

Irish Independent

Dozens of academics blast reductions in Government's foreign aid budget

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THIRTY-FIVE academics from all seven Irish universities have highlighted their concern at cuts in Ireland's foreign aid budget.

In a letter to newspapers they said that Ireland had established itself as a generous international donor, but the cuts in foreign aid have been "particularly severe and disproportionate, with serious consequences for Ireland's contribution to poverty reduction".

In 2008, the Government spent €920.6m on overseas aid. The budget has been reduced to €696m in 2009.