

Introduction to the Faith-based Action Framework to End Extreme Poverty and Realize the SDGs

The **Faith-based Action Framework to End Extreme Poverty and Realize the SDGs** outlines a series of **strategies** that faith leaders and communities are committed to in order to help end the scourge of extreme poverty and advance sustainable development—by restoring right relationships among people, affirming human dignity, and opening the door to the holistic development of all people.

The Framework builds on the “Ending Extreme Poverty: A Spiritual and Moral Imperative” statement and initiative, which was launched in April 2015 by over 40 global religious and faith-based organization leaders. The statement was drafted by a diverse group of multi-faith leaders who worked collaboratively to identify and draw upon the shared moral commitments that unite their respective faith traditions to eliminate extreme poverty. The statement has helped to align faith-based organizations and religious leaders from across multiple faith traditions around the shared goal of ending extreme poverty by 2030. It has already galvanized greater awareness and action in advancing this goal in the context of the broader Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Leaders are now at a stage of translating the spirit of the statement into more concrete and actionable collaboration on global, national, and local levels.

The Framework is organized around three core commitments that emanate from the moral imperative statement. First, the commitment to generate and be guided by evidence. Second, the commitment to advocate by engaging the moral authority of religious leaders and their substantial constituencies. Advocacy will be pivotal for holding governments and other development actors accountable to their promises related to the SDGs. Third, the commitment to foster more effective collaboration between religious and other development actors, including governments, the World Bank Group, the United Nations and the private sector.

The Framework has been developed to help move from widely shared moral principles to bold and pragmatic action at the global, regional, national and local level to realize the SDGs. Adapting and utilising the Framework will need the involvement and leadership of religious organizations on each of these same levels, thereby bridging local realities with global policy discourse. Thus, the Framework must be adapted to respect variations across geographical and religious landscapes. The Framework seeks to honor, connect and—when appropriate—build upon existing initiatives and to help advance the most efficient use of limited time and resources.

The Framework builds on elements captured in the statement that are sine-qua-non to ending extreme poverty, which include a comprehensive approach that tackles the underlying causes of poverty—including the abuse of power, preventable illness, a lack of access to quality education, joblessness, corruption, violent conflicts, and discrimination against women, ethnic minorities and other groups. Ending extreme poverty will also necessitate a change in the habits that cause poverty—greed and waste, numbness to the pain of others, and exploitation of people and the natural world. A holistic and sustainable approach is needed that transforms cultures and institutions, and hearts as well as minds and increases effective collaboration across sectors.

The Framework is a working document that will be discussed and refined during a strategy session of FBO and religious leaders on the 24 September just prior to a High Level Event. In this session, religious leaders will share the Framework with UN, World Bank Group and government officials. Going forward, there will be an open invitation for additional input and involvement from a broader array of faith-based and religious organizations. Insofar as the battle against poverty is a society-wide challenge, faith leaders and communities are coming together with determination to share in: the responsibility of implementing the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, in the monitoring and evaluation of progress, and ensuring the universal application and ultimate success of the SDGs by 2030.

Faith-based Action Framework to End Extreme Poverty

Overall Goal

To fully engage faith-based and religious organizations in implementing and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - This action framework is meant to cover the period from 2016 to 2030

COMMITMENTS

Generate and be guided by evidence

Advocate around implementation and to increase accountability

Foster effective and greater collaboration

OBJECTIVES

ACTIONS



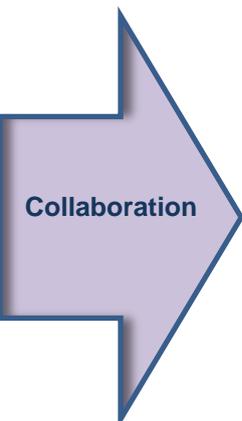
1. Encourage "Evidence Literacy" among Faith-based Organizations
2. Communicate to faith community's evidence already known about the 'doability' of ending extreme poverty
3. Share and promote the generation of evidence about the activity and impact of faith groups toward ending extreme poverty
4. Encourage the exploration, measurement and communication of the distinctive faith assets that faith communities can bring

1. Convene FBOs, policymakers, academics, and practitioners at country level to increase "Evidence literacy"
2. a) Active outreach to FBOs around the evidence behind the achievability of the goal b) Strengthen direct communication to FBOs on the evolving evidence
3. a) Gather, analyze and disseminate different kinds of evidence, and human stories, b) Connect faith actors with policy makers, academics, and practitioners around thematic and collaborative learning, c) Strengthen & develop platforms for cross-sector discussions
- 4) Organize a Donor-UN-FBO convening to develop a 'Faith-inspired Measurement Framework for "Transforming our world" - the post 2015 SDG agenda'



1. Enable an environment for FBOs to be able to fulfill their varied roles in sustainable development and poverty alleviation
2. Leverage moral imperative as advocacy tool
3. Promote Non-discrimination based on sex, age, race, or belief
4. Advocate for the successful financing for the SDG agenda
5. Recognize and embrace the distinct roles of faith-based organizations (FBOs) and their "right of initiative"

1. a) identify tools developed by FBOs in and for their work that are novel or innovative, b) Map the country level on the entry points to strengthen FBO and religious voice in national policymaking,
2. Disseminate moral imperative among the faith community to raise awareness and foster multi-faith collaboration and joint action.
3. Create an advocacy and communications strategy to promote nondiscrimination focused on marginalized communities.
5. Identify the added value of FBO (approaches/strategies) tackling the same set of issues.



1. Ensure that the most marginalized communities are engaged and prioritized
2. Create a communications strategy to publicize the action framework
3. Engage with donor development agencies in order to strengthen collaboration & partnership
4. Develop plans of commitment around advancing the SDGs (e.g. Bristol Conference)
5. Integrate relevant "Religion & Sustainable Development" Conference recommendations into the action framework
6. Mapping at country level on what FBOs are doing to tackle poverty and advance SDG
7. Support creation of religious principles and narratives around the SDGs
8. Develop joint multi-faith programs to address poverty
9. Convene or participate in multi-stakeholder meetings

1. Come up with a mutually agreeable process to highlight the most marginalized communities, at the country level.
2. Collaborate with the upcoming German government donor meeting focused on religion & development
4. a) Share Bristol commitments & plans to advance the SDGs, b) Encourage other organizations where beneficial to develop their own concrete plans/commitments.
5. See what RSD recommendations are relevant for the action framework.
6. Develop a shared mapping tool, potentially building on pre-existing mapping efforts conducted by World Faiths Development Dialogue
7. a) Coordinate with Religions for Peace in the development of religious narratives specific to each religion and German government on SDG principles
8. a) Identify sectors and/or SDG goals to prioritize greater multi-faith engagement, b) Connect with existing multi-faith efforts/initiatives
9. Explore whether WB/UN lead in convening stakeholder meeting between FBO and religious organizations