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Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa
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**FECCCLAHA is a member of the**

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About FECCLAHA

FECCLAHA is a regional ecumenical organisation that provides a platform for its members to share perspectives on issues of common concern, particularly as regards peace building and conflict transformation. Since its launch in March 1999, FECCLAHA has continued to provide Church leaders with a platform to jointly take ownership and responsibility for challenges in the region, as well as, equip and challenge them to proactively seek solutions to the same.

FECCCLAHA Members

FECCLAHA is comprised of member national councils and churches in the following countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eritrea, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

FECCCLAHA 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 as follows:

- Church of Christ in Congo (ECC)
- Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT)
- Eritrea Orthodox Tewahdo 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)
FECCLAHA Governance Structure

FECCLAHA’s structure comprises the following: General Assembly; Executive Committee; and Secretariat.

FECCCLAHA Vision

“Together for justice, sustainable peace and development”.

FECCLAHA Mission

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.

FECCLAHA Strategic Priorities

FECCLAHA’s new five year Strategic Planning phase, 2019 – 2023 will focus on four Strategic Priorities with various key results.

**Strategic Priority 1:** Peace Building and Conflict Transformation

**Strategic Goal:** Sustainable Peace and Social Cohesion

**Strategic Priority 2:** Governance and Accountability

**Strategic Goal:** Transparent and accountable governance where citizen rights are protected and respected.

**Strategic Priority 3:** Gender Justice

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

**Strategic Priority 4:** Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building

**Strategic Goal:** Effective, efficient and self-sustaining institution at regional and national level.

FECCLAHA 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)

**FECCLAHA Development Approach:**

1. Advocacy
2. Documentation and dissemination
3. Capacity Building
4. Networking and Partnership
5. Theological Reflections
6. Resource Mobilisation
Word from The Secretariat

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it (Isaiah: 43:19)

We are delighted to welcome you to FECCLAHA Annual Report 2019!

This year, FECCLAHA celebrated its 20th anniversary since its official launch, a key milestone for the institution. Throughout these years, FECCLAHA has remained true to its mission of fostering ecumenical fellowship in a view to promote justice, sustainable peace and development in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa. While, FECCLAHA’s focus on Peace Building and Conflict Transformation has remained steadfast, the growth in programmes over the years is notable. We thank our members and partners for walking this journey with us over the twenty years. To mark this journey, the secretariat has documented a brief video entitled ‘FECCLAHA@20’ in our YouTube Channel “FECCLAHA Secretariat”. We welcome you to watch as you share this journey with us.

Along with the successful transition in leadership within the Secretariat, where Ms. Jeannette Uwizeye takes over from Mrs. Elizabeth Zimba Kisiigha; this year was also the beginning of FECCLAHA’s third strategic planning phase, 2019-2023 that is guided by the vision ‘Together for justice, sustainable peace, and development’. In this new strategic plan (2019-2023), FECCLAHA envisions to engage in four major strategic priorities: Peace Building and Conflict Transformation; Governance and Accountability, Gender Justice, and Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building.

This report outlines FECCLAHA engagements and outcomes for the year 2019. While we celebrate many successes during the year; the following is a summary of the achievements through the different initiatives undertaken during the year:

Achievement 2019

Peace Building and Conflict Transformation:

- The inaugural consultative and training session for a total number of 9 Senior Church leaders drawn from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan and Tanzania to constitute ‘FECCLAHA Peace Envoys’ in the region. FECCLAHA Peace Envoys are a key structure that will facilitate timely and effective response to conflicts in the region.
- FECCLAHA has successfully strengthened the Regional Faith Women Mediators Network by formation of Country Chapters. This year, FECCLAHA facilitated the formation of Rwanda Faith Women Peace Mediators -RFWPM).
- Through the ‘Social Cohesion Programme’ ongoing in Khartoum, Sudan; there is a stronger inter-religious collaboration as Sudan Council of Churches and Sudan Inter-Religious Council (SIRC) partner in implementing this programme. Further, the SCC has established links with the Sudan Minister of Religious Affairs, a step that will strengthen the Churches’ voice and contribution in country.
- An estimate number of 119 women and religious leaders in the region directly trained and engaged in different initiatives (country based and regional forums) on gender mainstreaming, conflict transformation, and mediation.
- Over 10,000 youth reached indirectly through sports, peace caravans/marches, sensitization forums; and over 70 youth reached directly through ongoing Training of Trainers forums within the Youth Peace Programme.
Gender Justice:

- A Regional Gender Forum Statement was presented to 15th FECCLAHA General Assembly in 2019, which is the Supreme Governing Board within FECCLAHA. The Statement is an important instrument for advocating for greater engagement of church leaders in addressing GBV in the churches. A total of 26 church workers/church leaders (16 women and 10 men) from FECCLAHA national Councils of Churches and Churches engaged in learning, sharing, deep reflection during a validation & dissemination of a “Baseline Survey Report on the State of SGBV and the Role of Religious Institutions in Prevention and Protection of SGBV” (April-August, 2019).

- An estimate 250 women, men, and youth directly engaged in discussions/dialogues on Gender Based Violence (GBV) through the Tamar Campaign initiatives in Bukavu, DRC; South Sudan; and Kenya.

- Established a partnership with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region – Regional Training Facility (ICLGR-RTF); with whom we partnered in undertaking the baseline survey and facilitating the validation/dissemination/consultation on SGBV.

Governance:

- A total number of 48 women, men, and youth engaged in a theological reflection and dialogue forum on “The Role of Church in Promoting Accountable Political Governance”. The regional forum comprised of: 32 representatives from FECCLAHA members (11 women delegates, 10 youth delegates; and 11 General Secretaries/senior church leaders from the region) as well as 16 delegates drawn from partner organizations and facilitators.

- A Regional Ecumenical Forum (REF) 2019 resolution was documented; where FECCLAHA General Assembly resolved to establish a regional ‘Think-Tank’ to catalyse the prophetic voice and pastoral obligations of the church as regards accountable political governance was taken; as well as the commitment by FECCLAHA to have strategic focus and engagement on South Sudan, Eastern DRC, and Burundi in the short-term. This will guide the ongoing accompaniment by FECCLAHA on the same.

- FECCLAHA created space for learning and peer sharing among FECCLAHA members on Business and Human Rights; and established links with institutions/experts on the subject including Swedwatch, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), Lutheran World Federation (LWF) among others.

Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building:

- FECCLAHA provided accompaniment to Sudan Council of Churches (SCC); specifically on Financial Management & Reporting. During the training, a review of SCC Financial management systems, policies, documents, and report was undertaken and recommendations on areas of improvement provided. In line with its mandate in the new strategic plan, FECCLAHA, with the support of Bread for the World, continues to provide accompaniment to the SCC.

We thank all our members and partners for your continued support and cordial cooperation.

We are most delighted to welcome you to read FECCLAHA Annual Report-2019.

Ms. Jeannette Uwizeye
The Executive Director
Peace Building and Conflict Transformation

Key Result Areas: FECCLAHA Strategic Plan 2019 – 2023 will focus on four result areas:

a) Church leaders and Peace building;

b) Women and Peace building;

c) Youth and Peace building; &

d) Small Arms and Light Weapons Advocacy.

Strategic Goal: Sustainable Peace and Social Cohesion

3.1 Church leaders and Peace Building

a. Training on Mediation, Negotiation and Conflict Management for Senior Church Leaders in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa Region, Nairobi, Kenya (August, 2019)

FECCLAHA, in its new Strategic Plan (2019-2023), envisions a strong and vibrant peace building structure comprised of Senior Church leaders’ to facilitate timely, coordinated and effective advocacy and response to conflict in the region, as well as, joint initiatives and collaboration by church leaders at regional level. This is in recognition that Church Leaders play a vital role in peace processes, and are paramount in peace building process and advocacy to enhance sustainable peace in the region. Churches are imperative institutions for sustainable peace building initiatives with the opportunity to socialize, mobilize, educate and integrate.

To this end, FECCLAHA in partnership with Africa Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) undertook 5 days training on mediation, negotiation and conflict management for Senior Church Leaders in the Great lakes and Horn of Africa. The training brought together 9 Senior Church leaders drawn from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan and Tanzania. The training provided spaces for learning; information and experience sharing as well as networking created. The Church leaders enhanced their knowledge and skills on Mediation, Negotiation and Conflict Management.
b. Sudan Social Cohesion Project:

FECLHA in collaboration with Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) under the Regional Peace Programme (RPP) held the inaugural Sudan Social Cohesion Project in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia in March, 2019. The kick-off workshop presented an opportunity for shared understanding of the project by the implementing partners, who were the core team; along with the other partner organizations providing different expertise and accompaniment. In addition to interrogating and internalizing the proposal, objectives, theory of change, and proposed activities; the participants also enhanced their financial and budget management skills in line with the requirements of the project. As a result of this inaugural meeting, the participants agreed on a preliminary work-plan for the year. Participating in this workshop, were a total of 16 participants representing the Executive Heads/ Senior Management, Programmes and Finance Staff of FECLHA, Arigatou International—Nairobi (AI—N); Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (HIPSIR), Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) (Nairobi office); Sudan Council of Churches (SCC), Sudan Inter-Religious Council (SIRC) and the participants who represented the core team of implementing partners for the project.

As a follow-up to the inaugural workshop, FECLHA in collaboration with other partners have held a series of initiatives:

i. Workshop on Governance for Boards and Executive Committee of Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) and Sudan Interreligious Council (SIRC), Khartoum – Sudan (September, 2019) within the auspices of the Regional Peace Programme (RPP), FECLHA participated in a capacity building workshop with a view to strengthening and improving intra/inter-group relations in Sudan with a focus on Khartoum and White Nile States. The two-day training workshop, facilitated by Arigatou International in collaboration with FECLHA and Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (HIPSIR)
brought together 25 participants (23 men and 2 women) from the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) and Sudan Interreligious Council (SIRC).

The participants reflected on principles of governance and boards of organizations and councils and underscored the need for a balanced board. Also in attendance was Mr. Nasr-Eddin Mofarah, Sudan Minister of Religious Affairs, who gave a keynote speech making it known to the participants that the ministry was for all religions in the country and that the key areas of focus for the Ministry were on peace, youth, women, freedom, justice and equality for all citizens. He urged SIRC leadership to work closely with the SCC as this will bring about synergy and sustainability. At the end of the training, participants were grouped in their respective boards (SIRC and SCC) where they were tasked to come up with work plans based on guiding questions.

SCC members tasked the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees to review the constitution/ by-laws and make it accessible to all. SCC also expressed the intention to revive income generating activities through putting more effort in the church land scheme. FECCLAHA continues to provide accompaniment to SCC as it seeks to strengthen its structures.

ii. Ramadhan Feast Dinner (June, 2019): FECCLAHA through the Regional Peace Programme (RPP) facilitated SCC in collaboration with SIRC to undertake this activity in June 2019. This event sought to strengthen relationships between Christians and Muslims. The dinner brought together 560 people (Christians and Muslims) with a view to strengthen the relationships between Christians and Muslims in Sudan. Among participants were representatives from: Member Churches of SCC and affiliate members; High Council of Endowment and Governance; Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Human Rights Commission; State Council; and other grassroots groups and associations; the Media personnel from Television, Radio, News Press SUNA, Daily Newspapers among others.
iii. **Trainings for Sudan Faith Women Leaders (November & December, 2019):** FECCLAHA facilitated the training of 60 faith women leaders from Omdurman, Khartoum and Khartoum North in Sudan. The training enhanced their knowledge and skills in peace building, conflict transformation, mediation, expressing freedom of Religion and Belief and gender mainstreaming. The faith women included religious and community leaders’ representatives, state councils, women group leaders, civil society leaders and political parties representatives. A follow up training on entrepreneurship, advocacy, and lobbying was also held. As a result of these trainings, two structures for promoting social cohesion and inclusion were established: The Sudan Faith Women Network and Youth platform; as well as joint practical plans of actions were developed and faith women leaders pledged to support one another and engage in inclusive joint social cohesion initiatives. Further, practical business plans were developed which included plans to liaise with manufacturing firms to sell products and services at an agreed commission through a unique market “Sudan Faith Women Market”.

3.2 **Women and Peace Building**

This year marks 4 years since the official launch of FECCLAHA Regional Women Peace Building Programme in Kigali, Rwanda (2017). To date, there are four country chapters in South Sudan (Women Link), Rwanda (Rwanda Faith Women Peace Mediators - RFWPM), Kenya (Women of Faith Network – Kenya Chapter), and Sudan (Faith Women Network in Sudan). The membership of the Regional Faith Women Mediation Network spreads through different countries including South Sudan, Sudan, Rwanda, Kenya, Burundi, Ethiopia, and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

FECCLAHA has sustained its efforts towards increasing the women mediators’ knowledge and technical skills in peace building and mediation through various initiatives. As a result of capacity building, exposure, information and networking facilitated by FECCLAHA, faith women have been engaged on various issues across the region. This is part of knowledge and skills application and transfer. For example, women in South Sudan were engaged on the peace process in South Sudan mainly through monthly and national prayers and grassroots advocacy.
initiatives. This was done through SSCC National Women Office and SSCC Women’s Link for Peace. In Kenya, faith women are engaged with the National Dialogue at the county levels; on issues of violent Extremisms and mediation among others.

The following are various initiatives undertaken during the years:

**a. Training of Trainers (ToT) on Mediation for Regional Faith Women (June 2019)**

FECCCLAHA in partnership with the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and the Africa Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) trained 17 faith women on mediation. The cadre of faith women from the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa gained knowledge and skills as well as
pedagogical skills in mediation. The ToT equipped and enabled the selected women to further train other women and stakeholders at all levels to mitigate and prevent conflicts. The participants represented the Christian and Muslim communities and were drawn from different countries within the region: Ethiopia, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Uganda. The training took place in Addis Ababa.

b. Training of Rwanda Faith Women Peace Mediators (RFWPM), September 2019

FECLLAHA facilitated the Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR) to organise a 3 day training of Rwanda Faith Women Peace Mediators (RFWPM) in September 2019. The training brought together 29 participants drawn from CPR member churches across the country and those from Muslim community in Rwanda. The 3 day training aimed at equipping 29 faith women (from CPR member churches and Muslim community) with skills and knowledge on conflict analysis, conflict mapping, mediation, advocacy and lobbying. It also aimed at enabling faith women to have practical analysis of cases of conflicts cases so as to increase their professionalism in mediation and conflict transformation; and establishing of the Rwanda Faith Women Peace Mediators (RFWPM) Network which will provide a platform to brainstorm, strategize and plan for interventions and initiatives. The facilitators led the participants through the concepts of conflict and violence; and the role of conflict analysis in promoting violence prevention. Participants also learnt about use the UNSCR 1325 to promote gender mainstreaming processes and to raise awareness on the role of women in conflict transformation and peace building. The leaders also reflected on ‘Faith, Gender and Peace building’ with key discussions on the role of women in Peace Building and Conflict Transformation with foundational bases drawn from the Bible and the Quran. Key to the training was the role of women in indigenous peace building processes.

FECLLAHA also launched of the “Guide to Gender Mainstreaming Peace building and Conflict Transformation: A Faith Perspective”, FECLLAHA’s resource material tailor-made for religious leaders. This occasion was graced by key chief guests including Rev. Dr. Charles Kibicho,
Honorary Treasurer FECCLAHA; along with the technical team that compiled the guide and other key stakeholders including representatives from Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and International Center for Peace, Human Rights and Development (IPHRD). During the re-launch, the religious leaders were implored to use the guide to influence policy change within their communities and countries.

### 3.3 Youth and Peace Building

FECCLAHA youth peace building initiatives demonstrate youth’s commitment and ability to influence positive change in their community. This year, FECCLAHA continued to accompany, empower, and develop the skills of youth in the region to contribute to transformative peace building. FECCLAHA utilizes Youth Peace Clubs, as a key mechanism of mobilizing, sensitizing, organizing, and sustaining youths’ engagements for peace in the region. This year FECCLAHA engaged in various initiatives ranging from ongoing capacity enhancement, sports, sensitization, economic development, as well as national youth peace advocacy caravans.

#### a. Youth Peace Clubs’ engagements on peace building and conflict transformation:

Youth Peace Clubs continue to be the key mechanism through which FECCLAHA mobilizes, organizes, equips, and facilitates the youth to be positive agents of change and advocates for peace in the region. To date, FECCLAHA has initiated peace clubs in Burundi, Eastern DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. Following FECCLAHA sustained engagements and capacity building for the youth, below are youth engagements and initiatives undertaken across the region:

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**Youth participate in a tree planting Campaign to mark the International Peace Day in Mukuru Slums, Nairobi, Kenya (September, 2019).**
i) **Commemoration of the International Day of Peace** in Mukuru, Kenya (September, 2019); where FECCLAHA in collaboration with Mukuru Youth Peace Clubs and Mukuru Slums Development Projects (MSDP), which is a local community based organisation, undertook a tree planting initiative for youth peace club members. This was inspired by the International Day of Peace – 2019 theme, ‘Climate Action for Peace’ that was localized to ‘Adopting trees for Sustainable Peace and Development’. The exercise saw both the pupils and youth peace club members plant a tree each with the aim of nurturing a culture among the pupils and youth of protecting the environment and promoting peace.

ii) **National Youth Peace Advocacy Caravans** were undertaken in perceived post-election hotspots in Kenya, namely: Kibra (a formal settlement in Nairobi, Kenya); Eldoret (Rift valley in Kenya); and in Kisumu (Kenya) between November and December, 2019. The three peace advocacy caravans were undertaken in collaboration with the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK) and Mukuru Youth Peace Clubs. As a result of the Youth Peace Advocacy Caravans, over 10,000 youth and members of the public were reached and sensitized on the importance of peace before, during and after election and collaboration was fostered between youth, civil societies, religious leaders, peace stakeholders and the public.

iii) **Youth sports mentorship for peace** were undertaken in Nairobi (Mukuru Slums) in Kenya where a total of 80 youth were reached (64 men and 16 female) as well as dialogue forums for youth on countering violent extremism and radicalization that reached an estimated 90 community members and awareness creation forums on illicit SALWs in Mukuru and how to engage on the same.

iii) **Youth Peace Clubs and other participants during the Resilient Men Peace programme 2019.** Resilient Men Peace Programme which is a mentorship programme for men in Mukuru Slums (Nairobi, Kenya) that seeks to sensitize and create awareness among youth in Mukuru to be resilient and shun illegal extremist groups and drugs and substance abuse. This is with a view to transform youth to be positive agents of change. This programme runs every
Saturday where the group meets with an aim to sensitize other youth on the effects of alcohol and drug related crimes. The programme targets two crime hot spot areas; (Kambi Moto and Taliban within Mukuru in Nairobi, Kenya) which are well known for illegal firearms, drugs and substance abuse related crimes.

v) Sensitization forums for peace and demobilization of illicit groups in North Kivu, were undertaken through peace awareness campaigns, peace forums, radio shows, and church services where messages of peace were passed to the youth. This was aimed at sensitizing youth on the importance of building peace after the concluded elections in 2018. This was undertaken in partnership with the Organisation of Young Christians for Development (OJCD), which is a local community based organisation in North Kivu and youth peace clubs in North Kivu.

vi.) Workshops and learning forums in Ethiopia: Youth in Ethiopia organized workshops and learning forums for youth leaders in Shakisho and Arbaminch in Ethiopia; where about 600 youth were reached and on peace building and conflict transformation. This was undertaken in partnership with FECCLAHA member, Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY).

vii) Sensitization forum by the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) in Juba, South Sudan that reached an estimated 36 women and youth. This forum was important as it contributes towards strengthening of the youth desk within
the SSCC as well as providing a structure through which the process of developing a roadmap/strategy for youth Action in 2020 will be undertaken.

viii) **Youth Peace Clubs** are engaged in Economic Empowerment initiatives. To this end, two Youth Peace Clubs from Mukuru, Nairobi and Uganda are engaged in Oyster Mushroom farming and Soap Making respectively. These initiatives have created employment and uplifted the youth livelihoods. The Youth Peace Club in Uganda mentioned above was also engaged in training other Youth on soap making.

Through these engagements, the youth have not only been sensitized; but also given platforms to engage with their local leaders and fellow youth leaders from different sectors.

### b. Capacity Building Initiatives for Youth (June, October, and December, 2019)

In an effort to grow and strengthen the Youth Peace Clubs, FECLLAHA undertook three capacity building initiatives in Mukuru Slums/ Nairobi, Addis Ababa/Ethiopia, and Morogoro/Tanzania during the year. An estimate number of 100 youth were directly reached through these training and forums.

Through these trainings and platforms, at least 11 youth delegates from Burundi, DRC, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda participated in FECLLAHA General Assembly and presented a joint statement to the Assembly in which they advocated for formation and/or strengthening of youth desks within the councils and churches. Further, a total of 8 new peace clubs were formed: 4 in Kenya and 4 in Tanzania. The
Youth Peace Clubs in Tanzania are stationed in 4 universities/colleges namely Jordan University, Livestock Training Agency, Mzumbe University and Sokoine University.

**c. FECCLAHA Regional Youth Newsletter & Social Media Engagement**

FECCLAHA continues to utilize the Youth Newsletter and social media platforms to motivate and share experiences among the youth across the region towards efforts of promoting peace within the region. The platforms have provided a platform for youth to showcase the youth peace clubs engagements in peace processes, advocacy, lobbying and livelihood initiatives. Most youth peace clubs across the region have also used these platforms to share their experiences, provide briefings on the occurrences within their respective countries and offer solidarity support to their fellow youth across the region. This year, FECCLAHA has issued and disseminated a total of 4 FECCLAHA Youth Newsletters and utilized Facebook and ‘Whatssup’ to create spaces for sharing and learning.

### 3.4 Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs)

FECCLAHA has over the years engaged in advocacy and sensitized religious leaders on their important role in addressing issues of proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWS). The following are the initiatives undertaken during the year:

**a. Evaluation of SALWS programme and documentation of best practices**

FECCLAHA has completed the evaluation of SALWS to assess the degree of achievements of the objectives and results of the SALWS programme (2016-2018). Further, the best practices during the programme implementation period have also been documented and will be printed and disseminated in the region.

**b. Engagements with RECSA’s on the ratification process of Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) (February and November, 2019)**

FECCLAHA participated in the Regional workshop on the ratification process of Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) organized by Regional Centre
on Small Arms (RECSA) in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting brought together government officials from 7 countries namely: DR Congo (DRC), Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. These are countries that RECSA is focusing on in regards Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). FECCLAHA was invited as RECSA partners from the Civil Society. FECCLAHA expressed its commitment to continue with the advocacy work with other stakeholders; capacity enhancing and information sharing among member councils and churches and other stakeholders.

Following this workshop, FECCLAHA in collaboration with RECSA organised a 3 day regional training for religious leaders on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in Nairobi, Kenya (27th to 29th November 2019). The training enhanced the religious leaders’ knowledge and skills on effects of illicit SALW; as well as the role of religious leaders in advocacy and lobbying on the ATT and the Nairobi Protocol. It also provided space for experience sharing, learning, and networking. The religious leaders developed advocacy strategies and practical actions at the national and regional level. A total number of 15 Religious leaders from Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda participated in the workshop marking the beginning of the process of establishment of Religious Leaders ATT Champions.

C. National Stakeholders Forum on SALWs for Justice and Peace in Kampala, Uganda (August, 2019)

FECCCLAHA facilitated Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC) to organize the National Stakeholders on Small Arms and Light Weapons meeting which focused on the importance of collaborative cooperation and assistance. The National meeting also focused on financial and technical assistance to support and facilitate efforts at the local and national levels to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. The National Stakeholders Forum brought together 20 participants (13 male and 7 female).

Participants were urged to intervene and contribute, in terms of creating awareness and advocate for a promotion of a sustainable solution that has the support of all stakeholders, in regard to small arms control. This will be important in reducing the level of demand for, and misuse of, small arms amongst civilians and ex combatants, and also to promote greater management and control of small arms by security agencies. Participants were also called upon to contribute constructively to New Action Plan 2019 - 2024 so as to enable stakeholders to continually advocate and lobby for the ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty by the government.
Gender Justice

The Key Result Areas are: FECCLAHA Strategic Plan 2019 – 2023 will focus on two result areas:

a) Protection against Gender based Violence and Tamar Campaign.

b) Women participation in the life of the Church.

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

Tamar Campaign has been FECCLAHA’s Programme against Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the region. Launched in 2005, FECCLAHA has been over the years promoted the use of Contextual Bible Study (CBS) centred on Gender Based Violence (GBV) to create spaces for sustained conversations on GBV; accompanied members to engage in activism & community mobilization against GBV, as well as facilitated church ministers to utilize weekly platforms to preach against GBV through provision of resources and facilitated spaces for structured sensitization of women, men, and youth. FECCLAHA has published two Gender Based Violence and Contextual Bible Study manuals which have been key resources and guiding materials for Church Ministers and Workers to engage with GBV.
Baseline Survey on the State of SGBV and the Role of Religious Institutions towards Prevention and Protection from SGBV in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa region (April – August, 2019):

FECCLAHA in collaboration with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region - Regional Training Facility on Prevention and Suppression of SGBV in the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR-RTF) undertook a desktop baseline survey on the State of SGBV and the Role of Religious Institutions towards prevention & protection from SGBV in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa. The objective of the baseline survey was to strengthen the role of National Councils and churches in their contribution towards preventing, protecting, and supporting communities against SGBV at the national and regional level.

The Baseline, which is essentially a desktop research, is anchored on commitments made at the International, regional, and national level and in particular Decision 4 of the ICGLR Kampala Declaration (2011) which states in part –

“Directs responsible institutions to strengthen or establish national level structures for prevention, protection, and support of women and children against SGBV and establish early warning mechanisms….on SGBV to facilitate reporting and documentation of SGBV cases from the grassroots…”

The Baseline Survey covers the following chapters:

- Response Strategies to Address SGBV
- A country specific scan on the state of SGBV in countries where FECCLAHA is based
- Exploring the role of the church and FECCLAHA in enhancing the fight against SGBV with a focus on monitoring, documentation, reporting, and early warning of SGBV; and
- Tools for monitoring, documentation, reporting, and early warning.

Among other aspects, the Baseline Survey captures positive trends where several countries have put in place or are in the process of establishing special courts for handling cases of SGBV as well as availability of national legislation to address SGBV; but also notes that there some marked differences as regards content and levels of implementation of same, the high prevalence of SGBV in the region; as well as the divergent challenges hindering effective countering of SGBV in the region among others. Further, the survey notes that whereas, most countries declared Zero Tolerance on SGBV crimes and impunity; this needs to be sustained by utilizing other avenues such as the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence Against Women. Finally the survey provides a framework for tools for monitoring, documentation, reporting, and early warning. This tool can be used by national councils and churches to capture data and information for appropriate and timely interventions which have the capacity to prevent SGBV, as well as, effectively provide protection and response to survivors.

FECCLAHA Regional Gender Forum (October, 2019)

Following the documentation of the ‘Baseline Survey Report on the State of SGBV and the Role of the Religious Institutions in prevention and protection of SGBV in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa’ (April-August, 2019), FECCLAHA undertook a Regional Gender Forum in October, 2019. The Forum was guided by the theme: ‘The Role of the Religious Institutions towards prevention and protection Against SGBV in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa Region’. The Forum aimed at validating and disseminating the findings of the Baseline Survey; with a view to heighten the engagement of national councils and churches campaign in prevention and protection from SGBV in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa. The facilitation was undertaken in partnership with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region – Regional Training Facility (ICGLR-RTF), helping
participants undertake deep reflections and gain skills, knowledge, and information on the state of SGBV in the region and the important role of the Church in undertaking monitoring, documentation, reporting, and early warning of SGBV at the community, national, and regional level.

The Regional Gender Forum was anchored on the Tamar Campaign and inspired by Biblical Reflection on SGBV drawn from II Samuel 13:1-22 which reflected on Tamar’s courage and wisdom; as well as the ungodly act of violation and crude deception of Amnon. Additionally, common trends of SGBV in the Great Lakes and Horns of Africa region were discussed. These include child marriage, domestic violence, rape, and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), as well as, emerging SGBV trend including online sexual harassment and human trafficking were highlighted. The important role of religious leaders in engaging in prevention and protection against SGBV was underscored as religious institutions provide spaces for prayer, reflection, and confession; as well as provision of services including counseling and other psychosocial support. The religious leaders also occupy a unique status in society, with a ready and willing
follower-ship, and well structured, established, & extensive networks and linkages at all levels -from the grassroots to global spaces.

Participants included 26 women and men (16 women and 10 men) who consisted of Gender Officers and youth delegates from FECLLAHA member councils and churches; as well as partners and facilitators from ICGLR-RTF. The participants documented the Regional Gender Forum Statement (October, 2019) that was presented to FECLLAHA General Assembly (2019), which is the supreme governing organ of FECLLAHA. In the statement, the delegates committed to enhance awareness creation on SGBV, and specifically incorporate the Tamar Campaign. They also committed to enhance monitoring, documenting, reporting, and early warning of SGBV. They urged Church leaders to publicly denounce SGBV by prioritizing and incorporating SGBV sensitization in Sunday preaching themes and annual church calendars. They also urged church leaders to re-activate and/or establish youth desks/programmes and strengthen inclusivity of youth in decision-making.

Tamar Campaign at the Grassroots and Regional level

Since the launch of the Tamar Campaign, FECLLAHA has endeavoured to sustain the Tamar Campaign at the grassroots and regional level through ongoing sensitization, awareness creation, and advocacy initiatives. Through various initiatives, FECLLAHA in collaboration with various partners and members has reached an estimated 175 women and men throughout the year.

Tamar Campaign Reach in 2019:
- South Sudan – 28 participants (18 female & 10 men);
- In Kenya (Machakos) - Africa Brotherhood Church (ABC) and estimated 100 women & in Butere at Kima International School of Theology (KIMA) a total of 30 participants;
- Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) a total of 47 participants.
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. Participants were drawn from Juba, Torit, and Wau. 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.

Kenya: FECCLAHA created awareness on SGBV and the Tamar Campaign during a Women’s Annual Conference at the Africa Brotherhood Church (ABC) in Machakos, Kenya in July, 2019. An estimated 100 women drawn from different parts of ABC sub-regions participated in the annual conference. Participants were sensitized about SGBV and equipped with knowledge on how to address the same from a Biblical perspective. Additionally, FECCLAHA disseminated 30 Tamar Campaign manuals to church leaders and students at the Kima International School of Theology in Butere, Western Kenya. These were used to reach 20 students and 10 church members to adequately undertake use Contextual Bible Studies in their churches and communities.

Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (Bukavu) (July, 2019): FECCLAHA facilitated the Federation of Women in Protestant Churches (ECC) in Bukavu to undertake a two-day sensitization forum for 47 participants in Bukavu, Eastern DRC. The forum provided an opportunity to introduce the new Edition of the Tamar Campaign Contextual Bible Study Manual on Gender Based Violence and Peace (2017). This will be utilized to strengthen the Tamar Circles already active in Eastern DRC. Currently, there are a total of 12 Tamar Circles with a consistent membership of 355 men, women, and youth.
Governance

Key Result Areas: FECCLAHA Strategic Plan 2019 – 2023 will focus on four result areas:

a) Electoral justice;
b) Political engagement;
c) Extractives advocacy; &
d) Engagement with regional intergovernmental bodies.

Strategic Goal: Transparent and accountable governance where citizen rights are protected and respected.

The Regional Ecumenical Forum – 2019: (October, 2019)

FECCLAHA held the 2019 Regional Ecumenical Forum (REF) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to strategize on how Churches can proactively engage with issues concerning political governance in the countries within the region; as well as engage churches and other actors in examining the regional political frameworks charged with the responsibility of accountable political governance. The Regional Ecumenical Forum – 2019 was guided by the theme “The Role of the Church in Promoting Accountable Political Governance: Prospects and Challenges” and inspired by Bible text drawn from Luke 4:18. The Forum drew participation from all FECCLAHA members, who consisted of Church leaders/Secretary Generals, Women and Youth representatives. Also present were ecumenical partners, as well as State and Inter-State Actors, and the Civil Society Organisations.

The Regional Ecumenical Forum (REF) platform provided an avenue for intensive theological/biblical Reflection on the Role of Church in Promoting Accountable Political Governance. The growing social distress and the poor leadership were among the rationale highlighted for the need of the churches to promote accountable political governance in the region. Churches are centres for learning, mobilizing, organizing, and holding those in authority accountable. FECCLAHA was urged to be instrumental in the teaching of theology in the Church. Churches were also encouraged to engage actively in the formulation of workable policy for the masses in inculcating accountable political governance.

Bishop Zac Niringiye gives the keynote address during FECCLAHA Regional Ecumenical Forum (REF-2019).
The Forum also scanned through the trends of political governance in the region as regards the rule of law and constitutionalism and the engagement of the church in addressing political governance challenges in the region. Among those discussed and analyzed include the trend on constitutional reviews and the changes in age and term limits that have taken place in different countries including Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Kenya among others. The link between Corruption and state of political governance was also identified. Further, violent extremism and radicalization also negatively affects accountable political governance.

Plenary sessions and panel discussions were held on strategic ways that the church/faith communities could engage to ensure accountable political Governance. Countries shared their various experiences in handling the political atmosphere in their region. Church leaders from DRC, South Sudan and Kenya shared significant roles played during different election period from (2000 to 2016) and strategies adopted to curb election crisis.

The church leaders issued a statement, in which church leaders resolved to facilitate the formation of the regional ‘Think-Tank’ that will catalyze the prophetic voice and pastoral obligations of the church as regards accountable political governance. The REF also committed to strategically engage in South Sudan, Eastern DRC and Burundi and put in place a regional senior church leader’s platform for timely and strategic engagement with political leaders on issues affecting the region.

Training in Business and Human Rights in Nairobi, Kenya (November, 2019)

FECLAHANA in collaboration with ACT Church of Sweden and Swedwatch undertook a training on Business and Human Rights, which took place on 6th – 8th November, 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya.
Participants included representatives from National Councils of Churches from Burundi, Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan, Kenya, and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Also present were members from Civic Society Organisations (CSOs) in the different countries engaged in Human Rights work. Among the topics discussed include understanding on Business & Human Rights; international frameworks on Business and Human Rights; Gender Related Impacts of Business & Human Rights/Gendered due diligence; overview of Business & Human Rights in the Eastern Africa region; sharing on how different governments have responded to Business & Human Rights; research and reporting on business & human rights; as well as communication and security for human rights defenders including digital security.

Swedwatch was the principle facilitators of the training, sharing its wealth of experience as regards engagements with United Nation Guiding Principles (UNGPs), research & investigation, and communication as regards Business & Human Rights. Also present in the training were representatives from the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) and Lutheran World Federation (LWF) who shared experiences and expertise on Business and Human Rights.

Participants committed to use existing platforms within their institutions to undertake different initiatives as a follow up to the training. Among these initiatives include in Tanzania where the team committed to include a panel discussion on Business and Human Rights during the Annual Commemoration of the International Human Rights Day in the country.

3 Documenting the Religious Leaders’ Handbook on Advocacy for Extractive Governance

FECCLAHA has been engaged in the process of documenting a handbook that religious leaders can use while engaging in advocacy for extractives justice in the communities. Following feedback from the inaugural Regional Extractives Forum
in 2018, the handbook has broadened its focus to include an Islamic perspective as the issues under discussion are cross-cutting. The handbook is available in English to French. The handbook is entitled “Handbook for Religious Leaders on Advocacy in the Extractive Sector: A Faith Perspective”. Documentation of the handbook was done in collaboration with the Hekima Institute of Peace Studies & International Relations (HIPSIR). The handbook will contribute towards strengthening the capacity of religious leaders to advocate for better governance of natural resources.

4 Participation in the Alternative Mining Indaba (2019) in Cape town, South Africa

FECLHA participated in the annual Alternative Mining Indaba in South Africa that was held from the 4th to 6th of February 2019 in Cape town, South Africa. FECLHA convened the inaugural Regional Extractives Forum in 2018 as a result of lessons learned from attending AMI in the previous years. Attending AMI offered learning experiences for the staff and lessons learned will be useful in planning for future Regional Extractives Forums. Some of the lessons learnt from AMI include the importance of a regional structure that strengthens collaboration and partnership among the Civil Society Groups and the Faith Based Organizations, which then facilitates sustained activism and advocacy for sustainable mining. FECLHA remains committed to establishing a platform for these groups in the Great Lakes Region for coordinated and strategic advocacy and activism in the region.

5 National Conference on Minerals, Oil, and Gas in Kenya (September, 2019)

FECLHA participated in the planning of the National Conference on Minerals, Oil, and Gas Conference in Kenya dubbed ‘Jukwaa La Madini, Mafuta na Gesi’. The Conference took place on 24th to 26th September 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya. This is a follow up to last year’s (2018) conference which provided a platform for engagement on key issues in extractives including land rights and the need for informed consent, engagement of women and supporting artisanal mining. Themed ‘Getting it Right: Just and Fair Share of Benefits from the Extractive Sector’, this year’s conference sought to build on these milestones already made through providing a platform for engagement on benefit sharing in extractive resources. The conference’s goal was to promote dialogue and action for accountability, sustainability and improving the livelihoods of communities in areas affected by Kenya’s oil, gas and mining industry. The three day conference focused on reconciling community expectations with company perspectives and government perspectives. The panel sessions focused on the following; Setting best practice for stakeholder engagement; International and government perspectives on benefit-sharing; Company lens on benefit sharing; Land – acquisition, compensation, resettlement and community land; Government lens on benefit sharing; as well as Transparency and accountability in the extractives among other topics.

FECLHA through the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK) provided support to the participation of Church leaders and four staff members from NCCK to participate in the 2019
Conference. This is in line with FECCLAHA’s strategy of increasing the capacity of religious leaders to be able to effectively engage in advocacy for extractives justice at the local and national level. The conference brought together more than 150 stakeholders in the extractives sector, including communities from mining areas in 11 counties, extractive companies, community organizations from the counties, faith based organizations, civil society organizations and the government. At the end of the conference, a communiqué was jointly developed and adopted by the participants affirming their commitment to taking action on the issues serving as deterrents towards getting the extractives sector right, making it sustainable and beneficial for all involved. This Conference is convened by Civil Society Organizations and Faith Based Organizations working with communities in the oil, gas and minerals sector under a coalition known as Haki Madini – Kenya.

6 Church Leaders’ Pre-Elections consultation in Burundi (July, 2019)

FECCLAHA in partnership with National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB) undertook a training of 30 religious leaders and legal representatives drawn from member churches of CNEB and other religious fora. Guided by the theme for the consultation was “Sustaining peace in Burundi: The role of religious leaders in the Burundi 2020 national elections”, the meeting provided a platform for the religious leaders to think through the possible outcomes/scenarios prior to, during, and after the 2020 Elections. It also provided space for consolidation and strengthening of the unity of purpose for Burundi church leaders ahead of the general elections in the country in May, 2020. The church leaders outlined opportunities to prevent violence ahead of, during, and after the elections in the country. This was with the view to strategically plan on possible action points ahead of elections scheduled for May, 2020.

At the end of the training, the religious leaders developed a common peace message and documented a joint commitment which outlined the commitments of the religious leaders to contribute towards peaceful and credible elections. FECCLAHA facilitated the participation of an experienced church leader in the region to co-facilitate and accompany the planning process, the former Executive Secretary of Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC) and out-going General Secretary of the Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa (CAPA), Rev. Canon Grace Kaiso. This was with a view of facilitating peer learning/sharing as well as providing an external perspective to role of the religious leaders as regards what has worked and what has not worked as regards electoral processes in the region. The consultation also provided a space for deep reflection, reviewing, and learning from church leaders in the region.
Networking and collaboration is a key development approach in FECCLAHA’s new strategic direction. This is in an effort to not only showcase FECCLAHA’s work and engagements; but also in developing strong partnerships with like-minded organizations for strategic joint initiatives. The following is an account of FECCLAHA’s engagements during the year.

1 Joint Peace and Solidarity visit in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (February 2019)

The delegation from FECCLAHA, AACC, CAPA and NCA meets with the Opposition candidate during the elections in DRC, Mr. Martin Fayulu. This took place during the Joint Peace and Solidarity visit in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). FECCLAHA was represented by Rev. Sylvestre Bizimana, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB), who previously served as the Chairperson of FECCLAHA.

FECCLAHA participated in a joint peace and solidarity visit that took place in February 2019 in Kinshasa, DRC. The delegation, that was led by Bishop Arnold C. Temple, the President of the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) and hosted by Church of Christ in Congo (ECC), comprised of representatives from FECCLAHA, the Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa (CAPA), and Norwegian Church Aid (NCA). The delegation visited various key stakeholders in
the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The visit was strategic as it assessed the post-election situation in the DRC and met various key players in a view to advocate for peaceful and inclusive transition as well as express solidarity to the church in DRC. Some of the stakeholders met include representatives from the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC), Honorable Martin Fayulu, the opposition Presidential candidate during the elections in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the Forum of AACC and WCC member-churches in the DRC, the Commission for Integrity and Electoral Mediation (CIME), the United Nations Mission for the Stabilization of Congo (MONUSCO), the outgoing Prime Minister as well as the Chairman of the Electoral Commission (CENI).


FECCLAHA participated in various engagements of the African Interfaith Initiative on the Post 2015 Development Agenda. The meetings were a follow up on the 2014 Pan African Faith Leaders’ Summit on Post 2015 Agenda held in Kampala, Uganda. The African Interfaith Initiative on the Post 2015 Development Agenda is a platform formed as a response to the need for the faith leaders and faith communities to engage in the shaping of the global development agenda by influencing and contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. The initiative promoted engagement of Religious Leaders towards effective contribution to the development of the SDGs and subsequent implementation. The meetings provided opportunities for faith actors to reflect on their work, consider the present needs and opportunities and to forge ahead for a better and prosperous future. Through the meetings, the opportunities to enhance and share understanding of SDGs were created.

3 Consultative Workshop on “The Role of Churches in Peace Building and Facilitation of Non-Violent Processes” (April, 2019)

FECCLAHA showcased its work as regards “Women and Youth in Peace building, Sexual and Gender Based Violence, and Small Arms and Light Weapons” during a workshop attended by representatives from the German EKD Synod, Bread for the World and five of Bread for the World ecumenical partners based in Nairobi, Kenya; namely the Anglican Church of Kenya Development Services (ADS Kenya), the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) and the Action of Churches Together (ACT Alliance). The workshop provided a platform for ecumenical partners in Nairobi working on peace building and related programs to share experiences; participants were given an opportunity to reflect on the achievements the church in Kenya, and in Africa, has made through the support and partnership with Bread for the World over the years. Additionally, the visiting representatives from the EKD Synod were able to interact with and learn from implementers, the role of the church in enhancing peace and facilitating non-violent processes in preparation for their upcoming synod in 2020 that will be focusing on the role of the Church in peace building.

Ms. Jeannette Uwizeye, FECCLAHA Executive Director, listens to the presentations during the consultative workshop.
Participation in the International Conference on the ‘Ending SGBV in Humanitarian Crises’ in Oslo, Norway (May, 2019)

FECCCLAHA, on the invitation by Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) 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. 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 spaces 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. This provided a platform for learning and networking from various agencies and countries.

Also present to share about the Tamar Campaign, was Rev. Ghislain Bafunyembaka, who is the Coordinator of the Interfaith for Advocacy and Peace Building Network in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This interfaith network uses the Contextual Bible Study (CBS) Manual (2007) and the Tamar Campaign as key tools for sensitizing and engaging in sustained dialogue on how to address Gender Based Violence (GBV). Among those met during the visit were NCA Council members, during the NCA Council’s Seminar in Bergen, Norway. This was an important platform for FECCCLAHA to show case its work with the Tamar Campaign.
GBV, and the impact of these initiatives. Emphasis was placed on the importance of sustained and long term support to programmes as well as the important role of the regional perspective in addressing Sexual Gender Based Violence.

Further, meetings were also held with health workers from the Resource Centre for Violence, Traumatic Stress, and Suicide Prevention – Western Norway (RVTS), various Norwegian Churches including key leaders from the Christian Council of Norway and the Quaker Services in Norway, further sharing on how FECCLAHA is engaging as regards the Tamar Campaign were undertaken, meeting with representatives of the Church Resource Centre Against Violence and Sexual Abuse in Oslo, Norway, as well as meetings with various church leaders and staff members of the Norwegian Church Aid. The visit to Norway and the various engagements with the different stakeholders in the country was an opportunity to not only network, but also showcase FECCLAHA’s work as regards Tamar Campaign. The Tamar Campaign was appreciated as a simple and effective methodology of breaking the silence on GBV, as well as, for behavioural and attitude change of norms that perpetuate GBV in the community.

### Participation at the Regional Youth Forum on Countering Violent Extremism, Freedom of Religion and Belief, Children and Youth Empowerment (August 2019)

FECCLAHA through Mukuru Youth Peace Clubs convener Mr. Samuel Odhiambo participated in the regional youth forum organized by Arigatou International- Nairobi, FECCLAHA collaborating partners. The forum brought together 43 youth (27 Female and 16 Male) from Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda to learn and share their work on countering Violent Extremism, Freedom of Religion and Belief as well as children and youth empowerment. During this forum, the youth were enlightened about freedom of religion and belief, using radio, photography and video scripts to highlight to the world the youth initiatives across the region. The forum also highlighted the 16 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and tasked each youth to identify the SDG’s their respective organizations are working towards. The lessons learnt from this forum will be cascaded to FECCLAHA Youth Peace Clubs in Mukuru.

### Participation in the Transatlantic Roundtable on Religion and Race International Conference (TRRR) by HIPSIR (July, 2019)

FECCLAHA showcased its work and engagement as regards ‘Women and Peace’ during the TRRR international Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya at the Hekima University College in July, 2019. This was an opportunity to learn, as well as show case its initiatives, achievements, and challenges with regard to the Regional Faith Women Mediators’ Network. Also present to show case their work were the Catholic Justice Peace Commission, Footprints for Change, and GIZ among others. FECCLAHA collaborates with Hekima University College under the Regional Peace Programme, providing research services.
Faith Leaders Consultative forum on ICPD25/Nairobi Summit at AACC, (August 2019)

FECCLAHA participated in the faith leaders’ consultative forum on ICPD25/Nairobi Summit. The consultation aimed at preparing religious communities ahead of the ICPD25/Nairobi Summit that was scheduled for November, 2019. It was anticipated that the Summit would offer an inclusive platform for a broad range of public and private sector stakeholders to engage on various issues outlined in the ICPD Programme of Action (PoA). The Faith Leaders’ Consultative Forum was aimed at consolidating the voice of the faith community as regards the ICPD/PoA. A section of faith representatives participated in the ICPD25/Nairobi Summit and presented a statement and participated in various panel discussions.

FECCLAHA participation in the ACT Kenya Forum (AKF) (August, 2019)

FECCLAHA is an active member of the ACT Kenya Forum and participates in its monthly meetings. FECCLAHA also took part in the ACT Kenya Forum (AKF) members’ retreat in August, 2019. A total number of 14 organisations were represented during the retreat; they included representatives from member organizations/churches, observers, as well as staff from the Regional ACT Alliance Office. In addition to understanding the history of the ACT Kenya Forum, members undertook a mapping process, with a view to map out areas and geographical areas of convergence. Three areas were identified as areas for Acting Together within the AKF: Climate Change Advocacy, Emergency/Humanitarian Support, as well as Capacity Building which is a cross-cutting need whose main focus will be strengthen the Forum. The AKF working Groups documented work plans which will guide the AKF engagements during the year. Leadership of the various working grouping was also identified and next-steps were agreed upon.
10 Ecumenical Network South Sudan (September 2019)

FECCLAHA is a member of the Africa Hub of the Ecumenical Network of South Sudan (ENSS). The Africa Hub is an important structure that provides space to not only receive updates on South Sudan and the ongoing peace process in the region; but also a platform to consolidate and coordinate accompaniment to the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) engagements for advocacy towards sustainable peace in the country. This year, FECCLAHA participated in various consultative meetings with a view to plan on coordinated and strategic accompaniment to the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC).

11 Participation in the establishment of Rapid Response Team (RRT) (September 2019)

FECCLAHA alongside other Regional Peace Programme partners (AACC, Hekima College and IPHRD- Africa) participated in a meeting organized by Africa Council of Religious Leaders (ACRL-RfP) on the establishment of the Rapid Response Team (RRT). From the meeting the criteria of selection of members of the team was developed and names to be members of this team were proposed. It is anticipated that the RRT will be a regional peace structure that will facilitate joint and coordinated response to conflicts in the region.

12 Participation in AACC Advocacy framework Workshops (November & December, 2019)

FECCLAHA participated in AACC Advocacy Framework workshops in Arusha and Nairobi. The workshops aimed at identifying, prioritizing, and consolidating the advocacy concerns in the region. FECCLAHA shared its experiences as regards advocacy on Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) in Arusha, Tanzania.

13 Regional Symposium on Good Practices in Combating SGBV in the Great Lakes Region in Kampala, Uganda (December, 2019)

FECCLAHA participated in a Regional Symposium for policy makers, researchers, practitioners, and the Regional Women Forum on Gender Based Violence (GBV) organized by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region – Regional Training Facility (ICGLR-RTF) in Kampala, Uganda. The symposium provided an opportunity to foster dialogue, learning and exchange between member states, key stakeholders and the wider community of practice engaged in prevention and response of gender-based violence (GBV). The platform provided spaces for regional learning, knowledge generation and exchange. It highlighted good practices, exchange on challenges experienced, as well as present and emerging evidence on what works to prevent and address GBV whilst learning from regional expertise as regards prevention and addressing of GBV. The Symposium also addressed the effectiveness of the implementation and domestication of ICGLR regional and international agreements and instruments in particular the Kampala Declaration on SGBV. The symposium provided FECCLAHA with an opportunity to further strengthen the partnership and networking with ICGLR – RTF and other civil society organisations in the field of GBV.

During a group discussion during the Regional Symposium on Good Practices in Combating SGBV in the Great Lakes Region.
Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building

Key Areas of interventions: FECCLAHA Strategic Plan 2019 – 2023 will focus on the following result areas:

a) Membership development
b) Executive committee capacity development
c) Staff Capacity development (Regional secretariat & members)
d) Sustainability (financial and technical)
e) Funding and Fundraising Strategy
f) Communication and Branding
g) Monitoring and Evaluation
h) Knowledge Development, Management & Learning.

Strategic Goal: Effective, efficient, and self-sustaining institution at the regional and national level.

This is an enabling strategic priority that seeks to refocus and streamline the structure, processes, management, resources, and abilities of the organisation in order to enable it better perform its tasks and responsibilities. This year, FECCLAHA celebrated 20 years since its official launch. This provided a platform to look back and envision FECCLAHA in the next 20 years.

FECCLAHA Commemorates 20 years from inception

This year marked 20 years since the inception of FECCLAHA as a regional ecumenical fellowship in the region. To celebrate this milestone, FECCLAHA held a special celebration in October, 2019 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Present during this celebration were members and partners some of whom have engaged with FECCLAHA since its inception. The officials that greatly contributed to its formation including Rev. Mutava Musyimi and Bishop Marini Bodho, the first Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of FECCLAHA were present to share the journey of FECCLAHA at inception. Also present were Rev. Canon Grace Kaiso and Mrs. Elizabeth Zimba Kisiigha who previously served as the Chairperson and Executive Director of FECCLAHA, respectively. They also recounted the milestones and achievements over the 20 years of existence. During a panel discussion, participants explained that FECCLAHA was born at a time of difficulty and FECCLAHA has been able to contribute to
the positive changes in the region. In envisioning FECCLAHA, panelist explained FECCLAHA ought to ensure that it remains relevant, dynamic, remain curious, and create a culture of learning.

The commemoration coincided with the official commissioning of FECCLAHA Strategic Plan (2019-2023) on 25th October, 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Strategic Plan was commissioned by Bishop Yonas Yigezu, the President of the Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) alongside FECCLAHA Outgoing Chairperson, Bishop Jean-Luc Kuye-Ndondo wa Mulemera. Peace Building and Conflict Transformation remains FECCLAHA’s core-mandate; other priority areas of focus include Governance and Accountability, Gender Justice, and Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building.

Bishop Yonas Yigezu, President of EECMY, alongside Bishop Kuye-Ndondo wa Mulemera officially commission FECCLAHA Strategic Plan.
FECCLAHA Governance Processes

FECCLAHA Outgoing Chairperson, Bishop Kuye-Ndondo wa Mulemera leads a prayer during the official handover to FECCLAHA incoming leadership. From right, Fr. William Biong (SCC) and Rev. Dr. Samuel Rugambage (CPR) are the incoming Vice-Chairperson and Chairperson of FECCLAHA respectively. Also in the picture are the Outgoing Vice-Chairperson, Rev. Bereket Kidane, Eritrea Orthodox Church, on the left. Looking on is Rev. Claver Bisanze (in the middle) the youth delegate from CPR.

FECCLAHA held its 15th General Assembly in October, 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. All members of FECCLAHA were present and comprised of the senior leadership of all FECCLAHA member councils and churches, as well as women and youth delegates. The General Assembly, being the supreme governing body of FECCLAHA, successfully ratified the Amended FECCLAHA Constitution, The Executive Committee Charter, the Trust Deed, as well as the Organogramme of FECCLAHA. The General Assembly also approved the new leadership of FECCLAHA, on retirement of the out-going leadership on rotational basis. The new Chairperson of FECCLAHA, is Rev. Dr. Samuel Rugambage (Secretary General of Protestant Council of Rwanda – CPR) and the Vice – Chairperson Rev. Fr. William Biong (Secretary General of SCC). FECCLAHA holds its General Assembly every two years.

Further, in line with FECCLAHA Constitution, FECCLAHA held two Executive Committee meetings in April and October, 2019. Along with other processes, the Executive Committee provided a space to review the Amended FECCLAHA Constitution (2017) and FECCLAHA Draft Trust Deed. The Executive Committee also approved FECCLAHA programme plans and budgets for the year 2020. The Committee also provided oversight to the recruitment and appointment of FECCLAHA new Executive Director, Ms. Jeannette Uwizeye. Ms. Uwizeye has vast knowledge on the region and a wide-range of experience in programme
work, having served in different capacities in FECCLAHA. Prior to her appointment she was heading the Peace Building and Conflict Transformation Programme. Ms. Uwizeye, succeeds Mrs. Elizabeth Zimba Kisiigha who is currently serving as the Regional Representative in Africa of the ACT Alliance.

The Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) held various meetings in April, October, and December, 2019. The PAC, currently comprised of five members with diverse skills in programming and finance, is an important structure within FECCLAHA as it provides technical support to FECCLAHA Secretariat programmes. This year, the PAC played a critical role in providing technical expertise in shaping and conceptualizing the focus of Regional Ecumenical Forum – 2019. In addition to this, one of the PAC members provided skills to the Executive Committee on how to strategically engage with partners.

FECCLAHA has also held various bilateral engagements with funding and collaborating partners throughout the year. This has strengthened these partnerships and programme work within the organization. FECCLAHA held a Partners’ round table in October, 2019, with a view to present the new Strategic Plan (2019-2023) as well as share achievements of the previous Strategic Plan. In attendance were FECCLAHA funding and collaborating partners.
3  **FECLHAHA Participates in the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) General Assembly (August, 2019)**

In line with its mandate, FECLHAHA participated in the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) General Assembly that took place in August, 2019 at the Good Shepherd Peace Centre, Kit in South Sudan. The guiding theme of the Assembly was “The Power to Forgive-Healing message in the broken society in the spirit of Forgiveness in genuine confession and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us…” (Mathew 6:12). Participating in the General Assembly were SSCC member churches, partner organizations, and other key ecumenical partners in the region. In addition to listening to the progress report from various organs, including the General Secretary, elections of the new leadership of the SSCC was also held as well as a partners’ meeting. The Action Plan for Peace (APP) continues to be the key guiding document for the SSCC engagements in the country.

4  **Capacity Development to FECLHAHA member - Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) (May, 2019)**

In line with FECLHAHA’s Capacity Building programme for its members, FECLHAHA undertook a week long Financial Management & Reporting training for Sudan Councils of Churches (SCC) staff on 27th to 31st May 2019. The aim of the training was not only to enhance the capacity of SCC in financial management; but also ensure successful implementation of the Sudan Social Cohesion Project (funded by the Norwegian Church Aid – NCA) in which SCC and Sudan Inter-Religious Council (SIRC) are jointly implementing in South Sudan. In addition to reviewing SCC Financial management systems, policies, documents, and report and providing recommendations on areas of improvement; FECLHAHA Finance Manager trained SCC Officers on general financial management principles, Accrual versus...
Cash accounting, as well as budgeting and financial reporting. A total number of 6 officers (4 men and 2 women) from SCC, Ecumenical Relief Rehabilitation and Development Agency (ERRADA), and Sudan Inter-Religious Council (SIRC) participated in the training.

As a result of this training, it is anticipated that the SCC will effectively prepare the organizational budget and use the same to manage its finances in 2020; that the SCC will prepare its 2019 organisational financial report on accrual basis; as well as effectively implement the Sudan Social Cohesion project in partnership with the SIRC. FECCLAHA continues to accompany SCC and anticipates to undertake a follow up training on programme management and reporting; as well as facilitate greater exposure for SCC Finance and Administration Manager and Finance Officer to build their capacity and command of English language.

5 Capacity enhancement for FECCLAHA staff (May & July, 2019)

FECCLAHA facilitates sustained capacity enhancement for its staff. To this end, FECCLAHA undertook an in-house for FECCLAHA staff on Resource Mobilization and Networking in July 2019. The training aimed at equipping staff with skills and knowledge and deepening their understanding on Resource Mobilization and Networking. The training was timely as it came when FECCLAHA has just entered its new Strategic Direction (FECCLAHA Strategic Plan 2019-2023). The skills and knowledge acquired will enable FECCLAHA to diversify resources to include non traditional donors, ensures the continuation of the work and effective implementation of the FECCLAHA Strategic Plan 2019-2019 and promotes organizational sustainability. The in-house training was undertaken by CORAT Africa with the support of Bread for the World.

In addition to this, FECCLAHA facilitated the participation of one staff member in the ACT Security Course that took place in Nairobi, Kenya in May, 2019. The training focused on various topics including: humanitarian security, personal security, gender security, stress awareness & psychological first aid, threats to men, women, 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.

Further, in July, 2019 Kairos Canada undertook a capacity building workshop on financial and narrative reporting in the Kairos Canada Women, Peace, and Security Programme being implemented by the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) – National Women Programme. The workshop aimed at enhancing collaboration and partnership between KAIROS Canada and its partners in South Sudan and Eastern DRC as well as create spaces for interactions, learning and experience sharing. It also successfully enhanced the capacity of FECCLAHA, SSCC, and Héritier de la Justice to prepare narrative and financial reports effectively.

Programme and Finance Personnel from SCC, Héritier de la Justice (DRC), and FECCLAHA who are engaged in the implementation of the Women of Courage Programme funded by Kairos Canada during the capacity building workshop in Nairobi, Kenya (July, 2019).
CAPTIONS

1: Rev. Thomas Stephan of Bread for the World takes a picture with youth and woman delegate from (left) Sudan Council of Churches (SCC), Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY), Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC), and Church of Christ in Congo (ECC-Sud Kivu).

2: Mama Agnes Wasuk, SSCC - National Women Programme Coordinator shares her views in plenary during the REF-2019.

3: Partners from Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Consortium of Christian Relief and Development Association (CCRDA), and World Council of Churches (WCC) during FECLAHHA Regional Ecumenical Forum (REF) – 2019.

4: Mama Suzan Bugano, Woman Delegate from the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC-Sud Kivu) shares her remarks during FECLAHHA 15th General Assembly-2019.

5: Bishop Kuye-Nbondo wa Mulemera, FECLAHHA Out-going Chairperson, receives a gift from the EECMY.

FECCCLAHA Members of the Executive Committee (2019)

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African Council of Religious Leaders (ACRL-Rfp)
Africa Peace Forum (APFO)
All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC)
Arigatou International – Kenya
Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA)
Bread for the World
Building Eastern Africa Community Network (BEACON)
Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives (KAIROS Canada)
Christian Aid
Church of Sweden (CoS)
Control Arms Coalition
Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa (CAPA)
Diakonia Sweden – Kenya
DKA Austria
Dan Church Aid (DCA)
East African Action Network on Small Arms (EAANSA)
Ecumenical HIV & AIDS Initiative in Africa (WCC-EHAIA)
Finn Church Aid (FCA)
Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (HIPSIR)
International Centre for Peace, Human Rights, and Development in Africa (IPHRD-Africa)
International Conference on the Great Lakes Region – Regional Training Facility (ICGLR-RTF)
Inter Church Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO)
International Movement for Catholic Students (IMCS)
Life and Peace Institute (LPI)
Mukuru Slums Development Project (MSDP)
Nairobi Peace Initiative (NPI)-Africa
Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
Norwegian Centre for Conflict Resolution (NOREF)
Oxfam International
Programme for Christian Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA)
Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSA)
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The Christian Organization Research and Advisory Trust of Africa (CORAT-Africa)
World Council of Churches (WCC).