FECLAHA has embarked on a strategic planning process which will cover a five years period from 2014 to 2018. As this is a participatory process, FECLAHA held a strategic planning workshop hosting representatives from member Councils and Churches and partners. In attendance were representatives from Sudan Council of Churches (SCC), National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT), Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC), Church of Christ in Congo (ECC), National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB), and the Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR). Also in attendance were partners including DKA/eRKo Nairobi Support Office and Church of Sweden. The workshop took place from 7th to 10th May, 2013 at Rosa Mystica Spiritual Centre, in Nairobi, Kenya. This process is ongoing and at its final stage.

FECLAHA Strategic Plan 2009-2013 Evaluation Process

FECLAHA undertook an evaluation of the strategic plan (2009-2013) during February to April, 2013. The evaluation was undertaken in some member councils which are the National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB), the Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR), Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY), and Sudan Council of Churches (SCC). The evaluation was largely aimed at assessing progress towards achieving the strategic plan objectives, determining the relevance and effectiveness of strategies and programme approaches, identifying obstacles and areas of improvement in implementation of programmes, and making recommendations towards addressing emerging programmatic and organisational issues. The findings and recommendations have greatly contributed to the ongoing strategic planning process.

Executive Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee meeting took place on 4th April, 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In attendance were Rev. Dr. Leonard Mtaita – Chairperson of FECLAHA, Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT); Rev. Fr. Dr. Silvester Arinaitwe Rwomukubwe A.J., Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC); Rev. Mark Akec Cien, Sudan Council of Churches (SCC); and Rev. Dereje Jemberu, Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) and Mrs. Elizabeth Z. Kisiigha (Executive Director, FECLAHA) and Mr. Philemon Okeyo (Finance and Administration Manager, FECLAHA). The meeting was coupled with a solidarity visit to Ethiopia.
Mr. Primo Andrea Wani from South Sudan joins FECCLAHA this year under the Just World Exchange Programme funded by the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA). Mr. Wani, who is representing FECCLAHA member in South Sudan, Sudan Council of Churches (SCC), is attached to the Tamar and Youth desk within the organisation and will be serving until the end of the year, 2013.

Related to this, Ms. Jeannette Uwizeye, who had been seconded to work in South Sudan at the Sudan Council of Churches under this programme completed her placement and has since resumed her duties in FECCLAHA. Ms. Uwizeye, served with SCC for fourteen months and was attached to the National Women Programme in the organisation. Her work in SCC greatly contributed to the strengthening of the National Women’s Desk within the Council.

The Just World Exchange Programme provides space for exchange of knowledge and skills. FECCLAHA has hosted six participants from Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda, and South Sudan and seconded a total of seven participants to Norway, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Burundi since 2008, when the programme was introduced in the organisation.

FECCLAHA Acquires a Motor Vehicle

With the support from one of our partners, Church of Sweden, FECCLAHA has purchased a motor vehicle. On 19th June, 2013, the motor vehicle was blessed by Rev. Fr. Evangelos Thiani, the Deputy Vicar General of the Greek Orthodox Church of Kenya. In attendance were FECCLAHA staff and a team from the Church. This is a great achievement for the organisation and will greatly ease movements within Kenya.

Capacity Building Workshop on Participative Community Project Development

The workshop largely focused on the various tools that would enhance participation of the community through all phases of the project cycle: that is, initiation, planning, execution/implementation (which includes monitoring and controlling), and evaluation when developing and implementing projects. The mode of delivery all through the three day training was largely role plays; which was with the aim that the participants would then replicate the lessons and methodologies learnt in planning and executing projects.

Just World Exchange Programme—2012/2013

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**Mukuru Slums Youth Peace Clubs**

FECLAH Regional Youth Peace Building programme which aims at empowering youth to become “ambassadors of peace” in the region, is undertaking a project on Youth Peace Clubs in partnership with Mukuru Slum Development Project (MSDP) and National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK) in Mukuru Slum. 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 strengthening their capacity in peace building and conflict transformation. Through Peace Clubs FECLAH seeks to initiate and support activities and processes of creating a mass of young peace and justice workers through Peace Clubs. The target group is young male and female from Mukuru slum. In order to facilitate coordination and monitoring of Youth Peace Clubs in Mukuru area, which has 15 villages, has been classified into 6 clusters (Lunga Lunga, Kwa Njenga, Reuben, Hazina, South B and Kayaba). The targeted number of Youth Peace clubs is fifteen (15).

FECLAH has undertaken two trainings for the youth club leaders: a two-day orientation & consultative training and three-day training on peace-building and conflict transformation. These trainings sought to empower the youth with knowledge and skills in peace building and conflict transformation and formation and running of youth peace clubs. It is anticipated that the youth peace clubs will:

- Create spaces for critical thinking about issues of peace and justice in society and their locality;
- Enhance the youth creative and spiritual resources in responding to issues of peace and justice;
- Deepen the youth understanding about their own health and well-being as instruments of peace;
- Encourage and facilitate the youth to directly participate in activities and actions that, however small, translate their knowledge and beliefs into peaceful social change.

After forming the clubs, the youth are expected to have regular gatherings that are carefully facilitated, where ideas and information on peace and justice can be shared in a simple, creative, and participatory way. To directly participate in community activities that responds to urgent need. This will include, environmental conservation, domestic violence, drug abuse among others. It is anticipated that the youth peace clubs model will be replicated in other countries in region.

**Solidarity Visit to Ethiopia/EECMY:**

FECLAH Executive Committee accompanied by the Executive Director and the Finance and Administration Manager made a solidarity visit to Addis, Ababa, Ethiopia. This was hosted by FECLAH member in Ethiopia the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY). The objectives of the visit included:

- To create space for fellowship, mutual learning, and strengthening God’s ministry that will contribute to human dignity of the people;
- To understand and appreciate the current political situation in the country by listening to the Churches and seek possible solutions for accompaniment;
- To enable the Church leadership in Ethiopia understand FECLAH and its work; and
- To understand the ongoing peace building processes on the continent under the auspice of the African Union.

The six member delegation visited and held discussions with the Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahdo Church, His Holiness Abune Matias, the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner for the EECMY Development and Social Services Commission (DASSC) Mr. Girma Bati and Dr. Abeya Wakwaya, the Resident Representative of the Lutheran World Federation, Addis Ababa Office, Dr. Lemma Degefa; and the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) Envoy to the African Union, Rev. Ifeffa Gobena. They also visited EECMY projects including the Center for Mentally Challenged Children (CMCC) and New Life Young Women’s Project. Additionally, the delegation interacted with EECMY church leaders and made a courtesy visit to the Graduate School of Theology and met with the Director, Prof. Tekeste Teklu.

Solidarity visits remain an important mechanism for fellowship and mutual learning for members. Members not only visit projects, but also meet with strategic stakeholders. This strengthens advocacy and lobbying initiatives of the hosting member council.
FECCLAHA International Ecumenical Election Observation Mission to the Kenyan General Elections

Fellowship of Christian Council and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA) deployed an International Ecumenical Election Observation Mission to observe the 4th March 2013 General Elections in Kenya. This was in solidarity with FECCLAHA member, the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK) and the people of Kenya. The mission comprised of 14 Short Term Observers (STOs) who were drawn from FECCLAHA Ecumenical partner, Bread for the World – EED, and from the following member Churches and national councils: Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT); Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY); National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB); Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR); Sudan Council of Churches (SCC); and Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC).

This team was deployed from 28th February to 7th March, 2013 to cover: Kiambu, Kilifi, Kwale, Mombasa, Nairobi, Nandi, and Uasin Gishu Counties. They also covered the National Tallying Centre; and the Diaspora polling stations in Bujumbura, Burundi; Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania; Kampa, Uganda; and Kigali-Rwanda.

The mission’s mandate was to assess whether conditions existed for the conduct of elections that reflect the will of the people of Kenya; to assess whether the elections were conducted in accordance with the electoral legislative framework of Kenya; and to assess whether the elections met the international standards for democratic elections. This entailed observation of the electoral process including the administration of the elections, the political environment, election campaigns, electoral preparations, the voting, counting and vote tallying process at the Constituency, County, and National Tallying Centres, announcement of results and post-election development.

On Election Day, the team visited polling stations in their areas of deployment and observed opening, polling, and closing procedures and vote count. FECCLAHA released a preliminary statement available at the website (www.fecclaha.org).

Ecumenical Election Observation Briefing and Orientation Session:

On 1st March 2013, the ecumenical election observation team attended a briefing and orientation session in Nairobi, Kenya. Representatives of the General Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), the civil society, and FECCLAHA addressed the team during the brief. This was followed by region-specific briefings by respective NCCK Regional Coordinators after travelling to the areas of deployment.

Ms. Susie Ibutu of NCCK presents welcome and opening remarks during the orientation session.

Regional Consultation on the Ecumenical Accompaniment of Electoral Processes:

FECCLAHA facilitated a regional consultation to review the ecumenical accompaniment of electoral processes. This was held from 15th to 18th May, 2013 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The regional consultation involved sharing of experiences, best practices and lessons learnt in the accompaniment of electoral processes. In attendances were 16 participants who were drawn from FECCLAHA member Churches and National Councils of Churches: Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT), Church of Christ in Congo (ECC), National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB), Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY), National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR), Sudan Council of Churches (SCC), and Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC). Also in attendance were representatives from the Democracy and Electoral Assistance Unit (DEAU) which is responsible for coordinating and implementing all African Union Commission actions with a broad mandate to promote democracy, observe elections, conduct electoral research and provide electoral assistance in Africa.

In their deliberations and plan of action, participants affirmed the need to accompany the entire electoral cycle through long term election observation. They appreciated that some FECCLAHA members have had over four decades experience in accompanying electoral processes and have institutionalized best practices and lessons learnt while other members are new in the accompaniment and require support from the FECCLAHA membership and Secretariat. The participants called on FECCLAHA Secretariat to: facilitate the sharing of curriculum, information, education and communication (IEC) materials and expertise among members; facilitate civic and voter education and election observation; facilitate regional trainings in collaboration with the Democracy and Electoral Assistance Unit on emerging challenges in the management of electoral processes; deploy international (continued to page 6)
Women of Courage Solidarity Visit to South Kivu, DRC in partnership with KAIROS Canada

FECLLAHA was part of a delegation of nine members from KAIROS Canada which participated in a solidarity visit in South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This delegation from Canada had representatives from various KAIROS Canada partners: Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), Canadian Religious Conference, Presbyterian Church in Canada and the United Church of Canada. The National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB), FECLLAHA member in Burundi, was also represented in the solidarity visit. The delegation was hosted by Héritiers de la Justice, a non-governmental organisation specializing in protecting and promoting human rights and peace in the Great Lakes Region in general and in the province of South Kivu in particular. The organisation is related to the Protestant Church of Congo with the 13 Protestant Communities operating in the province of South Kivu.

This solidarity visit was under KAIROS Canada programme dubbed “Women of Courage” which aims at enhancing women’s and women’s organisation capacity as they work against militarization and human rights. The work which ranges from networking, education, theological reflection, to advocacy is largely shaped by the wisdom and experience of KAIROS’ partners in Canada and throughout the world. The partners greatly contribute in assisting KAIROS to better understand and respond to the issues of concern.

The “Women of Courage” solidarity visit – 2013 aimed at creating a space for partners to witness what was happening on the ground in the DRC and also accompany and demonstrate solidarity to partners working in the region. The solidarity visit was also an opportunity for the delegation to deepen understanding of the human rights and environmental impact of resource extraction on communities in the Eastern DRC, with a specific focus on its impact on women in the country.

The 10 days visit started in Bujumbura where the delegation met with representatives from the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Secretariat in Bujumbura. The delegation then travelled to Bukavu, South Kivu and met with various organisations and government officials. They also met with various beneficiaries of Héritiers de la Justice legal clinic and communities impacted negatively by the extraction of minerals taking place at Luhwinja area, which is on the outskirts of Bukavu. There were meetings with Church leaders/representatives from the Catholic Church and Protestant Churches/ Eglise du Christ au Congo (ECC) in South Kivu, the Governor of South Kivu, Hon. Marcellin Chishambo, Dr. Denis Mukwege who was accompanied by a team of caregivers at Panzi Hospital among others.

At the end of the visit in South Kivu, a Press Conference was held in which the delegation made pleas and recommendations directing them to:

- The Churches in DRC;
- The National Government in DRC;
- The Government in Canada; and
- The Churches in Canada.

The solidarity visit culminated in a visit to Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) where the delegation had consultations with Government representatives from the Ministries of Justice and Gender, representatives from ICGLR – DRC National Office, the Chairperson of the revamped Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), the Canadian Embassy, and other Church leaders and Civil Society Organisations in Kinshasa, DRC. FECLLAHA was represented by Monica Njoroge and Mrs. Perpetue Kankindi, from CNEB. (Refer to http://www.kairoscanada.org/dignity-rights/women-of-courage).

Consultation on Mapping Human Security

FECLLAHA organized a one-day consultation which hosted FECLLAHA partners and representatives of some member councils and Churches in the region. The consultation aimed at identifying priority areas for FECLLAHA in addressing Human Security in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa. The consultation was facilitated by Dr. Ato Kwamena Onama, the Head of African Center for Peace and Security Training, Institute for Security Studies (ISS). The consultation sought to define human security, map out human security concerns in the region, and define priority areas for FECLLAHA to engage with during the next five years, ahead of FECLLAHA Strategic Planning Process (2014-2018).
Regional Consultation on the Ecumenical Accompaniment of Electoral Processes (Continued from Page 4):

eccumenical election observation missions to the electoral processes in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa; and provide independent assessment of the electoral processes.

The consultation also outlined areas of collaboration between FECCLAHA and the Democracy and Electoral Unit (DEAU) of the Africa Union Commission. These include sharing of information through assessment reports, deployment plans and post-election review meetings towards improving effectiveness of election observation and minimizing duplication of effort in the field; FECCLAHA members to join African Union election observation missions to gain experience on election observation and how election observation missions are coordinated; and capacity building through training of FECCLAHA members in various areas of electoral management using the Building Resources in Democracy, Governance, and Elections (BRIDGE) curriculum, among others.

Other News

UJCC Celebrates 50 Years:
Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC), one of FECCLAHA members, celebrated 50 years of existence in May, 2013. The celebrations were held in Kampala, Uganda. FECCLAHA Executive Director, Mrs. Elizabeth Z. Kisiigha, was in attendance. UJCC was established in 1963 with its current membership comprising of the Church of Uganda, The Roman Catholic Church, and the Uganda Orthodox Church, which together constitutes over 70% of Uganda’s population. We congratulate UJCC and wish them well as they seek to respond and offer leadership to pertinent concerns in the country.

Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR) elects a new General Secretary:
Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR) appointed a new General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Samuel Rugambage. He has previously served as the Vice-President of CPR in addition to other leadership roles within the Union of Baptist Churches in Rwanda (UBCR) and Compassion International, Rwanda Office where he served as the Country Director. He has also taught in various universities in Kenya, Tanzania, and Rwanda. Rev. Rugambage replaces Dr. Tharcisse Gatwa who has been a member of FECCLAHA Executive Committee, representing CPR.

FECCCLAHA Participates in FOCCISSA Strategy Meeting:
Mrs. Elizabeth Kisiigha, Executive Director of FECCLAHA, participated in a strategy development meeting which took place in Botswana on 21st and 22nd June, 2013 on the invitation of the Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa (FOCCIISA). She was invited to share experiences, successes and challenges on governance and management of FECCCLAHA. This sharing will enrich the ongoing strategy development process by FOCCIISA as the organisation undergoes a restructuring process, which will include establishing a Secretariat in Botswana and drafting a Constitution.

Sudan Council of Churches Holds General Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya:
Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) held its General Assembly in Nairobi, Kenya in July, 2013. The Executive Director, Mrs. Elizabeth Z. Kisiigha, accompanied by Mr. Primo Andrea, FKE participant 2012/2013, attended this meeting.

Additionally, SCC appointed the National Women Coordinator, Mrs. Agnes Wasuk. This is in line with the resolution made at the Extra-Ordinary General Assembly meeting that was held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2012 which was followed up with a Communiqué by women during a training facilitated by FECCCLAHA in South Sudan in 2012. This function will effectively coordinate and strengthen the women’s work in the country.

National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK) Centenary Celebration:
The National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK) will hold its centenary celebrations in August, 2013. NCCK was established in 1913 as an umbrella body for Protestant Churches in the country. It is one of the most elaborate Church Councils in Africa with a membership of 27 churches and 9 regional offices spread across the country. To enhances its interventions at the grassroots, NCCK also has over 40 County Coordinating Committees headed by church leaders. The organization's centenary celebrations will be held in Nakuru, (South Rift Region) in Kenya.

FECCCLAHA Regional Coordinator Human Security—Ms. Celine Bankumuhari Leaves FECCCLAHA:
Ms. Celine Bankumuhari has left FECCCLAHA after serving in different capacities for over six years. Before her departure, she was serving as the Regional Coordinator in charge of Human Security largely focusing on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs). We thank Ms. Bankumuhari for her contribution and commitment during her stay in the organisation and wish her well in her new position.
FECLLAHA VISION:
The creation of communities that are inclusive, harmonious, and living an abundant life in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa.

FECLLAHA 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.

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

Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECLLAHA)

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