

**‘Christian Faith Based Organizations and Transformational Development in Togo, Benin and The Democratic Republic of the Congo’**

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**ABSTRACT**

The study is an exploratory enquiry into the extent to which selected small-scale Christian Faith Based Organizations (CFBOs) in Francophone Evangelical and Pentecostal circles engaged effectively with transformational development. Data were gathered from six cases in total; three cases in Togo, two in Benin and one in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Qualitative research methods were used for data gathering.

Literature on the subject of CFBO activities largely takes for granted the technical aspects of the work. Instead, it predominantly engages with aspects and ways in which socio-economic development activities undertaken by Christians should be involved in activities expressing God’s vision for human life and living conditions. A working definition of transformational development was based on this. The research data suggest that small-scale CFBOs desire to do good work and, depending on their available skills and resources, undertake meaningful activities within their context. However, departing from the working definition of transformational development, the research data provides evidence that various factors affect the capacity and effectiveness of small-scale CFBOs in their involvement and in stimulating transformational development. The principal factors concerned professionalism with regard to organizational aspects and development praxis, as also the CFBOs’ operative theology. The examination of these factors revealed tensions with regard to the activities of the CFBOs in relation to transformational development. The tensions concerned issues regarding resources and skills, organisational priorities, and the experienced contradistinction between eternal life and temporal life matters. On the basis of the findings the research suggests that the relationship between socio-economic development activities and other church activities requires further clarification through increased understanding of the operative theologies at work. The research, therefore, proposes further investigation toward increased understanding of the missiological side of development activities besides capacity building for further professionalization of small-scale CFBO activities for improved effectiveness.