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JOIN OUR NETWORK

You can **join** the JLI either as an Individual Member, or an Organization Member.

- By joining the JLI, you will:

- 01.** Become part of a 1000+ member network of researchers, practitioners, and faith actors spanning over 30 countries
- 02.** Be able to participate in our Global and Regional Joint Learning Hubs
- 03.** Share evidence and practice about your work on a global platform
- 04.** Stay up to date on research, evidence, and practice relating to local faith actors in humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding work

Organization Members can nominate two of their own team members to join the JLI **Leadership Council** - a collective of organizational leaders from around the world working on religions, development, and local faith communities. The council convenes for four events each year, in which members can engage with experts on prioritized topics, and meets in-person once a year.



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Joint Learning Initiative on Faith & Local Communities

MISSION

We are a learning network of researchers and practitioners. We build fair and equitable spaces to create and share evidence on religions in development and community work. We aim to strengthen partnerships between and amongst faith and non-faith actors, internationally and locally.

► A Fair & Equitable Approach to Joint Learning

JLI works to convene **joint learning spaces** that challenge unequal power dynamics around how evidence is created and used in the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding sectors. As part of JLI's **Fair & Equitable Approach**, we are actively **shifting power** - both resources and leadership - to national and regional levels through the creation of **Regional Joint Learning Hubs** in addition to our existing **Global Hubs**.

JLI's Global and Regional Joint **Learning Hubs** bring together academics and practitioners, local and international actors, and those from faith and non-faith backgrounds. Hub Members collaborate to **share learnings**, address **evidence gaps**, and co-create research on the roles of **local faith actors** in **humanitarian, development** and **peacebuilding** work. Regional Learning Hubs are spaces led by, and for, regional actors to define and pursue region-specific evidence agendas.

All Learning Hubs are **free** to join and are created and led by JLI Members. JLI Members are continually invited to propose strategies, and take up **leadership**, for new and existing Hubs.

► Current Learning Hubs



Ending Violence
Against Children



Anti-Human
Trafficking &
Modern Slavery



Gender-Based
Violence



Refugee &
Forced Migration



Monitoring, Evaluation,
Accountability, and
Learning (MEAL)



MEAL & Faith
(Middle East)



Governance, Peacebuilding,
and Local Faith Actors (East Africa)



MHPSS &
Culture (Syria)

► Evidence Literacy: Bridging Research and Practice - The State of the Evidence in Religions & Development

JLI is frequently asked for evidence recommendations on religions and development. While we usually send tailored packages of information, we have identified a clear need for a **State of the Evidence** report to introduce people to religions and development research as a whole.

The **2022 State of the Evidence in Religions and Development report** serves as a foundational document for those who are new to the field, but also as an **accessible** summary of information on key thematic areas, for academic and non-academic audiences alike. It constitutes the basis for more specific resources such as guidelines, learning modules, and more.

The report provides an overview of the literature and debates in religions and development of the last 20 years. The introduction is followed by 6 thematic chapters on **Religions** and, respectively, **Health**, the **Environment**, **Violence Against Children**, **Gender**, **Peace and Conflict**, and **Forced Migration**.

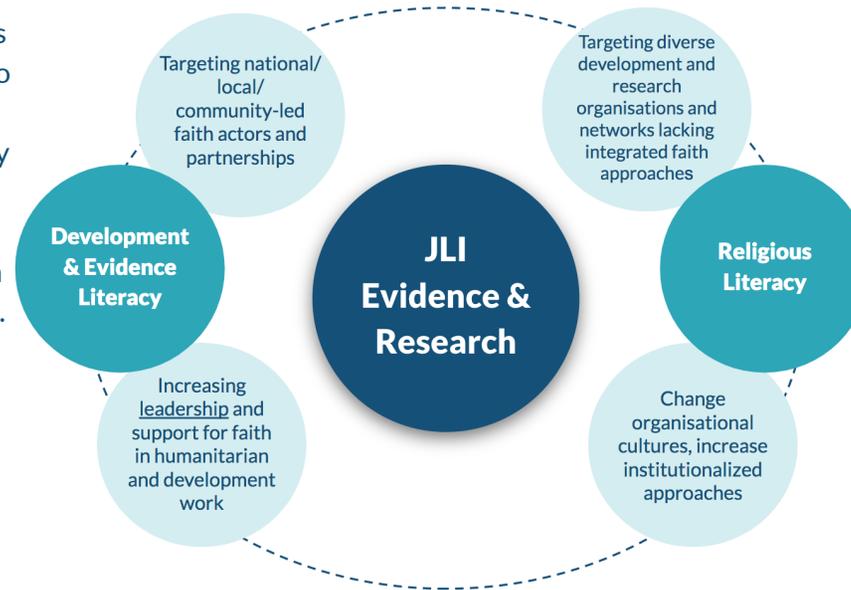
JLI will publish a **new edition** every two years to ensure the report is **up-to-date** with the latest research on religions and development. Thematic contents may evolve according to the **strategic focus** and **evidence needs** of JLI's Hubs and Membership.

► Religious Literacy: Supporting Strategic Religious Engagement

JLI has a **strategy** for supporting organizations to improve their **religious engagement**. Based on our own **studies**, we have found that religious engagements within international humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding sectors are often **unsystematic**, **uncoordinated**, and **transactional**. They often primarily or only engage high-level religious leaders or prominent FBOs, and lack nuance about the contextual and programme-specific realities.

What are Religious Engagements?

Religious engagements are activities to understand more about and work effectively with diverse faith actors to achieve humanitarian, development, and peace goals. Religious engagement work can range in scale from small, informal meetings between faith and international actors, for example, to large-scale, multi-million dollar programmes.



Access these resources here



JLI's strategy for improved religious engagement includes forming an **internal working group**, conducting an internal **review** and **mapping** to understand the full scope of the organization's current faith engagements, and working through internal **reflection** processes to understand staff and organizational values.

The real **implementation** of religious engagement ultimately happens with communities at **country and local levels**. JLI can help organizations to develop **action plans** that work within an organization's overall programming strategies - from the very early steps and throughout the entire project cycle.