The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2018-2022 is co-funded by the Government of Ireland, through the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020.
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<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BTWEA</td>
<td>Back to Work Enterprise Allowance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Central Statistics Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>DEIS</td>
<td>Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>DSP</td>
<td>Department of Social Protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>DRCD</td>
<td>Department of Rural and Community Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>DTT</td>
<td>Distance Travelled Tool</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESF</td>
<td>European Social Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>ESRI</td>
<td>Economic and Social Research Institute</td>
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<tr>
<td>ETB</td>
<td>Education and Training Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAP</td>
<td>Housing Assistance Payment</td>
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<td>HSE</td>
<td>Health Service Executive</td>
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<td>IRIS</td>
<td>Integrated Reporting and Information System</td>
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<td>KPI</td>
<td>Key Performance Indicator</td>
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<tr>
<td>LCDC</td>
<td>Local Community Development Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>LCG</td>
<td>Local Community Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LDC</td>
<td>Local Development Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEO</td>
<td>Local Enterprise Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LES</td>
<td>Local Employment Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLL</td>
<td>Lifelong Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEIL</td>
<td>Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPE</td>
<td>Personal Protective Equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPN</td>
<td>Public Participation Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td>Social Enterprise</td>
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<tr>
<td>SICAP</td>
<td>Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>STEA</td>
<td>Short-term Enterprise Allowance</td>
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The emergence of COVID-19 in early 2020 has had a significant impact on the socio-economic wellbeing of communities across Ireland. National evidence indicates that a number of SICAP beneficiary groups, including Travellers, Roma, and people with a disability, have been particularly vulnerable to the health and social impacts of COVID-19. This places additional importance on the role that SICAP plays in prioritising supports for marginalised and disadvantaged individuals in Ireland.

Despite the very challenging circumstances of 2020, Local Development Companies (LDCs) continued to successfully implement SICAP across the country, delivering person-centred and responsive supports to vulnerable individuals, families and community groups. This was in part due to the flexibility afforded to programme implementers by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) and Pobal, flexibility that was embraced by Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) and LDCs. Set out below are the key achievements of SICAP in 2020.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. **SICAP Key Performance Indicator (KPI) targets were exceeded in 2020:** In response to the difficult operational context in 2020, DRCD approved the reduction of the programme’s annual KPI targets (Table 1). Despite the challenges faced, the revised programme targets were exceeded by the end of the year, with a total of **2,687 groups** and **26,178 individuals** supported by SICAP. In fact, the programme almost met the original 2020 targets.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Performance Indicator</th>
<th>Original 2020 KPI target</th>
<th>Revised 2020 KPI target</th>
<th>Actual 2020 results</th>
<th>Percentage achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KPI 1: Number of LCGs on the caseload</td>
<td>2,266</td>
<td>2,220</td>
<td>2,687</td>
<td>121%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KPI 2: Number of individuals on the caseload</td>
<td>27,073</td>
<td>23,525</td>
<td>26,178</td>
<td>111%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KPI 2 disadvantaged communities: % of individuals living in disadvantaged areas</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>N/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. **SICAP took an adaptive and flexible response to the pandemic:** COVID-19 affected the implementation of SICAP in 2020, with core elements of the programme, such as face-to-face supports and group based
activities, being unviable in the context of social distancing. An adaptive response was taken to address the local needs that were exacerbated during the pandemic. The programme requirements were adapted by DRCD to enable LDCs to deliver a flexible response; and LCDCs oversaw the ongoing adjustment of LDCs’ annual plans enabling SICAP staff to respond to the immediate needs of communities. LDCs also quickly transitioned to remote working, and despite the challenges this posed for them, continued to offer a range of supports, activities and courses.

3. SICAP beneficiaries achieved positive rates of progression: Despite the challenges faced in 2020, individuals continued to receive a consistent level of person-centred supports through SICAP. While COVID-19 negatively impacted progression rates, particularly during the initial months of the pandemic, a total of 8,768 individuals (33%) had participated in lifelong learning activities, 1,057 (4%) had progressed into employment and 1,274 (5%) had set up their own business by the end of the year.

4. SICAP played an important role in responding to the needs of communities: During COVID-19, the value of LDCs’ presence in communities across the country became very apparent. LDCs’ existing relationships with communities, local groups and other organisations meant that they were well placed to identify local needs and participate in collaborative responses through SICAP. This has shone a light on the role that SICAP plays in delivering wider social inclusion supports at community level. The participation of LDCs in the Local Authority Community Response Forums is a prime example of this collaborative response, with SICAP staff tending to either lead or support the LDCs’ role in these forums across the country. Examples of collaborative projects undertaken to address the needs of Travellers and Roma are documented in the report.

5. SICAP submitted its first claim for European Social Fund (ESF) funding in 2020: In 2020, the process of submitting a financial claim to the ESF, who co-finance SICAP, began. This claim process was critical to secure up to €40 million from the EU for the Irish state. While the process was administratively burdensome, both LDCs and LCDCs engaged constructively and a claim for the full amount available has been submitted to the ESF for funding. This was a key programme achievement and the work of LDCs and LCDCs in supporting the process is commended.

DRCD and Pobal are aware of a number of challenges facing SICAP in the months ahead. Despite the programme’s objective to reduce long-term intergenerational unemployment, there has been a decrease in the ratio of long-term unemployed to short-term unemployed people on the caseload since 2018. Some hard-to-reach groups, such as Travellers and Roma, continue to have low representation on the caseload, although some strong examples of targeted, collaborative projects with these groups were documented in different parts of the country. Strategies are already in place to prioritise and address these challenges during the remainder of the programme.
Collaborative response to food insecurity

In March 2020, not long after the country went into the first lockdown of the pandemic, LDCs recognised that some families and older people in their community were facing immediate food needs – driven by factors such as loss of employment and income, disruption in school meal programmes and cocooning advice. One of the ways that Cavan County Local Development (CCLD) responded to this need was through the coordination of a county wide Food Hub initiative via the SICAP programme.

The need for this type of initiative was first raised by a secondary school principal, who contacted CCLD to express concern about students who would no longer have access to the Food Cloud school meals programme during lockdown. Having organised an immediate response for the affected families, the parties involved realised that there was likely a wider food need for many households across the county. It was therefore decided to establish a number of Food Hubs starting with locations where CCLD had its outreach offices.

To deliver a project of this scale across the entire county a significant collaborative effort was required. With support already being offered by Cavan Civil Defence, SICAP staff engaged existing partners on the project, such as An Garda Síochána, Cavan County Council, Family Resource Centres, Foróige and the HSE. Each of the partners contacted local food suppliers, supermarkets, as well as Food Cloud, informing them that they were setting up Food Hubs and asking them for support with food donations. To prioritise and target those most in need it was important to not only engage with SICAP registered clients but also with key partners who were well positioned to identify households and refer them for support. By April 2nd, eight Food Hubs were established across the county, coordinating the delivery of food parcels to 600 households on a weekly basis, over a 12-week period.

Following the lifting of Phase 2 restrictions in June, the Food Hubs were no longer an emergency response initiative and the number of households receiving food parcels was declining. A change in approach was therefore required and SICAP staff actively engaged with each of the remaining households to develop a household or individual action plan and provide a range of tailored supports to ensure that the issues that created the food need were addressed.
1. INTRODUCTION

This end of year report provides an overview of the implementation and progress of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) between 1 January and 31 December 2020. SICAP is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) with co-funding from the European Social Fund (ESF) under the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014 – 2020. The programme aims to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion and equality in Ireland through supporting communities and individuals via community development, engagement and collaboration. SICAP is managed locally by 33 Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs), with support from local authorities. Programme actions are delivered by 46 Local Development Companies (LDCs) across 51 Lot areas.

This report outlines key information about the programme and describes its overall performance in 2020, as compared to previous years. Given the exceptional circumstances that arose in March 2020, the report also explores how the programme adapted and responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. It includes the following:

- Operational changes introduced during the year in response to COVID-19, alongside an overview of the supports provided by Pobal and DRCD during the year.
- A summary of the characteristics of the beneficiaries supported, types of activities conducted, as well as outputs and outcomes achieved.
- A detailed financial report is included in Annex B.
- National level maps of the geographical distribution of individuals and Local Community Groups (LCGs) supported by the programme to date are presented in Annex C.
- A list and description of SICAP case studies produced by LDCs in 2020 are included in Annex D.

The data was drawn from multiple sources, including progress data recorded on the IRIS System\(^1\) by LDCs; LDCs’ Annual Progress Reports; a sample of the LDCs’ case studies; and feedback from the Annual Engagement Meetings with LCDCs in 2020. While the qualitative analysis identified key trends emerging during the year, these may not capture the experiences of all LDCs, due to differing local contexts and approaches across the country. A detailed methodology is provided in Annex A.

\(^1\) IRIS is a customised Customer Relationship Management database developed by Pobal in 2010, adapted for SICAP in 2015 and re-designed for SICAP 2018-2022 in 2017.
2. CONTEXT

The emergence of COVID-19 in early 2020 has had a significant impact on the socio-economic wellbeing of communities in Ireland. Lives have been lost, unemployment levels have soared, access to education and other services have been disrupted, and mental health issues have intensified. National evidence\textsuperscript{2, 3, 4} indicates that the pandemic and the subsequent lockdown restrictions have disproportionately affected vulnerable and marginalised individuals and communities in Ireland, with pre-existing socio-economic inequalities being exacerbated by the pandemic. This was evident amongst a number of SICAP target groups (e.g. Travellers, Roma, and people with a disability), highlighting the important role that SICAP plays in prioritising supports for these groups. This role became even more important during the pandemic.

2.1 OPERATIONAL CONTEXT

The introduction of COVID-19 restrictions in March 2020 had a substantial impact on the implementation of SICAP. In particular, lockdown rules and the need for social distancing meant that face-to-face interactions – whether this be one-to-one supports, courses or events – were no longer viable in the context of the pandemic. The programme needed to adapt and respond quickly to the changing environment. Below is a summary of the operational changes introduced by DRCD, LCDCs and LDCs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.1.1 Response of DRCD

DRCD made every effort to afford a flexible response to the issues raised by LDCs regarding the impact of COVID-19 on programme implementation. DRCD and Pobal provided clarification regarding existing rules and requirements and also agreed a number of changes to the Programme Requirements to support LDCs to adapt and respond to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on the delivery of the programme and the needs of communities and individuals. DRCD and Pobal also agreed to allow LDCs record specific COVID-19 related expenditure, of an amount of up to 5% of the total Lot budget. Following consultation between LDCs and LCDCs, the 2020 targets were also revised downwards to take into account the impact of COVID-19 on the LDCs’ ability to engage and support beneficiaries (see Section 4). Some of the key changes to the Programme Requirements are summarised in Table 2 below.

Table 2 Summary of changes to SICAP 2018-2022 Programme Requirements, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Increase on the amount allowed to be carried forward as underspends into 2021 from 5% to 10% of the total amount available to spend in 2020.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Purchase of equipment for staff eligible as an action cost.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{2} Community Work Ireland and the European Anti-Poverty Network Ireland, April 2021
\textsuperscript{3} Irish Centre for Human Rights, National University of Ireland, Galway on behalf of the European Agency for Fundamental Rights, June 2020
\textsuperscript{4} Irish Refugee Council, August 2020
2.1.2 Response of LCDCs and local authorities

SICAP is managed locally by LCDCs, with support from local authorities. Following the emergence of COVID-19, LCDCs played a key role in facilitating LDCs to take advantage of the flexibility that DRCD afforded to SICAP implementers. Throughout the year, LCDCs enabled LDCs to amend and change their SICAP plans to meet the immediate needs arising. Local authorities and LCDCs also played an important role in the Community Call\(^5\), working closely with SICAP staff and other agencies, to ensure that a collaborative approach was taken to identify and respond to the local needs emerging during the pandemic.

2.1.3 Response of LDCs

LDCs quickly adapted and responded to the outbreak of COVID-19. The most obvious adjustment was the transition to remote working, with SICAP staff delivering supports to clients online or over the phone instead of ‘in person’. This involved a significant investment of time and resources by the LDCs, as in many cases the necessary ICT infrastructure was not in place, staff capacity building needed to take place and/or remote working policies and procedures needed to be developed. At the same time, LDCs used staff rotas and outdoor meetings, when feasible, to maintain ‘in person’ supports during the year.

Within a few months of the first lockdown, LDCs, in collaboration with partners, had adapted many of their courses and workshops into online versions with some launching online learning platforms later in the year (e.g. WLD Academy in Wexford). However, it was noted that some courses were not suitable for online delivery and as such could not be delivered during lockdown. Additionally, while transport barriers were eliminated through online delivery, it was challenging for some people to access online supports due to digital exclusion issues. LDCs also

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\(^5\) In March 2020, local authorities activated the Framework for Local Authority Community Support to ensure that vulnerable members of society are supported during the COVID-19 response. Under this framework, Local Authority Community Response Forums were established, with membership from a range of organisations, such as local authorities (including the LCDC Chief Officer), the Health Service Executive (HSE), An Garda Síochána, the Civil Defence, the GAA, Citizen’s Information and LDCs. These forums lead the coordination of COVID-19 community supports and resilience in each local authority area (e.g. by identifying issues arising, providing assistance to vulnerable people in isolation, and ensuring targeted delivery of social care supports and assistance to vulnerable groups). A Community Call Helpline was set up in each local authority through this initiative, which people could contact for assistance (e.g. for the collection and delivery of food or other essential items).
noted that some of the benefits of face-to-face delivery were lost in the digital setting, such as informal conversations and relationship building.

In light of the evolving context, LDCs implemented a **flexible response to community needs** during the year. If planned SICAP activities could no longer be implemented, they were either postponed, cancelled or adjusted, while new activities and projects were developed to meet the immediate needs of local communities and individuals. For example, with the support of SICAP staff and funding, Cork City Partnership scaled up its Friendly Call Service\(^6\) to reach more socially isolated, older people during the pandemic. The service capacity increased from a maximum of 200 people pre-COVID-19 to almost 400 people at its peak during lockdown, supporting people with daily calls, delivery of essential items and responding to maintenance issues. Furthermore, as the guidelines and restrictions issued by the Government continued to change in line with the different phases of the *National Framework for Living with COVID-19*, LDCs needed to **continue adjusting** their plans throughout the year. LDCs noted that the flexibility afforded by DRCD to SICAP implementers to adapt the programme to meet the needs arising during the pandemic contributed to their ability to deliver this type of response during the year.

Some LDCs also described a shift in focus from group based supports to **one-to-one delivery**. This particularly affected work with LCGs and community education. The nature of the one-to-one supports was described as more time consuming and intense during the pandemic, due to the challenging circumstances clients were facing.

Additionally, LDCs’ **existing relationships** with local communities, agencies and organisations were leveraged in a variety of ways to ensure an informed and coordinated local response to COVID-19:

- **LDCs have a strong presence in communities across Ireland** and as such were named members\(^7\) of the local [Community Response Forums](#) that were initiated in each local authority. These forums were recognised by LDCs as an important means of connecting with other agencies, identifying local needs, sharing information and ensuring that resources were coordinated and focused on areas that needed it most. In many cases SICAP staff led or supported the LDCs’ participation in these forums. SICAP staff were also involved in the local authorities’ Community Call, answering phone calls from members of the community and liaising with local partners and volunteers to respond to their needs (e.g. delivery of groceries, prescriptions).

- **SICAP had an already engaged caseload of individuals, LCGs and SEs**, who were **consulted** on their experience of the pandemic and the challenges and issues they were facing. Some LDCs issued surveys, while others reached out via phone calls or emails, with the information and learnings obtained used to inform response plans.

- **SICAP had an existing network of local partners** that were already working with disadvantaged individuals and communities (e.g. Department of Social Protection, Education and Training Boards, Family Resource Centres, Tusla, Direct Provision Centres, community and voluntary groups). Information was shared

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\(^6\) Cork City Partnership established the Friendly Call Service in 2010 to address the social isolation of older people in the area. It is managed by SICAP staff and funded through a collaboration of partners e.g. HSE Cork/Kerry, Cork Education and Training Board and corporates.

\(^7\) Local government sector working with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government; the Department of Rural and Community Development; the Department of Health; and, the Department of The Taoiseach (2020)
through these networks about emerging needs, while multi-agency projects were also implemented in response to these needs.

- LDCs also delivered an integrated approach across the various programmes that they manage, with numerous examples of SICAP staff working closely with Tús, Rural Social Scheme and Local Employment Service colleagues, amongst others, to ensure a coordinated response to local needs.

Using collaborative approaches to meet the needs of the most vulnerable

SICAP implementers recognised that some groups, such as Travellers and Roma, were especially vulnerable to the impact of COVID-19 due to pre-existing socio-economic inequalities. To address this, the programme participated in collaborative initiatives to support Travellers and Roma throughout 2020. Some examples are provided below.

In Clare, SICAP staff collaborated with partners to provide care packages (e.g. food, hygiene and cleaning products, toys) to Traveller families who were isolating. Similar work was conducted by other LDCs, such as Mayo North East and Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership. In Kilkenny and Westmeath, SICAP linked with local authorities to ensure adequate accommodation facilities (e.g. sanitation) were available at halting sites.

Empower’s Community Development staff in Fingal worked closely with Manouche National Roma Centre, Blanchardstown Traveller Development Group, Balbriggan Traveller Women’s Group and Balbriggan Integration Forum to deliver a range of responses to food insecurity, digital poverty, and to disseminate and distribute HSE approved COVID-19 information in numerous languages. Throughout the outbreak, the Balbriggan Traveller Women’s Group were key contacts for reaching out to the Traveller community. With the support of a SICAP Community Development Officer, they jointly organised and helped provide COVID-19 resource packs to 51 Traveller families living on sites in Balbriggan, Skerries and Swords. Empower also worked closely with the Blanchardstown Traveller Development Group to deliver food parcels across seven sites in Dublin 15, while the Manouche National Roma Centre were supported to establish a Roma food bank, which not only provided food to Roma families in the local area, but also in Louth, Meath and Monaghan.

In Louth, the LDC (Louth LEADER Partnership) participated in a multi-agency steering committee formed in response to concerns about the level of risk amongst the Traveller and Roma community due to COVID-19. Through a grassroots approach, the Community Development Officer identified two people from the Roma Community to become Community Health Champions to help the Roma community in Louth during the pandemic. Extensive engagement took place with Pavee Point, Exchange House, Merchants Quay Ireland and the National Roma Helpline staff and from this the Community Health Champions were supported to learn and translate the COVID-19 health information. A local mobile telephone number was established for members of the Roma community to speak to the Community Health Champions in either Romanian, Romani or English. The Community Health Champions provided COVID-19 Public Health information to the Roma Community in Louth and as needs were identified, the relevant local agencies on the steering committee were informed of any specific needs or challenges identified from their contacts.
3. SUPPORTS PROVIDED BY DRCD AND POBAL

The following paragraphs outline the different supports provided by DRCD and Pobal to LDCs and LCDCs throughout the year.

3.1 ANNUAL ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS

In total, 30 engagement meetings between Pobal Development Coordinators, LCDCs and LDCs took place from September to November 2020. The meetings were linked to the annual planning process for 2021 to enable LCDCs and LDCs to discuss or share their experiences and challenges of implementing the programme during the pandemic. The visits also coincided with the presentation of the 2020 Social Inclusion Analysis Project report for each Lot area or county. The analysis included a breakdown of target groups from the individual caseload who had been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 (based on research available at the time) and were likely to need increased interventions and support from SICAP in 2021.

Updates on the programme were also provided at the engagement meeting, such as key outcomes from 2019, the Distance Travelled Tool, and the process for the revision of KPI targets for 2020/2021.

3.2 PROGRAMME GUIDANCE AND RESOURCES

Throughout 2020, the following resource materials were provided:

- Guidance and templates for LCDCs in reviewing mid-year, and end-of-year finance and non-finance reports, and on the technical reviews of 2020 and 2021 annual plans. Guidance was also issued to LCDCs on the process for the revision of targets for 2020/2021.

- The SICAP induction manual was developed and disseminated by Pobal to all LCDCs in July. The document gives an overview of the programme and goes through the various technical processes LCDCs are involved in, including annual planning, performance reviews and payments to LDCs. The manual has multiple applications such as assistance for new local authority LCDC support staff on their technical role in SICAP and supporting the LCDC in overseeing the implementation of the programme. It can also be used as a reference resource for existing LCDC support staff. Some elements of the document may also be useful for the induction of new LCDC members and local authority SICAP audit staff.

- The SICAP FAQ document was updated and disseminated to all LDCs and LCDCs on a regular basis. This provided clarification on the scope of flexibility to the programme during the pandemic including changes to the eligibility of expenditure.

- In September 2020, the ESRI and Pobal launched a report titled “Evaluation of SICAP pre-employment supports”. The opening address at the online event was delivered by Joe O’Brien T.D., Minister of State for Community Development and Charities. The report findings showed positive employment outcomes amongst the long-term unemployed who received employment related supports through SICAP.

- Pobal and DRCD issued a series of COVID-19 specific communications providing advice, guidance and updates to all funded organisations, including LCDCs and LDCs.
3.3 SICAP FORUM
The SICAP Forum was established in November 2018 to bring together the key stakeholders involved in delivering SICAP. It comprises representatives from DRCD, Pobal, LCDCs and LDCs. It creates a space for stakeholders to come together to work collaboratively on key programme developments and to inform the ongoing enhancement and strengthening of the current programme, and of any subsequent programme.

A sample of topics discussed in 2020 include the following:

- Flexibility required at programme level, and local level, in responding to community needs during the pandemic;
- Overview of programme progress and delivery, and analysis of key data and learning;
- Discussion and agreement on topics for Learning Products; and
- Agreeing a more collaborative approach to revisit programme targets for 2020 and 2021.

3.4 IRIS SUPPORTS AND TRAINING
A number of IRIS supports were developed during the year for LDC staff and LCDC support staff. These are available on the Pobal Website and include webinars and tutorials on a range of topics such as, ‘How to Record ESF Exit Data’, and ‘How to Run IRIS Reports’. In addition, tailored online support training was provided to LDCs where required. This included situations where new super users were appointed and/or a large number of new SICAP staff were recruited within an organisation. The IRIS user group met 3 times during the year to provide updates on system development, to respond to technical issues and develop solutions to minimise impact on data collection due to COVID-19.

3.5 CASE STUDIES
The Case Study Working Group met twice in 2020, with representation from DRCD, Pobal, LCDCs and LDCs. The working group continued to focus on strengthening the case study process and improving the demonstration of SICAP work. Pobal issued a guidance document to the LDCs in April 2020 and a summary description of all 2019 case studies, including webpage links, was produced and circulated to the LDCs and LCDCs. The Working Group also reviewed how the Annual Progress Report template could be amended to capture the work of LDCs, as a result of COVID-19.

The impact of the 2019 narrative training and video pilot was evident in the quality of case studies submitted and the increase in the number of video case studies (21) produced. Overall, 50 case studies\(^8\) were received in 2020, through a variety of mediums, including written, audio and video. A list of case studies, including links and descriptions, is provided in Annex D.

\(^8\) The plans of one LDC to produce a video case study were disrupted by COVID-19.
3.6 MY JOURNEY: DISTANCE TRAVELLED TOOL (DTT)

The My Journey: Distance Travelled Tool® project continued in 2020 with voluntary implementation. The tool was launched on 30th January 2020 at the Richmond Hospital with over 100 attendees, including the DRCD Secretary General, and guest speaker, John Lonergan. There was a positive reaction to the launch of the tool, and plans were in place to rollout out training for the LDCs soon after. While these plans encountered delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is positive to note that the programme adapted to social distancing requirements and developed and delivered online training sessions to the LDCs in the latter part of the year.

LDCs identified two DTT Champions to participate in a ‘Train the Trainer’ training that was specifically developed to provide the champions with the training resources, knowledge of the staff DTT guidebook, and confidence to setup and deliver the training to other frontline staff in their organisations. This one-day training was delivered during November/December over six online sessions, with approximately 80 participants. Communities of Practice support sessions are planned for 2021, which will assist peer support and learning as a follow up to this training.

Despite the challenges faced, a total of 291 individuals completed the DTT in 2020.

3.7 SUPPORT EVENTS

The SICAP 2020 support plan was reviewed due to the pandemic and support events planned for 2020 were postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions.

3.8 ESF FUNDING

In 2020, the process of submitting a financial claim to the European Social Fund, who co-finance SICAP, began. This process was critical to secure up to €40 million from the EU for the Irish state and involved the submission and review of information with regard to eligible costs and supporting documentation. While the process was administratively burdensome, both LDCs and LCDCs engaged constructively and a claim for the full amount available has been submitted to the ESF for funding. This was a key programme achievement and the work of LDCs and LCDCs in supporting the process is commended.

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9 The My Journey: Distance Travelled Tool® is a validated tool, which measures soft skills relevant to employment, education and training, and personal development. It measures five soft skills areas: literacy and numeracy confidence, confidence, goal setting and self-efficacy, communication skills, connection with others, and general work readiness.
4. KPI REPORT SUMMARY

In 2020, a total of 2,687 LCGs and 26,178 individuals were supported by SICAP, exceeding the revised KPI targets by 21% and 11% respectively. (Table 3) The revised targets were met or exceeded in all Lots.¹⁰

During the year, the KPI 1 and KPI 2 targets were revised downward due to the impact of COVID-19 on LDCs’ ability to engage and support individuals and LCGs on a one-to-one basis.

Table 3 Key Performance Indicators 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Performance Indicator</th>
<th>Original 2020 KPI target</th>
<th>Revised 2020 KPI target</th>
<th>Actual 2020 results</th>
<th>Percentage achieved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KPI 1: Number of LCGs on the caseload</td>
<td>2,266</td>
<td>2,220</td>
<td>2,687</td>
<td>121%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KPI 2: Number of individuals on the caseload</td>
<td>27,073</td>
<td>23,525</td>
<td>26,178</td>
<td>111%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KPI 2 disadvantaged communities: % of individuals living in disadvantaged areas</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>N/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A total of 30% of individuals supported in 2020 were living in disadvantaged areas, slightly exceeding the target of 29%. Similar to previous years, the majority (61%) of Lots met or exceeded the target, while 39% (20) of Lots did not achieve the target. This is possibly linked to the changing housing context in Ireland, whereby people in receipt of social housing support are now accessing houses outside of disadvantaged areas, through the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP). At the same time, some LDCs are working in more rural Lots, where disadvantaged households can be geographically dispersed. This can present challenges for LDCs in reaching disadvantaged households in these areas.

Maps presenting the geographic distribution of individuals and LCGs supported by SICAP to date are included in Annex C.

¹⁰ In one Lot, data on three individuals was recorded after the end-of-year reporting data was extracted from IRIS on January 21st. While these records are not included in this report due to timing, they were counted towards the KPI 2 target in that Lot.
Local Community Groups (LCGs)

Local Community Groups supported in 2020
2,687
744 of these groups were new to SICAP
2020 target exceeded by 21%

On average, an LCG received four interventions in 2020
46% of LCGs targeted people living in disadvantaged communities
13% of LCGs targeted disadvantaged children and families

408
LCGs received grants
€449,433
total amount of grant funding allocated
134% ↑
in total grant funding versus 2019
5. OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMME BENEFICIARIES

Table 4 Numbers of beneficiaries supported by SICAP in 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of SICAP beneficiaries in 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2,687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Community Groups</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 23,953 | 39,186 | 446 |
| Event attendees | Children and parents | LDC collaborations |

5.1 LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS (LCGs)

A total of 4,292 Local Community Groups have been supported by SICAP to date. In 2020, **2,687 groups** were supported, representing a 2% increase on the number supported in 2019. Furthermore, the revised KPI target was exceeded by 21%.

5.1.1 Profile

Similar to 2019, the vast majority (72%) of groups supported during the year were existing groups that had already been working with SICAP. A total of 744 new groups were engaged and supported in 2020. While the number of new registrations each month was substantially lower than in 2018, they were on par with 2019, suggesting that COVID-19 did not greatly impact the engagement of new groups during the year (Figure 2).

Similar to previous years, the majority (52%) of LCGs supported in 2020 focused their work on a particular community or local area, while 28% were working with a specific SICAP target group. New groups on the 2020 caseload were more likely to be engaged in cultural sport and recreation activities (14% vs 10%) or health and...
wellbeing activities (12% vs 8%) than those already supported by the programme, and less likely to have a SICAP target group focus (22% vs 30%). This possibly reflects the work of community groups in response to COVID-19.

The primary target groups of LCGs supported by SICAP has remained consistent since the programme began in 2018 (Figure 3). The highest proportion of groups on the 2020 caseload primarily targeted people living in disadvantaged communities (46%), followed by disadvantaged children and families (13%) and the emerging needs category (8%). Groups primarily targeting Travellers and Roma continued to have low representation on the caseload.

New registrations on the 2020 caseload were more likely to target disadvantaged children and families (15% vs 12%) and new communities (10% vs 6%) than those already engaged with the programme, possibly reflecting community based initiatives to support vulnerable families during the pandemic.

Figure 3 LCGs on the 2018, 2019 and 2020 caseloads, broken down by primary target group
5.1.2 Identified needs

LDCs identified a range of needs experienced by LCGs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Examples include:

- **Health and safety guidance** to ensure compliance with COVID-19 restrictions and where possible, to continue or re-open operations safely.
- Access to **funding** to continue their operations (e.g. to support travel costs, purchase PPE, insurance costs).
- **IT support** and capacity building to transition their activities online.
- **A need to combat social isolation** as group members could no longer meet and engage in their usual activities together.
- Some groups (e.g. Meals on Wheels groups) were reliant on older volunteers or members, who themselves were cocooning during the pandemic. These groups needed **additional resources** to continue their operations during the year.
- Island communities (e.g. Mayo Islands, West Cork Islands) were particularly vulnerable during the pandemic, with connections to the mainland interrupted during lockdown. This highlighted the need for more **sustainable livelihoods and food sources** on the islands.
The community of Cape Clear, an island off the west coast of Co. Cork, is supported through SICAP by Comhar na nOileán (CNO). Tourism is an important source of revenue for many islanders living on Cape Clear. The main tourism season runs for about six weeks from July until mid-August, with a final flurry for the Story Telling Weekend in September. The island also hosts Irish language students during the summer months. However, following the COVID-19 outbreak, there were no students arriving on the island, causing economic strain not only on local households who would normally host the students, but also the island economy as a whole. The ensuing lockdown also meant that there were no people visiting the island and all the local businesses were hit hard.

Island residents on Cape Clear order most of their shopping either online or over the phone from the local supermarket. This is then packed into cardboard boxes and delivered to Baltimore, where it is put in a container and hoisted by crane onto the ferry. As a result of the lockdown, these deliveries were like ‘Christmas deliveries, three times a week’ and consequently, orders were outweighing the actual capacity of the delivery container. Spotting an opportunity to promote local supply and consumption, the SICAP Development Officer began exploring the idea of setting up a local market, where people could sell their produce on the island, which in turn would keep money on the island and support the local economy. To get a better understanding of demand, a survey was conducted to explore how people in the community felt about the idea, after which it was evident that there was an interest in both selling and buying island products from a farmers’ market. A meeting was held to discuss how best to proceed, and as COVID-19 restrictions eased, a total of 13 market days were held between July and early September on the island. Comharchumann Chléire Teoranta was one of the main sponsors of the market, providing space and electricity for the stall holders, and CNO provided a development worker through SICAP for support and co-ordination of the project, as well as providing tea and coffee for all.

The market has played an important role both socially and economically for the community on Cape Clear, especially since the closure of pubs and restaurants due to the COVID-19 outbreak. As well as local farm produce, a variety of local crafts were sold from the market stalls, including pottery and knitwear. The majority of stall owners had never participated in any market previously, and for many it has been a good way to generate some extra income on their surplus produce. One local resident stated that for such a small population it has ‘been amazing and that you can do almost half your shopping on Cape’. Currently, there are plans being made for next summer with a view to holding a market day every Sunday for the duration of the summer months. Conversations are ongoing with the Department of the Marine and Údarás na Gaeltachta with regards to procuring a future site for the market. An enquiry has also been made with the local county council about obtaining a casual trading licence.
5.1.3 Interventions and supports provided

The majority (62%) of LCGs continued to receive capacity building supports in 2020 (Figure 5). These were guided by the needs of the LCGs and included training on IT platforms, such as Zoom, to enable the groups to stay in contact and access relevant supports, as well as health and safety training to support the LCGs to operate or re-open safely in the context of the pandemic. Similar to previous years, a third (32%) of LCGs received support around community planning, while 29% were supported to address social inclusion and equality issues. SICAP staff were also regularly in contact with LCGs during the year to provide ongoing advice and support in light of the changing context and to assist them in applying for new funding streams (e.g. the COVID-19 Stability Fund for Community and Voluntary, Charity and Social Enterprises\textsuperscript{11}).

On average, \textsuperscript{12} LCGs in 2020 received four interventions, which is lower than the experience of LCGs in 2019 (5). While more interventions were delivered to LCGs in the first quarter of 2020, with a peak of interventions recorded in April following the introduction of the first lockdown, a steady decline was recorded in the summer months (Figure 6). However, this is not dissimilar to the experience in previous years, and little difference is observed in the level of interventions delivered in the final months of the year.

Recognising the increased financial burdens faced by LCGs during the COVID-19 pandemic (e.g. IT equipment, PPE), SICAP increased the maximum grant amount that LCGs could be awarded during the year. In turn, 2020 saw a 134\% increase in the total grant amount allocated to LCGs, totalling €449,433 (versus €191,699 in 2019). There was also a substantial increase (49\%) in the number of LCGs who were awarded a grant, from 273 in 2019 to 408 LCGs in 2020. A higher average grant amount was also recorded: €964 versus €702 in 2019. Over one third (34\%) of the grant funding was used for capacity building.

\textsuperscript{11} In May 2020, DRCD announced that €45 million in funding was available through the COVID-19 Stability Fund for Community and Voluntary, Charity and Social Enterprises for organisations and groups delivering critical front-line services during the pandemic.

\textsuperscript{12} Median was used to calculate the average
purposes, 32% was used for small-scale capital, while 30% was used for social, cultural and civic activities. This is broadly in line with how grant funding was used in previous years.
SICAP supports LCGs to continue operations during COVID-19

As a partner of the local authority’s Community Call, Louth LEADER Partnership’s SICAP team supported LCGs to continue their operations and support vulnerable members of the community during the COVID-19 pandemic. Below are a sample of the supports provided – as described by members of the groups themselves.

| **Connect Family Resource Centre, Drogheda** | Connect Family Resource Centre support community members of all age groups with a wide range of services, such as low cost counselling, food hampers and family support programmes. SICAP supported the centre with funding to purchase food and care hampers for members of the community. SICAP also provided COVID-19 training to support the centre to open safely, as well as providing ongoing check-ins and guidance as needed. |
| **Cuidigh Linn, Dundalk** | Cuidigh Linn is a community service provider for older and vulnerable people in the area. SICAP supported the group to access grants during COVID-19 to cover transport costs and PPE, which helped them to continue their operations safely. |
| **Disability Louth** | Disability Louth was set up in 2016 and is comprised primarily of volunteers. The objective of the group is to promote, develop and engage the interest of persons with disabilities. SICAP supported the group during COVID-19 to extend the reach of their helpline, which became part of Louth’s Community Call. They also received online Zoom training through SICAP, to help them to continue to meet virtually, while also continuing to receive any funding that was required. |
| **Ardee Active Retirement Group** | The Ardee Active Retirement group organise outings and meetings for their members (e.g. walking, craft and yoga). SICAP supported the group to access funding for PPE for their members, which helped them to restart their activities later in the year. Figure 7 Members of Ardee Active Retirement group meeting safely outdoors |
| **Hands 4 Unity** | Hands 4 Unity’s aim is to bring women from different nationalities together to solve problems here in Ireland but also internationally in their own countries. During COVID-19, SICAP enabled the group to keep operating, provided them with ongoing information and advice, provided training and support to access an online platform, while also connecting them with people in the community who needed their support. |

Click [here](#) to watch a video about this work.
5.1.4 Outputs achieved

Similar to last year, small improvements were noted in the activity levels of the LCGs across four key areas (Figure 8). The proportion of LCGs somewhat or very involved in community planning and service delivery activities increased from 81% at registration to 86% in 2020, while the proportion participating in decision-making structures increased from 59% to 64%. Improvements were also recorded in the involvement of LCGs in the Public Participation Networks (PPNs), with 24% (258) of groups who were not members when they registered with SICAP progressing to PPN membership by the end of 2020.

It is also positive to note that a number of LCGs were involved in the local COVID-19 response. For example:

- The Midlands Polish Community in Longford were supported to make and distribute face masks as part of the ‘Face Masks for Ireland’ project. SICAP supported the group to make an application for funding for materials, to identify groups who were providing essential services and to ensure these groups received the face masks, with all home carers in the county receiving two masks each.

- Carrick on Suir Meals Assist in Tipperary responded to heightened demand by increasing the number of meals available, extending its range to include rural areas, and by increasing the frequency of meal provision. In order to do this, SICAP supported this group in different ways (e.g. by providing funding to buy additional equipment, food ingredients and sanitising products).

- The Fairhill/Fairfield Community Association in Cork City participated in the Farranree Area Response Team during the pandemic. The group representative attended the regular Zoom meetings and responded to issues where appropriate. They often did grocery deliveries for local people in Farranree and Fairhill who were unable to go to the shops due to COVID-19 restrictions and they also referred people to the Friendly Call Cork Service. In September, the group organised two outdoor Bike Workshops in Fairhill during Level Three restrictions as part of Bike Week. These events were organised in collaboration with the Cork Sports Partnership, Cork City Council and Cork City Partnership. While the workshops focused on teaching skills on bike maintenance and repair, the young people and their parents were delighted to participate in a fun and interesting small group event again in their community.

The analysis of LCG progression is based on self-reported changes in the activity levels of the LCGs that were on the 2020 caseload but registered in 2018 or 2019 (72%, 1,943).
Social Enterprises (SEs)

Social Enterprises supported in 2020

448
182 of these SEs were new to SICAP
20% increase on the SEs supported in 2019

Number of SEs:

- On average, a SE received three interventions in 2020
- 30% of SEs were focused on delivering services
- 92% of SEs provide training, volunteering or employment opportunities for SICAP target groups

64
SEs received a grant in 2020

€84,753
total amount of grant funding awarded

35% ↑
in total grant funding versus 2019
5.2 SOCIAL ENTERPRISES (SEs)

To date, SICAP has supported 651 Social Enterprises. In 2020, the programme supported 448 SEs, equating to a 20% increase on the total number supported in 2019. Similar to 2019, a high proportion (41%) of the SEs were new registrations during the year. This suggests that SICAP was effective at reaching and supporting SEs during the pandemic.

5.2.1 Profile

SICAP continued to reach a high proportion of SEs in the early stages of development in 2020 (28% versus 31% in 2019). This was particularly evident amongst the new SEs on the 2020 caseload, who were more likely to be in this early stage of development at registration (30%) than those already engaged with the programme (26%). Similar to previous years, the majority (57%) of SEs were trading for five years or longer.

Small differences were observed in the type of SEs supported by SICAP in 2020 as compared to previous years, with over a third (34%) working in the area of economic and community development, while 30% were focused on service delivery (Figure 9). However, the proportion of SEs working to create employment opportunities has been decreasing since 2018 (20% versus 14%) and only 8% of new registrations in 2020 fell into this category.

With respect to sectors of operation, there has been an annual increase in the proportion of SEs operating in the Community Facilities/Infrastructure sector (25% in 2020 versus 17% in 2018) and a decrease in those involved in the Community Enterprise sector (25% in 2020 versus 36% in 2018). There has also been a year-on-year increase in the proportion of SEs working in the Community Care and Education sector (18% in 2020 versus 12% in 2018). These differences were even more pronounced amongst new SEs that registered to SICAP in 2020.

The vast majority (92%) of SEs were providing training, volunteering or employment opportunities for SICAP target groups in 2020, which is up from 84% in 2019. This was also higher amongst new registrations in 2020 (95%).

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14 In pre-start-up phase or trading less than one year
5.2.2 Identified needs

The identified needs of SEs supported by SICAP were similar to those of LCGs and included:

- Some SEs experienced increased demand and needed to expand their services.
- Others experienced a fall in revenue as their operations closed due to lockdown restrictions and expressed concerns about their ongoing costs that still needed to be serviced.
- Health and safety guidance to ensure compliance with COVID-19 restrictions and where possible, to continue or re-open operations safely.
- Access to funding to continue their operations (e.g. to support travel costs, purchase PPE).
- IT support and capacity building to transition their activities online.

5.2.3 Interventions and supports provided

Similar to previous years, SEs received an average of three interventions in 2020. The types of supports provided to SEs in 2020 included capacity building on topics such as IT, health and safety in the context of COVID-19, and marketing to boost the viability of the SEs; alongside the provision of guidance on accessing different funding streams to support their operations.

SICAP also allocates grant funding to support the work of SEs and in 2020, 64 SEs received a grant through the programme. This represented a 45% increase on the number of SEs that received a grant in 2019 (44). The total grant amount allocated also increased from €62,711 in 2019 to €84,753, although the average grant amount fell slightly to €1,284. The vast majority (83%) of the grant funding was used for equipment and supplies (up from 64% in 2019). This was likely in response to the demand for PPE and safety equipment due to COVID-19.

5.2.4 Outputs achieved

Similar to 2019, a total of 11 SEs created 28 jobs (14 part-time and 14 full-time) in 2020. This is a positive achievement given the challenging labour market of 2020.

15 Median was used to calculate the average
SICAP supports Social Enterprises to support communities

Mayo North East (MNE) has been supporting Social Enterprises in their local area for a number of years. Two such enterprises are the Killala Community Centre and the Ballina Costume Company.

**Killala Community Centre** deliver a range of services to address rural isolation, with a particular focus on the elderly (e.g. Meals on Wheels service, Rural Transport Bus, which brings people on social outings such as, bingo and day care activities).

**Ballina Costume Company** design and make costumes for hire, as well as for plays and musicals. They also run children’s camps during school holidays and offer classes for adults in the community.

Through SICAP, MNE has delivered tailored supports to local SEs. For example, the Killala Community Centre received capacity building in a variety of areas including payroll and governance, and were connected with the Irish Social Enterprise Network, where they gained access to advice and support from other enterprises across the country. The Ballina Costume Company also received capacity building through SICAP, which has enabled them to deliver classes for adults in the community and in turn, to access another source of income. SICAP also provided governance supports, including advice on policies and procedures, and supported the team to participate in marketing and social media training, after which they were able to launch their own website.

**Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic**

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a spike in demand for the Killala Community Centre’s services. However, there were concerns around the Meals on Wheels operation, particularly cross contamination on the dinner plates used. To overcome this, the Centre received a grant through SICAP to purchase biodegradable meal trays, which made the service safer for the community to use. SICAP also supported the Centre to have a contingency plan in place in the event that staff members contracted the virus.

In response to the demand for PPE, the Ballina Costume Company switched their focus of operations to creating face masks and aprons. SICAP supported the company to access the finance they needed to fund this work through setting up a Go Fund Me page, while MNE also connected them with local organisations and groups who needed the PPE (e.g. Meals on Wheels volunteers).

During the COVID-19 pandemic, MNE worked very closely with Mayo County Council to deliver a coordinated response to the community groups that needed support.

![Figure 10 Ballina Costume Company at work during the pandemic](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

Click [here](#) to watch a video about this work.
Individuals

- 26,178 individuals supported in 2020
- 14% decrease on people supported in 2019
- 2020 target exceeded by 11%

Number of individuals:

- On average, an individual received three interventions in 2020
- More short-term than long-term unemployed people supported in 2020
- 14% were lone parents
- 2% were Travellers

- 33% participated in a lifelong learning activity
- 4% succeeded in finding employment
- 5% set up their own business
5.3 INDIVIDUALS

A total of 70,859 people have been supported by SICAP since the programme began in 2018. In 2020, 26,178 people were supported by the programme, exceeding the revised KPI target by 11%. Yet, there were fewer people supported in 2020 than in 2019 (reduction of 14%), highlighting the impact of COVID-19 on programme coverage.

5.3.1 Profile

The majority (56%) of people on the 2020 caseload registered with SICAP during the year. However, this is much lower than in 2019 (75%), likely influenced by the challenges faced with engaging new people during lockdown. There was a substantial fall in the number of people registering with SICAP between March and August 2020, as compared to previous years (Figure 11).

The proportion of people referred to SICAP by the DSP in 2020 was lower than in previous years (26% in 2020 versus 29% in 2019), while the proportion accessing SICAP via social media or publicity increased from 11% to 13% (Figure 12). These changes were more pronounced amongst people who were new to the programme, indicating that the pandemic had an influence on the LDCs’ engagement strategies. It also highlights the LDCs’ transition to online activities.

A shift has been observed in the gender breakdown of the SICAP participants since 2018, with the
proportion of women increasing year-on-year from 49% in 2018 to 54% in 2020. The majority (55%) of new registrations to the caseload in 2020 were women. A trend has emerged in the referral route of men and women to SICAP, whereby women are more likely than men to learn about SICAP via friends or family, local community groups and publicity or social media, while men are more likely to be referred to the programme by the DSP or other organisations. Only 30 of all SICAP clients identified as “other gender (non-binary)” in 2020, as compared to 50 people in 2019. Similar to previous years, half of the 2020 caseload fell within the 25-45 age bracket, while 17% were aged 15-24. People aged over 65 years accounted for 4% of the 2020 caseload, as compared to 3% in 2018 and 2019.

The unemployed continued to make up the majority (56%, 14,635) of SICAP clients, accounting for 3% of all unemployed\textsuperscript{16} people in Ireland in December 2020 (including those in receipt of the COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP)). Despite the programme’s objective to reduce long-term intergenerational unemployment, there has been a decrease in the ratio of long-term unemployed to short-term unemployed people on the caseload since 2018. The proportion of long-term unemployed has decreased year-on-year from 31% in 2018 to 27% in 2020 (Figure 13). As such, 2020 marks the first year that more short-term than long-term unemployed people were supported by the programme. This is noteworthy as short-term unemployed people on the caseload to date were less likely to experience multiple barriers to social inclusion than the long-term unemployed, more likely to be educated above secondary level, and more likely to progress into employment.

Figure 13 Proportion of individuals on the 2018-2020 caseloads broken down by principal economic status at registration

\begin{figure}[h]
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{proportion.png}
\caption{Proportion of individuals on the 2018-2020 caseloads broken down by principal economic status at registration.}
\end{figure}

This shift in the unemployment ratio was more pronounced amongst new registrations on the 2020 caseload (31% were short-term unemployed versus 24% long-term unemployed). While this was likely exacerbated by the changing economic context due to COVID-19, the trend began before the outbreak of the pandemic and warrants

\textsuperscript{16} The COVID-19 Adjusted Measure of Unemployment in December 2020 indicated that the number of people aged 15-74 years who were unemployed was 469,695. This was sourced from the CSO, Monthly Unemployment, February 2021.
close attention to ensure that those furthest from the labour market continue to be reached and supported by SICAP during the COVID-19 recovery period. At the same time, there has been an upward trend in the proportion of economically inactive people on the caseload (20% in 2018 versus 23% in 2020). This is linked to an annual increase in the number and proportion of older, retired people in the economically inactive target group. It should also be noted that there was a slight increase in the proportion (43%) of people who were living in a jobless household, as compared to previous years (41% and 40% in 2019 and 2018 respectively).

While SICAP continues to support a high proportion of people facing educational disadvantage (60% educated at secondary level or below), a slight reduction was recorded in 2020, as compared to previous years (62%). In particular, the education level of the newly registered people on the 2020 caseload was higher, as compared to those registered in 2018 or 2019. This is associated with the changing economic status of the caseload, particularly the increase in the proportion of short-term unemployed people supported by SICAP.\(^{17}\)

SICAP’s targeting strategy has remained relatively consistent since the programme began in 2018, although the absolute numbers of people supported across the target groups\(^{18}\) fell in 2020, due to the fall in overall caseload numbers (Figure 14). As noted previously, there has been a year-on-year increase in the proportion of economically inactive clients on the caseload. 2020 also saw a reduction in the proportion of low income workers or households on the caseload (19% vs 22% in 2018), reflecting the fall in the representation of employed people on the caseload. Despite targeted efforts by LDCs to support vulnerable groups, such as Travellers and Roma, during the pandemic, these groups continued to make up a low proportion of the caseload (2% and <1% respectively).

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\(^{17}\) Analysis of the 2020 caseload shows that this was especially the case amongst the short-term unemployed who registered with SICAP during 2020, with a higher proportion (51%) being educated above secondary level than those who registered with the programme in 2018 or 2019 (48%).

\(^{18}\) The only exception was disadvantaged women, which increased from 141 women in 2019 to 222 women in 2020.
SICAP recognises that individuals can face different barriers to social inclusion in Ireland, such as living in a jobless household, experiencing a transport barrier, and being at risk of homelessness or living in challenging housing circumstances. In 2020, over a quarter (27%) of the caseload experienced two or more barriers to social inclusion, representing a slight increase on the 2019 (26%) and 2018 (24%) caseloads. The COVID-19 pandemic has also shone a light on a host of different challenges and barriers experienced by individuals in communities.

19 A new tool called the Multiple Barriers Measure was introduced for the SICAP 2018 – 2022 programme. The tool enables LCDCs and LDCs to identify individuals who face multiple barriers to social and economic inclusion. Those individuals who are affected by two or more of the following barriers – disability, ethnic minority, experience of homelessness, living in a jobless household, lone parent and/or a transport barrier – are likely to need more interventions and more intensive supports.
across Ireland, such as digital poverty, social isolation, anxiety and mental health issues. These are described in more detail in Section 5.3.2 below.

5.3.2 Identified needs
LDCs described a wide range of needs that emerged amongst individuals in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of which reflect the national evidence base. These included:

- **Basic needs**, such as access to food, fuel and medical prescriptions. Amongst people who had been advised to cocoon, some needed support with the collection and delivery of essential supplies on a weekly basis. For others, who may have lost their job due to COVID-19 restrictions, food insecurity became a serious concern.

- **Financial concerns** and pressures due to loss of employment or income during lockdown. Some people needed advice and guidance on how to navigate the social security system, while self-employed people also needed guidance and training on how to adapt their businesses during lockdown (e.g. health and safety).

- Many LDCs identified the issue of **social isolation** amongst community members. This was particularly evident amongst older people who had been advised to cocoon since the early stages of the first lockdown.

- **COVID-19 restrictions** resulted in a surge in online activity during 2020, with many economic and social activities transitioning to online delivery. This has shone a light on the **digital divide** in Ireland, with many LDCs highlighting the challenges faced by individuals to participate in online supports, courses and workshops. This stemmed from lack of knowledge, lack of appropriate devices, poor broadband coverage and/or other associated costs, such as the cost of equipment or broadband.

- LDCs noted that some SICAP target groups faced unique challenges during the pandemic. For example, Travellers and Roma experienced a higher risk of contracting COVID-19 due to living in **overcrowded accommodation**. Also, **English language barriers** amongst members of new communities made it more difficult for them to understand COVID-19 guidance and to access supports over the phone.

- **Other complex needs** including mental health issues and increased anxiety (including amongst young people), addiction issues, and some cases of domestic violence were noted by LDCs.
SICAP responds to food insecurity in communities across Ireland

In March 2020, not long after the country went into the first lockdown of the pandemic, LDCs recognised that some families and older people in their community were facing immediate food needs – driven by factors such as loss of employment and income, disruption in school meal programmes and cocooning advice. In response, SICAP staff across Ireland quickly connected with their local partners and participated in a range of collaborative initiatives to provide food supports. In some cases, this led to other needs being identified and addressed. This demonstrates the flexibility afforded to LDCs to respond to emerging needs during the pandemic.

Dublin

In Dublin 10, an immediate concern of the first lockdown was the closure of the St. Vincent De Paul foodbank in Cherry Orchard, which provided food supports to 180 families. A multi-agency response was set up, including agencies such as Dublin County Council, St Vincent de Paul and De Salle GAA Club. Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership (BCP) took on a key coordinating role and each of the partners were responsible for different elements of the response. BCP provided funding via SICAP to expand existing meals on wheels services, while also establishing a community phone line and assigning their Drumfinn office as a hub for the wider food security supports. Within a week, BCP was receiving a high volume of daily enquiries.

It quickly became apparent to the delivery teams that the provision of food and essential supplies was only part of the value of the home visits. The social interaction – the ‘chat on the doorstep’ – was also a vital lifeline for those experiencing social isolation. In order to better provide these person-to-person supports, a system was developed of matching staff and volunteers against specific delivery lists. By July 2020, over 1,000 households had received support via the multi-agency response. Furthermore, 256 individuals with multiple needs, who were living in these households, were registered over the phone and referred for additional support through SICAP and other programmes.

Laois

The Hope for Laois Project was formed by local volunteers in March 2020 as a collective community response to the growing levels of food insecurity in Laois. The project also aimed to provide a vital lifeline for vulnerable members of the community who were living in fear of leaving their homes as result of COVID-19.

At the outset, the group reached out to the Laois Partnership Company (LPC) for advice and support. The SICAP Officer was able to provide guidance to the group on setting up the Hope for Laois Project in adherence with best practice guidelines, sharing resources and advice about volunteering, safeguarding and Garda vetting. The project also benefited from the experience, community contacts and working relationships of SICAP staff, who could immediately identify households who were in need of food parcels.
They also connected the project with key agencies and organisations in the area. Collaborations were created with the Mountmellick Family Resource Centre (MFRC), Tusla and the Community Gardaí, all of whom helped to identify vulnerable individuals and families who were struggling financially and who needed food provision. Additionally, both LPC and MFRC had well-established partnerships with Food Cloud, which they linked with the project, after which they could avail of a consistent supply of donated fresh food and essential products each week.

At its peak, the service delivered food hampers and household essentials, such as nappies and baby food, to over 130 families, elderly people, and self-isolating individuals each week.

“The lockdown period had a terrible negative effect on the mental health and resilience of some of the homes where we delivered hampers. We encountered so many people who were frightened of leaving their homes for fear of contracting COVID. They were incredibly isolated and obviously lonely, so a little knock on their door and a socially distanced chat, while we delivered their food gave them some comfort and peace of mind. They just needed a little bit of human contact”.

Michael – Hope for Laois delivery volunteer

Cork

In the Charleville and Mitchelstown area of Cork, Ballyhoura Development CLG (BDC) linked in with local community groups, services and organisations to identify families in need of food supports. Food donations and funding were provided by a range of partners, such as Kerry Foods and Cork County Council. Through this collaborative work, SICAP delivered a food parcel project, which supplied parcels to c. 500 families during the height of the first lockdown. The project also provided other resources to families around healthy eating, cooking, food waste management and budgeting tips.

“Our SICAP programme would have been what glued it all together. Without having the staffing resource through SICAP, which would be the link into all the communities that we work with, without having all our actions that we are delivering on the ground in communities there, we wouldn’t have had the structure to go in and say this is the service we can offer in response to COVID.”

Eileen O’Keefe – Development Manager, Ballyhoura Development CLG

An important element of this project was that food became an opportunity to engage with families further. It opened the door for BDC to build trust with families, after which other issues could be addressed (e.g. parenting support, housing needs).

Click here to watch a video about this work.
5.3.3 Interventions and supports provided

Individuals engage with SICAP for a variety of reasons, including personal development and improved wellbeing, to get a job or to set up their own business. The programme is designed to work with individuals on a one-to-one basis, supporting them to develop action plans that will assist them in meeting their own goals and objectives.

On average, individuals received three interventions in 2020, which is on par with previous years. The impact of COVID-19 on the delivery of interventions is evident in Figure 17. Contrary to previous years, the total number of interventions decreased between March and May 2020, the initial months of the pandemic. Thereafter, the delivery of interventions followed the trends of previous years and reflected the increase in new people registering with the programme in the latter months of the year.

Differences were observed in the types of supports received by individuals in 2020 (Figure 18). There was a slight reduction in the proportion of people (28%) who received labour market supports in 2020, as compared to previous years (31%). While these supports typically involve CV development and interview preparation, SICAP staff also responded to immediate needs in 2020, in particular helping people who lost their job due to lockdown restrictions to navigate and access financial supports (e.g. Pandemic Unemployment Payment).

Likely reflecting the challenging economic environment during the pandemic, there was a reduction in the proportion of people receiving pre-start up self-employment supports in 2020, such as navigating the Back to Work Enterprise Allowance (BTWEA), business plan advice (17% versus 22% in 2019). On the other hand, there was an increase in those receiving follow-up self-employment supports (9% versus 6% in 2019), likely due to LDCs offering guidance and advice to existing businesses following the introduction of COVID-19 restrictions (e.g. accessing enterprise grants). Some LDCs also supported businesses to adapt and re-open safely during the second half of the year.

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20 Median is used to calculate the average
Since the programme began, there has been a year-on-year increase in the proportion of people receiving personal development supports, increasing to 25% in 2020. This possibly relates to additional issues faced by people during the year, such as increased anxiety. SICAP staff invested time in connecting with and listening to clients, providing them with ongoing advice and reassurance during lockdowns. LDCs also ensured that up-to-date information about COVID-19, as well as details about the availability of local services and supports, was accessible for people in the community, while translated materials were provided to members of new communities.

Figure 18 2018, 2019 and 2020 individual caseloads broken down by types of interventions received

Since the programme began, there has been a year-on-year increase in the proportion of people receiving personal development supports, increasing to 25% in 2020. This possibly relates to additional issues faced by people during the year, such as increased anxiety. SICAP staff invested time in connecting with and listening to clients, providing them with ongoing advice and reassurance during lockdowns. LDCs also ensured that up-to-date information about COVID-19, as well as details about the availability of local services and supports, was accessible for people in the community, while translated materials were provided to members of new communities.

Similar to previous years, the types of interventions received varied by the economic status of individuals at registration, suggesting that the supports provided are tailored to meet the needs of different people on the caseload. The economically inactive were more likely to receive personal development supports (43%) and information about lifelong learning (50%) than all other groups, while the short-term unemployed were more likely to receive labour market supports (36%). The short-term (28%) and long-term unemployed (25%) were also much more likely to receive pre-start-up self-employment supports than the economically inactive (3%) and employed (8%). Gender may also be an important factor in the types of supports received, as women are much more likely to be economically inactive, while men are more likely to be short-term or long-term unemployed. Altogether, this suggests that LDCs are tailoring supports to meet the different needs and objectives of people who engage with SICAP.

Additionally, 955 people received grants to cover their education and LLL fees in 2020, increasing substantially on the number of people who received this type of grant in 2019 (762). The total amount of funding granted also increased by 52% to €277,943, reflecting the higher numbers receiving the grant but also the higher grant amount allowed during COVID-19. A total of 104 people received an enterprise start-up grant through SICAP during the year, totalling €48,505. While a smaller number of people were awarded a grant than in 2019, the total grant amount increased, resulting in a higher average grant amount of €462 (versus €343 in 2019).
Planned SICAP initiatives continue despite COVID-19

While SICAP implementers quickly altered their plans and responded to the outbreak of COVID-19, it is important to note that they also continued to implement projects and activities that had been set out at the beginning of the year. In some cases, these initiatives were adapted to suit the COVID-19 context (e.g. moving to online delivery). A selection of these initiatives are provided below to give a flavour of this ongoing SICAP work.

Wexford

The 3SP: Supporting Skills and Success Programme was piloted by Wexford Local Development in 2020. The programme is targeted at young people aged between 16 and 24 not in education, training or employment and who are at risk of long term unemployment, isolation and lack of progression. The programme was initially intended to target DEIS schools in Co. Wexford, but in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme was extended to all schools in Co. Wexford, with pathways in place for referrals from other agencies and for self-referral. The pilot programme included one-to-one supports from the SICAP Client Support Team, one-to-one coaching, access to training, a bespoke 7-week Personal Development Programme (delivered online), and ongoing support from the Education Officer, who co-ordinated the programme. In total, 18 young people were referred to the programme, with ten young people registering for the online course and eight remaining active and receiving support through the Client Support Team.

Monaghan

Monaghan Integrated Development’s (MID) SICAP team oversaw the launch of the County Monaghan Migrant Integration Strategy 2020-2023. The strategy contains 38 actions to promote inclusion and equality for migrants and these actions will be implemented by a range of agencies in the years ahead. SICAP is the lead programme for 15 actions.

The groundwork for a needs assessment of the Roma community was also able to continue despite COVID-19. MID continued to liaise with the HSE, Roma Tabor, the CoH Sync project and Cavan County Local Development to progress this work. A Needs Assessment questionnaire has been compiled and will be distributed when COVID restrictions ease. The working group has already led to the identification of a number of health issues for the community, including access to childhood vaccinations, and has built key links between the HSE and the Roma community.

Wicklow

In 2020, Bray Area Partnership (BAP), through SICAP, continued to support people with a disability in the local community. One such project involved the development of a dedicated website (www.disabilitybray.ie) as a one-stop-shop listing information on a range of supports and services (local and national) that are available for people with a disability, their families and carers (e.g. education and training; employment; housing; health and wellbeing). The website was developed in collaboration with people with a disability, their families and carers, alongside representative and support agencies, and involved agreeing the design, content, user interface and accessibility requirements. The website went live towards the end of the year and the feedback received has been very positive. The site was set up in response to local need and is maintained and updated by BAP under the SICAP programme, with input from members of the BAP Disability Network.
5.3.4 Outputs and outcomes achieved

Despite the challenges faced in 2020, positive progression was recorded in relation to individuals’ employment and education status. However, the rates of progression have decreased as compared to previous years. The following paragraphs present the outputs and outcomes achieved by individuals on the 2020 caseload, as compared to previous years.\(^{21}\)

**Lifelong learning**

Table 5 Number and proportion of individuals on the 2018, 2019, and 2020 caseloads who participated in lifelong learning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outputs</th>
<th>2018 caseload</th>
<th>2019 caseload</th>
<th>2020 caseload</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participated in a lifelong learning activity (i.e. course, work experience or apprenticeship)</td>
<td>15,351 (48%)</td>
<td>14,260 (47%)</td>
<td>8,768 (33%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To date, 34,561 (49%) individuals have participated in a lifelong learning (LLL) activity\(^{22}\) through SICAP. In 2020, one third (33%, 8,768) of the caseload undertook a LLL activity, which is considerably lower than in previous years (Table 5), highlighting the impact COVID-19 had on group based activities. Following the introduction of restrictions in March, LDCs invested a considerable amount of time in transitioning their courses into digital formats and working with partners to deliver a variety of courses online (e.g. wellness, Fáilte Isteach\(^{23}\) English classes, digital marketing to support businesses to transition online). However, some courses were more difficult to deliver online due to the practical nature of the course (e.g. manual handling training). Some LDCs also supported individuals to overcome the digital divide, by leveraging resources and providing hardware in some instances, and training in others, to ensure people had the capacity to connect and participate in activities and supports online. Following a noticeable reduction in the number of courses\(^{24}\) taking place between March and August, data shows a recovery in the numbers during the final months of the year.

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\(^{21}\) It should be noted that the number of 2020 outputs could increase, as outputs may not have been recorded for some individuals until 2021 and as such are not captured in this report. The outcome data refers to all individuals on the 2018-20 caseloads who achieved longer term outcomes and is presented as a proportion of those that LDCs followed up with. LDCs follow up with individuals who got a job or set up their own business to record whether they are still in employment or self-employment. This follow-up takes place six months after an individual starts their job and 12 months after an individual sets up their business. As such, not all individuals were due a follow-up in 2020 and proportions are calculated based on those who received a follow-up.

\(^{22}\) LLL activities include course placements, apprenticeships and work experience

\(^{23}\) Fáilte Isteach is a community project involving predominantly older volunteers who welcome migrants through conversational English classes. It was developed by Third Age in 2006 in response to the difficulties that new migrants were experiencing integrating into the local community: [www.thirdageireland.ie](http://www.thirdageireland.ie)

\(^{24}\) Note some course dates may not have been updated on IRIS following the introduction of social distancing measures. As such, delays in the delivery of some courses may not be captured in the data.
Of the 8,768 people who participated in a LLL activity in 2020, almost all (8,752) participated in a course, while 16 undertook work experience and 7 participated in apprenticeships. Similar to previous years, women (37%) were more likely to take a course than men (29%). At the same time, the economically inactive (42%) and employed (42%) were more likely to participate in a course than the short-term (27%) and long-term unemployed (27%). These differences likely relate to the different personal objectives individuals have when they join the programme.

Of those who took a course, the majority (61%) sat unaccredited courses, a quarter (26%) took industry certified courses and 19% sat accredited courses. This is similar to previous years. The most common course placements in 2020 are presented in Table 6 below.

Table 6 Top three course placements in 2020, by course type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unaccredited courses</th>
<th>Industry certified courses</th>
<th>Accredited courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal development (29%)</td>
<td>Health and safety (80%)</td>
<td>Health and welfare (39%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and welfare (20%)</td>
<td>Construction (13%)</td>
<td>Services (16%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business (18%)</td>
<td>Business and accounting (4%)</td>
<td>Education (15%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To date, a total of 34,472 people have taken 51,609 course placements through SICAP and the vast majority (84%) had successfully completed their course(s) by the end of 2020. Furthermore, 546 individuals had achieved a higher educational status by the end of 2020 (Figure 19).

**Employment**

Table 7 Number and proportion of individuals on the 2018, 2019, and 2020 caseloads who got a job

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outputs</th>
<th>2018 caseload</th>
<th>2019 caseload</th>
<th>2020 caseload</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Progressed into employment</td>
<td>2,286 (7%)</td>
<td>2,040 (7%)</td>
<td>1,057 (4%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A total of 5,380 (8%) people supported by SICAP to date have progressed into employment. In 2020, 4% (1,057) of the caseload got a job, which is lower than in previous years (7%) (Table 7), likely reflecting the impact of COVID-

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25 Individuals could take more than one course and more than one type of course.

26 Note: An additional 223 individuals who registered and exited in 2020 were in employment/self-employment on exit. However, these are not captured in the 2020 output data as they registered as unemployed when in receipt of the PUP and then returned to existing employment/self-employment, when feasible later in the year.
19 on labour market opportunities. Analysis of the data shows a substantial reduction in the number of people starting jobs in the summer months, followed by a small recovery between August and November. Similar to previous years, the majority (59%) of jobs obtained were on a full-time basis. Men (5%) were more likely to progress into employment than women (3%), reflecting a trend observed since the beginning of the programme. Men were also more likely to occupy full-time roles (61% versus 39%), while women were more likely to occupy part-time roles (57% versus 43%). Analysis by economic status indicates that the short-term unemployed (7%) were more likely to get a job in 2020 than the long-term unemployed (3%), employed (3%) and economically inactive (2%). This has also been the case in previous years and reflects the fact that the short-term unemployed are more likely to receive labour market supports and may be more job ready than other clients.

The vast majority (87%) of jobs were accessed through the open labour market, while 13% were state supported employment schemes. The most popular types of jobs were in health and related work (11%), clerical and office work (11%), the food, drink and tobacco production sector (10%) and the building and construction sector (10%). Given the types of courses (Table 6) that individuals take through SICAP, it is likely that these courses also support their progression into employment in these sectors.

SICAP implementers follow up with all people who got a job to see if they are still in employment six months after their start date and it is positive to note that three quarters (75%, 2,742) of people who got a job were still in employment at the six-month follow-up point (Figure 20).

**Self-employment**

Table 8 Number and proportion of individuals on the 2018, 2019, and 2020 caseloads who set up their own business

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outputs</th>
<th>2018 caseload</th>
<th>2019 caseload</th>
<th>2020 caseload</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Progressed into self-employment</td>
<td>3,388 (11%)</td>
<td>2,583 (8%)</td>
<td>1,274 (5%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To date, 7,309 (10%) people supported by SICAP have set up their own business. In 2020, just 5% (1,274) of the caseload progressed into self-employment, as compared to 8% in 2019 and 11% in 2018 (Table 8), reflecting the annual decrease in people receiving this type of support. It also highlights the impact of the challenging economic environment on entrepreneurship during the COVID-19 pandemic, with a substantial reduction in the number of people setting up their own business between April and July. The majority of people who set up a business received

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27 A total of 3,676 (68%) who got a job to date were followed up with and 75% (2,742) of these people were still in employment.
either the BTWEA (66%) or STEA (25%), while 9% were not eligible as they were not in receipt of social welfare support. This demonstrates the positive impact the programme has in supporting people to navigate these schemes.

Similar to previous years, men (6%) were more likely to set up their own business than women (4%). At the same time, the short-term (10%) and long-term unemployed (7%) were more likely to set up their own business than the economically inactive (1%) and the employed (1%), reflecting the fact that the unemployed are much more likely to receive this type of support. As has been the case in previous years, nine out of ten people who set up their own business were sole traders, while 7% established limited companies. The highest proportion of businesses were in the construction sector (14%), followed by arts, entertainment and recreation (13%) and other personal services (10%).

SICAP implementers follow up with all people who progressed into self-employment to see if they are still trading 12 months after their start date and it is positive to note that 78% (3,808) of people who have set up a business were still trading at the 12-month follow-up point (Figure 21).28

**Referrals to other services**

To date, 7,051 (10%) people have been referred to other services or organisations through SICAP. In 2020, 8% (2,040) of people received a referral, which is slightly higher than in 2019 (6%). The highest proportion (17%) of referrals were to Education and Training Boards, followed by Local Enterprise Offices (15%) and the Department of Social Protection (15%). People were also referred to a range of other organisations such as Local Employment Services, Citizens Information and the HSE. It should be noted that SICAP does not capture the outcome of these referral processes.

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28 A total of 4,891 (67%) who set up a business to date were followed up with and 78% (3,808) of these people were still trading.
5.4 EVENT ATTENDEES

To date, a total of 1,545 events\(^{29}\) have been delivered through SICAP. In 2020, 349 (23%) events were organised. This equates to a 38% reduction on the number of events organised by LDCs in 2019. There was also a decrease in the number of people attending events during the year (23,953 people versus 27,416 people in 2019). This highlights the impact of COVID-19 on the ability of the programme to conduct group based initiatives during the COVID-19 context. It should also be noted that some inconsistency in reporting is likely for 2020, as existing SICAP indicators do not capture all of the work that LDCs conducted in response to COVID-19.

The highest proportion (44%) of events provided information about lifelong learning opportunities, 40% were focused on supporting people’s participation in community planning, while the remaining 17% were focused on sharing information about labour market or enterprise opportunities. A quarter of the events primarily targeted people living in disadvantaged communities, 23% targeted emerging needs and 14% targeted the unemployed.

5.5 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

To date, SICAP has delivered 1,993 activities for children and families in communities across Ireland. A total of 470 (24%) activities were delivered in 2020, representing a 35% reduction on 2019. This likely reflects the challenges faced in organising activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, it is possible that there is some inconsistency in reporting for 2020. Some LDCs tried to capture COVID-19 related work under children and family activities on IRIS (e.g. family food supports), while others didn’t, as the activity may not have directly related to existing SICAP indicators.

LDCs noted that families experienced a range of issues in 2020 following the emergence of COVID-19, including:

- Lack of access to basic needs (e.g. food and fuel)
- Challenges with home schooling and children being at home full-time
- Loss of existing supports during lockdown (e.g. homework clubs, summer camps)

A total of 9,129 parents and guardians and 30,057 children and young people were supported in 2020. While fewer children were reached in 2020 than in previous years, there was a much higher number of parents and guardians supported in 2020 (9,129 versus 5,428 in 2019), potentially related to the demand for parenting supports during lockdown. Similar to previous years, the majority (66%) of the activities were targeted towards disadvantaged children and families, followed by disadvantaged young people (19%). One fifth of the activities were focused on welfare and wellbeing initiatives, 17% were focused on sports / recreation / culture, while 16% delivered family supports.

Examples of children and family initiatives in 2020 included essential food and care deliveries, IT support, the creation and distribution of activity packs for children to support home schooling and to keep children engaged, online cooking and healthy eating supports during lockdown, and the organisation of safe family events in the second half of the year.

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\(^{29}\) People can attend community engagement meetings, lifelong learning and/or labour market information events (e.g. careers fairs) that are organised throughout the year. These are referred to as non-caseload individuals in the Programme Requirements. People do not need to be registered to the programme to attend these events.
Cooking family meals during COVID-19

COVID-19 lockdown brought with it additional burdens and stresses for families, one being the challenge of accessing food and managing healthy food choices. Through SICAP, South Tipperary Development Company (STDC), collaborated with a number of organisations, such as Safefood, Youth Work Ireland Tipperary, Tipperary County Council, and the Traveller Community Health Workers Project, to deliver a cooking project for families who had little or no pattern of family cooking. The initiative provided for families to cook one-pot/slow cooker main meals, using everyday ingredients that were familiar, affordable and readily available locally. The unique feature of the programme was that family cookery would take place in the home.

The project was targeted towards families with children under the age of 12 years who were out of preschool and primary school because of COVID-19. A total of 25 families (comprising approximately 190 family members) from SICAP target areas were invited by relevant collaborative partners to take part in the project. The families lived in areas of disadvantage in South Tipperary and belonged to different SICAP target groups: Travellers, lone parents, jobless households, and low income households.

All ingredients and materials were directly provided by the project, including support materials such as a cookbook and recipe cards. Social media platforms, i.e. Facebook and Instagram, were used extensively to communicate with and encourage the families. This provided the opportunity for participating families to experience an entirely different educational experience of learning at home. STDC noted that the initiative would not have had the reach or the achievement it had without the collaborative approach and the support and effort of collaborating partners. According to one such partner:

“We were delighted to be involved in the Cooking through COVID Programme. The Clonmel Traveller Primary Healthcare Programme aims to promote health and wellness in the Traveller Community. The Cooking through COVID Programme enabled us to deliver key health messages and to encourage healthy eating during a particularly tough time for Traveller families. The programme was innovative and allowed us to provide a cooking course in a whole new way. It has encouraged me to reflect on new ways to bring healthy eating into homes that has a long-lasting impact”

– Gillian Walsh, PHCP Co-ordinator

A similar initiative was delivered by IRD Duhallow in County Kerry, whereby they moved their Safefood Cookery Programme from the classroom to home based tutorials with ingredients and activity packs funded by SICAP and delivered on a weekly basis. This programme educated families on making healthy food choices, preparing fresh food and creating healthy rituals around the consumption of food.
5.6 LDC COLLABORATIONS

The collaborative nature of SICAP work has been demonstrated throughout this report. LDCs have worked with a wide range of partners to identify local needs and deliver a coordinated response to the issues arising during the pandemic. Examples of these partners include the local authorities, the DSP, ETBs, the HSE, An Garda Síochána and local community groups and organisations.

Since SICAP began in 2018, LDCs have engaged in 1,167 collaborations with local partners, 38% (446) of which were recorded in 2020. This equates to an 8% increase on the number of collaborations recorded in 2019. Similar to previous years, the majority (68%) of these collaborations were focused on addressing social exclusion and inequality issues. Over a quarter (26%) of the collaborations worked to meet the needs of people living in disadvantaged communities, 15% worked with disadvantaged children and families and 11% worked with new communities.
6. FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

6.1 SICAP BUDGET VERSUS COSTS CHARGED

Table 9 below sets out the budget versus spend results under each of main budget categories of the programme.

Table 9 Budget v costs charged

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total 2020 Budget</th>
<th>Total Cost Reported</th>
<th>Underspend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>€</td>
<td>€</td>
<td>€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 1</td>
<td>12,428,624</td>
<td>12,382,415</td>
<td>46,209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 2</td>
<td>17,271,286</td>
<td>16,171,077</td>
<td>1,100,209</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration Costs</td>
<td>9,468,520</td>
<td>9,352,368</td>
<td>116,152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Budget 2020</td>
<td>39,168,430</td>
<td>37,905,860</td>
<td>1,262,570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020 Cash on hand c/f</td>
<td>619,748</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>619,748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total amount available to spend 2020</td>
<td>39,788,178</td>
<td>37,905,860</td>
<td>1,882,318</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A total of €1,864,032.52 of the underspend will be carried forward into, and be available for use by LDCs, in 2021.30

6.2 PAYMENTS

Table 10 below sets out the payments made under SICAP for the year to 31st December 2020.

Table 10 Payments made under SICAP in 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lot payments excluding VAT made to LDCs</th>
<th>VAT payments made to LDCs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>€</td>
<td>€</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>39,168,430</td>
<td>526,982</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.3 REMEDIES

No remedies were applied under the programme for 2020 as all LDCs achieved their KPI 1 and KPI 2 targets and all LDCs reported administration spend within the 25% of total budget threshold.

For a more detailed breakdown of figures in relation to the above and commentary on same, please see Annex B of this report.

30 This excludes €18,285.61 as some Lots exceeded the 10% threshold for 2020 underspend carryover into 2021, by this amount.
7. CONCLUSION

SICAP remains Ireland’s foremost social inclusion intervention. It occupies a key space in the community development landscape and is a vital resource for people in our communities who need additional supports.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the implementation of the programme in 2020. The needs of individuals and families were exacerbated by the pandemic and its associated lockdowns, with financial insecurity, food insecurity, the digital divide, social isolation and anxiety (amongst others) being commonly reported by the LDCs. SICAP demonstrated a strong ability to adapt to the changing environment throughout the year – LDCs quickly transitioned to remote working and despite the challenges faced were soon offering a range of supports, activities and courses online.

The programme requirements were adapted by DRCD to enable LDCs to deliver a flexible response to emerging needs; and annual plans were continuously adjusted to not only meet the needs of communities but also to comply with the changing COVID-19 lockdown requirements.

SICAP played a key role in responding to the needs of communities during the pandemic. In particular, COVID-19 highlighted the importance of SICAP’s presence on the ground, especially the LDCs’ existing relationships with communities, local groups and other organisations. Through these relationships, LDCs were well placed to identify local needs and participate in collaborative responses through SICAP that delivered supports to those who needed it most (e.g. disadvantaged families, older people, Travellers, Roma). The participation of LDCs in the Local Authority Community Response Fora is a prime example of this, with SICAP staff leading or supporting the LDCs’ role in these fora across the country.

A key challenge during the pandemic was continuing the work that LDCs undertake with children and families, and event attendees. As this work is usually group based, the planned activities for 2020 were disrupted, with a reduction in the number of activities and events recorded during the year. However, LDCs provided essential supports to disadvantaged families in 2020 – whether it was delivery of food, and activity packs, healthy eating advice, parenting supports or digital supports – and this work further demonstrates the key role SICAP played in responding to emerging needs amongst families during the pandemic.

The programme also supported Local Community Groups (LCGs) and Social Enterprises (SEs) to continue their operations, where feasible, during 2020, while also working with others to re-open safely later in the year. Tailored supports were delivered in response to their identified needs (e.g. social isolation, transitioning online, health and safety training), while a significant increase was recorded in the total grant funding awarded to LCGs and SEs, in recognition of their demand for equipment, such as Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and IT hardware.

31 This reduction may also partly be associated with challenges in recording 2020 activities against existing SICAP indicators.
SICAP continued to work with individuals on a one-to-one basis in 2020, albeit mainly over the phone or online. **LDCs invested time in listening to people**, providing guidance and reassurance, while also being a source of up-to-date information regarding COVID-19 and related health guidance.

The programme’s targeting strategy has remained relatively consistent since 2018. Yet, changes have been observed in relation to individuals’ principal economic status. Despite the programme’s objective to reduce long-term intergenerational unemployment, there has been a decrease in the ratio of long-term unemployed to short-term unemployed people on the caseload since 2018. While this was likely exacerbated by the changing economic context, the trend began before the outbreak of the pandemic and warrants close attention to ensure that those furthest from the labour market continue to be reached and supported by SICAP during the COVID-19 recovery period.

Some hard-to-reach groups, such as Travellers and Roma, continue to have low representation on the caseload, although some strong examples of targeted, collaborative projects with these groups were documented in different parts of the country.

It is evident that COVID-19 had a negative impact on individuals’ progression rates in 2020, with a reduction recorded across each of the Lifelong Learning, employment and self-employment outputs. The challenging economic environment likely influenced the ability of people to get a job or set up their own business during the year, while social distancing measures disrupted courses. However, a recovery in course participation was recorded later in the year when the transition to digital learning platforms came into effect, although it was recognised that not all courses were suitable for online delivery.

SICAP plays a key role in identifying and responding to the needs of the most vulnerable groups in Ireland. The COVID-19 pandemic has shone a light on some of the key attributes of SICAP, in particular its collaborative and responsive approach. It has also highlighted the programme’s well-established presence in disadvantaged communities across the country. As Ireland moves into the COVID-19 recovery period, SICAP will be an important tool in the national recovery plan to build back stronger and more resilient communities, and to ensure that no-one is left behind.
ANNEXES

ANNEX A: METHODOLOGY

The report has drawn on multiple sources of data, including progress data recorded on the IRIS\textsuperscript{32} System by LDCs; LDCs’ Annual Progress Reports submitted in January 2021; a sample of case studies produced by LDCs in 2020; and feedback from the Annual Engagement Meetings with LCDCs in 2020. The quantitative and qualitative analysis was conducted by Pobal’s Monitoring, Analysis and Outcomes Unit (MAOU).

The quantitative analysis was mainly descriptive in nature, comparing 2020 caseload profile, intervention and output data with previous years. Analysis of data based on different registration time periods\textsuperscript{33} was also conducted to assess trends in the profile of individuals, LCGs and SEs on the 2020 caseload.

The following methodological limitations should be noted:

- The individual and organisation-level data used in this report is self-reported.
- The report uses static 2018-2020 IRIS data that was extracted from the system on January 20th 2021. IRIS is a live system and changes are made on an ongoing basis. Changes made since January 2021 have not been reflected in this report.
- As the 2018 and 2019 data was extracted from the system on January 20th 2021, some records have been updated with new information since the 2018 and 2019 Annual Reports. As such, the 2018-19 data contained in this report varies slightly from the previous reports. This is particularly evident in relation to output information as output data for some of the 2018-19 caseloads was not available at the time of previous reporting.
- Only 74 participants (<1%) on the SICAP caseload to date identified as “other gender (non-binary)”. Due to the small number, standalone analysis of this group was not conducted.

\textsuperscript{32} IRIS is a customised Customer Relationship Management database developed by Pobal in 2010, adapted for SICAP in 2015 and re-designed for SICAP 2018-2022 in 2017.

\textsuperscript{33} Individuals, LCGs and SEs who were a) on the 2020 caseload and newly registered in 2020 as compared to b) on the 2020 caseload but registered prior to 2020.
ANNEX B: FINANCIAL REPORT 2020

This financial report was prepared using figures extracted from IRIS, where they were recorded by LDCs (their actual spend) and LCDCs (the payments made to LDCs). 34

SICAP costs charged summary report – 2020

Table 11 below details the total budget and the total costs reported, under the various cost categories, for the 51 Lots for 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal 1</th>
<th>Non-Salary</th>
<th>1,758,670.50</th>
<th>2,126,323.45</th>
<th>43.37%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct Salary</td>
<td>10,669,953.73</td>
<td>10,256,091.12</td>
<td>43.37%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Goal 1</td>
<td>12,428,624.23</td>
<td>12,382,414.57</td>
<td>43.37%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 2</td>
<td>Non-Salary</td>
<td>3,582,880.27</td>
<td>3,079,690.74</td>
<td>56.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Salary</td>
<td>13,688,405.55</td>
<td>13,091,386.66</td>
<td>56.63%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Goal 2</td>
<td>17,271,285.82</td>
<td>16,171,077.40</td>
<td>56.63%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Each Goal Cost % reported is recommended to be between 40% and 60% of Total Actions Cost reported, unless otherwise agreed)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>€</th>
<th>Total Cost Reported €</th>
<th>% of Total available to spend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Action Cost Budget</td>
<td>29,699,910.05</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total 2020 Cash on hand carried forward</td>
<td>619,747.86</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Action Costs Available to Spend</td>
<td>30,319,657.91</td>
<td>28,553,491.97</td>
<td>71.76%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

34 Payments made by the Department to the LCDCs are not represented in this report as these figures are not reported on IRIS.
### Table 1: Total 2020 Budget vs Total Cost Reported and % of Total Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Administration Cost</th>
<th>Total 2020 Budget €</th>
<th>Total Cost Reported €</th>
<th>% of Total Budget</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9,468,519.95</td>
<td>9,352,367.76</td>
<td>23.88%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(The Administration Cost cannot exceed 25% of the Total Budget)*

### Table 2: Total Budget 2020, Total Cash on Hand carried forward 2020, and Total amount available to spend 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>€</th>
<th>Total Cost Reported €</th>
<th>% of Total available to spend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Budget 2020</td>
<td>39,168,430.00</td>
<td>37,905,859.73</td>
<td>95.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Cash on Hand carried forward 2020</td>
<td>619,747.86</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total amount available to spend 2020</td>
<td>39,788,177.86</td>
<td>37,905,859.73</td>
<td>95.27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Commentary on above Table*

The total costs reported at the year end of the 31st December 2020 were €37,905,859.73 which equates to 95.27% of the total amount available to spend by the LDCs in 2020.

The total amount available to spend is the total Lot budget amount allocated to the LDCs in 2020 plus the allowable cash on hand amount carried forward from 2019 into 2020. 2020 was the first year in the SICAP 2018-2022 programme that cash on hand (under spends of 5% or less of the Lot budget) were allowed to be carried forward from the previous year.

It is a programme rule that cash on hand carried forward from 2019 for use in 2020 can be used for expenditure on action costs only. Therefore it is important that LDCs allocate the cash on hand amount between the two Goals that is proportionate to the 40% to 60% recommended parameters of the programme.

Schedule A is an appendix to the contract between the LCDC and the LDC and it represents the budget of the Lot for a particular period, i.e. from the 1 January to 31 December 2020. This budget is comprised of Action Costs and Administration Costs.

Certain financial rules are required to be complied with as per Schedule A of the SICAP funding agreement and as per the SICAP 2018-2022 programme requirements document, and these are as follows:
• It is recommended that the total of each Goal Cost should be between 40% and 60% of the Total Actions Cost reported, unless otherwise agreed between the respective LCDC and the Local Development Company.

• The total Administration Cost cannot exceed 25% of the total budget cost.

• Both of the above rules must be complied with prior to the LCDC approving the budget.

• Local Development Companies must also ensure that these financial parameters are met when reporting spend for the period and this includes reporting on the split of spend between the two Goals that includes any cash on hand carried forward from 2019.

Administration Costs

As per the parameters of Schedule A, total administration costs reported for the year cannot exceed 25% of the total SICAP budget.

The amount reported for Administration Costs is €9,352,367.76. This amount represents 23.51% of the total budget and therefore demonstrates that the programme overall is compliant with the parameters of Schedule A.

Actions Costs

• As per the SICAP programme requirements, it is recommended that the amount reported for each Goal should be between 40% - 60% of the total action costs reported, unless otherwise agreed between the respective LCDC and the Local Development Company.

Goal 1

The amount reported for Goal 1 is €12,382,414.57. This represents 43.37% of the total action costs reported and therefore demonstrates that Goal 1 is compliant with the parameters as set by the programme requirements.

Goal 2

The amount reported for Goal 2 is €16,171,077.40. This represents 56.63% of the total action costs reported and demonstrates that Goal 2 is compliant with the parameters as set by the programme requirements.

Underspends as at 31ST December 2020

The end of year report shows the total underspend reported is €1,882,318.13 (This takes into account the cash on hand carried forward from 2019 and available for use in 2020). This represents 4.73% of the total available to spend as outlined in Table 12 below. Underspends are a result of salary budgets not being fully utilised across the administration and Goal cost categories and on non-salary action costs under Goal 2.

Table 12 Underspends as at 31 December 2020 only

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Underspend/ Over spend (minus denotes overspend)</th>
<th>Underspend as % of total available to spend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal 1</td>
<td>Non-salary</td>
<td>€367,652.95</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Direct salary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>€</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal 1</td>
<td>413,862.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal 2</td>
<td>503,189.53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>917,052.14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Goal 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>€</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal 1</td>
<td>46,209.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>46,209.66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Goal 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>€</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Goal 2</td>
<td>1,100,208.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,100,208.42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total actions costs underspend

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>€</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total actions costs underspend</td>
<td>1,146,418.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Administration costs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>€</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration costs</td>
<td>116,152.19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total underspend versus the 2020 Total Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>€</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total underspend versus the 2020 Total Budget</td>
<td>1,262,570.27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Cash on Hand carried forward into 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>€</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash on Hand carried forward into 2020</td>
<td>619,747.86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total underspend at the end of 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>€</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total underspend at the end of 2020</td>
<td>1,882,318.13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Analysis of Cash on Hand as at 31.12.20

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>€</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total underspend at the end of 2020 (2020 total available to spend less costs charged for 2020)</td>
<td>1,882,318.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Lots who have exceeded the 10% threshold for 2020 underspend carryover into 2021*</td>
<td>18,285.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total underspend allowed to be carried forward into 2021*</td>
<td>1,864,032.52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*For carry forward into 2021, the maximum amount that can be carried forward by each Lot is 10% of the 2020 Total Available to Spend figure.

### Payments

The total Lot payments for the year to 31st December 2020, excluding VAT, was €39,168,430

### VAT

Table 13 VAT costs reported by the LDCs and paid by the LCDCs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>VAT costs reported by the LDCs</th>
<th>VAT payments to the LDCs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Year Period - January – June 2020</td>
<td>€229,194.81</td>
<td>€275,203.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of Year Period July to December 2020</td>
<td>€392,731.80</td>
<td>€251,777.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>€621,926.61</td>
<td>€526,981.62</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The total amount of Vat reported for 2020 is €621,926.61. The total amount inputted into IRIS as paid by the LCDCs against the 2020 annual plan is €526,981.62. The Vat costs reported for the end of year period in 2020 are not due to be paid by the LCDCs until 2021.

Analysis of the number of SICAP funded Full-Time Equivalents (FTEs)

Table 14 below represents the salary costs for the period 1 January – 31 December 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget category</th>
<th>No. of SICAP funded FTEs</th>
<th>Salary budget cost of SICAP funded FTEs €</th>
<th>Salary spend reported for SICAP funded FTEs €</th>
<th>% of total salary spend reported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>106.04</td>
<td>€6,229,349.34</td>
<td>€6,056,045.56</td>
<td>20.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal Total</td>
<td>472.20</td>
<td>€24,358,359.28</td>
<td>€23,347,477.78</td>
<td>79.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>578.24</td>
<td>€30,587,708.62</td>
<td>€29,403,523.34</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The average budget cost per annum for a SICAP funded FTE is €52,897.94

At the year-end, 96.13% of the total salary costs budget was reported as spend, which amounts to €29,403,523.34

Administration costs

The total amount of administration costs reported is 23.50% of the total overall SICAP budget and is within the 25% maximum threshold at the year end.

Administration costs (overheads) are split across four headings as detailed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget category</th>
<th>Budget amount €</th>
<th>Spend amount €</th>
<th>% of total administration spend reported</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial/professional fees/other</td>
<td>€369,522.86</td>
<td>€379,342.70</td>
<td>4.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect salary (management/administration)</td>
<td>€6,229,349.34</td>
<td>€6,056,045.56</td>
<td>64.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office/administration/establishment</td>
<td>€2,728,338.42</td>
<td>€2,862,262.54</td>
<td>30.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel and subsistence for indirect salary</td>
<td>€141,309.33</td>
<td>€54,716.96</td>
<td>0.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total administration</td>
<td>€9,468,519.95</td>
<td>€9,352,367.76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At the year-end, 98.77% of the total administration costs budget have been reported as spend, which amounts to €9,352,367.76. Of the total administration costs reported as spend, salary costs are the largest component of these costs at 64.75%.

**Remedies**

Ongoing receipt of SICAP funding by the LDC is directly linked to performance against the Minimum Contract Requirements:

- the two Key Performance Indicator targets; and,
- the administration costs reported as spend cannot exceed 25% of the total Lot budget as per Schedule A of the funding agreement.

Remedies are applied on a fixed rate basis and are aligned to a set of scales depending on the level of non-achievement/non-compliance. In 2020, no remedies were required to be applied under either of the above minimum contract requirements.

For 2020, no remedies were applied under either of the above minimum contract requirements.
ANNEX C: GEOGRAPHIC MAPPING SHOWING NATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFICIARIES

Figure 23 presents the geographic distribution of the individuals supported by SICAP between January 2018 and December 2020. This shows that a higher share of individuals supported by SICAP are living in towns and cities, although the programme has also extended coverage to rural areas across the country. A similar map of County Dublin is presented in Figure 24 to provide a clearer representation of the geographic area with the greatest density of individuals.

Figure 23 Map of Ireland demonstrating the geographic distribution of the SICAP 2018-2020 individual caseload
Figure 24 Map of County Dublin demonstrating the geographic distribution of the SICAP 2018-20 individual caseload living in the county
Figure 25 presents the geographic distribution of individuals who were newly registered to SICAP in 2020. New registrations were more evenly spread across the country, although some towns and cities, such as Cork and Dublin, continued to engage a relatively high share of new individuals. A similar map of County Dublin is presented in Figure 26 to provide a clearer representation of the geographic area with the greatest density of newly registered individuals.
Figure 26 Map of County Dublin demonstrating the geographic distribution of new registrations on the individual caseload in the county in 2020.
Figure 27 presents the geographic distribution of the LCGs supported by SICAP between January 2018 and December 2020. This shows that the programme has relatively strong coverage of LCGs across each county in Ireland.

Figure 27 Map of Ireland demonstrating the geographic distribution of the SICAP 2018-20 LCG caseload
Figure 28 presents the geographic distribution of LCGs who were newly registered to SICAP in 2020. New registrations were relatively evenly spread across the country, although some towns and cities, such as Longford, Roscommon and Dublin, engaged a higher share of new LCGs.

Figure 28 Map of Ireland demonstrating the geographic distribution of new registrations on the LCG caseload in 2020
## ANNEX D: LIST AND DESCRIPTION OF 2020 SICAP CASE STUDIES

### Carlow County - Carlow Development Partnership (1-1)

This case study chronicles the range of responses to COVID-19 undertaken by LDC including Family Food Parcels, Care Bags, Hospital Bags, Children’s Activity Packs as part of a wider outreach to vulnerable families and older people. It also outlines the move to online courses including Failte Isteach English language classes, cookery, nutrition and horticulture programmes. The LDC also provided crisis counselling hours for older people.

**Contact:** Annette Fox  
**Email:** afox@carlowdevelopment.ie  
**Link:** [Here](#)

### Cavan County - Breffni Integrated (32-1)

This case study describes how Cavan County Local Development Company responded to the needs of communities during the COVID-19 crises through a range of supports such as a Food Initiative, which included coordinating a county wide Food Hub initiative and a county wide Meals on Wheels service. It demonstrates the collaboration effort that was required between a number of organisations including Cavan Civil Defence, An Garda Siochana, Cavan County Council, the Family Resource centres, local GAA clubs, Cavan PPN, St Vincent De Paul, Tusla, Foroige and the HSE.

**Contact:** Terry Hyland CEO Cavan County Local Development  
**Email:** thyland@ccld.ie  
**Link:** [Here](#)

### Clare County - Clare Local Development Company (16-1) *

The case study is a narrative with short video to accompany it on The Working Life in Ireland Programme. It is an example of Collaboration between a number of agencies with the LDC leading and co-ordinating a 6 session course run online over 4 weeks. The target group was Asylum Seekers in 3 Direct Provision Centres.

**Contact:** Samantha McCarthy  
**Email:** smccarthy@oldc.ie  
**Link:** [Here](#)

### Cork Bandon & Kinsale - West Cork Development Partnership (18-6)

The Case Study focuses on the LDCs One to one Labour Market Supports, showcasing the background to supports, barriers and challenges typically experienced by clients. It profiles one individuals journey through
supports received under SICAP 1 and 2 and progress made as a result of supports.

| Contact: | Amanda Slattery, Ballyhoura Development CLG |
| Email:   | aslattery@ballyhoura.org |
| Link:    | Here |

**Cork Charleville & Mitchelstown – Ballyhoura Development Company (18-2)**

This Case Study focuses on the engagement approach of supporting families with food deliveries during COVID and the impact this has had, particularly in allowing the LDC to build relationships and trust with families and support them in other areas, such as parenting skills, budgeting, and housing issues. It also focuses on the positive impact on families, including capacity building and learning new skills.

| Contact: | Jacqui Sweeney, Cork City Partnership |
| Email:   | JSweeney@partnershipcork.ie |
| Link:    | Here |

**Cork City - Cork City Partnership (17-1)**

This Case Study focuses on Cork City Partnerships Friendly Call Service and how, during COVID 19, they developed it to cater for the 70% increase in demand and increased the services delivered from a daily phone call to older people, to food and prescription delivery as well as delivering activity packs. Particular emphasis is on the breadth of collaboration that took place to enable this to happen, across local organisations and agencies, community groups and businesses.

| Contact: | Triona Murphy, IRD Duhallow |
| Email:   | triona.dennehy@irdduhallow.com |
| Link:    | Here |

**Cork Kanturk, Newmarket and Millstreet - IRD Duhallow (18-1)**

This Case Study showcases a number of areas of activity under the SICAP Programme that were tailored to respond to COVID needs, such as the Friendly Call Service, employment supports and training programmes. Central also is the role that their social enterprises, the Community Laundry and Meals on Wheels had during these times.

**Cork Mallow & Fermoy - Avondhu Blackwater Partnership (18-3)**
The Case Study is on SICAP support given to the Irish Wheelchair Association to deliver arts based supports via Zoom and through home visits. It also showcases the impact financial support from SICAP can have in terms of the delivery of a project supporting disadvantaged communities.

**Contact:** Mary Gubbins, Avondhu Blackwater Partnership CLG  
**Email:** maryg@avondhublackwater.com  
**Link:** [Here](#)

### Cork South & East Cork - SECAD Partnership (18-4)

The Case Study focuses on the LDCs response to COVID 19 and putting in place alternative engagement approaches by making all of their supports available online. It also showcases a number of clients and the impact employment and training supports have had for them. The role of SICAP - staff and the programme - is weaved throughout the Case Study.

**Contact:** Toni McCaul, SECAD  
**Email:** TMcCaul@secad.ie  
**Link:** [Here](#)

### Cork West District – West Cork Development Partnership (18-5)

The Case Study focuses on the LDCs response to COVID 19 by putting in place a variety of social media platforms to ensure that vital information was available for people, particularly vulnerable people cocooning during lockdown. This was done through the establishment of a website giving local area contact lists, detail on pharmacies and food outlets offering delivery services, support information on accessing PUP, mental health supports and activities for children and families etc. They also built on their Facebook page and put in place a number of support YouTube videos.

**Contact:** Fergal Conlon, West Cork Development Partnership  
**Email:** fergal@wcdp.ie  
**Link:** [Here](#)

### Cork West Islands - Comhar na nOileain Teoranta (18-7)

This Case Study focuses on an innovative response to challenges arising from COVID-19 for an island community. Cape Clear relies on mainland deliveries for their food supplies, which is further heightened during COVID. Alongside this, local farmers and fishers were experiencing economic challenges. Arising from this a farmers markets was developed selling only local produce and crafts, which was driven by the LDC. The Case Study outlines the process, steps taken and result, as well as the challenges faced and future plans.

**Contact:** Jude Gilbert, Comhar na nOileáin
**Email:** jude@oileain.ie  
**Link:** Here

### Donegal Inishowen - Inishowen Development Partnership (33-1)

This Case Study puts a spotlight on the work of IDP in one of their GOAL 1 Actions. This study focuses on 18 Social Enterprise Supports and how they reacted and adopted to the Pandemic and a changed working environment.

**Contact:** Geraldine McGlinchey  
**Email:** geraldine@inishowen.ie  
**Link:** Here

### Donegal Gaeltacht – Donegal Local Development Company (33-2)

The case study details how SICAP supports were put in place to address a Covid-19 need in a rural area (Gweedore). The project Tacú Le Gaoth Dobhair provided the following services to a rural disadvantaged community: Shop and Drop; Meals on Wheels; food parcels.

**Contact:** Padraic Fingleton  
**Email:** info@dldc.org  
**Link:** Here

### Donegal - Donegal Local Development Company (33-3)

This case study details the results of a phone survey that was carried out during the Pandemic to establish what were the main obstacles to clients engaging in online supports and training.

**Contact:** Margaret Larkin, Community Development Manager  
**Email:** mlarkin@dldc.org  
**Link:** Here

### Dublin Ballyfermot Chapelizod – Ballyfermot/Chapelizod Partnership Company (2-1)

This case study highlights the community response delivered by Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership over the period March – July 2020 in response to the early months of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Community Response was delivered under Actions 1.2 (Ensuring Wellbeing is Valued & Supported) and 2.1 (Personal Development & Wellbeing) in the 2020 SICAP Annual Plan in collaboration with local community & statutory agencies.
| Contact: | Douglas McLellan, Community Development Co-ordinator |
| Email: | dmclellan@bcpartnership.ie |
| Link: | Here |

### Dublin Ballymun, Whitehall and Tolka – Dublin North West Area Partnership (2-2) *

This video case study focuses on equine therapy in a project called the Meeting Club. Children with disabilities benefit emotionally through their connection with horses.

| Contact: | Michael Bowe |
| Email: | michael.bowe@dublinnorthwest.ie |
| Link: | Here |

### Dublin Canal Rathmines & Pembroke – Dublin South City Partnership (2-4) *

Case Study 1 focuses on the journey of one client and their support/ interventions and outcomes through the employment supports team. The 2nd Case study focuses on the Step Up Programme which supports young people who are finished school are about to finish school with their future career planning.

| Contact: | Una Lowry, CEO |
| Email: | ulowry@dscp.ie |
| Link: | Pending |

### Dublin Inner City - Dublin Inner City Co-op (2-5)

This case study is focused on the food programme delivered by the Robert Emmett Community Development Project which focuses on Dublin's South West Inner City. It emphasises the volunteerism, collaboration and community spirit in the area along with the core role this organisation plays.

| Contact: | Siobhan Power |
| Email: | siobhan@dublincitycommunitycoop.ie |
| Link: | Here |

### Dublin Northside - Northside Partnership (2-3) *

This case study focuses on bringing together local groups who work with young people, or are drugs focused, to develop local integrated services responses for young people who are impacted by the drug economy, violence and gang-related activity.

| Contact: | Cathy Reinhardt, Local Development Team Leader |
### Dun Laoghaire Rathdown - Southside Partnership DLR (5-1)

The case study submitted is called ‘Supporting Communities during the Covid-19 Crisis’ and is presented under the collaboration theme. This case study highlights the role of SSP and its activities under SICAP in responding to the challenges their communities faced under the COVID-19 restrictions. The emphasis of SICAP work was with vulnerable and disadvantaged communities and in particular on those cocooning, parents struggling with home schooling their children, people with disabilities (with limited access to services) and those experiencing difficulties in accessing technology.

**Contact:** Cormac Shaw, Southside Partnership  
**Email:** cormac.shaw@sspship.ie  
**Link:** Here

### Fingal - Empower (4-1)

Connect & Include Digital Inclusion Initiative is an interagency, holistic and person-centered response to address digital poverty and exclusion by bringing multiple stakeholders together from the public and private sector.

**Contact:** Felix Gallagher, Empower Local Development CLG  
**Email:** fgallagher@empower.ie  
**Link:** Here

### Galway City - Galway City Partnership (26-1) *

This is a video case study highlighting the person centred approach to individuals seeking support under Goal 2. The individuals talk about their experience of the programme.

**Contact:** Stephen Minihane, Project Information Officer  
**Email:** stephen@gcp.ie  
**Link:** Here

### Galway County - Galway Rural Development Company (27-1)

This is a video /slideshow highlighting the GDR COVID 19 Response in collaboration with other agencies. It includes images of groups who received grants under Goal 1 to provide meals to the elderly, activity packs to children, PPE and the delivery of online classes.

**Contact:** Aoibheann McCann
**Kerry East and West - North and East Kerry LEADER Partnership (19-1)**

This Case Study focuses on the LDCs response to local needs arising from COVID 19. It focuses on 3 specific areas of activity, namely The Community Response service they developed themselves, and then linked with Kerry County Councils overall Community Response, their Laptop Loan Scheme and Supporting Social Enterprises to reopen after lockdown, as well as the overall impact on supports delivered.

**Contact:** Robert Carey, North and East West Kerry Development  
**Email:** RobertCarey@newkd.ie  
**Link:** Here

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**Kerry, Rathmore & Gneeveguilla - IRD Duhallow (19-2)**

This Case Study showcases the LDCs response to COVID and the areas of activity central to responding to the local COVID needs, this includes the Community newsletter, the Friendly Phone Call Service, as well as the role social enterprises played such as the Community Laundry and Duhallow Meals on Wheels.

**Contact:** Triona Dennehy, IRD Duhallow  
**Email:** triona.dennehy@irdduhallow.com  
**Link:** Here

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**Kerry South and Killarney - South Kerry Development Partnership (19-3)**

This Case Study focuses on the LDCs response to local needs arising from COVID 19. It showcases how they tailored 11 actions to respond to COVID and ensure action delivery was sustained. It emphasises the importance of collaboration as well as the core role the LDC and SICAP had throughout.

**Contact:** Noel Spillane, South Kerry Development Partnership CLG  
**Email:** nspillane@skdp.net  
**Link:** Here

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**Kildare County – County Kildare Leader Partnership (6-1) * **

The case study submitted is focused on the SICAP Youth Employment Services and is a Goal 2 project. The case study reviews the experience of supporting this target group since 2017 with dedicated core SICAP funding, which has enabled the employment of a full time Youth Employment Worker. This has facilitated a concentration of support in Athy, Kildare Town, the Curragh and other parts of the county. Supports include a mix of on a one to one, group work and tailored made training programmes based on needs identified. The role and contribution of SICAP is specifically detailed throughout the study with an overview, key findings,
Feedback from stakeholders and clients. It includes recommendations for the future and identifies five key areas of impact.

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<tr>
<th>Contact:</th>
<th>Pat Leogue, County Kildare Leader Partnership</th>
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<td>Email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pat@countykildarelp.ie">pat@countykildarelp.ie</a></td>
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**Kilkenny County – Kilkenny Leader Partnership (7-1)**

This video case study is called ‘A process of co-creation to develop a Crisis Café in Kilkenny’ and is a Goal 1 project. The case study is based on a need identified by Lifelink as ‘out of hours’ services for those with mental health issues are almost non-existent in Kilkenny and the case study follows the vision for a community/peer led response.

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<tr>
<th>Contact:</th>
<th>Martin Rafter, County Kilkenny Leader Partnership</th>
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<td>Email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:martin.rafter@cklp.ie">martin.rafter@cklp.ie</a></td>
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**Laois County - Laois Partnership Company (8-1)**

The Hope for Laois project is outlined in a narrative case study showing the collective community response as a solution to growing levels of food poverty in Laois.

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<tr>
<th>Contact:</th>
<th>Eimear Kelly</th>
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<tr>
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**Leitrim County - Leitrim Development Company (28-1)**

Leitrim LDCs 2020 Case Study, Leitrim Food Cloud Programme focuses on one of the responses of the SICAP team to COVID-19. The case study describes the collaborative approach to addressing the needs of the most marginalised groups and families in terms of isolation and lack of access to services. The outreach delivery of the food cloud to families in need also helped build relationships between SICAP staff and families in need and helped identify future needs of clients.

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<tr>
<th>Contact:</th>
<th>Bernie Donoghue, Social Inclusion Manager, Leitrim Development Company</th>
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<td>Email:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bernie@ldco.ie">bernie@ldco.ie</a></td>
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### Limerick East Rural - Ballyhoura Development Company (21-3) *

The Case Study focuses on the establishment of a Traveller Women’s Group, the identification of local Traveller needs, their role in carrying out peer research for a Traveller Baseline Health Needs Assessment in East Limerick and the impact this has had on participants from a personal development perspective. It showcases one Traveller woman’s journey as part of this and how she has since been recruited as a Community Traveller Link Worker.

**Contact:** Amanda Slattery, Development Manager, Ballyhoura Development CLG  
**Email:** aslattery@ballyhoura.org  
**Link:** [Here](#)

### Limerick Urban - PAUL Partnership (21-2)

The Case Study focuses on a collaborative approach, involving the engagement of the LDC, DORAS and Limerick Mental Health Association. It showcases how these three organisations came together to support men living in Direct Provision in Limerick, demonstrating the need identified, engagement supports and outcome of these supports. The role of SICAP is very clear throughout the Case Study. The importance of collaboration in addressing needs and integrating resources underpins the Case Study, and this is a good example of effective collaboration.

**Contact:** Rozi Perez Goodbody, Paul Partnership  
**Email:** rperezgoodbody@Paulpartnership.ie  
**Link:** [Here](#)

### Limerick West Rural - West Limerick Resources (21-1)

This Case Study showcases the SICAP supports received by an unemployed individual and how they built on supports received to mobilise the local community to address a local need arising from COVID, i.e. the shortage of facemasks. It demonstrates the collaborative effort involved by local individuals, community groups, and businesses, structures in sourcing material, making masks and distributing them.

**Contact:** Dearbhla Conlon Ahern, West Limerick Resources  
**Email:** dconlon@wlr.ie  
**Link:** [Here](#)

### Longford County - Longford Community Resources (9-1) *

This Goal 2 video case study highlights the support provided to individuals from all SICAP target groups, in
particular to people who are long-term unemployed, by the Education and Employment Mediator under the SICAP programme. The case study demonstrates the importance of a holistic, person centred approach.

| Contact: | Adrian Greene CEO Longford Community Resources Ltd. |
| Email: | agreene@lcrl.ie |
| Link: | Here |

**Louth County - Louth Leader Partnership (10-1)**

This video case study is called ‘The Community Call- Louth’s Calls’. It is based on the Government Community Call Initiative in response to the pandemic. This case study highlights a specific strand of the collaborative work with a range of stakeholders during the COVID-19 restrictions, which were supported by the SICAP Community Development Team under Goal 1.

| Contact: | Maeve Harkin, County Louth Leader Partnership |
| Email: | maeve.harkin@cllp.ie |
| Link: | Here |

**Mayo Islands - South West Mayo Development Company (29-1) * **

This case study focuses on Clare Island, the largest and most populous island in the Lot, and its poly-tunnel project, which has developed in 2020 with SICAP support. This study illustrates the precariousness of food supply lines to the islands and the impact of COVID restrictions on a fragile island community. In 2020 the poly-tunnel, and its fresh locally grown produce, which enabled the growing of fresh produce in the community, helped to ensure fresh vegetables for islanders during COVID-19.

| Contact: | Gerry O’Neill, CEO South West Mayo Development Company |
| Email: | goneill@southmayo.com |
| Link: | Here |

**Mayo, Ballina & Mayo West - Mayo North East Leader Partnership (29-2)**

This video Case study describes SICAP supports to a range of social enterprise services in North East Mayo. It outlines the benefits of SICAP supports in terms of facilitating linkages with the Irish Social Enterprise Network.

| Contact: | Anne Finn, Mayo North East SICAP Social Enterprise Co-ordinator |
| Email: | annefinn@mayonortheast.com |
| Link: | Here |

**Mayo, Castlebar & Claremorris - South West Mayo Development Company (29-3)**
This case study describes how SICAP staff developed bespoke training sessions and resources specifically for community groups and social enterprises, to enable them to re-open and operate safely within Covid-19 restrictions. The package included one-to-one online support sessions with SICAP staff, phone support, templates for compliance, induction training templates and group seminars to support peer learning and sharing of experiences.

Contact: Gerry O'Neill, CEO South West Mayo Development Company  
Email: goneill@southmayo.com  
Link: Here

**Meath County - Meath Partnership (11-1)**

This case study highlights how Meath Partnership took a community development approach in developing a collaborative response to addressing basic needs and building community capacity in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Meath Food Initiative directly supported individuals, children and families experiencing disadvantage and in doing so, supported members from almost all SICAP target groups.

Contact: Lorraine Owens  
Email: lorraine.owens@meathpartnership.ie  
Link: Here

**Monaghan County - Monaghan Integrated Development (34-1) * **

This case study is focused on the progression of the County Monaghan Disability Network, which is bringing disability groups together, to work together, to achieve inclusion, integration and equality for people with disabilities.

Contact: Regina Byrne  
Email: rbyrne@midl.ie  
Link: Here

**Offaly County - Offaly Local Development Company (12-1) **

Communities: Together Yet Apart is a case study showing an outreach initiative using bingo, music, and exercise classes to estates around the county. It contains images and footage of the events with testimony from participants. The project was delivered by SICAP staff visited 38 residential estates, 3 nursing units, ran 93 socially distanced events and engaged with 2705 people.

Contact: Siobhan Broderick  
Email: sbroderick@offalyldc.ie  
Link: Here
Roscommon County - Roscommon Leader Partnership (30-1)

The case study explores engagement across both Goal 1 and Goal 2 of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme during the pandemic and illustrates the different measures taken to encourage participation of those who were most socially isolated. It also presents a picture of the collaborative responses used to ensure ongoing support was provided to those most socially vulnerable.

Contact: Linda Sice, SICAP and Social Inclusion Lead Co-ordinator
Email: linda@rldc.ie
Link: Here

Sligo County - Sligo Leader Partnership Company (31-1)

This video case study describes a collaborative approach to addressing Food poverty among the most disadvantaged families in Sligo as a result of Covid-19. Collaboration between a range of agencies including Sligo Co. Council, Focus Ireland and the Civil Defence avoided duplication and allowed DICAP to reach the most vulnerable families and streamline smaller existing programmes.

Contact: June Murphy, Sligo LEADER Partnership
Email: jmurphy@sligoleader.com
Link: Here

South Dublin County - South Dublin County Partnership (3-1)

This video case study is called 'South Dublin County A Community Call.' It captures the community response in South Dublin during the initial months of the Covid-19 pandemic from March-July 2020. It show cases the response led by South Dublin County Partnership and South Dublin County Council in operating the Community Call Helpline.

Contact: Larry O'Neill, South Dublin County Partnership
Email: Larry.ONeill@sdcpartnership.ie
Link: Here and Video

Tipperary North - North Tipperary LEADER Partnership (22-1)

The case study submitted is called ‘Stronger Together’. It targets marginalized communities and is presented under the collaboration theme. This case study explores the impact of COVID 19 in North Tipperary and the important role of collaboration in activating critical community responses.

Contact: Maedhbh Gordon, North Tipperary Development Company
Email: mgordon@ntdc.ie
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**Tipperary South - South Tipperary Development Company (23-2)**

The case study submitted is called ‘Cooking through Covid’ and is presented under the collaboration theme. It focuses on families living in disadvantaged areas including Travellers, lone parents, jobless households, low-income households. It sets out to provide an analysis of a cookery at home programme, using a collaborative approach during the period from June to October 2020.

- **Contact:** Phil Shanahan, South Tipperary Development
- **Email:** philshanahan@stdc.ie
- **Link:** Here

**Waterford City and County - Waterford Area Partnership (24-1)**

The case study submitted is called ‘Waterford Women’s Creative Cocoon-COVID 19 Project’ and is presented under the collaboration theme across goals. The case study explores how the social networking project was established jointly by SICAP and Co. Waterford Community Education Services, WWETB to promote creativity, positive mental health & wellbeing, and education through COVID-19. It targets disadvantaged women with a particular focus on those affected by rural and social isolation.

- **Contact:** Pat Wallace, Waterford Area Partnership
- **Email:** pwallace@wap.ie
- **Link:** Here

**Wexford County - Wexford Local Development (14-1)***

This case study is called ' I feel home'. It focuses on the story of how the SICAP team has engaged with People seeking International Protection in emergency accommodation centres in Rosslare and Courtown. It gives a sense of the quality and depth of the relationships, which were developed and now underpinned by a web of connections, which in turn creates the conditions for personal development, mutual support and learning, awareness and integration. The video includes interview with SICAP staff, people living in direct provision centres, the centre manager centre and members of Tara Rocks GAA club.

- **Contact:** Clare Ryan, Wexford Local Development
- **Email:** cryan@WLD.ie
- **Link:** Here

**Wicklow Bray and Greystones - Bray Area Partnership (15-1)**

The video is called ‘Responding to COVID-19 in the Community’ and addresses the collaboration theme under both goals. This case study highlights the collaborative work of SICAP and other programmes managed by
Bray Area Partnership in responding to the emerging needs as they arose during the pandemic involving partner organisations Bray Community Enterprise and Bray Family Resource Development Project. The video demonstrates how SICAP adapted all its actions and took advantage of its grass roots community development work to respond to the basic and immediate needs of vulnerable people in the community during the pandemic. It showcases how SICAP responded positively to the changing needs of the community during the pandemic with the combined effort and support of its collaborative partners. It also emphasised the flexibility and adaptability of SICAP.

Contact: Jennifer D’Arcy, Bray Area Partnership
Email: jenniferdarcy@brayareapartnership.ie
Link: Here

Wicklow Arklow & Baltinglass – Co. Wicklow Community Partnership (15-2) *

The video case study submitted is called “Lifelong Learning Skills towards Employment for Early School Leavers 2019-2020”. It highlights the collaborative work between SICAP and Foroige/ Way project. The video demonstrates how two early school leavers have changed direction and have a new path as a result of the combined supports from Foroige and SICAP.

Contact: Róisín Coughlan, County Wicklow Partnership
Email: rcoughlan@wicklowpartnership.ie
Link: Here

* Non COVID-19 Focus
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Irish Refugee Council (August 2020) ‘Powerless’ Experiences of Direct Provision during the COVID-19 pandemic. Available at: https://www.irishrefugeecouncil.ie/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=419a9b2fc405-4cc8-93c7-c27a618beb07

Local government sector working with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government; the Department of Rural and Community Development; the Department of Health; and, the Department of The Taoiseach (2020) *Framework for Local Authority Community Support Response.* Available at: https://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/CoronavirusInformation/Documents/Framework%20for%20Community%20Support%202.4.20.pdf

