRC.

‘The most important thing I gained from the course was the understanding of the international development industry. Studying the MA helps you to see beyond charitable organisations’ sporadic acts – to how the international development industry emerges and systematically is trying to solve major global problems like poverty, and its limitations and merits.’

## Nurturing the next generation of leaders in development

Our teaching and support systems are designed to enable students to give their best and to be well equipped to work at the forefront of international development.

### Modules explore decolonising perspectives

In line with our aim to bring a decolonising agenda into teaching, activists and speakers with grounded experience shared reflections with students on 'local' and 'global' realities, perspectives on social change and participated in discussions relating aid interventions to endogenous process of change.

One IDS Fellow commented: 'I think the opportunity to use the decolonial funds to broaden perspectives we share in our teaching worked well. A step further would be to also bring more decolonial theories into our sessions.'

### Practical preparation for development careers

In the words of a recent external examiner commenting on the IDS experience: 'Students receive excellent training for both further research and applied practice in the field of international development.'

Two ways we do this, in addition to our conventional master's degree teaching, are: **Skills week** dedicated to sharing and developing professional skills among the whole IDS community; and **Methods week** devoted to examining different methodologies for qualitative and quantitative research, and other tools.

**Mentoring** is another practical support and a rewarding experience for students and alumni alike. In 2022, we added new dimensions to our alumni network mentoring programme:

- Matched mentoring – The alumni relations office matches pairs twice yearly for traditional one-to-one mentoring. This started in November 2022, and round two matching is under way. Initial feedback is positive.
- Group mentoring – One mentor works with several mentees at once in a group. A trial of this began in February 2023 with former student Roy Trivedy as our first Group Mentor. Feedback on this has been overwhelmingly positive.

In recognition of the increasing physical and mental health impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on our students, we also launched a Reasonable Adjustment system that supports staff to identify students' specific needs.

## Postgraduate learning at IDS

Our partner, the University of Sussex is the awarding body for IDS degrees. IDS delivered degrees are the PhD Development Studies by Research; MA Development Studies; MA Globalisation, Business and Development; MA Gender and Development; MA Governance, Development and Public Policy; MA Power, Participation and Social Change and MA Poverty and Development. The MA Food and Development; MSc Climate Change, Development and Policy and the online MSc Sustainable Development are delivered in partnership with and are led by University of Sussex.

### Master's focused on a range of development themes:



### Master's focused on practice and action:



### Online master's:



### Master's focused on key development themes:



### Research:



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



## Alumni achievements



### Natalia Herbst

(Class of 2016) Joined former US president Barack Obama for a conversation at the first-ever Obama Foundation Democracy Forum to share her perspectives on the current democratic backsliding and the work she is leading to expand democracy.



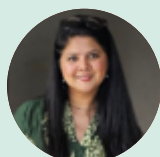
### Pakinam Moussa

(Class of 2022) Her thesis about the socioeconomic impact of entrepreneurship skills training in Ghana was selected by the Ministry of Education of Ghana and Innovations for Poverty Action to be presented at the Ghana Education Evidence Summit 2022.



### Muhammad Babar Jan

(Class of 2020) Has supported the Planning and Development Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, in establishing a development-focused team in the eight newly merged districts of the province.



### Elaine Alam

(Class of 2021) Had a chapter published in the South Asia State of Minorities Report 2022: Obligations to International Human Rights Standards and Their Implications for Minorities: Pakistan.



### Alfred Adjabeng

(Class of 2020) Launched Schools Farms, a non-profit addressing Ghana's school meal challenges through a community-based approach. Schools cultivate crops, educate students about healthy eating, and improve access to nutritious meals.



### Ennet Tiruneh

(Class of 2023) ...and her team at Addis Health became the first-ever double winner in the annual StartUp Sussex student enterprise competition with their plan to deliver convenient, affordable health-care services for communities across Ethiopia, while reducing underemployment for qualified medical professionals in the country.

## Scholarships campaign

Studying at IDS with inspirational peers from around the world means our graduates leave ready to make a difference in their home countries. But many individuals face extremely high barriers to such international postgraduate study opportunities.

IDS Graduate Scholarships enable talented and committed individuals from low- or lower-middle-income countries to come and study with us. Already 22 students have enjoyed our scholarships. This year we launched a campaign to support another ten Graduate Scholarships.

Three leaders in international development have generously supported the Scholarship Campaign: Dudley Seers, the founding Director of IDS; Sir Hans Singer, a development economist renowned for work on trade and developing countries; and Sir Richard Jolly, the second Director of IDS and an ongoing, valued contributor to our work.

Thanks to their support, we are 60 per cent of the way towards our target – but we need to do more.

For more information about how you can help, visit [www.ids.ac.uk/scholarships](https://www.ids.ac.uk/scholarships)



**Rabab Jafar joined us in September 2022, as the recipient of our IDS Graduate Scholarship Award.**



**By studying the MA Poverty and Development at IDS, I aim to critically explore the influences, participants, and institutions that shape development and inform poverty reduction strategies and gain a comprehensive understanding of development frameworks, theories, and perspectives.**

**On returning to Pakistan, I aim to be actively involved in advocacy and policy to influence poverty alleviation initiatives, especially those that are state-led, to be more gender-responsive.**

Rabab Jafar

## Our work in professional development and learning

We provide world-class professional, practitioner and organisation-wide learning for people working in development. Our action-oriented, collaborative training and learning are offered in three broad types:

- Specialist short courses for development professionals – for example, Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation for Learning, Contribution Analysis for Impact Evaluation, and Inclusive Trade;
- Facilitated learning for organisations and individuals – bespoke learning activities developed to address a specific need;
- Learning processes embedded in a multi-year development programme, delivered by IDS or with partners.

### Learning journeys

Our learning journey methodology underpins both facilitated learning and learning within programmes. A learning journey is a collaborative process designed with organisations to explore and respond to a complex issue, challenge or ambition. Typically, our thematic experts support participants over several months to reflect on research findings and real scenarios, share experiences, and identify ways to apply learning.

### IDRC: using Southern-led knowledge in development

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) has integrated IDS learning journeys into different projects that have helped to enhance its approach to supporting more inclusive, diverse forms of knowledge, particularly from the global South, as well as documenting learning from the IDRC's rapid response to Covid-19. A recent learning partnership has been established to support IDRC's Clean Energy for Development Programme. It has also influenced the funder's Policy and Evaluation Division and its Corporate Thought Leadership Group.



**Several of the specific findings from the learning journey led to mid-course shifts, especially in deepening efforts to build regional leadership among the project cohorts. The learning journey model has since been taken up by IDRC knowledge-sharing colleagues, on a project to delve more deeply into IDRC efforts to support Southern-led knowledge translation.**

Adrian Di Giovanni, Team Leader, IDRC

**Plan International: enhancing organisational effectiveness**

The IDS Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning team designed a learning journey to understand how organisational effectiveness can deliver stronger impacts – specifically how to align Plan International's approach to performance management with their global strategy, MERL (monitoring, evaluation, research and learning) framework, systems and reporting. The organisation-wide consultation prompted deep reflection on how data was used across Plan International and the power dynamics inherent in global reporting systems. A series of contextualised recommendations, including a proposed systems approach, were well received by the Senior Management Team and have informed new thinking across the organisation.

For more information on our professional development offers, see [www.ids.ac.uk/learningfordevelopment](https://www.ids.ac.uk/learningfordevelopment)



**IDS led us in a focused, participatory, collaborative learning journey. They were inclusive in their approach and demonstrated care in documenting and presenting the information that they collected and analysed. The results of the journey were both relevant and practical – so much so that we are now revisiting our strategic results framework and improving our results-based management approach to link our results with performance.**

Jacqueline Gallinetti, Director, Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning,  
Plan International



### 3 Championing the use of evidence for social and environmental justice

How evidence is generated, shared and used underpins our drive to increase equity in knowledge production. We challenge knowledge hierarchies and explore ways to think more deeply about evidence and impact. Over the past year, that impact could be seen in IDS research influencing policy and practice for the better – informing debates on rice production in East Africa or helping ensure economic reforms work for Sri Lankans. We are generating evidence in more inclusive ways, bringing together diverse groups as equals – such as using art to highlight the socio-commercial side of the nail salon industry or to bridge gaps in understanding the inequity of environmental threats. Organisations are also increasingly asking IDS to find ways to improve how they use their own evidence for greater impact. Through these and other activities, IDS is well-placed to promote a more progressive agenda around evidence and impact.



Vietnam



Sri Lanka

## Migrant stylists and researchers co-create art installation

A working nail salon in a glass pavilion in an Amsterdam arts venue has attracted wide interest from galleries and festivals in Europe and Vietnam. 'Nails', an interactive installation at the renowned Rietveld Art Academy, showcased an IDS initiative to bring together arts and social sciences. It was spearheaded by [IDS Fellow Pauline Oosterhoff](#), who worked with Vietnamese nail salon owners, stylists, activist researchers and a [Korean visual artist](#) to explore the power dynamics of race, migration, trafficking and the lucrative beauty industry.

The installation pays tribute to 39 Vietnamese migrant workers found dead in a lorry container in Essex, UK, in 2019. Many were aspiring nail stylists.

In a bid to displace the anonymity and invisibility of such workers, visitors learned of migrant stylists' lives and aspirations through video and personal interactions.

BBC News Vietnam covered the day-long installation, which was shown again for five days in The Hague. The installation will be at De Parade, the world's largest travelling theatre festival in Amsterdam and a book on the history of nail salons is planned.



'The care of having my nails done while being introduced to another person's life felt really intimate.'  
'What a wonderful experience! The balance of tragic and happy is really touching.'

Visitors' reactions. Credit: Carmen Gray / IDS

## APRA rice research impacts take root in East Africa

The impacts of long-term IDS-led research on rice production have been ever more visible in policymaking and network-building in East Africa over the past year.

The [Agricultural Policy Research in Africa \(APRA\) programme](#) of the [Future Agricultures Consortium \(FAC\)](#) generated evidence from 2016 to 2022 to identify more inclusive pathways to agricultural commercialisation in sub-Saharan Africa including the rice sector, which has expanded rapidly in response to growing demand across the region. APRA researchers' work has influenced six National Rice Development Strategies and the East African Community's (EAC) Regional Rice Development Strategy.

The APRA programme used findings from in-depth, place-based, multi-country research and outreach activities to inform national and regional rice sector policy processes. APRA's evidence raised awareness of the importance of rice – which is now being promoted as a 'strategic commodity' by the Government of Ethiopia.

Impacts on policymaking were particularly evident in Ethiopia, where the research informed the design of different rice-related public strategic documents. These include the *National Rice Sector Development Strategy II* (2020–30), the *National Agricultural Investment Plan* (2021–30), and the *National Rice Flagship Programme* (2022–27). The research has also influenced the design of important rice sector development initiatives, such as the second phase of the EthioRice project (2022–27), which is supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and includes the establishment of a new National Rice Research and Training Centre.

### Regional collaborations

Further impact can be seen in the sustained partnerships and new collaborations among regional institutions related to rice research. These have gone from strength to strength since the East Africa Rice Conference (EARC), which APRA co-convened in 2021 with colleagues from the Coalition for African Rice Development, the International Rice Research Institute, and the Africa Rice Center.

APRA's work – which covered other commodities and systems – aligns directly with IDS commitment to forging more equitable research and knowledge production. Through regional workshops, virtual e-Dialogues, national dissemination events and more, APRA researchers shared their multifaceted research with diverse policy, academic and business audiences, reaching out beyond sectors and geographies.

## IDS expertise helps economic reforms work for Sri Lankans

Insights from a leading IDS specialist on Sri Lanka are helping the country's politicians to chart a course out of economic crisis.

[IDS Professorial Fellow Mick Moore OBE](#) has been a specialist on Sri Lanka for nearly 50 years. He is one of four members of the Sri Lanka Economic Policy Group formed by the country's top thinktank, Verité Research. In this capacity, he has written policy notes and presented on tax issues at several high-level policy seminars, conferences and events in 2022–23.

Mick has used his high-profile role to test current thinking. At the 'State of the Budget' event in December 2022, he presented an alternative to the president's proposal to register all adults for tax to an audience of MPs, the Chair of the Public Finance Committee and the Governor of the Central Bank.

Amid negotiations with the International Monetary Fund, Mick contributed directly to discussions on shaping the economic reform programme. He also briefed key opposition figures on tax issues ahead of parliamentary debates, and earlier this year the Leader of the Opposition directly cited Mick and other members of the Sri Lanka Economic Policy Group in parliament.

## Practical insights tackle beliefs-based discrimination



IDS first eBook on making religious equality a reality, produced by CREID, launched in October 2022

A five-country research partnership has highlighted how discrimination against people due to their religion or beliefs can undermine their rights, prospects and wellbeing – and has succeeded in bringing about practical, positive change.

From 2018 to 2022, IDS led the [Coalition for Religious Equality and Inclusive Development \(CREID\)](#) in partnership with the Minority Rights Group, Al-Khoei Foundation and Refcemi.

In Egypt and Pakistan, CREID worked through youth and women's committees to secure access to clean water and obtain PPE equipment for more than 100,000 people during the Covid-19 pandemic, and improved access to key health services and vaccinations. It also worked with Muslim scholars in Iraq to develop a new curriculum that challenged stereotypes. Hundreds of teachers were trained on this and several schools adopted the curriculum, benefiting more than 1,500 school students.

Much of CREID's success stems from extensive collaborative work with local partners who are perceived as marginalised or members of minorities. They implemented community development projects while producing evidence about how change happens.



## South Africa improves income support after expert input

A key form of income support in South Africa is closer to becoming permanent, following a strong recommendation by an expert panel on social protection that included [IDS Fellow Stephen Devereux](#).

Echoing civil society campaigns, the panel strongly recommended that the Social Relief of Distress grant, introduced during the Covid-19 pandemic, be continued to bridge coverage gaps in income support. The panel's recommendation drew on Stephen's research. He explored the paradox that South Africa produces and exports enough food and yet one in four South Africans are food-insecure. A quarter of its children suffer from stunting.

Much of Stephen's work was as Research Chair in Social Protection for Food Security at the University of the Western Cape (UWC), from 2016 to 2022, in tandem with work at IDS.

As Chair, he highlighted the issue of severe seasonal hunger affecting farmworkers, a particularly marginalised, exploited group. He published widely on the issue and spoke at policy forums, including the National Conference on Farmworkers. He also convened the first-ever national workshop on the efficacy of the school feeding programme, with successful learning outcomes.

Stephen taught many UWC students, enabling some to experience study exchanges at IDS. Many now work in leading development agencies.

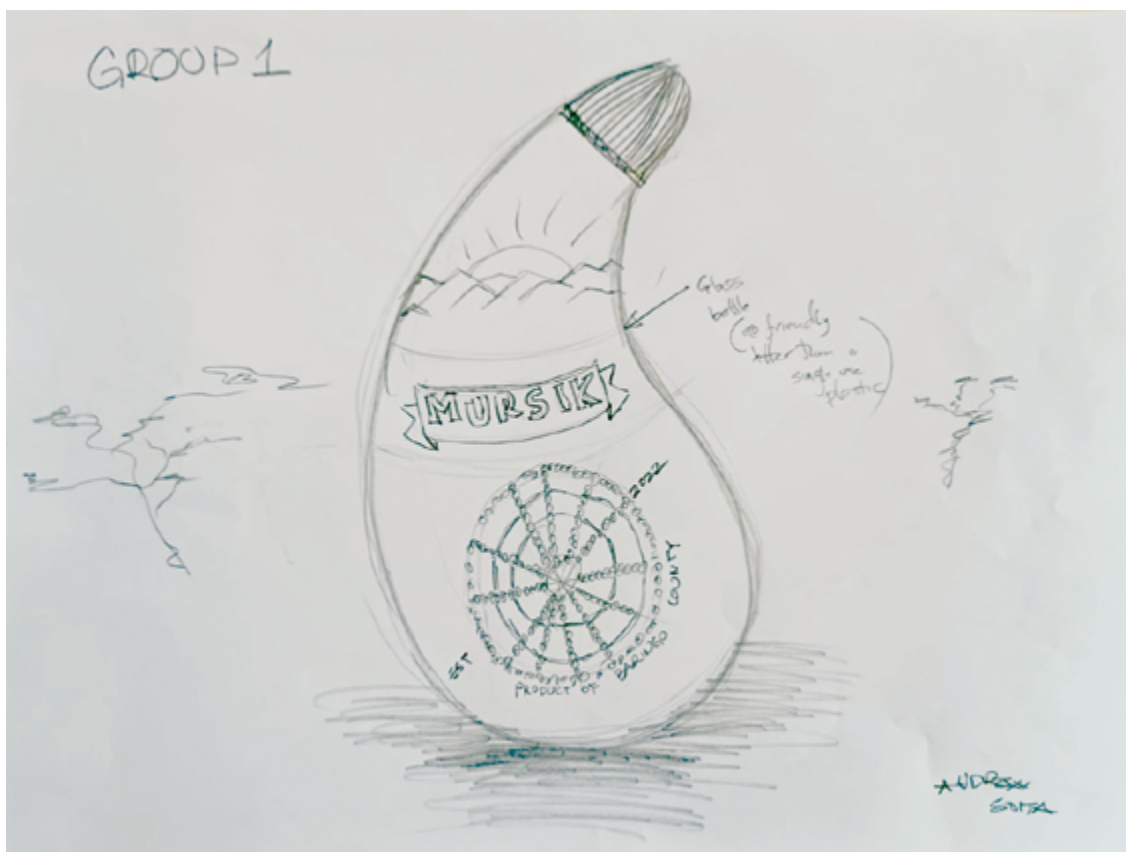
## Art spurs dialogues on inequity of climate impacts

Based in Mauritania, Senegal, Mali, Ghana, and Kenya, the paired projects '[Citizen Voice and the Arts](#)' and '[Pan-African Network for the Arts in Environmentally Sustainable Development](#)' enabled citizens, policymakers, academics, and civil society to share experiences of environmental issues across cultural barriers while collaborating on artwork. Artists co-facilitated the workshops – such as the popular Malian singer Mariam Koné who led a song-writing task – creating convivial atmospheres. In Senegal, consensus was reached to portray climate change from a socio-political angle, rather than neutrally. A shared awareness emerged that climate change is affecting individuals and communities unequally.

Senegal – The inequity of climate change, as sea levels rise above the poorer houses on the right. Credit: Photo taken by Cherif Sambou Bodian. The painting was created during a group workshop facilitated by Samba Sarr.



Kenya – At a workshop on the production and trade of milk and honey, a group sketches packaging for a fermented milk product. Credit: Bronson Eran'Ogwa

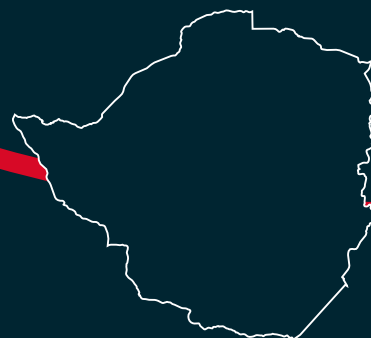


## 4 Working with partners to expand international research and mutual learning networks for development

Equitable partnerships are at the heart of everything we do. They are vital for channelling social science and contextual knowledge into development decision-making. Assessing power dynamics and decolonising research and relationships are central to our partnership working, and over the past year, our work on pandemics has engaged a wide array of partners. We work with local researchers and impacted communities to understand lived experiences and potential solutions, through to UN agencies and international research institutes where we can contribute to and influence debate. Ahead of next year's WHO-led treaty on pandemics, our Pandemic Preparedness project and Covid Collective initiative, both examples of what can be achieved through agile partnering and collaboration, have underlined the need to make responses equitable, ethical and locally based. Alert to other geopolitical challenges, our International Initiatives are also facilitating networking and knowledge-sharing. Now in their third year, the five existing Initiatives are joined by a Middle East and North Africa Initiative.



Sierra Leone



Zimbabwe

## Working in partnership

In the past year, we had contractual research, learning and funding partnerships with almost 500 partners in over 50 countries around the world, but are engaging with many more. These range from multi-country research consortiums, collaborations between local, national and international teams, research to policy initiatives and community-driven projects that connect local researchers and activists with small businesses, practitioners and service providers.

### Ensuring partnerships are equitable

We aspire to forge impactful and genuinely equitable partnerships in research for development and continue to reflect on what equal partnerships and decolonising knowledge entails in practice. IDS is a collaborating partner on a project which is allowing us to build on this: [Pathways to Impactful and Equitable Partnerships in Research for Development](#). This is a co-created, action-learning initiative project led by Southern Voice and funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). The initiative begins from a starting point that open spaces of dialogue are needed to reform the problematic patterns of current research partnerships in international development. The aim is to produce an action and research agenda to improve such relationships, to transform policy and practice that can respond to urgent challenges to people's lives and livelihoods.

### Creating equitable funding partnerships

Our new study of [Knowledge Translation in the Global South](#) provides recommendations for funders to support more effective structures and strategies for the use of research for equitable development. This has already begun to influence the thinking of some key bilateral and philanthropic funders and sets out an exciting research agenda on getting evidence into use.



## Collaborating and knowledge-sharing through our International Initiatives

The IDS International Initiatives are spaces for researchers, governments and civil society from diverse locations to share new perspectives on tackling global challenges. Below is a snapshot of some of the activity that has taken place over the last 12 months.

### Brazil

The IDS Brazil Initiative is an ever-growing network of civil society and academic partners. Together the partners are working on a broad range of development issues including social, climate, health and nutritional inequalities whilst also reflecting on Brazil's place in the world under a second Lula government, and ahead of the country hosting various high-level international events.

### Highlight:

A series of workshops explored the reinvigoration of participatory democratic governance in Brazil. The first was co-convened with Cebrap and delivered in partnership with the Federal University of Pernambuco, ActionAid Brazil and King's College London, two decades after the kick-off workshop for the influential 'Olhar Crítico' project convened by IDS and ActionAid from 2003–5. It took place in the same venue in Pernambuco State and brought together many of the same social movement leaders and academics, alongside new voices from recent Brazilian struggles for democracy and social justice.

### Ghana

The Ghana Development Hub is a space where researchers, local and national government, civil society and the private sector join forces to tackle pressing issues of sustainable development in Ghana and West Africa.

### Highlight:

Early career researchers from five Ghanaian universities met in Tamale in February, and followed up online, to co-create, and plan for, a common research agenda on issues including agroforestry, sanitation and pastoralism.

### Europe

The IDS European Engagement Initiative engages proactively with European sister organisations and other partners and networks. The Initiative is continuing its collaboration on shared development commitments, increasingly introducing international development learning to the European context and reflecting on the legacies and future of international development research institutes based in former colonial powerhouses.

### Highlight:

The German Institute of Development and Sustainability visited IDS and joined colleagues in a two-day exchange on key emerging themes in international development. From the role of China in global development to democratic backsliding and nature-based solutions, the objective was to join forces to understand and address these challenges.

### Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

The latest Initiative to emerge, the IDS MENA Initiative works with a variety of national and regional partners on challenges such as climate change, protracted displacement, social protection as well as gender and LGBTQ+ backlash.

### Highlight:

IDS co-convened a series of participatory workshops with a wide variety of Lebanese and regional stakeholders on issues ranging from gender backlash and social protection to the need for just transitions. The aim was to ensure a shared understanding of the needs and the hurdles, identify the knowledge gaps and explore partnerships to address some of these challenges together.

### Pakistan

The IDS Pakistan Hub is centred on long-term partnership between universities, thinktanks and governmental departments. The Hub focuses on issues ranging from governance, women's rights and environmental justice, through an engaging programme of research and high-profile events.

### Highlight:

IDS was a partner at the Pathways to Development: Equitable and Sustainable Growth in Pakistan conference, hosted by the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS), a long-standing collaborator of the IDS Pakistan Hub. This was an opportunity to facilitate interdisciplinary exchange of knowledge and collaboration on the theme of equitable growth in Pakistan.

For more information about our International Initiatives, visit [www.ids.ac.uk/internationalinitiatives](http://www.ids.ac.uk/internationalinitiatives)

## Pandemic preparedness: collaborating with impacted communities to explore approaches

How countries prepare for the next pandemic has concentrated minds in various international forums over the past year. However, local people's understandings of these diseases and their knowledge in preparing for them is often ignored. IDS was a lead partner in Pandemic Preparedness, a four-year programme researching preparedness 'from below'. Funded by the Wellcome Trust, it explored different meanings and practices of preparedness and learned from people living with multiple health-related uncertainties in settings in Africa.

Global and regional research was carried out alongside local-level research that took place in villages in Sierra Leone and Uganda. This fieldwork included ethnographic and participatory research to track how people currently understand and deal with health events and threats.

Key findings from the project were shared in a public webinar 'Shifting Power in Pandemics'. Held in November 2022, this online event sought to further discussion on the kinds of efforts and global-local relations needed to strengthen, build and integrate local-level preparedness.



Our partners on the Pandemic Preparedness programme included Centre Régional de Recherche et de Formation à la Prise en Charge Clinique de Fann (CRCF, Senegal), Institut de recherche pour le développement (France), London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (UK), Njala University (Sierra Leone) and Gulu University (Uganda).

Man in homemade personal protective equipment in Sierra Leone. Credit: Professor Melissa Parker, LSHTM

## Influencing debates ahead of a global pandemic treaty

Coordinated by IDS and funded by FCDO, the [Covid Collective research platform](#) initially brought together the expertise of eight global partner organisations, but since its inception three years ago, it has expanded to 35 partners, working across 65 projects in 39 countries. In its final phase, the project supported a hard-hitting report urging world leaders to look beyond conventional staples of the public health toolkit when drafting a new WHO-led global treaty on pandemics. They called for a more people-centred strategy of preparedness and offered a radical five-point action framework.

The flagship report – [Pandemic Preparedness for the Real World](#) – was published in March 2023 to mark the third year of the Covid-19 pandemic. It criticised pandemic approaches as having been reactive and top-down in nature and overly reliant on technological ‘solutions’. The report drew on a large and growing body of social science research undertaken during the pandemic, in locations from urban northwest London to rural Zimbabwe.

Also published in 2023, the [People’s Agenda for Pandemic Preparedness](#) report is the result of a collaboration between over 50 researchers from 25 countries across six continents into people’s priorities for recovery from the pandemic. Protection for the most vulnerable, support to recover livelihoods and health, and help to get young people back on track were widely shared concerns. The report is an example of IDS utilising its position and networks to bring together key actors to collate and distribute knowledge.

## A partnership influencing Ebola response in Uganda

The [Social Science in Humanitarian Action Platform \(SSHAP\)](#) is a partnership between IDS, Anthrologica, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, for the rapid provision of social and contextual evidence to support health emergency responses. In 2022, the project used anthropological and social science data to provide a series of targeted briefings to support Ugandan officials and partners in managing an Ebola outbreak in Uganda.

The Ugandan National Task Force, UNICEF and FCDO were among the recipients of SSHAP’s rapid response briefings. SSHAP team members also attended a roundtable discussion in December 2022 with senior FCDO officials on Ebola vaccine development. They gave a specially commissioned briefing on socio-behavioural research and ethical issues related to vaccine trials.





In March 2023, IDS met with Covid Collective partners from across 65 projects to discuss emerging themes from the programme, including pandemic preparedness and social protection. Pictured is an illustration by Raquel Cronopia, which captured key discussion points. To see the illustration in full, and find out more about the initiative, visit [covid-collective.net](https://covid-collective.net).



Raquel Cronopia, the illustrator commissioned by the Covid Collective, creating the illustration.  
Credit: Roxana Vaduva / IDS



An excerpt from the full illustration, which is pictured above.



## 5 Creating a sustainable, resilient and equitable organisation

We strive to ensure that IDS contributes actively as an organisation to the changes we want to see in the world. This means not only in our research, learning and teaching but in how we operate as an organisation and support the people who work here. The Climate Change Action Task Force has worked hard to audit our carbon footprint and identify how we can adopt more climate-friendly travel practices. A new review was commissioned into how far IDS promotes a sense of equity, inclusion and belonging, and an action plan is being implemented. We made good progress on bringing clarity to pay and progression policy, and on making more research Open Access. Our work to make IDS resilient against cyber attacks was recognised with a prestigious certification, which has enhanced cyber awareness across the organisation.



United Kingdom



Kenya

## Tackling climate and environmental action

Thanks to a thorough audit of our previous year's activity, the Climate Change Action Taskforce has mapped priorities to improve our environmental impacts. Two informal sessions in June 2022 and another at our annual staff retreat expanded on the audit and generated good feedback.

With pandemic restrictions easing, regular international travel for work has resumed – and remains the main way that IDS contributes to the climate crisis. Staff are keen for guidance on making more climate-friendly travel choices while being mindful that people at different stages of their careers may need to travel more to build up experience or networks. Assessing how similar organisations strike a good balance is a possible approach.

The Taskforce is also working with Facilities, the IDS Bar and Kitchen, and the University of Sussex's Environment and Sustainability Team to establish partnerships with sustainability organisations and implement climate-friendly activities in the building.

## Fostering equality, diversity and inclusion

We worked closely this year with the employee-led Reward Review Working Group to establish fair and transparent pay and reward structures. An external consultancy (ECC) was commissioned to support IDS to develop clear structures, policy and processes around pay and progression, and that work is continuing. We have consulted extensively across IDS and worked closely with our union to update job descriptions and implement a new job evaluation process.

We commissioned an **Equity and Inclusion Review** to explore how current systems, structures, policies and practices at IDS promote or inhibit a sense of equity, inclusion and belonging. This explored the breadth of protected characteristics, with a focus on race and whiteness, and power dynamics. It has been [published online](#) along with an action plan that is now under implementation.

The **transition to Open Access publications** continues apace. IDS is enhancing our academic knowledge access and dissemination by making publications available to all, where possible, including those who lack the financial means to access pay-per-view platforms.

In response to the transition to the Plan S initiative for Open Access publishing, the percentage increase of open licences as opposed to closed trebled between 2020 and 2022. The Publications Team has evolved its existing institutional frameworks and practical guidelines to help IDS authors navigate Open Access publishing and continue to be responsive to ongoing changes in all scholarly communications requirements.

## Ensuring we are a resilient organisation

In November 2022, IDS was awarded the prestigious Cyber Essentials Plus Scheme certification to recognise our work on an effective and wide-ranging system against cyber attacks and online threats.

IDS, like many organisations, is targeted by thousands of breaching attempts every week. To win the certification, we passed a full external audit of measures such as enhanced security on staff laptops and smartphones, and stronger protection of IDS social media accounts.

Gaining the UK government-backed certification signals that our data is safer from attacks, enhancing the safety of the people we work with, and strengthening our reputation with potential and existing clients and donors. We can apply for government funding schemes that require certification.

The certification process has sharpened staff focus on the need for continuous improvement and proactivity about cybersecurity.

## Enhancing our financial sustainability

The funding landscape continues to shift for a myriad of reasons including the reduction in the UK's Official Development Assistance, Covid-19 recovery, and the rising costs of living. Even though the UK Government has extended its Horizon Europe Guarantee scheme until the end of September 2023, the uncertainty regarding participation beyond then continues to be problematic for researchers.

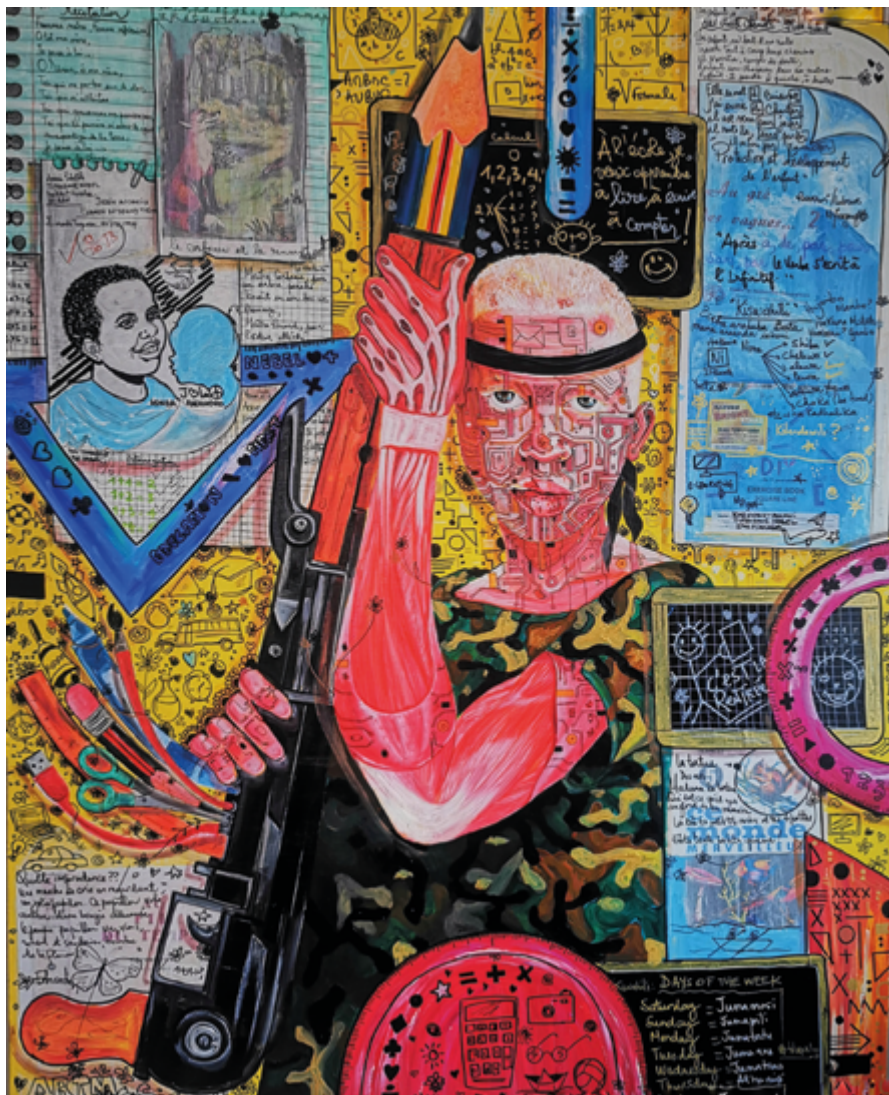
The challenges experienced by the charity and higher education sectors in securing resources are complex and multi-layered. IDS is conscious of the need to diversify its funding sources, so working in collaboration with partners is critical to help secure funding beyond our traditional reach.

We have therefore continued to focus on filling the gaps and replenishing and diversifying funding while investing in our strategic priorities. Although our funding pipeline has not been restored to pre-pandemic levels, IDS has continued to demonstrate financial resilience against these challenges, and we have seen a number of successes while also awaiting updates on new frameworks and calls from funders. We continue to cultivate new partnerships and nurture existing ones in the development sector.

Despite the challenges, IDS ended the year positively, reporting a small deficit of £137k. The total income for the year was £31.8m, an increase of £2.6m from 2022.

Looking forward, there is a lot still to be achieved for IDS to return to its pre-pandemic levels of generating consistent annual surpluses as well as to rebuild our general reserves.

We continue to be grateful to our donors, whose collective generosity enables us to broaden and deepen our capabilities, relevance and existence.



A painting by the artist Thierry Vahwere Croco, from the project '[New Community-Informed Approaches to Humanitarian Protection and Restraint](#)', where a collection of artists and performers in the Democratic Republic of Congo have worked with communities to stop sexual and gender-based violence. The piece pictured represents a call for a return to reason, symbolized by the pencil placed in the barrel of the AK47 being held by the child soldier who has albinism.



## 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. IDS currently holds the highest five-star transparency rating that Transparify awards.

## 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.

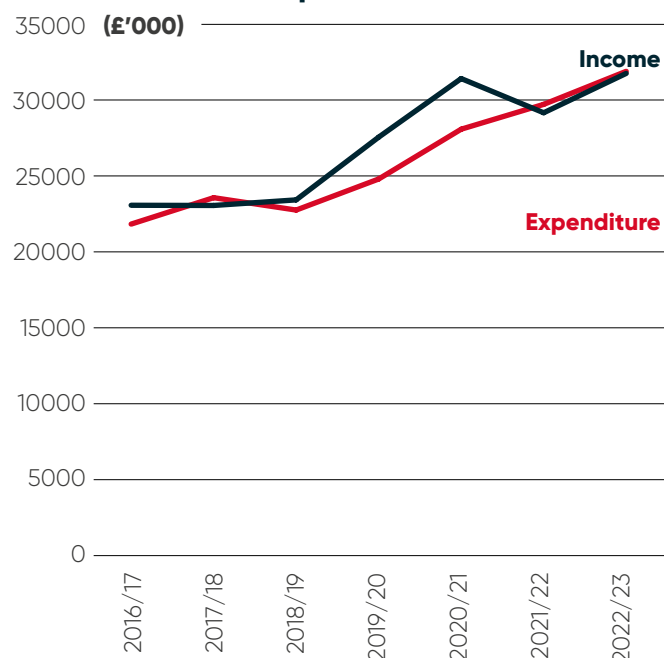


**Our operational resilience, our ability to adapt to change, and our culture of teamwork are essential for strengthening how we navigate these difficult times.**

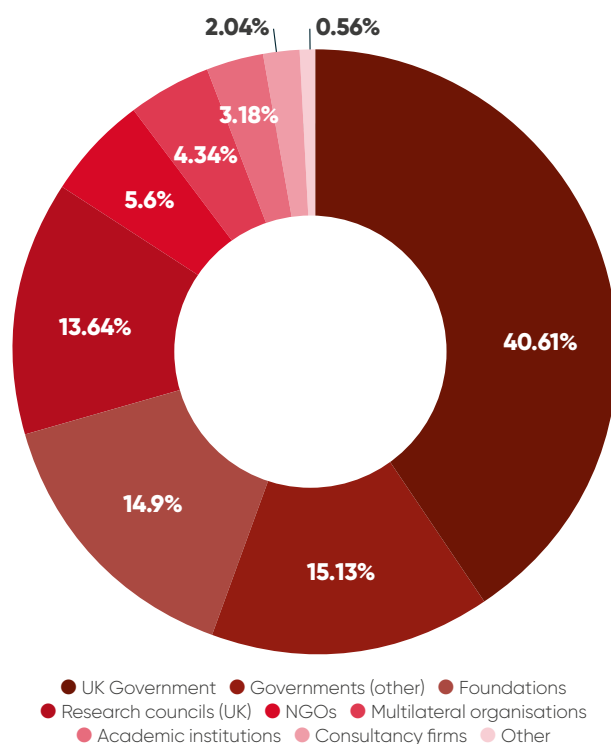
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## Finances and governance

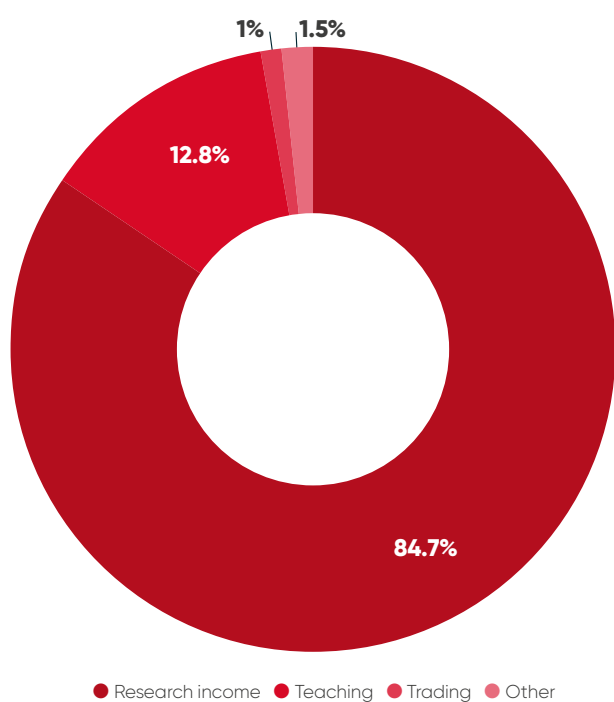
### Total income and expenditure



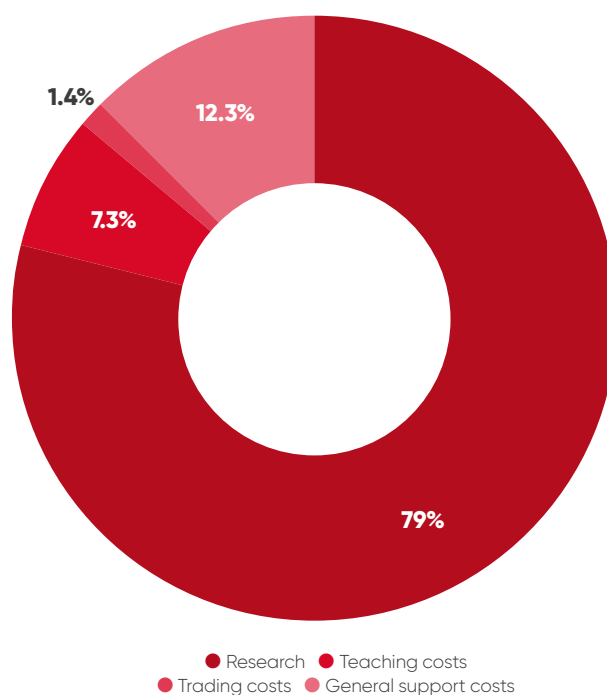
### Research income by direct contractor category



### Total income by type



### Total expenditure by type



The cover photo is of Zeri Khairy Gedi, a Yezidi woman in the temple of Lalish, wearing a veil on her head to respect the sanctity of the place. It is from the 'Embodying Peace, Navigating Violence: A network of auto-ethnographers in Iraq and Palestine' project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. Through the project, IDS has been working alongside four Yezidi women researchers from Bashiqa and four feminist and/or queer Palestinian women in occupied Jerusalem. The project aims to explore together what peace might mean if it were taken to be a process that begins and ends in the body: attending to the physical, emotional and psychological responses of navigating daily life in the midst of insecurity, violence, colonialism and distrust. Credit: Ikraam Rasheed Hassan / IDS

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