About FECCLAHA

FECCLAHA is a regional ecumenical organisation that provides a platform for its members to share perspectives on issues of common concern, particularly with regard to peace building and conflict transformation in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa. This is with a view to foster strong ecumenical cooperation and fellowship among members and partners in taking ownership and responsibility for problems in the region and proactively seek solutions to the same. FECCLAHA performs this function within the framework of holistic Christian ministry.

FECCLAHA, launched in March, 1999 and registered in Kenya in February 2001 where it is domicile, has over the years remained consistent to its mission of enhancing peace and reconciliation in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa.

FECCLAHA members consist of eleven (11) national councils and churches in the following ten countries: Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Eritrea, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda. These are:

- Church of Christ in Congo (ECC)
- Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT)
- Eritrea Orthodox Tewadho 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)

**FECCLAHA Vision:**
“Together for a just and peaceful society”

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

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

**FECCLAHA Structure:**
FECCLAHA’s structure is made up of the following:
- General Assembly;
- Executive Committee; and
- Secretariat.

FECCLAHA 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 General Assembly is held every two years.

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 budgets of FECCLAHA on a yearly basis. It meets at least twice every year.

The Secretariat is responsible for implementation of policy decisions made by the Executive Committee and the General Assembly regarding the affairs of FECCLAHA. It also facilitates the day-to-day effective 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 are addressed through five strategies: Capacity Building; Dialogue; Research and Documentation; Advocacy; Networking, partnership, and collaboration.
Word from the Secretariat

A family is like a forest, when you are outside it is dense, when you are inside you see that each tree has its place. ~African Proverb

Christian greetings to you in the name of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ! We are delighted to present to you the annual report, 2017 as we share and celebrate FECCLAHA family’s challenges, achievements, and future plans.

Despite our diverse family that is spread across the region, FECCLAHA is one family! The family unit in most African cultures is held in high esteem. Even with globalization, the family remains a key social unit of the society. FECCLAHA, by its formation and foundation, fits the description of the family. The eleven members form a common unit, by virtue of shared commitment to mutual relationship, as well as, the geographical inter-connectedness of the ten countries in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa.

The year 2017, was busy but fulfilling and fruitful. Like in any family, we celebrated many successes but also remain seized by many challenges and concerns affecting the region. This year, we held our 14th General Assembly and Regional Ecumenical Forum in Kampala, Uganda which was graced by all member councils and churches. This was significant because the amended Constitution of FECCLAHA was approved, a process that has been ongoing since 2016. Undertaking the Organisational Capacity Assessment (OCA) process, as well as, receiving and interrogating the OCA report, and mapping a way forward was another success we celebrate in 2017. As the current Strategic Plan (2014-2018) comes to an end, the OCA report sets the foundation for the next Strategic Planning phrase.

At the programme level, we celebrate the strengthened partnership with like-minded organizations in accompanying members for sustainable peace. We also celebrate the launch of the National Women Link in South Sudan and the Tamar Campaign Contextual Bible Study Manual and Sermon Outlines on Gender Based Violence and Peace. We celebrate the growth of the Youth Peace Clubs (YPCs) in the region, the increase in membership to 7000 young men and women from last year’s 5000 young men and women.

The issue of bad governance/leadership and undertaking free and fair elections continues to be a big challenge in the region. Nonetheless, we will continue to build on the successes of 2017 as we remain committed to the mission of peace and justice in the region.

We thank all our partners and other stakeholders for their continued support and contribution to the achievements.

“For we are God’s fellow workers. You are God’s field. God’s building” (I Corinthians 3:9)

Peace Building and Conflict Transformation

Milk and honey have different colors, but they share the same house peacefully. ~AFRICAN PROVERB

FEClLHA seeks to promote sustainable peace in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa. Drawing inspiration from Matthew 5:9, FECCLAHA remains seized with the mission towards peace, healing, and reconciliation in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa.

1. Joint Follow up Solidarity visit to Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

FEClLHA joined in a delegation of 4people from the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) and the World Council of Churches (WCC), together with religious leaders from DRC, to undertake a joint follow up solidarity visit to Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in April, 2017. The visit aimed at expressing solidarity with the people of DRC and the faith leaders as well as receiving updates on the situation in DRC since the previous solidarity visit in November, 2016.

From the visit, areas of intervention were identified and largely focus on accompaniment and facilitation, capacity building in identified areas, as well as guidance and technical advice on issues of healing, reconciliation, and national consensus. A communiqué appreciating efforts made by various stakeholders and calling for sustainable peace in DRC was also issued.

The high level solidarity visit held consultations with Leaders of the Interfaith platform, the Prime Minister in DRC, Leaders of the opposition, representatives of the African Union Office in DRC, representatives of the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI), and United Nations Organisation Stabilization Mission in the DRC (MONUSCO). FEClLHA continues to engage and follow up on the sustainable peace in DRC ahead of the anticipated general elections in the country.

The delegation from AACC, WCC, ECC, and FEClLHA meet with the Prime Minister of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), His Excellency Bruno Tshibala.
2. Solidarity and Accompaniment to South Sudan

FECLAH HA Executive Committee members undertook an ecumenical solidarity visit to South Sudan in March, 2017. The solidarity visit aimed at expressing love, solidarity, and sharing the message of hope and encouragement to the churches and people of South Sudan. The solidarity visit, which coincided with FECLAHA Executive Committee meeting, sought to listen and understand the situation in South Sudan with a view to strengthen support and accompaniment to South Sudan Council of Churches.

The delegation met and held consultations with various stakeholders, including members of the SSCC Executive Committee and also met with Ambassador Alier Deng Ruai – the under Secretary in the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs, Government of the Republic of South Sudan. In addition to presenting a written message of solidarity to the Church and People of South Sudan, reflections and lessons learnt from other churches engagements in advocating for peace in the region were held. Messages on promoting dialogue and protection for people of South Sudan and humanitarian aid workers were delivered to the church leaders and the Government representative.

FECLAH HA remains seized with the issue of sustainable peace in South Sudan. In addition to the solidarity visit, FECLAH A is a member of the Ecumenical Network on South Sudan (ENSS) and participates in meetings led by the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), the convener of the Africa-Hub. Further to mobilizing member councils in Kenya and Uganda to hold special prayers for peace in South Sudan in commemoration of the Independence Day of South Sudan; FECLAH A participated in commemoration of the International Day of Peace in Juba, South Sudan in September, 2017.

Additionally, FECLAH A joined a delegation of Heads of South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) and Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC) to undertake an Ecumenical Solidarity visit to refugee settlements for South Sudanese in Northern and West Nile regions in Uganda in June, 2017. Some of the settlements visited include Bidibidi (Yumbe District) Rhino Camp (Arua), Adjumani Lamwo, and Kiryandongo. This visit was aimed at providing pastoral support as well as demonstrating solidarity with the displaced nationals of South Sudan. It also sought to serve as a fact finding mission, with a view to inform advocacy initiatives of the church on South Sudan in the region and globally. During the meeting, the church leaders held meetings and consultations with a cross section of South Sudanese refugees including women, men, and youth.

Among concerns raised by the refugees include heart breaking experiences of pain and trauma caused by the loss of loved ones, separation from loved ones, inadequate food rations, inadequate medical facilities and limited access to education,
especially secondary school education. They also indicated that the number of refugees from South Sudan continues to increase due to the escalating conflicts in the country. The refugees were also alarmed by the large number of orphans in the settlement camps and the lack of sanitary facilities especially for the women and girls. The refugees made an appeal to the church to heighten advocacy for sustainable peace in South Sudan so as to reduce the suffering of South Sudanese.

The ecumenical solidarity visit was followed by a reflection conference that was hosted by the Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC) in conjunction with South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) and the Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa (CAPA). In addition to presenting messages of solidarity and goodwill, discussions on the plight of South Sudanese refugees living in refugees' settlements in Uganda and other areas in the region, as well as, reviewing the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) Action Plan for Peace and other initiatives. Prospects for peace in South Sudan and entry points for the church in the region were also discussed.

The church leaders committed to address humanitarian issues affecting the refugees including addressing the reduction of food rations, psychosocial support/trauma, lack of access to education, as well as health services. The church leaders also committed to addressing the unity of the church for effective concerted church action as well as undertake engagements towards sustainable peace in South Sudan including advocacy for peace. As a follow up to this initiative, FECCLAHA also accompanied South Sudan Church leaders to meet the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda in December, 2017. This visit was preceded by a joint planning meeting with ecumenical partners were messages to the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister and new year message calling for peace in South Sudan were prepared. FECCLAHA, as well as other partners, continue to accompany South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) to ensure sustained advocacy and engagement with regional leaders to work for peace in South Sudan.

### 3. Ecumenical Solidarity Visit to Eritrea

FECCLAHA was part of the ecumenical solidarity visit to Eritrea organized by the World Council of Churches (WCC). The main aim of this visit was to express solidarity and Christian love to the people of Eritrea and Churches/Christians in Eritrea. The World Council of Churches (WCC) also intended to discuss membership related issues with the Eritrea Orthodox Tewadho Church following the Busan General Assembly of 2013. The delegation of 8 was drawn from FECCLAHA, World Council of Churches (WCC), Bread for the World, Church of Sweden, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), and All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC).

The delegation met a group of 94 religious leaders from the Eritrea Orthodox Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Eritrea (ELCE), and the Roman Catholic Church. The delegation also visited various Eritrea Orthodox Tewadho Church projects, monasteries, and other historical sites in the outskirts of Asmara. Additionally, a brief meeting was held with the Minister of Religious Affairs in the Republic of Eritrea. Some of the emerging concerns raised during the consultations were the need for the unity of the faith community. This interfaith collaboration is needed especially when engaging with the African Union under the auspices of the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) in the promotion of the Agenda 2063. The delegation also engaged with various stakeholders regarding resolving the issue of the border demarcation with Ethiopia. The delegation plans to have a follow up debriefing meeting for action planning on the issues raised.

“I have been a refugee in Uganda three times. When I was 10 years old, when I was 30 years old, and now when I am 54. All my children are killed. My last son was chased like an animal and killed in Yei recently before I fled here.”

(VOICE OF A CATECHIST)
4. Church leaders’ consultative Forum on Free, Fair, and Peaceful Elections in DRC:

FECLLAHA in partnership with the Justice and Peace Commission of the ECC in North Kivu undertook a two day church leaders’ consultative forum on free, fair, and peaceful elections in Butembo in June, 2017. A total of 28 participants (10 women, 8 youth, and 10 church leaders) participated in the consultative forum. This consultative forum was of importance to the church leaders, women, and youth ahead of the anticipated general elections in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The forum served as a sensitization and capacity enhancement platform for church leaders, youth, and women. They gained knowledge on the electoral laws, electoral cycle, as well as knowledge in citizens’ rights and obligations during the electoral period. The knowledge gained empowered the church leaders, women, and youth to play a key role in electoral dispute management as well as prevention of elections related violence in Eastern DRC. The participants also made commitments to constitute a civic and electoral education groups which would facilitate the process of mobilizing and educating community members within their constituencies. The participants also committed to promote peaceful, free and fair elections; peaceful co-existence and social cohesion.

Programme Outcomes:

a) The sustained engagement through various meetings with stakeholders in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) contributed to reduced tensions in Kinshasa, DRC after the threat by the Opposition to forcefully remove the President.

b) Through FECLLAHA intervention, there is currently an inclusive interfaith peacebuilding platform in South Kivu with an action plan guiding interventions ahead of the elections in the country.

c) In North Kivu (Butembo), there are community civic and electoral education groups within the churches whose role is to mobilize communities for peaceful elections through civic and voter education and awareness creation initiatives.

5. Regional Women Peace Building Programme

The Regional Women Peace Building Programme was launched in August, 2016 with a view to address some factors that are contributing to limited participation of women in peace processes in the region. In collaboration with the Regional Peace Programme partners and other stakeholders, the programme aims at ensuring women drawn from the faith community not only gain knowledge and skills in peace building and conflict transformation, but also facilitating them to apply and transfer the knowledge and skills acquired. The programme seeks to provide opportunities for learning, exposure, mentorship, networking, and advocacy for women participation in peace processes. The programme has also endeavoured to link the women to ongoing peace processes, frameworks and other peace actors at various levels, including the national, regional, and international level. This year, efforts have been put in place to deepen understanding on gender and peace issues through workshops/trainings, field & exposure visits, as well as faith inspired practical Guide for women and faith leaders. The following is a brief of the engagements:

i) Regional Training of Faith Women Peace Mediators

FECLLAHA organised a regional training for faith women peace mediators in collaboration with the Protestant Council of Rwanda (CPR), Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), and African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD).
The five day training was held in Kigali, Rwanda in September, 2017 and drew participation of 16 women from the Christian and Muslim faith from Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Uganda. It focused on knowledge and skills enhancement in peace building and conflict transformation, mediation, and advocacy and lobbying through training and interactive simulations and sharing of good practice among participants.

The women also undertook field learning visits to Urugo rw’Amahoro (House of Peace), which is a Friend’s Church Peace Project in Rwanda and Kigali Genocide Memorial site. They also held interactive sessions with women peace workers in Rwanda who shared their experiences in promotion of peace, healing, and reconciliation in Rwanda after the Genocide of Tutsi in 1994. As a result of this training, there was enhanced knowledge and skills in conflict analysis, conflict mapping, mediation, as well as advocacy and lobbying. Furthermore, a regional faith women peace mediators’ network was launched in a bid to create a structure that will facilitate follow up and consolidation of the peace initiatives in the region. The official launch was presided over by Bishop Alexis Birindabagabo, the President of the CPR accompanied by Rev. Dr. Samuel Rugambage, the General Secretary of the CPR and other church leaders. The women also set up a ‘WhatsApp’ group to facilitate sharing and continued interaction among the women. The women also designed practical plans of action for engagement and interventions after the training. It is envisaged that through this concerted effort to empower faith women mediators in the region, there will be increased participation of women in peace processes at the highest level and an increased number of gender-sensitive peace agreements and initiatives.

b) Faith Women Peace Mediators participation in the 4th Session of Inter-Burundian dialogue in Arusha

A member of the Faith Women Peace Mediators’ Network, Madame Mathilde Nkwirikye – a Burundian national, had the opportunity to participate in the fourth session of the Inter-Burundian Dialogue. This was called and facilitated by the Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E Benjamin Mkapa from 27th November to 08th December, 2017 in Arusha, Tanzania. This was an important session as it was anticipated that it would be an all inclusive dialogue bringing together all stakeholders including political parties, participants from the Government of Burundi, youth, media, religious leaders from the Protestant, and Muslim confessions among others. Through skills acquired from the training since 2016, Mrs. Mathilde Nkwirikye was well equipped to facilitate discussions by the Civil Society Group during the 4th Session. The dialogue established a synthesis of points of convergence and divergence for the mediator. The group, which was composed of 8 women and 3 religious leaders,
got an opportunity to present concerns discussed during the dialogue to the facilitator.

c) South Sudan – Peace Conference in Awerial
The conference was organized to mediate the conflict between host communities in Awerial and the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from Bor in November, 2017. A total number of 60 women participated in this conference. Women faith mediators in South Sudan contributed to the mediation of peace between the two communities.

d) Kenya – Post elections Peace Dialogues and Mediation forums
A total number 1053 women and 876 men were reached through peace dialogues held in 10 wards in Isiolo county. Additionally, a total number of 40 women from the Muslim faith were reached through the peace and mediation forums held in Nairobi county. Skills acquired in mediation were used in facilitating these dialogues and peace and mediation forums. One of the women faith mediators from Isiolo county, has been called upon by the Security team to talk to community members on issues of mediation.

e) Burundi - Capacity enhancement on mediation for CNEB member churches:
Information sharing workshops were undertaken in Muyinga, Makamba, Bujumbura rural, and Bujumbura Mairie between September and December, 2017. A total number of 362 people (203 women and 159 men) have been reached through these workshops on mediation. The individuals trained will contribute to ongoing peace, healing, and reconciliation processes in Burundi. These initiatives also contribute to achieving the religious leaders action plan for peace in Burundi, which outlines the action plan for religious leaders in Burundi towards sustainable peace in the country. These initiatives were led by two members of the Faith Women Mediators Network, Mrs Perpetue Kankindi and Mrs. Chantal Hakizimana.

f) Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) - Leadership and Conflict Management Trainings for Electoral Litigation Working Group (North and South Kivu Provinces):
The Centre for Peace in the ECC/DRC South Kivu undertook the above mentioned trainings in North and South Kivu provinces in December, 2017. A total number of 40 participants drawn from CENI (Independent National Electoral Commission), Provincial Secretariats in North and South Kivu, Civil Society Organisations, religious leaders, and community leaders took part in these trainings. These were important trainings ahead of the anticipated general elections in the country. Out of this, a total of 4 faith women mediators participated in this training providing an opportunity to link with other women peace builders in Eastern DRC. The women in DRC begun the process of establishing a “Women Peace Academy” in DRC.

iii) Launch of National Women’s Link for Peace in Juba, South Sudan
FECLAHAI, in collaboration with the SSCC-National Women Programme officially launched the National Women Link for peace in South Sudan in March, 2017. This was a follow up to a workshop on peace and leadership undertaken in September, 2016. The launch was attended by eighty women who included officials from the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Welfare. Also in attendance were FECLAHAI Executive Committee members and SSCC partners.
The National Women Link for Peace is a women-led platform through which community members (church leaders, women, and youth) are mobilized for dialogue, healing, and reconciliation. Its membership consists of women drawn from the Church, CSOs, Parliamentarians, and media fraternity. It is in line with the ‘People-to-People’ peace initiative in South Sudan. It provides a structure at the national and grassroots levels, through which community members are mobilized for a common purpose.

The launch aimed at creating awareness on the network’s aspirations; as well as creating a platform through which women can express their commitment to work with other peace actors for sustainable peace in the country. The Network has four thematic working groups: Advocacy, Awareness and capacity building, reconciliation, and media campaigns and prayer and fasting. This will guide and structure all initiatives of the National Women Link. In addition to issuing and disseminating a press release, the women held the National Women Link for Peace prayers in Juba where 100 women participated.

Since its launch, the National Women Link for peace continues to meet regularly, hold prayer and fasting forums, as well as commemorating the International Day for Peace. They have used media through erecting a Billboard in Juba in an effort towards advocating for peace in the country. They have developed a work plan for 2018 which will guide their initiatives and ensure sustained effort by the women.

iv) Regional Consultative Policy Workshop on the Status of Women in Peace Representation on UN SC Resolution 1325 in IGAD region

Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA), with the facilitation of Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) participated in a Regional Consultative Policy Workshop on the Status of Women in Peace Representation on UN SC Resolution 1325 in IGAD region. Participants of the workshop included representatives from Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, and Uganda. Out of these, four countries are members of FECCLAHA (Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, & Uganda) and five countries (including Somalia to the above) directly engaged and are part of the Regional Faith Women Peace Mediators’ Network. The South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) – National Women Link, which is an outcome of an ongoing initiative within the Regional Peace Programme (RPP), was also represented. This was therefore an important platform for Regional Faith Women Peace Mediators’ Network as it provided space for networking, learning, and exposure.

This workshop was hosted and facilitated by the Inter Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in partnership with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD). It aimed at: (1.) Assessing the status and the progress made by member states in development and implementation of the National Action Plans (NAPs) for the UN SC Resolution 1325. (2.) Understanding the level of women participation in peace processes in the IGAD regions. (3) Creating a platform for experience sharing. (4) Exploring opportunities for collaborative development among member states and the FEMWISE network, which is a network for African Women on Mediation established by the African Union. The Platform also created an opportunity for partnership building to explore future engagements with IGAD, an important player in advocacy for increased women participation in peace processes in the region.

Further, FECCLAHA also participated in the PANWISE Retreat that took place in Kampala, Uganda providing a strategic platform for networking and further strengthening of partnership with ACCORD and IGAD.

Programme Outcomes:

a) Since 2016 a total number of 42 women skills and knowledge have been enhanced in peacebuilding. In 2017, faith women mediators have gained momentum in community peace building initiatives and processes where a total number of 2660 people (women and men) were mobilized for peace and capacity enhanced on peacebuilding and mediation. As a result, tensions that were simmering were reduced. These were between communities and political leaders (in Isiolo, Kenya); Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs/refugees and host communities in Aweil, South Sudan.

b) As a result of the training in Kigali, Rwanda women have gained skills and are empowered to engage in peacebuilding and mediation processes. For example, Madame Mathilde Nkwiriike facilitated discussions by the Civil Society Group during the fourth Session of the Inter-Burundian Dialogue held in Arusha, Tanzania

c) The launch of a Regional Faith Women Peace Mediators’ Network as the platform to coordinate and ensure sustained engagement of the regional faith women peace mediators’ in the region.

d) Established and strengthened linkages to the existing processes and participation and engagement with regional intergovernmental bodies and other platforms such as IGAD, UN Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region, ICGLR Women Forum among others.
**Gender and Youth**

*‘A single bracelet does not jingle.’—CONGOLESE PROVERB*

FECLLAHA seeks to empower not only men, but women and youth to be effective instruments of peace and gender justice in society. In line with Gen. 1:27, this theme acknowledges that indeed men, women, and youth have a place and their effective participation in peace building and conflict transformation is key towards a peaceful and just society. This theme seeks to address limiting factors hindering gender justice which then causes limited participation of women and limiting factors hindering the effective participation of youth.

**Regional Youth Peace Building Programme**

The Youth Peace Clubs (YPCs) model, FECLLAHA’s primary methodology of mobilizing and empowering youth to engage in peace advocacy, continues to be appreciated and adopted by FECLLAHA members as a mechanism for mobilizing, empowering, and accompanying youth participation and active engagement in peace building in the communities. There are currently 187 YPCs and a total membership of over 7000 young men and women, which is an increase from last years 140 YPCs with a total membership of over 5000 youth. The YPCs have engaged in various community initiatives causing the multiplier effect and reaching over twenty thousand community members (youth, children, women, men, religious leaders, community leaders, government officials, civil society, media fraternity) through various forums and platforms.

**Growth of YPCs in 2017**

- Kenya – 17 YPCs – 731 members (341 male, 16 young boys, 329 female)
- DRC (North Kivu) 32 YPCs – 2000 members (1163 male and 837 female)
- Tanzania (Dar-es-salaam & Morogoro) – 20 YPCs – 185 members (105 female & 80 male)

FECLLAHA has also strengthened joint initiatives with like-minded organisations in a bid to enhance resource mobilization as well as lobbying and advocacy initiatives. Further, FECLLAHA Youth Newsletter and the use of social media has created a platform for information sharing, peer learning, advocacy, and networking and collaboration. FECLLAHA has also published a tool in the form of a Youth Peace Clubs Guide to facilitate YPCs peace education process. This is available in English, French, and Kiswahili. More than 300 copies have been disseminated in the region and beyond.

**a) Youth Peace Clubs (YPCs) Sustained engagements for peace in the region**

FECLLAHA, in collaboration with the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) held a capacity enhancement workshop on peace building and leadership in Sudan in March, 2017. The workshops brought together 25 youth (9 female and 16 male) from 10 churches in Khartoum. As a result of this workshop, the SCC Youth Programme was reactivated. This will greatly strengthen the youth initiatives within SCC.

In DRC advocacy forums have been held including an advocacy forum to increase participation of women in electoral processes in North Kivu by Organisation of Youth for Development (OJCD), which drew participation of 37 people (22 female and 15 male) and a forum with a focus on the role of youth in promoting peace and harmony in the Great Lakes Region in South Kivu where 250 people (children youth, men, women religious leaders, community leaders) among others were mobilized and reached with peace messages.

YPCs in South Kivu held a reflection day for peace in the Great Lakes Region in May, 2017 where a total number of 30 YPC leaders from DRC (North and South Kivu Provinces) and Burundi participated. From this forum, a platform for youth consultation in the Great Lakes Region was created. This will strengthen collaboration among youth the region thus promoting peace and harmony across the borders.
Between January and March 2017, YPCs in North and South Kivu Provinces reached a total number of 6500 in South Kivu and 1175 in North Kivu with knowledge and information on issues related to peace, civic and voter education. The initiatives were undertaken in Bukavu, Kabare, Uvira and Kaziba (South Kivu Province) and in 6 parishes within North Kivu Province. The people reached were mainly youth, pastors and lay people in schools and churches. Media was used to reach for the wider outreach.

Since 2014 to date, Burundi has a total of 48 YPCs (in churches and universities). This year, with the facilitation of FECCLAHA, the National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB) undertook a workshop on the role of the young people in political parties for peace building, healing, and reconciliation in Burundi in June, 2017. This initiative is anchored within the Burundi Religious Leaders’ Action Plan for Peace and Reconciliation (2016-2020). A total number of 37 youth (25 men and 12 women) from different political affiliations participated in this workshop. The workshop aimed at promoting dialogue on principles of peace and conflict transformation, as well as, reflecting on the role of youth in preventing and resolving conflict. The Youth Participants developed an Action Plan that will promote peace and reconciliation in Burundi which is a contribution to achieving Religious Leaders Action Plan for Peace.

In Kenya, efforts were made to empower YPCs in Mukuru ahead of the General elections in the country. To this regard, 4 YPCs members in Mukuru, through their connection with FECCLAHA, had an opportunity to participate in a 3-week course on Citizen Participation and Electoral processes, dialogue, and reconciliation facilitated by the Hekima Institute of Peace Studies & International Relations (HIPSIR) in February – April, 2017. Further, in collaboration with the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), 3 YPC members in Mukuru were trained in campaign and election monitoring. This training enabled them to adequately undertake campaign and elections monitoring before and during the General Elections in Kenya in August, 2017 and the repeat elections in October, 2017. This was an important exercise as it contributed to efforts by the NCCK for early warning signs ahead of the highly contested election in the country. Further, an estimated 11,000 people, majority of these being youth aged between 18 and 35 years were reached through Open Youth Forums for peace and advocacy held across Mukuru slum villages between May and June, 2017. The forums were accompanied by other activities including garbage collection and sensitization, campaigns on peace, community outreach, peace walks and scout rallies, church services, spoken words, dance, wall painting with peace message, football tournaments, as well as dissemination of Information Education and Communication materials on peace. All these initiatives played a role in contributing to peace in Mukuru Slums, ahead of the general elections in Kenya.

**Economic Empowerment initiatives:** Complementing peace initiatives, the YPCs in DRC (North Kivu), Kenya (Mukuru) and Uganda (Secondary schools) undertake Income Generating Activities with a view to empower YPC members economically. YPCs in DRC (North Kivu) and Uganda mainly engage in agriculture as a form of income generation. For example, in North Kivu the YPCs undertakes agricultural activities on a hired 2 hectares piece of land and are also involved in fish production and carpet making.

In Kenya, with the support of Arigatou International, 4 YPCs received seed capital in 2016 with a view that the recipients would pay the loan over a period of time which would then form a revolving fund to be lent out to other YPCs. Out of the 4 groups, 3 have successfully initiated their businesses and are making repayments regularly. Out of the total funds disbursed to the four groups, 51% has been paid back in a joint account owned by YPCs.

**b) Regional Stakeholders’ Review Workshop**

FECCLAHA undertook a regional stakeholders’ review workshop in October, 2017 in Kampala Uganda. This workshop brought together 22 participants from FECCLAHA region, including partner organisations namely Arigatou International.
al and International Movement of Catholic Students (IMCS) Burundi and Uganda chapters. The review workshop aimed at creating a platform for learning; experience sharing, reflection, discussions and review the progress of the youth work in peace building and conflict transformation within the region and specifically look at the impact of youth peace clubs. Additionally, the workshop sought to provide spaces to look at the challenges in the region, develop plans and strategies to address them in the coming years.

The participants appreciated the efforts and achievements made through the Youth Peace Clubs (YPCs) and confirmed that indeed they had made a contribution to peace in the region. Through YPCs the voice of youth was strengthened and youth are working with various stakeholders including government officials and security agents on matters of peace and socio-economic development. There has been increased number of YPCs and membership across the region a clear indication that YPCs are making a difference. Further, many opportunities for capacity enhancement, exposure, networking, and economic development among others were created for the YPC members.

At the end of the meeting, a communiqué with youth commitment to peace work was issued. In addition to this, youth appreciated the support from the church and requested for continued support to youth peace efforts across the region. The communiqué was presented to the church leaders during FECCLAHA 14th General Assembly held on 25th October 2017 in Kampala, Uganda.

**Programme Outcomes:**

a) Participation of some YPC members in Kenya in campaign monitoring and general elections observation through the NCCK long-term Elections observers initiative contributed to monitoring of early warning signs in Mukuru slums. For example, in Mukuru Sinai Ril the YPC members intervened to restore peace during the nomination process which was marked by violence in most parts of the country.

b) YPC members have become responsible leaders in their communities providing leadership in transforming their communities through the clean-up, public forums, and Art/Entertainment initiatives.

c) Due to the YPC sustained engagement in peace building, there is improved relationship between Youth and security personnel. Previously, the security personnel viewed young people in the slums as ‘criminals’, YPCs have contributed to change of this negative perception.

d) Due to continued exposure and training, one of the YPC members in Mukuru Slums, Mr. Samuel Odhiambo, is currently certified as a trainer by Centre for Non Violent Communication (CNVC).

e) There has been increased number of YPCs from 140 to 187 and from over 5000 members to over 7000 members across the region.

f) In North and South Kivu Provinces over 7675 people were reached (6500 in South Kivu and 1175 in North Kivu) and knowledge and skills enhanced on issues related to peace, civic and voter education.

g) As a result of economic empowerment of 4YPCs, an estimated 50 families are able to meet their daily basic needs.

h) A platform for youth consultation in the Great Lakes Region was created to coordinate peace efforts in Burundi, DRC and Rwanda.

i) Establishment and reactivation of the Youth Desk in South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) and Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) contributing towards effective coordination of youth activities.
Youth Peace Clubs in Action!

This bicycle is used by one of the YPCs in Mukuru, U-Turns Arts Peace Club. The group uses this bicycle to communicate messages of peace around the villages in Mukuru Slums. The YPC was given the Bicycle as an award to U-turns Arts Peace Club in recognition of their peace initiatives during the electioneering period in Kenya.

Mukuru Slums Youth Peace Club engage in a community outreach at Kayaba-Crescent village in Mukuru Slums, Nairobi, Kenya. A total number of 169 people (96 female and 73 male) were reached with messages of peace. The initiative was aimed at mobilizing the community members and residents to shun violence and embrace peace before, during, and after the 2017 general elections in Kenya.

South YPCs members in Mukuru, Nairobi, Kenya vied for various political seats during the party Primaries in May 2017. One of them, Mr. James Musembi Kivuitu, a member of Sinai Reli Youth Peace Club in Mukuru Slums, Nairobi, Kenya received his nomination certificate but did not win the election. He however remains a source of inspiration to many YPC members in Mukuru Slums.

Youth, children church leaders and women participate in an Open Forum in Bukavu. Open Forums are platforms for peer learning and inter-generational dialogue and engagement on peaceful co-existence.
Gender Justice

a) Documentation and launch of the Tamar Campaign Manual and Sermon Outlines on Gender Based Violence and Peace

FECLAA HA successfully documented and officially launched the ‘Tamar Campaign Contextual Bible Study Manual and Sermon Outlines on Gender Based Violence and Peace’ in October, 2017 in Kampala, Uganda. Present were General Secretaries, as well as women and youth delegates from FECLAHA member councils and churches. The manual has been commended as one that is theologically sound, and useful for mobilizing church and community against all forms of Gender Based Violence (GBV) against women, men, youth, children, and persons living with disabilities. During the launch, a call to the delegates was made to: commit to be a Gender Justice Champion at home, church, and community; commit to empower and encourage other men and women to be gender justice champions in their homes, church, and community; commit to hold at least 4 Contextual Bible Studies or have a sermon/presentation on GBV at least 4 times per year in their church or community; and commit to share with FECLAAHA on the difference that the Tamar Campaign and the use of the CBSs and Sermon Outlines are making in their homes, church, and/or community.

The new manual contains 16 Contextual Bible Studies and 7 sermon outlines which are coupled with liturgical prayers on various themes on drivers of Gender Based Violence and Peace. A total number of 22 writers contributed to documentation of Contextual Bible Studies (CBS) and Sermon Outlines (13female and 9male). The writers are mainly clergy and theologians drawn from different parts of FECLAAHA region and beyond and from different Christian traditions and institutions, in keeping to the spirit of ecumenism.

The principle of inclusivity has been employed in writing, structuring, and compiling of the manual. The content of the manual therefore contains themes targeting women, men, youth, children, and persons with disabilities. The manual is intended for use by not only ordained ministers of the Gospel and the theologians, but also Lay Ministers, Community leaders and peace actors, and champions against GBV as well as Sunday School Teachers, Youth Leaders, Women and Men Church group leaders and other Church workers.

In addition to addressing the Gender Based Violence vice in society, the manual highlights themes of peace and conflict transformation as key drivers towards prevention of Gender Based Violence in the society. The manual also has extra tools...
in the form of sermon outlines and liturgical prayers in an effort towards ensuring widespread engagement on the issue of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and peace.

Effort has been put in place to ensure that the content and structure of the manual is relevant and theologically sound. To this end, at least 66 church leaders and theologians (29female and 37male) from Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) were consulted and a total number of four consultations were held between 2016 and 2017 in Nairobi, Kenya and Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Further, FECCLAHA held a validation workshop on the 23rd and 24th March, 2017 in Nairobi, Kenya which hosted a total of 13 theologians in the region (7female & 6men) who received and provided the initial general critique of the contributions from various writers. The participants of this validation also provided ideas on the themes to be highlighted in the manual and how to ensure success in not only producing the manual, but also in wide dissemination and use of the manual. Further, FECCLAHA engaged a technical team that was composed of 5clergy and theologians (2women and 3men). Their role was to provide leadership and technical expertise in ensuring that the content is theologically sound, and that the structure and general outlook would meet the identified needs of the key target group. This was an ongoing process that started in March, 2017.

Efforts are underway to promote the widespread use of the manual not only in churches and community, but also in various learning institutions and other relevant spaces where engagements on GBV are held.

b) Training of Trainers’ Workshop on Gender Based Violence, Tamar Campaign, and Contextual Bible Study Methodology in Morogoro, Tanzania (18-21 July, 2017)

FECCLAHA in collaboration with the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) undertook a training of trainers’ capacity enhancement workshop for church leaders in Tanzania on ‘Breaking the Silence on Gender Based Violence in Tanzania: the role of the Church’. The training was conducted from 18th - 21st July 2017, in Morogoro. A total number of 32 participants (women pastors, wives of pastors, and gender desk coordinators) participated in the training. They were drawn from member churches of the Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT) which included Baptist Church of Tanzania, Anglican Church of Tanzania, African Inland Church of Tanzania (AICT), Mennonite Church of Tanzania, Moravian Church of Tanzania, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT), and Kanisa la Mungu. The participants were drawn from different parts of the vast Tanzania including Arusha, Moshi, Shinyanga, Mtwara, Morogoro, Dar-es-Salaam, Njombe, Mbeya, Geita, Tabora, and Dodoma among other places.

The participants were equipped with knowledge of the gender concepts, the Tanzanian Legal framework on GBV, GBV and Bible, the Contextual Bible Study Methodology and the Tamar campaign. The training was a success and participants were able to provide peer support and share experiences on how to address GBV and develop further action Plan. As this was a review workshop of a 2-day workshop undertaken the previous year, the participants also shared actions as a follow up on the same.

Participants gained knowledge on the meaning of key gender concepts including gender justice, gender based violence, patriarchal system among others. They also gained knowledge on key misconceptions on gender and gender justice in the Church and society. Presentations on international, regional and national legal frameworks that address GBV were made. It was noted there exists a gap in implementation of legal frameworks and a call for concerted effort by the Church to advocate for the implementation of the same needed to be undertaken. The Bible and GBV as well as training on how to utilize Contextual Bible Study Methodology and the Tamar Campaign.

Participants identified the need to hold awareness forums with male clergy and their spouses so as to increase understanding of GBV and provide spaces for reflection on their role in addressing and preventing the vice in their homes, churches, communities, and society. They also outlined the need for churches to establish safe homes and trauma healing/counseling centres for survivors of GBV.

c) Sustained Accompaniment to Tamar Campaign Initiatives in Bukavu, Eastern DRC and Burundi

Sustained accompaniment to Tamar initiatives by FECCLAHA members is a key strategy in contributing towards fervency and vibrancy of the Tamar Campaign at the community/church level. To this end, FECCLAHA provided accompaniment to the Federation of Women in Protestant Churches of the Church of Christ in Congo (FFP-ECC) in Bukavu, Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB).

The FFP-ECC uses the Tamar Circles model, which provides a cost-effective space for multiple engagements on issues of Gender Based Violence. By close of 2016, there were 12 Tamar Circles in different churches with a total membership of 452 people. With the aim of strengthening the Tamar Circles and enhancing the capacity of Tamar Champions, as well as, growing and widening the reach of the Tamar Campaign in Bukavu, the FFP-ECC in South Kivu, held a refresher and review workshop on the Tamar Campaign on 18th June, 2017. A total of 60 participants took part in this workshop. From these there were 14 Tamar Circle members, 6 church leaders where Tamar Circles have already been initiated, 27women leaders and leaders of Church communities (Communes), 3 women leaders from the University, National Police, and Armed Forces,
and 7 youth leaders from different churches in ECC. Many of the Church leaders committed to share the lessons with others; as well as form other Tamar Circles in the Churches where these have not been initiated.

In Burundi, the National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB) held an evaluation on 27th July, 2017 in seeking to outline the achievements and challenges in undertaking initiatives in the Church and community; as well as opportunities for engaging the church and society using the Tamar Campaign. A total number of 18 church leaders and church workers participated in this evaluation. They were drawn from different churches including the Union of Baptist churches, Free Methodist Church, the Anglican Church in Gitega, Matana, Buye, Muyinga, and Makanda, the Lutheran Church, the Friends Evangelical Church, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Burundi.

From this evaluation, through initiatives on Tamar Campaign and GBV, CNEB contributed to the awareness raising, advocacy, and lobbying for the passing and signing of the Law against Gender Based Violence in September, 2016. Further, the Anglican Church provided psychosocial support to a survivor of Gender Based Violence whose hands had been mutilated by her husband in a domestic violence case. In some places like Matana, the churches have forged collaboration with the police and coordinator of youth activities with a view to heighten advocacy against all forms of Gender Based Violence (GBV). Further, the Tamar Campaign has been used as a major tool within the Anglican Church ‘Mothers’ Union’ in addressing intimate partner violence. The Free Methodist Church and the Union of Women in the Baptist church used the Tamar Campaign to undertake awareness sessions for women and girls. This has taken place in Bujumbura, Bubanza, Cibitoke, Rutana, and Ngozi. These have become awareness raising platforms as well as advocacy platforms. In general, church leaders appreciated the Tamar Campaign indicating that it has provided a tool that has facilitated the effective mobilization of not only women, but also youth and men. Further, churches have used the Tamar Campaign to break the silence on Gender Based Violence (GBV) and there has been increased use of Scripture that speaks about Gender Based Violence (GBV) in preaching within the churches. Additionally, the Tamar Campaign has been used within youth groups and by men in addressing GBV, as well as holding discussions on sex and HIV/AIDS.

d) Side-by-Side Faith Gender Justice Movement – Kenya, Rwanda, and South Sudan:

FECCLAHA is an active member of the ‘Side-by-Side Faith Gender Justice Movement’ in partnership with partner. It has participated, facilitated and accompanied the formation of Faith Gender Justice Movements in Kenya, Rwanda, and South Sudan in 2017.

Kenya Chapter: In Kenya, FECCLAHA, in collaboration with the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK) and other members of the steering committee of the Side-by-Side Faith Gender Justice Movement - Kenya Chapter held a side meeting dubbed the ‘Eminent Women Initiative’. This was during the NCCK – Nairobi Regional Committee meeting that was held on Thursday, 27th July, 2017 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Through the ‘Eminent Women Initiative’, plans were made to undertake visits to wives of prominent political figures in the country ahead of the elections in August, 2017. This strategy is based on lessons obtained in Matthew 27:19, where Pilate’s wife persuades her husband (Pilate) not to punish Jesus as he was innocent. It was envisaged that through these visits, the wives of eminent politicians in the country would be conscientized on their role in contributing towards peace during and after the electoral period and that they will be able to persuade and influence the politicians towards peace ahead of the elections and after the elections. During the meeting, women from different churches, including from the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops – Catholic Justice and Peace Commission (KCCB-CJPC), Seventh Day Adventist, and the Evangelical Alliance of Kenya (EAK) were placed in groups of threes.
Some visits were undertaken, creating an entry point for the women church leaders to engage with the eminent women in the future. Further, a Press Conference was held in which a Press Statement entitled “Securing Kenya Elections - 2017” was issued. This addressed emerging concerns including re-emergence of outlawed groups in some informal settlements, movement of people for fear of violence, as well as violence meted on women political leaders.

In addition to the ‘Eminent Women Initiative’ and under the umbrella of ‘side-by-side Gender Justice Movement’ FECCLA-HA in collaboration with the African Institute for Contemporary Mission & Research (AICMAR), previously affiliated with the St. Paul’s University held an Annual School of Theology (AST) guided by the theme ‘Church, the Bible, and Gender Justice’. The Chairperson of the ‘Side-by-Side Faith Gender Justice Movement – Kenya Chapter’, Rev. Fr. Evangelos Thiani (Seat-ed-second from left) was among the facilitators invited to share experiences of the Faith Gender Justice Movement in Kenya.

The forum was held in Butere, Kakamega County with view to reach a wider audience of church leaders in the grassroots level where gender injustices such as Gender Based Violence are rife. The forum was held in the back drop of the 16 Days of Activism Against Violence on Women, an international commemoration seeking to bring to the fore the negative effects of VAW and mobilize different actors to contribute towards reduction of this vice in the society.

Participating in this forum were church leaders and church workers including women and youth leaders as well as pastoral trainees drawn from different parts of Western and Nyanza region in Kenya. The churches represented at the Annual School of Theology (AST) include the Anglican Church of Kenya (Dioceses of Butere, Bungoma, Maseno North, and Mumias); Seventh Day Adventist (SDA); the Salvation Army; Reformed Church of Eastern Africa (RCEA); Church of God in East Africa-Kenya; Friends Church of Kenya (FCK); Redeemed Church; Word of Faith; Here I am send Me-Ministry; Faith Church of Kenya; Butere Miracle Church; Word of Life Mission; Destiny Reconciliation Church; Touch of Faith; and Matawa Worship Centre. A total number of 47 church leaders and church workers (17 female & 30 male) participated in the Annual School of Theology (AST). The Bishop of Butere Dioceses, Rt. Rev. Dr. Tim Wambunya officially opened the Annual School of Theology (AST) and indicated that the topic on gender justice was particularly close to the heart of the dioceses’ initiatives and efforts had been made to address the issue of gender injustice in the dioceses.

The church leaders, church workers and pastoral trainees were a strategic group of people to engage during the Annual School of Theology (AST) as they are often excluded from most capacity building and awareness creation initiatives within the churches, yet they are the ones that interpret and minister to the communities every day and directly. The Annual School
of Theology (AST), therefore, provided space for them to be challenged, equipped, and inspired to think differently on gender justice in their churches and community. The Contextual Bible Study Methodology as well as expert presentation from various facilitators and theologians facilitated the process of interrogating Bible teachings and practices/beliefs that have traditionally been used within the Churches and communities yet act as barriers to gender justice. Among the practices interrogated during the AST include wife inheritance, ordaining of women in different churches, how to engage widows and widowers in the church, gender based violence within the families and the church among others. At the end of the three day forum, the church leaders made commitments to reach out to the communities and advocate for gender justice in the family, community, and church.

Rwanda Chapter: FECCLAHA also facilitated the process of initiating the Side-by-Side Gender Justice Movement in Rwanda in collaboration with the Protestant Council of Rwanda (Conseil Protestant du Rwanda –CPR) in May, 2016. By close of 2016, the Gender Justice Movement in Rwanda had established a structure that is composed of 11 church leaders from different member churches of the CPR. The committee’s role is to be gender justice champions in the different churches in the country and ensure sustained engagement.

Since 2016, the Gender Justice Champions have engaged and held meetings with different church leaders in a bid to conscientize them on the need and importance of gender justice agenda within the church. The church leaders have held meetings/workshops with pastors and their wives on gender justice so as to include them in the gender justice movement as champions within their own churches and communities. The church leaders have also used the gender justice movement as a platform to sensitize communities on gender equity and women rights. One major challenge experienced by the gender justice champions in Rwanda in their initiatives is the limited capacity in addressing gender injustice and the need for reference materials to adequately engage with communities on gender justice. Provision of capacity and reference training materials in gender justice will enhance the capacity of the champions to be trainers of trainers on gender justice and adequate and strategic engagement on the same.

e) Accompaniment to South Sudan Council of Churches – National Women Programme

FECCCLAHA has continued to accompany the National Women Programme within the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC-NWP). This year marks five years since the establishment of the tripartite partnership between SSCC, KAIROS Canada, and FECCCLAHA. The SSCC-NWP continues to grow playing a key role in building the capacity of women at the grassroots level to be peace mobilizers and mediators. The National Women Programme has also been fully integrated into the programmes of South Sudan Council of Churches. This essentially means that the SSCC-NWP is recognized and actively engaged in contributing to the SSCC Action Plan for Peace in South Sudan (APP). This has gone a long way in raising the profile and creating space and opportunity for women to participate in SSCC led engagements for sustainable peace in South Sudan.

During 2017, SSCC-NWP focused on building the capacity of women and men in transformative masculinity and gender relations towards gender justice in communities and in trauma counseling. These were held in Juba (June, 2017) and Malakal (November, 2017) reaching a total number of 59 men and women (50 women and 9 men) from Bentiu, Bor, Malakal, Yambio, Wau, Awiel, and Juba. In addition to gaining knowledge and skills, the 59 men and women, through existing Church structures reached out to others by creating spaces for women, men, and youth in their communities to reflect on transformative masculinity as well as offer trauma counseling. Among the 59 participants, are ‘peace mobilizers’, an initiative started by SSCC-NWP in the Greater Upper Nile region to ensure there is peaceful co-existence between host communities and the displaced communities living in Protection of Civilian (PoC) camps. This initiative consists of church leaders and...
women leaders who are stationed within the Protection of Civilians (PoC) in Malakal and their role is to mediate and engage in peace building activities. The training on trauma healing therefore not only healed the memories of the ‘peace mobilizers’ but also enable them provide psychological support to the displaced communities. Additionally, SSCC-NWP undertook a pastoral and solidarity visit to three Protection of Civilians (POCs) Camp – Mahad (Juba) in June, 2017. This was in an effort to provide encouragement and solidarity to the women, men, and children displaced during the conflict. The women church leaders were able to collect clothes, shoes, soap, and sugar all of which were received as donations from women in the churches and from contributions from other projects. FECCAHA’s role in the tripartite partnership is mainly facilitative, technical, advisory, and accompaniment. The role played by FECCAHA is well within its mandate as South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) is a member of FECCAHA. FECCAHA continues to be seized with the matter of advocacy for sustainable peace in South Sudan.

**Programme Outcomes:**

a) Participants of the Training of Trainers, through the Christian Council of Tanzania issued a communiqué to the head of churches regarding a directive by the Head of State to discontinue education for the teenage girls who get pregnant during their education. Participants defined this as a gender injustice against children. This statement was presented and read out by the Rt. Rev. Dr. Benson Bagonza, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) - Karagwe.

b) The participants prepared action plans to follow up on the training in the church/community level. Since the training, representatives from the Moravian Church, Anglican Church in Dar-es-Salaam, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) have held various engagements reaching an estimated number of 1,360 women, men, youth, and children.

c) A WhatsApp group consisting of the participants in the training in Tanzania was created. This is a creative way of ensuring the participants remain engaged; as well as providing a space for sharing progress reports. This has ensured that members remain in touch with each other on GBV in Tanzania. It is an effective tool for mobilization, information exchange and learning.

d) Further, the Tamar Campaign has been used as a major tool within the Anglican Church ‘Mothers’ Union’ in Burundi in addressing intimate partner violence. The Free Methodist Church and the Union of Women in the Baptist church in Burundi used the Tamar Campaign to undertake awareness sessions for women and girls. This has taken place in Bujumbura, Bubanza, Cibitoke, Rutana, and Ngozi.

e) As a result of continuous engagement on GBV by the Churches in Burundi, a law on Gender Based Violence (GBV) was enacted.
Governance

Do not forget what is to be a sailor because of being a captain yourself. ~Tanzanian Proverb

Governance Programme seeks to empower citizens to hold governments accountable in obedience to the call in Isaiah 1:17. The programme focuses on two sub-themes; Elections Support and governance of extractives. In 2017, FECLLAHA focused mainly on the Ecumenical Elections Observation Mission in Kenya General Elections (August, 2017) and a Regional Ecumenical Forum on Governance of Extractives.

1. Regional Election Observation Mission to the General Elections in Kenya, August 2017

FECLLAHA facilitated a Regional Election Observation Mission during the August 2017 General Elections in Kenya. A total of 23 election observers were deployed to participate in the observer mission. Out of these were 4 international observers (from Burundi, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda); 2 Diaspora (Burundi & Uganda); and 17 local observers. The teams, which comprised of General Secretaries, Church leaders, and Programme staff from NCCK and FECLLAHA member councils and the secretariat, were deployed to observe the voting and vote counting process in 34 constituencies within 12 counties in the country (Nairobi, Kiambu, Kakamega, Mombasa, Kilifi, Kajiado, Murang’a, Bomet, Uasin Gishu, Kisumu, Busia, and Homabay); where observers visited sampled polling stations as well as constituency, county, and national tallying centres.

FECLLAHA also undertook a one day training and orientation workshop for all observers prior to deployment. This was an important training as it provided background information on the socio-political context in the country as well as orientation on the tools for data collection and to facilitate greater understanding on the mandate and role of the observers as stipulated in the code of conduct by the Electoral body in Kenya.

The observer mission, which was undertaken within the legal framework for the conduct of elections in Kenya, aimed at making an independent, objective, and impartial assessment of the elections. It was undertaken in the spirit of enhancing accountable governance, which is one of the core programs of FECLLAHA. The teams had the opportunity to observe opening, closing, and counting of votes at the polling stations; however, the observers were not involved in verification of the transmission of the total votes cast at the constituencies and National tallying centres.

According to the FECLLAHA observer team, the voting and vote counting processes were conducted fairly well in most parts of the country visited except for delays in opening some polling stations and minor hitches with the machines that were used to electronically identify the voters (Kenya Integrated Elections Management System - KIEMS). Further, the observers noted high turnout of voters and that the voting process was largely peaceful with very few incidences of skirmishes reported. The voting and counting process also went well but the transmission could not be verified by the observers. However, the Supreme Court of Kenya invalidated the Presidential elections citing, among other reasons, illegalities and irregularities committed in transmission of the results by the National electoral body (Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission - IEBC) and ordered a fresh Presidential poll be conducted in adherence to the constitution and electoral laws. FECLLAHA issued an interim statement which was shared with the partners and members; as well as the IEBC.

2. FECLLAHA Regional Ecumenical Forum – 2017:

The Regional Ecumenical Forum is a key platform for FECLLAHA members to share ideas, lessons/best practices, discuss challenges, re-strategize, and renew their commitment and passion for the cause of justice and peace in the region. In October, 2017 FECLLAHA held its 14th REF in Kampala, Uganda. The theme of this forum was “Governance of Extractives for Sustainable Development and Peace in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa: The Role of the Church”. The forum was attended by representatives of member councils and churches, as well as, representatives from partner organisations including KAIROS-Canada, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), and the Church of Sweden (CoS). Also present were heads of sister regional ecumenical bodies namely the Fellowship of Christian Councils of Churches in Southern Africa (FOCCISA) and the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in West Africa (FECCIWA). Resource persons were drawn from various organisations including the United Nations Economic Commission in Africa (UNECA), Tax Justice Network, Interfaith Standing Committee on Economic Justice & Integrity of Creation in Tanzania, as well as the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC). The Executive Director of Economic Justice Network – FOCCISA, Rev. Malcolm Damon presented the keynote address, with a view to share the Southern Africa region experience in engaging with gover-
nance of extractives. A wide range of issues were discussed during the REF, including challenges linked to governance of natural resources.

Discussions in plenary focussed on issues pertaining to mass displacement of communities from their ancestral land, non-payment of compensation to the displaced communities, corruption, mismanagement of revenues from extractives, poverty, failure by mining companies to honour their corporate social responsibility obligations, tax injustice among other negative effects of bad governance of extractives. It was noted that inadequate knowledge on extractives and the relevant policies and laws deepen the crisis as affected communities are not able to effectively voice their concerns. Discussions also highlighted the problem of weak capacity and low commitment on the part of the church leaders which has then resulted in limited advocacy and networking efforts. At the end of the forum, the delegates resolved to implement the following recommendations: (a) work on building strong community movements especially in areas where extractives are located with a view to empower the affected communities to be able to speak for themselves; (b) Investing in building strategic networks and partnerships based on the Tanzania, Kenya, and Southern Africa experience; (c) Focusing on country specific challenges in the course of designing advocacy strategies on extractives and other issues; (d) Building competencies on tax matters especially in relation to extractives sectors where multinational companies are involved with a view to bridge the existing knowledge gap among church leaders. FECCLAHA remains seized by the matter of governance of extractives in the region as an emerging concern. Plans are underway to follow up on the discussions and resolutions made during the REF.

Programme Outcome:

a) Contributed to confidence building in the voting process which further led to the peaceful elections in Kenya.

b) Expressed solidarity with Churches in Kenya during the electoral process in the country.

c) Provided an opportunity for exposure and learning to church leaders from the region who participated in the observer mission on how the Church can contribute to electoral processes.
Human Security

*When two elephants fight, it is the grass that gets trampled.* —SWAHILI SAYING

Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Human Trafficking stand out as key threats to security in the region. In line with the assurance of Jesus Christ in John 10:10, FECCLAHA seeks to address the threats to human security and the underlying causes of the same in the region.

1. **Small Arms and Light Weapons:**
   
a) **Church Leaders National/ Local Awareness Creation and Advocacy on SALWs**

FECCLAHA in collaboration with member councils in South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo (South Kivu), Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC) as well as collaborating networks and institutions has reached over 173 people. These people comprise of religious leaders, journalists, representatives of the police and defense forces, representatives of government institutions, civil society organizations, and local leaders among others. They have been reached through various initiatives including awareness creation workshops in Wau, Bahr-el-Ghazal (February, 2017) and Uvira and Kavumu, South Kivu (May, 2017) which focused on effects of SALWs and legal instruments on SALWs; there was also a media sensitization workshops in Nairobi, Kenya (February, 2017), a stakeholders’ forum in Kampala (December, 2017), as well as commemoration of the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence and an awareness raising public procession in collaboration with Kenya Network for Small Arms (KANSA) in Nairobi (June, 2017).

Further, 6 delegates from UJCC, Justice and Peace Archdiocese of Kampala, Centre for Conflict Resolution, and FECCLAHA undertook an advocacy mission in Kampala, Uganda in February, 2017 to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Focal Point in SALWs. This was a follow up of the petition presented to The Rt. Hon. Speaker of Parliament in Uganda in May 2016 during the commemoration of the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence by Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC). The meeting was fruitful and discussions focused on the effects of illicit SALWs and the efforts made by the Government of Uganda as well as faith institutions and CSOs. Follow up is being made with the relevant Ministries and Parliamentary Committees.

The initiatives have increased public awareness, on Small Arms and Light Weapons as well as the legal frameworks including the ATT, Laws on Firearms, as well as the UN Programme of Action (UNPoA) on Small Arms and Light Weapons not only among community members but also among key local leaders such as senior chiefs, the police and defence forces among others. This will enhance the collaboration between the public and institutions tasked with addressing the problem of illicit SALWs in the community. By extension, this will reduce the number of illicit SALWs in the community.

The initiatives also enhanced advocacy for enactment, domestication, and implementation of appropriate legal frameworks addressing the issues of illicit SALWs. This will contribute to effectiveness of action by the Governments and security agencies in tackling and promoting community security and enhancing the control of small arms in partnership with the community.

Finally, there is strengthened partnership and collaboration between different stakeholders including religious leaders, civil society, local leaders, as well as the media.

**Programme Outcome:**

a) In DRC (South Kivu) 7 core groups have been formed so as to work with other stakeholders in the fight against the illegal circulation of SALWs. Joint Missions are organized with Congolese National Police (PNC), Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) and National Intelligence Agency (ANR), civil society and group leaders.

b) The civil society in Kavumu reported to the Church of Christ in Congo (ECC) South Kivu that, as result of the workshop the civil society, the police and the army are working in collaboration as recommended during the workshop of 26 to 27 May 2017. This collaboration did bear fruits. On Tuesday, 30th May 2017, twenty (20) armed bandits were arrested and nine 9 guns were recovered. These arms were being used to disrupt peace in the communities.

c) As a result of continued engagement on SALWs, the management of ECC South Kivu have integrated SALWs in their Peace programme, which was not there before.
Networking, Partnership, and Collaboration

_Cross the river in a crowd and the crocodile won’t eat you._ —AFRICAN PROVERB

Networking and partnership with like-minded institutions is a key strategy towards greater and sustainable impact. In line with Ecclesiastes 4:9, FECCCLAHA recognizes and appreciates the vast and diverse expertise and experience available in the region and taps on to this its undertaking in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa.

1. **A visit to Church of Sweden and Bread for the World**

   In an effort to strengthen partnership, the Executive Director undertook a mission to Church of Sweden, Uppsala and Bread for the World, Berlin in March, 2017. Meetings and consultations were held with various staff and representatives from different departments in both organizations. These engagements were strategic and important as they not only raised FECCCLAHA profile as a regional partner, but also heightened FECCCLAHA’s visibility among ecumenical partners and provided opportunity to explore focus areas of partnership in the future. It also provided an opportunity to follow up on pending issues with the partners. These were fruitful engagements as they not only strengthened partnership with the organizations, but also provided an opportunity for a broader base knowing and appreciating the work of FECCCLAHA in the region. This will contribute towards strengthening of fundraising and programming. This visit helped in strengthening the role of FECCCLAHA as a regional faith based organisation.

2. **Participation in the ACT Alliance Meeting**

   FECCCLAHA is an active member of the ACT Alliance Kenya Forum (AKF). FECCCLAHA Executive Director is an active member of the ACT Alliance Advisory Group on Advocacy. With a view to deepen exchange and information sharing and strengthen networking, the ACT Alliance held separate and joint meetings of all advisory groups. These groups include the fundraising group, communication group, development policy and practice group, quality and accountability group, as well as humanitarian policy and practice group among others. Additionally, FECCCLAHA had an opportunity to make a presentation on its experience as a sub-regional Church Organisation during ACT Africa Strategy meeting in Addis Ababa in April, 2017. Further, the Executive Director of FECCCLAHA has been elected to serve on the Africa Steering Committee to oversee the new ACT Strategic Plan development and the General Assembly planned for 2018. She is currently representing Africa on the Global Advisory Group on the preparation for the ACT General Assembly to be held in Uppsala, Sweden in October-November, 2018.

3. **Participation of FECCCLAHA in the General Assembly of FECCIWA**

   FECCCLAHA Executive Director was invited to participate in Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in West Africa (FECCIWA) 6th General Assembly and the Conference on Trade, Migration and Development for Regional Integration held in February, 2017. All these events were held under the theme: “Troubled but Not Destroyed” (2Corinthians 4:8-12). This was an important opportunity for FECCCLAHA for sharing experiences and learning from FECCIWA as the two are sister organizations with similar Assembly to the Church Ministry. Further, participation in this platform provided space for networking with different stakeholders/partners including ecumenical partners. During these meetings, FECCCLAHA was given an opportunity to present FECCCLAHA’s ecumenical message to FECCIWA Church leaders in the spirit of expressing solidarity with the churches in West Africa. Some lessons learnt from participating in this engagement were replicated in FECCCLAHA’s General Assembly in October, 2017.

4. **Church of Sweden Partners’ Meeting:**

   FECCCLAHA participated in a partners’ meeting by Church of Sweden in Juba, South Sudan on 12th to 15th June, 2017. The participants were drawn from different Church of Sweden partners in South Sudan. Among other agenda, the participants reflected on issues of concern on gender justice and peace, as well as, provided space for sharing on different strategies on how the same can be addressed. Church of Sweden also shared updates and important information on the institution’s engagement with its partners, ahead of the Church of Sweden strategic planning process.

   FECCCLAHA, as one of the resource organization of Church of Sweden, shared the experience of using the Tamar Campaign and Contextual Bible Study methodology in addressing concerns on Gender Based Violence. The Tamar Campaign provides a platform especially for Churches/church leaders to openly engage on issues of Gender Based Violence. The Contextual Bible Study provides a methodology that creates a safe space for communities to openly engage on issues of Gender Based Violence. The ultimate goal is to break the silence on Gender Based Violence and call the Church and community to action against Gender Based Violence. This session, was co-facilitated with the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC). From this meeting, partners committed to utilize the Tamar Campaign and CBS methodology in addressing Gender Based Violence in the community.

   FECCCLAHA also participated in a side meeting that sought to introduce the Side-by-Side Faith Gender Justice Movement to the partners in South Sudan with a view to launch the South Sudan Chapter. Led by Christian Aid, FECCCLAHA and AACC shared the experience of the Side-by-Side Faith Gender Justice Movement – Kenya Chapter.

5. **Sudan Council of Churches Core Group Meeting:**

   FECCCLAHA joined other ecumenical partners during the SCC Core-group meeting in Khartoum, Sudan in August, 2017. The Core-Group meeting is a mechanism through which ecumenical partners in the region and beyond can deliberate upon and consolidate accompaniment to Sudan Council of Churches (SCC). The delegation also attended the official inauguration of the New Province of the Episcopal Church in Sudan.
6. Partnership with the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD):
FECCCLAHA in partnership with Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) is pursuing an MoU with the ACCORD; it is currently awaiting approval by the Board of ACCORD. In collaboration with ACCORD, FECCCLAHA organized and facilitated a Faith Women Mediators’ training on Peace Building and Conflict Transformation in Kigali, Rwanda in September, 2017. The collaboration has enabled FECCCLAHA participation in Africa Union – Pan African Network of the Wise (PANWISE) meeting and in the IGAD meeting on UN SCR 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security held in Kampala, Uganda (November and December, 2017 respectively).

7. World Council of Churches (WCC) Courtesy Visit to FECCCLAHA:
FECCCLAHA secretariat received a delegation of five from the World Council of Churches (WCC) that was led by the General Secretary of WCC. In addition to sharing initiatives that FECCCLAHA has been undertaking over the years, the delegation and FECCCLAHA staff engaged about possible areas of partnership which included peace advocacy in the region and strengthened partnership in communication for peace initiatives especially in harvesting narratives and telling stories of change. Linkages in gender and involvement of women and youth in peace building were also identified. Delegates agreed that FECCCLAHA and WCC would seek to formalize the partnership so as to ensure increased participation of FECCCLAHA in global initiatives by the World Council of Churches (WCC).

8. International Conference on the Inter-Religious Dialogue for Peace and Conflict Prevention:
FECCCLAHA participated in the inter-religious dialogue for peace and conflict prevention in Bujumbura, Burundi in July, 2017. The conference that was jointly organized by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), the International Christian Service for Peace (EIRENE), and the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) brought together 67 participants from 10 countries namely; Burundi, Central Africa Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Togo, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. The conference aimed at empowering religious communities and other leaders within the East Africa Community (EAC) to build peaceful, just, and harmonious societies in common action to prevent violence. It also aimed at reviewing the conflict prevention strategies in a bid to strengthen the same towards a stable Africa. This was a strategic platform for FECCCLAHA for networking, information and sharing experiences and learning. A joint statement calling for peace and peaceful elections in Africa was issued.

FECCCLAHA, through its partnership with the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) participated in the UN Global Open Day on Women, Peace, and Security in Goma, DRC January, 2017 under the theme “Peace in the Great Lakes Region: Ensuring Women’s voices are heard, heeded, and included in political and peace processes”. A total of five women drawn from the Women Faith Mediators under the auspices of the Regional Peace Programme (RPP) from DRC, Burundi, and South Sudan in addition to the representatives from NCA and FECCCLAHA participated in this event. This was a strategic platform for the Faith Women Mediators’ initiative as it provided an opportunity for exposure, experience sharing and learning, as well as raising the profile of the important role of women representing the faith community in peace processes in the region.

Organized by the UN Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region, through the Women’s Platform of Peace, Security, and Cooperation Framework for DRC and the region, the Global Open Day aimed at promoting the participation of women in peace and political processes as stipulated in the UN SCR 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace, and Security. The focus of this event was in promoting the participation of women in peace and political processes.

10. Regional Youth Forum on Peace Building:
FECCCLAHA was represented by two young people from Kenya and Uganda Youth Peace Clubs (YPCs) in a regional youth forum on peace building in November, 2017 facilitated by the Arikatou International – Kenya. A total number of 30 youth from Somalia, Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Kenya participated in this forum. They gained knowledge and skills in peace building through campaigns against Gender Based Violence (GBV), youth livelihoods capacity building initiatives, as well as interfaith dialogues on counter violent extremism. The forum also commemorated the International Children’s Day where reflections on the plight of children such hunger, violence, and sexual abuse were undertaken. The Forum provided spaces for networking with other youth from the region, experience and information sharing. It also served as an opportunity for exposure for the 2 YPC leaders from Nairobi and Uganda.

11. The 6th Zambia Alternative Mining Indaba (ZAMI):
FECCCLAHA, together with representatives of the Regional Peace Programme (RPP) participated in the 6th Zambia Alternative Mining Indaba (ZAMI) in Lusaka, Zambia. Guided by the theme ‘Mineral Development for all, Leaving No One Behind’, ZAMI provided a platform for communities affected by mining and civil society organizations (CSOs) to exchange experiences and knowledge, deliberate and identify interventions and solutions on the extractives sector. It also provided a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue with a view to deliberate and identify issues of concern in accordance with selected themes. The 6th ZAMI was organized parallel to the Zambian International Mining and Energy Conference (ZIMEC), a government sponsored event with a view to advocate, and present recommendations from communities on extractives in Zambia to the Government of Zambia and mining companies. This is with a view to enhance extractives industries for enhanced management of extractive sectors for sustainable development. This provided an opportunity for learning for FECCCLAHA as it explores possibilities of mobilizing the faith community in advocacy for good governance of extractives in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa.
Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building

A large chair does not make a king. ~SUDANESE PROVERB

This is an enabling theme supporting FECLAHAI's main focus on peace building and conflict transformation. In addition to ensuring accountability and adherence to legal and policy requirements, this theme also ensures that FECLAHAI remains a listening and learning organisation, noting that all are God's fellow workers as articulated in I Corinthians 3:9.

1. FECLAHAI 14th General Assembly
FECLAHAI held its 14th General Assembly on 25th November, 2017 in Kampala, Uganda. This was a successful Assembly recording the participation of all member councils and churches, a total number of 34 representatives from all the 10 countries where FECLAHAI members are domicile. Meeting every 2 years, the General Assembly is key to FECLAHAI as it is supreme governing body in the institution. Among other tasks, the 14th General Assembly received and approved the draft amended FECLAHAI Constitution, approved the appointment of the new Executive Committee, considered and adopted audited accounts for 2015 and 2016, and presented and discussed the OCA report among others. The General Assembly also oversaw the smooth transition in leadership, as the outgoing Chairperson, Rev. Sylvestre Bizimana- Secretary General of the National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB), retired having completed two terms as stipulated in FECLAHAI constitution. The current Chairperson is Bishop Prof. Kuye-Ndondo wa Mulemera the Provincial President of the Church of Christ in Congo – South Kivu.

2. Executive Committee Meeting
FECLAHAI held two Executive Committee meetings during the year as stipulated in FECLAHAI Constitution. These were held in March and October, 2017 in Juba, South Sudan and Kampala, Uganda respectively. The Executive Committee is a key organ whose role includes providing leadership and support to FECLAHAI Secretariat. Among other functions, the committee received country reports specifically on the peace and political situation in the different countries in the region and deliberated upon FECLAHAI’s response in supporting member councils and churches in the affected countries. The Committee also considered and approved budget plans and followed up on resolutions made the previous General Assembly among other functions. The Executive Committee has also played a key role in approving and sharing input to the Organisational Capacity Assessment (OCA) process that took place during the year.

3. Organisational Capacity Assessment (OCA)
FECLAHAI embarked on an Organisational Capacity Assessment (OCA) process in January, 2017. The process aimed at assessing the effectiveness and efficiency of FECLAHAI in undertaking programmes and other processes. The OCA was undertaken mid-way of the current strategic plan and therefore served as a periodic assessment and monitoring process in respect to the organisations current capacity with a view to strengthen the weak areas. The Programme Advisory Committee (PAC) played a key role in providing technical support especially in designing the Terms of Reference for the consultants and critiquing as well as ensuring the quality of the final report. Field visits, face-to-face interviews, and questionnaires were used to obtain findings from the members, partners, and other key stakeholders. The final report recommended that a comprehensive Capacity Improvement Plan (CIP) be put in place. This CIP should then be based on two scenarios; the first one being change of strategy where the organisation scales down its operations to fit in its current financial and human capacity. The scaling down will be informed by FECLAHAI’s competitive advantage, staff skills and competencies, as well as the implementation strategy which should be regional in nature. The Second strategy is Transformation/Restructuring of the organisation where drastic measures are undertaken to reform/restructure the organisation significantly. This will involve rebranding, development of new strategies and approaches as well as consulting with key stakeholders. The report was received and deliberated upon by the General Assembly, Partners, and the Executive Committee. The recommendations in the report will be key in undertaking the strategic planning process that is scheduled for 2018.

4. Partners’ Round Table
Partners’ Round Table are FECLAHAI’s platform for sharing updates and progress on various initiatives. It is also through this platform that FECLAHAI shares future plans and most importantly receives feedback from various partners. FECLAHAI held a partners’ round table in October, 2017 which was facilitated by the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA). As procurement processes are an integral part of the project cycle, the training provided an opportunity for FECLAHAI to examine its systems and policies with a view to strengthen procurement procedures within the organisation.

FECLAHAI also participated in a workshop on gender and conflict sensitivity in peace programming facilitated by the Africa Council of Religious Leaders (ACRL-RIF) in November, 2017. At the end of the workshop, there was increased awareness and knowledge on gender and conflict sensitivity. Additionally, spaces for information and experience sharing, peer learning and networking were created.

5. Staff Capacity Enhancement
Staff continuous capacity enhancement is a key pillar to strengthening FECLAHAI Secretariat. This year, FECLAHAI staff participated in a procurement workshop in November, 2017 which was facilitated by the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA). As procurement processes are an integral part of the project cycle, the training provided an opportunity for FECLAHAI to examine its systems and policies with a view to strengthen procurement procedures within the organisation.

Programme Outcome:

a) The FECLAHAI 14th General Assembly and the OCA highlighted issues that will input into the new strategic planning process.

b) The General Assembly discussed and approved FECLAHAI amended Constitution and By-laws; these will enhance and strengthen effectiveness and efficiency of Governance of FECLAHAI.

c) The General Assembly elected new office bearers of the Executive Committee that will steer governance of FECLAHAI for the coming 2 years.
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• African Council of Religious Leaders (ACRL)
• Arigatou International – Kenya
• Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA)
• All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC)
• Bread for the World
• Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives (KAIROS Canada)
• Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa (CAPA)
• Christian Aid
• Church of Sweden (CoS)
• Dan Church Aid (DCA)
• DKA Austria
• East African Action Network on Small Arms (EAANSA)
• Ecumenical HIV & AIDS Initiative in Africa (WCC-EHAIA)
• Finn Church Aid (FCA)
• Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (HiPSIR)
• Inter Church Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO)
• International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR)
• International Movement for Catholic Students (IMCS)
• Life and Peace Institute (LPI)
• Mukuru Slums Development Project (MSDP)
• Nairobi Peace Initiative (NPI)-Africa
• Nairobi Women’s Hospital-Gender Violence Recovery Centre
• Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
• Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSA)
• Salvation Army Kenya East
• St. Paul’s University, Limuru, Kenya
• Tearfund
• The African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)
• The Christian Organization Research and Advisory Trust of Africa (CORAT-Africa)
• The General Referral Hospital of Panzi (GRHP)
• World Council of Churches (WCC)