

Coalition for Religious Equality and Inclusive Development (CREID) Summary

Thematic Area	Supporting tolerance and freedom of religion or belief
Consortium Lead	Institute of Development Studies
Consortium Partners	Al-Khoei Foundation, CSW¹ and Minority Rights Group
Countries/Regions	North and West Africa, South Asia
Budget	£11.9m
Start and End Date	October 2018 to September 2022

The Coalition for Religious Equality and Inclusive Development (CREID) is providing research evidence and delivering practical programmes to redress the impact of discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, by tackling poverty and exclusion and promoting collaboration and empowerment.

Currently, discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief can mean that people lack access to basic services such as health or education, experience verbal, emotional or physical violence and abuse, and be excluded from vital social and political processes. CREID believes that freedom of religion or belief is essential for people living in poverty to achieve their potential, live in dignity, free from stigma and exclusion.

Our work is producing new research evidence and developing innovative practical programmes in North and West Africa and South Asia.

Objectives:

- Enable key stakeholders in international development to improve their understanding of intersecting issues between Freedom or Belief (FoRB) and development and the competencies and capacities to mainstream it in their programmes.
- Develop effective and innovative approaches to service delivery that promote religious cohesion in highly sectarian and poor contexts
- Develop and strengthen mechanisms for identifying, responding and mitigating the effects of hate speech are strengthened or developed
- Support coalitions and networks to challenge discriminatory policies, decrees and discourses, and give visibility to the voices of religious minorities.
- Ensure that FoRB is promoted in influential international spaces and platforms (particularly for global development) through people of different faiths, backgrounds, gender and age.

¹ Formally known as Christian Solidarity Worldwide

CREID partners:



More specifically, we will be working on:

1. Mainstreaming awareness of Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) in development so that policies and programmes addressing poverty and exclusion are sensitive and responsive to inequalities resulting from people's religion or belief
2. Investing in opportunities for interfaith service delivery in communities experiencing poverty and sectarian tensions
3. Monitoring and countering hate speech and looking at how digital technology and media are affecting social cohesion
4. Building coalitions at national level and supporting local campaigns promoting FoRB and inclusive development
5. Engendering cross fertilisation for religious inclusivity by bringing about collaboration between humanitarian organisations, faith leaders, rights activists and development practitioners.

Impact/deliverables:

We are working towards Freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) which enables people who are living in poverty to enjoy more opportunities to achieve their potential and be included in society, live in dignity, free from stigma, and, ultimately move out of poverty”.

Key stakeholders in international development to improve their understanding of intersecting issues between Freedom or Belief (FoRB) and development and the competencies and capacities to mainstream it in their programmes.

- Improved understanding and mainstreaming of FoRB into development programmes, drawing on experience, support and evidence from CREID;

Effective and innovative approaches to service delivery that promote religious cohesion in highly sectarian and poor contexts

- Individuals engaged with the CREID's service delivery programmes actively participate in local development initiatives that promote religious cohesion;
- Interventions are designed and delivered addressing the intersection of religious marginality and poverty;

Mechanisms for identifying, responding and mitigating the effects of hate speech are strengthened or developed.

- Staff from local organisations with improved capacity to identify, monitor and understand hate speech;
- Actions taken by non-state actors trained or supported by CREID to actively seek to challenge, limit or contain online hate speech;

CREID partners:



Coalitions and networks challenge discriminatory policies, decrees and discourses, and give visibility to the voices of religious minorities.

- Testimonies/case studies of religiously marginalised individuals who have gained access to spaces where they can exercise their voice;
- examples of discriminatory policies, decrees and discourses challenged as a consequence of CREID interventions;
- Groups, networks and coalitions built or strengthened that promote an inclusive society by bringing together unconventional partners;

Activities:

Activities in the programme include:

- Building the capacity of religiously marginalised youth to capture their oral heritage under threat and strengthen community bonds.
- Building the capacity of youth from religious minorities and the economically marginalized to address economic and social forms of exclusion.
- Understanding the cycle of online-offline mobilization of hate and produce counter narratives in social media.
- Using a combination of peace-building and interfaith service delivery with young people to foster social cohesion.
- We also have a cross-country initiative on recognizing and responding to the intersection of religious and gender marginality for women who belong to religious minorities.
- We will be using participatory methodologies to understand the everyday experiences of discrimination and exclusion faced by the poor in the programme countries, which will be collated as an annual report.
- As part of the work on cross-fertilising for religious inclusivity we will organise courses and events to bring together development practitioners and partners to reflect and review learning and translate it for informing international advocacy.

For more information, please visit www.ids.ac.uk/creid

CREID partners:

