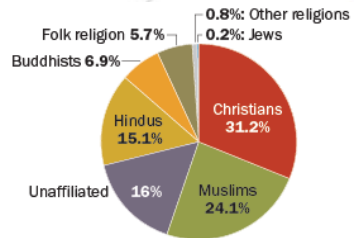# Where Faith Speaks: WASH in Religious Institutions

Introduction on Religion and Development
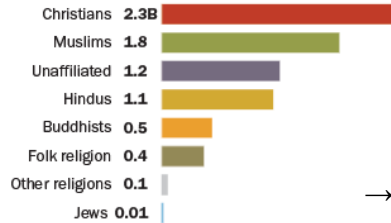
Agenda

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Why Religion Matters

0.8%: Other religions
0.2%: Jews
Folk religion 5.7%
Buddhists 6.9%
Hindus 15.1%
Christians 31.2%
Unaffiliated 16%
Muslims 24.1%

Number of people in 2015, in billions

Christians 2.3B
Muslims 1.8
Unaffiliated 1.2
Hindus 1.1
Buddhists 0.5
Folk religion 0.4
Other religions 0.1
Jews 0.01

Source: Pew Research Center demographic projections.
See Methodology for details.
"The Changing Global Religious Landscape"

→ **today 84 %**

**by 2060:
over 90 %**

2009 poll, „Religion is important in my daily life":

90%-100% | 80%-89% | 70%-79% | 60%-69% | 50%-59% | 40%-49% | 30%-39% | 20%-29% | 10%-19% | 0%-9%

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Why German Development Cooperation Works with Religious Actors

- **Strategic reorientation** in German development cooperation: go beyond financing projects led by the Christian church agencies

- Tap into the **potential of religious communities** as important civil society actors, e.g. concerning social infrastructure or processes of reconciliation

- **Ambivalence**: Peaceful traditions are used for legitimising violence; instrumentalization of religion for political means.

- **Aim**: Strengthen the right actors that use the potential of religion in a positive way and promote peace

Why Religious Actors are Partners for Change

Five reasons

1. Sustainable partners: they think beyond project lifetimes
2. Credibility, acceptance and legitimacy
3. Locally present, also in remote areas
4. Small but mighty
5. Helping hands, many volunteers

Source: wiki commons

➢ Wherever religion is part of the problem – it must also become part of the solution!

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The BMZ-Strategy 2016: Religious Communities as Partners for Development Cooperation

1. Find new partners – increase our cooperation with religious actors

5. Strengthen human rights – open up new dialogues

7. Protect religious diversity – improve the legal environment

2. Empower „peacemakers" – foster interfaith dialogue

8. Increase religious literacy – enhance expertise and training programs

3. Address discrimination and prejudice – invest in education

9. Broaden the analytical basis – take account of the factor of religion

4. Reduce religious hatred – support a positive role for the media

6. Expand networks – build the capacity of faith-based organizations

10. Combine our efforts – create an international partnership

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