FECCCLAHA Holds the General Assembly and Regional Ecumenical Forum

FECCCLAHA held the Regional Ecumenical Forum (REF) on 23rd and 24th October, 2013 in Kampala, Uganda. In attendance were leaders of FECCCLAHA member councils and churches including women and youth representatives. All members were represented except the Eritrea Orthodox Church. Also in attendance were representatives from partner organisations, Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in West Africa (FECCIWA), Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in Southern Africa (FOCCISA), and All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC).

The theme for REF, 2013 was “Towards the African Centenary 2063: The Role of the Church in Natural Resource Management”. Guided by the theme, reflections for REF, 2013 were on the role of the churches in natural resource management and Human Trafficking in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa. There were expert presentations on the nature and extent of human trafficking in the region; a theological reflection on human trafficking; the role of the Church in natural resource management; and investing the proceeds from natural resources. Facilitating the sessions were representatives from the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Kampala, Uganda; Ecumenical Network for Creation and Sustainability, Norway; Botswana Council of Churches (BCC); Uganda Christian University, Mukono; and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Uganda Mission.

The REF is a key mechanism that provides a safe space for FECCCLAHA members to reflect and focus on common issues of concern affecting the region. It offers a strategic opportunity for members to share ideas, discuss challenges, re-strategize, and renew their commitment and passion for their mission. FECCCLAHA holds REF every two years; the next one will be held in 2015.

FECCCLAHA held its General Assembly on 22nd October, 2013 a new chairperson of FECCCLAHA, Rev. Dereje Jemberu from the Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY), was elected. Rev. Jemberu succeeds Rev. Dr. Leonard Mtaita, (General Secretary of the Christian Council of Tanzania) who retires in accordance with the Constitution of FECCCLAHA after serving as the Chairperson for two years.
FECCCLAHA Strategic Plan Launch:

FECCCLAHA launched its strategic plan 2014-2018 on 25th October, 2013 in Kampala, Uganda. Present in the launch were FECCCLAHA members and partners. The Strategic plan was commissioned by Mon Seigneur John Wynand Katende, the Episcopal Vicar for Wakiso Vicariate and Public Relations Officer for the Archdiocese of Kampala, Uganda.

The Executive Committee Meeting

FECCCLAHA Executive Committee held its second meeting on the 21st October, 2013 in Kampala, Uganda. In attendance were Executive Committee members from Conseil Protestant du Rwanda (CPR), Sudan Council of Churches (SCC), Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC), Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT), National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), and Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY).

FECCCLAHA Joins Act Alliance Kenya Forum

FECCCLAHA request to join the ACT Kenya Forum (AKF) was approved by the ACT Alliance governing Board in Geneva, Switzerland. AKF is a valuable space for networking, partnership, capacity enhancement, and sharing of best practice.

Courtesy visits to FECCCLAHA Office by Partners

FECCCLAHA received various partners during courtesy visits to the office. These visits are vital as the not only offer spaces for consultation but also for sharing updates and partnership building.

Mr. Lennart Andreasson, the Programme Officer – Development Corporation in Church of Sweden in Uppsala, Sweden met with FECCCLAHA staff. A meeting was also held with Mrs. Karimi Kinoti, Head of Africa – Christian Aid. Representatives from ICCO, Ms. Angeline Ngeudjeu (Programme Officer Conflict Transformation and Development) and Mr. Jecton Oyugi (Finance Officer) also held discussions with FECCCLAHA staff in August, 2013. Bread for the World representatives, Dr. Arnes and Michael, also visited and held discussions with FECCCLAHA staff.

During these visits, partners received brief updates on various programme activities being implemented within the organisation. Consultations on how to strengthen partnerships between FECCCLAHA and these organisations were also held.
Training Workshop on Leadership and Theology in Jerusalem

Mrs. Elizabeth Kisiigha and Monica Njoroge from FECCLAHA were part of a team of 12 who attended a training workshop on “Leadership and Theology: Sustainable Leadership in Pluralism and Peace Building” facilitated by the Church of Sweden and the Swedish Theological Institute (STI). This took place in Jerusalem, Israel however some training sessions were held in Nazareth and Bethlehem.

Training sessions were facilitated by different religious leaders including a rabbi from the Jews, Sheikhs from the Muslim, and church leaders from the Lutheran, Anglican, Friends, and the Orthodox Church. Additionally, participants interacted with various groups working for peace building in the country including the “Women of the Wall”, “The Parent’s Circle”, and the “Neve Shalom” (The Dwelling of Peace).

This was rich experience where reflections and lessons were shared on leadership and peace building especially in a pluralist context. There was also deeper understanding on concepts in peace building and leadership, for example, reflections on the difference between inter-religious and inter-faith dialogue. Additionally, participants visited some holy sites which highly enriched the spiritual lives of participants and brought the Bible text into context.

FK Exchange Programme - Preparatory Workshop for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence

FECCLAHA participated in workshop for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence facilitated by FK Exchange participants (2012/2013) and Norwegian Church Aid (NCA). The aim of the workshop was largely to build the capacity of gender focal points of different partner organisation in carrying out a successful 16 Days of Activism Campaign. This event brought together 59 participants from different countries in Africa and beyond.

Mr. Primo Andrea Wani (FK Exchange participant stationed in FECCLAHA) and Ms. Janet Jeruto (FK Exchange participant from FECCLAHA stationed in NCA-Norway) were among the FK Exchange participants (2012/2013) who organized the workshop. FECCLAHA has sent and received participants to and from Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Norway, Rwanda, Kenya, and South Sudan since 2008.

Participation in Training on Emerging Threats to Human Security in Africa by ISS

The Executive Director, Mrs. Elizabeth Z. Kisiigha was enrolled for a one week course organized and facilitated by the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 22nd to 29th September 2013. The course theme was: “Emerging Threats to Human Security in Africa” (ETHSA). Pertinent topics covered included; Governance, Proposal Writing, Climate Change, Human Trafficking, Terrorism, Drug Trafficking among others. These are pertinent human security issues since FECCLAHA focuses on programmes of peace building and governance and as the institution plans for the next strategic phase.

As a result of the training, the knowledge and capacity of the staff was enhanced and FECCLAHA established working relationship with the Institute of Security Studies and other networks that in different ways will enhance the work of FECCLAHA. A lot of information was acquired on all the topics especially on Human Trafficking which is a new area of engagement for FECCLAHA in the new strategic plan (2014 – 2018).
GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

Participation in the 14th Review and Strategy Meeting of the African Initiative on Mining, Environment and Society (AIMES)

FECCLAHA was represented by Mutua Mulonzya in the 14th Annual Review and Strategy Meeting of the African Initiative on Mining, Environment and Society (AIMES) that was held at the Mensvic Grand Hotel in Accra, Ghana from 12th to 16th August 2013. The meeting brought together representatives of African trade unions, community organizations, women’s groups, faith-based organizations, nongovernmental and other civil society organizations and networks working on environment, development and economic justice issues and was hosted by the Third World Network-Africa.

The meeting discussed the issues, challenges and opportunities arising from recent developments relating to extractive sector activities in Africa in the evolving global context and reached shared understandings and adopted various conclusions including: the primary commodity-export driven growth model is fragile and unsustainable; extractive resources are finite resources that must be managed prudently; such management must be rooted in democratic, transparent and accountable governance and must enable the people of Africa take control over their development and of their place in global relations, rather than be bargaining chips in the realization of interests of transnational corporations and their governments in the play of geo-politics; the importance of the African Mining Vision (AMV) and its related analytical and policy frameworks as well as implementation plans; communities affected by mining, workers and artisanal and small scale mining operators; among others.

The civil society organizations in the meeting committed themselves to work for the realization of the objectives adopted and called for global solidarity to assert the primacy of the Africa Mining Vision as a framework for transforming the role of minerals in Africa’s economies and protect it against other competing initiatives. Three working groups on communities, tax issues and illicit financial flows and labour and artisanal and small scale mining operators were established to follow up on the commitments of the meeting.

NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION

National Council of Churches of Kenya Centenary Celebration

FECCLAHA participated in NCCK Centenary celebration that took place on 21st-23rd August, 2013 in Kabarak, at Kabarak University, Nakuru. FECCLAHA was represented by a delegation drawn from different countries in the region. These are Rev. Juvenal Nzosaba, President of the National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB); Bishop Munga Stephen Ismail, the Chairperson of Finance and Policy of Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT), and Father Silvester Arinaitwe, the Executive Secretary of Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC). Additionally, Mrs. Elizabeth Kisigia, Ms. Jeannette Uwizeye, and Mr. Mutua Mulonzya, from FECCLAHA secretariat attended the 3-day celebration. The celebration was guided by the theme “Shining the Light of Christ” drawn from Matthew 5:14-16. FECCLAHA participation greatly enriched the celebration.

Participation in Launch of the 2014 to 2018 Strategy of Christian Aid Kenya and Devolution Conference

FECCLAHA was represented by Mutua Mulonzya in the launch of the 2014 to 2018 strategy of Christian Aid Kenya and a conference on devolution from 1st to 2nd July 2013 at the Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi. The strategy launch and devolution conference brought together Christian Aid Kenya partners and gave them an opportunity to appreciate the context that the new strategy was addressing in different parts of the country. The 2014 to 2018 strategy of Christian Aid Kenya focuses on tax justice and governance, health and building resilient livelihoods.

The devolution conference focused on challenges, risks and intrigues of devolution in Kenya, the legal framework for devolution, the role and progress in the work of the Transition Authority, financing devolution and accountability mechanisms, policy issues and concerns in the role of parliament in protecting and facilitating devolution and a panel discussion on the role and space for non-state actors in devolution. The conference underscored the need for vigilance to ensure that devolution delivers on development and poverty eradication to meet the high expectations of Kenyans.

Life and Peace Institute (LPI) Validation Workshop

FECCLAHA participated in a validation workshop on the state of regional peace building in the Horn of Africa that was held on November 7, 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya. The participants received and validated findings from a research being carried by Life and Peace Institute that sought to map out and document lessons on regional peace building programming in the Horn of Africa. The final report will be disseminated in the coming months.
Youth Peace Clubs

FECCCLAHA Youth Peace Building Programme aims at mobilizing and equipping youth in the region to be peace ambassadors. Establishment of youth peace clubs has been the major vehicle that has been used to strengthen the role and scope of youth in peace building and conflict transformation.

FECCCLAHA in collaboration with Mukuru Slum Development Project (MSDP) and the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK) introduced Youth Peace Clubs (YPCs) initiative at the Mukuru Slum in Nairobi, Kenya in June, 2013. Currently, fourteen YPCs have been formed with a membership of about 400 young men and women drawn from different villages in the Mukuru Slum.

The process started by training a total of 53 young leaders (23 female and 30 male) who were going to be the leaders of the YPCs. The training was largely in conflict analysis, peace building, leadership, governance, the Constitution, advocacy and lobbying. These topics would then set the agenda for the Youth Peace Clubs (YPCs) once they were established. These youth leaders then carried out consultations with the youth in the various villages after which they formed YPCs in the different villages. The YPCs have undertaken community initiatives including clean-ups, holding public baraza/forums to enlighten communities on the devolved system of government and services among others. Additionally, the YPCs in Mukuru commemorated the International Day of Peace on 21st September, 2013 at the Mukuru Slum. Drawn from the global theme “Education for Peace” the theme for this activity was *Elimu ya Amani-Maisha Poo* (Peace Education leads to abundant and good life). These activities have greatly enhanced the youth voice in the Mukuru.

To further strengthen the YPCs and facilitate sustainability FECCCLAHA has developed a Youth Peace Clubs Workbook. The workbook has incorporated knowledge and information on various topics linked to peace building and conflict transformation. This is a tool that will facilitate reflection and informed action by the youth. Additionally, it will assist leaders and members to effectively run the YPCs directly contributing to sustainability of YPCs.

Youth Peace Clubs were first established in Eastern DRC. These were formed after successful Training of Trainers (ToT) on peace building and conflicts transformation and electoral observation mission processes organized by FECCCLAHA in collaboration with Church of Christ in Congo in South Kivu (Bukavu) and North Kivu (Goma) in 2011. The outcome of the ToTs was the formation of Organization of Young Christian for Development (OJCD) which initiated the formation of 9 youth peace clubs in North Kivu with about 500 members. FECCCLAHA continues its support to OJCD.

### Regional Youth Workshop – Kampala, Uganda

A Regional Youth workshop on formation of youth peace clubs took place in Kampala, Uganda on 22nd October. The workshop brought together 9 youth leaders from FECCCLAHA member councils and churches in Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The regional workshop is part of FECCCLAHA’s plans to replicate the peace clubs models in other FECCCLAHA member councils and churches. The workshop provided space to share experiences on work of peace through peace clubs and share with participants the draft peace clubs workbook developed by FECCCLAHA. It is anticipated that the youth leaders will share the YPC concept with a wider range of youth in their respective countries, churches and community.

**Youth Newsletter:** FECCCLAHA started a youth newsletter to offer a platform for sharing for youth desks drawn from FECCCLAHA member councils and churches and beyond. Since its launch, the newsletter contains details of activities undertaken by FECCCLAHA Regional Youth Programme and member councils and churches youth peace initiatives. The Youth Newsletter is available and can be accessed in FECCCLAHA website www.fecclaha.org.
Workshop to review input from Women from SSCC Members Churches and handing over report to the Constitutional Review Commission of the Republic of South Sudan

FECCLAHA in collaboration with the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) held a workshop on reviewing input from SSCC member churches on the ongoing Constitutional Review process. The input was then presented to the Chairperson of the Constitutional Review Commission of the Republic of South Sudan, Prof. Akolda Maan Tier. This two day workshop took place in Juba, South Sudan on 28th and 29th October, 2013. In attendance were 16 women representatives from the Roman Catholic Church, the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan, the Africa Inland Church, and the Episcopal Church Sudan. The participants were drawn from different areas including Bhar-el-Gazal (Wau), Upper Nile State, Eastern Equatoria (Torit), Western Equatoria, and Central Equatoria State (Juba). The Ag. General Secretary of South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) officially opened the workshop. Mr. Edmund Yakani, an advocate in South Sudan, presented the input to the participants, explaining the different sections and the input under each section. The input presented included the following thematic areas of focus:

- Governance and Leadership.
- National Wealth and Economic Development.
- Justice and Accountability.
- Separation of State and Religion.
- Amendments on the Bill of Rights.

In addition to going through the input and making amendments, the women were trained on strategic advocacy. These skills and knowledge will ensure that the input to be presented to CRC will be incorporated in the Constitution.

The input was then presented to the Chairperson of the Constitutional Review Commission of the Republic of South Sudan, Prof. Akolda Maan Tier. He pledged to read through the document and present the same to the Commission.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 Workshop on “Prevention and Protection of Women and Children against gender based violence” in collaboration with NCCK—Nairobi Region

FECCLAHA in collaboration with National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK)-Nairobi Region held a 2-day workshop on the UN SCR 1325 under the theme “Prevention and Protection of Women and Children against gender based violence”. In attendance were 58 participants from NCCK-Nairobi Region member churches specifically from the Nairobi and Kiambu counties. The churches that were represented include: African Christian Church & Schools (ACC&S), National Independent Church of Africa (NICA), Africa Independent Pentecostal Church of Africa (AIPCA), Kenya Assemblies of God (KAG), Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church (KELC), Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya (ELCK), Pentecostal Evangelical Fellowship of Africa (PEFA), Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA), Friend’s Church, Church of God, the Salvation Army, Africa Inland Church (AIC), and Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK). There was also one member from the Catholic Church.

The workshop sought to achieve the following objectives:

- To create understanding on peace building and conflict transformation and the role of women;
- To raise/create awareness on the UN SCR 1325 and the legal framework of protection for women in Kenya including the Sexual Offences Act (2006).
- To create understanding on gender based violence: forms of GBV, causes and consequences of GBV;
- To raise awareness on how/where to access medical, psychosocial, and legal support for survivors of gender based violence.

Participants pledged to:

- Carry out clergy sensitization meeting on the SGBV, the legal framework in the country, and in peace building;
- Carry out Training of Trainers’ for different parishes.
- Facilitate dialogues;
- Introduce and involve the Chief in activities to be carried out in the community;
- Conduct forums in already existing groups, that is, support groups, women chamas (groups), church services, and youth groups.
- Organize trainings on empowerment on gender based violence.
- Conduct forums in already existing groups, that is, support groups, women chamas, church services, and youth groups.
- Workshops for departments, for example, youth, women, children, men, & pastoral ministry.

Among other activities.
FECCLAHA held a Great Lakes Church Leaders’ Consultation on 22nd October, 2013 in Kampala, Uganda. Participants, men and women, were drawn from the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC), National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB), and Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR).

Col. Felix Kulaigye, Chief Political Commissar, Uganda People’s Defense Forces (UPDF), Republic of Uganda made a presentation on the progress of implementation of peace agreements and the negotiations in the Great Lake and Horn of Africa. Additionally, Dr. Arthur Bainomugisha, the Director for Research and Manager of Peace and Democracy Programme, ACODE also made a presentation on situation analysis of the Great Lakes Region and the role of the Church in peace building.

This meeting was held against the background of an ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the expulsion of alleged illegal immigrants from Tanzania, the threat posed by political instability in various countries and the growing threat of terrorism to regional peace and security. As a result of this consultation, in collaboration with All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) plans are underway to respond to the alleged illegal immigrants from Tanzania.

Commemorating the 16 Day of Activism against Violence on Women in Nairobi, Kenya

Following the preparatory workshop on 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence, FECCLAHA in collaboration with other NCA partners in Kenya led by Women Empowerment Link (WEL), organized a High Level Consultation. This was not only to commemorate the 16 days but also create spaces for reflection and interaction with various sectors on gains, challenges, and strategies on ending violence against women (VAW).

Presentations were made by representatives from the office of Inspector General of Police in Kenya, the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC), office of the Kenya Law Reform, and representative from the corporate sector. Additionally, Canon Rosemary Mbogoh the Chairperson of the National Council of Churches of Kenya made a presentation on Violence against Women in the religious sector.

The meeting was opened by Ms. Kirsten Engebak, the Norwegian Church Aid Area Representative for Kenya and Somalia and Mrs. Katherine Muoki, the Director of the Gender Directorate in Kenya. The high level consultation was coupled with an award ceremony for champions of supporting survivors.

UN Women Meeting in Naivasha, Kenya:

Mrs. Elizabeth Z. Kisiigha was invited to make a presentation on “Inclusion of all: Gender Equality and Peace Building in the Post 2015 Framework” on September, 2013 in Naivasha, Kenya. This workshop aimed at interrogating the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Gender Equality in Kenya. In attendance were various stakeholders including Civil Society Organisations in Kenya and Government Ministry and National Gender Equality Commission representatives. Ms. Monica Njoroge, Programme Officer also attended the meeting.

Peace Building

Great Lakes Church Leaders’ Consultation

FECCLAHA held a Great Lakes Church Leaders’ Consultation on 22nd October, 2013 in Kampala, Uganda. Participants, men and women, were drawn from the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC), National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB), and Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR).

Col. Felix Kulaigye, Chief Political Commissar, Uganda People’s Defense Forces (UPDF), Republic of Uganda made a presentation on the progress of implementation of peace agreements and the negotiations in the Great Lake and Horn of Africa. Additionally, Dr. Arthur Bainomugisha, the Director for Research and Manager of Peace and Democracy Programme, ACODE also made a presentation on situation analysis of the Great Lakes Region and the role of the Church in peace building.

This meeting was held against the background of an ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the expulsion of alleged illegal immigrants from Tanzania, the threat posed by political instability in various countries and the growing threat of terrorism to regional peace and security. As a result of this consultation, in collaboration with All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) plans are underway to respond to the alleged illegal immigrants from Tanzania.

Networking and Collaboration: DKA & eRko Partners’ Meeting

FECCLAHA attended a partners’ meeting on 21st and 22nd November, 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya. This was a platform for experience sharing and networking. FECCLAHA shared its experience and lessons learned in introducing Youth Peace Clubs Initiative at the Mukuru Slum in collaboration with Mukuru Slum Development Project (MSDP). These lessons include the importance of full participation of the youth members in mobilizing, planning, and executing all plans at all stages. They also shared the importance of having regular meetings and joint initiatives/activities as this ensures that the groups remain together and focused. Lessons were shared on how to ensure consistent participation and ownership by the youth. Participants appreciated the strength of partnership.
Merry Christmas and Prosperous 2014

We take this opportunity to wish all our members and partners a merry Christmas and prosperous 2014. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to continued collaboration as we work together for a just and peaceful society.

“For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,...And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”. Isaiah 9:6

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS 2014

FECLLAHA offices close for the Christmas holidays from 20th December, 2013 to 6th January, 2014.

FECLLAHA THEMATIC AREAS OF FOCUS: 2014-2018

1. Peace Building and Conflict Transformation
   
   **Strategic Objective:** To promote sustainable peace in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa.

2. Governance
   
   **Strategic Objective:** To empower citizens to hold governments accountable and promote a Constitutional Culture and respect of Rule of Law in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa.

3. Gender and Youth
   
   **Strategic Objective:** To empower men, women, and youth to be effective instruments of peace and gender justice in the society.

4. Human Security
   
   **Strategic Objective:** To address the threats to Human Security and the underlying causes in the region.

5. Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building
   
   **Strategic Objectives:** To strengthen the capacity of the organisation to effectively and efficiently meet its mandate.

The above programmatic themes will be addressed through five strategies: **Capacity Building, Dialogue; Research and Documentation, Advocacy; Networking, partnership, and collaboration.**

FECLLAHA VISION:

“Together for a just and peaceful society”

FECLLAHA MISSION:

FECLLAHA exists to promote ecumenical solidarity for justice, peace, healing and conflict transformation and reconciliation in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa through advocacy, networking and partnership, capacity building, research and documentation within the framework of holistic Christian Ministry.

FECLLAHA VALUES:

- Human Dignity (*Gen. 1:26*)
- Compassion (*Micaiah 6:8*)
- Peace (*Matthew 5:5-8*)
- Justice (*Isaiah 1:16-18*)
- Integrity (*Proverbs 11:3*)
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

Mobile Phone: +254 (786) 670488
Fax: +254 020 2721626
E-mail: info@fecclaha.org
www.fecclaha.org

“Together for a just and peaceful society”