Development effectiveness...

Irish NGOs working together in diversity

Dóchas, 9 April 2010
Paris Declaration and Aid effectiveness

• **Paris Declaration (’05)**
• over 100 countries and organisations
• increase efforts to manage aid for better results
• monitorable actions and indicators

• enhanced aid effectiveness
• through work on 5 principles:
  1. Ownership
  2. Alignment
  3. Harmonisation
  4. Managing for Results
  5. Mutual accountability
Paris principles & merits

1. Ownership – Developing countries’
2. Alignment – Donors align behind these, use local systems
3. Harmonisation – Donors simplify procedures, avoid duplication
4. Results – All shift focus to measured development results...
5. Mutual Accountability – Both donors and partners accountable for results

- **Action plans** to implement Paris – both donors & partner countries
- Important **political agreement**
- More than principles: a practical, **roadmap** to improve aid quality & impact on development
- **Agreed indicators** to track, publicly monitor and encourage adherence
- Stronger mechanism for evaluating, improving **compliance**, transparency and mutual accountability
- Evaluation & evolution through high-level forums
Accra Agenda for Action

• Aims to accelerate and deepen progress on aid effectiveness...

• **Predictability**: 3-5 year forward information

• **Untying** – relaxed donor restrictions

• **Country systems** – as the first option

• **Conditionality** – donors to move from prescriptive
‘Development effectiveness’

- CSOs were not included
- Limited to ODA and ‘technically better aid’
- State focused, not CSOs as development actors
- Limited ambition
CSO Development Effectiveness

• Diverse CSO actors and roles... participatory democracy
• Human rights, gender equality, environmental sustainability
• CSOs promise ‘Paris plus’...
  – Shared vision, principles, guidelines, good practices,
Why Development Effectiveness?

• Civil society vision
• Defend, define CSO role
• Reflect experience
• Donor pressure re. Paris
• Credibility of advocacy
• And, of course, impact for beneficiaries
Challenges in addressing CSO development effectiveness

• NGOs or CSOs?
  Number, diversity etc ...

• Development & politics
  Participatory democracy

• Important principles
  (10 in Asian meeting)

• Enabling environment

• Finances!
  - and the ‘N’ in NGO...
What Dóchas is doing

End World Poverty

Build our ability to learn

Build our capacity to mobilise society

Strengthen our network

End World Poverty

Standards of Excellence

Facilitate NGO relationships

Influence public debate and development practice

Communicate shared NGO values/messages

Analyse government development efforts

Framework for NGO interaction with government

Better government policies

Better resourcing of the network

More active membership

Broader, diverse membership

High quality services

Better resourcing of the network

More active membership

Broader, diverse membership

Support the sector in networking across the EU

Europe

Foster an environment of support

Lead NGOs toward quality

How you can help

Communicate shared NGO values/messages

Analyse government development efforts

Framework for NGO interaction with government

Better government policies

Strengthening Dóchas
Dóchas Levels of Work: Key Themes and Sources of Support

1. Accountability: Partnerships
2. Approaches to Development
3. Understanding NGO Quality
4. Policy & Advocacy
5. Accountability: Standards
6. Accountability: Transparency
7. NGO Sharing on Development themes
8. NGO Support Services (including Dóchas itself)
9. Donor policies & practice
10. Legal environment
11. Communicating NGO Values
12. Attitudes to Development

Ability to Envision and Affect Social Change

Organisational Skills & Effectiveness

Enabling Environment

CONCORD

Dttalk, IDEA, The Wheel, Carmichael Centre, CONCORD

Guidestar, ICTR, The Wheel, TCD CNM, Irish Govt., Oireachtas, CONCORD, Media
Dóchas & devt. effectiveness

• Continue effort to lead members & sector
• CSO effectiveness: “bring it back home”
• Continue to look at Ireland’s aid quality and quantity
• Tackle Ireland’s policy coherence for development…

• Continued Dóchas work on
  ➢ NGO effectiveness and quality: membership criteria, Codes, guidelines, etc
  ➢ Quality & impact – NGOs’ through peer learning, focus on results, partnership, and strategic policy dialogue
  ➢ Accountability – including of Ireland for 0.7%
  ➢ Communicating development
Some points to ponder

• **NGOs and CSOs and Development**

• **NGOs, CSOs in Development**

• **Changing trends and priorities**

• **Demonstrable impact** of CSOs and NGDOs – in civic life, in development?
  • Legitimacy, accountability, civic life
  • Northern NGOs ‘value added’

• **What good practices**

• **Do NGOs/CSOs support (or undermine) rights-based development?** ...

• **Do they forestall social-political conflict, resource contestation, social change...**

• **Development and the MDGs**
  Who is responsible, and how? After 2015?

• **Enabling environment**
  What conditions do NGOs need?
  All MDGs, but especially MDG 8, clearly link with Irish, EU and global *politics*

• **Development and politics:**
  — not just ‘aid’ or a purely technical exercise ...
  — *Change, not charity* ... 

• **Through advocacy and policy dialogue, trying to bring about structural changes**
  with, and in favour of, the world’s poor