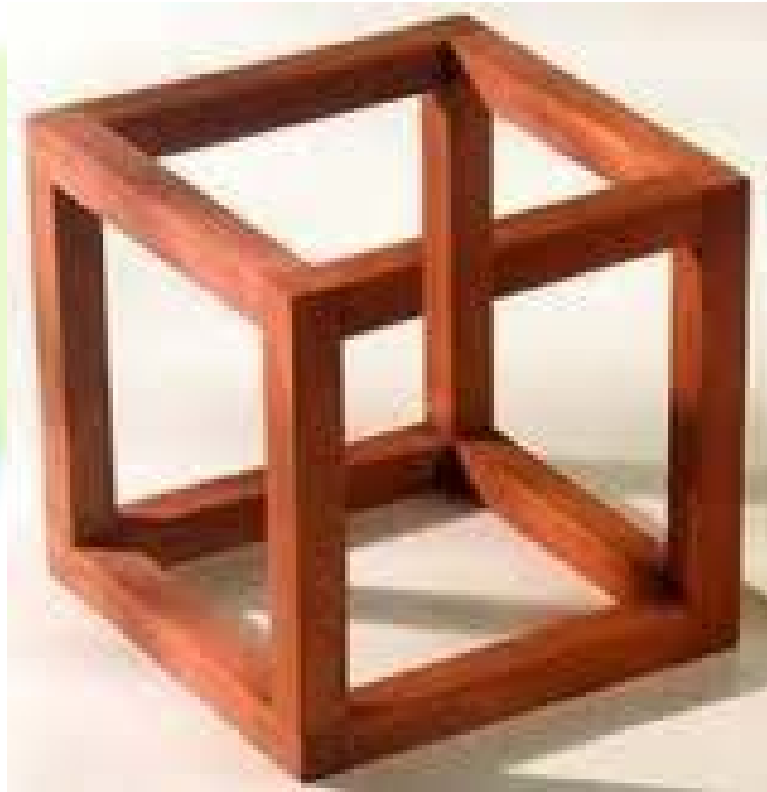


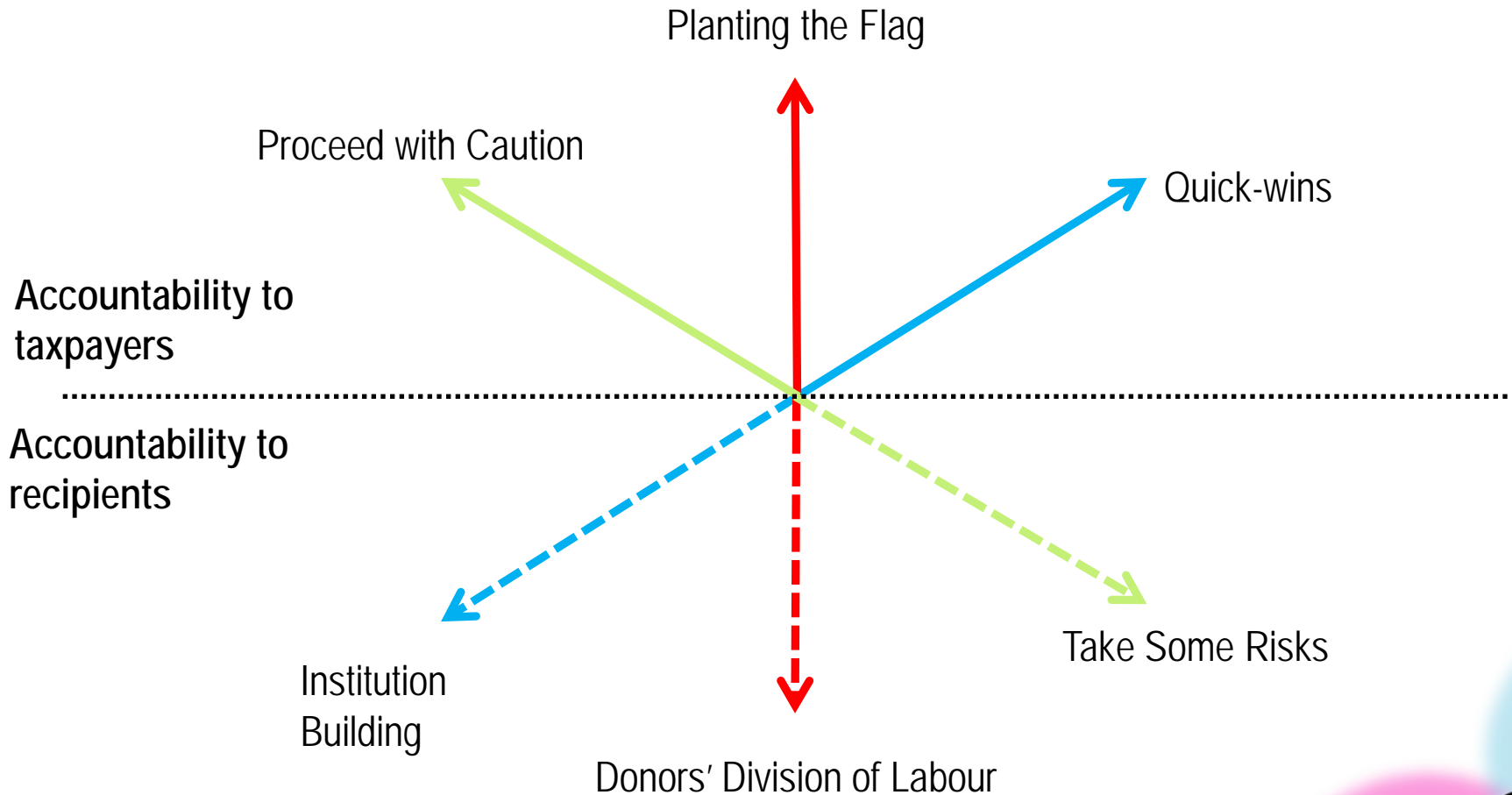
Impossible Geometries?



Alan Hudson, Policy Manager, Governance (Transparency & Accountability)



What are "impossible geometries"? (credit Paolo de Renzio)



Why do “impossible geometries” matter? (1)



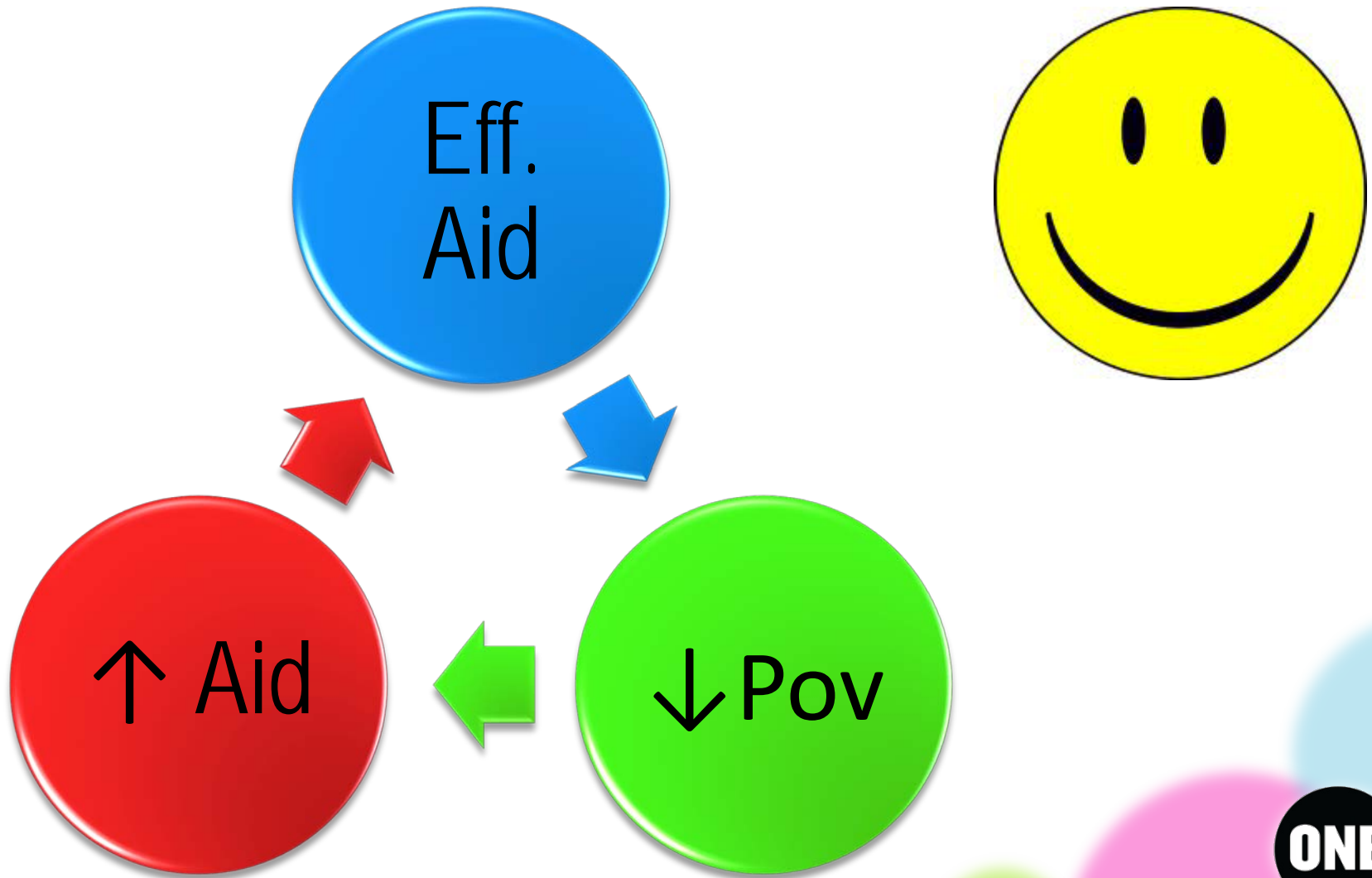
In situations where everyone needs to be kept on board, “impossible geometries” make it difficult for organisations to move forward effectively (no matter the measure)

Why do “impossible geometries” matter? (2)

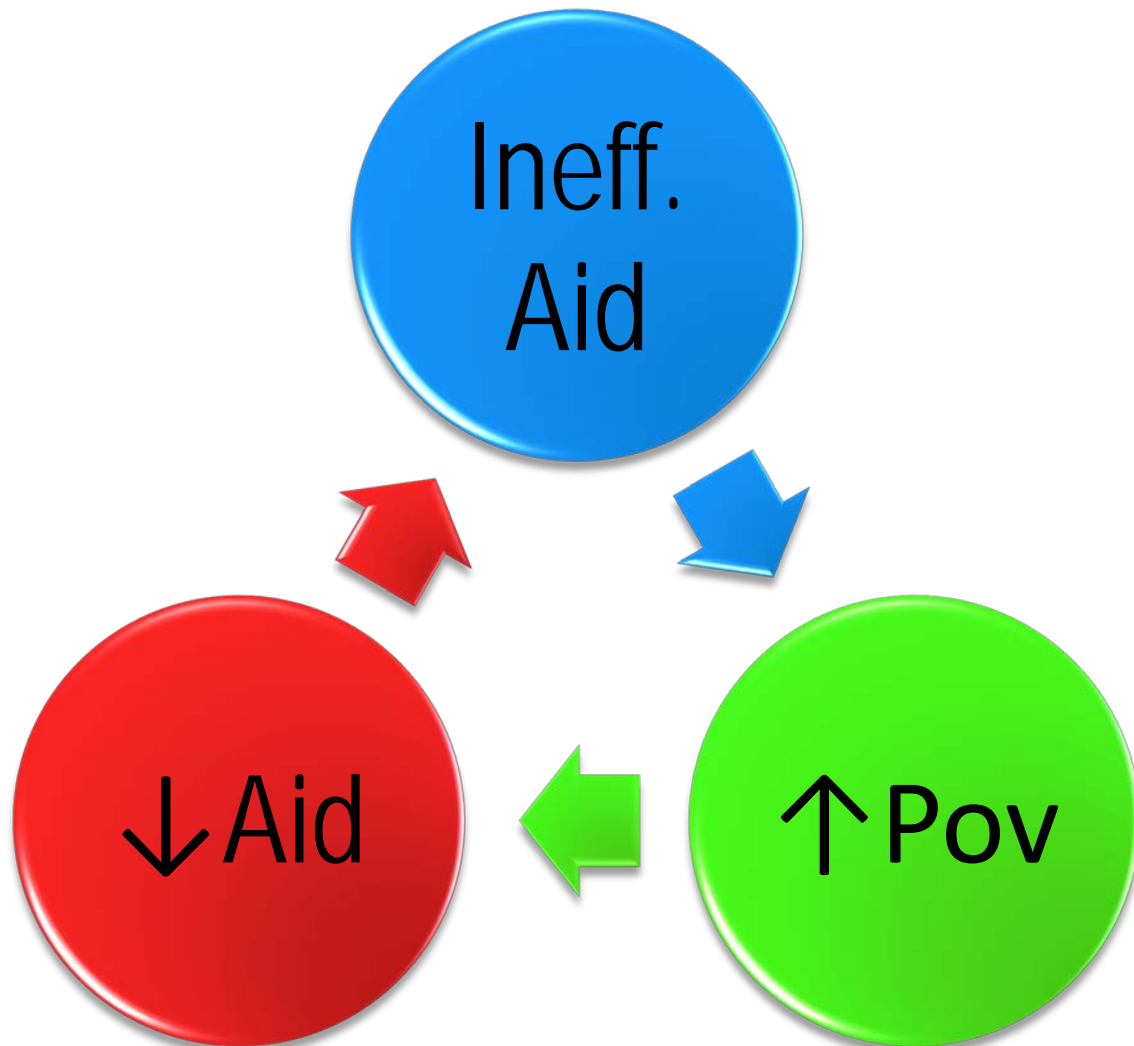


“The world of donor speak is a happy world in which donors, NGOs, host governments, parliamentarians and a myriad of interest groups are all united in the single-minded pursuit of global poverty reduction. The real world is different. Accountability is power ... More accountability does not always lead to win-win outcomes.” (Till Bruckner)

Why do "impossible geometries" matter? (3)



Why do "impossible geometries" matter? (4)



How do “impossible geometries” come about? Politics, public goods and pies

Accountability (IDS)

- From whom?
- To whom?
- For what?
 - How?
 - Where?



... and Pantomime



He – the politics of development – is behind you!

ONE

Addressing “impossible geometries” through Results?



Results,
results, results!

But, whose
results matter
most?

And what
impact on the
politics?



Addressing “impossible geometries” through transparency?



Common currencies: “Information is the currency of accountability”
(Droop, Isenman, Mlalazi, 2008)

And Political battles: Information is a form of power. But other forms of power can win.



Conclusions: Aid & Governance

- In relation to the South: Not undermining. Promoting transparency (global & local) and building capacity for accountability, so that local solutions can emerge. Democratising development.



- In the North: Promoting honest and informed debate about aid, governance and development (credit ODI!)