

Development aid is very misleading, it is often not about the people where it is intended for



Dead aid, for more than 60 years aid has been offered to African countries, we think we build bridges, but we actually build walls around the people

Discover the vision of the Robin Hood Foundation here

**Klaartje van der Aa
voorzitter**



Aid does not develop!



- Financial knowledge is necessity



How do Westerners view Africa?

The Robin Hood Foundation was started in 2000, which was not easy from the beginning, because we did not want to participate in the cult of pity imposed on the Africans. We also did not want to bear the responsibility that every adult human should take. Children should be brought up by their own parents or family and they should be able to afford the education themselves. But the most important thing is respect and an eye for what is already there and why education is the way it is. We contribute to a financial knowledge That makes development possible.



Thanks to aid, Africa is becoming increasingly poor and in need of help.

Due to images that we see on TV, we hardly have a realistic view of African countries.

We combat the symptoms of poverty and provide assistance that deprives people of their self-reliance, and assistance we think is necessary does not provide opportunities for growth / development. They have to adapt to the aid, this should be the other way around.

We only think of our own goals.

There is nothing wrong with the education in Gambia, it is only bad if we Westerners advise buildings and doctrines that we think are necessary.

This cuts Africa off from the rest of the world. We ignore the essence, the right to thrive in our own country.

Every person is born with unknown powers and possibilities, which you cannot develop when you are placed in a cult of pity, only learn to hold up your hand.

Every country has opportunities to thrive, when we Western people stop treating these people as children they also have a chance to thrive in their own country.



For Africans, autonomy and individuality are less important if the community is paramount.

Advice to those Africans receive from Westerners have nothing in common with these interests.

We have learned to put ourselves first.

They are not lacking in knowledge regarding health, education or illness, nor in knowledge of making furniture at their own level in the country.

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We Westerners should know more about African culture if we really want them to become independent.

How did development aid come about?

Aid for African countries came about after the Netherlands was helped by the Marshall Plan, which was aimed at the economic reconstruction of the countries affected by the war in Europe. This assistance worked.

There was a view that investment capital was of great importance for economic growth.

Africa was now ripe for aid, a continent with low paid jobs, an uneducated population and a virtually nonexistent tax base. African countries did not need help for reconstruction but for development.

In the 1950s many African countries were declared independent on paper, remaining dependent on the generosity of their former colonial masters with a good dose of self-interest, maintaining strategic-geopolitical footholds.

The donor still decides what to do, even if it is not important for the local context.

Corruption trade in power and influence

Many think that the Netherlands is free of corruption

Yes, here probably less money goes under the table, but in the Netherlands it is

You do something for me and I do something for you



CORRUPTIE **Handel in macht en invloed**

Velen denken dat Nederland (vrijwel) corruptievrij is.
Ja, hier gaat (vermoedelijk) minder geld onder de tafel door.
Neen, wij ruilen: 'ik doe wat voor jou en jij dan voor mij'.

There is more outflow of money than inflow.

Multinationals steal billions from Africa (source Wim Bossema 2015) and not only suck raw materials from African countries. They also evade taxes on a large scale. The Africans are powerless.

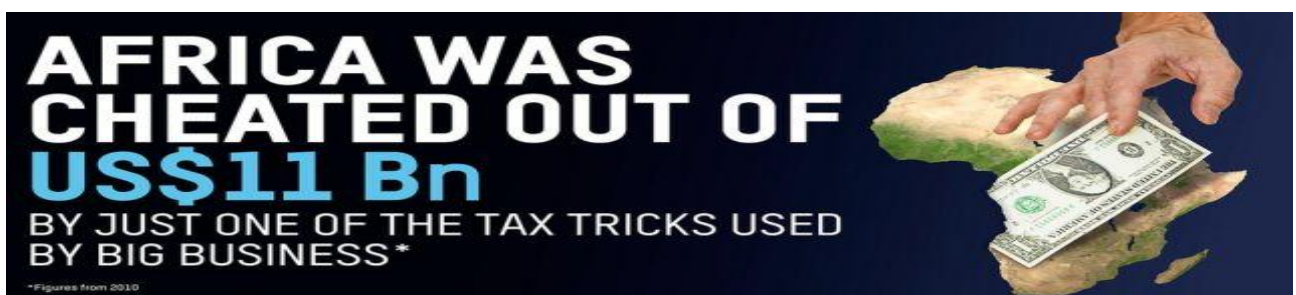
The chairman, former President Thabo Mbeki, presented the AU report in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa, after four years of research. The report speaks of \$ 50 million and \$ 148 million a year in looted value.

In Ethiopia there is 10% economic growth, yet people are starving.

Africa is hardest hit by clandestine capital theft, according to yet another report by U.S. researchers Global Financial Integrity.

African countries are in trouble due to subsidies and loans.

There is more help for self-interest than for the needs of the Africans.



Africa would benefit more from geopolitical and tax advisers. The lack of financial knowledge is the biggest problem in African countries.

Oeganda



In Uganda, scientists are working on a genetically modified banana. There is a strong lobby, often funded from the West, against GM. Researcher Priver Namaya calls that "ugly selfishness." She added, "The West has an interest in the survival of food scarcity in Africa."

Still as in colonial times, self-interest is greater than the needs of the Africans



The advance of supermarkets in Africa points to progress; a growing middle class, more prosperity and better infrastructure, but it is also displacing small shopkeepers and market women with their vegetables, fruit and fish.

In short: these foreign supermarket chains disrupt the informal economy on which the continent largely depends, while profits are again distributed in Paris or London.



Africans usually come in the global hunt for fertile land, raw materials and market share in Africa, Africans get less

In the global interplay of forces, the economic interests of others seem to outweigh the needs of Africans.

This raises the question of whether Africa can actually develop, as long as the hungry eyes of the rest of the world are on the continent.

Rwanda; coffee farmers can barely make income

Profits are stuck in the long distribution chain from farmer to supermarket.

Of the 200 billion euros involved in the global coffee trade, only 10 percent remains in the country of origin.

This applies to coffee, cotton, cocoa, palm oil, sugar and all other commercial crops that are processed into valuable products in the West.,



While Africa certainly benefits from expertise and capital brought by foreign companies, there is a downside :? investing in Africa is not done out of charity but out of self-interest. Companies are looking for the places with the cheapest labor, the most land, the lowest tax rates and the least political resistance. This inevitably entails excesses such as exploitation, land grabbing and corruption.

As is often the case with such large-scale land acquisitions, the promised jobs are not forthcoming. Local politicians and village leaders, on the other hand, are "rewarded" for their cooperation with the company.

They suddenly drive around in expensive cars or live in stone houses with a satellite dish on the roof.

Exactly the same happens in miniature

Students approached the foundation a few years ago, they had € 18,000 to spend on a project.

We had a project in Bansang from the school that financed the foundation, in one fell swoop the school could earn enough money to support the school itself.



From this would lead to a growth / development that they can control themselves. Financial knowledge develops naturally, which would certainly benefit the economy. But she wanted to train 100 ICT professionals.

There is little or no work for ICTers and there is hardly any electricity every day. They want to help woman, because woman



Dutch entrepreneur wants to help in agriculture, ultimately it was about his own gain.

The landowners give their land to cultivate, local people do research, they worked on it for two years, without even paying for the expenses they had to make. The whole project was canceled because the entrepreneur had no money.

It is clear that here a financial knowledge is necessary for the Gambians so that they are not always disadvantaged.

Maternity hospitals

Development at own level and financial support



Midwives work independently, they do their work together with the local population in dialogue and connection. Growth always arises from this position

Problems provide an opportunity for growth and improvement..

Beyond development



They suddenly find themselves in this situation, they have lost their independence and lack the experience and knowledge that is so important to get here step by step.

Now we Westerners can again claim that education is poor.

There is no financial strength from home and no doctrines. When the donor stops with financial support, the doors close.

Education that is not sufficient and needs to be adapted by outsiders can be very derogatory.

Minicredit

Mini credits don't always work. The problem is that people don't know how to run a business in terms of income and expenses, which they have to set aside for the costs of the business and the procurement of goods.

By giving free tools, for example for a carpentry company, they never learned that these are a cost item.

This is of course easy to explain, but in practice it works very differently.

Most African countries do not have social services, they help each other when money is needed for food, illness and much more that you can encounter every day.

The salaries are very low, on average € 40.00 per month, this is not in proportion to what the daily necessities of life, a lunch with 8 people costs € 1.00, petrol costs € 1.20 per liter, rent of a house € 20.00.

They often cannot repay the credit without getting into trouble themselves.



Financial knowledge is necessary

Not all mini-credits are without result, knowledge is necessary

Free goods inhibit the possibilities of the local carpenter



- The local carpenter in Gambia has knowledge and training, but he lacks experience and good materials, because of free goods and furniture that are shipped to Gambia, he has less work and cannot compete with the furniture that comes from the Netherlands. Free tools put his skills as an entrepreneur out of the game.

Tourists don't just bring money to The Gambia

In The Gambia there are many Dutch entrepreneurs, people who own restaurants or hotels.

Gambians work for them for a meager salary where they cannot even pay the rent of their home. Tourists hardly pay the costs for a taxi, petrol costs 1.20. Gambians are happy when they can buy a cup of rice from a ride.

It also often happens that they do not receive any wages at the end of the month. Tourists are quite generous in bringing down African culture and enrich themselves by putting themselves on a pedestal by:

The Netherlands is rich, we are healthier and grow older, we live in a democracy, everything is better with us, we are more intelligent. This also does not give the Gambians a realistic picture of the Netherlands.

Financial development prevents unnecessary aid and abuse

Challenge for the adventurer!



But what does it do for the
Gambians and the economy
??

Every year, young people drive to
Gambia with old cars, these
cars are sold or given away in
The Gambia. The cars are full
of free stuff.

There are even Five cylinders,
which are very expensive to
drive in The Gambia. The
gasoline costs more than a
euro.

There are already so many taxi
drivers who can barely make a
living from what it yields.

Old cars do not have a long life in
The Gambia.

They think they have something,
but because of little or no
knowledge of financial
matters they get into trouble.



It is more likely that we will need poverty in African countries
to achieve our goal.

Orphanages and schools are tourist attractions



Children are watched and taken in arms, the children are only taught that they depend on the western world. Volunteering is also very popular in African countries. Teachers and children wave for a photo. Maybe it will make money. Orphanages cost a lot of money for the monthly maintenance, this money must come from the west. When it stops there is a big problem for the Africans.



**Future teachers ,
they have had a good education in
Dakkar**



Volunteering is attractive to Western people, schools need money. It would be normal for these volunteers to pay for this

Before orphanages, orphans were housed with family children growing up with brothers and sisters.

Often children are not even orphans, teachers are put aside.

Western people think that African women are oppressed



Before the economy in the Netherlands grew, women had a day job at the household. Away from poverty, a development took place among women.

Without this economic growth, no development was possible. When we now look at the African woman from our position, we have an opinion.

"Oppression" and unfortunately a lot of help is based on this.

Young boys want to work and go to school, help goes more and more to girls.

Boys rebel.



The modern Dutch woman has many more tasks, children's career, husbandry and recently informal care for the parents and we have to do that ourselves.

Why aid can hinder development!

Female circumcision is a tradition that is passed down from generation to generation among families. Mothers fear that their daughters will not be able to have a husband otherwise, they would be called unclean.

Women who have been circumcised have a hard time giving birth, many children are stillborn and some mothers cannot survive. Midwives come home, but they need special help.

The hospital is too far and difficult to reach for many people, this could be a reason to examine the circumcisions and growth / development would occur.

They are now being helped by a couple who are going to build a maternity hospital in the village.

This well-intentioned help can stagnate development now that they feel safe with a maternity hospital close to home. will they continue with the circumcisions or not?

What would they do without this help ??



Well-intentioned aid can stop development.

What would they do without this help?

Population develops South Africa itself without interference from Western people!



the end of female circumcision

- Nice Leng'ete and her sister hide all night in a tree when they are picked up for the ceremony. They must be circumcised. "The then 8-year-old Leng'ete does not want to go to the ceremony, where she is forcefully held by several women. It will hurt, "She convinces her sister not to go either." The girls are hit hard by their uncles for their disobedience. The next time the girls are called up, Leng'ete's sister will go. Shortly after the circumcision, she has to leave school and married to an older man.
- But Leng'ete insists and seeks support from her grandfather who stands up for her and makes sure she doesn't have to be circumcised. It makes her a disgrace to the village, but it also allows her to finish school and even go to college.
- Because an uncircumcised girl is not a real woman for her community, so you don't have to get married yet.

Development from our own vision

What does aid do to the Gambians?



Sports (newspaper) report in 2015

KEEPSTER GAMBIA DROWNS DURING FLIGHT TO EUROPE

Enough problems with help where no development is possible A lot of help focuses on what is not there. Many disappointments due to ignorance and incomprehension.

This undermines self-confidence and may even have consequences for some self-esteem if you cannot meet the standards imposed from European perspectives, your self-esteem goes to sea.

Moreover, the Africans / Gambians also have no realistic view of the Netherlands or Europe.

They are faced with the same problem, they do not develop, but can only adapt, but now without family or friends. They remain a refugee.



To pay for smugglers for the trip to Europe, most migrants borrow money from their families. But for many it does not stop there, because they fall prey to criminal gangs who take them prisoner.

They tied us up and hit our hands and feet with sticks, Ndiaye explains. "They then demand money to release you. If you don't pay, the torture continues, or they just kill you.

Commitment is important to everyone. The local people do that better and that makes sense.

Experiments are being carried out in Burkina Faso to genetically eradicate malaria mosquitoes. The first modified mosquitoes have already been released.

The African researcher has been conducting a dialogue for 7 years. Everyone is important, including people who cannot read and write are involved in this decision. It is important that everyone knows what is going to happen.



Brightened up with music and dance, all people are involved in the decision.

Brightened up with music and dance, all people are involved in the decision.

The government is doing everything it can to keep young people in their own country.



Ceesay is one of 50 young farmers who are part of Operation No Back Way to Europe, an association founded in 2008 that discourages young people from illegal immigration.

- Mohamed Ceesay, a 20-year-old farmer from the Central River region of The Gambia, is a school dropout. But thanks to an initiative to discourage local youth from emigrating to Europe, he now earns nearly half of a minister's salary from his rice harvest.
- He earns 35,000 Gambian dalasi (\$ 1,170) every three months or so, half of what government ministers make in this West African country (their monthly salaries are about \$ 667, or about \$ 2,000 over three months).
- The Gambian government has provided farmers in 10 of the country's most vulnerable districts with supplies such as tractors, tractors, rice threshers, seeders, sine hoes and bags of fertilizer. "In July, I harvested 20 acres of rice fields on my own farm, and our association harvested 100 acres in the Central River area," said Ceesay.

Kansen vanuit eigen bodem, mensen willen werken en voor hun familie zorgen.

Help from your own country has added value



- In The Gambia there are many albinos that have a fairly normal life. They are accepted by family and friends, in schools they can have a hard time, just like in the Netherlands, people with a different appearance have to deal with this.
- Europeans think that albinos in Africa are refused even by their parents



- In some African countries, albinos are seen as people who bring good luck.
- Camilla visiting the Gambia



- In Mali, a neighboring country of The Gambia, the Malian singer Salif Keita has founded a foundation. His sister (also an albino) died from the effects of skin cancer. He fights for respect and recognition.
- His foundation paid for medical care for the eyes, skin cancer and sunscreens. He helps albinos in Mali and surrounding countries.

More empathy when dealing with the same problem, moreover, people often think that albinos have no respect and that is not the case in many African countries.

Wife of former President Jammeh starts campaign against child marriages



HOME AFFAIRS: A story of child marriage survivors



- *First lady Zineb Yammeh launches campaign against child marriage*
- *Source: From the Daily newspaper POINT The Gambia*
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- *Wednesday, June 22, 2016,*
- *Jonsaba Jaiteh and Fatou Ceesay speak at the official launch of first lady Zineb Yahya Jammeh campaign against child marriage in Gambia, they were forced to marry a man they didn't like.*
- *Tell their story to 100 of local and international dignitaries, including United Nations officials at the launch ceremony.*
- *Author: Adama Jobe The Gambia*
-
-

Old President Jammeh is defending women's rights!



Connoisseurs call the decision remarkable, since there will be presidential elections next year. The ban could cost him votes because he defends women's rights.

By: NU.nl Image: ANP

Europeans interfere in Africans' way of life and believe that circumcision is allowed by men to oppress women

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Gambia's President Yahya Jammeh has issued a ban on female circumcision that goes into effect immediately.

The president announced the ban while visiting his hometown of Kanilai, reports The Guardian. Jammeh made the decision because, according to him, there is no 'religious legitimacy' for circumcising women in Islam.

The President stressed that parents and local authorities would be punished for not complying with the ban.

Female circumcision campaign can lead to life-long health problems, such as bleeding, infections, pain and even infertility.

President van Afrikaanse landen, daar hoor je vaak alleen maar slechte dingen van, de realiteit is anders.

Important emergency assistance is not trusted.

In the Congo, doctors are trying to stem the Ebola epidemic at risk to their lives. Dozens of militia groups are operating in the area that are obstructing medical operations and have already killed at least five doctors.

But there is an even bigger enemy in the mistrust of the locals. "It hinders the detection of Ebola patients? We came here to investigate an infected man, but he ran away. The man's wife died of Ebola, but he did not want to accept that. "He says his wife died of witchcraft."



The logical consequence of all help where there is no involvement, "ignorance and the many disappointments" makes people suspicious.

There is poverty in the Netherlands too!

The Western world has developed under much better conditions. She has nevertheless spent centuries on that. Remarkably, even the Netherlands has failed to completely eradicate poverty here.



Education in the Netherlands is getting worse, teachers are underpaid

Crime and intolerance are on the rise, but there are too few police people who are also underpaid

The need for care is increasing rapidly, but there is a dire shortage of care personnel:

There is a shortage of housing
More than 600,000 families in the Netherlands live below the poverty line and with it many children.

Drinking water is becoming polluted.
Emergency care has to close regularly.

Several hospitals are bankrupt.
Pregnant women end up in critical situations due to long travel times.



You cannot fight poverty by giving free goods!

It is not about poverty!

Clearly, it is not about poverty, countries remain poor and are getting poorer when we as Westerners fail to see that imposed aid is of no use, but that we should treat the people of The Gambia as people who have something to offer us and are allowed to work with them, just like we do in other, not poor, countries.

Mutual responsibility for what you get and give.

It can be done differently

It can be different and that is what we have been doing for 19 years, it is not going fast, it is difficult to change an image from two sides (!).

However, it now seems to work.



We have had many problems with cultural differences and customs that have been passed down from generation to generation for more than 60 years. We did not run away from that, but tackled it. We can dedicate ourselves to the financial and economic development of the Gambians.

This requires that compassion and personal goals, submissiveness and begging be converted into mutual interest and equality.

Mutual responsibility for give and take