

Background

The topic of development cooperation and humanitarian aid in Islamic contexts is often perceived as difficult and challenging. Countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq or Somalia are dominating the coverage. Far too often journalists, politicians and aid workers walk into a trap: existing conflicts such as increasing attacks by insurgents in Afghanistan against Western aid workers are contemplated from a culturalistic point of view. The alleged difference between Islam and Christianity serves as one prominent explanation for the exerted violence. Numerous studies, however, prove these assumptions wrong. Constructs of identity such as religion, nationality or ethnicity are rarely the true reason for conflicts. However political players use and exploit them for the mobilization of followers. The real causes for conflict fade into the background.

The consequences of the political exploitation of religion for development cooperation and humanitarian aid are serious: they lead to mistrust and prejudice amongst the needy population and aid workers and manifest in day to day life in different problems. Furthermore Countries with a Muslim majority are disadvantaged with respect to international development aid funds allocated predominantly by 'Western' donors. They do not receive the same attention as other countries, even though almost half of the estimated 1.3 Billion Muslims worldwide live in extreme poverty. Key indicators such as education, health, life expectancy, gender, illiteracy and poverty prove the need of the Muslim world for a stronger commitment in these areas.

For the above mentioned reasons, a discussion of the role of religion in development cooperation and humanitarian aid is vital. As one part of the problem is a general lack of knowledge about Islam and Muslim societies in Western countries and vice versa, the conference aims at generating a better understanding between Muslim and non-Muslim actors. By making visible the barriers to cooperation, we hope to strengthen the efficiency of development and humanitarian aid in Muslim countries and to improve the collaboration between Muslim and non-Muslim organizations.



Moderator: Marcel Pott, Publicist & Author

Monday, December 7th 2009

14:00 Conference Opening & Welcoming Remarks

Dr. Hany El-Banna - President, Islamic Relief Deutschland
Bärbel Dieckmann - President, Welthungerhilfe

14:30 EU Humanitarian Aid in Islamic Countries

Dr. Peter Zangl - Director General, DG ECHO

15:00 The Humanitarian Situation in Islamic Countries and the OIC's Relief Interventions

H. E. Ambassador Atta Al-Mannan - OIC Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Humanitarian Aid

15:30 Islam and the West, a Complex Relationship. Impacts on Development Cooperation.

Dr. Gunter Mulack - Executive Director, Deutsches Orient Institut

16:00 Coffee break

16:30 Panel Discussion:

Islam – Impulse or Impediment for Development?

H. E. Ambassador Atta Al-Mannan - OIC Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Humanitarian Aid
Dr. Gunter Mulack - Executive Director, Deutsches Orient Institut
Dr. Markus Loewe - Senior Economist, Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik
Dr. Makram El-Shagi - Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung Halle
Hossein Anvari - Superintendent, Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation

18:30 Reception & Dinner

Tuesday, December 8th 2009

9:30 Introductory Speech

Dr. Hany El-Banna - President, Islamic Relief Deutschland

10:00 Working with the Target Groups in Islamic Countries: Opportunities and Barriers

Dr. Bruno De Cordier - Universität Gent
Amin Marco Obermueller - Country Representative Pakistan, Welthungerhilfe
Arwa Hassan - Project Manager Governance, GTZ
Hanyia Dar - Regional Programme Coordinator Horn of Africa, IRW
Discussion

12:00 Lunch Break

13:00 Cooperation between Islamic and Western Organizations in Islamic Countries

James Shaw-Hamilton - Director, Humanitarian Forum
Chris Bain - Chief Executive Officer, CAFOD
Dr. Moustafa Osman - Head of Humanitarian Department, IRW
Hubertus Rüffer - Policy Advisor, Welthungerhilfe
Discussion

15:00 Coffee Break

15:30 Situation of Islamic Organizations in Western Communities and their Perception by Donor Institutions

Jonathan Benthall - University College London
Susannah Pickering - University of East London
Haroun Atallah - Director of Finance, IRW
Dr. Franz Kogelmann - Universität Bayreuth
Discussion

17:30 Conclusions

Prälat Dr. Stephan Reimers - Supervisory Board, Welthungerhilfe
Dr. Hany El-Banna - President, Islamic Relief Deutschland

Registration for Conference:

Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid in the Context of Islam:

Working Together for
Constructive Policies and Partnerships

Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th December 2009

Please register via e-mail or fax:

E-Mail: ioanna.rimpa@welthungerhilfe.de

Fax +49 (0) 228 2288-188

I will participate

Name: _____

Address: _____

Imprint:

Text: Welthungerhilfe and Islamic Relief
Cover: Clive Shirley, Oktober 2009,
Portrait of two women wearing headscarves
Photograph Page 3.: Ursula Meissner/Welthungerhilfe,
Welthungerhilfe-Office El Fasher, Sudan

Location

Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft
Wissenschaftszentrum
Ahrstr. 45
D-53175 Bonn

Directions

to Bonn main station

Airport Köln/Bonn – bus SB60

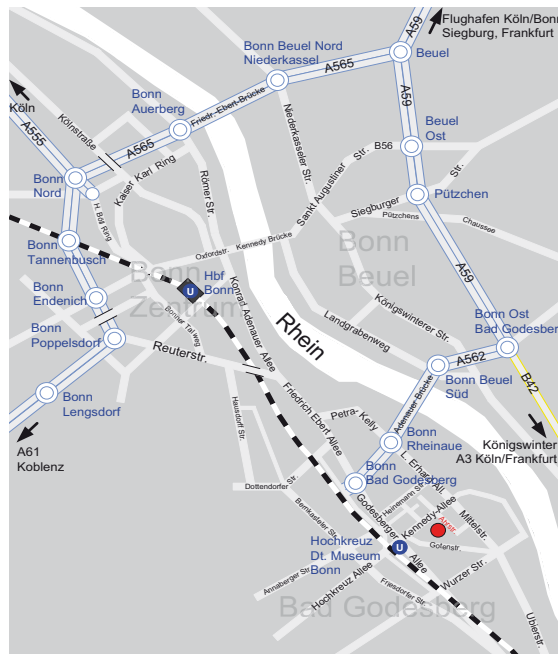
ICE train station Siegburg – subway 66

from Bonn main station to Wissenschaftszentrum

Subway 16 and 63 to Hochkreuz/Deutsches Museum Bonn

or bus line 610 to Kennedyallee

or bus 631 to Ahrstraße/Deutsches Museum Bonn



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DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND HUMANITARIAN AID IN THE CONTEXT OF ISLAM

Working Together for Constructive
Policies and Partnerships

December 7th - 8th 2009

Conference organized by Welthungerhilfe &
Islamic Relief Deutschland