



CALL FOR PAPERS

Fahamu's AU Monitor initiative and the African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD) invite research to contribute to the forthcoming "African Perspectives on Aid" to be published in September 2008.

Each paper should be between four and six thousand words. The deadline for submission is May 30, 2008.

Please contact us via email at charles@afrodad.co.zw and hakima@fahamu.org with a one page abstract for your paper or for further information by April 25th, 2008.

Please find below a summary of the intended book.

"African Perspectives on Aid"

While Africa is the biggest recipient of aid globally, the terms, conditions and principles upon which aid is delivered are rarely defined by the people of Africa for whom, at least rhetorically, this aid is supposed to create positive change. In global politics, aid is often flaunted as a golden carrot to African nations by established and emerging global powers alike. Lofty pledges are pronounced during crisis or when political clout is being wielded. Yet the effects on African peoples' lives has been limited.

The same African states who are recipients of aid tend to be heavily indebted to the same Western nations from whom they receive this aid and, in turn, these Western nations have yet to deliver on the obligation for reparations, including financial compensation and other remedies, demanded by international law for the crimes against humanity committed during slavery and colonialism. In addition, International Financial Institutions (IFIs), like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) impose conditionalities on States that limit any bold moves towards achieving the commitments under the Millennium Development Goals, define the parameters of development assistance and weaken the potential impact of aid. To date, while aid has provided lifelines in times of severe crisis, the aid 'industry' has simply continued the disempowering position of Africa globally with little return for the African people.

In light of the September 2008 high-level meetings on Aid Effectiveness in Accra, Ghana, Fahamu and AFRODAD seek to publish a comprehensive volume on Aid in Africa from the diverse perspectives of African civil society, social commentators, policy makers, academics and citizens. In recognition of the lack of civil society voice in the deliberations and formulation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra meetings have set up a platform for civil society contribution. Indeed, regional meetings, led by AFRODAD among others, have begun to discuss the issues and perspectives in Africa on Aid Effectiveness. Notably, these discussions come also at a time when civil society are challenging trade negotiations with the European Union under the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) which highlight the need to reflect on aid not just in terms of its effectiveness but also in relation to trade, debt and development.



Indeed, the proposed book will uniquely seek to explore the very premise and foundation upon which the concept of aid is based, the history and context of aid, how the emergence of new global powers such as Venezuela and China are redefining aid, related power dynamics and its relation to development, all from the perspectives of Africa.

Proposed chapters:

The History and Context of Aid

This chapter will explore how the concept of aid began and how it has evolved into an ‘industry’ of sorts.

The Politics of Aid

This chapter will explore how aid is pledged, distributed and negotiated within global politics. Authors will look at the role of key stakeholders, including regional blocs such as the AU and the EU, and investigate the negotiations behind the pledges.

The chapter will also examine the role of the IFIs and the ideological context in which current aid is operating.

Aid Effectiveness

This chapter seeks to illuminate who really benefits from aid, what multi million dollar pledges mean for the lives of Africans and how aid can be more impactful. The chapter will also look at how conditionality benefits or hinders aid effectiveness in Africa, while stipulating the conditions that, according to case study experience, make aid more effective, moving the debate beyond conditionality towards behaviour patterns of donors and States alike.

Aid and the Security Agenda

As the global security paradigm has refocused from the cold war to the war on terror, aid priorities have paralleled political alliances and security. There is need to critically scrutinize how this shift in priorities affects aid in Africa, asking the question whether aid, in some instances, is a fuel for violence or a deterrent and assessing the impact of political interests and conditionalities of security or humanitarian aid on Africa’s development and progress.

New Players

This chapter will investigate how the emergence of China, Venezuela, India and other global powers has changed the politics of aid, how, if at all, the dynamics of aid and development are transforming as Africa looks increasingly toward these ‘Southern’ partners, including even within Africa, and away from colonial powers.

Aid, Trade and Development

This chapter will look at the dynamics and relationship between aid, trade and development while seeking to underscore the need for the aid paradigm to shift toward one that is defined and determined by the people of Africa, exploring and challenging concepts such as Aid for Trade.

National Experience with Aid effectiveness



This chapter is meant to give key case evidence of how African countries have been grappling with the aid effectiveness agenda. It seeks to spell out the challenges and successes of aid effectiveness with a temporal context of the Paris Declaration. Exploring aid effectiveness in terms of mutual accountability and donor alignment to national programs and harmonization, this chapter will assess the implementation of policies said to advance recipient State and peoples' agenda setting regarding aid delivery such as the current joint assistance strategy (JAS).