



Hi there,

We are pleased to present You the eight Newsletter presenting the global structure of the Network's Information Archives. Furthermore we would like to hand You our standpoint on some general issues and give You some examples on how we intend to help, themes that came up in the last two months during several conversations with interested people.

You may have wondered what happened to the regular Newsletter... Well, it is just that we only wish to write to You when we have news! And apart from that, some of You already know, but You who don't: I have moved to Switzerland and that took some (more than planned) time, finding a place to live, formalities and "stuff" like that.

In the next twelve months, several computer programmers will be continue to build the Network's Information Archive and Website. In the following Newsletters we will present the design, structure and an overview of the contents of the Website and from there on we will inform You about newly released items upon availability.

Bye for now! All the best, have a great time!

Kind Regards,  
Peter Maas

**PS:** feel free to forward our Newsletters to Your Friends and Family. When forwarding the Email message, please include **subscribe-newsletter@helping-people.net** in the CC-field of the message, so that we can add the Emailaddress(es) to our Mailinglist.



Photo: Sandra Grube

## This Issue:

- > Structure of the Network's Information Archives
- > Implicitly Supporting the local economy by combining aid initiatives
- > The effect of globalization on local poverty

## Newsletter

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## Next Issue

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## Structure of the Network's Information Archives

To be able to control and manage all information exchange within the Network and with its partners, it is essential to setup an efficient Information Archive, which can be accessed by all participants in the Network.

A large part of the Information Archives will be accessible to the public through the Network's Website. Network Participants working on the internal archives will be handed out an "electronic access key", because in many countries personal information has to be protected from public access by law.

The following paragraphs describe the various Information Archives that will be built and maintained:

### Documentation & Multimedia Archive

In every organisation You will find common documentation, publications and other information that is shared by all people within the organisation. This is not different in our Network.

Furthermore several mediafiles like video/audio recordings and photo's will be electronically available on the Network's computers for common use within the Network,

for example in publications like this Newsletter.

All incoming "paperwork" is electronically scanned, stored and cataloged in this Common Archive as well and a message will be automatically sent to the intended recipients within the Network.

Apart from that, common data for electronic data processing is maintained and standardized for

efficient use. The Headquarter IT Development Team will continually search for ways to and apply efficiency measures to improve and ease information exchange and improve search capability.

The Headquarter IT Operations Team will be responsible for the operational continuity and security of the Information Archives. It also takes care of copyrights of documentation and mediafiles.



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Photo: Sandra Grube

## Participant/Contact-Database

Also for common use, but specifically described here, is the database containing all participant related information, contact data and specifics about the roles and activities of the participant within the Network. This database will be explicitly well managed and secured, because of the personal character of the data and legal privacy regulations, which is the responsibility of respectively the Headquarter for the central database and the regional IT Operations Teams for the regional backup databases.

## Aid Worker/Organization Database

All documentation and multimediafiles regarding Aid Workers and Organization that has been made available by them is electronically stored in this archive. It will be indexed in every possible and efficient way to make sure a suitable Aid Worker/Organization can be found quickest possible.

If a suitable Aid Worker/Organization cannot be found and the local Representative cannot directly find a quick solution locally, the Headquarter and/or regional Help Exploration Teams will have to find a suitable Aid Worker/Organization first and document all "services" s/he or they are offering "where" and "when", to be able to quickly match them with future Help Request(s).

The search for the best possible "match" will be automated as far as possible, based on keywords and geographical information of the Help Request.

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## Knowledge & Solutions Documentation

This Archive will hold all research and development documents regarding common solutions and

documentation of pilot projects where those common solutions are being "tried out". The Headquarter Solution Development team in cooperation with the Area Exploration Teams will be mainly working on these projects.

The HQ Strategical Team in cooperation with experts in the "field" will define general guidelines and a general worldwide and regional roadmaps, which are documented in this Archive.

## Help Request Database

This is the main database where all Help Request will be documented. It will contain information about the processes taking place to implement the chosen best-fit solution that improves the situation sustainably. It also contains documentation about the selection process of the chosen Aid Worker/Organisation to be able to evaluate their performance.





## Implicitly Supporting the local economy by combining aid initiatives

Combining parallel and similar aid initiatives to one project is one of the main goals of the Helping People Network.

When in a certain community many people or the community as a whole issues a help request to, for example, build a local school, we will first start to find out if there are schools in nearby communities, where the requestors' children could go to. If that is feasible (i.e. those schools are close enough) and they are being accepted by that school, we don't need to build a new school.

If that is not an applicable solution, then we will ask around for ongoing and/or planned school building projects in directly neighbouring communities.

If there are such projects, we will contact the people of the ongoing or planned building project to find out if a cooperation is feasible. If so, we will coordinate a meeting bringing together our help requestors

and original help requestors to discuss and make sure that the cooperation is a longterm and sustainable one. Personal relationships are a good basis for sustainable cooperations. The local Representatives have a coordinating and mediating role in setting up this cooperation. Helping People Network favours cooperation projects since it will have a harmonizing effect between the involved communities. It may also be more efficient, provided that the distance between them is limited.

If the cooperation comes to life, it could be that due to the "newcomers", the school to be built has to be larger than originally planned, more building materials and even more aid workers may be needed. The regional operations team will support the local representatives in cases like this and will try to get additional Aid Workers/Organizations "on-board".

If for whatever reason a cooperation

is not feasible, we will try to find if there are other nearby communities that would also need a school and try to setup and organize a common project as described above by ourselves.

Due to larger scale aid projects, some local people might see the new local aid project as an opportunity to setup their own business to supply it with building and other materials. Additionally, due to the larger number of people trespassing through their area, they may see the opportunity for some kind of trade and/or other business.

### Conclusion

Aid projects often have a favourable effect on the local economy. When required products and particularly also services can be obtained from local suppliers it will have at least the following positive effects:

1. it will save the transport charges (for example: a school chair produced in a local workshop may cost 5 US\$, whereas an imported chair from the USA may cost 65 US\$ due to the transport and import duties only),
2. it will support the local suppliers and in effect it may even generate employment for the local community and
3. it will have a favourable effect on the success and acceptance of the foreign aid workers and their work.



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## The effect of globalization on local poverty

The main argument in favour of globalization is that it supports free market economy and through greater competition leads to lower prices.

Due to the ever growing competition, companies are merging with the goal to enlarge the scale of production and therefore save cost. As you know this leads to enormous international corporations that do business worldwide and shift their production sites to the lower wage countries wherever they can.

The everyday effects of this tendency is that workers in higher wage countries are losing their jobs in favor (?) of workers in lower wage countries. Meanwhile

employers in the higher wage countries "threaten" their workers to move their production facilities elsewhere if they do not agree to wage cuts. Even corporations that make huge profits do this to protect their so-called (worldwide) "market share".

It is the Helping People Network's opinion that the effect of global scale free market economy can only be good for local communities for products that would not be produced locally anyway. As we experience in the rich communities, small shops generally disappear where big stores settle in.

The main argument against globalisation therefore is that it destroys

local small-sized enterprises.

In our opinion moving the production of, for example, dairies, products that everybody needs, away from local communities is not a logical step and should be avoided, whereas the production of steel, cars, machinery and other kind of heavy industries will be more efficient on a larger scale.

Local economy suffers, although the "globalists" will counter this argument by saying they provide employment to large numbers of local people. Yes, we agree, but.... this "medicine" has an almost-invisible long term "side-effect".





## For example

A new large factory producing steel cables settles near a rural small community. It is obvious that this community will not need (all) the steel cable the factory will produce.

The factory will draw local workers away from local enterprises, like the car workshop, the bakery, the egg farm, etc., due to the “attractive” new employment opportunities, causing other large companies to fill the resulting new “gaps”. We all know the large-scale supermarkets replacing the bakery, grocery, milkman, etc.

Who can blame the local people to change to a better paying job? Although a logical step, the local community may now be very dependent on large companies. Suppose the steel factory decides to move somewhere else, it will leave a large part of the local people unemployed. Although this seems a far sought argument, exactly this phenomena occurs quite often in “rich” countries.

## Conclusion

Helping People Network favours a strong local economy driven by local people, because it can be sustained on the long term, whereas large industries should be setup in areas of large communities, because the effect of large companies leaving the area are



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more easily compensated in larger communities. We do not object efficiency measures as You may have read in the previous article. On the contrary!