

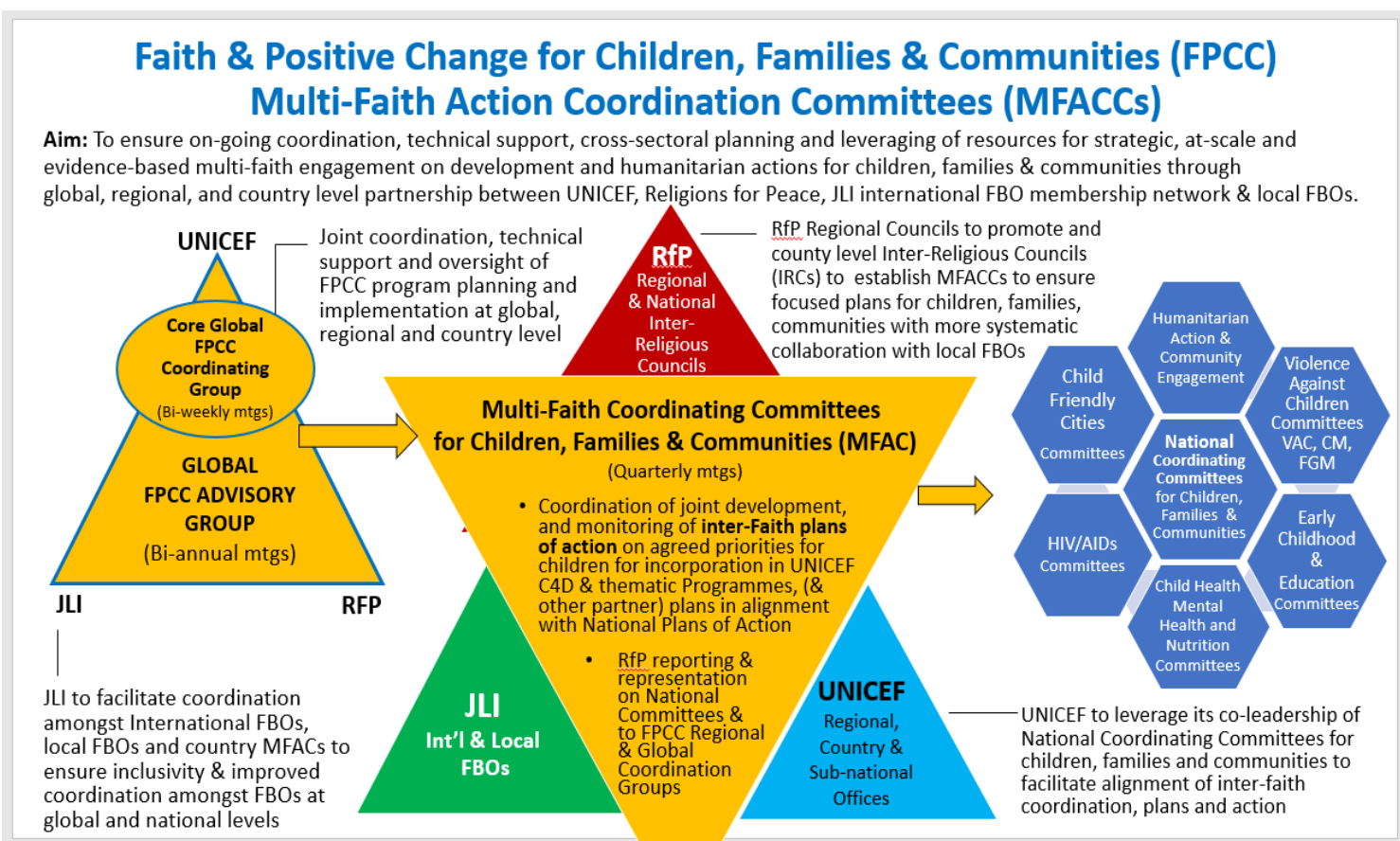
TERMS OF REFERENCE

(Co-developed by RFP, ACRL, UNICEF HQ & ROs, Global FBOs and local FBO, JLI)

National Multi-Faith Action Coordinating Committees MFACC)

MFACC is a mechanism to support tripartite coordination between UNICEF (and subsequently other development partners) and country level faith communities, (including IRCs, religious leaders and local/national FBOs), on setting joint priorities for children, families and communities and for ensuring that an action agenda is jointly developed, resourced and monitored.

(See diagram below on the expected coordination at the different levels)



The intention is for this TOR to be used as a guide to establish MFACCs in focus countries planning to launch a more systematic, strategic and integrated way of supporting faith engagement through FPCC approaches at country level linked to systematic capacity development of the IRCs/religious leaders, FBOs and UNICEF. The roll-out and establishment of the MFACC will be undertaken on a voluntary basis in countries seeing the value of this coordination structure while the FPCC secretariat will identify specific early adopter countries based on agreed criteria for specific support and documentation. Based on consultation with

and feedback on the functioning of the MFACC from country and regional stakeholders, the TOR will be amended for global guidance to support replication by other countries globally.

While the longer term vision is that the mandate of the MFACC will be to support inter-faith engagement linked to the multiple existing national sector/issue specific plans and coordinating mechanisms for children, in the first phase the focus of MFACC will be focused on alignment with the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) pillar of the global COVID response. There are multiple reasons for focus on establishing formal linkage with the national RCCE Committees:

- The priority need and attention around the COVID-19 pandemic and existence of RCCE Committees in almost all countries globally, provide a strong anchor for coordinated inputs from the faith community.
- The integrated nature of the RCCE committee addressing all areas of child, family wellbeing is in keeping with the FPCC vision for holistic and integrated support.
- Direct accountability of UNICEF Communication for Development as co-lead for the RCCE pillar of the response along-side government. The Formal reporting structures for the work of the RCCE committees both amongst partners and internally within UNICEF. provide a mechanism for including reporting from MFACCs.

In the second phase of the country level implementation of FPCC initiative, the aim will be to extend the inter-faith engagement beyond the humanitarian-focussed RCCE agenda to the wider development-focussed social and behaviour change agenda and wider UNICEF programming priorities beyond RCCE/SBCC. Subsequently based on the lessons learned would be the consideration for broadening of the MFACC mandate to serve the wider UN and development partners programming agenda for children, families and communities.

BACKGROUND

Faith and Positive Change for Children, Families and Communities (FPCC) is a global partnership initiative established in 2018 between UNICEF, Religions for Peace (RfP) and the Joint Learning Initiative on Local Faith Communities (JLI) along with its international and national/local faith-based organization (FBO) member agencies. The partnership aims to support positive change with and for children, parents and communities and the initiative has been implemented with a tripartite Advisory Group at global level to provide oversight and support for its implementation.

In April 2020, in response to the 2020 global COVID-19 pandemic, the FPCC partners launched a Multi-religious Faith-in-Action (MFAAC) initiative to provide more coordinated and evidence-based support for the protection and well-being of children and their communities. The initiative was formalized on 7 April, 2020 through the signing of a joint statement and call to action by UNICEF's Executive Director and 13 of RfP's senior most religious leaders in support of the global COVID-19 response:

<https://rfp.org/launch-of-global-multi-religious-faith-in-action-covid-19-initiative-2/>
<https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/launch-global-multi-religious-faith-action-covid-19-initiative>.

Further to these high-level advocacy efforts; there was co-convening of seven regional webinars held in Arabic, English, French and Spanish; orientation and consultation webinars with the International FBO membership of the JLI and FPCC Advisory Group; the co-development of a package of guidance documents for religious leaders and communities, and the co-design of a digital engagement strategy by UNICEF and the Inter-Faith Youth Network, the initiative is being rolled-out at the regional and national levels to address priorities for children, families and communities in the context of COVID-19.

PURPOSE

The national MFACC will serve as a country-level, voluntary entity to support more effective, efficient and inclusive inter-faith engagement on jointly defined priorities and actions for families and communities that are locally owned and sustainable. The MFAC will provide strategic advice to and a platform for complementarity and collaboration amongst faith actors, religious leaders and UNICEF and be responsible for the development, coordination and reporting of the partnership activities and joint plans of action. Ultimately, in order to serve the wider development and humanitarian agenda, the aim is that in the long term the MFACC will potentially serve as a national inter-religious advisory body for the overarching UN country programme and other development partner agendas.

COMPOSITION OF TRIPARTITE MFACC (approximately 12 members)

- *RfP* Interreligious Councils, including Women of Faith Networks and Interfaith Youth Council representation
- Local representatives of JLI FBO membership, and other local unaffiliated FBOs
- UNICEF Representative/Deputy Representative or their delegated staff, and other UNICEF staff

Efforts will be made to ensure context-specific religious representation and a balance of , gender and age representation. Faith groups will include equal representation of both the more established and less well-established groups as well as traditional leaders.

MANDATE

The Goal of the FPCC is to promote a collaborative and systemic way of working between the faith community and UNICEF for sustainable positive change for children, families and communities, through joint priority setting and joint action planning.

- Serve as an inclusive coordination mechanism for FPCC at the country level and inter-faith support to children, families and communities in alignment with national government policies, plans and programmes.
- Develop, in a consultative process, together with UNICEF focal point(s), joint priorities and a national joint FPCC action plan that clearly outlines –
 - Priority objectives, activities, deliverables and timeline
 - Indicators
 - Responsibilities of each of the tripartite member organisations

- Each member organisation will in turn assign responsibilities within its respective organisation
 - Resources available– technical, financial and human
 - Gaps in resources and entity that would be responsible for seeking and bringing in those resources
- Function as an “oversight and accountability” entity for the implementation of the national FPCC action plan, with clear reporting mechanisms at appropriate levels
- Serve as an advisory body to UNICEF, a platform for joint priority setting and joint FPCC action planning and a reference and resource body, to one another in the implementation

MFACC will be supported by FPCC programmatic guidance, with a briefing for all members on principles and foundational approaches.

TERMS AND SELECTION

Local representatives of RFP, UNICEF and JLI will meet and draw up a plan reflecting the TOR to recruit and gather the MFACC members, including agreeing on criteria for selecting FBOs

- Up to 12 members will be appointed for an 18 month term. The term will be renewable
- *Rfp's* IRCs, organisations will nominate 4 representatives
- UNICEF country office will nominate 2 to 4 representatives including C4D/RCCE focal point and focal points from selected programme sections.
- *4 representatives of local FBOs will be nominated (nominations to be supported by JLI) who meet gender and vulnerable population inclusion criteria, and who have a track record on child-related issues, including :*
 - *2 nominations of local FBOs who are locally registered NGOs*
 - *2 nominations from international FBOs of a local partner FBO; International FBO partners will be JLI members and will be invited to nominate based on prior engagement on FPCC, number of local FBO partnerships, and demonstrated focus on children and families.*

MEETINGS

- At the first meeting the members will select their Co-Chairs, selecting one from the IRC and one from the FBO
- Regular meetings will be set by the Co-Chairs of the MFACC and organised by them
- MFACC members will serve in a voluntary capacity
- Working groups may be established for specific tasks or areas of work
- MFACC FBO representatives are encouraged to host an open meeting with local FBOs at least once a year to report back and consult with local FBO community