

The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Learning from the MDGs

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The MDGs – Globalising Poverty

- ***The Millennium Moment*** provided unique opportunity to transform 'development'. It failed... a conceptual shift to 'global poverty' – MDGs, PRSPs, \$1 a day, innovative finance – but basically business as usual
- I came to research the ***MDGs*** suspecting they were ***bullshit*** – I could not see them on the ground
- Not that easy to dismiss – millions of actors, 1000s of organisations, 100s of venues...mixes of ***self-interest and altruism***...many people trying to make the world better
- Formulation – incredibly complex and no-one clear on the final product – ***'Human development meets results-based management in an imperfect world'***

MDG Implementation

- MDGs could state goals but could not specify *'how' or 'who' – too contentious*
- In practice, *PRSPs and MTEFs* meant that aid-focused countries continued with IMF and WB direction – were BWIs empowered by MDGs?
- Focus on *partnerships* – state, business, NGOs but making poverty *MoF* issue was beneficial
- *Finance* – Monterey hopes in 2002...but only small increases in aid and Gates - *no major breakthrough*

MDGs Contribution to Development

- ***Hard to assess*** – most ‘MDG achievement’ is not related to MDGs eg China and India!
- ***Optimists*** – breakthrough of global consensus
- ***Pessimists*** – business as usual or con trick
- Me – read the books...***limited advances but a missed opportunity for transformation***. 2015 will not be 2000
- ***Positive*** in UK...***Negative*** in health in Uganda?

Hulme's Lessons from MDGs

- MDGs were too global – ***national level and ownership are the real issues***. How can post-2015 get Southern governments and elites to be pro-inclusive development?
- Get ***aid agencies*** into perspective – ***bit players***
- How to change ***social norms*** focus...not 'plans'
- Engage the ***big powers*** – US, China, India, Brazil
- Link to ***climate change and sustainability?***

Post-2015 Development Agenda: Options

- Most assume it is MDGs 2.0 ***revised targets*** – contests to get your target included and neo-liberal versus global justice agendas
- ***Human rights*** – implementation of UDHR plus
- Global ***inequality*** targets
- Partnership targets – ***a real Goal 8***
- Me – ***changing social norms*** – move forward on how and what will follow

Southern Voices and Post-2015

- To date it seems to be mainly a ***UN and aid-agency process*** – UN, DAC-OECD, UK, Korea
- Vast set of UN and civil society consultations underway but ***expert report already drafted!***
- ***Post-2015*** very different from 1990s – very technical and professional – little ‘social’ action input. ***Measurement not voice.***
- What might the South do?

Southern Action

- ***Technical*** – improve content of final deal
- ***Technical plus*** – refocus final deal on HR or inequality
- ***Process*** – see engagement with present process as a lever for change...it is not the deal but the way negotiations change relationships
- Get ***Southern actors in the final deal*** – message entrepreneurs...a Southern icon [Lula]
- ***Beyond the technical*** – ‘stop babies dying now
- ***Radical – a second Seattle***...change the game?