

## **NGOs YOU should know!**

**The World Health Organization (WHO)** - The World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health. Their objective is "the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health".

- Advantages: All information published from the World Health Organization is internationally validated meaning they have people from all around the world working together to make sure all information that is published is correct, up to date, and relevant to current events. They also have thousands of international affiliations with multiple administrations pertaining to health.
- Disadvantages:

**International Monetary Fund (IMF)** - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is an international financial institution, headquartered in Washington, D.C., consisting of 190 countries working to foster global monetary cooperation, secure financial stability, facilitate international trade, promote high employment and sustainable economic growth, and reduce poverty around the world while periodically depending on the World Bank for its resources.

Disadvantages: One of the central criticisms of the World Bank and IMF relates to the political power imbalances in their governance structures where, as a result of voting shares being based principally on the size and 'openness' of countries' economies, poorer countries – often those receiving loans from the BWIs – are **structurally under-represented** in decision-making processes.

**United Nations (UN)** – The United Nations is an intergovernmental organization that aims to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, achieve international cooperation, and be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations.

Disadvantages: Has no power to enforce actions of the General Assembly. Major decisions of war and peace made by five powerful countries and all have the power to veto any action.

**Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF)** - Médecins Sans Frontières, sometimes rendered in English as Doctors Without Borders, is an international humanitarian medical non-governmental organization of French origin best known for its projects in conflict zones and in countries affected by endemic diseases.

Disadvantages: 1977 when one of its physicians first broke the organization's rules against taking sides or bearing witness by denouncing Cambodia's Khmer Rouge for exterminating its people. Physicians give first person narratives to the problems they see.

**United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** – UNICEF, also United Nations Children's Fund, is a United Nations agency responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide. The agency is among the most widespread and recognizable social welfare organizations in the world, with a presence in 192 countries and territories.

- Disadvantages: UNICEF has been **criticized** at times for its focus or for specific policies.  
... UNICEF has also been **criticized** for its financial endorsement of China's allegedly coercive one-child policy through the UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) by increasing donations from \$2 million to \$5 million in 1993.

**Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE)** – CARE is a major international humanitarian agency delivering emergency relief and long-term international development projects. Founded in 1945, CARE is nonsectarian, impartial, and non-governmental. It is one of the largest and oldest humanitarian aid organizations focused on fighting global poverty.

- Advantages: CARE is a program that assists 104 countries around the world and so far has implemented 1,349 poverty-fighting development and humanitarian aid projects to reach 92.3 million people directly and 433.4 people indirectly. This shows that CARE has a wide outreach and strong system in place for providing effective support where there is crisis.
- Disadvantages: Takes the pressure off of leaders of countries to do better by their people

**North Atlantic Trade Organization (NATO)** - The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance between 30 European and North American countries. The organization implements the North Atlantic Treaty that was signed on 4 April 1949.

- Advantages: NATO has formed an alliance with many countries around the world to ensure that the peace is protected and fight terrorism. The organization works with countries that are a part of the treaty but also connections with countries that are not to protect against all kinds of warfare.
- Disadvantages: While NATO is an international organization, they rely on the United States largely. By doing this, a bias can be shown and many of their international decisions can be largely influenced by the United States, therefore not making it completely fair. Most of the funding for NATO also comes from the United States so there is more than likely a vested interest in the US agenda.