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Abstract

Aid to Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has occasional success stories, but they are intermingled amongst tales of waste and failure. The stark reality is that more of the population of SSA is chronically undernourished in the present decade than it was in 1992 and 50 percent of the population is still considered to be living in extreme poverty. These problems persist in spite of the \$650 billion given in aid to Africa by the world's concerned countries since 1960 (Sunderberg and Gelp 2006). It is clear that money and good intent are not sufficient to alleviate the suffering in Africa.

Keywords

Human rights, Sub-Saharan Africa, Food insecurity, Poverty, Humanitarian aid

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African Aid and Success: Four Keys

By Susan Paganelli

Aid to Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has occasional success stories, but they are intermingled amongst tales of waste and failure. The stark reality is that more of the population of SSA is chronically undernourished in the present decade than it was in 1992 and 50 percent of the population is still considered to be living in extreme poverty. These problems persist in spite of the \$650 billion given in aid to Africa by the world's concerned countries since 1960 (Sunderberg and Gelp 2006). It is clear that money and good intent are not sufficient to alleviate the suffering in Africa.

Which programs work, why do they work, and how should their success be gauged? If these questions had simple answers, the numbers above would be vastly different. Yet, the answers are complex for several reasons. First, success is difficult to measure. International humanitarian aid does not have a global report card and there is no organization or entity that evaluates all the efforts made by the numerous groups that are trying to help. Additionally, aid to Africa comes in many forms. There is aid at the macro-level, which includes loans and grants from developed nations, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Alternatively, there is aid at the micro- and grassroots level, which comes from small aid groups, religious organizations, and sometimes, industry, collectively known as non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Although efforts have been made since the early 1990s to standardize and evaluate NGOs, such efforts are problematic and scarce. Therefore, for the purpose of this digest entry, a successful program is defined broadly as one that: 1) has the potential to become self-sustaining and 2) permanently improves the standard of living of the people it is designated to target.

Small-scale efforts by a growing number of NGOs have shown promise as tools of poverty alleviation. These successful aid initiatives have similar characteristics, which if lacking, cause aid efforts to break down. The following four characteristics are commonly found in successful aid projects: simplicity, engagement, resilience, and indigenous involvement.

The Four Characteristics

Simplicity

Simplicity means not requiring confusing and multi-layered actions from the aid recipient. It would be naïve to assume that simplicity for the recipients of aid equates to effortless planning and implementation on the part of the aid providers: programs that have successful results often have a complicated design process. However, as the following example illustrates, keeping projects controllable, keeping the layers of bureaucracy at a minimum, and keeping obligations required of recipients sensible, allows for straightforward implementation and action.

Village Phone is a program that was started in 1976 by Muhammad Yunus and his Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. Its goal is to provide rural villagers access to local telecommunications while providing a viable micro-business opportunity. Village Phone proved so successful that Yunus and the NGO he founded, the Grameen Foundation, has expanded the program to Uganda, Rwanda,

and Cameroon. This program, at the recipient level, is extremely bare bones and simple. An interested villager obtains a cell phone through a micro-loan (optimally given by a local bank or finance group). The acquisition of the phone includes training on phone equipment, use, marketing, and access to a help hotline. The villager then rents the phone out to other villagers and charges per call. The profits realized allow the villager to both repay her loan and invest in her own family. There is no large overhead, involvement of government and other agencies is limited, and the requirements for the village phone operator are minimal. The program pays its way by benefiting all involved. The micro-financiers make money on the loan interest and selling pre-paid phone cards, the cell-phone companies gain customers and business, both real and potential, and the villagers gain local access to telecommunications.

Conversely, a program to start mining co-operatives in Sierra Leone shows why the lack of simplicity can contribute significantly to a project's derailment. In this program, groups of alluvial (surface) miners were encouraged to create cooperatives using money donated from overseas. It was hoped that the creation of a cooperative would improve the miners' lives by giving them better access to permits, equipment, and legitimate buyers. Unfortunately, the program's design had many unrealistic requirements for the miners with little or no allowance for program flexibility. The program required cooperatives to have a minimum of fifty members, a goal that was difficult for many communities to reach. Additionally, the cooperatives had a long list of operational obligations covering personal behavior expectations, official reporting methods, and compliance with legal regulations (Levin and Turay 2008). Because of the complexity of requirements, many of the miners were unaware of the responsibilities required and therefore did not follow through with them. Even had the program been less complex, other characteristics of success were also lacking.

Engagement

Engagement is active involvement on the part of aid providers. This involvement between those hoping to provide aid and those receiving aid should be present at all levels and locations of planning, implementation, and evaluation. Engagement requires that aid givers access the needs and capabilities of an area and population targeted for aid. Once an aid program is initiated, there must also be local involvement by those providing the aid. Aid workers need to monitor the progress and effectiveness of the program. There should be built into the aid plan a process by which an expert or other knowledgeable source is readily available to help with questions or problems.

An example of need for engagement is the following anecdote described by an NGO worker. The NGO built a new automated pump for an existing village water well. When the aid workers returned after a number of months, they found the pump dismantled. After making inquiries, the workers realized that the well site had been the place where women in the village met, shared news, and socialized for many years. When the well was converted, there was no longer an opportunity for socializing, which was more important to the villagers than the automated pump. At some point the NGO planners missed this vital piece of information. Notably, upon returning they discovered the problem. Engagement by the NGO workers reversed a failed project and produced an improved knowledge base for future endeavors. Simplicity and engagement by themselves do not guarantee success; involvement over time is a third critical characteristic.

Resilience

The third common characteristic of success is resilience. Resilience is the ability for any given program to continue long term. All too often, those that provide aid expect a quick fix. As will be shown in the case of diamond mining cooperatives in Sierra Leone, the program may have eventually worked, but was not allowed to progress beyond a year. There are many reasons for the plugs being pulled on projects. It could be anything from lost donors to the recipients losing interest. When designing a project, the long-term feasibility must be assessed and more importantly, it must be expected to be a long-term effort if necessary.

The Sierra Leone Mining Cooperative program mentioned above not only was too complex, but there was not enough time in the design to meet the program's goals. The original program was designed to last two years. There were hold-ups due to weather and legal requirements, resulting in the program's delayed start. Furthermore, because there were initial difficulties the first year (due to the complex nature of the plan) the funding was pulled and the program was ended prematurely. Levin and Turay found in their study that there was a chance of some success after two years if the program had continued, but certainly no chance at the one-year point when the program was stopped. It is significant that the decisions made regarding the continuation or cancellation of the program did not involve the miners, which leads to the last key characteristic.

Indigenous Involvement

The fourth and final characteristic to be considered is indigenous involvement. Aid recipients must have ownership in the project; they need to be stakeholders. When people have a personal stake in a project, they are more likely to be concerned with the final outcome. Many aid projects are planned on continents other than Africa and implemented by those not native to Africa. This lack of involvement by those most affected is a critical reason why many projects do not truly help alleviate the problems they are designed to mitigate.

An excellent example of the power of ownership has been provided by William Easterly in his book, *The White Man's Burden*. Two separate dimensions of involvement are illustrated here. The first is the importance of planning at a local level and the second is the significance of personal investment. Malawian workers for a non-profit organization, Population Services International (PSI) devised a plan to get insecticide-treated bed nets to mothers and children for the prevention of Malaria. The plan involved a two-pronged marketing scheme that allowed nurses at antenatal clinics in rural areas to sell the nets to mothers at an extremely discounted price. In a follow-up survey, it was found that net use was nearly universal by those who had paid for them. Conversely, in Zambia, a survey found that 70 percent of the recipients of *free* nets did not use their nets. The Zambian project was planned by people outside of Zambia who failed to understand the local cultural value incurred by even a minimal investment (Easterly 2006). Although PSI is based out of Washington DC, the project idea originated in Malawi and was designed by local managers and allowed the recipients the choice of buying nets.

Another portrayal of how local involvement makes a difference is illustrated by a study on community involvement in Malawi. Researchers examined school building initiatives in different tribal communities of the country. Where the villagers collectively felt there was a need for schools

and where there was strong village leadership, the school building projects were successful. In other communities where leadership was lacking or access to education less valued, the school building initiatives stumbled. It seems obvious that the value a community places on an aid project has an impact on the successful application of the plan, yet this is an often overlooked and under-valued component of aid planning.

Implementation Methods

The four characteristics discussed above are liable to be vague and unusable concepts without implementation strategies. A number of NGOs do have in-house planning guidelines and strategies, some of which are noted below. Although the four characteristics identified above are not mentioned specifically within them, they can be found intertwined into the planning, implementation, and evaluation process of the guidelines.

Engineers without Borders (EWB) uses the methodology of design, monitoring and evaluation (D+M&E) in creating and implementing its many engineering projects. When designing a project, they analyze what the problems and needs of the targeted community are as well as the community's development capacities. To do this well requires that the members of EWB communicate with the community (engagement and indigenous involvement), develop appropriate and obtainable solutions for the community (simplicity), monitor how the project is progressing (engagement, involvement, and resiliency) and evaluate how to improve the current project or lessons learned for better implementation of future projects (all four qualities).

The Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere, better known as CARE, also uses D+M&E in creating its projects. CARE has been in the business of humanitarian aid for many years and has generated a number of publications and guidelines for implementing aid. One such document was written by a CARE-Uganda task force in 1997. The task force was asked to design a process by which the organization could better monitor and evaluate their projects. The result was "Guidelines to Monitoring and Evaluation: How are we doing?" This document builds on the D+M&E model. What the task force added was a well written and clearly described process of what steps aid workers should take to ably and consistently monitor and evaluate projects. The document stresses communication and involvement with the target population, demonstrating again the elements of engagement and indigenous involvement.

Some NGOs, but an insufficient number, use implementation methods that incorporate the four characteristics. They are happy to share their lessons and operating procedures with others that have the same goals. This leads to the final question of NGO performance and accountability.

NGOs and Accountability: To Whom?

As mentioned in the introduction, NGOs have no universal oversight. The reasons for this lack of oversight are many, but for the most part, can be attributed to the wide range of NGOs, their many diverse aims, and the plethora of locations both from which they originate and in which they are active. A lack of regulation is not in itself a bad situation; as in all transnational institutions, the questions of who would administrate, define, and enforce the regulations are difficult to agree upon. In fact, one could argue that lack of oversight allows for flexibility in the execution of the

NGO's aid goals. However, it could be countered that lack of universal oversight makes for inefficient and perhaps harmful aid initiatives. In some locales, national governments have tried to create oversight by requiring that NGOs desiring to work within their borders register with an official board or ministry. As in the case of Uganda starting in the 1990s, this was not so much to provide oversight and standards, as it was to monitor and control the activities of the individual NGOs (Edwards and Hulme 1996).

Further muddying the waters is the question of to whom the NGOs are ultimately responsible. Edwards and Hulme delineated between functional accountability and strategic accountability. In both cases they listed seven possible NGO accountability constituents. These constituents were identified as beneficiaries, trustees, private contributors, the NGO network, national government, official donors and other NGOs (ones with which the original NGO may be in financial partnership). In the functional, or short-term accountability section, the authors showed the beneficiaries had the least expectation of accountability while the official donors and other NGOs had the most. As far as long-term planning, or strategic accountability, was concerned, the accountability levels were non-existent to low for most constituents and barely higher for other NGOs (Edwards and Hulme 1996). Common sense dictates that the four qualities of simplicity, engagement, resiliency, and indigenous involvement are not players when an NGO must accommodate donors, governments and other aid groups before it can answer to the beneficiaries.

Conclusion

Humanitarian aid in Sub-Saharan Africa has experienced certain amounts of success at the micro- and grassroots levels. The successful aid projects initiated by NGOs often have four general qualities in common. The projects require simple and minimal obligations from the beneficiaries, the aid organization commits to involvement and engagement while the project is ongoing, planning provides for long term goals and solutions over short term fixes, and there is input and involvement from those receiving the aid. Many NGOs experiencing success in their projects have created in-house guidelines, planning procedures, and evaluation techniques that incorporate these four qualities.

Aid organizations (it must be assumed) have the best intentions in mind when they set out to create aid initiatives. As in all things, good intentions alone do not go far in actually achieving the ends to which the organizations aspire. In the absence of universal aid guidelines or oversight, NGOs must take it upon themselves to find out which planning and implementation strategies are effective, share that information with others, and always keep in focus the four qualities of simplicity, engagement, resiliency, and indigenous involvement.

Annotations

“Is Rural Africa in Danger?” *BBC News: Africa Live*. 2005. Website: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/4380915.stm>.

Annotation: This online forum debates the future of the African Village. There are many responses that give readers a sampling of opinions from several sources. A number of the

respondents are from rural African villages and they voice their thoughts on the changing populations of these villages. It is a sampling of personal opinions from those people who have experience with rural Africa. This sampling allows a researcher insight into, but not concrete information about, some of the rural issues existing in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Abdulai, A. and W. E. Huffman. 2005 “The Diffusion of New Agricultural Technologies: The Case of Crossbred-Cow Technology in Tanzania.” *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* 87(3): 645-659.

Annotation: Abdulai and Huffman make a detailed statistical analysis of the acceptance and spread of crossbred cattle in Tanzania. They conclude that acceptance of the crossbreeding technology by farmers depends on variables such as market proximity, word of mouth, and educational level. Their technical report provides an insight into which factors help with technology diffusion.

Acon, Judith Aguga. 2008. “Kigezi Business Development Services: UGA090 CARE Final Report.” Vienna: CARE-Austria, Austrian Development Agency. Website: http://expert.care.at/uploads/media/UGA090_CARE_Final_Report.pdf

Annotation: This report is an evaluation of a Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE) project in Uganda. The project was to aid in development of small, traditional sustainable businesses in the Kigezi region of Uganda. The report uses CARE guidelines in its evaluation. The report includes goals, goals met, planning processes, monitoring, and actions taken during the project. This report is an excellent example of the monitoring and evaluation methods that some aid organizations use to increase their effectiveness in providing aid.

Aina, L. O. 2007. “Globalisation and Small-Scale Farming in Africa: What Role for Information Centres?” World Library and Information Congress: 73RD IFLA General Conference and Council. Durban, South Africa.

Annotation: Dr. Aina works at the University of Botswana in the Department of Library and Information Studies. His paper discusses the importance of information and technology access to rural African farmers. He argues that without access to modern information sources such as the Internet, the opportunities to escape poverty will continue to by-pass many rural farmers. Dr. Aina discusses the difficulties faced by many farmers and offers some solutions. In particular, setting up information centers throughout rural areas, staffed with trained people, to allow farmers access to electronic resources. It is a simple look at a relevant problem in rural Africa.

Amadei, Bernard. 2009. Interview by Susan Paganelli. Colorado Springs, CO.

Annotation: Dr. Amadei is the founder of both Engineers without Borders (EWB) and the Mortenson Center in Engineering for Developing Communities at the University of Colorado,

Boulder. He has been involved for many years in promoting development and poverty alleviation in conjunction with engineering education. In our discussion, Dr. Amadei explained the methodology known as Design, Monitoring, and Evaluation or D plus M&E. We discussed how these planning elements must be used in order to design a project with any hope of success. According to him, when a project does not work, it is usually due to a breakdown in the D plus M&E process. Dr. Amadei is very committed to helping the world's poor and his experiences make him an excellent source of information.

Amadei, Bernard, and Evan Thomas. 2009. *Accounting for Human Behavior, Local Conditions and Organizational Constraints in Humanitarian Development Models*. Boulder, CO: University of Colorado at Boulder.

Annotation: The authors, both of whom have been involved with the NGO Engineers without Borders (EWB), discuss the pitfalls and peaks of planning and implementing sustained community development (SCD) projects. They use two case studies to illustrate some of the problems inherent in the process. The authors make a pertinent point regarding the follies of human nature and how this can be enough to derail any project. This well-written report provides a helpful examination of aid projects and why or why not they may fail or succeed. The authors also include some thoughtful suggestions on how aid may be better evaluated and implemented.

Atampugre, Nicholas. 1997. "Aid, NGOs and Grassroots Development: Northern Burkina Faso". *Review of African Political Economy* 24 (71):57-73.

Annotation: This article is a detailed account of the interplay of village groups, unions, and both local and international NGOs in Burkina Faso. The article touches on a number of issues but mainly discusses abilities of two northern NGOs, Oxfam and ACORN, to facilitate grassroots level sustainable development. The author contends that the very structures of international NGOs make it impossible for them to truly convert their efforts to local, self-sustaining NGOs. This article, although twelve years old, presents general issues that are still relevant in Sub-Saharan NGO activities today.

Barton, Tom, Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend, Alex de Sherbinin, and Patrizio Warren. 1997. *Our People, Our Resources*. Gland, Switzerland, Cambridge, United Kingdom: IUCN. Website: <http://www.ewb-international.org/pdf/our%20people,%20our%20resources.pdf>.

Annotation: This publication was created by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) to help guide aid workers in pairing population dynamics with environmental stewardship in poor, rural communities. It is extremely detailed and informative. The guide emphasizes participatory action research (PAR) and the three core principles of primary environmental care (PEC). These are meeting needs, protecting the environment, and empowering the community. The guide is in wide use and although not a blueprint for community development strategies, it is an excellent start.

Bayliss, K. 2003. "Utility Privatisation in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Case Study of Water." *The Journal of Modern African Studies* 41(4): 507-531.

Annotation: Bayliss, from the University of Greenwich, London, takes an in-depth look at the pros and cons of privatizing the water supply in Sub-Saharan Africa. She explores why there has been a move in recent years to privatize, whether or not privatization has improved the water supply, and what privatization requires (from the host government and companies taking on the contracts). She concludes that although governmental enterprises were not always efficient, private companies do not necessarily mean an improved water supply. This piece is well researched and objective.

Bernstein, A. 2004. "Key to Growth: Supporting South Africa's Emerging Entrepreneurs." *CDE Research, Policy in the Making* 12, June.

Annotation: Anne Bernstein is an editor and writer for the Centre for Development and Enterprise, which compiles and disseminates policy reports and other research for South African issues. This report is based on research mainly done by Professor Lawrence Schlemmer and Judi Hudson. The article focuses on why there is a lack of overall success with small-scale entrepreneurial efforts in South Africa. Using case studies, the author have identified a number of governmental, financial, and societal problems. The article includes possible solutions and recommendations for policy action.

_____.2007. "Entrepreneurs in the Wilderness." *Business Day (South Africa)*, May 31.

Annotation: In this article, Anne Bernstein interviews small business owners in Soweto, South Africa and focuses on problems they are facing and offers possible alternatives to solve them. She emphasizes that solutions need to emphasize "enabling the environment"; working on crime, transportation, an able and willing workforce, and effective local business organizations. An opinion piece, this article brings to light problems and ideas for positive change. Bernstein does not go into depth on how to implement these changes nor does she identify by whom they should be made.

Brainard, Lael, and Vinca LaFleur. 2007. "Making Poverty History? How Activists, Philanthropists, and the Public Are Changing Global Development." In *Brookings Blum Roundtable 2007*. Aspen: Brookings Global Economy and Development. Website: <http://www.brookings.edu/global/brookings-blum-roundtable.aspx>

Annotation: This booklet reports on the information covered at the Aspen Institute's Brookings Blum Roundtable in 2007. The report concentrates on the emergence of new providers of foreign aid. Thanks to efforts by celebrities such as Bono, extremely successful entrepreneurs like Bill Gates, countries that are newly emerging into the aid business such as China, businesses with a mind for philanthropy, and the increasingly involved global populace, aid has taken on new functions, forms, and faces. This report points out some of the inherent problems and benefits from this new influx of aid. Researchers will find this a glowing report on the efforts of

the “new givers,” but the report is also fair with its recognition of the difficulties posed by multiple problems, multiple donors, and little accountability.

Bryceson, Deborah Fahy, Annabel Bradbury, and Trevor Bradbury. 2008. “Roads to Poverty Reduction? Exploring Rural Roads’ Impact on Mobility in Africa and Asia.” *Development Policy Review* 26 (4):459-482.

Annotation: Infrastructure subjects such as road development have been a constant factor in development and poverty alleviation theories. The authors of this study try to ascertain if roads help in relieving rural poverty and if road building and maintenance should continue to play a part in development plans. The data comes from a number of villages in three countries: Zambia, Ethiopia, and Vietnam. The data includes information on wealth levels, distances traveled, modes of transportation, and purpose of trips taken. The authors conclude that roads and road enhancement are important tools to help alleviate poverty; however, they include the caveats that transportation methods and the ability to obtain transport options other than feet are equally important factors.

Butler, Rhett. 2005. “Cell Phones May Help ‘Save’ Africa”. *Mongabay.com*, July 18. Website: http://news.mongabay.com/2005/0712-rhett_butler.html.

Annotation: The author reports that rising cell phone use in Africa may be a path to successful development and poverty alleviation. Using Bangladesh as a model, the Grameen Foundation USA partnered with a network provider to start a program of micro-initiatives in Uganda. The phones provide business opportunities across a wide spectrum. Additionally, studies on cell phone use shows cell phones, more than personal computers (PCs), allow users to access information otherwise unavailable or hard to come by. Due to its short length, the article does not include much data but it does provide decent references.

Calderisi, Robert. 2006. *The Trouble with Africa: Why Foreign Aid Isn’t Working*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Annotation: The author has spent more than thirty years in the international development arena. He worked mainly for the World Bank in senior positions and as its international spokesman on Africa. In this book, he argues compellingly that Africa not only has lagged behind in development, but that it has also actually receded in growth over the last forty years compared to other developing areas of the world. He argues that Africa is its own worst enemy by allowing culture, correctness, and corruption to interfere with any productive growth. In addition, he feels that Western aid, in its many guises, has hindered rather than helped the situation. The author offers a number of perhaps radical yet sensible directions that the world (including African countries) can take to help Africa become less dependent on foreign aid and achieve its potential.

Clay, Jason W. 1996. *Generating Income and Conserving Resources: 20 Lessons from the Field*. Baltimore: World Wildlife Fund.

Annotation: This short report presents twenty lessons about generating income in developing communities. The author worked for many years with rain forest communities, simultaneously helping them to create income-generating markets while still conserving their resources. A few of the topics briefly covered by the author are community assessments, product choice, value adding, production analysis, and standard setting. Although written thirteen years ago, the lessons presented within the report are pertinent to current research and this paper in particular.

De Muro, Pasquale, and Francesco Burchi. 2007. *Education for Rural People and Food Security. A Cross Country Analysis*, New York: N. R. M. a. E. Department: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Annotation: In this comprehensive study, the authors show a clear correlation between lack of education and increased food insecurity. Although there is substantial research on how hunger affects education, this is a new approach on how lack of education is related to poverty and hunger. Using Millennium Development Goals as their starting point, the authors looked at education levels and attendance rates in rural areas of forty-eight low-income countries. They found that lack of education, in particular primary education, contributes to continued poverty and hunger. They conclude that many aspects of poverty could be lessened by better education at all levels, but particularly at the primary level. Although this article is rather technical, it contains a wealth of useful and accessible information on the relationship between education and food insecurity.

Dicklitch, S. and H. Rice “The Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) and Faith-Based NGO Aid to Africa.” *Development in Practice* 14(5): 660-672.

Annotation: This article explores the success of faith-based NGOs, specifically the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). The authors claim that the long-term success of the MCC is due to its holistic approach. The MCC emphasizes local initiatives, individual dignity, self-help empowerment, long-term planning, education, and a fostering of trust. The authors conclude that aid projects designed to gradually increase local prosperity and development are preferable and ultimately more successful than aid projects that seeks rapid transformation amid large-scale initiatives. Although the authors seem biased toward faith-based groups, their conclusions match with other sources that claim gradual grassroots levels of change are ultimately more successful than other approaches.

Easterly, William. 2006. “At Google Talks.” (April 6). Website: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_H0g30YwQ8

Annotation: William Easterly is a professor at New York University. Here, he discusses his book, *The White Man’s Burden*, which is about the failure of international aid to alleviate poverty. He points out that there are grand efforts and plans being implemented by many people

and organizations with millions of dollars, yet, they do not work as there is no accountability for any one part of the process. The short lecture and following question and answer segment allow an insight into Easterly's motivation for writing the book. This is a thought-provoking talk and an excellent introduction to Easterly's most recent work.

_____. *The White Man's Burden: Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good*. New York: Penguin Press.

Annotation: Easterly wrote a compelling argument on why Western aid has failed to help those in need. He argues that there is little accountability for grandiose and complicated aid plans that in the end fail to help the intended recipients. He uses the terms "planners" and "searchers" to illustrate how some people search for a solution, while others simply plan. Easterly's use of individual case studies linked with easy to understand research and well thought out arguments makes this a worthwhile read.

_____. 2008. "Can the West Save Africa?" *The Brookings Global Economy and Development Working Paper*. New York: Brookings Global Economy and Development.

Annotation: This paper explores in great detail western aid to Africa, attitudes of the west towards Africa and conclusions about "transformational aid" versus "marginal aid." He argues that Africa has received a huge amount of attention and aid yet still lags behind other regions of the world in development. He discusses large-scale efforts for immediate change (transformational) and smaller-scale efforts for gradual change (marginal). Easterly emphasizes the difficulties of obtaining definitive evidence of successful or non-successful aid outcomes from either approach. He leans towards the view that transformational efforts yield less successful outcomes than marginal efforts.

Edwards, Michael, and David Hulme (eds.) 1996. *Beyond the Magic Bullet*. West Hartford: Kumarian Press.

Annotation: This book, while dated, is one of the few to address NGO performance and accountability. The many authors contribute thoughts and research on how effective NGOs really are. There are interesting references to how NGO agendas can be influenced and changed according to donor wishes and governmental involvement. The book, using case studies, also examines the differences and interconnectedness of NGOs and community-based grassroots organizations. Many of the issues addressed in this book are still unresolved and problematic today, proving that there needs to be more research into NGO performance.

Egendorf, L. K. (ed.). 2005. *Africa: Opposing Viewpoints*. Farmington Hills, MI: Greenhaven Press.

Annotation: "Opposing Viewpoints" is a series that offers differing viewpoints on global issues. This volume covers Africa and includes articles, book excerpts, and interviews from different experts on a variety of issues such as poverty, disease, and development. The book is a basic

look into a number of different issue areas and the many opposing thoughts on why these areas are a problem and what possible solutions may be. The series is targeted towards young adults and novice researchers so as to expose them to differing opinions on single topics. This book is not a particularly strong resource; however, it draws from a number of journals, writers, and thinkers, and is therefore is a useful reference aid.

Even-Zohar, Chaim 2005. "Background Paper on Macroeconomic Issues." London: Diamond Development Initiative.

Annotation: This paper was written to provide background information to organizers of the Diamond Development Initiative. The author, who has extensive experience in the world of diamond production and trade, writes a stark picture of the alluvial diamond mining industry. He gives a quick background to the multi-lateral issues of the diamond market. The issues include: a labyrinth of banking rules, government rules (or lack thereof), commodity imports, foreign donors, foreign "middle men," unclear ownership of land and production, corruption, and miners trying to make a living. Since these issues make cash the choice means of commerce, it is a system rife with possibilities for money laundering and terror financing. The author gives suggestions of how the various players could improve the situation. Improvements would require long-term thinking, communication, and enforcement at many levels. This article is an excellent read about the myriad of problems facing anyone involved with African diamond mining.

Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International. 2006. "An Explanatory Document – Introducing Fairtrade". Bonn, Germany: Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International. Website: http://www.fairtrade.net/uploads/media/Explan_Doc_Introducing_Fairtrade.pdf

Annotation: This document is, as it is titled, an introduction to Fairtrade. The introduction covers the rationale behind fair trade, the organizations involved, certification, and the processes involved to become fair trade certified. This report contains little in the way of hard facts, but is a solid start to understanding the concept and workings of the free trade system.

Gabel, Katy. 2008. "Kenya: Low-Cost Phones Revolutionize Africa." *allAfrica.com* (September 18) <http://allafrica.com/stories/200809180964.html>.

Annotation: This interview with Michael Joseph, chief executive officer of Safaricom, describes the growth of Safaricom and the impact of wireless networking in Kenya. Joseph, a South African with extensive experience in wireless communications, tells how he took over Safaricom in 2000 and nursed it to an 85 percent market share despite difficulty in finding overseas financing. Joseph's market plan included a novel billing system to attract customers with little money to spare. More important than his successful business though, is how cell phone availability has impacted the average Kenyan's life. Now, farmers can get market prices and planting information. Families can stay in touch and information about health issues can be transferred through the network. Joseph would like to see more broadband capability throughout the country, but especially in schools. This article is understandably biased, as Joseph

is talking about his own company, however, it stresses an extremely important aspect of development, which is increased access to communication.

Garvey, Niamh, and Peter Newell. 2005. "Corporate Accountability to the Poor? Assessing the Effectiveness of Community-Based Strategies." *Development in Practice* 15 (3/4):389-404.

Annotation: This article is an examination of the factors that influence corporate accountability (CA) in poor communities. The authors discuss how the state, the legal framework, the businesses themselves, and the communities in which they are active all have a role in deciding accountability levels. Furthermore, the extent to which business feel compelled to be accountable is motivated by the interplay between these factors. NGOs have their place in this mix as well, being both a detriment and aid towards accountability depending on the circumstances of their involvement. This article is a solid introduction to the many factors at play in CA in development enterprises.

Gugerty, Mary Kay. 2008. "The Effectiveness of NGO Self-Regulation: Theory and Evidence from Africa." *Public Administration and Development* 28 (2):105-118.

Annotation: This article examines the rise of regulatory practices for NGOs in Sub-Saharan Africa. Through case studies of three countries, the author compares and contrasts the regulation methods employed by both the governments and NGOs themselves. She evaluates the methods' strengths and weaknesses. Many of the regulatory moves are efforts by the NGOs to self-regulate, both through voluntary and governmental efforts. The author also points out the benefits of legitimacy and reputation that collective action towards self-regulation on the part of NGOs can provide. Academic study of NGO regulation and accountability is still sparse, yet this article adds a brief and informative addition to the subject.

Horta, Korinna. 2002. "NGO Efforts in Africa's Largest Oil Project" *Review of African Political Economy* 29 (91):173-177.

Annotation: This article examines how NGOs banded together in order to slow or halt the development of an oil pipeline through Cameroon and Chad. Allied against the powerful force of the World Bank, the NGOs were able to bring to public light the possible negative impact of the pipeline. This article does not contain a lot of specific information regarding NGO activity, but it does portray the potential power that NGOs have when they band together for a common cause.

Hunter-Gault, Charlayne. 2006. *New News Out of Africa*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Annotation: The author, an award-winning journalist, has spent much of her life reporting for western news agencies from Africa. This book is a firsthand account of her experiences and observations. She covers South Africa during the end of apartheid, the political upheavals of Rwanda and other countries, and the current "African Renaissance." It is an intriguing read,

mixing personal insights with rational projections of what the future holds for the continent. Although it is not a source for blunt data, it is an excellent short overview by a knowledgeable source to some of Africa's current social issues.

International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development. 2009. "Executive Summary of the Synthesis Report." Johannesburg, South Africa. Website: http://www.agassessment.org/docs/SR_Exec_Sum_280508_English.htm.

Annotation: This summary incorporates the final reports of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD). This cooperative effort, initiated in 2002 by the World Bank and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), was a global, transnational process to assess agricultural knowledge, science and technology (AKST). The report has two parts. The first covers AKST and how it can be used to mitigate world problems such as hunger, poverty, and sustainable development. The second part covers eight themes deemed by the authors to be critical to sustainability and development goals. The main themes that emerge from this report are the need for innovative and cooperative efforts, a respect for the environment, a respect for local and traditional knowledge, and emphasis on aiding the world's small farmers and producers. This report was a colossal effort that deserves to be included in any evaluation of development aid.

_____. 2009. "Summary for Decision Makers of the Global Report". Johannesburg, South Africa. Website: http://www.agassessment.org/docs/IAASTD_GLOBAL_SDM_JAN_2008.pdf.

Annotation: This summary covers the final reports of the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD). The summary contains key findings, challenges, and options for action. As the title suggests, the findings mainly have to do with the multi-functionality of agriculture and how agriculture is imbedded in the fight to improve the lives of those in most need. The findings have import for any group working to improve conditions for the world's poorest and the options for actions are an excellent start for those looking into policy change.

Johnson, Susan. 2004. "The Impact of Microfinance Institutions in Local Financial Markets: A Case Study from Kenya" *Journal of International Development* 16 (3):501-517.

Annotation: In this article, the author examines the impact of microfinance institutions (MFIs) on other lending institutions in Kenya. According to the author, there has been little, if any, examination of how MFIs interplay in local financial markets with other types of lending institutions. She concludes that MFIs have little impact on other institutions, but that the lending market on a macro scale has impact on the MFIs. She also concludes that MFIs do not necessarily cater to those consumers considered "poor." This article is heavy with economic jargon; however, even for a less economic minded researcher, it offers basic information on alternative lending institutions used by borrowers in Africa.

Jordan, Lisa, and Peter van Tuijl (eds.). 2006. NGO Accountability: Politics, Principles and Innovations. London: Earthscan.

Annotation: As NGOs become more plentiful and active throughout the world there are rising concerns regarding their agendas and effectiveness. This book looks at the rise of NGOs, the challenges that face them, and the complex issues involved in creating an accountability system for them. The contributing authors present pertinent arguments regarding NGO responsibilities and rights and infringements upon the same. This book is an excellent overview of the difficult balancing act NGOs face between legitimacy and freedom of action.

Jütting, Johannes, Denis Drechsler, Sebastian Bartsch, and Indra de Soysa (eds.). 2007. Informal Institutions: How Social Norms Help or Hinder Development. Paris: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Annotation: This book examines the interplay between culture-based informal institutions and development. In many states, development aims can be hindered by cultural views on governance, business practices, and conceptions of gender. Conversely, these informal institutions often provide services where governments or mainstream businesses do not. The book pinpoints many of these issues and the difficulties they pose to aid organizations. Furthermore, the authors discuss ways in which the issues have been dealt with in the past and how they may be handled in the future.

Kay, M. and T. Brabben 2000. "Treadle Pumps for Irrigation in Africa: Knowledge Synthesis Report." Rome: International Programme for Technology and Research in Irrigation and Drainage, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Annotation: This was the first in a series of "Knowledge Reports" by the International Programme for Technology and Research in Irrigation and Drainage (IPTRID). The authors examined treadle water pumps and their impact in four countries: Zambia, Zimbabwe, Niger, and Kenya. The report explores manufacturing, distribution, and monetary issues related to the pumps. The positive impact of treadle pumps to rural farmers can be enormous, particularly in the area of increased food production. However, there are concerns as well, such as market glut due and a potential to use too much water from local water tables. Included in the report were observations on cultural impact of the pumps and varying attitudes throughout the countries with regards to the pumps. This is a well-written report on a technology that has potential to improve peoples' lives.

Kickstart. 2009. "About Us." Website: <http://www.kickstart.org/about-us/>.

Annotation: Started by two aid workers in 1991 under the name of ApproTEC, this organization (renamed in 2005) creates opportunities for small-scale entrepreneurs to be successful. Kickstart is committed to helping the poor in Sub-Saharan Africa. The tools the organization develops are marketable to the local populace and are developed to increase farming yields or food production. Kickstart uses a five-step model to develop the tools, get them to willing

entrepreneurs, and evaluate the outcomes. The organization's methods and motivations are an excellent example of good intentions meeting up with great planning and implementation abilities.

King, Kenneth. 2007. "Balancing Basic and Post-basic Education in Kenya: National versus International Policy Agendas." *International Journal of Educational Development* 27 (4):358-370.

Annotation: The author examines many of the complex and conflicting issues within the education system in Kenya. First, he discusses the difference and conflicts between Kenyan goals for education and international education goals for Kenya. Second, he notes the difficulty of matching policy development with actual implementation of that policy. Third, he points out that many of the themes of education cannot be categorized simply as "education issues." They cross the boundaries into other policy arenas. He finishes by stating the need for a multi-institutional commitment to education. From the financial and policy issues to halting corruption, a continued effort must be made in order to see a productive education system. This article is compelling as it airs the multifaceted challenges facing African governments as they struggle with education issues.

Kishindo, P. 2003. "Community Development in Malawi: Experiences at the Grassroots." *Development in Practice* 13(4): 380-387.

Annotation: Paul Kishindo, chancellor at Malawi University, draws on three case studies to examine community development. He explores the attribute of and types of community initiatives had experienced success. He concludes that personal benefit and social pressures were two main factors in successful initiatives, another being a belief that the project will be achieved through community effort. This is a brief insight into some of the social factors of community development.

Kyed, H. M. and L. Buur 2006. "Recognition and Democratization: 'New Roles' for Traditional Leaders in Sub-Saharan Africa". Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS).

Annotation: The authors compiled points made at the AEGIS Conference in London, 2005. This compilation explores the roles, both new and old, of traditional leaders in Sub-Saharan Africa, and what these roles are now, or may become. The authors relied substantially on papers from the conference as well as their own research. The roles of "traditional" leaders have been varied and complicated post-colonialism. Depending on the region or state, the roles have been used to a government's advantage, undermined, or quelled. In addition, as governments within states change, so do these traditional roles. These issues are further complicated by arbitrary colonial borders that do not match up with the social borders. This piece has excellent references and is highly readable. Understanding leadership in rural areas and how that leadership helps or hinders both government and aid initiatives is essential to successful development programs.

Levin, Estelle Agnes, and Ansumana Babar Turay. 2008. "Artisanal Diamond Cooperatives in Sierra Leone: Success or Failure?" Diamond Development Initiative. Website: <http://www.africafiles.org/article.asp?ID=18659>.

Annotation: In 2005, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) set up the Integrated Diamond Management Program (IDMP). This program was designed to lessen the nefarious sides of diamond mining (smuggling, diamonds for arms, insurgency/war funding) and create eventually self-sustaining mining cooperatives. After only one season, the program was considered a failure and discontinued. In this report, the authors examine the many and varied reasons for the failure. They also consider the possibility that IDMP was not a complete failure and could have, given time and sensible actions, worked for some of the groups involved. The factors involved in the program's failure should be considered universal; therefore this article should be a required reading for anyone involved in or hoping to design a grassroots development program.

Lines, Thomas. 2008. *Making Poverty: A History*. London: Zed Books.

Annotation: The author takes a novel approach to the problem of global poverty. He examines the historical reasons for why the poor are so poor and builds possible solutions from that framework. He argues that the truly poverty stricken countries are forced to be involved in global markets which require them to export staples that should instead be used to create their own food security. His points are well argued and provide areas of consideration for anyone researching how to help the world's poor.

Linton, April. 2005. "Partnering for Sustainability: Business-NGO Alliances in the Coffee Industry." *Development in Practice* 15 (3/4):600-614.

Annotation: According to the author, a shift in the supply and demand of coffee beans has created a crisis for coffee growers. She examines the way in which NGOs have influenced large companies, as well as the general public, to make morally responsible decisions as they buy coffee. This change in the marketing chain of coffee beans has both benefits and consequences to all involved, which the author does a thorough job of addressing. This article is helpful as an example of the power of NGOs to influence the general public as well as humanitarian businesses practices.

Mincer, Julian. 2008. "Microlending for Microbankers" *The Wall Street Journal Online* (March 20). Website: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120597508026550479.html>.

Annotation: This article is a short introduction into the recent growth of personalized Internet micro-finance. The author discusses a number of groups that now, through the Internet, give individuals wishing to loan small amounts of money access to those in need of small loans. Most of the groups that facilitate the lending and borrowing grew out of a desire to help alleviate poverty in poor areas of the world. Although not full of details, this article provides a brief overview of the expanding Internet micro-lending phenomenon.

Mosley, Paul, and June Rock. 2004. "Microfinance, Labour Markets and Poverty in Africa: A Study of Six Institutions." *Journal of International Development* 16 (3):467-500.

Annotation: This is an in-depth study of microfinance and its impact or possible impact, on poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa. The authors concentrate on the many "spin-off" benefits that often accompany lending programs. These spin-off benefits give added weight to the impact value of microfinance programs. The article ends with a comparative look at measures that could be used to improve the impact of micro financing. This article contains some insightful information on the many variables involved in microfinance in Africa, but one must slog through a large amount of technical information to find it.

Moyo, Dambisa. 2009. Dead Aid. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

Annotation: The author, a native Zambian, holds a Doctorate in Economics from Oxford University and has worked for World Bank and Goldman Sachs. She argues that foreign aid has hurt, rather than helped Sub-Saharan Africa. She states that the billions of US dollars in aid over the last fifty years has led to more corruption, market distortion, and further poverty thus creating a vicious cycle of aid dependence. Moyo proposes some thought provoking actions that can and should be taken to stop the dependence cycle. Most notably and no doubt controversial, is to quickly wean dependent African states off of foreign aid.

Myers, J. 1998. "Human Rights and Development: Using Advanced Technology to Promote Human Rights in Sub-Saharan Africa." *Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law* 30 (2/3) (Spring/Summer).

Annotation: The author, a lawyer, makes an argument that lack of modern technological development in Sub-Saharan Africa is a violation of recognized human rights. In addition, she explores how development of certain technologies (mainly easy, affordable access to computers and the internet) if not done carefully, will further exasperate existing human rights issues. She concludes that it will require the cooperation of NGOs, governments, and corporations to help bring these necessary technologies to Africa while simultaneously making sure that the arrival of them does more good than harm. Although somewhat dated, the issues Myers brings to light are still relevant and thought worthy.

O'Brien, Jeffrey M. 2008. "The Only Nonprofit That Matters." *Fortune 500* (February 28). Website: http://money.cnn.com/magazines/fortune/fortune_archive/2008/03/03/103796533/index.htm?postversion=2008022611.

Annotation: The author explains the creation and operation of Kiva.com, one of the newest ways to give individual charitable donations. Kiva is an Internet site that allows donors to match up with entrepreneurs in need of finance from all over the world. Other organizations are taking note and starting similar sites. This article gives a brief but thorough overview to this new type of microfinance and aid lending.

Prahalad, C. K. 2006. The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid. Philadelphia: Wharton School Publishing.

Annotation: In this book, Prahalad explores the potential of marketing that targets and involves the world's poorest populations. He describes the world of consumers as a pyramid. At the top are the populations with the highest incomes and where most businesses focus their products and marketing. The large bottom level is where the poorest, yet most populous, populations are represented. He wants businesses, governments, civil society, and aid groups to fundamentally change how they each think about those living in the bottom layer of the pyramid: in sum, to think of this layer as a vast, potential workforce and market. He argues that aid and charity are not long-term solutions, but that engagement and opportunity are. He follows through with how to implement these needed changes. In this book, the author backs up his excellent argument with diagrams, statistics, and case studies.

Research and Extension Division NRR. 2007. Education and Training for Food Security Capacity: Capacity Building and Good Practices in Five African Countries. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Annotation: This book is a collection of field reports from five different Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) initiatives throughout Sub-Saharan Africa. All of the initiatives focused on rural community involvement in conjunction with a resource or issue of the target country (Gambia, Mozambique, Guinea, Niger, or Mali). The reports, which are set up in a similar format, cover project objectives, training objectives, training methods, impact, sustainability and cost. Each section explains how the initiative will help and/or is helping local communities to improve their living conditions. This book would be helpful for individuals or groups who need information about projects that are currently underway.

Resource Consulting Services, Limited. 2008. "Feasibility Study for the Development of a Fair Trade Diamond Standard and Certification System for Transfair USA." United Kingdom.

Annotation: This report was done on behalf of Transfair USA with funding from the Tiffany Foundation in order to ascertain the feasibility of a Fair Trade Standard for diamonds. The report covers many aspects of the diamond trade from producers to consumers. The authors explore and evaluate the differing production capacities of mining operations. They conclude that there is potential for a Fair Trade certification program, but it will require extensive and long term planning. While the report content is primarily for diamond retailers, the information it covers is an excellent resource for those wishing to study fair trade and diamond mining and production at the micro-level.

Sahn, D. E. and D. C. Stifel. 2004. "Urban-Rural Inequality in Living Standards in Africa." United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER).

Annotation: Sahn and Stifel have created a technical and detailed report on the disparity between rural and urban areas in Sub-Saharan Africa. Using data that measures eight living

standard indicators (poverty, education, infant mortality rate, etc.), they statistically analyzed the rural-urban divide. According to their findings, not only does a rural-urban divide exist, but it is extreme and continuing. This paper provides an in-depth and thorough exploration of the topic.

Shivji, Issa G. 2007. Silences in NGO Discourse: The Role and Future of NGOs in Africa. Oxford: Fahamu.

Annotation: The author, a well-known scholar from Tanzania, writes a critical review of NGOs and their work in Africa. He argues that NGOs in their present form are, for the most part, unwitting tools in modern day imperialism. Although he concedes that many NGOs have altruistic goals and motives, their methods, partnerships, and human rights' principles influence a neoliberal agenda at work in Africa. This book is certainly thought-provoking and provides a necessary counter point to humanitarian aid issues.

Smillie, Ian. 2005. "Background Paper on Micro Development Issues." London: Diamond Development Initiative. Website: <http://www.ddiglobal.org/contentDocuments/ddi-micro%20paper%202005-08.pdf>.

Annotation: This paper was written to give background information to organizers of the Diamond Development Initiative. It briefly covers the extreme living conditions of those people attempting to survive by alluvial diamond mining. These people, mostly young men, are trying to escape poverty by finding diamonds. Often they instead find themselves worse off in a non-regulated, dog-eat-dog world of shady diamond trading. In addition to the dire living conditions, the areas that are being mined are subject to criminal activity, gangs, and extreme environmental degradation. The author suggests some actions that could be taken at all levels of the diamond trade to help alleviate the dire situations created by this small-scale mining. The author seems to underplay the vast amounts of money and power that must be at play in this quasi-world of diamond mining and therefore, fittingly, also underestimates the feasibility of his possible solutions.

Stanley, Ryan. 2005. "Village Phone – A Tool for Empowerment." (November). Grameen Foundation USA Publication Series. Website: <http://www.grameenfoundation.org/pubdownload/~pubid=25>.

Annotation: The author spent time in Uganda and Rwanda helping to set up and manage the Village Phone (VP) initiative. This initiative is modeled after the successful Grameen Village Phone program in Bangladesh. The author discusses how the program has made a positive impact on those involved. Village Phone Operators (VPOs) obtain their cell phones through micro-loans. Most village phone operators experience greater financial freedom, increased stature within their villages, and increased knowledge. Perhaps this latter point is the most important. Most VPOs are women in poverty, thus susceptible to HIV/AIDS. VPOs are empowered by their increased knowledge and decreased dependence on others, which enables them to lessen their chances (and perhaps others in their families) of acquiring the disease. This program has the potential to drastically improve the lives of many involved.

Sundberg, Mark, and Alan Gelp. 2006. "Making Aid Work." *Finance and Development* 43 (4). Website: <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2006/12/sundberg.htm>.

Annotation: This article is a brief exploration of where the aid money given by Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries over the last forty years has actually gone. The authors contend that "development aid" is not used for actual development a large percentage of the time. In fact, only 38 percent of total development aid is actually going to projects such as education, infrastructure, and disease control. The authors point out trends, such as the end of the Cold War, that have made a difference on amounts and types of aid given. They conclude with identifying positive trends in aid, in particular, that more aid is going to countries with better civil liberties and political rights than has happened in the past. This article does a credible job of summing up past and present issues regarding foreign aid to Africa.

World Bank. 2005. "The Effectiveness of World Bank Support." World Bank Operations Evaluation Department. Washington, DC: The World Bank.

Annotation: This evaluation covers the World Bank's involvement in community-based development (CBD) and community-driven development (CDD). Although the subtle differences between these two approaches are compared and contrasted within this report, they are for the most part lumped together (CBD/CDD). The evaluation is a comprehensive review of increasingly popular approaches to development, but ones the World Bank has not assessed in depth until recently. Outcomes of World Bank CBD/CDD projects were evaluated, as were sustainability, institutional development impact, and the bank's own operation policies. Persons interested in community-oriented aid would find the conclusions and recommendations of this report helpful.

_____. 2006. Infrastructure at the Crossroads. Washington, D.C.: The World Bank.

Annotation: This book reports on the lessons learned from successful and less successful infrastructure projects facilitated by the World Bank since 1985. Although it discusses mainly macro level aid, there are references to micro aid projects. Additionally, the reoccurring problems identified from this analysis seem to be universal to all levels of aid. Mainly, these are issues of communication with stakeholders, choosing realistic projects, and evaluation of results. This report is well presented but may error on the side of self-congratulation.

_____. 2008. "Poverty and the Environment: Understanding Linkages at the Household Level, Environment and Development." Washington, DC: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank.

Annotation: This report is comprised of research that links poverty, health, environmental resources, and local environmental policy. It is clear from this research that poorer, rural households depend upon natural resources more than households in more affluent areas. Additionally, health issues such as sanitation, unsafe water, and malnutrition are directly linked to resource management. Finally, the research evaluated environmental resource policy and

found that in many cases prudent policy can alleviate poverty at the household level. This report presents a clear picture of poverty and its relationship to environmental issues; however, it does not address how this information can be translated into relevant aid policies.

Worldwatch Institute. 2007. "State of the World: Our Urban Future." Edited by L. Starke. New York: The Worldwatch Institute.

Annotation: This report is a compilation of articles that pertain to growing urbanization and the challenges it poses. Many aspects of these challenges are covered, such as sanitation, transportation, public health, and environmental impact. There are vignettes of success stories in each section, along with graphs and other data. This is an interesting and informative collection that would be helpful to anyone studying urban issues.

Thompson, Todd. 2006. "Bottling Hope in Africa." *Rural Cooperatives* 73 (3):14-29.

Annotation: Land O'Lakes, a large US dairy company, is helping to improve Uganda's dairy industry. Working with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the US Agency for International Development, the company is actively involved in all levels of the industry, from small farm cooperatives to marketing the finished products. This article covers the involvement of the company and the successes reaped by those Ugandans who are part of the dairy product chain. The company's international development division supplies training, marketing assistance, financial advice, animal husbandry help, and consulting for increased value-added products. The author is the country manager for Land O'Lakes in Uganda, so the article leans towards self-congratulations. Regardless, the contents of the article will assist those looking for stories of successful aid initiatives.

TransFair USA. 2009. Fair Trade Certified. Website: <http://www.transfairusa.org/>.

Annotation: TransFair USA is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lively hoods of small-scale farmers by being an integral part of the Fair Trade Certification program. Its mission is to help create sustainable and equitable models of international trade that benefit all parties involved. This website contains information on the fair trade concept and implementation and products carrying the Fair trade certification. The site is an excellent starting point for fair trade research.

UNESCO. 2009. "Overcoming Inequality: Why Governance Matters." *Education for All: Global Monitoring Report*. Paris: UNESCO.
<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900SID/KERN-7RE9LT?OpenDocument>.

Annotation: This report commissioned by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and compiled by the Education for All Global Monitoring Team, is an evaluation of how well the world is meeting the Education for All reform goals set in Dakar in 2000. The team found that although progress has been made, a number of goals are

in danger of not being met by the 2015 target. The most compelling concerns are: the continued inability of the governments of developing states to create and sustain education systems, the disparity between the “haves” and “have nots,” and the lack of on-going funding committed to by developed countries. This is a broad, well-written evaluation, complete with data and policy recommendations.

United Nations General Assembly. 2000. United Nations Millennium Declaration. Website: www.un.org/millenniumgoals/bkgd.shtml.

Annotation: The United Nations General Assembly meeting in September 2000 resulted in a declaration of aims to be met by the world as a whole by 2015. These aims are known collectively as the “Millennium Development Goals” or “MDG.” The eight goals are: 1) to substantially reduce poverty 2) to provide universal education 3) to promote gender equality 4) to improve children’s health 5) to improve maternal health 6) to effectively combat AIDS/HIV, and 7) to increase global partnerships and equality among nations. These goals are now used as roadmaps for aid and development planning by many, if not most, world aid organizations.

van Koppen, Barbara, Jon Unruh, Waldemar Souza, Saleem H. Ali, Anandajit Goswami, Annuciate Nakiganda, Joko Mariyono, Monty Jones, C. Peter Timmer, Kulbhushan Balooni, and Sam Oglesby. 2007. “Experts Address the Question: “In Your View, Do Agricultural Subsidies in Developed Countries Benefit or Harm the Majority of the Poor in Developing Countries?”” *Natural Resources Forum* 31 (4):318-321.

Annotation: This short-answer forum compiles the answers of eleven experts from around the world to the question of agricultural subsidies and food aid use. It is an excellent sampling of opinions from knowledgeable sources. What is interesting is the overwhelming agreement that subsidies in developed countries, on the whole, harm small-scale farmers in poorer regions and contribute to a lack of agricultural economic growth in these same areas.

Wallace, Ian. 2007. “A Framework for Revitalisation of Rural Education and Training Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa: Strengthening the Human Resource Base for Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods.” *International Journal of Educational Development* 27 (5):581-590.

Annotation: The author reviews the importance of rural education and training (RET) in Sub-Saharan Africa. He discusses some of the recent problems facing RET and the historical variables that have led to this lack of success. Among these, he mentions a poor policy framework, lack of resources, and lack of leadership. The impact of AIDS/HIV on all aspects of education is stressed. On a bright note, the author explores new innovations and initiatives by NGOs and other aid groups currently being utilized to revitalize RET. This is a brief, yet informative, overview of the challenges being faced in Sub-Saharan African rural education.

Wallace, Tina, Lisa Bornstein, and Jennifer Chapman. 2007. The Aid Chain: Coercion and Commitment in Development NGOs. Bourton on Dunsmore, UK: Practical Action Publishing; Intermediate Technology Publications.

Annotation: The authors deliver an extremely well researched and important report on the challenges currently facing development NGOs. They discuss the competing interests of donor desires, NGO accountability demands, and the development goals of the individual NGOs. The complexities surrounding these issues are intensified by a north/south divide and international versus local management challenges. These challenges are particularly vexing for NGOs struggling to keep their independence while maintaining legitimacy (to both recipients and donors).