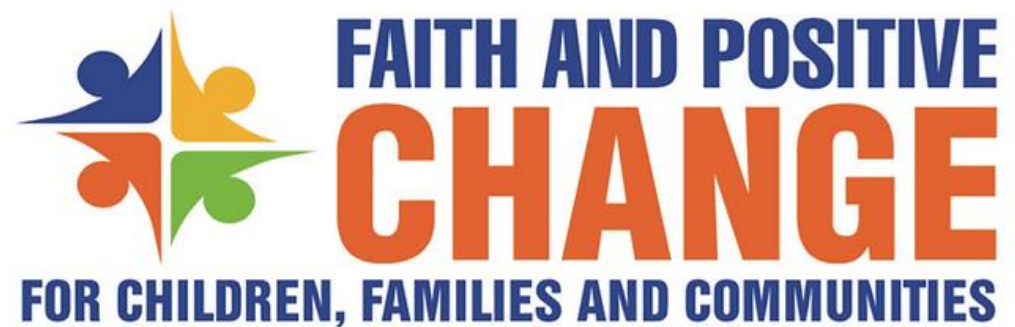




**SOCIAL +  
BEHAVIOUR  
CHANGE**

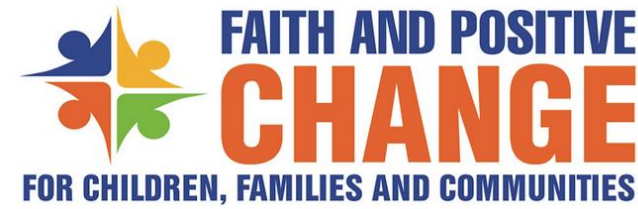
# SBC / Strategic Alliances

**Faith Actors Mapping**  
Results and Recommendations



**Latin America and the Caribbean  
Regional Office - LACRO**  
January 2023





## About FPCC Initiative

- Conceived in 2018. FPCC: Faith and Positive Change for Children, Families and Communities.
- The FPCC Initiative aims to move beyond single-sector, single-faith, small-scale, ad-hoc and sometime instrumentalist approaches of faith engagement in development and humanitarian work.
- Three main partners and multiple collaborating partners around the world.
  - Religions for Peace (RfP) - Interfaith convening partner for the global initiative.
  - Joint Learning Initiative - Knowledge partner that helps to bring the coordinated voice and inputs of FBO into the partnership initiatives.
- FPCC Model:
  - Faith-centered research and mapping to ensure evidence-based and contextually-appropriate approaches.
  - Experiential training of FPCC facilitators to ensure interactive and reflective Mind-Heart Dialogue approaches to address issues affecting children.
  - Establishment of sustainable inter-faith coordination and partnership mechanisms for on-going planning, implementation and oversight.

## **Faith Actors Mapping**

- Implemented considering five countries: El Salvador, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Brazil.
- A total of 27 people representing faith-based organizations and leaders were interviewed.
- One focus group was conducted.

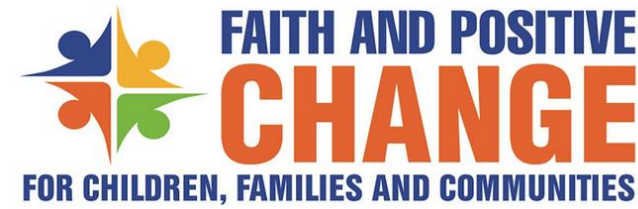
Working on child rights in the region: 37 faith actors were identified.

*Mapping implemented by Joint Learning Initiative (JLI) / November-December 2022.*

## Contextual elements

Faith Actors interviewed identify poverty and inequalities as the main challenge in the region. Also, they take into consideration:

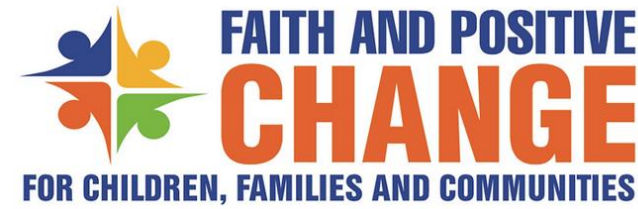
- Human mobility / High levels of migration
- The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Fundamentalism and its impact on political and social instability and democracy.
- Children exposed to violence and malnutrition.



Due to its **diverse religious demography** and presence of **deeply rooted religious communities**, **local faith actors** are highly **strategic partners** for addressing the needs of the most vulnerable children, families, and communities by working with existing networks of local faith actors and their activities.

Faith actors currently hold UNICEF in high regard, which opens possibilities for a good cooperation within the FPCC framework.

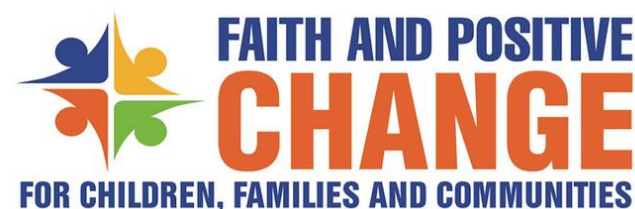
# Faith Actors in LAC



- In the region, 90% of the population is Christian. But the tendency is changing in some countries, with the growing Protestantism/Evangelism groups.
- The region is also known for its syncretism of incorporating and enculturating elements from the different local traditions.
- Churches have played a consistent role in supplying State services. Many religious organizations take the role as parastatal agents.
- Faith actors have a strong presence at different levels of society, with a strong influence in politics and negotiations with the governments.

**Organizations with relevant presence in LAC: World Vision, the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC), Pastoral da Criança, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).**

# Faith Actors in LAC



## Opportunities

- Affinity between promoting children's rights and the principles and values of the different religions, principally Christian theology.
- Many churches and religious groups already have specific programmes and projects for children.
- **Some faith actors do not have written methodologies, protocols, or evidence of their work.**
- All the faith actors included in this mapping desire to improve their practices and learn how to improve results.
- They see UNICEF as a stamp of quality and recognition of the high service standards they aim to achieve.

## Risk

- Instrumental view: Some faith actors interviewed mentioned that UNICEF and FPCC could help in recognition of their work in the field of child rights.

## Challenges

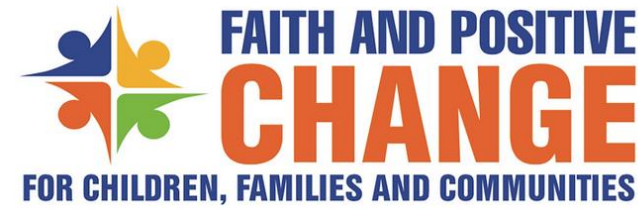
- Some rights-related topics such as gender and sexual orientation are sensitive for faith actor partnership.
- Some faith actors can focus on religious education for children to ensure they grow up in a certain faith.

**Faith actors currently hold UNICEF in high regard, which opens up possibilities for good cooperation in the FPCC framework (note that this is only sometimes the case in other countries and regions, meaning this is a particular opportunity for LACRO).**

## **UNICEF contribution**

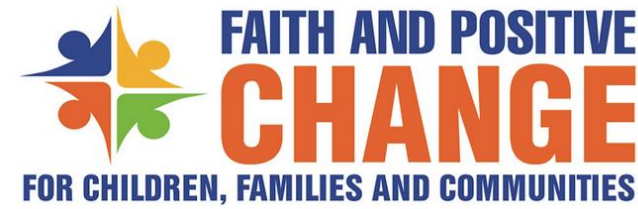
- STRATEGIC REGIONAL VIEW
  - Share information and perspective about regional priorities and approaches to addressing challenges.
  - Contribute to the regional perspective and discussion about the faith-sensitive approach to children's well-being.
  - Bring evidence-based and technical guidance to complement the theological discussion.
- TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR SBC (Research, Design, Implementation, M&E)
  - Create technical resources and workshops.
  - Gather faith-based technical tools for child protection.
- REGIONAL PROMOTION AND ADAPTATION OF THE MIND-HEART DIALOGUE APPROACH
  - Conduct a regional training on Mind-Heart Dialogue.
  - Support the implementation of the Mind-Heart Dialogue at the country level.





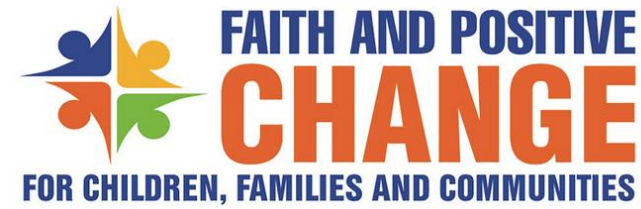
## Next Steps

- Presentation of the mapping results to COs and faith actors at the national level, promoting the possibility of creating National Forums or Coordination Committees.
- Participation in the first on-site meeting of the Alliance for Child Protection (Alianza por la Protección de la Niñez - APN) in Guatemala City (March 2023).
- Invitation to relevant Regional Faith-Based Networks to the formal presentation of the mapping and for the creation of the Regional Committee of the FPCC Initiative.



## Recommendations

- Generate alliances with other regional faith actors, considering the multiplicity and acknowledging the existing faith networks in the region.
- Formalize the creation of a Regional Committee, with the participation of UNICEF and regional faith-based networks, to design a common agenda and prepare the Regional Forum of Faith Actors.
- Consider the inclusion of Ecumenic Networks and Organizations that are faith-oriented but are not affiliated with a specific religion.
- Differentiate the global level and the regional level of the FPCC Initiative.



**Read:**

**the [LAC Faith Actors Mapping Summary Report](#)**

**the [LAC Faith Actors Mapping Full Report](#)**