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Faith-based organizations and religious communities are often doing the essential work on the frontlines of combatting extreme poverty, protecting the vulnerable, delivering essential services and alleviating suffering. We are looking to expand the World Bank Group's partnerships with faith inspired organizations toward reaching our shared goal to end extreme poverty within a generation.”

Dr. Jim Yong Kim

President, World Bank Group

The World Bank Group's Engagement with Faith-based and Religious Organizations

The World Bank Group (WBG) is committed to strengthening its engagement with religious leaders and faith based organizations by fostering dialogue and building new and innovative partnerships that will advance the dual goals of ending extreme poverty by 2030 and boosting shared prosperity. This commitment builds upon past efforts that have included the World Faiths Development Dialogue and recognizes the crucial role that faith communities have and continue to play in combatting poverty and fueling social movements.

The Bank's renewed engagement is organized around three mutually reinforcing goals: to strengthen dialogue and engagement with faith-inspired organizations and religious communities; to foster greater operational collaboration and partnerships; and to strengthen the evidence base on the role and impact of organizations on the ground, including in on-going World Bank-funded projects. Our team serves as a bridge for faith actors looking to engage with the WBG and as a resource to better equip and support WBG staff. Under the new Citizen Engagement Framework, the WBG has committed itself to the goal of achieving 100% beneficiary feedback in all Bank financed projects by 2017 alongside with increased citizen engagement. Essential to meeting these goals will be enhancing religious and FBO engagement.

In the year ahead we plan to:

- Foster greater dialogue with religious leaders and Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) in order to advance shared goals of ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity. We will continue to support FBO and religious leaders who launched a moral and spiritual imperative to end extreme poverty. You can learn more at: <https://www.rebelmouse.com/Faith2EndPoverty/>.
- Develop resources and tools to enhance and deepen the Bank's engagement with faith organizations at the country level and across critical issues such as health, education, social protection and in fragile contexts.
- Cultivate greater engagement with faith actors in relevant mechanisms, initiatives and key events such as the Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA) and the World Bank Annual and Spring Meetings.
- Co-host a conference on Religion and Sustainable Development on July 7-9th with BMZ, USAID, DIFID and other partners, working in partnership with the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities. The conference will seek to better marshal evidence around the impact of faith actors in development and to strengthen partnerships between faith inspired organizations and public development agencies to improve development outcomes.

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