

Comment on Effectiveness of International Aid for the Committee's consideration

I have more than 40 years of experience in international aid programs from administration to hands-on delivery.

In recent years my wife and I have been volunteer advisors assisting in the delivery of aid in the Asian/Pacific region in the fields of education, technical and rural development.

We have seen and experienced effective programs with successful long-term beneficial outcomes and also programs that have not worked and have been very wasteful.

Our experience indicates the key components of a successful program include capacity building and empowerment of the local recipients so that they can make their own decisions and take responsibility for the subsequent outcomes.

Where there has not been capacity building (strengthening or empowerment of the recipients) the aid programs have often failed.

It is also our belief that the best measures of success are not so much what was done during the delivery of the aid, but the long-term and lasting effects that remain.

For this reason the real effectiveness of aid can only be measured by monitoring long-term lasting effects.

Respectively submitted  
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Professor Emeritus