

Development



funding social change

Published in collaboration with UNRISD, *Development* Volume 49.2 provides a candid look at the relationship between donors, NGOs and social movements. It is a complex issue, drawing us into the contentious subject of the politics of development funding.

Can NGOs maintain their own agendas while being dependent on external funding? An important question raised in the journal is how to change the present donor arrangements of the NGO financial aid chain in order to address tensions around the effectiveness of development finance in general.

The second set of articles on the big UN Conferences such as the Global Earth Summit reveal how the states and big international NGOs set agendas in these huge events within which local NGOs are obliged to fit their own concerns. It seems they are largely operational players, with little political voice as a result.

Further articles reflect on the contentious issue of funding the World Social Forum. Should the origin and therefore the acceptance of such funding be questioned? What are the appropriate political and ethical guidelines?

Donors are determining the direction of NGO agendas and creating critical debate amongst social movements. This *Development* issue, produced in collaboration with UNRISD, is a welcome way to encourage the debate around funding.

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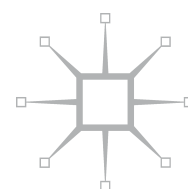
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