FECCCLAHA YOUTH IN PEACE BUILDING PROGRAMME

Youth Programme
The youth are an active majority of the population in the FECCCLAHA constituency. Therefore, FECCCLAHA has made efforts towards mainstreaming Youth within its programmes. This is towards striving to provide a forum that will foster solidarity and ecumenical collaboration among its membership and address commons concerns, particularly in regard to conflict and peace building.

The Youth Peace Building Programme started in 2005 with the aim of transforming the youth into ‘Peace ambassadors’. The youth are in most cases both victims and perpetrators of violence. Aware of this, and the contribution that they make towards peace and reconciliation in the region, the Youth Programme endeavors to equip them with necessary skills in order to contribute to peace building, conflict transformation and national healing.

Furthermore, young people have been in many cases left behind in discussions on socio-economic and political concerns in the region yet they are among the stakeholders. FECCCLAHA Youth Peace Building Programme seeks to provide youth with a forum for discussions, learning, and experience sharing as any efforts towards peace that exclude youth will bring no lasting peace.

Achievements
FECCCLAHA has carried out workshops in peace building and conflict transformation where youth from the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa Region have been trained. These are now in their communities training others on the same and spreading the message of peace.

In collaboration with National Councils of Churches and Churches a Regional Youth Focal points has been established to facilitate communication and coordination for youth activities in the region.

In 2009 Youth from FECCCLAHA consistency had an opportunity to interact with Church Leaders hence participated for the 1st time in FECCCLAHA General Assembly and FECCCLAHA Regional Ecumenical Forum.

FECCCLAHA has accompanied National Council in Elections process: Burundi, Sudan, Tanzania and Rwanda in 2010. In Burundi 68 young people from 17 Provinces of Burundi were trained in Elections Observation process and Good Governance and accountability. Peace was witnessed in countries that held elections and young people came out to exercise their rights peacefully.

A pilot Project on Peace clubs in Secondary schools in Nairobi, Kenya was initiated. It is under going evaluation and review in order to draw lessons leaned and to be able to take it to other FECCCLAHA members.

FECCCLAHA Youth desk is networking with other organizations such as All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (IC/GLR), Africa Council for Religious Leaders (ACRL) among others.

Inside this issue:
Youth Programme 1
Achievements 1
FECCCLAHA Membership 2
The FECCCLAHA Youth in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa 2
Networking 3
FECCCLAHA Profile 4
Upcoming events 4

Youth from Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda in group discussion, Nairobi, September 2009
The FECCLAHA Youth in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa

BURUNDI
Burundi held its elections in 2010 and this went on well and young people exercised their rights and peacefully. Youth who were trained under FECCLAHA facilitation in Elections processes trained other young people back home in this process and mostly importantly emphasized on the importance of being peaceful throughout the exercise.

DRC
Youth in DRC are involved in creating awareness on the issues of Small Arms and Light weapon (SALWs). Many young people are being recruited in the rebel army including those in national army hence have access to arms. Within the demobilization process not all arms are being returned.
There is a suicidal phenomenon where young people who work in diamond mines acquire arms to protect themselves against any aggression and this has led to increasing level of crimes in the region.
Young people are also involved in evangelization hence reach out to other people with the Word of God.

KENYA
A number of projects/ initiatives have been established to empower youth economically, in leadership and coexistence. These include: Pesa Zetu Haki Yetu (Our money our rights) which is aimed at creating awareness on devolved funds to community members; SMEP (Small and Micro–Enterprise Project) an economic empowerment project that aims at giving loans to young people for entrepreneurial ventures thus promoting the culture of self help among the youth, and Jirani Mwema Project (Good Neighbour) a project on healing and reconciliation which facilitates inter and intra community dialogue forums.
Others include Gender and Governance programme aimed at building female gender capacity to effectively participate in the constitution review process; Anti corruption project, which is about empowering communities on the issues of corruption and enhancing their involvement in the fight against the vice. The youth are also trained on how to participate in the fight against corruption. These initiatives are a demonstration that youth participated peacefully in referendum on Constitution in 2010.

RWANDA
In Rwanda, under Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR), youth in churches are involved in healing and reconciliation activities. They come together for peace camps and carry out a number of activities for rebuilding the nation.

SUDAN
Sudan held peaceful general elections which were followed by a successful referendum.
Under the Theme for 2010: “Making better life happen for God’s Glory. John 10:10. Young people in Sudan played a key role in maintaining peace and security during that period. A number of activities were carried out: spiritual activities through evangelization, prayer, preparing youth for peaceful elections.
Sport Evangelism Empowerment (SEE) has been initiated with an aim of promoting peaceful coexistence and also helps to reach out to young people and bring them to Jesus Christ.
The FECCLAHA Youth in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa

UGANDA

Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC) upholds and values the young people, and believes in them as vital entry points in effecting socio-political and economic change. Thus, the Secretariat runs a fully-fledged department that deals with youth activities as well as children, family and People with Disabilities. All other departments within UJCC like Ecumenism, Peace Building and Conflict Resolution, Democracy, Good Governance and Human Rights, and Education, all work in collaboration with the central Youth Programme Officer to integrate the youth in their programmes. Youth activities are therefore part and parcel of the current UJCC strategic plan (2009 – 2011).

In peace building, under the Peace Village Programme, youth from the various ethnic, political and religious backgrounds are brought together to share experiences and interact as a way of breaking stereo types that people of different ethnic groups/tribes in Uganda associate with each other due to historical grievances. Trainings in peace building, conflict transformation and entrepreneurship are carried out and the youth sent back home as change agents. They then form peace groups in their localities. In addition, they are introduced to modern farming methods as a practical basis in the demonstration gardens of the peace village.

ETHIOPIA

Trainings for youth and communities are carried out on different aspects of peace building. They also explore some of the approaches of addressing conflicts.

Ethiopia held its elections in 2010 and we acknowledge the role of youth in maintaining peace.

TANZANIA

Young people in Tanzania came out in numbers to exercise their rights during general elections in 2010. Youth are also involved in peace building activities in their communities.

NETWORKING

FECCLAHA participated in various networking initiatives:

Youth from FECCLAHA constituency have been involved in collecting signatures for the petition ‘Arms Down Campaign for Shared Security’. This was launched in March 2010, Kigali, Rwanda. The campaign is rooted in the understanding that a safer world is one in which development, national security and respect for human rights are advanced simultaneously and in good faith. The campaign focuses on 3 major areas: a) stopping the proliferation and misuse of conventional weapons, in particularly small arms and landmines, and cluster bombs; b) reducing military expenditure by 10%, in order to advance the achievement of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015; c) abolishing nuclear weapons.

The target number was 50 million signatures which would be presented to the United Nations Secretary General, the permanent members of the Security Council, as well as to the Heads of State and Members of Parliament in concerned countries.

In September 2010, FECCLAHA participated in Youth for Peace Conference organized by All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC). The workshop brought together about 20 young men and women from West Africa, Central Africa, and East Africa. It was a forum for youth to share their experiences and also encourage one another and find ways in which youth can contribute towards lasting peace in their countries and Africa as a whole. Young people face common problems and one of the ways of addressing the same is by ensuring the youth engage in initiatives that would help them become self reliant, as this will reduce their vulnerability towards manipulation by individuals, and politicians with selfish interests.

FECCLAHA also works closely with IC/GLR, ACRL, and other organizations that are involved in the ministry of youth.
The Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA) 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.

**FECCLAHA’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.

**FECCLAHA’s Mission** is to enhance peace and reconciliation in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa by facilitating ecumenical cooperation and fellowship within the frame-

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Youth from Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Sudan, Kenya in a workshop on Peace building and Conflict Transformation in Nairobi

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Interfaith Religious Meeting: June, 2011, Nairobi, Kenya with one day youth reflection
- National training of trainers’ workshop for a domestic ecumenical election observation: July 2011, Democratic Republic of Congo (Bukavu)