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Modern Languages

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In 1999 Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) received the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts in the maintenance of peace among nations. Their objectives of independent, neutral assistance and funding have been constant for 41 years, and now more than ever, donors and other parties question whether foreign aid is contributing to the development of disadvantaged nations, or worsening their current circumstances. In various political discussions foreign aid is questioned because there are no established rubrics for measuring aid effectiveness. The Paris Declaration was created in 2006 to establish a system for how to measure the quality of aid and development focusing on five key components: accountability, ownership, alignment, harmonization and results. In the review of these criteria, I am able to measure the aid provided by MSF.

My research is based upon interviews from MSF employees as well as an extensive literary review of development issues. I have gathered a thorough analysis of how general aid contributes to a more self-sustained community, or how aid may worsen existing conditions. By including an assessment of MSF financial and international activity reports, I am able to further compare aid effectiveness of MSF to the outlined development system of the Paris Declaration.