**Pros and Cons of NGOs**

NGO’s or non-governmental organizations are predominantly charitable entities set up to serve the state or the nation as a whole. While on the outset it may seem like NGOs are just what every nation needs, to lend it a helping hand – recent events had highlighted the fact that even these agencies are not averse to agendas and power trips. As it had been ratified by various international bodies including the UN, NGO’s have the permission to set up shop in any country and run their operations in line with the constitution of the host nation, while respecting the local rules and regulations. While there is no universal charter regulating these various NGO’s, they are still subject to the laws of the host nation.

**Positive effects of NGOs**

**Financial aid:**

Granted that most of the NGO s have been set up to provide aid to various sections of the society and to that end they are quite effective in providing local governments with either much-needed funds or help to fund/develop local infrastructure projects. On the whole, NGOs are essential in more ways than one, be it a question of disbursing financial perks to certain poorer sections of the society or food grains and other essentials’ to those in need.

**Education:**

Several NGO’s have contributed and even helped build several educational institutions across the world, mainly in Asia and Africa. Most of these schools and higher institutions of learning are funded by NGOs, various charities and as such, they offer the local residents educational opportunities at low or zero cost.

**Health:**

Several key NGOs are involved in sourcing expensive medications and giving them at discounted rates to those in need. These NGOs are also actively involved in running several health camps and help provide for a free medical checkup.

**Tax deductions/exemptions**

Given that your foundation will receive nonprofit status, corporations have the tendency to have the desire to donate given that their taxes as a corporation will be deducted. This policy by the respective governments of makes it feasible for foundations like NGOs and NPOs to acquire funds from various corporations. For corporations, many of them choose to do this and help the less fortunate over losing their funds likewise anyway.

Likewise, the foundation is also exempted from paying taxes given that they do not work for profit and in fact even help society.

**Recognition**  
 To some people, recognition gives them great pride and prestige, and is something a foundation can bring them. Recognition can be provided to both the founders and their families, which can also improve personal relations within the community.

**Increased Privacy**

Many individuals have many concerns regarding the privacy of their documents from various government agencies. As a family foundation, the organization has the right to keep their files undisclosed as it provides funds for themselves unlike public charities.

**Reimbursed travel expenses**

Although this is also a benefit many employees from different corporations enjoy, most nonprofits like to reward their employees by reimbursing their travel expenses especially when visiting the field where communities are being built or aided, and back to their office sites. These are one of the rewards employees receive from their work which is similar to volunteering.

**Valuable Experience and Enough Salary**

The main highlight of working in NGO are the experiences offered, from going to places you do not know of, collecting data in creative ways, to creating a program that’ll last for a long time. Since NGOs have to spend more on program budgeting, they usually keep the amount of staff they hire to a minimum. This gives you more opportunities to be involved in the programs and experience different things, without having to wait until you’re in a higher position. International NGOs may still pay you a considerable salary, even providing [volunteers](https://digitalsenior.sg/volunteer-work-singapore/) allowances.

**Professional Relations**

It means that you have the opportunity to broaden your professional network. NGOs are the bridge between Governments and companies to people. They need NGOs to maintain their good image and share benefits to the environment or society. We are the ones who have field experiences dealing with people and know how they think. As the bridge, we might have the contacts of important or key persons of companies and Governments in our phones and the privilege to keep in touch even after we are done with our jobs.

### ****Challenging environment****

Protecting, empowering, conserving, preserving, and other positive objectives are usually what NGOs do. The target can be anything: animals, the environment, people, culture, heritage, climate, etc. When companies pursue a high return on investment in an ever-changing business environment, NGOs are the ones to make sure that nobody gets left behind. The mission leads to the challenges we face in dealing with people at the grass-root level. The challenge itself includes how to make assessments to the locals without creating excessive impressions, conducting social experiments to raise awareness about certain local issues, and encouraging people to take action regarding said issues. NGOs that work in environmental issues also face similar challenges, since non-profit institutions always rely on collaborations with local actors and resources to create movement.

No great fisherman was born in a calm sea. The challenges we face in working in an NGO will nurture us in the field of understanding peoples’ ways of life. Many people rely on NGOs to keep their aspiration and hopes in many areas because they think NGOs are the only one who cares about their well-being. People come to us to find solutions to their problems. While you might not work directly with the beneficiaries, you will somehow always get dragged into thinking about them. At first, you might get a bit neurotic and their heavy problems will tease your sanity, especially when working in humanitarian issues. But by the time you get used to it, it will fade away.

#### ****Flexible Workload****

Local NGOs, especially those that conduct social research and development programs in rural areas, barely have office duties except administrational or paper works. The rest entails legwork outside the fence. We can’t make people follow our daily schedule, therefore, we have more flexible workloads and working hours, as long as our objectives are achieved. It is quite comfortable if you are the type that likes working outside and doing work at your own pace.

**Negative effects of NGOs**

**Interference in local government:**

It has been noted that several of the NGO’s are interfering in local elections to help get their preferred official elected. It is apparent that several of the NGO’s who are funded by specific groups have been directed to interfere in local elections for a specific agenda

**Little or no respect to local customs:**

There’s another reason why NGO’s are viewed less favorably by the local residents because of their interference with some of the local customs and traditions. While it should be pointed out that all NGOs and their operatives are given specific directions by the government to not interfere with any of the local customs and traditions.

**No rules or regulations:**

NGO’s are not governed by any international charter or agreement and as such, there is very little to regulate their activities. As a result, several NGO operatives have started using their base of operations for other purposes besides charity, namely child abuse. This lack of adequate training, background checks, is resulting in NGOs getting mired in several scandals, including child abuse over the last few years.

**No governmental control:**

Local governments cannot prosecute an NGO; instead they have issued a show cause notice and asked to leave the country. While this may seem a little hard to come to terms with, the fact remains that NGO’s are not regulated, at least not regulated in the way other organizations have been and coupled with the fact that the host country can do little except to ban the NGO in question makes it clear that when it comes to NGOs, it is a mixed bag. These are some of the positive and negative effects of NGOs, no one is claiming that NGOs are bad but rather that they need to be regulated and at the earliest.

**Capital/initial costs**

To be recognized as a philanthropic foundation or charity, various costs need to be shouldered by the founding organizers. Although this may seem as a one-time-effort type of thing, documentations need to be filled and handles which not everyone is willing to do.

**Recordkeeping requirements**

[Philanthropic organizations](https://asianngo.org/partners) like family foundations have strict policies to continually operate. Such things include the documentation of meetings including the time spent in each of those meetings.

**Reliance on donations**

People may not always be interested in giving donations and partner corporations could be going through a crises on their own, making them unable to provide the usual aid they offer. Setting up a foundation is clearly no easy feat. Many obstacles will come your way in both the building and maintaining process. By putting up your own foundation, you will experience varied cases of both pros and cons but in the end, the biggest benefits in setting up a foundation are the various initiatives you will be able to achieve and in return help communities. Philanthropists who give to individuals have been receiving fulfillment from the giving that they do alongside the people whose lives have changed thanks to their service.

**Not Enough Salary**

Local NGOs are a bit different. Unlike big international ones, local NGOs often face a shortage in funding. As most of their programs only cover certain areas in the region, they likely find difficulties in finding funds either from companies or Governments. This often results in a minimum salary on average, so definitely not the place to find gold mines. If you want to try working in local NGOs, you should look more at gaining valuable experiences instead of a high salary.

### ****Network and Anxiety****

NGO activities are highly dynamic. In fast-growing companies, it’s hard to see the implication of our work beyond whether we achieve our monthly targets or not. But in an NGO, where the works are mostly related to giving and empowering, your very actions and achievements affect beneficiaries directly. If you are interested in working as a fundraiser or in external relations, it is your duty to appeal to the funding donors. Companies and Governments can call you at their convenience, which makes you unable to confine your working hours to the typical 9-6. You have to maintain good relationships with them for the sake of the NGO you are working in. This brings about much anxiety because there is no certain procedure to protect your personal time and space.