



Millennium Development Goals Toolkit for Religious Leaders

Faith in Action: Working Towards the Millennium Development Goals An Action Toolkit for Religious Leaders and Communities

The UN Millennium Declaration was signed by 189 nations. The declaration outlined eight Millennium Development Goals to be achieved by 2015, including:

- eradicating extreme poverty
- achieving universal primary education
- promoting gender equality
- reducing child mortality and hunger
- combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases

Women of Faith Transforming Conflict: A Multi-Religious Training Manual

This manual is devoted to translating a critical subject into practical training materials which have been tested in the field by women of faith from West Africa and Southeast Europe.

HIV/AIDS Advocacy Religions for Peace has a commitment to strengthen advocacy among religious communities regarding the AIDS pandemic. Due to stigma and discrimination, children are often deprived of basic social services and the support of their extended families. Such an environment can open the door for abuse, sexual exploitation, and other issues.

Advocacy means championing a cause; creating awareness and understanding about AIDS; and working to ensure that relevant policies and programs are put in place. HIV/AIDS advocacy helps drive a more effective response globally, regionally and nationally.

This training manual, used together with the participants' handbook, is meant to strengthen



the advocacy and media relations skills of religious leaders at both national and community levels in order to expand their advocacy efforts on behalf of children orphaned and made vulnerable by HIV/AIDS, with the goal of bringing greater priority to their needs and expanding the response.

- Responding to crisis Co-sponsored by Religions for Peace, a guide to the response of five world religions to HIV and AIDS and opportunities for collaboration with governments and secular groups is now available.

Scaling up effective partnerships: A guide to working with faith-based organizations in the response to HIV and AIDS provides background information and case studies, dispels myths, and gives practical guidance for United Nations staff, government officials, positive people's networks, non-governmental organizations, foundations, and the private sector who want to collaborate with faith-based organizations on joint projects related to HIV and AIDS.

Religious communities are uniquely equipped to help confront the stigma of HIV/AIDS and provide invaluable training, background, and support and is deeply committed to helping religious leaders and communities work together to address this disease and the many ways it can devastate families.

The guide reviews the relevant teachings and structures of five of the major world religions: Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. Examples of current responses, potential obstacles, terminology and case studies are intended to give practical advice for initiating or expanding collaboration at local and national levels.

The guide has been produced by Church World Service, Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, Norwegian Church Aid, UNAIDS, and Religions for Peace.

E KHAYA PROJECT

The E-Khaya project is an initiative of the World Conference on Religions for Peace (WCRP) Interfaith AIDS Forum that looks at an **HOLISTIC APPROACH** to working with orphans and other OVCs

- Caring for all the vulnerable and disadvantaged children in the community by building capacity in the community helps to create sustainable development for the whole community
- Healing and acceptance can take place



W C R P - S A

- The children will not have to deal with the added trauma of separation from family and community.
- The cost of setting up the community-based programs considerably cheaper than building institutions
- Most important - holistic approach not only takes care of the vulnerable children in a very positive way, but also builds capacity for the community.
- Most of the studies indicate an holistic approach is the most appropriate for orphans and OVCs.

CRECHE IS THE STARTING POINT

By providing a crèche for pre-schoolers and after-school care and meals for the school-going children, older siblings in CHH can be allowed to complete their education knowing their young siblings are safe and cared for.

PILOT SITE

The first site developed was at Mavela in Ndwedwe, an area where some 300 orphans as a result of AIDS and other vulnerable children have been identified. Ndwedwe as a whole has a huge unemployment rate – in some parts as high as 70 –80% , so the need to provide some kind of capacity-building programme, leading to sustainable development , is essential if we are to succeed in making the project viable.

SETTING UP THE PROJECT ...

The first and most important requirement is that the community must take ownership and, responsibility of the project.

WCRP, and its various partners, are merely there as facilitators or partners who will assist as donors, resource persons, trainers and educators.

HIVAN WCRP PARTNERSHIP

- Been in existence since 2002



W C R P - S A

- Started as a dialogue between religious leaders and medical and research personell
- Today dialogue with religious leaders , particularly with contentious and sensitive issues
- Youth programmes with school students
- Women's programmes
- Training - Peer educators, HBC , setting up and sustaining support groups, Role of FBOs in VCT / ARV etc
- Regular meetings to allow for networking.

AFRICAN FORUM OF FBO IN SRH AND HIV & AIDS

The African Forum of Faith-Based Organizations in Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS (Forum) is an alliance of Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) in Africa working in the field of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) & HIV/AIDS.

AIMS OF THE FORUM

The overall aims of the Forum are:

- To promote dialogue on ethical and moral issues perceived as barriers to the active involvement of FBOs in SRH priorities;
- To support “champions of change” to advocate for SRH policy and service development;
- To address the needs of the communities they serve;
- To inspire others to drive similar change;
- To foster partnership with secular organizations and FBOs at national, regional and international levels;
- To break the isolation of FBOs and strengthen their capacity to influence the discourse on SRH within their institutions and their constituencies,



- To develop solutions which can be owned and implemented by the communities they serve;

KEY ACTIVITIES

The key activities of the FORUM are:

- The Institutionalization of the Forum in Africa.
- Action Research
- Technical and Programmatic Exchanges
- Leadership Development
- Resource Development
- Research
- Communication & Advocacy
- Capacity building and

RESEARCH MONOGRAPH, FORUM:

The African Forum of Faith Based Organizations in Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS

“ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE ON SEXUAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND HIV/AIDS THROUGH RELIGION, CULTURE AND HUMAN RIGHTS”

YOUTH PEACE FORUM

- The YPF has been in existence since 1998.
- Regular workshops are held each term for students, mainly from secondary schools
- Topics include peace , conflict resolution, Gender violence, HIV& AIDS, Life skills, Relationships Celebrating major festive days.