Annual Report
2011

Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECLHA)
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1. Introduction

This annual report documents FECCLAHA's journey through 2011. The narrative part of the report captures in detail both institutional and programmatic activities carried out during the year and summarizes the results of the organization's work and the challenges the organization faced during the reporting period. The financial part gives a summary of the audited accounts for the year. The report emphasizes the achievements of the organization and the challenges it faced through the reporting period.

About FECCLAHA

The Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA) is a regional ecumenical organization consisting of churches and national councils of churches in the following countries of the Great Lakes region and Horn of Africa: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eritrea, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Kenya, South Sudan and Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. It was formally launched in March 1999 and registered in Kenya in February 2001 to provide a platform for members to share perspectives on issues of common concern, particularly with regard to peace building and conflict transformation and to foster strong ecumenical cooperation in taking ownership and responsibility for problems in the region and proactively seek solutions to them.

FECCLAHA has observer status with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (IC/GLR). It also works collaboratively with the Amani Forum: The Great Lakes Parliamentary Forum on Peace and with the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA). Since its inception in 1999, FECCLAHA has remained consistent to its mission to enhance peace and reconciliation in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa by facilitating ecumenical cooperation and fellowship within the framework of holistic Christian ministry.

Vision, Mission and Objectives of FECCLAHA

FECCLAHA's vision is: The creation of communities that are inclusive, harmonious and living an abundant life in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa. Fundamental to our vision is the assumption that solutions to the issues of conflict must essentially come from within the region, with inhabitants taking ownership and responsibility for the problems and proactively seeking solutions.

The mission of FECCLAHA is: To enhance peace and reconciliation in the Great Lakes Region and Horn of Africa by facilitating ecumenical cooperation and fellowship within the framework of holistic Christian ministry.

FECCLAHA's strategic objectives are:

- To provide a platform for interaction and solidarity building;
- To strengthen members' capacity to articulate their needs and priorities in peace building and conflict transformation;
- To advocate and lobby on issues of peace, justice, reconciliation and human dignity;
- To incorporate research into ecumenical peace work;
- To facilitate effective learning and sharing of best practices and information among members, partners and other stakeholders; and
- To promote FECCLAHA's institutional development and sustainability.

1. Context of the Organization

2011 saw some significant events at the political level: the self-determination referendum for the people of South Sudan; the subsequent declaration of independence of South Sudan; the contested status of Abyei and the outbreak of war in the transitional areas of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile; the General elections in Uganda; the confirmation hearings of the cases against six suspected masterminds of Kenya's post-election violence at the International Criminal Court (ICC); the presidential and National Assembly elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC); and the declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the member states of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) at the Fourth Ordinary Summit and Special Session on Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV).

FECCLAHA's consistent advocacy for peaceful, free and fair electoral processes and the timely holding of the self-determination referendum for the people of South Sudan paid off when other key international actors were of the opinion that the referendum could not be held at the set date after the end of the interim period of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) and needed to be postponed. The Sudan continued to be the epicenter of the Horn of Africa conflict system. With the declaration of independence of South Sudan after an overwhelming vote in the self-determination referendum, the Republic of Sudan was faced with war in the two transitional areas of Southern Kordofan and Blue Nile, the uncompleted Darfur Peace Process and the unresolved status of Abyei. FECCLAHA remains seized with the situation in the Republic of Sudan and Republic of South Sudan.

During the period under review, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) continued to be the epicenter of the Great Lakes conflict system. The continued active presence of armed groups (both foreign and local) mostly in North and South Kivu Provinces of the DRC were evidence of the continued militarization of the political, economic and social spheres. The increased activity of the Forces for National Liberation (FNL) in South Kivu and its collaboration with Mai Mai groups in the region has raised fears of potential destabilization of Burundi.

The East African Community countries have experienced a severe economic crisis that has seen the region's currencies depreciate sharply against the US Dollar pushing inflation into double digits and threatening the economic stability of the region. The economies in the region are slowing down. The slowdown is characterized by different trends some of which are: decrease in factory production; growing unemployment; slump in personal income; and unhealthy stock markets. Given the youth bulge that the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa region is experiencing, there is need for timely and strategic...
engagement of the youth in peace building and conflict transformation.

This is the political and security context within which FECCLAHA operated through the year. FECCLAHA was able in this context to implement a number of projects as well as undertake its internal management functions. FECCLAHA continued to be the coordinator of the Working Group on Small Arms and a member of the working group of the Religious Leaders Peace Initiative in the Horn of Africa.

1.2 Internal Organization

During the year, a number of activities were conducted to improve the institutional management of FECCLAHA. These activities were carried out by various organs of the organization including the membership. These included: the staff retreat; scheduled Executive Committee meetings; and the General Assembly. The most significant change at the Secretariat level was the voluntary resignation of the long serving Executive Director. A process to appropriately fill the position was started. The composition of the Executive Committee also changed after the elections on 9th November 2011 (see Table 2).

Staff Retreat

FECCLAHA's staff retreat for the year was held from 19th to 24th September 2011 at the Jumua Beach Resort, Kanamai, Kenya. The retreat was attended by staff members with the Honorary Treasurer leading the opening devotions and attending some sessions on 22nd September 2011. Being part of the transitioning process, the retreat enabled staff to review the programmatic work vis a vis the way the Secretariat functioned and executed its mandate as the implementing organ within the framework of the current strategic plan for 2009 to 2013. The outcomes of the retreat include: teambuilding; development of new ways of working; and recommendations made to other organs on the required changes.

Executive Committee Meetings

To effectively play its role in building the organization, FECCLAHA's Executive Committee met two times in ordinary scheduled meetings. All the meetings met the requirements of quorum.

Table 1: Schedule of Executive Committee Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Quorum</th>
<th>Quorum Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28th March 2011</td>
<td>Office of the Eritrea Orthodox Church, Asmara, Eritrea</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-Eritrea Orthodox Church; -Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT); -National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK) -Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR); -Sudan Council of Churches (SCC); and -Executive Director.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th November 2011</td>
<td>Lush Garden Hotel, Arusha, Tanzania</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>-Eritrea Orthodox Church; -Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT); -National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK) -Sudan Council of Churches (SCC); and -Acting Executive Director.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: FECCLAHA Records, 2011.
The Executive Committee members who held office during the year were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Executive Committee Member</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Represented By</th>
<th>Term Served/Appointment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church of Christ in Congo (ECC)</td>
<td>Chairperson</td>
<td>Bishop Dieudonne Mbaya Tshiakany</td>
<td>Retired on 9th November 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrea Orthodox Church</td>
<td>Vice Chairperson</td>
<td>Ambassador Yoftahe Dimetros</td>
<td>Retired on 9th November 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK)</td>
<td>Honorary Treasurer</td>
<td>Mrs. Emmy Migaliza</td>
<td>Re-elected Honorary Treasurer on 9th November 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT)</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Rev. Dr. Leonard Mtaita</td>
<td>Elected Chairperson on 9th November 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR)</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Dr. Tharcisse Gatwa</td>
<td>Elected Vice Chairperson on 9th November 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan Council of Churches (SCC)</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Rev. Ramadan Chan</td>
<td>Re-elected Member on 9th November 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY)</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Rev. Dereje Jamberu</td>
<td>Elected Member on 9th November 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC)</td>
<td>Member</td>
<td>Rev. Fr. Dr. Silvester Arinaitwe Rwomukubwe A.J.</td>
<td>Elected Member on 9th November 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Fred Nyabera</td>
<td>Retired on 30th June 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Executive Committee meetings enabled members to undertake their mandate of making policies for the organization and acting on behalf of the membership. Among the notable actions of the Executive Committee during the reporting period was their participation in the pastoral/solidarity visit to Eritrea.

General Assembly
The General Assembly took place on 9th November 2011 in Arusha, Tanzania at the invitation of the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT). The General Assembly was attended by 16 men and 11 women out of whom 9 were youth adding up to 27 members. One of the key highlights of the General Assembly was the election of a new Executive Committee. Members took part in the elections as per the Constitution of FECCCLAHA. This contributed to further institutionalization of the organization.

The General Assembly appreciated holding the Annual General Assembly and Regional Ecumenical Forum costs approximately US Dollars 65,000 and because the organization is still dependent on funding from ecumenical and other development partners holding the meeting annually is not sustainable. The Assembly decided to amend the Constitution of FECCCLAHA to allow for the General Assembly and Regional Ecumenical Forum be held once in two years. In between the General Assemblies, the Executive Committee was given the full mandate to execute the work of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly expressed its appreciation for the dedicated service rendered by Fred Nyabera, the former Executive Director. The Assembly decided that the recruitment and selection process of the Executive Director will need independence and objectivity underpinned by the highest standards of integrity. It therefore instructed that an ecumenical recruitment agency be engaged to undertake the recruitment process and conclude it within six months.

Staff Capacity Building
As part of the organization’s institutional strengthening and capacity enhancement programme, 4 members of staff continued with their studies at the Daystar University, African International University, University of Nairobi and the Kenya Institute of Management on Community development, Organizational Development, Public Administration and Political Science and Human Resources Management respectively. Another staff was enrolled at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology to pursue graduate studies in organizational management.

2. Activities and Results
The following section highlights the activities carried out over the twelve month reporting period and provides a focused analysis of the results. It discusses the activities under each of the four programmes, namely: Governance and Public Accountability; Human Security; Peace Building; and Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Enhancement.
2.1 Governance and Public Accountability

Under the Governance and Public Accountability programme, FECCLAHA carried out the following activities during the reporting period:

2.1.1 Ecumenical Election Assistance Programme (EEAP)

FECCLAHA accompanied the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) in observing the self-determination referendum of the people of Southern Sudan, the Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC) in observing the Presidential and Parliamentary elections held in Uganda and the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC) in observing the Presidential and National Assembly elections.

1. FECCLAHA Observes the Self-Determination Referendum of the People of Southern Sudan

Following an invitation from the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC), a FECCLAHA International Ecumenical Election Observation Mission was deployed as part of the international interfaith observer mission coordinated by the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) to observe the 9th to 15th January 2011 self-determination referendum of the people of Southern Sudan. The team was deployed to cover Al-Gezira, Khartoum and Sinnar States in North Sudan. The mission’s mandate was to observe the electoral process including the administration of the referendum, the political environment, electoral preparations, the voting, counting and vote aggregation process, announcement of results and post-referendum developments.

The Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) conducted the referendum in a professional manner and was generally efficient, organized and well prepared. Polling was administered satisfactorily in 80% of the observed cases and observers had access to the counting and aggregation processes. Polling procedures were applied evenly in the observed cases and the referendum staff were well trained and conversant with the procedures. The Chairpersons of referendum centers and the State High Committees were responsive to irregularities brought to their attention.

The closing of polling and commencement of counting was conducted as per the Southern Sudan Referendum Act 2009 and the regulations of the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC). In the observed cases, the Chairpersons of referendum centers explained to the observers the procedures to be followed in reconciliation, sorting and counting of ballots. They also sought consensus from observers on decisions on whether ballots were valid or invalid while correctly applying the criteria regarding the validity of cast ballots. The Chairpersons of referendum centers visited then filled out, signed and stamped the results forms before publicly displaying a copy of the results form outside the referendum centers.

There was a commendable presence of domestic and international observers in all the referendum centers visited. The Al Khatim Adlan Center (KACE), the Sudanese Group for Democratic Elections (SUGDE) and the National Civic Forum (NCF) were well represented in Al Gezira, Khartoum and Sinnar states. However, there is need for a separate accreditation category for representatives of the referendum options advocacy groups. The National Congress Party (NCP) and the Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS) had representatives in all referendum centers in Al Gezira and Sinnar States.

The NCP was well represented in the referendum centers in Khartoum-Jabel Awliaa. FECCLAHA commended the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) for diligently conducting a credible referendum despite the short time within which it had to organize and prepare for the plebiscite. This was occasioned by delays in passing the Southern Sudan Referendum Act and in establishing the SSRC and its secretariat. FECCLAHA also commended the people of the Sudan for the peace, calm and order that prevailed during and after the declaration of the results of the referendum.

2. FECCLAHA Joins the Democracy Monitoring Group (DEMGroup) in Observing Presidential and Parliamentary Elections in Uganda

At the invitation of the Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC), FECCLAHA deployed a team to observe the presidential and parliamentary elections held on 18th February 2011. The FECCLAHA team joined long term and short term observers deployed by the Democracy Monitoring Group (DEMGroup) to cover all regions of the country. The Democracy Monitoring Group (DEMGroup) is a consortium of four civil society organizations that have come together to contribute to a freer, fairer, transparent and credible elections landscape in Uganda. The members of DEMGroup are the Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC), Action for Development (ACFODE), Transparency International, Uganda (TIU), and the Centre for Democratic Governance (CDG).

From the observation, the team recommended the following:

- Adequate training of polling officials on polling and counting procedures and the provision of a handbook containing the guidelines for polling and counting that polling officials can refer to in case of doubt;
- Display of voter’s registers at each polling station to enable voters confirm their names in the register before queuing to vote. Allowance should also be made during the voter registration process for voters and political parties to inspect the voter register to ensure an accurate and comprehensive voter register for use during elections; and
- Political parties and candidates should endeavour to train their agents on the possible problem areas to look out for during polling, counting and tallying and their rights to lodge complaints.

3. **FECCLAHA Trains Election Observers for Presidential and National Assembly Elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

In collaboration with the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC), FECCLAHA trained 30 Short Term Election Observers drawn from Beni-Oicha, Beni-Ville, Butembo, Goma, Kiwanja, Lubero, Masisi, Nyirangongo, Rutshuru and Walikale in the North Kivu Province of the DRC. The training took place from 20th to 24th November, 2011 in Goma, DRC and covered the following: the electoral cycle; the role of the youth in accomplishing the electoral process; the legal framework for elections; the electoral system and electoral laws/lawis/legislation in the DRC; civic and voter education; election observation: election observation: rationale and guidelines; monitoring and reporting of incidents of electoral violence and malpractices; long term observation versus short term election observation; preliminary statement and election observation report; establishment and management of sustainable youth organizations; and advocacy. The trained election observers were then deployed to their respective areas from 25th to 30th November 2011 to observe the presidential and parliamentary elections.

4. **FECCLAHA Observes the Presidential and National Assembly Elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

At the invitation of the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC), a FECCLAHA International Ecumenical Election Observation Mission was deployed to observe the 28th November 2011 Presidential and National Assembly elections. A team of 43 Short Term Observers (STOs) were deployed from 25th to 30th November 2011 to cover the following regions of North and South Kivu Provinces of the DRC: Beni-Oicha, Beni-Ville, Butembo, Goma, Kiwanja, Lubero, Masisi, Nyirangongo, Rutshuru, Walikale; and Bukavu, Bunyakiri, Idjwi, Luvungi (Ruzizi Plains), Mwenga, Kalonge and Uvira respectively. The mission's mandate was to observe the electoral process including the administration of the elections, the political environment, election campaigning, electoral preparations, the voting, counting and vote aggregation processes, announcement of results and post-election developments.

Large numbers of enthusiastic Congolese voters turned out determined to exercise their fundamental political rights. However, large numbers of voters were disenfranchised after they found their names missing in the voter's register. Others found that polling stations had been relocated to long distances while others remained in long queues for too long, got agitated and gave up. Political party and candidates agents were well represented in nearly all polling stations visited while there were few domestic and international observers.

The team observed the following among other irregularities: an incidence of ballot stuffing before the opening of a stream in the Complexe Scolaire la Joie polling station in Goma that led to a violent protest by voters; irregularities in the voting procedures in some polling stations including the failure to check voters hands for ink before allowing them to vote and failure to apply ink properly after voting which is an important safeguard against multiple voting; polling station officials were unsure of procedures of handling voters with voters cards but who were not on the voters' register despite a last minute decision by the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) to allow such individuals to vote; and evidence of inadequate civic and voter education in voters' lack of knowledge of voting procedures; the time voters took to find their preferred candidate and vote especially for the National Assembly election and the large number of invalid ballots due to voters signing the ballots or putting expressions in the ballot paper such as ‘weve tu’ (you only), ‘pita’ (win) and ‘Ok’ (okay). Overall polling was administered satisfactorily in 55% of the observed cases and observers and political party and candidates agents had access to the counting and aggregation processes. The observation team calls on the civil society and political parties to intensify their efforts in civic and voter education to check the noted irregularities. It also calls on CENI to: consider spacing polling stations with many streams to avoid overcrowding; adequately train its polling officials on polling and counting procedures and provide a handbook containing the guidelines for polling and counting that polling officials can refer to in case of doubt; sensitize voters and political parties on the need to inspect the voter register to ensure an accurate and comprehensive voter register for use during elections; and urge political parties and candidates to train their agents on the possible problem areas to look out for during polling, counting and aggregation of votes and their rights to lodge complaints.

2.1.2 **Engagement with the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (IC/GLR)**

1. **FECCLAHA Participates in the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (IC/GLR) Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee Meeting Held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, 3rd to 5th May 2011**

FECCLAHA participated in the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (IC/GLR) Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee meeting that was preceded by a meeting of the National Coordinators from the 11 IC/GLR member states. The two meetings considered the report of the Executive Secretary; the political and security situation obtaining in member states; the procedures for future membership of Southern Sudan; the selection process of the new Executive Secretary; a progress report on the regional initiative on the illegal exploitation of natural resources; a report on IC/GLR election observation missions; status report on the Levy Mwanawasa Centre on Democracy, Good Governance, Human Rights and Civic Education; a report by the Governing Committee of the Special Fund for Reconstruction and Development (SFRD) and the African Development Bank on the operationalisation of the funds and the tenure of membership of the SFRD Governing Committee; a report on the preparations for a special session on Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) during the ordinary summit of Heads of State and Government set to be held in December 2011; and the status of member states financial contributions to the IC/GLR Secretariat.

The following are notable issues that emerged from the meeting: The IC/GLR has a project titled: ‘Monitoring and supporting efforts for the disarmament of Armed Groups (FDLR\(^1\), LRA\(^2\)) in the Great Lakes region. This project has been allocated US $ 140,000 from the SFRD. In the project brief, the Stabilization Plan for Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (STAREC) and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO) and the National Commission for Demobilization in Rwanda are listed as prospective collaborating stakeholders. The project appreciates the initiatives of other actors including the African Union, the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries (CEPGL) and FECCLAHA in addressing the problem of negative forces in the Great Lakes region;

The Regional Initiative on the Fight against the Illegal Exploitation of Natural Resources is accelerating the implementation of the six

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\(^1\)Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda.  
\(^2\)Lord’s Resistance Army.
tools to fight the illegal exploitation of natural resources as adopted by the Heads of State Summit held in Lusaka, Zambia. These are: the regional certification mechanism; harmonization of national legislation; regional database on mineral flows; formalization of the artisanal mining sector; promotion of the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI); and the whistle blowing mechanism. This challenges FECCLAHA to discern how member national councils of churches and churches can engage with this initiative in the IC/GLR member states; and

The conflict in Libya that saw ammunition depots open to civilians is contributing to the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in North Africa, particularly Chad, the Republic of Sudan and the Central African Republic. A protracted conflict in the country could lead to more militarization of the civilian population and proliferation of the arms beyond the North Africa region.

2 FECCLAHA Participates in the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (IC/GLR) Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee Meeting and the Heads of State and Government Summit and Special Session on Sexual Gender Based Violence

FECCLAHA participated in the IC/GLR Regional Inter-Ministerial Committee meeting that was held from 13th to 14th December 2011 and followed by the Summit of Heads of State and Government and Special Session on Sexual Gender Based Violence on 15th and 16th December 2011 in Kampala, Uganda. The special session on SGBV was held under the theme: ‘United to prevent, end impunity and provide support to the survivors’ of SGBV. The declaration of heads of state and government of the ICGLR at the summit and special session on SGBV offers time bound commitments on preventing, ending impunity and providing support to survivors of SGBV that should be used to hold the governments accountable.

1The IC/GLR documents use the term ‘victims’ that according to us perpetuates the stigma that survivors of SGBV often face.
The following resolutions and recommendations were discussed:

- Implementation of the repatriation project despite the challenges faced.
- The meeting noted with satisfaction the progress made in the pursuit, many actors have pledged support in organizing the meeting.
- On Need for Safe Corridors for the Returnees: The delegates noted with concern the lack of accompaniment and support from the Congolese government, and called for the sensitization of the FDLR on the benefits of voluntary repatriation.
- On Unity of the DRC: The delegates strongly rejected the suggestion by some regional players that DRC should be partitioned.
- On Collaboration with the Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR) and the NCA-Great Lakes: In order to ensure a successful repatriation and integration of the returnees in Rwanda, the delegates resolved to strengthen the working relationship between ECC, CPR and NCA-Great Lakes.

The meeting acknowledged with appreciation the accomplishment of the repatriation process by the Government of Norway, FECCLAHA and other international organizations.

2.2 Human Security

We must put people at the centre of everything we do. That is the essence of human security.¹

1. Regional Advocacy on SALW and their Impact on Human Security

The Working Group on Small Arms continued to lead regional advocacy through participation of its members in initiatives in the region. Some of the events in which the Working Group featured prominently were: the China-Africa security sector reforms led by International Alert, the Eastern Africa Action Network on Small Arms (EAANSA) capacity building meeting in Kampala and the Sudan mapping of SALW actors among others.

2.2.1 Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Project

The Working Group on Small Arms continued to lead regional advocacy through participation of its members in initiatives in the region. Some of the events in which the Working Group featured prominently were: the China-Africa security sector reforms led by International Alert, the Eastern Africa Action Network on Small Arms (EAANSA) capacity building meeting in Kampala and the Sudan mapping of SALW actors among others.

Under this programme, FECCLAHA implemented the small arms and light weapons project and the Tamar Campaign project. The specific activities carried out under these projects are as detailed below:

- Capacitate Churches for their Role in Disarmament, Demobilization, Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Reintegration (DDRRC) of Ex-combatants

Under the auspices of FECECLAHA, the Sixth Faith Based Meeting on the Voluntary Repatriation of Refugees and Armed Groups Living in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was held from 4th to 5th May, 2011 in Bukavu, Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The delegates in the meeting comprised of religious leaders, government officials, representatives from the armed forces, civil society organizations, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO), NCA and FECECLAHA. The meeting was convened to reflect on the progress of the Voluntary Repatriation Project and to discern requisite interventions towards the same.

The meeting noted with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of the repatriation project despite the challenges faced.

The following resolutions and recommendations were discussed:

- On Sensitization of the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) on the Benefits of Voluntary Repatriation: The meeting resolved to continue with and upscale the sensitization of the FDLR on the benefits of voluntary repatriation. To this end the delegates committed to review and improve on its current strategy. In addition, they called for the accompaniment and support from the Congolese government, MONUSCO and the international community towards the successful implementation of the project;
- On Military Response to the FDLR Problem: The Church maintains that military response is not a lasting solution to the FDLR problem. The Church of Christ in Congo (ECC) was mandated to lobby the relevant authorities towards a peaceful solution.
- On Need to Lobby the Support of the Congolese Ministry of Defence: The delegates noted with concern the lack of cooperation from the Congolese Minister of Defence in sanctoning a consultation between the church and the FDLR. In this regard, the ECC was mandated to submit a memorandum to the Congolese Minister of Defence, with copies to various authorities of the country including the President of the Republic.
- On Need for Safe Corridors for the Returnees: The delegates called on MONUSCO to facilitate the creation of safe corridors for the returning Rwandese refugees and ex-combatants.
- On Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV): The ever rising cases of sexual and gender based violence in the region continues to be a great concern. To this end, the meeting called for unwavering dedication towards combating GBV particularly through the recently formed Inter-Faith Platform for combating SGBV in Eastern DRC.
- On Insecurity in Eastern DRC: The delegates resolved to monitor and document violations of human rights in Eastern DRC, through its local faith networks and use the findings for regional and international advocacy.
- On Civic Education in DRC: The delegates noted with concern, the increasing challenges facing the management of elections and election disputes in Africa. To this end the meeting called for Civil Society and Faith Based Organizations to engage in an effective civic education process in the run up to the DRC elections and ensure that elections deliver on human security.
- On Illegal Exploitation of the Natural Resources of the DRC: The delegates appreciated the need for the regulation and tracing of the minerals from the DRC. However, it was noted that a blanket ban on mining as practiced then, had led to a drop in the living standards of the Congolese people and resulted in extreme suffering of the ordinary citizens. To this end, the IC/GLR Lusaka Declaration on the Tracing of Illegal Minerals was endorsed as it has sufficient mechanisms to curb illicit trade in minerals from the DRC.
- On Unity of the DRC: The delegates strongly rejected the suggestion by some regional players that DRC should be partitioned.
- On Collaboration with the Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR) and the NCA-Great Lakes: In order to ensure a successful repatriation and integration of the returnees in Rwanda, the delegates resolved to strengthen the working relationship between ECC, CPR and NCA-Great Lakes. To this end, it was decided that a tripartite meeting of ECC, CPR and NCA-Great Lakes be organized as soon as possible. In preparation for this meeting, a visit will be made to Kigali with a draft terms of reference to be discussed with the CPR and the ECC.

The meeting acknowledged with appreciation the accomplishment of the repatriation process by the Government of Norway, FECECLAHA and other international organizations.

3 Implementation of SALWs Strategic Plan by the Eastern Africa Action Network on Small Arms (EAANSA)

The Working Group on Small Arms chaired by FECECLAHA has called for the organization of the EAANSA Annual General Meeting (AGM) in order to ensure that there is monitoring and evaluation of EAANSA’s governance and delivery outputs as part of its strategic planning. In this pursuit, many actors have pledged support in organizing the meeting.

4 Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Processes: Third Session of the ATT Preparatory Committee—July 2011

FECECLAHA, through the Working Group on Smal Arms, was represented in New York in July 2011 under the umbrella of the Civil Society Lobbying Group. United Nations (UN) Member States had different views on when the Arms Trade Treaty should enter into force, but most agreed that it should happen once a set number or groups of states have ratified the treaty. For Uruguay, Lichtenstein, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, and New Zealand, 30 ratifications would be sufficient. Algeria and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) suggested 60 ratifications while Iran suggested 100 ratifications. Cuba argued that the major exporters and importers of arms would need to ratify the treaty for it to enter into force. They also discussed the withdrawal from the treaty and whether there should be a minimum time a state should have to be bound by the treaty before withdrawing. The question of how and when amendments could be made was also examined, based on a suggestion in the Chair’s paper that both an ‘Assembly of State Parties’ and Review Conferences would be held on a regular basis.

Indeed, the draft paper by Ambassador Moritán, the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, suggested that implementation mechanisms could include both an Assembly of States Parties (ASP) and Review Conferences. Trinidad and Tobago emphasized the need for civil society

participation in these meetings and Sweden suggested that industry should also be represented.

It is also important to acknowledge that ‘Gender Based Violence’ was explicitly addressed. The Chair issued a new draft of his paper which included explicit reference to gender based violence in the preamble. After the release of this paper, several states, among them Fiji, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and Kenya, made very strong arguments to include gender in other areas of the treaty, including in the principles, goals and objectives, criteria and victim assistance sections. For the Working Group on Small Arms, in which FECLAAH belongs, we were very pleased of the participation of Kenya, whom we were able to lobby for the inclusion of a strong case for Gender within the Arms Trade Text.

5 Parliamentary Awareness Workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapons in Malakal, South Sudan

The South Sudan Action Network on Small Arms (SSANSA) in partnership with IKV Pax Christi (member of the Working Group on Small Arms that FECLAAH chairs) held a half-day awareness creation workshop on small arms and light weapons for members of the Upper Nile state legislative assembly in Malakal on 21st May 2011. The workshop was attended by members of the state legislative assembly of Upper Nile headed by the speaker of the parliament. It was facilitated by resource persons from IKV Pax Christi and SSANSA.

Major issues discussed were regional and international instruments on small arms control, which include: the Nairobi Declaration; the Nairobi Protocol; the Bamako declaration; and the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects.

The role of parliamentarians and the civil society in arms control was highlighted as follows: shaping legislations on SALW at the state, national, regional and international levels; influencing security sector reforms; and demonstrating the commitment of government in addressing the SALW problem at various levels.

Participants were facilitated to understand ongoing international, regional and national small arms processes in order for them to contribute to this aspect from an informed perspective. Among these processes are: the Arms Trade Treaty for which negotiations are ongoing at the UN; the regional strategy on disarmament of pastoral groups being coordinated by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) and the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA); the National Small Arms Policy for South Sudan which is at the development stage; and civil society and governmental interfaces at the state, national and international levels to address the problems associated with the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons.

FECLAAH contributed by preparing presentations on the gender dimensions of the security sector reforms as well as lobbying for a gender sensitive Arms Trade Text.

2.2.2 Tamar Campaign

The Tamar Campaign remains an effective tool for the religious leaders. Efforts towards drawing linkages with partner organizations in the region and the world are key in ensuring that the campaign remains effective and relevant hence meeting the needs of the stakeholders.

1 The Regional Ecumenical Forum (REF) on Preventing and Ending Impunity of Sexual Gender Based Violence: The Role of the Church-Arusha, Tanzania

The Executive Committee in its meeting of 28th March 2011 felt that the upsurge of Gender Based Violence was an indication of the failure of Christian religious teaching and the erosion of cultural values. Consequently, members felt that there was need for the FECLAAH constituency to reflect on ways that they could add their voice against the vice. The need to gather theologians and anthropologists from the region to develop a strategy to address gender based violence was underscored. Building on this, the Regional Ecumenical Forum (REF) 2011 focused on the theme: Preventing and Ending Impunity of Sexual Gender Based Violence: The Role of the Church and took place in Arusha, Tanzania from 9th to 11th November 2011.

The following were the thematic areas of focus:

- Theology as a strategy to address sexual gender based violence (SGBV) in the church and society;
- Prevention of sexual gender based violence: confronting patriarchy as a system in society;
- Prevention of sexual gender based violence: the place of Christian religious teaching; and
- Exploring entry points to churches’ response to sexual gender based violence.

In his opening remarks, The Most Rev. Henry Isingoma, Archbishop of the Congo (Anglican Church), asserted that the increased incidences of SGBV necessitated the Church to become actively engaged so as to play a critical role in supporting the survivors of SGBV and fight impunity. Prof. Ezra Chitalu, Theology Consultant for the Ecumenical HIV and AIDS Initiative in Africa (WCC-EHIAI), anchored his presentation in the gospel of Luke 19:1-10, the story of Zacchaeus. He cautioned that unless and until the Church in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa region learns from Zacchaeus and ‘comes down’, it will not positively and significantly bring change in the region and the world at large.

In her presentation on the place of Christian Religious Teaching, Dr. Emily Onyango, the Dean of Students and Lecturer at St. Paul’s University, Limuru asserted that Christian religious teaching should be used to empower both men and women to live in the way God would want them to live, made in the image of God. She urged that like Jesus, the Church should strive to treat women with dignity and integrity and go against the prevailing culture that views women as inferior.

Rev. Anna Mghwira, a theologian in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) and a Human Rights Lawyer, strongly counselled the participants against confronting patriarchy as it was likely to be counterproductive. On the contrary, she called for engagement with patriarchy as a system within communities. She asserted that it was imperative that projects that sought to address patriarchy demonstrated understanding and appreciation of cultural backgrounds and the relevant theology that may clearly challenge exploitation of patriarchy as a basis for perpetuating SGBV. There were three other presentations with the aim of exploring entry points to Churches’ response to SGBV.

The following were the results of the Regional Ecumenical Forum and the related commitments by the Church: (See Table 3)

Table 3: Results of the Regional Ecumenical Forum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Commitments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increased understanding of the enormity of SGBV in the region among member churches and national</td>
<td>-Build a formidable platform for churches working against SGBV to come together and express themselves with the view to developing a common understanding on the issues that affect their membership and how to resolve them; -Establish/strengthen sustainable partnerships to involve many actors as is possible (Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs), churches, faith based organizations and relevant state institutions among others) as the fight against SGBV impunity requires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>councils of churches</td>
<td>concerted efforts from all stakeholders;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Train people and build leaders at the community to identify survivors of SGBV, secure their trust, protect their identity and link them with trained counsellors and care institutions as necessary;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Mobilize Christians and people of faith against SGBV;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Undertake proactive evangelism and mobilization within the churches in the region against SGBV;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Advocate for proper policy frameworks that encourage legislation and implementation of laws against SGBV;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Confront the stigma associated with SGBV and speak out without hurting the survivors further; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Monitor the implementation or operationalisation of international resolutions against SGBV.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enhanced understanding on theology as a strategy to address SGBV in the Church and society</th>
<th>Proactively deal with the common selective and near deliberate reading and interpretation of the scriptures;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Advocate and lobby for integration of gender education in the curriculum of theological training schools/ institutions;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Build an SGBV-Competent church with both the inner and outer competencies against SGBV along the model of the HIV-Competent church;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Undertake greater advocacy ecumenically and globally; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Adopt a Rights Based Approach and the Women's rights framework as main approaches in driving dialogue and emancipating humanity from the patriarchal system and preventing SGBV.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clarity on the role of Christian religious teaching and cultural values in preventing SGBV</th>
<th>Develop initiatives to link the church with the core realities of the congregation at the community level;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Initiate efforts to rethink biblical teachings to help people change their attitudes and influence the power relationships;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Engage with and not confront patriarchy to address SGBV particularly through constitutional platforms;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Undertake adequate family formation prior to and during marriage; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Pray without ceasing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Inter Faith Platform for Combating Sexual Gender Based Violence in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
FECCCLAHA hosted a delegation from the Inter-Faith Platform for Combating SGBV in Eastern DRC that was formed in August, 2010. The purpose of the visit was to prepare for a later visit and get information and contacts of other collaborating organizations and ideas for a possible field visit for the leaders of the platform. The delegation met with representatives of the Inter Religious Council of Kenya (IRCK), National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), and African Council of Religious Leaders (ACRL).

The delegation had the opportunity to interact and learn best practice on inter faith activities. They also had an opportunity to participate in a workshop organized by the IRCK—a training of Muslim and Christian religious leaders on Gender Based Violence and their role as religious leaders. The Inter-Faith Platform for Combating SGBV in Eastern DRC through advocacy and women empowerment is an initiative of the faith communities in South and North Kivu Provinces of the DRC. The platform has representatives of various Christian denominations and the Muslim community in the two provinces. The platform is not only a response to the upsurge of SGBV incidences in the region but also a bid to provide an advocacy platform and harmonize faith based Gender Based Violence activities in Eastern DRC for greater impact.

In a bid to increase their exposure and enable them build partnerships with other religious leaders, representatives of the Inter-Faith Platform for combating SGBV in Eastern DRC attended the Regional Ecumenical Forum (REF).

3 Gender Focal Point
Tamar Campaign was presented during the NCA Regional Gender Focal Point meeting that took place in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania in April, 2011. This was not only an opportunity for networking and strengthening Tamar Campaign work in the region, but also one of drawing linkages with the NCA offices through the Just World Exchange Programme.

4 Participation in the Women Theologians’ Workshop Organized by the Protestant Council of Rwanda (CFR)
Tamar Campaign was represented in a Women Theologians’ Workshop held in Kigali, Rwanda from 21st to 24th November 2011. FECCCLAHA was given an opportunity to engage with the Women Theologians by presenting the Tamar Campaign approach in addressing Gender Based Violence in the region. Tamar Campaign remains a practical and valuable tool to women theologians in their work at the Diocese and other church levels.

Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) continues to be a concern and threat to women and children in Rwanda. According to Ms. Alphonse Mukandinda, a Clinical Psychologist at Isange One Stop Clinic in Kigali, Rwanda, up to 25% of women are survivors of SGBV, up to 12% of the women have experienced physical violence, and over 13% have been survivors of different forms of psychological abuse. She further explained that according to police statistics on SGBV in the country, between the year 2007 and 2009 defilement topped the list of the forms of SGBV in the country.

The Tamar Campaign presentation was anchored on the Bible Story drawn from 2 Samuel 13:1-22. There was a strong appeal to the women theologians to consider their churches, Dioceses, and parishes responses. In addition to addressing Sexual Gender Based Violence in the country, the workshop addressed the contribution of women theologians and the environment, why women should participate in decision making and the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 among other topics.

The workshop facilitated the planning process for CPR and its members. FECCCLAHA continues to be committed to working with its members on issues of common concern in the region, including Sexual Gender Based Violence.

4 On the Tamar Campaign Contextual Bible Study Manual
The English and French versions of the Contextual Bible Study Manual on Gender Based Violence are currently accessible to all at the FECCCLAHA website (www.fecclaha.org). This will facilitate sharing the resource to all partners and all that are interested in utilizing it without having to order from the FECCCLAHA Secretariat.
2.3 Peace Building

2.3.1 Pastoral/Solidarity Visit to Eritrea
FECLLAHA facilitated a pastoral/solidarity visit to Eritrea on Monday, 28th March, 2011 to Saturday, 2nd April, 2011. This was pursuant to the resolve of the Executive Committee Meeting held in December 2010. The pastoral/solidarity visit sought to assure ecumenical accompaniment to the Churches and other faith bodies in Eritrea in their mission. The team sought to engage various faith leaders and FECLLAHA members—the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Eritrea (ELCE) and the Eritrea Orthodox Church—in examining the challenges in the country and discerning the possible support from the ecumenical family. The ecumenical pastoral/solidarity visit to Eritrea coincided with the meeting of the FECLLAHA Executive Committee.

The delegation met with various religious leaders from the four faiths in the country: His Holiness Abune Dioskoros, the Patriarch of the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Church; Rev. Yosief Araya, the President of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Eritrea (ELCE), Sheik Al-Amin Osman Al-Amin, the Mufti of Eritrea, and Abba Andamariam, a representative of the Catholic Church of Eritrea. Also present were two representatives of the Ministry of Religious Affairs Office, the government ministry heading religious matters in the country led by Mr. Semere Beyn, the Director General. During this session, all Church leaders spoke with a common voice on the importance of peace and harmony in the Horn of Africa.

The religious leaders were introduced to the Religious Leaders Peace Initiative in the Horn of Africa (RL-PIHA) whose role is to provide a platform to bring together like-minded religious leaders from the Inter Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) countries and other stakeholders to address issues of peace and security in the Horn of Africa.

Additionally, the delegation had the opportunity to visit with various monks in the monastery of Debre Sina and with the Bishop and various Church leaders from the region of Keren. They made a courtesy call to the office of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Eritrea (ELCE) where they met with Mr. Temesghem Berhane, the General Secretary and Mr. Abmah Seare, from the Finance Office. The delegation met with the Administrator of Massawa Port and the Massawa Airport Authorities during their visit to the Port City of Massawa.

2.3.2 Multi-Religious Solidarity Peace Mission to the Republic of Sudan
FECLLAHA, represented by Rev. Canon Thomas Godda of the Christian Council of Tanzania, participated in the multi-religious solidarity peace mission to the Republic of Sudan that took place from 18th to 23rd September 2011. The peace mission organised under the auspices of the Religious Leaders Peace Initiative in the Horn of Africa visited state and non-state actors in the Republic of Sudan and listened to their concerns in light of the declaration of independence of the Republic of South Sudan and the conflicts in South Kordofan and Blue Nile.

2.3.3 Pan African Interfaith Meeting on Climate Justice and Sustainable Peace in Africa
FECLLAHA, represented by the just world exchange programme participant in collaboration with other exchange participants in the region, was involved in efforts towards preparing for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP 17 summit that took place in Durban, South Africa. FECLLAHA was also represented in the Pan African interfaith meeting on climate justice and sustainable peace in Africa in which 130 faith leaders representing the Muslim, Christian, Hindu, African Religion, Baha’i and Buddhist communities from 30 countries were in attendance.

The aim of the meeting was to develop a common framework for African eccumenical action on climate justice and sustainable peace in Africa; mobilize faith based organizations to understand and respond to climate justice and sustainable peace in Africa; strengthen faith leaders’ competences in climate justice and sustainable peace: explore synergy with state and non-state actors in joint advocacy efforts on climate justice and sustainable peace in Africa; and present to the climate change negotiators the essential moral principles required to reach a fair and just climate agreement. At the end of the meeting a declaration was signed by all delegates in the meeting.

2.3.4 Youth Peace Building
In its efforts to transform young people into peace ambassadors, the youth peace building programme embarked on a mission of developing a strong network of young people across the FECLLAHA membership who will act as ‘Youth Mobilizers’ and ‘Peace Watchers’ in their communities.

During the period under review, the following activities were implemented:

1. Youth as Prime Movers of Peace Building, Civic and Voter Education and Election Observation in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
The Youth Peace Building Programme in collaboration with the Ecumenical Election Assistance Programme (EEAP) trained 20 young people (10 young women and 10 young men) drawn from Goma, Kiwanja, Masisi and Rutshuru in North Kivu Province and Bukavu, Bunyakiri, Idjwi, Luvungi (Ruzizi Plains), Mwenga, Kalonge and Uvira in South Kivu Province of the DRC from 26th to 30th July 2011 in Bukavu, DRC.

The workshop sought to achieve the following objectives: to facilitate youth reflections and exploration of the opportunities available for peace building and conflict transformation in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Great Lakes Region; to stimulate the youth to identify innovative and creative ways of undertaking ecumenical youth peace work in the DRC and the Great Lakes region; to heighten awareness of young people on their rights and duties as citizens for them to make an informed choice in electoral processes; and to capacitate the youth in civic and voter education and election observation for effective accompaniment of the electoral process in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).
The following topics were covered during the workshop: Ecumenical Youth Peace Building: The Place of Youth in Society; The Rationale for Youth Peace Building and Conflict Transformation; Ecumenical Youth Peace Building: Prospects and Opportunities; and Avenues for Youth Peace Work in North and South Kivu Provinces; The Electoral Cycle: The Role of the Youth in Accompanying the Electoral Process; The Legal Framework for Elections: The Electoral System and Electoral Laws/Legislation in the Democratic Republic of Congo; Civic and Voter Education; Election Observation: Election Observation: Rationale and Guidelines; Monitoring and Reporting of Incidents of Electoral Violence and Malpractices; Long Term Observation Versus Short Term Election Observation; and Preliminary Statement and Election Observation Report. Table 4 below presents the results of the training of trainers’ workshop:

FECCAHA celebrates the success of these efforts and plans are underway to replicate these efforts in Kenya while accompanying the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK) in civic and voter education and observation of the forthcoming complex elections.

2 Establishment of Peace Clubs

A total of seven peace clubs were established in Goma, DRC: three in schools, three in churches; and one within a youth dance group that comprises of both Christians and other religious traditions in Goma. Other peace clubs were established in Walikale and Kibumba in the North Kivu Province of the DRC. This was as a result of the initiative of youth following the Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop.

In establishing peace clubs, FECCAHA aims at cultivating the culture of peace among students, in schools and youth within the community. It also aims at building ‘peace ambassadors’ in the region. The pilot project on establishing peace clubs in schools in Kenya has helped to strategize on the best ways of establishing them and ensuring their sustainability. FECCAHA is building on the challenges that emerged during the pilot project such as time management: planning for events only to be cut short due to academic events which led to postponement or cancellation; this again led to a clash between school activities and activities of clubs; and the school curriculum which is overloaded among others. By providing technical assistance, FECCAHA Youth Peace Building Programme seeks to strengthen the existing peace clubs using the structures of the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK) and establish new clubs.

3 The FECCAHA Youth Newsletter

The FECCAHA Youth Newsletter seeks to strengthen communication and networking between youth in the region, the FECCAHA Secretariat and others. It also creates a platform upon which youth at the regional level are able to share their ideas and advocate for various issues. The Youth Newsletter was launched in June 2011 and the first issue was widely shared with youth and FECCAHA networks and a positive feedback was received.

4 Youth Representatives Meeting

Youth representatives to the Regional Ecumenical Forum (REF) held a meeting on the sidelines of the forum. A total of 8 youth representatives from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda deliberated on the youth concerns in the region. Among other things, the youth representatives commended the FECCAHA Youth Newsletter and made commitment to share it with others within their constituencies. With the aim of harmonizing their plans, the youth focal points and representatives felt that it was important for them to share their annual activity plans and work towards organizing youth exchange visits to facilitate learning and opportunity for exposure.

Table 4: Results of the Training of Trainers’ Workshop

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Sustainability of follow up action plans | -Three youth groups formed, namely: 
-Organisation des jeunes Chrétiens pour le Développement (OJ CD) -Organisation of Young Christians for Development in North Kivu Province; 
-Jeunes pour la paix et le développement (JPD) -Youth for Peace and Development in South Kivu Province; and 
-Réseau des jeunes pour la Paix et l'Education Civique (RJPEC) -Youth Network for Peace and Civic Education covering both provinces. |
| Sensitization of youth on peace building and civic and voter education (July to November 2011) | -54 young people (27 men and 27 women) trained in Bideka, South Kivu Province; 
-17 young people (8 young women and 9 young men) trained in Christ the King Church, Goma; 
-130 young people trained in Nyiragongo and Walikale territories; 
-Peaceful youth demonstration held at the Goma Sports Centre with the theme: ‘How youth should behave before, during and after elections’; 
-Banners and posters carrying peace messages developed and put in public places in Goma, Butembo and Beni towns; 
-Over 3,000 young people reached in ad hoc sensitization in churches and social spaces in North Kivu province; 
-Profile of an ideal candidate for the presidential and parliamentary elections developed, translated into Kiswahili and widely distributed in North Kivu province; and 
-Over 2,000 soldiers and 3,000 youth mobilized in a civil-military discussion and learning on their role in ensuring free, fair, democratic and peaceful elections in North Kivu Province. |
| Youth resolve to be agents of change and to identify innovative and creative ways of sensitization | -Facilitated the youth to join efforts towards a common cause of peace building in their country; 
-Enhanced the confidence of the youth in seeking social justice and as agents of change; and 
-Youth realized their immense potential and vital role in peace building and conflict transformation. |
2.4 Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Enhancement

Through the Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Enhancement programme, FECCCLAHA aims to build the capacity of the organization and its staff members to achieve the organization’s strategic objectives. During the reporting period, the following activities were undertaken towards the institutional strengthening of FECCCLAHA:

Table 5: Capacity Enhancement Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meetings of FECCCLAHA Executive Committee</td>
<td>Twice a Year</td>
<td>2 regular Executive Committee meetings held through the year resulting in better decision making capacity and solution to various problems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Assembly</td>
<td>Last Quarter</td>
<td>27 members of FECCCLAHA take part in top decision making parley and reaffirm commitment to the organization’s vision and mission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit of Accounts for 2010</td>
<td>First Quarter</td>
<td>FECCCLAHA accountability statement presented to membership and ecumenical partners. Ability to manage, account for resources and report to various publics enhanced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff Retreat</td>
<td>Third Quarter</td>
<td>One staff retreat resulting in critique and proffering of practical recommendations on achieving the mandate given the Secretariat and better working relationship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training/Skills Enhancement for Staff</td>
<td>Spread throughout the year</td>
<td>4 members of staff trained in different skills including Community Development, Organizational Management and Development, Public Administration and Political Science and Human Resources Management.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


2.4.1 Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) Just World Exchange Programme

This was the third year since FECCCLAHA began its partnership with Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) on the Just World Exchange Programme. The NCA Just World Exchange Programme is a personnel exchange programme facilitated by Norwegian Church Aid in which organizations send employees or representatives to work abroad and in turn FECCCLAHA hosts a representative(s) from abroad for a period of time. The aim of the exchange is to not only develop participants professionally and personally, but also secure organizational development by developing partners’ capacity. The theme for the year was: ‘Women, Peace, and Security’. The exchange has been an important initiative in not only strengthening partnerships and networks but also building new relationships and the capacity of the participants.

During the year, FECCCLAHA hosted Ms. Yvette Cubaka from Laissez l’Afrique Vivre (LAV) based in Eastern DRC representing Norwegian Church Aid -Great Lakes Region (NCA-GLR). In turn, FECCCLAHA sent out two participants (Ms. Jennifer Gitiri and Ms. Caren Kiptoo) to NCA-Norway and NCA-Burundi Office respectively. The programme is ongoing with the last round of exchange being 2012-2013.

2.4.2 Networking

1 Advocacy on Food and Humanitarian Crisis in Eastern and Horn of Africa

FECCCLAHA participated in a consultation organized by the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa (CAPA) on the food and humanitarian crisis in Eastern and Horn of Africa. The consultation that took place on 9th August 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya brought together Christian leaders from the worst affected areas in Eastern and Horn of Africa to explore and design collective means of responding to the food crisis in the region. The consultation highlighted the grim situation in the Eastern and Horn of Africa and appealed for humanitarian assistance. In exploring means of responding to the crisis through short and long-term mitigation, church leaders affirmed that the grim situation in the region challenges their pastoral and prophetic ministry as a church.

2 Ecumenical Conference on the Mission and Calling of the Church in the Republic of South Sudan

The Sudanese Church, partner Churches and partner faith based organisation in the International and African community of Nations gathered in Juba, Republic of South Sudan from 28th to 29th September 2011 for an international Ecumenical Conference for remembrance and thanksgiving on the role of the ecumenical movement in the struggle for peace, justice and human dignity, and to discern the future role of the Church. The Sudanese Church expressed its gratitude for the immense role played and the unwavering commitment and solidarity of the broader ecumenical family. The Church also offered thanksgiving for the peaceful birth of the new Republic of South Sudan, and reflected on the next steps and challenges in nation building. These include in: peacemaking, reconciliation and healing of memories; service delivery for justice and peace; governance and constitutional development; advocacy and ecumenical relations and unity among churches.

3 ACT Alliance Eritrea Interest Group Meeting

FECCCLAHA participated in the ACT Alliance Eritrea Interest Group meeting that took place in Nairobi, Kenya from 31st October to 1st November 2011. The meeting reflected on the role of regional ecumenical organizations and global ecumenical agencies in light of the impending closure of the NCA office in Eritrea. The meeting underscored the need for concerted regional and global advocacy efforts towards the settlement of the border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea. It also appealed to the government of Eritrea to regain its membership in the Inter Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and called for more public diplomacy on the situation in the country.

2.5 Conclusion

Peace building and conflict transformation remains a pressing need in the region. Even with the change of context to post conflict situation in most of the countries in the region, good governance and accountability, the plight of women and youth, and proliferation of small arms and light weapons remain a concern. It is upon this background that FECCCLAHA continues its endeavour towards providing a platform for sharing perspectives on these concerns.

### Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa

**Report and Financial Statements**

**Statement of Comprehensive Income**

For the Year Ended 31 December 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011 KES</th>
<th>2010 KES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Income</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant income</td>
<td>35,964,121</td>
<td>39,719,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>1,758,683</td>
<td>907,039</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>37,722,804</td>
<td>40,626,309</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Expenditure**      |            |            |
| Programme costs      | 29,300,517 | 28,472,001 |
| Administrative costs | 6,882,820  | 7,430,927  |
| **Total Expenditure**| 36,183,337 | 35,902,928 |

**Fund Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,539,467</td>
<td>4,723,381</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FECLAHA Members

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Eritrea
General Secretary: Mr. Temesghem Berhane
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Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT)
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National Council of Churches of Burundi
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Fax: +257 227941
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Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR)
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Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC)
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Sudan Council of Churches (SCC)
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Church of Christ in Congo (ECC)
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National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK)
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Ecumenical Partners and Associates

Action of Churches Together (ACT)
Amani Forum: The Great Lakes Parliamentary Forum on Peace
Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa
(AMECEA)
Africa Peace Forum (APFO)
All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC)
African Council of Religious Leaders (ACRL)
Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives (KAIROS)
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
Christian Aid
Church of Sweden
Dan Church Aid (DCA)
DKA Austria
East African Action Network on Small Arms (EAANSA)

Inter Church Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO)
International Alert
International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)
Life and Peace Institute (LPI)
Lott Carey Baptist Mission
Nairobi Peace Initiative (NPI)-Africa
Nairobi Women’s Hospital-Gender Violence Recovery Centre
Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
Pax Christi-Netherlands
Progressive National Baptist Convention (PNBC)
Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSA)
The Christian Organization Research and Advisory Trust of Africa (CORAT-Africa)
The General Referral Hospital of Panzi (GRHP)
World Council of Churches (WCC)
Pastoral/solidarity Visit in Asmara, Eritrea: April, 2011. In the picture, Mr. John Mapesa, Deputy General Secretary of the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) (Left) and His Holiness Abune Dioskoros, the Patriarch of the Eritrean Orthodox Tewahdo Church (Right)

Regional Youth Programme: Training of Trainers’ (ToT) in Bukavu, Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) - July, 2011;

FECCLAHA delegation during the pastoral/solidarity visit in Asmara, Eritrea - April, 2011.

Self-Determination Referendum for the People of South Sudan, Khartoum, Sudan - January, 2011

The war against proliferation of small arms and light weapons (file photo by AACC)