



2024

# COUNTRY-LEVEL FAITH ENGAGEMENT COORDINATION MECHANISM GUIDE

Multi-Faith Action Coordination Committees (MFACCs)



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# ABOUT THIS GUIDE

## PURPOSE

The purpose of this guide is to provide countries with operational guidance and tools for the implementation and operationalization of the country-level faith engagement coordination mechanism (also called Multi-Faith Action Coordination Committees (MFACCs) in some countries) of the Faith and Positive Change for Children, Families and Communities initiative (FPCC). This guide provides suggestions based on available best practices from other coordination mechanisms and regional experiences. Users are also encouraged to document and share their experiences, so that recommended best practices and options can continue to be strengthened.

## WHO IS THIS GUIDE FOR?

This guide is for country-level faith engagement coordination mechanism members in FPCC target countries who are coordinating and engaging with local faith and development actors working towards positive change for children, including religious leaders, faith-based organizations, UNICEF country offices, government officials and other development partners.

The guide may also be used by FPCC regional coordination mechanisms to offer guidance on activating, supporting and monitoring the progress of country coordination mechanisms, including oversight of FPCC implementation as per identified child development priorities.

## WHAT IS IN THIS GUIDE?

This document presents some guidelines for country-level faith engagement coordination mechanism establishment and operationalization at the country level and consists of the following sections:



# I.

## BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT OF THE COUNTRY-LEVEL FAITH ENGAGEMENT COORDINATION MECHANISMS

### I.1. HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The country-level faith engagement coordination mechanisms or MFACCs for children, families and communities are constituted as a mechanism to support faith engagement between country level faith communities (including religious leaders and faith-based organizations (FBOS), government officials, including from the ministries of Religious Affairs, Health Promotion departments - ministry of health, among others, UNICEF (and subsequently other development actors) on joint priority setting, action planning, resource mobilization and monitoring.

The initiative was conceived in 2018 and aims to support UNICEF and other development actors move beyond single-sector, small-scale, ad-hoc and sometimes instrumentalist approaches of faith engagement in development work.

This partnership model is mirrored at regional level in East and Southern Africa Region (ESAR), West and Central Africa Region (WCAR), South Asia Region (SAR), and Latin America and the Caribbean Region (LACR), and is gradually being rolled out in countries in each of these regions. The FPCC initiative relies on two key elements as the cornerstone for implementation and change: the country-level faith engagement coordination

mechanisms or MFACCs as the operational foundation, and the [Mind-Heart Dialogue](#) (MHD) as the methodological approach for sharing, learning and facilitating positive social and behaviour change.

To ensure sustainability for the application of Mind-Heart Dialogue across the wide range of partners, FPCC promotes establishment and operationalization of faith engagement mechanisms at the country level.



## I.2. PURPOSE OF COUNTRY-LEVEL FAITH ENGAGEMENT COORDINATION MECHANISM

The primary objective of faith engagement coordination mechanism or MFACCs within the framework of the Faith and Positive Change for Children initiative is to establish a structured, strategic, and comprehensive approach to support faith engagement.

These committees are intended to function as voluntary, representative entities operating at the country level. Their purpose is to facilitate more systematic, efficient, and inclusive collaboration among various faith communities, institutions, and stakeholders. They aim to work together on mutually agreed-upon priorities and actions concerning the well-being of children, families, and communities.

The overarching goal is for the faith engagement coordination mechanisms and MFACCs to evolve into national multi-faith advisory bodies that offer guidance and input into national development programmes supported by UNICEF and other UN agencies. By engaging diverse faith communities and fostering cooperation among them, the faith engagement coordination mechanisms aspire to provide valuable insights and recommendations that can contribute significantly to the design and implementation of broader developmental strategies and initiatives. Ultimately, these committees seek to become instrumental in shaping policies and programmes that address critical issues affecting the welfare of children, families, and communities at the national level.

## I.3. HOW WILL COUNTRY-LEVEL FAITH ENGAGEMENT COORDINATION MECHANISM SUPPORT CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES?

Overall country-level faith engagement coordination mechanism mandate:

- a) Serve as an inclusive coordination mechanism for FPCC at the country level guiding interfaith support to children, families and communities in alignment with national government policies, plans and programmes.
- b) Develop, in a consultative process together with government officials and UNICEF focal point(s), joint development priorities and a national joint FPCC action plan that clearly outlines –
  - Priority objectives, activities, deliverables and timeline
  - Indicators to measure progress
  - Responsibilities of each of the committee member organizations (Each member organization will in turn assign responsibilities within its respective organization)
  - Resources available – technical, financial and human
- c) Function as an “oversight and accountability” entity for the implementation of the national FPCC action plan, with clear reporting mechanisms at appropriate levels
- Gaps in resources and entity that would be responsible for seeking and bringing in those resources





Specific roles of country-level faith engagement coordination mechanisms include:

- i.** Facilitate inter-faith cooperation: Promote dialogue, cooperation, and understanding among religious leaders and faith-based organizations of different denominations and belief systems to work together effectively in responding to issues of children.
- ii.** Promote Inclusivity: Ensure that the faith engagement coordination mechanism is inclusive and representative of all faith communities, including religious leaders, representatives from FBOs, national government officials, UNICEF country office staff, other development partners and that its activities respect diversity and promote tolerance.
- iii.** Support child well-being: Prioritize and act on issues related to child protection, education, health, nutrition, and overall well-being, ensuring the best interests of children are at the forefront.
- iv.** Capacity development: Enhance the capacity of religious leaders, FBOs, and community members in areas such as child rights, child protection, disaster preparedness, and response.
- v.** Community engagement: leverage the voices of communities engaged in initiatives that address their specific needs and challenges, leveraging the expertise and resources of religious leaders and FBOs.
- vi.** Advocacy and policy influence: Advocate for policies and practices that promote the well-being of children and families, drawing upon the moral and ethical values shared across different faith traditions.
- vii.** Linking faith communities and technical experts:
  - Promoting technical information and science alongside faith, and supporting adherence to global, regional and national guidelines on children's issues so faith groups can increase community demand for important services and increase adoption of recommended behaviours
  - Aligning content proposed by technical groups with appropriate religious teachings/ interpretations through consultation with trusted theologians and religious scholars.
- viii.** Sustainability: Ensure that initiatives and programmes are designed to be locally owned and sustainable, with a focus on long-term positive change, while promoting best practices for partnerships with faith actors.
- ix.** Monitoring and evaluation, accountability and learning (MEAL): Establish mechanisms for regular monitoring and evaluation to maintain accountability among members, assess the impact of the faith engagement coordination mechanism activities, and learn from and adapt strategies as needed.
- x.** Documentation and knowledge sharing: Collect and disseminate factual, contextually appropriate information, best practices, case studies, and lessons learned to inspire and guide faith-based initiatives in other regions.



MHD String Game, Regional Training of Trainers in Latin America and the Caribbean - Panama City - Panama, April 2024.

## 2.

# COUNTRY-LEVEL FAITH ENGAGEMENT COORDINATION MECHANISMS FORMATION, GOVERNANCE AND OPERATIONS

## 2.1. FORMATION

It is expected that national government entities, with the support of UNICEF, will work with existing faith leaders, institutions, and networks to establish the FPCC faith engagement coordination mechanisms, incorporating active FBOs working on children's issues, through systematic relationships and partnership agreements. These entities shall initiate the process of identifying key stakeholders from various faith communities and organizations who have an interest in addressing children's issues. The children's issues shall be agreed on based on a credible comprehensive needs assessment that prioritizes pressing social, humanitarian, or development children's issues in the target community or region.

### 2.1.1. Faith engagement coordination mechanism composition

Local representatives of religious leaders (e.g. Religions for Peace), national government entities, international organizations (e.g. UNICEF) and FBOs will meet and draw up a plan reflecting the terms of reference to recruit and gather the country-level faith engagement coordination mechanism or MFACCs members, including agreeing on criteria for selecting FBOs. The optimal composition of the faith engagement coordination mechanism should form an inclusive committee comprising

representatives from diverse faith traditions, including clergy, community leaders, scholars, and grassroots activists; ensure gender balance, and representation of youth and marginalized groups; and include broad geographical representation within the committee. Specifically, the committee may include:

- Representative faith leaders (e.g. from Country Interreligious Councils, Women of Faith Networks, Interfaith Youth Councils, etc.) (6 members)
- Local representatives of faith-based organizations (3 Local FBOs reps and 2 international FBOs representatives)
- National government entities responsible for the collaboration with faith actors (e.g. Ministry of Religious Affairs) and/or for specific Community Engagement, Social and Behaviour Change agendas (e.g. Health Promotion Department in the ministries of Health) (3 members)
- UNICEF and other development actors (3 members)

N/B: The context analysis and mapping of faith actors could lead to another composition that would be more relevant for the country.

## Membership term limits

As part of the initial country-level faith engagement coordination mechanism or MFACC formation meetings, committee members shall prioritize development of an operational terms of reference (TOR) document that will guide its operations as per the country dynamics. This guide is alive to the fact that some members would want to leave after a period of time while some would want to join. Such a document would therefore inform the membership term limits, nomination of newer members and cessation of membership. Generally, the committee can consider:

- Developing a TOR during the initial formation meetings
- Suggestion: a 3-year renewable membership period
- Consider having a membership nomination committee (NC) within the membership to specifically support membership and leadership turnover

## 2.1.2. Formation of sub committees

Whereas the faith engagement coordination mechanism is encouraged to constitute a meeting that meets the above composition criteria, it is envisioned that there will

be moments wherein smaller functional committees may dialogue and reflect on specific themes for tabling to the entire faith engagement coordination mechanism plenary. Such committees can consist of either 3- or 5-members subject to a resolution of the faith engagement coordination mechanism members.

## 2.1.3. Identification of necessary subnational structures

Faith engagement coordination mechanisms may also be formed and convened at subnational (including local) levels as needed. They can be particularly useful at a subnational level:

- In federalized or decentralized governments
- In large countries (geographically or by population density)

Elements in this guide can apply to establishment of a faith engagement coordination mechanism at any administrative level. However, the national level mechanism should establish procedures for regular communication, including information sharing, with and between subnational faith engagement coordination mechanisms.



MHD Session with Children Living in the Street, Pakistan, 2023.

## 2.2. FAITH ENGAGEMENT COORDINATION MECHANISM GOVERNANCE

### 2.2.1. FPCC guiding principles

The FPCC Advisory group developed key principles to enable move from the status quo towards a more collaborative and effective partnership future. These principles are also aligned with the Community Engagement Minimum Standards, namely, 1. Participation, 2. Empowerment and Ownership, 3. Inclusion, 4. Two-way communication, 5. Adaptability and Localization, and 6. Building on Local Capacity.<sup>1</sup> Faith engagement coordination mechanisms can consider the listed principles or refer to the [participatory partnership with faith actors and institutions for the well-being of children, families and communities](#) documented on the FPCC website.

- **Principle #1.** Understand and value the transformational power of faith
- **Principle #2.** Have confidence in community solutions. Adopt a respectful reciprocal learning approach leading to mutual understanding
- **Principle #3.** Be mindful of power inequalities and be inclusive of marginalized groups
- **Principle #4.** Adopt participative planning processes valuing heart-mind dialogue and systems strengthening
- **Principle #5.** Identify and discuss challenges and difficult areas
- **Principle #6.** Commit to evidence-based decision-making, ongoing evaluation and learning, and to being informed by outcomes
- **Principle #7.** Explore and document new enabling and facilitation roles for global FBOs and other intermediaries
- **Principle #8.** Work with Local Faith Actors (LFA) to build and amplify their capacity for advocacy

(Where necessary, each constituted faith engagement coordination mechanism or MFACC

can develop a clear set of bylaws or code of conduct that will further guide operations at the country level.)

### 2.2.2. Leadership and decision-making

As part of the TOR development process, the faith engagement coordination mechanism may consider nominating a leadership team to oversee its activities. The leadership shall ensure a consensus-based decision-making process that respects the input of all members. The leadership can be composed of the following members:

- 2 Co-Chairpersons
- 1 Secretary

Similarly, it is recommended that the TOR for office bearers be established and renewed regularly by the faith engagement coordination mechanism. Regular rotation can preserve the faith engagement coordination mechanism memory and also bring new ideas and energy to deliberations. The following are suggested and up for consideration by the faith engagement coordination mechanism when developing the TOR especially for office bearers:

- An 18-month period that is renewable one time - any additional extension period can be occasioned through a faith engagement coordination mechanism resolution.
- Office bearers to work on volunteer basis with remuneration subject to the faith engagement coordination mechanism resource mobilization and resolutions.

### 2.2.3. Transparency and accountability

Faith engagement coordination mechanism or MFACC leadership shall maintain transparent records of meetings, decisions, and financial transactions and shall implement accountability mechanisms to ensure that actions align with the committee's mission and goals.

1 [https://www.faith4positivechange.org/\\_files/ugd/e98ce2\\_f7397689e9e84a129437b2f217c80fd7.pdf](https://www.faith4positivechange.org/_files/ugd/e98ce2_f7397689e9e84a129437b2f217c80fd7.pdf)



#### 2.2.4. Engagement with partners and their roles

The following engagement strategies aim to harness the unique strengths and resources of religious leaders, FBOs, and UNICEF Country Offices to address children's issues effectively within the faith engagement coordination mechanism framework. Collaboration and synergy among these partners can significantly amplify the impact on child welfare and well-being initiatives.

##### A. Engaging religious leaders

- Provide Advisory Role on guidance in shaping the moral and ethical framework for child welfare initiatives.
- Support mobilization of communities for participation in child welfare issues and advocate for children's rights and well-being.
- Collaborate with the faith engagement coordination mechanism to gather resources from within their communities for children's programmes and initiatives.
- Provision of moral and psychological support to children and families in need.

##### B. Engaging faith-based organizations

- Support the implementation of child-focused programmes, including: education, child rights, well-being, immunization, prevention of child marriages, child participation (through Arigatou International and the existing networks of religions for children) etc.

- Support FBOs in enhancing their capacity to address children's issues effectively.
- Collaborate with the faith engagement coordination mechanism and FBOs to raise awareness about children's rights and relevant social issues within their congregations and networks.
- Facilitate partnerships and collaboration among different FBOs to maximize impact and resources.

##### C. Engaging development actors

- Provide technical support and expertise to the faith engagement coordination mechanism in establishing and running effective programmes.
- Assist in securing funding and resources required for implementing initiatives identified by the country-level faith engagement coordination mechanism.
- Ensure alignment and coordination between the faith engagement coordination mechanism, national governments initiatives supported by UNICEF initiatives and programmes at the national and local levels.
- Join in monitoring and evaluating the impact of programmes and initiatives of the faith engagement coordination mechanism.

## 2.3. FAITH ENGAGEMENT COORDINATION MECHANISM OPERATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

The faith engagement coordination mechanism or MFACC shall also encourage participants to identify common goals and actionable plans that address the identified issues and ensure that these plans are rooted in shared vision and values.

### 2.3.1. Meetings

- Two forms of meetings are contemplated:
  - Ordinary meeting: meeting where members agree to meet at least quarterly to transact business on issues related to children. A resolution is made on action plans by consensus or popular vote.
  - Special meetings: can be called by the leadership of the faith engagement coordination mechanism by virtue of emerging issues that require urgent attention of the membership” a resolution is made by consensus or popular vote.
- Meetings Quorum- A quorum is achieved when a minimum of 3 religious leaders, 2 FBOs representatives, 1 UNICEF representatives are present in a meeting.
- The faith engagement coordination mechanism shall organize regular meetings where committee members engage in structured Mind-Heart Dialogue sessions. Each session should have a facilitator who ensures that the MHD principles are followed.

- Organize workshops and training sessions on relevant topics, such as interfaith understanding, conflict resolution, and social change strategies and create a safe and respectful space for dialogue.

### 2.3.2. Training and capacity building

- Provide opportunities for training to members, development and faith actors on the principles and techniques of the Mind-Heart Dialogue (MHD) approach.
- Model active listening, empathy, conflict resolution, and finding common ground.

### 2.3.3. Project implementation

- Collaboratively plan and implement projects or initiatives that address identified issues.
- Ensure that projects align with the shared values and goals of the faith engagement coordination mechanism.
- Monitor progress and evaluate the impact of projects.

### 2.3.4. Community engagement

- Faith engagement coordination mechanisms shall endeavour to extend the dialogue sessions to the broader community, involving residents, youth, and other stakeholders. Use various



FPCC South Sudan workshop, Juba - South Sudan, October 2019.

communication channels, including workshops, seminars, and social media, to engage a wider audience.

- Build partnerships with government agencies, NGOs, and other relevant stakeholders to leverage resources and support for the faith engagement coordination mechanism's initiatives.
- Promote the work of the faith engagement coordination mechanism within the broader community.

### 2.3.5. Action planning

The faith engagement coordination mechanism shall also encourage participants to identify common goals and actionable plans that address the identified issues and ensure that these plans are rooted in shared vision and values. Make a

plan to act on the priority issue. It is expected that members shall agree together:

- Who needs to participate in Mind-Heart Dialogue to bring change on set priorities e.g. local communities? Parents? Youth?
- Who needs to be trained in Mind-Heart Dialogue facilitation?
- When and how will this happen?
- How can everyone in the faith engagement coordination mechanism contribute to that plan?
- How will any funding be found?
- Agreed upon decisions on activities and operations shall be documented in formal and endorsed by all members to provide an agreed basis for the faith engagement coordination mechanism to operate across all sectors.

## 2.4. SUSTAINABILITY OF FAITH ENGAGEMENT COORDINATION MECHANISMS

### 2.4.1. Mainstreaming faith engagement coordination mechanism activities at the institutional levels.

Ensuring that the faith engagement coordination mechanism and all its activities are mainstreamed or aligned to institutions or individual organizations of participating members is the key to ensuring sustainability and maximising collaboration and partnership. This also requires knowledge of all the faith engagement coordination mechanism activities. Practically, it might help for the faith engagement coordination mechanism to conduct stakeholder analysis for the agreed upon country specific child priorities.

### 2.4.2. Resource mobilization

Sustainability will also depend on how resources are mobilized and used. Modalities on how to look for funds for specific faith engagement coordination mechanism activities shall be agreed upon by members. It might be important to:

- Map the human and financial resources available within the faith engagement coordination mechanism

- Map available resource streams available from external financiers on specific child priorities.

Best practice dictates that it is important to ensure resources are allocated as per formal agreements with partners.

### 2.4.3. Coordinated communication and advocacy

Communication with members and key stakeholders, including policy makers in other areas should be aligned and consistent to increase awareness of the faith engagement coordination mechanism role and engagement in its activities. Faith engagement coordination mechanism can consider having an appropriate communication plan that addresses:

- routine communication among members, sub committees, and subnational structures.
- identification of target audiences and plans for stakeholder engagement.
- ensuring alignment with other plans to provide information to the public.

# 3.

## MONITORING, EVALUATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND LEARNING

Developing a robust Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) framework is crucial for the effectiveness and success of the faith engagement coordination mechanisms. They are encouraged to adopt the proposed approach below.

Proposed approach:

- i. **Establish Clear Objectives and Indicators:** Define clear and measurable objectives for the faith engagement coordination mechanism or MFACC activities. Create specific indicators aligned with these objectives to monitor progress and success. These indicators should cover aspects related to faith community engagement, priority actions for children, families, and communities, resource mobilization, and collaborative efforts.
- ii. **Stakeholder Engagement and Participation:** Ensure active involvement and engagement of all stakeholders, including faith communities, development partners, governmental bodies, and beneficiaries. Seek their feedback and participation in the MEAL processes to enhance inclusivity and effectiveness.
- iii. **Regular Monitoring Mechanisms:** Implement regular monitoring systems to track the progress of activities undertaken by the faith engagement coordination mechanisms. This can involve periodic check-ins, progress reports, or dashboards capturing key metrics and milestones achieved against set objectives.
- iv. **Evaluation for Impact Assessment:** Conduct periodic evaluations to assess the impact and effectiveness of the faith engagement coordination mechanism initiatives. These evaluations should focus on outcomes achieved, lessons learned, challenges faced, and the overall contribution of faith engagement coordination mechanisms to positive change within communities.
- v. **Accountability Mechanisms:** Develop mechanisms that ensure accountability among members and stakeholders. This involves setting up transparent processes for decision-making, resource allocation, and reporting. Encourage open communication and feedback loops to address any issues promptly.





MHD Mapping Childhood Journey, Regional Training of Trainers in Latin America and the Caribbean - Panama City - Panama, April 2024.

**vi. Learning and Knowledge Sharing:** Establish platforms for continuous learning and knowledge sharing among members. Encourage sharing best practices, case studies, and experiences to facilitate mutual learning and improvement. Conduct workshops, webinars, or seminars focused on capacity building and skill enhancement.

**vii. Adaptive Management:** Embrace an adaptive management approach, allowing for flexibility and adjustments based on monitoring, evaluation, and learning outcomes. Use findings from these processes to adapt strategies, improve interventions, and refine the faith engagement coordination mechanism's approach over time.

**viii. Documentation and Reporting:** Maintain comprehensive documentation of activities, achievements, challenges, and lessons learned. Prepare regular reports highlighting progress, impact, and recommendations for further improvement.

By integrating these components into the faith engagement coordination mechanism's structure and operations, the committee can ensure a systematic approach to monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning. This will not only enhance the effectiveness of the faith engagement coordination mechanism initiatives but also contribute to sustained positive change within communities.

# 4

## STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE FOR LAUNCHING A COUNTRY-LEVEL FAITH ENGAGEMENT COORDINATION MECHANISM

### STEP I: SEND AROUND INVITATIONS TO THE LAUNCH

Ideally, invitations will be sent out by the convening partner (e.g. IRC) and UNICEF together. Be sure to include:

- nominees for the 12-person committee – it may be more appropriate to elect the FBO nominees on the day from amongst those that attend.
- other important IRC members, UNICEF staff, key FBOs working with children and government.
- both high level people who will be critical to the faith engagement coordination mechanism & people who will have the time/ commitment to be Mind-Heart Dialogue facilitators

- a diverse, representative groups (e.g. youth, women's networks, minority faiths, etc.)
- the national Mind-Heart Dialogue facilitators trained so far

Send around the [briefing on MFACCs](#) and [draft TOR](#) so that everyone is aware in advance.

Note: around 12 people will be selected for ongoing country-level faith engagement coordination mechanism meetings, but it is important that a wider group are aware of it to begin.

## STEP 2: PREPARE WELL

- Work with the facilitators selected for this faith engagement coordination mechanism launch to ensure they are confident in what the aims of the meeting are and how to facilitate. Either:
  - members of the core team if they are in the country
  - the two most promising members of them national team to do so
  - a combinationEnsure they have detailed facilitators' notes, have found all the resources they need and prepare well
- Ensure that listening activities are conducted before final action planning so that participants' voices are prioritized within the plans.
  - If you are doing Option 1 (one meeting), ensure at least the national teams all listen to children using Mind-Heart Dialogue activities beforehand so their voices are central to decision-making during the initial meeting. Ideally, send the activity out to others so that they can listen too
  - If you are doing Option 2 (two meetings), the listening can occur between the two meetings
- Find a venue
  - Faith engagement coordination mechanisms need to be able to meet regularly in a sustainable way, so the venue should be somewhere that is free to meet – such as belonging to a faith group or government

## STEP 3: THE LAUNCH

Here are two options for the activities that you might include in a half day faith engagement coordination mechanism launch, depending whether you want the outcome of meeting 1 to be a shared priority for immediate action, or just the faith engagement coordination mechanism formation.

Please note: FG refers to the [Facilitators' Guide](#)

### OPTION 1: ONE MEETING

Outcome - a functioning faith engagement coordination mechanism with a shared priority for immediate action

#### Why Mind-Heart Dialogue?

Testimony from member of national Mind-Heart Dialogue team or someone else about the importance of influencing behaviour change through hearts, minds and faith

## OPTION 1: ONE MEETING (cont.)

**Scripture reflection** (FG p.35) – to find a shared faith/ ethics-driven responsibility to protect and support children

As some may be from no particular religion, give the option of sharing other ethical beliefs about children (e.g. from the Convention on the Rights of the Child) to anyone who is more comfortable with that

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**Listening to children** (FG p.37) - to feed in the children's voice so everyone better understands the issues they face

Ask the national Mind-Heart Dialogue team and anyone else to speak as if they were a child and feedback what they heard in the listening activity (e.g. "The greatest challenges facing me are...")

Allow anyone else to add in, still speaking as a child, anything that they have heard from children about their challenges or hopes through other work

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**Journey of childhood** (FG p.34) – to explore the greatest challenges facing children

Based on what they have heard and from their own knowledge, get everyone to create a Journey of childhood in groups (you can leave out the discussion around decision-making if needed for time)

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**Bean ranking** - to cluster and prioritize

Make a list together of the greatest challenges facing children, based on the last few activities. Then carry out a bean ranking to find a priority issue

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**Balloon game** (FG p.37)- to internalize the importance of everyone planning and working together to protect children

A fun icebreaker that leads well into the importance of a faith engagement coordination mechanism

## OPTION 1: ONE MEETING (cont.)

### Creation of the country-level faith engagement coordination mechanism

Introduce the vision for a faith engagement coordination mechanism, basing it in the shared motivation to protect children developed through the day.

Brainstorm what national structures already exist to protect and empower children and discuss how the faith engagement coordination mechanism could link/ integrate with them e.g. IRC structures/ RCCE/ Global Network of Religions for Children. If there is time, you could adapt **Stakeholder mapping** (FG pg. 36) to do this.

Then agree the following:

- Who (out of those present) will form the 12-person faith engagement coordination mechanism committee? (see ToR for details)
  - Religious leaders from for example RfP Interreligious Councils, including Women of Faith Networks and Interfaith Youth Council representation
  - Local representatives FBOs
  - National governments representatives
  - UNICEF staff, and other development actors
- Is anyone missing that needs to be a member of the faith engagement coordination mechanism going forwards?
- How often will the faith engagement coordination mechanism meet?
- Who will convene the meetings? (co-chairs, one religious leaders from IRC for example and one from an FBO)
- Anything else relevant

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### Action planning

Share any action that has already been taken in terms of cascading of Mind-Heart Dialogue training so that plans can integrate these in

Make a plan to act on the first priority issue identified through the bean ranking. Agree together:

- Who needs to participate in Mind-Heart Dialogue to bring change on this issue e.g. local communities? Parents? Youth?
- Who needs to be trained to facilitate Mind-Heart Dialogue to cascade the training to the faith leaders/ others who can facilitate for those groups?
- When and how will this happen?
- How can everyone in the faith engagement coordination mechanism contribute to that plan?
- How will any funding be found?

Note: more detailed analysis of the drivers etc. should occur at these future Mind-Heart Dialogue sessions with the targeted groups

## OPTION 2: TWO MEETINGS

Meeting 1 outcome - a functioning faith engagement coordination mechanism

Meeting 2 outcome - a strategic plan for a shared priority

### Meeting 1 (1/2 day)

#### Why Mind-Heart Dialogue?

Testimony from member of national Mind-Heart Dialogue team or someone else about the importance of influencing behaviour change through hearts, minds and faith

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**Scripture reflection** (FG p.35) – to find a shared faith/ ethics driven responsibility to protect and support children

As some may be from no particular religion, give the option of sharing other ethical beliefs about children (e.g. from the Convention on the Rights of the Child) to anyone who is more comfortable with that

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**Secret in a box** (FG p.40) – to understand the importance of children’s participation and voice in decision-making

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**Journey of childhood** (FG p.34) – to explore the greatest challenges facing children

Explain that this is an activity that everyone will learn so they can facilitate it with a group of children to listen to them before the next meeting. Get everyone to create a Journey of childhood in groups (you can leave out the discussion around decision-making if needed for time)

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**Balloon game** (FG p.37)- to internalize the importance of everyone planning and working together to protect children

A fun icebreaker that leads well into the importance of a faith engagement coordination mechanism

## OPTION 2: TWO MEETINGS (cont.)

### Creation of the faith engagement coordination mechanism

Introduce the vision for a faith engagement coordination mechanism, basing it in the shared motivation to protect children developed through the day.

Brainstorm what national structures already exist to protect and empower children and discuss how the faith engagement coordination mechanism could link/ integrate with them e.g. IRC structures/ RCCE/ Global Network of Religions for Children. If there is time, you could adapt **Stakeholder mapping** (FG pg. 36) to do this.

Then agree the following:

- Who (out of those present) will form the 12-person faith engagement coordination mechanism committee? (see ToR for details)
  - Religious leaders from for example RfP Interreligious Councils, including Women of Faith Networks and Interfaith Youth Council representation
  - Local representatives FBOs
  - National governments representatives
  - UNICEF staff, and other development actors
- Is anyone missing that needs to be a member of the faith engagement coordination mechanism going forwards?
- How often will the faith engagement coordination mechanism meet?
- Who will convene the meetings? (co-chairs, one religious leaders from IRC for example and one from an FBO)
- Anything else relevant

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**Changing hats** (FG p.44) - to explore the roles of different partners and what each contributes to be effective in bringing behavioural change that impacts children

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### Action planning

- Share any action that has already been taken in terms of cascading of Mind-Heart Dialogue training so that plans can integrate these in
- Give everyone time to plan when they will carry out their listening activity with children
- Agree when to meet next (ideally in about a month) – this may be everyone again or just the 12 selected plus the Mind-Heart Dialogue facilitator if they are not already included

## OPTION 2: TWO MEETINGS (cont.)

### Meeting 2 (1 day)

**Listening to children** (FG p.37) - to feed in the children's voice so everyone better understands the issues they face

Ask everyone to speak as if they were a child and feedback what they heard in the listening activity (e.g. "The greatest challenges facing me are...")

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**Bean ranking** - to cluster and prioritize

Make a list together of the greatest challenges facing children, based on the last few activities. Then carry out a bean ranking to find a priority issue

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**Introduce FPCC Transformation Tree** (FG p. 22)

Explain that shows the most effective ways of bringing behaviour change, gathered from all around the world

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Choose an activity to go deeper into the priority issue e.g.

- **Participatory Drama** (FG p.39) – to understand the drivers of the harmful behaviour and needed behavioural changes
  - **Mapping Safety** (FG p.41) - to portray visually the area where children spend their time (e.g. village/ town centre); and analyse the opportunities/ safe spaces and challenges/ risks
  - **Power Walk** (FG p.40) - to surface the barriers that different people face to participation
- 

Choose an activity to go deeper into the priority issue e.g.

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## OPTION 2: TWO MEETINGS (cont.)

### Action planning

Make a plan to act on the priority issue. Agree together:

- Who needs to participate in Mind-Heart Dialogue to bring change on this issue e.g. local communities? Parents? Youth?
- Who needs to be trained to facilitate Mind-Heart Dialogue to cascade the training to the faith leaders/ others who can facilitate for those groups?
- When and how will this happen?
- How can everyone in the faith engagement coordination mechanism contribute to that plan?
- How will any funding be found?



Participants to the Mind-Heart Dialogue Regional Training of Trainers in Latin America and the Caribbean - Panama City - Panama, April 2024.

## RESOURCES

FPCC Programme Guidance document: [https://www.faith4positivechange.org/\\_files/ugd/e98ce2\\_5b3703b4c279489a92eccdfa08f805bd.pdf](https://www.faith4positivechange.org/_files/ugd/e98ce2_5b3703b4c279489a92eccdfa08f805bd.pdf)

Mind-Heart Dialogue Facilitators Guide: <https://jliflc.com/resources/mhd-facilitators-guide-v2/>

National Multi-Faith Action Coordination Committees Terms of Reference: [https://www.faith4positivechange.org/\\_files/ugd/e98ce2\\_d96f8ba3f20f4e038f2aaf4c31e77c10.pdf](https://www.faith4positivechange.org/_files/ugd/e98ce2_d96f8ba3f20f4e038f2aaf4c31e77c10.pdf)

Taking a Multisectoral, One Health Approach: A Tripartite Guide to Addressing Zoonotic Diseases in Countries: World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), 2019. PRINCIPLES OF PARTICIPATORY

All the FPCC resources are available at: <https://www.faith4positivechange.org/> and [https://jliflc.com/resources/?\\_topics%5B%5D=727](https://jliflc.com/resources/?_topics%5B%5D=727)

# APPENDICES

## 6.1. ANNEX: SAMPLE FAITH ENGAGEMENT COORDINATION MECHANISM MEETING FORMAT

### Faith engagement coordination mechanism or mfacc meeting format

Meeting Title: [Insert Title]

Date: [Insert Date]

Time: [Insert Time]

Location/Platform: [Physical location or virtual meeting platform]

### Agenda:

#### 1. Welcome and introduction (10 minutes)

- Welcome all participants to the faith engagement coordination mechanism or MFACC meeting.
- Provide a brief overview of the purpose of the faith engagement coordination mechanism and its role in supporting tripartite coordination.
- Introduce key participants, including UNICEF representatives, religious leaders, and members of local/national FBOs.

## 2. Review of the faith engagement coordination mechanism objectives (15 minutes)

- Review the primary objectives of the faith engagement coordination mechanism as outlined in the introduction.
- Emphasize the importance of joint priorities and action agendas for the well-being of children, families, and communities.
- Dialogue the role of religious leaders (or Inter-religious councils (IRCs)) in influencing positive change (See relevant MHD Guide that can help).

## 3. Updates and progress reports (20 minutes)

- Allow representatives from different faith engagement coordination mechanisms to share updates on their activities and progress towards achieving joint priorities.
- Highlight any success stories, challenges faced, and lessons learned.

## 4. Joint priority setting (25 minutes)

- Dialogue the process of setting joint priorities for the coming period.
- Encourage open dialogue and collaboration among UNICEF, development partners, and faith communities to identify key areas of focus.
- Outline the steps for prioritization and how resources will be allocated (optional).

## 5. Action agenda development (20 minutes)

- Dialogue the development of an action agenda that aligns with the identified priorities.
- Explore strategies for jointly developing, resourcing, and monitoring the action agenda.
- Ensure that all partners understand their roles and responsibilities in implementing the agenda.

## 6. Resource mobilization and sustainability (15 minutes)

- Address the issue of resource mobilization to support the faith engagement coordination mechanism activities.
- Dialogue strategies for sustaining the initiative and ensuring its long-term impact.
- Explore potential partnerships.

### 7. Open dialogue and questions (15 minutes)

- Allow participants to ask questions, share their thoughts, and provide feedback on the faith engagement coordination mechanism process.
- Encourage constructive dialogue and brainstorming for improvement.

### 8. Action items and next steps (10 minutes)

- Summarize key action items and assign responsible individuals or committees.
- Define timelines and deadlines for specific tasks.
- Clarify the date and time of the next faith engagement coordination mechanism meeting.

### 9. Closing remarks (5 minutes)

- Offer closing remarks, thanking participants for their engagement and commitment.
- Reiterate the importance of the faith engagement coordination mechanism's role in promoting positive change for children, families, and communities.

End the meeting on a positive note.

**Optional:** If the meeting is expected to be lengthy, schedule short breaks to allow participants to refresh.

Ensure that the meeting is well-organized and that participants are provided with relevant documents and materials in advance. Assign a facilitator or chairperson to guide the meeting and maintain a productive atmosphere. Additionally, designate someone to take minutes for documentation and follow-up. Adapt this format to your specific faith engagement coordination mechanism's needs and preferences.

## 6.2. FAITH ENGAGEMENT COORDINATION MECHANISM OPERATION CHECKLIST

### Checklist on setting up a country-level faith engagement coordination mechanism

For a faith engagement coordination mechanism to be considered fully constituted, functional and operational, it must have the following key features:

- **Establishment:** The faith engagement coordination mechanism has been established by religious leaders (e.g. members drawn from the Country Inter-religious Council/ Religions for Peace Chapter), local FBOs and international organizations Country Office Representatives (e.g. UNICEF).

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- **Orientation:** The faith engagement coordination mechanism members have been oriented first on FPCC and have participated in other FPCC activities and actions and are familiar with its objectives, principles, and vision. Secondly, the faith engagement coordination mechanism has gone through a process of orientation on its purpose, vision, and role.

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- **Leadership and coordination:** The faith engagement coordination mechanism has a functional leadership representing the FPCC partners and has adapted the faith engagement coordination mechanism with leadership determined by the membership. Each tripartite partner has representation in the leadership or has a say in what form of leadership the faith engagement coordination mechanism will take (e.g. rotational, co-chairing, etc.).

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- **Schedule of meetings:** The faith engagement coordination mechanism tripartite coordination mechanisms have laid out a schedule of regular meetings with clear agendas agreed on a regular basis and minutes recorded. These meetings can be bi-weekly or monthly and are convened by the Interreligious Councils/National Chapters. The schedule of meetings is shared with a two weeks' notice period to all members and forms part of operating procedures and processes.

- **Priority setting:** The faith engagement coordination mechanism has set up priorities and an agenda that is clear and relevant to all stakeholders taking into consideration the various activities and initiatives each partner is implementing. The priorities are jointly agreed and a plan of action set that consolidates resources and links to other sectors and stakeholders.
- 
- **Entrenching Mind-Heart Dialogue:** The faith engagement coordination mechanism members have been oriented into the Mind and Heart Dialogue approach which forms the basis of planning and interrogating issues affecting children, families and communities. A Mind and Heart Orientation package for faith engagement coordination mechanisms will be developed by the Global FPCC Secretariat and will be used to orient the members.
- 
- **Resources:** The faith engagement coordination mechanism operations are supported initially through the FPCC Initiative activities in the country. The support includes: facilitation for meetings, training, feedback and engagement mechanisms, participation in advocacy activities and events, coordination, materials, etc.
- 
- **Monitoring and evaluation:** MEAL priorities be set by each faith engagement coordination mechanism with respect to common global indicators for Mind-Heart community mobilization, impact on specific children and families as per priorities, and partnership. Faith engagement coordination mechanisms will receive orientation on MEAL simplified framework with supporting resources.

### 6.3. OVERVIEW OF THE MIND HEART DIALOGUE APPROACH

The Mind-Heart Dialogue is an approach of FPCC to analyse, plan and come up with practical and context specific solutions to issues affecting children. It invites the individual to draw from their experience and reflections on a particular issue and relate that to present day challenges facing children. It uses social behaviour change approaches to analyse social, cultural and religious norms and practices and compare these with the recommended scientific, technical information to reinforce positive norms and practices for the wellbeing of children, families and communities. It is a reflective and experiential learning process, exploring faith convictions, lived experiences and knowledge to influence positive social and

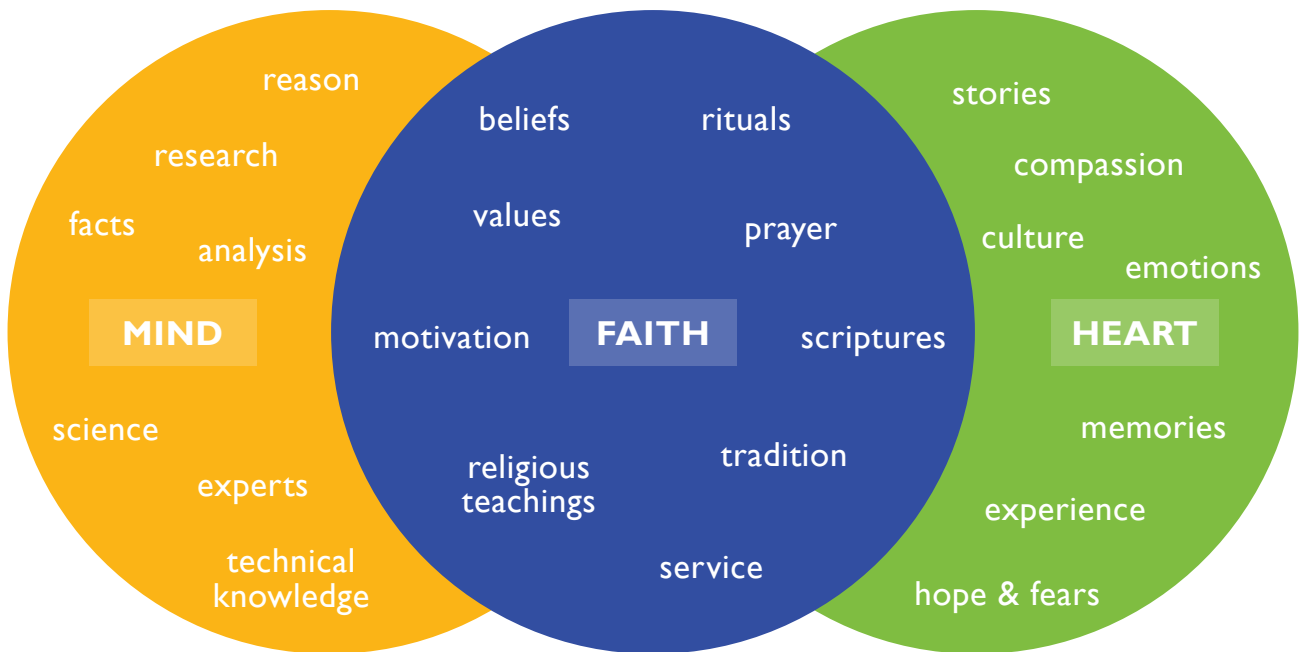
behaviour change. It supports faith groups and development partners to work together to protect and empower children, families, and communities.

The approach penetrates deeper than the usual participatory approaches of messaging and awareness-raising. It raises to the surface the emotions and beliefs that can help or hinder lasting transformation encouraging open and authentic communication among individuals within a group setting. It recognizes the importance of both rational thinking (mind) resourcefulness of faith and humanity of people (heart) in fostering effective group dynamics and decision-making.



Simulation exercise, Mind-Heart Dialogue Regional Training of Trainers in South Asia, Kathmandu - Nepal, November 2023.





“

Because change comes from within us, this process [of Mind-Heart Dialogue] enables people to connect with their inner faith and values. Not as an intellectual challenge, but as the deep internal drivers and enablers of change

”

## Components of the Mind-Heart Dialogue

### FAITH

explores spiritual beliefs, values and motivations (whether linked to a particular religion or not), creating space to reflect on and positively interpret faith teachings and practices and to integrate prayer/ meditation into processes of change.

### MIND

draws on technical knowledge, resources, tools, processes and people to provide evidence of what works, why and with whom – and show the benefits of adopting new or adapting existing positive practices or abandoning harmful ones.

### HEART

reflects on experiences and emotions to unpack underlying drivers of behaviours and develop empathy and personal motivation for change; analyses culture and power to identify the norms that underlie unequal opportunities and to reinforce positive and reject harmful practices; and releases local skills and resources for practical action.






  
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