

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SHEET

### Dóchas Kenya Partnership Survey

#### **Why is Dóchas undertaking this survey?**

For some years now, Dóchas has tried to stimulate reflection and self-criticism among its members, with a view to helping Irish Development NGOs improve the impact of their work. The key to greater impact, according to Dóchas, is enhanced NGO accountability: NGOs that set standards, are transparent and encourage meaningful participation will be better at what they do.

Our members have indicated time and again that one of the areas where they think they need to improve relates to the type and quality of their relationships with partner organisations overseas. Much of their work is fundamentally about relationships, and it makes therefore sense to assess the quality of those relationships.

#### **Why focus on Kenya?**

Kenya is the one country where a majority of Dóchas members work. There is a long-standing Irish involvement in the country and there is a vibrant civil society with a wide range of organisations, which makes it possible to gather a broad range of perspectives of Dóchas members' relationships.

#### **What does Dóchas want to find out?**

We are looking for the views and feelings of a sample of Kenyan organisations about their experiences of partnering with Irish NGOs. We are *not* trying to evaluate the performance of individual organisations, nor are we looking to map the Kenyan civil society sector. What we are looking for is a Kenyan perspective on the way in which Dóchas members work; a snapshot of experiences that can serve as an input into Dóchas discussions about partnership models and practices.

#### **What will Dóchas ask the Kenyan NGOs?**

The overriding principle for the research has been that the Kenyan CSOs must be comfortable with the survey, and that strict confidentiality, neutrality and mutual accountability are maintained throughout.

The exact questions and research methodology were developed by Strategic Resources Kenya Ltd, the Kenyan research team, and determined by Dóchas.

Dóchas members are asked to submit a complete list of their Kenya based partners, along with certain basic information about the relationship with that partner. Dóchas will select a small sample of organisations to survey, and will not inform the Irish NGO until after the completion of the survey about the composition of the sample.

#### **What will Kenyan CSOs get out of this?**

The survey focuses on partnership: what it means, what it looks like, and what challenges it poses. As such, it is intended as a learning exercise, both for Irish and Kenyan NGOs.

Dóchas has made every effort to ensure that the survey does not present a significant burden for the organisations included in the survey. The questionnaire will be kept simple, and researchers will approach the organisations in local languages wherever practical.

Furthermore, the origin of the research will be explained in detail, and the results will be fed back to all participating organisations. We hope that those results will be relevant to the Kenyan CSOs in that they may reveal issues that apply to all those organisations' partnerships, not just the Irish ones. Hopefully, therefore, the survey will empower not just Irish NGOs but also their Kenyan counterparts.