

**Faith In The Future Conference**  
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**Measurement and metrics for faith inspired engagement in the SDGs**

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I am standing in for Jean Duff who has been hospitalized in Ireland. Jean is a great source of dynamic energy. I cannot do her presentation justice but here is my understanding measurement and metrics for faith inspired engagement in the SDGs

Measurement is going to be a key aspect of the SDGs. Understandably people want to know if they are being achieved. If we are going to achieve this we need to do two things

1. We need to learn together
2. We need evidence of outcomes and impact – but it must be holistic

**How can we learn together?**

Who are we measuring for? The measurement must be primarily for learning so we can do better.

One example of this is the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities (More information at [www.JLIFLC.COM](http://www.JLIFLC.COM)). The JLI is a group of organisations and people who focus on evidence for faith groups' activities and contributions to community health and wellbeing to selected sub-topics. Each Learning Hub is made up of expert stakeholders including practitioners, policy makers and academics. A number of people in this room working for UN Agencies, Faith Based Organisations, Universities are part of the JLI.

The five Learning Hubs of the JLI focus on [HIV & Maternal Health](#), [Immunization](#), [Resilience](#), [Capacity Building](#), and [Gender Based Violence](#) . A new Learning Hub on [Child Health and Child Survival](#) is under development.

**We need evidence of outcomes and impact – but it must be holistic**

Good evidence is already being published – The Lancet on faith inspired evidence but it was not easy.

Impact measurement is the trendy word at present. Everyone wants evidence of impact. How will we get evidence in the SDGs with 17 goals and 169 targets and not sure how many indicators.

**What can we do?** Develop, pilot and roll out a faith-inspired measurement framework to enable development practitioners, and the communities they work in, track and learn about the changes in the lives of people throughout the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

**Why?** One of the factors unifying people of different faiths is a rich appreciation of the value of the human person. A faith-inspired framework for measurement will seek to measure the transformative change in the lives of people. It will be people centric. By focusing on the impact on the lives of people, the framework will help to resist the instrumentalisation and commodification of people, organisations and institutions.

This work is essential for a number of reasons:

- Existing measurement tools often lack the capacity to capture a holistic appreciation of change. A comprehensive, integrated, people-centric framework is needed.
- Many development practices too often rely on indicators that fail to capture the holistic impact on human lives. This framework aims to take into account the 'hard to measure' impact which is beyond the quantifiable',
- Too often measurement is perceived as something done to keep regulators or donors happy rather than as an opportunity for program implementers to track and learn as they seek to transform their world.

**How?** Building on the Joint Learning Initiative experience, this work will be undertaken as part of a learning hub within the Joint Learning Initiative. This will enable a collaborative learning approach to share, gather and widely distribute information by engaging thematic expert academics, policymakers, practitioners and academics.

**Who?** This is envisaged as a collaborative process primarily involving diverse faith-based development organizations, including the JLI members, with inputs provided also from UN agencies (through the inter-agency UN Task Force on Engaging with Faith Based Organisations) – as well as Donor groups already involved in the respective global consultations around the SDGs.

**When?** A first draft of the faith-inspired measurement framework will be presented for discussion in February during a meeting in Germany. Prior to that a small group will be called together – under the DUF umbrella coordinated by the JLI – to begin work on developing the framework. The small group will have representation from Donors, UN agencies and FBOs as well as leading academics.

