

# WN *Inspiration*

World Nutrition Volume 4, Number 6, June 2013

Journal of the World Public Health Nutrition Association

Published monthly at [www.wphna.org/worldnutrition/](http://www.wphna.org/worldnutrition/)

## *Ricardo Uauy on There You Go* **What and who is aid for?**



**Ricardo Uauy**

Department of Nutrition, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

National School of Nutrition and Food Technology, Santiago, Chile

President, International Union of Nutritional Sciences, 2005-2009

Email: [druauy@gmail.com](mailto:druauy@gmail.com)



So we opted for a Multi-Stakeholder  
Cross-Disciplinary Integrated approach.

Ricardo Uauy is from Chile. He is a recent IUNS president, and was chair of the WHO/FAO expert group responsible for the 2000 '916' report, *Diet, Nutrition and the Prevention of Chronic Diseases*. This year he was honoured by the President of Chile for his outstanding contribution to public health (picture above, right). He has chosen *There You Go*, a book of pictures and captions first published in 2006, a gentle yet savage satire on what are only too often the real purposes and effects of international development aid. It has been praised by Mary Robinson, UN Commissioner for Human Rights, Emeritus Archbishop of Cape Town Desmond Tutu, and recently retired Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams.

My contribution to the new *WN* series 'Inspiration' is a book; a very short book which is almost all pictures. This is *There You Go*, by Oren Ginzburg, published by Survival International and his own Hungry Man Books, originally in 2005.

Both initiatives are dedicated to protecting the lives and environments of the original peoples especially in the global South. They ask basic questions about the economic and political model that makes so many of us believe that 'they' need 'our' aid. The ugly truth can be that 'development' and 'aid', with all their jargon of 'multi-stakeholder cross-disciplinary approaches', are often misguided charity, or worse are ways in which rich nations increase the dependency of impoverished nation. Worse still, they may enable corporate greed for land and resources, as a result of which the lives of the people who are supposed to be 'helped' is destroyed. This is what *There You Go* is about. Many of us from the South, like myself as a Chilean, are living on land once occupied by people who were displaced – and worse – in the past. What happens now is not utterly different.

This is the piece of reading that has most shaken me up. Not only in my mind either. What it says is not new. It is not driven by conventional scientific thinking. But it speaks to what is the end result of our actions, what may be the end results of our actions if we are not fully aware of the unintended consequences of what we do or fail to do, independent of our best intentions. [The pdf of the book is available here](#). Please support the work of Survival International by contacting [www.survivalinternational](http://www.survivalinternational.org)



We developed Vocational Skills  
adapted to a shifting economy.

#### Editor's note

*Inspiration*, edited by Seva Khambadkone, is a new *WN* feature. Contributors are invited to choose and write about the document that has most impressed and moved them in their work. The choice can be from this year, or ten or a hundred or thousands of years ago. It need not be explicitly about nutrition or public health, but it should be offered as inspiration to *WN* readers in their thinking and work. It needs to be available in or convertible to pdf form. Please send suggestions for this page to [wn.network@gmail.com](mailto:wn.network@gmail.com).