In 2016, the world’s richest countries invested US $142 billion in Official Development Assistance (government investment aimed at boosting social and economic development in the places where it’s needed most). The manner in which that investment impacts real people living in economically developing countries is often bureaucratic, governmental, and determined through top-down procedures. What if instead, development investment met the needs of actors united in problem solving networks? Reflecting on her career at the World Bank guiding developing countries’ science, technology and innovation investments, Sara shares lessons from her more recent experience building an organization that helps people around the world construct such problem-solving networks. These insights offer inspiration for students, universities, and researchers eager to play a role in global problem-solving.

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