

PRESS RELEASE

23 April 2010

17th AGM of Irish Development NGOs takes place today

Irish NGOs reaffirm determination to work together for greater impact

As they welcome new organisations to their network, Dóchas and its 43 member aid agencies reaffirmed today their determination to come together and cooperate to maximise the impact and quality of their work.

In the context of the global economic crisis, and a shrinking overseas aid budget, calls for greater cooperation between NGOs have dramatically increased.

Helen Keogh, CEO of World Vision Ireland and Chairperson of Dóchas said:

“Irish NGOs are proud that their work is making a difference to many people in developing countries. But they also acknowledge that their effort to alleviate poverty is most effective at a small scale. By coming together within an umbrella group like Dóchas, Irish aid agencies maximise their ability to influence international processes and secure lasting improvement for the world’s poorest by mobilising the skills, energies and power of others”.

“At Dóchas, we aim to ensure that Ireland’s development efforts have the greatest possible impact on global poverty by encouraging cooperation between the various organisations”.

At their annual general meeting, the Irish aid agencies agreed a joint programme of work, which will see NGOs intensify their focus on quality.

"Today we celebrate that, even in times of recession, people in Ireland continue to increase their involvement with the fight against global poverty. Around the country, citizens, schools, clubs and companies are finding new ways to help make extreme poverty history. Dóchas role is to ensure the goodwill is matched with professional expertise and knowledge of what works, and what initiatives bring about lasting change for the world's poorest people" said Hans Zomer, Director of Dóchas.

In the context of Dóchas’ work on “[development effectiveness](#)”, member agencies adhere to a number of codes of conduct, which they feel are key mechanisms to ensure that the work of Ireland’s NGOs is of the highest possible standard.

As part of its work on development effectiveness, Dóchas is organising a conference on ‘[New Voices in Development](#)’, directly after the AGM, to bring together a host of national and international experts on global development, including established and emerging development organisations with representatives of the private sector, philanthropists and academics. The conference is aimed at providing a forum for discussion between established NGOs and private sector actors in development.

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Notes for the Editors

- The Dóchas AGM takes place on 23 April in Dublin.
- The **'New Voices in Development'** conference takes place on 23 April from 2 to 5.30pm at the Radisson Blu Royal Hotel, Golden Lane, Dublin 8. For more information about the conference, visit www.dochas.ie/newvoices/Default.aspx
- Dóchas is the association of Irish Non-Governmental Development Organisations. It provides a forum for consultation and cooperation between its members, and helps them speak with a single voice on development issues. For more information, visit: www.dochas.ie

Dóchas Member Agencies

1. ActionAid Ireland
2. Action from Ireland
3. Africa Centre
4. Aidlink
5. Amnesty International-Irish Section
6. Bóthar
7. Camara
8. Centre for Global Education
9. ChildFund Ireland
10. Children in Crossfire
11. Christian Aid Ireland
12. Christian Blind Mission Ireland
13. Church Mission Society Ireland
14. Comhlámh
15. Concern Worldwide
16. Friends of Londiani (Ireland)
17. Galway One World Centre
18. Gorta
19. International Service Ireland
20. Irish League of Credit Unions Foundation
21. Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs
22. Irish Council for International Students
23. Irish Family Planning Association
24. Irish Foundation for Cooperative Development
25. Irish Missionary Union
26. Irish Red Cross
27. Kerry Action for Development Education
28. National Youth Council of Ireland
29. Oxfam Ireland
30. Plan Ireland
31. Progressio Ireland
32. Self Help Africa
33. SightSavers International
34. Skillshare International Ireland
35. Suas Educational Development

36. The Hope Foundation
37. Trócaire
38. Vita
39. Voluntary Service International
40. Voluntary Service Overseas
41. Volunteer Missionary Movement
42. War on Want Northern Ireland
43. World Vision Ireland