

Auclair, Denise / Eberlei, Walter (2007): The EU's Footprint in the South. Does European Community development cooperation make a difference for the poor? Brussels: CIDSE / Caritas Europa

Abstract

The European Commission is the third largest donor of development assistance in the world, and like all donors has committed to improve the effectiveness of its aid. Drawing upon research in Bangladesh, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Zambia, this report asks: Does European Community (EC) aid support developing countries' own priorities for poverty reduction, or do European interests still play a role? How do new EC aid mechanisms, such as direct budget support, affect the accountability of developing country governments to their citizens? To what extent is local civil society involved in EC aid? And what do we know about the actual impact of EC aid? The report demonstrates that progress has been made towards more effective EC aid, but that much more could be done so that these precious resources make a visible difference in the lives of people living in poverty. It sets out concrete ways in which the EC can improve the impact of its aid for the poor, supported by good examples from current EC practice demonstrating that change is possible.