

What is Act Now on 2015?

Act Now on 2015 is a group of 70 Irish anti-poverty organisations that have come together to make sure that Ireland keeps its promise on overseas aid.

Last December, the Irish government promised to give 0.7% of national income to overseas aid by 2015 at the latest. In September, the Minister for Foreign Affairs went to the United Nations and reiterated this promise. This year, overseas aid has accounted for 0.52% of national income.

We welcome the commitment that the government has shown so far to overseas aid, but it needs to go further and set out how it plans to get from 0.52% to 0.7% by 2015.

We are asking the government to do two things -

- 1. Show in Budget 2011 that they are making visible progress towards reaching this goal**
- 2. Set out annual targets showing how they plan to reach 0.7% by 2015. We are asking them to do this within the four year budgetary framework they are preparing at the moment.**

Why do we want you to call your TDs?

Budget 2011 is being prepared as we speak, and on December 7th it will be presented to the Dáil. As with any other piece of legislation, all 166 TDs have the right to make amendments to it, to speak on it and to vote for or against it.

These T.D.s are your representatives in the Dáil, and it is important to let them know that you care about Ireland's aid programme, and that you want them to use their influence to protect it.

You don't have to be an expert on aid or politics, we just want you to call your TD's office and get your point across.

What should you say?

- Tell your TDs that Ireland's overseas aid budget is an important issue for you.
- Tell them that overseas aid is important to Ireland's international reputation, and that it gives us credibility, leverage and influence on the world stage.
- Remind them that Ireland has made a promise to the world's poorest people – to give 0.7% of national income to overseas aid by 2015. That's just 70c in every €100.
- Ask them to contact their party leader and their spokesperson on foreign affairs, and ask them to express their party's support for this promise.

- Ask them to do their utmost to ensure that Budget 2011 doesn't further damage our overseas aid programme.
- Ask them to call on their party to set out a plan for how it will meet the 0.7% promise, with binding annual targets.

Remember -

Be prepared – Have a look at actnow2015.ie, and if you have any questions, email James – cordinator@actnow2015.ie

Ask your TD to make a clear commitment – to 0.7% and to setting out a plan for how we will achieve it.

Be polite, be concise and keep the conversation on track. Thank your TD and let them know that you would like them to get back to you on this issue.