

DÓCHAS
The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations

Press Release

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Ipsos MRBI Survey shows support for overseas aid remains strong

Opinion Poll reveals that the majority of Irish people want the Government to deliver on its aid promises

A new Ipsos MRBI opinion poll commissioned by Dóchas, the umbrella body of Irish aid agencies, has found that a large majority of Irish people - 75% - think that even in an economic downturn Ireland has an obligation to invest in overseas aid.

Although slightly down on last year, when 77% respondents held this view, the survey shows that a large majority of people in Ireland support aid to developing countries.

The survey, which was undertaken by Ipsos MRBI in July, was based on interviews with people from a representative sample of 1,000 adults.

The data also shows that on average people in Ireland significantly over-estimate the amount Ireland spends on overseas aid. Respondents said they think that the government spends 9% of national income on the aid budget, which is 20 times higher than the actual figure of 0.43%.

Commenting on the opinion poll, Hans Zomer, Director of Dóchas said:

“It is clear that there is strong public support for Ireland’s overseas aid programme and that the majority of the public feel that the economic crisis should not be a reason to turn our back on people less fortunate than ourselves.”

“The survey shows that majority of the Irish public support Ireland’s commitment to the world’s poorest people,” said Zomer.

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Media Contact:

Hans Zomer, Dóchas Director, tel. 085 728 3258 / 01 405 3801

Notes to the Editor

- Dóchas is the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations. It provides a forum for consultation and cooperation between its members, and a platform for them to speak with a single voice on development issues. For more information, visit: www.dochas.ie
- Dóchas membership is comprised of 62 overseas development and social justice organisations. A list of Dóchas members can be found at: <http://www.dochas.ie/membership/our-members/>
- The Ipsos MRBI opinion poll key findings are available at: http://www.dochas.ie/Shared/Files/4/Ipsos_MRBI_2014_Overseas_Aid_Opinion_Poll_Key_Findings.pdf