

## **Degan Ali's Short Bio**

Degan Ali has been the Executive Director of Adeso, a humanitarian and development organization that is changing the way people think about and deliver aid in Africa, since 2006. She is a trailblazer in the movement to decolonize development aid and rethink humanitarianism, and has courageously led much of the practical thinking and advocacy that has uncovered the racist and colonial practices in humanitarian aid. Degan is strategic and persuasive, and has a strong belief in the value of partnership and collaboration in transforming the current aid system.

Degan has also been acting as a leading advocate for the empowerment of Southern NGOs and continues to innovate and develop new solutions for a dignified and locally-led humanitarian response and development, including co-funding the Network for Empowered Aid Response (NEAR) a global network of NGO's run by the south, for the south; where the voices of local, national and regional southern actors can be heard.

She is a regular commentator on humanitarian action and has worked with organizations like CARE, IRC, British Red Cross and Save the Children on issues around Decolonizing aid, anti-racism and how to transform organizational strategies to be aligned with anti-colonial and anti-racism principles.

Her methodology and perspectives on International Aid and African development have been featured at Skoll World Forum, London School of Economics, Africa Research Institute, Global Summit on Community Philanthropy, Impakter, Humanitarian Practice Network etc. In addition, She is a Rockefeller Foundation Global Fellow for Social Innovation, and has been a contributing writer to articles for the Overseas Development Institute/Humanitarian Policy Group and the Global Food Security Journal, and a regular contributor to international media outlets including Al Jazeera and The Guardian.

For more information please visit her website (<http://www.deganali.com/>)