

## Recession Silver Lining – Unemployment boosts interest in volunteering

Speaking ahead of the UN International Volunteer Day tomorrow (5<sup>th</sup> December 2009), Deirdre Murray, Director of Comhlámh, The Irish Association of Development Workers, said “The Irish public’s increased interest in volunteering overseas in developing countries has been a silver lining to this global recession”. Sending agencies who are signatories to Comhlámh’s Code of Good Practice on International Volunteering have reported a substantial increase in applicants for overseas volunteer placements.

Comhlámh, supported by Irish Aid encourages people to really think about their motivations before they make a decision to volunteer overseas. The Volunteering Options Programme managed by Comhlámh promotes informed and responsible volunteering. “We have a number of resources to support people in making a decision about going overseas including a website dedicated to volunteering in a development context - [www.volunteeringoptions.org](http://www.volunteeringoptions.org)” added Murray.

To celebrate Ireland’s contribution to overseas volunteering, Comhlámh are hosting an event in the **Irish Aid Volunteer Centre, O’Connell Street** on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December for International Volunteer Day at 2pm, speakers include Justin Kilcullen, Director of Trócaire and Yvonne McKenna from Volunteer Centres Ireland.

“If people are interested in volunteering we’d encourage them to come along on Saturday. It’s an opportunity to meet with returned volunteers and development workers and learn first hand of their experience overseas” says Murray.

[www.volunteeringoptions.org](http://www.volunteeringoptions.org)

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