

‘We have the ability to provide clear theological grounds for engaging with the SDGs, inspiring and encouraging community of faith to take action.’

‘Making the moral case for action; motivating others, gathering people together in support and solidarity, organising and hosting events and consciousness raising; challenging communities through word and deed’

We must not simply see places of worship as places to hand out goods in disasters. There is much more that they can do particularly where behavioural change is necessary to achieve the goals as is true in many ‘Western countries’.

When asked about challenges to working with international organisation responses fell into five categories:

Paperwork: ‘Political bureaucracy and the requirements to have some high level of education prior to any involvement.’

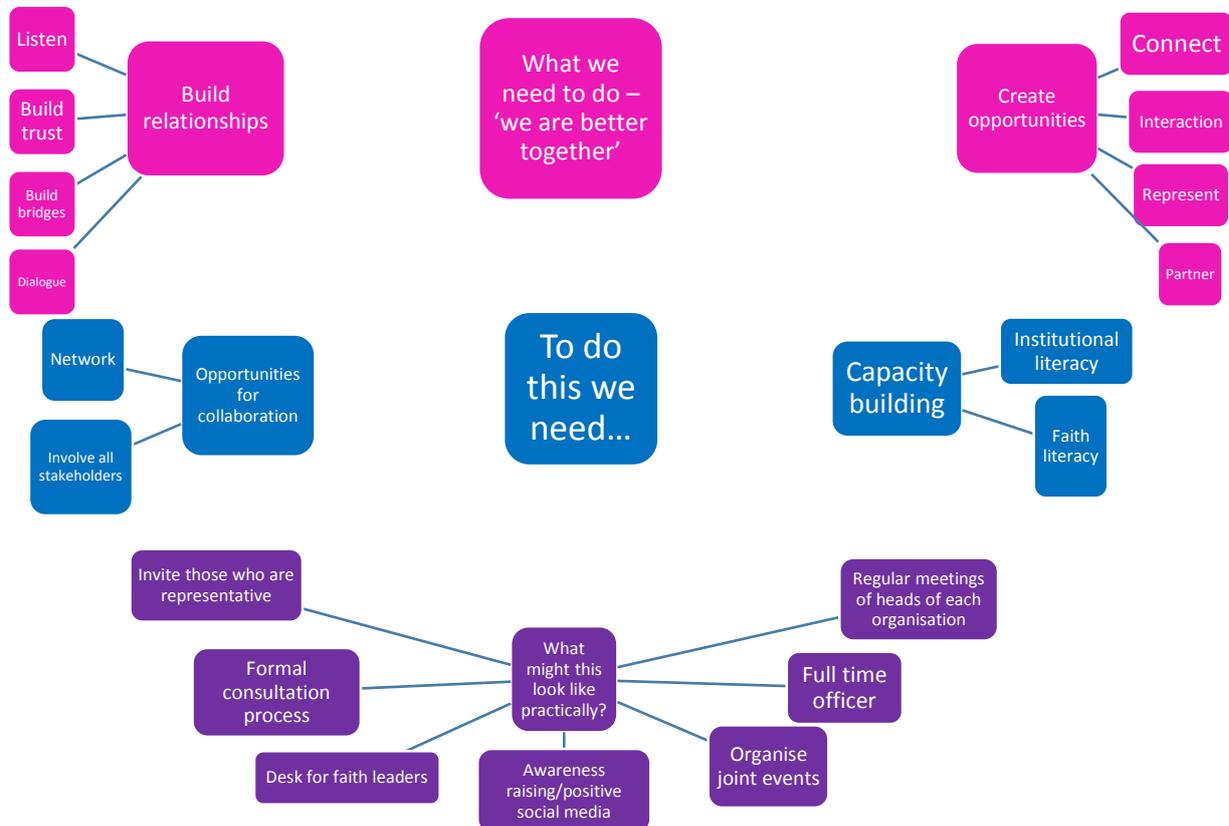
Distance from grassroots: ‘Too distant from the everyday lives of parishioners.’ ‘Understanding that the church is in a position to reach the grassroots level and is located in places where INGO cannot reach.’

Gaps between policy and practice: ‘Policy directions on faith partnerships are not necessarily translated into partnership on the ground. This is an issue of faith literacy, capacity and trust. Other parties can work to overcome these barriers’

Opinions: ‘Extensive corruption and bureaucracy.’ ‘They don’t trust us.’

Institutional literacy: ‘I think some people did not understand the works of the above agencies, that’s why people trying to see them as enemies to them.’

The stakeholders were then asked how we might move forward together. Responses can be summarised as follows:



Through our analysis of the results and our interaction with PaRD to date we are now planning:

- Survey with all PaRD members and partners – emphasising the importance of listening to those ‘on the ground’.
- Merging of faith and institutional literacy with a relationship building process – this aim for organic literacy with UN country staff and Church leadership coming together to discuss successes, challenges and ways forward.
- Organise discussion of ‘difficult’ Biblical texts at biannual meeting - There was much informal discussion at PaRD around some of the difficult texts in the Bible, for example those used to perpetuate gender inequality. We will work with PaRD to bring theologians to the next meeting who are able to address some of the questions around this.