The role of international health cooperation in strengthening or weakening national health systems

Fourth People’s Health Assembly
Dhaka, 17 November 2018
...from seeing weak national health systems as a problem of our partners to critically assessing the particular position and role of international cooperation.
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Today’s workshop

Understand better how the role of “aid” in strengthening or weakening people-centred and people-owned national health policies and systems is assessed and debated by civil society representatives from various backgrounds;

*Keep in touch to remain engaged!* *(card or list of participants)*
Today’s workshop

Renew and strengthen contacts among civil society activists, experts and institutions interested to engage together in further defining a political position about what should be the role of international cooperation (within/beyond the “aid” paradigm) for global solidarity in health;

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*(card or list of participants)*
Today’s workshop

Strategize on how to strengthen the representation of a critical global civil society in global fora dealing with aid / development cooperation in the health sector (in particular: UHC2030 and its working groups).

*Keep in touch to remain engaged! (card or list of participants)*
Today’s conversation: 3 steps

1. What’s the problem with development cooperation / aid in the health sector?
2. Is there a common perspective on what should be the role of international cooperation for global solidarity in health?
3. How to strengthen civil society representation in global fora on aid / development cooperation and health?
Today’s conversation

- Collecting input from all participants
- Matching it with input by the organizers
- Conclusions, perspectives

Organizers/Moderation: Remco and Thomas
Your input and contacts: Collected by Martin
What’s the problem with development cooperation / aid in the health sector?
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1. Legitimacy, values, interests
   - Legitimizing neoliberalism
   - Distractive
   - Donor driven agenda
   - Representation

2. Impact and outcomes
   - Creating additional burdens and distorting national priorities
   - Stabilizing bad governance and perpetuating dependency
   - Distorting domestic economies
   - Overall track record

3. Actors and behaviours
   - Interventionism
   - “Poverty porn”, paternalism, cynicism
   - Institutional self-interest and insularity
   - Aid (and) business
   - Legitimacy of international NGOs and “civil society”

4. Methods and practices
   - Vertical, not integrated approach
   - Lack of coordination
   - One-way accountability
   - Evidence base

MMI Discussion paper (2016)
Today’s conversation

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3. How to strengthen civil society representation in global fora on aid / development cooperation and health?
Is there a common perspective on what should be the role of international cooperation for global solidarity in health?

• Within the aid / dev. cooperation paradigm
• Solidarity and cooperation beyond aid
Is there a common perspective on what should be the role of international cooperation for global solidarity in health?

Relevant, legitimate and effective health cooperation

- contributes to achieving universal access to health;
- is fully aware of its structural role, responsibilities and limitations; and
- continuously reflects on how to improve its approaches and practices.
Is there a common perspective on what should be the role of international cooperation for global solidarity in health?

«Aid Effectiveness»
«Doing Development Differently»
«IHP+ Seven Behaviours»

...new normative instruments needed?
Is there a common perspective on what should be the role of international cooperation for global solidarity in health?
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Cooperation and solidarity beyond aid...

“There is a little more awareness that the poor are more likely to save themselves than to be saved by middle-aged white male experts.” (Easterly)

“Poverty is not a natural condition. It is a state of plunder. It is delusional to believe that charity and aid are meaningful solutions to this kind of problem.” (Hickel)
Beyond the aid / development paradigm

THE REALIZATION OF RIGHT TO HEALTH, RIGHT TO FOOD & CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION

LA RÉALISATION DU DROIT À LA SANTÉ, DU DROIT À L'ALIMENTATION, DES DROITS DE L'ENFANT ET LES TRANSFORMATIONS SOCIALES

viva salud
SAMEN STRIJDEN VOOR GEZONDHEID
ENSEMBLE, LUTTONS POUR LA SANTÉ
Beyond the aid / development paradigm

#Social Justice
Beyond the aid / development paradigm

#Doughnut economics (Buen Vivir)
Is there a common perspective on what should be the role of international cooperation for global solidarity in health?

Cooperation and solidarity beyond aid...

...one of the key overall topics of this People’s Health Assembly!

What will we take home?
Today’s conversation

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PHC for UHC – the role of development cooperation

Are we strengthening or weakening national health systems?

Friday, 26 October 2018, 13:15 – 14:15
Global Conference on Primary Health Care
Palace of Independence, Astana, Room 4, 1st Floor
What are the most critical challenges we need to address to ensure development cooperation strengthens health systems for PHC?

- Lack of transparency and predictability of aid flows
- Uncoordinated technical assistance
- Crowding out of domestic funding and distortions of national allocations
- Tension between earmarked donor support/quick wins and longer term investment in institutions and capacity development
- Difficulty to engage communities and people
- Other
Astana workshop: “Possible follow-up”

Where do you see most critical need to continue this conversation?

- Providing space and structures for mutual learning, widening the evidence base and sharing best practices across countries/partners
- Reframing normative guidance/principles (e.g. IHP+ 7 behaviours, codes of conduct)
- Promoting instruments for country level coordination and mutual accountability, embedded in country processes
- Facilitating discussion on the role of aid in supporting health systems strengthening and domestic resources mobilisation
- Supporting advocacy efforts to promote PHC as the foundation of UHC
- Other
Looking back at today’s workshop

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Thank you!

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