

## THE ROLES OF NGOs TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN TANZANIA

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A non-governmental organization (NGO) is any non-profit, voluntary citizens' group which is organized on a local, national or international level. NGOs perform a variety of service and humanitarian functions, bring citizen concerns to Governments, advocate and monitor policies and encourage political participation through provision of information.

Some are organized around specific issues, such as human rights, environment or health.

In wider usage, the term NGO can be applied to any non-profit organization which is independent from government. NGOs are typically value-based organizations which depend, in whole or in part, on charitable donations and voluntary service.

### **Typical Forms of NGOs in Tanzania**

#### - **Developmental organisations**

These NGOs basically work on social and developmental research and consultancy for instance developing rural areas as well as protecting/conserving environment.

E.g.; DANIDA and SIDA develops rural areas by implementing different projects, building schools, hospitals, contracting roads, protecting and conserving environment etc.

#### - **Sports oriented organisations**

These NGOs aimed at developing sports in a country basing on creating and developing youth talents.

#### - **Financial groups**

These are financial groups/NGOs which established for the purposes of providing loans or funds to the people.

E.g.; SACCOS provides loans to majority of people especial those who unemployed for them to open or to start business or small project to sustain their lives.

#### - **Health organisations**

These are NGOs based on providing health services as well as providing health education.

E.g.; ANGAZA provide health services to majority of people in Tanzania and educating people on how to protect themselves on diseases such as HIV/AIDS.

#### - **Religious NGOs**

Large percentage of NGO Funding goes to religious based Organisations.

E.g. MSIMBAZI CENTRE in Dar es Salaam had established to help orphans.

### **The roles of NGOs in sustainable development in Tanzania.**

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have played a major role in pushing for sustainable development at national and international level.

But NGOs are not only focusing their energies on governments and inter-governmental processes. With the retreat of the state from a number of public functions and regulatory activities, NGOs have begun to fix their sights on powerful corporations - many of which can rival entire nations in terms of their resources and influence.

Aided by advances in information and communications technology, NGOs have helped to focus attention on the social and environmental externalities of business activity..

Although it is often assumed that NGOs are charities or enjoy non-profit status, some NGOs are profit-making organizations such as cooperatives or groups which lobby on behalf of profit-driven interests. For example, the World Trade Organization's definition of NGOs is broad enough to include industry lobby groups such as the Association of Swiss Bankers and the International Chamber of Commerce.

Such a broad definition has its critics. It is more common to define NGOs as those organizations which pursue some sort of public interest or public good, rather than individual or commercial interests.

Even then, the NGO community remains a diverse constellation. Some groups may pursue a single policy objective - for example access to AIDS drugs in developing countries or press freedom. Others will pursue more sweeping policy goals such as poverty eradication or human rights protection.

However, one characteristic these diverse organizations share is that their non-profit status means they are not hindered by short-term financial objectives.

Accordingly, they are able to devote themselves to issues which occur across longer time horizons, such as climate change, malaria prevention or a global ban on landmines. Public surveys reveal that NGOs often enjoy a high degree of public trust, which can make them a useful - but not always sufficient - proxy for the concerns of society and stakeholders.

### **Advantages of having NGOs in Tanzania**

- They have the ability to experiment freely with innovative approaches and, if necessary, to take risks.
- They are flexible in adapting to local situations and responding to local needs and therefore able to develop integrated projects, as well as spectral projects.
- They enjoy good rapport with people and can render micro-assistance to very poor people as they can identify those who are most in need and tailor assistance to their needs
- They have the ability to communicate at all levels, from the neighbourhood to the top levels of government.
- They are able to recruit both experts and highly motivated staff with fewer restrictions than the government.