

DÓCHAS
The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations
PRESS RELEASE

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Pakistan Floods:

Donations to Irish aid agencies reach €5 million

Dóchas, the umbrella organisation of Ireland's overseas development organisations, today revealed that donations to relief efforts in Pakistan are being supported generously by people in Ireland.

Figures released by Dóchas show that donations to aid agencies have reached €5 million.

"The floods in Pakistan are a disaster beyond imagination. Fortunately, the suffering of the people of Pakistan has not gone unnoticed in Ireland. Despite recent calls that charity begins – and supposedly ends – at home, the people of Ireland have once again shown tremendous generosity in the face of human suffering," said Hans Zomer, Director of Dóchas, the umbrella group of Ireland's aid agencies.

"Since the scale of the floods became apparent, the Irish public have donated some €5 million to aid agencies working in Pakistan. In addition, the Government has made some €2 million available to programmes to help the people affected by this enormous catastrophe" continued Zomer.

A Dóchas survey of NGOs in Ireland shows that, collectively, they have received €5 million from the Irish public. This number is set to rise in the coming weeks, as donations continue to come in, and as the needs of the 20 million people affected by the floods are becoming increasingly apparent.

"The scale of destruction in Pakistan is enormous. More than 6 million people across Pakistan have lost their homes and belongings. The floods have submerged one-fifth of the country – an area the size of Belgium, Austria and Switzerland combined – and laid waste to infrastructure and crops," said Hans Zomer.

"The Government of Pakistan estimates that it will need \$15 billion over the next 5 years to recover from the disaster. Clearly, the country will need help, and the international community will be judged by the way it responds to this tragedy," said Hans Zomer, Director of Dóchas.

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CONTACT

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NOTES FOR THE EDITOR

1. Several Dóchas member organisations are working to provide humanitarian assistance in Pakistan in the aftermath of the catastrophic floods. These are listed on a dedicated public information website, www.HowYouCanHelp.ie.
2. Dóchas has a 2-page briefing paper on disaster relief: See http://www.dochas.ie/Shared/Files/2/Emergencies_Helping_People_Back_from_the_Bri nk.pdf
3. Dóchas also has developed a briefing paper setting out the main lessons learned over the years, by aid agencies responding to floods. The briefing paper is available here: http://dochas.ie/Shared/Files/2/100803-Lessons_learned_from_Floods.pdf
4. The monsoon-triggered floods that began late July have spread from the North to the South of Pakistan, swelling rivers and submerging hundreds of villages and towns, and covering an area the size of the combined area of Switzerland, Austria and Belgium.
5. The United Nations have appealed for 460 million dollars to provide immediate food, shelter and health care for those affected by the floods. In addition to the initial relief phase, funds will be required in the medium term. The Pakistan Government estimates that it will need \$15 billion over the next 5 years to recover from the disaster.
6. The devastation in the Sindh and Punjab provinces, which provide a critical component of Pakistan's food supply and economy, have increased fears for the longer term. Already, in central Punjab province alone, a reported 1.5 million hectares of valuable farmland has been destroyed and a total of \$2-3 billion worth of crops had been destroyed in the province including 650,000 acres of cotton and rice, maize and other cash crops.

Dóchas is the association of Irish Non-Governmental Development Organisations. It provides a forum for consultation and cooperation between its 45 member organisations, and helps them speak with a single voice on development issues.

For more information, visit: www.dochas.ie