



Humanitarian action for beginners:

What you always wanted to know about humanitarian action but never dared to ask

***From Wish to Reality:
Aid worker's expectations,
the real life and the
system***

XII. Humanitärer Kongress
Theorie und Praxis der humanitären Hilfe
15 -16 Oktober 2010, Berlin
Sid Peruvemba, Malteser International

Wishes & expectations: A relief worker's view



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- ✓ To help others, make a difference, address causes of poverty and inequality, make the world a better place
- ✓ to have a real challenge and do „hands-on work“ with limited resources
- ✓ particular for medical doctors: Rather have a clinical work and a five-senses approach than to be a high technology medicine official
- ✓ to balance the shortfall of experts during emergencies in developing countries
- ✓ to act immediately according to needs
- ✓ meaningfulness of one's own commitment
- ✓ philanthropy, help for the poor and needy
- ✓ get to know different cultures
- ✓ adventurous life
- ✓ a) Missionary? b) Mercenary? c) Misfit? d) Broken heart?"

Then comes reality...



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- ✓ you find yourself in a “chief cook and bottle washer” position: project planning, budgeting, proposal writing, logistics, HR management, reporting, fulfilling HQ and donor demands
- ✓ organisational tasks are to the fore
- ✓ less hands-on/curative work, instead negotiation & coordination, supervision & monitoring
- ✓ curative and “real” work provided by national staff, sometimes you may feel as a broker rather than a relief worker
- ✓ direct sense of success is rare and seldom
- ✓ increasing complex emergencies: insecurity, political instability, increased personal risk taking, humanitarian aid isn't a holy cow anymore – if it ever was
- ✓ adventure becomes stress
- ✓ and possibly.....ethical questioning!

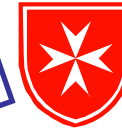


The humanitarian system: „market reflections“

or: How big is the need for international relief workers?

- **...just numbers?**
 - *Official Humanitarian Assistance 2008: 18 billion USD*
 - *INGOs/Red Cross-Crescent : ~5 billion USD (incl. private don.)*
 - *Humanitarian aid workers in the system: 210,000 (?)*
 - *Workforce projected to grow by 6 % annually*
 - *95 % staff working for INGOs are nationals*
- *Consider: cost of your education and career*
- *What agencies want:comes soon*

Wanted: Junior Field Assistant DR Congo



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- Where: in the back of beyond – Ariwara, Eastern Congo
- When: Now
- For how long: 1 year
- Further information: Visit our information desk

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Thank you for your attention!

Now:

Q & A you never dared to ask and we
never dared to give...