Timely and effective response to early conflict warning signs remains a key concern and responsibility for FECCLAHA and its constituency. To this effect, FECCLAHA in partnership with the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa (CAPA) undertook a fact-finding mission to Bujumbura, Burundi on the 9th to 11th April, 2014. This was precipitated by the increase of reports, largely by the media, on the building tension in the country ahead of the general elections in 2015.

The delegation met with the leadership of the National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB), heads of member Churches of the national council of Burundi, various senior government officials from the President’s Office, the Burundi Land Commission, and the Ministry of Home Affairs. The delegation also met with representatives of Christian Aid and the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD). Some of the emerging concerns which are leading to the rise in tensions in the country include: the debate on whether or not to amend the current constitution so as to allow the current President to vie for a third term. Additionally, the varied interpretation of the provisions of the current constitution on the same has caused a lot of tension and uncertainty in the country. During the time of the mission, a report by the UN envoy outlining that key Generals of the Army and the Police were secretly arming and training youth in Burundi in readiness for the 2015 election was released to the public. This has caused fear in the population that the country could return to violence. The respondents also reported that politicians were using the media to send out messages aimed at polarizing the citizens along ethnic lines. There was also dissatisfaction from other stakeholders that the proposed electoral law review bill, which was to be presented in Parliament for debate, did not address all issues.

(continued on Page 2)
Solidarity Visit to South Sudan

It is the role of FECCLAHA to accompany and stand in solidarity with its members to enable the latter response to challenges of instability and conflict. In consideration of the upsurge of conflict in South Sudan, FECCLAHA sent out a statement calling for peace in South Sudan in January, 2014 which was followed by a solidarity visit to the country undertaken by Mrs. Elizabeth Kisiigha the Executive Director of FECCLAHA, in March, 2014. The visit aimed at exploring possible areas of accompaniment for South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) and also to follow up on how SSCC would pursue the objectives of the newly formed South Sudan Ecumenical Network (SSEN). Meetings were held with the Ag. General Secretary of SSCC, Rev. Mark Akek Cien and courtesy visits to the offices of Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Christian Aid, Finn Church Aid, and Dan Church Aid undertaken. Some of the emerging concerns at the time of the visit included the high level of insecurity in South Sudan that is affecting delivery of humanitarian aid to the internally displaced persons; the need for trauma healing and psychosocial support for not only citizens but also Church leaders; the urgency of having SSCC observer team presence in Addis Ababa among other concerns. In regards to the progress on SSEN, Mrs. Kisiigha was informed that a working group composed of 6 members had been formed and endorsed by the Board of Trustees. However, the committee highlighted the need for technical and professional back up so as to heighten advocacy and communication within the network. It was decided that SSCC would work on a project proposal on the same and submit the same to partners in search for an Advocacy and Communication Officer. In partnership with KAIROS Canada, FECCLAHA has been supporting SSCC Women’s Programme. Therefore, the solidarity visit offered an opportunity to follow up on the progress of implementation of the SSCC National Women Programme. The overall annual programme activities and budget was discussed and agreed upon. To further heighten advocacy and Churches’ call for peace in the country, FECCLAHA sent out letters appealing for peace and enforcement of the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities to the African Union (AU), United Nations (UN) and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Meeting with South Kivu - Eglise du Christ au Congo (ECC)

A delegation from FECCLAHA Secretariat comprising of Mrs. Elizabeth Z. Kisiigha and Ms. Jeannette Uwizeye undertook a solidarity and fact-finding mission to ECC – South Kivu. The delegation met with ECC top leadership Bishop Kuye Ndondo, the Provincial President of ECC – South Kivu and Bishop Bulambo Lembelembe in charge of the Peace Programme within ECC-South Kivu. The main aim of the meeting was to gain better understanding on the situation in Eastern DRC and identify priority areas of accompaniment and collaboration. Some of the identified priority areas include: healing, reintegration and reconciliation programmes; trauma healing/psychosocial support; and multi-level advocacy with the aim of uprooting FDLR and putting to end the unrest caused by this rebel group.

FECCLAHA and CAPA Joint Mission to Burundi (Continued from page 1)

All stakeholders engaged with during the mission hold Churches in high esteem and believe that the Churches are well placed to engage with the Executive and other relevant bodies on finding a solution to concerns causing rise in tensions. It was therefore important for Burundi Churches, under the auspices of the National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB) to harmonize their position on the ongoing political stalemate in Burundi. FECCLAHA in partnership with CAPA and other organisations will continue to support and accompany CNEB ahead of the general elections next year. The delegation comprised of Rev. Canon Grace Kaiso, the General Secretary of CAPA and Mr. Philemon Okeyo, the Finance and Administration Manager in FECCLAHA. The mission also coincided with CNEB General Assembly.
Ongoing communication, reporting, and dialogue with partners are key pillars to FECCLAHA’s strong and mutually beneficial partnerships. To this effect, formal and informal deliberations were held with delegates from Christian Aid, Church of Sweden, DKA Austria Nairobi Support Office, and ICCO. Further, FECCLAHA Executive Director also met with representatives from the Swedish Council of Churches. During these consultations, additional possible areas of future partnership and sharing of lessons learnt and challenges experienced were discussed at length.

Dr. Hans Spitzoeck from Bread for the World: Africa Department-Unit of Continental Projects together with FECCLAHA staff attended a worship service, that was held at the Friends Church-Maringo in Nairobi, Kenya. Also in attendance was Mrs. Emmy Migaliza, FECCLAHA Executive Committee Honorary Treasurer. This was facilitated in collaboration with the National Council of Churches of Kenya – Nairobi Region (NCCK).

Three staff from FECCLAHA participated in Outcome Impact Orientation (OIO) training in Nairobi, Kenya facilitated by Bread for the World in partnership with CORAT Africa. The three day training enhanced participants’ skills in planning, monitoring, and evaluation of projects. Participants shared experiences and enhanced their capacity in defining realistic objectives and indicators; developing effect and impact chains; basic elements of outcome oriented monitoring systems; different tools of collecting outcome and impact; and skills in reporting and partner dialogue. The training is relevant as FECCLAHA endeavours to strengthen its programme monitoring and evaluation function. Additionally, the training is timely as it served as an orientation to Bread for World application and reporting requirements for FECCLAHA programme staff.

Mrs. Elizabeth Z. Kisiigha (FECCLAHA Executive Director) and Ms. Monica Njoroge (Programme Officer Gender and Communication) took part in a training workshop facilitated by Church of Sweden in Nairobi, Kenya on 11th and 12th April, 2014. This was a follow up to the training undertaken in 2013 and 2012 at the Swedish Theological Institute in Jerusalem, Israel on “Leadership and Theology: Sustainable Leadership in Pluralism and Peace Building”. Themes on leadership were drawn from sharing lessons learnt from the experience drawn from the training in Israel and Bible reflections on the life of Moses in Genesis and Exodus. Links were also drawn with the Integral model where leadership is looked at from four perspectives: the Human Resource perspective, Cultural Perspective, Power Struggle perspective, and Structural Perspective. Participants were drawn from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT), the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT), and FECCLAHA. A similar training will be undertaken later this year with the aim of enhancing participants’ leadership skills from a theological/Biblical perspective.

The first Executive Committee meeting this year was held on 27th March, 2017 at Bagamoyo in Tanzania. The meeting that was hosted by the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) was attended by 6 members (2 female and 4 male) out of 7 expected members. In addition to carrying out its Constitutional mandate of approving the audit report for the year 2013, members discussed about the need to review FECCLAHA’s Constitution so as to make the necessary amendments that will accommodate the changed context. They also deliberated upon the security situation in Burundi and South Sudan and provided guidance on FECCLAHA’s response to the same. The Committee also reviewed the FECCLAHA General Assembly and Regional Ecumenical Forum that was held in October, 2013 and provided input and guidance for improvement for future meetings.
Training on “Learning to Live Together (LTLT)” by Global Network of Religion for Children (GNRC)

Mrs. Jeannette Uwizeye, the Regional Programme Officer for Peace Building and Conflict Transformation participated in a training by Global Network of Religion for Children (GNRC) in collaboration with Arigatou International. The 4 days training sought to train participants on how to use the “Learning to Live Together (LTLT) manual in a bid to promote peaceful co-existence in the region. Youth representatives of some FECLLAHA member councils and churches participated. These included the Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY), the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), and the Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR). The training was attended by participants drawn from countries across the continent including Burundi, Comoros Island, Djibouti, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Staff Training on Peace Building and Conflict Management:

Continuous capacity enhancement for staff is key in ensuring efficiency and effectiveness of the secretariat. To this effect, two members of staff attended a three weeks’ course on Peace Building and Conflict Management that was jointly organized and facilitated by Corat Africa and Nairobi Peace Initiative (NPI) in May, 2014. The training sought to empower participants with knowledge and skills in peace building and conflict transformation from a Biblical perspective. Some of the topics addressed during the training were Christian Foundation of Peace and Reconciliation; the role of Biblical foundations and religion in conflict transformation and peace building; challenges of peace in Africa among others. The training will contribute towards strengthening the peace building and conflict transformation programme within the organization. In attendance were participants from Kenya, Ireland, Zambia, South Sudan, Benin, South Africa, and Niger enriching experience sharing. Mrs. Elizabeth Kisiigha, the Executive Director and Ms. Jeannette Uwizeye, the Regional Peace Building and Conflict Transformation Officer attended the training.

Meeting with the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA):

Reduction of proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) remains a concern for FECLLAHA and therefore an area of focus for FECLLAHA during the strategic planning period. To adequately respond to this, networking and partnership building are key pillars. To this regard, FECLLAHA held a meeting with the Executive Secretary of the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA), Mr. Theoneste Mutsindashyaka on 12th February, 2014 with the aim of re-energizing and identifying areas of possible partnership and collaboration. It was agreed that the partnership is strategic because FECLLAHA works with Councils and Churches which are important and strategic partners in addressing proliferation of SALWs in the region. The Church has a wide network and hence well placed to mobilize. RECSA is a regional intergovernmental body that addresses cross border concerns on SALWs and advocates for the signing and ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) by its members. RECSA therefore has expertise that would greatly contribute to enhancing the capacity of members eventually leading to heightened advocacy against SALWs. To formalize the partnership, FECLLAHA and RECSA developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which will be signed.

South Sudan Support Group Meeting (28th April, 2014):

FECLLAHA participated in the South Sudan Support Group meeting which was organized by the office of AACC Ecumenical Special Envoy to South Sudan and Sudan. The meeting sought to receive an update on the progress made in the ongoing advocacy initiatives and humanitarian assistance in the country. In attendance were representatives from the Parliament, former detainees, and some citizens of South Sudan. Among other concerns, the members asserted that there was a need to form strong national healing and reconciliation programmes. (Story continued on Page 5, bottom)
FECLAH in collaboration with Church of Christ in Congo (ECC) organised a 3-day training for youth on formation of Youth Peace Clubs. In attendance were 30 young men and women representing different member churches of ECC. In addition to understanding how to form and effectively run YPCs, the youth’s capacity in peace building was enhanced where they were trained in different aspects including mediation, understanding peace building and the role of the youth among others. The training also provided a platform for mutual learning with Organisation for Youth in Development (OJCD) present to share their experience with Youth Peace Clubs in North Kivu. The participants then developed plans of action which they have continued to implement after the training. A total of 4 YPCs have been formed that have successfully carried out reconciliatory meetings/dialogue forums between youth from the Banyamulenge and Congolese communities.

Mukuru Youth Peace Clubs:

FECLAH in collaboration with Mukuru Slums Development Project (MSDP) supported by DKA, initiative and formed Youth Peace Clubs within the Mukuru Slum area in 2013. The YPCs have been vibrant, proactively mobilizing other youth in their community and engaging in various community initiatives. In June, 2014 during the International Day on Drug Abuse, the YPCs members in Mukuru supported by FECLAH, NCCK/Nairobi Region, and MSDP conceptualized and undertook a soccer tournament to commemorate the International Drugs adn Substance Abuse awareness day in Nairobi. A total of 7 secondary schools and a rehabilitation centre took part in this activity. This tournament provided a platform to sensitize youth on dangers of drug abuse.

FECLAH is committed to strengthening YPCs in Mukuru and therefore offers continuous capacity enhancement for its leaders. In April, 2014 FECLAH undertook a 2 day training on Entrepreneurship for the YPCs leaders. This training sought to empower youth with skills and knowledge on how to use their creativity and innovation to grow their social economic status and create employment for themselves and others. Lack of employment is a key driving factor for youth engaging in violent behaviour. A total of 45 youth representatives of the 14 YPCs within the Mukuru Slum took took part in the training. Participants developed small scale business plans and the facilitator committed to offer assistance and guidance in implementing the business plans.

South Sudan Support Group Meeting (28th April, 2014): (Story continued from page 4)

Participants were also informed that humanitarian assistance was a challenge due to difficulty in accessing those in need of the assistance. Additionally, there was need to assist the South Sudanese in exile. As a way forward, members pointed out the importance to undertake advocacy at various levels, the national level within South Sudan, at the IGAD led process in Addis Ababa, and by the South Sudanese in the diaspora.
FECCLAHA in collaboration with Federation of Protestant Women (FFP) of the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC/FFP) held a two-day workshop in Bukavu, South Kivu on Tamar Campaign and Gender Based Violence. The workshop was both a training to raise awareness on the Tamar Campaign/Contextual Bible Study/Gender Based Violence and the role of the Church and also a planning meeting/consultation on possible joint actions by the Churches in Eastern DRC, led by the ECC/FFP, in addressing Gender Based Violence in that region.

Participants, who comprised of 36 Church leaders (19 women and 17 men), were drawn from various ECC member Churches in South Kivu (Bukavu and Uvira) and North Kivu (Goma). In a bid to draw lessons on their success, a group of 10 members from the Interfaith Platform were also invited to participate in the workshop. These were drawn from the Catholic Church, the Alliance of Independent Churches (AEI); the Kimbagist Church; and from the Muslim Community in South Kivu. Inclusion of the Interfaith Platform will strengthen linkages between the Platform and the Federation of Protestant Women (FFP) for future partnership/collaboration in carrying out follow up activities and especially forming the Tamar Groups within the Churches. Presentation on the UN SCR 1325 and its link with the Constitution of Republic of DRC were made. Additionally, using the Contextual Bible Study Methodology, participants discussed the Church leaders’ (women and men) role in effectively preventing sexual and gender based violence. They also outlined possible follow-up community activities that would further strengthen the role of the Church in addressing GBV in society. Among others, the participants’ asserted that religious leaders ought to admit that Gender Based Violence exists in the society and efforts towards developing a common position regarding the same be made. Additionally, they asserted that it was important to strengthen the Tamar Campaign work in South Kivu and enhance formation of “Tamar Circles”. Plans are underway to undertake follow up activities in collaboration with the Federation of Protestant Women (FFP) of the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC).

NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION

ICGLR Pre-Extra Ordinary Summit of Heads of States and Government on Youth and Unemployment (29th to 30th April, 2014):

FECCLAHA took part in the pre-extra ordinary summit of Heads of States and Government on Youth and Unemployment. The summit provided a space for youth, experts, and partners to share experiences on their respective ongoing programs and activities with regard to labour and employment in the Great Lakes Region and share best practice for social dialogue. With the aim of strengthening peace and stability in the region, recommendations on how to promote youth employment in the Great Lakes Region were discussed. These recommendations were documented and presented in form of the ICGLR Youth Accord which will be presented to Ministers for signing, the 3year ICGLR Youth Draft Strategic Plan (2014-2016), and the action plan. These documents will be presented to the Head of States and Governments during the upcoming Extra Ordinary Summit in July, 2014.
In collaboration with the Protestant Council of Rwanda, FECCLAHA facilitated a training workshop for Church leaders on Trauma Healing from a Biblical Perspective in Kigali, Rwanda. The training enhanced the Church leaders’ capacity in trauma healing/counseling so that they are better placed to offer holistic support, spiritual and psychological, to people that are traumatized, especially during the three month period of the Commemoration and Remembrance of the Genocide Against Tutsi. This year, Rwanda marked the 20th Commemoration and Remembrance of the Genocide that happened in 1994 where in a span of 100 days, millions were killed; women were raped, infected with HIV, and widowed; children were orphaned; people were permanently disabled and property was destroyed. CPR has launched and is actively involved in mobilizing Church leaders to use of the Tamar Campaign and the Contextual Bible Study Manual. Through the training the Church leaders were taught practical and professional skills of trauma healing and counseling. In addition, they were taught how to utilize the Contextual Bible Study Methodology for the purpose of creating safe spaces for healing. Additionally, FECCLAHA contributed towards the production of a liturgical prayer booklet that will be used during “Genocide Memorial Week of Rwanda”. This is a resource, compiled by CPR, contains Liturgy/prayers and Bible passages that Church leaders will be utilizing for special prayer sessions in commemoration of the Genocide, with a focus on healing and reconciliation.

In attendance were 35 participants (31 men and 4 women) most of whom were Church leaders from the Anglican Church, Baptist Church, Pentecostal Church, Friends Church, Presbyterian Church, Seventh Day Adventist, the Salvation Army among others.

NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION: FECCLAHA Participation in ACT Alliance

FECCLAHA’s application for membership to the Act Alliance was approved this year. To this effect, FECCLAHA has been an active member of the Act Alliance Kenya Forum (AKF). FECCLAHA took part in the 3-day ACT Alliance Africa and Middle East Consultation that took place on the 11th to 14th March, 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya. In attendance were representatives of member organisations of the ACT Alliance from East Africa, Southern Africa, the Horn of Africa, and the Middle East. Among others, the consultation sought to create a platform through which its members would engage with the Alliance’s proposed Strategic Direction and specifically discuss how integration of the ACT Alliance three pillars on Humanitarian Assistance, Development, and Advocacy work can be undertaken. The consultation further sought to strengthen ACT Alliance through sharing of best practice, particularly as related to members’ roles and responsibilities. (Continued on Page 8)
FECCLAHA Participation in ACT Alliance (Continued from page 7)

Additionally, the consultation discussed the changing development perspectives with the aim of seeking strategies through which the Alliance can contribute to the ongoing debate on the changing global development perspective. Members also critically reflected on the factors and possible solutions to the increasingly shrinking space for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) across Africa. The consultation was held ahead of the ACT Alliance General Assembly scheduled to take place in October, 2014.

FECCLAHA is a member of the Act Alliance and is an active member of the Act Alliance Kenya Forum (AKF), with specific interest in the advocacy working group. In this regard, FECCLAHA was part of the planning Committee for the ACT Alliance Regional Climate Change Training and Consultative meeting that took place on 19th and 21st May, 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya. The participants were drawn from Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Malawi, and also from the Southern Africa Act Alliance Regional Forum (SARF). The participants’ capacity in Climate Change and advocacy issues was enhanced. Additionally, the “Road to Paris” campaign strategy towards COP21 in Paris, France in 2015 was developed. This is a campaign, initiated by the Act Alliance Kenya Forum (AKF), seeking to mobilize youth and the faith community for Climate Justice ahead of the COP21 in 2015. It was decided that this Campaign would continue with the name “We Have Faith – ACT Now for Climate Justice!” To ensure coordinating and harmonization in rolling out the campaign, a coordinating team representing all the national forums was nominated and tasked with spearheading the campaign at the national levels and contextualize the campaign so as to contribute to ownership by the respective national forums/organisations. Mr. Nicholas Amito from FECCLAHA participated in the training and consultative meeting.

FECCLAHA also participated in a workshop to develop a 3 year Capacity Development Plan for the Act Kenya Forum (AKF), which took place in Nairobi on 23rd – 25th June, 2014. It is anticipated that this plan will greatly contribute to strengthening of the forum and capacity development of member organisations. The workshop took place after the Organisational Capacity Assessment (OCA) processes for AKF in 2010 and the Capacity Development Initiative (CDI) undertaken in 2013. Mr. Philemon Okeyo, the Finance and Administration Manager participated in this meeting.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

Church leaders’ Consultation on peace healing and reconciliation in the Great Lakes Region (Kigali, Rwanda)
September, 2014

Executive Committee Meeting (Kampala, Uganda)
October, 2014

Small Arms Baseline Survey Report Dissemination Workshop (Nairobi, Kenya)
November, 2014

Staff Retreat (Kenya)
September/October, 2014
Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA)

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FECCLAHA VISION:
Together for a just and peaceful society.

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

FECCLAHA VALUES:
- Human Dignity
- Compassion
- Peace
- Justice
- Integrity.