



Sometimes you see too much in this business, resulting in horror fatigue,â€• says Mercy Corps co-founder Dan Oâ€™Neill. â€œBut you use the nightmare for fuel.â€• The organization he first established as the Save the Refugees Fund in response to the atrocities of Pol Potâ€™s Cambodian killing fields has certainly matched that ethos, growing into one of the pre-eminent international development NGOs in the world today.

Based in Portland but active in over 41 countries, Mercy Corpsâ€™ pioneering commitment to using relief and recovery programs to strengthen civil society for the long-term has seen the diversification of its high-impact, cost effective activities across a range of program areas and locations.

What sets the organization apart is its leadership in using social innovation as an engine for sustainable development â€” and unlike other actors focusing on entrepreneurial strategies in â€”stableâ€” operating environments, Mercy Corps works in this way with affected communities as a means to accelerate the process of post-disaster or post-collapse recovery. From helping restore local economies in the aftermath of the Haiti earthquake via a mobile banking solution, to fighting malnutrition in Indonesian slums through a microfranchise system of vendor-managed food carts, the NGO consistently looks to foster indigenous entrepreneurship, rebuilding social capital and stimulating markets.

Convinced of the value of taking â€”responsible risksâ€” â€” backed by rigorous monitoring and evaluation â€” Mercy Corps focuses especially on engaging partner communities to identify solutions proven to work in specific contexts and bring these to scale. As such, the organizationâ€™s greatest impact is arguably linked to its ability to strengthen the resilience of communities with a view to future shocks, beyond the millions of lives touched through immediate relief efforts.(Presented byÂ <http://theglobaljournal.net/group/top-100-ngos/>)

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