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ACCOUNTABILITY: ADAPTING AID SOLUTIONS TO RWANDA

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Rwanda is currently a recipient of a large amount of foreign aid dedicated to rebuilding and restructuring the country. In particular, the World Bank and the IMF have led the way in aid disbursement, but do their methods have room for improvement? Critics of aid policy to the developing world cite conditionality, assumed links between democracy and economic growth and a lack of understanding about domestic politics as being extremely detrimental forces to current policies, yet the aid organizations have done very little to attempt to correct for these deficiencies due to a lack of accountability to developing countries. As a result, they have come in conflict with developing countries over policy goals, which leads to a breakdown in efficiency and donor/recipient relations. Rwanda offers one of the more ideal countries in which to attempt to find solutions to these problems. A country of 6% GDP growth per year since 1994, Rwanda is listed by the World Bank as one of 2008’s top twenty reforming nations. This paper looks at how restructuring the way aid is delivered to countries such as Rwanda could resolve some of these policy conflicts and could result in an increase in efficiency, or at the very least a reduction of cost while maintaining economic growth and current levels of social service.