

International Conference:
Religious Communities and Sustainable Development.
Points of Departure for a Post-2030 Development Agenda
08 – 11 June 2021

Ezekiel Boro

Tanvi Sapra

Ahimsa Renaissance Movement Fellow, Ahimsa Fund and Ahimsa Partners, France

Jean-François de Lavison

Founder and President, Ahimsa Fund and Ahimsa Partners, France

Caroline Dalabona

Nutritionist, Pastoral da Criança, Brasil

Vinya Ariyaratne

President, Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement, Sri Lanka

Agus Samsudin

Head of Health Division, Muhammadiyah, Indonesien

The role and impact of faith-based organisations in the management of and response to COVID-19 in low-resource settings

The COVID-19 pandemic is decimating millions of lives and has wreaked some of its greatest havoc and suffering among the vulnerable and marginalised populations of the world, many of whom belong to religious and faith-based communities. In times of great misery and difficulty, religion and faith are often a source of hope and strength for many. In this paper, we underscore the critical role and impact that some faith-based organisations (FBOs) have had in the global health pandemic response and management of three countries: Brazil, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. In Brazil, Pastoral da Criança is leveraging their mobile phone application to fight mis-information about COVID-19. In Indonesia, Muhammadiyah launched a COVID-19 Command Centre to support treatment in hospitals, to disseminate guidelines for religious activities backed by science and to provide water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) packages, food and financial support to the most vulnerable and neglected. In Sri Lanka, Sarvodaya is working closely with religious and community leaders on risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) messages and is also providing hygiene care and economic relief packages to the marginalised. We further discuss some of the challenges they have faced and the opportunities for greater engagements with this group of global public health actors to maximise their contributions and impact in the (crisis) management and response of future infectious disease outbreaks, epidemics or pandemics in low-resource settings.

Keywords: faith-based organisations, Covid-19, global health, sustainable development, low-and middle-income countries [Brazil. Indonesia, Sri Lanka]



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service

With financial support from the



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development