

# NPSIA Works: Career Futures

## NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

### Description of the Field

The term 'non-governmental organizations' encompasses a wide variety of private and public organizations involved in activities ranging from health and educational services to scientific and public policy research. NGOs can be grouped into three major categories according to their general purpose: assistance organizations, exchange organizations (build intellectual connections and professional networks via cultural and educational exchange), and foundations and associations (provide funding, information and other services for constituencies). Increasingly, NGOs are used as executing agencies by donors – those who carry out the work in the field.

More and more people are finding employment in the non-profit sector and this trend is likely to accelerate. The rapid growth of the field increases competition for philanthropic dollars and consequently, excellent writing skills, project management abilities and ability to elicit cooperation from diverse constituencies are among the skills being sought by employers. Workers are likely to handle a variety of duties and have significant responsibility earlier on in their career. Those with careers in the non-profit world tend to be hardworking idealists, service oriented and less concerned with financial rewards. Working conditions of employees can be difficult and pay is often low.

### **Selected Alumni Job Titles**

**Analyst**, International Crisis Group

**Co-Field Director**, American Friends Service Committee, Cambodia

**Coordinator**, Save the Children Canada, Bolivia Program

**Director**, International Programs, World Vision Canada

**Director**, Special Projects, Cowater International

**Director of Communications**, International Council on Social Welfare, Montreal

**Executive Director**, Philippine Development Assistance Program

**Institutional Development Specialist**, Mexico Program, The Nature Conservancy

**Micro-Finance Program Director**, World Relief USA-Kosovo

**National Director**, SOS Children's Villages

**Overseas Program Manager**, CODE

**Oxfam**, Lima, Peru

**Policy Analyst**, CUSO

**Policy Analyst**, FOCAL Foundation for Canada and Latin America

**Program/Grants Officer**, Christian Reformed World Relief Committee

**Program Officer**, Business Development and Technical Services, CHF

**Program Officer**, WUSC

**Project Manager**, Forum of Federations (Nigeria program)

**Research and Policy Assistant**, International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development

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