About FECCAHLA

FECCAHLA is a regional ecumenical organisation that was formed to provide a platform for members to share perspectives on issues of common concern, particularly with regard to peace building and conflict transformation. Formally launched in March, 1999 and registered in Kenya in February 2001, FECCAHLA provides a platform to foster strong ecumenical cooperation in taking ownership and responsibility for problems in the region and proactively seek solutions to them.

Since its inception, FECCAHLA has remained consistent to its mission to enhance peace and reconciliation in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa by facilitating ecumenical cooperation and fellowship within the framework of holistic Christian ministry.

FECCAHLA consists of member councils and churches in the following countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eritrea, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. FECCAHLA members are:

- Church of Christ in Congo (ECC)
- Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT)
- Eritrea Orthodox Church
- Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY)
- Evangelical Lutheran Church of Eritrea (ELCE)
- National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB)
- National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK)
- Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR)
- South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC)
- Sudan Council of Churches (SCC)
- Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC)

FECCAHLA Mission:

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

FECCAHLA Values:

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

FECCAHLA Structure:

FECCAHLA’s structure is made up of the following:

- General Assembly;
- Executive Committee; and
- Secretariat.

FECCAHLA General Assembly is composed of its members (churches and national councils of churches). The General Assembly is tasked with the approval of policies formulated and forwarded to it by the Executive Committee. The Assembly also elects the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee is in charge of formulating policies and giving guidance on matters of policy to the Secretariat. It also approves the programmes and budget of FECCAHLA on a yearly basis. It meets at least twice every year.

The Secretariat is in charge of the implementation of policy decisions made by the Executive Committee and the General Assembly regarding the affairs of FECCAHLA. It also facilitates the day-to-day running of the office and programmes.
FECCLAHA Thematic Areas of focus 2014-2018

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

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

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

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

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

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

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FECCLAHA is a member of *actalliance*

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**Message From The Executive Director**

*John 17:21 “…that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.”* (New International Version - NIV)

I am delighted to present to you the 2015 annual narrative report. This is an account of engagements undertaken during the year as efforts towards a just and peaceful society.

The year was marked with great success and accomplishments. During the year under review, FECCLAHA held its General Assembly and the Regional Ecumenical Forum (REF). Under the theme “Building a Strong Ecumenical Network: Prospects and Challenges” reflections on how to strengthen and foster greater ownership of ecumenical networks at the national and regional level for peace and development were held. I wish to thank FECCLAHA members, partners, and other stakeholders for their presence and active participation during these important engagements.

We acknowledge and are pleased about the accompaniment and solidarity expressed to churches in South Sudan and Sudan. This is the true spirit of ecumenism expressed by Jesus Christ in John 17:21. The inaugural assembly of the Ecumenical Network of Sudan (ENS) and the Ecumenical Network of South Sudan (ENSS) held during the year signals hope for restoration of peace and stability for men, women, and children in South Sudan and Sudan. We are also delighted about the peaceful electoral process in the Republic of Tanzania and were happy to have had the privilege of sending a regional observer mission.

Burundi, however, remained and continues to be a concern for FECCLAHA and indeed the ecumenical family. We remain committed to ‘walk hand in hand’ with the Churches in Burundi in seeking a long term solution to the conflict in the country.

FECCLAHA programmes have experienced enormous growth with many achievements made during this year. Special mention to the Youth Peace Clubs (YPCs) which have experienced exponential growth throughout the region with over 100 YPCs actively engaged in peace building initiatives as well as income generating activities. We have also noted increased engagement of churches in the reduction of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) in the region and in gender justice. The Anti-Human Trafficking initiative has also made great strides with the completion of the review of the national legal frameworks versus their implementation and also strengthened partnership with key stakeholders. Plans are underway to continue to engage with the members on the same. The reactivation of the Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) is also a key accomplishment which will greatly contribute towards stronger and vibrant programmes.

I wish to thank all FECCLAHA members, partners, and all other stakeholders for their invaluable support and the spirit of ecumenism and unity throughout this year. May God richly bless you.

Elizabeth Zimba Kisiigha
Executive Director
Peace Building and Conflict Transformation

“Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it”, (Psalms 34:14 New International Version)

Peace building and conflict transformation is a key pillar to all FECCLAHA programmes and initiatives. FECCLAHA Peace Building and Conflict Transformation programme is guided by the strategic objectives: to promote sustainable peace in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa. During the year, FECCLAHA accompanied and created platforms for members to reflect together and find solutions to concerns causing instability in the region.

a) Horn of Africa Church Leaders’ Consultation on Peace, Healing, and Reconciliation:

FECCLAHA held a consultation for Church leaders in the Horn of Africa in July, 2015 which focused on peace, healing, and reconciliation in the Horn of Africa Region. The Consultation aimed at providing a forum for Church leaders and technical personnel from FECCLAHA member churches in the Horn of Africa region to identify issues within the region: country specific and cross border. This was thereafter followed by development of intervention strategies aimed at promoting sustainable peace, healing, and reconciliation among the people in the Horn of Africa. Participants were drawn from Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY), the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC), and Sudan Council of Churches (SCC).

Delegates undertook a context analysis where they looked at the issues, gaps, challenges, and potentials for peace, healing, and reconciliation in the Horn of Africa. Some of which include the unpredictable inter-state relations across the region for example Somalia and Kenya disagreement on the maritime boundary where oil and gas has been discovered, as well as, cross-border question on violent extremism from groups such as the Al-Shabaab; Djibouti, Ethiopia, and Eritrea relations where Eritrea is accused of destabilizing peace in the region; Sudan and South Sudan contests over the three states of oil-rich Abyei; among other inter-state disagreements. Other challenges include political elections and repressive governments that have precipitated conflict in the region, for example, in Sudan opposition boycotts elections and the strong intolerance towards the opposition figures and anybody opposed to particular religious beliefs in Sudan among other examples. Further, the region hosts the highest number of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs); with increasing cases of migration as a result of the political and economic repression.

Some of the gaps identified and possible entry points for the national councils of churches and churches include: the need to put in place a regional framework to address the issues identified, especially those with the potential of escalating to full inter-state or cross-border violent conflicts. Additionally, there is need for concrete plans to mitigate possible resource-based conflicts between people or communities/nations. Further, the Churches in the region need to undertake action or a campaign that will call for the governments to ensure fairness, justice, and protection of human rights. Church must also develop mechanisms of addressing cross border tensions among other entry points. Church leaders developed country action plans which will be a reference point and guide for the councils’ actions in seeking to restore peace and foster healing and reconciliation in the Horn of Africa Region.
b) *Ecumenical Network of South Sudan (ENSS) and Ecumenical Network of Sudan (ENS) Assembly:*

FECLAHHA, in its capacity as a regional partner, hosted the Ecumenical Network of South Sudan (ENSS) and the Ecumenical Network of Sudan (ENS) inaugural assembly meeting held in October, 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya. This was in collaboration with the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) and South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) and in partnership with international ecumenical partners. The ENSS and ENS inaugural assembly marked the practical beginning of the two networks which were set up in December, 2013. These two networks are intended to be platforms that will facilitate the cooperation of the International Ecumenical Partners with the SSCC and SCC peace and advocacy programmes and initiatives in South Sudan and Sudan. The following questions were discussed in details:

a) What are the current advocacy priorities for the two councils?

b) How can the SCC and SSCC Peace and Advocacy Programme best maintain a link with International Ecumenical Partners for International Advocacy?

c) How can the International Ecumenical Partners liaise with each other for International Advocacy?

d) How can International Ecumenical Partners mobilise themselves to do Advocacy on behalf of SCC and SSCC in their own countries?

e) How can SCC and SSCC provide the International Ecumenical Partners with resources like information, advice, and policy guidance among others for doing Advocacy at the International level?

f) Is any formal structure needed apart from the SCC and SSCC Peace and Advocacy Officers in Juba and Khartoum?

Delegates agreed that Sudanese and South Sudanese churches should be in the ‘driver’s seat’ of all initiatives, setting the agenda, determining priorities and being an even stronger voice of the people than they were in the past. Some of the agreed upon way forward and areas of follow up are outlined below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sudan Council of Churches (SCC)</th>
<th>South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC)</th>
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| a) Churches in Sudan to undertake advocacy visits calling for solidarity of Churches in the world;  
  b) Advocacy initiatives that put a face to the suffering in the Nuba Mountains, Darfur, and Blue Nile.  
  c) The Churches to give the right information and change the narrative that things are back to normal.  
  d) Undertake solidarity visits.  
  e) Address the issue of liabilities owed to SCC by SSCC.  
  f) Undertake a retreat that addresses trauma healing.  
  g) Fundraising for the SCC programme activities. | a) Undertake initiatives that seek to stop the war in South Sudan.  
  b) Undertake initiatives that will deal with the atrocities caused by the war.  
  c) Seek ways that will strengthen the relations among member churches of SCC.  
  d) Initiatives that will advocate for respect of rule of law and accountability to the people.  
  (Initiatives outlined in the South Sudan Council of Churches Statement of Intent agreed upon in Rwanda - June, 2015 will also be included.) |

Both councils, SCC and SSCC were tasked to initiate the process of generating clear strategies for each advocacy issue identified with the assistance of technical teams.

Participants in the meeting included senior church leaders from member churches of the SCC and SSCC and representatives from other regional and international organisations including the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), Church of Sweden (CoS), Bread for the World, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Misierior, Pax, Tearfund, Caritas Australia, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Finn Church Aid (FCA), Oslo Centre for Peace and Human Rights, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales, CAFOD/TROCAIRE, Christian Aid, Protestant Agency for Diakonia and development, Denis Hurley Peace Institute, Pretoria, South Africa, Protestant Church in Germany - EKD, World Council of Churches (WCC), and Inter peace.
Gender and Youth

‘There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus’. –(Gal.3:28-New International Version)

For sustainable peace and development in the region, men, women, and youth must effectively participate in all aspects of development: social, political, and economical. FECCLAHA's strategic objective under this theme is to empower men, women, and youth to be effective instruments of peace and gender justice in society. To this end, FECCLAHA has two programmes under this theme; the Regional youth peace building programme and the Gender justice programme.

The Regional youth peace building programmes has been put in place to mobilize and transform youth to be instruments and champions of peace in the region. The Youth Peace Clubs (YPCs) model is the main platform through which the youth in the region are not only being equipped with important life skills, but also being trained and inspired to be ambassadors of peace in their own communities, and in the region at large.

Gender justice remains an important component to peace building and conflict transformation. In addressing this matter, FECCLAHA uses the Contextual Bible Study Methodology through the Tamar Campaign to address the role of the church in addressing Gender Based Violence (GBV) as well as the UN SCR 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security to address the issue of equitable participation of women in peace building and governance processes. The following is an account of initiatives of both programmes:

1. Regional Youth Peace Building Programme:

a) Youth Peace Clubs in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa

The Youth Peace Clubs have been the major platform through which FECCLAHA aims at creating a movement of Youth Peace Ambassadors in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa region. Despite the difficult political contexts in some countries in the region, such as Eritrea and Sudan, YPCs have proved to be an effective model of mobilizing youth for peace and reconciliation. To date, YPCs have been introduced and formed in 7 FECCLAHA member councils and churches. These are: Burundi, Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (South and North Kivu), Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, and Uganda. A total number of 126YPCs are actively engaged in these countries with a total membership of about 5000 young people in the region. The following a breakdown of the tally:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number of YPCs and membership</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>30YPCs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
<td>48YPCs (North Kivu - 11; South Kivu-37)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>8YPCs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya/Mukuru Slums in Nairobi</td>
<td>14 YPCs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>11YPCs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>4YPCs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>11YPCs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Coach Edward Luseno (left), from Mukuru YPC demonstrates a group activity to teachers from Church Founded High Schools in Central Region in Uganda during the launch of the YPC in Kampala, Uganda in June, 2015. –Photo by FECCLAHA
In 2015, Youth Peace Clubs were launched in Uganda on June, 2015. This brought together 20 Church founded High School teachers in the Central Region. This was in collaboration with the Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC). It is anticipated that these teachers will be mentors and initiators of YPCs in these schools. Additionally, a follow up of the YPC was also held in South Sudan in collaboration with the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) in November, 2015 bringing together 20 youth from SSCC member churches in Equatoria region in South Sudan. As result of the workshop, participants developed plans of action on formation of YPCs with some of issues to address through YPCs.

The YPCs in the different countries have had many successes and achievements with great impact to the youth and communities including improving the socio-economic status of the youth. The youths’ consciousness has been raised and therefore they are more engaged in community activities including sanitation, protection of the environment through tree planting initiatives, advocacy and lobbying, and ultimately engaging in peace building and conflict transformation at the community level. YPCs have also provided spaces to openly have reflections and dialogue on their contribution to peace and reconciliation in their context and this has happened in Burundi. The YPCs have enhanced the culture of non violence among youth. The following are some change stories from YPC members in the different countries.

b) **Accompaniment to Youth Peace Clubs in the region:**

FECCCLAHA has over the years used the International Peace Day as a significant platform for mobilizing and advocating for peace in the region. In this regards, FECCCLAHA calls on all member councils and churches to take action for peace and reconciliation in their different contexts/countries. It is on this breadth that FECCCLAHA was invited to share its experiences during the Peace One Day Conference that was held in June, 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya. During the conference, FECCCLAHA made a presentation on its experiences especially in mobilizing Youth for peace using the YPCs in the region. A total of 300 participants from the civil society including the faith based organisations, the NGOs, and government institution drawn from the education and sports sector in Kenya among others.

Different activities were undertaken by members to commemorate this day during 2015. The UJCC through the YPCs mobilized youth to participated in a tree planting session which was coupled with a sports day; in South Kivu the YPCs commemorated the day through a reflection session; in Burundi a football tournament and a peace march were undertaken; in North Kivu the YPC in collaboration with a local radio station held a radio talk show that ran for 2 weeks and was focusing on Youth and development; and South Sudan the National Women Programme celebrated this day in six states in South Sudan: Warrap State (Kwajok), Upper Nile State (Malakal), Jonglei State (Bor), Western Equatoria State (Yambio), Eastern Equatorial State (Torit), and Central Equatoria State (Juba).

In order to iron out their differences, the youth in the University of Burundi organised a panel discussion on the political and ethnic conflict in Burundi. This move was motivated by clashes between some students along ethnic lines during the election of student representatives in the public university.

In attendance were class delegates, representatives of political parties on the campus, leaders of civil society organisations and leaders of different faith-based organisation on the campus. These panels took place in November, 2014 and March, 2015.

(Sébastien Manirakiza, University of Burundi Youth Peace Clubs)

YPCs have improved the profile of its youth members. Due to the clean record of the YPC members, a total number of 67 youths (35 male and 32 female) from different villages in Mukuru Slum were absorbed in the National Youth Service (NYS) project work within the area.

(Mr. Samuel Odhiambo – U-Turn Arts YPC Mukuru)

Due to YPC efforts in Mwenga Territory (DRC) conflict between some small-scale miners and the Twangueuses (women who break stones to form ballast in the quarry) operating in the Kamituga mining areas has significantly reduced.

(Reported by Representative of Lubunga – Mwenga Territory, Youth Peace Club, August-2015)
In a bid to strengthen and contribute towards sustainability of the YPCs, FECCLAHA has provided accompaniment by contributing towards community activities aimed at mobilizing youth within the YPCs. In North Kivu over 600 youth were mobilized through a sensitization campaign advocating against crime and the use of crude weapons and calling for peaceful coexistence which was undertaken in June, 2015 and also through a Day of Reflection to commemorate the country’s 55th Independence. During the 16 Days of Activism against Violence on Women the Mukuru Slums, Nairobi YPCs undertook a door-to-door sensitization campaign against Violence on Women in Fuata Nyayo, Mariguini, Kayaba, and Hazina village. A total number of community members reached was 289 people (192 female & 97 male) through the door to door outreach. Two community outreach sessions were also conducted where 134 community members were reached (76 female and 54 male). A peace walk was also undertaken which was flagged off by the area chief. Additionally, various leaders in the area also signed a leaders’ charter committing to support the fight against all forms of Gender Based Violence in the area.

Further, the YPCs in North Kivu commemorated the International Day on Poverty Eradication on the 28th October, 2015 through undertaking an experience sharing session on how the youth can initiate income generating activities where a total number of 42 young people (29 men and 13 women) participated. The YPCs in North Kivu, in a bid to address the unemployment problem among youth, have undertaken a farming project where more than 500 families are benefiting from the proceeds derived from this project.

In collaboration with the Orthodox Archdiocese of Kenya, FECCLAHA facilitated an inter religious Youth Forum on radicalization and religious violent extremism in November, 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya, where a total number of 250 youth, priests, and seminarians drawn from different regions in the country participated. These experiences and opportunities have not only provided visibility for FECCLAHA but also set it apart as a leader and an invaluable resource as regards youth peace building and the important role of Churches in addressing the existing gaps.

“Last year (2014), OJCD organised a training session on a number of business activities to celebrate the International Day for the Elimination of Poverty. I chose to learn how to make doughnuts (mandazi) and cakes. I started with a capital of USD 4. Few months later, I made USD 50. Then, I asked my father to support me so that I could start selling handbags and he supported me. Now, I sell doughnuts and cakes when I go to school and handbags when I am at home. I meet some needs that arise at home and sometimes I pay my school fees if my Dad is not yet ready....”

Ms. Esperance Kitumaini
(North Kivu – YPC)
c) Regional Youth Peace Building Pre-General Assembly

The Youth remain key players in peace building and conflict transformation in the region. In a bid to create spaces for youth from the region for information sharing, experience sharing, reflection, discussions, and consolidation of achievements, especially as regards YPCs and peace work as well as networking, FECCLAHA held a Regional Youth Forum on the 6th October, 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya. There was a considerable focus on formation of YPCs as the main platform towards mobilizing youth for peace in the region. A total number of 12 youth representatives drawn from FECCLAHA member councils and churches; as well as 2 representatives from Youth Peace Clubs from Mukuru Slum in Kenya and from the University of Burundi Youth Peace Clubs. Commitments and concerns to FECCLAHA top leadership through a communiqué were presented during FECCLAHA’s General Assembly that took place on the 7th October, 2015. The outcome of this forum was key for FECCLAHA Secretariat’s planning and coordination of youth peace efforts across the region. Through this forum the youth set their priorities at the national and regional levels. They used this forum to assess the regional situation of conflict and peace, examine the gains made, identify key challenges and gaps; and determine their role in making the situation better. They discussed about how best to make the Youth Newsletter a strong and vibrant advocacy, learning, and networking tool for the youth in the region.

FECCCLAHA Secretariat continues its work towards strengthening the YPCs so as to ensure their sustainability. FECCLAHA has continued to contribute to the youth efforts of mobilizing youth for peace across the region. Additionally, FECCLAHA has linked the YPCs with service providers and partners who can further support their activities. FECCLAHA also continues to facilitate sharing and networking in a bid to create a strong network of YPCs in the region. This has been done through the Youth Newsletter as well as engagement through social media platforms.

d) Launching of the Youth Peace Clubs Workbook:

The launch of the Youth Peace Clubs Workbook took place on the 7th October, 2015 in the Nairobi, Kenya. This ceremony that was presided over by the outgoing FECCLAHA Chairperson, Rev. Dr. Dereje Jemberu (EECMY), and the incoming Chairperson, Rev. Sylvestre Bizimana (CNEB). The workbook is a joint initiative where youth across the region were consulted in the process of compiling the content in the workbook. The workbook is available in English and French. A total of 120 copies have been disseminated in the region. It is a useful tool as it will not only ensure sustainability but is also a guide and valuable reference material for the YPCs in the region.

(Refer to www.fecclaha.org for the latest edition of the Youth Newsletter).
5. Gender Justice Programme

a) Follow up workshops on Strengthening the Tamar Campaign in Bukavu, Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo and Bujumbura, Burundi

FECLSHA in collaboration with the National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB) and the Church of Christ in Congo - South Kivu region held follow up/review workshops for Church leaders. These were held in May, 2015 in Bukavu, South Kivu and in October, 2015 in Bujumbura, Burundi. A total of 78 church leaders (39women and 39men); in Bukavu there were 36church leaders (19women and 17men) and in Bujumbura 42 church leaders (22men and 20women). These Church leaders were drawn from different member churches of the councils in South Kivu and Burundi.

In Burundi, the review/follow up workshop was held with the aim of creating a platform for sharing and further learning on how the churches can address gender based violence
within their communities and churches. Considerable focus was placed on the use of Group Therapy to support survivors of GBV within the communities. Additionally, in view of the prevailing context in the country, there was a focus on the role of the church in peace building and conflict transformation especially at the community level. FECCLAHA facilitated an assessment of all member churches of CNEB in a bid to provide further support to the Churches to strengthen the already existing support groups and work within the churches and the initiatives on the Tamar Campaign and the efforts towards addressing GBV in the country. All member churches of the National Council of Churches of Burundi -CNEB (13 in total) had a representation of at least 2 church leaders/workers. These included Muyinga and Makamba (The Anglican Church); Bujumbura (Anglican Church); Rumonge (Anglican Church); Baptist Church (UBB); United Methodist Church (UMBU); Friends Church; Kimbagist Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Burundi, Free Methodist Church, Matana Anglican Church, and Buye Anglican Church. There was therefore a wide and diverse representation and reach from different parts of the country and denominations.

The ongoing trainings and workshops by FECCLAHA in collaboration with CNEB have contributed to the increased engagement of the Churches at the community level in efforts towards preventing and responding to GBV. From the assessment facilitated by FECCLAHA and undertaken by CNEB, the Anglican Churches who are members of CNEB know about the Tamar Campaign and are actively engaged with activities that seek to fight against GBV in the community. The Anglican Church of the Diocese of Matana and Diocese of Muyinga undertook a public peace march during the 16 Days of Activism against Violence on Women. Additionally, commitments were also made by various Churches to establish ‘listening centres’ or support groups so as to provide spaces for trauma healing.

In Bukavu, the workshop was organized in collaboration with the Federation of Protestant Women (FFP) which is the women’s Department within of the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC). It was a follow up to a workshop that was held in May, 2014. After the training in May, 2014 Church leaders were engaged in formation of “Tamar Circles”. These are community based structures where sustained conversations on gender injustice in the church and society and how the same should be addressed take place. The workshop in May, 2015 was therefore both a training workshop as well as a space for sharing and learning. Training was undertaken on the theme “Human Rights are Women Rights” where there was a focus on some international, regional, and national legal instruments that seek to protect women rights. There was a focus on UN SCR 1325 and also the Convention to Eliminate all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform, Maputo Declaration, among others. The church leaders also shared the community engagements that they had undertaken since the workshop in May, 2014. Some of these include:

i) Church leaders have undertaken community initiatives including radio programmes and using the platforms including the International Day for Women to raise awareness on Gender Based Violence. These initiatives have increased awareness on the negative effects of GBV and the importance of respecting the rights of women. These have also created opportunities for sustained conversations at the community level on GBV in Bukavu.
ii) Six Tamar Circles (mainly comprising women, men, and youth as well as church workers/volunteers) have been formed in different churches mainly in Bukavu and in parts of Uvira. These are actively engaged in small group meetings at the community level. These are important spaces for women and men in South Kivu, because they provide safe places for peer support and learning. Sensitization on the importance of respecting women rights are also discussed during these spaces. As a result of these meetings, there have been reported change stories and cases. Therefore through the Tamar Circles there is the multiplier effect from 20 members of a Tamar Circle, many people are reached.

b) Ongoing Accompaniment to the National Women Programme - South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC)

FECCCLAHA has continued to provide technical support and accompaniment to the National Women Programme of the SSCC. Since its reactivation in 2013, the programme has consistently grown into a robust office instrumental in coordinating and mobilizing women in different regions within the country. Considerable focus has been put on calling for restoration of peace in country. This year’s initiatives focused on Bor, Malakal, and Juba.

The International Women Day of Prayer (IWDP) has become a key advocacy platform that the South Sudan Council of Churches - National Women Programme (SSCC-NWP) has used to mobilize women and coordinate their efforts in calling for peace in the country. In previous years, activities like peaceful public marches and prayer meetings/rallies have been held to mark this day and mainly in Juba. This year, SSCC replicated this model of celebrating the IWDP in Malakal. These prayers were held within the UNMISS Protection on Civilians (PoC) and with the host community in Malakal town with the aim of fostering peaceful co-existence and restoration of peace in the region. Additionally, the SSCC-NWP, in addition to creating safe spaces for dialogue and prayer, has provided relief and humanitarian assistance to women within the camps in Juba as well as in Aweil, Kwajok, Loka, and Wodurba. This has been occasioned by the ongoing conflict in parts of South Sudan that has left many people displaced forcing them to live within UNMISS PoC camps.

"As a result of radio programmes undertaken by the Tamar Circle members of Eglise 7e CEGCO, they have been invited to other groups and churches to discuss the Tamar Campaign and the ills of GBV in society. The places invited included the Eglise 8eme CEPAC/Brasserie and also 8eme CEPAC Panzi."

(From Reverend Gregory Masango - Tamar Circle of Eglise 7e CEGCO)

‘The Circle undertook a survey on the prevalence of “Single-Motherhood” in the area. This survey revealed that out of the 50 households within an area called Bagira were they carried out the survey, 39 hosted “single-mothers”. These are usually young girls who face a lot of stigma and therefore are vulnerable to abuse and violence as they seek acceptance by the community. To this regard they have formed a “Tamar Circle” composed of 20 mothers. This provides a safe space for mentoring and support which is a preventive measure to staying and getting into abusive relationships in a bid to seek acceptance."

(From Maman Alima Muzaliwa - Tamar Circle from Eglise 8eme CEPAC Kabuye/ Cellule Panzi)
Using the UN SCR 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security the SSCC-NWP has undertaken workshops and trainings on the role of women in peace building, women rights, forgiveness and reconciliation among others topics. This year, a follow up workshop was held in November, 2015 which was a platform that brought together women from different parts of the country. Through the National Women Programme, women have been represented in the delegation of Church leaders who participated in the peace negotiations in Addis Ababa in 2014 and also witnessed the signing of the Compromise Agreement for Peace in South Sudan in 2015. This has enhanced the women’s capacity and also contributed towards raising the profile of women in the Church as strategic players to the call for peace in the country.

The SSCC-NWP has increased its capacity by networking and collaborating with other stakeholders including the Government Ministries like the Ministry of Gender during the celebration of the 16 Days of Activism against Violence on Women, the Government authorities at the local/state level including the Civil Affair Division in Malakal, the Office of the Governor in Bor among others. They have also held joint activities with the United Nations Agencies including the UN Women, the UNOCHA in Malakal, and the UNDP. This has enhanced the programme’s visibility and raised its profile further strengthening the council’s advocacy work for peace and security in the country.

c) FECCLAHA Gender Consultation

FECCAHLA, held a one-day Consultation for Gender Focal Persons of FECCAHLA member council and churches in October, 2015. Nine out of 11 FECCAHLA members were represented in this consultation. In line with FECCAHLA’s commitment of providing a platform for member to share perspectives on issues of common concerns, particularly in conflict transformation, the consultation created a space for gender focal persons within the region for joint learnt and sharing of experiences. Participants undertook reflections on ways that the councils of churches can adopt or enhance the fervency of the Tamar Campaign in the region.

The consultation deliberated upon the following topics:

a) The strategic/important Role of women in Church & Society: The example of Deborah (Judges 4:1-12);

b) The Tamar Campaign: A tool and platform to mobilize the churches against all forms of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in our countries.

c) Transformative masculinities: The importance of involving men in preventing and addressing Gender Based Violence in Church and Society.

The following are commitments by the gender focal points that were articulated and documented in a Communiqué that was then presented to FECCAHLA General Assembly:

a) To implement and follow up on the Tamar Campaign in all FECCAHLA member councils and churches and strengthen the same in the countries where the campaign is ongoing;

b) To involve men in the campaign, these include: Pastors, evangelist, senior Church leaders among others.

c) To include Gender Based Violence as a programme within all the Churches and Councils.

d) To engage in joint fundraising to implement programmes on Gender Justice coordinated by the FECCAHLA Secretariat.

Women engaged in a feet washing session during the commemoration of the IWDP in Malakal, in March (2015). Following the example of Jesus, this was meant to symbolize the transformation that results from praying and serving one another. –Photo by NWP-SSCC

Ms. Dinah Akallo, Gender Officer for the Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC) gives a presentation during the Gender Consultation in October, 2015. Looking on are Gender Officers from FECCAHLA members. –Photo by FECCAHLA
Governance

“He has shown, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God’ (Micah 6:8 New International Version)

FECLLAHA, through the Ecumenical Elections Assistance Programme (EEAP) aims at contributing to credible, free and fair elections in the region. This year, FECLLAHA deployed an international ecumenical election observation missions to the General elections in Tanzania which took place on 25th October, 2015.

Ecumenical Election Observation Mission to Tanzania:

FECLLAHA facilitated the deployment of a team of 4 representatives who were part of the Christian Social Commission of Tanzania, which was led by the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) that had deployed 450 domestic observers in different parts of the country. The observer mission deployed by FECLLAHA aimed at contributing to an independent assessment of the electoral process in Tanzania as well as express solidarity with the People of Tanzania. This was also an opportunity for learning and exposure on effective Church engagement in electoral processes to prevent electoral related conflicts such as experienced in Burundi (June, 2015) and also ahead of elections in different countries in the region including Uganda and Kenya.

The observer mission representatives were drawn from FECLLAHA member councils from the National Council of Churches of Burundi (Burundi), the National Council of Churches of Kenya (Kenya), Uganda Joint Christian Council (Uganda), and a representative from FECLLAHA Secretariat.

In addition to holding briefing meeting with the African Union Observer mission that was led by H.E Armando Emilio Guebuza, former President of Mozambique; the observer mission also observed closing campaign rallies of the ruling party as well as the main opposition party. During the voting day, 25th October, 2015 the observer mission from FECLLAHA observed elections in 6 constituencies in Dar-es-Salaam: Ilala, Segerea, Nkawe, Ubungu, Temeke, and Ukonga. The team also observed vote counting process in 4 polling stations, as well as, the receipt of cast votes and other voting materials at the District Vote receipt centers.

Prior to the elections, concerns had been raised about violations of the electoral and other laws and regulations including political rallies continuing well past the official closing time. There were also concerns about the hate speech and abusive language during the political campaigns and rallies which would polarize the country. Further, apart from the civic education undertaken by the Churches in Tanzania, there was inadequate civic education to the electorate by the National Electoral Commission (NEC) who cited lack of adequate funds. However, it was noted that security forces had exercised a lot of restraint during the campaign period.

In general, the elections were peaceful but it was noted that the NEC was not adequately prepared with several gaps observed including the handling of ballot boxes and used materials after closing of elections as well as transportation of these materials to the collection centres. Several constituency results declared by the NEC were contested on the grounds that they were different from those declared at the polling stations.
Human Security

“Learn to do good, seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows”
(Isaiah 1:18 New International Version)

Human Security thematic area of focus seeks to address the threats to human security and the underlying causes of the same in the region. Some of these underlying causes threatening human security in the region include proliferation of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) and Human Trafficking. FECCLAHAn, in an effort to contribute to the reduction of illicit SALWs in the region, has engaged in initiatives on mobilization, awareness creation, and capacity enhancement of Church leaders and communities. Human Trafficking is also an emerging threat in the region with thousands of persons vulnerable to sexual slavery and commercial sexual exploitation as well as forced labour under inhumane conditions. The young people are especially susceptible to being victims of this crime.

1. Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWS) Programme:

   a) Regional Capacity Building Workshop for Church leaders on SALWs Protocols, Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and Gender Dimensions of SALWs

As a follow up to a dissemination workshop of the SALWs Baseline Survey in November, 2014, FECCLAHAn held a regional workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapons Protocols, ATT, and Gender Dimensions in February, 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya in which 24 church leaders participated. The Regional workshop aimed at mobilizing and enhancing capacity/knowledge of the Church Leaders on issues of SALW in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa region as well as providing space for learning through presentations and sharing of practical experiences among others. The workshop enhanced participants’ knowledge and skills on SALWs Protocols, UN Plan of Action, Arms Trade Treaty and SALW Gender dimensions. Space for information and experience sharing was provided.

During the workshop, 9 country reports were presented by the participating Church Leaders which highlighted the current situation on SALWs, church engagements, successes and challenges as well as their expectations from FECCLAHAn. The reports were informed and enriched by knowledge and skills acquired during the November, 2014 SALWs Baseline Survey Dissemination workshop organized and facilitated by FECCLAHAn. The Baseline survey was undertaken during 2013/2014 and covered the FECCLAHAn region. This report enabled Church Leaders to know different countries’ status and the strategic Plans of action for 2015/2016 which outlined National
Councils and Churches interventions at country and cross border levels. This included activities that can be undertaken during the Global week of Action Against Gun Violence which takes place every year. Additionally, during this workshop FECCLAHA tapped on to the skills and expertise of different organizations including the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA), Eastern African sub Regional Support Initiative for Advancement of Women (EASSI), Africa Peace Forum (APFO), Kenya National Focal Point (KNFP) and World Council of Churches (WCC). This workshop therefore provided space for enhanced networking and experience sharing and learning from each other. Participants in the workshop included the General Secretaries of National Councils of Churches (NCCs) and Programme Staff that were drawn from FECCLAHA membership in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (Burundi, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda), a total number of 24 men and women.

FECCLAHA has since documented and published the ‘Baseline Survey on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa’ (September, 2015) and the ‘Report on Regional Workshop on Reduction of Illicit SALWs in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa’ (October, 2015). These are important reference materials available for FECCLAHA members, collaborating partners, and other Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

b) Churches Community Initiatives in the fight against proliferation of SALWs in the region:

FECCLAHA aims at enhancing Church leaders’ knowledge on SALWs protocols and other legal instruments against illicit SALWs in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa. In this regards, it has provided training and accompaniment to FECCLAHA member churches in a bid to increase awareness and mobilize Church leaders to take action against SALWs. In September, 2015 FECCLAHA in collaboration with the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) held a 2 day church leaders’ capacity building workshop on SALWs protocols and the role of the church. A total number of 20 church leaders from the Inter Church Committees (ICCs), which are SSCC grassroots structures which are key in mobilizing at the community level and composed of representatives of SSCC member churches. This workshop was co-facilitated by the Bureau for Community Safety & Small Arms Control of the Government of South Sudan. The participants in the capacity building workshop were drawn from the Equatoria region - Juba, Torit, Yei, and Nimule.

In Uganda, the Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC) undertook a national dialogue forum in October, 2015 on the dangers accruing from the misuse of small arms and light weapons (SALWs) in the urban areas, highways, and security agencies barracks in Uganda. The dialogue engagement brought together a cross section of stakeholders from the National Security agencies, civil society organisations, and UN agencies. The National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK) also held an awareness creation workshop on SALWs where 35 youth and church leaders were trained about the SALWs protocols and the role of the church in reduction of illicit SALWs. This was co-facilitated with the Kenya National Focal Point (KNFP) and Security Research and Information Centre (SRIC). As a result of this training, the church leaders mobilized about 800 community members using different platforms including public forums/’barazas’, street theatre, through ‘boda-boda’ (motorcycle) groups, church services among others.

Participants listen to a presentation during the follow up training on SALWs which was facilitated by the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK). This team was able to reach over 700 people in the community with sensitization messages in Kiambu and Nairobi counties in Kenya.

-Photo by FECCLAHA
In Ethiopia, the Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) PEACE Office held an awareness raising national workshop in November, 2015 that brought together 35 representatives from religious institutions and other stakeholders in the country. The objective of the workshop was to not only raise awareness on the level of illicit SALWs in the country, but also, to outline the threat of the illicit SALWs to peace and security of the people in Ethiopia and call the institutions to action against this vice in the society. Presentations were made by representatives from University Standards, Safety and Security Office and also by representatives of the INTERPOL and the Ethiopian National Focal Person for SALWs. Participants were informed that SALWs was a threat to peace and security as conflicts that could have been solved peacefully have been escalated by violence because of presence of illicit SALWs in the hands of communities. They asserted that guns do not kill people; rather, people kill other people. Therefore, disarming of the mind and heart is critical even as physical disarmament is being undertaken. Religious leaders prepared action plans to facilitate further interventions on the same.

### 2. Human Trafficking:

#### a) The Anti-Human Trafficking Sensitization and Capacity Building Conference:

FECCCLAHA together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and International Organisation for Migration (IOM) co-facilitated an anti-human trafficking sensitization and capacity building conference that was organised and hosted by the Salvation Army Kenya Easts’ Anti-Human Trafficking Project. This took place in Nairobi, Kenya in November, 2015. The objective of the conference was to provide a forum where actors of anti-human trafficking in Kenya can network, synergize their anti-human trafficking efforts, and review progress in implementing of the National Plan of Action for Combating Human Trafficking Strategic Framework 2013-2017.

FECCCLAHA made a presentation on a research undertaken in 2014 in the ten FECCCLAHA member countries including Kenya. This research outlined provisions of the counter-trafficking law vis-a-vis its practice in the country. This was in a bid to discuss the important role and strategic place of faith based organisations in addressing human trafficking. The faith institutions are best placed to respond to this because they are the most in touch with the community and therefore best placed in raising awareness on human trafficking. Other topics of discussions included the reality of being vulnerable to human trafficking in Kenya, lobbying Kenya county governments to be more proactive to counter trafficking, how to manage human trafficking cases, a presentation of preliminary findings of the situation analysis of human trafficking in Kenya by Salvation Army, the National Plan of Action for combating Human Trafficking and the National Referral mechanism. A case study on how churches have engaged in counter trafficking community awareness was also presented. The emerging issues that were discussed include involvement of Faith Based Organizations in counter trafficking, the need for community awareness strategies, aligning of stakeholder activities to the NPA, standardization of case management practices especially at screening, the need for a National Referral Mechanism, development of a

#### b) Awareness Raising National Workshop on Human Trafficking in Addis Ababa Ethiopia.

FECCCLAHA facilitated the Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) to undertake an awareness creation workshop on the role of the religious leaders in preventing human trafficking in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in November, 2015. The workshop brought together 35 participants who were drawn from seven Religious Institutions that are members to the Inter Religious Council of Ethiopia (IRCE), the Life & Peace Institute, and the Ministry of Federal and Pastoralists Affair. The workshop created awareness on the issue of Human Trafficking in Ethiopia among Religious Leaders, and the role of religious leaders in countering the same. Despite the fact that Ethiopia hosts the largest population of refugees in the continent, a large number of its citizens have fallen victim of the human trafficking vice. Ethiopia was described as a country of origin, transition, and destination as regards human trafficking. At the end of this workshop, religious leaders made commitments to take responsibility and fight against Human Trafficking and its negative impact on Human Dignity. They will do this using various platforms including the spiritual gatherings among others.
Networking and Partnership

Then I said to them, “You see the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.”

(Nehemiah 2:17 New International Version)

1. World Council of Churches (WCC) Conference on Peace & Security in the DRC:

FECCLAHA Executive Director, Mrs. Elizabeth Z. Kisiigha participated in conference on Peace & Security in the DRC organized by the WCC on the 27th – 29th May, 2015. The conference was timely especially in bringing together different partners and church leaders from DRC to engage and discuss issues pertaining to DRC. The conference discussed and highlighted the following thematic areas: Gender Based Violence, where among other proposal, members suggested that the Tamar Campaign and the “We will Speak Out” campaigns be platforms to break the silence on GBV. The participants also deliberated upon natural resource management, human rights and humanitarian response, and the upcoming elections in the country. At the end of the conference, participants documented and circulated a statement and also agreed to form the Ecumenical Forum on DRC. The main thematic themes of focus: GBV, Natural Resource Management, and Elections are key thematic areas of focus in FECCLAHA Strategic plan (2014-2018). In this regard, FECCLAHA continues to be committed to make contributions to the three areas of focus in collaboration with its member Church of Christ in Congo (ECC). The way forward articulated in the different thematic areas remains reference points for FECCLAHA’s undertakings.

2. East African Faith Leaders’ Symposium on Gender Justice:

FECCLAHA was part of a core group that organized and planned the East Africa Faith Leaders’ Symposium on Gender Justice on the 23rd and 24th November, 2015 with the lead organisation being Christian Aid. The Church leaders who participated in this symposium were representing national councils of churches and churches who are FECCLAHA members, as well as, other religious institutions from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. The church leaders identified barriers to faith actors’ working on gender justice and also outlined some areas of focus. The following are commitments by the Church leaders as outlined in the Communiqué agreed upon during the Symposium:

a) Create awareness among congregations and communities on the need for gender justice.

b) Establish and support safe spaces for faith leaders and people of faith already championing gender justice to discuss on relevant issues and share their views on the same.

c) Produce, disseminate, and share new and existing information, education, and communication (IEC) materials on gender justice.

d) Support national structures in respective countries in the region for a more coordinated and collaborative movement of faith based gender justice actors to take affirmative and common action towards achieving gender justice policy and programmatic outcomes.

e) Mapping of existing faith actors and enlisting new ones to work more collaboratively towards common gender justice goals.

f) Building a more comprehensive evidence base for faith actors to appropriately respond to gender injustices in their respective countries.

Participants were also informed about the ‘Side by Side Faith Movement for Gender Justice”. This movement was established in recognition that gender justice cannot be achieved by individuals’ efforts alone, it requires concerted effort.

3. Participation in the ACT Alliance:

FECCLAHA continues to be an active member of the ACT Alliance Kenya Forum (AKF) since joining the Alliance in 2014. With its expertise and areas of interest being advocacy, it participates in the Advocacy Working Group.
FECLLAHA served as the chair and convener of the AKF meetings from August - October, 2015. Further, Mrs. Elizabeth Z. Kisiigha is currently serving as a member of the Advisory Group on Advocacy. In this capacity, FECLLAHA has participated in the development of the ACT Alliance Global Advocacy Strategy as well as the AKF Strategic plan. The ACT Alliance remains an important platform for networking, partnership building, and capacity development.

4. Africa Faith Leaders’ participation in the Africa Interfaith Initiative on Post 2015:

FECLLAHA is a member of the Interfaith Steering Committee on the Post 2015 Development Agenda. In seeking to ensure effective Africa faith leaders’ participation in influencing the debate on Finance for Development, the Steering Committee undertook a strategizing meeting on the 21st and 22nd May, 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya. Out of this meeting, the committee documented a statement that was used for advocacy at the UN Meeting on Financing for Development that was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in July, 2015.

5. Networking and Partnership on SALWs with RECSA and APFO:

FECLLAHA participated in a one-day regional sensitization workshop hosted by the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA). This High-Level meeting took place in March 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya and brought together participants from 11 RECSA member States (Burundi, Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda) as well as regional organizations and Civil Society. The member States were represented by the National Focal Points on Small Arms and officials from the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Justice. The objective of the meeting was to review the status of ratification of the ATT among RECSA member States and to propose a way forward to speed up the process. In addition to this, participants were presented with key findings and recommendations from the ‘Study on the Complementarities between the ATT, the UNPoA, Nairobi Protocol and Kinshasa Convention’. The study was undertaken to highlight the synergies and complementarities between the ATT and other international and regional small arms instruments (the UNPoA, and the Nairobi Protocol and Kinshasa Convention on small arms). FECLLAHA as one of the key stakeholders on issues of SALW in the region will contribute towards advocacy and lobby on implementation and signing on the protocols on SALWs in the region as well as accession to the ATT through its SALW programme. FECLLAHA signed a five year MoU with RECSA in September, 2014 and this continues to guide the partnership between both organizations. To further sensitize and raise public awareness on illicit SALWs and contribute towards reduction of SALWs, FECLLAHA in partnership with the Africa Peace Forum (APFO) has been seeking to engage the media in Kenya. Consultation meetings were held with representatives of the Media Council of Kenya and one of the mainstream media houses in Kenya. Plans are underway to follow up on the same and to formalize the working relationship with these entities through signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

6. ICGLR Regional Consultation on Land and Property Rights of IDPs and Refugees for Ministers in Charge of Land, IDPs, and Refugees

FECLLAHA participated in this regional consultation organized by ICGLR for its member states that took place in Nairobi, Kenya in April, 2015. The consultation aimed at developing a common vision among member States for efficient management of conflicts related to land and to encourage member states to implement the Protocol on Property Rights of Returnees in the Great Lakes Region. The High Level Consultation sought to analyze the current status of the domestication of the protocol and identify practical successes and challenges in each Member State to better define the road map to support Member States in their domestication effort. From this consultation, an Expert report was presented to the Ministers for Land Affairs & Ministers in charge of issues of returnees and repatriation in member States in the Great Lakes region. The report had recommendations on the effective implementation of the Protocol on Property Rights of Returning Persons in the Great Lakes Region. A Declaration on the effective implementation and operationalization of the Protocol on Property Rights of Returning Persons in the Great Lakes Region was also documented and disseminated.
Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building:

‘A wise man will hear and increase learning. And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel’
(Prov. 1:5 New King James Version)

Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building theme is an important enabling theme within FECCLAHA. The focus is mainly on strengthening the governing, managing, and implementing arms of the organisation.

1. FECCLAHA General Assembly:

The General Assembly is the supreme governing body of FECCLAHA which meets every two years. This year, it was held on 7th October, 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya. Ten out of 11 FECCLAHA member councils had representation comprising of women, youth and top leadership of the national councils. In addition to dealing with the General Assembly Business including the adoption of the summary audited accounts and narrative reports for 2014, appointment of the auditors for 2015/2016, and receiving report and appointment of the Executive Committee members; the General Assembly received statements from the Gender and youth consultation. The Youth Peace Clubs Workbook was also launched during this year’s General Assembly. There was also a special session during the General Assembly on reflections on “The FECCLAHA We Want”. Mrs. Karimi Kinoti, former and founding Executive Director of FECCLAHA and currently the Regional Representative-African Division at Christian Aid, gave a presentation on the vision that drove the formation of
FECCCLAHA. She outlined the following as key questions that would facilitate the reflection process on how to strengthen FECCCLAHA even in the prevailing context in the region as indicated below:

a) In the face of the current crises on peace in the region coupled with reducing donor funding; what does it mean for the member countries and FECCCLAHA secretariat?

b) As people tasked with giving hope, restoring peace and dignity to the people; how do FECCCLAHA members carry the vision with or without the much needed financial resources?

Election of office bearers for the period 2015-2017 was also undertaken: the National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB) is the incoming Chairperson; South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) is the Vice-Chairperson; and the Honorary Treasurer remains the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK).

2. FECCCLAHA Executive Committee Meetings:

The Executive Committee meetings are held twice every year, with the aim of facilitating effective oversight of the implementation of policies, programmes, and resolutions that are made by the General Assembly. This year, the meetings were held in March and October, 2015 in Kigali, Rwanda and Nairobi, Kenya respectively. They were co-hosted by FECCCLAHA member councils in these countries. Among others, the Committee received, discussed, amended, and approved the annual audit report for 2014 and also approved FECCCLAHA annual plans and budget for 2016. Further, members received reports on the peace and security situation in Burundi, South Sudan, and Eritrea in a bid to identifying ways of providing relevant accompaniment to the members. The need for reviewing FECCCLAHA Constitution was also discussed and the Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) approved to undertake the review process. The review of FECCCLAHA Constitution is key as it will strengthen and clarify the function of the various organs in the changed context of FECCCLAHA since its formation. Among other areas, the Constitutional review process will document by-laws and regulations and outline obligations of members.

3. Reactivation of the Programme Advisory Committee (PAC):

The Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) was reactivated and its inaugural meeting held in May, 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya. The reactivation of the PAC was a recommendation highlighted by the external evaluation undertaken between January - April, 2013. The PAC has been a long time structure of strengthening the work of the Executive Committee, mainly in providing technical and professional support to the Executive committee and the Secretariat on programme related matters. Among others, the following are some of the roles and responsibilities of the PAC:

a) To provide technical and professional guidance in the formulation and implementation of programmes of FECCCLAHA.

b) To assist the Executive Committee and the Secretariat in fundraising initiatives and availing information on any fundraising opportunities.

c) To promote FECCCLAHA through networking and collaboration with institutions that have a shared vision and mission as that of FECCCLAHA.

d) To work as a “FECCLAHA THINK TANK” on emerging issues and challenging situations related to the programmes of FECCCLAHA as stipulated in the Strategic Plan.

e) To provide guidance in developing FECCCLAHA’s Strategic directions during the planning periods.

f) Receive reports on all FECCCLAHA Programme activities and make recommendations to the Executive Committee.

The Committee is currently composed of six members with expertise and experience in different areas including programme conceptualization and management, peace and conflict transformation, gender justice, corporate governance, and resource mobilization. Plans are underway to co-opt other members to provide expertise in monitoring

Mrs. Emmy Migaliza, FECCCLAHA Honorary Treasurer, leads devotions during the inaugural meeting of the Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) in Nairobi, Kenya. – Photo by FECCCLAHA
and evaluation as well as Finance and Investments. PAC is currently focusing on three major areas: Fundraising and partnership building, Capacity Building with a focus on the Organisation Capacity Assessment and mid-term review of FECCLAHA strategic plan (2014-2018), and FECCLAHA Constitutional Review.

4. FECCLAHA Regional Ecumenical Forum (REF):

FECCLAHA Regional Ecumenical Forum (REF) is a key mechanism that provides a safe space and opportunity for FECCLAHA members to reflect and focus on issues related to peace building and conflict transformation affecting the region. This year’s theme was guided by John 17:21 and focused on “Building a Strong Ecumenical Network: Prospects and Challenges” with the aim of:

a) Exploring the theological basis for ecumenism and the importance of building strong ecumenical organisations in the region.

b) Examining the prospects for and emerging threats to building strong ecumenical networks in the region.

c) Exploring strategies that FECCLAHA members will utilize to tap on to the opportunities for building strong ecumenical networks as well as strategies to minimize the threats at the regional and national level.

Experiences and lessons learnt were shared by the ACT Alliance-Africa, Lutheran World Federation (LWF), and the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK). Different topics addressing the prospects and challenges to building a strong ecumenical network were discussed. The shrinking space for civil society organisation was also discussed as one of the emerging threats to the process of building an ecumenical network in the region. Held every two years, this forum draws participation from all FECCLAHA members, ecumenical partners, collaborating partners and other strategic stakeholders; a total number of 44 participants participated in this meeting.
5. Partners’ Round Table:

FECLLAHA has instituted partners’ round table to be held every two years in a bid to create a platform to share plans as well as received feedback and technical advice from the partners. In this regard, FECLLAHA held a partners’ round table meeting in October, 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya. Presentations and discussions were held about the contextual/trend analysis of FECLLAHA operating environment, the status of implementation of FECLLAHA Strategic Plan (2014-2018) focusing on the achievements, challenges, and future plans. Concerns were raised about the increasingly shrinking donor funding and whilst acknowledging the alternative funding strategies employed within FECLLAHA; called for further creativity and innovations in undertaking programmes. There was representation from Church of Sweden (CoS), Christian Aid, Dan Church Aid (DCA), and Norwegian Church Aid (NCA). In attendance also were members of FECLLAHA Executive Committee and FECLLAHA Staff members.

6. Solidarity with the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC):

FECLLAHA’s Executive Director, Mrs. Kisiigha together with other ecumenical partners participated in the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) General Assembly that took place on the 18th – 20th November, 2016 in Khartoum, Sudan. This was an important event because it was the first General Assembly of the SCC since its split and formation of the SSCC in July, 2013. Some of the ecumenical partners that took part in this meeting include the WCC, NCA, Caritas East Africa Office, EKD Germany, Bread for the World, Church of Sweden, and Pax Netherland. A total number of 8 out of 10 member churches who were eligible to participate in the General Assembly, participated in the meeting. The General Assembly approved the new constitution of SCC and appointed an auditing firm. They also held elections where the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and General Secretary were elected.

The General Assembly was preceded by the Core Group meeting which comprised of mainly the ecumenical partners, the General Secretary of SCC, and representatives from the SCC Board of Trustees.

7. FECLLAHA Partners’ Courtesy Visits and partnership Building Engagements:

FECLLAHA received representatives and delegations from various partners during the year. Representatives from ICCO, Bread for the World, and Christian Aid made courtesy visits which also coupled as monitoring visits. These visits are important as they strengthen the partnerships between FECLLAHA and her partners. A delegation from DKA Austria undertook a visit to the office and also interacted with representatives of the Youth Peace Clubs in Nairobi, Kenya and representatives from Mukuru Slums Development Projects (MSDP) in March, 2015. In October, 2015 FECLLAHA participated in a Partners’ Consultation organized by Bread for World in Nairobi, Kenya. FECLLAHA made a presentation on “The Africa we want: Social and cultural perspective youth and women participation”. Further, in November 2015 FECLLAHA received a delegation of eleven International Secretaries of Church of Sweden. The delegation appreciated FECLLAHA’s work and committed to follow up on the visit with continued engagements on strengthening fundraising function within the organisation.

8. Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building for FECLLAHA Secretariat:

FECLLAHA is committed to continuous capacity enhancement for the staff to facilitate better-quality of service effectiveness and efficiency among its staff. To this regard, Bread for the World supported 5-days in-house training on Fundraising, Proposal Writing, and Project Cycle management in July, 2015 carried out by CORAT-Africa. Among other project management skills, the staff undertook a donor profiling process and prepared a plan for fundraising which will serve as a reference point for the fundraising process in the organisation.
Picture Gallery
FECCCLAHA General Assembly and Regional Ecumenical Forum (REF)

Picture 1: Rev. Dr. Dereje, outgoing Chairperson of FECCCLAHA, receives a token of appreciation from his successor, Rev. Silvestre Bizimana during the Hand-over ceremony and dinner in October, 2015.

Picture 2: Mr. Gezahegn Gebrehana, Head of the Act Alliance Regional Office-Africa gives a presentation during the REF-2015.

Picture 3: During the launch of the Youth Peace Clubs Workbook at the General Assembly.

Picture 4: Mgr Kuye Ndondo, President of the ECC –South Kivu together with other delegates during the General Assembly & REF.

Picture 5: A group picture of Gender officers and representatives from the region together with other participants of the Gender Consultation in October, 2015.

Picture 6: A group picture of Youth representatives and representatives of YPCs in the region during the Youth Pre-Assembly in October, 2015.
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