Probably Good Impact

This document focuses on what we believe are the primary paths of this project to significant positive impact. For more general context about the project - the [Probably Good Overview](#).

Direct impact

There are currently people looking to improve the impact they are making through their career that aren't served by existing organizations. Those who wish to focus on long-termist goals and existential risk are fairly well served by 80,000 Hours. More recently, Animal Advocacy Careers has also been founded to provide service to those specifically interested in this type of career. However, while there is some careers-focused guidance and content available to those interested in pursuing careers in global poverty & health, broader animal welfare work, climate change, mental health, scientific research, and other potentially effective cause areas, there's relatively little of this guidance and content, and that which exists tends to be relatively shallow, as there's no organisation focused on providing it.

One could argue over which of these cause areas (or those already covered by existing organizations) is the most important to work on (and within the EA community, one often does). Taking into account both moral uncertainty, as well as a more "outside view" approach, we believe it is plausible that it is incredibly important to support work in all of them.

Moreover, we think much of the existing impact-focused career content and services are focused on a small subset of people with specific circumstances and preferences, which is not only perceived as exclusionary but also misses out on opportunities for positive impact. We think there's a large amount of impact to be gained by providing guidance to people within specific career paths, in different career stages or people who would find it difficult to enter into many of the currently considered paths.
In addition to this direct impact, we think a large amount of the value of this project is indirect, as detailed next.

Community building

Career advice is something that many people in the community care about and are interested in. It's also something many people look for when they are introduced to the community. In fact, more than half of all those participating in the EA Survey of 2018 indicated 80,000 Hours as a factor that was important in them getting involved in EA.
We think there's value in having career guidance that is explicitly accepting of very different views, values and contexts that community members have. Particularly, this might be a good way for people who currently disagree with some views that are prevalent in the EA community

(near-termists, people who mostly care about a specific cause area, etc.) to engage with the community and then have a chance to consider their views over time.
Additionally, we think it's important that people (who are a good fit for the community) see their values represented in the work that's being done. This can make a large difference in their first impression and how welcome they feel in the community.

A step on the way to priority paths

We think it's very likely that some people might be a good fit for top priority paths but not immediately. This may be because they aren't ready yet to accept some aspects of EA (e.g. don't fully accept cause neutrality but are attached to high impact cause areas such as climate change), because they aren't willing yet to make large sacrifices for altruistic causes (e.g. moving to another country), or because of other personal reasons. We think giving them options to start with easier career changes or easier ways to use their career for good may, over time, give them a chance to consider even higher impact changes.

This line of thinking seems in line with the fact that most local communities take a more "open and agnostic" approach, and they are also the organizations that do the most direct outreach. This is at least suggestive that the "foot in the door" approach is worthwhile and effective in growing the movement.

Feedback

If you'd like to give us feedback on this document or anything else, feel free to email us at omernev (at) gmail (dot) com or sellanevo (at) gmail (dot) com, or alternatively comment directly in [this commentable version](#) of this doc.

Thank you for your time and feedback!