

Dóchas Electoral Snapshot

General Election 2024

Why Overseas Development Matters in Westmeath

dóchas

The Irish Association
of Non-Governmental
Development Organisations

Dóchas is the Irish Network for International Development and Humanitarian Organisations. We connect, strengthen and represent 56 international NGOs who have a shared vision of a just, equal and sustainable world.

During Ireland's General Election 2024, it is important that the issues of conflict, climate and hunger do not slip off the agenda. There is a high level of public support, interest, and trust in ODA (Overseas Development Assistance) and in development organisations across every county in Ireland.

The *Dóchas Electoral Snapshots* demonstrates the tangible support for development and humanitarian organisations by the Irish public, and community support for aid and development more broadly. The scope of the *Dóchas Electoral Snapshots* includes aggregated data on the amount of donations received by 27 Dóchas member organisations¹ and illustrates the level of public support, interest and trust in aid and development organisations across every county in Ireland.

The electoral snapshots identify the number of people, businesses, schools and community groups in every constituency who are not just talking about international development but who are acting on their beliefs. They are willing to make financial contributions to support international causes, demonstrating their solidarity with vulnerable communities around the world.

This demonstrates that there is an engaged cohort of voters in each constituency across the country, who are exercised about international development and this has real electoral significance.

1. Support for Development and Humanitarian organisations across Ireland:

- **348,212 individual donors** contributed to 27 international development organisations in 2023, representing **6.76%** of the Irish population
- This is an estimated **19% of all Irish households**²
- **528 schools** across Ireland contributed financially to international development organisations, representing 13.2% of all schools
- **1,609 businesses, 894 churches and faith groups** and **115 community groups** made financial contributions, highlighting a commitment to international development that spans beyond individual and household contributions

2. Support for Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) across Ireland

The Dóchas Electoral Snapshots 2024 is also consistent with the nationally-representative Worldview research.³ This longitudinal research reveals the vast majority of Irish people continue to support Irish Government spending on ODA - a finding that has remained consistent over the past four years.

- **76% of the Irish public support giving ODA to developing countries**
- **77% believe ODA makes a positive impact on recipient countries**
- **More than 70% of Irish people are concerned about the level of poverty in developing countries**

Human Rights, Shared Humanity and Humanitarianism are the top three reasons cited as to why we help those in developing countries. This too has remained consistent over the past four years. Nearly 3 in 5 people (57%) say we have a moral obligation to support overseas aid.

The *Dóchas Electoral Snapshots 2024* highlights a deep and broad commitment to international development among the Irish public, reinforcing the message that Irish society values global justice.

See a breakdown of all counties at: [Dochas.ie/election24](https://dochas.ie/election24)

¹ See [Dochas.ie/election24](https://dochas.ie/election24) for methodology

² CSO (2023).

³ This is the 4th wave of Worldview research on Irish attitudes to overseas development aid, undertaken by Ipsos Behaviour and Attitudes with a sample of 2,515 adults conducted in October-November 2023. The first wave of research was conducted in February 2021.

Westmeath

supports overseas development aid

4,707 Individual Supporters

13.8%
Households



4.9%
Population



45 Groups & Organisations

4
Schools



10
Faith & Community Groups



31
Businesses



A Manifesto for Overseas Development

Ireland's international development programme is at the heart of our foreign policy and presence abroad. At a time when there are intersecting climate, humanitarian and development crises, needs are rising across the world. Ireland's commitment to reach those furthest behind is needed more than ever. With five years to go, the next Government must seize the opportunity to lead on delivering Agenda 2030.

In the 2024 General Election, Dóchas is calling on all political parties and political representatives to endorse these five commitments.

1

Effective and Inclusive Development

- Realise Ireland's commitment to spend **0.7% of GNI** on Overseas Development Assistance by 2030 and publish a clear spending pathway to achieve this
- Deliver targeted and effective assistance by spending **30% of ODA** through civil society organisations that empower women, minorities, children and people with disabilities

2

Climate Action

- Provide transformational climate finance that meets our 'fair share', and is rights-based, inclusive and locally-led
- Publish a clear pathway for financial support to the Loss and Damage Fund
- Reduce polluting emissions across all sectors and phase out fossil fuels in accordance with Paris Agreement commitments and national climate action legislation

3

End Hunger for People and Planet

- Champion sustainable food systems by leading on global reforms to regulate prices, break monopolies, reduce debt and support just transitions
- Deliver on Ireland's pledge of **€800m** over five years to support nutrition and prevent food insecurity
- Elevate Ireland's leadership at the 2025 Nutrition for Growth Summit by increasing our commitment to tackling hunger with a focus on innovative, long-term solutions

4

Promote Peace, Stability and Effective Humanitarian Response

- Champion International Humanitarian Law (IHL) across all contexts, including the protection of civilians, civilian infrastructure and humanitarian workers
- Oppose the development and use of new and devastating weapons of war and support accountability mechanisms which deliver justice to victims of war crimes

5

Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development

- Develop a robust cross-government mechanism for policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD)
- Conduct new, independent and comprehensive 'spill-over analyses' assessing the human rights and environmental impacts of Ireland's tax and agri-food policies and support the UN Tax Convention

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