Aid management for aid workers in the 2020s

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Aid management in the 2020s

Some forces reshaping actual aid management in next decade will include:

- Less funding for stand-alone & single-manager aid programmes

- More funding for aid projects that also supporting economic interests of donor country (Retroliberalism)

- More funding for multilateral and multi-sectoral interventions in fragile states

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We are currently interviewing aid managers on what their successors will need re "know-how" and "know-why" in 2020s:

- Redesigning postgraduate course "Development Management"
- Writing a book on "Aid management in the 2020s"

Before we share with you our preliminary findings, we like to ask you:

What do you think aid managers have to deal with – in terms of know-how & know-why – in the 2020?

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Helen – do you want to use this slide to outline your 'work in groups' process?

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Some topics emerging from interviews with aid managers so far:

- The disappearing humanitarian space – principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence disappear as new actors enter that space: militaries, international corporations, local businesses, national diaspora… How to manage relations in the new space?

- Three different spheres (disaster, conflict, epidemic) co-occurring – Each sphere require different sets of skills, operational practices, international coordination, local engagement, what remain cross-cutting issues? E.g. How is Zika different from Ebola?

- Raising funds in 2020s: The marketing imperative – Selling first-response capability supersedes partnerships for institutional capacity-building. Does marketing support the intervention, or does the intervention support the marketing?

- Sustainability: the 7th generation perspective – The SDGs and Indigenous perspectives are developing long-terms management visions. But what are the instruments?
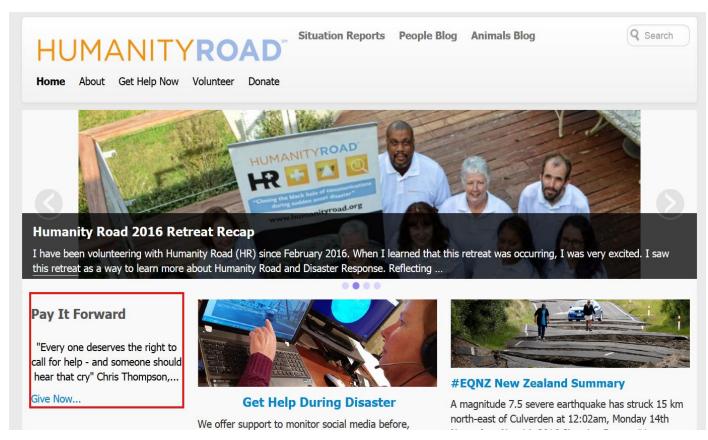
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- **Disappearing global inequality, growing local inequality** – Ideological foundation under international development aid also disappears. In 2020s, aid programmes will respond to needs and calls in France and in Vanuatu. What are management implications?

- **Real-time impact, real-time accountability, real-time fundraising** – Internet, crowd-sharing, drones, etc. open a new universe of data-collection and stakeholder engagement (e.g. direct feedback from local communities as co-evaluators). However, how can the new data streams be managed for applied strategizing?

- **New donors: Commercial investors** – New commercial investment in 'development outcomes' emerges (e.g. social impact bonds, advance market commitment financing for pharmaceuticals, etc.). Is this 'disintermediating' aid organisations, or an opportunity?

- **Crowd sourcing and crowd data-sharing** – Social media and internet activism (e.g. Ushahidi, CrisisCommons, Humanity Road, ICT4Peace) enhance fund-raising and enrich data, but management processes for the use of high quality data remain unclear.

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> "As the Libya effort was beginning, Humanity Road volunteers were just wrapping up their activation for a catastrophic winter storm in Chicago"

Thank you for your contribution – please stay in touch!