

Definition

Money, equipment and specialist services donated from one organisation, country or set of countries to another to which may support disaster relief and humanitarian crises, long term development programmes and economic reform.

Types of Aid

There are different types of aid that are used in different situations:

- **Emergency Aid** is often needed suddenly after a natural hazard event or if there is conflict in a country. Developed and developing countries are recipients of this type of aid and it is usually given unconditionally.
- **Tied or Conditional Aid** has certain rules and ties added to it as it is given by the donor. These rules may be put in place to safeguard the aid from corruption or to require a recipient to source goods or services from the donor.
- **Non-Governmental Aid** is supplied by international organisation or national charities, often directly supporting local non-governmental and community organisations in the recipient country.
- **Long Term or Developmental Aid** often involves providing support for education, health, economic growth or sustainable development.
- **Multilateral Aid** is given through an agency (such as the World Bank) into which a number of countries have already paid. Multilateral aid often is targeted on specific countries and regions or addresses issues such as food security, health or economic development.



(Flickr Source: DFID—UK Department for International Development)

Challenges facing the giving and receiving of aid



Aid may encourage some countries to rely on it, reducing their economic sustainability if for some reason the aid is suddenly removed.



Aid may not always reach its designated target project as a result of corruption or miss-management in some recipient countries.



The recent rapid economic and social development improvement made by China have been largely achieved through trade and infrastructural investment not through the support of international aid.



Conditions that are put on tied aid may place a significant burden on the donor country.



The high media profile given to disaster and emergency aid may help create a perception that positive economic and social developments over the longer term are not being achieved.