

PARTNERSHIP WITH FAITH BASED ORGANISATIONS NETWORKS

The Department of Social Development, Population Development Unit has developed partnerships with Faith Based Organizations (FBO's) within the province to implement community outreach programmes focusing on the development concerns identified in the Population Policy.

So far partnerships with FBO's have been established in all five districts since 2009 namely:

- Motheo FBO Network-Bloemfontein
- Kutlwanong FBO-Odendaalsrus
- Trompsburg FBO
- Maluti A Phofung Ministerial Fraternal-Qwaqwa
- Maokeng Ministers Fraternal

According to the Population strategy, members of the FBOs should comprise of leaders with various beliefs such as Christians, Rastafarians and Traditional Healers. These leaders play a pivotal role in their respective communities and government needs such people to instill good morals and values in the members of our communities.

Faith Based Organizations are responsible for implementing programs such as Women Empowerment Programs which focuses on parenting skills, budget planning, self-actualization, self-identity, awareness on fatherhood strategy as well as awareness campaign during 16 days of activism of No Violence Against Women and Children. With all the social ills affecting the Free State community particularly the gangsterism trend that we are witnessing especially in Mangaung Metro, Motheo Faith Based Organisation Network hosted a Women's Development Crusade at Botshabelo. The organization strongly believes that women play a very significant role in our communities as they are the pillars that hold their families together, which is why the organization deemed it so important to host an event of this nature for them.

FBOs also focus on the youth particularly on issues relating to Adolescent Reproductive Health & Rights. Kutlwanong and Trompsburg FBOs have recently hosted Youth Indabas with various youth structures to discuss their challenges such as teenage pregnancy, termination of pregnancy and family planning.

The formation of these structures are a result of a mandate of the Population Policy of 1998, which outlines a number of strategies that need to be implemented to achieve its objectives. These include coordination and capacity building for integrating population and development planning, promoting participation of civil society in all aspects of the implementation of the policy, advocacy and population information, education and communication (IEC) as well as data collection and research.

