

TOWARDS THE WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT: #RESHAPEAID

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Aid should be distributed in ways that reinforce community solidarity, without pitting people against one another. This is recommendation No.4 of ATD Fourth World's contribution entitled, *"How humanitarian aid can reinforce communities by seeking out the most disadvantaged,"* submitted for the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit (WHS).

In the spring of 2016 the United Nations will convene the first ever World Humanitarian Summit. For over a year already, it has been seeking input from humanitarian NGOs, volunteers, government officials, and people themselves affected by humanitarian crises. One global consultation meeting is taking place from October 14 – 16. The goal is *"to look for global solutions to [such] global challenges"* of climate change, food and energy insecurity, and water scarcity.

ATD Fourth World's other recommendations encourage that:

- 1) Every project should have **someone responsible for understanding which people are the most isolated and worst off**, in order to develop partnerships with organizations acting in solidarity with them;
- 2) **More aid and funding should be directed to local actors who know the context best**; and
- 3) The **decision-making processes should be slowed down** in order to incorporate lessons learned and to change dysfunctional mechanisms concerning staffing, funding, and program evaluation.

While we are not a humanitarian aid organization, our recommendations to 2016's World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) come from our experience in emergencies: beginning with families made homeless by World War II in Europe; and [over thirty years in Haiti](#), the Ivory Coast, and [the Central African Republic](#), where natural disasters and armed conflict have taken a heavy toll. ATD Fourth World's paper draws as well on the experience of members of the international [Forum on Overcoming Extreme Poverty](#), based in Thailand, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and elsewhere. It also draws on contributions to a [webinar](#) organized by ATD Fourth World in December, 2014 with Oxfam, Médecins Sans Frontières, CDA Collaborative Learning Projects, and Harvard's FXB Center for Health and Human Rights.

Read the .pdf of [ATD Fourth World's full contribution to the World Humanitarian Summit here](#). Click the World Humanitarian Summit logo below to find out more *and add your thoughts* on humanitarian aid.



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Show your support for the actions needed to transform humanitarian action



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before 16th October

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Photo top: Central African Republic, December, 2013: A young ATD Fourth World activist facilitates educational and cultural activities for families who took refuge at the Bangui airport.