

Africa after the Africa Commission:

What priorities for
the German G8?

**Aid effectiveness and
absorptive capacity**

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'The commitment is that by 2010 there will be an additional \$25 billion dollars for development assistance. In 2005 we did very well. In 2006 we are sliding a bit, and unless we step up and make available about \$5 billion dollars a year moving forward, we will not meet that target. [...] The global economy is growing and we should seize this unique opportunity to try and push forward our efforts to get Africa on the right track.'

Kofi Annan (*Africa Progress Panel meeting*, April 2007)

'The theory that the end of poverty will be achieved by an aid-financed big push has been around since the 1940s; its repeated failure has led most students of this history to abandon it.'

Bill Easterly (*Prospect*, Dec 2006)

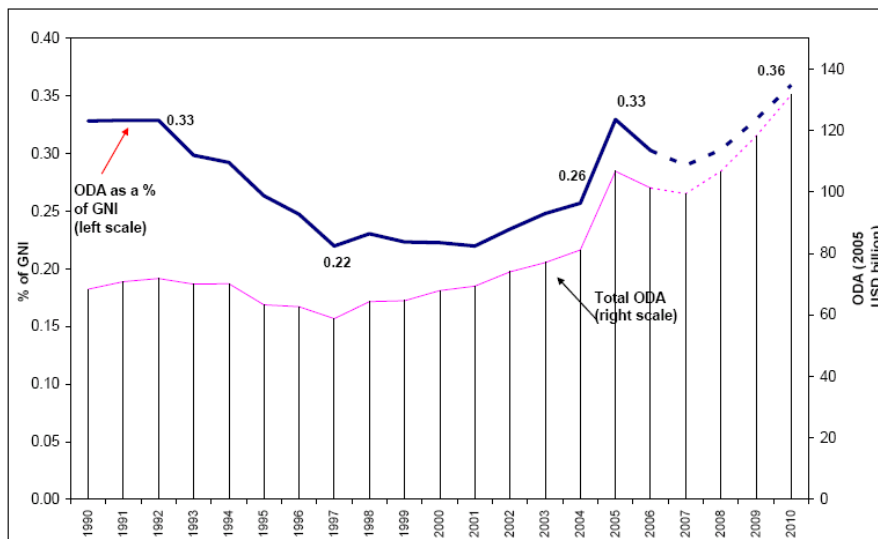


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Is scaling up really happening?



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Why is it not happening?

Absorptive capacity...

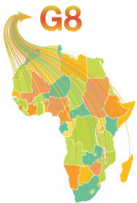


... and governance



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The four prophets of scaling up

	“Big Push” Making things happen	“(Big) Pull” Letting things happen
Internally Driven Process	  	
Externally Driven Process		

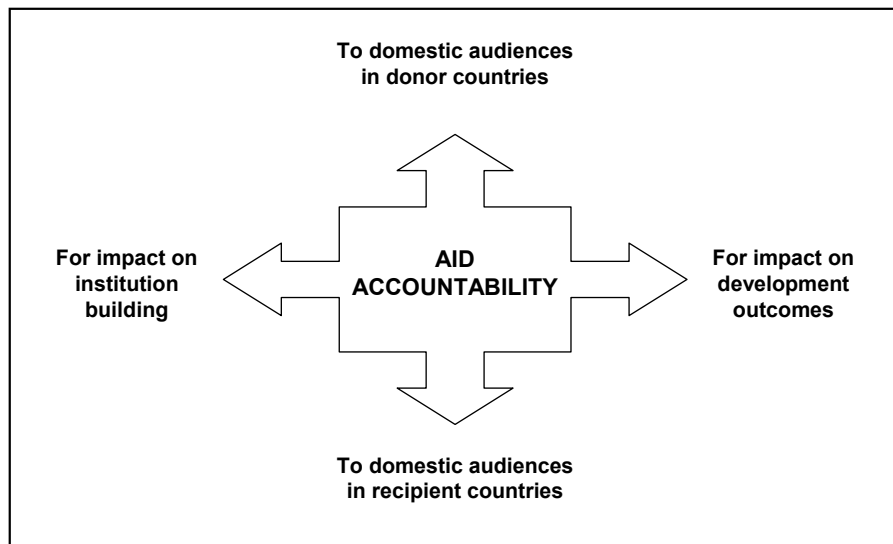


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The tensions of aid accountability



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Some issues for discussion

1. There are important knowledge gaps that need to be addressed
2. Aid modalities (and therefore aid quality) are at least as important as aid quantity in determining aid's impact
3. (Additional) aid should focus on strengthening (or at least not undermining) country systems and institutions
4. The predictability and pace of scaling up are at least as important as the availability of additional aid flows
5. Can multilateralisation address accountability tensions?
6. How can we keep the public on board?

