



## PRESS RELEASE

# Recent survey shows strong support for overseas aid

## Opinion poll reveals the public wants the Government to deliver on its aid promises

*Dublin, 6 September 2010*

The Government should deliver on its aid promises to the world's poorest to maintain its international reputation, according to a recent opinion poll by Ipsos MRBI.

The survey, which was commissioned by Dóchas - the umbrella group of Irish development NGOs - found that 81 per cent of respondents agreed it was important for Ireland's reputation that the Government delivered on its aid promises of spending 0.7 per cent of national income on overseas aid by 2015 at the latest.

"Ireland made promises to the world's poorest people, and built a global reputation on the strength of those promises, and we know that that is exactly what people in Ireland want to see happen."

"Our survey shows that a large majority of people agree that it is essential for our reputation as a country that Ireland delivers on its aid promises," said Dóchas Director Hans Zomer.

In the survey, respondents were asked if Ireland should continue to support overseas aid even with its current economic difficulties. The results showed a massive support for overseas aid, with 84 per cent of respondents agreeing that it was important.

"Public support for investing in overseas aid - even in an economic downturn - continues to be strong. This shows that people in Ireland believe in a just and fair world, and that the economic crisis shouldn't be a reason for us to turn our back on the world's poorest people," noted Zomer.

"The figures remind the Government that people in Ireland feel strongly about our tradition, and our obligations towards those less fortunate than ourselves," concluded Hans Zomer.

*ENDS*

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## Notes for the Editor:

- **About the aid promises:**

- At the UN Millennium Summit, then Taoiseach Bertie Ahern committed Ireland to reaching the UN target for spending 0.7% of our GNP on overseas aid by 2007.
- In 2005, the target date was revised to 2012. The government set interim targets “against which our progress towards the target can be measured”.
- The Government announced in December 2009 that it had postponed the 0.7% target yet again, this time until 2015.
- Ireland's aid budget currently stands at €671m.

- Poll key findings are available at

[http://www.dochas.ie/Shared/Files/1/MRBI\\_poll\\_Key\\_Findings\\_Final.pdf](http://www.dochas.ie/Shared/Files/1/MRBI_poll_Key_Findings_Final.pdf)

- For further information about the "**Act Now on 2015**" campaign, visit

[www.actnow2015.ie](http://www.actnow2015.ie)

- The "**Act Now on 2015**" campaign is coordinated by Dóchas, an umbrella group of 45 Irish Development NGOs, and supported by the following organisations:

1. 80:20 Educating and Acting for a Better World
2. ActionAid Ireland
3. Afri
4. Africa Centre
5. Age Action Ireland
6. Amawele
7. Amnesty International Ireland
8. A-Z Children's Charity
9. Bóthar
10. Camara
11. Centre for Global Education
12. Childfund Ireland
13. Children in Crossfire
14. Christian Aid Ireland
15. CBM Ireland
16. Church Missionary Society Ireland (CMSI)
17. Comhlámh
18. Concern Worldwide
19. Debt and Development Coalition
20. Development Perspectives
21. Dóchas
22. ElectricAid
23. Foundation Nepal
24. Friends of Londiani
25. Frontline Defenders
26. Galway One World Centre (GOWC)
27. Gorta
28. Habitat for Humanity Ireland
29. Hope Foundation

30. Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU)
31. Irish Council for International Students (ICOS)
32. Irish Development Education Association (IDEA)
33. Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA)
34. Irish League of Credit Unions Foundation (ILCUF)
35. Irish Missionary Union (IMU)
36. Irish Red Cross
37. International Service Ireland (ISI)
38. Just Forests
39. Kerry Action for Development Education (KADE)
40. Kimmage DSC
41. Link Community Development
42. Misean Cara
43. National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCI)
44. National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI)
45. Niall Mellon Township Trust
46. Oxfam Ireland
47. Plan Ireland
48. Sierra Leone Ireland Partnership
49. Sightsavers International Ireland
50. Skillshare International Ireland
51. Social Justice Ireland
52. Sports Against Racism Ireland (SARI)
53. Suas Educational Development
54. Tearfund
55. The One Foundation
56. The SCOOP Foundation
57. The Society of St. Vincent De Paul, Ireland
58. Transparency International Ireland
59. Trócaire
60. Value Added in Africa
61. Viatores Christi
62. Vita
63. Voluntary Service International (VSI)
64. Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)
65. Volunteer Missionary Movement (VMM)
66. War on Want Northern Ireland
67. World Vision Ireland