Summary Report of the Training of Trainers’ Workshop on Youth Peace Building, Civic Education and Election Observation

Held at CAP-Nguba, Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) from 26th to 30th July 2011
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Objectives
The workshop sought to achieve the following objectives:
1. To facilitate youth reflections and exploration of the opportunities available for peace building and conflict transformation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Great Lakes Region;
2. To stimulate the youth to identify innovative and creative ways of undertaking ecumenical youth peace work in the DRC and the Great Lakes region;
3. To heighten awareness of young people on their rights and duties as citizens for them to make an informed choice in electoral processes; and
4. To capacitate the youth in civic and voter education and election observation for effective accompaniment of the electoral process in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Topics Covered
The following topics were covered during the workshop:
1. Ecumenical Youth Peace building
   - The Place of Youth in Society: The Rationale for Youth Peace Building and Conflict Transformation;
   - Ecumenical Youth Peace Building: Prospects and Opportunities; and
   - Avenues for Youth Peace Work in North and South Kivu Provinces.
2. The Electoral Cycle
   - The Role of the Youth in Accompanying the Electoral Process.
4. Civic and Voter Education
5. Election Observation
   - Election Observation: Rationale and Guidelines;
   - Monitoring and Reporting of Incidents of Electoral Violence and Malpractices;
   - Long Term Observation Versus Short Term Election Observation; and
   - Preliminary Statement and Election Observation Report.
**Beneficiaries**

20 young men and women from Goma, Kiwanja, Masisi and Rutshuru in North Kivu Province and Bukavu, Bunyakiri, Idjwi, Luvungi (Ruzizi Plains), Mwenga, Kalonge and Uvira in South Kivu Province of the DRC. There were 10 young women and 10 young men.

**The Rationale for the Workshop in Eastern DRC**

In its youth in peace building programme, FECCLAHA seeks to transform youth into peace ambassadors and peace builders by equipping them with necessary skills that would enable them to participate and contribute towards peace work and peace processes in their communities at the national as well as the regional level and beyond. FECCLAHA also seeks to provide a forum for youth to share ideas, experiences, reason together and also learn from one another.

The workshop was timely: it took place during a time when the DRC is preparing for Presidential and National Assembly elections set for 28th November 2011. Eastern DRC was the focus area given the current situation. The region has experienced protracted conflicts due to various reasons (internal and external). 60% of the population of the DRC are young people. Therefore if we are able to mobilize young people for peaceful elections then this will contribute towards peace and stability in the Eastern DRC and the whole country before, during and after the elections.

From the discussions and sharing, it was obvious that there is need for intensive civic and voter education in the country. The participants had a privilege to interact with an officer in charge of Civic and Voter Education in the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) Regional Office in Bukavu. They were able to ask questions on all aspects of the electoral process in the country.

The workshop provided an opportunity for learning, experience sharing and sensitization. The sharing of experience by rehabilitated child soldiers informed the participants on their plight. Participants were also moved by the sharing of testimonies by survivors of sexual violence. The workshop brought together young people from various localities in North and South Kivu Provinces. This helped young people to get to know each other, what others are doing and also what they can replicate in their areas or undertake jointly.
Outcomes

Through the workshop:

- Young people gained knowledge, competencies and skills in ecumenical youth peace building, civic and voter education and the observation of the electoral process;
- Young people were determined to unite and work together as they engage in: advocacy for a peaceful electoral process, civic and voter education and other societal engagements;
- Young people gave commitment to unite across the ethnic divide and work for peace through reaching out to political parties and groups that use violence in political disputes with the aim of resolving the disputes and assuring a peaceful election;
- Young people were able to discuss and find out some of the opportunities for peace building within their localities including opportunities that could be exploited without sourcing resources from outside. They realised that they could do much through their own efforts and local resources. There were also some other opportunities that would require external support;
- Young people identified some of the groups and other actors with whom they can work with for peace. These include: the church, women and youth groups, community based groups, the civil society and the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI); and
- Young people are determined to pool their resources and work together. They appreciate the synergy in working together with other ecumenical youth groups and youth from other religious traditions so that they can advocate for some of the issues that need support beyond their national borders. It is in this regard that they are determined to exploit existing opportunities and reach out, mobilise and sensitize fellow young people for peaceful elections through civic and voter education.

Participants gave commitment to undertake the following activities:

- Sensitization: Undertake civic and voter education through: organisation of cultural events such as concerts, songs and skits in church; youth meetings at church; and
mobilizing youth at school especially high schools, colleges and university around a specific activity;

- Reach out to the groups that are likely to cause trouble during the electoral process such as: the Mayi Mayi, Les FNDER (an outlawed group of young people), Armee Rouge and the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR);

- Use the media (the radio and television) to pass the message of peace with an emphasis on civic and voter education hence call upon youth to come out and exercise their democratic rights in a peaceful way;

- Share the acquired knowledge with youth from their neighbourhood and all that they are able to reach; and

- Get involved in following up the developments in the electoral process including in the verification of the voter register and in observing the elections.

**Way Forward**

- Between August and November 2011, the young people will be involved in intensive civic and voter education among the youth and timely reports will be send to the FECCLAHA Secretariat;

- FECCLAHA will ensure the 20 young people will be part of its Ecumenical Election Observation Team to the Presidential and National Assembly elections set for 28th November 2011; and

- FECCLAHA will follow up on the progress made by the youth and provide them with necessary information and technical support in their peace work.
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Tuesday 26th July</th>
<th>Wednesday 27th July 2011</th>
<th>Thursday 28th July 2011</th>
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<tr>
<td>08.30-09.15</td>
<td>Opening Prayer and Reflection</td>
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| 09.15-10.30  | Ice Breaking and Climate Setting  
  - Introductions;  
  - Expectations; and  
  - Workshop Norms.  
  Workshop Objectives & Orientation to the programme | Presentation IV: Ecumenical Youth Peace Building: Prospects and Opportunities  
Jeannette Uwizeye/ Pasteur Ghislain  
Bafunyembaka/ COORDSIDH | Presentation VII: Election Observation: Rationale and Guidelines  
Mutua Mulonzya |
| 10.30-11.00  | Health Break | Health Break | Health Break |
| 11.00-11.30  | Presentation I: The Place of Youth in Society:  
The Rationale for Youth Peace Building and Conflict Transformation  
  - Experience Sharing from Rehabilitated Child Soldiers | Group Discussion: Mobilizing Young People for Peace | Election Observation: Long Term Observation Versus Short Term Observation  
Mutua Mulonzya |
| 11.30-12.00  | The Rationale for Youth Peace Building and Conflict Transformation  
Jeannette Uwizeye | Group Work Report Presentation and Plenary Discussion | Group Work Report Presentation and Plenary Discussion |
| 12.00-13.00  | Group Discussion: Avenues for Youth Peace Work in North and South Kivu Provinces  
Group Work Report: Presentation and Plenary Discussion | Presentation V: Civic and Voter Education  
Mutua Mulonzya | Reporting: Preliminary Statement and Election Observation Report  
Mutua Mulonzya |
| 13.00-14.00  | Lunch Break | Lunch Break | Lunch Break |
| 14.00-15.00  | Presentation II: Electoral Cycle  
Mutua Mulonzya | Presentation VI: Monitoring and Reporting of Incidents of Electoral Violence and Malpractices  
Mutua Mulonzya | Closing Session  
Evaluation |
| 15.00-16.00  | Presentation III: The Legal Framework for Elections: Electoral System and Electoral laws/legislation in the Democratic Republic of Congo  
Mr. Lungumbu Gustave, Civic and Voter Education Officer, Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) Bukavu | Group Discussion: The Role of the Youth in Accompanying the Electoral Process | |
| 16.00-16.30  | Health Break | Health Break | |
| 16.30-17.00  | Plenary Discussion | Group Discussion (continues) | |
| 17.00        | Free | Free | |

**Programme of the Training of Trainers’ Workshop on Youth Peace Building, Civic Education and Election Observation  
26th to 30th July 2011, Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**