

**DÓCHAS**  
**The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations**

**PRESS STATEMENT**

04 April 2012

**OECD finds global aid has fallen by 3% and encourages donors to meet commitments**

**Ireland must keep its promise  
to strengthen aid commitment, say NGOs**

The latest statistics from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), published today, show that Ireland reduced its spending on official development assistance (ODA) by 3.1% in 2011.

Commenting on this review, Ireland's overseas development organisations have highlighted how aid shortfalls threaten the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

*"We have promised to work towards a better, fairer, healthier and wealthier world. And we signed up to the UN's recipe for getting to such a world. Yet, we have not kept our side of the bargain," said Hans Zomer, Director of Dóchas, the umbrella group of Ireland's overseas aid agencies.*

*"Our aid programme is an expression of our awareness that Ireland's future lies in international cooperation. Yet we have not invested in this area the way we should have, or the way we promised. We must acknowledge our international responsibilities and live up to our promises."*

Overall, the aid figures released by the OECD today show a real increase in ODA from 2000 until 2010 but that ODA fell significantly last year. The OECD warned that "The fall of ODA is a source of great concern, coming at a time when developing countries have been hit by the knock-on effect of the crisis and need it most."

Ireland had been well on-track to achieve its aid targets until 2008 when it reached 0.59% of national income, but this has since fallen to 0.52%. In December 2009, the Government also gave up on its 2012 deadline, moving its commitment to the 0.7% target to 2015.

Dóchas members said today that the OECD figures show that Ireland must do more on reaching 0.7% by 2015, and they welcomed the Government's review of Ireland's overseas aid programme.

*"If Ireland is to help rid the world of extreme poverty, our overseas aid has to continue to be effective and predictable. The Government's review of the White Paper on Irish Aid provides a real opportunity to set out a strategy for how Irish Aid can continue to be among the most effective aid programmes in the world.*

*"To repair its reputation and restore credibility, we are calling on the Government to announce practical steps, including a binding timetable of aid increases, and to copperfasten its aid commitment in legislation" concluded Zomer.*

/ENDS/

## Notes for the Editor

- In 2000, then Taoiseach Bertie Ahern committed Ireland to reaching the UN target for spending 0.7% of our GNI on ODA – or overseas aid – by 2007. This target was later moved to 2012. Current Government policy is to reach the UN target by 2015 at the latest.
- The Government has, to date, not formulated a strategy, or set any interim targets for its achievement of the 0.7% level by 2015.
- The total 2010 budget for Ireland's Overseas Aid programme stood at €676 or 0.52% of GNI.
- A summary of the OECD projections is available at [http://www.oecd.org/document/3/0,3746,en\\_21571361\\_44315115\\_50058883\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/3/0,3746,en_21571361_44315115_50058883_1_1_1_1,00.html)

## Contacts

- Hans Zomer, Dóchas Director, tel. 085 728 3258 / 01 405 3801
- Thomas Geoghegan, Information Officer, tel. 086 844 8637 / 01 405 3801

**Dochas** is the association of Irish Non-Governmental Development Organisations. It provides a forum for consultation and cooperation between its 43 member organisations, and helps them speak with a single voice on development issues.

For more information, visit: [www.dochas.ie](http://www.dochas.ie)

## DOCHAS MEMBERS

ActionAid Ireland - Afri - Africa Centre - Aidlink - Alan Kerins Projects - Amnesty International Ireland - Camara Education - Centre for Global Education - ChildFund Ireland - Children in Crossfire - Christian Aid Ireland - Christian Blind Mission Ireland - Comhlámh - Concern Worldwide - Friends of Londiani (Ireland) - Galway One World Centre - Gorta - Habitat for Humanity Ireland - Irish League of Credit Unions International Development Foundation (ILCU/IDF) - Irish Council for International Students (ICOS) - Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA) - Irish Missionary Union (IMU) - Irish Red Cross (IRC) - Kerry Action for Development Education (KADE) - National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) - Nurture Africa - Oxfam Ireland - Plan Ireland - Progressio Ireland - Self Help Africa - Sightsavers International Ireland - Skillshare International Ireland - Suas Educational Development - Tearfund Ireland - The Hope Foundation - The National Council of Ireland YMCA Trust - Trócaire - Vita - Voluntary Service International (VSI) - Voluntary Service Overseas (Ireland) - Volunteer Missionary Movement (VMM) - War on Want Northern Ireland - World Vision Ireland.