

SND - NGO UNITED NATIONS Update

March, 2014

UN Agencies Appreciate Working with Faith-Based Organizations

“The last few years have led to a reassessment of the role of faith in development efforts. The influence of religion is rising in most parts of the developing world. This, in turn, has increased the role of faith-based organizations (FBOs) in development and public life. Because of their deep ties to local communities, their partnerships with powerful religious institutions and FBOs, and their role as cultural influencers, religious leaders (RLs) have also become key stakeholders in development efforts.” - United Nations Development Program Draft Guidelines for Working with Faith – Based Organizations.



Many UN Agencies and Permanent Missions have recognized and value the fact that local grassroots communities trust religious NGOs. Religious NGOs are known for efforts to listen and learn from the people they serve; that is why they can act as intermediaries of change for the better in a variety of issues. They find effective ways to educate children, especially girls, in rural and marginal areas. As with many other NGOs they are known for being able to operate “on a shoestring” and are often supported and subsidized by the international faith community. Providing food and shelter is not enough; building the capacity to develop potential in those that they serve is essential, so that leadership soon springs from the population served. The following qualities are recognized by agencies as qualities evidenced by religious NGOs:

- **Long-term sustainable presence:** Religious institutions are generally very sustainable. They build and are a crucial repository of long-term social ties.
- **Motivated voluntary service:** Religions have a high level of commitment. They motivate action through emphasis on compassion and service; unity and interconnectedness; justice and reconciliation. They see volunteering as part of their calling.
- **Encouragement of civil society advocacy:** FBOs and RLs have extensive networks of congregations, affiliates, organizations, and individuals. These horizontally and vertically organized networks often constitute remarkable channels of communication as well as human and financial resources. These large national constituencies offer the potential to work powerfully in advocacy and reconciliation.

Gift Box: a call for Local Advocates to Help Eliminate Human Trafficking

All too often with the advent of a major sports event comes the practice of human trafficking. In the United States, there is an estimate of 200 - 300,000 young persons who are being trafficked within their own country at any given time.. This trafficking can take the form of slave labor or commercial sex exploitation.



In preparation for the US Super Bowl which was to take place in New Jersey, the Working Group on Girls activists began working with the state attorney general in an effort to create education and capacity building for law enforcement personnel and hotel managers. They also sought to educate the general public. To do this, they contacted anti – trafficking advocates who had worked to prepare for the London Olympics. The Londoners shared the educational “gift box”, which when closed attracted the attention of persons passing through Union Square; when it was open it featured information materials and groups such as *Girls Be Heard*, pictured at the left. Dramatically the young women told the stories of four trafficked girls, their sufferings and feelings as survivors. During the Super Bowl, among other rescues, 16 young people who had gone missing from various parts of the US were discovered and were the recipients of psychological and social services; they are now back with their loved ones. The next anti-trafficking efforts by the Working Group on Girls and their affiliates will take place in Brazil at the time of the World Cup.

[Review of Millennium Development Goals for Students](#)



In the year 2000, every country at the UN agreed upon goals to work on until the year 2015,

We are now in the process of reviewing the progress on the work on those goals. You could help by answering either: one, several, or all of the questions below. Please send your responses to: maryjotto@snd1.org

Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

What does poverty look like in your community? How poverty impact girls in your community? Do people have enough food to eat in your community? Are you and/or anyone you know ever hungry?

Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

Do the same number of boys and girls go to school? How long do girls go to school in your community? If girls drop out, why do they drop out? What's your hope for education?

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

What does equality mean to you? What does it look like in your school, community or family?

Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality.

Do girls and boys have access to doctors and hospitals in your community? If not, what do you think girls and boys need to be healthy? If you are sick, where do you go or what do you do to get healthy? What do you think a healthy family looks like?

Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health

Are there young mothers or teen moms in your school or community? What struggles or difficulties do they face as young mothers? What would you want the UN to do to help them?

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and other Diseases.

Have you ever been told about how to prevent HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and other sicknesses? What does being healthy mean to you?

Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

Are your lands and waters clean and safe? Have you ever felt that your water was unclean? Do you grow food in your community, and if so, is there enough? Is there enough food to go around?

Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

Which persons and which organizations are most helpful to girls in your village or community, helping you with education and personal growth?

Which government programs do this?



In 2010, there were an estimated 27 million international migrants between the ages of 15-24 among the 214 migrants worldwide. There are about three times as many young migrants who are moving within their country for reasons of escaping poverty, conflict, the results of climate change – or, in general, - to seek a better life. The decision to migrate, with or without family, is not an easy one to make. The World Youth Report presents issues of young migrants in their own words. It relates situations: pre-journey, in transit, concerns and challenges in the country of destination, and the experience of returning home. The report was prepared in consultation groups of various countries as young migrants express their own perspectives on how migration affects them. It was written with a view to designing specific interventions that address unique vulnerabilities of the young and to help them realize their hopes and aspirations. Illustrated by youth who joined in the discussions, with maps detailing routes of movement, the online version is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/pe4d4gx>

A reminder about the link to our UN SNDs blog: www.sndatun.wordpress.com

UN SNDs facebook page: <http://tinyurl.com/3ccygc3>

To contact Sr. Mary Jo at the UN: maryjotto@snd1.org