

**Executive Summary
of the 8 Regional Webinars
to launch the
Multi-religious Faith in Action COVID 19
Global Initiative
#Faith-in-Action COVID-19
April-May 2020**

Religions for Peace 



**JOINT LEARNING INITIATIVE on
FAITH & LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of the eight Regional Webinars recently completed to roll-out the **Multi-religious Faith in Action COVID 19 Global Initiative**, known for short as #Faith-in-Action COVID-19 Initiative.

The report provides an overview of the Regional Webinars in 5 sections:

1. The background and goals of #Faith-in-Action COVID-19,
2. The global launch via 7 regional webinars,
3. Key feedback and learning from the participants,
4. Next steps,
5. Links to key resources.

The #FaithinActionCOVID-19 initiative is a work-in-progress response to the global crisis precipitated by the pandemic. The existing networks of Religions for Peace, UNICEF, and the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities (JLI) were mobilized to reach over 700 influencers at regional levels around the world. The #FaithinActionCOVID-19 Initiative was launched at regional level with a leadership briefing and consultation, as a basis for country-level mobilization, dissemination of global resources and improved inter-faith coordination and action.

This Initiative acknowledges and promotes the unique and critical roles of religious leaders and faith communities in influencing values, attitudes, and behaviors that affect the survival, protection, development, participation and wellbeing of the world's children and their families. The Initiative seeks to provide guidance to faith-led activities to prevent the spread of COVID-19, to prepare for recovery of basic social services and to provide on-going support for the spiritual and material needs of faith and wider communities.

Local faith communities, faith-based organizations (FBO) and networks, and UNICEF teams on the ground are already much separately and together as first responders and as agents of education, prevention, protection, and care for vulnerable populations, including laying the groundwork for recovery.

The #FaithinActionCOVID-19 webinars facilitated the exchange of information about ongoing activities and good practices and provided important feedback to the coordinating partners about unmet needs and priority tasks. Based on this feedback, the next steps for the #FaithinActionCOVID-19 initiative have been formulated.

To support rollout of inter-faith COVID response on a global scale and as a part of UNICEF's overall programming, plans for country-level tripartite coordination and joint action among religious leaders, women of faith and interfaith youth networks, local FBOs and UNICEF offices are now being promoted and set in motion.

1. BACKGROUND

Faith and Positive Change for Children, Families and Communities (FPCC) is a global partnership between **UNICEF**, the world's largest multi-religious network **Religions for Peace (RFP)** and knowledge partner **Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities (JLI)** and its member agencies which began in 2018 and was officially launched by *RfP* and UNICEF's Executive Director in Washington, DC, in October 2019. The central aim of the partnership is **to support positive social and behaviour change with and for children, parents, and communities** with specific emphasis on moving beyond simply delivering messages, to engaging local faith communities with UNICEF country offices in self-reflection, dialogue, exchange, and feedback in order to achieve real and lasting positive change on jointly agreed priorities affecting children and their families.

By February 2020, It was clear that COVID-19 would require new and changed thinking about the FPCC Partnership workplan for the year. On March 11, 2020, based on over 118,000 cases of corona illness in over 110 countries, the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 as a global pandemic. It was increasingly clear that children and families, especially those already facing a range of vulnerabilities, would require particular support to address various challenges to their health and safety: school closures, high levels of emotional distress, higher risks of violence, increased food insecurity, and incidences of other diseases due to breaks in routine health care services. Additionally, it was evident that religious leaders and faith communities were in need of support to know how best to help keep their followers safe and how to best mobilize to support each other. It was against this background that the partners of the Faith and Positive Change for Children (FPCC) agreed to repurpose the 2020 plans and priorities to address the COVID-19 Pandemic through the Multi-Religious Global Interfaith COVID-19 Initiative (#FaithinActionCOVID-19).

2. Global Launch of the #FaithinAction Initiative

On April 7, 2020 as multitudes prepared for mass gatherings and diverse religious observances (including Passover, Easter, Ramadan, Vaisakhi and Ridván, Religions for Peace (RfP) and UNICEF joined forces and [launched](#) the global multi-religious Faith-in-Action COVID-19 initiative to raise awareness of the public health risks of mass gatherings and to mobilize religious leaders and faith communities to address the impacts of the pandemic on children, families and communities. The launch was in the form of a global statement and call-to-action signed by UNICEF's Executive Director, Henrietta Fore and 13 of RfPs top religious leaders (See below):



2. OBJECTIVES

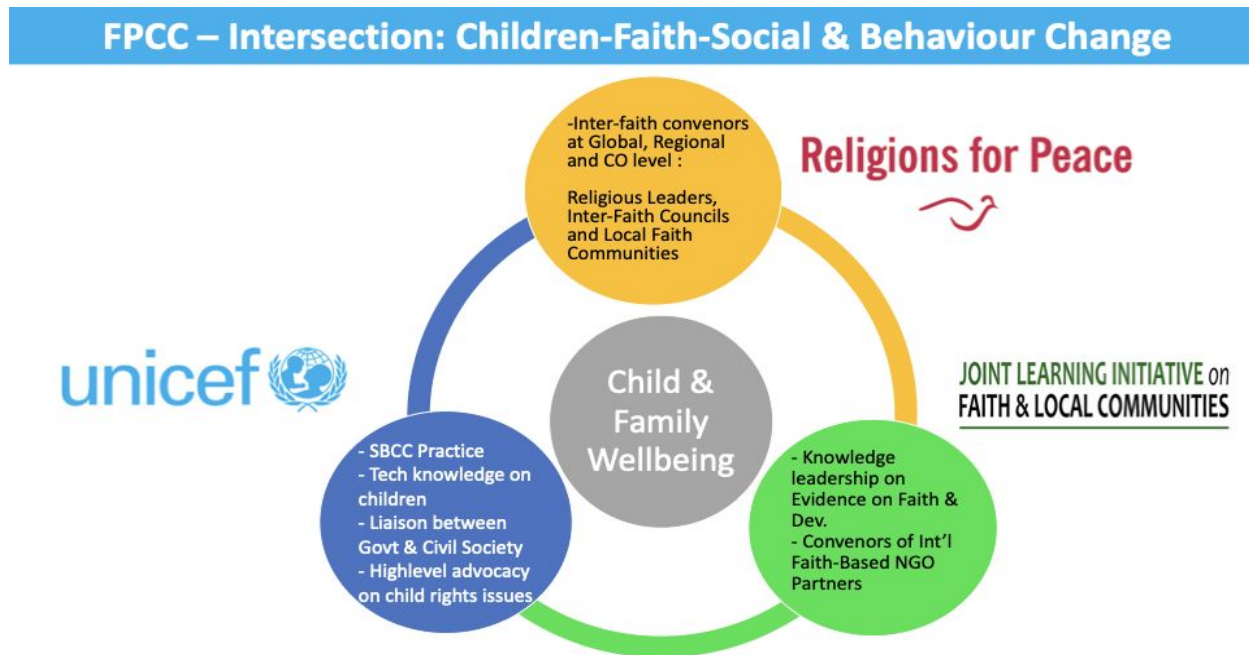
To address the specific challenges emerging in relation the COVID-19 pandemic, the #FaithinAction COVID-19 Initiative promotes and supports the following **7 main objectives**:

1. Manage communication, misinformation, and rumors
2. Dispel fear, stigma, discrimination, reduce tensions and promote social harmony
3. Promote adaptation of religious gatherings, practices, rituals, handwashing, and hygiene
4. Address the specific needs of vulnerable groups
5. Promote the prevention of violence against children and women
6. Promote the participation of children and young people and their active engagement in the initiative
7. Promote and support the recovery of social services, resilience and return to normalcy

The Initiative also seeks to promote the original FPCC goal of large scale **engagement of local multi-religious leaders, their faith communities and local FBOs, in collaboration with UNICEF country offices**. The Initiative promotes multi-religious Faith-in-Action collaboration among diverse religious leaders, faith communities, and FBOs, and with UNICEF through learning exchange, joint priority-setting and action planning, and mutual support.

3. TRIPARTITE COORDINATION STRUCTURE FOR THE INITIATIVE

The Initiative seeks to achieve its multi-religious Faith-in-Action goals by working through the existing international, regional and country networks and structures of three constituencies *Religions for Peace inter-faith networks, UNICEF and FBO local and international partners* with support of the FPCC Advisory Group consisting of FBO membership of the Joint learning Initiative (JLI).



Religions for Peace International affiliated Interreligious Councils and networks constitute an expansive and tightly connected multi-levelled structure, comprising a World Council of senior Religious Leaders from all regions and religions of the world, six regional Interreligious Councils and more than 90 national ones. The inter-religious councils include leadership and connected structures of Women of Faith and Interfaith Youth Councils. The interconnectedness across multiple levels serves to facilitate coordination across global, regional and national spheres.

UNICEF - the United Nations Children’s Fund with presence in 192 countries and territories, is the UN agency responsible for supporting the fulfilment of rights of children and women and providing humanitarian and development aid to the most vulnerable. The heart of UNICEF’s work is in the field through country offices which carry out UNICEF’s mission through a unique programme of cooperation developed with the host government. UNICEF’s work at country level is supported by 7 regional offices with the following locations:

- ESAR - Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office, Nairobi, Kenya
- WCAR - Western and Central Africa, Dakar, Senegal
- MENA - Middle East and North Africa Regional Office, Amman, Jordan
- LACR - Latin America and Caribbean Regional Office, Panama City, Panama
- ECAR - Europe and Central Asia Regional Office, Geneva, Switzerland
- ROSA - South Asia Regional Office, Kathmandu, Nepal
- EAPR - East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, Bangkok, Thailand

UNICEF also has 34 National Committees established as independent organizations, within industrialized countries, with the main purpose of raising funds and support for public advocacy to promote children's rights and secure worldwide visibility for children threatened by poverty, disaster, armed conflict, abuse and exploitation.

Faith Based Organizations - The third prong of the proposed tripartite partnership is the representation of Faith Based Organizations - both international and local. To date, the Joint Learning Initiative on Faith and Local Communities has served as liaison with FBOs, coordinating the consultation and engagement of FBOs working through members of the FPCC established Advisory Group of International FBOs, including Islamic Relief Worldwide, Risho Kosei-Kai, World Vision, American Jewish World Service, World Council of Churches, Episcopal Relief and Development, Tearfund, Salvation Army, ACT Alliance, ADRA. As part of the way forward and in light of the COVID related global scaleup of the initiative, the governance of the Advisory Group will be revisited.

3. Roll out of the initiative through 8 Regional Webinars

To rapidly connect with religious leaders, UNICEF leaders, FBOs, and other partners for briefing, consultation, learning exchange and mobilization, the Initiative conducted a series of 8 regional webinars between April and May 2020. To facilitate greater participation, the webinar for the LAC region was split into two - the webinar in Spanish for Latin America and the webinar in English for the Caribbean.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WEBINARS

The regional webinars were launched with the following objectives:

1. **Promote awareness of the global Faith-in-Action initiative**, launched by *Religions for Peace* top Religious Leaders and UNICEF Executive Director to strengthen coordination of inter-faith efforts on COVID-19.
2. **Promote replication of the Call-to-Action in the joint RfP joint statement** by releasing national inter- and intra-faith messages by top religious leaders to members of faith communities, particularly around the holy days of Easter and Ramadan.
3. **Facilitate the sharing of experiences** on existing faith/inter-faith efforts being undertaken in response to COVID-19.
4. **Orient the faith leadership on specific thematic issues** in relation to the Faith-in-Action COVID response objectives
5. **Mobilize inter-faith commitments** of Religious Leaders and Faith representatives including Women of Faith and Interfaith Youth Network Members to support the specific calls to action.

PARTICIPANTS

Participants of the webinars included:

- *RfP* senior religious Leaders, members of regional and national IRCs, including its Women of Faith and Interfaith Youth Networks, and some district religious leaders
- Representatives from Ministries of Religious Affairs and other relevant Ministries
- National/local FBO affiliates & partners of international FBOs from the FPCC Advisory Group
- UNICEF technical leads from HQ, regional, country office and field office level
- WHO Regional representative
- Others at discretion of *RfP* Regional Secretary Generals

The following provides a summary of the dates for each of the Regional webinars, the language of the proceedings and the number of participants:

	Date	Region	Language	Participants
1	19 April	East Asia and the Pacific	English	60
2	21 April	East and Southern Africa	English	167
3	22 April	West and Central Africa	French	95
4	6 May	Latin America	Spanish	133
5	6 May	Caribbean	English	43
6	7 May	South Asia	English	81
7	21 May	Middle East and North Africa	Arabic	115

A total of 67 local partners of international FBOs participated in the 7 webinars. The organizations that were represented are as follows:

FBO Local Participation						
	ESAR	WCAR	LACR English	LACR Spanish	ROSA	MENA
Date	April 21	April 22	May 6	May 6	May 7	May 21
Number of Participants	7	2	8	21	11	19
Organizations	-Global Religions for children -Christian Aid -Zambia Red Cross Society -Tearfund -Apostolic Women Empowerment	-Tearfund -Anspip	-AlMustafa Islamic Trust -Evangelical-Lutheran Church -The Mothers' Union -The Salvation Army -Anglican Alliance -Evangelical Association of the Caribbean -Association of Evangelical Churches	-World Vision -ACT Alliance -World Vision International -Ejercito de Salvacion -Arigatou International -Caritas del Peru -Conferencia Episcopal de Costa Rica -CREAS -Federacion Luterana Mundial	-Paths2People -Nepal Jesuit Society -Episcopal Relief & Development -Muslim Aid Sri Lanka -Commission for Religious Organization of Bhutan -ADRA India -Assalam Society -World Vision -ADRA Sri Lanka -NaCE Organization	-Conseil des Eglises du Moyen Orient -Sadr Foundation -Arigatou International -Islamic Relief -CCM France -Danmission -Caritas Middle East and North Africa -Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation -AlKhoei Institute -Islamic Relief Worldwide -ACT Alliance -IFRC -ADRA

In addition to the 7 Regional webinars listed above, a smaller webinar was held on 15 May with 4 countries in Eastern and Central Europe Region. Given the former Soviet Union communist regime in Eastern Europe and the Balkan states and anti-religious sentiment, several countries do not yet embrace religion as an institution that can make positive contributions to society. There are 4 countries that have been more open to discussing change. UNICEF staff from these countries- Georgia, North Macedonia, Azerbaijan and Bulgaria met along with a representative from Religions for Peace to discuss initial ideas for improving collaboration and support.

WEBINAR AGENDA

The agenda for each of the webinars (*see Annex for sample agenda*) was designed to facilitate sharing of information about ongoing activities and good practice to coordinate questions and answers and learning exchange among participants. Participants were also encouraged to identify key issues and challenges they were facing and to frame priority needs and asks of the Initiative's coordinating partners. Agendas for the two hour webinar were tailored to local contexts and languages.

Detailed reports on each of the 8 Regional webinars including information about speakers, and participants are available [here](#).

OVERVIEW OF #FaithinActionCOVID-19 STRATEGIES

As a part of the briefing an overview was provided of the 6 key strategies of the #Faith-in-Action initiative:

1. **High level advocacy:** Global joint statement of UNICEF ED and 13 top Religious Leaders to be replicated at regional and national level.
2. **Evidence for Action:** Collection of information on knowledge, attitudes and practices. Proposed partnership with Global Association of Anthropologists through the American Association of Anthropologists.
3. **Global Guidance** on key and emerging issues: Development, dissemination and local customization of Global Thematic Resource guides.
4. **Digital Engagement** for continuous communication and engagement of communities and young people.
5. **Exchange for Action:** Periodic webinars and a web-platform for exchange of information and resources.
6. **Tracking, monitoring and documentation** of the results of the campaign.

THEMATIC GUIDANCE

Participants of the webinars were provided an overview of the 6 thematic guides being designed to support and inform the ongoing activities of local faith actors to safeguard and care for their communities. The 6 guidance documents, listed below, are designed to be adapted to the local context and translated as needed and can be updated as the pandemic evolves over time. The guides draw from approved technical information from the COVID-19 interagency secretariat (WHO, UNICEF and IFRC) and on a [reference document](#) compiled by JLI of existing resources related to COVID and religion.

- [Communicating to End Misinformation, Discrimination and to Instill Hope](#)
Mental & Spiritual Health, Misinformation and Rumours, Stigma & Discrimination
- [Adapting How We Gather Together, Pray and Practise Rituals](#)
Adaptation of Ceremonies, Burial Practices, Rituals, Hygiene & Handwashing
- [Helping Those Who Are At Risk](#)
Elderly, Homeless, Migrants, People with Disabilities, Pregnant Women and Children
- Preventing Violence Against Children and Women
- Children and Youth Participation
- Supporting Recovery of Social Services

As part of the agenda of the webinars, presentations were made of the first 3 topics by resource persons from UNICEF and WHO. The power point presentations prepared for the webinars are available [here](#).

Key Feedback and Learnings as shared by participants during the 7 Regional Webinars

EXAMPLES OF #Faith-in-Action COVID19 RESPONSES

Each region has already seen a great amount of faith-initiated and faith-led responses in regards to the current pandemic. The feedback during the regional webinars confirms the high level of activity already being led by religious leaders, FBOs, NGOs, governments, and communities at the local level. Inputs from participants provide innovative and creative examples as to how other regions can practice faith-in-action responses during COVID.

Summary table showing types of Faith- in-Action responses mentioned by webinar participants

Examples of Faith-in-Action COVID-19 Response

- National Days of Prayer
- Monthly inter-faith devotionals promoting “culture of care”
- Coordinated Advocacy Statements from Senior leaders, Letter to Faith Communities
- Increase access to information:
- Joint Media awareness raising
- Multi-media communication by inter-faith network
- Development and dissemination of thematic awareness-raising materials
- Fund-raising drives and distribution of basic supplies
- Healthcare assistance
- Mitigation of inter-faith conflict
- Refugee Asylum
- Assistance for mental health
- Partnership with civil society
- Youth Peer Support to affected youth

More detail below includes key examples provided by webinar participants of faith led activities, stories of hope, and actionable projects being undertaken by faith communities, identifying the source and location of information where possible

Information Dissemination

- Joint awareness-raising (Australia RfP, Interchurch Council of South Sudan), multimedia communication (The Interfaith Network), and general focus on increased access to information (Letter to Faith Communities with link to UNICEF website in Kenya, The All Africa Conference of Churches).
- Focus on addressing COVID in underserved communities (RfP Australia) and appropriate and impactful messaging strategies towards community advocacy (Religious Priests of Sri Lanka)
- Dissemination through Coordinated Advocacy Statements from Senior leaders (South Sudan) and door-to-door informative visits (South Africa).

- Collaborating with official entities, e.g. coordinating political statements between senior religious leaders and political leaders for peace in Rakhine territory in Myanmar (Women in Faith Myanmar), issuing advisory statements along with regular community news (RfP Myanmar), presidential addresses (South Africa), and promotion of proper health and government regulations (Indo-Caribbean Angelico Alliance of the Caribbean), coordinating with the government to disseminate information and enforce COVID19 practices (RfP Myanmar, Women in Faith Myanmar), and coordinating statements between senior religious leaders and bioethics leaders (RfP Australia).
- Managing rumors and misinformation (Religious leaders of Brazil)
- Monthly inter-faith devotionals promoting a “culture of care” (South Africa)

Resource Distribution

- Fundraising for interfaith initiatives (RfP Multi-religious humanitarian fund), drives and distribution of basic supplies (Kenya Interreligious Council).
- Donation of materials (The Interfaith Network) and distribution of supplies (Women in Faith Myanmar), foods and resources. (Interfidei, The Interreligious Council for Indonesia)
- Healthcare assistance (Religious Nuns in India) and even coordinating directly with health sector (Interfidei)

Youth initiatives

- Youth peer support for faith networks (Asian Interfaith Youth Network), support groups (Shanti Ashram India) and youth peer support for affected youth (Indonesia, Uganda).
- Increasing youth access to proper education (RfP Pakistan), for example through increasing radio accessibility (Brazil).

Vulnerable Groups and Communities

- Campaign on prevention of COVID19 to women and girls (UNFPA Indonesia with additional FBOs)
- Mitigation of interfaith conflict (Religious leaders in Nepal) and virtual community-building efforts (ROSA Inter-faith Networks)
- Refugee asylum, e.g. inter-religious council of Peru is helping around 8,000 Venezuelan refugees to seek asylum while providing essential emergency response items (Inter-Religious Council of Peru)
- Advocacy with civil society (RfP Haiti)

KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FOR RELIGIOUS LEADERS AND FBOs IN COVID-19 RESPONSE

Many of the webinar conversations focused on general issues and challenges faced by local religious leaders and FBOs and other representatives in terms of their community response to COVID-19.

During these challenging times, religious leaders and FBOs throughout global regions have identified major challenges and issues they have faced during COVID. It is apparent that no one region is alone with their struggles. All regions have similar challenges, which is why, during the regional webinars, leaders have expressed their key challenges in hopes to collaborate with other religious leaders around the globe to identify with unifying solutions.

Summary table showing the main issues and challenges identified by webinar participants

Main Issues and Challenges: COVID-19 Response

- Resistance against closing houses of worship
- Practicing Physical Distancing within vulnerable groups including refugee/migrant camps
- Managing Rumours and Misinformation
- Inter-personal violence / Conflicts linked to food access
- Increased abuse from men in households against women and children
- Confusion about how to live in this “new normal”

The following more detailed list comprises the main issues and challenges of COVID-19 response plans, as named by participating FBOs and representatives. This list is a broad sweep of the multitude of challenges noticed by FBOs and representatives and may not all be directly actionable.

Behavioral Challenges

- Faith communities and leaders resisting the closing of houses of worship (ESAR); people might ignore messages and continue to congregate for religious ceremonies and rituals (Caribbean)
- Confusion on how to live in this “new normal” with increased fear and worry among families, uncertainty about how to adjust.

Information Issues

- Need for actionable guidelines readily accessible to religious leaders (Caribbean)
- Addressing limited access to information (ESAR)
- Managing rumors and misinformation (ESAR) as well as unclear messages influenced by political corruption (Caribbean)
- General vagueness and lack of clarity, e.g. variation in terminology on physical distancing, social distancing, self-isolation, and social isolation, which may be causing discrimination and stigma among communities (ROSA)
- Communication issues, languages barriers, e.g. in Pakistan government messaging is done through English and Urdu but not the local languages (ROSA).
- Fear of virus contamination - unclear contamination prevention advice due to the corruption of a country’s government (Caribbean)

Risk, violence, and violation of Rights

- Violation of rights: e.g. numerous cases of harassment and enforcement of curfews/lockdowns (EAPR)
- Conflicts linked to food access (ESAR)
- Increase in child sexual abuse (ESAR)
- The risk for education, e.g. children in rural areas are not able to access technology for continuing physically-distanced education, therefore putting them at higher risk to drop out of school (ROSA)
- Women and children are at higher risk for abuse from men in their communities (ROSA)

Economic fallout

- The risk and consequences of major economic crises (EAPR)

Inclusion Concerns

- Discrimination against particular communities as governments and individuals are targeting certain religions or communities (Asians, slum dwellers, overlooked populations, etc.) (EAPR)
- Lack of recognition and inclusion with non-traditional religions (Caribbean)

PRIORITY NEEDS AND ASKS OF THE INITIATIVE COORDINATING PARTNERS

In order to move forward with the #Faith-in-Action COVID-19 Initiative, it is important to understand and address the unmet needs and asks from the religious leaders, faith communities, FBOs, and UNICEF staff. During the regional webinars, participants were asked to share their priority needs.

Summary table showing priority needs and asks as expressed by Webinar participants

Priority Needs and Asks: COVID-19 Response

- **Assistance in appropriate messaging** that can be contextualized
- **Balanced messaging** with incorporation of both science and religious teachings - supported by religious scholars
- **Access to resources for outreach activities** - Platform of resources to help respond quickly to those in need
- **Mobilization of psychological services** for children, women and other vulnerable groups
- **Increase national efforts** with more systematic collaboration between national and sub-national
- **Support for inclusion of less established faith and traditional**

The following list comprises more detail on the priority needs and asks as articulated by religious leaders, FBOs, and UNICEF staff.

Asks already planned or underway under the Faith-in-Action Strategy:

Information access and management

- assistance in framing appropriate messaging (ESAR)
- misinformation mitigation (ROSA)
- balanced messaging with science and religion in order to spread proper messages throughout communities (Caribbean)
- support for increased capacities on digital engagement
- Australia, EAPR)
- assistance in creating communal platforms where local religious leaders can share their voices and lessons to others (ROSA)
- access to relevant technical resources and outreach activities on a common platform (RfP)

Evidence gathering:

- requested support on evidence gathering and more inter-religious advocacy with theological support (Caribbean).

Inclusion of Marginalized groups:

- support for increased inclusion and recognition towards the pockets of religions that are not formally recognized (Caribbean)
- inclusion, recognition and messaging to underrepresented and vulnerable groups (ROSA, ESAR) and less established faith and traditional groups (ROSA, ESAR)
- bringing together and participation of youth and women groups with religious leaders to enhance efforts (Caribbean)
- inclusion of technologically isolated groups (EAPR)

Requests relevant for advocacy

- Politicizing of faith agendas
- addressing food security issues (ROSA, ESAR)
- ensuring the safety of aid workers and volunteers: how can volunteers be provided with protective material (EAPR)
- increased communication with the health sector to determine the needs of hospitals and doctors (EAPR)

Overarching and Strategic Asks

- Desire to move beyond the Global call to action and the Regional orientation to concrete action on the ground.
- More systematic collaboration between sub-national and national levels (ROSA)
- Call for UNICEF as convener of a mechanism for more systematic integration of the inter-faith constituency within the global COVID-19 response. Specifically support for coordination between UNICEF-Inter-religious councils and IFBOs operating at all levels: Global, Regional, National and Sub-National level.

4. NEXT STEPS FOLLOWING ON FROM THE REGIONAL WEBINARS

Building off the discussion and momentum from the webinars, the next steps agreed by the partners include:

Resources

- Finalize #FaithinAction resources including thematic guidance documents presentation tools, technical resources.
- Increase access to resources for outreach activities by updating of the [website](#)
- Complete the remaining guidance documents.
- All partners to support widespread dissemination to their regional and local networks
- UNICEF COs to facilitate convening of faith partners to review and adapt materials
- UNICEF support for convening of regular (monthly or quarterly) dialogue platform as an opportunity for exchanging information and providing guidelines on specific thematic issues and as a community feedback mechanism.

Process Towards Institutionalization

- Develop Regional database of contacts for RfP, UNICEF and FBOs
- Develop mechanisms to support the inclusion of less established faith and traditional groups that are often not recognized or included.
- Formalize relationships between UNICEF and RfP entities at regional and CO level IRCs through tripartite coordination mechanisms at the country level (RFP-UNICEF-FBOs) including religious leaders, women of faith and interfaith youth, local FBOs, and UNICEF country staff. Draft TOR to be developed and disseminated as prototype to be adapted
- Develop joint inter-faith-UNICEF action plans linked to Risk Communication and Community Engagement plans. (this process should be in context of principles of collaborative partnership framed by the FPCC global initiative taking care through intentional collaboration not to perpetuate the engagement paradigm of instrumentalization of faith leaders)
- Finalize and implement a digital engagement strategy, engaging interfaith youth networks as a priority
- Finalize and institute a simple monitoring and evaluation (M&E) strategy, with indicators relating to inter-faith partnership and intended areas of influence and change linked to the joint plans

5. Summary of links to key resources

[Website](http://faith4positivechange.org): faith4positivechange.org

Regional Launch of Global Multi-religious Faith-in-Action COVID-19 Response Faith and Positive Change for Children, Families and Communities

AGENDA

Regional Webinar: Launch of Global Multi-religious Faith-in-Action COVID-19 Initiative

Purpose: To increase awareness of and strengthen coordinated efforts through the global **Faith-in-Action** campaign, launched by *Religions for Peace* top Religious Leaders and UNICEF Executive Director <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/launch-global-multi-religious-faith-action-covid-19-initiative>; to mobilize inter-faith commitments of Religious Leaders and Faith representatives including Women of Faith and Interfaith Youth Network Members to support the specific calls to action; to equip these Influencers with a standard set of global guidance with messages and resources that can be customized for local use and to share existing examples of best practices to motivate others.

Invitees:

- *RfP* senior Religious Leaders, Members of regional and national IRCs and some district religious leaders, Women of Faith, Interfaith Youth Network
- Representatives from Ministries of Religion and other relevant Ministries
- International FBOs from the FPCC Advisory Group with regional/national Offices
- UNICEF technical leads from HQ, regional, country office and field office level
- WHO Regional representative
- Others at discretion of *RfP* Regional Secretary Generals

Moment of silence for persons all over the world who have passed due to the Corona Virus and for their families who have suffered this loss.

1. Welcome and very brief statement of commitment to the global campaign in regional and country efforts 15 min

- Deputy Secretary General, Religions for Peace
- Senior Advisor, UNICEF
- Senior Religious Leaders

2. . Connecting the Dots – Existing Efforts and the Faith-in-Action COVID Initiative

- 3 Brief highlights by key local leaders on the challenges and examples of faith and inter-faith efforts 15 mins
(1 Religious Leader, 1 Woman of Faith, 1 Interfaith Youth Member)
- Comments and Questions 5 mins

Overview of purpose and components of the initiative- <i>RfP and UNICEF HQ level</i>	10 mins
· Q and A	10 mins
3. Faith-in-Action Resource Pack (3 selected thematic areas):	
Overview and exchange on key issues and actions for Religious Leaders & Faith Communities	
Managing Communication in the context of COVID-19 (Misinformation, Rumors and Building Trust, Dispelling stigma and discrimination)	7 mins
Discussion and sharing of Ideas (observed gaps, local experiences, suggestions for joint action)	12 mins
Adaptation of Religious gatherings, rituals and burials - WHO	7 mins
Discussion and sharing of Ideas (observed gaps, local experiences, suggestions for joint action)	12 mins
Addressing Vulnerabilities (e.g. Migrants, Refugees, IDPs, HIV/AIDS, Children with disabilities)	7 mins
Discussion and sharing of Ideas (observed gaps, local experiences, suggestions for joint action)	12 mins
4. Ways to engage in the Multi-religious Faith-in-Action COVID-19 Response Initiative	12 mins
· Digital Engagement Strategy	
· Dissemination and adaptation of Faith-in-Action Resource Pack	
· Documentation and Monitoring impact	
· Linkage with government inter-agency Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE)	
· Pledge of support to the initiative (FPCC website now being re-purposed for the initiative)	
5. Next steps for coordinating the implementation of the campaign (Global,Regional,Country)	5 mins