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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Engaging Religious Actors



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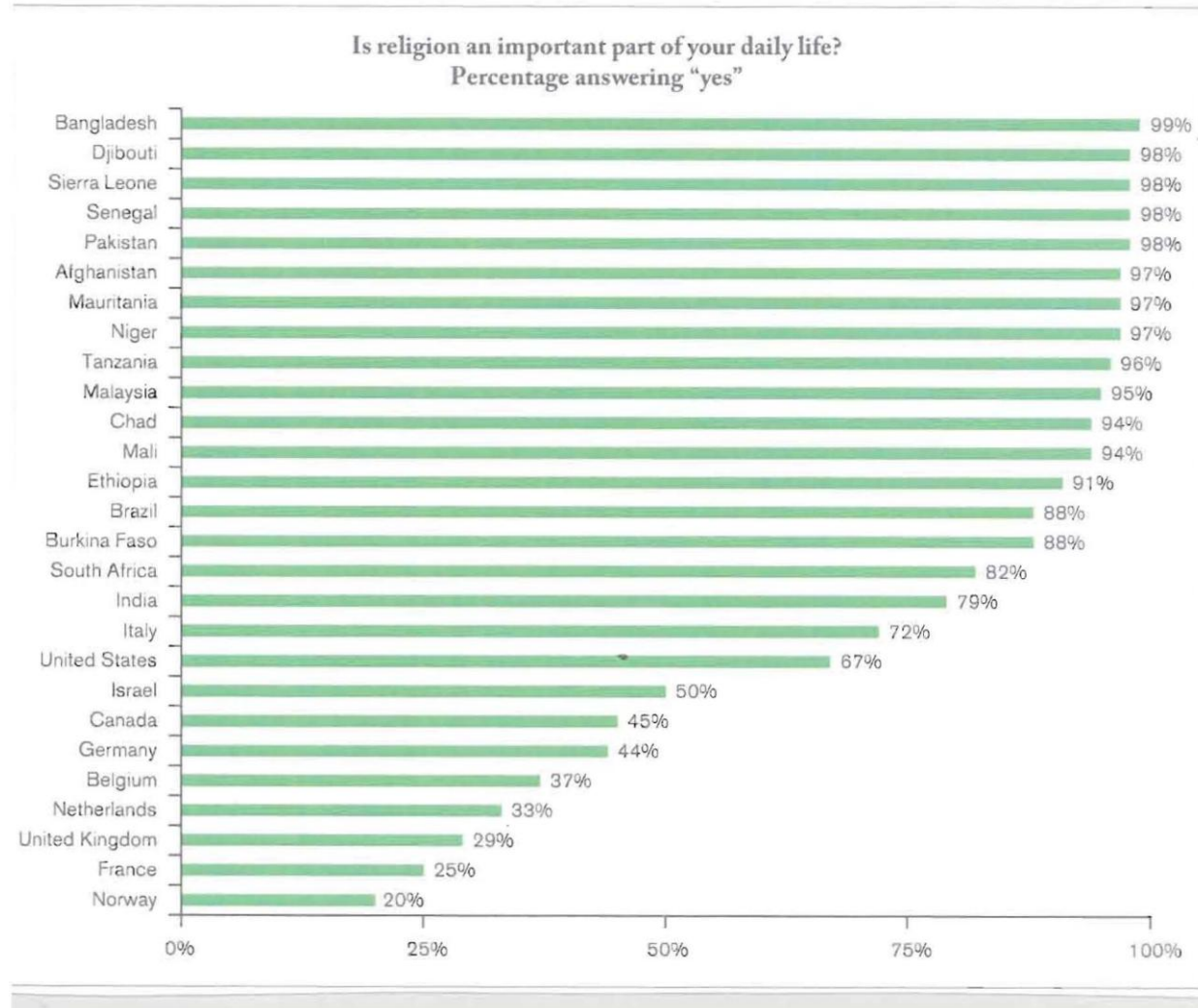
III. Why Religion Matters at USAID





Why Does Religion Matter to USAID?

Figure 1. Religion's Importance





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Define/identify the development objective

- Development objective must be:
 - Clearly defined
 - Secular in purpose
 - Serve as the foundation of all programming





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V. Legal Guidelines





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First Amendment—Establishment Clause

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of a religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...”





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Implications for USAID—GC Guidance

- USAID will only finance activities and programs that have a secular purpose and which do not have the primary effect of advancing or inhibiting religion. USAID-financed activities and programs may not:
 - **Result in government indoctrination of religion**
 - **Define its recipients by reference to religion**
 - **Create an excessive entanglement with religion**
- Assistance must be allocated on the basis of *neutral*, secular criteria that neither favor nor disfavor religion, and is made available to both religious and secular beneficiaries on a nondiscriminatory basis.



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And now for a test...

Does this activity pass legal guidelines?

- Pass
- Fail

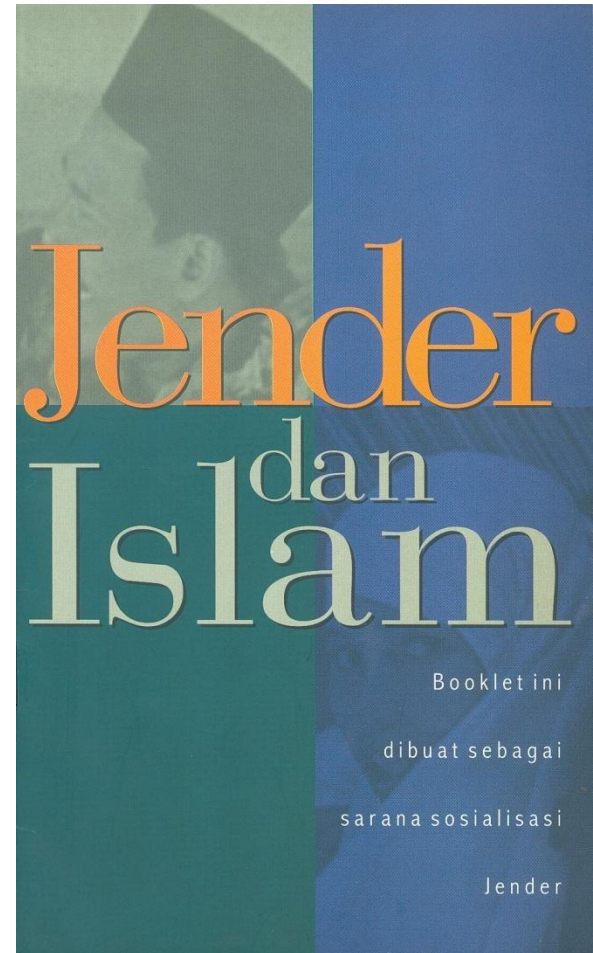




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Does this activity pass legal guidelines?

- Pass
- Fail





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Does this activity pass legal guidelines?

- Pass
- Fail





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The Establishment Clause is there to protect you.

Avoid Legal Traps:

- Indoctrination
- Endorsement
- Excessive Entanglement

Don't let the legal guidelines inhibit you from developing innovative approaches to engage religious actors from the community.



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VI. Opportunities for Engagement





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Role of Religious Actors



- Leader
- Gatekeeper
- Activist
- Advisor
- Interlocutor
- Oppressor
- Provider
- Politician
- Follower
- Advocate
- Agitator



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Role of Religious Actors

Provider

Cambodia

Monks provide:

- Home-based care to people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Services to children who have lost parents to AIDS.





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Role of Religious Actors

Advisor

Philippines

Solicit advice from Muslim legal specialists to:

- Ensure new forestry regulation legislation includes local traditions, religious laws, and other cultural norms.
- Address community concerns.
- Build consensus between disagreeing parties.





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Community Mobilizer

Guatemala

Partnership with Local Catholic Churches.

- Establish youth outreach centers
 - Health, job skills, and literacy skills
- Crime prevention programs
 - Prevent new gang membership recruitment
 - Help former gang members





Guidelines for Partnership

- Federal dollars cannot be used for the printing and publication of overtly religious materials
- Federal dollars may not be used for worship, religious instruction or proselytizing
- Any religious activities must take place in a separate time or place from USG-funded activities and must be voluntary
- FBOs must report how Federal funds were spent as is required by all grant recipients
- FBOs cannot discriminate against any current or prospective beneficiary on the basis of religion or religious belief

- FBOs **CAN** include religious references in their mission statement or other governing documents.
- FBOs **CAN** select board members on a religious basis.
- FBOs **CAN** use facilities without removing religious art, icons, scriptures or other religious symbols.
- FBOs **CAN** offer religious activities as long as they are voluntarily attended, privately funded, and separate in time or location from federally supported activities

- When in doubt about USG-funded FBO activities, consult the Agency Legal Advisor