Welcome to the first issue of the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa 2019 Newsletter.

FECCCLAHA is committed to creating platforms that strengthen ecumenical cooperation for peace building and conflict transformation across the region.

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

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The Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA) marks twenty years since its inception this year.

To mark this important milestone, FECCLAHA will hold a special celebration guided by the theme “Journeying towards Sustainable Peace, Justice and Development”.

This will provide space for reflection and envisioning the FECCLAHA we want.

Ms. Jeannette Uwiyeze, former Programme Officer at FECCLAHA, takes up the position of Executive Director in an acting capacity following the exit of Mrs. Elizabeth Kisiigha, the immediate former Executive Director.

Ms. Uwiyeze has served FECCLAHA in different capacities. At the time of her appointment she was the Regional Programme Officer, Peace Building and Conflict Transformation.

Ms. Uwiyeze, a Rwandese national has a wide-range of experience in program work and vast knowledge of the region.

FECCLAHA thanks Mrs. Kisiigha for her invaluable contribution to the growth of the organization and wishes her well in her new assignment.
The Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA) is delighted to share with you the 2019-2023 strategic plan. The plan sets out FECCLAHA’s priorities for the next 5 years and indicates how it will be achieved, specifies the results areas and expected outcomes. It also provides a framework for collective engagement with the various stakeholders. The development approach is as follows:

**Peace Building and Conflict transformation:**
FECCLAHA will build the capacity of church leaders for a more effective engagement in conflict transformation and peace building. Additionally, it will engage member councils and churches in strengthening the role of the youth, women and church leaders in promoting sustainable peace and social cohesion building through the following key areas: Women and Peace Building, Church Leaders and Peace Building, Youth and Peace Building and Small Arms and Light Weapons Advocacy.

**Governance and Accountability:**
FECCLAHA will continue to provide a platform that brings together church leaders from different faiths and spur them to use their “moral authority” to speak on behalf of the many voices in Africa. Therefore, contributing to transparent and accountable governance that ensures the protection of the rights of Citizens. This will be achieved through Electoral Justice, Political engagement, Extractives advocacy and Engagement with regional & international governmental bodies.

**Gender Justice:**
FECCLAHA seeks to increase Women participation in Church Leadership and intensify advocacy against gender based violence by empowering the church to be an effective instrument in promoting gender justice in the society. This will be actualized through: Protection against Gender Based Violence, Tamar Campaign and advocacy on women participation in the church.

**Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building:**
FECCLAHA seeks to have an effective, efficient and self-sustaining institution operating at both regional and national levels. This will be achieved through: Membership development, Executive Committee capacity development, Staff Capacity development, sustainability, funding and fundraising, communication and branding, Monitoring and Evaluation as well as Knowledge Development, Management and Learning.

These will be achieved through the following strategies: Advocacy, Documentation and Dissemination, Capacity Building, Theological reflections, networking and partnerships.
A delegation from the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECLAAHA), All Africa Conference (AACC) and Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa (CAPA) and the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) in February 2019 visited the Democratic Republic of Congo – DRC on a peace mission and in solidarity with the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC).

This also served as a follow up to the electoral observer mission held in DRC in December, 2018. The mission provided an opportunity to carry out an assessment on the post election situation in the country.

These included meetings with Hon Martin Fayulu, a contestant in the concluded elections, United Nations Special representative to DRC, DRC faith leaders and members of the Commission for Integrity and Electoral Mediation (CIME) amongst other stakeholders.

The mission provided space for the delegation to obtain a deeper insight into the current status of the country after the elections thus enabling the identification of key areas of accompaniment.

The delegation held a series of meetings aimed at evaluating the state of the country on matters peace, post elections healing and cohesion.
The Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR) in collaboration with FECCLAHA organized a series of activities in Rwanda in January 2019, aimed at addressing Gender Based Violence (GBV).

The initiative engaged 30 GBV survivors in CPR member churches from 9 districts of the City of Kigali, Eastern, Western, Northern and Southern provinces of Rwanda, who narrated their ordeal and proposed possible solutions thereof.

CPR also organized a one day GBV dialogue and Tamar Campaign session held at the CPR Head office on 11th January 2019 that sought to shed light on the causes, consequences, and strategies to avert GBV with CPR Counseling Centers among those invited.

The Gender Justice Committee organized radio debates within the context of Tamar Campaign and other Biblical contexts through CPR’s Radio Inkoramutima. This saw a participation from the listeners who sought for clarification on GBV. This was followed by a national public forum on GBV.

**Bukavu, Eastern DRC**

On the 23rd of January, 2019, FECCLAHA facilitated the Federation of Women in Protestant Churches (FFP) within the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC) to undertake a refresher orientation workshop which was held in Bukavu, Eastern DRC on the use of the new Tamar Campaign CBS Manual and Sermon Outlines on GBV and Peace.

FECCLAHA has published various manuals with contextual Biblical Studies and sermon outlines in an effort to empower churches to address GBV.

**About Tamar Campaign**

Tamar Campaign seek to acknowledge the existence of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in African society with focus on sexual and domestic violence and consequently challenge churches and religious institutions to address the situation.

A total of 20 church leaders (women and men) participated in the training.

The training aimed at ensuring that the facilitators understand how to use the new manual as they facilitate and form new “Tamar Circles” in their churches and communities.
FECLLAHA engages in Arms Trade Treaty ratification process

FECLLAHA participated in the regional workshop on the ratification process of Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) held on 26th of February 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The workshop organized by Regional Center for Small Arms (RECSA) brought together the National Focal Point and government officials from DRC Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda, with an aim of consolidating the recommendations from the first ATT regional workshop held on 8th August 2018 in Nairobi as well as the recommendations from other subsequent National workshops held in various countries in the region. FECLLAHA and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) represented the Civil Society.

The workshop provided spaces where participants shared their work and experience as they all seek to push for the ratification of ATT.

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) which was entered into force by the United Nations on 24th December 2014, serves to regulate the international trade in conventional arms. This aims at addressing human suffering, political repression, crime and terror among civilian population.

Given consent, weaponry control will be enhanced thus preventing them from entering illicit circuits. However, given the nature of conflict in the region, if select countries ratifies but other countries refrains, the proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) continues to be a security threat in the region.

FECLLAHA, a member of the Control Arms Coalition, a network for information sharing on SALWs, advocates for the reduction of SALWs in the region by working together with other stakeholders, continued capacity building and enhancing information sharing among member councils and churches.

Social Cohesion Workshop: Sudan

FECLLAHA participated in a three-day Social Cohesion workshop held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Also in attendance were representatives from the Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (HIPSIR), and Arigatou International, Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) and Sudan Inter Religious Council (SIRC).

The workshop aimed at promoting Social Cohesion among different faith groups in Sudan.

The workshop provided an avenue for the better understanding of the project, coordination and implementation process and planning of the activities that are to be implemented this year (2019).
Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI)

The Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) was held in Cape Town, South Africa from 4th to 6th February 2019.

The platform was created in 2010 by Faith Based Organizations, and Civil Society Organizations concerned with the social injustices prevalent in Africa’s mining industry.

It gives Mining Communities a platform to be capacitated, to voice their concerns about mining including advocating for equitable sharing of benefits and sustainable mining in the extractives sector.

This year, which also marks 10 years since the inception of the AMI, had representatives drawn from a total of 26 countries across the globe.

Participants including youth representatives drawn from different countries looked at the issues of extractives from faith perspectives with an emphasis on the fact that God is the ultimate owner of all the creation; he has delegated the stewardship of natural resources to the human being hence they must be responsible stewards.

AMI also got an opportunity to participate in the mining Indaba-Sustainability Day where a total of 40 delegates drawn from Kenya, Tanzania, Botswana, Zambia, South Africa, Ghana, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Senegal, Lesotho, Swaziland, Malawi, Sierra Leone and DRC participated. Church leaders were tasked with moderating and/or joining in various panel discussions.

His Excellency Nana Akufo-Addo, the president of Ghana presided over a keynote address where he identified mining as a critical undertaking in the growth of economies, but expressed regret that mining areas are the most deprived identifying corruption and incompetency during negotiation processes, as key drivers of negative impacts. Degradation of land, conflicts and deaths are among other negative impacts of mining.

President of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa, also presided over a keynote address reiterating that the mining industry should not be conflict ridden; rather should create value that can be collective.

Two representatives from FECCLAHA participated in this year’s Alternative Mining Indaba; this served as an important platform for learning.
Participants of the refresher workshop on the 23rd January 2019 in Bukavu (DRC)

Gender justice Champion’s Committees members take a group photo during the January GBV event in Rwanda

Church leaders from different countries during the AMI 2019

Kenyan delegation that participated in the Alternative Mining Indaba in February 2019.

Professor Bosela of AACC introduces members of the delegation to the United Nations representative to DRC during the solidarity visit. (Photo Courtesy AACC)

Together for justice, sustainable peace and development
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FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN COUNCILS AND CHURCHES
IN THE GREAT LAKES AND HORN OF AFRICA
(FECCCLAHA)

Our core statement

OUR VISION:
Together for justice, sustainable peace and development

Core Values:
- Human Dignity
  - Gen. 1:26
- Compassion
  - Micah 6:8
- Peace
  - Mathew 5:5-8
- Justice
  - Isaiah 1:16-18
- Integrity
  - Proverbs 11:3
- Ecumenism
  - John 17:21

Mission:
To promote ecumenical solidarity for justice, peace, healing and conflict transformation and reconciliation in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa through advocacy, networking and partnership, capacity building, research and documentation within the framework of holistic Christian Ministry

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