

DÓCHAS
The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations

PRESS STATEMENT

11 February 2009

Irish Aid Agencies Meet Minister Martin on Aid Cuts on Thursday

Ireland's overseas development NGOs are to meet Minister Micheál Martin on Thursday to express their shock at the Government's continued cuts to the overseas aid budget.

Representatives of Dóchas, the umbrella group of Ireland's leading aid agencies, are to meet the Minister for Foreign Affairs on Thursday to express their deep disappointment that assistance to the world's desperately poor people has been targeted for Government cuts.

"Ireland has publicly committed to achieving the UN target of spending 0.7% of national income on overseas aid by 2012," said Hans Zomer, Director of Dóchas.

"This commitment arose out of the fact that Ireland has always been deeply moved by the fate of people less fortunate than ourselves - that instinct runs deep in our national psyche - and must not change now" said Zomer.

Dóchas requested the emergency meeting following last week's announcement that the Government is cutting the aid budget for the third time in seven months.

"Ireland's economic reputation has taken a severe hit in the past couple of months, but we still have our moral credibility. We want to remind the Government that Ireland's international credibility depends on adhering to its principles and pledges in difficult times as well as in good times" said Zomer on behalf of the aid agencies.

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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