

# INTERFAITH PERSPECTIVE: ROLE OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES IN SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE COMMUNICATION

Deepika Singh
Director of Programs

New York | January 9, 2015

## Religions for Peace Mission

Religions for Peace advances common <u>action</u> among the world's religious communities for peace.



## Religions for Peace Global Network: World Map

Active in more than 90 countries, in six regions, and on the global level.



Africa | Asia | Europe | Latin America & the Caribbean | Middle East/North Africa | North America

### Assets of Religious Communities

#### Each religious community has assets for promoting health:

- Spiritual
- Moral
- Social



## Power of Multi-religious Cooperation

#### Multi-religious cooperation provides added values:

- Transforms discord
- Aligns community around common challenges
- Highlights complementary strengths
- Offers efficiencies
- Facilitates public partnerships



### Methods for Common Action

- Analyze problem to determine needed problem-solving roles
- Inventory religious assets
- Match religious assets with problem-solving roles
- Define roles for religious leaders and communities
- Equip and build capacity of religious communities to act together
- Mobilize common action to address the problem

### Approach Multi-religious Action

		Education	Change Attitudes & Behavior	Advocacy	Service Delivery
Believers Temples/Mosques/Churches Local Women/Youth Groups Districts of Temples/Mosques/Churches National Women/Youth Groups National Council of Imams National Denominations National Councils Regional Religious Associations International Religious Bodies/Associations	A C T O R S				

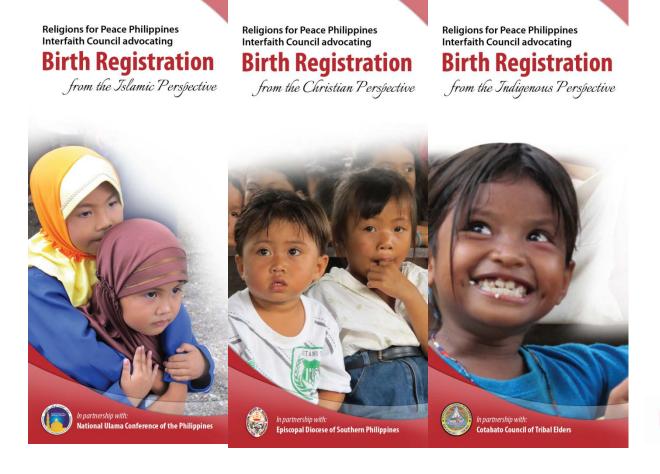
#### Multi-religious Framework for Action

Problem/ Challenge	Needed Role	Religious Assets	Religious Actors	
New Born Care	☐ Education	Intra-religious	Spiritual	Senior religious leaders
Infant and Young Child Feeding	☐ Awareness	At local, national, regional and international levels	Assets	Religious Practitioners
Immunization	raising/Change attitude, behavior & practices	Inter-religious At local, national, regional and international levels	Moral Assets	Religious scholars
PMTCT	☐ Advocacy for the			Women's groups
Malaria	adoption & implementation of laws  Service Delivery	Multi-stakeholder partnership	Spiritual Assets	Youth groups
Common Childhood Illnesses and Severe Acute Malnutrition	z corvice zenvery	(Governments, Intergovernmental bodies, civil society organizations and religious communities)		Faith-based NGOs

## Philippines: Multi-religious Action

unicef Religions for Peace

unicef Religions for Peace



unicef Religions for Peace

A universal system of birth registration is critical to prevent harmful practices and to effectively ensure children are not invisible and get the required needed services for their survival and growth.

Religions for Peace ~>

## Liberia: Multi-religious Actions

## Strengthening Child Protection Mechanisms and Systems to Prevent and Respond to Violence and Abuse against Children in Liberia

- Increase in school retention rates among girls;
- Decrease in teenage pregnancies;
- Reduction in commercial sex involving teenage girls and mothers;
- ☐ Increase in parents and communities reporting rape cases to the police and relevant authorities;
- □ Increase in the demand for birth registration for children; and



## Myanmar: Multi-religious Actions

600 mothers and young women trained on Ten Promises to Our Children among the vulnerable communities in surrounding Yangon





Even in communal strife areas, this initiative brought together diverse religious leaders and beneficiaries due to it being implemented through multireligious collaboration.

βετή βλεικεργιγήστη περχυή φβλής πανόγολοθηλιβή

## Kenya: Multi-religious Action



Religious leaders are working to reduce violence associated with rites of passage that perpetuate interethnic conflict among the five major tribes located in Isiolo.

UNICEF and the *Religions for Peace* Inter-religious Council of Kenya have engaged over 400 religious leaders, tribal elders, women, and youth who are now at work in their communities advocating for alternative rites of passage.

## Kenya: Multi-religious Action

#### Faith for Life Initiative

- The Congregational model initiative used by F4L project enables IRCK to reach religious leaders at all levels. (international, national, grass-root and congregational members). This was evident during the F4L conference and reports received from various implementing congregations
- The use of the religious leaders and the pulpit to disseminate F4L messages is a powerful tool for information sharing as RL have extensive network and grassroots reach
- F4L empowers religious leaders and their faith communities in maternal and child survival and development.
- F4L mobilizes faith communities to disseminate and use the materials and processes developed
  - F4L has enabled faith communities and religious leaders to share nationally and internationally the Faith for Life materials and processes. This has led to faith communities taking action on Maternal and Child health issues internationally.