



## When Helping Hurts *Key Principles*

1. Poverty consists of broken relationships that each person has with God, self, others, and the rest of creation. This brokenness is manifest at both the individual and structural (community, national, and international) levels.
2. Poverty alleviation consists of working – at both individual and structural levels – to reconcile those relationships. This reconciling framework has profound implications for how we design and implement poverty alleviation efforts, including: using relational approaches wherever possible; using asset-based approaches; employing participatory methods; and clearly articulating the gospel.
3. Christ is the reconciler of all things, including the four key relationships. In this sense, Christ is the only one who can alleviate poverty in the fullest sense.
4. Christ works through His body and bride – the local church – to communicate his comprehensive reconciliation to a hurting world.
5. To fulfill its task, the local church must declare the good news of Christ’s reconciliation using both words and deeds.
6. One of the many manifestations of Christ’s reconciliation is that people will be restored to what God created them to be: people who bring glory to God through working and supporting themselves and their families through that work.