Re-Boot the System - Or why Aid needs to arrive in the 21st century

The system is not broke but broken. The twenty-five billion humanitarian aid industry is not achieving its stated goals to save lives and provide basic assistance in dignity for those in crisis. It has not managed to build the link to what is termed development aid - and development aid has largely failed to succeed in having people and communities become independent, resilient and responsible for their own lives.

A tiny fraction of people dispossessed and not accessing the opportunities and basic rights all humans deserve is being assisted and helped through what can not be termed other than neo-colonialist approaches and charity perpetuating dependency on handouts.

SDGs and climate savings targets are well meant and crucial for collective survival but the official institutionalised system is incapable of being bold, fresh and innovative enough to cope with the task of inclusion of the over three billion poor in the world and especially the millions forced to displace and migrate because of conflict, climate change and extreme poverty and exploitation.

Institutions, NGOs and agencies of all sorts addressing the worlds challenges are creations of the 20th century built on the concepts of the Red Cross, post WWII CARE packages and later Doctors without Borders. UN agencies copied and pasted the idea and became operational but lacking the expertise in many fields to build resilient and sustainable communities. These structures were maybe adequate in a world without connectivity and communication and failure was excusable. Today they are not and failure is not an option!

Time has come to build the organisation of the 21st century which consists of a network of resources and knowledge without headquarters, without a bureaucracy justifying and feeding itself; it is a global corporation and coalition of the likeminded without reporting to a central board and without delays in transmission. The organisation of our century is decentralised, built on a knowledge and resource sharing concept and building on opportunities. It brings together providers of finance, technology and knowledge where and when needed, dissolving when not needed anymore.

It is based on the fact that we have the resources and the knowledge to resolve most challenges already; they simply need to be travelling across the globe and connecting faster and more efficiently. Effective communication and matching capability is needed.

Building on what our economic system is good or bad for it requires a more effective use and recognition of our assets. Whether they are financial, cultural, environmental or technical knowledge it should not matter. The business logic needs to be combined with social and ecological sustainable solutions and provide communities with dignity and quality of life.

The ability exists in the world to design such integrated solutions and ecosystems which combine and customise the solution in the best interest of the people and the environment in any part of the world. They can range from urban renewal and revitalisation to rural revival, energy solutions, creative industries or assistance in times of crisis.

All it needs is incubation, acceleration and building alliances and connections.

1) It needs small global central think tanks and accelerator teams, scanning the world for opportunity and partnerships, helping in building the initial synapsis to global knowledge and resources
2) It needs local "docking stations" wherever opportunities and challenges need to be addressed, capable of mentoring and pooling the resources; anyone can become that hub if equipped with connectivity and access to resources.

3) It needs a global resource pool and matchmaking tool making global resources visible and available to all;

Each opportunity and idea can transform into a separate entity, company, organisation or initiative as required but be supported by the global pool of knowledge, capital and technologies. To pull tis together intelligent tools of the 21st century exist and platforms such as "Linkando" http://www.linkando.org/page=cp are the example. The IoT and swarm intelligence concepts and systems must serve to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and ensure more effective humanitarian response.

It means that building the organisation of the 21st century doesn't cost more than bringing centrally operating small global teams together - as everything else is then financed separately and in differing ways: be it a fund, a company an organisation, the global resource pool….

The global teams needs the worlds best thinkers and doers; maybe fifteen, maybe twenty people; such labs need capability to design innovative financing models, rethink equity and assets, access to leaders and policy makers, knowledge about social inclusion, technology, humanitarian and development challenges, logistics , legal matters, renewable energies and economics; a team which is mobile global and multifunctional.

It would be a bargain to change the world but we must change the paradigm directing our current approach to the sharing of wealth and global solidarity!