



SOUTH-SOUTH IN ACTION

GLOBAL ONE 2015

**Faith-based advances in developmental,
humanitarian and environmental spheres**

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Foreword

Global One is honoured and delighted to be given this opportunity to showcase our work through this South-South Series in Action. As the only Muslim women-led INGO in Europe it is indeed a privilege to share our unique model through this publication. With BAPA +40 upon us, it is very significant that NGOs and CSOs have now been recognised for their contribution to building South-South cooperation.

Women in the South struggle to access support and resources to lift themselves out of the vicious cycle of poverty. Awareness of faith and cultural sensitivities and accommodating them is rarely recognised as a positive intervention for empowering women.

As a faith-based women's INGO, we are very much aware of the discrimination, barriers and obstacles that are put in the way of real progress towards gender equality and gender equity. Our organizational model is to build the capacity of our local offices with local staff and work towards making these offices autonomous. Our programme model is a beneficiary-led approach, ensuring contextualisation for each community, region and country. Our contextualisation is normally done through a combination of experts, focus groups, and pilots. Our partnership model is about building strong relationships with partners who share our values; capacity-building of smaller partners, creating consortia, and recognising that through each other's expertise and strengths, we can deliver better interventions which put the beneficiary at the heart of the programme.

From inception we have been keen to promote South-South cooperation through the sharing of knowledge and innovative solutions to the development challenges facing us in the 21st century, which can spread positive impacts across the Global South. We have done this through areas of programme design, research projects and the donation of vital aid products such as Dignity Kits.

Our organization works at three levels: policy and advocacy; resources such as toolkits, publications and research reports; and development interventions at country level. We believe that impact needs to be captured and assessed, therefore the toolkits are ways of promoting sustainable development by placing it in a faith or cultural context which is more palatable for the beneficiaries who are mainly from conservative rural backgrounds.

Policy and advocacy is an important part of our work, as it is clear that our aim to use faith as a tool to mobilize communities to tackle extreme poverty, to fulfil the UN SDGs. Faith is under-represented and less widespread as an effective tool to combat poverty in global contexts and the operations of most NGOs and UN bodies.

I hope that this publication will contribute to the discourse on working together to support the development of South-South cooperation among NGOs and CSOs.



Dr Husna Ahmad OBE

Chief Executive Officer,
Global One 2015

Foreword

A key objective of this series of publications is to enable governments of developing countries to display their capacities in the developmental, humanitarian and environmental spheres, and to encourage them to share these with one another for their mutual benefit in the spirit of South-South Cooperation. This facility has also been extended to international inter-governmental, non-governmental and societal organizations engaged in strengthening developing country institutions for their collaborative roles in addressing critical humanitarian situations and towards achieving collective self-reliance.

I am pleased to welcome Global One, the latest international non-governmental organization in this series, which is partnering with us in showcasing some of its important activities in the Africa, Asia and Arab States regions. These are being undertaken both directly, and through the organization's local affiliates, to address some critical issues of survival and livelihood faced by vulnerable populations, and those who have sought refuge from conflict-ridden areas, utilizing innovative South-South cooperation modalities.

Readers will find the material informative, moving and inspiring. There is a good deal of information on the realities of the situations that have captured attention as needing help. Some of the accounts of human suffering, though brief, are quite moving. And, in the narrative about the way the problems have been, and are being, tackled, there is expertise, hope and inspiration. In all of these, there is guidance, and pointers for policy and decisionmakers, administrators and volunteers, on how to assess needs, and how to mobilize and deliver remedial measures, transiting victims from dependency to self-reliance. What is innovative and reassuring is the demonstrable use of effective technologies to alleviate hardship, promote healthcare and foster entrepreneurship and creativity, especially among rural women.

I congratulate Dr Husna Ahmad, OBE, Chief Executive Officer of Global One, and the Board Members and staff of the organization for putting together the material for this publication and express my sincere hope that the readers will find in it a welcome addition to this series of publications.



Jorge Chediek

Envoy of the Secretary-General
on South-South Cooperation
and Director, United Nations Office
for South-South Cooperation

Executive Summary

This series is about showcasing South-South unity in action and Global One's activities encapsulate the true meaning of South-South cooperation to build sustainable development. The regions of intervention are Africa, Asia and the Arab States.

This publication outlines the key areas where exchange of ideas and knowledge has been shared between the various developing countries where Global One is working, contextualised and adapted so that the programmes benefit from their shared experiences. With Global One's passion and determination to eradicate poverty, social injustice and inequality, it has encompassed a number of the UN SDGs.

The key elements which are highlighted in this publication are:-

- 1] A faith-based approach to development and its impact
- 2] A focus on women – widows, refugee women and adolescent girls
- 3] A programme design that accommodates cultural and faith sensitivities and environmental sustainability
- 4] The need to capture evidence and record impacts through qualitative and quantitative research.
- 5] Recognition that unless ideologies, hearts and minds are changed, the habits of communities will not change.

The programmes selected for this publication are focused on a number of the SDGs and in some instances, because of the holistic approach of the programmes, more than one may be covered within one project. These are:-

- 1] Healthcare
- 2] Agriculture and livelihoods
- 3] Water, sanitation and hygiene
- 4] Environmental sustainability

The challenges and recommendations moving forward are very much focused on capacity-building of the teams at the coal face and generating sustainable income streams to support the interventions.

RECEPTION



MEDICAL OFFICER
FEMALE



Chapter 1

Introduction to Global One

Global One's purpose, philosophy and approach

Global One 2015 is a Muslim-women led international NGO which believes in the power of women's contribution to sustainable global development. Global One's work focuses on women who are chronically underrepresented and disempowered on the global stage, working primarily with widows and orphans, refugee women and their families, mothers and children.

Global One seeks to combat stereotypes of Muslim women and create a platform that enables all women irrespective of their faith or ethnicity to be resilient drivers of development in both local communities and wider society. The organization wishes to embolden women to be change-makers for peace, social justice and fairness.

At all levels, including at home and in the public arena, women are widely excluded from the decision-making process. Global One's governing body is made up of a majority women, bringing women's voices to the forefront and allowing them the opportunity to lead the organization in order to better accommodate the needs of women around the world.

Global One believes that the key to prosperous communities lies in sustainability and knowledge. Their unique faith-based approach is effective because it appeals to the personal and strongly-held beliefs of each community with which Global One works, by ensuring that their needs are kept at the centre of all decision making. This places sustainable development firmly within a framework that is culturally sensitive based on tolerance and partnership.





Global One uses a prism of faith to empower and uplift women and families in the South. It uses faith as a tool to mobilize women to reclaim their dignity and respect; to break down the cultural barriers holding them back from education and opportunities; and to save lives. Faith is seen as an effective mechanism to achieve the UN SDGs, and Global One's organizational objectives. Global One sees the significant contribution that can be made by faith communities across the world to fulfil the SDGs and the role of faith actors in both awareness-raising and encouragement of social and ethical consciousness. Although Global One is an NGO based in the Global North, all of its projects lie in the Global South, allowing them to play a

capacity-building role in a triangular relationship in which it facilitates the sharing of information and projects between Southern nations.

Mission

To develop innovative and sustainable solutions that are faith inspired and improve the livelihoods and well-being of all women.

Vision

A world where women of all beliefs are empowered to make their own choices and transform their communities, inspired by an understanding of faith and cultural perspectives.



Volunteers are packing Dignity Kits for Rohingya refugee

Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG targets towards which Global One is working:

GOAL 1: no poverty

GOAL 2: zero hunger

GOAL 3: Good health and well-being

GOAL 4: quality education

GOAL 5: gender equality

GOAL 6: Clean water and sanitation

GOAL 10: reduced inequality

GOAL 11: Sustainable cities and communities

GOAL 13: Climate action

GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal

Healthcare



Agriculture and Livelihoods



Environmental Sustainability



WASH



Global One’s role in South-South cooperation

Recognition of South-South cooperation from a neutral viewpoint as non-political makes it somewhat easier for NGOs and CSOs to embrace SSC in their work. The twentieth century saw the end of colonialism and empires but the developmental space has retained a North-South paradigm. Over the past 40 years, we have been seeing a fresh perspective on South-South cooperation in the INGO field, and Global One believes this has been a very positive step in the humanitarian and development spheres.

Global One was established as a registered INGO in 2014 and has been working in the Global South with offices in Bangladesh, Kenya and Nigeria and. The Organization works predominantly in Africa, Asia and the Arab States, specifically in the countries listed in the table on key geographical areas.

From inception, Global One has been keen to promote South-South cooperation through the sharing of knowledge and innovative solutions to the development challenges of the 21st century. It seeks to support cooperation between Southern countries through programme design products and research projects.

Global One’s organizational model is based on building the capacity of its local offices with local staff and working to make these offices autonomous and self-reliant.

Global One recognised early on that the work it performs in each country can be replicated or contextualized in other countries across the Global South, each with its own unique input adapted to their needs. Global One actively shares resources and skills across its regional offices and works to implement and replicate its projects across the regions in which it works.

Table of geographical areas:

Africa	Asia	Arab States
Kenya Nigeria	Bangladesh Indonesia Nepal Pakistan	Jordan Lebanon



Chapter 2

Healthcare

HEALTHCARE



Menstrual Hygiene Management - Kenya, Bangladesh, Nepal

Maternal Health - Kenya, Nigeria

Maternal Health for refugees - Bangladesh, Lebanon, Jordan

Box4life - Bangladesh, Kenya, Lebanon, Jordan

Dignity Kit - Bangladesh, Kenya, Lebanon, Jordan

Global One's work spans four key thematic areas: Healthcare, agriculture and livelihoods, WASH and environmental sustainability. Healthcare projects and initiatives are a key area where Global One empowers communities, improves the mental and physical health and well-being of mothers and children, and supports vulnerable women, particularly with prenatal and postnatal care.

Global One understands that mothers face disproportionate challenges, especially at crucial times when they lack access to sufficient healthcare and sanitary facilities. Healthcare projects are therefore at the forefront of Global One's work and they continue to fill the need for safe deliveries and dignified menstrual hygiene management through their efforts with the provision of "box for life", training of midwives and dignity kits.

Global One also works to encourage thought leadership through training, research and the production of toolkits for women around the world in order to inspire women to become self-sustaining forces for change in society.

Some of their publications include a Menstrual Hygiene Management and Islam toolkit and a Public Health and Islam toolkit which highlights needs and challenges, and the support we can offer to vulnerable women and girls.

The Menstrual Hygiene Management and Islam toolkit highlights the female struggle and needs around menstrual health and its management. This toolkit in conjunction with menstrual hygiene training seeks to boost women's morale, particularly in a refugee context, and restore a dignified, healthy and safe lifestyle when managing their monthly menstrual cycle.

Dignity Kit campaign

In crisis situations, the need for clean water, shelter, food and security must be given priority, and feminine hygiene is largely overlooked. A lack of feminine hygiene products and undergarments forces women to use unsafe materials, leading to infection and disease which can even prevent young girls from attending school. Effective menstrual management is essential for mental and physical well-being.



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Dignity Kits distribution to the Syrian refugees in Lebanon



Volunteers carrying Dignity Kits for women and girls at Rohingya refugee shelters

As part of its efforts to support and restore dignity to women, Global One has distributed essential hygiene items to women living in difficult conditions through its Dignity Kits campaign. Dignity lies in the smallest of things – a toothbrush, sanitary pads or even nail clippers. These kits consist of everything that is needed by a woman to be able to healthily and safely manage her period in a sanitary, hygienic and dignified manner, thereby improving her physical and emotional well-being.

The development of the dignity kit campaign grew out of Global One's research into menstrual hygiene management from a faith perspective. The research targeted women in Syrian refugee camps to gain an understanding of WASH issues that they faced. This provided an insight into a collaborative care model for development practitioners to educate and empower women and girls about their menstrual health rights, inspired by the

Islamic faith to lead healthier and more dignified lives. This model offers a unique, faith-based and culturally sensitive approach to menstrual hygiene which can be ignored and stigmatized in religious communities, and perpetuated by cultural norms and misplaced understanding of feminine hygiene. It uses a faith-based approach to promote attitudinal and behavioural change, to build positive social and religious norms and behaviour around menstruation. A significant aim of adopting a faith-based approach for the toolkit was to divorce cultural misconceptions and myths from religion, and stop them from being misunderstood as religious injunctions. Global One often seeks to carry out menstrual hygiene management training alongside training on safe and healthy water and sanitation practices, as well as the provision of dignity kits to vulnerable communities, in order to embolden women and young girls without access to safe menstrual management materials.



In 2018 Global One distributed approximately 1,000 dignity kits. The Dignity Kit campaign is being brought to all regions where Global One operates in order to maximize the number of women who benefit from the essential items available in the kit, including Kenya, Nigeria and the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh. The Dignity Kit campaign highlights how Global One promotes the sharing of information and innovative ideas between Southern countries as it was noted that the Dignity Kits were a success and filled a critical gap in the communities for menstrual hygiene management. It demonstrated that the Dignity Kits programme could be introduced to Syrian refugees through South-South cooperation. Thus, 2000 kits were distributed, and impacted positively on the overall well-being of the refugees.

Maternal health project for Northern Nigeria

It is estimated that approximately 40% of women in low-income countries visit antenatal care units. Of all low-income countries, Nigeria's maternal health situation is one of the greatest causes for concern. Nigerians account for a 14% of the world's maternal mortality deaths. The Field research is carried out by Global One to identify needs. This is an essential part of Global One's work as it ensures that the target population receives the support that responds to its needs.

Global One has made it its responsibility to support Nigeria's progress in improving the troubling state of maternal health and maternal



healthcare in the country.. It is promoting a holistic approach to maternal health in Kano State. The model should be replicable not only in other states in the country but also other developing countries in Africa and elsewhere requiring reforms in their maternal healthcare services.

Global One has refurbished two primary healthcare facilities in Kano State, establishing delivery rooms and recruiting and training medical staff and traditional birth attendants. The facilities are now able to perform key preventative antenatal and postnatal screenings, providing women with the support they need. The facilities have meant an increase in the number of live births from 10 to 30 in Rimi community and from 12 to 25 in Magami community, indicating that the project has been a success.

To ensure that all local women are aware of the facilities and to encourage as many as possible to visit them, Global One hosts community open days, video screenings, lunch parties and other community events to further its outreach and engagement with the local community. This is complemented by a referral system that has been established with local hospitals. The project was successful in operationalizing the two healthcare

facilities, with an 89% increase in antenatal care visits, 14,000 community members engaging in maternal and child healthcare and a zero record of deaths resulting from birth-related complications. The project having thus proved viable, ownership of the project has been transferred to the Government as the capacity-building aspect is complete. These results have demonstrated the campaign to be strong enough to be replicated in other southern countries including Bangladesh and Kenya, adapted as appropriate.

Maternal health post project in Bangladesh

The maternal mortality rate can be lowered through a greater number of professionally attended births and a concerted effort to create medical clinics providing antenatal and postnatal care. Part of Global One's work in maternal healthcare is to encourage Antenatal Clinics (ANCs) and raise awareness, so that women to seek essential care when they need it most and maximize the number of women who visit medical clinics throughout pregnancy and childbirth. As this problem area is similar to the project in Nigeria, Global One was able

to facilitate exchanges between NGOs in each country in order to share the relevant information and apply it to a similar project in another area of need. As the two recipient communities are different, the project transfer is adapted to the specific needs of the new community with input from the people themselves. For example, the project in Bangladesh has used the Nigerian model of training but adapted it to involve more antenatal education.

Global One's maternal health project in Bangladesh focuses specifically on an increase in thought leadership, awareness raising and emboldening women to support one another through exchange of ideas and values relating to safe and sustainable healthcare, and to actively seek out primary care. Global One also places considerable emphasis on training midwives and mobilizing a large number of women to be trained in order to increase the level of care and attention available for vulnerable mothers and new-born babies.

Maternal health intervention for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh

2017 saw an increased wave of arrivals in Bangladesh from neighbouring Myanmar, after episodes of violence between the Myanmar Army and Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) once again erupted on 25 August 2017. There have been 622,000 refugees newly arrived in Bangladesh since August 25, 2017, according the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), with 40 per cent of them placed, in three camps in Balukhali, Leda and Kutupalong and makeshift settlements.

The existing healthcare facilities in Cox's Bazar refugee camp and the surrounding area have reported a 150-200 per cent increase in patients, overwhelming current capacity and resources. Emerging health-care needs of the vulnerable

population include conducting immunization drives, campaigns for vaccine preventable diseases, providing support to pregnant women and referrals to health facilities, amongst others.

Although a well-coordinated effort by the Government and NGO partners is ongoing, very little attention is paid to sexual, reproductive and maternal health services including the risk of sexual and gender-based violence in line with Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP). There is widespread concern at the risk of sexual and gender-based violence. In addition there is also serious concern about the spread of sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS as well as other infectious diseases.

More than half of the newly arrived Rohingya refugees are women and girls, of whom 15-20 per cent are pregnant and lactating women. The existing support and assistance has not been able to help these women secure access to the necessary healthcare, especially for pregnant women, mothers and their new-borns. Global One's research found that medical and health facilities established for the refugees are located far away, with inadequate maternal, reproductive and child healthcare. This situation forces women to risk not only their own well-being but also the nutritional and psychosocial well-being of their children.

Global One has placed particular consideration on the importance of training local women to become midwives which is replicated in other refugee contexts including in Jordan and Lebanon, home to a large majority of Syrian refugees. In addition, the Box for Life campaign seeks to improve the health and well-being of mother and child through the provision of vital nutritional items following childbirth. The project runs in Camp-1, Camp-8, Camp-17 and Camp-20 under Ukhiya Upazila of Cox's Bazar district and each of the four health posts serves a community

consisting of approximately 6,000 beneficiaries, equipped to provide medicine and nutritional supplements for mother and baby, as well as antenatal and postnatal checks and nutritional advice for Rohingya women.

The purpose of this project was to ensure emergency health services including sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services, maternal & new born child care services and to address gender-based violence (GBV), ensuring that women and girls can access life-saving services through the health post. As this project proved able to serve thousands of Rohingya refugees in maternal health training, information and both antenatal and postnatal check-ups, it has been transferred to Syrian refugee camps.

Maternal health interventions for Syrian refugees (Lebanon, Jordan)

Female and child refugees are acknowledged to be among the most vulnerable in a refugee camp, so it is vital that Southern countries experiencing

refugee-related issues work together to address this threat.

The issue of an increasing maternal mortality rate, and the lack of clinics and facilities for mothers and new-born babies living in refugee camps is a universal concern in all camps. Forty-one per cent of Syrian refugee households in Lebanon have a pregnant or new mother. Without specialized maternal and neonatal care, these mothers and their babies will face many health complications, in addition to the high healthcare costs and long distances to travel just to see a midwife or doctor. Combined with the difficulty of providing food and basic amenities for the child and mother, it leaves maternal and child mortality rates high in Syrian refugee camps.

Global One aims to address this concern through the training of local staff, in particular nurses and doctors, to work in Global One's health clinic as well as provide access to the basic nutrition found in Global One's Box for Life. The food within the box is locally sourced in order to remain environmentally friendly as well as the box doubling as a baby cot.



Maternal health interventions have been adapted and reproduced in Jordan and Lebanon to accommodate the needs of Syrian refugee women, to raise the morale and empower Syrian mothers and their new-born babies.

Box for Life campaign

The birth of a child is a time of joy and celebration. But for refugee mothers, it can also be traumatic. Forced to flee their homes and often on their own, women face a frightful and uncertain future as they are left with no choice but to give birth without the presence of family, loved ones or even medical attention.

Global One's Box for Life provides essential life-saving resources to which mothers currently have little or no access to within refugee camps. A simple box equipped with all the essentials a new baby needs for a healthy start in life is distributed in camps to facilitate a healthy birth for both mother and baby. Each box also doubles up as a cot, providing a safe and portable way for babies to sleep. Resources to train local women to become community health workers are also promoted. The cot is of extra importance given that, as refugee shelters often have the bare ground as a floor, the spread of disease is common. Therefore, it is vital that the new-born baby be kept off the cold ground when sleeping.

This project seeks to empower communities to build resilience from within. In this way, mothers and new-born babies are supported by women from their own communities – be they grandmothers, aunts, friends or neighbours. These women can be specially trained as community health workers and therefore able to identify risks and complications early on, and deliver community outreach programmes with weekly prenatal and postnatal sessions. These incredible women will educate pregnant and new mothers on maternal and new-born health issues whilst

providing much needed psychosocial support. By increasing training and education, Global One hopes to provide a livelihood to the trainees as well as ensure that the information learned, is still used when the communities finally leave the camps.

The project supports efforts to meet Sustainable Development Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages and Sustainable Development Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Without specialized maternal and neonatal care, these mothers and their babies will face many health complications. The anxiety of childbirth in these situations starts from pregnancy and can often become worse once the baby is born.

Global One has distributed over 1,000 boxes to women in varying conditions and locations, focusing particularly on refugee communities where women face an uncertain and precarious future. Most refugee camps seek to provide communities with basic food and water, often neglecting the needs of women and children and the provision of much needed health services and facilities for women. The Box for Life helps to ease the suffering of vulnerable women and fulfil the needs of new mothers and their babies.

Box for Life has been replicated in Lebanon and Jordan, specifically catering to Syrian refugees in this region. It is estimated that more than 50 per cent of Syrian refugees in Jordan are women and half of these women are over the age of 18. Approximately 90,000+ women are between the ages of 18 and 25. The large influx of refugees presents particular challenges to the infrastructure and resources available. The Jordanian Government must accommodate Syrian refugees through the supply of resources and catering to their basic needs. Many NGOs and humanitarian relief agencies are working to respond to the food and healthcare needs of these Syrian refugees. Global One has distributed the

Box for Life in both Lebanon and Jordan, with over 300 recipients in Jordan, in order to respond to the urgent needs of pregnant mothers and new-born babies born into refugee settlements and facing an uncertain future. This was done alongside the issue of female hygiene kits through Global One's Dignity Kit campaign which focuses on menstrual hygiene management. Global One sought to save and improve the lives and ensure the well-being of mothers and new-born babies as well as improving the nutrition and hygiene practices of women and children.



Each box doubles as a cot and provides the following:

Box For Life Contents
Reusable nappies
Mattress
Baby clothes
Breastfeeding supplements
Ointment
Paracetamol/ibuprofen
Soft baby towels
Sterilizing tablets
Oral rehydration supplements
Flannel
Toothbrush and toothpaste
Reusable sanitary pads
Mosquito net
Nutritious porridge – 1kg
Cleaning products for mother and baby

As the refugees in both countries were from the same origin and in countries with similar conditions, the two campaigns were similar in their implementation.

Maternal health in Kenya

Global One's efforts for maternal health in Kenya are particularly rare and necessary, as many women lack access to delivery care, antenatal care and struggle to maintain a healthy and safe environment and lifestyle for their new-born babies. The Box for Life campaign, which serves as a component of the project, also seeks to improve the nutrition of mother and baby by providing women with essential food items of high nutritional value following childbirth. As well as supporting women with antenatal care, Global One brings women in need of medical attention directly to the hospitals and offers Box for Life nutritional items which are locally sourced and environmentally sustainable.

Garissa County is currently plagued with very high levels of FGM and EGCM which result in high occurrence of obstetric fistula. Global One carried out a **Repairing Hope** project to provide obstetric fistula care in 3 rural counties in **Kenya**. Through this project, it equipped skilled birth attendants and midwives with knowledge and delivery kits to improve the chances of a safe delivery in hard-to-reach areas. It also conducted training for community health volunteers (CHV) and faith leaders on the importance of antenatal visits and skilled delivery. Through community education workshops and awareness campaigns

by local faith leaders, the aim is to overcome the stigma of female health issues in the community. So far, the project has raised awareness of approximately 3,000 people about the primary causes of obstetric fistula and has also conducted 59 fistula repair surgical interventions.

A Box for Life distribution was also carried out in Garissa county which is home to many Somalis who have fled their country due to war and poverty. It experiences very low attendance of women at antenatal clinics or even for deliveries. The Box for Life distribution was carried out as an incentive to draw women to the clinics and then pass important information to them which they could pass on to others in their respective communities. Box for Life's target beneficiaries were mothers who had completed a number of antenatal visits and delivered at a health facility. This project significantly increased antenatal visits and uptake of skilled birth services in the targeted health facilities as a result of health education given by community health volunteers and faith leaders. This intervention resulted in an almost 50 per cent increase in antenatal visits at the Garissa County General Hospital which also recorded a 40 per cent increase in deliveries.

Due to the project intervention, the number of mothers attending the required number of

antenatal clinics and giving birth at the health facility increased enormously. The singular nature of this project can be understood through the use of both community health volunteers and faith leaders in providing a holistic and diverse approach to disseminating vital information to the community. Community health volunteers were trained by Global One in skills training, antenatal and postnatal visits while faith leaders were also trained in the hope of increasing awareness of the importance of skills training and to strengthen the referral system.

The trained CHV and faith leaders raised awareness of the importance of antenatal visits and skills delivery by visiting households, through community dialogue and Friday religious sermons. As the faith leaders address religious worshipers every Friday, the project was able to reach more than 3,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries during its lifespan. The community health volunteers and faith leaders therefore played a significant role in awareness raising and sensitization to the importance of skills delivery and antenatal care. With this project being adapted for established communities rather than just refugees, it has been considered a success due to increasing the number of prenatal and antenatal visits in Kenya, lowering the maternal mortality rate, and setting a standard for future mothers to follow.







Chapter 3

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

WASH



Pumping Sunshine - Kenya, Nigeria

WASH project - Kenya, Bangladesh

WASH and MHM projects - Kenya, Nepal, Bangladesh

Global One's involvement in WASH (Water Sanitation and Hygiene) programmes has adopted both an SDG-focussed approach Islamic principles condemning water wastage, and the promotion of safe, hygienic menstrual management practices in order to bring about attitudinal and behavioural change for women and girls. Global One has produced a toolkit on menstrual hygiene management and WASH which is designed to be adapted to local contexts in partnership with local communities and stakeholders to foster an environment of shared understanding, acknowledging faith and culturally sensitive approaches to development issues and beyond. Global One has actively combined efforts in its research and work to highlight the links between menstrual hygiene management and water use and practices to create a paradigm shift for women and the wider community in combating poor water practices and encouraging safe and hygienic behaviour without fear, discomfort or shame.

Menstrual hygiene management and WASH in Kenya

Every day millions of women and girls will experience menstruation. For many it is a minor inconvenience, but for those living without vital sanitation facilities, menstruation is a monthly struggle. For women in Lamu County, Kenya, the lack of water means that WASH facilities and techniques are often not available. On top of this, female sanitation remains a difficulty. With a lack of washing and sanitation facilities, women are often led into unhygienic practices during menstruation. In order to deal with the issues of female hygiene in non-sanitized conditions and the use of unhygienic products, Global One has designed a female hygiene kit which will improve the hygiene of women in Lamu. The approach is holistic. By focusing both on female and household hygiene, the kit aims to illustrate the need for hygiene in all aspects of life. The aim is to encourage women to teach their children



and families the importance of hand washing, food and household hygiene, whilst improving the female hygiene of the women themselves. Menstrual hygiene management and WASH training is conducted from both an Islamic and scientific perspective, both of which are congruent when it comes to this holistic approach.

Global One liaised with the Lamu County Government to adapt the project to the local context, and carry out training on menstrual hygiene management and WASH, provide menstrual cups and hygiene kits to trainers, whilst supervising the training and distributing menstrual hygiene materials and hygiene kits for some 2,775 beneficiaries.

The WASH training included teaching about hand washing with clean water and soap, 'WASH and Islam' which covered water and sanitation from an Islamic perspective, the harmful effects of open defecation, and how to avoid waterborne diseases.

The project was implemented from March 2016 to May 2017 in Lamu County, Kenya, Amu, Bahamisi, Kihobe, Pate, Siu and Matondoni Islands as well as in Korogocho, an informal settlement of Nairobi County of Kenya.

Global One completed the successful introduction of the menstrual health management and WASH training to 3,000 beneficiaries. This was conducted in each island and was a one-day intensive training course covering menstruation and how to use the Ruby Cup. Beneficiaries received female hygiene kits with either reusable (if unmarried) menstrual materials or menstrual cups (if married) to accommodate cultural sensitivities and norms within the local context.

Based on the success of the menstrual health management (MHM) project in Kenya, Global One worked with women in Bangladesh and Pakistan, educating them on how to best manage their menstrual health and training them how to produce reusable menstrual hygiene products.

In Bangladesh, 80% of women use old cloth to manage their periods, because sanitary pads are either not available or not affordable for most women. In Pakistan it is estimated that women and children account for 80 percent of the internally displaced persons (IDP) and therefore WASH and MHM campaigns are essential. These projects are delivered to informal settlements in Bangladesh and IDP camps and communities in Pakistan and the result of transferring these projects included constructing 5 ecological sanitation latrines in two communities in Bangladesh to help reduce the occurrence of disease in the region due to open defecation.

Pumping Sunshine project – Nigeria

This project was delivered in Kano, Northern Nigeria. In terms of infrastructural capacity, the baseline survey conducted by Global One showed that all of the families living in this community have no access to electricity. It also finds that they have no nearby water source and therefore mostly rely on wells, streams and the rainy season for water. All of the respondents confirm that they have no borehole and the rains are not a good alternative since they come only intermittently during a short season. In addition, wells required petrol to pump the water which was expensive and unsustainable.

A vast majority of the respondents can be observed to have suffered from one or more waterborne disease(s) with diarrhoea being the most prevalent. Many of them seem to know the causes and symptoms of the disease but are still victims, since they have no way of mitigating these circumstances by themselves.

The survey revealed that, due to the lack of water, most of the residents do not bathe or brush their teeth as often as they should. Additionally, toilets in the community are not regularly cleaned, which contributes to the spread of diseases.

On hand-washing culture, 50% of respondents wash their hands at key times like meal times or after the using the toilet. However, very few use detergent or soap during this process, which would ensure the removal of germs from the hands. Approximately 60% of the respondents said that they filter their water with white cloth before drinking which helps to eliminate visible germs in the water. According to the survey, oral hygiene is considered more important than general hygiene.

The community is made up of illiterate and less privileged people, lacking potable and reliable water and not practising regular hygiene. Although agriculturally inclined, they do not have appropriate methods of irrigating their crops during the dry season. They therefore contract waterborne diseases which are highly preventable with potable water and sanitary hygiene practices.

Global One's workshops in schools found an understanding of hygiene and sanitation practices. However it was clear that community members were not practising this regularly.

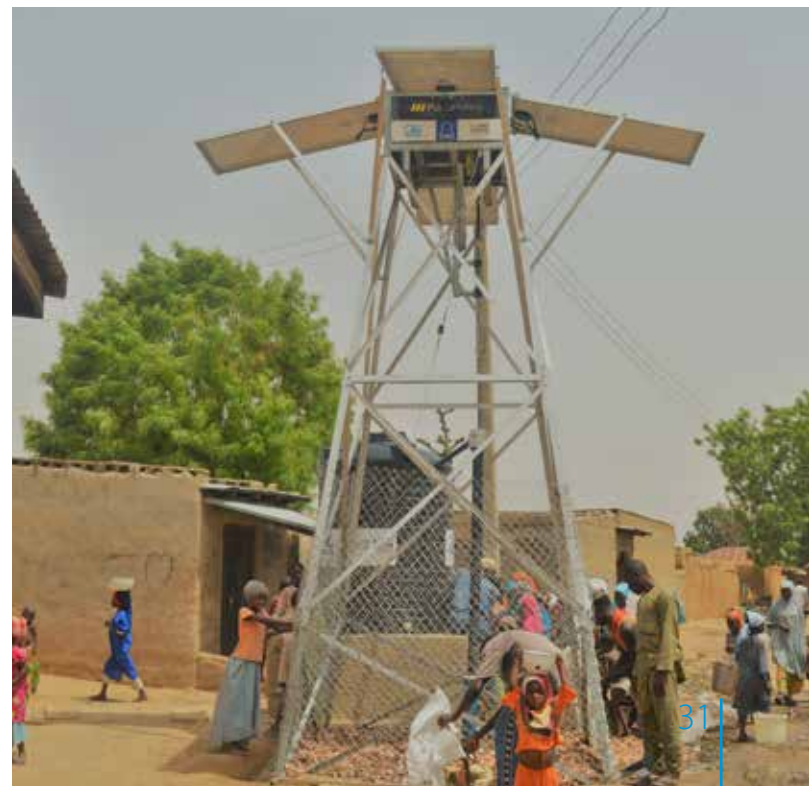
The aim of the project, therefore, was to help address the scarcity of reliable water sources in Kano State and consequently, improve the health situation related to the scarcity of potable water sources.

The aim of the project was to provide potable water to the Magami community, in the Sumaila local government area of Kano State, where only one hand pump which barely worked was available. This community has an estimated population of some 75,000. During the baseline survey, the people were found to be queuing for long hours at the hand pump site and were not guaranteed access to the water they required. Community members also obtained water from a shallow stream which was neither clean nor hygienic for consumption, as the stream served many other purposes such as washing, bathing and served as a latrine. Due to the lack of an adequate and stable power supply to the

community, the project sought to provide a potable water source which was independent of power supply or fuel generators and thus a sustainable source of water for the community.

The project sought both to provide a sustainable source of water as well as utilize clean energy to do so, thereby raising awareness of environmentally sustainable approaches to WASH issues in the Global South. This, therefore, addresses a number of Sustainable Development Goals, namely, Goal 3: Good health and wellbeing, Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation, Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities, and Goal 13: Climate action.

As the Pumping Sunshine project led to sustainable water purification training for 90 women and education of 100 children in hand-washing with soap practices, it has been transferred to the Tana River county in Kenya with the aim of having the same positive impact. The solar-powered pump has provided access to potable water for the community. This project also involved the training of 150 community members on water conservation and storage, sanitation and hygiene practices. These families were also encouraged to incorporate regular hand-washing with soap and water into their daily domestic routine.







Chapter 4 Environmental sustainability



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



Water provision - wells - Somalia, Kenya, Nigeria

Solar powered cold house- Kenya, Bangladesh

Solar powered pumps- Kenya, Nigeria

Climate change is the greatest threat of our age; it threatens development, security, homes and lives. The effects of climate change impact the world's most deprived people the hardest. Faith communities have a critical role to play in tackling the impact of climate change and promoting environmental sustainability.

As a faith-based organization (FBO), Global One recognises that Muslims are taught that humans are stewards of this planet – it is a trust given to them by Allah which brings with it the responsibility to preserve the natural order on earth, maintain its balance and strive to ensure the fair allocation of resources.

The Holy Qur'an reminds Muslims of the beauty of our precious planet *"Who has created the seven heavens one above another, you can see no fault in the creations of the Most Beneficent. Then look again: Can you see any rifts? Then look again and yet again, your sight will return to you in a state of humiliation and worn out."* (67:3-4)

Solar house in Bangladesh

Solar energy is one of the most important basic ingredients required to alleviate poverty and to bring about a country's socioeconomic development. Bangladesh is a densely populated tropical country which does not have an adequate energy supply. At present, around 62 per cent of the population has access to electricity (including renewable energy). Per capita energy consumption is only 321 KWh per annum. The remaining 38 per cent of the population depends on costly kerosene and natural sources. Bangladesh is still very centralized in its capital city. The poorest people cannot afford to have electricity for their daily activities. Many remote islands and highlands are not connected to the national grid. Recently, solar home systems (SHS) are spreading fast for solar electricity, though they have a high initial cost. Although Bangladesh suffers from power and electricity shortages, its geographical situation and favourable climate





provide tremendous opportunity to utilize solar power for almost every aspect of rural, urban, and semi-urban life.

About 89% of power generated comes from carbon-emitting natural gas, liquid fuel, coal and hydropower. The supply of natural gas is not sufficient to meet the country's demands. Current gas production capacity in Bangladesh cannot support both domestic needs and wider electricity generation for the country. The existing reserve of oil and gas will be exhausted very soon. In this context, solar energy is a reliable, affordable and the most secure energy source for the country. But the present share of renewable energy for electricity production is only 0.5% of the total. The majority of people in Bangladesh live in rural areas. There is strong demand for power in remote villages, and there is a huge opportunity and scope for the use of solar energy, and make Bangladesh a solar electricity-rich country.

Global One has established a solar house project in Rajshahi and Borguna involving

the construction of a flood-proof structure, equipped with solar panels, to act as a source of power for the local community. It will also be used and managed by members of the community as a vocational training centre for disadvantaged women of Rajshahi and Borguna, and a study space for school children before and after school hours in Rajshahi.

By asking the recipient community what type of structure they desired most and which would be most useful, Global One found that the communities wanted a house with electricity that their children could use to complete their schoolwork, and which also could double as a community centre for local people to sew and learn other skills. The project aimed to increase the livelihood opportunities of disadvantaged, poor and marginalized women and children by providing technical skills, such as sewing, thereby opening opportunities for employment and self-employment and continued education of children.

The Solar House project in Bangladesh was multifaceted and served a number of purposes. At its core, it sought to create sustainable energy and encourage the use of clean energy. Additionally, the creation of a solar house allowed the creation of a space for communal use and community advancement, education of children, sewing and employment initiatives for women, and facilitation of training and education projects. The project thus proved successful in a number of areas and fulfilled some significant Sustainable Development Goals relating to education, gender equality, clean energy and climate action.

Women can receive vocational training in cutting, sewing and tailoring covering Nakshi Katha, Karchupi, Block Batik and many more styles that are in popular demand in the community. Women trainees have already successfully completed training on cutting, sewing and tailoring children's clothes. These solar houses serve as spaces for women who have acquired sewing skills to work and produce high quality garments, gaining both self-confidence and economic empowerment. Another room was decorated and furnished as a study centre for the children. Another room was decorated and is being used as the project office. This has improved the quality of life of a number of women and children who benefit directly from the project and are able to utilize the solar house, especially the 80 orphans who have been studying at the centre since the project began. Forty women were also trained in tailoring and 10 sewing machines were purchased to enable them to start up their tailoring business.

Children frequently have less access to electricity and other materials to ensure a suitable environment for reading and learning. Many students visit the solar house after school hours to complete their homework. The solar house also contains a well-stocked library of novels and other

literature for children to encourage reading and the improvement of literacy levels in this region.

With the support of local federations, Global One has been able to provide entrepreneurial skills and microfinance to support the sustainability of the livelihood project for women, thereby facilitating the production and sale of goods produced by women in the solar house. This not only incentivizes the communal use and occupation of the solar house, but provides disadvantaged women with a source of income, a sense of empowerment and personal achievement through this initiative.

In the spirit of South-South cooperation, the Solar House concept was taken up by Global One's Kenya country office and adapted for the local community in Garissa County. By conducting further research into the different needs of the recipient community, Global One found that they did not want the same programme as Bangladesh. Instead, the community wanted a place to freeze their Qurbani meat so that it did not spoil as quickly as was currently the case, and there would be less wastage whilst feeding them for longer periods. Under this project, a large solar-powered building, similar to the one in Bangladesh, containing three solar-powered freezers for women entrepreneurs, 20 of whom were also trained in food and hygiene, and this led to a 20 per cent reduction in waste. A study area for young school children was also constructed. The project aimed to provide a sustainable livelihood to twenty local women, and improve the health and hygiene of the local community overall. It was a demonstration of South-South cooperation in action, taking the individual needs of each community into account rather than replicating the exact project in new communities.





Chapter 5

Agriculture and livelihoods

AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOODS



Islamic farming - Kenya, Nigeria



Islamic farming

“The example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains.” And Allah multiplies [His reward] for whom He wills. And Allah is all-Encompassing and knowing.” Qur’an (2:261)

Africa’s population is rising rapidly and expected to more than double its current level of 1 billion to 2.3 billion by 2050. With 50 per cent aged 19 or younger, the population increase poses both a challenge and an opportunity. If the correct conservation practices are not put in place, feeding a growing number of mouths in the same amount of available land will inevitably lead to corruption and misuse of the Earth. Muslims have a duty to take steps to safeguard Allah’s (SWT) creation. For this reason, we believe that the Islamic farming programme will inspire its beneficiaries to use sustainable and innovative agricultural practices linked with their duties of worship.

The question is how to address the problems of food security and climate change. It is claimed that the world produces enough food to feed the

population, but the accessibility and availability of food is unequal due to numerous external factors.

Poverty is a major player in food insecurity. It is estimated that more people die from hunger and malnutrition each year than from AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined. The poorest people spend 50-80 per cent of their income on food, but by introducing better farming practices, more people can be successful subsistence farmers and have a larger disposable income. Studies show that GDP growth generated by agriculture is up to four times more effective in reducing poverty than growth generated by other sectors.

Climate has a direct influence on food productivity. In 2014, Kenya’s primary driver of food insecurity was the below-average rainfall over two seasons. The unpredictable climate coupled with inflated food prices, conflicts in some pastoral areas, and crop diseases in areas of high potential has put many Kenyans at risk. This insecurity is further threatened by the impact of climate change. It is predicted that by the 2030s, droughts and heat will leave 40 per cent of African land currently growing



maize unable to support that crop, whilst rising temperatures could cause a major loss of savannah grasslands, thus threatening pastoral livelihoods. It is vital that sustainable forms of agriculture are practiced by marginalized communities to increase their resilience to such future shocks.

Sustainable farming is the production of foods through farming techniques that protect the environment, public health and animal welfare. Unsustainable agricultural and aquaculture practices present an immediate threat to species and ecosystems worldwide, which is detrimental to the future of global food security. Global One, however, can promote sustainable values by supporting smallholder farmers and training them in Islamic farming practices.

In March 2014, Global One in collaboration with the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) launched the first manual on conservation agriculture specifically designed for Muslim farmers in Africa. The manual, which is called 'Islamic farming – A toolkit for conservation agriculture' uses the six promises of Allah SWT to create practical farming techniques based on conservation agriculture.

Global One, supported by Eid Charity, has piloted an Islamic farming project in Garissa County, the first of its kind, that combines a rich Islamic tradition of innovative agriculture

and conservation techniques alongside Islam's core environmental principles to improve food sovereignty, livelihood opportunities, and the increased learning and participation of women in this sector in Kenya.

Islamic farming supports the environment by promoting sustainable conservation agriculture. The farmers involved in the project have been protecting the land by using natural rather than chemical fertilizers and learning how to use drip irrigation, as well as teaching girls to farm, with 'teach your daughter to farm' training sessions, to embrace the gender equality aspect of the SDGs.

Farmers had previously reported great difficulty in accessing the area's water source, the Tana River. Global One therefore supported the development of a new canal, approximately 950 metres in length. After its development, the canal was tested and found to distribute water efficiently to each section of the farm. As a result of the new canal, more land has been irrigated and therefore more abundant harvests are now expected.

The Global One project teaches the local farmers about the importance of keeping and protecting a local bee population. Thus, an important component of the Islamic farming model is the inclusion of bee hives on farms, and the Nadir farm area was discovered to be suitable for rearing bees. As a result, the project incorporated

the distribution of 30 beehives to the project beneficiaries. The project also taught valuable skills in livestock management to widows. This ensures diversity in their income stream and reduces the risk associated with depending on the farm alone – the performance of which is greatly tied to the generosity of the climate.

This project has increased the farmer's average yield by 49 per cent. It protects the local environment, improves the variety of crops grown to include more vegetables, and increases the incomes of the families involved. Installing a solar-powered pump and constructing a 50,000 litre-water tank has improved the ability to grow crops in the dry season, in a more sustainable way than a petrol powered pump, and reducing the likelihood of food shortages. With the shift from chemical to natural fertilizers and a reduction in the water needed for the crops, the project has made farming more sustainable within the area and protected the land and the ecosystem, based on Islamic teaching.

Islamic farming in Nigeria

Following the success of this pilot project in Kenya, a scaled-up version was implemented in Nigeria, where 120 farmers were trained in conservation agriculture techniques based on Islamic principles. Using the same training manual, land was secured in Nigeria to train farmers and orphans on how to farm sustainably.

The project was intended to increase yields and improve the livelihoods of all beneficiaries through methods such as a solar-powered water pumps to reduce the farmers' reliance on expensive generators. The project found that locals had seen how well the first batch of farmers had benefited from the training provided and wanted to gain an understanding of the techniques themselves. By training over 100 farmers, the overall outcome was a 40 per cent increase in average yields i.e. reduction in malnutrition in both children and adults, and a 20 per cent increase in farmers' household incomes.







Chapter 6

The way forward: Global One's vision for the future - Towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The hope is that this publication has been informative and insightful in understanding Global One's work and the important role NGOs play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. This publication has sought to outline the ways in which Global One's work is anchored in the promotion and establishment of South-South cooperation through the sharing of knowledge and expertise among country offices, and the adoption and replication of projects across the Global South. There has been particular emphasis on contextualizing different operations through assessing and accommodating local needs in the regions within which Global One works. This has meant evaluating the way in which regional differences manifest themselves and require alternative practices to best suit a particular context. The need to adapt each programme to a specific context is exemplified in the Solar House project, in which the same model of house was used in both Kenya and Bangladesh, but the needs of each community were different and therefore the house was adapted to fit their respective requirements.

This publication has focused especially on demonstrating Global One's core values and principles in adopting a faith-based and culturally sensitive approach when responding to humanitarian crises and supporting vulnerable communities. In addition, Global One's unique concentration on the needs of women, particularly mothers and children, has been highlighted in the maternal health projects in Kenya, Nigeria and refugee camps. Moreover, a distinct element of Global One's work which has been explored is the convergence of environmental sustainability and faith. This can be seen through the Islamic farming toolkit and initiatives, which integrate both water conservation and agricultural practices with the teachings and principles of the Islamic faith by drawing inspiration from the Qur'an and Hadith (sayings of the Prophet Muhammad). The projects in Kenya and Nigeria have provided sustainable and healthier lifestyles for the target communities.

Global One's vision for the future is a world where the barriers and obstacles that hinder the empowerment of women are removed, and



women who are chronically underrepresented and disempowered on the global stage can become empowered. Working towards a world where women have the tools to be the peacemakers and leaders for the security of their nations, Global One desires a world where there is gender equity. Through the teaching of livelihood skills in the Islamic farming projects, Global One is ensuring that widows and orphan girls are not left behind, and are empowered members of the global community.

Global One believes strongly in interfaith action and South-South cooperation in a space where faith communities have a chance to work together to form global partnerships and cooperate to build each other's capacities. Indeed, without peace and stability, it is difficult for any NGO, FBO or civil society player to deliver on the SDGs. This is why we believe that SDGs 16 and 17 will be most crucial in determining the success of the rest of the SDGs as a whole.

In order to promote peaceful and inclusive societies and create an environment of cohesion, however, it is important that all faith communities and their contribution towards human civilization is recognised, appreciated and celebrated. While a paradigm shift in the UN can be seen in recent years, further changes in approach should be encouraged within the UN recognising and celebrating the diversity of voices and stakeholders committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Members of faith communities and faith leaders, have a valuable role to play as equal partners. Moreover, efforts must also be made to ensure that religious literacy is delivered within the UN infrastructure at all levels. Global One's successful faith-led programmes are an example of how this can be achieved.

The agenda for achieving the SDGs is clear. The language commonly used for achieving them includes 'scaling up global support', a 'community of common destiny' and 'leaving

no one behind'. How can we scale up global support without recognising the changing demographics taking place due to the impact of war, climate change and civil unrest? The refugee crisis in Europe is just one example. How can we achieve a sense of community and common destiny whilst living in a world where power struggles, greed, suspicion and injustice have led to violence, genocide and insecurity resulting in displaced and deprived populations?

It is difficult to consider how we can 'leave no one behind' when millions work for less than the living wage on farms and in factories to provide those in the Global North with the 'essentials' of everyday life, and many suffer the effects of modern-day slavery. Still dire, are the conditions faced by refugees seeking solace and the promise of a better life when risking their lives for security and stability on foreign shores. Without peace, stability, human rights and effective governance, based on the rule of law - we cannot hope for sustainable development.

Our world has become increasingly uneven. Some regions enjoy sustained levels of peace, security and prosperity, while others fall into seemingly endless cycles of conflict and violence. This is by no means inevitable and much of it can be addressed through South-South cooperation. These projects have already demonstrated how small-scale input can increase local productivity many times over; for instance with the Islamic farming training in Nigeria increasing yields by 40 per cent. With large-scale cooperation, this can be replicated at national, regional and global level.

High levels of armed violence and insecurity have a destructive impact on a country's development, affecting economic growth and often resulting in longstanding grievances that can last for generations. Sexual violence, crime, exploitation and torture are also prevalent where there is conflict or no rule of law, and countries must take significant measures to protect those who are most at risk.

The SDGs aim to significantly reduce all forms of violence, and open avenues to work with governments and communities to find lasting solutions to conflict and insecurity. Strengthening the rule of law and promoting human rights is key to this process, as is reducing the flow of illicit arms and strengthening the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance. This is why the need for collaboration, unity and cooperation within the Global South is of paramount importance in achieving long-lasting peace and finding sustainable solutions to the challenges posed by poverty, injustice and corruption.

Cary Kennedy, the American politician noted that “Climate change is the greatest threat to humanity, perhaps ever. Global temperatures are rising at an unprecedented rate, causing drought and forest fires and impacting human health.” The multifaceted nature of the impact of climate change is too great a burden to be carried by any single entity; be it governments, private sector organizations, or even individuals. The threats posed by continuous inaction will deepen the imprint of poverty to an extent that may become irreversible. Thus, combating climate change must be a responsibility assumed by every individual, community and institution. The problem, however, lies in raising awareness of the long-term impact of climate change, to inform all communities to stand as custodians of this earth and do their bit to ensure its protection and the protection of those who are most vulnerable to climate change. South-South cooperation is absolutely vital in tackling climate change because nations in the Global South will have to bear the brunt of climate change and its devastating consequences. The key to ensuring fulfilment of the SDGs lies

in leaving no one behind. It is about recognising that the Southern nations are having to pay much of the price for the greed of the industrialized nations, but need to work together to address the impacts. There must be a concerted effort to invest in clean energy and support developing nations to progress towards continued growth and the pursuit of sustainable solutions to climate change.

The diversity that people of faith represent can have a substantial impact on raising awareness, not only of the dangers of climate change, but our innate responsibility towards each other and this earth. The Earth, therefore, is a reflection of the shared ethical principles, common goals and strategic objectives that have been agreed by millions of people from different cultures, religions, and walks of life. It is therefore in our common interest and our responsibility as stewards of this Earth to encourage South-South cooperation, through the sharing of skills and resources within the South to build capacity, empower and embolden vulnerable societies. Finally, it is important that we are able to enhance the work and understanding of civil society and NGOs, and their role in creating cohesive partnerships, and building stronger South-South cooperation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Without SDG 17, which focuses on partnerships needed to achieve the SDGs, it would be impossible to meet the ambitious targets set for 2030. We hope that this publication and the projects and ideas presented here will provide an impetus for change and a restlessness to act within our communities to achieve the SDGs through greater emphasis on South-South cooperation, solidarity, empowerment and continued efforts toward ending poverty and injustice.