

**Flourishing and Sustainable Ministry Assessment**  
**(May 2015)**

**Narrative of poverty:** broken relationships (with God, self, others and creation) & broken systems/structures.

**How poverty manifests itself:** community poverty, spiritual poverty, material poverty, emotional/social poverty

**Helpful Reminders:**

Here are some ways of addressing poverty to address **(material) poverty** that does not cause harm:

- Never do for those struggling with (material) poverty what they have (or could have) the capacity to do for themselves.
  - Limit one-way giving to emergency situations only.
  - Strive to empower those struggling with (material) poverty through employment, lending and investing, using grants sparingly to reinforce achievements.
  - Sub-ordinate self-interests to the needs of those being served.
  - Listen closely to those you seek to help, especially to what is not being said - unspoken feelings may contain essential clues for effective service.
  - Above all, do no harm. (taken from *Robert Lupton's Oath for Compassion Service*)
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**Questions to consider:**

1. How was the need for this ministry/project identified?
2. How was the community's voice included in determining the need?
3. What are the goals (hoped for outcomes) of this ministry/project?
4. How could you design this ministry to address both the root cause(s) as well as the symptoms (consider the principles stated above)?
5. In what ways can the community's assets and resources contribute to this ministry?
  - a. What partnerships are needed?
6. In what ways can the participants of this ministry contribute their gifts and give shape to the design (are participants involved to make the impact sustainable)?