

Statement on Poverty for Religious Leader's Consultation on Poverty

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By and large, religion plays a significant role in the lives of many who are at the same time poor. The religious sector can, if it is taken seriously and resourced properly, mobilise its army of volunteers to help in developmental issues that can uplift the poor. Religious centres and faith based organisations interface and links up with the poor and has the ability to educate their immediate communities, disseminate information, and drive local economic development. Proper management and capacitating of this sector can be extremely useful in the fight against poverty. Another important role is that of being a major watch-dog as its organs are often the largest civil society groups in most nations. Advocacy is another critical role is played by the religious sector.