



Be part of a movement for change

# What Dóchas is about

Dóchas is a network. A meeting place of organisations committed to tackling poverty and inequality around the world

**Through Dóchas, Irish Development NGOs and others come together to share their experiences, and to use those experiences to advance more effective ways to end all forms of poverty and injustice.**

As part of Dóchas you can connect and collaborate with like-minded organisations, strengthen your knowledge and expertise, and influence key decision-makers at national, European and global levels. Through Dóchas, you can build your skills, add value to your work and that of the sector and help shape the direction of global development by sharing practical knowledge and resources.

Dóchas provides strength and coherence to the sector and identifies gaps and opportunities to ensure our members' work has the greatest possible lasting impact on global poverty and inequality.

Through Dóchas, NGOs are seeking new and effective ways to maximise their impact, by making use of the ideas and influence of all those who can make a difference – governments, companies, academia, media and civil society organisations.

## Dóchas members believe in:

- ★ Putting people at the heart of development
- ★ Using a diversity of approaches to advance their common goals
- ★ Sustaining their impact by learning and evolving
- ★ Building networks of friends and allies
- ★ Increasing their impact by advocating for policy change
- ★ Setting standards of accountability and integrity

Dóchas has signed the Code of Conduct on Images and Messages. Please send your feedback on our adherence to the Code to [media@dochas.ie](mailto:media@dochas.ie)



Every effort has been made to ensure that this document complies with the NCBI Clear Print Guidelines. Should you encounter a difficulty in accessing this publication please inform Dóchas at [media@dochas.ie](mailto:media@dochas.ie) as we will be continuing to work to improve our documentation.

# Why join Dóchas

Being involved in Dóchas offers you:

## 1 Collaboration & Learning

**ENGAGE** as fellow members of an association with shared values

**WORK TO IMPROVE** programme quality, coordination and learning between members

**GET ADVICE** on how to develop and future-proof your organisation

**MEET** your peers, network with senior staff and hear from technical experts

## 2 Access & Influence

**BE PART OF** a real movement for social justice

**ENGAGE** with Irish Government on a wide range of policy areas

**STRENGTHEN** your policy position by aligning with other NGOs/ organisations

**RAISE AWARENESS** and advocate for your specific priorities

**INPUT** into shaping the values that underpin Irish development work

## 3 Pooled Resources & Shared Analysis

**BUILD SKILLS** and knowledge through Working Groups, meetings and training workshops

**PROMOTE** events, employment/ volunteering opportunities through the Dóchas weekly bulletin Wednesday News

**ACCESS SERVICES** available to members only such as analyses and policy positions, regular newsletters etc.

## 4 Visibility & Credibility

### BE FORMALLY CONNECTED

with Dóchas campaigns and policy positions

**PROMOTE** mainstreaming of certain themes or approaches to development

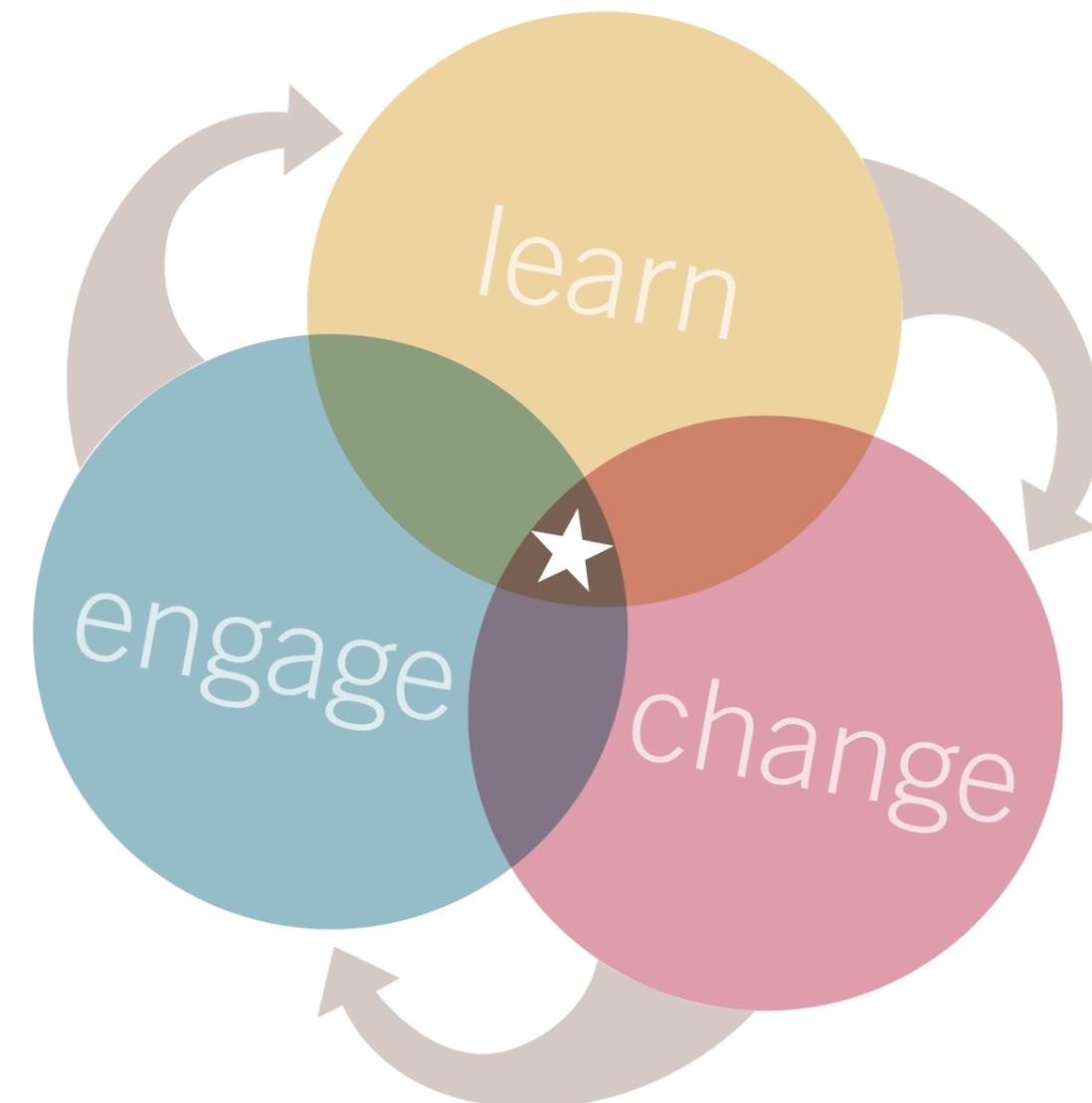
**DEMONSTRATE** your compliance with sector-specific professional standards and help set the standards of the future

**BENEFIT** from the legitimacy the Dóchas network brings

## 5 Shape the direction of Dóchas

Full members are eligible to serve on the Board, which sets the strategic direction of the organisation

All members contribute to shaping the focus of Working Groups and the direction of advocacy efforts



# Types of membership

Dóchas has two types of membership:  
**Full Membership** and **Associate Membership**

Applications for Full Membership are brought to the AGM for approval while applications for Associate Membership are decided by the Board of Dóchas.

## Full Membership

Dóchas has a large and growing membership, diverse in focus and size and from across the island of Ireland. Dóchas' strength comes from this diversity of perspectives applied to a shared set of values and aims.

Organisations are eligible to join Dóchas as Full Members if they:

- ★ are working in international development (projects, education, emergency aid or volunteer sending)
- ★ are headquartered in Ireland, (or, the Irish branch has substantial powers of decision-making in its own right, including control and disposal of funds and appointment of personnel).
- ★ have been established in Ireland for at least two years
- ★ comply with Dóchas policies and criteria for membership (see Application Form)

## Associate Membership

Dóchas introduced Associate Membership in 2013 as a way to contribute towards achieving these strategic priorities:

**EMBEDDING** global development more deeply in Irish life and civil society

**SUPPORTING** Dóchas' mission and improving the quality of development work

**MAINTAINING** and enhancing public support in Ireland for global development

**BROADENING** Dóchas' engagement and support base

Organisations / bodies are eligible to join Dóchas as Associate Members if they:

- ★ engage with or support Dóchas' mission, and do not meet the criteria to be full members.
- ★ work in related, supportive or similar fields to that of Dóchas They may be:
  - Trade Unions
  - University departments or research centres, colleges / other third level groups or associations
  - Medical / Nursing organisations
  - Charitable trusts and foundations
  - Trade / representative organisations
  - Private sector organisations or associations
  - Civil society /voluntary / community organisations
  - Other NGOs

## Things to note:

- 1 If an organisation is eligible to be a Full Member it cannot apply for Associate Membership
- 2 All applicants must agree to comply with Dóchas policies as and when they apply to them
- 3 Associate Membership will be reviewed every 2 years.
- 4 Organisations committed to meeting the criteria for Full Membership may be Associate Members while so doing, but for no longer than two years.

# Interested to know more?

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The Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations