

CME 310 Solar Power for Africa

The Role of NGOs and other Stakeholders in Africa

Governments generally provide for the social needs of their people.

In the developing world, governments are seen as incapable of providing for certain social needs including medical, housing, food, education and economic development either in the short term or in the long term.

Foreign governments offer assistance in these cases for seemingly altruistic reasons.

Banking institutions, the World Bank, offer “guidance” and loans to allow governments to provide basic social services. Neoliberalism.

Religious organizations as part of their belief, the assistance of developing countries and peoples. Again, the motivation is altruism.

Other non-government organizations (NGOs), often with targeted goals, provide social services. In some cases these can be driven by a thinly veiled profit motive.

One Laptop Per Child

There are over 100,000 NGOs operating in South Africa

http://www.commonwealth-of-nations.org/South_Africa/Organisations/National_NGOs_And_Civil_Society



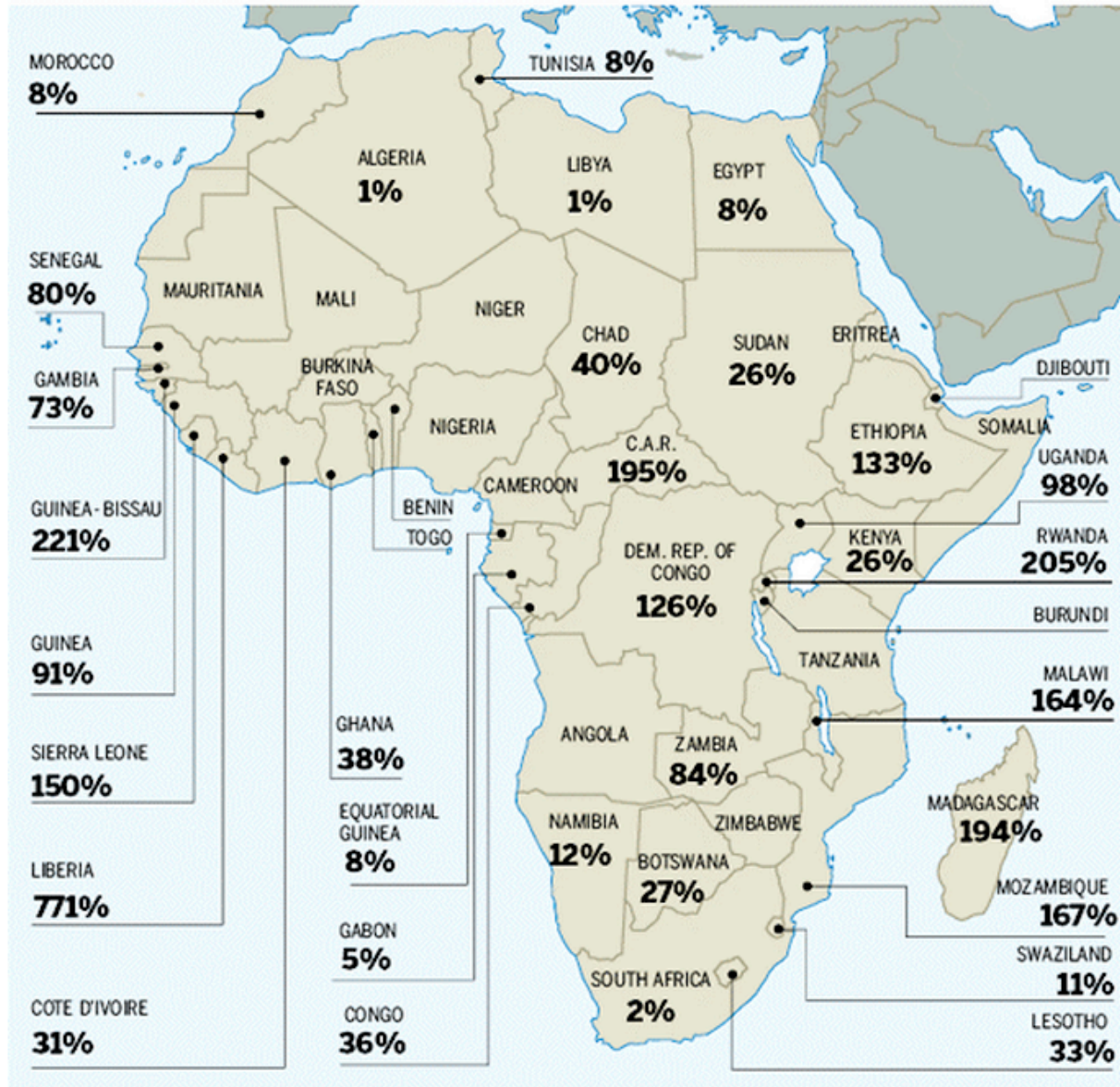
NGO's 4-wheel drives are everywhere

What is the purpose of government?

How is this infringed upon by foreign NGOs and other stake holders

Africa's dependence on aid

Net official aid received as a % of government expenditures, 2008



What is the purpose of government?

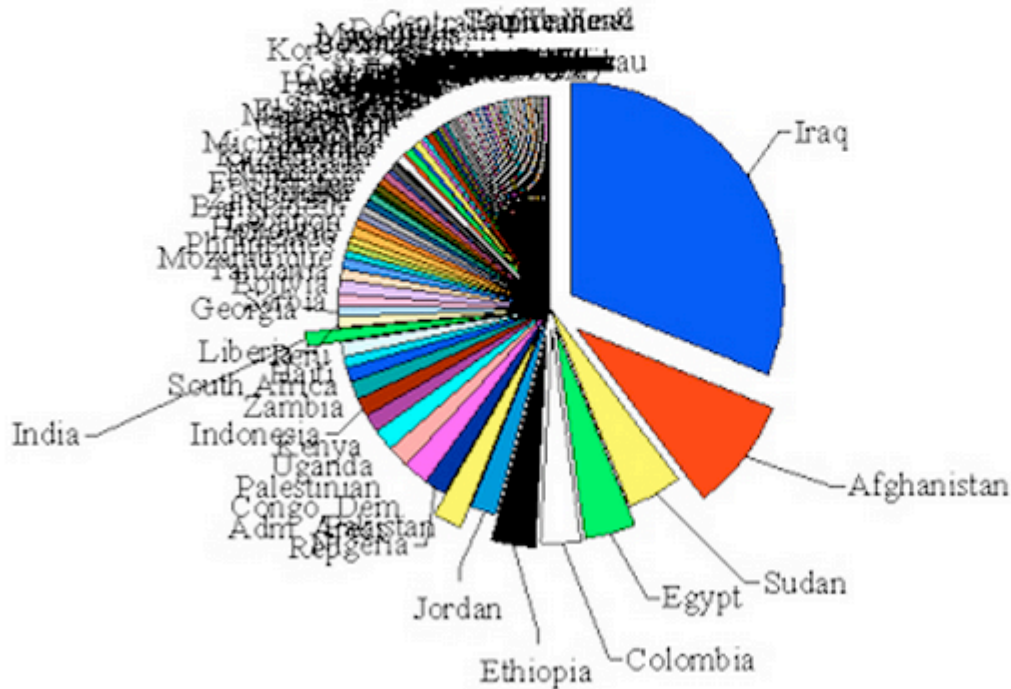
How is this infringed upon by foreign NGOs and other stake holders



What is the purpose of government?

How is this infringed upon by foreign NGOs and other stake holders

Here's a somewhat silly yet telling graph showing US development aid by destination country:



Aid for Disaster Relief

The Permanent Disaster



A refugee camp in Tanzania

Ngara Refugee Camp Tanzania
(Second largest city in Tanzania after Dar-es-Salaam)

Aid for Disaster Relief

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A refugee camp in Tanzania

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NGOs can be instrumental to recovery
But “**What does Recovery Look Like?**”
NGOs often **Respond as they see fit.**

Consider Katrina

The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina vividly illustrates that recovery from disasters is not simply the restoration of roads and buildings, but a long process of restoring individual and community functioning. Human recovery goes beyond infrastructure recovery to include restoring the social and daily routines and support networks that foster physical and mental health and promote well-being (Cutter et al., 2006; Weisler, Barbee, and Townsend, 2006; Sizer and Evans, 2009). The hurricanes of 2005, along with Hurricane Ike, showed that **nongovernmental organizations (NGOs, including community- and faith-based organizations) are instrumental contributors to human recovery**. However, communities' abilities to draw on NGO services have been highly variable. In many cases, NGO activities cope with inadequate policy and financial support (Cutter et al., 2006; Waugh, 2006), which have hindered participation in recovery activities. Further, there is little clarity in terms of what human recovery looks like (e.g., **What are the essential services, core components, and effective models?**) and what policies are needed to support essential services and engage NGOs. While NGOs provide critical social, economic, and health services, there is evidence to suggest that their effectiveness could be enhanced if they were more formally engaged in recovery efforts and **better integrated into planning at the local and state levels** (Cutter et al., 2006; Waugh, 2006)

Consider Katrina

In their first time responding to a disaster in the United States, more than a dozen INGOs witnessed **scenarios similar to those seen in the developing countries** in which they typically operate. The substantial response by international actors to Katrina may underscore that the United States has much to learn about disaster preparedness, management, and recovery from other countries, INGOs, and international governing bodies such as OCHA. Our analysis shows that INGOs were compelled to respond in Katrina's aftermath because of **perceived and real failures of the U.S. government administration**. Though these failures existed, we also argue that in planning for homeland security, we should not abandon an important and **central role for government in disaster response**. However, the coordination of relief efforts must also account for an inevitable nonprofit and NGO response to disasters and plan accordingly. We suggest a model that balances the tensions between coordinating nonprofits and NGOs against allowing them freedom **to respond as they see fit** while also addressing the complexities of relief provision.

Consider Katrina

According to the European Commission, one week after the disaster, on September 4, 2005, the United States officially asked the [European Union](#) for emergency help, asking for blankets, emergency medical kits, water and 500,000 food rations for victims. Help proposed by EU member states was coordinated through their crisis center. The British presidency of the EU functioned as contact with the USA.

Other countries not on this list also offered aid, but the State Department mentioned that they (the State Department) had not been asked. Later, the US State Department said all offers were being examined.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_response_to_Hurricane_Katrina

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Aid to a developing country can take many forms:

- Direct monetary assistance to the government (US funds to the Palestinian Authority).
- Direct material assistance (food drops by UNICEF in Africa).
- Military assistance and weapons (Primary US response to the Haiti Earthquake for instance).

- Direct citizen involvement (Solar Light for Africa, Village Life).
- More complicated semi-businesses (Electric Light Fund, Clothes donations i.e. in the T-shirt movie)
- Others...

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The Role of NGO's and other Stakeholders in Africa

Governments have a primary responsibility to the population or at least the ruling elite.

NGOs have a primary responsibility to their donors or foreign governments

The lack of control over NGO activities often leads to rejection of aid by the government
(Cuban aid and most foreign aid (\$1 billion) for Katrina was rejected.)

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The Role of NGO's and other Stakeholders in Africa

This paper is an attempt to examine critically the role and future of the NGO in Africa in the light of its self-perception as a non-governmental, **non-political, non-partisan, non-ideological, non-academic, non-theoretical, not-for-profit** association of **well-intentioned individuals** dedicated to changing the world to make it a better place for the poor, the marginalised and the downcast. It is the argument of the paper that the role of NGOs in Africa cannot be understood without a clear characterisation of the current historical moment.

I must make it clear that I do not doubt the noble motivations and the good intentions of NGO leaders and activists. But **one does not judge the outcome of a process by the intentions** of its authors; one analyses the objective effect of actions regardless of intentions.

The Role and Future of NGO's in Africa by Issa G. Shivji

African civilization was destroyed by European Colonization

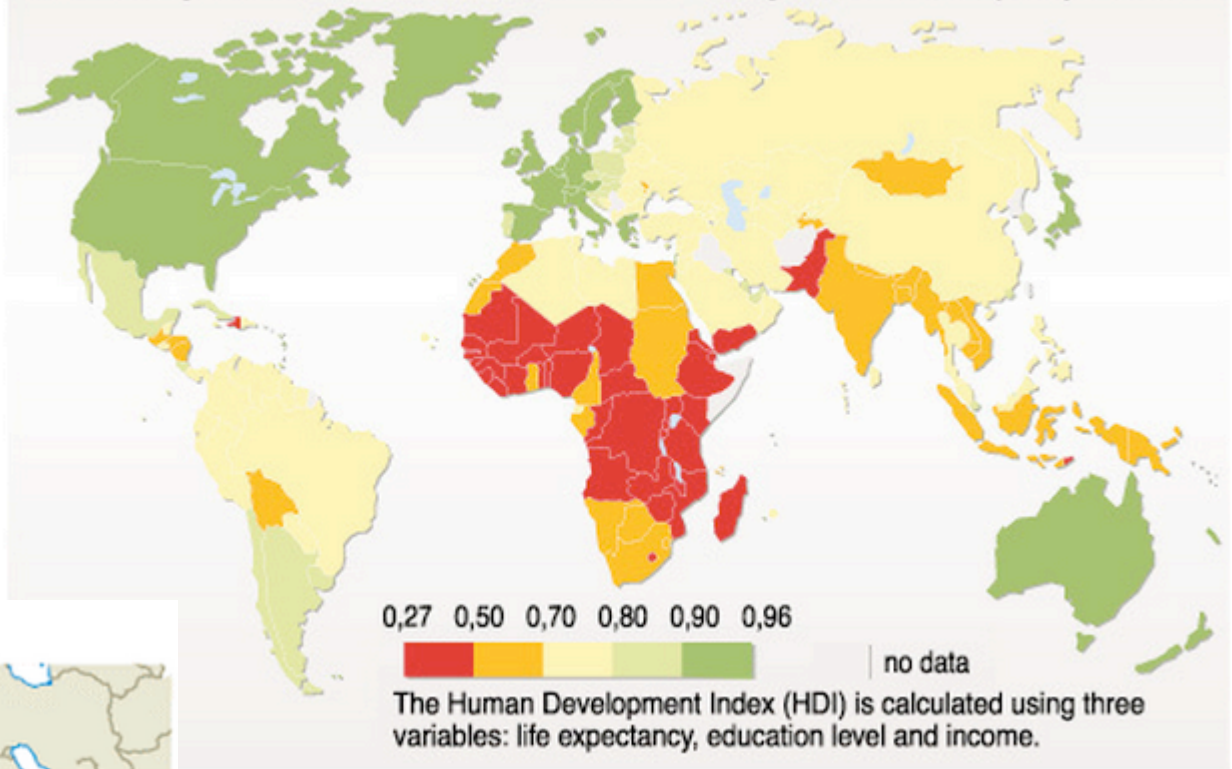
The nations that emerged from colonization were largely the ruins of functional civilizations and represented unnatural boundaries decided in Europe with the intent of balancing European control of Africa.

Economies based on export of raw materials and import of manufactured goods resulted from the Eurocentric division of Africa.

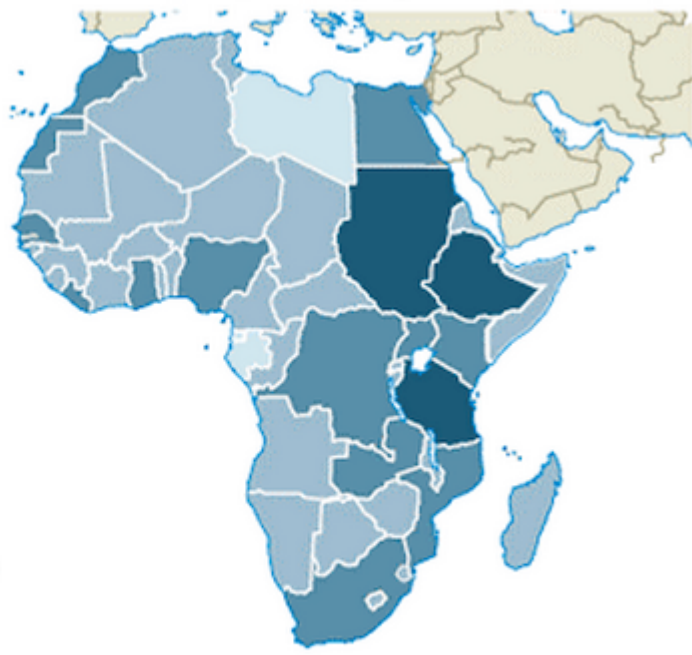
Ethiopia is an argument against this since it was never colonized yet is underdeveloped.

As a comparison...

Human Development Index (HDI) in 2002



Levels of net official aid received, 2008 (\$m)



(source)

The first challenge and defeat: Pan-Africanism vs. territorial nationalism

Pan-Africanism (*Literally All Africa*) is a movement that seeks to unify African people or people living in Africa, into a "one African community".^[1] Differing types of Pan-Africanism seek different levels of economic, [racial](#), social, or political unity. ^[2]The largest governmental body striving for governmental unity is the [African Union](#).


Once you multiply national anthems, national flags and national passports, seats at the United Nations, and individuals entitled to 21 guns salute, not to speak of a host of ministers, Prime ministers, and envoys, you would have a whole army of powerful people with vested interests in keeping Africa balkanised (Nyerere 1997).



Billboard in Zambia with Nkrumah's non-alignment quote: "We face neither East nor West; We face forward" (Taken in May 2005)

Julius Kambarage Nyerere (13 April 1922 – 14 October 1999) was a [Tanzanian](#) politician who served as the [first President of Tanzania](#) and previously [Tanganyika](#), from the country's founding in 1961 until his retirement in 1985.

The first challenge and defeat: Pan-Africanism vs. territorial nationalism

- [Edward Wilmot Blyden](#) has been called the Father of Pan-Africanism.
- [W. E. B. Du Bois](#) has also been called the Father of Pan-Africanism. Du Bois hosted the highly influential 5th Pan-African Conference in Manchester, UK.
- [Marcus Garvey](#), was a [Caribbean](#)-born Pan-Africanist, stern advocate for the [Back-to-Africa movement](#), and has also been labeled as a Father of Pan-Africanism. Garvey led the largest organization with Pan-African goals in history.
- [Paul Robeson](#), the singer, actor and political radical, co-founded the [Council on African Affairs](#)(1937–1950) which became a leading voice of anti-colonialism and Pan-Africanism in the U.S. and internationally.^[11] Robeson said as early as the 1930s that he wanted "to be African", studied African language and culture and urged Americans to fight African imperialism.^[12] Robeson was close friends with [Jomo Kenyatta](#), [Kwame Nkrumah](#) and [W. E. B. Du Bois](#). Despite stereotypes endemic to the times, Robeson's films such as [Song of Freedom](#) and [Jericho/Dark Sands](#) were the first to show African's in a positive light. Robeson also wrote and spoke out against Apartheid, the need for African Independence and narrated an early film about the regime, [My Song Goes Forth](#) (also known as [Africa Sings](#), [Africa Looks Up](#), U.K., 1937).
- [Jomo Kenyatta](#) was a Pan-African activist who became the first president of [Kenya](#).
- [Bob Marley](#) was a [Jamaican](#) born musician whos music reflected Pan Africanist thought, music and philosophy.
- [Julius Kambarage Nyerere](#): Key figure for Pan Africanism and SADC.
- [Ahmed Sékou Touré](#) was a Pan-African activist, who became the first President of Guinea, West Africa, the first French sub-Saharan African colony to gain independence from France on October 2, 1958 following its rejection of the famous 1958 Referendum that was proposed by President Charles De Gaulle of France. President Toure, along with President William Tubman of neighboring Liberia and President Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, was the vanguard behind the creation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), which has been transformed into the African Union (AU), at a Special Head of States Meeting held in the northern Liberian city of Sanniquelle, Nimba County, which is often referred to as the "birth place" of the OAU (now the AU).
- [Fela Anikulapo Kuti](#): The founder of Afrobeat music, and political/human rights activist. Promoted pan-africanism through his music.
- [Gamal Abd El Nasser](#) was a Pan-African activist and the president of Egypt. Alongside Nkrumah, he endorsed the African countries who were fighting for independence and placed Egyptian culture and civilisation within an African framework.
- [Kwame Nkrumah](#) was a Pan-African activist who became the first president of [Ghana](#).
- [Haile Selassie](#), emperor of [Ethiopia](#), was a key figure in Pan-Africanism due to his call for greater unity among African Nations.
- [Molefi Kete Asante](#) strongly influenced by Kaiwada philosophy wrote his treatise on Afrocentricity. This greatly influenced Pan-Africanists in the late seventies and eighties. Another contemporary Afrocentric movement leader was Prof. Chinweizu Ibekwe (known simply as Chinweizu), a scholarly Nigerian anthropologist and a beacon of Africanism.
- [Muammar al-Gaddafi](#), known as Colonel Gaddafi, was an active organizer of African unity and the proposed formation, based on Gamal Abd El Nasser and [Kwame Nkrumah's](#) dream, of a [United States of Africa Report](#) .
- [Robert Gabriel Mugabe](#), President of Zimbabwe who has ruled for more than 28 years.
- [Malcolm X](#) planned to link the [Organization of Afro-American Unity](#) through Pan-Africanism to internationalize the human struggle of African people.
- [Robert Sobukwe](#) was a South African political dissident, who founded the [Pan Africanist Congress](#) in opposition to the [apartheid](#).

The second challenge and defeat: developmental state vs. democratic development

Growth in agriculture production was based on extensive cultivation rather than a rise in productivity through chemicalisation, mechanisation and irrigation. It depended heavily on exports of a few primary commodities traded on a hostile and adverse international market. The growth in the manufacturing industry was heavily of the import-substitution type with little internal linkages and dependent on the import of intermediary inputs. Investment was largely public while domestic private capital was stashed away in foreign countries. One estimate has it that by 1990, 37 per cent of Africa's wealth had flown outside the continent (Mkandawire & Soludo 1999:11). To top it all, foreign capital concentrated in extractive industries, which simply haemorrhaged the economy rather than contributed to its development.

During this period, the developmental state also borrowed heavily whether for productive or prestigious projects. Petro-dollars accumulated by international banks during the 1973 oil crisis were off-loaded in the form of cheap loans to developing countries. By the end of the 1970s, cheap loans turned into heavy debt burdens. By this time, the limits of the early growth were reached and the economic shocks of the late 1970s plunged the African economies into deep crisis.

The third challenge and defeat: nationalism vs. imperialism

Colonialism left by the front door and returned through the back door in the form of what Nkrumah called neocolonialism. Radical nationalists were overthrown in military coups (Nkrumah, Ben Bella) or assassinated (Lumumba, Pio Gama Pinto, Sankara) in adventures sponsored by Western imperialism (see generally Blum 1986 & 2001; De Witte 2001).

In 1981 the World Bank published its notorious report, *Accelerated development for Africa: an Agenda for Africa*.

Balancing budgets involved cutting out subsidies to agriculture and spending on social programmes, including education and health. Unleashing the market meant doing away with protection of infant industries and rolling back the state from economic activity. The results of SAPs have been devastating as many studies by researchers have shown. Social indicators like education, medical care, health, nutrition, rates of literacy and life expectancy all declined. Deindustrialisation set in.

In 1985, to give just one example, foreign experts resident in Equatorial Guinea were paid an amount three times the total government wage bill of the public sector (Mkandawire & Soludo *ibid.*: 137).

In policy-making, the state is placed on the same level as other so-called stakeholders, including NGOs.

Globalisation in Africa manifests itself in the neoliberal economic and political package which centres on liberalisation of trade, privatisation of national assets and resources, commodification of social services and marketisation of all goods and services, tangible and intangible.

In the neoliberal discourse, the African state is villainised and African bureaucracies demonised as corrupt, incapable and unable to learn. They need globalised foreign advisors and consultants, who are now termed development practitioners, to mentor, monitor and oversee them. Among the mentors and monitors are, of course, NGOs. After all, the so-called advisors and consultants move freely between the 'Triad Family' - the DONs (donor organisations), the INFOs (international financial organisations) and the NGOs, including GoNGOs (government-organised NGOs) and DoNGOs (donor-organised NGOs).

Non-government organisation is presented as the 'third sector', the other two being the state (power, politics), and the private sector (capital, economics). This ideological presentation of non-government organisation is also the dominant self-perception of the NGO world. Yet it is based on utterly false historical and intellectual premises with serious political implications (see generally Shivji 2002).

NGOs proliferated without critical examination of the place and role of NGO and its underlying ideologies and premises. The anti-state stance of the so-called donor-community was the real push behind the upsurge in NGO activity.

NGOs are led by, and largely composed of, the educated elite, located in urban areas and well-versed in the language and idiom of modernisation.

They saw NGOs as a possible terrain of struggle for change. This section of the elite is essentially politically motivated without being necessarily involved in partisan, party-politics. The second category includes well-intentioned individuals driven by altruistic motives to better the conditions of their fellow human beings/compatriots. In other words, they are morally motivated. Third is the mainstream elite, not infrequently even former government bureaucrats, who shifted to the NGO world once they found that that is where the donor funding was directed. The motivation of this elite is quite simply careerist. This category keeps swelling as jobs in the state and private sector become more and more competitive or difficult to come by.

an overwhelming number of NGOs are donor funded. They do not have any independent source of funding and have to seek donor funds through the usual procedures set by the funding agencies. In this respect, the degree of independence they can exercise in relation to donor agendas varies from NGO to NGO, depending on the perspectives of its leadership.

ultimately NGOs, by their very nature, derive not only their sustenance but also legitimacy from the donor community.

In the NGO world, it is not at all ironical that a *non-governmental* body is assigned by the *government* to do a *governmental* job funded by a donor agency which is an outfit of a *foreign government*. Thus USAID may fund a gender NGO to raise awareness among women on the new land law whose terms of reference are set by a gov- ernment ministry.

Increasingly the model for the 'successful' NGO is the corporation - ideally a transna- tional corporation and NGOs are ever more marketed and judged against corporate ide- als. As part of the trend, a new develop- ment scientism is strangling us with things like strategic framework analysis and re- sults-based management, precisely the val- ues and methods and techniques that have made the world what it is today

Thus is derived the basis of the so-called triad of stakeholders - the state, the private sector and the voluntary sector. The state is presented as the neutral referee, the guarantor of law and order, whose main function is to provide stability and an enabling environment for private capital. Private capital is the main engine or motor of growth, which growth will eventually trickle down to the whole of society. In this drive for inexorable growth and progress, it is acknowledged that some would inevitably be left behind, marginalised, or simply be unable to cope, the so-called 'poor'. You therefore need the voluntary sector to take care of them. Social welfare and provision of basic needs and services to the community is no longer the responsibility of the state or the private sector; it is assigned to the NGOs. Thus is completed the 'holy trinity' of development partners: the state, capital and the NGO, who are supposedly the major stakeholders in the 'participatory' development enterprise.

All in all, I am submitting that there is a need to integrate the intellectual and activist discourse. Only thus can the NGOs truly play the role of catalysts of change rather than catechists of aid and charity.

If the NGOs are to play that role they have to fundamentally re-examine their silences and their discourses; they must scrutinise the philosophical and political premises that underpin their activities; they must investigate the credentials of their development partners and the motives of their financial benefactors; they must distance themselves from oppressive African states and compradorial ruling elites.

Solar Electric Light Fund



Voluntary Commitments

About Commitments

Stakeholder types

Member States

Major Groups

UN System/IGOs

Sources

Rio+20

SE4All

Global Compact

Higher Education
Sustainability Initiative

Every Woman Every Child

Partnerships

Green economy initiatives



Whole Village Solar Development Model

Partner(s) in implementing Commitment

Clinton Global Initiative, NRG Energy, Inc., Clinton Bush Haiti Fund, the Inter-American Development Bank, Partners In Health
Open to additional partners.

Achievement of Commitment

Solar Electric Light Fund commits to scaling up its Whole Village Development Model to help those living in energy poverty improve their health, education, economic, and agricultural development.

How this will be achieved

SELF will continue to work with its existing partners such as the Clinton Global Initiative, NRG Energy, Inc., Clinton Bush Haiti Fund, the Inter-American Development Bank, Partners In Health, and any new partners to secure the resources needed to implement the systems described in its commitment.

INFORMATION

- Submitted by: *Solar Electric Light Fund*
- Topic: Energy
- Keywords: solar energy, fund
- Location: USA, Haiti, Benin
- Date of completion: 2013
- More information: <http://www.self.org/>

DELIVERABLES & RESOURCES

- 6 deliverable(s)
- 0 resource(s)

COMMITMENT SOURCE

- This Commitment was collected through Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All)



DELIVERABLES

