

## Categorization Guide:

# Contributions of CKU-funded projects to freedom of religion or belief

### INSPIRATIONAL GUIDE FOR STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

CKU member organizations and their Southern partners can apply for funding through the Danida-funded CKU pooled fund for projects which aim to fight poverty and promote human rights, thereby improving people's opportunities to develop the potential in themselves and in the surrounding community. The application format for both A and B projects asks how the project partner intends to work with freedom of religion or belief:

*Does the project work strategically with freedom of religion and belief: Yes  No*   
*If yes, how do you work strategically with freedom of religion and belief?*

However, given differing levels of experience, it can sometimes be challenging for project partners to conceptualize and concretely describe this work, its focus, and the expected results. There can be efforts at many different levels, both overall project goals and concrete activities. If you answer yes to the above question regarding whether you are working strategically with freedom of religion or belief, it can additionally be a challenge to explain exactly to what extent this is the case: very high degree, moderate degree, low degree, etc. And what are the key aspects that you as project planners should consider, so that that a good strategy can be developed?

CKU hopes to inspire such a clarification process through the following categorization of project contributions to the promotion of freedom of religion or belief. It should be seen as a resource for discussions between partners which can give inspiration on how to give a detailed answer to the strategic aim and the practical implementation thereof in the project.

With this overview of suggested categorizations, CKU anticipates that over time, a higher number of member organizations will more actively seek to promote freedom of religion or belief in their projects. By placing the project on a continuum, the goal is to increase the motivation to move further 'upwards' on the continuum and enable more project applicants to work with this agenda strategically. Additionally, it is also intended that with an in-depth reflection on the contribution of projects, it will be possible to generate more knowledge and best practices for the CKU pooled fund's freedom of religion or belief related projects.

#### **WHY IS FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF A PRIORITY FOR CKU?**

*Promoting freedom of religion or belief helps to unleash a great positive potential. Faith-based movements and organizations enable people at grassroot level to meet, which is important as they are actors that contribute to both democratization and poverty reduction. Also at the individual level, these aspects of human rights are crucial for living a good and fulfilling life. Conversely, restrictions on religious freedom create socio-economic discrimination and prevent people from coming together to be actors of change. More than three-quarters of the Earth's population live in areas where their freedom of religion or belief is severely or very severely restricted, according to the Pew Research Center.*

*(For more information: [Religious restrictions around the world](#)).*

*For more information on FoRB see CKU guidelines: [Guidelines CKU](#)*

The following overview can be used to categorize the contribution of projects to the promotion of freedom of religion or belief. The overview is intended as a continuum: At one end, freedom of religion or belief is the explicit goal of the

project. In the middle of the continuum, the project works more indirectly with dialogue and diapraxis as ways of change to help promote freedom of religion or belief; to varying degrees the project works with social acceptance of the rights of people with a different religious or belief affiliation than oneself. Finally, at the other end of the continuum you will find projects that do not contribute to freedom of religion or belief. CKU regards the first five categories as explicit promotion of FoRB, while increased freedom of expression, assembly and association or increased opportunity for dialogue and diapraxis contribute to a more peaceful coexistence, but do not necessarily promote freedom of religion or belief.

Category	Strategic aim	Implementation in practice
1	Freedom of religion or belief is included in the project as an overarching priority	Freedom of religion or belief is mentioned in the long-term development goal (specified in the LFA under long term impact)
2	Freedom of religion or belief is a targeted priority for the project	At least one project goal (outcome) contributes directly to more respect, protection, or promotion of FoRB.
3	Freedom of religion or belief is a subgoal of the project	The goal of contributing to more respect, protection, or promotion of FoRB is expected to be achieved during the project period (goal in LFA under outputs)
4	Freedom of religion or belief is promoted at activity level	Individual activities directly contribute to more respect, protection, or promotion of FoRB
5	Freedom of religion or belief is a cross-cutting priority, but is not targeted or addressed directly in the activities	Respect for, protection, or promotion of FoRB is included in the context analysis and, for example, in a general training in human rights
6	Freedom of expression, assembly, or association is included in the project as an overall priority, as a sub-goal, or at activity level	Freedom of expression, assembly, or association is mentioned in the overall development goal, in the LFA or as the subject of individual activities in the project, and freedom of religion or belief will be included as one of several examples, but will not be addressed separately
7	Dialogue and/or diapraxis is a targeted priority and freedom of religion or belief is indirectly protected as a potential side effect	The project goal is to promote mutual understanding and respect. Beneficiaries and stakeholders from different religions meet to participate in joint project activities
8	No strategic emphasis on freedom of religion or belief	Freedom of religion or belief is not included as an overriding goal or in the LFA. The target group belongs to different religions, but the activities are divided so that the two groups do not meet. Or the target audience all belong to the same religion