

DÓCHAS
The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations

PRESS RELEASE

19 July 2013

Budget submission by Irish aid agencies

**Time to back up Ireland's new
Policy for International Development, say NGOs**

51 Irish Development NGOs today called on the Government to stop the cuts to the overseas aid budget and to clarify how it will resource its new Policy for International Development published in May. The call was made as the members of Dóchas, the umbrella group of Irish Development NGOs, presented their 2014 pre-Budget Submission to the Minister for Finance Michael Noonan TD.

Presenting the submission, Hans Zomer of Dóchas said:

“Ireland’s overseas aid is an investment in our own future. As a small, open economy, we depend on global stability and prosperity. Our overseas aid is an investment in just the sort of stability, fairness and prosperity that will benefit Ireland in the long run. Overseas aid will benefit Ireland in trade as countries develop”.

“Ireland’s overseas aid is effective. It makes real and positive differences to the lives of millions of people across the developing world. Thanks to aid, nine out of ten of the world’s children are now in school and poor countries are developing into richer and better societies. We must keep our promises to the developing world”.

In their submission, Ireland’s Development NGOs are calling on the government to urgently present a plan on how it intends to deliver on its promise of achieving the UN targets.

Dóchas members also called for enhanced predictability, transparency and accountability for Ireland’s performance on reaching its financial commitments within ODA, clarifying how much of Ireland’s overseas aid is spent on each priority area.

In its submission, Dóchas highlighted that there continues to be overwhelming public support in Irish society for overseas aid. In June, a new opinion poll, undertaken by Ipsos MRBI, found that a very large majority of people – 77 percent – think that “even in an economic down-turn, we have an obligation to invest in overseas aid”.

“Public support for investing in overseas aid remains strong. This opinion poll shows that 4 out of every 5 people in Ireland do not want the economic crisis to be a reason for us to turn our back on the world’s poorest people,” noted Zomer.

“The figures remind the Government that the vast majority of people in Ireland feel strongly about our tradition, and our obligations towards those less fortunate than ourselves,” concluded Hans Zomer.

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Notes to editors

- The full text of the Dóchas submission is available at www.dochas.ie/Shared/Files/2/Dochas_Budget_2014_submission.pdf
- The Ipsos MRBI survey findings are available at www.dochas.ie/Shared/Files/2/Public_Responses_on_Ireland_Investing_in_Overseas_Aid.pdf
- Originally pledged in 2000 at the UN Millennium Summit, it has been Government policy to reach the UN target for spending 0.7% of our GNI on overseas aid. The deadline has changed over time, however, as the original target date of 2007 was revised to 2012 and 2015 respectively. The recently published Policy for International Development formally recommits Ireland to achieving the UN’s 0.7% target on aid spending, but omits any reference to the 2015 deadline.
- Dóchas is the association of Irish Non-Governmental Development Organisations. It provides a forum for consultation and cooperation between its 51 member organisations, and helps them speak with a single voice on development issues. For more information, visit: www.dochas.ie