

DÓCHAS
The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations

PRESS STATEMENT

12 March 2009

Global Crisis Requires Global Response – Ireland must invest in international cooperation, say aid agencies

**Aid Agencies' report launched today shows crisis will kill 500-1,000 children every
day
- in addition to the 'normal' 26,000 children that die every day as a result of
poverty**

**Ireland will get out of the crisis, and we must help others to do the
same, say Ireland's leading aid agencies.**

In a report launched today, Ireland's aid agencies demonstrate how poor countries' ability to respond to the global crisis is steadily being eroded.

The report, entitled "*Now is not the time to turn our backs on the poor*", highlights the dramatic impact of the global economic crisis on the world's poorest people.

Presenting the report, Hans Zomer, Director of Dóchas, the umbrella group of Ireland's aid agencies said:

"The global crisis originated in the rich West, but it is the poorest countries that are feeling its effects hardest. These countries lack the buffers that allow countries like Ireland to spread the pain and look for solutions; for poor countries, economic recession means increased hunger, death and disease."

"In Ireland, 300 people a day are losing their jobs. In contrast, in developing countries, 500 children a day are losing their lives as a direct result of the crisis", continued Zomer.

The World Bank estimates that the global crisis will result in an additional 200-400,000 children dying each year of poverty related causes: the equivalent of 500 to 1,000 children to be added to the 26,000 children that die every day from poverty.

Evidence that the economic crisis has already lead to dramatic increases in world poverty is mounting. Millions of people have lost their jobs, and poor people find themselves unable to cope, as the crisis hits them after years in which rising food prices had already eroded their reserves.

“Today, we want to remind every person in Ireland that, although the crisis is very serious here, it is literally a matter of life and death for 150 million people in the world’s poorest countries – the equivalent number of 30 times Ireland’s total population has been made destitute by the crisis” said Hans Zomer, Director of Dóchas.

“We must present global solutions to the global crisis. We cannot get out of this crisis without international cooperation. And Ireland can play its part by ensuring we honour our promises to the world’s poorest nations” stated Zomer.

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Notes:

- The report “Now is not the time to turn our backs to the poor” is available at http://www.dochas.ie/documents/Dochas_on_Global_Crisis-March09.pdf
- Examples of how Irish Development NGOs are working to reduce world poverty can be found at http://www.dochas.ie/making_poverty_history_together.htm

Dóchas is the association of Irish Non-Governmental Development Organisations. It provides a forum for consultation and cooperation between its 39 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. Aidlink
4. Amnesty International-Irish Section
5. Bóthar

6. Centre for Global Education
7. ChildFund Ireland
8. Children in Crossfire
9. Christian Aid Ireland
10. Church Mission Society Ireland
11. Comhlámh
12. Concern Worldwide
13. Friends of Londiani (Ireland)
14. Galway One World Centre
15. Gorta
16. International Service Ireland
17. Irish League of Credit Unions Foundation
18. Irish Commission for Justice and Social Affairs
19. Irish Council for International Students
20. Irish Family Planning Association
21. Irish Foundation for Cooperative Development
22. Irish Missionary Union
23. Irish Red Cross
24. Kerry Action for Development Education
25. National Youth Council of Ireland
26. Oxfam Ireland
27. Plan Ireland
28. Self Help Africa
29. Skillshare International Ireland
30. Suas Educational Development
31. The Hope Foundation
32. Trócaire
33. Vita
34. Voluntary Service International
35. Voluntary Service Overseas
36. Volunteer Missionary Movement
37. War on Want Northern Ireland
38. Wingspread International
39. World Vision Ireland