

# **A challenging agenda: trying to take stock of the whole aid agenda**



- **Impact - a dominant theme**
- **The history of aid, the main aid donors and why they (say they) give aid –**
  - **Ethics and aid-giving.**
  - **The “new” rights agenda**
  - **The changing nature of international obligation**
- **The short-term political, strategic and commercial influences on aid**
- **Public support for aid: how extensive and deep? Does it matter?**
- **What are the major constraints to greater effectiveness?**
- **How impact could be improved**

# **20 years after Cassen Does aid really work?**



**A quick sound-bite**

**Is this the most important question?**

**Increasingly not : it remains an often  
unhelpful “backward-looking” question**

# What does the evidence tell us about impact?




- The traditional focus: the impact of discrete projects - input/output data and evidence
- The question more often asked now - aid and aggregate development outcomes
- Aid and the MDGs - a key question for some - but not for others
- Suppose most aid doesn't work? The management of expectations

# NGOs and Humanitarian aid



- The (old) differentiation between emergency and development aid no longer works
- Bridging the divide between what we know and what needs to happen
- Impact matters to most NGOs and we know growing amounts about it
- Yet still too little information pro-actively placed in the public domain

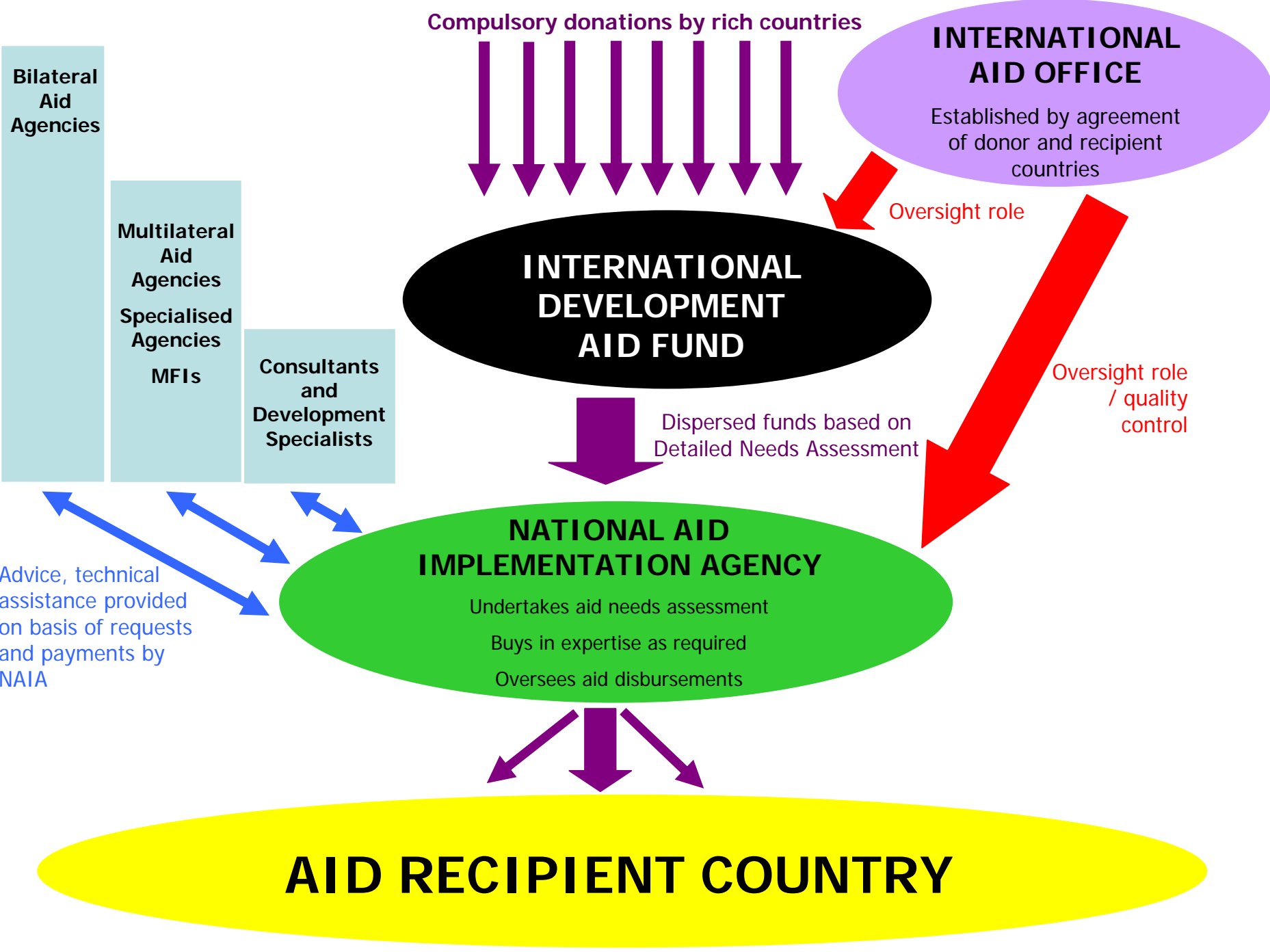
# **Some key factors limiting aid's impact**



- **Ex post, but also ex ante and systemic perspectives**
- **There is no aid system**
- **The systemic problems are amongst the most important constraints**
- **Lack of trust of recipients**
- **Problems at the recipient end: lack of commitment and capacity**
- **The paradox that lies at the heart of aid**

# **Towards an agenda for changing historical aid relationships**

- A step change away from reform based on the “lowest common denominator”**
- An international commission on aid for the modern era**
- An International Aid Office**
- An International Development Aid Fund**
- National Aid Implementation Agencies**



Compulsory donations by rich countries

**INTERNATIONAL AID OFFICE**  
Established by agreement of donor and recipient countries

Oversight role

**INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AID FUND**

Dispersed funds based on Detailed Needs Assessment

Oversight role / quality control

**NATIONAL AID IMPLEMENTATION AGENCY**

Undertakes aid needs assessment  
Buys in expertise as required  
Oversees aid disbursements

Advice, technical assistance provided on basis of requests and payments by NAIA

**AID RECIPIENT COUNTRY**