

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 Ireland³ 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 0.7%
means that **70c**
in every **€100**
received
would go
towards
protecting
some of the
world's most
vulnerable
people.

We therefore ask the Irish Government to:

- 1** 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.
- 2** 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).
- 3** 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.

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


Aim: 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



1.1 billion
people have moved out of extreme poverty since 1990.

37%
The decline in the maternal mortality rate since 2000.



37 million
children gained access to primary school education between 2000 – 2016.

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

43%
The fall in the number of deaths of children under five between 2000 – 2016.


91%
of primary-school-age children were enrolled in school in 2015.

Why Aid is Needed


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

46%
The share of global poor living in fragile and conflict-affected situations is projected to reach 46% by 2030⁸.

68.5 million
people are forcibly displaced from their homes. This equates to 31 people every minute of every day¹¹.


100 million
additional people could be living in poverty by 2030 if we do not react to climate change appropriately⁹.

59%
of those in extreme poverty are in countries affected by fragility, environmental vulnerability or both¹⁰.