



## Effective NGOs need solid financing

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No doubt the NGOs in developing countries suffer serious setbacks in terms of its effectiveness in many societies: poor resources which hinder many of their feasible activities, their absence from participation in the decision-making mechanism and above all their lack of access to reach the International Financial Institutions (IFI) and other UN technical organization.

The IFIs and other UN organisations all have specific approach in dealing with the NGOs through the formal channels and the government in particular. We all know that governments in developing countries come to top leadership via their political parties, their effective tribes and their specific inner circles. The IFI, thus, provide help/assistance to the NGOs via governments and other formal channels which support only those NGOs that are affiliated with its political parties and the inner circles of the political systems. Hardly, therefore, NGOs of the opposition or even the independent ones, can find access for help and support from the IFI and others.

Eventually, most of the effective NGOs are found in distant towns and in many rural areas. These important and effective NGOs lack access to the support of the IFIs. For instance, there are some NGOs in the Yemen, Egypt and even in India, the country with the largest population close to us have interest in improving the rural or civil infrastructure of education, health, power and in particular portable water, but they fail to accomplish their agenda or programme because of lack of finance, not only for their launched programme but for communication to reach the IFIs in the capital. More important is to realise that the offices of the IFIs and others in the capital have government employees under cover who also do not allow effective NGOs from reaching the IFIs responsables. This is of course due to political disputes within different social stratas in the society.

In brief, to overcome many of these problems many NGOs in developing countries face in their countries, the IFIs need to adopt different procedures to allow sufficient space for the NGOs in distant towns and rural areas to meet and support. No doubt the financial aspect would empower many good NGOs to perform their rights and programmes effectively. We should never forget that if NGOs are properly encouraged would constitute not less than 70% of the labour force and if they are strong they will force governments to involve them in the decision-making mechanism effectively and this will have an impact on the development of »National Plans« progressively.

It is, therefore, up to us and up to the IFIs to choose whether to allow NGOs to get stronger or weaker. If we want them to become stronger, they will work right and be effective. The NGOs today badly need finance for their technical setups, to empower them with strong administrative power and to help them to have good leadership. Without the support of the IFIs and the UN technical organisations which would help them to run their programmes efficiently, I doubt very much that the NGOs in our countries can be really a hard number in the overall national development.

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