

Inter-Religious Action

GHR's Inter-Religious Action initiative, established in 2007, works to improve development outcomes, build lasting community connections and advance peace by mobilizing religious leaders and communities to address common challenges.

Inter-religious action (IRA): An intentional activity or set of activities that refers to any form or degree of constructive engagement, collaboration or in a partnership between actors from different religious traditions toward some common good.

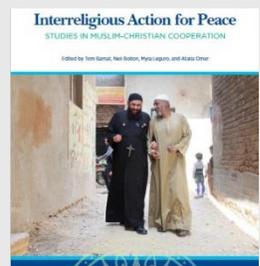
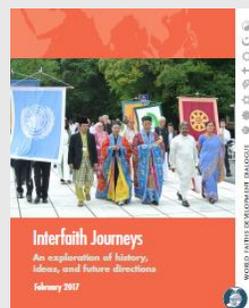
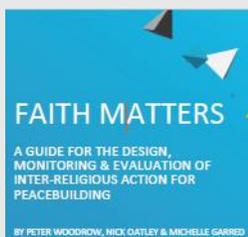
Vision: Faith actors are essential collaborators in solving the most acute challenges of our time. We can achieve impact by enabling catalytic development actors to strategically deploy IRA methodologies in their work.

Opportunity: Methods of engaging cross-religious communities to address common challenges are underutilized—virtually no private development funders have explicit funding strategies that prioritize inter-religious interventions and there is an inconsistency across development fields in the appreciation for and understanding of how to employ IRA methodologies. There is a little established evidence that contextualizes where and how IRA is best applied in field-specific settings.

Desired outcomes:

- More private development **funders** skillfully invest in IRA methodologies
- More development **organizations** employ quality IRA methodologies
- GHR deploys IRA intentionally in relevant areas of the Foundation's work, especially its Children in Families initiative
- Evidence base justifies IRA value and provides context for where and when to apply in field-specific settings

GHR has partnered with key organizations to develop training curricula and other resources to facilitate the uptake of IRA approaches



Project Highlights



Resolving Conflict Through Faith-Based Reconciliation

Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) has identified and prioritized inter-religious action as a critical dimension of all of their programmatic work. GHR is partnering with JRS to help build their organization capacity in this regard, and in 2018, specifically support their efforts to integrate a faith-based reconciliation approach into its work with refugees and displaced persons.



Building Inter-Religious Peace in Northern Nigeria

Inter-Religious Peacebuilding in Northern Nigeria (IPNN) strengthened the capacity of religious leaders to resolve conflicts nonviolently and in an inclusive, sustainable manner in Nigeria's Middle Belt. IPNN confirmed that religious leaders have great potential to influence people's attitudes and behaviors. Further, the participation of religious leaders increased the effectiveness of economic activities. The increased interaction through joint work on the economic project helped:

- Increase trust towards the conflicting community
- Decrease conflict
- Challenge negative stereotypes

Because of the economic focus of the program, several people participated who would not have otherwise. In 2017, GHR committed to supporting the program.



Building Capacity for Action in the Central African Republic

The Central African Republic Interfaith Peacebuilding Partnership (CIPP) is a global consortium of the CAR Inter-religious Platform, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Islamic Relief Worldwide, World Vision International and Aegis Trust working to lay the groundwork for sustainable social cohesion in CAR. CIPP is working to ensure inter-religious structures play a leadership role in building peace in communities affected by violence strengthen livelihood security. Results to date include:

- More than 1,400 individuals were supported through trauma healing workshops, community reconciliation meetings and social cohesion trainings
- Seventeen new savings groups completed first yearlong savings cycle, providing access to crucial financial services
- More than 50 businesses/microenterprises relaunched livelihoods activities like soap fabrication and animal husbandry, reinvesting for long-term growth

Reducing Early Marriage on the Coast of Kenya

In partnership with Coast Interfaith Council of Clerics (CICC), DAP uses peace clubs, savings and internal lending community groups and inter-religious initiatives as means to reduce rates of early marriage, keep girls in school and establish mechanisms to reduce abuse in partnership with local faith and interfaith institutions on the Malindi Coast of Kenya. Results to date include:

- 80% of the community considers child marriage a harmful practice, up from 67%
- Awareness of the negative consequences of child marriages was as high as 96%
- 70% of lending group members were engaged in actions preventing child marriages and 52% reported having spoken out against child marriage in public

Other Key Partners

African Council of Religious Leaders



JOINT LEARNING INITIATIVE on Faith & Local Communities

