FECCLAHA ANNUAL REPORT 2018

FECCCLAHA is a regional ecumenical organisation that provides a platform for its members to share perspectives on issues of common concern, particularly with regard to peace building and conflict transformation in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa. This is with a view to foster strong ecumenical cooperation and fellowship among members, so as to facilitate them to take ownership and responsibility for problems in the region and proactively seek solutions to the same. FECCLAHA, launched in March, 1999 and registered in Kenya in February 2001 where it is domicile, performs this function within the framework of holistic Christian ministry. FECCLAHA members consist of eleven (11) national councils and churches in the following ten countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eritrea, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. These are:

- Church of Christ in Congo (ECC)
- Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT)
- Eritrea Orthodox Tewadho Church
- Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY)
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of Eritrea (ELCE)
- National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB)
- National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK)
- Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR)
- South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC)
- Sudan Council of Churches (SCC)
- Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC)

FECCCLAHA Vision: Together for justice, sustainable peace and development.

FECCCLAHA Mission: FECCLAHA exists to foster ecumenical fellowship that promotes justice, sustainable peace and development in the Great Lakes region and Horn of Africa through capacity building, networking and partnership, advocacy and documentation.

FECCCLAHA seeks to pursue its mission guided by the following values:
- Human Dignity (Gen. 1:26 & John 10:10)
- Compassion (Micah 6:8 & Isaiah 49:13)
- Peace (Matthew 5:5-8)
- Justice (Isaiah 1:16-18)
- Integrity (Proverbs 11:3)
- Ecumenism (John 17:21)

FECCCLAHA Structure:
FECCCLAHA’s structure is made up of the following:
- General Assembly;
- Executive Committee;
- Secretariat.

FECCCLAHA General Assembly is composed of its members (churches and national councils of churches). The General Assembly is tasked with the approval of policies formulated and forwarded to it by the Executive Committee. The Assembly also elects the Executive Committee. The General Assembly is held every two years. The Executive Committee is in charge of formulating policies and giving guidance on matters of policy to the Secretariat. It also approves the programmes and budgets of FECCLAHA on a yearly basis. It meets at least twice every year. The Secretariat is responsible for implementation of policy decisions made by the Executive Committee and the General Assembly regarding the affairs of FECCLAHA. It also facilitates the day-to-day
effective running of the office and programmes.

**FECCLAHA New 5-Year Strategic Priorities (2019-2023):**
FECCLAHA has begun a new five year Strategic Planning phase, 2019 – 2023. During the new planning phase, FECCLAHA will focus on four Strategic Priorities with various key results as outlined below:

1. **Peace Building and Conflict Transformation:**
   **Strategic Goal:** Sustainable Peace and Social Cohesion
   **Key Result Areas:** Women and Peace building; Church leaders and Peace building; Youth and Peace building; & Small Arms and Light Weapons Advocacy.

2. **Governance & Accountability:**
   **Strategic Goal:** Transparent and accountable governance where citizen rights are protected and respected.
   **Key Result Areas:** Electoral justice; Political engagement; Extractives advocacy; & Engagement with regional intergovernmental bodies.

3. **Gender Justice:**
   **Strategic Goal:** Empowered Church as an effective instrument of gender justice in Church and Society.

4. **Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building:**
   **Strategic Goal:** Effective, efficient and self-sustaining institution at regional and national level.
   **Key Result Areas:** Membership development; Executive committee capacity development; Staff Capacity development (Regional secretariat & members); Sustainability (financial and technical); Funding and Fundraising Strategy; Communication and Branding; Monitoring and Evaluation; & Knowledge Development, Management & Learning.

The above programmatic Strategic Priorities will be addressed using the following developmental approaches: Advocacy, Documentation and Dissemination, Capacity Building, theological reflections, and networking and partnerships.

---

**WORD FROM THE SECRETARIAT**

*Romans 8: 24 “For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has?”* 

Greetings of Peace and love from FECCLAHA Secretariat!

‘Hope’ is the word that would describe this year! It has been a year that has been marked with memorable moments of celebration that have in many ways reignited hope for a peaceful region. The most memorable of these being the peace deal between Ethiopia and Eritrea, which essentially ended hostilities between the two countries and ignited hope for peace and stability in the Horn of Africa Region. Another one is the signing of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) which revived the hope that had been generated in July, 2011 when the new nation, South Sudan, attained its independence. The infamous ‘handshake’ between the President and the Opposition leader in Kenya that significantly reduced the tension across the country also reignited hope for restoration of stability and greater development in the country.

Additionally, challenges and concerns on the electoral process notwithstanding, it was a moment of celebration when the elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) finally took place in December, 2018 after having been delayed since 2016. This too brought hope to the people of DRC and the Great Lakes region for a cessation of the sporadic conflicts in the country and by extension the Great Lakes region.

At the Secretariat level, we are also celebrating some successes that have given hope for a peaceful and just region. First, just two years after the establishment of the Regional Faith Women Mediation Network, we have now successfully incorporated young women leaders, aged between 18-30years, into the network’s initiatives. Secondly, it is in this year that we had our inaugural Regional Forum on Extractives Governance in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa. This is the first step towards creating a faith-led sustainable movement for extractives justice in the region. Thirdly, we celebrate the networks and partnerships forged and strengthened during this year. We also celebrate that this year marked the end of the second five-year strategic planning period (2014-2018). These are just a few of the successes, among the many others outlined in this report.

We invite you to this Annual Report – 2018 which contain a record of FECCLAHA’s achievements for this year. We wish to thank the members, partners, and other stakeholders for their invaluable support and contribution to achieving these milestones. As we transition to a new Strategic Planning phase (2019 – 2023), we remain hopeful that we will achieve sustainable peace in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa!

Thank you! Asante! Merci!
Psalm 16:9: “Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoices; my flesh also will rest in hope.”

FECLLAHA remains seized with the matter of promoting sustainable peace in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa. The focus this year has been on building the capacity of religious leaders as well as women drawn from different faiths in the region. A major achievement for this year has been the successful inclusion of young women leaders in the training and advocacy engagements undertaken under the Regional Faith Women Mediation Network.

1. Regional Women Peace Building Programme:
FECLLAHA seeks to enhance the capacity of women drawn from different faiths to be able to participate and link with peace processes and other frameworks in their respective countries and in the region. FECLLAHA has done this through capacity building initiatives, exposure visits, as well as solidarity & advocacy missions among others. This is with a view to promote participation of women in ongoing peace processes in the region.

This year, a regional training on Conflict analysis, conflict mapping, mediation, advocacy and lobbying was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia as well as facilitation and accompaniment of Regional Women Peace initiatives in Kenya, DRC, and South Sudan. Further, the inclusion of young women with the Regional Faith Women Mediation Network was initiated and strengthened. The following is an account of the initiatives of the Regional Women Peace Building Programme:

a.) Regional Training for Faith Women Peace Mediators and Young Women Leaders in the Horn of Africa:
FECLLAHA in collaboration with Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY), Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and African Centre for the Constructive Resolutions of Disputes (ACCORD) trained 16 women from the Christian and Muslim faith on conflict analysis, conflict mapping, mediation, advocacy and lobbying in July, 2018. The training drew participation of faith women from Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Uganda. The participants enhanced their knowledge and skills in various aspects of peace building processes as well as providing space for experience sharing, learning, reflection, analysis, and networking. Participants were also assisted to develop practical action plans that will facilitate the process of transfer of knowledge and skills acquired.

Additionally, FECLLAHA in collaboration with the International Centre for Peace, Human Rights, and Development in Africa (IPHRD-Africa) held a training for Young Women Leaders in the Horn of Africa. There was a total of 16 Young Women leaders, aged between 18 and 30 years, from Kenya, South Sudan, Somalia, and Ethiopia who participated in this training. This training was held concurrently with the regional training for faith women peace mediators. In addition to acquiring skills and knowledge in mediation, the young women leaders interacted with experienced mediators providing space for mentorship. The training in Mediation was facilitated by Clingendael Institute, Netherlands. The young women trainees are key resource persons in the region who can not only train their peers, but also effectively join and engage in mediation processes at the regional and national levels.

Coupled with the above mentioned trainings, the Faith Women Mediators held a joint panel discussion session with the Young Women leaders. The panel discussion provided space for mentoring and engagement with various experts including representatives from Clingendael Institute in Netherlands, NOREF/Nordic
Network of Women Mediators, FemWise – Africa Special Advisor and Chief of Staff Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace, and Security, as well as the representatives from the African Union Commission among others.

Further, in bid to link theory with practice, a one day meeting with 3 members of the Regional Faith Women Mediation Network who had undergone training in Mediation in Kigali, Rwanda (2017) was held. These were drawn from South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Kenya. The women showcased their work in peace building and mediation and linked that with the skills and knowledge acquired during the regional training held in 2017. These experiences encouraged and motivated the trainees to implement the lessons learnt in their spheres of influence.

Lastly, the team of faith women mediators and young women leaders undertook learning visits to key institutions with the mandate to support peace processes in the continent. These include the African Union (AU), the UNOAU, UN Women, and the office of the Special Envoy to South Sudan. The visits and interactions with highly skilled and experienced personnel enhanced understanding of the context among the delegates. In addition to increased understanding of the various networks, such as FEMWISE-Africa, Nordic Network of Women Mediators, the delegates got a better understanding of existing frameworks in the region. The learning visits have opened opportunities for continued engagement at the regional and national level, especially as regards peace building.

b.) Facilitation and Accompaniment to Regional Women and Young Women Leaders Peace initiatives/Engagements:

The ultimate aim for continuously building the capacity and enhancing the skills of FECCLAHA faith women is to enable them to proactively and effectively engage in mediation, peace and advocacy initiatives in their countries and in the region.

During the year, FECCLAHA accompanied the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK) to advocate for the establishment of the Faith Women Mediation Network – Kenya Chapter during NCCK 63rd General Assembly. The Kenya Chapter was formed in September, 2018. This chapter has contributed to engendering of the National Dialogue in Kenya which is convened by the Religious Leaders of Kenya. The Faith Women Mediation Network – Kenya Chapter, in partnership with FECELLAHA, NCA, FemWise-Africa, and NOREF facilitated a three-day training for 25 faith women from the Christian and Muslim faiths. The skills and knowledge acquired facilitated the effective participation of women, who included the young women leaders, in the first National Dialogue Conference (NDC1) that was convened by the Dialogue Reference Group (DRG) of the Religious Leaders of Kenya in September, 2018. The NDC1, which congregated an estimated 600 delegates from different sectors across the nation of Kenya, aimed at initiating an inclusive dialogue process to effectively address the political and governance concerns that often emerge after general elections in the country. As a result of the training, the women participation in this forum was effective, and well coordinated. Further, the training enabled the women to confidently and effectively participate in the NDC1. From the Kenya Faith Women Mediation Network, a total of 4 women provided leadership and moderated various sessions at the NDC1 and were also involved in presentation of the final communiqué.

In South and North Kivu, FECCLAHA facilitated the Church of Christ in Congo, through the Peace and Research Centre (ECC/RIO) to undertake an interfaith consultation in September, 2018. This was with a view to not only train in civic and voter education, but also identify areas of intervention by religious leaders so as to contribute to a peaceful, free, and credible election in the country. They also mapped out ways of how to increase the participation of women in the electoral...
process as voters, observers, and candidates. There were also various initiatives undertaken by the regional faith women network members in South and North Kivu. An estimated number of 184 people (88 women and 96 men), including youth were reached through the various initiatives.

In South Sudan, FECCLAHA continues to accompany and facilitate the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) National Women Link for Peace to mobilize women and community members in their call for peace in the country. The main methodology has been the use of monthly prayers and peace marches. Representatives of the National Women Link also participated in the High Level Revitalization Peace Process that took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

In Burundi, the Faith Women Mediators undertook a forum on peace building and conflict transformation in Makamba and Rumonge Provinces. A total number of 539 men, women, and youth participated in this forum.

FECCLAHA in collaboration with the IPHRD – Africa, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), and the Norwegian Centre for Conflict Resolution (NOREF), seek to ensure inclusion of young women leaders in all Mediation processes in the region. To this end, efforts have been put throughout the year to strengthen the capacity of young women to adequately engage in peace and mediation processes in the region.

These includes facilitating an intergenerational Forum in September, 2018 were a total of 19 young women leaders, aged between 18-30 years of age, drawn from various conflict prone counties in Kenya these are, Kisumu, Uasin Gishu, Baringo, West Pokot, Isiolo, and Nairobi, participated in the training; facilitating 11 young men and women to undertake a mission to the National Steering Committee (NSC) Secretariat on Peace Building and Conflict Management and the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) with a view to learn and advocate for inclusion of youth in the peace building processes undertaken by these commissions. Additionally, a total of 10 young men and women (8 women and 2 men) held meeting with student leaders from various learning institution in Kenya with a view to advocating for inclusion of more young women leaders. Further, representatives from the young women participated in a learning and exposure platform in Lagos, Nigeria. Lastly, 2 youth women leaders had an opportunity to visit and engage with day-to-day initiatives in the IGAD Secretariat – Mediation Support Unit, also known as job shadowing. This gave the two participants hands-on experience, knowledge, and skills. All these spaces were aimed at enhancing the young women's capacity to confidently engage in mediation and peace processes at the national and regional level.

c.) Regional Faith Women Mediators' Solidarity and Advocacy Mission on South Sudan:

FECCLAHA in partnership with Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and African Centre for the Constructive Resolutions of Disputes (ACCORD) undertook a solidarity and advocacy mission on South Sudan. Solidarity and
Advocacy missions to South Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Sudan were undertaken in December, 2018. The mission aimed at lobbying and advocating for full participation of women of South Sudan in the implementation of the R-ARCSS and their inclusion in different structures and mechanisms among others. These delegates engaged and listened to diverse views from key stakeholders, and the aim for this was so as to identify entry points for different stakeholders to support the implementation process of the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS).

The Regional Faith Women Mediation mission met with different stakeholders including representatives of European Union (EU), a delegation from the United Kingdom (UK) and Denmark, the National Pre-Transitional Committee (NPTC), women leaders from various religious communities, as well as women Parliamentarians and women from different groups in the society including the SSCC National Women Link for Peace. The mission also met with the National Dialogue Steering Committee, Core Group Partners of SSCC, youth leaders from SSCC member churches, the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC), Norwegian Ambassador to South Sudan, Acting Secretary General of Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM), the Peace and Reconciliation Commission as well as religious leaders. In Ethiopia, Kenya and Sudan the mission met with the political leaders from South Sudan, those who signed, as well as those who did not sign the Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS).

Among areas of concern identified include the important role of the religious leaders in monitoring and implementing the R-ARCSS, as well as in supporting processes on Trauma Healing, Psychosocial Support, Reconciliation, transforming societies and rebuilding the fabric of society. The importance of increasing women representation in the process of implementing the Revitalized Agreement was underscored.

Plans are underway to follow up the solidarity and advocacy mission by holding advocacy initiatives with various stakeholders including the Africa Union and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) among others.

Also involved in the coordination of the solidarity and advocacy mission, were FECCLAHA member councils:

South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC), the Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY), and Sudan Council of Churches (SCC); as well as the African Network of Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (FemWise-Africa) and members of the Regional Faith Women Mediation Network. The team was accompanied by an experienced Mediator who provided technical support to the team.

d.) Regional Faith Women Mediation Network

Members accredited to FemWise:

Three members of the Regional Faith Women Mediation Network: Image at the top is Ms. Odile Bulabula (ECC/RIO - DRC); from left to right are Ms. Wasye Musyoni (NCA-Kenya) and Ms. Jeannette Uwizeye (FECCLAHA) were accredited to FemWise – Africa. This is a strategic platform that will contribute to heightening advocacy initiatives of the Regional Faith Women Mediation Network.

2. Church Leaders’ engagement in Peace Building and Conflict transformation:

a.) Follow up Church leaders’ Consultative Forums on Peaceful Elections in DRC:

In line with the commitment by FECCLAHA to provide holistic elections accompaniment to its members as regards electoral processes, FECCLAHA, in partnership with the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC) - North and South Kivu provinces undertook 2 consultative Forums on Peaceful Elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo in May, 2018. This is in addition to accompaniment to deploy over 80 domestic elections observers. The consultative forums in May, 2018 were a follow up to forums for religious leaders that had been held earlier in June, 2016.
The follow up forums undertaken in May, 2018 congregated 60 religious leaders from South and North Kivu, most of whom had participated in the initial forum in 2016. In addition to engaging on the role that religious leaders can play ahead of the elections in December, 2018; the religious leaders shared progress reports of the initiatives that they undertook since the May, 2016 forums.

From the reports, the church leaders had successfully reached over 130,000 women, men, and youth in South and North Kivu with messages of peace and peaceful elections through various platforms including sensitization and awareness creation campaigns, interreligious dialogues, women church groups among others. As a result of these forums, the church leaders also noted that there was marked improvement in the collaboration between the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) and other institutions including the religious leaders. This was evidenced by the presence of officials from CENI in this year’s consultation in Goma, North Kivu, and in Bukavu, South Kivu. These officials did not only engage and discuss with the religious leaders, but also demonstrated how the electronic voting process would take place specifically in Goma. This demonstration was important as it helped to demystify and increase the confidence of the religious leaders on the use of this technology during the elections. The religious leaders then utilize the existing structures in their religious institutions and communities to educate the community members in an effort towards increasing the confidence of the community in the electoral process.

OUTCOMES:

a. As a result of the sustained training and exposure of members of the Regional Faith Women Mediation Network, various members have had opportunity for further enhancement of their skills as well as utilized their skills and successfully engaged in various forums.

For example, a member of the Regional Faith Women Mediation Network, Mrs. Odile Bulabula from South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was invited to participate in a training on peace building at the Clingendael Institute, in the Netherlands. This opportunity was as a result of the strengthened partnership and collaboration with like-minded organizations.

As a result of this, Mrs. Bulabula has become an important resource person, not only in South Kivu, but also in the region. She wrote an article that was published by Bread for the World entitled “Preventive Diplomacy for a holistic approach to peace building: Case of South Kivu in the Democratic Republic of Congo (October, 2018).

Further, Mrs. Mathilde Nkwirikiye, who is also a member of the Regional Faith Women Mediators, from Burundi, utilized the skills and knowledge acquired from the training undertaken in Kigali, Rwanda (September, 2017) to engage in advocacy for peace in Burundi and South Sudan to various International actors including high level diplomats of different countries.

She was also part of a panel discussion on the need for girl child education during a commemoration of the International Day of Women, 8th March, 2018.

In addition, three member of the Regional Faith Women Mediation Network were enrolled as members of the African Union Network of Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (FemWise-Africa).

b. The successful inclusion of Young Women Leaders in all initiatives of the Regional Faith Women Mediation Network. This will ensure sustainability and fervency of the peace initiatives by the Regional Faith Women Mediation Network.

c. The formation and launch of the Faith Women Mediation Network – Kenya Chapter in September, 2018 has contributed towards ensuring that peace processes in Kenya are inclusive of women.

d. As a result of the church leaders’ consultative forum held in May, 2018; the Inter-faith platform for peace building in South Kivu was revived and strengthened. The platform is comprised of religious leaders from various faiths and is important in ensuring a coordinated and timely response to emerging conflicts in the region.
GENDER AND YOUTH

Jeremiah 29:11: “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

FECLLAHA works towards a peaceful and just society, it seeks to advocate for equitable participation of women, men, and youth in the life of the church and the community. To this end, under the umbrella of the ‘Tamar Campaign’, it has continued to sensitize church leaders and church workers on their role in efforts towards reduction of Gender Based Violence (GBV). Further, through the Youth Peace Clubs (YPCs), efforts have also been made to continue mobilization and empowerment of youth to be agents of positive change and peace ambassadors in their communities at the country and regional level.

1. GENDER

a.) Tamar Campaign and Contextual Bible Study on Gender Based Violence and the Church in Khartoum, Sudan:

FECLLAHA in collaboration with the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) held a two days workshop for church leaders and church workers in Khartoum, Sudan in April, 2018. The workshop reached a total of 38 participants (18 men and 20 women) drawn from 14 member churches of Sudan Council of Churches in Khartoum.

The workshop identified key actions by the Church leaders/church workers on how they would address GBV in their church and community. The need to strengthen the Women Desk/Gender Desk was identified as a gap in initiating, coordinating, and following up Gender initiatives within the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC). To this effect and as a result of the workshop, FECLLAHA accompanied the SCC to strengthen and increase the vibrancy of the Gender Desk of Sudan Council of Churches (SCC). A total of two follow up sensitization forums were held in October and November, 2018 with a total of 32 church, women, and youth leaders participating in the forums. As a result of the follow up sensitization forums, there is strengthened individual capacity of church, women, and youth programme leaders present during the forum to engage in Gender Based Violence prevention initiatives. Further, the forum provided space for renewed interest in coordination and collaboration of member churches of SCC in engaging with Gender Justice as well as Gender Based Violence initiatives in Khartoum.

In line with FECLLAHA’s mandate, sustained accompaniment and support to the SCC – Gender Justice Initiatives will be undertaken, with a view to increase the vibrancy and enhance the coordination of gender justice initiatives within the Council.

b.) Regional Consultation on Gender Justice in Church and Society:

FECLLAHA’s regional mandate and reach remains a key pillar to achieving its mission and vision. During the year, FECLLAHA undertook a Regional Consultation on Gender Justice in Church and Society which sought to deliberate upon ‘Practical strategies for the Councils and Churches for advocacy against Gender Based Violence (GBV) at the community, national, sub-regional and regional levels?’ A total number of 20 church leaders/church workers/and Gender Focal Points from member councils and churches of FECLLAHA (14 female & 4 male) participated in the consultation. They were drawn from Burundi, Democratic

Gender Based Violence (GBV) is a sin, just like killing another because he/she belongs to another tribe’
Arch Bishop of the Catholic Church, Archdiocese of Khartoum, His Grace Michael Didi Adgum Mungoria.

Participants of the regional consultation on Gender Justice in Church and Society sing a song at the end of the consultation (September, 2018).
Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

The Regional Consultation provided space for peer learning, sharing, and strategizing on how to strengthen national and regional advocacy for protection against all forms of Gender Based Violence (GBV). As a result of the consultation, there is strengthened engagement with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region - SGBV Training Facility in Kampala, Uganda. This provides entry points for further collaboration in undertaking joint assessment on the level of implementation of the protocol on Prevention and Suppression of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in the Great Lakes Region, as well as advocacy for the implementation of the same. As a follow up to this initiative, FECCLAHA provided accompaniment to Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC), Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY), Church of Christ in Congo (ECC), and the Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR) a they undertook national and community initiatives on Gender Justice.

The following is a summary of the initiatives undertaken at the country level by national councils and churches:

a.) Church of Christ in Congo (ECC):

FECCLAHA has over the years provided accompaniment to Tamar Campaign initiatives in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Formation and ongoing support and follow up of Tamar Circles, has facilitated sustained engagement and conversations on Gender Based Violence (GBV). Tamar Circles are structures composed of 20-25 persons, providing space for Bible study, sharing, and peer support on different concerns related to gender justice. The formation of ‘Tamar Circles’ is informed by the Contextual Bible Study (CBS) methodology which is used in undertaking Tamar Campaign engagements.

This year, the Federation for Women of Protestant Churches of the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC) undertook to introduce the Tamar Campaign, Contextual Bible Study methodology, as well as engage in conversations and awareness raising on various forms of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Bukavu and the territory of Fizi, South Kivu. In South Kivu, Bukavu, a total number of 20 church leaders were reached with a view to train them as facilitators who will then form and lead ‘Tamar Circles’ in their respective churches. The Territory of Fizi, is in the interior of South Kivu with many reports of increased insecurity which are often coupled with increased cases of violations against women.

As a result of these engagements, a total of 4 ‘Tamar Circles’ were formed in the Territory of Fizi 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. Further, the ‘Tamar Circles’ are instrumental, due to the high levels of illiteracy in the region. The community structures then provide spaces for learning and engaging on GBV. A total number of 65 participants took part in the workshop (44 women, 12 men/church leaders, 6 young men, 3 young ladies). FECCLAHA and ECC-Sud Kivu will continue to support and accompany the ‘Tamar Circles’ to ensure sustained work.

b.) Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY):

FECCLAHA facilitated the Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) to undertake a workshop on Gender Justice in the Church and Society in November, 2018. The Gender Justice Workshop brought together a total number of 75 participants, who consisted of women leaders, synod General Secretaries, and Ordained women from 13 EECMY Synods/Church units spread across the country. The workshop undertook Bible reflections and discussions on various forms of Gender Based Violence (GBV).
on gender justice, as well as, trainings with a view to create awareness among men and women leaders on the importance of gender justice in the church and society. Some of the gender injustices discussed include the importance of including women in decision making positions within the synods and various church units of EECMY.

c.) Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC):
FECCCLAHA facilitated Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC) to undertake a series of initiatives on ending violence against women and girls in Lira District in Northern Uganda. The initiatives undertaken were a high level dialogue meeting between duty bearers and rights holders dubbed ‘ending violence against women and girls a collective responsibility, play your part’. There were also radio talk shows and a peace march commemorating the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence on Women. There were speeches, presentations, and Drama & Arts used during these sensitization initiatives.

The high level dialogue documented a communiqué that outlined appeals for action and commitments to and from key stakeholders on ending violence against women and girls. The participants, in total 56 (22female and 34male), consisted of representatives from Lira District Local Government, Civil Society Organisations, Media, Religious leaders, as well as cultural, youth, and women leaders, Persons with Disabilities, and Persons affected by Gender Based Violence. The commitments documented in the communiqué were disseminated and discussed during a radio talk show with ‘Voice of Lango FM’ where various representatives including the Senior Community Development Officer engaged in panel discussion.

The radio-talk show, also provided an opportunity to mobilize the community members to participate in a public event and march to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence on Women. An estimate of 300 community members took part in the commemoration. Present also were religious leaders, politicians, and cultural leaders, making it a strategic platform to present the communiqué which contained 10 commitments. Various stakeholders prepared action plans to implement the commitments articulated in the communiqué and the Cultural Action Plan of the Lira District Local Government was also launched.

d.) The National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK):
FECCCLAHA is a member of the Side-by-Side Faith Gender Justice Movement – Regional and Kenya Chapter. Following deliberations on the need to incorporate the Tamar Campaign to the Side by Side initiatives, FECCCLAHA in collaboration with the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK) and the leadership of the Side by Side Forum on Gender Justice – Kenya Chapter, held a sensitization forum on Gender Based Violence (GBV) for religious leaders in December, 2018. A total of 101 participants (20male and 60female) participated in the forum. The sensitization focused on equipping and challenging the religious leaders to utilize existing platforms and spaces to create awareness on GBV. In addition to creating awareness on the Tamar Campaign, the religious leaders were also sensitized about other campaigns such as the World Council of Churches (WCC) ‘Thursdays in Black’ among others. Religious leaders committed to utilize existing platforms to teach and preach against GBV.

e.) Translation to Kiswahili of the Tamar Campaign Contextual Bible Study and Sermon Outlines on GBV and Peace:
FECCCLAHA in collaboration with the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) embarked on translation of the Tamar Campaign Contextual Bible Study and Sermon Outlines on Peace and Gender Based Violence (GBV). This is in an effort to ease and increase use and access to the resource at the grassroots levels. The manual was officially launched in September, 2018 in Dodoma, Tanzania by the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) and the First Vice-President of the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT), Bishop Fredrick Shoo.
This was done during the Women’s Annual Conference and Campaign whose focus was on ‘Breaking the Silence on Gender Based Violence’. The process of translation has jointly been undertaken with the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT). This was a strategic platform for learning, sharing, and reflecting. We are also delighted that similar conferences on varying themes will be held annually by the CCT. The New Tamar Campaign Manual contains Contextual Bible Manuals (CBS) and Sermon Outlines on various topics on Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Peace. The Kiswahili manual is a key resource for FECCLAHA members in Tanzania, Kenya, and parts of Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), especially those at the grassroots.

f.) Accompaniment to South Sudan Council of Churches – National Women Programme (SSCC-NWP):

FECLLAHA has over the years provided technical support to the SSCC-National Women Programme as well as other key departments directly involved in implementation of the programme. To this regard, FECLLAHA in partnership with South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) and KAIROS Canada held a consultation and planning meeting in Juba, South Sudan in June, 2018.

Delegates from SSCC, KAIROS Canada, and FECLLAHA during the planning meeting in Juba, South Sudan.

The three day planning meeting outlined common goals as informed by the context of South Sudan, as well as aligned the initiatives to the Action Plan for Peace (APP), SSCC main framework for engagement.

OUTCOME:

a. Over 350 church leaders/church workers were directly reached with messages sensitizing them on the need to increase their engagement in the reduction of Gender Based Violence (GBV).

b. Greater engagement by member councils and churches in sensitization against Gender Based Violence (GBV). An estimate of over 600 community members were reached through public processions and radio programmes in various countries.

c. As a result of the Regional Gender Consultation, FECLLAHA partnership with International Conference on the Great Lakes Region – Regional Training Facility on Sexual Gender Based Violence was strengthened. This created entry points for church leaders’ engagement and advocacy on GBV with the ICGLR member states.

2. REGIONAL YOUTH PROGRAMME

FECLLAHA continues to use the Youth Peace Clubs (YPCs) model as the principle approach to mobilize and empower youth in the region to be peace ambassadors. In partnership with FECLLAHA member councils and churches, there are YPCs established and actively engaged in different countries across the region with the membership being over 10,000 young men and women and over 215 YPCs.

This year, FECLLAHA endeavoured to link its work with the youth to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS). In line with FECLLAHA Youth Peace Programme’s aim, the resolution recognizes the positive role of youth in contributing to sustainable peace and development. Additionally, similar to FECLLAHA YPC model, the resolution emphasizes the creativity of young people and underlines the importance of tapping on to the same in shaping lasting peace and contributing to justice and reconciliation.

To this end, during the year FECLLAHA focused on strengthening the existing YPCs with a focus on Kenya, North and South Kivu, as well as Ethiopia. FECLLAHA facilitated YPC members to engage in peace and advocacy initiatives related to conflict resolution, mediation, reduction of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs), and peaceful electoral processes. Social media and the FECLLAHA Youth Newsletter continued to serve as platforms for information sharing, learning and experience sharing as well as for advocacy. Considerable focus has also been on building and strengthening networks and partnership with collaborating organizations. The following is an account of the initiatives:
1. Facilitation to Mukuru Slums Youth Peace Clubs (YPCs) in Nairobi, Kenya:

Youth Peace Clubs in Mukuru Slums have grown since the launch of this programme in 2011. The membership is currently over 1,040 young men and women, who consistently take part in the YPC initiatives. To ensure sustainability, FECCLAHA continues to monitor and provide ongoing capacity building forums as well as creating spaces for dialogue with key duty bearers especially as regards peace building and conflict transformation.

To this end, FECCLAHA undertook 2 trainings of trainers’ workshops (April and October, 2018) in different villages within Mukuru, training a total of 105 young people in various aspects of peace building. With the skills and knowledge acquired, the youth were then commissioned to be peace ambassadors, reaching out to their peers with messages of peace and being a positive influence in their communities. FECCLAHA also undertook field visits and monitoring & evaluation processes with a view to provide continuous technical skills to the YPC leaders as well as seek new ways of working among YPCs, share success stories, challenges, and opportunities for future engagement.

The YPCs in Mukuru also engaged in various peace advocacy initiatives including a forum on countering radicalization, violent extremism, and proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) in October and November, 2018. This provided spaces for the youth to engage with local police where there were discussions on concerns on extrajudicial killings, meted on youth especially. This platform also provided space to create awareness among the youth on legal rights as well as provide legal assistance to individuals in the area. There were also Sports and clean up initiatives that were undertaken. A total of 600 (male and female) youth were reached through this initiative. Additionally, YPC Mukuru participated in the joint initiative to commemorate the International Day of Peace. This was a joint initiative with Programme for Christian Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA) undertaken in September, 2018. In addition to undertaking a public lecture, special prayers in the mosque and the church, there was a peaceful walk. These initiatives were interreligious and therefore useful channels to sensitize the communities against radicalization and violent extremism.

2. Facilitation to Youth Peace Clubs in South and North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC):

FECCLAHA facilitated the YPCs in South and North Kivu to mobilize and sensitize youth for peace through various youth forums including sermons, weekly church services, and public marches/gatherings among other platforms. These were held mainly in Uvira and Goma with participation of over 3000 youth from Bukavu, Uvira, and Kalyanapu.

The initiatives were being held on the background of impending elections in December, 2018. To this end, the focus of these initiatives was to place the role of youth in peace building ahead of the elections. Considerable effort was also made to encourage the young people to register as voters. The use of drama, poems, sensitization platforms, public forums/meetings, songs, among others was used to communicate the messages of peaceful co-existence.

3. Introducing Youth Peace Clubs in Ethiopia:

FECCLAHA in collaboration with the Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) facilitated a 3-days workshop for the youth, who were drawn from 29 synods across Ethiopia in June, 2018.

The Youth Peace Club’s model was introduced to the participants who were taken through a series of formation and management of the Youth Peace Clubs. The process involved...
of formation was made easier since EECMY already has existing 29 Synods across the country through which participants suggested should be adopted as Youth Peace Clubs.

Participants gave their commitments to embrace the peace clubs concept in all their regions and ensure that they sensitize the youth on the importance of sustainable peace and social cohesion through their positions in the church.

FECCLEHA through its member council EECMY will conduct a follow up of the process and ensure that the 29 YPCs/Synods are accompanied and facilitated in implementing their plans of action that promote peace and social cohesion within their localities through youth peace clubs.

**Left: YPC in North Kivu raising awareness on peace building in Goma, Rutshuru and Masisi in North Kivu through songs and drama. (Credit: OJCD). Right: Participants during the young women sensitization and awareness campaigns in North Kivu, Eastern DRC. (Credit: OJCD)**

**Ms. Jeannette Uwizeye (FECCLEHA), Ms. Aimee Balibuno (OJCD), & Ms. Veronica Mathanjuki (FECCLEHA) during the Peace Campaign walk in Nairobi; organized in collaboration with PROCMURA.**

**Participants of a Regional Youth Peace Building Conference convened by Arigatou International. This provided space to broaden knowledge and experience in peace building. FECCLEHA was represented by 2 Mukuru YPCs members, FECCLEHA Programme Officer, and a representative from the Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC).**

**OUTCOMES:**

a. The Youth Peace and Advocacy Forums created advocacy spaces between the youth and duty bearers (local & church leaders, security agents among others). As a result, the youth presented issues of concern such as police brutality, extrajudicial killings, and proliferation of arms. The duty bearers made commitments to address the issues of concern and to work together with the youth.

b. Increased exposure of Youth Peace Clubs members to various platforms, thus broadening their knowledge and enhancing their capacity as youth peace ambassadors and champions for human rights.

c. Strengthened engagement by the youth towards reduction of proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) in Nairobi, Kenya and North Kivu, DRC.
FECCCLAHA continues to underline the role of the faith community in addressing issues of proliferation of SALWs in the region with a view to contribute towards the ‘heart and mind disarmament’ of communities. Through various initiatives at the community, national, and regional level an estimate number of 12,000 people have been reached throughout 2018, in addition to over 61,000 people reached through various media, community radio and social media platforms.

1. Sensitization and Awareness raising initiatives on Small Arms Light Weapons (SALWs):
FECCCLAHA in collaboration with RECSA held a Regional stakeholders’ forum in Nairobi, Kenya (November, 2018). This was aimed at providing spaces for stakeholders to analyze and reflect on issues of SALWs in the region, as well as set priorities for advocacy and develop appropriate strategies for continued partnership and joint intervention. A total of 45 delegates who comprised of church leaders, civil society organizations, national focal points, youth, and women groups from DRC, Kenya, South Sudan, and Uganda, participated in the stakeholders’ forum. The platform provided space for religious leaders to engage with various stakeholders to learn, reflect, analyse, discuss, network, and strengthen links with other Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

Additionally, FECCCLAHA accompanied the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK) – Nairobi and North Rift regions to undertake various forums on SALWs including a sensitization forum in Kiambu County, Kenya where a total number of 150 men and women participated; as well as a capacity building workshop for church leaders and community members that reached 30 participants (10 church leaders and 20 community members including teachers) which was followed by an awareness creation and sensitization forum and stakeholders’ consultative forum in Elgeyo Marakwet which reached a total of 200 community members and 30 stakeholders’ respectively; and a total of 391 church leaders from Nairobi, Kiambu, Garissa, Wajir, and Mandera counties were reached through an NCCK Nairobi Region Conference. Lastly, FECCCLAHA facilitated NCCK – North Rift to develop a database/list of gun owners so as to minimize misuse of illegal guns in the hands of pastoralists. This database would be shared with security agencies for custody so as to ease tracking of crimes related to SALWs.

Further, FECCCLAHA is a member of the Kenya Action Network on Small Arms (KANSA). In partnership with other members, FECCCLAHA undertook a series of initiatives in Kibra, an informal settlement in Nairobi, Kenya; to mark the Global Week of Action Against gun violence (GWoA) and was guided by the theme: ‘Ending the crisis of Gun Violence’. The initiatives undertaken included awareness raising processions, stakeholders’ meetings, as well as engagements with various media platforms including radio interviews and social media engagements. An estimate of 5000 people were reached with messages of ‘End Gun Violence’ and about 180 men and women took part in the stakeholders’ forum.

In partnership with the Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC), an estimate of 1,650 community members in Yumbe Town, in West Nile District in Uganda were reached with messages on the dangers of illicit SALWs. The use of radio talk shows facilitated a wider reach of an estimate of 30,000 community members in Yumbe, Arua, Moyo, Koboko, and Maracha districts of West Nile region.

Group Picture of the participants of the Stakeholders’ Forum held in Nairobi, Kenya (November, 2018)
2. Inclusion of youth in the fight against illicit SALWs:
Inclusion of youth in addressing issues of proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) remains a key strategy in contributing towards reduction of illicit SALWs.

To this regard, various sensitization and awareness raising initiatives have been undertaken in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as well as in Mukuru Slums and Eastleigh Nairobi. In North Kivu, the sensitization initiative was important as it was held weeks to the elections urging the youth to desist from engaging in armed conflict. In Nairobi, Mukuru Youth Peace Clubs held awareness raising forums on violent extremism, radicalization, and dangers of illicit SALWs; they also held dialogue platforms with security agencies on the same. An estimate 2,100 youth and community members were reached in DRC and Mukuru Slums and Eastleigh area.

A Procession led by the Kenya Action Network on Small Arms (KANSA) to mark the Global Week of Action. This took place in Nairobi, Kenya. (May, 2018)

Youth use drama and skits to sensitize community members on effects of SALWs, North Kivu Province. Photo by OJCD

**OUTCOME:**

a. A wide reach of communities in Kenya, DRC, and Uganda totaling to an estimated 12,000 people. They were reached through public processions, radio programmes, and dissemination of leaflets among others.

b. Increased engagement of youth in the campaign against proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the region. For example, in North Kivu, DRC at least 5 guns were voluntarily surrendered.

c. Strengthened partnership with various stakeholders including Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA), Kenya Action Network on Small Arms (KANSA), and Control Arms Coalition among others. This has heightened the advocacy work on SALWs and Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in the region. FECCLAHA is currently the convener of the Control Arms Coalition Partners in Kenya.
GOVERNANCE

Romans 15:13: “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

1. Regional Forum on Extractive Governance in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa:

FECLAYA, in partnership with other Civil Society Organisations, convened the regional forum on extractives governance with a view to provide a platform for religious leaders to engage with various actors in relation to the extractive industry in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa. This inaugural regional forum, which was inspired by lessons learnt and experiences from previous engagements with the Southern Africa-Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI), sought to establish the place of religious leaders in engaging with the extractive industry. To this regard, the forum converged a total of 48 religious leaders; representatives from the Government of Kenya, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) from across the region, Faith Based Organizations, as well as regional bodies. There was representation from the Southern Africa region to share expertise and experiences in engaging with the extractive justice.

Presentations, panel and plenary discussions underscored the important and strategic role of religious leaders in the extractives industry. Among other issues, the delegates underlined the need to build a visible and credible coalition, as well as raise the profile of religious leaders as credible voices in advocacy for extractive justice in the region. The need to forge regional and national networks to engage in extractive justice was also underlined. Delegates also underscored the need to increase exposure, knowledge and skills of religious leaders on the extractives sector so as to facilitate informed and evidence-based advocacy.

The Principal Secretary, State Department of Mining, Ministry of Petroleum and Mining, Government of Kenya, Hon. John Omenge, presided over the official opening. In his keynote address, he gave a detailed status report of efforts made by the Government of Kenya as regards review of the Mining Law; including aspects of benefit sharing, Community Development Agreements, as well as engagement with Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM). Representatives from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)-African Mineral Development Centre (AMDC), Kenya Country Mining Vision, East Africa Community (EAC), Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (HIPSIR), Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Community voices from Uganda (Moroto), Democratic Republic of Congo (Kamituga), and Kenya (Turkana), as well as experience sharing and panel discussions from representatives of Haki Madini – Kenya, State Department of Mining – Ministry of Mining in Kenya, and the Interfaith Standing Committee on Economic Justice and Integrity of Creation (ISCCEJIC) of Tanzania among others. A communiqué was documented and disseminated to members, partners, and other stakeholders. FECLAYA remains committed to sustain the regional platform for structured multi-stakeholders’ dialogue for effective governance of extractives in the region.

2. Participation in the 9th Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI-2018) in Capetown, Republic of South Africa:

FECLAYA participated in the 9th Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) from 4th to 8th February, 2018 in Capetown. Under the theme of ‘Making Natural Resources Work for the People: Towards Just Legal, Policy, and Institutional Reforms’, the main objective of the AMI is to provide an international platform for civil society organizations (including National Christian Councils and inter-faith groups) to share experiences, mobilize as well as motivate mining communities to strengthen their advocacy work and the development of strategic tools which empower them.

Participation in the AMI provided a platform for learning and networking. Lessons learnt from the Southern Africa region inspired and contributed to the inaugural Regional Forum on Extractives Governance in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa. Partners in Southern Africa also participated in the forum and shared experiences.
3. Documenting of a Handbook on the Advocacy Role of Church leaders in addressing Governance of Extractives: a Theological reflection:

FECCLAHA embarked on 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. FECCLAHA partnered with clergy/technical persons who provided technical support to documentation of the handbook. This is a follow up to the Regional Ecumenical Forum (REF) 2017 where members resolved that Information Education and Communication materials be documented to help the church leaders engage authoritatively on the issue of extractives justice at the community, national, and regional level. The theological material is aimed at providing knowledge and information; as well as challenging and inspiring the church leaders on how to engage in advocacy for good governance of extractives in the region. Plans are underway to publish the same during the year, 2019.

4. Accompaniment to FECCLAHA members to undertake Community Awareness raising and Advocacy initiative – Kenya and Uganda:

FECCLAHA provided accompaniment to NCCK and UJCC to facilitate them to undertake local initiatives on advocacy and community awareness on extractives governance. For the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), accompaniment was towards the 63rd General Assembly in August, 2018 which provided a strategic platform for Church leaders drawn from NCCK membership to engage in conversations and dialogue on the role of Church leaders in engaging with extractive governance; an emerging concern in the country.

Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC), on the other hand, undertook community awareness and advocacy initiatives on oil, gas, and mining sector in the districts of Hoima, Kikuube and Moroto. Among the initiatives undertaken were community dialogues which were guided by the theme of ‘Learning Together’ and were conducted in Rupa, Katikekile, Kabwoya, and Kaziranfumbi sub-counties. A total number of 405 (245male and 160women) participated; these included women and youth representatives, community members, teachers, health workers, security officers, Local Council (LC) leaders, elders, small scale miners, students, religious and cultural leaders.

The community dialogues provided space to discuss concerns affecting the communities in these districts as well as creating community awareness about policy, legal, and institutional framework on extractives in Uganda. Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials in form of posters in English and vernacular (Runyoro and Karamojong) to enhance understanding of the message were also disseminated. Additionally, a radio talk show was undertaken at the ‘Radio Maria FM’ in Moroto district. This was with a view to provide space for different players in the mining sector in Moroto to share with the larger Karamojong community. The show was attended by Religious Leaders, Local Council leaders, a miner and UJCC Secretariat staff. Lastly, UJCC trained 15
(7 male and 8 female) people who comprised of religious leaders, cultural leaders, a women representative, local council leaders, health worker, teacher, farmer, and community based monitors and youth representatives on legal frameworks on extractives. The persons trained have the knowledge and skills to mobilize communities and monitor human rights issues related to oil and gas sector in Hoima district.

5. Accompaniment to Domestic Election Observation Mission to Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) General Elections:

In addition to follow up consultative forums undertaken in South and North Kivu provinces held in June, 2018, FECCLAHA accompanied the Church of Christ in Congo – Eastern DRC, to undertake domestic elections observation missions to parts of South and North Kivu. A total number of 87 domestic observers (37 women and 50 men) from South and North Kivu were deployed in the electoral districts of Goma, Nyiragongo, Masisi (North Kivu) and Mwenga, Kalehe, Kabae, and Bukavu (South Kivu). The observers visited a total number of 62 polling stations (38 in South Kivu and 24 in North Kivu). In addition to deploying the elections’ observers, the Church of Christ in Congo also undertook an orientation workshop for the domestic observers with a view to train them on the same.

It was observed that polling stations were adequately secured and electoral officers were friendly and generally adhered to the rules during opening, closing, sealing of ballot boxes among others. Voting machines were also available in some of the polling stations visited. However, there were still many concerns and observations outlined by the observers. Observers in most of the polling stations visited were composed of Congolese civil society organizations; many voters were unable to locate their polling stations and therefore did not vote, which explained the low turnout in some polling stations. Further, secrecy of the vote was not fully respected as election officers and some observers were present with the voters at the voting booths in fear that certain equipment would be stolen. Several machines failed to work causing delays which in some polling stations led to violent demonstrations among other challenges.

The elections were held in a context of suspicion as they had been postponed severally, mainly to give ample time to the Electoral Commission in the country to prepare adequately to be able to deliver the elections in the vast country. Further, the election was highly contested as well as the fact that the incumbent President was not eligible to contest for another term as President. These dynamics drew considerable scrutiny and concern from the local, regional, and international stakeholders. FECCLAHA, in partnership with the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC) continue to engage on various aspects of long term peace building initiatives including post election interventions in the country.

OUTCOME:

a. Successfully organized the inaugural multi-stakeholders Regional Forum on Extractives Governance for the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa. A total number of 48 religious leaders, representatives from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Government Officials, as well as representatives from Inter-Governmental bodies participated. A communiqué outlining commitments and way forward was documented and disseminated.

b. A total number of 87 domestic observers were deployed to 62 polling stations in South and North Kivu, DRC. The deployment of observers contributed to increased confidence of the citizens in the DRC electoral process and ultimately towards a fairly peaceful election.
NETWORKING, PARTNERSHIP, AND COLLABORATION

Jeremiah 17:7: “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD.”

1. Participation in the life of the ACT Alliance:

FECLALHA, together with three ACT Kenya Forum (AKF) members, participated in the historic 3rd General Assembly of the ACT Alliance that took place in October, 2018 in Uppsala, Sweden. FECLALHA representatives had an opportunity to showcase the organisation’s work with the Tamar Campaign and Peace building in the region. Among the positive observations and lessons during the Assembly include the good representation of the Africa region in the Assembly as well as in the Governing Board. Also worth noting was the increased participation of Youth in the Assembly during the Assembly. Lessons learnt, opportunities identified, and reflections drawn from the Assembly among them enhancing of youth participation in the life of the AKF will greatly inform the engagement of the Kenya Forum (AKF) where FECLALHA is actively engaged.

As a follow up on the resolutions of the religious actors from East Africa made during the May 2016 dialogue in Kampala on “The role of Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) in promoting an enabling civil society space” the ACT Alliance in partnership with The Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECLALHA) and the Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC), organized a workshop to facilitate deeper conversations and reflections on the same. The workshop was held in September, 2018, in Kampala, Uganda under the theme, “The prophetic voice of Religious Leaders for an enabling Civil Society space”. A total number of 46 faith leaders and other high level senior leaders of various religious institutions from selected countries in the Great Lakes, Horn of Africa, and Southern Africa specifically Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, DRC, South Africa, Malawi, Zambia, Sudan, Ethiopia, but also representatives of regional and international partners and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), namely ACT Alliance, Swiss Church Aid, Dan Church Aid, Diakonia and others participated in the forum. The religious leaders appreciated the need to employ different strategies when engaging political leaders such as constructive dialogue, quiet diplomacy or shuttle diplomacy as the situation requires.

The ACT Alliance remains an important network for FECLALHA as it facilitates stronger links with other faith based bodies at the national, regional, and global level.

2. FECLALHA Strengthened Partnership and collaboration:

Networking, Partnership, and collaboration is a key strategy that FECLALHA employs in undertaking its program execution. Among those that FECLALHA has been collaborating and working with include the All Africa
Conference of Churches (AACC), Africa Council of Religious Leaders (ACRL), Arigatou International, Hekima Institute for Peace Studies and International Relations (HIPSIR), the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA), Mukuru Slums Development Projects (MSDP) and International Movement of Catholic Students- Paxi Romana (IMCS) among others. The joint efforts have strengthened resource mobilization and networking with other institutes like the Clingendael Institute in the Netherlands as well as regional bodies such as the Africa Union and IGAD.

FECLAHHA has established and formalized partnership with the International Centre for Peace, Human Rights, and Development in Africa (IPHRD-Africa). This is a Non-Governmental Organisation that primarily works with young women and men in strengthening their capacity and engagement in peace processes, especially in implementing the UN SCR 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security and the UN SCR 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security. The partnership has enabled increased participation of Young Women Leaders in FECLAHHA Peace Building and Mediation processes, especially through the Regional Women Peace Building Programme.

3. Contribution to the Kenya National Conference on Extractives (Jukwaa la Madini, Mafuta na Gesi):
FECLAHHA contributed to the Kenya National Conference on Extractives, dubbed ‘Jukwaa la Madini, Mafuta, na Gesi’ took place in September, 2018. This was in the spirit of partnership and collaboration with one of the conveners, Diakonia Sweden/Haki Madini – Kenya, a member of the ACT Alliance Kenya Forum – Advocacy Working Group. The inaugural National Mining, Oil, and Gas Conference was an initiative of Kenya’s Civil Society Organisations working on Extractives. Participating organisations included Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Faith Based Organisations (FBOs), and academic institutions working in the mining, oil, and gas sector.

An estimated 250 participants drawn from host communities in about 11 counties, Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) in mining, oil, and gas sector, National Government Officials, media, regional experts, academic and research institutions participated in the conference. The Goal of the conference was to promote dialogue and action on accountable and sustainable mining for improved livelihoods and lives of local communities in mining, oil, and gas and all citizens. Through Haki Madini-Kenya follow up of the commitments be undertaken during the year, 2019 and beyond.

4. Religious Leaders Participation in the 3rd High Level IGAD Retreat, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia:

A delegation of six religious leaders under the auspices of Regional Peace Programme (RPP), participated in the 3rd High Level IGAD Retreat held in September 2018, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. They were drawn from FECLAHHA, Hekima Institute of Peace Studies & International Relations (HIPSIR), Arigatou International, and the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC). The delegation included 2 young women. In total the delegation consisted of 8 persons (5 male and 3 female). The High Level retreat provided space for learning and experience sharing on the role of reconciliation and dialogue in peace processes. The platform provided space for the delegation to showcase and share about the work that religious leaders have played in peace and reconciliation in Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The high level retreat provided a strategic opportunity to not only strengthen the linkage FECLAHHA and IGAD; but also highlight the value addition of religious leaders in similar platforms and spaces providing an entry point for future engagements. The delegation was facilitated by the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) under the umbrella of the Nested Partnership of the Regional Peace Programme.

5. Participation at the ICGLR Multifunctional Youth Forum workshop: Role of youth towards sustainable development goals and UNSCR2250- Youth, Peace and Security: FECLAHHA facilitated a delegation of 5 people
(3 youth Mukuru Youth Peace Clubs and 2 staff from FECCLAHA Secretariat) to participate in the workshop organized by ICGLR Multifunctional Youth Forum in March, 2018. Some of the stakeholders represented were: Representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kenya, Ministry of Public Service, Youth and gender Affairs (Kenya); National Treasury and Ministry of Planning (Kenya); The National Coordination Mechanism (NCM) of Kenya; Pan African Youth Union; the UN Secretary General’s Envoy on Youth, the UN Secretary General’s Envoy to the Great Lakes Region, ICGLR Ambassadors and High Commissioners Accredited to Kenya among others. As a result of the forum, there was increased awareness on the UNSCR2250- Youth, Peace and Security and spaces for networking, information and experience sharing were created and this increased FECCLAHA’s visibility.

6. Participation in Rethinking peace building in South Sudan dialogue and exchange program (DEP):
FECCLAHA participated in the above mentioned DEP organized by American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and Bread for the World/Ethiopia Office in June, 2018. The DEP aimed at bringing together peace actors in South Sudan and from other parts of the continent to identify capacity gaps for peace builders, draw lessons and help AFSC and Bread for the World to explore possibilities of working better in South Sudan. The DEP brought together about 35 peace practitioners from Kenya, Uganda, South Sudan and Ethiopia among other countries who are mainly working on peace building in South Sudan which included South Sudanese in the Diaspora. There were also participants from AU and IGAD. The DEP explored challenges that peace builders face in South Sudan, including trauma; provided spaces for experiential information sharing among peace practitioners. Capacity gaps among peace builders identified for redress were identified for redress and spaces for networking were created. FECCLAHA continues to accompany its member in SSCC through providing technical support to various programmatic aspects.

7. Participation in NCCK Programme Committee Meetings:
FECCLAHA is a member of the Programme Committee of the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK). This provides a strategic opportunity for FECCLAHA to strengthen its link with the council. Programme Committee meetings are key for NCCK and its membership as they provide spaces to not only review and evaluate the programmatic achievements of the NCCK; but also for dialoguing on the state of the nation and the role that the church can play in engaging with the identified concerns. This year, FECCLAHA participated in two Programme Committee Meetings in February and April, 2018.

The forum created opportunity for the women to discuss the various initiatives that they were engaged in or undertaking towards sustainable peace. They also identified possible synergies that could help amplify and make visible the contribution of women in sustaining peace in Kenya. The forum was convened by Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations – HIPSIR in September, 2018.

9. Regional Sensitization Workshop on the ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT):
FECCLAHA participated in RECSA Regional Sensitization workshop on the ratification of Arms Trade Treaty in August, 2018 as well as the National Arms Trade Treaty Awareness for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) based in Kenya in September, 2018. The meetings provided spaces to learn and discuss the ATT and strategies and action plans for advocacy in ratifying the ATT.

10. Regional Youth Leaders Forum on Peace building in Nairobi, Kenya
FECCLAHA participated at the 3rd Regional Youth Peace Building Forum organized by Arigatou International and the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), in collaboration with other partners. The theme of the 3rd Regional Youth Forum on Peace building was “Youth in Action: Media and Preventing Violent Extremism”. The main aim of this forum was to empower young leaders and youth influencers towards peace building and conflict transformation. The forum provided opportunities for dialogue, reflection, action planning, shared learning, exchange visits and networking, among young leaders from 12 countries in the Horn and Eastern Africa region. FECCLAHA was represented by 2 members Mukuru YPCs members and FECCLAHA Secretariat and a representative from Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC).

OUTCOME:

a. Established partnership with IGAD and IPHRD-Africa, these are important for strengthening FECCLAHA’s engagement on high-level regional peace agenda and the work of the Regional Faith Women Mediation Network respectively.

b. Active participation in the ACT Alliance General Assembly increased visibility of FECCLAHA engagements globally.

c. Joint Advocacy missions between FECCLAHA, ACCORD, and NCA increased visibility of FECCLAHA as a strategic faith peace actor in the region.
INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Jeremiah 17:7: “Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD.”

1. Executive Committee Meetings:

FECCAHLA Executive Committee is comprised of 7 members, who are largely Senior Church leaders drawn from FECCAHLA member councils and churches. This year, FECCAHLA undertook two Executive Committee meetings as mandated by FECCAHLA Constitution. These were held in March and October, 2018 in Nairobi and Arusha, respectively.

In addition to receiving, approving, and deliberating upon key decisions that will guide the effective management of the Secretariat, such as approval of Programme Plans and budgets, as well as programme and financial reports; FECCAHLA Executive Committee underwent a capacity building session which enhanced their skills in Corporate Governance, Leadership, and Stewardship. As a result of this training, the Executive Committee members were empowered with knowledge to provide effective governance to the organisation. Resultantly, there is marked improvement in attendance of EXCOM meetings and increased participation of EXCOM members in FECCAHLA initiatives, as well as improved communication between the Secretariat and members. Ultimately, the quality of practical oversight by the EXCOM to the Secretariat has greatly been enhanced.

Further, the EXCOM has for the first time developed and approved the adoption of an EXCOM Charter as a key policy document of the organisation. The EXCOM Charter is important as it will serve as an induction tool for new EXCOM members ensuring continuity whenever there leadership changes.

The document defines the respective roles, responsibilities, practices, and authorities of the individual members and collectively. It also contains relevant tools, including a code of conduct and, annual work plans which will be the basis for performance evaluation of the EXCOM. The Charter is an important document as it will contribute towards improved quality of oversight role of the EXCOM.

2. FECCAHLA Strategic Plan & Evaluation processes:

The year 2018 marked the final year of implementation of the second Strategic Plan (2014-2018), to this end the organization undertook an end of term evaluation of the strategic plan. The findings and recommendations from this process informed the Strategic Planning process which involved having a workshop held in June, 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya. The strategic planning process was participatory, with a total number of 30 participants from member councils and churches and partners taking part in the Strategic Planning Workshop. The workshop aimed at developing the new FECCAHLA Strategic Plan for the next five years (2019-2023). The Implementation Plan that resulted from the Capacity Assessment Workshop facilitated by the Church of Sweden (May, 2018), also contributed to the designing of FECCAHLA Strategic Plan. The new Strategic Plan, 2019-2023, was approved by the EXCOM in October, 2018 and implementation of the same is currently underway.

3. Website – Redesigning (May & June 2018):

During the year, FECCAHLA embarked on the process of redesigning its website with a view to increase visibility and ease in navigation for its users. FECCAHLA also increased its engagement in the social media platforms, mainly Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube. These are key platforms for FECCAHLA as they will stimulate and enhance interaction with members, collaborating partners, as well as other key stakeholders.
4. Capacity Development of FECCLAHA Staff and Members:

FECCLAHA seeks to not only accompany its members on programmatic initiatives; but also in being a resource in other key aspects related to management of member councils and churches. To this regard, Mr. Philemon Okeyo, the Finance and Administration Manager, facilitated a workshop on Financial Management for Accountants of member churches of Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR). This was facilitated in collaboration with CPR, Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA), and the Rwanda Social Security Board (RSSB).

Further, to ensure that FECCLAHA programmes are planned, implemented, and managed not only in line with partners' requirements but also in line with Global Standards; FECCLAHA in partnership with its partners accords its staff opportunities for ongoing training. This year, FECCLAHA staff participated in five capacity development trainings facilitated by its partners: Bread for the World, DKA – Austria, Church of Sweden, as well as the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA). The training initiatives enhanced skills and knowledge in Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS) principles and Complain Response Mechanism (CRM); the use of Reflective Sessions as a methodology to undertake Midterm Review processes; Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER); Gender and Conflict Sensitive Programming; Financial Management; Outcome Impact Orientation (OIO); Child Protection; and Capacity Assessment Workshop. These training are timely as the organisation was undergoing a five-year Strategic Planning process as well as starting the implementation of new projects with other partners. The training have enhanced and clarified key financial, planning, implementing, and reporting issues.

OUTCOME:

a.) The quality of practical oversight by the EXCOM to the Secretariat has greatly improved due to the training on ‘Corporate Governance, Leadership, and Stewardship’. There is improvement in communication and participation of members in FECCLAHA meetings, forums, and activities.

b.) The adoption of the Executive Committee Charter as a key policy document for induction, which includes a Code of Conduct and Annual Work plan for the Executive Committee. This has made the Executive Committee’s work more effective and efficient.

c.) There is enhanced visibility and improved sharing of initiatives undertaken within FECCLAHA as a result of redesigning FECCLAHA Website and enhanced engagement in social media platforms.

d.) The external evaluation was a major input into the participatory strategic planning process that resulted into FECCLAHA Strategic direction 2019-2023.

e.) As a result of capacity building initiatives, staff of member councils and churches had their capacity strengthened in financial management and compliance in Rwanda, South Sudan, and Sudan.

5. FECCLAHA Staff Retreat:

FECCLAHA Staff Retreats are key mechanisms for reflection, reviewing, planning and forecasting. FECCLAHA holds it staff retreats every two years. This year, FECCLAHA staff retreat took place in September, 2018 in Mombasa, Kenya. The staff retreat was guided by the theme ‘Looking back to move forward’ and guided by the Biblical verse in Philippians 1:6 ‘…being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus’ (NIV).

Among other things, FECCLAHA Staff reviewed level of implementation of the resolutions of last staff retreat 2016/Action Report, reviewed resolutions of the General Assembly and the Regional Ecumenical Forum (2017), reviewed the draft of the Strategic Plan (2019 – 2023), as well as the Draft Staff Code of Conduct. Staff also engaged in team building activities with a view to strengthen cohesion and togetherness within the team. The input from FECCLAHA staff members and the support from partners greatly contributed to the success of the retreat.
During the Stakeholders’ Forum on proliferation of Illicit Small Arms in the region in Nairobi, Kenya (November, 2018)

Church leaders engage in a group work session during the Gender Consultation in Nairobi, Kenya (September, 2018)

Members of the Regional Faith Women Mediation Network are commissioned by a Senior Church leader from the EECMY after orientation on how to utilize the Guide to Gender Mainstreaming in Peace Building and Conflict Transformation: A Faith Perspective.

During the Religious Leaders’ workshop on the “The prophetic voice of Religious Leaders for an enabling Civil Society space” held in Kampala, Uganda (September, 2018).

Church leaders engage in a group work session during the Gender Consultation in Nairobi, Kenya (September, 2018)

During the Stakeholders’ Forum on proliferation of Illicit Small Arms in the region in Nairobi, Kenya (November, 2018)
MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

FECLLAHA Chairperson
Church of Christ in Congo (ECC)
Bishop Kuyé Ndongoa wa Mulomera
President – ECC (Sud-Kivu)
P.O Box 282, Bukavu, Sud-Kivu
Email: eccsud-kivu2012@yahoo.fr

FECLLAHA Vice Chairperson
Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Church
Rev. Bereket Kidane Eyasu
The Head of Foreign relationship in the Patriarchate
P.O Box 728, Asmara, Eritrea.
Tel: +251 1 182116
Fax: +291 -1 182195
Email: tewahdo@lisantewahdo.org

FECLLAHA Honorary Treasurer
National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK)

Executive Committee Member
Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR)
General Secretary: Rev. Dr. Samuel Rugambage
P.O Box 79, Kigali, Rwanda
Tel: +250 252 83554/ Fax: +250 83554
Email: cpr@rwanda1.com

Executive Committee Member
Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT)
General Secretary: Rev. Canon Moses Matonya
P.O Box 1454, Dodoma, Tanzania

Tel: +255 26 2324 445 / Fax: +255 26 2324 352
Email: gs@ctt-tz.org

FECLLAHA PARTNERS

Action by Churches Together (ACT)

International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)

Inter Church Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO)

International Movement for Catholic Students (IMCS)

Life and Peace Institute (LPI)

Norwegian Centre for Conflict Resolution (NOREF)

Oxfam International

Programme for Christian Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCUMRA)

Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSA)

Salvation Army Kenya East Territory

St. Paul’s University, Limuru, Kenya

Tearfund

The African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)

The Christian Organization Research and Advisory Trust of Africa (CORAT-Africa)

The General Referral Hospital of Panzi (GRHP)

World Council of Churches (WCC)