Problem Description

Describe a problem worth solving

Situation

Many social problems end up being tackled by people who aren't directly affected by them (i.e. aid to Honduras, microloans, immigration law), which makes it hard to measure if their solutions are actually working. Elizabeth Dunn, Geography prof @ Indiana U, notes that a lot of NGO's and governments who give aid to refugees are unaware of how ineffective some of that aid is.

ex 2: Congress of Racial Equality in civ rights movement was almost all white

Complication

a. People/Institutions in power either don't listen or don't know the perspectives of those they try to help
b. effective advocacy isn't fairly distributed. Many people are discredited simply because they are ethnic minorities, women, or have a speech impediment
c. even if a minority group effectively advocates, feedback is not correctly interpreted or implemented
d. there is a lack of "cultural competency" training for people in minority groups. It's usually the "dominant" culture going into the minority/other culture. Take humanitarian aid as an example .... tons of resources exist for volunteers from the U.S. to learn about people they're helping but not really the other way around

¿ How can we gather objective feedback from peoples' stories?

Question(s)

? How can we train anyone to be an effective advocate?
? How do we turn our idea into a meme so it spreads?
? This problem is hard and not all ours to solve. How do we turn control over to the community?
¿ how do we avoid the very pitfalls we seek to solve?

¿ why are gvts/NGO's non responsive to problems caused by their aid?
¿ what makes an argument convincing?

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¿ how can our tool be exploited?
¿ will our tool lead to more violence?