Key Highlights

Ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Crises in Oslo, Norway

FECLLAHA participated in the International Conference on ‘Ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Crises’ in Oslo, Norway on 23rd and 24th May, 2019. An estimated 110 local organizations drawn from various countries in Africa and abroad participated in this conference. FECLLAHA was enjoined upon invitation by the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA). (Full story on page 5)
Seventeen faith women drawn from Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Uganda participated in the Training of Trainers (TOT) on mediation in Addis Ababa – Ethiopia held from 10th-15th June 2019.

The TOT for the Regional Faith Women Mediation Network (REFWOMEN) was organized by the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA) in collaboration with the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) and sought to train a cadre of faith women as trainers on mediation.

REFWOMEN was established by FECCLAHA in partnership with NCA and ACCORD and officially launched by church leaders of Rwanda led by the former President of the Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR), Bishop Alexis Birindabago on 22nd September 2017 in Kigali, Rwanda.

REFWOMEN is a platform through which the participation of women in peace processes and their level of exposure on mediation will be enhanced.

The network serves to provide the faith women with space for advocacy and active involvement in peace processes at various levels, with a view to promote faith women coordinated efforts in peace processes.

This will enable them to advance their agenda on peace across the region through capacity building, advocacy, mediation and networking. This year’s TOT built on the efforts made during the previous successive trainings held in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

This will help and enable the faith women to effectively participate in and influence the peace processes as well as initiate meaningful interventions within and outside formal processes.
About 60 youth (male and female) took part in the Training of Trainers (TOT) forum held at Ruben Centre in Mukuru Slums, Nairobi, Kenya in the month of June, 2019.

The three-day training was organized by FECCLAHA in partnership with Mukuru Youth Peace Clubs (YPCs) with a view to impart skills on peace building and conflict transformation, livelihood skills, advocacy and lobbying as well as governance and entrepreneurship.

This also created a platform for learning, experience sharing, networking by YPCs leaders who have transformed and become good citizens and advocates for peace in Mukuru Slums, one of the informal settlements in Nairobi-Kenya, and beyond.

The leaders challenged their fellow youth to change their behaviour, attitudes and seek to contribute to the change they are yearning for within their village as opposed to engaging in crime and drug abuse.

Participants were trained on how to start small businesses through a session on basic entrepreneurship skills. They were also trained on the role of the youth in peace building, conflict management, social cohesion and how to go about forming groups.

They were urged to form YPCs from where they can easily do a variety of development projects and access external funding in support of the same while at the same time play their role as peace ambassadors.
Members of the public were engaged in a public forum sensitization on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWS) held in May this year at Ruben Center in Nairobi’s Mukuru Slums.

Also in attendance were a Bishop, Muslim Sheikh, FECCLAHA representative and a representative from the office of the Inspector General (IG) who participated in the panel discussion.

FECCLAHA in collaboration with the Association of Grassroots Journalist, and Mukuru Youth Peace Clubs. FECCLAHA also worked with Reuben Fm (99.9), a community radio station which provided a live coverage of the Community Dialogue Forum on the proliferation of Small Arms and light weapons within Mukuru Slums.

Mothers, fathers, brother, sisters and friends raised concerns about the increase in extra judicial killings due to police brutality.

The representative from the office of the IG assured members of cooperation in pursuit of justice especially for families affected by extra judicial cases.

Security Training

FECCLAHA participated in the ACT Security Course that took place in Nairobi, Kenya in May, 2019.

The training focused on: humanitarian security, personal security, gender security, stress awareness & psychological first aid, threats to men and women in the workplace, duty of care, first aid training, psychological first aid, digital security and communication, as well as terrorism and working in conflict areas among other topics.

It also addressed the legal & moral duty of the organisation to take care of the beneficiary and/or staff members bringing to the fore the importance of ‘duty of care’ for the organisation.

Participants were sensitized on personal behaviour with regard to security and trained on ways of staying safe online (digital security). The need for Psychological First Aid (PFA), an emerging concern due to the increase of work-related stress was addressed.

The training was conducted by ACT Safety & Security Community of Practice (SSCP) which has over the years provided Security training for ACT Alliance members, their partners, and other aid organizations.
FECCLAHA took part in the International Conference on ‘Ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Crises’ held in Oslo, Norway on 23rd and 24th May, 2019.

An estimated 110 local organizations drawn from various countries in Africa and abroad participated in this conference. FECCLAHA was enjoined upon invitation by the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA).

Also in attendance were representatives from various global and regional organizations including the African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace, and Security, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid & Crisis management (ECHO), the Federal Republic of Somalia among others.

The Nobel Peace Prize 2018, Dr. Denis Mukwege, was also in attendance and gave a keynote address during the conference where he underscored the need to end impunity.

The Conference focused on various Sexual And Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and conflict-related sexual violence topics among them being the engagement of men as allies, women and girls’ safe safes among others.

The objectives of the conference included mobilizing stronger political commitment to prevent SGBV and protect people at risk from SGBV especially in conflict prone areas; mobilizing additional financial resources, especially for SGBV response through UN coordinated response plans; and highlighting best practices and lessons learned from efforts to prevent and respond to SGBV in humanitarian situations, and help improve the evidence base in this field.

**Training of Trainers Workshop in Juba, South Sudan**

FECCLAHA facilitated a ‘Training of Trainers (TOT)’ workshop on the Tamar Campaign and Contextual Bible Study Methodology’ for NCA partners and staff in Juba, South Sudan in July, 2019.

This was in collaboration with the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) – South Sudan Country Office. A total of 30 men and women, drawn from Juba, Torit, and Wau took part in the training.

The training involved discussions about the Bible, the Church, and Gender Based Violence; as well as Contextual Bible Study Methodology.

At the end of the training, the participants documented action plans on how they would put into action the lessons and skills acquired.

**Sharing on the Tamar Campaign**

*Tamar Campaign publications in different languages.*
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 in October guided by the theme “Journeying towards Sustainable Peace, Justice and Development”. This will provide space for reflection and envisioning the FECCLAHA we want.

**FECCCLAHA to Celebrate its 20th Anniversary**

Ms Jeannette Uwizeye takes up the position of Executive Director following the exit of Mrs Elizabeth Kisiigha, the immediate former Executive Director.

Ms Uwizeye has a wide-range of experience in program work and vast knowledge of the region.

We congratulate and welcome Ms Uwizeye to this new position and thank Mrs Kisiigha for her invaluable contribution to the growth of the organization and wish her well in her new assignment.

**FECCCLAHA welcomes a New Executive Director**
A group photo of FECCLAHA’s Executive Committee during the EXCOM meeting held in April 2019 in Nairobi.

FECCLAHA’s Caroline Wanjiru issues one of the participants with a certificate at the end of the TOT for the youth held in Mukuru, 26th June 2019.

A participant airs her views during the Youth sensitization forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs), held at Ruben Centre, Nairobi, Kenya on 22nd May 2019.

Mrs Elizabeth Ogola, a lecturer at the University of Nairobi presides over a session on basic entrepreneurial skills during the TOT training of the youth in Mukuru Slums on the 26th of June 2019.

Regional Faith Women in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa during a training on mediation in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 14th June 2019.

FECCLAHA’s Monica Njoroge (shares on the Tamar Campaign during the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) General Meeting held in Bergen, Norway.)
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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**Publications**

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