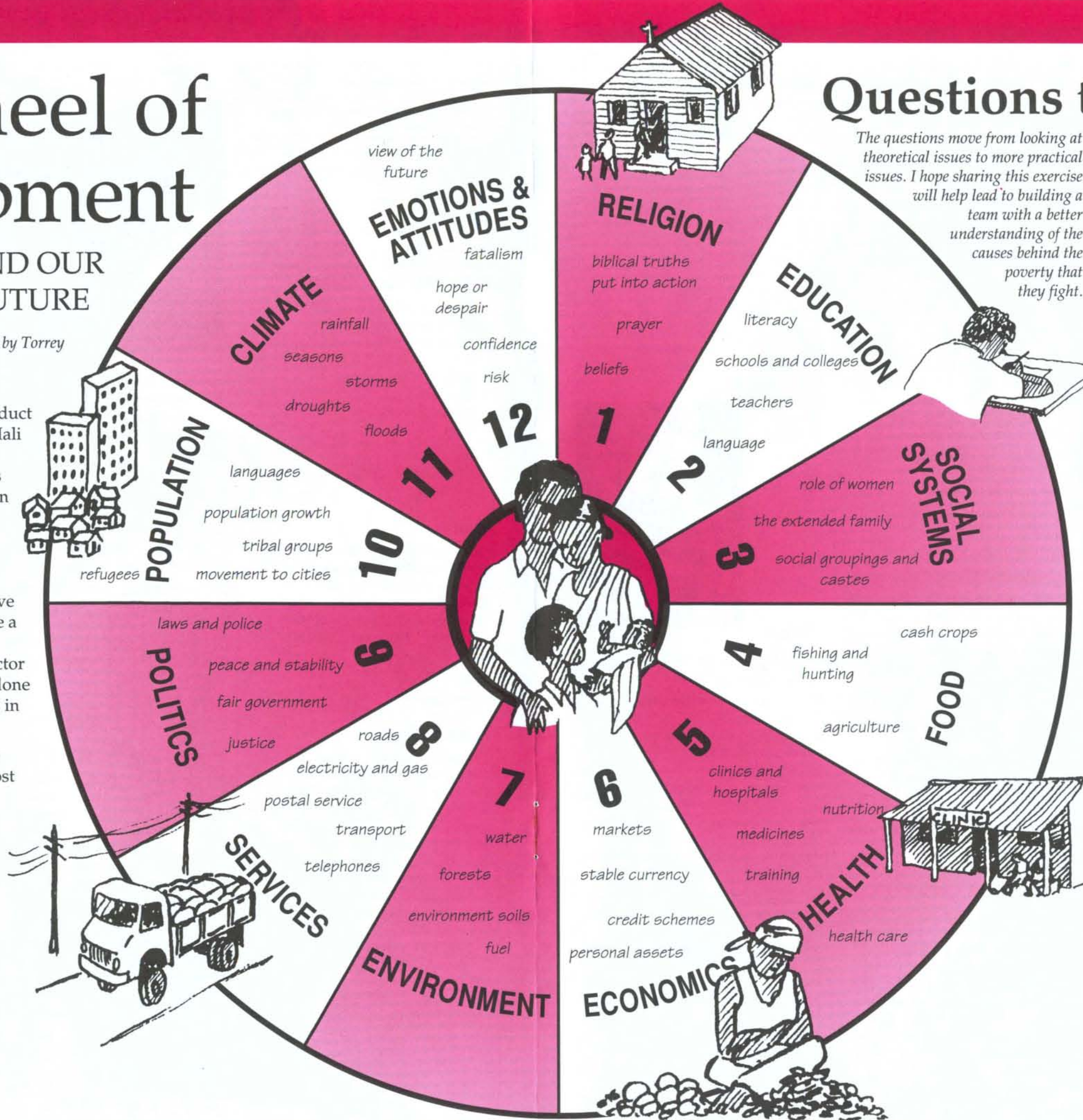# The Wheel of Development

DEVELOPMENT AND OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Adapted with thanks from an article written by Torrey Olsen, World Vision, Gao, Eastern Mali.

We have found it very helpful to conduct training among our staff in eastern Mali using the 'Wheel of Development' shown here. Before we introduce this diagram, we like to begin a discussion by asking the question 'Why do you think people are poor?' All kinds of reasons and excuses are usually discussed. Then we introduce the diagram and look at each of the twelve sections of the wheel in turn. We give a strong case for each of the twelve sections being the most important factor for development. This can easily be done – often with the help of recent stories in the papers or radio.

Then we ask the group 'Which of the twelve factors do **you** think is the most important?' Now all the previous excuses have gone. People feel a little overwhelmed. A far better discussion begins. This discussion usually takes about an hour and the result is usually a new understanding about the complexity of the causes of poverty. After this introductory session, the group may work through the questions opposite in a number of meetings.

The Wheel of Development diagram showing twelve sections:

- **EMOTIONS & ATTITUDES (12):** view of the future, fatalism, hope or despair, confidence, risk
- **RELIGION (1):** biblical truths put into action, prayer, beliefs
- **EDUCATION (2):** literacy, schools and colleges, teachers, language
- **SOCIAL SYSTEMS (3):** role of women, the extended family, social groupings and castes
- **FOOD (4):** cash crops, fishing and hunting, agriculture
- **HEALTH (5):** clinics and hospitals, medicines, training, nutrition, health care
- **ECONOMICS (6):** markets, stable currency, credit schemes, personal assets
- **ENVIRONMENT (7):** water, forests, environment soils, fuel
- **SERVICES (8):** roads, electricity and gas, postal service, transport, telephones
- **POLITICS (9):** laws and police, peace and stability, fair government, justice
- **POPULATION (10):** languages, population growth, tribal groups, movement to cities, refugees
- **CLIMATE (11):** rainfall, seasons, storms, droughts, floods

Questions to discuss...

The questions move from looking at theoretical issues to more practical issues. I hope sharing this exercise will help lead to building a team with a better understanding of the causes behind the poverty that they fight.

1. Which of these twelve sections is the most important? Why? Which is the next important? Why?
2. Are any other important factors missing from this wheel? What are they?
3. Could you make a case for any of these other factors being the most important?
4. Out of these twelve sections is there one in which changes are easier to make? Which one and why?
5. Which section would be the most difficult to make changes in? Why?
6. Do these twelve sections fall into more general categories? If so, what are they?
7. In which of these sections must we usually begin our efforts? Why?
8. What is the difference between relief and development?
9. How can you judge if a relief project is successful or not?
10. How can you judge if a development project is successful or not?
11. What are the real goals of development?
12. What are the positive things about each of these twelve sections here in our situation? What are the negative things?
13. What things are we doing to make changes in each of these sections?
14. What things could we do to make changes in each of these sections?
15. What qualities should a development worker have?
16. What skills do you have to share with the team?
17. What skills would you like to learn more about in order to do your job better?
18. How can we help one another become better at our work?
19. What are our greatest needs right now – as a team?
20. How likely is this project to be successful in improving development here in the next year? Three years? Five years?