

ASK AN EXPERT



with Shamsia Ramadhan of Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

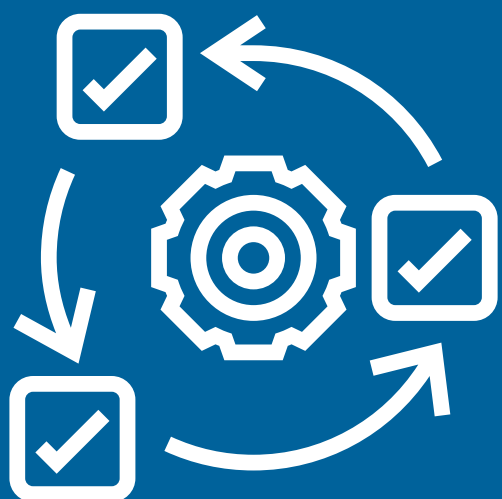
Preparing to evaluate an inter-religious peacebuilding program

Are you preparing to evaluate an inter-religious peacebuilding program? Shamsia Ramadhan who is based in CRS's East Africa Regional Office brings a wealth of knowledge to this discussion from CRS's work. Here are four key considerations Shamsia shared on preparing to evaluate an inter-religious peacebuilding program.

PREPARE EARLY AND INCORPORATE FAITH

PREPARATIONS FOR EVALUATION OF AN INTER-RELIGIOUS PEACEBUILDING PROGRAM SHOULD NOT HAPPEN JUST AT THE END OF THE PROGRAM

Careful plotting and planning for an evaluation should begin during the program design phase. An inter-religious peacebuilding program should incorporate religion and faith at the beginning, starting with conflict assessment. And should subsequently find ways to weave religious institutions and faith actors into the various phases of a project cycle of which evaluation is but one phase.



QUESTIONS SHOULD SHAPE METHODS

EVALUATION PURPOSE AND THE EVALUATION QUESTIONS SHOULD DETERMINE THE EVALUATION METHOD

While preparing for inter-religious peacebuilding evaluations, organizations often become preoccupied with the different types of evaluation techniques or approaches instead of reflecting on the evaluation questions. To determine evaluation methods, organizations should first reflect on evaluation questions and thereafter select methods that give them the best chance of answering their questions.



HIRE EVALUATORS WITH FAITH COMPETENCY

EVALUATORS SHOULD HAVE EITHER A FAITH KNOWLEDGE OR BACKGROUND

When preparing for an evaluation of an inter-religious peacebuilding program, organizations often find it challenging to find evaluators that are familiar enough in faith contexts and components. Inter-religious peacebuilding programs are nuanced and organizations should seek out experts with faith competencies.



INVOLVE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS IN EVALUATION

PARTICIPANTS ARE BEST SUITED TO UNDERSTAND RESULTS

It takes time and resources to utilize participatory approaches to evaluation, but there are huge benefits in being able to learn directly from the community that was impacted by the program, such as understanding the different behavioral changes among different faith-based groups.



For more tips from Shamsia on preparing for an inter-religious peacebuilding program evaluation watch the full video here:

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Alliance for Peacebuilding

The Ask an Expert Webinar series, sponsored by the Alliance for Peacebuilding and the DME for Peace project at Search for Common Ground as part of the Effective Inter-Religious Action in Peacebuilding (EIAP) program, with support from the GHR Foundation provides practitioners with an opportunity to converse with experts in the inter-religious peacebuilding evaluation field on a range of topics.