PITZER COLLEGE

Research Proposal for Kolisi Foundation ISP
Zach Cohen – Apr 13th, 2023

Key Framing Questions:
1. Are developmental aid efforts effective?
2. How can developmental aid drive positive impact and avoid unintended consequence?

Breaking Down the Key Questions: compartmentalizing the larger questions can allow for a more actionable set of questions with which to start collecting data.

A. What is the purpose of aid, what does it mean to develop, or to enrich? – provide a definition of aid, and a defining of its goals?
B. What are the different kinds of aid?
C. What are the goals and intended outcomes of developmental aid?
D. How does one evaluate the success of an aid program? What sort of measurements?
E. How is aid, in the form of financial assistance, most often spent?
F. Is there a way to guard against misappropriation of aid without stipulating harmful conditions.
G. How is the need for aid determined (must the call come from within)?
H. How can dependency relationships be avoided?
I. How does political situation in a recipient nation influence the efficacy of aid?
J. Who are the key stakeholders when it comes to developmental aid (communities, NGO's, Gov, etc.)
K. Are there differences in the practice of administering developmental aid between locally based NGO's and foreign entitles? If so, what practices are effective from each separate approach?

General theme:
Questioning the best practices associated with developmental aid, as there can be a disconnect between reported success and actual outcomes on the ground. We often hear of *successful* aid projects, but when we visit the places where those projects are implemented the feedback can often be negative. I'm interested in where the disconnect happens and if there is any possibility for effective developmental aid, specifically from foreign entities, and how local organizations, such as NGOs, navigate complexities in areas with multifaceted needs.

Goals with the Kolisi Foundation:
- Develop a new perspective on aid interactions through understanding high-level project strategy development from the foundation and working directly with implementation partners.
- Learn about various forms of aid through hands-on experience with a large-scale operation, covering a wide variety of aid functions.
- Use experiences and learnings from the Kolisi Foundation to formulate a small research paper, which could potentially serve as the foundation for my senior thesis, depending on the outcome of the process.