"40 years after the Nobel’s Appeal: what development policy for the world? 
With a case study of Ethiopia and the Ogaden

Factors That affect the effectiveness and proper utilisation of international aid are very complex and at the same time simple if the objective condition are present in the both the recipient country and the donors. Some of these key factors are

1. Human attitudes and believes
2. A democratic governance and culture that is not monopolised a group in the recipient state
3. The actions of the rulers, the ruled and the donating states
4. The prevalence Natural disasters and alleviation mechanisms

The first and most important factor is the nature of the recipient state. If it is based on Hobbes’s ideal commonwealth which is ruled by a sovereign power responsible for protecting the security of the commonwealth and granted absolute authority to ensure the common defence, as most autocratic regimes behave today, then any aid given will being diverted and used to benefit a selected group or to perpetuate that regime. However, if the state is based on the understanding that it serves the people under politico-social compact as John Locke suggested and are subject to the will of the people- a genuine democratic government, then if that state fulfils the conditions mentioned below aid would be beneficial, otherwise it will be just encouraging corrupt, unrepresented system that is prone to conflicts and always dependent of handouts.

All humanity must come to an understanding that secure, peaceful, stable states that are capable to of meeting the needs of their peoples and be able to live in peace and symbiotic relationships with their neighbours, while engaging in a sustainable economic activity that does not harm the environment are necessary for our mutual survival.

A developed country, is a sovereign state that has a highly developed economy and advanced technological infrastructure relative to other less industrialized nations, with high per capita income levels.

While a developing country “sovereign state that have limited industrialization and have low per capita income levels.

However, what is missing from this archaic definition are other key factors that make a country developed namely a political order that with

a. a capable state
b. a rational rule of law that is justly applied in a consistent, relevant and just manner
c. a governance system that is seen by the stakeholders as legitimate, inclusive, democratic and devolved
d. bureaucratic capacity that is able to execute a deliver strategies and plans laid by the executive branch

e. a check and balance system that makes the government accountable

f. balance between rural and urban areas, between ruling groups and marginalized groups, between minority and majority groups, between genders, beliefs, and cultures

Thus, a developed country will free its people from want, fear and give them the capacity to reach their protentional.

Therefore, a country that is lacking the majority of those characteristics is classed as a developing or under-developed country.

Forty years ago, the Nobel project for supporting less developed countries that were not only lacking capacity to industrialise but were also suffering from chronic food shortages or unable to cope with natural disasters. Since then the debate of the efficacy of aid has been intense. There are two main schools thought:

1. One believes that official assistance is ineffective and has harmed poor countries throughout the years. This views official aid as
   a. creating dependency,
   b. fostering corruption,
   c. Favouring selected countries over others based on vested interests of donors without regard to the most needy or poor
   d. Giving financial aid like loans only leave these poor countries deeper in debt and poverty, while destroying their capacity to provide much needed social services
   e. and encouraging currency overvaluation (Easterly 2014 and Moyo 2010)

2. Another camp believes that aid is beneficial to the developing countries because it will:
   a. help ease poverty in poor countries.
   b. help recipient countries be more independent.
   c. help other nations fight drugs and other problems like HIV/AIDS

Furthermore this school believes that the levels have been too low, and that large increases would help reduce poverty. This camp, however, believes we need a rethinking on the way in which aid is provided.

Another issue that is controversial in regard to aid and recipient state is the issue of sovereignty. Many states and individuals cite sovereignty in regarding to providing aid with conditions. It is important that a country’s sovereignty be respected regardless of its economic status or need. However, which sovereignty is to be respected. Is it the sovereignty of the ruler or ruling class or the sovereignty of people. A country, where the government is abusing its own people or sections of its people cannot use sovereignty as shield against international intervention in order to redress those marginalisation's or abuses

Despite these differences of opinion there is ample evidence when aid is provided appropriately, in a timely manner and sufficient amount that is
changes lives and bring development. First, giving aid to developing countries is a necessity and I believe it shall not be stopped, however certain conditions must be fulfilled in order aid to be effective:

ALL HUMANITY MUST COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING THAT SECURE, PEACEFUL, STABLE STATES THAT ARE CAPABLE TO OF MEETING THE NEEDS OF THEIR PEOPLES AND BE ABLE TO LIVE IN PEACE AND SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEIR NEIGHBOURS, WHILE ENGAGING IN A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY THAT DOES NOT HARM THE ENVIRONMENT ARE NECESSARY FOR OUR MUTUAL SURVIVAL.

1. That for such states to exits, they must have a governance system that is based on legitimate authority, the rule of law and inclusivity, equality and accountability
2. Balance between rural and urban development

Therefore, Donors must emphasis those basic criteria in giving aid and must refrain from giving aid for short term benefits that are counter-productive to the interests and the interest of human in the Long run.

I believe that aid shall be based on solid international agreed criteria’s that addresses both the current needs and the root causes that perpetuate poverty. In addition, aid shall be geared towards helping recipients develop self-sufficiency rather than meeting only short term needs.

Another key factor that hampers aid to be effective is the selectivity of the donors to developing countries. Ignoring some countries perpetuates instability and lack of developing stability in the world. We live in a globalised world and no one is no longer in isolation.

I will take the example of Ethiopia as a main recipient of aid. In 1960 Ethiopia was receiving around 15 million dollars in aid. For the last ten years it was receiving between 3 and 4 billion dollars a year. However, Ethiopia is one of the poorest nations on Earth. On the one hand you hear that its has the highest growth rate in Africa- around 11%, on the other hand every year it receives millions in food aid and where more that 10 million people are consistently on the brink of starvation, while the rest liv mostly on very low income.

Despite that Ethiopia is manufacturing tanks, armoured cars, Heavy artillery and small arms and selling to African countries, while invading its neighbouring and sending peace-keeping missions to conflict zones.

Analysing Ethiopia closely shows you that despite that massive aid, many sectors of its population are marginalised. Furthermore, the Ethiopian regime is operating on several levels in order to perpetuate its status quo
of receiving the most aid while maintaining an unjust autocratic rule and avoid international scrutiny and accountability by setting up a bogus federal system. On the federal level it maintains it full control of the politics of the country, which on the regional level aid is devolves aid. This give it the ability to create cronies who facilitate corruption that serves the ruling elites while hampering international scrutiny.

Donors often complain about the inaccessibility to monitor the regional states, thus absolving the federal government of the clear imbalances and endemic corruption that is hard to trace in Ethiopia. The level of graft can be only gleaned in the ruling groups region where vast amount of high rise building are mushrooming, which the people of Ethiopia can afford to feed themselves.

Is aid needed in Ethiopia – definitely. But not under current setup. Ethiopia must respects the democratic rights of its peoples before starting to develop and take advantage of international aid

Abdirahman Mahdi
Foreign Secretary of Ogaden national Liberation Front
Deputy President of UNPO
Chair of OPRO