Negative: Cargo Preference for Food Aid – Good

By Katherine Baker and "Coach Vance" Trefethen

 Status Quo policy on US food aid to foreign countries requires at least 50% of the food to be delivered on US-flagged vessels, a policy known as Cargo Preferences for Food Aid, or CPFA. The CPFA requirement used to be 75% US ships, but that was lowered to 50% in 2012 and lobbyists for the maritime industry are successfully telling Congress not to lower it any further. The Affirmative's theory is that CPFA slows down and increases the price of aid, creating harm to hungry people in poor countries. One Negative strategy you could run would be a counterplan to simply cancel all food aid (under the theory that the resolution requires "reform," and cancellation isn't reform. We expect to have a brief on that topic later.) The other Neg strategy is to argue from this brief that food stockpiled in warehouses solves for the delay problem, and that famine impact estimates are exaggerated or non-existent. And taking business away from the US shipping fleet will create disadvantages to our military, lost jobs in our economy, and possibly political backlash that could even cut food aid long term.

Note: You can also ignore this brief and run instead the Neg counterplan at the bottom of the brief to "ABOLISH FOOD AID" if you believe that would be more likely to win.

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SOLVENCY OF THE COUNTERPLAN BETTER THAN AFFIRMATIVE PLAN 13

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"Cargo Preferences" harms come from plan to ship food to Yemen and 5 countries in Africa 13

The African countries are: Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan 13

Delivering food commodities to Yemen won't help: Food will be stolen and profits used to prolong the war 13

Kenya: Commodity food aid has historically failed and caused harm 14

Ethiopia & Somalia: Food deliveries physically cannot get to the hungry because of war and blockades 14

HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE 15

1. Famine is a declining world problem, and what remains can’t be solved 15

Modern famines are less severe than past generations and mostly confined to the Horn of Africa 15

Corruption, mismanagement and bad governance are mainly to blame for famine in the Horn of Africa 15

2. Recipients lie to get free stuff 15

Ethiopia Study: People lie about their situation to get more food aid 15

3. Needs exaggerated 16

NGO's and media like to exaggerate food issues 16

INHERENCY – "Even if" food aid were a good thing, other actors can provide it 16

1. Middle East: Rich "Gulf States" (e.g. Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain) can do it 16

2. World Food Program 16

WFP has $3.2 billion, of which the US donates $1.7 billion 16

SOLVENCY FAILURES OF FOOD AID 16

1. Arrives too late 16

By the time you get the relief effort up & running, the crisis is over 16

2. Can’t solve, because lack of food isn’t the root cause of famine 17

Agricultural production alone doesn’t cause famine, there is always some man-made cause 17

Human behavior causes famine, not lack of food 17

DISADVANTAGES OF FOOD AID 17

1. Free food destroys local farms 17

Food aid makes everything worse: Drives local farms out of business and fuels criminals and corruption 17

Arrival of free food from outside destroys local farmers who can't compete with food priced at zero. But without farms, how will they ever feed themselves again? Example: Haiti 17

Makes things worse long term: Food aid destroys local efforts to grow food 18

2. Replaces or retards economic development 18

Countries get addicted to food aid. Ethiopia built their economy around it and Sudan waits for handouts while malnutrition rates don't improve 18

3. Undermines effective governance 18

Local governments are neutralized because foreigners with their aid are running everything 18

Impact: Less food / More hunger. Food aid enables bad government policies that end up denying more people food 18

4. Fuels violent conflicts 19

Violence gets worse when we send food aid 19

Qian & Nunn Study: 10% increase in food aid = 1.14% increase in likelihood of civil war 19

Food aid gets stolen and used by rebels to fuel their violent activities 19

5. Enables evil dictators 20

Dictators use food aid to bolster their own power. Impact: injustice & violence 20

6. White Savior Complex 20

Link: Zambia. They refused US food aid … and survived just fine. It proves the arrogance of Westerners who think that without whites, Africans would all be dead 20

Impact: Blocks Real Solutions. In addition to being wrong for its own sake, this "White Savior Complex" undermines Africans making progress toward their own solutions 20

Impact: Racism. Mindset that Africa needs to be saved and cannot save itself is a form of racism 21

7. Distracts from real solutions 21

AFF uses emotional plea to "sell" voters (like the Judge in this round) on their plan, but this prevents long-term solutions, creates despair, and distracts us from real solutions like establishing fair international institutions 21

NEGATIVE: Cargo Preferences for Food Aid – good

TOPICALITY

1. Aid not Trade

The title of the law says it all: Food Aid, not Food Trade

This isn't "within the bounds of import and export trade" because nothing is being traded.

Impact: Negative ballot

If no one affirms the resolution then there's no Affirmative team, so no matter who wins, you should write "Negative" on the ballot.

INHERENCY

1. Exemptions & alternatives

Status quo already has exemptions from Cargo Preference for food aid. And most food aid isn't shipped in commodities at all anyway

Philip Brasher 2022 (journalist) 5 Apr 2022 "Global crisis sparks debate over food aid need, shipping costs" (accessed 9 Jan 2023) https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/17625-global-crisis-sparks-debate-over-food-aid-need-shipping-costs

But Bryant Gardner, a lobbyist for New York-based carrier Liberty Maritime Corp., said the waiver Coons and Ernst have proposed is unnecessary because the government already has the legal authority to ship food aid on foreign carriers if U.S.-flag ships aren’t available at “fair and reasonable” rates. “In recent years, USAID has been exempting about 40% of cargoes under those waivers, resulting in that [approximately] 30% carriage by American ships,” Gardner said in an email. “Last we checked compliance was closer to 25% for the current year.” He also noted that most U.S. international food assistance is now provided through local purchases and cash vouchers rather than in U.S.-produced commodities.

2. Warehouses

Aid storage warehouses solve for the supposed problem of cargo delays. Root causes of delay are elsewhere

Maritime Executive, 2013. (The Maritime Executive publishing company was founded in 1997. Its mission is to provide industry leaders with in-depth analysis of maritime issues and to report the news affecting the global maritime community.) “Food for Peace Program Remains in Forefront of U.S. Maritime Issues” 2013-07-16 (accessed 9 Jan 2023) https://maritime-executive.com/article/Food-for-Peace-Program-Remains-in-Forefront-of-US-Maritime-Issues-2013-07-16

USAID unfairly blames the U.S. maritime industry for high transportation costs and excessive delays in getting relief cargoes to the people in need. However, they fail to mention that USAID maintains five international food aid storage warehouses for quick response. Meanwhile, the Office of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) just released a report on June 27 that found “poor coordination, waste, and mismanagement” of USAID’s agricultural programs in the region.

HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE

1. Food crisis exaggerated

Number of people in crisis exaggerated.

Rasna Warah, 2012. (columnist with Kenya’s Daily Nation newspaper, is the author of the recently published book Red Soil and Roasted Maize: Selected essays and articles on contemporary Kenya) “Don’t feed the world? How food aid can do more harm than good” January 2, 2012 (accessed 9 Jan 2023) http://www.redpepper.org.uk/dont-feed-the-world/

The UN uses a scale developed by the Food and Agricultural Organisation-managed Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit to determine levels of food insecurity. This ranges from ‘generally food secure’ to ‘famine/humanitarian catastrophe’. The unit’s estimates for the number of Somali people ‘in crisis’ in the period August–September 2011 indicate that less than half a million people – not the four million cited by the press – were experiencing famine. About 3.5 million people were experiencing some form of food insecurity but they were not dying of starvation as widely reported. And some of the food insecurity was related to inflation and rising food prices, not necessarily to drought.

2. Root cause misunderstood

Lack of food aid doesn't trigger famine

Henri Astier, 2006. (BBC news reporter.) “Can aid do more harm than good?” 1 February 2006. (accessed 9 Jan 2023) http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/4185550.stm

Take the case of Zambia, which at the time banned aid because it worried about genetically-modified US maize. Donors were aghast. "Leaders who refuse to let their people have food, should be put in the dock for the most serious crimes against humanity," the US ambassador to Zambia said. But then something strange happened: nothing. Cutting off supplies did not trigger famine.

DISADVANTAGES

1. US National Security

Link: Cargo preference protects our national defense

Skip Witunski, 2017. (national president of the Navy League of the United States.) “The U.S. Merchant Marine serves an integral role in the Food for Peace program” April 28, 2017. (accessed 9 Jan 2023) https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-us-merchant-marine-serves-an-integral-role-in-the-food-for-peace-program/2017/04/28/5777f79a-2b49-11e7-9081-f5405f56d3e4\_story.html?utm\_term=.0366dba034c7

Our nation’s cargo-preference programs, including the Food for Peace program, are instrumental to sustaining the U.S. Merchant Marine and maintaining our national defense sealift capability, with the attendant billions saved. The minor savings from cutting cargo preference must be viewed with the huge cost of acquiring sealift capability by other means and the damage to our U.S. Merchant Marine that would occur.

Link: Helps the military

Samuel Oakford, 2017. (Freelance journalist based in New York, and regular IRIN contributor.) “The battle over the future of US food aid” 8 August 2017 (accessed 9 Jan 2023) https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/analysis/2017/08/08/battle-over-future-us-food-aid

Cargo preference law promotes both national security and commercial interests: it is intended to ensure logistics capacity for the military and benefit the maritime industry. Only 120 vessels from some 40 companies are eligible to carry US food aid.

Link: US controlled food shipments important for national security

Patricia Zengerle, 2017. (Reuters reporter) “Exclusive: Trump drops plans for order tightening food aid shipping rules – sources” JUNE 30, 2017 (accessed 9 Jan 2023) https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trump-aid/exclusive-trump-drops-plans-for-order-tightening-food-aid-shipping-rules-sources-idUSKBN19L2VU

Supporters say Trump’s initiative would not only create new U.S. jobs in the shipping industry but that U.S.-controlled food shipments are important for national security because the U.S. fleet could be transferred to the military in case of a conflict.

Link: Reduce military sealift capacity

Sasha Chavkin, 2013. (International Consortium of Investigative Journalists) “How shipping unions sunk food aid reform” November 6, 2013 (accessed 9 Jan 2023) <https://www.publicintegrity.org/2013/11/06/13687/how-shipping-unions-sunk-food-aid-reform> (brackets added)

The other main argument against the changes is that they would reduce military sealift capacity by driving U.S.-flagged commercial ships known as the merchant marine out of business. Advocates say that in Iraq and Afghanistan, 90 percent of shipping supplies were carried by the merchant marine. “If you start hollowing out the U.S. merchant marine, and you start with eight to 10 ships, its going to call into question whether merchant marine operators have a viable future in the U.S.,” [Ed] Wytkind said. [President of the AFL Transportation Trades Department of the AFL-CIO]

Link: Why target struggling merchant marines

Sasha Chavkin, 2013. (International Consortium of Investigative Journalists) “How shipping unions sunk food aid reform” November 6, 2013 (accessed 9 Jan 2023) <https://www.publicintegrity.org/2013/11/06/13687/how-shipping-unions-sunk-food-aid-reform> (Wytkind is President of the AFL Transportation Trades Department of the AFL-CIO)

Food aid reform advocates are trying to get part of the changes that were rejected in June back into the farm bill or the FY 2014 budget. Their current goal is for USAID to have the option of spending up to 20 percent of the Food for Peace program, in addition to 20 percent of overall food aid that is already in more flexible programs, on cash aid or local purchases. Shipping unions and their allies question why the struggling merchant marines should be a target for reductions, and are gathering their strength to ensure that enough liberal Democrats line up once again to sink the proposal. “We’re not shy,” Wytkind said. “All these battles are all about the same issue, when you start getting into reform debates like this. They’re about whether we’re going to have a viable US transportation industry that supports good middle-class jobs.”

Brink: Past reduction in cargo preference resulted in US flag fleet decline

Skip Witunski, 2017. (The writer is national president of the Navy League of the United States.) “The U.S. Merchant Marine serves an integral role in the Food for Peace program” April 28, 2017. (accessed 9 Jan 2023) https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-us-merchant-marine-serves-an-integral-role-in-the-food-for-peace-program/2017/04/28/5777f79a-2b49-11e7-9081-f5405f56d3e4\_story.html?utm\_term=.0366dba034c7

The U.S.-flag international fleet has declined steadily in recent years because of a 2012 reduction in cargo preference for Food for Peace. We should reinstate the 75 percent preference for international food aid, reversing the damage to a national capability through shortsighted savings.

Impact: US Merchant Marine vital for US military efforts

Skip Witunski, 2017. (The writer is national president of the Navy League of the United States.) “The U.S. Merchant Marine serves an integral role in the Food for Peace program” April 28, 2017. (accessed 9 Jan 2023) https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-us-merchant-marine-serves-an-integral-role-in-the-food-for-peace-program/2017/04/28/5777f79a-2b49-11e7-9081-f5405f56d3e4\_story.html?utm\_term=.0366dba034c7

The U.S. Merchant Marine is a valuable national asset that has always been there for the United States in times of war and national emergency. The U.S.-flag commercial fleet carried more than 90 percent of the materiel to Iraq and Afghanistan, and the Defense Department has repeatedly stated that its reliance on this public-private partnership saves American taxpayers billions of dollars.

Impact: Ships crucial for emergency sealift capacity

Maritime Executive, 2013. (The Maritime Executive publishing company was founded in 1997. Its mission is to provide industry leaders with in-depth analysis of maritime issues.) “Food for Peace Program Remains in Forefront of U.S. Maritime Issues” 2013-07-16 (accessed 9 Jan 2023) https://maritime-executive.com/article/Food-for-Peace-Program-Remains-in-Forefront-of-US-Maritime-Issues-2013-07-16

Currently, the U.S. food aid portion for cargo preference is approximately 11% with military cargoes making up about 85% and civilian agency cargo (such as Export-Import Bank financed cargoes) coming in at 4%. With the continual draw-down of U.S. war efforts throughout the world, military cargo is steadily decreasing thus putting even more pressure on the other components of cargo preference. Many of these ships and crews are the very same that the Department of Defense depends upon for wartime and emergency sealift capabilities. AMC continues to press forward to make the case and coordinate maritime industry efforts to keep our U.S. food aid program and all other cargo preference programs in place.

1. Decreased food aid [if not running the Counterplan to cancel food aid]

Link: Food Aid needs special interests

Samuel Oakford, 2017. (Freelance journalist based in New York, and regular IRIN contributor) “The battle over the future of US food aid” 8 August 2017 (accessed 9 Jan 2023) https://www.irinnews.org/analysis/2017/08/08/battle-over-future-us-food-aid

Moving away from in-kind food aid threatens the revenue of both shipping and farming industries. Schoeneman, who spoke in June on behalf of industry lobby USA Maritime, urged Congress to “ignore the siren calls for ‘greater flexibility’ from the so-called ‘food aid reform advocates’.” He said further reforms could upset carefully intertwined domestic interests that ensure food aid survives. Politically, the argument goes, food aid needs special interests to avoid being cut.

Link: special interests prevent spending cuts

Samuel Oakford, 2017. (Freelance journalist based in New York, and regular IRIN contributor) “The battle over the future of US food aid” 8 August 2017 (accessed 9 Jan 2023) https://www.irinnews.org/analysis/2017/08/08/battle-over-future-us-food-aid

 “For more than 60 years, this domestic support has shielded Food for Peace from harsh spending cuts and efforts to significantly change the program,” Schoeneman noted.

Brink: Cuts do get proposed

Jeremy Konyndyk, 2017. (senior policy fellow at the Center for Global Development, previously served as director for foreign disaster assistance at USAid.) “'Trump's aid budget is breathtakingly cruel – cuts like these will kill people'’ May 31, 2017 (accessed 10 Jan 2023) https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2017/may/31/trumps-aid-budget-is-breathtakingly-cruel-cuts-like-these-will-kill-people

President Trump’s new budget plans take particular aim at foreign aid spending, proposing an overall cut [of 32%](http://uk.reuters.com/article/us-usa-budget-foreign-aid-idUKKBN18J2DC) to all civilian foreign affairs spending. Facing extensive criticism from Republicans and Democrats alike for the budget’s draconian vision, Trump’s budget chief Mick Mulvaney defended the proposal by arguing it should be judged not “[by how much money we spend, but by how many people we actually help](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/22/us/politics/trump-budget-cuts.html).”

Impact: Large cuts kill

Trumps proposed cuts would cut nearly 30 million from food aid

Jeremy Konyndyk, 2017. (senior policy fellow at the Center for Global Development, and previously served as the director for foreign disaster assistance at USAid.) “'Trump's aid budget is breathtakingly cruel – cuts like these will kill people'’ May 31, 2017 (accessed 10 Jan 2023) https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2017/may/31/trumps-aid-budget-is-breathtakingly-cruel-cuts-like-these-will-kill-people

Let’s not sugarcoat this: humanitarian aid is lifesaving assistance, so cuts like these will kill people. As the head of foreign disaster response for the Obama administration, I had to weigh up budget trade-offs every year, knowing that saving lives in one region meant we would save fewer elsewhere. But I never faced trade-offs this extreme. Laying waste to US relief aid would be hard to defend even if the world were in decent shape. But proposing this amidst the worst slate of humanitarian crises in recent decades is breathtakingly cruel. This budget would cut nearly 30 million people from food aid rolls even as aid groups struggle to hold off four potential famines. It would undermine refugee aid even as global refugee numbers hit peaks not seen since the second world war and new South Sudanese refugees flee their country by the tens of thousands. And it would obliterate funding for the health, clean water, nutrition, and shelter programmes that keep victims of conflicts and natural disasters alive.

1. Jobs

Link and Impact: Over 33,000 jobs rely solely on transport of US food aid

Sasha Chavkin, 2013. (International Consortium of Investigative Journalists) “How shipping unions sunk food aid reform” November 6, 2013 https://www.publicintegrity.org/2013/11/06/13687/how-shipping-unions-sunk-food-aid-reform (accessed 10 Jan 2023)

A statement by USAMaritime, an industry group that represents shipping companies and unions, states that “over 33,000 Americans’ jobs depend upon the transportation of U.S. food aid alone.”

Link and Impact: Shipments of food aid support 33,000 US jobs

Claire Provost, 2012. (journalist who worked on the Guardian's Global development site including as a data journalist following the money in international aid; Bertha fellow at the Centre for Investigative Journalism (2014-2016).) “US food aid: the special interests blocking reform” July 19, 2012. (accessed 10 Jan 2023) https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2012/jul/19/us-food-aid-special-interests-reform

Last month, President Barack Obama lowered the share of US food aid that must be transported on US ships from 75% to 50%; USA Maritime, a coalition of shipping companies and maritime trade and labour associations, was quick to protest. It said shipments of international food aid support 33,000 US jobs and help maintain a merchant marine that can be called upon by the department of defence in cases of war or national emergency.

 “Few jobs would be lost” Response: Does not consider multiplier affect

Sasha Chavkin, 2013. (International Consortium of Investigative Journalists) “How shipping unions sunk food aid reform” November 6, 2013 (accessed 10 Jan 2023) https://www.publicintegrity.org/2013/11/06/13687/how-shipping-unions-sunk-food-aid-reform

This figure has been called into question. When congressional supporters of food aid reform asked the Pentagon how many shipping jobs would be lost, it estimated that only 360 to 495 mariners on a total of eight to 11 ships would be affected. Wytkind noted that this figure does not consider the multiplier effects of the initial jobs being lost, nor the broader threat posed to the U.S. shipping industry as a whole.

1. US food shipments harm farmers

Big link: AFF plan = increased amount of food aid sent from the US

Link: ‘Foreign food aid hurts countries” example: Haiti

Rasna Warah, 2012. (columnist with Kenya’s Daily Nation newspaper, is the author of the recently published book Red Soil and Roasted Maize: Selected essays and articles on contemporary Kenya) “Don’t feed the world? How food aid can do more harm than good” January 2, 2012 (accessed 10 Jan 2023) http://www.redpepper.org.uk/dont-feed-the-world/

Like Somalia, Haiti offers a perfect example of how aid can destroy a country. This island in the Caribbean has received so much foreign aid over the years that it has been described as ‘a poster child for the inadequacies of foreign aid’ because of its extremely poor development record and widespread poverty. Every few years, a new disaster strikes Haiti and the world rallies around through massive fundraising campaigns. But Haiti, like its distant cousin Somalia, continues to remain poor, under-developed and the site of much misery – ideal ingredients for yet another fundraising campaign.

Link: US Food aid delivery hurts farmers, and nations

PETER DUFFY, 2010. (freelance journalist since 1999, writing for The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, New York magazine, The New Republic, Slate, and many other outlets.) “Lessons From Haiti: How Food Aid Can Harm” AUG 31, 2010 (accessed 10 Jan 2023) https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2010/08/lessons-from-haiti-how-food-aid-can-harm/62252/

But perhaps the greatest problem is the damage our food aid causes to farmers in developing countries, who are essential to the future health of their societies. Often in the news lately has been the harm that U.S. deliveries have done to the Haitian rice industry over the past few decades. On March 10, in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Bill Clinton apologized for his administration's role in exporting cheap U.S. rice to Haiti, undercutting local growers. According to a study by the Center for Economic and Policy Research, Haitian farmers provided 47 percent of the country's rice in 1988. By the 2008, the figure had dropped to 15 percent. And in a recent report on NPR's Planet Money, reporters described how bags of American rice are still being sold in Haitian markets.

Link: American food aid competes with local farmers

Celia W. Dugger, 2007. (Reporter for the New York Times.) “Charity finds that U.S. food aid for Africa hurts instead of helps” AUG. 14, 2007 (accessed 10 Jan 2023) http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/14/world/americas/14iht-food.4.7116855.html

CARE, one of the world's biggest charities, is walking away from about $45 million a year in federal funding, saying American food aid is not only plagued with inefficiencies, but may hurt some of the very poor people it aims to help. Its decision, which has deeply divided the world of food aid, is focused on the practice of selling tons of American farm products in African countries that in some cases compete with the crops of struggling local farmers. "If someone wants to help you, they shouldn't do it by destroying the very thing that they're trying to promote," said George Odo, a CARE official who grew disillusioned with the practice while supervising the sale of American wheat and vegetable oil in Nairobi.

Link: Food aid drives down price for local farmers

Henri Astier, 2006. (BBC news reporter.) “Can aid do more harm than good?” 1 February 2006. (accessed 10 Jan 2023) http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/4185550.stm

A bonanza often undermine self-reliance. "It is axiomatic that flooding the market with food drives down the price for local farmers," Mr Easterly says.

Link: Tons of aid translates to lower economic growth

Ana Swanson, 2015. (Reporter at The Washington Post.) “Does foreign aid always help the poor?” 23 Oct 2015 (accessed 10 Jan 2023) https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/10/does-foreign-aid-always-help-the-poor/

“I think his understanding of how the world worked at the micro level made him extremely suspicious of these get-rich-quick schemes that some people peddled at the development level,” says Daron Acemoglu, an economist at MIT. The data suggested that the claims of the aid community were sometimes not borne out. Even as the level of foreign aid into Africa soared through the 1980s and 1990s, African economies were doing worse than ever, as the chart below, from a paper by economist Bill Easterly of New York University, shows. The effect wasn’t limited to Africa. Many economists were noticing that an influx of foreign aid did not seem to produce economic growth in countries around the world. Rather, lots of foreign aid flowing into a country tended to be correlated with lower economic growth, as this chart from a paper by Arvind Subramanian and Raghuram Rajan shows. The countries that receive less aid, those on the left-hand side of the chart, tend to have higher growth — while those that receive more aid, on the right-hand side, have lower growth.

Impact: Free food slows recovery

Rasna Warah, 2012. (columnist with Kenya’s Daily Nation newspaper, is the author of the recently published book Red Soil and Roasted Maize: Selected essays and articles on contemporary Kenya) “Don’t feed the world? How food aid can do more harm than good” (accessed 10 Jan 2023) January 2, 2012 http://www.redpepper.org.uk/dont-feed-the-world/

George-Marc André, the European Union representative to Somalia, cautiously admits that the EC is concerned that its efforts in Somalia are being hampered by UN agencies flooding the capital Mogadishu with food aid. In an environment where free food is readily available, he explains, farmers do not get value for their produce. Delivering food aid during the harvest season further distorts the food market. André says that UN agencies such as the World Food Programme could actually have ‘slowed down’ Somalia’s recovery by focusing exclusively on food aid, instead of supporting local farmers and markets.

Impact: US Food aid destroys local economies

Rasna Warah, 2012. (columnist with Kenya’s Daily Nation newspaper, is the author of the recently published book Red Soil and Roasted Maize: Selected essays and articles on contemporary Kenya) “Don’t feed the world? How food aid can do more harm than good” January 2, 2012 (accessed 10 Jan 2023) (http://www.redpepper.org.uk/dont-feed-the-world/

Given that most of the food aid comes from the US and other countries outside Somalia, there is also concern that declarations of famine do more to help farmers elsewhere rather than supporting local producers. The food aid industry allows countries such as the US to offload food surpluses to poor countries. This distorts local markets and disrupts local food production. In other words, food aid destroys local economies, especially when it is provided over long periods of time, as in Somalia.

Impact: Excessive food aid doesn’t help people

Joshua E. Keating, 2012. (was an associate editor at Foreign Policy.) “Please, Don’t Send Food” June 18, 2012. (accessed 10 Jan 2023) http://foreignpolicy.com/2012/06/18/please-dont-send-food/

There’s been plenty of debate in recent years about whether humanitarian aid actually helps rid the world of extreme poverty. The inability of developed countries to make a dent in the problem, despite spending billions of dollars each year, is what economist and noted aid skeptic William Easterly calls the "second tragedy" of global poverty. But a recent study takes this skepticism to a whole new level, suggesting that food aid not only doesn’t work, but also can prolong the violent conflicts it’s meant to help resolve.

1. Increased food aid shipments = increased violence

Link: AFF plan = increased amount of food aid sent from the US

Link: Food aid shipments stolen

Joshua E. Keating, 2012. (was an associate editor at Foreign Policy.) “Please, Don’t Send Food” June 18, 2012. (accessed 10 Jan 2023) http://foreignpolicy.com/2012/06/18/please-dont-send-food/

The results confirm anecdotal reports that food aid during conflicts is often stolen by armed groups, essentially making international donors part of the rebel logistics effort. According to some estimates, as much as 80 percent of the food aid shipments to Somalia in the early 1990s was looted or stolen. In her book The Crisis Caravan, journalist Linda Polman reported how Hutu rebels who fled Rwanda after the 1994 genocide appropriated aid given out in refugee camps in neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo, further fueling conflict in the region. Polman also estimated that Nigeria’s 1967-1970 Biafran war — one of the first African humanitarian crises to get global media attention — may have lasted 12 to 16 months longer than it otherwise would have because of the international aid seized by rebel groups.

Impact: Increase in food aid increases violence

Joshua E. Keating, 2012. (was an associate editor at Foreign Policy.) “Please, Don’t Send Food” June 18, 2012. (accessed 10 Jan 2023) http://foreignpolicy.com/2012/06/18/please-dont-send-food/

Looking at a sample of developing countries between 1972 and 2006, economists Nancy Qian of Yale University and Nathan Nunn of Harvard University found a direct correlation between U.S. food aid and civil conflict. For every 10 percent increase in the amount of food aid delivered, they discovered, the likelihood of violent civil conflict rises by 1.14 percentage points.

Counterplan: Abolish Food Aid

NEGATIVE PHILOSOPHY

Neg Philosophy: Canceling shipments of commodity food aid would be better than reforming it

Shipping boatloads of food to poor countries was the 1950s solution to Third World hunger. But 3 generations later, we know better. At least, the rest of the world, except for the Affirmative team, knows this. Today we know that there are two better things we can do: First, do nothing. A lot of times, sending a boatload of food causes more harm than good because it gets stolen and used by criminals and gangs to further their evil activities, and /or the free food competes with local farms and permanently drives them out of business, leading to long term more people dying from starvation. Second, if aid really would help, the best way is to send vouchers or other forms of funding for those in need to buy food from local or regional sources. It's way more efficient and it avoids the problems caused by boatloads of food.

COUNTERPLAN

Negative offers the following COUNTERPLAN implemented by Congress and the President:

1. Congress votes to end all US commodity shipments of foreign food aid reformed by the Affirmative plan.
2. Counterplan takes effect the same day as the date of the Affirmative plan
3. All Negative speeches may clarify
4. Nothing in the Counterplan bans other forms of foreign aid such as vouchers or funding for local and regional purchase of food overseas.

To summarize, we're maintaining the Negative position in today's debate by denying the resolution. The word in the resolution we deny is the word "reform." We believe the food aid the Affirmative is reforming should be abolished, not reformed. Our counterplan is exclusive to the Affirmative plan because you can't do both our plan and theirs at the same time. And we urge a Negative ballot on the basis of achieving net benefits over their plan.

COUNTERPLAN ADVOCACY

Advocacy: President of Haiti said stop food aid, it causes more harm than good

Peter Duffy 2010 (journalist) 31 Aug 2010 "Lessons From Haiti: How Food Aid Can Harm" (accessed 10 Jan 2023) https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2010/08/lessons-from-haiti-how-food-aid-can-harm/62252/

Haitian President René Préval, an agronomist, is so mindful of the harm caused by free food that he was already calling for an end to it in March, a decision that was not universally applauded in his hungry country. The U.N.'s World Food Programme (WFP), a major distributor of U.S. food aid, began phasing out its large-scale distributions in May under orders from the Préval government.

COUNTERPLAN ANALYSIS

1. We oppose the resolution. Abolishing aid is not Reforming trade.

Our Counterplan denies the resolution because we don't advocate changing anything about imports or exports within the bounds of international trade. We're changing "AID," and doing nothing about any status quo policy on TRADE. Since our Counterplan isn’t topical, you have a clear choice between affirming and denying the resolution.

2. Mutually exclusive policies

The Counterplan and the Affirmative plan cancel each other out and cannot be done at the same time. You have to pick between reforming food aid shipping or abolishing food aid.

SOLVENCY OF THE COUNTERPLAN BETTER THAN AFFIRMATIVE PLAN

Big Link: Countries that form the basis of the harms will not be solved by the plan

"Cargo Preferences" harms come from plan to ship food to Yemen and 5 countries in Africa

Philip Brasher 2022 (journalist) 5 Apr 2022 "Global crisis sparks debate over food aid need, shipping costs" (accessed 9 Jan 2023) https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/17625-global-crisis-sparks-debate-over-food-aid-need-shipping-costs

The cargo preference requirement got renewed attention on Capitol Hill with the Agriculture Department’s announcement last week that it would have to spend $388 million to ship and distribute $282 million worth of U.S. commodities in Yemen and five African countries.

The African countries are: Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and South Sudan

Philip Brasher 2022 (journalist) 27 Apr 2022 "USDA taps emergency commodity funding to address war impact" AGRI-PULSE (accessed 10 Jan 2023) https://www.agri-pulse.com/articles/17604-usda-taps-emergency-funding-to-buy-us-commodities-to-address-war-impact

In addition to Yemen, the commodities also will be provided to Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and South Sudan, countries that have been hit especially hard hit by food inflation, according to the International Food Policy Research Institute.

Delivering food commodities to Yemen won't help: Food will be stolen and profits used to prolong the war

Dr. Moosa Elayah, Qais Gaber and Matilda Fenttiman 2022. (Elayah - PhD; Assistant Professor in Public Administration, specialized in International Development, Peacebuilding and Conflict Studies, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies (Qatar). Gaber - Doha Institute for Graduates Studies, Qatar. Fenttiman - Centre for Governance and Peacebuilding, Nijmegen, The Netherlands) 23 Apr 2022 " From food to cash assistance: rethinking humanitarian aid in Yemen" JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN ACTION (accessed 10 Jan 2023) https://jhumanitarianaction.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s41018-022-00119-w (brackets added)

Humanitarian aid (HA) is needed in Yemen to cope with the worst humanitarian crisis in the world. However, current practices of distributing aid in the form of food have not had the desired effect; conflict has continued, and war economies are thriving as a result. Thus, this paper proposes the idea of cash assistance as an alternative form of HA. Our empirical analysis of HA [humanitarian assistance] in Yemen shows that cash assistance is a more effective and efficient way of distributing aid in comparison to food aid. This is due to food aid being vulnerable to looting by the conflicting factions, enabling funds to be inadvertently captured into the highly problematic war economy dynamic.

Kenya: Commodity food aid has historically failed and caused harm

Prof. Christopher Barrett 2006 (applied economics & management, Cornell Univ.) March 2006 "Food Aid’s Intended and Unintended Consequences" (accessed 10 Jan 2023) http://barrett.dyson.cornell.edu/files/papers/MixedEffectsv2Mar2006.pdf

A perhaps more subtle but damaging induced consumption change occurs when culturally inappropriate foods – e.g., maize to pastoralists with a strong preference for milk, meat and tea – are not consumed but instead processed into home brewed alcohol. During the 2000 drought in northern Kenya, the price of changaa (a locally distilled alcohol) fell significantly and consumption seems to have increased as a result, all because grain food aid inflows increased the availability of low-cost inputs to the extant, town-based informal distilling industry (Barrett and Maxwell 2005). While food aid certainly doesn’t cause the emergence of local brewing nor of excessive alcohol consumption, the point is that excessive shipments of foods most recipients don’t especially care to eat can have adverse, unintended consequences. Once again, poor targeting is the root source of such effects. 4. Natural resource overexploitation Recent research suggests that patterns of food aid distribution may inadvertently affect the natural environment, by changing consumption patterns and by inducing locational change in grazing and other activities. A pair of studies in northern Kenya find that food aid distribution seems to induce greater spatial concentration of livestock around distribution points, causing localized rangeland degradation, and that food aid provided as whole grain requires more cooking, and thus more fuelwood, stimulating local deforestation (McPeak 2003a, 2003b). The form of the food aid affects fuelwood demand, with granular maize requiring more cooking than maize meal and thus adding to the pressure on the natural resource base.

Ethiopia & Somalia: Food deliveries physically cannot get to the hungry because of war and blockades

[Abdullahi Halakhe](https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports?author=62d420942404863b98902fde) 2022 (Senior Advocate for East and southern Africa with Refugees International) 9 Dec 2022 "We Were Warned: Unlearned Lessons of Famine in the Horn of Africa" (accessed 10 Jan 2023) https://www.refugeesinternational.org/reports/2022/12/7/we-were-warned-unlearned-lessons-of-famine-in-the-horn-of-africa

In Somalia and Ethiopia, internal conflicts are the [chief barrier](https://nation.africa/africa/news/to-fight-hunger-us-envoy-s-visit-to-ethiopia-must-emphasise-peace-and-accountability-3894686) to delivering humanitarian aid. In 2011, humanitarian groups feared falling afoul of the sweeping counter-terrorism regimes, and Al-Shabaab’s onerous and arbitrary requirement to program in the areas under their control inhibited humanitarian access in southern Somalia. Initially, most areas that experienced famine were predominantly areas under Al-Shabaab’s control, although it spread to the government-controlled areas later. Today, Al-Shabaab does not control as many areas as in 2011. However, between 700,000 and 900,000 people still live in regions controlled by the group, making humanitarian access difficult. Ethiopia has historically suffered from chronic food insecurity, and the government has addressed some of its causes through the Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP). The absence of large-scale conflict has also helped. But the outbreak of conflict in late 2020 between the Tigray authority on one side and the Federal Ethiopian government, the Eritrean military, and various militia on the other side has diverted resources towards the war and weakened community resilience. The federal government’s humanitarian blockade has also denied people in need of aid. Additionally, the killing of humanitarian workers and looting of humanitarian aid by parties to the conflict has exacerbated the already perilous situation.

HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE

1. Famine is a declining world problem, and what remains can’t be solved

Modern famines are less severe than past generations and mostly confined to the Horn of Africa

Sophie Chou 2017 (journalist) Public Radio International 27 Mar 2017 “Drought doesn't cause famine. People do.” (accessed 10 Jan 2023) <https://www.pri.org/stories/2017-03-27/drought-doesnt-cause-famine-people-do>

Modern famines are different from those the world faced 60 to 70 years ago. In the past, with less warning and less international support, more people died from hunger. In the early and mid-20th century, famines killed millions in Europe and Asia, in areas with much larger populations than areas which suffer from food insecurity today.
**END QUOTE. Chou goes on in the same context to conclude QUOTE:**
These days, famines cause death by the thousands, and are mostly confined to the Horn of Africa. Improvements in transportation and communications infrastructure have been successful in eliminating large-scale famines in virtually all other parts of the world.

Corruption, mismanagement and bad governance are mainly to blame for famine in the Horn of Africa

Helle Jeppesen 2011. (journalist) Instability to blame for famine in Horn of Africa, aid groups say, DEUTSCHE WELLE (accessed 10 Jan 2023) https://www.dw.com/en/instability-to-blame-for-famine-in-horn-of-africa-aid-groups-say/a-15254232

Crop failure, droughts and floods are not the only causes of hunger. Corruption, mismanagement and bad governance are mainly to blame for catastrophes such as the current famine in the Horn of Africa.

2. Recipients lie to get free stuff

Ethiopia Study: People lie about their situation to get more food aid

*Aschale Dagnachew Siyoum, Dorothea Hilhorst and Gerrit-Jan van Uffelen 2012. (Siyoum is an Assistant Professor of Food Security and Rural Livelihoods at Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia. Hilhorst is a Professor of Humanitarian Aid and Reconstruction in Disaster Studies at Wageningen University, The Netherlands. van Uffelen is the Coordinator of the LEAFS Research Program in Disaster Studies at Wageningen University, The Netherlands) 27 Nov 2012* Food aid and dependency syndrome in Ethiopia: Local perceptions, JOURNAL OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE *(accessed 10 Jan 2023) file:///C:/Users/vth/Downloads/Food%20aid%20and%20dependency%20syndrome%20in%20Ethiopia\_%20Local%20perceptions%20\_%20The%20Journal%20of%20Humanitarian%20Assistance.pdf ttp://sites.tufts.edu/jha/archives/1754*

As discussed earlier, in the study area, people were provided with food aid irrespective of households’ food insecurity status in the 1980s and 1990s. This seems to have created a dependency attitude for some households. This is reflected by the fact that some interviewed households believed that they should be eligible for transfers even if they were not chronically food-insecure by local standards. In this regard, some households in the study area tried to portray themselves as chronically food-insecure and by doing so expected to have access to food aid transfers. Especially in one of the villages, during a focus group discussion, there seemed to be a general unwillingness to use the term “better-off” among community representatives. There was also a tendency to exaggerate the problem when it comes to food-gap related questions especially for non-beneficiary households.

3. Needs exaggerated

NGO's and media like to exaggerate food issues

BBC news 2006. (journalist Henri Astier) 1 Feb 2006 "Can aid do more harm than good?" (accessed 10 Jan 2023) http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/4185550.stm

"I think NGOs and rich country media do have an incentive to paint too simplistic and bleak a picture, as was the case in Niger's food crisis," Professor William Easterly of New York University told the BBC News website. What Niger experienced in 2005 was not a sudden catastrophe, but chronic malnutrition that makes people vulnerable to rises in food prices. Glib talk of famine backed by pictures of starving children may help NGOs raise funds, but it does nothing to address these basic problems, says Mr Easterly.
Boom and bust
Tony Vaux, a former official with Oxfam, agrees. Once an emergency is identified, he says, the NGOs' public relations machine takes over and "there is a terrible temptation to look around for the very worst stories".

INHERENCY – "Even if" food aid were a good thing, other actors can provide it

1. Middle East: Rich "Gulf States" (e.g. Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain) can do it

LOS ANGELES TIMES 2017 (journalist Ann Simmons) 21 Sept 2017 "[The U.N. World Food Program is seeing substantial funding, but it's still not enough to meet global needs](http://www.latimes.com/world/la-un-general-assembly-live-updates-the-u-n-world-food-program-is-seeing-1506017112-htmlstory.html#nt=card)" (accessed 10 Jan 2023) <http://www.latimes.com/world/la-un-general-assembly-live-updates-the-u-n-world-food-program-is-seeing-1506017112-htmlstory.html> (brackets added)

“The gulf states with all of their wealth should be funding the humanitarian crisis in their region of the world: Syria, Iraq, Yemen," [World Food Program Executive Director David] Beasley said, noting that the U.S. and Britain were among the largest donors helping Syrians, whose country remains devastated by civil war. “It’s absolutely inexcusable.”

2. World Food Program

WFP has $3.2 billion, of which the US donates $1.7 billion

LOS ANGELES TIMES 2017 (journalist Ann Simmons) 21 Sept 2017 (accessed 10 Jan 2023) "[The U.N. World Food Program is seeing substantial funding, but it's still not enough to meet global needs](http://www.latimes.com/world/la-un-general-assembly-live-updates-the-u-n-world-food-program-is-seeing-1506017112-htmlstory.html#nt=card)" (accessed 10 Jan 2023) <http://www.latimes.com/world/la-un-general-assembly-live-updates-the-u-n-world-food-program-is-seeing-1506017112-htmlstory.html>

Beasley, a Republican and former South Carolina governor who was nominated by President Trump to head the world's largest food agency, said his first objective in assuming the position in April “was to protect U.S. funding and other major donor funding at a time period where we were facing the worst humanitarian crisis.” Of the WFP's $3.2 billion in funding,  $1.7 billion is from the United States, Beasley said. Also of note was that funding for the WFP was passed with bipartisan support from legislators, he said.

SOLVENCY FAILURES OF FOOD AID

1. Arrives too late

By the time you get the relief effort up & running, the crisis is over

BBC news 2006. (journalist Henri Astier) 1 Feb 2006 "Can aid do more harm than good?" (accessed 10 Jan 2023) <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/4185550.stm> (brackets added)

One problem with dramatic appeals, [New York University Professor] Mr Easterly notes, is that they do not give you a big bang for your aid buck. "The payoff is disappointingly low," he says. Getting the relief effort up and running takes time, and when the food arrives it is often too late - or the crisis has eased on its own, as appears to be the case in Niger.

2. Can’t solve, because lack of food isn’t the root cause of famine

Agricultural production alone doesn’t cause famine, there is always some man-made cause

Sophie Chou 2017 (journalist) Public Radio International 27 Mar 2017 “Drought doesn't cause famine. People do.” <https://www.pri.org/stories/2017-03-27/drought-doesnt-cause-famine-people-do> (accessed 10 Jan 2023) (“exphasizes” is a typo in the original, it should be “emphasizes”)

“Those people will suffer, their children will be malnourished, they will likely be displaced, lose their livelihoods, and some people will no doubt die as a result of this crisis,” says Dan Maxwell, a food security professor and director of the [Feinstein International Center](http://fic.tufts.edu/) at Tufts University. Maxwell exphasizes that modern-day famines are rarely caused by a lack of food. “There has never been a case that agricultural production causes famine alone,” he says. “It only causes a famine if someone lets it cause a famine.”

Human behavior causes famine, not lack of food

Sophie Chou 2017 (journalist) Public Radio International 27 Mar 2017 “Drought doesn't cause famine. People do.” (accessed 10 Jan 2023) <https://www.pri.org/stories/2017-03-27/drought-doesnt-cause-famine-people-do>

Maxwell says there’s a common misconception among the public that overpopulation and lack of resources are the main drivers behind food insecurity. (It’s a theory that was put forth by Thomas Malthus nearly two centuries ago.) In other words, that people starve because there's not enough food. But Emily Farr, [Emergency Food Security and Vulnerable Livelihoods](http://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/our-work/humanitarian/food-security-vulnerable-livelihoods) team leader at Oxfam, says that's not the underlying problem. “We are talking about situations that are caused by human behavior,” she says.

DISADVANTAGES OF FOOD AID

1. Free food destroys local farms

Food aid makes everything worse: Drives local farms out of business and fuels criminals and corruption

Rasna Warnah 2015 (columnist with Kenya’s Daily Nation newspaper)22 Mar 2015 "Rasna Warah on War Crimes and Misdemeanors" (accessed 9 Jan 2023) http://www.warscapes.com/conversations/rasna-warah-war-crimes-and-misdemeanors

Every disaster in a poor country attracts hundreds of humanitarian agencies. Yet the funds raised for these disasters fail to bring about significant changes in the lives of those affected.  The distribution of food aid in Somalia, particularly during the peak harvest season, kills the incentive to farm, as farmers cannot get a competitive price for their produce in an environment where there is free or cheap food available. Food aid is also regularly diverted by militia and criminal networks who determine who gets aid and who doesn’t, and how much of the aid will be sold in markets. This has severely distorted the local economy, entrenched corruption, and created a country dependent on handouts, which does not augur well for its recovery.

Arrival of free food from outside destroys local farmers who can't compete with food priced at zero. But without farms, how will they ever feed themselves again? Example: Haiti

Peter Duffy 2010 (journalist) 31 Aug 2010 "Lessons From Haiti: How Food Aid Can Harm" (accessed 10 Jan 2023) https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2010/08/lessons-from-haiti-how-food-aid-can-harm/62252/

Often in the news lately has been the harm that U.S. deliveries have done to the Haitian rice industry over the past few decades. On March 10, in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Bill Clinton apologized for his administration's role in exporting cheap U.S. rice to Haiti, undercutting local growers. According to a study by the Center for Economic and Policy Research, Haitian farmers provided 47 percent of the country's rice in 1988. By the 2008, the figure had dropped to 15 percent. And in a [recent report](http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2010/06/15/127860878/tuesday-podcast-tk) on NPR's Planet Money, reporters described how bags of American rice are still being sold in Haitian markets. "It may have been good for some of my farmers in Arkansas, but it has not worked," said Clinton, who may play a greater role in the future of Haiti than any figure since Toussaint L'Ouverture. (He is U.N. Special Envoy and co-chair of the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission, which is deciding how billions in recovery money will be spent.) "It was a mistake," he added. "I have to live every day with the consequences of the lost capacity to produce a rice crop in Haiti to feed those people, because of what I did. Nobody else."

 Makes things worse long term: Food aid destroys local efforts to grow food

Tate Munro & Lorenz Wild 2016. (Munro is a regional resilience adviser. Wild is a senior economic technical adviser for [Mercy Corps](https://www.mercycorps.org.uk/), a group doing charitable agricultural assistance in poor countries.) As drought hits Ethiopia again, food aid risks breaking resilience. 10 Mar 2016 (accessed 10 Jan 2023) https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2016/mar/10/drought-ethiopia-food-aid-resilience

The failure of direct food aid
Our experience in Ethiopia – and more than 40 other countries facing the world’s toughest challenges – shows that massive direct food aid programmes often fail. Direct food aid – importing emergency food rations on a large scale – overrides local efforts to produce and distribute food, and tends to damage local and national resilience rather than support it.

2. Replaces or retards economic development

Countries get addicted to food aid. Ethiopia built their economy around it and Sudan waits for handouts while malnutrition rates don't improve

Alex Renton 2007 (journalist) 26 May 2007 "Does food aid do more harm than good?" THE GUARDIAN (accessed 10 Jan 2023) https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/wordofmouth/2007/may/27/in1987iwasworking

There are wider issues though than the mere problem of the US using the developing world as a way of getting rid of its surplus maize, wheat and rice. Food aid addiction is a buzz word among some of the aid agencies - Ethiopia is the example most often used. There, like stitches left in a wound, the emergency treatment of food aid delivered in the Eighties has become key to the country's economic infrastructure. Year in, year out, good crop or bad, five million Ethiopians need feeding and the country is beaten only by North Korea as the largest consumer of food donations. There are developing world nutritionists who believe that food aid has no long-term effect on the feeding of the vulnerable - malnutrition rates in southern Sudan, where an entire generation has grown up on the hand-outs of the rich world, have not improved in 20 years.

3. Undermines effective governance

Local governments are neutralized because foreigners with their aid are running everything

Harriet Sergeant 2018. (Research Fellow of the Centre for Policy Studies) THE SPECTATOR 17 Feb 2018 Does aid do more harm than good? (accessed 10 Jan 2023) https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/does-aid-help/

Aid does little to promote peace, security, trade and good governance. If anything, it hinders effective government. The cascade of aid money permits government to abdicate its responsibility to fund health care, education and infrastructure. It promotes a disconnect between a government and its citizens. When foreign donors cover 40 per cent of the operating budgets of countries such as Kenya and Uganda, why would leaders listen to their citizens? Schmoozing foreign donors comes first. As Moyo says, ‘Long, long lines of people have stood in the sun to vote for a president who is effectively impotent because of foreign donors or because glamour aid [in the form of Bob Geldof or Bono] has decided to speak on behalf of a continent.’

Impact: Less food / More hunger. Food aid enables bad government policies that end up denying more people food

BBC news 2006. (journalist Henri Astier) 1 Feb 2006 "Can aid do more harm than good?" (accessed 10 Jan 2023) http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/4185550.stm

James Shikwati, who heads the Inter Region Economic Network, a Kenyan NGO, says drought aid to his country in the 1990s "killed production" in many areas and increased dependency. Aid can also encourage misguided policies. Mr Shikwati says this has been the case in Ethiopia, where farmers are not allowed to own land. Instead of introducing reforms, he notes, the government appeals for aid. When donors respond, Mr Shikwati says, "they are subsidising a government policy that makes it difficult for people to be productive".

4. Fuels violent conflicts

Violence gets worse when we send food aid

Prof. Nathan Nunn & Dr. Nancy Qian 2012. (Nunn – Prof. of Economics, Harvard Univ. Qian – PhD; professor, Dept. of Economics, Yale Univ. ) Aiding Conflict: The Impact of U.S. Food Aid on Civil War 2 March 2012 (accessed 10 Jan 2023) https://www.economics.northwestern.edu/docs/events/nemmers/2010/nunn.pdf

The estimates imply that increasing U.S. food aid by 1,000 metric tons (MT) increases the incidence of civil conflict by 0.38 percentage-points. For a hypothetical country that receives the sample mean of U.S. food aid - approximately 27,600 MT - and experiences the mean incidence of conflict - 17.6 percent, the estimates imply that increasing food aid by ten percent increases the incidence of conflict by approximately 1.14 percentage-points. This increase is equal to six percent of the mean of conflict. To better understand how food aid can affect conflict, we undertake two additional tests. First, we examine which types of conflict are most impacted by U.S. food aid by also estimating the impact of food aid on the incidence of large-scale armed conflicts, defined as conflicts involving 1,000 or more combat deaths. We find that the effect of U.S. food aid is much smaller for large-scale conflicts than for the baseline measure, which includes all forms of civil conflict, both small and large. This finding is is consistent with descriptive accounts of humanitarian aid being appropriated by small-scale rebel groups or refugee warriors to fund their military activities.

Qian & Nunn Study: 10% increase in food aid = 1.14% increase in likelihood of civil war

Joshua Keating 2012. (writer & editor for F.P. magazine) 18 June 2012 FOREIGN POLICY " Please, Don’t Send Food" (accessed 10 Jan 2023) https://foreignpolicy.com/2012/06/18/please-dont-send-food/

Looking at a sample of developing countries between 1972 and 2006, economists Nancy Qian of Yale University and Nathan Nunn of Harvard University found a direct correlation between U.S. food aid and civil conflict. For every 10 percent increase in the amount of food aid delivered, they discovered, the likelihood of violent civil conflict rises by 1.14 percentage points.

Food aid gets stolen and used by rebels to fuel their violent activities

Joshua Keating 2012. (writer & editor for F.P. magazine) 18 June 2012 FOREIGN POLICY " Please, Don’t Send Food" (accessed 10 Jan 2023) https://foreignpolicy.com/2012/06/18/please-dont-send-food/

The results confirm anecdotal reports that food aid during conflicts is often stolen by armed groups, essentially making international donors part of the rebel logistics effort. According to some estimates, as much as 80 percent of the food aid shipments to Somalia in the early 1990s was looted or stolen. In her book [The Crisis Caravan](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0312610580/ref%3Das_li_ss_tl?ie=UTF8&tag=fopo-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=0312610580), journalist Linda Polman reported how Hutu rebels who fled Rwanda after the 1994 genocide appropriated aid given out in refugee camps in neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo, further fueling conflict in the region. Polman also estimated that Nigeria’s 1967-1970 Biafran war — one of the first African humanitarian crises to get global media attention — may have lasted 12 to 16 months longer than it otherwise would have because of the international aid seized by rebel groups.

5. Enables evil dictators

Dictators use food aid to bolster their own power. Impact: injustice & violence

Patrick Tyrrell 2018. (research coordinator in the Heritage Foundation's Center for International Trade & Economics) Foreign Aid Is Not the Answer to Global Poverty. Look to Freedom. 2 March 2018 (accessed 10 Jan 2023) https://www.heritage.org/international-economies/commentary/foreign-aid-not-the-answer-global-poverty-look-freedom

Strongmen who disregard property rights or the rule of law to remain in power have been rewarded with billions of dollars in foreign aid from rich countries for decades. Despots and dictators have often used this aid to solidify their grips on power, such as by withholding food aid from groups that do not support them. These strongmen and dictators often take credit for bringing foreign aid to their countries while depriving their country’s people of the economic freedom they would need to end the dependence on foreign aid. William Easterly, in his book “[The Tyranny of Experts](https://www.amazon.com/Tyranny-Experts-Economists-Dictators-Forgotten/dp/0465089739/),” explains how this has occurred at different times since the beginning of the 20th century, producing violent consequences in countries like China, Columbia, Ethiopia, and Sudan, among others. This injustice continues in places where foreign aid is disseminated without regard to the rule of law and economic freedom.

6. White Savior Complex

Link: Zambia. They refused US food aid … and survived just fine. It proves the arrogance of Westerners who think that without whites, Africans would all be dead

BBC news 2006. (journalist Henri Astier) 1 Feb 2006 "Can aid do more harm than good?" (accessed 10 Jan 2023) <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/4185550.stm>

Take the case of Zambia, which at the time banned aid because it worried about genetically-modified US maize. Donors were aghast. "Leaders who refuse to let their people have food, should be put in the dock for the most serious crimes against humanity," the US ambassador to Zambia said. But then something strange happened: nothing. Cutting off supplies did not trigger famine. The UN World Food Programme point out that it would be wrong to conclude that Zambia was better off left alone: the country did receive non-GM food aid from Europe, which helped alleviate local shortages. But at the very least, it seems clear that Zambia did not need a massive food influx to avert catastrophe. "NGOs flatter themselves into thinking that they save lives," says former Zambian Agriculture Minister Guy Scott, who finds it "arrogant of the West to think that without whites, without pop stars, Africans would all be dead".

Impact: Blocks Real Solutions. In addition to being wrong for its own sake, this "White Savior Complex" undermines Africans making progress toward their own solutions

Prof. Kathryn Mathers 2014 (visiting assistant professor in the Department of International Comparative Studies at Duke University) Op-Ed: Why Won’t White Savior Complex Go Away?23 July 2014 (accessed 10 Jan 2023) http://www.takepart.com.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/article/2014/07/22/why-wont-white-savior-complex-go-away/index.html

One of the most intrinsic characteristics of the white savior complex is its ability to ingrain and spread the notion that Westerners are the solution to African problems. This requires portraying the latter as helpless and endlessly recirculating images only of abandonment and violence, or innocence and primitivism. Another trait of the white savior complex is that unlike the imperial, top-down "white man's burden," it takes place in a virtual space shared by the savior and the people being saved and in a world in which the goals, personalities, and projects of white saviors can be immediately beamed out, commented on, "liked," or retweeted into the worlds of Africans themselves. This can undermine the work of Africans in their own communities. Africans are, after all, actively mobilizing new technologies and social media to shape their own worlds and engage directly with the ways that others represent them. So why, even in these shared spaces, do narratives in which Africans are just the backdrop to American saviors' stories still persist?

Impact: Racism. Mindset that Africa needs to be saved and cannot save itself is a form of racism

*Hyoyoung Minna Kim 2017. (Former Peace Corps Volunteer in Africa who resigned upon realizing the detrimental aspects of her work) 23 Aug 2017* Open Letter from a Peace Corp Volunteer (accessed 10 Jan 2023) http://www.cihablog.com/open-letter-peace-corp-volunteer/

This itch to serve abroad is anticipated, given the messages about communities already flooded with foreign aid, like Africa: primitive, diseased, and impoverished.  As a result, on varying levels of consciousness, many US citizens believe (subconsciously or consciously) that Africa and other “developing” communities around the world 1) need to be saved and 2) cannot save itself.  In other words, there is a ubiquitous ideology that members of “developing” communities are fundamentally inferior and are inherently incapable of “achieving” what “developed” communities have – also regarded as a form of racism.

7. Distracts from real solutions

AFF uses emotional plea to "sell" voters (like the Judge in this round) on their plan, but this prevents long-term solutions, creates despair, and distracts us from real solutions like establishing fair international institutions

Lorenz Lauer 2017 (PhD candidate at Universidad del País Vasco) Doctoral thesis, "Public Perception, Justification and Motivation of Development Aid – The Feasibility of Peter Singer's Culture of Giving" (accessed 10 Jan 2023) https://addi.ehu.es/bitstream/handle/10810/23847/TESIS\_LAUER\_LORENZ.pdf?sequence=1

In the case that development aid is not financed by INGOs, but by governments, the politicians involved must see how they can “sell” this engagement best to their voters and how they can convince the media that their support of developing countries corresponds to national interests. The charitable nature of development aid (instead of a political or rational basis) is a major problem and may prevent long-term solutions. Olson (2000, 2ff.) notes that in a vicious circle, the persistence of poverty and the lack of perceived outcomes lead to passivity and despair of the donors. Basing development aid on public opinion carries the risk of short-sighted campaigns that are oriented on thrill and spectacle rather than long-term results. Therefore manipulable public opinion should carry less weight in the distribution of aid. If you want to obtain results that are effective and sustainable, you have to rely on evaluation, reflection, and rationality. Political action towards the creation of fair international institutions is even more important.