

# **Building a Sustainable Food System : Identifying Ireland’s role in this ambition through its Official Development Assistance (ODA) programme**

## **Terms of Reference**

### **1. Background**

Dóchas connects, strengthens and represents a network of international development and humanitarian organisations who have a shared vision of a just, sustainable and equal world. Dóchas unites 58 organisations, ranging from small specialist charities to large international NGOs with a worldwide presence. Our members are committed to human rights, justice and the eradication of poverty, and demonstrate this through their work in international development, healthcare, protection, humanitarian assistance, sustainability, education and inclusion. Dóchas members value collaboration and believe that through working together, we can achieve our collective goals. There is a willingness among members to collaborate more systematically, share capabilities and engage in a network where we can learn and act together.

### **2. Context**

We are in the midst of a global food crisis. The perfect storm of conflict, climate change, biodiversity loss and COVID-19 have laid bare our broken, unsustainable global food systems. This has a disproportionate and devastating impact on those already affected by conflict, hunger and climate change in the Horn of Africa, East Africa and Central Africa regions. Many of these countries have been wholly or significantly reliant upon wheat imports from Russia and Ukraine for sustenance,<sup>1</sup> and we are seeing the prevalence of undernourishment in these regions rising sharply, to levels not seen for the past 20 years. Millions of people are at risk of famine-like conditions and globally over 300 million people are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

### **3. Purpose & Scope of work**

The fragility of our global food system is now laid bare. There must be an acceleration in the necessary sustainable transformation of food systems whilst also ensuring this transformation is rooted in just transition principles. In the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, the centrality of food systems to human and planetary wellbeing means that solutions must now be fast tracked and policy actions must address the linkages between hunger, conflict and climate.

Indeed, the overall ambition of SDG Target 2.4. clearly states that, *‘By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and*

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<sup>1</sup> Presentation by Maximo Torero Cullen, FAO Chief Economist, at the IFIAD Meeting on the Global Food Crisis, 27th April, 2022 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EPEfPlyzHwg>

*production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.'*

The purpose of this consultancy is twofold:

- 1- To outline the steps needed to develop and implement sustainable food systems at a global level and to identify how Ireland can support this through our Official Development Assistance (ODA) and influence the policy change needed as envisaged by SDG 2.4.
- 2- To develop and identify the solutions needed to ensure food security at a local level for the communities Dóchas members work with (for example small holder farmers, women, pastoralists).

#### **4. Methodology and Deliverables**

The final methodology will be agreed as part of the tender process, but it is expected to include:

- Desk based research and document review
- Engagement with relevant stakeholders
- Engagement with relevant Dóchas Working Groups and groupings of members to inform the second outcome of the consultancy

#### **5. Skills and Experience Required**

- Experience and understanding of the international development sector and previous experience working on the issues of sustainable food systems, issues of food security, nutrition or climate
- Demonstrable understanding of the intersectionality of climate and sustainable food systems
- A demonstrable track record of evidence gathering and research, concise report writing and the development of clear actionable recommendations

#### **6. Terms and Conditions**

The consultant will report to Louise Finan, Head of Programme and Policy in Dóchas, who 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 drafts produced.

We expect the consultancy to be completed by the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2023.

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.

#### **7. 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.

## **8. Application process**

We ask that interested parties submit a CV and short document outlining their approach to this tender.

Please submit your application to Louise Finan, Head of Programme and Policy, [louise@dochas.ie](mailto:louise@dochas.ie) by cob 20 March 2023. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.