

# **The Plight of African Economic Development**

## **Focus on Sudan: Sustainable Development / Assistance in the Future**

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It is a conspicuous fact that the developing countries, especially sub-Saharan countries, have been struggling to solve numerous problems to develop and overcome poverty. To cope with these problems, foreign aid has played an essential role in working together, such as providing assistances of food aid, ODA (grant aid and loan aid), technical assistances, and so on. There have been a great load of money and supplies sent to Africa as “aid”, but what were the outcomes? The world has not seen much improvement in the economies of Africa, but moreover, when changing the point of view, the foreign debt has augmented dramatically and has just added more suffering to them.

The motivation of this paper comes from this fact that foreign aid could have the cause of Africa’s sufferings. It is crucial to inspect deeply what went wrong and how it could be improved. This paper implores at the changes which must be implemented to the side of giving aid in order to improve the situation in the future, as well as the need to reveal the problems of assistances, which the “outsiders” have been giving. It is important for the First World to understand that aid itself does not get rid of poverty, and to attain adequate knowledge of the country and the people, so that they could scrutinize what is most needed and most effective for the Third World to develop.

In order to seek for sustainable development, it is essential to change our target of aid from “hard” to “soft”, and focus on encouraging the motivation of the recipient countries and its local sovereignty. Both aid-giving and aid-receiving sides must realize the role each must be responsible for, and cope to accomplish it as much as possible. The key theme in giving aid is to “help people to help themselves”.

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