International ICFO Corona Report
20 May 2020

[Extracts]

International Committee on Fundraising Organizations
Background

• The survey was conducted online
• The responses cover the period from 14 April to 11 May 2020
• The return flow is 85%
• 17 out of 20 national charity monitoring organizations responded: Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, India, Italy, Mexico, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Ukraine, USA
Situation of NGOs

• Sport, Culture and Social Services are most negatively affected.

• NGO mainly fear to lose private donation, that restrictions will not allow them to carry on their work and that they will lose other income.

• One third of the Governments did not take any measures to help NGOs, among them are countries which are highly affected by the crisis such as Italy, Spain or Brazil.

• The NGO sector or individual NGOs are seen as important actors in this crisis, except from Japan and Mexico.
Which NGOs are mainly negatively affected by the crises?

- Culture: 11
- Sports: 10
- Social services and community development: 10
- Education: 9
- Humanitarian aid & International cooperation: 7
- Environment and Animals: 6
- Health: 3
- Research: 2

[out of 17 national charity monitoring organizations]
What are the main problems of NGOs due to the corona crisis?

- Fear of losing private donations: 14
- Restrictions do not allow carry on projects and services: 13
- Fear of losing other income: 12
- Fear of losing government money for programs and projects: 8
- Fear of illiquidity: 7
- Shortage of volunteers: 6
- Need to dismiss employees: 6
- Lack of attention for their cause: 6
- Problems with working from home: 5
- IT problems: 2
- Shortage of employees: 2
- Risk of corruption or misuse due to lack of on-site visits: 1
- Field implementation against goals and budget: 1
- Shut down of fundraising and cash collections: 1

[out of 17 national charity monitoring organizations]
Is your government preparing measures to help the NGO sector?

- yes, with specific measures for NGO: 3 (17%)
- yes, with general measures for employers including NGOs: 8 (44%)
- the situation is unclear: 1
- no, there are no measures from the government which help the NGO sector: 6 (33%)

[out of 17 national charity monitoring organizations]
How is the NGO sector perceived in your country in this crisis?

- NGO are generally seen as an important agent in this crisis: 8 (50%)
- NGO are not visible (yet) in this crisis: 2 (13%)
- Some NGO are seen as important agents in the crisis, others are not: 6 (37%)

[out of 17 national charity monitoring organizations]
Innovations from NGOs

The innovations observed are driven by doing things differently and addressing special needs.

3 type of innovations have been observed:

1. Providing services virtually (e.g. counselling by video, phone, online, apps, video games, webinars)
2. Attending new needs due to the crisis (e.g. foodbanks, assist senior citizens with home delivery, production of masks, psychological help desk, child care,...). The service has in various cases been organized with volunteers and in neighborhood communities.
3. Fundraising and solidarity actions (e.g. virtual fundraising events, auctions in social media, GivingTuesdayNow, solidarity run, collection of goods,...)

Are NGO coming-up with innovations to help during the crisis? Please share up to 3 ideas you have seen.
Needs from NGOs

Basically the following three types of needs from NGOs have been identified:

1. Financials are seen as the most immediate problem of NGOs, even if or precisely because projects, services and other activities of NGOs are suspended.

2. Some NGOs need information e.g. regarding regulation, safety for employees and clients, legal advice or management advice.

3. Some NGOs lack of workforce, volunteers or digital equipment due to the lockdown.

Do NGO in your country have special needs because of the crisis? If yes, please describe them in a few words.
New challenges for charity monitoring agencies

- The coronavirus-crisis strengthens the role of monitoring agencies but it also makes it more complicated to perform.

- The monitoring agencies fear that donation will decrease (9 out of 17) and that some NGO won't survive the crisis (9 out of 17).

- Monitoring agencies will need to ensure that NGO still meet their standards.
International Committee on Fundraising Organizations
The association of charity monitoring agencies