Departmental Performance Report 2013-2014

Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada

Sub-Sub-Program 1.2.5.6: Religious Freedom Fund

Description: This sub-sub-program enhances international awareness regarding religious freedom and supports efforts to defend the freedom of religion and the beliefs of religious minorities. It helps defend religious minorities, monitors religious freedom, and calls attention to religious persecution.

Table 41: 2013-14 Financial Resources (dollars) - Human Resources (FTEs)					
Planned Spending	**Actual Spending**	**Difference**	**Planned**	**Actual**	**Difference**
[24] The variance is due to internal reallocation of contribution funds between programs.					
4,926,692	1,503,926	-3,422,766[24]	6	6	0

Table 42: Performance Results			
Expected Result	**Performance Indicator**	**Target**	**Result**
Partners and international stakeholders are aware of issues of religious freedom in targeted countries and regions.	# of activities, conferences or events on religious freedom and beliefs attended by the Ambassador for advocacy and outreach purposes.	baseline	5
Organizations (NGO's, international, religious, and universities) in targeted counties have the capacity to address violations of freedom of religions or beliefs.	Degree to which, on a scale of 1 to 5, organizations have developed their capacity to support awareness, dialogue and expertise on freedom of religion or belief through research, education, conferences and workshops.	4	5

Table 42: Performance Results			
Expected Result	**Performance Indicator**	**Target**	**Result**
	Degree to which, on a scale of 1 to 5, organizations have developed their capacity to provide training on freedom of religion or belief, including legal services to religious minorities and specialized services to their defenders.	4	5

Performance Analysis and Lessons Learned

Canada's Ambassador for Religious Freedom raised awareness regarding the promotion and defence of religious freedom worldwide through a number of activities including:

- domestic outreach and advocacy with Ottawa-based Ambassadors, religious leaders, diaspora groups, academics;
- bilateral engagement with 38 countries, including Hungary, Pakistan, Poland, Turkey, and Ukraine; and
- the issuance of statements and demarches calling attention to egregious violations of religious freedom, including in Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Syria.

The Religious Freedom Fund was implemented and fully operational in August 2013. During the last 6 months of the fiscal year, 14 projects were identified, developed and/or approved. These projects aimed at improving the dialogue between religious communities to promote tolerance and pluralism, research and monitoring of violence or actions against religious communities, improving access to justice for targeted religious communities or support to constitutional changes to improve religious freedom. Inception missions to Bangladesh, Burma, Hong Kong, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Poland took place to meet with officials and identify partners for the Religious Freedom Fund in these countries.