

Investigating the Significance of Humanitarian Aid Delivery in Somalia

Ridwaan Hassan Abdi

Abstract—The study focuses on analyzing the significance of aid delivery in Somalia by the international community. With the prolonged humanitarian crisis in Somali, lasting the last three decades, it is expected that the international organizations involved in the aid delivery missions in various areas have incorporated the local organizations in their programs. The research adopted descriptive research approach that applied quantitative method in the collection and analysis of data. The quantitative method used questionnaires to collect data and involved 23 local community representatives, that also included 10 government officers involved in aid delivery.

The finding of the study indicate that the international community have not sufficiently applied the localization agenda in aid delivery in Somalia. The existing aid delivery structures in Somalia still depends on the management and control of the international community. Even though the local organizations are involved in the implementation, much of the decision making and control of resources is by the international community. The main barriers identified to the localization agenda is the limited capacity of the local actors, and lack of decentralized policies of aid delivery.

Index terms- Localization, Aid Delivery, Decentralization, Capacity Development, International Community, Local Actors.

I. INTRODUCTION

Funding is necessary for any project to succeed. In a summit, it was speculated that the quality of the funding in any humanitarian project should correspond to quantity. In addition, local and national actor should receive the significant funds to attract, retain and maintain the competent human resource personnel's [1]. The articulation also reinforces the assertion that the existing firms should be encouraged rather than disrupted within the local area. From research, many international donors fail to collaborate with the local actors due to the local firm's failure to account for the funds allocated to them within the previous periods [2]. Equally, a harmonized reporting and accounting system should be put in place that favors both the local actors and the international organizations with this concern. Adhering to these postulations reduces the financial risk and fraudulent activities between the two parties.

While executing the humanitarian aid acts, the parties should ensure that their investment is strategic. For instance, both the local and international actor should boost their resource

centers and vice versa to enhance the communication system [3]. While building capacity through resource centers, Frennesson refuted the claim by analyzing that expressing mutual support with all the entities affirms the trusts possessed by all parties and stipulates the extent to which every actor anticipated change within the host region [4]. Now, every goal aligned with the project should be analyzed and integrated accordingly using the available resources. Focus on capacity enhancement is building on the existing strategies to provide change within communities.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Theoretical Framework

The Dependency theory posits that donor aid from the developed countries correlates to economic dependence of the third world country. Kabonga argues that even though aid donations benefit the population of the developing countries, it also results in negative repercussions because countries that are in perpetual state of receiving donor aids fail to develop [5]. Therefore, Kabonga asserts that the issue of sustainability is critical in determining the viability of donor aids in developing countries [5]. Given that, localization of the aid delivery is a key step towards developing sustainable structures in a third world country such as Somalia.

As the international community continues to applaud the applicability of aid localization in Somalia, this phenomenon possesses another fact about the country. The truth is, Somalia is a country that depends on foreign aid to facilitate its operations. Ranging from economic growth, security, and human development, the international donors have channeled significant money to assist the county in maintaining these operations. Notably, many scholars have assessed the effect of dependence on foreign aid to a given country. Enuka, in his study, affirmed the world we live in are divided into two portions developmentally [6]. Kvangraven explained this point, which alluded that dependence makes the receiver poorer as the donors continue being prosperous [7]. These notions were summarized in the dependency theory developed in the late 1960s by Raul Prebisch [7]. The key concept behind this theory is that resource successfully flows from the "periphery" which are the poor and undeveloped states to the core which are the wealthy states thus enriching the latter at the expense of the former. Notably, one could wonder the benefit the international aider gets after supporting Somalia. The truth is, the key beneficiaries of these aids programs are the international organization nations. Mahatma Gandhi, one of the great humanitarians, asserted that the development of communities depends on its people. He said, "nature provides just enough and no more, for our daily needs" [8]. With this assertion, he opposed exploitation,

ruthless drives of economic abundances, and massive technological progress, among other elements, as the key drivers of change. The elements portrayed by the Gandhi assertion are the critical element that the international aiders have focused on as the essential developmental aspect in Somalia. However, the factors only lead to the indigenous resource exploitation by the rich over the poor within the societies. These notions have been explained in the dependency theory, which asserted that the weather nations use developing countries to test their capabilities of addressing life challenges. This concept also contends in the Marxist worldview that speculates cheap labor in developing nations and spreads market capitalism with the return on obsolete technology development [8].

Arguably, the dependency theory focuses on empowerment as the critical aspect of economic development. Amadi argues that international aider should channel vast amounts of money to the developing nations with the notion of helping the poor and leave a sustainable element among the community members [9]. This aspect has been portrayed through the localization concept; the critical focus should be reducing the international aids and focusing on locally available resources to address the underlying problems. People can change if they want to change. Kabonga cemented this idea by concluding that the international aiders should not initiate change [5]. Instead, it should be a participatory process where both the local and international players within any project. This process will reduce the dependence elements that are refuted mainly by the Marxist world of view of developed countries over the third world countries.

B. Empirical Review

Somalia is one of the third-world countries that face massive community problems, and it entirely depends on foreign aid to addresses these challenges. For instance, the county has constantly struggled with the humanitarian crisis for almost three decades due to the Somalia civil war [10]. Insecurity and recurrent droughts characterized humanitarian aid delivery, reducing the people's resilience to overcome any disasters. In his study, annotate that after the 2011 famine that struck the country, approximately 250000 people died, with many livelihoods being destroyed. As a result, humanitarian responders embarked on working hard to prevent another famine with drought-induced food insecurity from occurring. In 2017 and 2018, the nations received nearly \$2 billion for official development assistance [11]. This amount was invested in people through food production using modern agricultural means, purchasing and distributing food to the vulnerable people within the communities and those in the refugee camps. Warsame asserted that international aids have always ensured there is a stable food supply, an element that elevates the food security within the country [12]. These elements also reduce nutritionally related illnesses, mainly in children, women, and older people. In addition, assistance on food aid, international aid's primary purpose of developing the living standards of people in the country.

Moreover, Somalia is a country prone to terrorism. For instance, the famous Al-Shabaab terrorist groups inhabit the region, and it is believed to have links with the Afghanistan ISIS terrorist group. Any place that experiences terrorist attacks render people panics and cannot fully concentrate on activities that can promote ether daily lives. Thus, the international community aid has purposed to promote peace

and security in Somalia through counter-terrorism, stabilization operation and security reforms, conflict mitigation, and reconciliation. For instance, in 2019, the country received \$139 million in aid for security and \$291 million for resilience in the national development plan [11]. With improved security, it is easier to enhance the national development projects within the country, an element that helps the nation grow its GDP in every period [12]. Peace and security promotions are coupled with justice and democracy in governance. Notably, the conflict between the arms of government has elevated the terrorist attacks in the country. With governance and democracy, the international aids have majorly focused on the rule of law and human rights promotions, good governance, political competition, consensus building, and civil society enhancement. All these elements contribute to effective governance and enhancing democracy within the country.

Economic growth: Thirdly, international aids constitute an integral part in economic development. Economic development entails the building of infrastructure, industries, and the creation of a favorable business environment. This will increase the rate of employment within the country. According to the 2019 National Development Plan (NDP), \$83 million of the aid delivered was invested in infrastructure, while \$59 million goes to economic growth [12]. With economics, a significant focus is on agricultural production. Agriculture is always the backbone of any developing nation. The improvement in the agricultural sector will increase food production, an aspect that assists in reducing hunger and nutritional-related illnesses. In addition, it boosts the industrial sector by producing cash crops, which are the main source of raw material both in the local and international industrial markets. Thus, global aids have significantly ensured that the country remains agricultural productive despite other challenges that affect communities.

Human development: The last significant element of international aid is investing in people. With investment in people, Focus Sea tailored in education and the health sector. For instance, in 2019, the country spent \$201 million in social and human development [12]. The funds were spent in the health sector particle for maternal and child support and water supply and sanitation. Insufficient water supply is one of the key problems faced by the Somaliland population. In mitigating the problem, boreholes and machines that distribute water were donated by international aid organizations in the various localities. With water supply, they focus on ensuring that every citizen has access to clean and safe water, promoting their sanitation and hygiene status. Education is another element ported in human development. Even if there are massive international aids within the country, it might be hard for the international organization to provide change within the communities without knowledge. There is a need to increase the literacy level of the people, which will act as the critical milestone of installing change within the country.

There is a growing realization across the world humanitarian system that to attain a sustainable partnership, both the international and local organizations' inclusivity in any aid practice is vital. Somalia is one of the areas that have witnessed an increasing number of Somalia-led NGOs actively engaging in humanitarian activities. The organization has taken a high notch to address the key desperate situations that affect the community. The international groups have

pledged to support them fully towards these humanitarian responses. For instance, the Somalia, NGO consortium is one of the forums that the local actor has used to express their concerns while working with the international actors. Despite these efforts, in their early study, maintained that the humanitarian policies and practices have not taken into account the mobility of the people they assist [2]. In Somalia, violence can erupt at any place, thus rendering people IDPs. In addition, people are trapped in conflict zones due to immobility. In line with these assertions, they postulated that, the local actor has played a significant role in addressing the needs of vulnerable groups within the country trapped in conflict zones [4]. Through the Somalia Humanitarian Funds, which is one of the oldest humanitarian agencies within the human, the country has progressively worked on reconstructing the committed life after the 2011 famine attack. The SHF is just one of the key local actors that contribute to the country's wellbeing.

Moreover, private sector firms such as Hormuud and Dahabshiil have complimented the roles of the international donors within the regions. This has been mainly through collaboration where the organization provides the appropriate element that could help in facilitating change within different areas. Apart from this, the youth within the country, through the "Help a brother and Sister" social media campaign that is mainly termed as *Cawiwaalal* have managed to incorporate different stakeholders' actresses the world and raise funds that could help in supporting the victims across the nation since the famine crisis onset [10]. All these facets have played a crucial role in promoting aid localization in Somalia.

The local actors have also engaged in different workshops that enhance the collaboration of the international donors and the local and national actors. For instance, in 2017, the Somalia NGO consortium (SNC), in conjunction with the rift valley institute, centre for humanitarian change, and Near network, organized workshops that sought to outline the engagement in aid localization [13]. The Humanitarian Leadership Academy and Swiss Agency for Development (SDC), the local NGOs from Somalia, UN agencies, and INGOs, who acted as the key player in facilitating change in Somalia supported the workshop. In the workshops, one of the key elements discussed was developing the Somalia policy brief that could outline the progress made in providing aid within the region. The actors also agreed on building research and discourse that could assist in determining the core and unmarked funding process, which started in the Grant bargain concert. To accomplish this process, key representatives from the NEAR network and national NGOs (NNGOs) ensure that all the stakeholders put the Somalia policy brief into use.

III. METHODOLOGY

A descriptive study design was used to describing and providing detailed analysis of the significance of aid delivery in Somalia. A descriptive survey research design that allows detailed analysis and interpretation of results was equally used [14]. According to Mugenda and Mugenda a descriptive study depicts a phenomenon without any bias [16]. This approach enabled this study to achieve its objectives. Many researchers have adopted the descriptive research design for their studies. Descriptive research aims at

describing the population, phenomenon, and/or situation accurately and systematically [14]. The application of this design depends on the topic and phenomenon being studied at any given time. The primary purpose is to answer the "what" questions during the study variables. With this research design, the researcher does not manipulate in any form the variables, but instead, he/he only observes, measures and records them. It is most appropriate when the researcher wants to identify characteristic, frequencies, trends, and categories. While using this design, the researcher does not aim at testing a hypothesis instead; they aim at creating a hypothesis after the research. Thus, in this research, a descriptive study design will be essential in assessing the significance of aid delivery in Africa, using the case study of Somalia.

IV. SAMPLING

The study involved 23 participants that included representatives from local and international organizations involved in the aid delivery program in Somalia. The sampled population are aid delivery workers in their respective organizations that have managerial knowledge on the aid delivery policies and structures, and so were able to provide relevant data to the researcher.

To obtain the study sample, the research will use purposive sampling techniques. Selective or subjective sampling is one of the non-probability sampling techniques that rely on the researcher's judgments when choosing the study participants. In this case, the researcher purposively identified participants to take part in the study based on their positions in the NGOs and INGOs and in terms of convenience to fill a questionnaire.

V. DATA COLLECTION

In this case, the questionnaires were sent to the participants via mail and a timeframe of one week to fill the questionnaires and send back to the researcher. This helped the respondents to take time and accurately fill the questionnaire at their convenience. The questionnaire targeted 23 local community members and government officers working on aid delivery projects in conjunction with international organizations. The technique contains a set of standardized questions that follow fixed patterns that aim to collect individual data about one or more specific topics. They also entail using both open and closed-ended questions at any given time [15]. With the questionnaires, the study participant is left to read, interpret, and answer the asked questions independently without the researcher's aid.

A. Data analysis

The data collected from the questionnaires were analyzed using quantitative analysis that engaged the SPSS software. The analysis involved simple statistical computation that focused on the frequency of responses, means and averages. This was important because it allowed the researcher to integrate the quantitative findings with the qualitative findings from the interviews. More so, the researched engaged purposive sampling even for the questionnaire participants and this indicates that the sample was not representative of the entire local actors' populations involved in aid delivery in Somalia.

VI. RESULTS

a) *Significance of international aid delivery in Somalia*

The questionnaire sought to establish the views of the local actors on the importance of aid delivery in Somalia. The responses from the respondents were mixed as is indicated in the table below.

Table 1: The international aid has assisted in the development of Somalia

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	6	26.03
Agree	6	26.03
Undecided	2	8.69
Disagree	5	21.73
Strongly Disagree	4	17.39
Total	23	100.0

The study sought to find out whether international aid assisted in the development of Somalia. From the finding, 26.08% of the respondents strongly agreed that international aid assisted in the development of Somalia in addition, 26.03% agreed that international aid assisted in the development of Somalia. However, 17.39% of the respondents strongly disagreed and 21.73% of them disagreed that international aid assisted in the development of Somalia. 8.69% were undecided on the issue.

b) *The international aid delivery helped in peace efforts in Somalia*

Table 2: The international aid delivery helped in peace efforts in Somalia

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	9	39.13
Agree	5	21.73
Undecided	3	13.04
Disagree	4	17.39
Strongly Disagree	2	8.69
Total	23	100.0

The Study sought to find out whether international aid delivery helped in peace efforts in Somalia. From the finding it 39.13% and 21.73% of the respondents strongly agreed and

agreed respectively that international aid delivery helped in peace efforts in Somalia. However, 17.39 of the respondents disagreed that the international aid delivery helped in peace efforts in Somalia. 8.69% of the respondents strongly disagreed that international aid delivery helped in peace efforts in Somalia.

c) *The international aid delivery has assisted in the capacity building of Somali organizations*

Table 3: The international aid delivery has assisted in the capacity building of Somali organizations

	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	4	17.39
Agree	5	21.73
Undecided	3	13.04
Disagree	6	26.03
Strongly Disagree	3	13.04
Total	23	100.0

The study's findings were to determine if the international aid delivery assisted in capacity building in Somali organizations. The results showed that 17.39% of the respondents strongly agreed that international aid delivery helped in Somalia's capacity building. 21.73% of the respondents also agreed that international aid assisted in capacity building. However, a large percentage of the respondents, 26.03% of the respondents, disagreed and 13.03% strongly disagreed. 13.04% were undecided.

d) *To what extent does international aid delivery help in the stabilization of Somalia*

Table 4: To what extent does international aid delivery help in the stabilization of Somalia?

	Frequency	Percentage
Great extent	8	34.78
Little extent	4	17.39
No extent	5	21.73
Not sure	6	26.09
Total	23	100.0

In relation to the study to establish the extent to which international aid delivery has helped in the stabilization of Somalia, 34.78% are of the opinion that international aid delivery helps in the stabilization of Somalia. 26.09% believe that international aid delivery has helped in a lesser extent in

stabilizing Somalia. 21.74% were not sure whether international aid delivery has helped in stabilizing Somalia. Only 17.39% said that international aid delivery has helped stabilize Somalia enormously.

VII. DISCUSSION

The study findings indicate that international aid assisted in the development of Somalia. As seen in the results, most of the respondents, who sum up to 52% agreed that global aid assessment in Somalia's development. Different international Aid bodies are greatly attributed to the little product that can be witnessed in Somalia. For example, the United Nations, for the longest time, has involved itself in helping Somalia develop from the turmoil that it had faced. At first, the United Nations seemed to be related to the issues of Somalia. However, the United Nations got actively involved in the here main points that were affecting Somalia.

First, it was discovered that the political and security situation in Somalia was deterring. Somalia's problems were affecting the country economically, hence ensuring that the economic crisis was safeguarded. The study's findings indicate that just like UN efforts to develop Somalia, other international aids were significantly involved in the development of Somalia [1].

The study founding shows that international aid delivery has helped in achieving human rights in Somalia. The study findings concur with Dietrich and Murdie's conclusions, who found that human rights plays are crucial role in foreign aid delivery decisions while accounting for heterogeneity among donor communities [17]. Human rights NGOs create pressure on foreign aid officials through various channels of public opinion. INGOs mobilize members through campaigns to the donor nations to demand parliamentary representatives who will sanction the repressive government. Once they are passed in the parliament; the parliament members relay their concerns to the international donors. In response, the aid official sanctions the government by increasing the proportion of bilateral aid channeled through non-government individuals or organizations [18]. INGOs via shaming and blaming campaigns can shape foreign aid delivery. INGOs influence public opinion through a bottom-up formula. They create direct incentives for aid officials to change aid delivery mechanisms by sanctioning government representatives and still providing aid in ways that will promote development through developing alternatives, non-state organs.

International aid delivery stakeholders influence donor countries' position in the international system of providing donations from the least needy countries to those that can cater to their needs. The international aid delivery influences the donor community to consider difficulties that affect the enforcement of human rights, as they reward recipients for economic, historical, political, and military relevance [1]. For instance countries like the United States of America, despite rhetoric to the contrary, has not used foreign aid systematically to sanction repression abroad, human rights are upraised.

The study's findings conquer with Sofe that in deed some efforts have been witnessed that have led to the development of Somalia [19]. Sofe states that though not all the Somalia citizens agree with the statement that international aid has assisted in the development of Somalia most of them can see

the efforts from organizations such as, IGAD, AU and UN [19]. Having more than half of the respondents seeing the development of international aid in the development of Somalia is an effective way of knowing that it is true that the international aid organization are significantly improving the situation in Somalia. The general effect can be seen in how security, politics, and humanitarian activities have been developed. From the study, it is therefore stated that international aid has contributed significantly to Somalia's development.

The study also found that international aid delivery has helped Somalia to solve humanitarian crises. Through international aid delivery, global Muslim communities have significantly contributed. NGOs have provided emergence humanitarian aid to endangered populations. The findings of the findings correspond with Afifi et al.'s (2020) result that as food was scarce due to drought and civil wars, international aid delivery through NGOs provided them with the necessary basic need, reducing humanitarian crises. UNOSOM, with the authority of the UN Security Council, was directed more towards stabilizing Somalia. Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has continued to give donations to Somalia residents. UN has been at the forefront in delivering food and medical assistance to Somalia for a long time [20].

Besides, the role that humanitarian actors appear in influencing one another in alleviating humanitarian crises is essential. Through the interrelation of international aid delivery communities, they can pressure the need for humanitarian, shift in a global balance of power, and contribute to the stabilization. Significant interest is given to the individual agencies and political opportunities, to help elucidate critical events and strategies that contribute to the emergence of the localization agenda. The international aid community has the role of advocating for change within their organizations. They are equally forming inter-organizations alliances to ensure that humanitarian crisis is completely alleviated.

VIII. CONCLUSION

As the region continues to establish peace, the international communities such as the United Nations agencies and world health organizations have collaborated with the interior ministries to assist the vulnerable people within the community. the increases in donor funding post another phenomenon in any given country. For Somalia, the country currently depends wholly on international aid to run its operations. The dependency issue is been deduced from many studies, and various sociologists and philosophers have posted different theories to explain the dependence element within the country. The truth is, there is no single community that lacks resources. According to the dependence theory, the international donors benefit more than the host countries. This is because they mainly use the developing countries as the testing point of overcoming the world challenges. Somalia has plunged into these by focusing more on donors rather than its national development. As a result, the country's GDP growth is slow due to donor funding. Mostly, the aid deliveries do not offer a suitable solution to any given region. Since the famine period, the Somalia NGO consortium has conducted many workshops to analyse donor activity and localization within the country.

The dependency theory notion has provided the critical barriers to adopting aid activities within the area. While some people might accept the localization element in their area, others might reject such actions since they render them more dependent on other people.

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Ridwaan Hassan Abdi

Ridwaan is a humanitarian Aid specialist currently working for UNFPA in Somalia. He is also a PhD student at the University of Peace in Addis Ababa. Previously he has worked with the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management in Somalia, and other local and international NGOs.