



Dochas calls for an increase in ODA to urgently help the world's poorest, and tackle climate change for the most marginalised

Dochas, the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations, calls on the Irish Government to increase Ireland's spend on Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) to 0.44% of Gross National Income* (GNI*)¹ in Budget 2020, and commit to a roadmap to ensure that we will reach the target of 0.7% by 2025.

We recognise that Budget 2020 comes at a time of financial uncertainty, particularly regarding the outcome of Brexit. However, Budget 2020 is an opportunity for Ireland to take our global engagement to the next level and act as a 'good citizen of the world'². International development aid and humanitarian assistance has consistently had the support of the Irish public and 94% of people believe it is important to support poorer countries³.

ODA offers a unique opportunity for Ireland to show ambition and leadership to shape a stronger and more connected Europe, as well as influence our bid for a seat on the UN Security Council in 2021. Ireland has a unique story to tell as a small island that has risen out of famine, conflict and migration to become one of the fastest growing economies in Europe.

We need to act now. The world's displaced population has reached 70.8 million people, the highest number on record⁴. Women and girls continue to be disproportionately affected by poverty and conflict and are often the most in need of humanitarian assistance. We know that climate change could force 100 million back in to poverty by 2030⁵.

In Budget 2020, we call on the Government to:

- 1 Increase Ireland's ODA commitment by no less than €144 million⁶, allowing us to move to a total of 0.44% of GNI* in 2020.**
- 2 Commit to a roadmap with a year-on-year percentage increase against GNI* to ensure we reach the 0.7% target by 2025. That is the surest way for Ireland to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.**
- 3 Continue to champion and support Irish Non-Governmental Development Organisations, by strengthening Irish Aid's programme of providing effective untied aid to those on the frontline.**

**Achieving
0.7%**

means that

70c

in every

€100

received would go toward protecting the world's most vulnerable people.

¹ GNI* or 'Modified GNI' is an indicator that was recommended by the Economic Statistics Review Group and is designed to exclude globalisation effects that are disproportionately impacting the measurement of the size of the Irish economy. See: <https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-nie/nie2017/mgni/>

² The Government's strategy 'Global Ireland: Ireland's Global Footprint to 2025' <https://www.ireland.ie/media/ireland/stories/globaldiaspora/Global-Ireland-in-English.pdf>

³ In Dochas' 2018 survey on public attitudes towards aid, 94% of Irish people believed it was important to support poorer countries and 85% believed overseas aid was effective in improving lives in poorer countries.

⁴ <https://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2018/>

⁵ <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2015/11/08/rapid-climate-informed-development-needed-to-keep-climate-change-from-pushing-more-than-100-million-people-into-poverty-by-2030>

⁶ This figure is based on a projected increase of GNI* to €218,425 million in 2020, as shown in Social Justice Ireland's 'Budget Choices: Pre-Budget Submission, Budget 2020', p13 <https://www.socialjustice.ie/sites/default/files/attach/publication/5860/budgetchoices2020.pdf?cs=true>

Budget 2020 - a critical juncture

In 2019, the Irish Government allocated 0.39% of GNI* to ODA, following a substantial increase in allocation of €110m. Dóchas welcomed this substantial effort to place Ireland on a positive trajectory towards reaching the UN target of 0.7% Gross National Income (GNI) on Official Development Assistance.

Official Development Assistance (ODA) offers a unique and critical source of funding for international development and humanitarian assistance, **with Irish NGOs providing a vital role in the delivery of this effective aid.**

Sufficient funding is also vital to deliver on Irish Aid's new international development policy, "A Better World" (2019). The ambition of this new policy is to transform lives by delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through principled untied aid. But it will only have impact if it is properly resourced **from the start.**

The climate emergency reminds us of the need for urgency and ambition to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. We also need to connect with the Irish public through development education and promoting Global Citizenship. We cannot wait a moment longer.

Dóchas' call

Dóchas is a leading voice for Irish Non-Governmental Development Organisations who want Ireland to be a world leader in efforts to bring about global justice. The crucial work of our 57 members is made possible because of the generosity of the Irish public and Irish Aid. In our 2018 survey, **85% of Irish people** believed overseas aid was effective in improving lives in poorer countries¹⁷.

In Budget 2020, we call on the Irish Government to continue to champion the vital work of Irish NGOs, by increasing ODA by at least €144 million, as well as commit to, and publish a roadmap¹⁸ that will get us further and faster to reaching the 0.7% target by 2025.

We believe ODA offers Ireland a real opportunity to show leadership on international development and humanitarian action within the European Union, at the UN, and in its bid to get elected to the Security Council in 2020.

We remain available to support and respond to any queries in relation to this submission.

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The Irish Association of Non-Governmental
Development Organisations

WHY AID IS NEEDED



The global temperature is currently rising by 0.2C per decade⁷



1 football pitch of forest is lost every minute in the Amazon⁸



70.8 million people are forcibly displaced from their homes. Among them are nearly 25.9 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18⁹



The average humanitarian crises now lasts an average of 9 years¹⁰



Women make up more than two-thirds of the world's 796 million illiterate people¹¹



1,456 journalists and human rights defenders have been killed in 61 countries since 2015¹²

AID WORKS



1.1 billion people have moved out of extreme poverty since 1990¹³



93.6 million people will receive humanitarian assistance in 2019¹⁴ – but there are 132 million people across the world who need it



44% drop in maternal mortality between 1990 and 2015¹⁵



Globally, 70% of children participate in early childhood and primary education¹⁶



43% fall in the number of deaths of children under five between 2000-2016



28 countries had accessed Green Climate Fund grant financing as of 2019

7. IPCC Report

8. <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-48827490>

9. <https://www.unhcr.org/en-ie/figures-at-a-glance.html>

10. <https://www.unocha.org/story/us219-billion-needed-2019-average-length-humanitarian-crises-climbs>

11. <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/commission-on-the-status-of-women-2012/facts-and-figures>

12. SDG16 Hub Report

13. <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/world-population-in-extreme-poverty-absolute?stackMode=relative>

14. The UN and its partner organisations aim to support 93.6 million people with humanitarian assistance in 2019 <https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/12/1027521>

15. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/maternal-mortality>

16. <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2018>

17. 'Study of Public Attitudes towards Overseas Aid' Dóchas 2018

18. For an indicative pathways to reaching this target, see Social Justice Ireland's 'Budget Choices: Pre-Budget Submission, Budget 2020', p13 <https://www.socialjustice.ie/sites/default/files/attach/publication/5860/budgetchoices2020.pdf?cs=true>