

## *Workplan*

October 2002 - December 2003

This current plan has grown out of:

- a programme of work provisionally agreed with our trustees in January/February 2002 and revised in the light of 9 months of working experience and further discussion with the trustees in October 2002 and April 2003
- a meeting in July 2002 with colleagues from 15 HIPC countries (Highly Indebted Poor Countries) on the participation of faith communities in PRSP-related processes
- proposals endorsed by a World Faith and Development Leaders' Meeting in October 2002.

In deciding what work to do our main criterion is whether or not it will contribute to our overall aim which might be stated as:

to enhance the contributions of faith communities (especially at the grassroots and among the poorest) to poverty eradication and improved development policies and practice  
individually  
in co-operation with each other  
and with multi-lateral agencies  
especially as those contributions are inspired and informed by their faith and spirituality

A number of other important factors have however been taken into account. They include:

- resources (people, skills, funds etc). At present WFDD has four full-time staff. It will need at least three additional staff members and further funding if this programme of work is to be completed
- whether the work is already being done, or would be done better by others or at least in partnership with them
- the views of our networks drawn from both the faith communities and the development agencies.

Though there are many interconnections we have divided our Workplan into three main parts:

1. Implementing the Millennium Development Goals
2. Increasing Dialogue and Understanding
3. Participating in Poverty Reduction Strategies.

## 1. Implementing the Millennium Development Goals

There is widespread agreement among governments, development agencies and civil society, including faith communities, about our common moral duty to eliminate abject poverty and promote human fulfilment.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are widely accepted as a crucial step in the right direction. If they are to be achieved there is an urgent need to maximise our varied contributions and co-operate with each other.

Faith communities have long been active partners in poverty reduction and human development through, for example, service delivery, advocacy and community mobilisation. Much of their work however is unknown and they could achieve a great deal more if they received further recognition and support. There is huge potential still to be realised.

In response to a strongly supported suggestion made to the World Faith and Development Leaders' Meeting in Canterbury in October 2002, WFDD intends to play its part in maximising the contribution of faith communities to implementing the vision, which inspires the MDGs, of a more just and peaceful world.

WFDD will focus on three activities in which faith communities are involved:

- primary education
- health care, especially HIV/AIDS
- gender

and on four geographical areas/countries:

- India
- Eastern Europe
- Latin America
- Southern Africa

There will be three aspects to WFDD's work.

- i. Gathering information from faith communities about their existing work especially where they believe there are real possibilities of scaling it up (eg by extending programmes, multiplying projects, co-operating with others etc) if additional support were to be made available.

WFDD will gather this information from its own networks, the organised structures of faith communities (national and international), faith-based NGOs, government and multi-lateral agencies.

The information will be made available on WFDD's website and to the Global Gateway.

- ii. Where faith communities believe there is real potential for significantly enlarging their work programmes, and where they wish us to do so, WFDD will put them in touch with facilities for preparing proposals for funding support which are respectful of the ways in which faith communities work and mindful of the requirements of the funding agencies, in order to secure the necessary resources. WFDD will need to be confident that such resources are in principle available and accessible. It is clearly understood that any 'scaling-up' would need to be achieved in ways that were sustainable and did not undermine the essential nature of the programmes. Such proposals would be prepared

in consultation with major multi-lateral agencies like the World Bank before being submitted.

- iii. By the end of 2003 WFDD aims to have six new extensive programmes approved and also to write them up as examples of what co-operation between faith communities and multi-lateral agencies can achieve.

These programmes, important in themselves, will be used as evidence of promising practice, as learning experiences for future work, and in order to encourage a growing number of large scale co-operative endeavours.

WFDD expects the achievements of 2003 to be the beginning of a rising curve of achievements in the following years.

It will be difficult to get this exercise right, given the sensitivities. It is important to be completely transparent about what we are doing and equally clear about what WFDD will not do:

- WFDD, obviously, will not be the funder or implementer of any of these programmes whether small or scaled-up
- WFDD will not be the arbiter as to which programmes should be scaled-up and supported
- WFDD will link faith communities with facilities for presenting their proposals for funding if they so wish
- WFDD will in any case make multi-lateral agencies aware of the potential which exists
- WFDD will evaluate the scaling-up process.

Part of the costs of the above work programme will be borne by the core budget of WFDD.

In addition two staff members will be required to work in the first and second areas ('information', 'preparing proposals') respectively, and funding will need to be found to cover salaries, office accommodation and support costs including travel.

## 2. Increasing Dialogue and Understanding

Whilst WFDD is wary of dialogue which does not lead to greater active co-operation, dialogue remains central to its vision. Growing co-operation can only be built on increased understanding and trust. The following five continuing pieces of work explore in different ways what faith communities have to say about poverty and human development in general but also in relation to specific economic and cultural issues and practical work on the ground. They are designed to contribute to interfaith understanding. There is a separate 'prospectus' dealing with each piece of work.

- i) Case Studies: faith groups at work in development: up to 12; (Bahá'í, Buddhist, Hindu, Christian, Muslim).
- ii) A series of training manuals, each setting out the teachings of a major faith tradition on poverty and development and how its faith and spirituality are related to economic and developmental issues; probably 4 (Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Christianity).
- iii) Project I: on Women in Religion and Development possibly in co-operation with the Peace Council (co-member of International Interfaith Network).

- iv) Project II: on Faith in the Global Economic System funded by the Ferguson Trust. (A Project Co-ordinator was appointed in March 2003 on a two-year, fixed-term contract.)

### 3. Participating in Poverty Reduction Strategies

When drawing up their Poverty Reduction Strategies governments are required to consult with civil society which includes faith communities. This is a highly practical area of potential dialogue and co-operation where faith communities can contribute to policy making, priority setting, delivery and monitoring. WFDD held a consultation in July 2002 (of which a full report is available: REPORT of a Meeting at Canterbury arranged by the World Faiths Development Dialogue to discuss the participation of faith communities in PRSP processes) to see where it might play a useful role in maximising the contribution of faith communities to these PRSP processes. The following four pieces of work are the direct outcomes of that consultation:

- i) A series of international workshops on relating Spirituality (faith) and Development, each focusing on one of the major faith traditions. The aim would be to see first how that tradition brings its beliefs to bear on poverty and development issues and second whether and in what ways its faith-inspired contributions could be strengthened eg through training institutions, approaches to religious leaders and thinkers. Papers for discussion would include relevant Case Studies (2 i above). Participants in a workshop would be drawn mainly from the faith tradition under discussion with one or two from other traditions, involved in other workshops. The authors of case studies and the co-ordinator of Project II on Faith in the Global Economic System would also be present together with at least one staff member of WFDD (about 25 participants altogether).

This series of workshops might lead to a series of larger ones and culminate in an international inter-faith workshop bringing together people who have participated in at least, say, two of the earlier ones.

Two experimental workshops are planned in Africa (Muslim and Christian) and one in Asia (Buddhist) in 2003.

Each workshop will require a preparatory planning meeting and a part-time co-ordinator.

- ii) In-country consultations (on the advice of the participants in the Canterbury meeting and WFDD's networks) to discover specific areas where greater agreement between faith communities on poverty and development issues could lead to better progress, with a view to supporting country-based inter-faith encounters and workshops on those issues.
- iii) An initial survey (in partnership with the World Bank and DFID?) of the constitutional, legal and institutional issues which can hinder or help the participation of faith communities in PRSP and related processes.
- iv) An exchange of experiences, via the network, of productive relationships between faith communities and governments (eg influencing policy and practice) in order to share and promote good practice.

In addition

- v) WFDD will organise a consultative process which will result in a contribution from faith communities to the World Development Report 2004 on service delivery. WFDD will:

- commission a short discussion paper highlighting the main issues raised in the draft outline of WDR 2004 and suggesting questions for discussion
- use the discussion paper to elicit contributions from its networks especially participants in the Canterbury Meeting, July 2002, its mailing list and via its Bulletin and website
- approach the World Bank team working on WDR 2004 and suggest a joint regional consultation, almost certainly in Africa, to discuss a draft report of WFDD's findings
- submit a final report, after submitting it to its network for comment, to the World Bank. (NB: contribution submitted on 31 March 2003)

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WFDD works mainly in a consultative manner with its networks, making use of its mailing lists, web-site, video and face-to-face conferencing to exchange information and share ideas and experiences. This mainly consultative work is supported by specific pieces of research, discussion papers and publications.

Michael H Taylor  
Director

20/05/03