FECLLAHA received its new Executive Director, Mrs. Elizabeth Zimba Kisiigha on the 1st May, 2012. Elizabeth, a Ugandan national and economist by profession, brings in a wealth of experience drawn from the ecumenical and corporate sector.

She spent her first month in office building and strengthening partnerships with various partners including All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Ecumenical HIV and Aids Initiative in Africa (EHAIA), Christian Aid, Finn Church Aid, DKA Support office in Nairobi, among others. Mrs. Kisiigha replaces Mr. Fred Nyabera who has served in FECLLAHA for seven years.

This marks the 4th year since FECLLAHA in partnership with Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) have carried out “Together for a Just World Exchange Programme”. The aim of the Exchange Programme is to promote mutual exchange of knowledge, experiences and skills amongst organisations sending and/or receiving participants. Among others, the exchange programme also aims at establishing south-south cooperation networks regionally and globally within strategic thematic programmes.

The programme has three main thematic areas of focus which are climate justice, gender justice, and economic justice. FECLLAHA falls under the gender justice theme which mainly aims at building capacity on UN SCR 1325 among participating organisations and their constituencies; introduction of Tamar Campaign as a tool for churches to address gender based violence; and creation of a resource competence on gender and peace in the regions.

For this year, FECLLAHA is hosting Richard Ndayambaje coming to us from Rwanda, one of the member countries of FECLLAHA. Serving within the Gender and Youth Desk, Ndayambaje describes the last five months as life changing with exciting and positive challenges.

The exchange has offered him an opportunity to acquire technical and leadership skills and a cross cultural learning with an enhanced awareness about developmental issues. He is also currently learning Kiswahili which is going a long way in enhanced his cross cultural understanding helping him gain greater tolerance, understanding, and appreciation of other cultures.
Celine Bankumuhari, FECCLAHA’s Regional Human Security Coordinator, attended a training on “Emerging Threats to Human Security in Africa (ETHSA)” facilitated by the African Centre for Peace and Security Training (ACPST) and hosted by Institute for Security Studies (ISS). The workshop which took place from 6th to 18th May, 2012 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia focused mainly on: Climate change and Human Security; Piracy; Cyberspace security; Migration; Prioritizing security policies; Elections and Human Security; Electoral Violence in African Politics; Terrorism; The Counter-terrorism toolkit; Developing the Counter-terrorism strategic plans; and Drug trafficking.

This workshop was valuable as it not only facilitated for a deeper understanding of Human Security issues in Africa but also enhanced the knowledge of the different actors, mechanisms in place or envisaged and the targeted sector for the same. It also facilitated for alliance building with key organisations in the region such as Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in our search for research based evidence for FECCLAHA’s programming. The training also enhanced FECCLAHA’s ability to connect with key actors both at regional level, continental, and international level who were from diverse backgrounds including military, diplomats, inter governmental Organisations among others.

As FECCLAHA embarks on the process of designing the organization’s new strategic plan, the course accords the organisation a window of opportunity to assess its grasp on emerging issues. This will ensure that these are aligned to our programmed with the aim to remain relevant to our constituencies and region, as well as the organisation’s ability to deliver on the same.

We wish to congratulate Celine Siro for having been selected as a participant amidst hundreds of applications from all over the continent. As a result of her participation, she has been registered as an Alumni of ACPST and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) with the ability to access the institution’s library.
ICCO Alliance Partners Workshop

FECCLAHA joined other partners of ICCO at a workshop that was held on 20th – 22nd May, 2012 at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT). Among others, the main aim of the partners’ workshop was to create a platform for all stakeholders to draw linkages and engage with the organization’s strategic plan which will be running from 2011 – 2015. The partners were also introduced to the new ICCO Alliance members, which has formed a cooperative in the Netherlands and which will be piloted for one year (February, 2012 to February, 2013).

The partners were also given the opportunity to interact with the Regional Working Group, formerly the ICCO Regional Office in Uganda, on its various programme areas of focus.

Conflict Transformation and Democratization (CT&D) is the area of collaboration between ICCO and FECCLAHA. Therefore, this workshop gave FECCLAHA the opportunity to engage with ICCO on the following concerns on Conflict Transformation and Democratization:

- Accompanying Kenya in the upcoming General Elections;
- Working with its members to engage duty bearers on Electoral reforms and promote Constitutionalism;
- Lobby and advocate for transparency and accountable governance;
- Undertake initiatives to address Small Arms Proliferation across borders;
- Advocate for enactment and review of laws pertaining to Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs);
- Advocate for the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs).

FECCLAHA remains seized with the concerns on the upcoming General Elections in Kenya. Therefore the workshop gave FECCLAHA an opportunity to draw possible partnerships with other Civil Society Organisations on the same.

Humanitarian Accountability Partnership Workshops by Christian Aid

FECCJALA, together with 11 Christian Aid partners from different regions within Kenya, have participated in a series of workshops on the Humanitarian Accountability and Partnership (HAP) that took place Nairobi, Kenya.

The objectives of the workshops were, among others to learn the term accountability and its impact on the leadership policy and to learn how to conduct self reflection and assessment, that is, the formal process of assessing an organisation; how an organisation can reflect on themselves and make themselves vulnerable to be critiqued. The workshops also facilitated for discussions on best practices and identification of gaps in reaching the commitments to target communities.

As a result of this, FECCLAHA carried out an internal self assessment where a questionnaire was sent out to all staff. The aim of the survey was to understand FECCLAHA staff’s perception on how FECCLAHA works in relation to its standards and the implementation of the programmes. The internal survey, it was anticipated, would facilitate for FECCLAHA setting out accountability goals in order to improve on accountability in the future. Accountability in the questionnaire referred to the right to say for members and the duty to respond for FECCLAHA. The survey was structured as guided by the HAP accountability benchmarks:

- Establishing and delivering on key commitments;
- Staff competency;
- Information sharing
- Participation
- Complaints handling
- Continuous Improvement.

Humanitarian Accountability and Partnership (HAP) process is timely given that the organisation is currently reviewing various policy manuals.

This is because it not only gives opportunity to articulate and reinforce the good practice that has been happening within the organisation, but points out on weak areas that need strengthening and existing gaps crippling implementation and smooth running of the organisation. Efforts are underway to facilitate sharing this knowledge amongst ourselves as staff members and with the member councils of churches.
Training on Sustainability workshop by DKA/eRko

FECCCLAHA staff attended a rich and empowering workshop on sustainability that was hosted by DKA/eRko Support office one of FECCCLAHA partners. The workshop covered various topics which include resource mobilization, fundraising, internal control systems, organizational finance and budgeting, financial sustainability, program sustainability, business income generation among others. The staff acquired knowledge and skills in Financial and Programme sustainability, in addition to strengthening the working relationship with the organisation. Additionally, FECCCLAHA gained access to tools that it can employ in assessing its level sustainability. As a result, the staff developed an action plan in endeavoring to implement immediate and medium term learnings from the workshop. These include:

- Carrying out a Resource Audit;
- Undertaking Internal Control Assessment;
- Establish a Data Back Up System;
- Review the Sustainability of Current Programmes;
- Develop a Resource Mobilization Strategy;
- Develop a Sustainability Plan;
- Develop a Reserve Fund Policy;
- Set up a Reserve Fund.

We believe that the above actions plan will greatly contribute positively to the future plans and growth of the organisation.

News from Members

Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) Women Consultative Forum

In collaboration with Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) South Sudan, Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) organized a 3 day Consultative Forum from 12 to 14 June 2012 in Juba. The consultative forum brought together women from Equatoria Region, Upper Nile Region and Bhar el Ghazal Region.

The participant consisted of a mixture of women who were previously employed as coordinators of the Women Desk before the same was downsized and the women currently involved in reactivating the national programme.

The aim of the consultative forum was to facilitate for involvement of women from SCC in the reactivation process of the women programme and reflect through a strategic plan to kick start the programme.

The participants were drawn from SCC members, these are, the Catholic Church, Episcopal Church of Sudan, Presbyterian Church of South Sudan, Sudan Interior Church, and Africa Inland Church.
Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA)

1st Floor, Old Administration Building,
Nairobi Baptist Church,
Off Ngong Road,
Nairobi, Kenya

Phone: +254 020 2728289/2730270
Fax: +254 020 2721626
E-mail: info@feclaha.org
www.fecclaha.org

FECLAAHA VISION:
The creation of communities that are inclusive, harmonious, and living an abundant life in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa

FECLAAHA MISSION:
To enhance peace and reconciliation in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa by facilitating ecumenical cooperation and fellowship within the framework of holistic Christian Ministry.

FECLAAHA VALUES:
- Human Dignity
- Compassion
- Justice
- Peace

Upcoming Events

15th August, 2012 to 17th August, 2012

12th September, 2012 to 14th September, 2012

Gender Dimensions in Small Arms: Entebbe, Uganda
27th August, 2012 to 31st August, 2012

Regional Youth Consultation: Nairobi, Kenya
25th September, 2012 to 27th September, 2012

An Assessment visit/meeting for Small Arms and Light Weapons work: South Sudan
September, 2012

Roundtable on SALW and emerging human security in the region: Nairobi, Kenya
October, 2012

Gender Focal Point Consultative Forum: Nairobi, Kenya
November, 2012

16 Days of Activism Against Violence on Women
November/December 2012