



## Social Determinants: The Role of NGOs

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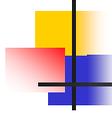
Elinor Wilson  
Chief Executive Officer  
Canadian Public Health Association



## Civil Society

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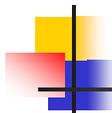
- Private sector
- Government
- Non profit sector



## Non Profit Sector

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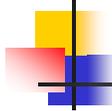
- Includes almost every type of:
  - Voluntary association
  - Charity
  - Church
  - Trade and professional association
  - Advocacy organization
- Approximately 170,000 in Canada



## Voluntary Sector

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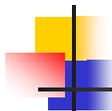
- Includes charities and non profits
- Organizations whose work depends on:
  - Serving a public benefit;
  - Volunteers, at least for their governance;
  - Financial support from individuals; and
  - Limited direct influence by governments.



## Charity Sector

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- Subset of non profits
- Refers specifically to those organizations registered as meeting a set of criteria
- Organizations must apply for charity status
- Status can be granted, refused or revoked
- Over 78,000 in Canada
- Includes wide range – very small local charities to very large (e.g.museums, universities)



## Non Profit Sector

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- Has emerged as a meaningful institution that offers:
  - Flexibility
  - Small scale
  - High degree of independence



## International Growth of the Non Profit Sector

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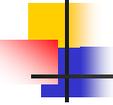
- **France:** Growth from 10,000 new organizations per year in 1960s to over 50,000 in last few decades
- **Hungary:** 23,000 new associations from 1989-1993
- **Russia:** at least 100,000 new organizations in 7-8 years
- **India:** 1,000,000 registered
- **Brazil:** 200,000-300,000 registered



## Role of NGOs

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- Human Resources
- Physical Resources
- Programs
- Information
- Advocacy
- Fund Raising



## Objectives of WHO's Relations with NGOs

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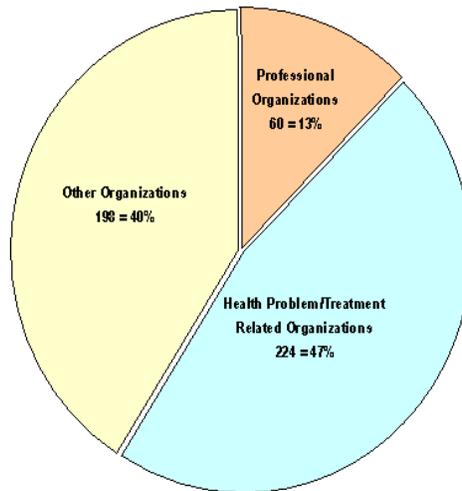
- To promote the policies, strategies and activities of WHO;
- To collaborate with NGOs in jointly agreed activities to implement them



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The Civil Society Initiative (CSI) fosters relations between WHO and nongovernmental and civil society organizations responsible for the administration of formal relations as set out in the principles governing relations between WHO and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)

WHO-NGO RELATIONSHIPS BY TYPE OF ORGANIZATIONS  
Inventory February 2002



	n OF	% OF	Total
Professional Organization	42	18	60
Health Problem/Treatment Related Organization	118	56	224
Other Organization	50	25	198
Total	210	27	482

## Understanding the Terminology

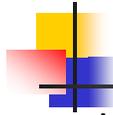
- Civil society – social sphere separate from both the state and market.
- Non-state, not-for-profit, voluntary organizations formed by people within the social sphere of civil society.
- NGO is also commonly used – usually have a formal structure, offer services to people other than their members and, in most cases, registered with national authorities.

## Spectrum of WHO Interactions

<b>Informative interactions</b>	<b>Ad hoc relations</b>	<b>Systematic relations</b>	<b>Structured collaboration</b>
<p>Passive/occasional exchange of information and ideas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Inclusion in address lists, e-mail list serves.</li> <li>■ Exchange of newsletters, reports, publications and other materials.</li> <li>■ Exchange visits.</li> </ul>	<p>Active ad hoc participation in WHO meetings, events, campaigns and consultations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Promotion of WHO advocacy materials.</li> <li>■ Exchange and mutual support in campaigns and events such as World Health Day.</li> <li>■ Participation in WHO training events and consultations.</li> </ul>	<p>Regular contributions to WHO policy and normative work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Participation in expert committees, policy discussion, development of guidelines, or standard setting.</li> </ul>	<p>Collaboration as defined by a formal contract, or written agreement on joint work plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Collaboration and research on products, methods, development of tools and guidelines and service outreach in countries.</li> </ul>

## General Constraints for WHO-CSO Relations

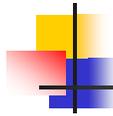
- Gaps in communication and information
- Lack of distinction between types of CSOs/NGOs
- Insufficient safeguards on conflict of interest



## General Benefits for WHO

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- Advocacy support
- Access to public opinion
- Programme implementation
- Range of organizations interacting with WHO
  - Professional associations
  - Disease specific NGOs
  - Development NGOs
  - Humanitarian NGOs
  - Patient group NGOs
  - Public interest NGOs
  - Scientific or academic NGOs
  - Health-related NGOs
  - Not-for-profit NGOs



## General Benefits for CSOs

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- Capacity support
- Enhances public relations
- Outreach and influence



## People's Health Movement

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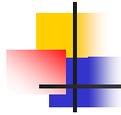
- People's Health Assembly 2000
  - 1450 people
  - 92 countries



## People's Charter for Health

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- Health as a human right
- Determinants of health
- Social and political challenges
- Environmental challenges
- War, violence, conflict and natural disasters
- People centered health sector
- People's participation for a healthy world

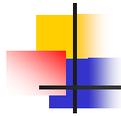


## Definition of Public Health

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Public Health has been described as  
the science and art of promoting  
health, preventing disease,  
prolonging life and improving quality  
of life through the organized efforts  
of society

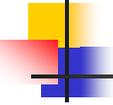
Dr. John Last "Dictionary of Epidemiology"



## Commission on Social Determinants of Health

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- Nine Knowledge Networks
  1. Early child development
  2. Globalization
  3. Health systems
  4. Urban settings
  5. Women and gender
  6. Social exclusion
  7. Employment conditions
  8. Priority public health conditions
  9. Measurement



## The Canadian Public Health Association

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- Began in 1908
- Partnerships are main method of work
- International links
- Strengthening Public Health Infrastructure
  - an essential part of CPHA's core business



## Areas of CPHA's Involvement

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- Reducing inequities in health
- Health impact of unemployment
- Homelessness and health
- Safe Housing, water, sanitation