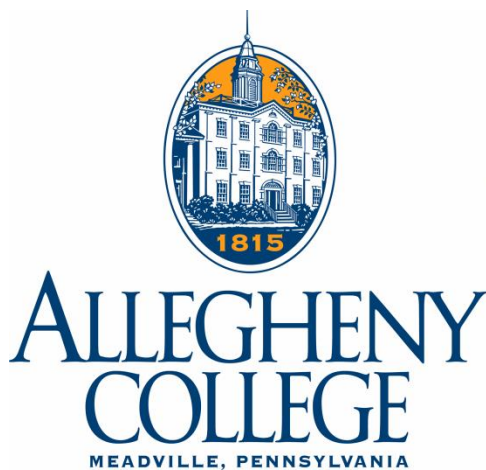


Creating a Self-Guided Pathway for Introducing the Topic of Humanitarian Aid and the
Challenges Surrounding it to the Global Health Undergraduates.



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A Senior Comprehensive Project
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Humanitarian Aid Background and Introduction

Humanitarian aid has been estimated to be around since the late 1800s (Rysaback-Smith, 1). Since its inception, it has changed in many ways, but the overall goal to help those in need has remained the same. When humanitarian aid was first introduced, it was used for soldiers in combat. People were setting up to take care of the wounded soldiers. Over time, humanitarian aid has changed to what we know it as today. International Humanitarian Law (IHL) stemmed from the need to help those wounded in war. In 1949, IHL expanded to include civilians who are affected by war or other disasters. Following that, in 2005 the World Summit adopted a new doctrine which described humanitarian aid as having the “responsibility to protect” (Fassin, 2007). This doctrine confirmed that the centrality of protection belongs to the state and government of its people. In the event that the governing forces refuse, fails or cannot do so, it is up to the international community to step in. Protecting civilians has become a top priority of the United Nations (UN) and many western countries.

Despite not knowing the exact beginning of humanitarian aid, the idea of assisting those in need has been around for centuries. The first form of monetary assistance from one country to another has been traced back to the late 1800s during the Northern Chinese Famine. This was one of the first formal relief movements (Rysaback-Smith, 1). Since then humanitarian aid has become more developed and has formed into what we see it as today; building schools, giving medical attention and food are outcomes of various humanitarian aid organizations.

Humanitarian aid organizations are seen all over the world and are among some of the first to respond to natural and man-made disasters. Whether that be a war, genocide, earthquake or tsunami, aid workers are there to help those in need. For this senior comprehensive project humanitarian aid will be defined as by Project Concern International (PCI), “Humanitarian Aid is

aid and action designed to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain and protect human dignity during and in the aftermath of emergencies” (PCI). In other words, humanitarian aid was designed to help all those in need, to try and save lives and improve the conditions civilians are living in. In addition, these organizations aim to follow the morals the Red Cross has put in place of remaining neutral and simply helping anyone in need, to not pick sides when it comes to war or other disputes. While the goal of humanitarian aid is to help those in need, there is much debate on whether or not humanitarian aid organizations are actually doing that and to the highest standards possible.

Since humanitarian aid has existed, it has run into many issues. By the start of the twenty-first century, two of these issues have been brought to light and discussed thoroughly. The first being the “lack of consistent political solutions to situations of extreme violence and restricted humanitarian access” (Davey et al., 2007). This was seen in countries such as Sri Lanka, Syria, and Iraq. When there is internal fighting happening within a country the local government does not always help the situation. Many of these governments are either not stable enough to come up with a solution or are in support of one of the opposing sides. This makes it difficult to come up with any solutions, and in some cases, block humanitarian aid from helping as well (Barnett, 2008).

The second problem that many argue humanitarian aid organizations face is the effectiveness of their aid. While governments and organizations such as the UN do offer aid, the majority of the aid seen in the world does not come from them. Governments will provide monetary aid. However, the majority of supplies, personnel, and help comes from nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). NGOs have been formed to address every situation imaginable (Paul, 1). Just one century ago there was an estimated 400 NGOs. Today there are over 25,000 of them throughout

the world. Each one varies in what sort of aid they provide (Stephenson, 2005). Some focus on education while others aid in food relief or even medical attention. For every type of situation, there is an aid group to help. NGOs include well known names such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Doctors Without Borders (MSF). However, they also include smaller ones such as the NKWA Foundation in Ghana that not many people know about. Each one varies in how many people work for them and what type of budget they have. Governments and international organizations often find NGOs to be troublesome and to get in their way (Paul, 2000).

The major concern is whether or not these NGOs are effectively helping those in need. NGOs and local governments often believe the other one is getting in the way and not being helpful. There have been many instances where NGOs have gotten in the way or provided help that was not needed. An example of this occurred in 2005 in Iraq. Aid organizations had refused to go to Iraq in fear that their aid would comfort Saddam Hussein's power. However, MSF changed their minds and started working with the Iraq Ministry of Health and eventually a team of six medical volunteers was sent to Iraq. With the possibility of a war arising MSF decided to stay in Iraq. The argument arose as to what to do about these six medical workers. Whether or not they should stay in Iraq or leave was the main debate. Some argued that aid workers lives be in danger. If a war were to break out, there was a chance they would get caught in the middle. Were civilians lives worth the lives of the aid workers? There was another argument regarding the already established medical institutions. Iraq already had hospitals and clinics established. The MSF team was only six members large and were nothing compared to the medical institutions already set up (Davey et al, 2007). Civilians going to the MSF staff was taking away from the already established facilities.

Many scholars have debated over this effectiveness of aid. Amongst them are Jeffrey Sachs, William Easterly and Dambisa Moyo. Each of these scholars arguments vary on their theories, but the consensus is that the way aid is, is not helping those in need. One prominent argument seen by all three is that western countries are trying to push their agenda and are not taking into consideration that many developing countries do not have the infrastructures that developed countries do. This causes plans that have worked for western countries to fail in developing ones (Moyo, 2010). Along with criticism of how aid is, these scholars offer ideas on how they believe aid can be changed to be more effective and actually make a difference in developing countries. Easterly has suggested the idea of searchers and planners. He explains that planners only look at aid as a technical engineering problem and do not think of it as an individual problem. Similarly to Moyo, he argues that there needs to be a more individual view on aid and trial and error efforts are vital. Along with that Easterly calls for accountability and feedback. NGOs and other aid groups should be held accountable for their work. If some type of aid is causing more harm than good, the people administering that aid should be reprimanded and held accountable. The final part of that is actual feedback from the people receiving aid. This allows aid groups to see if what they claim is helping is indeed making a positive impact on the people receiving their help (Easterly, 2006).

While many scholars have proposed ideas that have detailed specific plans, there are others that do not believe the effectiveness is the problem. Jeffrey Sachs argues that aid in general needs to be increased. He argues that countries need to give more aid than they are and really push for development. Sach's is an advocate for this idea which is known as the "Big Push." He believes that this increase of aid would help to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that have been put in place for developing countries. MDG includes the eradication of

hunger, universal primary education and promoting gender equality amongst five other goals.

With an influx of aid from developed countries, these goals can be met and aid as a whole will be improved (Asanuma, 2006). While Sach's argues that more aid is needed many argue the opposite, Farah Abuzeid and Moyo argue that too much aid can lead to corruption and erosion of the quality of developing countries governments. The problem is again not the amount of aid but how it is being distributed and used (Abuzeid, 2009).

Over-time, NGOs have become more and more political in their ways. Many governments impose restrictions on aid groups. Donors also pick and choose where their money goes and over time NGOs have lost a lot of their independence. To work in a specific area, they must conform to what that local government allows or what their donors want them to do. Politics have slowly entered into the humanitarian aid world. The UN has set up a viewing process to see which NGOs they consider legitimate partners. These have all added to the discussion of humanitarian aid to be corrupt or not fulfilling what they aim to (Paul, 2000). However, humanitarian aid organizations have also provided much good throughout the world. NGOs have been linked to much of educational growth in countries such as Nigeria and Ghana (Olajutemu, 2013). There have also been instances where NGOs have been one of the first to respond to natural disasters such as earthquakes and floods, and have been able to distribute food and water to those who lost everything. Humanitarian aid organizations have helped many rebuild after natural disasters as well as man-made ones such as war and genocides.

Most people would agree that humanitarian aid is important. Helping those who cannot help themselves is needed. The argument surrounding NGOs and humanitarian aid is not that they are not needed but rather that the system in which they function needs an evaluation and if need be, changed. One goal of NGOs is to remain neutral. This means they aim to help those in

need no matter who they are and not to let politics influence whom they do or do not help. That being said, more and more humanitarian aid organizations have let governments and political figures have a say in where these aid groups go and what groups of people they help. The way in which humanitarian aid is currently functioning has been causing a lot of discussion and debates. Is the aid truly making a difference or does it need a revamp? The following chapters will look into two authors who have experience aid first hand and have documented what they experienced.

Methods

The goal of my senior comprehensive project is to develop a tool students can use when trying to first learn about humanitarian aid. I want it to serve as a stepping stone into the world of humanitarian aid and NGOs. For this project I am looking at two books that talk about humanitarian aid and the debate mentioned above; How it is failing those in need and how that can be changed. The two books that I will be working with are Linda Polmans *The Crisis Caravan* and Jonathan Katz *The Big Truck That Went By*. Each book gets its own chapter in my study guide that goes through the entire book and gives summaries of each chapter in the books. Following each chapter summary there is a set of reflection questions. These questions aim to engage the reader and have them think more critically on humanitarian aid from a Global Health perspective.

To make sure that each chapter was uniform I decided on an overarching theme to be considered throughout the process. This theme is “Looking at humanitarian aid from a Global Health perspective, and by doing this what are the problems surrounding humanitarian aid and how can they/should they be changed”. By including this theme, my work will become a Global Health synthesis and allow students to see humanitarian aid through a global health lens.

To begin, I conducted research in the peer-reviewed literature on humanitarian aid. I then wrote the background information to allow readers an understanding of the concerns surrounding humanitarian aid (seen above). Once that was completed I moved on to summarizing the two books mentioned above. To correctly summarize a text, the key ideas and main points need to be drawn out of the passage. It is also important that during this step I condense the information given and rewrite it from the original piece (Fries-Gaither, 2010).

The next step I did was synthesizing the chapters. It is vital to only write what is pertinent to the paper. While I was synthesizing the books I referred back to my over-arching theme of my senior project. By consistently going back to the theme, it allows me to keep on track and only write what is needed. This step involves combining ideas and having an evolved understanding of what the author is trying to get across (Sullivan, 2011). The entirety of this project relies on the ability to combine the authors writing and the over arching theme. Doing this properly will help the readers see humanitarian aid through the Global Health perspective and gain a better understanding of the world that is humanitarian aid overall.

The purpose of this senior project is to get students really thinking about humanitarian aid and to truly learn what is going on with aid organizations. The summaries allow readers to go through the two books without having to read them completely. It can be difficult to read books on a topic if you are unfamiliar with it. This study guide will help readers begin their understanding of aid in a simple form. The reflection questions then allow the readers to contribute their own thoughts and truly reflect on what the summaries are saying. The reading questions will be made to create dialogue about humanitarian aid and not simple yes or no answers (Day & Park, 2005).

The last component of my senior project will be an Op-Ed. This is my opportunity to argue what I, as a Global Health major, believe about humanitarian aid. This allows me to argue my viewpoint based on all the research I have conducted and what I have learned from the two books I am working with. This final part of my comp allows me to enter the humanitarian aid discussion with the readers and argue my case and ideas. By the end of my senior project, I aim for readers to be more aware of NGOs and where the money all goes. I want whoever reads this

study guide to come away with a better understanding of humanitarian aid, along with the concerns surrounding it.

How to Use this Text

- The following is broken into multiple chapters. The next two sections go through chapter to chapter of the two books mentioned above.
- Read each chapter synthesis thoroughly and if you please, make notes. Following each chapter are a set of questions to be discussed.
- The questions pertain to the reading they follow. However, as you go through the text you can refer to other chapters to defend your answer.
- These questions are meant to further your understanding and thinking about what each author is saying.
- There are no right or wrong answers. The debate surrounding humanitarian aid is simply that, a debate. Everyone is entitled to their own opinions and thoughts.
- The last section of this senior project is an Opinion piece. Based on the research I have conducted on humanitarian aid I have formed my own opinions on how humanitarian aid can be changed.

What's What in the Humanitarian World
Common Acronyms seen Throughout the Study Guide

AP - Associated Press

ALNAP - Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action

CDC - Center

HDI - UN Human Development Index

ICRC - International Committee of the Red Cross

IDP - Internally Displaced People

IHL - International Humanitarian Law

INGO - International nongovernment organization

NGO - Nongovernment organization

MDG - Millennium Development Goals

MONGO - My Own NGO

MSF - Doctors Without Borders

PCI - Project Concern International

UN - United Nations

UNHCR - United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

WFP - World Food Program

WHO - World Health Organizations

Chapter Two:

The Crisis Caravan What's Wrong With Humanitarian Aid By: Linda Polman

Brief Overview:

Linda Polman is a journalist who has traveled throughout war zones to witness firsthand what is happening with humanitarian aid. Polman saw how humanitarian zones have become more and more involved in politics and war tactics. Humanitarian aid has increasingly differed from their original set of morals and have gotten wrapped up in ethical concerns. This book examines how Humanitarian aid has changed and what problems it has enabled throughout recent history. Polman takes readers from Rwanda and Ethiopia all the way to Afghanistan. She explores how humanitarian aid has changed and the concerns surrounding it.

Introduction

There is much debate surrounding humanitarian aid and whether or not it should be continued. Two people credited with being pioneers of Humanitarian Aid, Henri Dunant and Florence Nightingale argue both sides. Dunant lobbied for aid organizations to be developed and implemented. He argued that while armies were the primary people responsible for helping the wounded, even the best armies needed help. In 1863, Dunant alone with others founded the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). He went on to write the “humanitarian” principles that the Geneva Conventions enshrined (Polman, 7). The principle states “Humanitarianism is based on a presumed duty to ease human suffering unconditionally”. This included neutrality, impartiality and independence. Humanitarian aid workers were to help wherever they were needed, whenever they were needed and to help whoever they can (Polman, 7). No one was to be excluded.

On the other hand, Nightingale argues that this type of aid and change belongs to governments. Nightingale was a nurse during the Crimean War. During that time hospitals were not equipped to handle all the injured. Hygiene was not a priority, and the facilities were barely hanging on. Nightingale argued that if the price of war was higher and if governments took more initiative, many lives could have been saved. With the prices higher the war would have ended sooner and thus costing less lives. Despite Nightingale's efforts, in 2006 the Geneva Conventions was accepted by 194 countries. This meant those countries accepted the principles and ideas of humanitarianism and humanitarian aid (Polman, 7).

Humanitarian aid was originally designed to help soldiers. After Dunant worked in a war he formed the ICRC. Both Dunant and Nightingale saw the soldiers in battle needed help. The principles the ICRC created remained the same but over time the humanitarian territories

changed. Humanitarian aid organizations now focus on civilians as well (Polman, 8). Rather than only helping people fighting in the wars, aid groups look to help anyone affected by the war.

While aid groups claim to remain neutral the passing years made that difficult. Aid has changed drastically and often times than not the organizations themselves are not in complete control of their assets. Warring parties determine where aid can be sent and received. Supplies are often stolen and only land in the hands of the people causing the destruction. Funding for aid groups has risen to the billions annually and each year more and more groups appear trying to get some of that money. That has caused concern on what groups are truly trying to help those in need, and who just wants a paycheck. The debate Dunant and Nightingale had in the 1860s has appeared, again and the question on whether or not aid organizations should continue remains unsolved. What do aid groups do when they know their supplies are benefiting the perpetrators that started the need for help in an area? How can these groups remain truly neutral and help all in need if that means helping what they might consider the “enemy”? These are many other questions have been asked but no solutions have been made (Polman, 10 & 11).

Reflection Questions:

1. What could be some arguments to support Nightingale’s belief that governments should be in charge of humanitarian aid?
2. Do you agree more with Dunant or Nightingale? Defend your stance.

Chapter 1

Goma: A “Total Ethical Disaster”

Many people were displaced after the genocide in Rwanda. At the time there was not much information as to what was going on inside the country. The people fleeing the country were believed to be the people being prosecuted. However the people running away were actually perpetrators of the genocide. These were the Hutus and were running away in fear of repercussions. The Hutu people set up camps right on the border of Rwanda so that they could easily access Rwanda and continue killing and rampaging throughout the country, and then retreat safely away. These camps were in the Democratic Republic of the Congo village of Goma. Residents of these camps soon began receiving aid, while the victims of the genocide, the Tutsis, received nothing (Katz, 17).

Not long after the camps were established a Cholera outbreak occurred. The disease spread rapidly and gained a lot of media attention. Horrifying reports led to more and more international fundraising. In turn more humanitarian aid groups went to Goma. “As more money became available, more humanitarian organizations came to Goma to help spend it” (Polman, 18).

Each day a press conference would be held. Each humanitarian aid organization was allowed to report what they were seeing and doing. As each one went the number of dead would change. The organization that reported the most would get air time on the television broadcast. This would bring them even more funds. To get this airtime each organization would increase the number of dead from the previous one that went. Eventually no one knew what the accurate number of dead was and no one really knew what was happening in Goma. Both aid groups and the media failed to report that not all the deaths were from Cholera. People in the camps were being murdered. If someone was suspected of wanting to go back to Rwanda they would be

deemed as traitors and killed (Polman, 19). These organizations knew aid would stop coming in if people knew what was truly happening so that was never reported.

The camps in Goma became the largest funded project of its time. An estimated one million dollars a day from the UN was given to humanitarian aid organizations based in Goma. Private donors contributed even more (Polman, 20). In no time clinics, storage depots, food distribution centers and much more were built in the various camps throughout Goma (Polman, 20). The Hutus living in these camps could go to the movies, distilleries, and barbers as they pleased. These camps started to represent settlements and were becoming less and less temporary (Polman, 23).

While aid was flourishing in Goma, the people left in Rwanda received nothing. The victims of the genocide, the Tutsis, had nothing and were struggling to survive. Dutch aid workers eventually began to question what was going on. One of these workers who was sent to Goma to contain violence stated “Man, Hutus went back to Rwanda several times in those first few weeks to steal yet more property” which left Tutsi’s with even less (Polman, 24). Yet while people knew this was happening, aid continued to work in Goma and not in Rwanda.

Overtime the Hutu’s took charge of the camps in Goma. Extremists controlled aid that came in aid groups were not blind to this but wanted to uphold the principles of neutrality and impartiality so they continued on. They were committed to helping anyone they could even if it was not ethically right (Polman, 26). No one wanted to give up the millions coming in daily so aid organizations kept their mouths shut. The camps slowly became a place of violence and hierarchy’s were created. Aid was doing good on a technical level but could not do anything against the violence happening (Polman, 30).

Humanitarian aid groups estimated that around 60% of the aid and supplies meant for refugees was stolen by the militias that formed (Polman, 30). In fear of being cut off from donations no one reported this. Instead aid organizations raised the number of people in need of help so that it would make up for the lost aid. Soon the situation in Goma was deemed a “Total ethical disaster”. Even so nothing was changed.

Aid remained in Goma for two years. Eventually Tutsi armies had enough and invaded Goma. The armies had warned humanitarian aid groups that if they did nothing about the situation, they would take matters into their own hands. The Rwandan president (NAME) claimed aid should be blamed. While the Hutus were living well off, the real victims of the genocide, the Tutsi’s were barely surviving. After the invasion many Hutus returned to Rwanda while others retreated further into exile (Polman, 34).

Reflection Questions:

1. How could an ethical disaster such as what happened in Goma have been prevented by humanitarian aid organizations?
2. Should humanitarian aid organizations have reported the stolen aid? How would this have changed things in Goma?
3. While people might not have known what the exact situation in Rwanda was, why did no one help the Tutsi’s even after they were found to be the real victims of the genocide?
4. The Rwandan president blamed aid for helping the wrong people and extending the suffering of the Tutsis. What evidence was seen that backed this claim?

Chapter 2

Contract Fever

With the abundance of aid that continued to flow into Goma, Hutu extremists were allowed to recuperate and gain strength. While many humanitarian aid organizations knew this was happening they were stuck in a hard place. One worker argued “For aid organizations in Goma it was a matter of feed the killers or go under as an organization” (Polman, 36). No aid organization wanted to be dismantled so they continued giving aid even if it was to people who were abusing it. If the aid had stopped the Hutu army would not have been able to rebuild or have another source of income. Many argued this would have ended the war sooner. While this may have been true no one pointed fingers at aid organizations. Aid organizations continued to claim neutrality and said they were there to receive human suffering and many Hutus were suffering (Polman, 36).

Humanitarian aid organizations rely on contracts to survive. These contracts come with money to carry out whatever the contracts project may be. If an organization does not receive contracts they receive no money and will go under. If a humanitarian aid group did refuse to work with the Hutus due to ethical reasons, another one would more than readily accept the contract and the aid would continue on in Goma (Polman, 37). Instead of working together to form a solution, aid organizations competed against one another. This was not exclusive to Goma and is seen in all places with humanitarian aid organizations.

The UN tried to come up with a solution to this when working in Tanzania. Only 12 IN-GOs were backed by the UN in hopes to cut back on the dozens of aid organizations. Instead of this working effectively, tons of aid organizations set up right outside of the camps border. No

one dared to leave in protest knowing their spot could easily be filled by one of these waiting organizations. In 1994 the French branch of MSF left Goma in an attempt to protest. Instead of others following them, other humanitarian aid organizations bashed them. The French MSF branch leaving did allow a brief glimpse for the outside world to see what was happening amongst humanitarian aid organizations. This jeopardized aid as a whole. If people knew what was going on they might not be so willing to donate. This led to more and more organizations becoming mad at the French MSF (Polman, 38).

Once aid organizations arrive in a country obtaining one contract is usually not enough. To make sure they do not run out of money they need to keep securing contracts (Polman, 40). Donors prefer quick easy projects with little to no room for issues. Aid groups that can come up with these ideas win the donors money and gain another contract. Aid groups move to where the money is. When a new disaster arrives the worlds focus shifts to that country. Aid groups move along with them. This means countries currently receiving help could lose it if another tragedy arises. Countries are left before projects are fully carried out of before the citizens can provide for themselves.

The press and media play a huge role in where these organizations go. They chose which stories to broadcast and focus on. The places that get their attention soon become the object of international fundraising and humanitarian aid groups flock to them (Polman, 41). Humanitarian aid groups begin to fight for this attention from the media. If they can get covered more donors will donate to them. Many humanitarian aid organizations began to fly out and cover all expenses of journalists in return for a story about them being aired and then eventually more donations to come their way (Polman, 44).

Reflection Questions:

1. What ethical issues could have been resolved if aid stopped in Goma?
2. Were aid organizations right in arguing that they should stay to help the Hutus because they were suffering too or were they just aiding the war to continue on?
3. What benefits would occur if aid organizations worked together?
4. In what ways could the way aid organizations receive money be changed to make it more ethical and fair?
5. How do contracts interfere with the goal of humanitarian aid?

Chapter 3 MONGOs

While there was still much to be done in the camps aid workers were working in, the actual areas that aid workers lived in were luxurious. While people in need of help would struggle to get by, aid workers would relax in luxury hotels or in pools on their time off (Polman, 48). Humanitarian aid workers were also usually foreigners. Few would hire locals as interpreters, nannies or drivers but rarely, if ever to ask for opinions on what needed to be done (Polman, 49). The people in need of the help had no voice in what help they would get. Instead more and more westerners believe they can do a better job when it comes to aid that more and more aid organizations begin to appear. These are named MONGOs, or My own NGO (Polman, 50). Often times people who create MONGOs have no experience in what they are actually doing but believe they can solve the problems the world faces. MONGOs are the exact reason Dunant called for a professional organization to be made and founded the Red Cross. Dunant knew that people had good intentions but that they could make the situation worse if not trained properly (Polman, 50).

Established aid organizations such as Doctors Without Borders and the Red Cross argue that MONGOs interfere with efforts that more experienced groups are making. MONGOs do not react in time, have too little supplies (that sometimes are not needed at all) and overall could do better. However since Humanitarian Aid is a free market anyone can form a group and go wherever as long as they have the money. While some MONGOs may have good intentions, many have caused serious issues. Winter clothes and frostbite medication from some have been sent to hot tropical countries. Starving people received laxatives and slimming cures. Cambodia received food that was deemed unfit for animals and a New Zealand MONGO offered Kenyan Children cans of dog food (Polman, 52). These groups have made some major mistakes yet still

argue that larger established groups make mistakes as well. The European Commission once sent food aid to Africa that contained traces of radioactive contamination (Polman, 53).

Many concerns have come up surrounding these MONGOs. The first being that many of these organizations do not perform studies to show if they are benefitting people or not. Another concern is that many of these MONGOs have religious motives and can cause serious problems in countries such as trying to convert people rather than help. Other MONGOs are medical based but do not have people properly trained to give medical advice. Many people are misdiagnosed by MONGO doctors because the doctors do not know local diseases and have no idea what they are dealing with. Others are not qualified to perform procedures in the states but do so through a MONGO. In 2004 a group of American medical students performed procedures in Liberia that they were not licensed to do in the United States (Polman, 58). A lot of these medical MONGOs are formed because it is someones “Hobby” and a medical mission is a fun past time for them.

While some of these surgeries MONGOs perform may turn out okay, the organization does not stay around for after care. Many people have surgeries or procedures done and then have no one to go to if they experience complications. Many of these procedures are done for free and the people who receive them often do not have the means to get looked at afterwards if something were to go wrong. Established aid organizations argue that people in war zones should be protected from aid workers who arrive unannounced and do not have basic qualifications (Polman, 62). Failures usually go unreported since it would reflect badly on aid as a whole. The Rwandan regime was an exception and ended up kicking out 50 MONGOs who could not provide a clear reason as to who they were or what they were doing. Other than that most MONGOs work without question.

The amount of MONGOs rises after every tragedy that happens throughout the world. After a Tsunami in 2005 over 60,000 different MONGOs were online ready to accept donations (Polman, 53). Many countries such as the United States offer tax exemptions for aid groups and receive 83 new registrations a day. At the time Polman was writing this book there were 150,000 registered in the U.S. (Polman, 54). When MONGOs run out of money they return home. They do not disband and will reappear later when a new opportunity comes for them to raise money again. The cycle goes on and MONGOs continue to appear after every disaster to happen throughout the world.

Reflection Questions:

1. What precautions can aid organizations, whether they are established or MONGOs, take to make sure that the aid being delivered is safe and beneficial for where they are going?
2. Does it fall on local governments to make sure MONGOs are qualified for the work they are doing? If yes, then how can they go about doing this?
3. How can established humanitarian aid groups make sure that the people MONGOs leave behind are cared for and not just ditched?

Chapter 4

Donor Darlings

When a disaster, man made or not, happens the true story does not often come out at first. Many times people jump to conclusions and start asking for donations without knowing all the facts. That was seen not only in Rwanda with the Hutu and Tutsi mix up but also in Sierra Leone. Rebels began to take over Sierra Leone and would perform horrific amputations. No one knew this was happening until the amputees started to emerge (Polman, 64). As soon as they did humanitarian aid organizations began to flood into Sierra Leone. These amputees became the sole focus of these organizations aid. Sierra Leone became the beneficiary of the UN's largest peace mission when it came down to money per person (Polman, 65).

With all this attention a camp was set up for the Refugees and was called "Murray Town Camp" due to where it was located (Polman, 66). The residents had to either be an amputee or the family of an amputee. The residents of Murray Town Camp had access to medical attention, food and places to live due to the aid that arrived. MSF France was given management but received no respect and soon withdrew from the camp. While they tried to make an argument for groups to stand together, other aid organizations were always willing to say yes and receive money. These aid organizations were too concerned with making money from donors than how to efficiently run the camp.

In not time amputees were using aid organizations to their advantage. With each new group coming in the people in Murray Town Camp could receive more aid. The various aid organizations did not communicate with one another and new ones that came in had no idea how had received help and who had not. Many amputees had several sets of prosthetics even though they did not need them (Polman, 67). Along with the many aid organizations, journalists and

other media workers swarmed into Sierra Leone. This endless stream of people made it hard for aid groups to “protect human dignity” of the people in the camp and also made the recovery process harder (Polman, 67).

Humanitarian aid organizations also began to take advantage of people. Some would go as far as to pay an amputee to say and do what would make the need for aid to increase. Thus, gaining more and more donations to fund these organizations. No aid group tried to take charge and gain order amongst all of them and this continued on. Eventually the amputees did not need any more help, there were other problems such as malaria, diarrhea and anemia that needed to be addressed. However aid organizations were getting so much money for the amputees they continued to focus on them instead (Polman, 70). Other organizations had completely different agendas.

One MONGO, by the name of “Gift of Limbs” came to Murray Town Camp. They promised children Visas to the U.S. and new high end prosthetics. Parents were tricked by this aid organization into signing papers they believed were letting the children travel abroad (Polman, 73). In reality a lot of them were signing papers giving up their parental rights and making these children eligible for adoption. This gained attention and ultimately money for these NGOs. Since these children are usually not registered it is easy for foreigners to come and take them. The social Welfare in Sierra Leone had no idea what was going on and did nothing to stop it. The children were brought to the United States as “Orphans” and gained a ton of media attention. They were treated like royalty and were given all sorts of gifts and social treatment. The head of ‘Gift of Limbs’ Sam Simpson would go back and forth from the U.S and Murray Town Camp and continue to get new children to bring back with him. If one of these children did not work out he deemed them “unmanageable” and sent them back to Sierra Leone.

This idea of taking children became very widespread. Not only did it happen in Sierra Leone, but also in countries such as Liberia. A France organization started “shopping” in various countries and would bring back these “orphans” to Europe. Many children were taken away from their families under the impression they would receive treatment for whatever they needed back in a foreign country (Polman, 91).

Reflection Questions:

1. What responsibility do humanitarian aid organizations hold, if any, to reporting what is truly going on in areas they go to help?
2. Come up with an action plan that could prevent children from being taken under false pretexts.
3. How can people such as Sam Simpson be stopped from taking advantage of people in need of help?

Chapter 5

Aid as a Weapon of War

A major issue in Humanitarian territories are warlords. Militias take charge of aid camps and no one is allowed in unless they approve it. Since NGOs want to be allowed into these places to gain media attention and money, they will pay off these militias (Polman, 95). During these times many “people in power” will emerge to try and get as much as they can from aid workers. If these organizations do not accept their terms they are not allowed to work there and will be threatened off. WHO stated that, “once inside a war zone, it is essential to have a blind spot for matters of ethics” (Polman, 99). The situation according to a member of the Dutch chapter of Caritas is more of a mafia situation than simply a community in need (Polman, 98).

Warlords and militias are not the only ones to try and get as much money as they can from aid organizations. When aid workers arrive they need somewhere to stay. Workers typically do not stay in camps with locals. Landlords or anywhere that rents out property will raise their prices knowing the aid groups will need to stay close by. Prices on everyday items and food increase as well for the same reasons. People see aid workers as an opportunity to make money (Polman, 101).

In other cases people in charge of aid projects take advantage of humanitarian organizations as well. Locals will fast track a work permit if the project benefits them. If not permits will stall and can take a while to be approved. These people also supervise these projects. Aid organizations often times do not do these projects themselves in fear of their safety and will subcontract locals to take charge. What these aid organizations do not know is that the people the subcontract often take on multiple projects, at once to earn more money. These projects are sometimes from competing aid organizations (Polman, 102). While many organizations realize that theft and

abuse is a problem nothing has successfully been done to end it. To do so there would need to be one INGO that holds a monopoly in one given place. This would allow them to keep track of everything and not have competing organizations undermining efforts. However, since aid organizations have their own priorities, this has not been able to be achieved.

Before humanitarian aid became popular it was easier for organizations to have a united front. They were able to lay down the law and set rules for aid. This made taking advantage of aid organizations difficult to do. Now a days there are so many organizations competing against one another that these efforts have disappeared (Polman, 103).

If one aid group refuses to go somewhere to combat theft and warlords, another is eagerly waiting in the wings to take over. Over time people that receive aid have learned to exploit it. Most aid organizations do not report what was stolen. In 2008 MSF Holland was one of the exceptions. They reported everything stolen during their time in Chad and Darfur. This allowed the public to see how much of their aid did not make it to their intended audience (Polman, 104). Their report overall argued whether or not Humanitarian Aid was doing good or bad. It stated that aid groups add to war chests, warlords and militias. Aid could inherently cause more damage than good (Polman, 105).

Reflection Questions:

1. What can humanitarian aid organizations do to prevent exploitation from warlords?
2. In what ways would humanitarian aid organizations banding together improve how aid is delivered and how useful not truly is?
3. How could the amount of humanitarian aid organizations be monitored to make sure that there is not an abundance in one area?

Chapter 6 Refugee Warriors

Humanitarian aid workers rarely ask the question “Who are they helping?”. They travel to places in need of help after a war, genocide or natural disaster and start helping right away. They help those they assume are the victims but never truly stop to see if that is the case. As with the Hutus in Rwanda, there are many instances where perpetrators of situations receive help when those in need do not. There have been times where soldiers disguise themselves as refugees in need of helping in turn receive aid. This allows soldiers from the perpetrating side to gain strength and any resources they may need before going back out into the field (Polman, 107). This soon gave them the name of “Refugee Warriors”.

It is estimated that 15-20% of camp residents are in fact Refugee Warriors using aid to their advantage. Aid camps allowed them to get medical attention, supplies and food without having to touch their war chests. This also allowed them to “recuperate, rebuild and sue actual refugees as human shields” (Polman, 107). In addition these ‘Warriors’ would force INGOs to pay taxes on the supplies which in turn would go to replenishing war chests (Polman, 7).

Aid groups rarely if ever mention how they get exploited. In fear of getting shut down or lose funding many do not report abuse. UNHCR rarely references Refugee Warriors and when it does they put they blame on international politics and not the aid groups themselves (Polman, 108). In turn the warriors continue their theft and wars continue on. Aid groups would continue to come. Since the war was going on there was still innocent civilians in need of help. The cycle would continue to go. Aid groups come, help supply armies who would then turn around and continue the war so the need of aid groups does not disappear.

The attraction of soldiers and armies caused more issues among the people in need of actual help. In Bosnia, true refugees stated that; “We need arms to defend ourselves. Your food aid

and medicines only allow us to die in good health” (Polman, 113). Serbs used the refugee camps Bosnians were at to restore their army and then attack the very people who were there for help. The aid groups were helping these people to die without intending to.

Reflection Questions:

1. How could humanitarian aid workers ensure that who they were helping were truly the people in need?
2. What do you believe would happen if aid organizations did report fraud?
3. How do supplies being stolen hurt not only the people that need the supplies but humanitarian aid as a whole?

Chapter 7

The Hunger Weapon

There have been instances where Humanitarian aid organizations have been thought of prolonging a situation they were trying to “help”. This occurred during the famine in Biafra (Polman, 116). A man by the name of Ojukwu declared independence for Biafra from Nigeria. This in turn caused Nigeria to cut off all supplies to them. However, Aid organizations sent the people of Biafra supplies. Those supplies never got to the people in need. Ojukwu would use anything to support his troops. Thus prolonging the succession. In turn all the people in Biafra continued to starve, and while there was a need to help, aid organizations stayed there (Polman, 118).

Humanitarian aid organizations questioned whether or not they really helped this to happen as long as it did. People also began to wonder if aid organizations shared the responsibility for the death and starvation of so many Biafrans. Their intentions may have been good but people wondered if aid could hinder some situations and cause them to be more devastating than necessary (Polman, 119). When militias starve a group of people, aid groups come rushing in to help. These groups in power use that to get supplies they want. As long as aid groups are there to help, the people continue to starve and whatever conflict is occurring continues on (Polman, 120).

On the other hand leaving people to starve goes against many Humanitarian Aid groups beliefs. A conflict in the past on what to do in a situation like this was the reason MSF was created. If you do not help those in need, you are not fulfilling what Humanitarian Aid is supposed to do. However, there are many instances where the help could be prolonging the conflict and helping the wrong people. While this is one of the major debates going on for many, most food

aid comes from small, independent organizations. These organizations usually do not get caught up in the politics and deliver the food regardless (Polman, 120).

Up to 80% of food aid is believed to be seized by militaries and never reach the people they are intended for. In other cases food is cut off and not even allowed to reach people in need. This strategy is used all over the world. By starving militaries, the hope is to get that side to surrender. This also means innocent people are denied supplies as well (Polman, 121). In an effort to capture Saddam Hussein, around half a million children died from starvation due to embargoes (Polman, 122). The UN believed in this case those innocent lives were worth it to catch Hussein.

Governments and armies are not the only ones who use starvation as a weapon. Humanitarian Aid groups use it as well. If cutting people off benefits them they will do it. For instance, cutting off a capital or slum of a starving country might prevent more people migrating there. That allows the organization to not become over worked. Again, people suffer in the absence of the aid. In other instances the World Food Program (WFP) offered food to people that did not need it. Other times WFP gave food to people they knew would exchange it for weapons. However soon no other aid organizations wanted to be left behind and started doing the same thing (Polman, 122).

Reflection Questions:

1. Should humanitarian aid organizations be held accountable for looking into who they are really helping or should they just go when there is a crisis situation and are needed?
2. At what point should aid organizations step back and allow governments to handle the situation?
3. Do you believe that aid can prolong a situation such as a genocide or war by helping a group of people? For Example: Helping the Hutus from Rwanda allowed their armies and people to grow stronger and continue killing the Tutsis. Do you believe that aid was the reason this was prolonged and how could that have been changed?

Chapter 8

When Recipients Call the Shots

Throughout the years aid has been manipulated and taken advantage of. As mentioned in previous chapters the people receiving aid have learned to exploit it. In 1984 the Ethiopian government caused what they called a “Drought” to happen. Tactics such as killing, burning, raping and destroying were used to force Northerners to move South. Once this happened the government then called in Humanitarian Aid organizations to come and see what this “Drought” caused. Not knowing that this was done by the government aid organizations began raising money and supplies to give to Ethiopia. Once it was discovered what happened aid organizations continued to back the idea that a drought had swept the country. The aid organizations were afraid to lose their donors if it was found out that this was due to another war. BBC correspondent, Michael Buerk argued that victims of drought on the other hand could raise a lot more money than “Yet another stupid African War” (Polman, 124).

Countries such as Great Britain and the United States refused to work with the Ethiopian government on what they called a resettlement plan. Instead private INGOs held concerts where the proceeds would go to giving aid to Ethiopians in need. Rather than follow what the donor governments advised these private groups worked with the Ethiopian government. This added to the situation going on. Soon people who were supposed to be receiving aid were forced into labor camps by the Ethiopian Government (Polman, 125). The Ethiopian Government took supplies and even used aid organizations trucks to get people out of the country (Polman, 126). They had many organizations do what they wanted them to do without much complaint. The government would not allow children to be fed or helped if their parents were putting on a struggle. Over 6,000 children died from starvation despite there being enough food to feed them.

Once again the France branch of MSF withdrew from Ethiopia. They could no longer stand by and not have control. Other groups stayed and became defensive when any mention of them being manipulated came up. Groups started to care more about the money they were receiving than what was actually going on in the country itself.

In Southern Sudan a similar situation occurred. Regimes in South Sudan only allowed certain aid groups to deliver supplies and only to certain areas by air drop. An estimated 60,000 people died of starvation due to bans the Regime would put on certain areas. Each week the places allowed food would change (Polman, 127). When an American Diplomat was asked whether or not he believed aid prolonged the war going on in South Sudan, he responded “absolutely, absolutely” (Polman, 129).

Just as in Ethiopia “droughts” became the way countries could cover up any cleansing operations going on. After Ethiopia’s first one, mentioned before, the country went through another “drought” (Polman, 131). Not only do country such as Ethiopia and Sudan decide where the aid goes, they also benefit off of it. Money donated by organizations to help with reconstruction go towards the Regime and making them stronger. Countries charge INGOs to come. So on top of the supplies these countries receive, they get the money they charge (Polman, 136). Humanitarian Aid organizations continued to deliver aid so that they could keep donors donating to them. Despite any ethical concerns about what was happening to the aid, aid organizations continued to operate in Ethiopia and Sudan.

Reflection Questions:

1. What ethical concerns surround humanitarian aid helping governments such as the Ethiopian one despite the droughts being made up?
2. How do humanitarian aid organizations lying about the drought break their own morals, deceive their donors and what problems does this create?

3. Should humanitarian aid organizations be held accountable and reprimanded for helping the government displace people?
4. How do governments manipulating and using humanitarian aid groups hurt the aid organizations efforts to help those in need?

Chapter 9 Afghaniscam

Another complication that arises in areas receiving aid is how dangerous they really are. In Afghanistan aid workers were terrified to be there. They would rarely leave their head quarters and would not have their logo on display (Polman, 143). Every other place humanitarian aid organizations were, they would parade their logo and make their presence known. Humanitarian aid is in the top five for most dangerous jobs. It is also the only job that the deaths are from intentional violence. During the war on terror civilians were unable to tell real neutral humanitarian workers from reconstruction troops disguised as them.

In the past many governments supported NGOs and INGOs. However now governments fund them but under the condition that they follow their plan. This usually involves stripping terrorist or suspected terrorist groups of any grassroots support. This goes strongly against humanitarian aid definition of helping everyone and remaining neutral in situations (Polman, 143). This has led to people seeing humanitarian aid as an instrument of war and in turn treat aid workers as part of the opposing side.

Foreign powers such as the United States also disguised psychological warfare and intelligence operations as humanitarian aid. The military would disguise themselves as aid workers and threaten to stop aid unless people came forth with any information pertaining to the Taliban or Al-Qaeda (Polman, 144). This created even more mistrust amongst the Afghan people when it comes to aid. Once the Taliban was dismantled humanitarian aid organizations were given the task to rebuild Afghanistan. This created a ton of confusion the it came to who was trying to help and who was not. Subcontractors got involved and everything became even more a mess (Polman, 145). Despite all this humanitarian organizations clung to their claim of not having any government involvement and truly being there to help people in need.

There have been occurrences in Afghanistan and Iraq that have made it worse for humanitarian aid workers to be there. In 2003 a UN headquarters was attacked in Iraq because they were offering aid. Twenty two people died. Due to this many aid organizations fled to neighboring countries, hid any logos or withdrew from the country (Polman, 146).

Afghans became even more weary when the billions of dollars sent to their country was never truly seen. Between 2001 and 2008 an estimated fifteen billion dollars was sent to Afghanistan yet no one really knew where it went. Aid organizations were too scared to go anywhere they would hire out subcontractors. These subcontractors would take their share of the money before hiring out someone else to do the job. That would continue on until there was barely any money left for the actual project. Clinics never got built and girls were still not attending school. Despite all the money no real change was occurring. Former director of the World Bank, Jean Mazurelle estimates that anywhere from 35-40 percent of the aid sent to Afghanistan is “wrongly spent”. That being said humanitarian aid groups and donors deny this and claim that if any money disappears its barely any (Polman, 147).

Many areas in Afghanistan are still controlled by the Taliban. If these areas receive any aid the Taliban is quick to use it to strengthen themselves. The lack of control in Afghanistan soon gained the name “Afghaniscam”. People began to believe that the money meant for aid was being spent on protection and comfort of aid workers. Money was spent on casinos, bars, and restaurants for them (Polman, 150). While aid workers were living comfortable towns outside their living spaces were still in ruins. After years of aid being in country nothing has changed and the people there are still struggling to survive. Traveling for aid groups has become increasingly dangerous and many rely on subcontractors to carry out their projects and not many are first handedly involved in the country.

Reflection Questions:

1. How can aid organizations effectively help those in need if they are afraid to go anywhere?
2. In what ways do people posing as humanitarian workers hurt the efforts made by real ones?
Is there a way this can be changed?
3. Do the events in Afghanistan hurt efforts of aid organizations in other countries?
4. Are there a ways for aid organizations to make repairs and gain back trust of civilians?

Chapter 10

The Logic of the Humanitarian Era

Humanitarian aid sets out to help those in need. Despite those intentions, not everyone that needs aid receives it. There could be two groups of people in need only miles apart from one another and chances are only one of them would receive help. Victims of tragedies have to compete with each other to gain the attention of aid groups. These people have to distinguish themselves and make their situation seem the worst. Aid organizations go to where they can write a story and get donors to donate more money. They are looking for which story sells and the people in need have caught on (Polman, 159).

When a more tragic story appears somewhere else in the world, aid groups are quick to pack up and go there. The previous country they were in loses all aid and is left behind. While aid groups claim to be neutral and help those in need, the truth is the donors control where aid groups work. Donors control the money, so in turn they control what happens with that money as well. Ninety percent of people who die from starvation die because they are not in these “high profile” countries that donors choose to work in (Polman, 160). Humanitarian Aid has turned into a matter of politics. James Morris, head of the WFP claims “In our view, there are few phenomena in modern life as political as humanitarian aid” (Polman, 160).

The people in Sierra Leone argue that the only reason humanitarian aid groups finally arrived to help was because amputees came into the spot light. Before anyone knew Sierra Leone had amputees the country was suffering to things such as malaria, diarrhea and anemia. Yet while many were dying due to things such as these, no aid was seen in Sierra Leone. Once the amputees arrived there were tons of aid groups seen (Polman, 167). The reason they made the

switch to go to Sierra Leone was because that is what donors wanted. The story that would gain attention was now the amputees.

The rebels that had taken over Sierra Leone and all the amputations were known as the RUF. The RUF leader, Mike Lamin argued to aid groups that “It was only when you saw ever more amputees that you started paying attention to our fate” (Polman, 167). They blamed aid organizations for picking and choosing what they took care of and that they committed the amputees to gain attention to their country that drastically needed help. They were essentially fighting for the limelight and attention of humanitarian aid organization. If it were not for the amputees they created aid groups would never have focused on Sierra Leone.

Eventually a peace accord was made and the RUF agreed to stop the amputations. However others refused and continued terrorizing civilians. The RUF was credited with believing that, “WAR= Waste All Resources”. By destroying everything people started to pay attention to the country and send help (Polman, 171).

Reflection Questions:

1. What are ways that humanitarian aid organizations could make sure everyone who needs help receives it rather than having people neglected while others receive more than enough help?
2. How can humanitarian aid organizations work with rebel groups to ensure that innocent people are not being harmed?
3. How do donors complicate the mission of humanitarian aid?

Afterward Ask Them Questions

Polman offers her personal opinions on the matter. She argues that humanitarian aid organizations need to stop avoiding questions and start discussing how to just do better. She also warns of how many will just argue that, 'should they just not help then?'. This is a cop out and should be discussed (Polman, 172). Humanitarian aid groups need to be held accountable and not let off the hook. Polman also argues how humanitarian aid has become very political and questions when does everything add up and aid ceases to remain ethical (Polman, 173).

Humanitarian aid has had a record of helping the wrong side and costing lives. Polman asks when does this become a huge issue? The ICRC assisted the Nazis and could have saved many lives if they had not. Aid organizations have continued making this same mistake and helping the wrong group of people. Along with that aid has become more about the money than helping those most in need.

Furthermore Polman explains how aid is not upheld to any form of rules. There was a plan created known as the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP). In 2008 it stated "The humanitarian system still lacks a systematic and regular means of assessing its overall performance". It worked with the idea that aid would work better if aid groups worked together. Rather than having a "me- first mindset" aid organizations were pitted against each other to try and earn contracts (Polman, 176).

Polman overall does believe that humanitarian aid could be beneficial if done properly. Humanitarian aid organizations need to be more transparent and honest with what exactly they are doing. There needs to be trust built back up. Many people are not always convinced aid is truly benefiting those in need the best it could be.

Reflection Questions:

1. Do you agree or disagree with Polman's overall argument? Defend your opinion.
2. How could something such as the ALNAP be enforced and hold organizations accountable? Would this improve the humanitarian aid system?
3. What are other ways that aid groups could gain back the trust of people besides being more transparent and honest?

Chapter Three

The Big Truck That Went By How the World Came to save Haiti and Left Behind a Disaster By: Jonathan Katz

Brief overview:

Jonathan Katz is a journalist working for the Associated Press (AP). AP covers all types of stories usually tragedies in countries all over the world. Katz was located in Haiti when the tragic earthquake hit in 2010. He was a few days or even hours for finding his new location. For the past few years Katz had been in Haiti and was ready to go somewhere new. That all changed once the earthquake hit. Katz ended up staying way longer to cover the story and write Haitis story. He witnessed first hand the challenges Haiti faced after the earthquake and how aid was seen following the tragedy. This book goes through both personal accounts and overall information of what was going on. Katz involves his personal narrative throughout the add a first hand experience.

Introduction & Prologue

Before the earthquake in 2010, Haiti had been struggling financially and politically. Haiti was ranked one of the lowest on the *UN Human Development Index (HDI)*, and also ranked low on various other social and economic indicators (Katz, 10). Many aid organizations have worked in Haiti or were stationed there. That being said, there were not many efforts towards creating long-term solutions to Haiti's pervasive economic, political or infrastructure issues.

Many of the buildings in Haiti were cheaply built and unsafe, but since this is what the people could afford, buildings would continue to be made this way (Katz, 7). When aid groups came to Haiti, it was often to provide food or water for emergency situations, and the structural integrity of the buildings themselves was overlooked or ignored. This lack of safe construction sometimes had deadly consequences. In 2008, the foundation of the local school, College La Promesse Evangelique, collapsed. Many were killed or injured (Katz, 6-8). This tragedy did not draw much attention from Haitian government officials or other country governments, and as in recent times, the people of Haiti had to continue with their lives with little help from outside sources.

After the collapse of the school, Haiti's president, Rene Preval, spoke at the 2008 General Assembly of the United Nations and try and gain global attention for the situation in Haiti. Preval expressed how he was concerned with the aid Haiti had been receiving. He stated that "I am worried, because I dread that once this first wave of solidarity and human compassion has dried up, we will be left, as always, alone but truly alone, to deal with new catastrophes and to see restarted, as if in a ritual, the same exercises of mobilization" (Katz, 9). They had experienced many hurricanes, earthquakes and riots. In 2008 alone, they had experienced four hurricanes and tropical storms and Preval himself had dealt with two attempted coups during his

presidency (Katz, 8-9). However, each time an aid group came, they only came temporarily, and the next time a disaster hit, aid workers would have to come back and do the same thing over again. During his speech he acknowledged that aid could be made more useful if it were properly administered, but that had not yet been the case for Haiti.

Preval also argued that of all the money raised for or pledged to Haiti, they had seen little to none of it. They would receive water and food, but those were not permanent fixes. They needed a stable government, sturdy buildings, and jobs to allow people to get out of poverty. Any money seen was on the short-term help and not building functioning institutions to help the country. Therefore, the next thing Preval urged for was help to form a stable government. On the political front, Haiti experienced many coups and riots, resulting in frequent changes in leadership. With these frequent changes in executive leadership came changes in other institutions such as the fire department, army and police department. There were no agencies left to hold building codes in place, and there was no court system to punish anyone who broke a law. Preval was worried that an even bigger disaster than the school collapse could occur, and that Haiti would be even worse off than it was the time of his speech in 2008.

This chapter focuses on how humanitarian aid often consists of temporary fixes and does not help the people in need in the long run. Looking through a global health lens, one can see how this falls in many areas such as social responsibility, ethics, power and economics. These aid groups have a social responsibility to help those in need and find solutions to their problems. When these problems continue, such as unsafe infrastructure, the aid is not fulfilling their duties. In addition aid groups raise a ton of money; They do not struggle financially yet little of that money is actually seen in the countries that need it (Katz, 2). Furthermore, these aid groups hold power over the people in Haiti. Resources such as medical equipment, food and water are not

readily available to them and the aid organizations are in charge of distributing it. They must do so ethically. When those two things do not come together then aid has failed and can cause more harm than good. Humanitarian aid has frequently failed the people of Haiti, and it is not doing what aid organizations claim. When considering the definition of ‘humanitarian aid’ from MSF, Haiti is not reaping the desired benefits when disaster strikes: “At its core, the purpose of humanitarian action is to save the lives and ease the suffering of people caught in acute crises, thereby restoring their ability to rebuild their lives and communities”.

Reflection Questions:

1. If so much money is raised by aid organizations, then why have permanent fixes not been seen? How would permanent solutions to things such as government, or building infrastructure help Haiti?
2. During Preval's speech, the room was empty compared to when larger countries representatives were at the podium. Why do you think this is? How does the lack of interest from other countries hurt the aid that goes to Haiti and other countries?
3. If one of the problems in Haiti is the government, and Preval is the president, why doesn't he make the changes needed? What barriers or problems does Preval run into that may interfere with this?

Chapter 1

The End

Unlike its neighbor, the Dominican Republic, Haiti is nowhere near as developed. Many of the buildings are built quickly and with unreliable concrete. There are no zoning laws and the building code are not reinforced. This means no one is monitoring the safety of the buildings. There have also been years of political unrest and coups that have led to no stable infrastructure or control.

In 2010 a massive earthquake hit Haiti. Due to the lack of building codes many of the buildings were unsafe to begin with and crumbled with the earthquake. Phone towers were down everywhere making it nearly impossible for any communication. Besides a quick headline released by the Associated Press (AP) the rest of the world was unaware of what happened in Haiti.

Along with the buildings most of the roads were destroyed as well. The streets were flooded with people, cars and rubble, making movement very difficult. The Royal Palace, which is the home of the Haitian president did not fare as well either. The Palace is located in the Capital of Haiti. When the earthquake struck the palace collapsed in many places. The president at the time, Rene Preval, had to be heard from (Katz, 28). Thousands of people were milling around the Palace waiting to see what Preval would say next.

Due to a great migration that happened in the late 20th century there were more people located in the capital than there was space for. This resulted in many slums being built. These slums were also built poorly and did not stand a chance against the earthquake. Now that their homes were gone these people were left with nothing.

One of the only medical facilities was an Argentinian run UN hospital. It was located outside the capital near The United States Embassy. The hospital began to overflow with civilians

seeking medical attention. It became so packed that armed UN soldiers had to form a blockade to keep people out (Katz, 30). Since this was the only place people could go for medical help they stayed or left the injured outside the blockade hoping someone would help. No camps, shelters, hospitals or aid had arrived yet.

Down the road the United States Embassy sat, seemingly untouched. The embassy was nearly twice the size of the Royal Palace, and was built extremely well. There was 24/7 electricity and running water. The embassy was one of the only places in Haiti that had these luxuries. While people were dying down the road, the embassy stayed locked up and allowed no visitors unless they were authorized or American (Katz, 31-32).

Reflection Questions:

1. In what ways could Haiti have been more prepared for an earthquake to hit?
2. How does a slow response from any outside countries affect the people of Haiti and their trust in humanitarian aid?
3. What message does the U.S. Embassy send by not helping or responding to what was going on?
4. How did the great migration to the capital play a role in the devastation seen after the earthquake hit?

Chapter 2

Love Theme From *Titanic*

Haiti has always experienced earthquakes. The country is on a series of plates that shift often. Over time these shifts have created the mountains and flatlands seen today. None of the earthquakes Haiti experienced prior to the one in 2010 had left much destruction. The ones that did were usually ignored and put behind political drama. The presidents were more concerned with political riots, coups and unrest rather than natural disasters. The people of Haiti became more and more untrusting in their government (Katz, 37).

After years of an unhelpful government, other countries such as the United States stepped in to take charge in Haiti. The U.S. started pushing its own agenda and eventually had a document signed that gave it power over most of Haiti's affairs. The U.S. pushed for the importation of goods. This would benefit their economy greatly (Katz, 39-40). On the other hand Haiti suffered.

Haiti was a country with many farmers. With the importation of goods these farmers had to compete with outside old sources (Katz, 39). These outside sources were cheaper and provided more options. Over time farmers continued to lose their livelihood and would have to move to more urban areas in search of jobs. This led to slums being built in the Haitian capital, Port-Au-Prince.

Institutions such as fire departments were not able to help due to a lack of fuel. Nurses and doctors would go months without pay. This added to the distrust of the people in Haiti towards the government, but also the struggles of those people. Without doctors people could not seek medical attention. Without fuel, fires were not being put out. There were thousands of aid groups seen in the country, however the people of Haiti had no say in what these groups did. The

people of Haiti did not trust or respect these various groups. That makes it difficult for groups to provide any help to those in need.

All of this continued to add to the misery in Haiti. It also took away from any concerns about natural disasters. People were more focused on how to survive and make it out of their situation. Earthquakes were not being thought of. This meant that if a disaster were to happen no one would be prepared.

Reflection Questions:

1. How do negative encounters with countries such as the United States taking over hurt the efforts of foreign aid groups in Haiti?
2. How could aid groups work with farmers to help get them their jobs back? How would this change the relationship between aid groups and Haitians?
3. How does the destruction of institutions such as the fire fighters and hospitals hurt Haiti? How does this play a role into how destructive the earthquake was?
4. In what ways could humanitarian aid have been improved during this time to better serve the people?

Chapter 3 Blan and Neg

The day after the earth quake first responders were still not seen. The people in Haiti were forced to dig out loved ones, and any possessions that survived the quake. They were also left with little to no food or water. Buildings and institutions such as churches, schools, and shopping centers were destroyed (Katz, 54). There was no place for survivors to gather or to receive help. Eventually NGOs began to arrive. However, the areas that first received help were not necessarily the places in the most need.

The first aid groups to respond went to the most populated area. This meant that cities such as the capital received help as soon as it arrived. The camps these aid groups set up were so cramped that it made it impossible for people to get any help. People living in rural areas or with no means of transportation would be left on their own. When these camps were being established the aid groups focused on only specific areas and did not consider other places.

Press agencies such as AP or other related groups were more interested in the story. Many journalists arrived with instructions to take pictures and report back what they saw (Katz, 66). For the most part they did not offer much help to victims of the earthquake. While it is important for the world to know the destruction, by having people walk around not helping but photographing it can send the wrong message. The people of Haiti are seeing well abled bodies that could help dig out people snap footage instead. This reinforces the “Us and Them” notion seen before the earthquake. It also furthers the distrust of foreign agents coming in to help and could hurt efforts of organizations there that are there to help those in need.

Reflection Questions:

1. How does aid groups centralizing in one are cause issues with aid distribution? How could this be done differently to allow everyone access to care?
2. What kind of message do the journalists send the people of Haiti when they focus on the story and not helping?
3. Why do you think humanitarian aid organizations took so long to show up while media sources were able to appear rapidly? What issues does this cause and how could things be operated differently so that aid is the first to arrive in the country?

Chapter 4 The Crossroads

It took three days after the earthquake for help to begin to arrive. The primary goal for this first wave was to save lives. Rescue teams from all over the world came to Haiti to search through the rubble or give medical attention. These humanitarian aid organizations included ones such as the Red Cross, Doctors Without Borders (MSF), and Acupuncturists Without Borders (Katz, 68). Despite the outpour of aid groups, the destruction the earthquake far outweighed the help that came. No one was prepared or equipped to handle everything. Injuries such as shattered bones and major head wounds were not anticipated by the aid organizations. The explosion of patients in need of medical attention could not be handled. Medical camps were able to run full force for 10 days before they had to start discharging patients early or turning others away (Katz, 69).

Humanitarian Aid organizations continued to set up in locations where foreign services were located or in high profile areas. Rural populations were still neglected and not checked on. The people in Haiti had no say in where they needed help or where camps should be set up. There was no organized system for the swarm of people that needed help and soon people began to fight for help.

It took much longer than it should, but eventually rural communities began to receive help. Only select villages were receiving help but it was a start. That being said, by the time aid organizations showed up they were not as fully stocked with supplies as before. Simple procedures could not even be done. While medical help was at the forefront of many people's mind, food was beginning to become an issue as well. Responders that arrived in Haiti were not in contact with the Haitian government that dealt with food security, La Securite Alimentaire. The UN World Food Program calculated that they could feed 300,000 people for three weeks (Katz,

78). In a country with a population of millions this was not long at all. Food began to be imported. However the containers came with a price increase which made the food more expensive. For those who lost everything, food became impossible to buy. These people relied on aid camps, but since those were only in certain areas, the rural community began to become even more distressed.

Soon after the food, water became a concern. Finding clean water was becoming more and more difficult. Bottled water began to be imported along with the food. Finding an efficient way to distribute water turned into yet another complication. The United States Navy began to throw boxes of water out of helicopters (Katz, 79-80). When that turned out not to work, they began doing airdrops. Locals urged for other channels such as churches be used to distribute supplies. This would allow resources to be accessed by more people. The aid organizations did not listen and would take another month to create a better system.

Reflection Questions:

1. Why should humanitarian aid organizations take into account locals' opinions and suggestions? Are the locals suggesting valid things or are they just making things more complicated?
2. How could aid organizations have been more prepared? Are they to blame for not going to rural areas or not being prepared, or is that out of their control?
3. How does a lack of communication between aid organizations and local government channels cause issues in getting people the help they need or donations for specific items such as food or water?

Chapter 5 Spoiled Corn

After the initial few weeks the aid started to slow down. Most of the bodies were removed, recovered from the rubble and camps were established. The next step was to start long term fixes such as secure incomes or stable shelters for victims of the earthquake. To cover the shelter situation president Preval asked the United States government to provide sturdier tents for Haitians. The U.S. declined the presidents proposal and came up with one of their own. They wanted to divide aid into three sections. Emergency relief, medium-term recovery and long-term reconstruction. While that was their decision, the general Haitian public was not aware of it and thought Preval had let them down.

As time went on makeshift camps were starting to become more and more permanent. Haitians began to settle where aid groups were established. These camps started to be referred to as slums. Many of the aid groups began to treat them as Internally Displaced People (IDP), and began treating them as they would people in a war torn country (Katz, 96). This mind set caused many to problems of its own. Instead of helping these people return to their lives and help build a stable life, the displaced people settled where they would receive rations. Moving to the food and water was better than waiting for it to come to them.

While this was going on, cluster groups began to take place. Both humanitarian aid organizations and government representatives met to come up with ways to effectively help. There were still concerns of rubble and the camps that this group needed to discuss. These meetings took place near the airport and were conducted in English. The location made it difficult for many Haitians to attend and the language barrier made it almost impossible for the ones who could make it to contribute. The members of this group often rotated and stayed far removed from anything going on in Haiti and did not involve any locals in the decisions (Katz, 97).

Nothing was coming of these cluster groups or from humanitarian aid initiatives and soon camps and slums began to govern themselves. Many created a hierarchy of their own. Leaders would take the first and best resources for themselves and left others with the worst or nothing at all. They slowly began to blame foreigners for the block of supplies or lack of enough necessary resources. Meals were being delivered to many but not bulk rations. Many believed if they said they did not have food it would come. Instead of large rations meals continued to arrive. Soon camps began saying they had food but not enough to get by.

One of the biggest let downs from these humanitarian aid groups was the poor efforts of the search and rescue. Millions of dollars were put into one of the largest rescue projects the world has seen but fewer than 400 people were rescued. Ninety-five percent of rescues happens within twenty-four hours after a tragedy occurs (Katz, 105). Aid organizations did not show up in Haiti until after that deadline. This meant the chances of finding people alive and rescuing them was low to being with. Some argued that a better first response could have saved many lives, but no one knows for sure. Foreign authorities did not consult or collaborate with the people they were trying to help. This caused many Haitians to be less trusting of the humanitarian aid organizations.

There were some good to come from the aid Haiti received. The United States military engineers repaired Haitis port. This in turn allowed shipments to arrive in the country. Millions of bottled water, meals and bulk food arrived due to this. Water quality went up fifty percent than it was before the earthquake. There was also a widespread vaccination campaign. Vaccinations for measles, tetanus, and diphtheria were administered to many. Thousands of life saving procedures such as surgeries and amputations took places as well. However the aid organizations argue that the biggest accomplishment was that there were no riots that took place.

Reflection Questions:

1. Why was a foreign government put in charge in rebuilding a country rather than humanitarian aid organizations that were sent to Haiti specifically for that?
2. How can people effectively rebuild a country if they are so far removed from the people in need and how could this be changed so that the people in need have a voice in rebuilding?
3. How would humanitarian aid organizations being upfront and open about where the money is going improve people opinions about not only the organizations themselves but also the governments involved?

Chapter 6

Bon Dola

The belief that Haiti could only be built by an outside force became widespread (Katz, 109). Money was being sent in aid to Haiti. Most of this money never reached Haiti. Donors wanted say on where their money went. Due to Haiti's political past these donors were hesitant to give the money to the Haitian government and usually did not. This meant the money was in the hands of foreign organizations. On the other hand people argued that by going around the government this would make fragile countries weaker (Katz, 111).

The United States alone raised and pledged 1.1 billion dollars to help Haiti was seen. Half of it was sent to organizations preparing for aid response while the rest went to UN agencies, contractors and NGOs (Katz, 112). An international donors conference was set to take place March 31, 2010. The name of the conference was "Towards a New Future for Haiti" and was aiming to raise money and prioritize what Haiti needed.

While foreign countries and representatives were preparing for the conference another problem was arising in Haiti. The rainy season was approaching and the camps were still not dispersing. The worry was that these camps were in areas where flooding could occur and even more issues would come with it. Relocation was being stalled by wealthy families who did not want to give up land. The UN secretary, Ban Ki-moon and American actor, Sean Penn took these camps as their personal mission. They headed efforts to relocate people and break up these camps before the rain would come. While the rains could be dangerous, Ki-moon and Penn exaggerated the potential risk. Getting people worried raised more and more money (Katz, 115).

Ban Ki-moon and Sean Penn worked together but acted in completely different ways. Ki-moon had experience with these sorts of disasters but was unwilling to share any ideas or plans that were happening. On the other hand, Penn was more than willing to share everything. Penn

shared parameters of relocation and even met with President Preval to discuss the plan of action (Katz, 116). This made some wonder how reliable an actor could be in a position such as this one. Soon after the two warned about the coming rainy season, a hard rain fell on the Petionville golf course. This was the site for one of the largest camps and was home to many people. Houses were destroyed, latrines overflowed, families were even swept away. Luckily no one died, but this close call gained a lot of attention from other countries (Katz, 119).

A few weeks after this rain fell the donors conference took place. It was led by both Hillary and Bill Clinton, Ban Ki-moon and President Preval. Many questioned why Americans were co-hosts to which Hillary claimed was because the U.S. donated the most to Haiti. The major theme of the conference was the corruption of the Haitian government and whether or not they could be trusted with this money from donors. What no one discussed was how ninety-nine percent of the money is never touched by the country's government. Rather, it goes to INGOs, NGOs, Red Cross movements, contractors, UN agencies or never leave the donating government (Katz, 122-123).

This misconception hurts Haiti in many ways. Donors are not willing to donate if they think the money goes to the Haitian government. When pledges are made, they do not always come to light. Sometimes the pledges are forgotten, in others they were never planned to be given. Other times the pledges were never agreed on from the donor's government, making them an empty promise. If not all the money is seen people begin to question where it went. Therefore they blame their government for stealing and corruption. The cycle continues and the government is made out to be the bad guy.

At the end of the conference it was decided that Haiti and its government could not handle the money they were being given. Instead a foreign force would have to also be in control.

Bill Clinton was nominated to be an advisor and co-chairman of the funds going to Haiti. This way the Haitian government was not in charge and did not have full control if any over the money coming (Katz, 133).

Reflection Questions:

1. Do you agree or disagree with the idea that Haiti needs an outside force such as the United States to properly rebuild?
2. How does an actor such as Sean Penn be put in charge of so much in a crisis situation such as what was happening in Haiti and how does this undermine more trained personnel?
3. What changes in humanitarian aid could be made so that governments do not receive all the blame when money is not being seen?

Chapter 7

The Governor

Since missionaries in Haiti have arrived it has been believed that Haiti needs help from an outside source. Bill Clinton is among those that share this belief (Katz, 135). Clinton had visited Haiti many times. During his visits he promised to fix various situations, healthcare being among those.

Hospitals had been receiving money, medical supplies and medicines from humanitarian aid groups since floods swept through the country in 2008. After seeing this first hand, Clinton vowed to make a change. Clinton blamed the “system”. That system being humanitarian aid. Many hospitals did to have a permanent building or reliable budget. Humanitarian aid groups played a role in coming and then ditching. Due to this, Clinton wanted to make a difference. Over time Clinton seemed to have forgotten about his promise and the hospitals along with other aspects of healthcare was left unfixed(Katz, 136).

In a matter of time Clinton was not only elected advisor/co-chair of the aid funds, but was named head of Ban Ki-moons ‘Special Envoy’. No one was sure what the special envoy was for or what they did. People soon began to wonder if Clinton came back to take over and earned the nickname, Le Governor (Katz, 137). During the donors conference that Clinton lead, there was no room for Haitians voice in the matter. Only even minutes were allowed for the topic. Haitians wanted the rebuilding of their country to take place from within not from other countries. There were plenty of people to work and repair the country and they could earn money doing so (Katz, 146). After a compelling argument on the natives side, Clinton thanked the representative and moved on. Clinton was going to make sure the help came from outside countries.

Clinton relied heavily on a report by the former director of the World Bank's research group, Paul Collier. Collier drafted a report he named "Haiti: From Natural Catastrophe to Economic Security" (Katz, 138). Clinton used this report when talking about change and rebuilding Haiti. The plan would work but only if wages remained low for the Haitian employees. In response Haiti wrote their own report. Unlike Collier and Clinton's ideas, this report did not focus as much on the garment industry. Instead it focused more on farming and agriculture. However it still showed that Haiti was willing to go along with Clinton and Collier's plan.

What Clinton and Collier did not explain was that these garment industries they wanted to bring in could pick up and move at any time. If the workers were not okay with earning less than two dollars a day, the factory would go somewhere else. This ultimately meant that Haitian workers would remain living in poverty and would not benefit in the ways Clinton and Collier said they would (Katz, 140).

Jobs was not the problem in Haiti. The issue was earning a stable income and having job security (Katz, 142). Minimum wage was \$1.75 a day. This meant civilians lived in moderate to severe poverty (Katz, 140). On top of that no one could say for certain if they would have a job the next day. Clinton and Collier's plan addressed neither of these. Soon a new proposal was drafted that raised the minimum wage to five dollars a day. However it was tabled by President Preval because he was afraid businesses would leave. After debate the wage was raised to three dollars a day. While this did not come up with long term solutions it did make the riots over the wage cease (Katz, 144).

Once the conference was done and Clinton headed Ki-moon's special envoy the citizens of Haiti received no say on how their country would rebuilt. Clinton was in charge of the 8.4 billion dollars pledged to Haiti. When he was asked about how this would be handled, Clinton vaguely answered and with no plan (Katz, 153).

Reflection Questions:

1. How could aid organizations have helped Haitians rebuild their own country and economy differently?
2. Do you believe that humanitarian aid organizations have much control over what is done in the countries they are working with?
3. What role does humanitarian aid play when it comes to what happens to the money raised after a tragedy?
4. Why do you believe that Bill Clinton received so much power in Haiti despite not fulfilling his promises form years ago?

Chapter 8

“When I Get Older”

Once emergency responders did all they could people wondered what aid workers would do next. Humanitarian aid organizations came to Haiti due to the earthquake. The issues left in Haiti had little left to do with the earthquake and was more on how to fix Haiti (Katz, 157). Some of these aid groups vowed to stay in Haiti despite not knowing how long this could be.

Medical aid groups had come to Haiti with money and supplies and drew a large crowd to them. This forced local hospitals to close due to lack of funds. Once the medical aid groups left, Haitians were left with little to no medical facilities (Katz, 161). There was more than enough staff to work, but medical supplies were lacking. People in Haiti began to die from things that could have been treated were there medical institutions left.

To prevent any outbreak that may occur, aid groups left in Haiti issued a widespread vaccine campaign. Vaccines for Diptheria-tetanus-mesles went on through various camps in Haiti. This, like the food aid did not reach everyone. A young man did contract Diptheria. There was only one place in Haiti that was equipped to handle Diptheria. Getting the medication for Diptheria was another set of problems (Katz, 163).

The World Health Organization (WHO) manages the medication for Diptheria in their warehouse. By the time the sick man was admitted this warehouse was closed. If the medication was not received soon the young man would die. Actor turned humanitarian aid worker, Sean Penn stepped in and used his celebrity status to get the medication. This caused more concern surrounding Penn. He is not as qualified as many to handle a situation like this. He also skipped procedures to get the medication. Penn had more pull than government officials did in this situation. Penn then went on air to do an interview. This caused a whole other round of panic. Penn kept arguing how humanitarian aid needs to change. He went on to say how an outbreak of

Diphtheria was bound to happen (Katz, 163-164). Humanitarian aid groups went into a full frenzy trying to prepare for this supposedly coming outbreak. More and more money was poured into these aid groups. Not outbreak never occurred and money was wasted. Originally the CDC and WHO tried to argue that Penn was wrong and no outbreak would happen. Despite their efforts, Penn's celebrity status and pull over many, people chose to listen to Penn instead.

As time went on Haitians began to develop the same mind set as foreigners and believed that to be rebuilt outside forces needed to take over (Katz, 167). Due to the country's corrupt past, and money still not being seen Haitians began to depend on humanitarian aid groups. The aid groups were mostly first responders and were not equipped to help Haiti long term. Nothing was being accomplished and the situation reminded the same for the people of Haiti.

Reflection Questions:

1. What kind of changes would need to be made by Humanitarian aid organizations to make sure that proper channels are being taken when obtaining items such as the Diphtheria medication?
2. Should unqualified people be allowed to make huge decisions and announcements such as Sean Penn did? What message does he send to not only donors, organizations but the people of Haiti as well?
3. How does this new dependence on humanitarian aid groups affect efforts to rebuild Haiti?

Chapter 9 Sugar Land

The money that was pledged at the donors conference has barely been seen. As of June 17th Brazil was the only country to have donated anything (Katz, 175). The next day both Australia and Norway donated some of their pledged amount. The pledged amount for 2010 and 2011 was 4.6 million dollars. As of June 18th only 100,000 had been seen. Haitians heard billions were pledged to eventually come to their country. When the money was not showing up, people began to blame the government. On the contrary to many peoples beliefs, the Haitian government had nothing to do with the money or lack there of.

While the money was not being seen neither was any relocation for the people in the camps. Instead these squatter camps were booming larger and more permanent. The United States Navy began to make “official” camps in areas they thought better for relocation. One of the biggest ones they created was named ‘Camp Obama’. Camp Obama was located in-between two mountains in a known flooding spot (Katz, 176-177). This questioned whether or not these camps were truly safe or not. These official camps drew a lot of attention because people believed if they went there they would too receive help.

The government and humanitarian aid organizations began to worry that if they did not find solid permanent relocation areas, all the camps would become permanent (Katz, 177). That was easier said than done. During the earthquake the building that held land deed was destroyed. This meant that until the government made sure no one belonged certain properties, relocation could not happen there. Relocation stalled for a long time. The camps were becoming more permanent each day, and people were refusing to leave. Anytime land seemed to be secured for relocation, ‘gangsters’ would come and scare people off (Katz, 178).

By mid-June the first relocation camp was built. The camp was named Camp Corail and was located outside the capital in a rural area. The location of Camp Coral caused many issues. When aid groups cut off food aid in hopes to make the camp independent, the people had no way of getting food (Katz, 183). The people living in Camp Corail did not have easy access to a town with supplies. On top of that the tents they were given were not sturdy and allowed rain in (Katz, 183). The people living in Camp Corail began to argue that “Right now we need help... International organizations, they can help us for the first time now. The Haitian government did nothing for us” (Katz, 183). Everyone continued to believe that the Haitian government was behind the delays in help, when in reality it was the foreign governments and aid organizations.

People who were not lucky enough to go to Camp Corail became squatters outside the camp. They hoped if they were close by they would too receive some of the aid. Six months after the earthquake only 5,600 transitional shelters had been built. None of them were outside Camp Corail, and there were no additional efforts being made to suggest more were coming (Katz, 185).

Reflection Questions:

1. How could governments be held more accountable for the pledges they make? How do humanitarian aid groups play into this?
2. How can aid organizations and governments go about ethically and fairly selecting people to move into “official” camps? What could they do for the people not chosen?
3. In what ways could the aid organizations working in the official camps have better prepared the people in the camps for when they left?

Chapter 10

Face to Face

The money pledged at the conference continued to come in slowly. Only six percent of the money could be traced. Six months after the earthquake struck, and only four after the donors conference, only two percent of the rubble was cleared. Out of the quarter million promised temporary shelters only 13,000 had been built (Katz, 203). On the other hand, while the people in Haiti were still struggling the United States Navy was living comfortably. Money said to be going to the relief of Haiti went to building nice housing for navy members (Katz, 204). Even more of the pledged money went to the United States Defense Department. Helicopter repairs and a ship that was deployed outside of Haiti was among other purchases (Katz 204). None of it directly affecting or helping the people of Haiti.

The United States military were not the only ones to exploit the money meant for Haiti, humanitarian aid groups did the same thing. A ferry would shuttle aid workers from the Dominican Republic to Haiti for the cost of 18,000 dollars. New SUVs were purchased and 50,000 dollars went to elevator repairs even though there only a handful of elevators in the entire country (Katz, 205).

More and more money went to foreign luxuries that had no benefit for the people in Haiti or any role in rebuilding the country. After leaving the Coast Guard spent several thousand on medals and ribbons in the state of Virginia. When they were asked about it the spokesperson refused to answer any questions or allegations that the money meant for Haiti was not actually going to Haiti (Katz, 205).

The Red Cross was another group that raised a ton of money for Haiti. The organizations barely spent any of the billions they raised for earthquake relief. While the Red Cross does deal with emergency efforts they gave some money to NGOs to help with long term solutions (Katz,

206). These groups would then take money to pay their staff and buy resources. A lot of this money was never seen or traced. When these NGOs were questioned about where it went many refused to comment.

While some organizations were not up front with answers, Doctors Without Borders (MSF) was. Once they received more than they knew they would need, they urged donors to donate to a general fund. This would allow them to use that fund incase other emergencies appeared. Unlike others, MSF was open with the public and explained exactly where the money they raised was going (Katz, 2007).

Most of the money pledged at the donors conference was never truly meant to reach Haiti. Haiti owed a lot of money to different countries. These countries would subtract what they were owed from the amount they pledged. To the public it looked like millions were being donated, when in reality once those debts were subtracted the amount went drastically down. Even more of the money was spent on salaries or outside of Haiti. In the end Haiti was only left with 5.5 billion out of the 16.3 billion pledged at the conference (Katz, 2007).

As of March 2012, less than half the amount promised for 2010 and 2011 had been received. The biggest donors, Venezuela and The United States, gave less than a fifth of their promised amounts. In the end barely any countries or organizations gave the whole amount they pledged. Donors refused to talk about what happened to the money they pledged. It was easier for them to have people blame the Haitian government since it was known for corruption in the past (Katz, 2007).

Reflection Questions:

1. Would governments and humanitarian aid organizations being transparent help the situation going on in Haiti?

2. How does not honestly making a pledge hurt efforts of rebuilding Haiti?
3. What might be some repercussions if aid organizations were transparent with their money such as MSF was?

Chapter 11

A Gut Feeling

While no outbreak occurred directly following the earthquake, one eventually did. As far as anyone knows Cholera had not been seen in Haiti prior to the earthquake (Katz, 224). Soon a huge outbreak of Cholera was being seen. The UN soldiers were being blamed for it. The UN base outside of Mirebalais were from Nepal where a recent Cholera outbreak had happened. The base also happened to be upstream from where people were getting sick. This suggested that there was a high chance of the river being the transport for Cholera (Katz, 225).

The UN camp refused to answer any questions on the matter or offer any help. A PVC pipe behind the base was seen to be leaking black liquid and across the street where two dumping sites with the same black liquid. If a heavy rain occurred the dump sites would overflow and flood into the river (Katz, 227). The people living near the base saw this and stopped using the river if possible. People living downstream did not have this advantage and started to become sick (Katz, 230).

When medical NGOs learned of the outbreak they began to ask for donations. They soon started setting up clinics in both places with Cholera or expected to get Cholera in the near future. People soon started to blame these clinics for making them sick. Everyone had been healthy before and then these clinics showed up and people became sick (Katz, 232). Distrust of these clinics grew and soon people began attacking the clinics. Riots took place and Humanitarian aid workers and UN soldiers were being attacked (Katz, 232).

News stories came out from CNN claiming the UN soldiers had tested negative for Cholera before coming to Haiti. They were not being completely honest with the public. UN soldiers get tested three months prior to departing for wherever they were going to work. They then get those three months to say bye to family and tie up any affairs. The Cholera outbreak in Nepal

was only a month. This meant that the time between being tested and then coming to Haiti the UN soldiers could have contracted Cholera (Katz 233). While it is proven through epidemiology, finding the source of the outbreak is vital to stopping it. Despite that, WHO and the CDC said that was not a priority (Katz, 233).

Eventually the UN base in question was searched and the CDC proclaimed that the strain of Cholera in Haiti came from these soldiers. They then refused to investigate further (Katz, 234). The very people sent to help the people of Haiti the ones to cause this outbreak. The UN receives millions of aid money. If they were proven to be causing more harm they would most likely lose that funding. People were trusting of these soldiers to help them not knowing they could in return kill thousands of others.

Humanitarian aid organizations continued to focus on camps and not rural areas even though Cholera was being seen there as well. MSF began to set up clinics but were not able to keep up with the incoming patients. Due to no one trusting food grown in the country, aid groups started to distribute food again. Fisherman stopped going out in fear of catching something in the water. Farmers and people not near distribution camps suffered as well (Katz, 235).

The UN, WHO and CDC refused to look into the source of the outbreak. They claimed it was in fear of taking away from efforts to fight the epidemic (Katz, 236). They argued that they were getting blame due to the bad reputation aid always got (Katz, 238). By not investigating the UN base, the UN was giving the impression that foreign figures did not care about Haiti (Katz, 239). By not investigating the Cholera outbreak, the UN was reinforcing the notation many Haitians had that foreign aid was no good (Katz, 239).

More and more riots began to take place. President Preval asked epidemiologists to come in and investigate. This finally got the attention of the UN and they launched their own investigation. The report that was published had strong facts suggesting the Nepalese UN soldiers were the source of the Cholera Outbreak. The report also suggests a change in the way the UN screened their soldiers. While the report explained how the disease spread and pointed directly at the UN soldiers no blame as actually stated (Katz, 242). Samples that were taken from the base were handled by people not qualified to work with them and everything was pretty much covered up (Katz).

The UN replaced the Nepalese soldiers but otherwise did not own up to anything. Thousand of Haitians died from Cholera and many humanitarian aid organizations began to focus mainly on the outbreak. Haitians were becoming more and more hesitant when it came to humanitarian aid and soon people began avoiding the organizations all together. This hurt many organizations who were trying to administer help and make change in the country.

Reflection Questions:

1. How does the Cholera outbreak take attention away from what humanitarian aid was focusing on before?
2. The UN soldiers are there protect and help the Haitian people. In what ways does the soldiers being the cause of Cholera hurt humanitarian aid organizations and their efforts to help people?
3. How could humanitarian aid organizations and foreign governments have handled the situation to ensure everyone was safe, compensated and still trusted foreign help?

Chapter 12

Cardboard Palace

Despite the country still struggling to rebuild, the upcoming election was still going to be held. People were mad and blaming President Preval for stealing aid money, and wanted him out as soon as possible. Humanitarian aid was no longer at the forefront of peoples minds. Instead people wanted to know who would be in charge of the billions of dollars humanitarian aid was bringing them (Katz, 246-247). Many believed that to really see change they needed a leader that would get international dialogue about Haiti's future going (Katz, 251). Someone that would gain foreign attention and get the help they needed.

Before the earthquake Haiti lacked proper institutions such as schools, healthcare and even government (Katz, 251). There was no solid legal system and the people in charge came from the small upper class. All this made it difficult for Haiti to achieve democracy. While humanitarian aid groups had the opportunity to change this they did not make this their focus. Instead the United States and all heir NGOs became more interested in the upcoming election. The United States wanted someone to be elected that would go along with their plans. Since many Haitians still believed to rebuild their country they needed an outside country, and agreed with the United States (Katz, 251).

UN soldiers were still being attacked and humanitarian aid groups continued to be avoided by many. While Haitians believed they needed help they believed from other governments not aid groups. Millions of the aid money was then poured into soldiers and equipment for the soldiers to contain riots. The money that was meant for the people of Haiti was going towards foreigners instead (Katz, 260).

Riots escalated when the two presidential candidates were announced. People were not happy with the outcome. Again to settle the riots foreign powers stepped in. Representatives

from the United States, Canada, France, Jamaica and Chile were tasked with the job to recount the votes (Katz, 261). Chaos was spreading throughout the country. While humanitarian aid was still very much needed, however the focus was shifting to politics and away from the needs people in Haiti needed. Foreign powers believed if the government was fixed things would improve for Haiti.

Reflection Questions:

1. How does the mistrust in humanitarian aid change the view on the election?
2. In what ways could humanitarian aid change what they were doing with the money for the UN soldiers to still focus on the Haitian people?
3. What are your beliefs on this matter? Do you think that changing the government will fix all the problems, or do you believe that humanitarian aid groups still need to be present and doing their job for Haiti to see improvement?

Chapter 13

All Together Now

A year after the earthquake struck Haiti, bodies were still being found. Ninety five percent of the rubble had still not been cleared. The rubble continued to clog the streets making transportation difficult (Katz, 263). On top of that only one tenth of the money the United States pledged for the first year alone had been seen. Over three billion dollars had been pledged for the first two years following the earthquake. As the first year ended only a small fraction of that had actually been seen. The United States President, Barack Obama made little to no comment on the matter (Katz, 264).

Obama refused to acknowledge that policies coming from his office put Haiti in such a vulnerable position. Instead of confronting humanitarian aid issues in Haiti, Obama pushed for the election in Haiti to continue on. The United States were not the only country to do this. Foreign figures around the world were focusing more on the election than the promises about aid they gave at the donors conference (Katz, 264). Countries wanted to know if the new president would be beneficial to them or not. They could care less about rebuilding Haiti and more about their economy.

The focus of many were on two candidates that's views were rights vision of the nationalism which would benefit foreign powers tremendously (Katz, 269). When one of these candidates did not make it on the final ballot foreign powers stepped in yet again and conducted an investigation. Once this investigation was complete the findings marked the favored candidate amongst foreign powers was on the ballot, and the Haitian candidate was not. The United States threatened to pull any aid if this change not accepted (Katz, 268).

If the investigation report was implemented this would mean both candidates would be following what the United States wanted. With that tax breaks for large foreign countries and

more power for these companies to leave if they want to. The Haitian government argued this was not the way to rebuild Haiti and did not trust this decision. In the end Hillary Clinton arrived in Haiti and forced the Haitian government to accept the new decision. The two candidates running for presidency would be Mirlande Manigat and Michel Martelly (Katz, 270). This meant no matter who won, foreign powers would again have control in Haiti (Katz, 271).

While the election was going on the people in Haiti were still struggling. Not only were infrastructures such as buildings and roads not in good shape but the health of Haitians were not either. Anxiety, Depression, PTSD, and suicide attempts were on the rise. Medical clinics were not in full force anymore and these people had little options for help (Katz, 273-274). The focus of foreign countries were on which president would benefit them the most. The reason they came to Haiti, to help after the earthquake seemed to be pushed to the side.

Reflection Questions:

1. How do the efforts of humanitarian aid suffer when donors are not coming through with their promised pledges?
2. Can humanitarian aid organizations continue on without these pledges and would anyone listen to them when everyone is so focused on the new president?
3. The U.S, threatened to pull the aid they had still not delivering, what kind of message does this send about humanitarian aid and helping those in need?
4. Why would forcing countries be so interested in the new president of Haiti? They were supposed to be rebuilding the country but were more focused on the election.

Epilogue Memwa

Humanitarian aid organizations do benefit the country in need. The aid they do is usually immediate first response and not so much long term solutions (Katz, 277). Katz argues that when donating to an aid organization to do your research before hand. Finding one that does not keep a majority of the money, knows the country they are helping and knows the needs of the people are essential when finding one to donate to. Humanitarian aid organizations groups based in the country in need can lead the way to rebuilding after a disaster (Katz, 278).

While response to a disaster is important, so are the preventative measures in place before one strikes. When a country does not have a strong infrastructure or lacks institutions such as police, firefighters, medical facilities, schools or government, disasters can become much more deadly. By having institutions ready to respond and know how to handle a situation could save many lives (Katz, 278). Katz argues that “Supporting efforts to give aid directly to local governments, and the goal of building local institutions that operate independently of foreign control, will go exponentially further than cargo planes of tarps and bottled water (Katz, 278). By not micromanaging the countries in need, it allows them to rebuild themselves and tend to their needs rather than a foreign agenda.

Two years after the earthquake Haiti was still in drastic need of help. Camps were still around and crowded. Some of these camps were being cleared out but the people being kicked out of them had no where else to go (Katz, 279). Cholera was still killing people all over the country. Families filed lawsuits against the UN for the outbreak but nothing came of them. Foreign countries who were interested during the election were not there to support and help once the election ended (Katz, 279). If people were lucky to save enough money to build an actual house, they built them in the same way they had when they collapsed (Katz, 280).

Reconstruction efforts stopped after the few transitional houses were built in Camp Corail. The majority of the money for reconstruction went to luxury hotels. These hotels that accommodated foreigners and the extreme wealthy. Many of them were built and owned by the Red Cross. The same Red Cross that raised billions of dollars to go to rebuilding of Haiti (Katz, 280).

The winner of the presidential election, Michel Martelly, did exactly as the United States wanted, a business partner. Martelly, like many others was fond of actor Sean Penn and named him 'Ambassador at Large of the Republic of Haiti'. Again people wondered how qualified an actor was to be in charge of so much. Penn had more influence over the people than aid workers or even government workers did. The NGO run by Penn was put in charge of demolishing the rest of the presidential mansion (Katz, 281). There were people in Haiti that needed money and could do the job themselves, yet more money was spent for a foreign aid group to come in and do it.

Many of the efforts in Haiti seemed to be influenced heavily by the United States. A third of the projects that were approved to use aid money were for the garment industry. The same industry the United States pushed for in Haiti so they could benefit off of it. The justification for this was so that the capital would become less congested. However people would flood to the factories and set up camp there causing more camps to be crowded and overflowing. Not only would they draw a crowd but the factories were barely paying five dollars a day. An improvement from before, but still not enough to really live off. Many questions and concerns rose surrounding what was being done (Katz, 281).

Reflection Questions:

1. What duty do foreign countries and aid groups owe to Haiti after this big election they controlled? By leaving right after in what ways did this further hurt Haiti?
2. How could humanitarian aid groups be more open with donors on what they actually do and where the money goes?
3. Describe the issues this new garment industry would bring to Haiti and how this would call for more humanitarian aid attention.

Op-Ed

Giving someone in need, the supplies or attention they need to survive, sounds great, doesn't it? Not many people would argue that humanitarian aid is a bad thing. But what if I told you that the way humanitarian aid is now is not truly helping those in need and can often be a scam for donors, and people receiving help? Humanitarian aid is without a doubt a vital player in helping those in need. However, as it stands, I do not believe humanitarian aid is doing what it sets out to do, and should be drastically changed to serve those in need. I could go on and on about the changes that need to be made to humanitarian aid. However, for reasons of space, I will be arguing two main points on how humanitarian aid is failing those in need and how they can be changed.

Humanitarian aid is defined in many ways. The main idea is to provide relief from suffering whether it is due to natural disasters, such as an earthquake, or a man made one, such as war. Humanitarian aid sets out to help those civilians that are affected by a crisis. Organizations have been formed for this specific job. These are known as nongovernment organizations (NGOs), and range from providing medical help to building new shelters for people. Most of these NGOs rely on donations to get the funding they need. Supplies are not cheap and neither is getting to the different countries in need and setting up camp there.

My first argument goes back to Easterly's argument of accountability and feedback. As seen in both Polman's and Katz's books, NGOs are not held accountable for their actions. There is little to no transparency in the humanitarian aid world, and this leads to missing money/supplies, and people stuck in the same or even worse conditions than before. If an NGO is not working, they need to be held accountable and given repercussions such as less funding, or a change in executive offices.

The second part of that is the feedback. The voices of the people receiving aid need to be heard along with being taken seriously. Western countries have an idea of how to fix all developing countries problems. What these developed countries seem to forget is that these developing countries are not similarly structured as the them, and do not have the institutions that are needed. Many of the countries receiving help do not have a stable government, police force, or even bank system set up. This causes issues when it comes to aid. Humanitarian aid is supposed to be a first response task. Right after a disaster occurs, either manmade or natural, humanitarian aid comes in and provides the immediate help that is needed. NGOs typically are not set up to build a country up from nothing. Western countries tend to think that aid will fix all the issues in other countries without acknowledging what really needs to be done. With feedback from the people receiving help, NGOs and foreign governments would be able to hear from the people in need. They would be able to rework their plans and ideas to be tailored to what their true needs are. This will also allow for more long-term solutions to be made. There are many NGOs that will work to rebuild a country but many are only temporary fixes.

My second argument on how humanitarian aid can be changed is an attitudinal one. To truly make a difference in a country there cannot be a divide amongst those giving and receiving help. Many foreigners, whether it is a government or a group of volunteers, go in thinking they can save the people in need and solve all the problems. There is a “Us vs. Them” mindset that causes a divide rather than the union of people. Going into a setting thinking, you are going to fix everything causes one to forget that there are other people involved. This allows for groups and governments to go into a country in need and bulldoze their way through problems and following their own agenda. By changing the mindset to viewing everyone as equal, it will allow for true neutrality to work.

One of the primary components to NGOs is to remain neutral, to not allow outside forces to influence who they help or what they do. Their purpose is to help anyone in need. As time has gone on this has shifted drastically and now NGOs have many influences. Governments and large donors provide ultimatums for NGOs. If NGOs do not go where these players want them to, they can lose money and support. Without this, many NGOs would fail and not be able to continue to help those in need. Due to this, many NGOs go to “high profile” areas rather than anywhere they are needed. These high profile areas allow media to cover these organizations and the efforts they are making. This gets the NGOs name out there and in turn, raises more money which the government or donors may get a cut off. Rather than remaining neutral and helping anyone, NGOs are now going where there is a story to be told on the news and where they can get the money. Once that new story ends they will simply move on to the next and often do not fully help the country they were just in.

While I have talked about ways humanitarian aid has been failing those in need, not all aspects of humanitarian aid are bad. There has been plenty of times when humanitarian aid has fulfilled their promises and done tremendous good. Many local NGOs have made strides to make a difference in communities lives. NGOs that are native to the country they are working in hold more knowledge on what locals need and want opposed to NGOs that have no connection to the countries they are in. The NKWA foundation in Ghana is a local NGO that aims to help local schools. Workers survey schools and see what they are in need of, then come up with a game plan to solve as many of these problems as possible. This often includes going into schools and teaching lessons that the teachers might not know, but also include building new classrooms or bathrooms. The foundation aims to improve schools and to make it more accessible for children to go to them.

I do acknowledge that there are many NGOs such as the NKWA foundation in Ghana that does tremendous good. However, as a whole humanitarian aid is failing the people, it is serving. NGOs have become more focused on getting money and being noticed by the public rather than helping those in need. Humanitarian aid needs a reality check that just because you call yourself aid does not mean you are doing good. Helping select people while others suffer is not doing any good. It is telling those people not getting the help that they are not important or worth it. NGOs need to also become more transparent with the public. Where is the money going, what projects are actually being completed? Most people would not know where their \$20 went and that is not okay. I will always advocate for helping those in need but in the right way. Hiding facts and not truly helping for the right reasons is not the way to go. Humanitarian aid needs a revamp and soon before more and more people suffer for no reason.

Reflection Questions Key

Chapter 2: Crisis Caravan

Introduction

1. What could be some arguments to support Nightingale's belief that governments should be in charge of humanitarian aid?
2. Do you agree more with Dunant or Nightingale? Defend your stance.

Chapter 1: Goma: A "Total Ethical Disaster"

1. How could an ethical disaster such as what happened in Goma have been prevented by humanitarian aid organizations?
2. Should humanitarian aid organizations have reported the stolen aid? How would this have changed things in Goma?
3. While people might not have known what the exact situation in Rwanda was, why did no one help the Tutsi's even after they were found to be the real victims of the genocide?
4. The Rwandan president blamed aid for helping the wrong people and extending the suffering of the Tutsis. What evidence was seen that backed this claim?

Chapter 2: Contract Fever

1. What ethical issues could have been resolved if aid stopped in Goma?
2. Were aid organizations right in arguing that they should stay to help the Hutus because they were suffering too or were they just aiding the war to continue on?
3. What benefits would occur if aid organizations worked together?
4. In what ways could the way aid organizations receive money be changed to make it more ethical and fair?
5. How do contracts interfere with the goal of humanitarian aid?

Chapter 3: MONGOs

1. What precautions can aid organizations, whether they are established or MONGOs, take to make sure that the aid being delivered is safe and beneficial for where they are going?
2. Does it fall on local governments to make sure MONGOs are qualified for the work they are doing? If yes, then how can they go about doing this?
3. How can established humanitarian aid groups make sure that the people MONGOs leave behind are cared for and not just ditched?

Chapter 4: Donor Darlings

1. What responsibility do humanitarian aid organizations hold, if any, to reporting what is truly going on in areas they go to help?
2. Come up with an action plan that could prevent children from being taken under false pretexts.
3. How can people such as Sam Simpson be stopped from taking advantage of people in need of help?

Chapter 5: Aid as a Weapon of War

1. What can humanitarian aid organizations do to prevent exploitation from warlords?
2. In what ways would humanitarian aid organizations banding together improve how aid is delivered and how useful not truly is?
3. How could the amount of humanitarian aid organizations be monitored to make sure that there is not an abundance in one area?

Chapter 6: Refugee Warriors

1. How could humanitarian aid workers ensure that who they were helping were truly the people in need?
2. What do you believe would happen if aid organizations did report fraud?
3. How do supplies being stolen hurt not only the people that need the supplies but humanitarian aid as a whole?

Chapter 7: The Hunger Weapon

1. Should humanitarian aid organizations be held accountable for looking into who they are really helping or should they just go when there is a crisis situation and are needed?

2. At what point should aid organizations step back and allow governments to handle the situation?
3. Do you believe that aid can prolong a situation such as a genocide or war by helping a group of people? For Example: Helping the Hutus from Rwanda allowed their armies and people to grow stronger and continue killing the Tutsis. Do you believe that aid was the reason this was prolonged and how could that have been changed?

Chapter 8: When Recipients Call the Shots

1. What ethical concerns surround humanitarian aid helping governments such as the Ethiopian one despite the droughts being made up?
2. How do humanitarian aid organizations lying about the drought break their own morals, deceive their donors and what problems does this create?
3. Should humanitarian aid organizations be held accountable and reprimanded for helping the government displace people?
4. How do governments manipulating and using humanitarian aid groups hurt the aid organizations efforts to help those in need?

Chapter 9: Afghaniscam

1. How can aid organizations effectively help those in need if they are afraid to go anywhere?
2. In what ways do people posing as humanitarian workers hurt the efforts made by real ones? Is there a way this can be changed?
3. Do the events in Afghanistan hurt efforts of aid organizations in other countries?
4. Are there a ways for aid organizations to make repairs and gain back trust of civilians?

Chapter 10: The Logic of the Humanitarian Era

1. What are ways that humanitarian aid organizations could make sure everyone who needs help receives it rather than having people neglected while others receive more than enough help?
2. How can humanitarian aid organizations work with rebel groups to ensure that innocent people are not being harmed?
3. How do donors complicate the mission of humanitarian aid?

Afterward

1. Do you agree or disagree with Polman's overall argument? Defend your opinion.

2. How could something such as the ALNAP be enforced and hold organizations accountable? Would this improve the humanitarian aid system?
3. What are other ways that aid groups could gain back the trust of people besides being more transparent and honest?

Chapter 3: The Big Truck That Went By

Introduction & Background

1. If so much money is raised by aid organizations, then why have permanent fixes not been seen? How would permanent solutions to things such as government, or building infrastructure help Haiti?
2. During Preval's speech, the room was empty compared to when larger countries' representatives were at the podium. Why do you think this is? How does the lack of interest from other countries hurt the aid that goes to Haiti and other countries?
3. If one of the problems in Haiti is the government, and Preval is the president, why doesn't he make the changes needed? What barriers or problems does Preval run into that may interfere with this?

Chapter 1: The End

1. In what ways could Haiti have been more prepared for an earthquake to hit?
2. How does a slow response from any outside countries affect the people of Haiti and their trust in humanitarian aid?
3. What message does the U.S. Embassy send by not helping or responding to what was going on?
4. How did the great migration to the capital play a role in the devastation seen after the earthquake hit?

Chapter 2: Love Theme From *Titanic*

1. How do negative encounters with countries such as the United States taking over hurt the efforts of foreign aid groups in Haiti?
2. How could aid groups work with farmers to help get them their jobs back? How would this change the relationship between aid groups and Haitians?
3. How does the destruction of institutions such as the fire fighters and hospitals hurt Haiti? How does this play a role into how destructive the earthquake was?

4. In what ways could humanitarian aid have been improved during this time to better serve the people?

Chapter 3: Blan and Neg

1. How does aid groups centralizing in one area cause issues with aid distribution? How could this be done differently to allow everyone access to care?
2. What kind of message do the journalists send the people of Haiti when they focus on the story and not helping?
3. Why do you think humanitarian aid organizations took so long to show up while media sources were able to appear rapidly? What issues does this cause and how could things be operated differently so that aid is the first to arrive in the country?

Chapter 4: The Crossroads

1. Why should humanitarian aid organizations take into account locals opinions and suggestions? Are the locals suggesting valid things or are they just making things more complicated?
2. How could aid organizations have been more prepared? Are they to blame for not going to rural areas or not being prepared, or is that out of their control?
3. How does a lack of communication between aid organizations and local government channels cause issues in getting people the help they need or donations for specific items such as food or water?

Chapter 5: Spoiled Corn

1. Why was a foreign government put in charge in rebuilding a country rather than humanitarian aid organizations that were sent to Haiti specifically for that?
2. How can people effectively rebuild a country if they are so far removed from the people in need and how could this be changed so that the people in need have a voice in rebuilding?
3. How would humanitarian aid organizations being upfront and open about where the money is going improve people opinions about not only the organizations themselves but also the governments involved?

Chapter 6: Bon Dola

1. Do you agree or disagree with the idea that Haiti needs an outside force such as the United States to properly rebuild?
2. How does an actor such as Sean Penn be put in charge of so much in a crisis situation such as what was happening in Haiti and how does this undermine more trained personnel?
3. What changes in humanitarian aid could be made so that governments do not receive all the blame when money is not being seen?

Chapter 7: The Governor

1. How could aid organizations have helped Haitians rebuild their own country and economy differently? Did the aid organizations have much say in this, or did the government of other countries decide?
2. Do you believe that humanitarian aid organizations have much control over what is done in the countries they are working with?
3. What role does humanitarian aid play when it comes to what happens to the money raised after a tragedy?
4. Why do you believe that Bill Clinton received so much power in Haiti despite not fulfilling his promises from years ago?

Chapter 8: “When I Get Older”

1. What kind of changes would need to be made by Humanitarian aid organizations to make sure that proper channels are being taken when obtaining items such as the Diptheria medication?
2. Should unqualified people be allowed to make huge decisions and announcements such as Sean Penn did? What message does he send to not only donors, organizations but the people of Haiti as well?
3. How does this new dependence on humanitarian aid groups affect efforts to rebuild Haiti?

Chapter 9: Sugar Land

1. How could governments be held more accountable for the pledges they make? How do humanitarian aid groups play into this?
2. How can aid organizations and governments go about ethically and fairly selecting people to move into “official” camps? What could they do for the people not chosen?
3. In what ways could the aid organizations working in the official camps have better prepared the people in the camps for when they left?

Chapter 10: Face to Face

1. Would governments and humanitarian aid organizations being transparent help the situation going on in Haiti?
2. How does not honestly making a pledge hurt efforts of rebuilding Haiti?
3. What might be some repercussions if aid organizations were transparent with their money such as MSF was?

Chapter 11: A Gut Feeling

1. How does the Cholera outbreak take attention away from what humanitarian aid was focusing on before?
2. The UN soldiers are there protect and help the Haitian people. In what ways does the soldiers being the cause of Cholera hurt humanitarian aid organizations and their efforts to help people?
3. How could humanitarian aid organizations and foreign governments have handled the situation to ensure everyone was safe, compensated and still trusted foreign help?

Chapter 12: Cardboard Palace

1. How does the mistrust in humanitarian aid change the view on the election?
2. In what ways could humanitarian aid change what they were doing with the money for the UN soldiers to still focus on the Haitian people?
3. What are your beliefs on this matter? Do you think that changing the government will fix all the problems, or do you believe that humanitarian aid groups still need to be present and doing their job for Haiti to see improvement?

Chapter 13: All Together Now

1. How do the efforts of humanitarian aid suffer when donors are not coming through with their promised pledges?
2. Can humanitarian aid organizations continue on without these pledges and would anyone listen to them when everyone is so focused on the new president?
3. The U.S. threatened to pull the aid they had still not delivering, what kind of message does this send about humanitarian aid and helping those in need?
4. Why would foreign countries be so interested in the new president of Haiti? They were supposed to be rebuilding the country but were more focused on the election.

Epilogue: Memwa

1. What duty do foreign countries and aid groups owe to Haiti after this big election they controlled? By leaving right after in what ways did this further hurt Haiti?
2. How could humanitarian aid groups be more open with donors on what they actually do and where the money goes?
3. Describe the issues this new garment industry would bring to Haiti and how this would call for more humanitarian aid attention.

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