

Why Faith Engagement in Positive Change for Children .?

Faith communities and actors form part of the pillars of community and primary health actors and interventions. In addressing social, cultural and faith norms, traditions and practices, religion forms a key basis of analysis and interpretation of behaviors using a wide range of spiritual, moral and institutional assets of faith communities as reference points in shaping norms and attitudes.

Over the years, faith-based organizations (FBOs) and UNICEF have worked together locally in support for children, but their collaborations have been brief and typically based on joint Program/project implementation. Meaningful faith engagement can be realized by encouraging more comprehensive and cross-sectoral collaborations in response to emerging needs and priorities. This means moving away from message-based approaches by providing evidence-based solutions to difficult behavior modification problems.

There is need to continuously recognizes the unique role of faith actors and religious leaders by actively involving them in times of conflict, resettlements, and humanitarian crises, since they have the ability to reduce tensions, foster spiritual and psychological support, and promote interfaith dialogue. Initiatives should seek to empower religious leaders and faith-based actors to be positive.

change agents and influencers by promoting values such as equality, compassion, children's welfare and enhancing acceptance of community life-saving interventions.