



GLOBAL ONE LONG TERM PLAN ASSESSMENT FOR NEXT TEN YEARS BASED ON NEW SDGS

In the current global climate of great political, security and developmental challenges, it is important for us to acknowledge that Muslim communities are in fact under a disproportionately large level of stress and scrutiny all around the world, both in Muslim majority countries and in the West. Thus as Muslims it is of great importance to us that we are able to see how the Sustainable Development Goals will contribute to our sense of security, safety, and inclusivity on the global stage. At present Muslims in the developing as well as the developed world find ourselves under either physical or emotional threat. Natural disasters, civil unrest, wars and questions around our religious beliefs have had a significant impact on the lives of the 1.8 billion Muslims on this planet.

In light of all of this, the SDG which needs to be the foundation for the success of the Muslim long term plan has to be SDG 16 followed closely by SDG 17.

SDG 16: PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS.

In order to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, and create an environment of cohesion, it is important that all faith communities and their contribution towards human civilisation is recognized, appreciated and celebrated.

SDG 16 must create enough activities and programmes which allow people across faiths to work together to address global issues such as hunger, disease, environmental degradation, increased population and the growing reduction in land for cultivation which all require new thinking in terms of agricultural research and the implementation of historic wisdom inherent in all faith traditions. For example addressing incurable

diseases using research and methods carried out thousands of years ago in India, China and Japan such as the Hindu ayurveda medicine.

Forums where people of all faith traditions can gather to share collective wisdom are required to deal with the human quest for a solution to the problems faced by humanity. The existential threat does not come from the practicing of faiths but from the lack of understanding and integration of the morals of faiths which accommodate and love all human beings. A multitude of initiatives and projects are required which will enhance these possibilities.

Much of the conflict in the world today is perceived to be triggered by religion – yet there are so many more people from the different faith traditions promoting peace – whose voices need to be strengthened and heard. Only then would we have a chance to make a difference and to actually succeed in delivering the SDGs.

The SDGs are a very comprehensive set of goals which encompass all the areas which impact on the Muslim population of approximate 1.8 billion worldwide. In this document I will be focussing on a number of the SDGs that will have a significant impact on the work that I am doing through my international organization Global One 2015 [GO]. It is significant to note is that the work of GO has been directly influenced by the activities of ARC in its implementation phase for the previous Muslim long term plan.

Global One is a UK based charity founded in October 2013 when a group of driven and passionate women led by Dr Husna Ahmad OBE recognised that there was a need for more Muslim women to come forward as changemakers in positions of leadership in the third sector. In particular more Muslim women, who are too often considered to be sidelined and disempowered.

Global One is therefore proud to have a majority women board, and a platform that gives diverse women from all backgrounds the opportunity to lead the organisation.

Our Vision

A fairer and more balanced world for all humanity.

Our Mission

To create smart, relevant, and sustainable solutions to global poverty at the grassroots and policy levels. Whilst activating more Muslim women to join the process as change makers.

The following are our recommendations for the SDGs which are relevant to our work:

GOAL 1: ENDING POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE

- 1.1 **By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.**
- 1.2 **By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.**
- 1.5 **By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.**

Current work:

Global One believes that the economic empowerment of women is an integral step in eliminating extreme poverty, reducing global poverty, and building resilience of families and communities in vulnerable situations.

We have developed livelihood projects for women that work within local gender dynamics, cultural and faith sensitivities and an understanding of national and international markets to empower women and their families out of poverty.

Currently, we are implementing an 18 month project in which 10 women from the Mirpur slums of Dhaka, Bangladesh with business acumen and entrepreneurial potential are identified and recruited to participate in a start-up scheme. This project is to have a long term positive impact in the communities where we work as more women will become self-sufficient and able to support themselves and their families, whilst offering employment opportunities to other members of the community. It includes an entrepreneurship course and introduction into the medium-quality market, followed by micro-grants and incubation and mentoring for the small businesses initiated. We also run a similar project for widows.

Recommendations:

Invest in creating employment opportunities for women that:

- Work within cultural and faith sensitivities
- Create an accepted shift in gender dynamics that allow women to uphold traditional values whilst increasing their earning potential

Vision:

A movement of Muslim women championing:

- Sustainable livelihood projects
- Professional Muslim women's networks that act as platforms for knowledge sharing, mentorship and partnership across socio-economic brackets

GOAL 2 – END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE.

- 1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round**
- 2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons**
- 3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment**
- 4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality**

Current work:

Global One believes that women play a vital role in building food security for all. According to the UN, women comprise 43% of the global agricultural labour force. In households where women are in greater control of the food brought in, it has been shown that nutritional deficiency among household members decreases significantly. Women in agriculture provide support to their families and communities by increasing food and economic security.

'Islamic Farming – A Toolkit for Conservation Agriculture' uses the six promises of Allah (swt) to create practical farming techniques based on conservation agriculture. The project involved 45 beneficiaries: 13 men and 32 females; 3 days training on Islamic Farming and conservation agriculture as well as 20 girl orphans. A school farm was prepared, fenced and equipped with drip irrigation for the girls of Umul-kheir orphanage. The farm is managed by the girl orphans who plan, weed the crops and till. The crops planted in the school farm are Cowpeas, Water melon, Tomatoes, onions, Maize, banana and trees to act as wind breakers. The project has increased yields by 49% and a local supermarket has agreed to sell future surplus to create another income for the beneficiaries. The plan is to expand the project to other countries such as Nigeria as well as to expand the current project in Kenya.

Recommendations:

- Increase the participation of Muslim women as small holder farmers.
- Encourage a faith based approach to community involvement in nutritional and food security education focusing on cultural sensitivities.
- Emphasise faith based approaches to agricultural production as a means to accomplish food and economic security.

Vision:

A food secure world achieved by engaging and empowering faith communities through culturally sensitive agricultural education.

GOAL 3 – ENSURE HEALTHY LIVES AND PROMOTE WELL-BEING FOR ALL AT ALL AGES

- 3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births**
- 3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age**
- 3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases**

Current work:

Global One believes that targeted interventions that improve the health of women and

their children are a key starting point for building healthier communities and promoting well-being for all at all ages. The status of the mother and the importance of taking care of her is expressed explicitly in Islamic teachings.

Global One is currently delivering an interfaith Maternal and New-born Child Healthcare project in two counties of Kenya using a faith based approach. 25 faith leaders have been trained in a Muslim County and 25 by our partners in a Christian county, to raise awareness on Maternal and New-born Child Healthcare through community dialogue and congregational sermons. In order to reach the 6,000 beneficiaries and increase the demand for healthcare, Community Health Workers, coordinated in both counties by Community Health Committees, have also been trained following the government's strategy guidelines. As a result of the work of the faith leaders and the two established health units, the demand has seen a steep increase and there is now a need to focus also on the side of supply for maternal and new-born child health services.

GO has also just begun a project providing medical supplies and refurbished equipment to two health centres in Kano State and one in Adamawa State in Nigeria. It is also financially supporting nurses and doctors to work at the clinics full time for a period of six months. This will enhance the quality and quantity of maternal health services in a health centre in Nigeria. During the six month period, Global One will run an interfaith maternal health campaign in the surrounding areas to encourage the communities to use the new services. This project is intended to be used as a blueprint for further projects in West Africa. It is our intention that during the six month life of the project, further funding will be secured.

Our work on WASH education in Bangladesh and Kenya involving the UN initiative Raising Clean Hands is also expanding with future projects aimed at reducing water-borne disease cases and transmission. In early 2015 GO ran a well building project in Somalia which brought clean, safe water to the citizens of Afgoya state.

Recommendations:

Invest in replicating the faith based approach to maternal and new-born child healthcare:

- To increase awareness in marginalised and hard to reach communities
- Remove harmful cultural and religious practices
- Train faith leaders to become champions for maternal and new-born child health among their congregations

- Empower women to seek health services with support from their families and communities

Vision:

Muslim communities empowered by their faith teachings to:

- Ensure the health of each mother and child is a priority
- Learn about and disseminate faith teachings that promote well-being and good health and pro-actively challenge harmful practices
- Promote both men and women to be active advocates and campaigners for maternal and new-born child healthcare
- Provide women the knowledge, skills and tools to take control of their own health and well-being

GOAL 4 – ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

- 1. By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university**
- 2. By 2030, increase by [x] per cent the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship**

Current work:

Global One believes universal education is a key step in global equality, justice and social advancement. Education for all women is a core aspect of our livelihoods vision, women who are educated beyond the age of 7 are less likely to die in childbirth and more likely to have fewer, healthier children according to the UN.

Recommendations:

- An increase in faith sensitive education for religious communities in deprived areas.
- Increased opportunities for women in education by providing faith sensitive facilities such as childcare.
- Increased emphasis on practical skills education to enable women to create an income stream for themselves and their families.

Vision:

Universal education empowering Muslim women to become community leaders and enabling them to make change at a local and policy level throughout the world.

GOAL 5 – ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS**5.5 Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life****Current work:**

Global One was founded on the basis and belief that there is a need for more Muslim women to emerge as leaders and change-makers, inspired by their faith teachings, and not blocked but encouraged and supported by their faith communities. It holds this ambition equally for women everywhere and thus integrates the participation, equal opportunities and leadership of women in all of its projects.

Following the success of the Indonesian Women’s WASH network which was initiated by ARC we have built on the momentum created through that process. Global One is now developing an International Womens WASH network under whose umbrella the various networks will be supported. Global One’s Women’s WASH network in Bangladesh is an interfaith network which brings women to the forefront of community leadership to bring WASH education and training to their communities. GO is in the process of initiating similar WASH networks in Yemen and Nigeria.

Recommendations:

Invest in creating women’s networks that:

- Allow women to emerge as leaders and influential voices on issues that affect themselves, their families and society
- Empower women of faith traditions to be able to confidently assert their rights, participation and leadership
- Ensure the needs and insights of women are included in development initiatives

Vision:

Women’s networks established that:

- Hold expertise, influence and representative insight on development issues
- Are skilled in promoting better gender equality through the lens of faith and culture and ensure buy-in from stakeholders at all levels
- Bring together women of all backgrounds and beliefs to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

GOAL 6 – ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL.

- 1 By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all**
- 2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations**
- 3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and increasing recycling and safe reuse by [x] per cent globally**

Current:

Global One believes that access to safe drinking water, sanitation systems and education enables communities to lead healthier, happier lives by reducing the prevalence of water-borne disease. Everyday nearly 1400 children die from preventable water-borne disease according to WHO and for every £1 spent on WASH £8 is returned through efficiencies and productivity (UNDP).

Our work on WASH education in Bangladesh and Kenya involving the UN initiative Raising Clean Hands is also expanding with future projects aimed at reducing water-borne disease cases and transmission.

GO's Womens WASH network in Bangladesh brings women to the forefront of community leadership to bring WASH education and training to their communities. GO is in the process of bringing WASH networks to Yemen and Nigeria.

Recommendations:

- Emphasis on faith based WASH education as a method of community engagement.
- An increased focus on women as leaders on community WASH issues through network and capacity building.
- Building strong partnerships with GIWA and Faith in Water

Vision:

Women to lead the eradication of water-borne diseases and inadequate water access in deprived areas through a holistic approach involving faith based education, network and capacity-building.

GOAL 8 – PROMOTE SUSTAINED, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH, FULL AND PRODUCTIVE EMPLOYMENT AND DECENT WORK FOR ALL.

- ♦ **Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services**
- ♦ **By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value**

Current:

How realistic is it to ask for full employment when one looks at the crisis after crisis which is unfolding on our world today?? Do all women want to work?? Why should they not have a choice?? Is it our obsession with consumption that drives our need for full employment?? What is the impact on children of having parents working long hours and how can they then retain the faith traditions within the families. Global One believes that an increase in small and medium sized enterprises run by women is essential for the continued development of communities and economies because it enables women to work so as to fit everything within their schedules rather than sacrifice precious time which could be spent with their children.

Recommendations:

- New models need to be explored which move away from the capitalist model as it is very destructive for the planet.
- Provide leadership at national level to create an enabling environment for education and training.
- Revisit the work life balance model and how it fits in developing nations plans for growth
- create a level playing field by providing the necessary training and mentoring to be those who are deprived.
- Provide childcare on site for women so they can have an opportunity to access the training opportunities

Vision:

Economies that include:

- An ethical model of sustained growth to be developed which encompasses all the great faith traditions and yet brings balance to the planet
- Muslim men and women who are given opportunities to develop their nations through sustainable growth
- Balance between a sustainable society and a values based society

GOAL 15 – PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLY MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS.

1 By 2020, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land-degradation-neutral world

Current:

Global One believes that we must work with our ecosystems rather than against them by practicing conservation agriculture. Rural farming communities in Africa are struggling to produce enough crops to sustain their families due to the ever changing climate and increasing desertification. Global One found that the local communities were more likely to respond to the conservation agriculture classes if they were in a faith context. Building on the collaboration between ARC and GO to develop the toolkit

on 'Islamic Farming a practical project has been undertaken which uses the six promises of Allah (swt) to create practical farming techniques based on conservation agriculture. The project involved 45 beneficiaries: 13 men and 32 females; 3 days training on Islamic Farming and conservation agriculture as well as 20 girl orphans. A school farm was prepared, fenced and equipped with drip irrigation for the girls of Umul-Kheir orphanage.. The crops planted in the school farm are Cowpeas, Water melon, Tomatoes, onions, Maize, banana and trees to act as wind breakers. The project has increased yields by 49% and a local supermarket has agreed to sell future surplus to create another income for the beneficiaries. The model is now going to be replicated in Nigeria as well as to expand the current project in Kenya.

Recommendations:

- When combating environmental decline in Muslim communities; encourage the locals to participant in the programmes by introducing an Islamic Perspective.
- Make changes to environmental programmes to suit the beliefs of the local communities.
- More research and funds needed to develop this model of Islamic farming as a beacon of best practice

Vision:

An environment where:

- Muslim men and women are tackling desertification by taking charge and implementing Islamic farming principles in rural farms.
- Islamic farming techniques are rolled out as a easily replicable models for poor farmers across Africa and Asia.

GOAL 17 – STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALISE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

- 1 Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation**

2 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

Current:

This SDG along with SDG 16 are the most crucial ones if we are to see an impact on the ground. At the international level it needs to be recognized that the faith communities need to be a key partner in order to deliver on the SDGs. Partnership is the only way forward; but it cannot be lip service – simply having consultations with faith communities will not achieve much. Religious literacy needs to be introduced to the UN bodies as well as senior government officials in all countries. A training course on religious literacy needs to be developed and rolled out worldwide. At the same time the faith communities need to be targeted for capacity building through a proper integrated programme.

GO is in the process of setting up a Womens International WASH network, based on our work in Indonesia and Bangladesh, and already working with GIWA and ARC to enhance global partnerships for development

Recommendations:

- Ensure that faith based organisations implementing the SDG projects are highly productive and offer capacity building training sessions to them.

Vision:

Faith based organisations such as GO are capacity built to enable them to support other FBOs to grow and thereby have a trickle down effect to develop international standards of delivery of projects.

It is important to accelerate partnerships between small grass root and large institutions to strengthen capacities of the smaller institutions which will eliminate the differences and help to achieve their common pursuit.

In light of this, it should be made mandatory for a recipient of large funding to include small partners in delivering programmes. This process will allow small organisations today, to emerge as leading players tomorrow. Religion and the conflict of religion, can

only be combated if people recognize that professing and practicing a religious tradition, is just a spiritual journey which promotes global brotherhood and does not promote division of any form.

*Dr Husna Ahmad OBE
CEO Global One 2015*