

How To Help Without Hurting

Five things to consider when deciding how to serve the poor and orphaned.



Poverty is much more than simply a lack of material resources, and it takes much more than donations and handouts to solve it.

Sometimes alleviation efforts, fail to consider the complexities of poverty, have actually (and unintentionally) done more harm than good.

But we can look ahead. There is dignity in everyone. We can empower the materially poor, and know that we are all uniquely needy—and that God in the gospel is reconciling all things to himself.

Here are five things to consider when deciding how to serve the poor and orphaned.

What kind of relief is needed?

We have to understand the situation first and work with the poor, not for them. Instead of primarily assessing what the poor need, we should note what resources God has already blessed them with that can be used to help.

? What kind of relief has God already laid a path for?





Who can offer the best help?

Those closest to the situation are responsible to help and will better understand how to help. Poverty alleviation often fails because of inadequate participation by the poor themselves in the process. Including the poor in their relief helps them work and take responsibility as God created them to do.

? How can you get the poor involved in the process up front, so they buy in later?

What is the best solution?

The best solutions come from a combined effort between the poor and the privileged. Many efforts rely too heavily on creating something new. The best solutions are often repair of old systems to better fix the current issues.

? What repairs could be made to create improvement quickly?





What is our part?

We are not the poor or orphaned person in this equation. That means we will not be the one living with the solution that is created. Our part is to assist those that live in the challenging situation come up with solutions. We should be empowering others to think and act, not doing things for them.

? How can we build relationships locally so they can adopt a long-term fix?

What should our attitudes be in helping?

Humility is essential. We are all broken. We must avoid communicating, however unintentionally, that those helping are superior, which adds to the feelings of shame and inferiority. Many in poverty are plagued by such feelings. In other words, it's not just physical resources they need.

? How can we be more humble as we help?



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Sponsor a child today and give an orphaned boy in Haiti the foundation they need to bring themselves and others in the country up with them.

It's a partnership between you , us and the child to provide the promise of a bright future with Christ at the center.

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