

DÓCHAS
The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations

03 August 2010

Pakistan Floods

Irish Aid Agencies' Public Information Website:

[www. How You Can Help .ie](http://www.HowYouCanHelp.ie)

- *The worst floods in memory in Pakistan have affected more than **3 million** people so far and claimed the lives of an estimated 1,500 people.*
- *Around **1.8 million** people across the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) province are in need of food assistance.*
- *Up to **20,000** families in two other provinces (Punjab and Balochistan) forced from their homes by the flooding.*

As Irish aid agencies are mobilising their experienced emergency response teams to assist the victims of the floods in Pakistan, members of the public are encouraged to consult a website about the realities of effective aid.

The website, www.HowYouCanHelp.ie is hosted by the 45 member organisations of Dóchas, Ireland's umbrella organisation of aid agencies.

The launch of the website follows reports of devastating floods that hit Pakistan.

“Disasters such as these floods often occur when people least expect them. And they invariably affect the poorest people most. Over the years, the Irish people have shown that they understand that when such disasters strike, immediate action is needed to save lives. But sometimes people's wish to act swiftly interferes with the need to act effectively.”

“This website sets out the principles of good emergency relief, and the many ways in which members of the public can assist the Irish aid agencies to do their work” said Hans Zomer, spokesperson for the national umbrella of Irish aid agencies, Dóchas.

The website, called “HowYouCanHelp.ie” was developed by Dóchas, and sponsored by Irish Aid, the government's overseas development programme.

The website can be found at <http://www.howyoucanhelp.ie/>

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For more information about Dóchas, please see www.dochas.ie