Greetings of peace!

After 14 months in Juba, South Sudan working with Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) I have resumed my duties at FECLLAHA Secretariat. I would like to thank the youth for their continuing efforts towards sustainable peace in their communities and also thank my colleagues at FECLLAHA Secretariat especially Monica W. Njoroge and Richard Ndayambaje who kept the programme running while I was away.

As I interact with young people I realise that they understand their concerns and the root causes of these issues. I also realise that young people are powerful, skilled and have a lot of untapped potentials. I see that if these skills could be put to positive use the young people would be in a better place ready to take charge of their destiny. Unfortunately, most seem to have lost hope; they have settled for less believing that there is nothing they can do to change their situation.

Young people are very powerful and highly talented. God has gifted them with energy and innovative skills and if these gifts and talents are not used for the betterment of society it will be the other way around they will use the same to destroy what could have been the foundation for their future. (1Cor.12:4-11).

Young people need to be proactive and seek out the change they want to see in their communities and society. Youth have to take responsibility and take the first step in seeking to resolve these concerns. They have to articulate these concerns and seek out solutions to them. The youth are a big part of the solutions needed in the community.

I welcome you to this new issue, January—June, 2013. We focus on experiences and stories on formation of Youth Peace Clubs in Mukuru, Nairobi, Kenya and the Organisation for Young Christians for Development (OJCD) in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

I urge the youth to use this newsletter as an inspiration tool and as one of the avenues to share their ideas and experiences as this will enhance their knowledge and exposure and encourage one another.

The youth are builders and not destroyers, they are Peace Makers and Peace Ambassadors and not trouble makers, they are the current leaders of today and not tomorrow. Youth position yourself as the Lord has plans to bring about the future you hope for—“Jeremiah 29: 11”. Thank you and many blessings!

By Jeannette Uwizeye,
Regional Officer—Youth Peace Building Programme
Youth Peace Clubs in Mukuru, Nairobi, Kenya
FECCLAHA initiative in collaboration with National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK) and Mukuru Slum Development Projects (MSDP)

Mukuru Peace Clubs is a one year project funded by DKA Austria (Development Agency Cooperation of the Catholic Church of Austria).

The overall goal of Peace clubs is to strengthen the role of youth as peace builders (ambassadors) through illustrating their unique power and untapped potential, creating spaces for learning and sharing and strengthen their capacity in peace building and conflict transformation.

FECCLAHA is working in partnership with NCCK and MSPD for the implementation of this project. In this regard, on 20th and 21st June and 26th to 28th June 2013 in partnership with MSDP and NCCK, FECCLAHA organized and facilitate two trainings for youth in Mukuru area on establishment of Youth Peace clubs. Mukuru slum where MSDP has been carrying out some work at the community levels has about 15 villages, however it was divided into 6 clusters to facilitate coordination of Youth Peace Clubs. These are Lunga Lunga, Kwa Njenga, Reuben, Hazina, South B and Kayaba. The total number of participants who completed the two trainings was 53 (23 female and 30 male). The targeted peace clubs within Mukuru area are 15.

The output of the two trainings (5 days in total) was that skills and knowledge of participants in peace building and conflict transformation, peace clubs formation and management, group dynamics, leadership, advocacy and lobby, governance and devolution were enhanced.

Further, a number of participants confessed change of their attitude. For instance, Japhet Wandolo, one of the participants said “After these trainings, I am going home a different person”.

Youth leaders came up with plans of action which provide them with a clear road map that will lead them towards change they desire in their communities and this will be done through Youth Peace Clubs.
OJCD ACTIVITIES: ANDREW-PHILIP OPERATION

Organisation of Young Christians for Development (OJCD) held a two-day training session on 19 and 20th May 2013 in Goma (DRC). The theme was «Peaceful Resolution of Conflict in Eastern DRC».

The meeting drew together 60 young people from the provinces of Nord-Kivu (Sub-Districts of Nyiragongo, Mugunga and the town of Goma) and Sud-Kivu (Kalehe/Mukwidja (27 young women and 33 young men).

The overall objective of the OJCD training was to reach out to all social strata with a message of peace through a strategy dubbed “Andrew-Philip Operation” (John 1:43-45) which seek to call young people to become ambassadors of peace and call others to follow their steps.

Also the training sought to familiarise the OJCD Youth with the principles of conflict analysis.

The specific objectives were to:
- Learn how to apply conflict resolution principles.
- Consider the various aspects and contexts of conflict in our environment.
- Consider which actions have made progress and which ones have not, in the whole context of war in the east of DRC.
- Engage the youth in the work of transforming the society, since they are important stakeholders.

Some of the challenge that OJCD is facing:

Insecurity prevailing in this part of the province continues to prevent OJCD from reaching out to other young people living in rural areas.

ECCLAHA Regional Youth Peace Building Programme accompanied OJCD to carry out this particular activity.

OJCD EXPANDING ITS AREAS OF OPERATION: FROM NORTH KIVU TO SOUTH KIVU

While I was working in South Sudan, Juba with the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) from February 2012 to April 2013 I got the opportunities to interact with young people. I learnt that even though the context might be different, most of the challenges that young people are facing are similar.

For promotion of healing and reconciliation, youth in South Sudan engage in activities such as football and competitions. These activities bring together youth from different ethic groups which enhances cohesion.
Youth from Mukuru Slum who attended the Youth Leaders Trainings on Peace Building and Conflict Transformation in June 2013 at Mukuru Slum Development Projects Skills Training Centre in Lunga Lunga, Nairobi, Kenya

Youth in groups discussions at Mukuru Slum Development Projects Skills Training Centre, in Lunga Lunga on 28th June 2013

DKA/eRko Support Office Executive Director Ms. Jane Akach together with Mr. Philemon Okeyo, FECLLAHA Finance and Administration Manager present a certificate of participation to one of the participants. Looking on is Ms. Uwizeye.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- International Peace Day, 21 September 2013
- FECLLAHA Regional Ecumenical Forum, October 2013, Uganda
FECCCLAHA PROFILE

The Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCCLAHA) is a religious body that consists of churches and church councils in the region. It was formally launched in March 1999 and registered in Kenya in February 2001.

It is a forum for fostering solidarity and ecumenical collaboration among its membership and seeks to address issues of common concern, particularly with regard to conflict transformation and peace building.

FECCCLAHA’s Vision is the creation of communities that are all inclusive, harmonious, and living an abundant life in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa.

FECCCLAHA’s Mission is to enhance peace and reconciliation in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa by facilitating ecumenical cooperation and fellowship within the framework of holistic Christian ministry.

FECCCLAHA Membership

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

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