





deft
Development
Frontiers



Development Frontiers (Deft)

is a Kenyan-based consultancy firm that works for East African and Great Lakes region organisations that are primarily in the development service sector. Our core focus is local and international organisations and the public sector.

Deft provides services in corporate governance, compliance and risk, research and M&E, strategic planning, agricultural value chain development, business development, as well as editing and publication of development communication materials.

We provide experience and skills that enhance the capacity of our clients to effectively address their core mandate.

We are a consultancy that appreciates that each assignment is unique and should be treated as such. In our processes, we interact, share skills and experiences, while at the same time, drawing lessons from all those involved to improve future engagements.

Our Vision

To always provide solutions for our clients

Our Mission

To consistently deliver quality and relevant services to our clients

Values

Professionalism

We take our work seriously. From receiving the client's brief to delivering the final product, our process is interactive, with everyone in the most professional manner. Timelines are sacrosanct and our services and products will most often exceed your expectations.

Uniqueness

Each client is unique and requires a bespoke approach that responds to their specific circumstances and context

Holistic Development

As we build relations within our team and with our clients, we strive to reflect the environment of constant growth and development in everything that we do, going the extra mile even when it is not remunerated. Welcome to Development Frontiers—A work environment that is creative, flexible, and practical.

Value Proposition

Timely solutions to client problems

Deft Provides Core Expertise in These Areas:

• Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) Incorporation

Based on the jurisdiction, we advise on the whole process: from identifying the appropriate registration regime, establishment, filing of registration documents and follow up, setting up boards (of directors, governors, or trustees).

We help you make certain that these processes are per the founders' vision, the laws of the land and the development goals of the jurisdictions. This service also applies to international NPOs who wish to indigenize their operations by making them locally governed.

We also provide support on work permit processing for foreign NGO staff as a value-added.

• Corporate Governance, Compliance and Risk

Deft *works* to strengthen the ability of boards of directors to play their fiduciary role thereby ensuring that their organisation is well-governed and accountable and therefore better placed to address its mission.

Deft's governance and compliance support provide a comprehensive review and advisory on corporate governance practices and procedures as well as adherence to applicable legal and regulatory requirements. Associated services include continuous board training, board evaluations, governance and compliance audits, development of risk frameworks and risk registers, development of compliance inventories, facilitation of strategic retreats, minute taking and advisory, maintenance of members' registers and development of compliance inventories. We also help to produce industry-standard board charters, codes of conduct and other key governance policy documents. In

In addition, Deft supports organisations to comply with existing laws and regulations through advisory and development, drafting and filing of documents.

Deft also provides support to grant-making organisations to conduct thoroughgoing governance, compliance, and risk due diligence assessments of potential or existing grantees to facilitate them to mitigate risk and make informed decisions.

• **Development Communications**

We consult in structured research, info-data collation, and analysis in the development process. From concept notes, baselines surveys, proposals, project documents to progress, monitoring and evaluation reports, Deft has a record and experience in communicating ideas and products effectively. As well, we help control the quality of the information, the design and the production and supervise the dissemination in both print and digital media. In development communication, we ensure high-quality results, consistency, and creatively designed hi-end quality outputs, in digital and print media.

• **Research, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning.**

In an era of decreasing donor funding and increased competitiveness for scarce resources, organisations are hard-pressed to demonstrate results and impact. Deft's research, monitoring and evaluation consultancy supports our clients to improve project design and to demonstrate project efficiency effectiveness and impact. Through this process, our partners learn from their work thereby improving future programming policies and practice.

• **Bespoke Training for NPOs**

In all our areas of expertise, we design special programmes to train staff in response to in-house needs assessment. Popular modules include:

1. Governance, ethics, and compliance training for the Board of Directors, before and after incorporation, continuous induction courses for new directors.
2. Leadership, compliance and accountability training for CEOs and senior managers.
3. Training on risk audit and audit assurance for key staff and relevant board committees.
4. Development of communication skills and strategies for information and knowledge management staff.
5. Project planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and learning.

Business Development and Agricultural Value Chains

We provide support on economic growth programs for developmental organisations and agencies, public sector organisations and SMEs through capacity building, business development and growth, agriculture value chain analysis, policy advocacy, market system development, research, and monitoring & evaluation (M&E). Specifically,

we provide support in fiscal management, business marketing, quality improvement, strategic planning, business planning and compliance.

The Deft People

Henry Ochido

Managing Consultant, Quality delivery promise at Development Frontiers

Education: Graduate of the University of Nairobi (MA Literature) Bachelor of Arts (Hons).

LLB, University of South Africa (UNISA) Chevening Fellow in NGOs/CSO Government Relations, University of Glasgow.

Expertise: NPO/charitable organisation advisory, compliance, and governance. Qualitative research public sector governance, NPO risk management and quality control of project outcomes.

Experience: Over twenty years of professional expertise in the Not-for-profit sector in the areas of regulation, governance, and compliance. Also, an accomplished researcher, writer contributing to civil society governance and sustainability discourse. Articles published in the International Journal of Civil Society Law and the International Journal for Not for Profit Law.

Carey Francis Ayuka, PhD

Monitoring and Evaluation Leader

Education: PhD, the University of Canterbury in New Zealand. Master's in social research at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, and Bachelor of Arts (Hons) at the University of Nairobi.

Experience: A social scientist with years of experience in public health projects, monitoring and evaluation. A seasoned researcher who has published numerous articles in peer-reviewed journals. In a recent assignment at Palladium for a DFID (UK) funded family planning programme, he was responsible for managing the results at Palladium as well as coordinating five other partners.

Cege Mwangi

Development Communication Specialist

Education: BEd, English, and Literature at the University of Nairobi. MA, Literature.

Experience: A communications practitioner with experience in writing, editing, end-editing, and proofreading in English specifically for the development sector.

Expertise: Making technical information communicate for all audiences; organising presentations and publications for print, electronic and social media including branded promotional items, advertisements, print magazines, books, documentaries, and online marketing materials. Copywriting

and proofreading online content including tweets, social media posts, blogs and scripts intended for today's varied media platforms.

Daniel Lang'o

Developmental Anthropologist

Education: MA Anthropology, Bachelor of Arts (Hons) University of Nairobi

Expertise: Qualitative research practitioner, trainer, with more than 24 years experience in the theory and practice of translating operational research to interventions. Transcriber, analyser, writer, and trainer in qualitative data.

Experience: Projects and studies ranging from child development research, adolescent reproductive health, transgender studies, violence against women, child nutrition, obstetric stula, Eclampsia and adult reproductive health.

George Odhiambo

Agribusiness Expert

Education: MSc. Agricultural and Applied Economics, Bachelor of Agribusiness Management

Expertise: Agricultural value chain analysis, agricultural trade and international economics, agricultural policy and law agribusiness management and agricultural economics, project planning, appraisal, evaluation and management, development economics economic policy analysis

Experience: Projects and studies in the agricultural sector in Kenya (both Private and Public sector) for thirteen years across the agricultural value chains, organisation of farmers along with the commodities (crops, livestock, and fisheries) and linking them to value chain actors, formulation, and implementation of agro-enterprises (value chains), agribusiness policy and strategy development.

Michael Kalo

Business Development Expert

Education: M.B.A. (Finance option), B. ed. Arts (Mathematics, Economics),

Expertise: Business Development and Innovation specialist, curriculum development, research, training, planning, implementation, value chain analysis, monitoring and evaluation, market system development, entrepreneurship; public-private partnerships; business mentorship and development; agribusiness supplier development.

Experience: Over 18 years experience in inclusive economic growth programs

To complement the core team, Deft has a network of specialists that we engage when the need arises. We have.

Lawyers with expertise in the development sector, researchers, data collectors and collators, data analysts; communication specialists including writers, editors, designers, illustrators, and cartoonists.

Accountants and fiscal management advisers, organisational and business development specialists. Agribusiness and agricultural value chain consultants, facilitators, community organisers and social media specialists.

Portfolio

Development Frontiers keeps a high-level company in the regional development sector.





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Deft

/dêft/

Adjective

- » Neatly skilful and quick in one's movements.
- » Demonstrating skill and cleverness.