

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION: ACTORS, FINANCE, INSTRUMENTS, POLICIES AND POLITICS

Professor: Marc Cohen
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SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Marc Cohen, a development socio-economist, has 25 years of professional experience in international development including ten years in management positions in multilaterals development banks and UN agencies. He has worked in some 30 countries in transition and/or reconstruction in Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. His main areas of expertise include integrated poverty reduction approaches; education and human development; formulation of country partnership strategies; management of operational portfolios; design, management, monitoring and evaluation of development interventions; results-based management. Marc has obtained degrees in economics, international affairs, management and political science from the Universities of Oxford, the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, Paris IX Dauphine, and Paris-I Sorbonne.

COURSE CONTENTS

Session 1: Introduction to the course and definition of key concepts

Overview of course contents and clarifications on assessment methods.

Definition and measures of official development assistance and other aid concepts; possible taxonomy of international development finance; typology of actors; overview of aid volumes and trends.

Session 2 & 3: The actors of the international development finance landscape

Official multilateral and bilateral assistance as well as private development assistance actors such as NGOs and foundations will be identified and characterized. A special emphasis will be placed on the role of non-traditional or emerging actors and the fragmentation of development finance that characterizes the new aid architecture. Two Group presentations will be followed by a class discussion on selected themes related to the evolution of official aid flows and the changing development finance landscape.

Session 4 & 5: Governance of the aid system

Various attempts to introduce some form of governance in the aid system will be presented together with the main principles and expected benefits of improved governance. These include initiatives of the development assistance committee (DAC) of the OECD, the UN development cooperation forum and the high level forum on development effectiveness. The role of the Millennium Development Goals and the High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in shaping aid priorities and the post 2015 agenda will also be discussed. Two Group presentations will be followed by a class discussion on selected themes related to governance issues in development, the global partnership for effective development cooperation, and prospects for financing and partnership around the sustainable development goals.

Session 6 & 7: Main instruments of international cooperation

Mid-course review and evaluation.

Grants, concessional and non-concessional loans, budget support, equity instruments, public private partnerships, etc. will be defined. The various types of lending instruments such as investment project, programmatic, policy-based and results-based lending will be more particularly discussed. Two group presentations will be followed by a class discussion on selected themes related to emerging aid instruments and financing modalities in both public and private sector operations financed by development agencies.

Session 8 & 9: Policies governing aid agencies

Development agencies abide to certain rules and processes regulating their operations and relationships with recipient and other development partners. These include policies related to procurement of goods and services, fiduciary safeguards, disclosure of information, environmental and social safeguards, gender, good governance, cooperation with civil society organizations, etc. The session will discuss some of the key and emerging agendas reflected in these policies. Two Group presentations will be followed by a class discussion on selected themes related to institutional policies and priorities of development agencies.

Session 10 & 11: The aid effectiveness debate: does Aid work?

Fiscal constraints, economic downturns and a growing “aid skepticism” have put pressure on agencies to demonstrate their effectiveness and contributions to development results on the ground. Empirical evidence regarding the effectiveness of international development cooperation will be discussed at both macro and micro levels. The “results agenda” and more generally the impact of the aid effectiveness debate on agencies will be discussed. Two group presentations will be followed by a class discussion on selected themes related to the metrics of effectiveness and performance measurement at the level of individual development interventions and at the overall corporate level.

Session 12: Presentation of Case Studies / conclusions and course evaluation

End of course review and evaluation.

REFERENCES

Recommended Readings:

- *An age of choice for development finance*; ODI, 2016: <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/resource-documents/10451.pdf>
- *Multilateral Aid report*, OECD, 2015: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/multilateral-aid-2015-9789264235212-en.htm>
- *3rd International Conference on Financing for Development, July 2015, Addis ABABA, Draft outcome document*: http://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/05/070515_financing-for-development-Inf-Consultations.pdf
- *China, Africa and the international aid architecture*, African Development Bank, 2010: <http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/WORKING%20107%20%20PDF%20E33.pdf>
- *Guidance on Aid Instruments - full draft - A DFID Practice Paper*, DFID, 2006: <http://lib.icimod.org/record/9534/files/1873.pdf>
- *Governance of the aid system and the role of the EU*, Owen Barder et al.; ODI 2010; <http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/6236.pdf>
- *Making Development Aid more Effective*, The 2010 Brookings Blum Roundtable Policy Briefs: http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2010/9/development%20aid/09_development_aid.pdf
- *Are AID Agencies Improving? William Easterley*, Brookings Institution, NYU, 2007: http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2007/10/09foreignaid-easterly/09foreignaid_easterly.pdf
- *Development Cooperation report 2014. Mobilising Resources for sustainable development*, OECD, 2014, *Highlights*: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/FINAL%20DCR%202014%20Highlights%20booklet.pdf>
- *Governance, development and aid effectiveness: a quick guide to complex relationships*, ODI Briefing Paper, 2006: <http://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/218.pdf>

Web sites:

- OECD Aid Architecture: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/aid-architecture/>
- Aid flows: <http://www.aidflows.org/>
- OECD Aid Statistics: <http://www.compareyourcountry.org/aid-statistics?cr=oeed&lg=en>
- Aid Effectiveness Portal: <http://www.aideffectiveness.org/index.html>
- United Nations Sustainable Development: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>
- Devex development news : <https://www.devex.com/news>