

# GLOBAL SOUTH

*Development Magazine*

(#2, Apr-Jun 2010, A DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY, ISSN 1799-0769, WWW.SILCREATION.ORG)

-IMPACT OF IT IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD  
-HOWL OF INJUSTICE IN IRAN  
-TWINGE:WOMEN & AIDS SOUTH ASIA  
-BARRICADES OBSTRUCTING DEVELOPMENT  
IN SOUTH AFRICA  
-DEAD AID!



## International Development Aid



**Who gives ?**

**How Much ?**

**Why ?**

Global South Development Magazine is a quarterly magazine published by Silver Lining Creation Finland. The magazine covers a wide range of development issues primarily of the developing world and is an initiative of freelance writers and development activists from different parts of the world.

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ISSN 1799-0769



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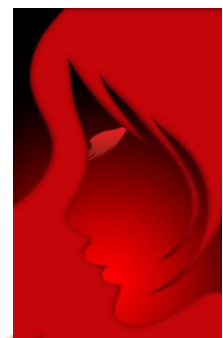
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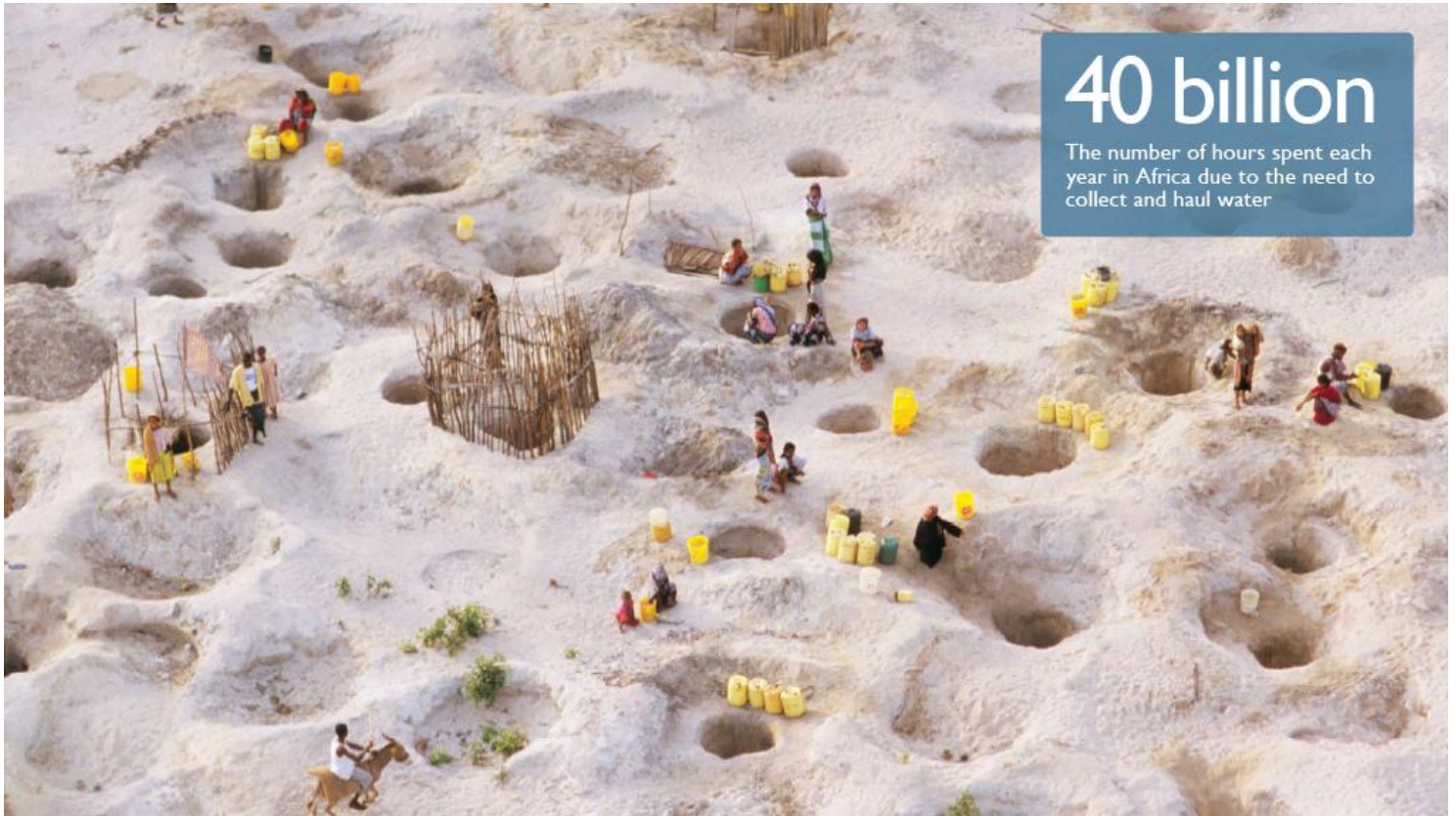
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**Kenyan villagers** on low-lying Pate Island gather brackish drinking water from small holes in the sand, less than 300 feet from the ocean. More than 2 billion people around the world rely on wells for their water. Clean water has become an increasingly scarce resource as water tables continue to drop at an alarming rate.

Photo: George Steinmetz

## West Africa: Call for more aid as 10 million face hunger

DAKAR, 24 June 2010 - Several UN agencies and NGOs are calling for a greater mobilization of aid workers and funding in the West African Sahel to meet the needs of a population facing one of the worst nutrition crises in recent years.

Over 10 million people are at risk of hunger in the Sahel before the September harvests, according to the Food and Agriculture



Mother and child at therapeutic nutrition feeding centre in Mao, western Chad's Kanem region

© Phuong Tran/IRIN

Organization's (FAO). In Niger, about half of the 13.4 million inhabitants are facing hunger. Up to two million Chadians and hundreds of thousands of Mauritians and Malians also need assistance.

There have been early interventions and prepositioning, but more should have been done earlier, say aid workers and the response needs to be urgently scaled up.

In late 2009, the Famine Early Warning System Network highlighted signs of the crisis: a drop in cereal production, poor pastoral conditions and a dangerous combination of poverty and high food prices.

"There are always delays in supply pipelines. This means that decisions taken today will have an impact on the ground in late July or August. Food distributions should have started in April or May," said the Swiss operation director of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Bruno Jochum.

Support remains crucial, he added, since during the months of August and September, people are typically left with no food while they wait for the next harvest.

Only 57 percent of the US\$190 million emergency appeal by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) for Niger is funded. In Chad, the World Food Programme (WFP) still lacks \$23 million of the \$65 million required for the food crisis.

The head of the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) for West Africa, Cyprien Fabre, noted, however, that the donor response is timelier than in 2005, when the food crisis caught many unprepared. This time, he said, early warning and response mechanisms were in place in most affected countries and funds were rapidly allocated.

"Operations are well under way in Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali. In Chad, more actors are needed to respond properly. Funding will be

available, if necessary."

### Chad

The situation in the Sahelian belt of Chad is especially worrying. "Chad is somehow like Niger in 2005," explained the UN Children's

Fund (UNICEF) regional adviser for nutrition, Félicité Tchibindat. "The number of organizations on the ground is limited, so is the political will. On the bright side, humanitarian agencies and donors are now starting to respond."

Such mobilization will help, but the imminent start of the rainy season will make the tricky task of bringing assistance to remote villages in a landlocked country even more challenging. WFP indicates that it can take as long as 3-5 months for food to arrive in Chad. In parts of the country, roads will be officially closed as of the end of June because of the rains.

"Even if there are cargos and cargos of stocks, if they cannot be delivered, people will not get food. Without prepositioned food, it will become very difficult. Agencies may have to look into air deliveries," said OCHA's public information, advocacy and donor relations officer for West Africa, Yvon A. Edoumou.

### "Very vulnerable"

If there are normal harvests in the autumn, the population is expected to recover at the end of the year. A normal to wet rainy season is forecast by the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS).

Precipitation is crucial in a region where most agriculture is rain-fed. "If the rains fail, it will be a catastrophe in the whole region. People's assets are significantly depleted. They have borrowed money to eat and are now waiting for the rains," said ECHO's Fabre.

The Sahel countries are among the poorest in the world. A third of the population of Chad and Niger is chronically undernourished. Each year, 300,000 under-five children die of malnutrition, according to UNICEF.

"The population is already very vulnerable," said OCHA's Edoumou. "When you live from one day to the next, any shock provokes a crisis. If the rains are poor, if the cattle are affected by a mysterious disease, people are in difficulty." (IRIN, June 2010)

## EU Development Ministers recommit to 40-year-old promises

"Merely recommitting to a 40-year-old promise is nothing short of a scandal" *Arian Arpa, Executive Director, Intermon Oxfam (Spain)*

June 2010



(Luxembourg) EU Development Ministers have just recommitted to an old promise made by donors back in 1970s, failing to provide any guarantees to poor countries that Europe is serious about getting back on track to meet the Millennium Development Goals, warns Oxfam.

**While Ministers have recommitted to provide 0.7%** of national income to developing countries by 2015, they have failed to agree any credible measures to ensure they catch up on this aid pledge. Ministers have not taken on board key proposals put forward by Commissioner for Development Andris Piebalgs in April such as setting up binding national legislation on aid. EU governments are €19 billion short of 2010 aid targets.

On a positive note, Ministers acknowledged, for the first time, the **need for new sources to finance development** and recognized that **tax havens deprive poor countries of huge amounts of money**. They agreed to explore ways to ensure more transparency from multinationals that will benefit both poor countries and European countries in recouping money that can be invested in the public interest in these tough financial times. Oxfam welcomes



**“It is now up to EU leaders to put a plan on the table to reach their aid commitments, in line with the European Commission's proposals, if they're serious about regaining the trust of the developing world, and their credibility on the global stage.”**



these good intentions, but warns that these principles will have to be translated into actions if they are to make a difference for the world's poorest.

EU Heads of State and Government, meeting in Brussels on Thursday, have the chance to rectify the Ministers' lack of determination to rescue the MDGs, if they want to hold their head high in September in New York, when world leaders will meet to discuss progress

towards the poverty goals, five years away from the deadline.

Ariane Arpa, spokesperson for development agency Oxfam, said:

**“With the economic crisis forcing a hundred people below the poverty line every minute**, merely recommitting to a 40-year-old promise is nothing short of a scandal. EU Development Ministers have thrown cold water on efforts to get back on track to meet the Millennium Development Goals, and if this is not addressed, Europe cannot look credible in New York.”

**“It is now up to EU leaders to put a plan on the table** to reach their aid commitments, in line with the European Commission's proposals, if they're serious about regaining the trust of the developing world, and their credibility on the global stage. Countries such as the UK and Belgium, which increased aid last year, are demonstrating that delivering on pledges to the poor is doable, if there is political will.”

**“Rather than using the economic recession as an excuse**, EU leaders could seize the political opportunities arising from it. With a tiny tax on financial transactions, EU governments could raise billions for public services in Europe, as well as for development and climate change, at no cost for the tax payer. Such an idea seemed impossible just a couple of years ago, yet now it is on the agenda, backed by countries such as France and Germany.”

**“The economic crunch in European countries pales into comparison** with the impact developing countries face. By the end of this year, 64 million more people are expected to be living in extreme poverty. There could not be a worse moment for Europe to turn its back on the poor - or a more critical time for them to honor their promises.” (Oxfam.org)

## Africa Still Off Track to Achieving Women's Health Goal

When the 189 UN Member States adopted the Millennium Declaration in 2000, they committed their respective governments to drastically cut the incidence of poverty by half and make the world a better place for everybody to live not later than 2015. The commitments in the declaration are espoused in a set of eight goals with achievable targets, commonly referred to as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The goals broadly cover areas on reduction of poverty; education; health especially for children and women; HIV and AIDS; environment and promotion of global partnerships conducive for a just world.

The MDGs generally target issues that are most basic to any meaningful form of human development. Four of the goals are directly related to the well being of



general and their health in particular.

women. While goal three addresses gender equity; goal four on child health, five on maternal health and six on reversal of HIV/AIDS which addresses important aspects related to the health of women. This is testimony to the importance to which the world leadership attaches to women advancement in

In the second half to 2015, different countries, regions and continents have recorded mixed results on each goal as at mid-point in 2007. It has been generally established that of the six continents, Africa is the only one that seems way off track towards achievement of all the MDGs. However, Africa has recorded remarkable gains on promoting women leadership with the continent having one elected woman president, several women vice presidents and many cabinet ministers in various African governments. There are variations on the gains on each goal at country level but generally the continent needs to do a lot more if it is to achieve the MDGs.

### State of Goal 5 in Africa

Northern Africa is generally the region in the continent that has been making impressive gains towards achievement of all the MDGs except on goal four on reducing child mortality. The Sub Saharan Africa (SSA) on the other hand has been making slow pace which does not measure to the required speed if the region is to achieve any of the MDGs by 2015.

During the Millennium Declaration in 2000, the maternal mortality ratio in the world was put at 450 deaths per 100,000 live births in developing regions. It was highest in Sub Saharan Africa at 920 while in North Africa it stands at 183. The target on MDG 5 is to reduce maternal mortality by two thirds by 2015. But beyond the mid point to 2015, maternal health still remains a big regional and global concern, with the odds that today a Sub Saharan African Woman will die from complications arising from pregnancy and childbirth during her life at 1 in 16, compared to 1 in 3,800 in the developed world.

The vast majority of these deaths are avoidable through skilled care in delivery and access to emergency obstetric care. For every woman who dies because of obstetric complications, 30-50 others suffer morbidity and disability. MDG 5 on maternal health rightly focuses attention to address this unacceptable situation. It is widely agreed that the high maternal mortality ratio in many Sub Saharan African countries reflects the status of women in these societies, as it illustrates how acceptable a society finds such avoidable deaths. While trends in the use of antenatal care in developing countries during 1990s show significant progress, in Sub Saharan Africa, by contrast, use of antenatal care has hardly changed over the decades. Achievement of MDG 5 is therefore inextricably intertwined with meeting MDG 3 – to promote gender equality and women and empower women.

Most maternal deaths are preventable. For instance, deaths caused by infections or hemorrhage during delivery can be prevented with drugs or blood transfusion. Women in need of emergency obstetric services can be saved if they have access to transportation that can get them quickly to the nearest facility. Unfortunately this does not seem a priority especially in Sub Saharan Africa as is testified by the unacceptably high maternal mortality in the region. Further, it should not be overlooked that MDG 5 calls for improvements in maternal health, not only reductions in maternal mortality. This is an important distinction to note. Improvements of maternal health, though important in themselves, will not necessarily be accompanied by reductions in maternal mortality.

### Redress Measures

Consequently, strategies needed to reduce maternal mortality – increased access to, use and quality care during pregnancy and childbirth – need to be complemented by efforts to address maternal health more broadly, and by efforts to strengthen the position of women in society through education and a commitment to gender equity. To promote maternal health in the spirit of the Millennium Declaration, it is imperative that governments in Africa, especially in Sub Sahara Africa to urgently address the following:

- Provide all women the opportunity to access high quality delivery care. Such care has three essential elements: skilled attendant at delivery; access to emergency obstetric care in case of a complication; and a referral system to ensure that those women who do experience complications can reach life saving emergency obstetric care in time.
- Provide all women with family planning information and services to safeguard women's health during their productive years.
- Ensure gender equality, social justice and stop all forms of violence against women and uphold women's rights including their political participation and access to resources.
- Emphasize, in their health policies, preventive health, reproductive health and actively combat HIV/AIDS pandemic and diseases associated with poverty.

There is therefore need to mount pressure on the governments in this region to effect policies that support programmes aimed at improving the women health and delivery on all the MDGs.

In celebrating the International Women's Day various anti-poverty campaigners have organized a number of events these include:

A press conference in Johannesburg this Friday, March 7th, Ana Agostino and Kumi Naidoo will be joined by the South African Commissioner for Human Rights, Jody Kollapen, and leaders from local women's rights NGOs. Foreign and local media will hear about our demands and our plans to Take Action during the rest of 2008.

In Nigeria there will be a lecture in Taraba state to which they have invited key dignitaries to hear their policy demands.

In Kenya, the GCAP National coalition has sent a petition to the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of finance to develop a gender sensitive budget. (UN Millennium Campaign, Africa Office)

## AFGHANISTAN: Farmers' dilemma - wheat, fruit or saffron?

KABUL, May 2010 - Pointing to his flourishing wheat field in the western Afghan province of Herat, Abdullah says he regrets cultivating the crop.

"Wheat is very cheap," he told adding that he would hardly make 50,000 Afghani (about US\$1,050) from his two hectares. "I won't be able to feed my family properly with this income."

Several farmers contacted by IRIN in Helmand, Kandahar and Balkh provinces had similar sentiments.



Wheat is considered a strategic crop and a staple food, but imports are always required, even when there is a bumper harvest.

About seven million (over 24 percent of the country's estimated 27 million population) are food-insecure and many others are highly vulnerable to food price fluctuations, according to aid agencies.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) distributes certified wheat seeds to encourage cultivation in rain-fed areas where other crops

cannot be cultivated, but in irrigated areas it is not pushing wheat.

"We don't encourage farmers to grow wheat because it's not a lucrative crop," Majeed Qarar, MAIL spokesman, told IRIN. "We encourage them to produce fruit and saffron instead."

A farmer can earn \$500-600 per hectare of wheat but the same land area can yield \$25,000 if saffron is cultivated, \$16,000 for pomegranates and \$13,000 for almonds, MAIL officials said.

### Irrigation

However, not all wheat-growers can easily switch from wheat to more lucrative crops: Only about a third of farmland in Afghanistan is irrigated. The rest is only suitable for rain-fed wheat cultivation, experts say.

Of the 5,064 tons of wheat produced nationwide last year 1,677 was from rain-fed fields, MAIL says.

For high-profit fruit and saffron production farmers need to invest in irrigation systems, use more labour and seek processing and marketing opportunities for their products.

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**"Wheat is considered a strategic crop and a staple food, but imports are always required, even when there is a bumper harvest."**

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"Our fruits are well-known for their high quality in international markets and the government is striving to facilitate better and wider export

opportunities," said MAIL's Qarar, adding that the country could become a major exporter of fresh and dry fruit, but not a big wheat exporter.

Donors such as the US Agency for International Development have been encouraged by MAIL to fund fruit growing and exporting projects as the country tries to enter regional and international markets.

### Humanitarian wheat procurement

Aid agency operations can seriously affect wheat farmers: They can help them by purchasing their grain, or they can drive down local prices by importing huge quantities from abroad. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) says it procured food aid items mostly from abroad in order to avoid distorting local markets.

Afghanistan is largely a food-deficit country and millions of its people have been recipients of food aid from the UN World Food Programme (WFP), other aid agencies, and the ICRC for many years.



To respond to the needs of Afghans affected by drought, conflict and high food prices WFP distributed over 212,000 tons of wheat in 2009 - almost all of which was imported and dispatched to the different provinces along insecure routes.

In a bid to help vulnerable farmers MAIL bought 100,000 tons of wheat from provinces with a surplus in 2009, and called on WFP to follow suit.

WFP initially agreed to procure 20,000 tons from Afghan farmers but could not do so because the prices quoted by local vendors were considerably higher than international prices, Challiss McDonough, WFP's spokeswoman in Kabul, told IRIN.

However, WFP is still keen to buy local wheat through a five-year programme called "Purchase for Progress".

"In 2010 WFP plans to procure 10,000 tons of wheat directly from farmers' organizations," said McDonough, adding that other products such as fortified biscuits could also be considered for local procurement provided quality and pricing standards were met.

In March WFP purchased wheat from Kazakhstan at a cost of \$255 per ton including transportation (about 25 US cents per kg), while in the same month prices were 24-34 US cents per kg in Afghanistan. (IRIN, May 2010)



# Twinge, Women and AIDS: SOUTH ASIA



• • •  
 “HIV/AIDS is not just a health issue. It even goes beyond being a social issue. It is and it has to become a personal issue of each of us. When it comes to women with the disease, the unconscious and conscious reactions are even worse. Moral judgment is passed on them, and they are viewed as being immoral, shameless and thus deserving of scorn.”  
 • • •

*“I was in affair with a guy of 26. I was so happy with his love and care and was dreaming to spend my whole life with him. I liked him a lot but was so worried because he never told anything about him and his family. Once during a date he asked me to have sex with him. But I denied because I was afraid of our cultural norms and tradition and I always learnt that premarital sex is a sin. His request to have sex was repeated and I was mentally tortured because I was afraid to lose him. Once we were on a nearby town to watch movie and there he asked me to make a tattoo on my arm. I was always interested on tattooing and I agreed. We went to a tattoo parlor and came to know the tattoo master was the friend of him. We planned to visit there next week because it was already too late. As per the plan, we visited the parlor and polished a beautiful tattoo on my right arm.*

*Five months later, I came to know that I was HIV positive. I felt like my life turned to the hell. Later on I came to know, everything was the plan of my boy friend because he was so annoyed with the refute on his proposal to have sex with him. He too was HIV positive and along with his friend (tattoo master) tattooing was the plan.*

*I told everything to my parents but they were not ready to accept me as their daughter. My every dream came to a vain. Since last six month I am residing on this rehab. I am getting a good care over here and trying to normalize life. I always tried to be good, loving him was not my fault but believing him on his every behavior's was a blunder. I loved him but he ruined me.”*

*Female 21 years (Mongol)  
Jhapa, Nepal*

## PRAKASH KHANAL

The given case was found when I was carrying out a research work on TB and HIV co-infection in eastern Nepal. The girl is just a representative of all the girls and women who without any reasons becomes the victims. Young girls and women prey to a number of events in our society. Having to live in a society dominated by males makes women vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS.

In some countries of Asia, including Nepal, the infection rate among housewives is alarming second only to that of clients of community sex workers. A growing number of ignorant, erring and arrogant men have been found infecting their wives as partner. Women are unable to deny the ‘conjugal’ rights of men even when they know that their partners have had multiple sex partners.

Infections are increasing fastest among women, especially young ones. In 1998, women made up 41% of all adults living with HIV globally. Today they make up nearly 50%. In Asia and the pacific, over eight million people are estimated to be living with HIV and of them women are numbered with 2.3 million.

When we talk about girls, women and HIV/AIDS, we are essentially talking about their vulnerability to infections due to their low social and economic status as well as their physiology. These traditional negative factors are further compounded by lack of awareness about infection among both women and men.

HIV/AIDS is not just a health issue. It even goes beyond being a social issue. It is and it has to become a personal issue of each of us. When it comes to women with the disease, the unconscious and conscious reactions are even worse. Moral judgment is passed on them, and they

are viewed as being immoral, shameless and thus deserving of scorn. If we dig deep enough, we find that our society is very violent toward women. Women's vulnerability to physical and sexual violence makes them even more susceptible to HIV/AIDS infection. Studies have proved that the risk of HIV transmission increase during violent or forced sex. Fear of violence often prevents many women from accessing HIV information, undergoing test and seeking treatment.

One of the most extreme form of violence and exploitation of women trafficking and forced commercial sex has made the women of South Asia most vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. Social and cultural norms in this regime have often led to early marriage and child marriages. In Asia, 30% of the girls are married before the age of 15 and 62% before 18. Their husbands are often much older



than them. Marriage and other long term monogamous relationship do not protect women's HIV risk. Ironically, rates of infection among these women, even if they are faithful to their husband, are not addicted to drugs, are higher than among their unmarried sexually active peer.

Commercial sex between men and women is a major driver of the epidemic in many Asian countries. Most new infections in Asian countries occur when men buy sex, and a large number of men do so. Many of these men are married or in a steady relationship and, therefore, risk is not just contracting HIV but also passing it to their wives and partner.

Young girls are in increasing demand of commercial sex work. Many women and girls find themselves using sex as a commodity in exchange for goods, services, money, accommodation or other basic necessity often with older men. Gender inequality further fuel the augment of the epidemic. Throughout the world, women are unable to get educated, earn a living, inherit property, or even choose with whom to have sex. The culture of silence still looms in our region. 'Good women' are not expected to speak about sex openly nor supposed to be knowledgeable about sex.

The high mortality of population is a big issue in our region. Girls are trafficked into illegal migrant labor, sex work and forced marriage. There is plenty of evidence that men on the move use their disposable income to buy sex when they are away from home. In Nepal, HIV/AIDS infection among the displaced and forced migrant population due to the conflict is an issue it will have a deal within the future.

In Asia pacific region, there are three main set of high risk behaviors which are driving the HIV epidemic- injecting drug use, sex between the males and commercial sex between men and women. Majority of the men and women do not engage in behaviors that carry high risk of HIV transmission, but do often engage in more than one risky practice.



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**“The culture of silence still looms in our region. ‘Good women’ are not expected to speak about sex openly nor supposed to be knowledgeable about sex.”**

This is very important implication both for the epidemic and interventions. Drug injectors buy and sell sex from both men and women; men sell sex to men and buy it from women; women sell sex to clients and buy drugs for their husband- women get caught up in every equation. AIDS intensifies the feminization of poverty further disempowering women and adding more to the burden of care. Already 90% of women and 94% of men living with HIV live in developing countries. The mother to child transmission fact of the issue in our region is yet to be dealt seriously. Children living with infection and the children orphaned by it are issues we still equipped to handle.

In recent years there have been remarkable efforts to increase resources to scale up the fight against the epidemic. However, resources gaps are still enormous. Not only are we not yet adequately prepared for treating patients, we are yet to fully realize and respond the gender and empowerment issues involved in prevention of HIV/AIDS among girls and women. Poor service delivery and the limited access of women to information and services further complicate the issues.

*(Author is a youth activist and health professional. He works as a Program Associate for HIV and SRHR Coalition, Nepal and can be reached at [hasrhr.coalition@sakriya.org.np](mailto:hasrhr.coalition@sakriya.org.np) or [pkhanal@ymail.com](mailto:pkhanal@ymail.com))*





# International Development Aid

*Who gives? How much? And Why?*

**MANOJ BHUSAL**

PHOTOS & TEXT

**I**nternational aid has been one of the key components of development in the developing world. For many countries international aid surpasses the meaning of core development assistance extending up to virtual dependency on foreign money for running day-to-day government administration, paying salaries and satisfying other numerous consumption needs.

Still many countries in the global south do need and receive assistance from the developed world, but the perception of aid has significantly changed in recent



*“Still many countries in the global south do need and receive assistance from the developed world, but the perception of aid has significantly changed in recent years.”*

years. The modalities and priorities of aid have changed, new powerful contributors have emerged and the roles of donors and recipients are no longer the same. Recipients are seen, at least in principle, and nowadays often in practice too; not mere as ‘recipients’, but as equal ‘partners’ of development, and providing aid is no longer a western phenomenon with emerging south-to-south aid and cooperation initiatives .

Despite these paradigm shifts, surveys and research show that international development aid hasn’t proved to be as effective as it ought to be. Some critics say that the



development cooperation field is riddled with corruption, mismanagement and trade and political interests of both donor and recipient countries. Against this backdrop, we have decided to write a cover story on this issue which is vitally important not only for developments we want to see in the developing world, but for the entire effort of creating a better world and ensuring the sustainable future of our planet and the generations to come.

### Historical Developments

Helping individuals and countries in need is not a new phenomenon in the long history of mankind, however, the structured and well developed international aid system practiced today was developed when the Second World War ended and Europe needed assistance to rebuild its economies virtually from the ruins of the war. The United States offered an assistance package to Europe under the European Recovery Program which is more commonly known as the Marshall Plan.

The aid mechanism continued to be developed and practiced throughout the Cold War era as well. However, the issue of providing development aid to the poor developing countries came to unprecedented discussion only after the late 1990s. The riveting discussions gave rise to an international aid effectiveness movement, activated civil societies and exerted an enormous amount of moral pressure on grudging donors and passive recipients.

The international aid scenario has been constantly changing though. The traditional concept of country-to-country assistance is only a part of the rapidly evolving new aid scenario with the inception of new global foundations, funding sources, regional cooperation and emerging powerful nations in the

global south. Global problems like HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria have got global attention and joint global efforts have been set-up to grapple with them. On the other hand, rapidly developing economies such as China and India have emerged as new donors which has shifted the traditional reality of aid flow from north to south and from 'rich' to the 'poor' world.

Today, there are plenty of pressure groups and organizations who lobby and exert pressure on the developed world to fulfill the promise of development aid they have repeatedly made. Institutions and efficiently designed research methodologies have been used in mapping aid effectiveness and international conventions, such as the Paris High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness 2005, have come up with declarations that oblige developed nations to be more responsible toward the issue of elimination of poverty from the developing world by providing more assistance, on time and with rational prediction in advance.

### New Trends

Many developing nations have started development cooperation between themselves, often starting with their neighboring countries and emphasizing on technology transfer and dissemination, but it will certainly be too naïve to argue that the aid flowing from the developed world carries too little importance to foster development in the developing world. There are countries in the global south that cannot function in the absence of foreign assistance.

While recognizing some important achievements obtained in the recent years, the world community has accepted that international donors still need to do a lot. In fact, the crux of the Paris Declaration was the same. It has now been accepted that there needs to be more harmony among different international donors, recipient governments should be able to prioritize, plan and implement

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“The traditional concept of country-to-country assistance is only a part of the rapidly evolving new aid scenario with the inception of new global foundations, funding sources, regional cooperation and emerging powerful nations in the global south.”

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**Total World Official Development Assistance from the governments of the 22 richest industrialised countries and the EU in 2007/08**

**\$121.3bn**



**WHO RECEIVED MOST OVERALL AID?**

- 1 IRAQ \$8.9bn
- 2 AFGHANISTAN \$2.9bn
- 3 TANZANIA \$1.8bn
- 4 CAMEROON \$1.6bn
- 5 SUDAN \$1.6bn

**WHO GIVES MOST?**

- 1 UNITED STATES 21.4%
- 2 GERMANY 11.5%
- 3 UNITED KINGDOM 9.4%
- 4 FRANCE 9%
- 5 JAPAN 7.7%
- 6 NETHERLANDS 5.7%
- 7 SPAIN 5.4%
- 8 SWEDEN 3.9%
- 9 CANADA 3.9%
- 10 ITALY 3.6%

**WHO GIVES THE HIGHEST PROPORTION OF THEIR GROSS NATIONAL INCOME?**

- 1 SWEDEN 0.98%
- 2 LUXEMBOURG 0.92%
- 3 NORWAY 0.88%
- 4 DENMARK 0.82%
- 5 NETHERLANDS 0.8%
- 6 IRELAND 0.58%
- 7 BELGIUM 0.47%
- 8 SPAIN 0.433%
- 9 UNITED KINGDOM 0.431%
- 10 FINLAND 0.427%

**\$85.9bn**

bilateral aid (direct to individual countries)

**\$35.4bn**

multilateral aid (given via international institutions)

**TOP FIVE MULTILATERAL ORGANISATIONS**

- 1 EUROPEAN UNION \$13.3bn
- 2 INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (WORLD BANK) \$12.8bn
- 3 UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME \$3.1bn
- 4 GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TB AND MALARIA \$2.4bn
- 5 AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND \$1.9bn

**WHO RECEIVED MOST MULTILATERAL AID**

- 1 PAKISTAN \$1.2bn
- 2 ETHIOPIA \$1.1bn
- 3 PALESTINIAN ADMINISTRATIVE AREA \$1bn
- 4 VIETNAM \$979.1m
- 5 TANZANIA \$972.5m

Source: OECD, Graphics Manoj Bhusal

development models on the basis of their needs, increment and timely prediction of aid flow is vitally important at the same time transparency getting a top priority.

### Help or help not?

Many new opinions have mushroomed regarding the rationality and sustainability of development assistance to the poor world. Some so called 'nationalist' political parties in the west, such as the BNP in the UK, openly campaign and oppose development assistance to the developing world, whereas, others opine that development assistance foster dependency and leads to even more severe poverty, powerlessness and long-term deprivation.



**“Aid unpredictability still remains a major problem as many donor countries normally do not transmute their words into action by providing the assistance they have promised. Too many promises are made, but only a few are delivered.”**

Why should rich countries help the poor ones? This question can't be answered solely on moral grounds. The historical pattern of economic development across the globe clearly shows that at times countries need external assistance to achieve a certain level of progress towards development. America got support from France during and after the liberation war and, similarly, Europe and Japan got huge external support to reconstruct their economies in the depressing aftermath of the Second World War.

On the other hand, the history of humanity, to a greater extent, has been the history of poverty.

Hardliner 'nationalist' political parties



**“Hardliner 'nationalist' political parties in the West seem to have forgotten the fact that during the 1820s almost all regions in the world were severely poor. In the nineteenth century, average life expectancy of the Europeans and the Japanese was not more than mere 44 years.”**

in the West seem to have forgotten the fact that during the 1820s almost all regions in the world were severely poor. In the nineteenth century, average life expectancy of the Europeans and the Japanese was not more than mere 44 years. However, technological

advancement and dispersion as well as cooperation and support among countries led to dramatic feats of development which are visible in the western world today. These evidences clearly show that there are no countries and regions in the world that are incapable of climbing the ladder of prosperity and development.

Why do some nations achieve ample economic progress while others cannot even feed their population? Renowned American economist Jeffery Sachs believes that this discrepancy is due to the fact that those nations who have lagged behind in economic progress simply do not get enough support to put their feet on the first rung of the development ladder. He believes that the key to ending extreme poverty is to 'enable the poorest of the poor to get their foot on the ladder of development. The ladder of development hovers overhead, and the poorest of the poor are stuck beneath it. They lack the minimum amount of capital necessary to get a foothold, and therefore need a boost up to the first rung'. And external or international development assistance is believed to enable such poor economies to put their foot on the first ladder of economic development.

### Current aid scenario

Aid has quadrupled in the last two decades, new donors have emerged and the way how money is spent is gradually changing, but still the entire aid system is highly dependent on 24 DAC (Development Assistance Committee) countries



and it is very unlikely that the existing scenario is going to change pretty soon.

Aid unpredictability still remains a major problem as many donor countries normally do not transmute their words into action by providing the assistance they have promised. Too many promises are made, but only a few are delivered. On the other hand,



developing countries find it difficult to plan in advance as just over a third of aid is delivered on scheduled time.

There have been a plenty of examples where international aid has brought about significant changes- babies been inoculated, children attending school, agricultural productivity increased and disease eradicated. But at the same time, the international development aid system is not free from many unhealthy practices such as corruption, and fund mismanagement. In some cases, irregularities start already from agencies based in donor countries and continue up to the micro level where real development work is supposed to take place. Bribing for winning contracts were reported in many development projects in Africa and an indirect use of aid money for achieving political gains hasn't been very uncommon. Some donor

countries are too much interested in tied aid which shows their concerns for their own imports and wellbeing rather of the developing world. Similarly, counting remittances as a part of aid, which some countries prefer to do, is nothing but absolute insanity.

### Statistics don't tell everything

Every year billions of dollars channeled to the developing world! Statistical figures might look fascinating, but they don't tell much about how a significant portion of 'aid' doesn't leave the donor country in different pretexts.

Too much money is spent on hiring 'development experts', consultants and professional evaluators who in most cases come from the donor countries. A very cheap as well as effective evaluation system

can be developed locally, but, excluding some exceptions, that hasn't been preferred a lot. Terms and conditions attached with aid

"Statistical figures might look fascinating, but they don't tell much about how a significant portion of 'aid' doesn't leave the donor country in different pretexts."

compel many developing nations to purchase technological equipments from the donor country or any other country specified the donor. These types of measures not only exert unnecessary financial burden, but also devaluate the existing local knowledge of developing countries and alienate people from the development process.

### For a better future

Aid is not everything that developing nations need for development. A stable political set-up, transparent bureaucracy, strong local bodies and capable and technologically equipped workforce are fundamental pillars of a proper development structure. However, international aid is essential to consolidate the above mentioned fundamental



pillars of development. And a wisely channeled aid mechanism can certainly help achieve significant results.

Developed nations have repeatedly reconfirmed their vows to allocate 0.7% of their GNP as official development assistance to the developing countries, but only 5 countries have met the target in more than 35 years. It is essential that they must fulfill their promises without further ado.

There has been increment in assistance given to the developing world, but a large portion of it also consists of debt relief, military aid and assistance provided during different natural calamities. They are needed at times, but they don't really help elevate development process in the developing world. It is essential that there should be a separate fund allocated particularly for developmental work.

Furthermore, aid must be made predictable so that recipient countries have enough time to fix their priorities and do proper planning. The gap between the donors and the recipients needs to be narrowed down further and bring close to meaningful partnership.

The pattern of aid flow shows that donor countries have set up their priorities on the basis of their affinity and strategic importance of recipient countries, but not on development needs of poor countries. The fact that 50 least developed countries receive only a third of all aid is a discouraging one.

(Photos: 1- charity rice ready to be distributed in a Bangladeshi village and the elderly in a charity distribution queue.)

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### The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness 2005

The Paris Declaration contains 56 partnership commitments aimed at improving the effectiveness of aid. It lays out 12 indicators to provide a measurable and evidence-based way to track progress, and sets targets for 11 of the indicators to be met by 2010. The Declaration is focused on five mutually reinforcing principles:

**Ownership:** Developing countries must lead their own development policies and strategies, and manage their own development work on the ground. This is essential if aid is to contribute to truly sustainable development. Donors must support developing countries in building up their capacity to exercise this kind of leadership by strengthening local expertise, institutions and management systems. The target set by the Paris Declaration is for three-quarters of developing countries to have their own national development strategies by 2010.

**Alignment:** Donors must line up their aid firmly behind the priorities outlined in developing countries' national development strategies. Wherever possible, they must use local institutions and procedures for managing aid in order to build sustainable structures. In Paris, donors committed to make more use of developing countries' procedures for public financial management, accounting, auditing, procurement and monitoring. Where these systems are not strong enough to manage aid effectively, donors promised to help strengthen them. They also promised to improve the predictability of aid, to halve the amount of aid that is not disbursed in the year for which it is scheduled, and to continue to "untie" their aid from any obligation that it be spent on donor-country goods and services.

**Harmonisation:** Donors must coordinate their development work better amongst themselves to avoid duplication and high transaction costs for poor countries. In the Paris Declaration, they committed to coordinate better at the country level to ease the strain on recipient governments, for example by reducing the large numbers of duplicative field missions. They agreed on a target of providing two-thirds of all their aid via so-called "programme-based approaches" by 2010. This means aid is pooled in support of a particular strategy led by a recipient country—a national health plan for example—rather than fragmented into multiple individual projects.

**Managing for results:** All parties in the aid relationship must place more focus on the end result of aid, the tangible difference it makes in poor people's lives. They must develop better tools and systems to measure this impact. The target set by the Paris Declaration is for a one-third reduction by 2010 in the proportion of developing countries without solid performance assessment frameworks to measure the impact of aid.

**Mutual accountability:** Donors and developing countries must account more transparently to each other for their use of aid funds, and to their citizens and parliaments for the impact of their aid. The Paris Declaration says all countries must have procedures in place by 2010 to report back openly on their development results.



# Dead Aid!

CHOLA MUKANGA

The question of international aid to developing countries is one of the most controversial subjects in modern development literature. One simply needs to look at any local bookshop under the “current affairs” section and you are hit with many large and often time consuming volumes on the subject. So when I stumbled on Dambisa Moyo’s book at my favourite bookshop (Waterstones Charing Cross Station), I felt a mixture of delight and nervousness. Delight because here we have a Zambian academic weighing in on a subject that has been the preserve of self-appointed “development experts”. This should fill every Zambian with pride and admiration. God knows we have so few Zambian economists ready to engage such serious issues, let alone publish a book on it. That feeling quickly gave way to nervousness because with so much written on this topic by leading experts such as Easterly, Collier, Riddell and others, could *Dead Aid* really offer any fresh thinking on the subject?

## So what is the Dead Aid proposal?

Dambisa is tired and frustrated by the aid apparatus that has not only come to “trap” poor and indebted African states but is, in her view, the root cause of poverty. The central argument of *Dead Aid* is that aid is the fundamental cause of poverty and therefore eliminating aid is critical to spur growth in ailing African states. Aid is the disease that we must treat to bring us back to full economic health. A bold and daring statement built around the central belief that aid distorts incentives among policymakers and society at large. It makes governments less accountable to their citizens and has led to civil wars, rampant corruption (electoral and otherwise) and has been central to an undercurrent of irresponsibility culminating in increased and self-reinforcing poverty since independence from colonialism. None of these arguments are new of course, but Dambisa is probably the first economist to boldly claim that aid *causes* poverty.

If aid is the disease that causes endless bleeding, to stop the bleeding you simply need to stop aid, the only challenge therefore is *how* to do

it. The *Dead Aid* solution is a five year exit strategy built around the idea of incentivizing poor countries to access finance on international markets, supported by the tripod of microfinance, trade/FDI and remittances. In the *Dead Aid* world there’s a stash of money out there on the international financial markets that is just waiting to be tapped by any African country willing to invest in a credit rating. If African countries can enter these markets and borrow, it would provide the right incentives to spark good governance since the international markets would be more willing to “punish” bad behaviour compared to those that provide aid at *infinitem*. In other words, borrowing through international financial markets is a sort of “self commitment mechanism” to good governance, and with that comes better long term prosperity. It is certainly likely to be slightly more expensive than “easy money” that concessional loans and grants bring, but by rejecting these overtures nation states will find themselves on a better path to prosperity. The trouble is that African governments have limited incentives to do this on their own, though some have made progress in this direction, so they need to be compelled through the *Dead Aid* proposal of terminating aid completely within a five year period.



Radical stuff indeed, but is it too radical?



Depending on your view of aid, this is either the most ingenious idea you have ever come across or the most naive, if not downright reckless. At this present time when many western countries are tightening their belts and some are seeking aid (e.g. Iceland) due to the fallout from the credit crunch and many people are growing weary of Darfur, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania and Zimbabwe, the *Dead Aid* message is likely find some appeal not just in your *Daily Mail* or *Fox News* of this world but also with far right groups like the *British National Party*. It’s the seriousness of this issue and it’s far reaching implications that require us to examine objectively the radical *Dead Aid* ideas. I am afraid to say, and with deep sorrow, that the *Dead Aid* proposal falls far short in many areas, with *at least* four worth highlighting.

• • •  
 “The central argument of *Dead Aid* is that aid is the fundamental cause of poverty and therefore eliminating aid is critical to spur growth in ailing African states.”

“Radical stuff indeed, but is it too radical? Depending on your view of aid, this is either the most ingenious idea you have ever come across or the most naive, if not downright reckless.”

First, there's a *general lack of clear analytical rigor* evidenced by elementary confusion in key areas: correlation/causality issues; definitional problems; poor evidence on policy counterfactuals; incomplete and unbalanced citation of evidence; and, perhaps more worryingly lack of general familiarity with refined areas of existing literature. Too many problematic issues to cover within this short review, but some key examples are worth highlighting. In a number of instances *Dead Aid* embarrassingly confuses correlation with causality. For instance the correlation between foreign aid and savings, which Dambisa takes as strong evidence that foreign aid *reduces* domestic savings. It does not take a genius to work out that one expects poor nations to *correlate* with reduced domestic savings, and in so far as foreign aid is prevalent in poor countries, the issue of *correlation* between higher aid and low domestic savings becomes meaningless. Perhaps more worryingly is that in a number of places *Dead Aid* seems to rely on evidence just from single sources that always reinforces its general argument that aid is bad. So when *Dead Aid* posits that remittances are more effective than international aid, it ignores other studies that have shown remittances can also be a "curse". Evidence of poor research abound, with one of the glaring examples being the lack of reference and consideration of new emerging literature led by Daron Acemoglu and others on the importance of drawing a distinction between *proximate* and *ultimate* causes for underdevelopment. In many respect if aid was going to be a factor it would be nothing more than a *proximate* cause because ineffective aid preys on inefficient states (or is it the other way round?), which are strongly determined by the existing distribution of power in society (*ultimate* cause).

Secondly, the *treatment of aid in a homogeneous and aggregate way is particularly problematic*. *Dead Aid* defines aid as the "sum total of concessional loans and grants", but excludes "emergency aid" e.g. help for Darfur or the Asian Tsunami. There's no distinction within *Dead Aid* between budget support, infrastructure aid, person to person aid, health related aid, grants or concessional loans for discretionary spending.

It is all discussed under one umbrella and handed the same fate. This is a remarkable assumption, especially given that the same book acknowledges the effectiveness of the Marshall Plan which largely focused on infrastructure spend. Surely the Marshall Plan demonstrates that a more nuanced assessment of aid has the potential to reach different conclusions? We may for example find that some of the aid is bad, some good and some requires further study. This distinction is also important because we are now seeing a plethora of literature that suggests that some mechanisms work better than others e.g. cash based incentives as recently argued by Göran Holmqvist. When Britain gave Zambia £40m in 2007, I remarked that "*I hope the money was new but not given freely*". It presented a new opportunity for Britain to think outside the box and consider the possibility of converting this "new cash" into long term Kwacha bond claims of Zambians on the Zambia Government. Such a move would have helped restore much needed *accountability* in our system as well as strengthening our debt management practices. Britain could have allocated a share of the bonds to civil servants as part of civil service pay increase and so forth. The underlying point here is that not all form of aid leads to perverse incentives and indeed not all forms of aid perpetuate dependency. To put all aid in one basket makes the book appealing to the uninformed but it does not make for convincing argument to policymakers.

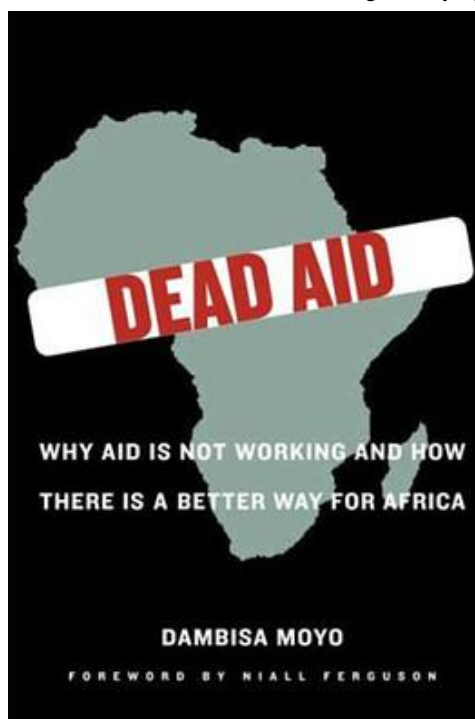
Thirdly, *Dead Aid* is characterised by a *plethora of inconsistent arguments*. A key example that stands out is the emotive issue of Chinese investment. Dambisa dedicates a whole chapter explaining why the "Chinese are our friends", largely arguing from their historical involvement in Africa and their renewed commitment to trade and FDI.



However, against a backdrop of *Dead Aid's* "anti-dependency" rhetoric, the chant for China appears odd. Let us be clear, China is not only bringing FDI to Africa but it has also brought concessional loans and long term dependency. Zambia's external debt has now risen to about \$2bn since the HIPC completion point, a significant part of that is through new agreements with the Chinese government and Chinese businesses. A closer look at Angola reveals the same truth. Not only is China investing heavily in that country but in exchange it is tying Angola and other countries to China for a long time reducing their options to renege in the future. That is not necessarily bad, but if the central worry is that dependency leads to ineffective governments with poor incentives we should be honest enough to consider the possibility that China's closeness to many African governments (which are not all democratic) may have similar negative impacts as aid. In addition, a more refined assessment of the China – Africa relationship would reveal that the issues go far beyond simple FDI but also relates to military cooperation and sometimes creating instability in various parts of Africa (see Michael Sata's paper). More recently we have witnessed General Nkunda during the recent upsurge of violence in DRC use the China-DRC deal as a pretext for his insurrection, part of the so-called Coltan wars.

Another glaring inconsistency relates to the preferred metrics of measuring the extent of Africa's aid led failures relative to the assumed metrics for measuring the success of proposed solutions. In assessing the state we are in, *Dead Aid* relies on national indicators such as GDP, life expectancy, level of external debt and so

forth. However when it comes to assessing the extent to which the proposed solutions might be useful the book does not always stick to a consistent set of measures. For example to support the argument for microfinance, we are told Grameen Bank has helped lift many poor people out of poverty through helping "bank the unbankable". Regular readers will know that I am a fan of microfinance and a strong believer that aid properly directed at providing the right sorts of incentives, like IFAD are pursuing in Zambia to boost rural finance through the NARBARD style model, can produce positive results. What is particularly puzzling about the *Dead Aid* position is "lifting people out of poverty" at the micro level why not use the same measure for aid? If we are going to argue that remittances help bypass bureaucracy and can be effective in tackling schooling, not necessarily increase national GDP, why can't we accept that the metric of "school attendance" is just as good a measure for assessing the effectiveness of certain aid interventions? Conversely if we are to judge the failure of aid interventions on their inability to raise national GDP (all things being equal) why don't we accept that no empirical study to date has demonstrated that large initiatives of providing microfinance (e.g. in Bangladesh) has led to increases in GDP? The underlying point is that *Dead Aid* too often moves around between inconsistent measures for the problem and suggested solutions. This is not a robust way to undertake analysis. Incidentally





the IFAD initiative is a good example of *effective aid* that is unfortunately ignored by *Dead Aid*.

Fourth and finally, the *solutions proposed by Dead Aid are ineffective*. This is not surprising because without a clear definition of the problem, it is inevitable that the solutions would not work. But even if one was to accept *Dead Aid's* basic premise that aid is bad, its solutions come far short. It's quite obvious to any ordinary analyst that in order to assess whether any proposals would present an overall improvement beyond the status quo, we need to define what happens in the *counterfactual* carefully and then judge that against proposed policy initiatives.

In our scenario the *counterfactual* is the situation where we continue with the current process. We know already that *Dead Aid* has not demonstrated that this situation would lead to more aid driven poverty. More importantly, evidence in *recent years* from Zambia, Uganda, Kenya Tanzania and other countries shows an improving picture in terms of economic performance. This doesn't mean aid *causes* good performance, but it does suggest growth is *possible* in the presence of aid even for nations at the bottom. It is therefore possible that in the presence of aid we may witness an improving *counterfactual* over time.

Two important questions flow from the above discussion : (1) what would be the impact of turning off the aid tap on poor nations relative to the counterfactual?; and 2) would these developing nations be able to borrow on the international markets, as an *alternative to aid*?

On (1) there's no doubt that the answer largely depends on the economic and political situation in relevant nation states. For those countries with 20 % – 50% of national budgets supported by donor partners the adjustment would be too difficult and politically unfeasible within the suggested five year time frame. The failure to implement their budgets would significantly weaken the human and physical infrastructures rendering these states ungovernable. More importantly locally targeted aid that is spearheaded by many aid organisations divorced from budget support would dwindle, possibly leading to multiple failed states. *Dead Aid* misses the point that even without aid, the incentive for military coups and emergence of vampire states would be remain because of the lucrative mineral wealth that exists. So the incentives for seeking alternative funding through financial markets as a way of survival are not always going to be as strong. Simply put for some countries turning off the aid tap would lead to chaos and breakdown in the rule of law.

On (2) it is quite obvious that with dwindling international capacity following the credit crunch which is likely to persist beyond 2011/12 there's no immediate prospect of accessible markets with significant cash to spread around. Even if African governments had strong incentives to enter these sorts of arrangements and with good initial credit ratings (which is highly unlikely) the process may be too prolonged and the outcomes would be uncertain given prevailing global economic conditions.

In short on both theory and practice, *Dead Aid* falls far short of what is expected of a book advocating such a radical proposal of "turning off the aid tap". If there's any consolation in this assessment, it is that *Dead Aid* will hopefully not find any intellectual traction. The analytical consensus remains that aid is important and the challenge is how to make it smarter, better and ultimately beneficial to the poor. This question has never been more urgent given the limited aid resources around. Dambisa is certainly right about one thing, now is the time to examine these issues and we can certainly do better than the present!

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# Aid Failures



Any aid project rests on some assumptions about the people it's helping. When these assumptions turn out to be wrong, the project can fail to help them even if it's carried out as intended.

Many projects focused on improving the water supply have failed to substantially improve health outcomes. Waterborne diseases are generally transmitted in many ways other than the water supply; simply improving the water supply may not be enough, and changing hygiene-related behavior may be difficult

A rigorous study of the Kenyan Government's national HIV/AIDS education curriculum found little to no effect on knowledge, attitudes, or behavior (aside from increasing the probability of girls' being married in the event of a pregnancy).

A rigorously studied attempt to increase an Indian community's participation in their education system had no apparent impact on behavior.

Improving children's performance in school is a particularly well-studied area in which many reasonable-seeming programs, including provision of computers<sup>4</sup> and other learning materials, have failed to improve performance. ([givewell.org](http://givewell.org))

# Does development aid work?

*Is it effective? For whom and by what measures?*

**CUCU WESSEH**

I'd like to begin my contribution with the thought that sports in general and football in particular is more than just a "game". I believe and think that sport is a unifying factor in striving for social cohesion in environment friendly and culturally diverse societies.

In this regard, football a pivot and cement for solidifying human process interaction; and plays a significant social and unifying role in global community development for affirmative action and positive human growth and development.

Very often analogy is made with specific reference to the "games" played the rationale of development aid at the expense of developing economies of the global south. I am referring to the sort of diabolical game of hypocrisy in the politics of development aid, the social interaction and human processes of economic activities within the spheres of business encounters over the scramble for needed and scarce resources.

I am convinced and candidly believe that development aid is ineffective. And unlike the game of football, which unites people more or less and sometimes even further beyond our imaginative preconceptions. A typical example of this is the current air of euphoria and sensation experienced by millions across the globe with sharp eyes on South Africa as participants and players in the hustle and tussle under the African skies of a FIFA World Cup.

If, a counter argument holds and/or maintains an opposite contention to my convictions; then it must be the realistic notion that development aid is effective only for the donor(s). I would further propound it is in fact inappropriate and indecent that in a country of with one of the highest unemployment rates on global measurable scale; billions of dollars equitable to the rand (SA currency) is being spent to facilitate a game of entertainment.

Of course the World Cup creates temporary employment in short terms analysis. But the fact of the matter is that the problems remain. Ironically poverty is still not history as you read on.

It is important to acknowledge however, that the journey to this unique "bitter sweet" symphony of sports harmony, especially in the case of football was never a honey moon roller coaster ride... With similar analogy development aid and poverty reduction are no easy highways. These initiatives require insight, and robust agenda.

The developmental process and evolution of the "Tactics of Direct Action" involved the united efforts of advocacy and activists from Africa, Europe, America and Austrasia). The tactics of Direction Action, the politics and rules of engagement as sustainable and alternative initiatives are strategically necessary towards an alliance of collective global grass root approach. There is a need today, more than ever before for



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**"Football is undeniably a medium of "HOPE" for our generation and the future of the next generation, but unequal distribution of aid and a lack of insightfulness of attention to the contemporary issues of progressive economic development are dangerous and detrimental to our human race."**

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a coherent global collective grass root activism similar to the era beginning with the anti-apartheid campaign (1976 post Soweto uprising) through into the Olympic Boycott (Montreal 1978) and the Direct Action Campaign (1971, 1972, 1973) as was against the Spring Bok Tour in Gisborne city in New Zealand and Australia (Operation Everest).

Improper development Aid is more than just a "GAME" and stands unequivocally as a force disunity or anti social and anti progressive symbol, tool and weapon of exclusion. Football is undeniably a medium of "HOPE" for our generation and the future of the next generation, but unequal distribution of aid and a lack of insightfulness of attention to the contemporary issues of progressive economic development are dangerous and detrimental to our human race.

Development aid is certainly more than just the "game" that politicians and multinational business play!  
(Mr Wesseh is General Secretary

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# The Paris declaration and aid effectiveness



## SUDIP JOSHI

This summer I went on an interesting fortnight work trip to my own country; Nepal as a development consultant for a Finnish donor agency- Abilis Foundation.

Abilis provides grants for projects that lead to positive and sustainable change for people with disabilities. My ToR reads me to appraise the capacity of the organizations, out of which I will opt one as a strategic partner to Abilis.

In a pair of weeks, I travel through the nooks and crannies of Nepal starting from the city under the cloud; Illam to the terrain structure of Taplejung in the east along the highway until the furthest west Mahendranagar in the tropic flat plains. Stepping at the grassroots with an ideal mindset of donor, allowing bit of flexible inherited principles, many of the times will wide open my jaws- the realities I sense is not congruent to the reports in the desks of Helsinki. Drawing a commonality of my visits there are few things that repeat in any of the projects I go to assess- I marvel at the reality of aid effectiveness and the representatives of the organizations being snooped marvel seeing a donor representative who is Nepalese. In fact, they somehow tend to be more cautious as I can watch beyond what they have to show me of their projects.

Now that I am back in Finland, I can bluntly admit despite the mushrooming number of civil or civic organizations, their utopian views and gorgeous aspirations to change the realities around them, their interventions have not lived up to the amount of aid flowing into these institutions. The effectiveness and efficiency of the aid does not harmonize with the yielded outputs.

The way to aid effectiveness is a rocky way uphill. After 5 years of being signatory to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness by governments globally, the indices on effectiveness are satisfactory at the best. The declaration streamlines five mutually agreed principles to improve the quality of aid to meet the MDGs. The principles are ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for results and mutual accountability. Initially these domains along with the 12 indicators that provide measurable ways to track progress on aid effectiveness are prioritized for the country level development aid. In other words, the Paris Declaration has to do with bilateral or multilateral development aid in country level, be it sectoral, programme or project in discrete structure. It is noteworthy that the civil society organizations were not participated in Paris.

On the other hand, in today's time aid pessimism or aid fatigue has been the surging debate about aid. Much analysis of the effectiveness and impact of aid has been in up to bottom or macro level and, quantifying the aid with economical mathematics support the aid

pessimists by finding little of no link between growth and aid in macro view. Analyzing aid should be more than a periodic chore of the donor agency but should me a day-to-day fix. Moreover, the way of calculating impact needs to move towards the bottom up structure. The aid in majority of cases, implements through civil organizations, projects or programme level and it is where, the aid has to be tracked down in more deductive model. And therefore, I focus on the aid effectiveness at the grassroots level or at the project level.

If you closely look into the elements of the Paris declaration, the components rigorously focus on the input and output level of ODA, on the contrary, I argue that to make aid more effective the processing unit of aid or the project cycle at the ground level needs

more concern and eye. In my experience of a fortnight in Nepal, the problem of ineffective aid is not due to the insufficient amount of finance or due to not translating the Paris Declaration at the local level. The fault line is the traditional working

**“Out of 20 projects I have roughly followed, only one quarter of the budget has hardly reached the grassroots or the beneficiaries and the remaining three quarters usually are the reminder for operational staffs or governing body of the organization.”**

mechanics of implementing organizations. Even if the organizations comply with the transparency standards of donors, the budget plan is hardly communicated to the beneficiaries. The real equation that needs more oversight is not between the donor and the grantee but between the benefactors (these grantees after receiving funds) and the beneficiaries.

The rampant malpractice in Nepal has been the habit of NGOs to outsource the project implementation to self-help groups or civic organizations in rural or areas far away from the capital city. They outsource the intervention in budgets deflated by quarters and the report of the work reaches the donor in inflated manner without properly mentioning the real implementer. The implementing organization in the ground is better termed as just a partner rather. One should not forget that the work done in such manner in budget less than three quarters appear as the total work in the reports that donors like Abilis receive everyday. Out of 20 projects I have roughly followed, only one quarter of the budget has hardly reached the grassroots or the beneficiaries and the remaining three quarters usually are the reminder for operational staffs or governing body of the organization. I argue a big sum of aid always sediment far away from the beneficiaries. The benefactors need to disseminate actual and all information regarding the assistance received from the donor transparently to the beneficiaries. I believe this will have a great deal to obligate NGOs to do work with received budget. Similarly, the sharing of information should include project plans, expertise allocation, technical capacity and costs, information on procurement and changes within the project cycle.

And how to make it all happen? I suggest a simple way would be to participate the local government in a meaningful way implementing local aid effectiveness action plans and monitoring processes or delegate to other donor or actors in the region. The monitoring and evaluation of the projects and organizations through out the work life is a must. The local government should be brought in as the watchdogs along with the beneficiaries to make grantees use the real disbursed aid.



## South-to-South Aid & Western Media

There were two things conventional in the last Haiti help surge for resuscitating the Caribbean island of the terrible calamity- the first; widely spoken and exacerbated Western Aid and the second; the silent but genuine aid above par coming in from the Southern Peninsula. It cannot be only the leftist voice to criticize about the application of Noam Klein's shock therapy by the Uncle Sam in Haiti for the first two days of earthquake hit. US shamelessly has had utilized the initial two days to re-militarize than immediate aid to the Haiti that was rapidly moving left to emancipate itself from long time imperialist realities. Interestingly, the US harassment is not the only untold story of the event but the big amount of aid and relief work mounting unconditionally from the Cuban, Brazilian and Venezuelan territory never made it to the headlines anywhere in Western media.

In today's world where news and information circulation are merely commodities and a TRP game, raveling the genuine southern aid is worthless for the western elite owned and lucrative media giants. Unfortunate enough that we are living in a world, where these media corporate are the widely viewed and widely regarded reliable and true. According to the Al Jazeera, among the many donor nations helping Haiti, Cuba and its medical teams have played a major role in treating earthquake victims. Public health experts in Port-au-prince say the Cubans were the first to set up medical facilities among the debris and to revamp hospitals immediately after the earthquake struck. Nonetheless, their pivotal work in the health sector has received scant media coverage even today. If somebody argues about the physical proximity of Cuba for the immediate intervention in Haiti you will be mistaken to realize the long serving and dedicated humanitarian assistance that came even without invitation and pledge was the Cuban for the earthquake assistance of Pakistan in early 2000s and for the Tsunami hit Philippines. It might be jaw dropper if one comes to realize the fact the best-acclaimed experts in relief and evacuation work are the Cuban medical team. But traditionally yet, unsurprisingly the capitalist media hub have been unjust not to speak about these issues.

Similarly, Brazil did immediately send 10 million dollars in immediate disaster aid including 28 tons of drinking water and food. Brazil flowingly added \$60mn in funding for 10 urgent care units, 50 mobile units for emergency care, a laboratory and a hospital, among other health services. Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez promised more aid after the departure of a first group of 50 doctors, firefighters and rescue workers from Venezuela, which was in fact translated into reality unlike the western aid promises. The unconditional free petroleum supply for the relief work in Haiti until a stable period from Venezuela would be worth information to share in petrol derived world of our time. Venezuela has cancelled all Haiti debt and has promised to supply oil free of charge until the country has recovered from the disaster. It is important to note that the debt cancellation is still a debate on hot fire for

“Public health experts in Port-au-prince say the Cubans were the first to set up medical facilities among the debris and to revamp hospitals immediately after the earthquake struck.”

the western donors until recently.

The contingency assistance coming from other Latin American counterparts like Peru that send two planes with 50 metric tons of humanitarian aid, mainly food, and 18 doctors and nurses and two field hospitals or the aid workers and volunteers from Mexico, Colombia and Guatemala are turned blind eye in media.

On the other hand, if you move to my part of world in Asia, the aid work done by India, Thailand and China would hardly reach even the mindsets of West. Had you got an opportunity to travel through South Asia or any developing landscape in Asian part you will vividly see the presence and existence of aid that is nowhere from West or North but from countries like China or India, for example, despite they themselves have miles to walk before alleviating their own poverty and hardships. However, there is still a beautiful side to the aid information dissemination. The Chinese aid for Africa that runs in Billions have closely come under scrutiny not only because of the figures but also more importantly of the aid going to strategic countries with immense natural resource. So is similar for the Brazilian aid to Iran on nuclear energy or for the Russian helping hands that extend to central Asia.

It is striking that these Southern aids virtually are not cared until they make a strategic or economic importance to the western blocks. According to Richard Gott, the Guardian newspaper's former foreign editor and a Latin America specialist, "western media are programmed to be indifferent to aid that comes from unexpected places." In the Haitian case, the media have ignored not just the Cuban contribution, but also the efforts made by other Latin American countries. And so is the ignorance for the aid coming from Asian donors.

With this issue we openly invite and call our southern counterparts to share their knowledge and information regarding our part of the world with social networks, Global South Development Magazine, for instance. Southern aids are only an example out of many that has to be raveled. Please join us in awaking each other and ourselves, let us share the knowledge of our part of the world.

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# FREEDOM



## HOWL OF INJUSTICE

Global South Development Magazine

*“There are two things everybody would like to have. That is freedom and justice; and social justice even more than freedom,”* states Shārif; a 23 year old male from Iran who currently lives in Finland as an asylum seeker.

About a year ago, Shārif was leading a regular life as a high school graduate helping his father in his importing business. His father was also once a politician. Between the years 2000 and 2004, he was a senator in parliament and also advisor of the former president Mohammad Khatami. At the moment, he is imprisoned and claimed to be held in

the infamous Evin prison. Upon asking him the reasons for his capture, Shārif replied:

*“You don’t have to do anything special to be in danger in Iran. When you say that you are in opposition of the president Ahmadinejad and “dictator” Ayatollah Khamenei, and you say that you want freedom; that’s enough for you to be guilty. A year ago, the opposition became a nightmare for the government and they*

*decided to catch them and send them to jail. My father was involved with the opposition. They caught almost all of the politicians who were against the government. My father is in one of the worst jails in Iran named Evin prison. But we are not sure about the place. That’s what they have said. During his imprisonment, no one has seen nor talked to him; not even his lawyer. It’s not like that for every imprisoned politician but some of them are unlucky, it’s very complicated.”*

Those were the father’s circumstances. And it would not stop there! The times following Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s victory in Iran’s 2009 presidential election on June 13, 2009 would also mark to be grievous days for Shārif and the Iranian nation. Shārif hails the election results as a milestone moment of injustice faced by the Iranian nation. *“It was a fraud!”*

And such believed deceit sparked millions of protestors – mainly supporters of the opposition candidate named Mir-Hossein Mousavi – to storm the streets of Tehran and raise their voice against the results in plight. *“Where is my vote?”* People



**Neda Agha-Soltan, now referred as Voice of Iran by many was cruelly killed during Iranian election protests held in 2009. Her death drew international attention and became symbolic for Iranian protestors' struggle against injustice.**

shouted in the street! *"Where is my vote?"* Shārif repeats the memorable motto!

The demonstrations were instructed and conditioned by the opposition to be peaceful for the reason to disallow the government an opportunity to react in violence. Shārif recollects tragic incidents when a mass number of demonstrators; including himself, were in the middle of gunfire nearby a military base. *"We didn't start anything; they were the first who started shooting and we decided to go and occupy the place."* During that day, he recounts eight protestors being killed in the violent confrontation. Later on, Iranian intelligence identified some of the protestors. Sooner or later, Shārif came to know that his life was in danger. It was time to say goodbye!

Shārif fled to a city called Qazvin, where he stayed shortly. He continued his journey to Tabriz and then headed towards Turkey, where he remained for a period of three months. Finally, he reached Finland in order to seek refuge.

Shārif's dreams long a social change: *"My only dream is revolution in Iran; to go back to my country. For the freedom of our country, I have lost my family, wealth, and friends. What is left for me is my body and soul. If I go back there, I will lose that as well. There's nothing left for me. And it is challenging to predict such revolution. One day people appear in the*

*street and protest against the government and next day the army appears and suppresses everyone.*

*Firstly, we need a democratic and just election! Secondly, we need a society where human rights are respected and freedom of speech or right to free expression is appreciated. We need to work towards a socially just society."*

He stresses the need for the young and citizens of Iran to take further action. But his days of direct participation and attempts of reform are long gone. Nevertheless, he finds his new mission to inform people about the situation of Iran. And what is that situation? What has guided Shārif and many others towards a need for socio-political reform?

Since Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's presidential reign on 2005, the changes brought along with the government significantly affected peoples' lives. Peoples' right to freedom faced fundamentalist restrictions, prices in the country inflated and peoples' welfare experienced a downfall – gap between rich and poor grew – because of the international sanctions placed against Iran for embarking upon its atomic aspirations.

If deemed against the state ideology, peoples' right to free expression was not acknowledged nor

***"You don't have to do anything special to be in danger in Iran."***

***"If deemed against the state ideology, peoples' right to free expression was not acknowledged nor tolerated."***



tolerated. And such restrictions were experienced by the people and professionals in numerous ways, for example, in films, music, arts, journalism, politics and social reality. Violators could face severe consequences, for example, imprisonment, prohibition and isolation from participation or then infliction of violence and terror in order to insist obedience and anti-deviancy.

As a result, many news agencies and journalists were blacklisted and banned from practicing journalism or then students – especially in political and social science – viewed to be anti-government were prohibited from entering school premises or achieving their academic aspiration in the respective field. In a nutshell, any form of expression, ideology or deed which defied government was seen as a threat and hitherto required disposal.

The effects of international sanctions pressured by the U.S. and enforced by the international community through United Nations Security Council were personally felt by Shārif and his father's line of work: *"It made our business difficult. We couldn't make transactions out of Iran because banks wouldn't deal with us. We couldn't send money directly and other options were too expensive. There was no purpose in continuing."*

Currently, there are no long-term plans occupying Shārif to remain in Finland. However, returning to Iran is also not viable. He is trying to lead a new life in a foreign country but nostalgia of home and dream of return yet wind around him. And his father remains to be freed.

*"There are two things everybody would like to have. That is freedom and justice; and social justice even more than freedom. My feeling about my father's situation is that, he will be free one day. Dead or alive, he will be free on earth or in heaven. He is an innocent man. He just tried to set the people free. He is a man for the people! Opposition are like that. I'm proud of my father, he is one of the best and I really miss him and hope that God answers to my tears and prayers one day."* Shārif ends.

The day when such change is brought to light is the breeze of justice and freedom for Shārif to rest his weary and sacrificial struggle for dignity and righteousness. Hopes of a better future howl in the heart of a father's

**"Where is  
my  
vote?"**

son, activist and a face of Iran!

Writer's note: the article includes Shārif's life story and its contents have been written in light of his views. The interview was conducted in March 2010 and a follow-up was made in June 2010. Neda's pictures were sourced from CNN.

Tehran 15 June 2009





# Emerging Impact of Information Technology in the developing world



“The number of people accessing the Internet in the developing world has rapidly increased from one per thousand people in 1993 to 75 per thousand in 2003 and approx. 85 in recent years.”

Santosh Kalwar



*“All that is valuable in human society depends upon the opportunity for **development** accorded the individual.” Albert Einstein*

For this first special assignment in several months, young and extremely talented editor of this magazine Manoj Bhusal requested me to write this piece. *BhusalJI*, I guess, we have known each other well, if not face-face but surely virtually, goad me with such timely chores when I read your first issue of the magazine and recommended to get an ISSN for the same.

conceived this year, and I’ve been very interested to read articles, views and opinions from various authors. However, allow me to introduce the topic I am writing here, it is not easy topic to write about. As entitled, “The Impact of IT (Information Technology) in the developing world.”

The topic might seem boring and at the same time, very interesting topic of research especially among those who are doing their majors in Sociology, Humanities and Anthropologies.

As I ‘Googled’, to see what research has been done in this area, I found thousands of research paper and articles. Unlike those folks who do not have privilege of using “Google” in many countries.

It is very difficult to define what is a “developing” and what is a “developed” country. Though, personally, I do not believe in boundaries and borders of any nation.

All nations are the same. But as Kofi Anna, the former Secretary General points out, “A developed country is one that allows all its citizens to enjoy a free and healthy life in a safe environment [1].”

The United Nations does not have any special designation for the differentiation among “developed” and “developing” [2]. According to IMF (International Monetary Fund) World Economic Report, there

are several list of emerging and developing economies such as Afghanistan, Argentina, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, India, Egypt, Kenya, Latvia, Jamaica, Ghana, Nepal and Sri Lanka; just to name few.

With the advent of the Internet burst many technology pundits are considering its impact for global change. But the melancholic truth lies at the grassroots level.

As we see dig hundreds of articles on recent economic recession and global meltdown, the punditry has fallen down but the influence of such idea remains.

Before the invention of the Internet, researchers carried out research by visiting these countries, talking with people and finding different factors impermissible for their development.

Nowadays, with the invention of the Internet, researchers can easily carry out research and determine potential impact IT plays in these part of the world, at least to some extent. This is not a satirical statement to those who live in the “Google” world or, maybe it is!

Anyways, the point is that in many parts of the above mentioned countries, there is no Internet connection available and the use of information technology has been very limited. Today’s question is how we can improve the access of information technology in such places.

It is in-front of our eyes that increasing usage of the Internet has resulted into excessive usage in many countries. The information and services such as e-banking, e-telephone, e-government, blogging, wikis, chatting, ‘Facebooking’ and ‘YouTubing’ are easily accessible. For example, In Kenya and Tanzania, 60 and 80% of business firms’ use email [4]. No doubt that Internet is also



increasing rapidly. The number of people accessing the Internet in the developing world has rapidly increased from one per thousand people in 1993 to 75 per thousand in 2003 and approx. 85 in recent years. In addition, the growth of ATM (Automated Teller Machine) is wide spreading in the developing world as well. Many services have been enabled for transaction to be carried out between mobile phones and e-banking systems.

On one hand, it can be considered from an outer perspective that developing countries are generally late-comers in terms of IT. On the other hand, there is no rightful investment pouring in such lands with some exception case of India and China.

Undoubtedly, ICT (Information and communication technology) can ease the burdens of health, social-economical problems faced in the developing world. By providing accessible information and by enabling 'ease of use', ICT has very important role to play in the developing nations.

ICT enables various types of communication such as information, television, print media, radio, social networking, collaboration and

processing of enormous information.

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**“95% of all computers are in the developed world. The connectivity speed and bandwidth problems are apparent in many developing nations as well.”**

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Who can forget the “mobile phone”, and its potential impact? According to Kafela (2006) [5], mobile phone and its penetrations has proved to be a powerful engine for economic growth.

In an another similar article by Nevius [6] “about 2.9 billion text messages are sent each day worldwide, of which nearly 40 percent originate in Asia, 14 percent from North America, and the remaining percentage from other parts of the world”.

In Asia, total youth mobile data services revenue reached UD\$15.2 billion in 2004, and the forecast growth rate is estimated to be 15.3% in-between 2004 to 2010.

Once upon a time, when I was studying in the IT hub of India-Bangalore, mobile phone was like a dream in Nepal. But now, I see even bus drivers and conductors have the privilege to communicate very easily via mobile phones. As I have already mentioned, the use of telephone and mobile technology has unprecedentedly grown in the developing world. In case of Nepal, ten years ago, it would have been a dream to connect, share and talk with friends living in different parts of the world. But today, many youngsters are using mobile phones to access social networking sites and other means of mass communications.

However there are some key issues that need to be considered while assessing the outreach and impact of information technology in the developing world.

### 1. The digital divide

One common problem with the IT especially in case of the developing world is the “differences” among ‘blue collar politicians and diplomats’. The disparities within the countries are one common problem. Some of the major attributes are: lack of appropriate products, costs, education, languages, human resources and lack of a working framework are all delimiters for the potential impact of IT in the developing world. For instance a comparison of mobile subscribers per 100 people, in various countries such as India, Nepal, Zimbabwe and UK can substantiate the gravity of this divide.

### 2. Other factors

Other increasingly difficult factors which can play a negative role or act as a hindrance for the development are cultural factors, employment, definition and understanding of freedom of speech, environment and health. For example, recently, Pakistan blocked YouTube and Facebook services from general public (Nobody is allowed to ask, why?).

### 3. The Have-Nots and The Know-Nots

It is apparent that many developing nations do not have rightful infrastructures, for instance, network availability, communication facilities, Internet and appropriate bandwidth. According to Bruce Girard, 95% of all computers are in the developed world. The connectivity speed and bandwidth problems are apparent in many developing nations as well.

My own country Nepal is an example where due to lack of infrastructure, it is extremely difficult to provide suitable services especially to people who reside in villages. Many universities in other developing nations do not have e-mail or Internet facilities. If some have then they do not have faster Internet connections. The simple truth is that information superhighway has not played any fruitful impact in many of these nations.

4. **Social equality:** I raised this factor simply because in many developing countries, there is no social equality among men and women. One common case would be: Afghanistan. However, through IT, girls may undertake quality education same as boys and vice versa. It needs fresh research and huge amount of ground work before saying anything concrete on this topic.
5. **Social mobility:** The social mobility is very important factor since every individual have the right to move from one place to another. Unlike urban elites, all people should be allowed to be participated in preparing their own pedagogy and discuss about education, getting quality job trainings, consultations services and so on. I think IT can play vital role for development in case of social mobility too.
6. **E-democracy and Economic equality:** As I see it, one of the key problems among developing nation is differences between “rich” and “poor”. One needs to bridge the gap so that there is economic equality, potential education and potential growth among stakeholders. The disparaging gap between policymakers and government officials is another blockade for fostering development in developing nations.
7. **Technology-Knowledge transfer:** The key aspect is not the technology but how can the technology transference impacts the hearts and minds of people in the developing world and how can they adopt to the technological environment. This transfer and adoption of knowledge is very important in achieving significant developmental impact in the developing world.

The list can go continue further. I think the potential impact IT ‘has to play and should play’ is neither limited to one piece of an article nor it can be concluded with mere words.

The impact technology solely depends on how technology is taken by people especially youth and yuppie of those countries and how they use the technology. If the people decide not to use it then the

ICT will be rather insignificant to point out its potential impact.

Last but not the least, in the words of the United Nations: “Young people in all countries are both a major human resource for development and key agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation. Their imagination, ideals, considerable energies and vision are essential for the continuing development of the societies in which they live [7].”

**Read more about it:**

- [1] [http://www.unescap.org/unis/press/G\\_05\\_00.htm](http://www.unescap.org/unis/press/G_05_00.htm)
- [2] <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49regin.htm#ftnc>
- [4] <http://www.iimahd.ernet.in/egov/ifip/apr2007/charles-kenny.htm>
- [5] Kefela, Ghirmai, T. March 2006. “Mobile Phones Revitalize Economic Growth In Africa.” Hyperlink: [http://eri24.com/Article\\_10063.htm](http://eri24.com/Article_10063.htm)
- [6] Nevius, C.W. 22 Nov. 2005. “Time to get hip to text messages” San Francisco Chronicle, Bay Area section
- [7] <http://www.unescap.org/esid/hds/Youth/formulation.asp>

*(Santosh Kalwar is a postgraduate student of IT at Lapperanta University of Technology Finland. He is a poet and author, and says that he is unaware of his existence. Further information about him can be obtained at <http://kalwar.com.np>)*



# Barricades Obstructing Development of South Africa

Global South Development Magazine

**T**here are a number of issues South Africa is facing that is slowing down development in the country. Corruption has been and yet is an issue that needs to be tackled. Politicians and other officials, for example, policemen are known to take bribes in order to grow their own welfare. This is a major problem since equality, liberty and other human rights are overthrown by money. From this, we can deduce that poorer individuals have a weaker position and no chance of defending their own rights against the more prosperous.

South Africa is well known for its crime rates; nearly 50 murders occur daily and statistics indicate that South Africa ranks top one in rape, kidnap and hijacking. This has a major impact on the image of the country; people from abroad would rather choose a “safer” destination for their travels. Tourism suffers from this reason and evidently works as a blockage for the development of the country. Tourism would not only boost the country’s economy but also promote employment opportunities for locals.



*The Rainbow Nation and Mandela*

Crimes in South Africa most occur in suburbs and ghettos where the drug lords lay. Therefore a major percentage of the crime rates are drug-business related. These drug lords are mainly described to be immigrants from Namibia, Zimbabwe and other surrounding countries, who have migrated in search of a better life. In reality, they are told to eventually result into criminality. Crimes towards households are also vast; breaking into homes and stealing valuables is common. However; for some, even these measures are low. Some tend to practice atrocious acts of rape and murder during house breakages.

Another criminal act worth mentioning are those directed towards farmers. Due to the historical background of South Africa, when white colonists overtook land and enslaved the black to work in their farms since 17<sup>th</sup> century; the grudge and hatred of the black towards the white has not diminished yet. Some

radicals break into farms just to murder the farmers and people residing in vicinity of the farm.

During my visit in South Africa, the major shock I had faced was the black and white living in their respective communities. Racism against each other was indeed strong and visible. I cannot recall a group that would comprise whites and black spending time together. This is something I did not even imagine of a place where the black and white have been living together for centuries.

Speaking with the locals about the evident discrimination between the groups, the reasons behind it became clearer. The black held a grudge against the white because of their history as mentioned earlier. In addition, the whites in South Africa hold most of the prosperity in the country. For the black, they felt it to be unrighteous.

Due to the apartheid government, which was in act before South Africa had reached democracy in 1994, African people were systematically excluded from meaningful participation. Major companies are owned and managed by the white and high ranked jobs are offered mainly to them for the reason that they are well educated and competent. This is only because they have better access and opportunities for seeking education. It is a never-ending cycle! The white can generally afford better to cover their children's education, whereas the black tend to

struggle more to pay for their own. The white people think of the black as lazy and laidback who do not wish to work and expect goods to "just flow into their hands."

Another reason which aggravated the white was when the legislation and regulation of Black Economic

Empowerment (BEE) came into act in 1994. The legislation's idea was to open vacancies for black employment in high ranked positions and to allow the possibility in seeking ownership of major companies and industries. BEE forces major companies to employ black people; a certain percentage of the total employment must be comprised of the black.

Informally, this enforced employers to employ individuals who were not necessarily

competent or qualified. One can imagine the disturbance and anger generated among the white who have academically spent years acquiring proficiency for different fields, but are ironically unable to seek employment due to barriers faced by the BEE act.

**"The major shock I had faced was the black and white living in their respective communities. Racism against each other was indeed strong and visible."**

**"More academic and employment opportunities ought to be offered to its citizens without racial discrimination."**

The BEE act is not the direct reason why such dilemmas are prevalent in the society. But it does generate more tension and discriminatory practices. In my opinion, more academic and employment opportunities ought to be offered to its

citizens without racial discrimination. The need to balance out educational opportunities and professional proficiency is necessary. It is the

apparent imbalance in these sectors why more social dilemmas are prevalent in society.



**Residents learning IT skills at community center in Soweto, Johannesburg**

South Africa is a beautiful country with various landscapes that are astonishing. The people are extremely friendly and helpful. Hospitality is beyond what I had imagined. I personally fell in love with the country and experienced no moments, where I would have been afraid. The country has potential for positive change! But using it to enhance development is obstructed by racial, political and historical factors. When will the rainbow's beauty be seen?

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**Authors note:** *Information provided in the article consist my experiences and collection of locals' views gathered during my travel (April-June 2010) in South Africa. Readers should note that its purpose is not to generate hate, discrimination and racial profiling. Instead, the motive is raise public awareness and discussion on social dilemmas of South Africa. The photos are taken by Anniina Fagerström©*

*Editor's note: The author has chosen to be anonymous.*



**Hector Pieterse Memorial Site, Johannesburg.**

The site resides in Soweto which ranks among one of the poorest city areas of Johannesburg. On June 16, 1976; the Soweto uprising took place where the tragic apartheid massacre of the black youth was carried out by the police.

Hector Pieterse's (1964-16.6.1976) image of martyrdom became iconic for the uprising. In the picture, – viewed also in the monument - his body is carried by a young boy named Mbuyisa Makhubo and Hector's sister runs along with him.

The memorial honors victims of the bloodshed and their struggle for peace, democracy and freedom. It was unveiled on June 16, 1992 by Nelson Mandela. The text states "To honour the youth who gave their lives in the struggle for freedom and democracy." June 16 has for years been symbolized as resistance to the brutality of the apartheid government. Today, it is marked as the National Youth Day.



# The Bankarias: An indigenous epic of modern times



## SOM CHAULAGAI

Nepal is my homeland; although I fulfil my thirst with foreign water. An ordinary Nepali never hesitates to introduce Nepal as one of the poorest countries in the world. Reality is undeniable but improvement can be dreamed in reality. On the other hand, Nepal is one of the most beautiful and richest nations in the world due to its geographical diversity, thundering natural beauty, historical legend and cultural heritages. In that, people from about 70 different ethnic groups who speak more than 90 different languages, make Nepal a country of tremendous ethnic mosaic. Mt. Everest, the highest peak in the world not only preserves Nepalese people and nation's sovereignty in its lap but also celebrates its enchanting beauty with rest of the world and heals the pain with its alluring smile. So to say Nepal is the county where all seven colours of life can be found.

Those are the facts that we all Nepalese share with the world with the greatest essence of a proud nation. However, not all Nepalese have proper information about all 70 ethnic groups; especially disappearing ethnic minorities; for instance, where they live, how they live, how their social life is and most significantly who they are. At least I do not have all information. But time and again, for generations now, their existence and rights have been ignored intentionally or unintentionally and victimised by the derived stereotypes.

This is not an ancient tale but gives a glimpse of a primitive hunting-gathering society. Of 70 ethnic groups, The Bankaria is one the

ethnic minorities inhabits in the middle part of Nepal (Handikhola 7, Makawanpur District) on the lap of a jungle and in between two river (a steep hill stream) banks with great danger of flooding and land sliding. They are altogether 60-70 in numbers in entire Nepal and live in 13 different families. I heard about this ethnic minority a few years ago, however my hometown is about 50 Km farther than the place they live. I had always desired to visit them since then but never had suitable time to go there. This time, only a few weeks ago, I had a chance to visit them. To reach them, I had to cross a thundering Rapti River. No matter how difficult and challenging the way was, I kept my motivation alive and reached them with the help of my brothers and some of my friends. However, we had to cross dreadful river and drive through a steep hill stream. Motivation of my visit was something else but after reaching their homes, I felt forced by their situations to report them in our Global South Development Magazine. During my visit, I gathered information by conducting interviews with a few members of the group and a journalist as well.

About fifteen year ago, with the help of authorised booklet on ethnic groups in Nepal produced by the first democratic government established in 1991, Mr. Pratap Bistha (a journalist of a leading Nepali national daily Kantipur) and his colleague started a vibrant search from the top of the Chure Hill in the jungle to find out an unidentified and nearly disappearing ethnic minority group "Bankaria". As a result of their inner zeal, intuition and devotion towards humanity, finally they found the Bankarias in the malaria ridden valley of Chure Hill on the top of Hadikhola in horrible conditions.

According to Mr. Bista, when they reached the Bankarias' habitat, they found them eating maize porridge in Bhorla's (a kind of large leaved creeper) leaf with pickle of ants. They had a few temporary huts aside of them and roofs were made of branches and leaves of the trees. Men and women were dressed normally but they did not have shoes in their feet. Children were completely naked and vulnerable. They were ignored by the state and deprived from basic fundamental rights of human beings. Most dreadful incident, Women used to give birth to children on the big stones either inside the jungle or on the river banks. The children who would survive would live happily with his or her family in jungle and those mothers and children who died would be buried by the family members without any complain and feeling sorry for what they have lost. They were deprived by the right to education and proper health. These were the bitterest realities of the Bankarias.

We are in the twenty-first century, those who think to be the initiators of development, those who advocate human development, those who claim to be the preservers of human rights and who completely deny the word "need" and emphasise on the word "right" where they were, what they were doing, when lives were born on sharp stones and buried somewhere in jungle. Causalities were occurred in each and every step. The existence of the Bankariyas was nearly diminished. Imagine the world; those were the people who were found. What about their ancestors who were not found at all. What kind of lives they had had. This is the greatest stroke on human dignity and social justice. If I have to say, we all human beings are responsible for their situation. They must be compensated by world for what they have experienced, suffered, lost and seen in survival.





beings.

Furthermore, the time when they were ‘found’, the unforgettable Maoist insurgency had already begun and the whole Nepal was in civil crisis and war. The life of the Bankariyas was in danger by the humans than wild beasts in the jungle. They were frightened by the people. Their territory was limited and controlled by the circumstances even in jungle. Let’s not talk about need and rights outside jungle, their rights were violated even inside the jungle. They had rather semi belief on wild beasts but had enormous doubts on human

During my visit, I also tried to talk with some of the member of the group about how they survived and their experiences in jungle. According to them, they used to spend almost 10 months in jungle by cutting some types of grass that could be used to make brooms and collecting roots called Kurilo that could be used to make some types of medicines and soaps too and then 2 months outside the jungle selling them. At the same time, I also talked to Mr. Kanchha Bankaria, 75, the oldest man in the group. He could easily remember how many years he has been rescued out from the jungle but could not answer how many years he spent in jungle. He said, I do not know how many years I spent in Jungle but for sure all my life I have roamed being a survivor over there.

They explained me the main reasons why they were compelled by the situation to spend their lives in the jungle. They did not have permanent houses to live, land to cultivate, citizenship to be Nepali. They had easier life in jungle than anywhere else. The most important thing for them was “Love and care”. Situation was disappointing and dreadful but co-operation among them was amazing. They always lived for each other, rejoiced happiness and grieved sadness together.

The Bankariyas’ voice was buzzed inside the jungle and was stumbled over the trees and stones. No one was there to receive their voice. Mr. Bistha was the only person who became their voices and advocated for their dignified existence and rights through the media. As a result, after 5 years of his continuous news publication and struggle, they are settled in the houses by the state; however they still live in the lap of a jungle and in between rivers’ banks. They are given land to cultivate. They have regained their lost identity back. Now they are 100% Nepalese citizen. They hold the same citizenship as I hold.

“I do not know how many years I spent in Jungle but for sure all my life I have roamed being a survivor over there.”

They are also given NRS 500 per person as an indigenous security allowances per month by the state but the financial support they get is temporary. Even in an unstable political situation, the state has paid a little attention to the Bankariyas. The seriousness of Nepali government is profound and a landmark step toward inclusion and social justice.

Today they live like other ordinary Nepali citizens. Their lives are apparently better in houses. At least they can survive 6 months without any problems by the food they cultivate in their own lands. Many NGOs are supporting them by donating goats, chickens, pigs, wild boars, cows etc. Likewise, the houses are facilitated by toilets, bio-gas and solar to produce electricity. Similarly, they also are given different trainings such as handicraft, tailoring etc by different organisations in order to build their capacity and improve their situation. Children are offered free education by the state and adults are provided opportunity for informal education. At this stage, Bankariyas are completely rescued from the jungle and new generation’s children are already brought to school.

However, these measures haven’t proved to be enough. They are facing various challenges every day and are in the circle of different risks. They are supported and helped by many organisations but at the same time, there is a greatest risk of dependency. What if they learn to depend on others? Furthermore, they are needed to be immediately moved out from the place where they are living currently. The flood may swap them away anytime and they are still near the jungle far away from other communities and with least facilities. They are brought out from the jungle but NGOs, INGOs, civil society and the state should work to preserve their indigenous culture, rituals, and the language which give them their real identity of being the Bankariyas.

Besides, the recent challenge they are facing is invasion on their identity by another ethnic group. According to Mr. Bistha, The Chepangs, another ethnic minority, are claiming the Bankariyas to be the members of their ethnic group. They claim that they lived mostly in the jungle, therefore they are called Bankariyas. But in reality they are Chepangs. But the Bankariyas deny the Chepangs’ claim.

Currently, the Bankariyas have at least enough resources to encompass their life outside the jungle as Bankariyas, an ethnic minority but they lack knowledge and awareness. Education can be one of the solutions to enhance proper knowledge and awareness. By doing so, they can be involved and included as the members of Nepali society as a whole which will add one more colour to make Nepal more colourful nation. (Photos: houses where the Bankariyas live and a Bankaria lady with her child- Author is the assistant director of Silver Lining Creation and promoter of the magazine, he can be reached at [som.chaulagai@silcreation.org](mailto:som.chaulagai@silcreation.org))

## Peek of Promise

I am 23 years old Iraqi Kurd currently living in Finland. In my past, I have also lived in Pakistan and Iran. On January, 1987; I was born in Kurdistan of Iraq. At the age of one, we fled with family from Kurdistan due to Saddam's genocide order and atrocities committed against Kurds. It has been 22 years since our exile that I have lived in Diaspora. Finally, I had the chance to return for a short visit. When the plane landed, I had an awkward feeling in my stomach. My heart was pounding vigorously and breathing felt heavy. I could not believe that I had finally returned to the country from where we once fled. I was happy, excited and ready to discover the beauty of my homeland.

My expectations were mainly based on what I had heard about Kurdistan. I knew it was facing major development in economic and business sense; it attracted many foreign investments. But, the rate of development which I witnessed was outstanding. I had not expected the growth to have been that substantial. Wherever you walked in Hewler, you could notice construction work being run; they were fixing roads, building residential areas, five-star hotels, new malls or then parks. It was said that Hewler will become more or less like Dubai.

Having the first taste of Kurdistan, I could relatively agree on the statement; they have made many beautiful and gigantic malls, parks, planted palm trees beside and between roads and made fountains at roundabouts. Overall, they have put an effort in making the surroundings as aesthetic as Dubai. With economic growth, more and more work is available. Therefore, a decrease in terms of poverty is most likely to occur. However, the growth of foreign population is also rapid. People from neighbouring countries and other places migrate to Northern-Iraq in search of jobs. Majority of foreign population are from Bangladesh. Many work in city markets doing



**“The rate of development which I witnessed was outstanding.”**

cashier-work or then cleaning. During my journey, I came across the notion that Kurds were unwilling to embark upon cleaning jobs because of their pride. It was expressed that such positions were not welcomed even at the brink of “starving to death.” There were some Africans and Asians, who worked as servants for affluent families; mainly for politicians’.

The average pay was between 300-400 USD for such basic jobs. But by holding a master degree, one's salary could reach up to 1000-1500 USD, which was extremely good. Making 400 USD in a month is not enough while living in a rental house. Therefore, families and groups who are less fortunate – in this case I could state Bangladeshi mostly - live and keep together in order to survive and collect some extra income.

Though the economic state of Kurdistan is experiencing a growth, there is still room for improvement. Corruption is an alarming issue. At the moment, high ranked politicians can have high tendencies to take bribes or set aside a portion of the nation's budget for their own benefit. Instead, this could be used for its citizens. Equality is a concept yet to be realized. The elite or high ranked



can easily cast regular citizens aside when it is a question of receiving services or other benefits. Therefore, protecting dignity of the people and promoting their human rights are challenges and issues which require progress. There is a political party (cannot recall its name) in Kurdistan whose main aim involves reduction of corruption. The party received a lot of votes in the previous elections and 15 members of the party were elected. Therefore, let us hope to see a development in this matter. Nevertheless, it will require time until radical changes are to be seen.

At the moment, Kurdistan is much like Russia: There are people who are extremely rich and then those who struggle to have their daily bread. One of the reasons is current situation of unemployment.

Many students have completed their bachelor degree but master degree yet waits. Work force is concentrated on cheap labourers, who are mainly foreign. Beggars are visible in the street, but most of them do not originate from the native. They are comprised of people coming from neighbouring countries, who may lack education, literacy and occupational training. Their parents can send their children to the streets for begging or then selling chewing gums, balloons and other goods. You can witness women begging in street for money while their children is lying down beside her and “acting” ill.

Kurdistan needs social interventions on such issues. It is extremely sad to see children “losing” their lives or chance of a better future due to their parents’ unfortunate circumstances or apparent neglect of socializing them into society, so that they would not find themselves one day as outcasts.

The social and political dilemmas in need of being tackled in Kurdistan are reduction of corruption - which is under progress -, building a social system that promotes and protects welfare and dignity of the people, human rights and equality in society.

## Kurdistan of Iraq Photo Gallery



**Scenic photo taken at Sheikh su Rahman; staircase at Mount Safin.**

The stairs lead all the way up to a point where there is a cave. The area is a sacred place of unity for Muslims and Christians, who come together to pray at the spot. Let this be a symbol of harmony and peace between religions!



**Abu Shahad City Restaurant.**

Abu Shahab started out by selling grill food on a cart and gathered money for years which made him able to build a large two-floor restaurant that is full almost at all times. It is an inspirational story of a hard working man who managed to achieve his dream.



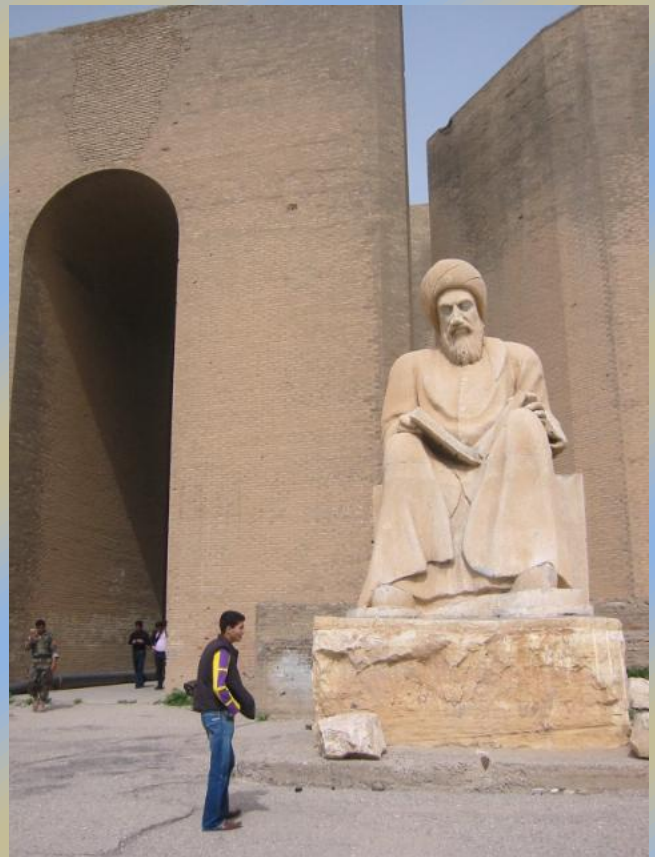
**Majidi Mall**

A new large mall opened around 2009, which includes clothing shops, restaurants, jewellery shops, cigar shop and a large super market etc.



**Shanadar Park.**

A national park opened in Kurdistan for relaxation purpose. At times, there are open air festivals, for example, Newroz New Year party was held here, where people came to celebrate.



**Statue of Ibn Al-Mistawfi guarding the entrance gate to Erbil Citadel.**



**Kurdish flag painted on a mountain.**

This is seen often on mountains. It is a rhetorical mark of Kurdistan belonging to Kurds; mountains cannot be moved.





### The Youth Setting a Bonfire on Newroz

Newroz is a Kurdish New Year celebration which takes place on March 21. Making a bonfire is a tradition in Newroz that is based on the folkloric tale of a Kurdish hero named Kawai Asingar; an ironsmith who defeats an infamous king and frees his people from tyranny. After king's fall, he climbs to a mountain peak and sets a large bonfire to symbolize a new start.

Let the new start be promising!

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**Author's note:** My views of development in Kurdistan are mainly based on Hewler. I did not have a chance to visit Suleymania or Duhok. These are stated to be more developed than Hewler. Nevertheless, the problems of corruption, equality and individual rights are evident in national level.

**Editor's note:** author requests anonymity, photos were taken by the author.





## Smart Aid Smart Results

“When aid works, it works like a charm.” A British development worker told me a year ago when I was traveling the nooks and corners of northern Bangladeshi villages in an attempt to fathom the already eulogized link between microfinance and women empowerment. During the same stint, I met another community based ophthalmologist who openly criticized international aid and believed that the developing world has become a ‘dumping site’ of western countries as outdated and environmentally hazardous technological equipments were supplied to the developing world in the name of generous aid.

Opinions largely differ, but the fact is that international aid and international alliance in development cooperation is an unavoidable reality. Abolishing aid is not a viable choice we have, but what we can do is make it smarter and more productive. Indeed, a smarter aid will have the potential to change many things.

Investing more in education thereby enhancing the skills and the capacity of the poor can be a first step toward making aid smarter. I have seen heartbreaking scenes where properly run schools were on the verge of closing down because of aid discontinuation from donor agencies. A smart aid should always prioritize education first and cut down other assistance such as military or strategic aids.

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“One of the saddest parts of international aid system is that research, development and innovation haven’t got enough priority so far. However, promoting research and innovation is vitally important to accelerate development in the developing world.”

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Yet 2.5 billion people in the world have no access to basic sanitation. A smart aid should also focus on supporting projects aimed at facilitating access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. Furthermore, there needs to be more support to eliminate diseases, especially the diseases of the poor that are causing enormous human suffering and slowing the pace of development in the developing world.

One of the saddest parts of international aid system is that research, development and innovation haven’t got enough priority so far. However, promoting research and innovation is vitally important to accelerate development in the developing world. There are examples where genetically modified rice has eliminated famines and have saved numerous lives in the most vulnerable areas on the planet.

On the other hand, promoting pro-poor entrepreneurship and strengthening the idea of fair trade can also bring about significant changes in the lives of the poor in the global south.

*(Photo© Manoj Bhusal, Editor can be reached at manoj.bhusal@silcreation.org)*



Silcreation's

Survivors' of the Street  
Campaign coming soon

