Who we are:

Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA) is a regional body that consists of membership of Churches and Councils of Churches in the region. It was officially launched in March 1999 and registered in Kenya in February 2001.

FECCLAHA Vision:

The creation of communities that are inclusive, harmonious, and living an abundant life in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa region.

FECCLAHA Mission:

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

FECCLAHA Core Values:

Human Dignity; Compassion; Justice; Peace

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The year ended on a low with serious concerns emerging regarding the peace processes in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa region and the sustainability of the relative stability gained in the last decade.

Concern is raised about the consolidation and full implementation of the Sudan Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). This is in the face of continued killings of innocent people in Darfur; low profile conflicts in places like South Kordofan and the presence of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in South Sudan, who have not been resettled. In addition, the year ended with the International Criminal Court (ICC) indictment of President Omar al-Bashir for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur. This could worsen the Darfur conflict and threaten the already troubled CPA.

Somalia is still a thorn in the flesh for the Horn of Africa and East Africa. The level of instability has led to increased populations of refugees in many parts of the region and beyond and millions of IDPs in the country. The year ended with the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops from the country, sustained civilian and military casualties, and the resignation of the Transitional Federal Government’s President Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed. All these events have heightened levels of uncertainty leaving the community unsure of the future of the country. Of concern is the inadequate international political support and lack of funding to back the Somalia peace process.

The border conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea whilst dormant, poses a grave potential for resurgence of conflict between the two countries. Failure to implement the Algiers Border Commission Agreement, has led to the unresolved conflict between the two countries.

The failure of the Lord’s Resistant Army (LRA) to sign the Final Peace Agreement (FPA) is of great concern in East Africa. To date five opportunities to sign the document have been lost latest being 29th November 2008. According to the LRA, the contentious issue is the warrant issued by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to arrest its leaders. In the wake of the failure to conclude the FPA process, the governments of Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and South Sudan jointly launched a military operation with the stated intention to either force the LRA to sign the FPA or capture the army’s leaders. To date, neither has happened; instead wanton deaths, destruction and suffering has intensified in DRC, Sudan and Central Africa Republic with civilians in DRC and Sudan bearing the brunt of the subsequent conflict.

Kenya’s fragile peace was severely tested by the post elections anarchy that followed the disputed Presidential results; a shock to them and the whole region. The country was plunged in to unprecedented violence never witnessed before, leaving over 1,500 people dead; more than 350,000 internally and externally displaced; and property worth billions of shillings destroyed.

Tanzania, on the other hand, is a country where churches will need to engage in mitigation efforts. This is with a view to address the grievances of the people of Zanzibar and the growing economic gap between the rich and the poor.

The crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a nation that has hardly known stability and the rule of law, has brought to fore the Great Lakes region. Recent resurgence of conflict in Eastern Congo is a reminder of the fragility of the nation and therefore the need for continued peace building and reconciliation efforts.

The effort by Rwanda to rebuild her nation after the genocide in 1994 is commendable. Nevertheless, there is still a continued pursuit of the perpetrators of the genocide some of whom are in the DRC causing conflicts. Tragically, volatility of DRC may derail and delay the rebuilding efforts in Rwanda.

The year of reporting began with the uncertainty on the expeditious implementation of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement signed by the Government of Burundi and Paliphehutu-
FNL in September 2006. This was coupled with the unfolding institutional stalemate occasioned by fragmentation of the ruling party and tensions between the government and the political opposition. The situation was however arrested by the end of the year when FNL came back to the negotiation table. A matter for concern in Burundi is the forthcoming elections which require churches and civil society to continue to build peace and undertake reconciliation efforts. Poverty and lack of tangible peace dividends, a case familiar in all fragile or post conflict nations, are other threats to peace in Burundi.

Of particular concern in the entire region is the vulnerability of women and children caught up in conflicts. Women’s bodies have continually been used as weapons of war and it is feared that the same is happening in the region.

Upon this backdrop, FECCLAHA, in line with its vision, mission and objectives continued to engage in different peacebuilding activities as we sort to fulfill our mandate of being peace makers in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa.

Some of the key highlights of the year included:

- **Solidarity and Pastoral visits**
  One of the intervention strategies of FECLLAHA in peacebuilding and conflict management has been solidarity, pastoral and fact finding missions to conflict affected areas. During these missions, religious leaders are able to observe the effects of conflict first hand and engage in discussions with the affected populace. Based on their findings, they formulate advocacy strategies targeting the relevant stakeholders. To this end, FECCLAHA together with AACC and WCC facilitated ecumenical solidarity/pastoral visits to Darfur, Northern Sudan, Southern Sudan and Burundi.

- **Mediation**
  Sustainable conflict transformation calls for complex problem solving strategies requiring justice, truth, repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, healing, and change of attitudes. These are religious values that FECLLAHA together with her members reverted to during the reporting year. In particular, FECLLAHA in partnership with NCCK and through the Inter Religious Forum of Kenya and other organizations responded to the post elections crisis in Kenya through Track II diplomacy. In addition to this, other forums were organized to advocate for peace and reconciliation among different communities in Kenya.

  Additionally, in a bid to mitigate in the North-Eastern DRC conflict, FECLLAHA together with All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) hosted a meeting between the facilitators of the Eastern DRC Peace Process: His Excellency Olusegun Obasanjo, His Excellency Benjamin Mkapa, and an ecumenical delegation of church leaders from the Great Lakes Region. Prior to this, the delegation had met with President Paul Kagame of Rwanda and President Joseph Kabila of DRC. FECLLAHA was also in contact with General Laurent Nkunda particularly asking him to exercise utmost restraint and bring to an immediate halt the military action against the people of Eastern DRC through a letter. The lesson learnt from this experience is that religious actors can successfully play an intermediary role if equipped with necessary technical skills and remain none partisan.

- **Inter-religious cooperation for peacebuilding**
  FECLLAHA continued to explore ways of intervening in the conflicts in Somalia and the wider Horn of Africa region through the Religious Leaders Peace Initiatives in the Horn of Africa. Though not all the objectives of this initiative were achieved, the interfaith relationships and peaceful co-existence through exposure and joint work in peace making and reconciliation was greatly enhanced. Through this platform, FECLLAHA together with Africa Council for Religious Leaders (ACRL) and AACC hope to follow up on the commitments made at the Christian-Muslim Conference of 2007 in Dar-es-salaam. In addition, FECLLAHA continued to strategically engage with Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCUMRA) and Inter Faith Action for Peace in Africa (IFAPA) in different peace-building initiatives in the region.

- **Capacity building for Transformative Leadership**

  The dearth of servant leaders has been stated as a major cause of Africa’s conflicts. This has emerged out of the observations that post colonial Africa has been awash with leaders who misrule their nations, institutions, and resources and mislead their people. There is therefore an urgent need to challenge the traditional conceptions of leadership in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa Region and conceptualize leadership in terms of change and progress drawing from the emphasis on collective action and social engagement in the African culture and Biblical principles advocate for collective and distributed leadership that is transformational.

  It is with this in mind that FECLLAHA has committed herself to facilitate and accompany transformative leadership seminars organized by Churches and national councils from the region. During the reporting year FECLLAHA together with the ecumenical accompanier facilitated such a meeting for the Church leaders in DRC.

- **Regional Peace Processes**
  FECLLAHA constituency contends that churches should be engaged in regional and international processes of peace, security, governance and development since these issues go beyond the individual State system. To this effect, during the year of reporting, FECLLAHA engaged with intergovernmental organizations like the East Africa Community (EAC) and International Conference in the Great Lakes Region (IC/GLR) and Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSA) among others. Worth highlighting was FECLLAHA’s active accompaniment of the Northern Uganda Peace process by offering technical and moral support to the process.
• Small Arms and Light Weapons

FECLALHA through the Nairobi based Ecumenical Working Group on Small Arms and Light Weapons (a regional network of five organizations committed to the fight against arms proliferation) together with Ecumenical Network on Small Arms and Light Weapons have formed a partnership. This seeks to strengthen and co-ordinate ecumenical work in this particular field. Additionally, during the reporting year we developed strategies that are substantially enhancing our role, as faith based institutions, in the broader framework of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons.

• The Tamar Campaign

Tamar Campaign continues to be the platform upon which we respond to the concerns of the rampant gender based violence in the region. 2008 saw the growth of the campaign with three member councils in Uganda, Kenya, and Burundi launching and owning the campaign. This is in addition to its launch in Rwanda and Ethiopia.

• Human Rights

Religious organizations can play an integral role in monitoring human rights practices by states. The religious doctrine of equality and human dignity along with justice and fairness gives them authentic reasons to discourage the violation of human rights. The 9th All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) General Assembly held in Maputo, Mozambique created a platform on which FECLALHA hosted a three day workshop whose theme was ‘Entrenching a Culture of Human Rights in Africa’.

The following pages present key initiatives and a sampling of other activities undertaken by FECLALHA during 2008 in response to the varying issues in the region.

I wish to express my appreciation to our members, ecumenical partners, and other stakeholders in peace building within the region and beyond for their continued support and accompaniment.

Fred Nyabera
Executive Director
Central to FECCLAHA’s vision of creation of communities that are inclusive, harmonious, and living an abundant life in the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa, is Advocacy and Lobbying. This is one of the key strategic responses that FECCLAHA continues to employ in responding to challenges in the region.

International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (IC/GLR)

FECCLAHA continues to utilise its observer status in the IC/GLR by engaging at all levels with the process. This has provided an avenue for the Church leaders in the Great Lakes Region to make contributions towards the re-construction of their constituency. To this end FECCLAHA participated in:

• The Second Parliamentarians’ Conference of the IC/GLR in Burundi
The meeting was attended by Parliamentarians from eleven Member States and co-opted countries of the IC/GLR; Association for European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA); the Group of Friends of the IC/GLR; United Nations (UN) Agencies and the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi; Representatives from the East African Legislative Assembly and Amani Forum, as well as Members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to Burundi. The meeting extensively addressed the following:

  • The role of parliamentarians of the IC/GLR Member States in the implementation of the Pact on Security, Stability, and Development in the Great Lakes Region;
  • Assessed the status of ratification and domestication of the Pact and its Protocols;
  • Considered the establishment of a Regional Parliamentarians Forum.

• The Third Inter-Ministerial Committee Meeting (RIMC) of the Great Lakes Region, Nairobi
The meeting was attended by Ministers of Foreign Affairs, of the Member States and the co-opted countries of the IC/GLR; the Group of Friends, Representatives of African Union, representatives of the United Nations Agencies, the African Development Bank, civil society and Great Lakes Ecumenical Forum (GLEF) representatives.

The meeting considered among other things the security situation in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo(DRC) and welcomed the entry into force the Pact on Security, Stability and Development. It further affirmed the the importance of the Pact as a tool for resolving political crisis and conflict in the Great Lakes Region. It stressed an urgent need to reinforce joint border security and combat the illegal exploitation of natural resources.

The crucial issues raised in the meeting resonated with FECCLAHA’s 2009-2013 Strategic Plan providing entry points for continued collaboration with IC/GLR.

Great Lakes Region Ecumenical Forum (GLEF)

FECCLAHA together with her members in the Great Lakes Region and through GLEF platform is currently involved in the implementation of the IC/GLR ‘Protocols on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence Against Women and Children and Disarmament and Repatriation of Armed Groups in Eastern DRC’.

• Core Group Meeting
A deep analysis of the prevalent political, economical, and social situation in the Great Lakes Region and how it relates to the entire region was discussed during the GLEF Core Group meeting held in Nairobi. This offered a platform upon which matters regarding GLEF were deliberated and preparation for major GLEF activities done. The Core Group meetings are essential in steering GLEF forward and in ensuring that the forum remains relevant to the concerns in the region.

• The Second and Third Steering Committee Meetings on the Repatriation of Refugees and Armed Groups living in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
These meetings are a follow up to a process that was initiated through the GLEF in partnership with the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC)-South Kivu. The aim of the project is to work towards disarming and repatriation of all foreign armed groups in Eastern DRC, as well as the repatriation of all refugees still in Eastern DRC.
These meetings, held in Burundi and Uganda respectively, brought together delegations comprising of representatives from National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB), Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR), Ugandan Joint Christian Council (UJCC), Church of Christ in Congo (ECC), Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), the project Consultant and Representatives from the Government and the Church leadership of Burundi and Uganda. FECCLAHA accompanied this process through participation, logistical and technical support.

The meetings provided a platform upon which reports on the ongoing work in South Kivu, Uganda, Burundi, and Rwanda were presented. The committee meetings also offer a platform on which lessons and best practices are shared among those in attendance.

Some progress was reported from North and South Kivu Provinces as regards the repatriation of refugees and armed groups in the region:

- 150 people were repatriated back to Rwanda;
- 40 weapons from the fighters were collected and officially given to MONUC;
- 163 people including 73 combatants were registered and grouped in the camp built by ECC South Kivu. However, with the renewed conflict in the region at the end of the year, the planned repatriation never took place.
- 250 fighters are prepared to be demobilized – they deposited 40 weapons voluntarily.

**The Burundi Project on the implementation of the IC/GLR Protocol on the Prevention & Suppression of Sexual Gender Based Violence**

This is an ongoing process on the implementation of the ‘IC/GLR Protocol on the Prevention & Suppression of Sexual Gender Based Violence’ that has been taking place in Burundi. The process began with a research which was in form of a comparative study between the protocol and the existing Burundian Law. This sought to find out the gaps, compare, and harmonize the two.

An experts’ meeting that consists of other international organizations, gender technical experts, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) who already work on sexual abuse against women seeking to obtain their input is planned. This then will lead to the harmonization of the document. An advocacy plan will be drawn from the document and be put into an activity plan for 2009-2010.

**The Ecumenical Peace Initiative on Eastern DRC**

FECCLAHA in partnership with the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) facilitated meetings between Church leaders from the Great Lakes Region and the facilitators of the Eastern DRC Peace Process. These were: His Excellency Olusegun Obasanjo- United Nations Special Envoy for the Great Lakes Region; His Excellency Benjamin Mkapa - The African Union/International Conference for the Great Lakes Region Envoy; Ambassador Liberata Mulamula - The Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (IC/GLR); and Ambassador Rodard Van Degeer- the European Union (EU) Ambassador to the Great Lakes Region.

The objectives of these meetings were to:

- Give impetus to the churches engagement and accompaniment of the DRC peace process and the nascent democracy;
- Dialogue with the strategic stakeholders on the various ways of fostering peace and reconciliation in the DRC;
- Share the ecumenical experiences with the aforementioned strategic personalities and explore avenues of collaboration.

Prior to these meetings, the delegation had met with President Kagame of Rwanda and President Kabila of the DRC in November 2008. FECCLAHA had also been in contact with General Laurent Nkunda and wrote a letter to him in November 2008 requesting him to exercise utmost restraint and bring to an immediate halt the military action against the people of Eastern DRC.

As a way forward a decision was made to have an evaluation and reflection meeting in Nairobi at the beginning of 2009. Additionally, that an ecumenical delegation would visit the National Congress for Defence of the People (CNDP), which was then under the leadership of General Nkunda, in the first week of January 2009.

The objectives of the planned ecumenical delegation visit to the CNDP were defined as:

- To assess and gain greater understanding of the CNDP’s grievances and dialogue with the movement on ways of fostering peace in the country;
- To dialogue with and encourage the CNDP to seize the opportunity offered by the Nairobi peace negotiations to put to an end the current political crisis;
- To advocate for the observance of international human rights and humanitarian law and consideration of the plight of women and children especially among the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

Through shuttle diplomacy and communication channels between the ecumenical stakeholders and the key actors; the DRC peace process was highly strengthened. In addition, the initiatives gave impetus to the churches engagement and accompaniment of the peace process.
FECCCLAHA Accompaniment of Members in Peace Building Efforts

FECCCLAHA’s mandate is to her members in the region, it is against this background that she endeavours to accompany member councils in the different peace initiatives.

• Post-Election Violence in Kenya
Upon announcement of the presidential tally, violence broke out throughout Kenya causing a crisis in the country. In less than a week, more than 200,000 people had been displaced and were living in deplorable conditions as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in camps across major towns in Kenya: Nairobi, Eldoret, Kisumu, and parts of Mombasa.

FECCCLAHA, together with the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK) and AACC immediately got involved in the calls for peace and calm amongst the population over the post election violence. In their efforts, they encouraged political dialogue amongst the political leadership. FECCCLAHA worked with other churches and peace partners to mitigate the deteriorating violence, political and humanitarian situation. The efforts are outlined as follows:

• Spearheaded a mediation initiative in collaboration with key churches and AACC led by Nobel laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu;
• Addressed the crisis of election malpractice under the Inter-Religious Forum by urging leaders and the Election Commission of Kenya to deal with election complaints expeditiously;
• Responded to the humanitarian crisis under the National Alliance of Churches for Peace following the displacement of people and their increased vulnerability;
• Developed positive messages and identified durable solutions for peace together with Citizens for Peace, which is a coalition of various stakeholders in peace work, media, entertainment and business;
• Trained over 150 bishops and pastors in peace building skills so as to enable them handle the healing process of the members of their churches and for the nation at large;
• Co-ordinated the solidarity messages and visits from the regional member councils and churches to Kenya;

As a follow up to this, FECCCLAHA is also accompanying the Inter-Religious Forum of Kenya in a research on ‘The Root Causes of the Post-Election Violence in Kenya’. This is a road map towards healing and reconciliation for the country. This is in its final stages and will inform the Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Commission that will be created by the Government of Kenya.

• The National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK) National Pastors’ meeting in Kabarak
Ten FECCCLAHA members from Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan and Uganda participated in the above mentioned conference that sought to address and bring healing to Kenyan clergy. This was mainly done through sharing of experiences among clergy from other parts of Africa that had undergone similar situations.

At the end of the conference the delegates committed:
• To spearhead corporate and individual healing;
• To renewal of fellowship and affirmation to their commitment to speak with one voice on national issues on the basis of scripture and guidance of the Holy Spirit;
• To participate in the ongoing National healing and reconciliation process and address issues such as: constitutional review, legal and institutional Reforms, economic and social injustices, Truth, Justice and Reconciliation process among others.
- **The Ecumenical Eminent persons visit to Burundi**
  In a bid to foster solidarity with the people of Burundi, FECCLAHA accompanied His Excellency President Joachim Chissano (former President of Mozambique) in leading a group of eminent personalities to Burundi. These eminent personalities were drawn from the Ecumenical circles in the country.

The following were the objectives they aimed at achieving:
- To stand in solidarity with the people of Burundi;
- To assess and gain greater understanding of the situation in Burundi;
- To give impetus to the churches engagement and accompaniment of the Burundi peace process and the nascent democracy;
- To dialogue with all stakeholders on ways of fostering reconciliation in the country;
- To dialogue with and encourage the government of Burundi and the political opposition to work together to put an end to the current political crisis;
- To advocate for the observance of the rule of law, the respect for and promotion of human rights and the operationalization of a transitional justice mechanism;
- To learn from post war reconstruction experience of Mozambique.

The ecumenical eminent person’s team held discussions with strategic institutions in Burundi. These included: Church Leaders; Civil Society Organizations; Ecumenical Partners; the Speaker of the Parliament; the Speaker of the Senate; Former Presidents; the Prime Minister; His Excellency the President of the Republic of Burundi; the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB); and the Executive Secretary of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (IC/GLR).

The Key issues discussed and observed were:
Institutional Stalemate in Burundi; The withdrawal of Peliphehutu- FNL from the Joint Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JVMM) of the Comprehensive Ceasefire Agreement; Increasing insecurity; Governance; Economy; Fragmentation within the political parties; The establishment of Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in Burundi; Humanitarian Refugee Crisis.

- **Accompaniment of the Northern Uganda Peace Process**
Since the beginning of the Juba peace process on Northern Uganda, FECCLAHA and her partners have continued to accompany and support the initiative. This is in recognition that while the signing of the two principals of the Final Peace Agreement (FPA) will be a critical signpost in the process, it will also serve as the beginning of a long journey to peace-building in the entire region.

While the FPA has not been signed, FECCLAHA, in 2008 retained an abiding spirit and has continued behind the scenes engagements that involve learning, supporting, and accompanying the peace process in the following ways:
- Providing on-going technical support to the LRA/M peace delegation. In doing this, FECCLAHA recognizes that building the technical capacity of the delegation in peace and justice issues is critical at this juncture. At all times, FECCLAHA has continued to retain peace as a value orientation on the nature of support she is able and willing to offer. This has included encouraging the delegation to continue acting in ways that would enhance peace within the region.
- It is critical that the leadership, rank and file of the LRA as well as ordinary citizens of Northern Uganda and the rest of the country be able to read, understand and own the FPA. In this regard, FECCLAHA produced an abridged version of the FPA. Modelled along the abridged version of Sudan’s Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) the document summarized key principles and agreements in the FPA in a people friendly language.
- We also, in partnership with UJCC translated the abridged version of the FPA into Acholi language spoken by a substantial part of the rank and file of the LRA as well as ordinary citizens of Northern and North-Eastern Uganda.
- Engagement in confidence building initiatives that contributed to sustaining and moving the peace process forward.

- **The Ecumenical Visit to Sudan**
FECCLAHA was involved in organizing an international ecumenical solidarity visit to Sudan. The delegation visited Nyala in Darfur where the delegation was informed that the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the government of Sudan and Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) formed the foundation for the current relative peace between the North and South.

Following the success of the church’s engagement in peace processes in the region; the delegation came to the conclusion that:
- It is incumbent on member churches of the ecumenical community nationally, regionally, globally to provide the most focussed accompaniment to developments in Sudan for the foreseeable future.
- It was also noted that for purposes of peace negotiations and humanitarian work, the parallel conflict in Chad must be acknowledged as integral to/with Darfur.

The delegation was led by the World Council of Churches (WCC) Secretary; Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia accompanied by representatives from the AACC and FECCLAHA and hosted by Sudan Council of Churches (SCC).
In responding to the cross-border nature of conflicts in the region, and in a bid to facilitate ecumenical cooperation and fellowship in the region; FECLLAHP employs capacity building as a strategic response.

- The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) 9th General Assembly: ‘Entrenching a Culture of Human Rights in Africa (EHRA)’

FECLLAHP secretariat and her members held a series of workshops guided by the theme “Entrenching a Culture of Human Rights in Africa (EHRA)” during the AACC 9th Assembly. The workshops offered a platform for learning and engaging in different topics affecting the region. Among other facilitators, President Joachim Chissano (Former President of Mozambique); Dr. Brigalia Bam (Chairperson of the Electoral Commission in South Africa) and Dr. Frank Chikane (The Director-General - The Presidency of South Africa) made valuable contributions to the discourse. Tamar campaign also got a special mention during one of the morning worship; further giving the initiative a platform to grow beyond the FECLLAHP region as in attendance were more than 1,000 delegates from different parts of the continent.

FECLLAHP envisages synergy between churches and states in Africa as well as greater collaboration with non-state actors in the promotion and protection of Human Rights. It also anticipates increased participation of churches and national councils of churches in advocacy for the promotion and protection of Human Rights. These and other recommendations from the workshop have been included in the organization’s Strategic and Work plan for future implementation.

- Transformative Leadership Seminar in DRC

FECLLAHP together with the Horn of Africa Ecumenical accompanier, Dr. Agnes Abuom facilitated this seminar whose theme was: “Transformative Leadership and Governance in the Reconstruction of the DRC”.

The seminar was attended by more than 70 Bishops, Clergy and Lay church representatives from all over the DRC. The seminar engaged the leadership and governance discourse with a view to discern the ways in which the ecumenical family can nurture effective leadership and governance. This will aid their efforts in actively accompanying the consolidation of peace processes, post conflict peace building, and reconstruction of DRC and also ensuring good stewardship of national resources.

- Regional Youth training in Peace-building

The Youth are an important component in the peace building and conflict transformation in the region. In a bid to ensure that they are part of the efforts of peace building in the region, FECLLAHP organized a youth training workshop that brought together 20 young men and women from Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The training created a platform and a space for interaction, experience sharing, and healing. Through this process the youth were challenged and equipped to be peacemakers and encouraged to be peace ambassadors in their respective home countries.

- Youth Peace Building and Conflict Transformation Workshop - University of Nairobi

Following the crisis in Kenya as a result of the disputed Presidential Elections, it was largely felt that the youth had been used by politicians during the conflict. In addition to this, many feared that young people and children had witnessed killings of close relatives, destruction of property, and unruly behavior from adults which would then translate to continued unruly behavior by the young adults in the campuses.

In an endeavor to foster Trauma healing and reconciliation among the youth, FECLLAHP facilitated a workshop that was geared towards peace building and conflict transformation. This was held at the University of Nairobi Parklands Campus. The objective of the training was to empower the students to address situations in their context on conflict transformation and post trauma counseling. It is hoped that in doing this, the youth will desist from participating in violent conflicts in the Universities.
Tamar Campaign is an initiative seeking to acknowledge the existence of gender-based violence in the society. Launched in 2005, the initiative seeks to equip and challenge the church to break the silence against the vice. The campaign draws its basis from the Bible story in 2 Samuel 13:1-22, a case of incest. Tamar, in the story, is a symbol of strength as she spoke out against the violence, thus the campaign’s tag line ‘Breaking the Silence Against gender based violence’.

- **Tamar Campaign across the FECCLAHA region**
FECCLAHA has been spearheading the movement of the Tamar Campaign, encouraging and challenging the churches to use the Tamar concept in addressing Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV). The Tamar Campaign offers a Biblical approach in addressing the vice in the region and beyond. Therefore, the launch of the campaign in Uganda, Kenya, Burundi and other countries in the region links churches to others facilitating advocacy and lobbying work against Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in the region.

**Uganda**
Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC) launched the Tamar Campaign in the country. Present at the launch were women from the various UJCC church members. They were appreciative of the concept of the Contextual Bible study and pledged to have various efforts focused on SGBV throughout the year.

In addition, the World Women’s Day of Prayer celebration service, held at the Uganda Orthodox Church and attended by over 1,000 women from the Churches offered a platform for further discuss on Tamar Campaign. The women pledged to fight Sexual Gender Based violence through the campaign.

All the three Churches presented papers on the status of women, violence and intervention to curb this wrong in society. The Tamar campaign continues to be a platform that offers a safe space to discuss SGBV and the impact of the same in the country.

**Kenya**
Tamar Campaign was also launched by the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK). This is significant as it is symbolic and a channel through which the member churches of the national council will engage with different aspects of Gender Based Violence in the country. It is especially timely as the country undergoes a healing and reconciliation phase after the conflict early in the year leaving many homeless and in dire need.

FECCLAHA was invited to draw the relation between Gender Based Violence (GBV) and HIV&AIDS. A call was made to the church to continue her deliberations in addressing HIV&AIDS and GBV. The Tamar Campaign was introduced as an appropriate tool to fight against the vice in the society today. This was during the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK) leaders’ conference held in Limuru, Kenya.

In addition, in a deliberate effort to get various churches in Kenya owning the Tamar Campaign, a presentation was made to a young women’s monthly meeting at the Nairobi Pentecostal Church. Additionally, the Nairobi Youth Workers and Pastors Network (NAYNET), an umbrella body of over 250 Youth Pastors in Kenya, also sought FECCLAHA’s strategic partnership. This is valuable for the organization as it creates a platform on which issues related to Gender Based Violence (GBV) through the use of the Contextual Bible Study as well as the Tamar Campaign among the youth will be deliberated, further creating an opportunity for growth.

During the International Women’s Day, whose theme was “Shaping Progress through Healing & Reconciliation”, Tamar Campaign together with ‘Tukomeshe Unajisi Network’ (A network of organizations seeking to address Rape in Kenya) endeavoured to do various activities to raise awareness on the day and join
in advocacy surrounding issues affecting women. Among other activities, the network was involved in a silent march, prayer service for survivors, and an information tent for lawyers to provide legal information on available assistance pro bono among other activities.

**Burundi**
The National Council of Churches in Burundi (CNEB) also launched the campaign. Present during the launch were various church leaders and government officials in the country.

- **Translation of the Contextual Bible Study Manual**
  As the Tamar Campaign and the use of the Contextual Bible Study continues to grow in the region, it has become pertinent to translate the manual to different languages. Having already translated and produced the manual in French; translation to Kiswahili and Amharic has been the main focus this year. The Amharic translation is complete and awaiting publication. This will facilitate continued work of the Tamar Campaign in Eritrea and Ethiopia which is a great representation of the Horn of Africa Region.

  The Kiswahili manual is on course with the Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) –Tanzania spearheading the process. This will go a long way in reaching the Tanzanian and the grass root communities in Kenya.

- **Great Lakes Region Pastors Conference**
The Pastors’ Conference in Bujumbura, Burundi created a platform on which the Tamar Campaign and her role in the region was presented. The Campaign was seen as a tool that the churches can adopt and develop with a view to get involved in preventive programs around violence against women.

  This conference gathered together leaders from Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Norway. The focus of the discussion was the United Nations Resolution 1674 which seeks to elaborate the responsibility of the International Community to protect individuals who are threatened by violence and other human rights atrocities. ‘The Responsibility to Protect’ is a pertinent question for the church to address when considering:
  
  - What issues make populations vulnerable and subject to horrendous violence attacks?
  - What is required to ensure women and children are safe from these atrocities that take place during conflicts?
  - Who is responsible for this protection?
  - How can the church take on a more significant role in this process?
  - What theological perspectives can be applied in the discussion of the role of the Church?

  The presentation on the Tamar Campaign raised the question of silence around Gender Based Violence and particularly sexual and domestic violence. Expositions from the Great Lakes countries revealed horrendous sexual violence atrocities used as tools to devastate communities.

  At the end of the conference, the pastors signed a statement acknowledging the failure of the Church in taking up their responsibility to protect. They also embraced Tamar Campaign as one suitable way in ensuring that the Church plays her role in protecting the community.

- **Contextual Bible Study Training**
  FECLAHA was represented in a 6 day training held at the Ujamaa Centre South Africa. The focus for the training was “Redemptive Masculinity”: an addition to the Tamar Campaign, where the study was pulled from the Tamar story focusing on the character of Amnon. Pertinent questions during the study enables the users of the study realize that Amnon is an ordinary man who makes poor choices. These choices may be a reflection of his privilege position as a prince or that he is lacking in character and guidance.

- **‘Tukomeshe Unajisi’ Network**
The Tamar Campaign, in conjunction with other advocates against Gender Based Violence in Kenya, is part of a network called ‘Tukomeshe Unajisi’, which means ‘Let us Stop Rape’. This network aims at combining forces with different organizations in fighting against Sexual Gender Based Violence within Kenya.

  After the crisis in the country, the network felt a need to come up with a concerted approach and response to the plight of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) whose camps would be closed after statements to enact the same by the authorities.

- **Tamar at the AACC 9th General Assembly**
The Tamar Campaign had the opportunity to be involved in shaping one of the themes of the AACC 9th General Assembly: The Church, HIV & AIDS, Malaria and other diseases. Other than tabling the dire issues of sexual violence and the spread of HIV & AIDS, the opportunity to engage with the development of the theme provided an opportunity for the Tamar Campaign to be highlighted at the General Assembly that was held in Maputo, Mozambique. One of the worship services focussed on gender based violence and the Tamar Campaign was accepted as a tool that churches can adopt to speak and engage in addressing the vice.
This Programme is aimed at enhancing knowledge on small arms and light weapons in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa. It also strives together with other partners, to relate the impact of SALWs on different segments of society, exploring appropriate policy options, supporting individual members/initiatives on small arms and influencing our constituency agenda in order to prioritize small arms work. The trend of small arms supply and demands in the region has served for a long time as a catalyst for ethnic, intrastate, and interstate conflicts.

- **Sudan Civil Society Workshop on Community Security and Arms Control (CSAC)**

A workshop with a theme of “Community Security and Arms Control” was held in Juba. The meeting sought to address the following objectives:

- To raise awareness on SALWs and community security;
- To learn about GOSS initiatives in enhancing community security;
- To share civil society experience in tackling small arms and insecurity;
- To develop action plans to promote Community Security and Arms Control;
- To identify ways in which civil society across southern Sudan can work together.

It drew participants from local organizations across Southern Sudan from states like Bahr El Gazal, Upper Nile and Equatorial. International agencies and regional bodies were also present.

After the meeting there was a Communiqué that was presented to the GOSS Bureau for Community Security and Arms Control. In addition a taskforce was formed to look into how Sudanese civil society could be mobilized to work on small arms issues across the country. Sudan is one of FECLAAHA’s member countries and therefore continues to support the processes in the country.

- **Community Security and Arms Control (CSAC) Coordination Meeting**

FECLAAHA was represented in a CSAC coordinating meeting, which is a forum that brings in all agencies working on security issues in Sudan. It is primarily a platform intended to enhance harmony in the interventions, a learning and advocacy arena where each member is informed of what other members are doing.

This coordination meeting discussed members’ interventions and areas of engagement for the year 2008. It further emphasized the need to make a field trip to what is potentially an explosive area in Jonglei State of Southern Sudan where previous forceful disarmament had been bloody and as a result, a field visit to Bor, the State Capital of Jonglei state was made.

The meeting was to be a dialogue on security concerns with the State administration. The Government highlighted the dilemma and the impact of insecurity facing it. The dilemma that they stressed required a firm, decisive action given the negative impact on the economy, social-ethnic links, development in general, governance and rule of law as well as relations with other States and Ethiopia.

- **Eastern Africa Action Network on Small Arms (EAANSA) and Working Group**

FECLAAHA is a member of the Working Group that serves as a technical committee of the East Africa Network on Small Arms (EAANSA). The Working Group was asked to help draft an MOU for EAANSA on how to engage with the Regional Centre for Small Arms (RECSA). The MOU formalizes the working relationship between Government and Civil Society in the FECLAAHA region in which RECSA & EAANSA expressed a commitment to work together.

- **Small Arms meeting at the U.N**

The Working Group on Small Arms was represented in the 3rd Biannual Meeting of States (BMS), held once every two years. The meeting brings together all the member states of the United Nations to review the progress on the implementation of the programme of action.
against Small Arms and Light Weapons in an effort to stem the illicit trade of SALWs.

Unlike previous UN small arms meetings, the United States did not participate in 2008 BMS which mainly focussed on four themes in the UN Programme of Action: International Assistance and Cooperation; Illicit Brokering; Stockpile Management; and Marking and Tracing.

An outcome document of the meeting was produced and adopted through voting during which 134 states voted for, 2 abstained (Iran and Zimbabwe), and none voted against it.

The Working Group on Small Arms was adequately represented by APFO, AMECEA, PAX Christi; EAANSA & RECSA.

• **Public Forum on Urban Armed Crime**

FECLLAHA facilitated a public forum that sought to deliberate on Urban Armed Crime. The aim of the workshop was to discuss the dynamics of urban armed crime and its links to Small Arms and Light Weapons. The public forums aimed at bringing to the fore a better understanding on what is currently being done. The forum also aimed at initiating a debate on what should be done to contain urban armed crime.

From the presentation from Nairobi, Uganda, and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), it was noted with great concern that there is minimal response to the effects of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the region. This is even after research revealed that proliferation of SALWs was at the heart of many problems facing the region.

**Networking, Learning and Partnership**

It is through networking, learning, and partnership with members and other partners, that solutions to common challenges in the region will be sought and found. Through networking and partnership there is information sharing, creating platforms for learning to take place. FECLLAHA is part of various continuous processes that create such platforms.

• **Faith Based Organizations (FBO) Forum**

FECLLAHA participated in the second annual meeting of the FBO Forum that was held in Frankfurt, Germany. The meeting was co-host with ‘Religions for Peace’ and ‘Humanity First Germany’.

The FBO Forum is an informal network of faith-based humanitarian, development and peace agencies from around the globe that have agreed to convene on annual basis to discuss shared concerns and foster collaboration.

Using case study method, the group reviewed on- the-ground projects that illustrate the potential benefits and challenges of multi-religious collaboration in three areas: Working “in and on” Conflict; Policies and Principles for Partnership; Multi-religious Advocacy.

FECLLAHA presented a case study on how multi-religious platforms may be used as instruments in the inter-action between “working IN conflict” and working ON conflict” within the Horn of Africa. The case studies were followed by a dynamic dialogue on the value of and challenges to implementing multi-religious projects and advocacy campaigns. Areas of potential collaboration were raised and discussed.

![A group of church leaders listen to one of the victims of the Post Election Violence in Kenya: In the background, is Bishop Noah Nzeyimana, the General Secretary of the National Council of Churches of Burundi](image-url)
• United Nations Advocacy Week (UNAW)
FECLLAHA was represented in the Fourth Annual United Nations Advocacy Week (UNAW) which took place during the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This served as an appropriate networking and learning platform with a participation of 125 members from 50 countries of the ecumenical community. The aim of this meeting was to analyze and put into practice the opportunities for ecumenical advocacy within the United Nations system from a social, political, and theological perspectives.

• Mother’s cry for a Healthy Africa Inter-faith Campaign
Tamar Campaign has continued to play an important role of a faith based response to Gender Based Violence. The role she plays during armed conflict as GBV takes a horrendous face was discussed during a workshop headed by the Inter-Faith Action for Peace in Africa (IFAPA). The theme of the workshop was “Women and Peace” which coincided with the official launch of “A Mother’s Cry for a Healthy Africa Inter-faith Campaign”. This drew participants mainly from East and Southern Africa.

• Conference on Religion in Fragile States
FECLLAHA was one among three international guests invited to a conference organized to respond to the role of religion and religious agents in development and conflict transformation in fragile states. Other international guests present were from Afghanistan, East Jerusalem, and Israel. In addition to this topic, participants were also interested in knowing the success of the Juba Peace Process and the role of the Multinational Corporations (MNCs) in the Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and the crisis of Eastern DRC.

At the end of the conference, the regional and inter-faith approaches were appreciated and participants said that they could recommend the same to other contexts where Dutch ecumenical International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) worked.

• Religion and Conflict Prevention/Management, Peace-building, and Reconciliation in Eastern Africa: PROCMURA
FECLLAHA was invited to present a paper entitled “Transforming Armed Conflicts in Eastern Africa – The Role of Faith Communities” during a conference organized by PROCMURA. The principal objective of the conference was the creation of a forum for Muslim and Christian leaders in Eastern Africa guided by experts to openly deliberate on peace, peaceful coexistence, mitigation of conflicts and working towards reconciliation of broken societies. The conference drew participation from Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Ethiopia, most of whom were drawn from the FECLLAHA constituency. The aim of the conference was to challenge and equip the Christian and Muslim leaders to accelerate their quest for peace in their countries and in the entire region.

Research and Documentation
The need to have accurate and up to-date information to support many of the regional initiatives is critical. It is in this light that in 2008, FECLLAHA in collaboration with Life and Peace Institute (LPI) embarked on a research on ‘Citizenship, Nationhood, and Belonging in the Great Lakes Region: In relation to conflict and peace building’.

Organizational Development - Strengthening Institutional Capacity
To strengthen the secretariat’s capacity in playing its facilitation role in the sub-region, FECLLAHA has continued to facilitate capacity building opportunities for her staff in the secretariat.

• Staff Training
In line with FECLLAHA’s mission of empowering her staff to engage fully with the issues affecting the region, she has continued to facilitate learning opportunities to staff members in the organization. In 2008, two members of staff continued with their studies at the Daystar University, Nairobi, in Communications and Community development respectively. In addition, another Staff member attended a two weeks course in Kwazulu Natal University, South Africa, on how to facilitate Contextual Bible Study regarding Gender Based Violence and a specialization course on Women in Armed Conflict in Austria.

• Fredskorpset Exchange Programme (FK)
FECLLAHA in partnership with Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Ethiopian Orthodox Church – Development Inter-Church Aid Commission (EOC/DICAC) took part in an ongoing personnel exchange programme. Ms. Monica Njoroge and Mr. Yilkal Shiferaw from FECLLAHA and EOC/DICAC were involved in the exchange programme. The aim of the exchange is to promote mutual exchange of knowledge, experience and skills to facilitate conflict transformation and peace building in the region. Ultimately, the relationships between both organizations will be strengthened and a network of messengers of peace be created in the region.

Closely related to this, Rev. Shelvis Smith-Mather from Atlanta, Georgia United States of America (USA), joined the organization as a volunteer. He is currently serving as a volunteer with the Young Adult Volunteer Program of the Presbyterian Church of USA. His contribution to the organization especially in the compilation of the Healing and Reconciliation Manual is invaluable.
• Executive Committee Meetings
With the overall objective of promoting FECLHA’s institutional development and sustainability, FECLHA’s Executive Committee met thrice in 2008. These meetings were held in Nairobi and Maputo where the following were achieved: Reviewed the work of the secretariat; Received, reflected upon, and adopted the 2007 Financial and Annual Narrative reports; Received and adopted 2009 draft Budget Programme Plans.

It is also during these meeting that the Executive Committee mandated the secretariat to commence an evaluation process of FECLHA and a strategic planning process.

• Full-time Finance and Administration Officer and Advocacy and Research Coordinator Hired
FECLHA employed a full-time Finance and Administration Officer and Advocacy and Research Coordinator: Mr. Philemon Okeyo and Mr. Mutua Mulonzya respectively. They are welcome addition to the organization as it continues to make strides forward.

• FECLHA Strategic Plan for 2009-2013
FECLHA began the Strategic planning process for the organization to cover the coming period of 2009-2013. In partnership with other ecumenical partners and member councils, FECLHA aims at supporting peace and conflict transformation initiatives in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa region. It is hoped that through these efforts lasting solutions to the conflicts in the region will be obtained.

• Office hardware and environment enhancement
In order to create a more conducive and efficient working environment, FECLHA secretariat upgraded its Communication Network, office equipment and working space.

With the above mentioned organizational development activities, carried out in 2008, FECLHA secretariat achieved tremendous improvement in its facilitation role in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa.

FECLHA Executive Committee Members

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Annual Report Compiled and Coordinated by
Monica W. Njoroge
Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCCLAHA)

Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31st December 2008

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<thead>
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<th>Income</th>
<th>2008 (Kshs.)</th>
<th>2007 (Kshs.)</th>
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<td>Grant Income</td>
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<td>Members Subscriptions</td>
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<td>Interest Income</td>
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<td>Other Income</td>
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<td><strong>38,927,002</strong></td>
<td><strong>39,095,342</strong></td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure</th>
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<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Administrative Costs</td>
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<td>10,545,416</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme Costs</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>38,849,060</strong></td>
<td><strong>37,397,170</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Surplus for the Year           | 77,942       | 1,698,172    |
Refund to donors               | -            | (377,511)    |
Net Surplus for the Year       | **77,942**   | **1,320,661** |

The financial statements were approved by the Executive Committee on 24/8/2009 and signed on its behalf by:

Chairman

Treasurer

FECCCLAHA Partners and Associates

- Action of Churches Together (ACT)
- Africa Evangelical Enterprises (AEE)
- Amani Forum: The Great Lakes Parliamentary Forum on Peace
- Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD)
- Africa Peace Forum
- All African Conference of Churches (AACC)
- Bread for the World
- Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives (KAIROS)
- CARE International
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
- Caritas Network
- Christian Aid
- Church World Service (CWS)
- Church Development Service (EED)
- Church of Sweden
- Dan Church Aid (DCA)
- International Alert
- Inter Church Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO)
- International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (IC/GLR)
- Life and Peace Institute (LPI)
- Lott Carey Baptist Mission
- Nairobi Peace Initiative (NPI) – Africa
- Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
- Pax Christi-Netherlands
- Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA)
- Refugee Consortium of Kenya (RCK)
- UNIFEM
- World Council of Churches (WCC)
Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK), Archbishop Benjamin Nzimbi reads a statement in responding to the Post-election conflicts in Kenya

Children living in deplorable conditions in one of the Internally Displaced Persons’ camp in Kenya (Photo by NCCK & IRF)

A structure shaped like the African continent made from bits and pieces of Small Arms and Light Weapons (Photo by AACC)

A peaceful march to accompany the launch of the Tamar Campaign in Burundi spearheaded by the National Council of Churches of Burundi

Bishop Mbaya Tshiakany, Chairperson of FECLAHA, addresses a group of Youth during the Regional Youth Training that was held in Nairobi, Kenya