## DÓCHAS PRE-BUDGET **SUBMISSION 2019**

In 2000, Ireland, along with leaders of the world's most developed countries, committed itself to the UN target of spending 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) on Official Development Assistance (ODA) by 2015. Dóchas acknowledges that the Government worked hard to preserve the ODA budget during economically challenging times, but it is now time to make good on its promises.

Over the last decade, Ireland's spend on ODA has consistently fallen despite improving economic circumstances. In 2017, it was at only 0.3% of GNI (0.36% GNI\*1). The Government needs to urgently reverse this downward trend in Budget 2019.2

Ireland's reputation as a leader in international development and humanitarian action depends on it. An ambitious and well-resourced aid programme is vital if the Government is to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals, as captured in its own Global Ireland<sup>3</sup> initiative.

The Joint Committee on Foreign Affairs, Trade and Defence continues to demonstrate strong cross party support for the importance of restoring Ireland's ODA budget.

It also unanimously and unequivocally calls for a multiannual plan for the aid budget to increase on an incremental, phased basis to allow planning and impact, with the Government submitting the plan to the Committee on Budgetary Oversight for consideration. The Committee also recently commended the record of keeping Ireland's aid programme 100% untied, and demanded that this focus on alleviating poverty, promoting and respecting human rights, and meeting the challenges of climate change is maintained4.

**Achieving** received would go towards protecting some of the world's most vulnerable people.

## We therefore ask the Irish Government to:

- Fully implement the commitment to reach 0.7% by 2025 by publishing a roadmap with year-on-year % increase, allowing for the surest path to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The first step on this path is to increase the ODA spend by 0.05% (€147m) in Budget 2019, allowing us to move to a total of 0.41% of GNI\* (€854.0m).
- Protect the poverty-focused definition of ODA to ensure Ireland's aid programme is not used for any other purpose than to alleviate poverty and promote respect for human rights, dignity and equality.



National Income numbers and growth projections are taken from the CSO's recently released National Income and Expenditure Annual Results, and the Summer Economic Statement 2018. GNP growth assumptions up to 2021 are taken from the Summer Economic Statement 2018 and are assumed thereafter. The CSO published a new measurement of national income in July 2017 called "Modified Gross National Income" (or "GNI") as a more realistic measurement of the Irish economy's size and growth rate. We have assumed a similar growth rate for GNI" as that assumed for GNI" in the aforementioned documents from the Department of Finance.

In 2008, Ireland reached 0.58% spend on ODA, but since then it has consistently fallen (https://www.irishaid.ie/media/irishaidpublications/Irish-Aid-Annual-Report-2016.pdf)

Global Ireland: Ireland's Global footprint to 2025

These recommendations are captured in the Committee's report (February 2018) https://data.oireachtas.ie/ie/oireachtas/committee/dail/32/joint\_committee\_on\_foreign\_affairs\_and\_trade\_and\_defence/reports/2018/2018-02-22\_report-review-of-the-irish-aid-programme\_en.pdf

We urge the Government to publish a roadmap to meet Ireland's commitment to spending 0.7% of GNI on official development assistance (ODA), based on the table below. The Government needs to start delivering on this financial promise in Budget 2019.

Indicative Pathway to Reaching the 0.7% ODA Target by 2025 based on Projected GNI\* Growth

<b>Aim:</b> To reach 0.59% by 2022 (GNI*) and then 0.70% by 2025	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
ODA as a proportion of GNI*	0.36%	0.41%	0.47%	0.53%	0.59%	0.63%	0.66%	0.70%
ODA volume (€m)	707.0	854.0	1,005.1	1,159.1	1,316.6	1,427.7	1,543.0	1,662.5
Increase in ODA volume required (€m)		147.0	151.1	154.0	157.5	111.2	115.3	119.5

Figures from Social Justice Ireland - July 2018

We believe that the Government's current "stated" commitment to reaching the target by 2030 is too late5. Dóchas has consistently called for Ireland to meet its financial commitment by 2025 to ensure that the funding will have time to impact on the world's poorest. Tackling the root causes of extreme poverty, inequality and climate change, not just the symptoms, will take time and a long-term commitment.

We welcome the Government's efforts to develop a new International Development Policy, by the end of 2018, to ensure Irish Aid is fit for the future, and that it has the capacity and resources to manage a strong aid programme. As stated in Dóchas' own submission6 to this consultation process, it will require an urgent investment in resources, a deepening relationship with civil society, as well as a willingness to "do things differently" to bring about transformative change.

## **Aid Works**



people have moved out of extreme poverty since 1990.



37 million

children gained access to primary school education between 2000 - 2016.

**43**% The fall in the number of deaths of children under five between 2000 - 2016

The decline in the

maternal mortality rate since 2000.

**50**% The fall in new HIV cases between 2000 - 2017.



of primary-schoolage children were enrolled in school in 2015

## Why Aid is Needed



people die every year because of air pollution. More than 90% of these deaths occur in low and middle income countries7.

The share of global poor living in fragile and conflict-affected situations is projected to reach 46% by 20309.

million

people are forcibly displaced from their homes. This equates to 31 people every minute of every day<sup>11</sup>.



additional people could be living in poverty by 2030 if we do not react to climate change appropriately8.

of those in extreme poverty are in countries affected by fragility, environmental vulnerability or both<sup>10</sup>.



<sup>......</sup> https://www.irishaid.ie/about-us/policy-for-international-development/news/remarks-by-tanaiste-and-minister-for-foreign-affairs-and-trade-simon-coveney-td.html
https://dochas.ie/sites/default/files/D%C3%B3chas%20Submission%20to%20White%20Paper%20Consultation%202018.pdf
7 WHO, http://www.who.int/news-room/detail/02-05-2018-9-out-of-10-people-worldwide-breathe-polluted-air-but-more-countries-are-taking-action

\*\*New order of the Common and the Co