

The role of the private sector in global humanitarian governance: toward a business partnership model

My thesis project falls within the framework of the global humanitarian governance with a focus on the role of the private sector and the refugee crisis. Recognizing that our economy is progressively defined by an encouragement of economic actors to monetise social, political demands/urgencies and crises, my thesis project intends to fill a gap in the literature regarding the private sector's role in the global humanitarian governance and the shift in its position to respond humanitarian challenges. Lastly, we can witness that the majority of the private sector, which represent a main source of humanitarian funding for governments and international organizations, has shifted its position from donor to entrepreneurial partner in responding humanitarian emergencies. Until recently, international aid constituted the basic response to humanitarian challenges emerging from the refugee crisis. However, humanitarian aid is increasingly presented as insufficient while the refugees are not only a major issue for the present but also for the future when we take into consideration the continuing regional instabilities and the predicted natural disasters from global warming.

In this context of unpredictable crisis timeframe, the private sector considers more and more the refugee camps as an important space with unexplored market opportunities and the refugees not only fragile individuals dependant on aid but as consumers. The International Finance Corporation's and UNHCR's recent research and partnership regarding Kakuma camp in Kenya falls in line with this new approach (Sanghi, Onder and Vemuru, 2016). Their idea is to collect data on revenues, consumption patterns, consumer preferences in the refugee camps and the host communities to highlight potential opportunities for private businesses in the camp.

As Betts and al.(2016) highlights most of the existing literature relates to aspects of global governance regarding trade, the environment, and health governance (Hall and Biersteker 2002; Brown and Woods 2007; Cutler et al. 1999; Fuchs 2007; Ruggie 2007; Clapp 2009; Faulkner 2005; Levy and Newell 2005; May 2006). Yet few work are interested in the role of the private sector in global humanitarian governance (Weiss 2013; Zyck and Kent 2014) and refugees. This changing situation regarding the role of the private sector raises not only ethical questions but also questions regarding the present and the future global governance of refugees. My objective in this work will be to study this shift, its causes and potential consequences for the global governance of refugees and the different actors which are involved in this governance such as the host communities, the humanitarian organizations and the refugees. A first general reflection can revolve around the question of : What's the current shift of the private sector's position regarding refugees tells us about its role in the global humanitarian governance/global governance of refugees ?

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