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In Search Of A Working Philosophy For  
The Faith-Based Nongovernmental  
Development Organisation

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# In Search Of A Working Philosophy For The Faith-Based Nongovernmental Development Organisation

Within a post-modern development era how does a multinational faith-based nongovernmental development organisation find a coherent philosophical basis for its development activities in the global setting? A case study of The Salvation Army: a faith based N.G.O. and its involvement in Primary Health Education in East Africa.

*A thesis presented in partial completion of the requirements for the degree of Masters in Philosophy in Development Studies at the Massey University, Palmerston North New Zealand.*

I declare that this thesis is my work, except for those sections explicitly acknowledged, and that the main content of this thesis has not been previously submitted for a degree at any other university.

Seth Le Leu  
30 January 2001

## **Abstract**

The role of the Nongovernmental Organisations in development has rapidly expanded over the past thirty years. This growth in scope has resulted in a number of significant problems and benefits. For most NGOs there has been a move from being solely a charity welfare organisation to being required to take over many services previously undertaken by governments in the area of development. A recent further development has been the major change in emphasis by many international development organisations from long-term development to humanitarian assistance as a result of a series of major humanitarian disasters globally. The challenge faced by the international NGO is how to synthesise a comprehensive development philosophy that embraces all its activities. The dominant approach over the last thirty years has been funding projects, with the presumption that these activities would result in sustained community change in the recipient communities. Despite the fact that project-related funding is the main source of development funds, it is very confusing for NGOs in search of a workable philosophy to read the theory on the subject and to find that the development project is almost universally derided as being inappropriate. A synthesis is needed to evaluate the correct place of the project in community development if NGOs are to be consistent in their theory and practice.

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## Glossary of terms

AUSAID	Australian Aid
CCW	Chama cha Wanawake (Women's group)
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
FBNGO	Faith-Based Non-Governmental Organisation
GRO	Grass-Roots Organisation
KANU	Kenya Association of National Unity
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
ODA	Overseas Development Aid
OECD	Organisation Of Economic And Cultural Development
PVO	Private Voluntary Organisation
UNAIDS	United Nations AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commission for Refugees
USAID	United States of America International Development