



# MINISTRY REFLECTION

## Research Summary for IFES Strategy Planning 2021

These exercises were carried out by regions, global ministry teams, and international services teams. We wanted to gain a deeper understanding of the internal and external factors impacting our ministry. We used a framework for identifying and analysing our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and risks (SWOR).

### RESEARCH FINDINGS

The main trends that emerged from the SWORs are as follows.

- a) *Ministry strengths*: The fact IFES is **rooted in Scripture**, studying it and wanting it to influence our life, is seen as a clear ministry strength. For the regions, this is alongside our commitment to **student leadership** and developing student leaders; our committed and experienced **staff**; and the presence of **graduates** supporting the ministry and living out their faith in positions of influence.
- b) *Digital technology* is seen as an opportunity across parts of IFES.
- c) *Ministry opportunities*: Alongside technology, the regions identified opportunities to reach students by **understanding the next generation's** concerns and characteristics. There are also opportunities around **networking and collaboration** and in the area of **international student ministry**. The theological advisory group provided good recommendations and insights on partnership opportunities.
- d) *Funding*: All SWORs acknowledged the inherent challenge of ensuring sustained funding for IFES ministry. The Global Advancement SWOR in particular reflected on the current capacity and readiness of the team towards addressing funding sustainability.
- e) *Organisational capacity*: **Limited staff numbers and staff development** and **limited organisational capacity** in movements were other areas of weakness.
- f) *Global ministries*: The top strengths for global ministries are **strong content, diverse resource teams** and **effective models and approaches**. These strengths are somewhat offset by a **limited reach**, and the fact that participation is based on invitation by national movements. Better leveraging the potential within global ministries is thus a key opportunity to guide development of the next strategic vision.
- g) *Global trends*: Several external global trends were identified as top risks impacting students, including socio-economic and political changes, secularism, mental health and changes in higher education. The trends identified were consistent with the findings from NMs prioritisation exercise and responses from theological advisors.

DEEPER REPORTING ON THE SWOR FINDINGS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR IFES STAFF AND NATIONAL MOVEMENTS IN THE JUNE 2021 EDITION OF FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER.