

A New Typology of Aid?

Jo Hall

February 2017



How is aid effectiveness measured?

1. By whether aid is working: **'does aid work?'**
2. By how well aid is managed: **'is aid effectively managed?'**
3. By evaluating individual aid projects: **'is the project relevant, effective, efficient, impactful and with sustainable benefits?'**

1. 'Does aid work?'

Economic growth vs aid volume



‘What types of aid in x country work for whom in what circumstances and in what respects, and how?’

Can we identify the main mechanisms by which aid works and develop a typology of aid on this basis?

Current typologies

- official development aid; aid provided by NGOs; and humanitarian and emergency aid ([Riddell, 2007](#))
- technical assistance to improve governance; budget support and projects ([Howes, 2014](#))
- technical assistance; food aid; project aid; financial program aid ([Ouattara and Strobl, 2008](#)).

Mechanism

- Realism relies on identifying Context-Mechanism-Outcomes
- A mechanism is the (invisible) interaction of the new resource with the context

‘What types of aid in x country work for whom in what circumstances and in what respects, and how?’

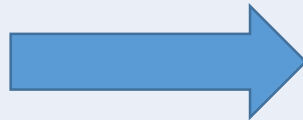
- Can we identify the main mechanisms by which aid works and develop a typology of aid on this basis?

Preliminary findings

- finance provision
- provision of equipment, supplies, materials, food, labour, expertise, training
- capacity building
- community mobilisation
- policy influence
- service delivery
- system strengthening
- legislative mechanisms
- cross-cultural exchange
- advocacy and mass demand for change

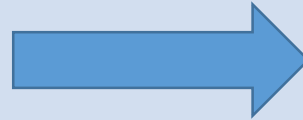
Next Steps

aid is a single thing



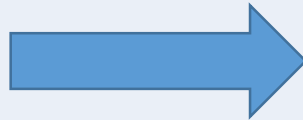
aid is many things

closed black box



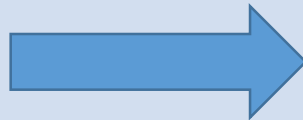
open black box

volume of funds



contexts, mechanisms and
outcomes

'does aid work?'



'what types of aid work for whom
in what circumstances and in what
respects, and how?'