

However, it is critical that such a strategy is coordinated to avoid the consequences, such as incompatible projects and redundant initiatives, which were discussed earlier. Given this, it may be suggested that the progressionary involvement of different types of NGOs or NGOs with different mandates, may allow for a solid foundation which is fundamental to the peacebuilding process. Essentially, it may be suggested that there is a functional relationship between various categories of NGOs, where each type is able to build upon the work of the other and where the success of one type is dependent on the others and the effectiveness of peacebuilding in general is dependent on the cumulative efforts of all types.

NGOs operate under many different mandates; this allows us to classify them into various typologies. For the purpose of the strategy being discussed here, there are three primary types of NGOs which can be identified, and are fundamental to the peacebuilding process in post-conflict situations: relief NGOs, human rights NGOs and development NGOs⁹. It should be noted that this is somewhat simplifying the activities of many NGOs as many operate according to mandates which span all three typologies. Medecins sans Frontieres, for example, involves itself in relief efforts by providing emergency medical assistance, they alert the international community as to potential human rights abuses and are actively involved in development through their work with civil society and authorities. Nonetheless, there is a tendency in the literature on NGOs to attempt to classify them by mandate.

Relief NGOs are those, such as the Salvation Army, which concentrate on providing necessary emergency assistance. This may include such things as food, clothing, water and medical aid. Under the short-term strategy being discussed here, it may be suggested that such organizations become involved in peacebuilding initiatives before those which are focused on human rights or development. This is not to belittle the importance of the latter typologies, but is to suggest that the effectiveness of the human rights organizations, and especially of the development organizations, is correlated to the work of the first typology. This is due to the fact that the work of those involved in this first initiative facilitate the appeasement of de-stabilizing forces which makes it easier for those involved in the activities undertaken by the second and third typology to function.¹⁰

After relief efforts have improved the situation of the people, human rights NGOs, such as Amnesty International or Human Rights Watch, may be in a better position to conduct their activities. The activities of this second type of NGO has three important functions. First, they gather and expedite the flow of information concerning the human rights situation of countries. This is essential in providing a general awareness of specific human rights situations. Second, they can pressure governments into examining specific cases and to adhering to various rights.

⁹It should be noted that there are other types of NGOs beyond those which are discussed. For example, those NGOs which deal with disarmament or de-mobilization.

¹⁰*Canada and Peacebuilding*