

State of the Sector V Profile



4. Profile

The data presented in this chapter is made up of estimates based on 1,606 returns to the *State of the Sector* survey and other organisational data held on the NICVA database.

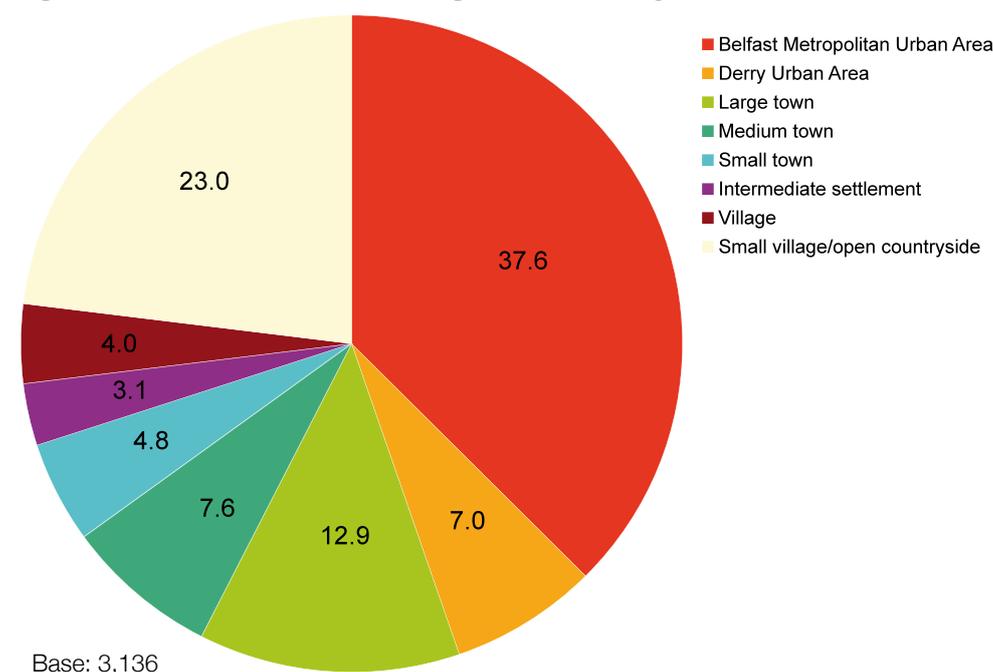
It is difficult to say with any accuracy if the actual size of the voluntary and community sector has grown or reduced since *State of the Sector IV*. This is due to a number of factors such as the lack of a centrally maintained register of organisations and the absence of any robust mechanism to record the closure of organisations. Nevertheless the information presented in this chapter gives an overview of the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland.

The best estimate we have for the overall size of the voluntary and community sector is approximately 4,700 active organisations. In addition to this figure there are approximately 500 local or branch offices and projects that are linked to voluntary and community organisations. All the analysis in this and subsequent chapters is based on the figure of 4,700 organisations (unless otherwise stated).

4.1 Geographic spread

This next section looks at where voluntary and community organisations are located and their organisational remit.

Figure 4.1 - Distribution of organisations by settlement size^[3]



3 Source: *Statistical classification and delineation of settlements* (NISRA, 2005). Rural areas are classified as intermediate settlement, village and small village/open countryside.

In terms of where voluntary and community organisations are located, a third (37.6%) is located in the Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area⁴. As can be seen in Figure 4.1, 12.9% of all voluntary and community organisations are based in large towns, such as Craigavon, Newry, Omagh and Antrim. Based on the NISRA classification of settlements, 30.1% of voluntary and community organisations are based in a rural area.

Table 4.1 - Estimated number of voluntary and community organisations by district council area

	%	Organisations per 1,000 head of population		%	Organisations per 1,000 head of population
Antrim	2.0	2	Dungannon	3.5	3
Ards	1.8	1	Fermanagh	5.2	4
Armagh	3.9	3	Larne	1.1	2
Ballymena	2.5	2	Limavady	1.1	2
Ballymoney	1.0	2	Lisburn	3.6	2
Banbridge	1.6	2	Magherafelt	2.0	2
Belfast	28.1	5	Moyle	0.8	2
Carrickfergus	1.3	2	Newry and Mourne	4.6	2
Castlereagh	2.1	2	Newtownabbey	1.8	1
Coleraine	4.2	3	North Down	2.3	1
Cookstown	1.9	3	Omagh	4.6	5
Craigavon	4.6	3	Strabane	2.9	4
Derry	8.4	4	Total	100	3
Down	3.1	2			

Base 3,136

4 Belfast Metropolitan Urban Area (BMUA) - includes Belfast Urban Area. BMUA also stretches around Belfast Lough to include Carrickfergus, Greenisland Urban Area, Newtownabbey Urban Area, Holywood Urban Area, Bangor and smaller settlements in between. In addition, BMUA includes parts of Carryduff and Castlereagh and Lisburn Urban Areas.

Table 4.1 shows that just over one quarter (28.1%) of all voluntary and community organisations in Northern Ireland are based in the Belfast City Council area. Derry City Council is the second most prominent place where voluntary and community organisations are based. Currently 8.4% of all voluntary and community organisations are based in this area. Belfast and Omagh district council areas have the highest number of voluntary and community organisations per head of population (five groups per 1,000 head of population).

As can be seen in Table 4.2 just over a fifth (21%) of all voluntary and community organisations operate in the 10% most deprived wards in Northern Ireland according to the *Northern Ireland Index of Multiple Deprivation* (NISRA, 2005).

Table 4.2 - Percentage of organisations operating in the most deprived wards

	%
10% of the most deprived wards	21
20% of the most deprived wards	33
30% of the most deprived wards	43

As can be seen in Table 4.3, the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland can be characterised as being self-contained in terms of organisational links and structures that extend outside Northern Ireland. Most voluntary and community organisations are based only in Northern Ireland. Only 16.7% of organisations within the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland are part of organisations which have a UK, all-Ireland or international structure.

Table 4.3 - Geographic remit of organisations

	%
Based only in Northern Ireland	83.3
Part of a UK wide organisation	11.7
Part of an all Ireland organisation	2.1
Part of an international organisation	2.9

Base: 2,909

4.2 Activities

The voluntary and community sector cannot be treated as a single homogenous entity but as a sector of great diversity and difference that is nevertheless connected by some fundamental similarities. Table 4.4 examines the size of the major sub-sectors that form the overall voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland.

As can be seen in Table 4.4, just over a quarter of organisations (27.0%) are classified as being in the community development sub-sector. The next most significant sub-sector, in terms of size, is the young people and children's sub-sector which makes up 19.4% of the voluntary and community sector. There are some interesting variations between the sub-sectors when it comes to the proportion which are based in Belfast. For instance, only 12.4% of organisations in the older people's sub-sector are based in the Belfast City Council area. 18.7% of organisations in the environment/conservation sub-sector and 18.4% of organisations in the community development sub-sector are based in the Belfast City Council area.

Table 4.4 - Profile of sub-sectors

	% organisations	% based in Belfast City Council area	% based only in Northern Ireland
Advice and information	8.9	39.4	74.9
Arts/cultural/heritage	8.3	33.2	95.9
Community development	27.0	18.4	97.4
Disability	7.4	24.5	70.5
Education/training	6.5	37.7	92.1
Environment/conservation	2.9	18.7	80.2
Health and wellbeing	7.3	33.2	73.3
Housing/homelessness	1.1	51.7	74.5
Older people	4.7	12.4	79.0
Volunteer development	0.9	27.3	95.8
Women	5.6	24.3	86.8
Young people and children	19.4	26.3	82.1
Overall		28.1	83.3

Base: 2,578

There are also some variations in terms of the geographic remit of organisations in each of the sub-sectors. For instance, organisations in the disability (70.5%), health and wellbeing (73.3%), housing/homelessness (74.5%) and advice and information (74.9%) sub-sectors are more likely to have a wider geographic remit than just Northern Ireland (ie part of UK wide, international or all-Ireland structures). Whereas sub-sectors such as community development (97.4%), arts/cultural/heritage (95.9%) and volunteer development (95.8%) are more likely to contain organisations that are solely based and operate in Northern Ireland.

Examining the primary purpose of organisations it is evident from Table 4.5 below that community development (20.0%) is the most common purpose across the sector. The second most common activity is advice/advocacy/information (10.6%). It is worth noting that Table 4.5 refers only to the primary purpose of the organisation, ie the purpose the organisation ranked as being its number one role. Therefore organisations which fulfil multiple roles have only been classified in one category in Table 4.5.

Table 4.5 - Primary purpose of organisations (%)

	%		%
Community development	20.0	Religious activities	1.4
Advice/advocacy/information	10.6	Overseas aid/famine relief	1.1
Disability	9.1	Volunteering development	1.1
Education/training	8.4	Rural development	1.0
Playgroup/after schools	6.3	Relief of poverty	0.7
Medical/health/sickness	6.0	Economic development	0.7
Youth work/development	5.0	Community transport	0.6
Arts	4.7	Community enterprise	0.6
Counselling/support	4.4	Gender	0.5
General charitable purposes	3.1	Criminal justice	0.5
Environment/conservation	3.0	Animal welfare	0.4
Sport/recreation	2.5	Human rights/equality	0.4
Cross-border/cross-community	2.4	Welfare/benevolent	0.3
Accommodation/housing	1.9	Search and rescue	0.1
Heritage/historical	1.6	Research/evaluation	0.1
Cultural	1.5		

Base: 3,030

As can be seen in Table 4.6 the most common primary beneficiary of voluntary and community organisations is the general public or local communities (31.4%).

Table 4.6 - Primary beneficiaries of organisations (%)

	%		%
General public/local communities	31.4	Homelessness	1.2
Preschool (0-5 year olds)	7.4	Sensory disabilities	1.1
Youth (14-25 year olds)	6.8	Carers	1.1
Children (5-13 year olds)	6.2	Community safety	1.1
Older people	5.5	Specific areas of deprivation	1.0
Women	5.4	Unemployed/low income	1.0
Voluntary and community sector	4.3	Ex-offenders and prisoners	0.9
People with disabilities	3.7	Ethnic minorities	0.9
Adult training	3.2	Interface communities	0.7
Mental health	2.8	Language community	0.5
Learning disabilities	2.7	Sexual orientation	0.5
Parents	2.0	Men	0.4
Addictions (drug/alcohol abuse)	1.8	Asylum seekers/refugees	0.3
Physical disabilities	1.6	Tenants	0.2
Victim support	1.5	Travellers	0.1
Volunteers	1.4	HIV/Aids	0.1
Overseas/developing countries	1.2		

Base: 2,995

State of the Sector V is the latest edition in the *State of the Sector* research programme. The previous *State of the Sector* reports have developed the only comprehensive picture of the scale and scope of the economic activities of the Northern Ireland voluntary and community sector. The publication of each *State of the Sector* report represents another step in the evolution of this type of statistical analysis and as such adds to the already broad and in depth knowledge of the sector, by examining many of the key issues currently affecting and shaping it.

State of the Sector V provides high level statistics on the various types of resources available to the sector and the relationship between voluntary and community organisations, government, funders and the general public.

State of the Sector V is invaluable to all those who need an up-to-date and reliable source of statistics and commentary on the voluntary and community sector in Northern Ireland. People working in the sector — academics, decision-makers, social science students and journalists — will all find this publication useful.



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