

Implementing partner
University of Pretoria,
South Africa



Partners

- Bread for the World, Germany
- Council of African Instituted Churches, South Africa
- Organization of African Instituted Churches, Kenya
- Pentecost Theological Seminary, Ghana
- Redeemed Christian Bible College, Nigeria
- Trinity Theological Seminary, Ghana
- University of Lagos, Nigeria
- University of the Western Cape, South Africa

Public relations and products

- Public events with African church leaders.
- Academic publications feeding project results into the international discourse on religion and sustainable development.
- Short policy papers highlighting specific issues for development policy-makers and practitioners.
- Reports on specific countries and sub-themes.
- Book publication with international contributions.
- Final report of the project findings including recommendations for Germany's development policy.

Team

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Financing institution

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Faculty of Theology

Research Programme on Religious
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Photos: p.1 J. Klein; p.2 Ph. Öhlmann, p.3 M.-L. Frost

Research Project

Potentials of Cooperation with
African Initiated Churches
for Sustainable Development

Objective

African Initiated Churches (AICs), including both African Independent Churches as well as African Pentecostal Churches, are relevant development actors in many African countries. Cooperation between AICs and development agencies bears high potential for sustainable development. The project *Potentials of Cooperation with African Initiated Churches for Sustainable Development* investigates how fruitful partnerships for sustainable development between AICs and German development cooperation can be established.

Research area 1 focuses on the **institutional level**. It analyzes the development relevant work of AICs, their administrative structures, their understanding of development, their capacity to implement development programmes and their compatibility with development agencies. Special attention is paid to the interrelation of spirituality and development. Moreover, the area focuses on the instruments of German development cooperation in order to also evaluate to what extent they are relevant to and compatible with the work, approaches and structures of AICs.



Brass Band of St. John's Apostolic Faith Mission in Carletonville, South Africa

Research area 2 focuses on the **ideological level**. While development cooperation sees human rights as guideline, AICs mainly draw motivation for their work – also the development related work – from their religious belief and their spiritual world view. The research area inves-



Participants of a Research Workshop in Burkina Faso

tigates how the churches' notions of development and sustainability (which are embedded in religious world views) relate to the understandings of development and sustainability in Western development policies (which are embedded in secular world views). It is to be investigated to what extent and in which fields the different systems of values are mutually compatible or suitable to question each other critically. This includes the holistic world view of AICs, but also questions of human rights, socio-political engagement and gender justice.

Implementation and methodology

As the perspective of the churches themselves is at the core of the project, the field research draws on qualitative and participatory methodologies such as semi-structured interviews, focus group discussions, participatory appraisal, and participating observation. The focus will be on church leaders and representatives. But also other stakeholders (beneficiaries of church development programmes, government officials) will be interviewed. The information gathered is analyzed and structured using grounded theory guided methods and qualitative content analysis. The following research modules are part of the project:

- Long-term study South Africa
- Regional study West Africa (Ghana, Nigeria, Burkina Faso)
- Regional study East Africa (Kenya, Uganda)
- Analysis of German development cooperation (Germany)