

# DÓCHAS

## The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations

### Press Statement

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2014

### **NGO sector welcomes announcement of merger between Self Help Africa and Gorta**

In a statement today, the members of Dóchas, the umbrella body of Irish overseas aid agencies, welcomed the announcement of the merger of development agencies Self Help Africa and Gorta.

Dóchas Director Hans Zomer said:

“The merger of two of our members - Self Help Africa and Gorta - is very positive, and illustrates how Irish NGOs are always seeking new ways to maximise their impact.

The work of Irish development NGOs has been praised at home and abroad for its high quality and focus and Irish NGOs are recognised the world over for their impact, commitment and high levels of transparency. They are a diverse group of organisations, proud of their different approaches, but also proud of the many ways in which they work together, learn from each other and leverage each other’s areas of expertise and influence.

We congratulate Self Help Africa and Gorta on their decision to work together through this merger. We believe that mergers can add value to the sector, just as we know that there are many other levels at which Irish NGOs coordinate to strengthen their impact in the long run, through peer network mechanisms such as Dóchas as well as through humanitarian coordinating bodies.”

[ENDS]

Media Contact

Hans Zomer, Dóchas Director

Email: [hans@dochas.ie](mailto:hans@dochas.ie) Tel: 085 728 3258 / 01 405 3801

### **Notes to the Editor**

- Dóchas is the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations. It provides a forum for consultation and cooperation between its members, and a platform for them to speak with a single voice on development issues. For more information, visit: [www.dochas.ie](http://www.dochas.ie)

- Dóchas membership is comprised of 62 overseas development and social justice organisations. A list of Dóchas members can be found at: <http://www.dochas.ie/membership/our-members/>
- For an explanation on how Irish NGOs coordinate their work in emergencies, see [www.HowYouCanHelp.ie](http://www.HowYouCanHelp.ie)
- For an illustration on how Irish NGOs' diversity is a strength, see Dóchas' briefing paper on the role of NGOs in development: [http://dochas.ie/shared/files/2/dochas\\_guide\\_on\\_irish\\_development\\_ngos.pdf](http://dochas.ie/shared/files/2/dochas_guide_on_irish_development_ngos.pdf)
- Irish NGOs have found that there are many effective ways in which they can work with others:
  - Irish NGOs work through established coordination mechanisms such as UN bodies and host government structures, to ensure that their efforts build on national priorities and do not undermine local capacities.
  - By partnering with community groups and NGOs in developing countries, Irish NGOs assist isolated or oppressed communities to come together around shared goals and actions.
  - Through NGO networks and coalitions, Irish NGOs meet their peers and challenge themselves to reflect on their weaknesses and alternatives to their approaches. Dóchas, for instance, is host to a large number of technical groups, where NGOs meet to learn from each other.
  - NGOs use networks and coalitions to advance the core professional standards they share, and to enhance their impact on policy processes. All Dóchas members have signed up to shared Codes of Conduct, and they use the network to hold each other to account.
  - By investing in their Board and governance structures, NGOs ensure that they are representative and accountable to all their stakeholders, and that their vision of long-term impact is communicated as widely as possible.