Greetings of peace from FECLAHA Secretariat in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECLAHA) is delighted to share with you its second issue of FECLAHA Newsletter this year.

FECLAHA has remained true to its commitment of creating platforms that strengthen ecumenical co-operation for peace building and conflict transformation across the region.

We are grateful to members and partners for continued support and collaboration.

Please engage with us on our newly re-designed website which was inspired by the concept of family and togetherness; http://www.fecclaha.org/ and our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/FECCLAHA/

We look forward to hearing from you.

Monica Njoroge at monica@fecclaha.org and Veronica Mathanjuki at veronicah.mathanjuki@fecclaha.org

Welcome/ Karibu/ Bienvenue
Religious leaders, Women & youth advocating for peaceful elections and participation in the electoral process - North Kivu, DRC: Ahead of the general elections in DRC, a follow up consultative forum for 30 religious leaders, women and youth facilitated by FECCCLAHA in collaboration with Church of Christ in Congo (ECC North Kivu) was held from 24th to 25th May 2018 in North Kivu, DRC. Following this, Faith women in Goma undertook initiatives to sensitize the community on peaceful elections as part of knowledge and skills transfers initiatives. Resultantly, on 1st June 2018; 50 people drawn from Goma were mobilized and reached with messages of peace and peaceful elections. Spaces for information and experience sharing were created. Calls were made for women to not only vote but also vie for political positions.

Faith Women Mediators training: In partnership with International Centre for Peace, Human Rights and Development in Africa (PHRD-Africa), African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and other partners, FECCCLAHA held a regional training of Faith Women Mediators in Addis, Ethiopia from 23rd-28th July 2018. Young women were inducted to peace mediation and had the chance to learn from others on their peace building journey. While there, they visited the African Union and the United Nations for experience sharing and learning.

Gender mainstreaming guide in peace building:
The process of translating the guide on gender mainstreaming in peace building and conflict transformation - A faith perspective from English to French has been completed. The guide which was launched during the Regional Training of faith Women Mediators in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, is now available in French for the francophone.
Youth Peace Clubs:
FECLALAHA facilitated the Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) to organize a three day workshop for the youth from all the 29 Synods across Ethiopia from 28th–30th June. The Youth Peace Club’s model was introduced to the participants who were taken through a series of modules on formation and management of the Youth Peace Clubs. The process of formation was made easier as 29 EECMY Synods across the country become entry points through which the YPC model can be adopted.

Youth forum for peace and advocacy in Uvira, South Kivu DRC:
FECLALAHA facilitated the Federation of Protestant Youth, ECC South Kivu, to undertake a joint YPCs peace forum in Uvira on 6th May 2018. Prior to the forum, youth used the church service to share the message of peace. A total number of 2972 people were mobilized and reached with messages of peace by the YPC members.

On 7th May 2018, a forum for peace was held at the 8th CEPAC/Kasenga in Uvira. A total number of over 255 youth were mobilized. These included the Youth Peace Club members from Bukavu, Uvira, and Kalyanapu (on the border of DRC & Burundi).
Sensitization on effects of SALWs in North Kivu Province of DRC: FECCLAHA facilitated the Organization of Young Christian for Development (OJCD) to organize and undertake an awareness-raising campaign under the theme "Peace building for Development" during the global week of Action Against Gun Violence. The activities aimed at raising awareness on the dangers of SALWS and encourage voluntary surrender of illicit SALW among communities in Goma, Masisi and Rutshuru mainly with a focus on youth.

Commemoration of the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence in Kenya: FECCLAHA, Kenya Action Network on Small Arms (KANSA) and other partners from the Control Arms Network, collaborated in commemorating the Global Week of Action against gun violence (GWoA). This was done through a series of activities under the 2018 theme: - 'Ending the crisis of Gun Violence'. The activities aimed at raising awareness on the scourge of gun violence and its negative effects on societies, and the need for joint efforts from all players in ending to gun violence.

Capacity building Workshop of church leaders and community members on SALW


NCCK Nairobi Region Conference: FECCLAHA partnered with NCCK during the NCCK Nairobi Region Conference held in Limuru, Kenya on 18th - 19th June 2018. The conference brought together 391 church leaders. FECCLAHA used this platform to create awareness on effects of Small Arms and Light Weapons among church leaders.
South Sudan Planning: FECCLAHA, in partnership with South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) and KAIROS Canada held a consultation and planning meeting in Juba, South Sudan on 18th - 21st June, 2018. FECCLAHA continues to provide technical assistance to the National Women Programme of SSCC and other key departments directly involved in implementation of the KAIROS Canada funded 5 year programme.

Tamar Campaign community initiatives in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) - 6th and 7th July, 2018 (Fizi – South Kivu): FECCLAHA accompanied the Federation for Women of Protestant Churches of the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC) in introducing the Tamar Campaign, Contextual Bible study methodology, as well as engaging in conversations for awareness raising on various forms of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the territory of Fizi, South Kivu. As a result of this, 4 ‘Tamar Circles’ in the Territory of Fizi have been formed with a view to form structures that are easy to accompany and follow up so as to ensure sustained engagement on GBV and other social injustices in that Territory.

Translation to Kiswahili of the Tamar Campaign Contextual Bible Study and Sermon Outlines on GBV and Peace (May & June, 2018): FECCCLAHA in collaboration with the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) has embarked in translation to Kiswahili of the Tamar Campaign Contextual Bible Study and Sermon Outlines on Peace and Gender Based Violence (GBV). This is in an effort to ease as well as increase use and access to the resource at the grassroots levels. The manual mainly targets members in Tanzania, Kenya and parts of Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Plans are underway to officially launch the Tamar Campaign – Kiswahili version during the Women Conference Week organized by the CCT on 12th – 16th September, 2018.

South Sudan Planning: FECCLAHA, in partnership with South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) and KAIROS Canada held a consultation and planning meeting in Juba, South Sudan on 18th - 21st June, 2018. FECCLAHA continues to provide technical assistance to the National Women Programme of SSCC and other key departments directly involved in implementation of the KAIROS Canada funded 5 year programme.
**Documentation of Governance of Extractives Handbook for Church Leaders:** FECCLAHA has embarked in documenting a ‘Handbook for Churches on advocacy on extractives justice’, this is with a view to equip church leaders with knowledge on the importance of advocacy and the role of the church in governance of extractives from a theological perspective.

The inception meeting took place on 19th of July 2018 in NBI, Kenya.

**Regional Workshop on Extractives:**
FECCLAHA participated in a regional workshop on Extractives on 6th & 7th June in Nairobi, Kenya that was organized by Building East Africa Community Network. (BEACON)

The theme for the dialogue was Promoting accountable governance in the management of extractives in the East and Horn of Africa region.

**Engagement with regional intergovernmental bodies**

**RECSA Meeting 16th May 2018:**
FECCLAHA reviewed their partnership agreement with Regional Centre for Small Arms (RECSA). Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed after identification and agreeing on areas of collaboration.

Left: Group picture of members delegates from FECCLAHA and RECSA. Seated from left: Former ES of RECSA Mr. Théoneste Mutsindashyaka, FECCLAHA’s ED Mrs. Elizabeth Z. Kisiigha and Brig. Gen (Rtd) Christo S. Fataki.
**Organization capacity Assessment:**
FECCLAHA conducted an organization capacity assessment workshop facilitated by Church of Sweden on May 14th & 15th 2018. Areas of Strength were affirmed and those that needed improvement were highlighted. This activity was highly appreciated as it preceded the Strategic planning process. FECCLAHA has documented a capacity assessment plan, which will be a guiding document to the capacity development within the organisation.

**Strategic planning process:**
The process of evaluating FECCLAHA’s current strategic plan kicked off in May 2018; After which a workshop for planning of the new 2019-2023 strategic plan was held from 11th – 15th June in Nairobi, Kenya. Delegates from member councils and churches attended the 5-days workshop. This process provided guidance in identifying and prioritizing areas of focus in the next strategic plan.

**Documentary of FECCLAHA at 20 Years:**
FECCLAHA has embarked on the process of documenting the journey experienced as it nears 20 years. Several Interviews have been conducted with members of FECCLAHA from the Executive committee, women leaders and programmes as well.

Reverend Jennie Nordin from CoS drawing out a chart of findings.

Members present join hands in prayer for the planning Process.

Reverend Tseganesh Ayele of Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) sharing her Journey with FECCLAHA.
The new strategic plan sets out FECCLAHA’s priorities for the next 5 years and indicates how these would be pursued. It specifies the results areas and expected outcomes. It provides a framework for collective engagement of the various categories of stakeholders. The development approach for FECCLAHA is as follows.

**Advocacy**: FECCLAHA primarily engages in advocacy for peace through biblical principles which facilitate the realization of the organization’s mandate and vision.

**Documentation and dissemination**: FECCLAHA conducts peace studies/reviews, conflict analysis, conflict mapping, scenario building and analysis and development of key messages by the church leaders

**Capacity Building**: FECCLAHA is dedicated to developing capacity of the member councils and churches (church leaders, men, women and youth) and other relevant stakeholders in peace building conflict transformation, gender, governance, advocacy skills, leadership skills, entrepreneurship, resource mobilization and institutional management and development

**Networking and partnerships**: FECCLAHA has developed formal and informal, short and long-term partnerships with a number of religious, non-governmental and inter-governmental organisations and agencies

**Theological Reflection**: FECCLAHA is dedicated to using the bible as a point of reflection on experiences and situations

**Resource Mobilization**: FECCLAHA will endeavour to secure new and additional financial, human and material resources to advance its mission.

More of the strategic plan will be unveiled during its launch in the coming year.

**NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION**

- Mrs. Elizabeth Z. Kisiigha, the Executive Director attended a workshop on Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) that was hosted by Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) on 7th of August and made a presentation on FECCCLAHA’s experience on SALW.
- Participation in Rethinking peace building in South Sudan dialogue and exchange program (DEP) in Nairobi 26-29 June 2018.
- Participation in the ACT Alliance Kenya Forum: FECCCLAHA is an actively engaged in the life and work of the ACT Alliance, and as a member of ACT Kenya Forum (AKF).
- FECCCLAHA and International Centre for Peace, Human Rights and Development-IPHRD Africa entered into a partnership and joint activities are underway.
- FECCCLAHA with other NCA Regional Peace Programme nested partners held a consultative meeting with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Director of Peace and Security, Mr Wilson Kajwengye in Nairobi, Kenya on 3rd August 2018.
- FECCCLAHA attended a training by Bread for the World at CORAT Africa on Financial Management from 14-16th of August.
- FECCCLAHA accompanied NCCK in their 63rd General Assembly on 28th-29th August. Mrs. Elizabeth Kisigeha, the Executive Director gave a presentation on women participation in National Dialogue processes.
Social media is a quick, broad and timely platform for consuming information and interacting with us. FECCLAHA is continually building its presence on this online platform to enhance sharing, learning, linking, and exchanging experiences among members, stakeholders, partners and the general public.

We request that you engage with us on:

1. **Our newly redesigned website**: [http://www.fecclaha.org](http://www.fecclaha.org)

   The concept of ‘family’ and ‘togetherness’ has inspired the design of this website. FECCLAHA, by virtue of its formation and foundation, fits the description of a family. The eleven members, holding hands and forming a common unit, known as the ‘FECCLAHA family’. Please visit our website and tell us what you think.

2. **Our YouTube Channel**: FECCLAHA SECRETARIAT

   We recently created a YouTube channel where videos of work done and initiatives by FECCLAHA will be uploaded. You will be delighted to find FECCLAHA’s documentary at 10 years just as we are about to celebrate 20 years.

   Subscribe to receive notifications: https://www.youtube.com/channel

3. **Facebook and Twitter**.

   Visit and engage with us at [fecclaha secretariat](http://fecclaha.org) on facebook and twitter for a timely update of our activities.

Send your feedback to Monica at monica@fecclaha.org and Veronica at veronicah.mathanjuki@fecclaha.org
FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN COUNCILS AND CHURCHES IN THE GREAT LAKES AND HORN OF AFRICA (FECCLAHA)

1st Floor, Former Administration Building,
Nairobi Baptist Church,
Off Ngong Road,
Nairobi, Kenya
Mobile Phone: +254 786 670488
E-mail: info@feclaha.org
www.feclaha.org

FECLAHIA VISION:
Together for a just and peaceful society.

FECLAHIA MISSION:
FECLAHIA exists to promote ecumenical solidarity for justice, peace, healing, and conflict transformation and reconciliation in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa through Advocacy, networking and partnership, capacity building, research and documentation within the framework of holistic Christian Ministry.

FECLAHIA VALUES:
Human Dignity
Compassion
Peace
Justice
Integrity.

FECLAHIA is a member of actalliance