

Questions about the text:

Which causes for poverty and hopelessness can you find in the text?

How do you judge the arguments from the texts, and what is in your opinion useful for a discussion about the causes of fleeing and migration?

- Source 1: Part of the text Why people are fleeing from Medico Internation and GEW, <https://www.medico.de/fluchtursachen/>

Poverty makes ill - and illness makes people poor.

Worldwide around 700 million people are suffering under extreme poverty. This means, almost every tenth human being has to go to sleep hungry. But even if people have "enough to survive", this does not mean, that they can live their lives under conditions that are respecting the human dignity. If humans don't have access to healthy nutrition, to clean water a hygienic sanitation, to good working conditions and education, there right to life is restricted. The inequality can be put into numbers: In Mali 178 children from 1000 healthy born children are dying before they reach the age of five. In Germany its four out of 1000. Also the life expectancy makes clear the social gap: Who lives in Germany will reach an average age of 81 years, in Sierra Leone only 47 which means 34 years less.

Differences become visible in the access to medical treatment. Only in a few countries of the global south there are functioning and general accessible health system, often trained personal is missing. In Mali one doctor has to take care in the average for 10.000 people, in Germany 39 doctors have are responsible for that amount of people. The situation of today has developed like this because in many countries the state spending for health have been cut back massively. The states have been forced to do that trough restructuring programmes, that have been made a condition to get access to credits and cutting of debts by IWF and the World Bank. Public hospitals have been closed and been sold to private companies where the patients have to pay on their own. Who is poor does often not find a doctor or can't afford a treatment or medication. Many are indebting themselves and are poorer afterwards.

All of this has not to be like this, there is enough for everyone. But the wealth is distributed unequally. In the developing countries and emerging nations of the south there are 84 per cent of the world population living. They are affording 92 per cent of the global illnesses, there are only 16 per cent of global spending on health issued there. Even the including of them into the world market did not change anything about that - just in contrast. The Internationalisation of production and the free trade have accumulated wealth and made possible social uprising. At the same time

it also deepened the social inequality. Only during the last five years the wealth of the poorer half of world population has been divided in half. At the same time the rich became richer. Today the eight richest men of the earth are owning the same as the poorer half of the world population around 3.6 billion people.

Fleeing is for the poorest of the poor often no way out. Because who does not have enough to eat or to drink, can't afford to flee. Therefore especially the people who can afford this minimal existence are fleeing, because they don't see any perspectives in their home countries. Emigration of relatives has become a survival strategy for whole families. During the last years thousands of nurses from Philippines have been emigrated. The average salary at their home country is 146 US-Dollar a month, in the Gulf States its 500 dollar, in the US 3000 dollar. The families that are left behind are living from the many that the daughter is sending back from countries of the global north.

- Source 3: Part of Who helps who? Africa needs its own development.- **Von Hakima Abbas, in: Le Monde Diplomatique, May 2014**

[...]

Development Aid is a Trojan horse

The development aid has prevented that Africa could free itself from the dependence of the global north, by reproducing the myth of the "helping" industrialized countries which is imprinted into the discourse between the nations and which reproduces the power relations. In the past the colonial rhetoric has claimed that Africans are not capable of govern themselves. Today the discourse of development aid - together with the political circumstances - is used to hide the gains for the giving countries and perpetuates the missing self-determination of African countries. The discourse reinforces the unequal power distribution between giving countries and taking countries - and the mask of charity is hiding the true relations.

Over and over again it is claimed the reason for the failure of development aid in Africa is corruption in the African societies. But the financial harm which is caused on national and local level, is not comparable with the corrupt but completely legal methods, which are used to take all the wealth from Africa and which are using the development aid to weaken taking countries economically

For all of us living in Africa, corruption is a serious problem, it leads to injustice and insecurity. But this problem has to be compared to the connection of a corrupt finance and economical system that puts millions into poverty. For example the internationalization of the tax system, leads to the fact that Kenia gives tax privileges and tax free towards

international companies, this costs around 1.1 billion US-dollar of tax income. This is more money than the country has in total for health system and water supply. But instead of making the companies pay, the government has taxed commodities that are important for daily surviving, and put the tax on economical marginalized people.

It is generally assumed, that development is the same as economical growth. Africa's BIP could climb also in the future, if the continent is opening up new markets and offers stable conditions for investment. This model of development means that the multinational companies should be attracted to extract resources and export them, which means to not produce or only produce little in Africa. The growing social responsibility of the companies should lead to the fact that small parts of the profits are invested into local development projects (like schools, hospitals...). The best case is that the government takes part from the income, or maybe also some technology transfer happens. The trickle-down-effect as a trickle that should free millions from poverty.

This model of extraction is not new to Africa. The economic system that has been inherited by Africa, has been based on providing raw material which is needed in Europe and USA for years. The belonging political and social system has been only put up to support these economic imperatives of expansionism and industrial growth of the Europeans.

The colonial rule has underdeveloped the economic development, because it was only focussing on the egoistic goals of European colonial powers, to minimize investments in Africa, to maximize their profits. Development has been stopped and the cultural, political, social and intellectual life has been threatened. Slavery and Colonialism have brought political oppression, social conflicts and economic decline to the African people - Walter Rodney (historic and politician) speaks about "an history of underdevelopment".

The comportment of the international companies, that extract African resources and agricultural land by using negotiated contracts, is out of reach of most of the African governments. The model is supporting the inequality and keeps most of the people in poverty, which has been proved, but at the same time it is a core element of development cooperation. The capital is using power over the markets, these market interests are over the interests of people and are threatening the independence of international organisations like the UN.

For the majority of people in Africa and in the world, it is clear that the more stabilized the power of the companies gets, the more unimportant the people become. There are some people, especially in countries which have rich resources, that profited from the situation, and are still profiting. But in general only the industries could developed that have been useful for the capital exporting countries, because they generate profit for low costs. It is an unequal growth, that only leads to a very

small trickle down effect, that's why we are always unsure whether there is really something trickling down?

Africas soils should feed the world.

With landgrabbing the taking control of the resources in Africa, which is the reason for the ongoing under development of the continent, has been taking a new phase, which goes together with a dangerous selling-put of nature. "Considering agricultural land, there is only Africa left to conquer." Says James Nyoro, African manager of the Rockefeller Foundation. "If the world population grows towards the nine billion the rest of the world has to count on Africa to feed his populations." To feed this rest, the agricultural lands of Africa are sold out really fast.

The international Food Policy Research Institute noticed, that after the extreme rise of prices for nutrition in the year of 2008 in Africa there have been sold or negotiated over around 15 or 20 million hectare of agricultural land. Even if there are property claims (by those who use and work with the lands), these are often not accepted, because communities, peasants and tenants in this model, which favours companies and markets, can't insist on their rights. Every uncommercial use of the soil, also for medical or spiritual reasons or only as field for animals has been ignored to give rise to big scale projects which lead to big profits.

The pressure on the natural resources, has also lead to a race for issuing patents for nature. Like that soil, land, lakes and rivers, flora and fauna are turned into commodities. Even right now there has been massively campaigning to convince governments and farmers that the problem of scarce nutrition and insecurity can be solved by using genetically modified organisms. Never talking about the market dependence and mono cultures that would got together with this and threaten smaller farmers.

The most important agricultural program Africas is the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) under control of the New Partnership for Africas Development (Nepad). With this program there are high hopes to bring forward Africas development through agriculture. If farmers can take art in the market economy and get access to markets, Africa can succeed in "making profit out of his strengths and competition advantages to become the export country for agricultural products."

After the models of economic development of today there can't be growth or profit, if people only consume what the produced. That this zero production reproduces millions of seeds, does not play a role. According to that farmers that work for subsistence, which are in the majority women, are defined as unproductive and worthless by modern economy. They do not support the growth of economy. From this perspective farmer, which are keeping seeds over the years for the next year part of the problem. The market privatizes and puts patents on seeds, afterwards

seeds are sold to the farmer, which are “integrated into the market” - in the end this means that they have to indebt themselves. Against this model, which the big development partners are promoting like Gates Foundation or the Alliance for A Green Revolution in Africa (Agra), the African farmers are resisting. For good reasons, because the measures supported by Agra and the G8-countries are targeting first of all towards opening new markets for international agricultural companies like Monsanto, Cargill or Yara.

„Western politician like to talk about how to end the hunger.” Explains Francis Ngang, president of the African Institute for economical and social development. “During that process they are harmonizing laws for seeds and trades that make it easier for agriculture-multi-industrial-companies to profit. The struggle for centuries that has been lead against privatization and exploitation of African farmers, is threaten nowadays by the criminalization of sharing and keeping of seeds.

Archbishop Tutu once said: „As the missionaries came to Africa, they had the bible and we had the land. They said: let´s pray. We closed our eyes. And as we opened them up again. We had the bible and they had the land.” With the new wave of taking land this phenomena has taken place again: the spreading of religious and other fundamentalism that have been imported but also taken over decisively and willingly by Africans. We have been embracing misogyny and patriarchal structures by translating them into the law and perpetuating them over violence that can reach everyone. And during this process we have closed our eyes against the massive stealing of our resources, which has changed the property conditions and the relations between the African people and the African land as fundamentally as the colonialism.

„People are bringing the development of a country forward, not the money. The money and its incorporation as wealth are the result and not the basic for development”, said Julius Nyerere state founder of Tanzania once. Maybe we should define development new, by using the words of the “father of the African socialism”. We can steer, to not focus on consumption and profits, to rethink our values and centre on sustainability, diversity and the renewable. The development has to focus on people not on markets.