

**DÓCHAS**  
*The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations*

**PRESS STATEMENT**

19 February 2009

**Aid Agencies – Ireland Must Not Forget that the  
Economic Crisis Hits Global Poor Hardest**

Ireland's aid agencies said today that the spreading global economic crisis is trapping up to 53 million more people in poverty in developing countries and poses a serious threat to achieving internationally agreed targets to overcome poverty.

At a meeting today, the member organisations of Dóchas - the umbrella group of Ireland's leading aid agencies - assessed the impact of the economic crisis on their work. They noted that their efforts to assist the world's poorest people in 119 countries around the globe are being hit by rising fuel and food prices, falling donations from the public and cuts in the government's aid budget.

Speaking at a Trinity College lecture on the Millennium Development Goals, the Director of Dóchas said:

“In every economic crisis, it is the poor and vulnerable that suffer most. Ireland has been hit hard by the global recession; just imagine how countries and people who do not have savings and social security safety nets are experiencing these difficult times.”

“The financial crisis is starting to undo a lot of the progress towards that the world has made in eradicating poverty, hunger and disease” warned Zomer.

“The economic crises is exacerbated by rich countries like Ireland cutting their aid budgets, precisely at a time when the poor need the assistance most” said Zomer, who heads up the Dóchas network of 39 Irish Development NGOs.

Recent UN estimates for 2008 show the number of people going hungry everyday was 130-155 million.

Estimates for 2009 suggest that an additional 46 million people in developing countries will have to survive on less than a euro a day, while an extra 53 million will stay trapped on less than 1.50 euro a day.

As the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, put it recently, it's not just Wall Street and Main Street that are hurting; people with 'no streets' are suffering too.

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**Contact:**

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**NOTE**

The Trinity College Millennium Development Goals Public Lecture Series 2009 commences on Thursday February 19th with a lecture/debate entitled: 'The International Recession: Implications for Development'

The speaker details are:

- Dirk Willem te Velde (Overseas Development Institute, London)
- Professor Patrick Honohan (Department of Economics, TCD)
- Hans Zomer (Dochas)

Date: Thursday February 19th 2009  
Venue: Swift Lecture Theatre (2041a), Ground Floor, Arts Building, TCD  
Time: 7-8:30pm

**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](http://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