

## GAP 2: THE NEW MIDDLE CLASS

### Driving Question for Collaborative Design

How might Christians in the church, parachurch, and workplace collaborate to reach and disciple the rapidly growing, mostly comfortable, middle-class?

### Description

Over the last 40 years, the world's efforts to alleviate poverty on a global scale have seen significant results. Around 2020, the middle-class became the majority of the global population. By 2050, it will increase by 2 billion individuals, with the majority of the increase in Asia. Reaching and discipling this middle-class demographic is distinct from engaging individuals in poverty due to distinct values, priorities, and motivations of the middle-class. Historically, increased wealth correlates with decreased faith commitment, partly because of a failure to offer a robust holistic gospel vision for every day life and work.

In an effort to discern innovative missional practices for the new middle class, this conversation prayerfully explores:

### Collaboration Questions

- What strategies have been effective in reaching non-believers in the middle-class and those transitioning into it from lower income contexts?
- What have been effective strategies for envisioning middle-class Christians for integral mission?
- How can local churches and Christian workers be equipped to reach the middle-class?
- What regionally specific mission strategies and missional business are needed to reach the middle-classes – old and new?

### Sub-Topics

- Engaging nominal Christians and the dechurched (those who have fallen out of fellowship)
- Reaching the new middle-class with the gospel
- Discipleship of the new middle-class
- Organizational collaboration opportunities to reach the middle-class

### Preparation before Seoul 2024

Please read these sections of the State of the Great Commission Report:

- Introduction from the Theology Working Group
- Part I, on the State of the Great Commission globally, captured by text and graphics
- Part II, with the article on 'The New Middle-Class'
- Part III for your particular region in which you primarily work or serve in church or parachurch