dóchas

The Irish Association
of Non-Governmental
Development Organisations

Trends Analysis for Ireland's Official Development Assistance (ODA)

Terms of Reference

1.   Background

Dóchas is the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations. It provides a forum for consultation and co-operation between its members, and helps them speak with a single voice on global development and justice issues. Our vision is a world where poverty and marginalisation are unacceptable and where every person has the right to live a life of dignity. Further information is available at www.dochas.ie.

2.   Context

Official Development Assistance (ODA), as set out in A Better World, is central to Ireland's foreign policy in building better futures for the world's poorest communities. Ireland does this because it is the morally right thing to do. As such, it is in keeping with the values and the experiences of the Irish people, and it is in our interests as a small country in an increasingly interconnected world.

Furthermore, Ireland's ODA programme is said to be exemplary by the OECD DAC because it is untied aid, and it aims to achieve the far-reaching targets set by the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Indeed, Ireland though a small country has a proud history and culture of overseas development which routinely punches above its weight on the international stage.

However, Ireland's progress to reaching the international target of spending 0.7% of its GNI on ODA has been slow. Ireland made a commitment, as far back as the 1970s to spend 0.7% of GNI on international development co-operation, however the highest it has reached is 0.58% in 2008, but for the last 10 years, it has remained at approximately 0.3%.

Nor is it fully transparent around where this aid has been channelled. There isn't reliable and recent data on Ireland's ODA spending by thematic area, channel and sector. The most recent verifiable set of data is a number of years behind and is at times not comparable with previous years due to differences in classification. It is therefore challenging to develop a complete picture of the trends over time. This consultancy will aim to provide a clearer picture of those trends, the current situation and provide a methodology which can be used to regularly update the analysis.

3.   Purpose & Scope of work

This consultancy would develop a methodology to analyse trends in Ireland's ODA spend in a number of key areas, including thematic focus. It will also analyse the potential for Ireland to reach the target of spending 0.7% of GNI on ODA by 2025.

This consultancy will:

1. Provide a methodology and framework for producing trends analysis from reliable data sources, which can form the basis of regular monitoring of Ireland's ODA spend and trends
2. Provide trends analysis in the form of charts in agreed areas (examples of trends defined below)
3. Update the 'roadmap; that we've been using to show how Ireland could reach the target of spending 0.7% of GNI on ODA by 2025
4. Develop a short narrative (no more than 2 pages) on the overall picture of Ireland's ODA spend and likely future trends which recommendations can be drawn from

The following are examples of the trends to be examined from 2000 to present time:

1. ODA as a percentage of GNI for Ireland over time
2. ODA in real terms for Ireland
3. Ireland compared to other DAC donors:
   a.   on ODA as a percentage of GNI
   b. on ODA volume in real terms
   c. on ODA quality
   d. on ODA transparency
4. Top 20 recipients of Ireland's ODA
5. Trends in aid to top 10 recipients over the last 20 years.
6. Ireland's positioning on recent debates/ trends in ODA (i.e. modernisation of ODA)
7. Analysis highlighting main sectoral spends and priorities
   a. health, food, nutrition, agriculture, education, gender, climate, disability, conflict
   b. Development and humanitarian spending
8. Analysis related to the commitment to 'Reach the Furthest Behind First'

4.   Methodology, Contract and Timing

This consultancy will be mainly desk research based, working remotely. The Head of Policy in Dóchas will liaise closely with the consultant and guide the work as it is developed. Dóchas will provide relevant background documents and previous research and analysis conducted, along with timely feedback on draft analysis produced.

We expect the consultancy to begin before the end of April and to be completed before the end of May 2021.

Dóchas will not be liable for payment of PAYE, PRSI or USC in respect of this consultancy. Payment of all appropriate taxes remains the responsibility of the Consultant. Payment for the days worked will be made on the production of an invoice when work is completed to the satisfaction of Dóchas.

5.   Confidentiality and Data Protection

A normal duty of confidentiality is expected in relation to Dóchas business, both during and after this consultancy. All documents (e.g. records, reports, plans, policies, papers, files) relating to work carried out in the course of this consultancy with Dóchas will remain the property of Dóchas at all times. The consultant will not retain copies of such records.

The consultant will not at any time either during the period covered by this contract or after its termination make use of or communicate to any unauthorised person/body any confidential information about Dóchas which may have obtained during the course of this consultancy.

On termination of this contract by either party the consultant will deliver to Dóchas all records, documents, equipment, etc. in their possession or control relating in any way to this consultancy with Dóchas.

Confidentiality relating to Dóchas data and processes not in the public domain will be respected by the consultant.

6. Application process

We ask that interested consultants suggest a possible methodology, time needed and rate, including VAT. Please submit your expression of interest in this tender to Louise Finan, Head of Programme and Policy, louise@dochas.ie by Wednesday 7 April, cob. If you are shortlisted, you should expect a call the following week, when selection will be made.