Introducton

Year 2014 was the second year of Finn Church Aid’s (FCA) strategy period 2013-2016 and the second of two-year funding agreement 2013-2014 with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA). This report covers FCAs global programme in 2014 and gives an overview of programme development during 2013-2014. This report also reflects the multi-layered transition process that FCA has been undergoing since developing and implementing its strategy. While FCA has worked towards a swift and effective transition, there are multiple layers and phases of transition needed:

1. Transition based on strategy
3. Transition with current and new partners

Both working with partners under the new strategy as well as multi-year project cycles have led progressive adjustment over time. It should also be highlighted, that working with partners requires a long-term negotiation process, respecting the partners own strategy and operational focus. This means that this report, while embracing fully the “one programme” approach, has still limitations in programmatic consistency.

In 2013 FCAs strategy identified three strategic themes. Right to Education (R2E), Right to Livelihoods (R2L) and Right to Peace (R2P), which are now the foundation of FCAs global programme. Combined with the strategic decision to concentrate on working in fragile contexts, this combination of themes has proved to be very relevant in responding to the different situations in FCAs programme countries.

In 2014 a lot of time was invested in programme development, both content and quality wise. Thematic objectives and indicators were defined for the global programme level. RBA approach was taken further and staffs skills in the approach were improved by training. Programme planning and support functions at HQ were consolidated.

While a vast majority of FCAs programmes continue to be implemented with partners, the number of self-implemented projects has grown during the reporting period, e.g. in CAR, Somalia, Kenya and Haiti. In 2014 some adjustments were made to FCA’s field structures and new Country Offices have been established to better support the implementation of projects.

In 2014 FCA continued to focus geographically, and exit processes were continued. Programmes in Zimbabwe, Burundi, Kosovo and Serbia came to an end. More exits are to be foreseen during the remaining strategy period 2015-2016. However, a unique opportunity opened up for FCA in Eritrea, and preparations for a MFA-funded programme in Eritrea were started in 2014. Altogether FCA directed funding into 26 countries, of which 16 were funded from the Partnership Agreement with the MFA.

FCA continues to work on three different modalities: humanitarian aid, development cooperation and advocacy. In 2014 major humanitarian operations took place e.g. in Palestine, South Sudan, Central African Republic (CAR) and the Philippines. FCA remains committed to working in the prolonged humanitarian situations like Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Myanmar. An Ebola response was started in August 2014 with Ebola awareness raising and food distributions. Advocacy efforts continued to be streamlined under the three themes at different levels: local, national, global and Finland.

FCA has continued to develop the networks it has created together with different partners, including Women’s Bank, Changemakers, Teachers without Borders, and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers. FCA sees the networks as a new way of involving volunteers, partner organisations, duty-bearers and rights-holders.

This annual report outlines programme overview chapter 1), programme management and development (chapter 2), annual programme reports including Communications and Campaigning activities included in the MFA framework and all major MFA Country Programmes (chapter 3), Summary of the Partnership Programme Incurred Costs (chapter 4) and List of Acronyms used in the report (chapter 5).

4. Summary of the MFA Partnership Programme’s Incurred Costs and Financing in 2013-2014 122
5. List of Acronyms ......................................................................................................................... 123
Snapshots of Finn Church Aid’s work during 2014

MAY 2014
The aim of the Finn Church Aid’s Education Campaign 2014 was to raise the issue of the global learning crisis. The global teacher shortage and the low quality of pedagogical skills are setbacks for all development efforts. During the campaign Finn Church Aid presented the stories of teachers in fragile states, organised press release and equipped media equipped with campaign information and material. The campaign message was spread through TV, web, e-letters, social media, outdoor advertising and print. Together more than 7,000 Finnish signed a petition calling teachers’ role in fragile states and it was handed over to Minister of Education. (See more in chapter 3.4, Community Saturation and Campaigning)

FEBRUARY 2014
Rakhine state in Myanmar has suffered from ethnic violence, which escalated in 2012, forcing thousands of people to flee their homes. There are still about 140,000 internally displaced people living in the camps. Finn Church Aid received funding from EU/ECHO Children of Peace Initiative to support the education of children who have fled ethnic violence and continue living in large Muslim camps and smaller Buddhist resettlements. The project provides access to protected, adequate and safe learning environments to over 5,800 children, enabling them to attend formal and non-formal education and receive psycho-social support. (See more in chapter 3.4, Myanmar)

MARCH 2014
An International Programme Planning Workshop was organised in Helsinki for Finn Church Aid’s programme staff. The main objective of the workshop was to work in a participatory manner on Finn Church Aid’s programmatic objectives’ setting and indicators. Work continued in Finn Church Aid’s country programmes. The result of this process was the finalisation of Finn Church Aid’s Global Programme 2015-2017 in August 2014.

APRIL 2014
The first programmatic year of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers officially began as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA) approved Finn Church Aid’s proposal for separate funding in April. Finn Church Aid, responsible for hosting the Network Secretariat, was able to launch the Network and its activities with the support received from MFA. (See more in chapter 1.4 Partners and Networks, The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers)

JUNE 2014
After super typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines in November 2013, Finn Church Aid’s humanitarian aid unit established a construction team in order to build 47 semi-permanent classrooms in 27 villages in Eastern Samar area. Prefabricated lightweight steel frames with fibre cement board walls and GI roofs were designed according to the local norms and standards for typhoon proof buildings and were acquired in the Philippines. Construction work improved livelihood and skills of the local engineers and labour. Fast to erect frame was a FCA concept, which proved to be good solution in this action and context. (See more in chapters 1.3.7 Humanitarian Assistance and 3.4 Asia)

AUGUST 2014
The Ebola outbreak touched the societies in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea broadly and deeply, crippling the health sector, interrupting schools for several months, affecting adversely the livelihoods of especially women and risked destabilising the affected West African countries. All of Finn Church Aid’s ongoing projects were suspended and the focus shifted to the Ebola response by Finn Church Aid and its four local partners. Activities included awareness raising/social mobilisation and distribution of sanitisation materials, as well as protection of training support. A total of 500 communities were reached in Liberia and Sierra Leone as part of the Ebola response. Finn Church Aid also conducted an important study on the effects of Ebola to gender in Liberia and engaged in international advocacy with a view to addressing underlying fragilities in Liberia and Sierra Leone. (See more in chapters 1.3.6, Global Advocacy, 3.1 West Africa, Liberia and Sierra Leone)

SEPTEMBER 2014
Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers organised a workshop Religious Actors Combatting Radicalisation and Violent Extremism, which explored radicalisation and efforts to combat violent extremist from the Christian, Muslim and Buddhist faiths. A study on al-Shabaab recruitment and radicalisation in Somalia, conducted as a collaborative effort between the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, Finn Church Aid and Institute for Security Studies, was published during the workshop. (See more in chapters 1.3.6, Global Advocacy and 1.4 Under The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers)

OCTOBER 2014
The Finnish Minister for Education and Culture Ms. Kiuru visited Haiti with Finnish education specialists and private sector representatives together with other Ministry for Foreign Affairs representatives in September 2014. Finn Church Aid has worked together with the Inter-American Development Bank (IBB) towards launching the co-operation between Finland and Haiti.

DECEMBER 2014
This resulted in a signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) by the Haitian and Finnish Ministries of Education for education sector development work. The signing of the MoU was followed by a workshop, where Finnish education specialists together with Haitian colleagues discussed the baseline for and the goals of co-operation. The shared goal for FCA and the Finnish Ministry of Education is to ensure uninterrupted access to quality education for the children and youth in Haiti. It is anticipated that this collaboration can serve as a model for large-scale activities by diverse Finnish education specialists (private sector, academia/PGFER education and the civil society) to fragile contexts where the needs for education sector reform are vast. A group of Haitian Ministry of Education staff members visited Finland in October 2014. (See more in chapter 3.5, Haiti)

FINN CHURCH AID GLOBAL PROGRAMME ANNUAL REPORT 2014 / FINAL PROGRAMME REPORT 2013-2014
1. Programme Overview

1.1 Finn Church Aid’s strategy and priorities

Finn Church Aid (FCA) is a legally registered foundation that carries out development co-operation, humanitarian assistance and advocacy work on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Finland.

The goals of FCA operations are in line with the Finnish development policy guidelines, such as the Finland’s Development Policy Programme, and are closely connected to the United Nations’ Millennium Development Goals. When planning and implementing operations with partners, organisations, national poverty reduction strategies and local circumstances are also taken into consideration by Finn Church Aid and its partners.

In strategy for 2015-2016 FCA has defined itself as follows

**Mission**

Action for human dignity

**Vision**

We change the world through support for people in the most vulnerable situations.

We believe that local communities find the most sustainable solutions to the challenges in their own contexts.

Finn Church Aid (FCA) will contribute to positive change by supporting people in the most vulnerable situations within fragile and disaster-affected areas. We specialise in supporting local communities in three priority areas: the Right to Peace, Livelihood and Education. We aim to become a global leader in supporting peace work in tradition- al communities and a strong actor within ACT Alliance’s network in issues related to livelihood and education.

These thematic areas are not separate channels of activity but form one programme with different entry points. We enhance our programmes through global advocacy. (1)

**Identity**

FCA is a faith-based organisation. The Christian tradition of compassion and social justice guides us to reach out to the poorest, promote peace and ignite civil society advocacy work.

We believe that sustainable change requires tackling the root causes of inequality and non-realisation of human rights and working with both rights-holders and duty-bearers. As a rights-based actor, FCA’s role is to facilitate dialogue and accountability between the two.

The rights-based approach is equally valid in the context of humanitarian crises. Humanitarian assistance is based on humanitarian principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality and confidentiality. These principles outline people’s rights to protection and assistance as defined in human rights law, humanitarian law and refugee law.

**Strategic themes**

FCA’s strategic themes are Right to Peace (R2P), Right to Education (R2E) and Right to Livelihood (R2L).

FCAs commitment to support the resilience of communities and the empowerment of people especially in states in fragile situations has a solid backing in the United Na- tions Human Rights instruments. Survival, development and participation dimensions embedded in Civil and po- litical, and Economic, social and cultural rights directly link with FCA’s strategic themes. No development can happen without at least a minimum level of stability and peace.

A single conflict can push a country decades back in its development. In bid to assist people in their own development, access to learning, knowledge and information is one of the strongest enablers for empowerment. Survival and development is not only linked to stability and access to knowledge; people’s development opportunities are closely dependent on generating an income and mak- ing a decent living, especially in states without any kind of social support system.

FCA sees that supporting rights related to peace, edu- cation and livelihood, as well as combining the three, is most helpful in countries in difficult situations. In its work during 2014 FCA has continued to transform these sets of rights to concrete actions, supporting people to reconcile and participate, to learn and develop, and to earn and sustain a living.

**Fragile contexts**

FCA has focused its activity within disaster-affected and fragile contexts. Fragility refers here in a broad sense to states and administrative areas that fail to provide basic services to people and to protect people from violence because of unwillingness or inability to do so. This is often combined with limited legitimacy. FCA’s response aims to increasing resilience of communities in fragile contexts through interventions in livelihoods, education and peace.

In recent reports, the OECD has listed 50 countries in fragile situations1. In recent years these countries on this list has increased, however, some countries also managed to improve their situation (for example Angola or Georgia). Most concerning are 23 countries that have been on all list from 2007-2015. Those countries can be referred to as chronically fragile countries. The vast majority of FCA’s programme countries are on the 2015 list, eight of them in crisis situations, namely CAR, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Liberia, Myanmar, Sierra Leone and Somalia. (2)

Disaster-affected and fragile contexts pose the gravest threat to human dignity and realisation of human rights. It is in these situations where the obstacles to rights-holders’ ability to successfully claim their rights are greatest and where duty-bearers are most likely to fail in providing due accountability towards the local communities. It is in these contexts and countries that the impact of FCA’s support is bound to have the greatest impact.

During 2014 FCA has continued to contextualise the fragile discourse also on local and district level, in or- der to support community resilience as well as empower- ment of citizens, whose rights are respected and towards increased accountability of the duty-bearers, being the state or the temporary duty-bearers in extreme fragile con- ditions.

1.2 Cross-cutting principles

According to the strategy (2013-2016) FCA continues to base its work on Rights-based approach (RBA). Along with RBA programme work FCA recognises several themes as cross-cutting throughout its programme focus. These are gender sensitivity, climate change and disaster risk reduc- tion (DRR) as well as conflict sensitivity.

**Gender**

In 2014, FCA continued to implement a strong twin track approach to gender equality, through 1) specific women’s empowerment projects and 2) mainstreaming gen- der equality as a cross-cutting principle in all our work.

Growing attention was put into strengthening the involve- ment of women in decision-making processes and peace work such as linking the United Nations’ Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) in more concrete ways in selected Country Programmes and advocacy initiatives of the Rights to Peace (R2P) work.

In gender specific projects, FCA focuses on promot- ing the economic empowerment as a means to achieving a more equal enjoyment of human rights for men and women, in particular under the specific theme Right to Liveli- hood (R2L). This continued to form a strong part of FCA’s work in 2014, for example by continued funding through Women’s Bank.

Women’s strategic needs have been in focus in many Country Programmes and key gender specific issues have been articulated in the different government initiatives but further work is needed in bringing about transformative change starting from the community level to upper levels of governance, especially in the context of fragile states and situations. In many fragile countries, such as CAR and South Sudan, the participation of women is continuously greatly challenged by the existing cultural and customary measures and beliefs. Systematic discrimination against women and girls exists on equal access and participation of services and assets, e. g. schooling and decision-making systems, thus keeping them aside and in vulnerable posi- tions to sexual and gender based violence.

In 2014, FCA participated actively in ACT Alliance’s Gender Equality and Justice Community of Practice regu- larly held meetings, preparation of gender equality mate- rial for the ACT Alliance Regional Gender Report in Oct. 2014, and by participating of the APRODEV Gender Reference Group’s work.

FCA continued mainstreaming gender in advocacy work also in Finland by participating actively in on-going discussions on gender equality, development policy, and in particular, in the work of the Friday group (a sub-group of the Population and Development Group by the Parliament of Finland). A dialogue series had been established in 2013

Examples of results in gender equality work

- FCA’s programmes have succeeded in paying more at- tention to existing gender role and outcome specific factors related to gender issues as well as the ways how to promote more equal participation of women and men.
- FCA supports women through saving and credit schemes integrated into projects. For women, being a member in the saving and credit group increases self-esteem in addition to offering a possibility to earn money of her own and make decision in the use of that. In addition, the group membership offers a forum to discuss social and other challenges faced in life. Also results indicate progress in the change of attitudes equal access and control of resources are increasingly recognised and actively promoted through saving and credit schemes also by community members.
- In 2014, the programme work has paid increased atten- tion to gender based violence (GBV) in several regions at local to national level. For example, FCA supported its former RAMFIE in DRC to follow up and develop their ad- vocacy work more strategically on the promotion of gen- der equality in national legislation, prevention of sexual and gender based violence and the implementation of the National Action Plan of the UN SCR 1325 of DRC.
- The ACT Alliance’s training package “Gender-Inclusive Rights-Based Development” was utilized in Regional and Country Offices’ programme planning.
- Gender aspects are increasingly taken into account in country programmes. FCA and the partners have been able to strengthen the use of gender disaggregated data

Table 1

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<th>Example of result in gender equality work</th>
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1. The number of countries differs depending on which list is used. The 50 country list is a combination of the 2014 World Bank, ADB, ADB Harmonized List and the 2014 Fragile States Index.
2. See for recent extract of the road map of Fragility 2015, Meeting Post-2015 Ambitions.
3. South Sudan has not been counted as it has not existed as an independent county during the listing period.
and continued through 2014 with discussion events held with different actors in the field of development with the participation of rights-holders has been strengthened and the work. The involvement of rights-holders and dialogue with duty-bearers has become regular components of the partners’ work and programming.

RBA based programming has been advanced and capacity records of successful strengthening of RBA principles in programmes through different modalities such as sensitisation, awareness raising, capacity building and training, and various forms of advocacy work through local partners and alliances on local, national and regional levels. Globally, this meant increased involvement in international processes such as high level political meetings, the UN Truth, Redress and Reconciliation Mechanism (TRR) reviews and the UN Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism. The UPR has become a widely recognised and recommended HR and advocacy tool to promote the implementation of RBA principles (PANEL) to be integrated in the work.

The situation on how and through what channels FCA and its partners are able to promote RBA in the programmes varies depending on the context. For example relatively new programme country, Myanmar, offers a different perspective to promote the implementation of RBA in programme work and overall approach of FCA and its partners. In the highly volatile and sensitive situation in Myanmar a careful exploration of how to bring together rights-holders and duty-bearers and show win-win situations is needed. This can be in the form of opportunities of policy dialogue or matching needs and services but needs to pay attention to the ways how these issues are brought into the discussion, what terms and definitions are being use and finding a mutually acceptable entry points for further programme development.

1.3.2 Right to Livelihood (R2L)

In 2014, FCA continued implementing its new 4-year strategy adopted in 2013 and aligning its Right to Livelihood programming accordingly. FCA has a wealth of experience in R2L work particularly in the domain of development

Examples of results from strengthening RBA

Uganda
- More focused work in align with the national policies to identify entry points to directly contribute to the government plans and national priorities.
- Organised capacity building training on RBA for three FCA’s partners in early 2014. Partners prepared action plans to strengthen the rights-based approach in their organisations. The work was followed up during the 2014 with proven records of successful strengthening of RBA principles in the partners’ work and programming.
- Observations from 2014 confirm that the ownership of projects, broader participation of RHs, dialogues with the major DRR and other stakeholders and the PAMEL principles have contributed towards positive development.

Nepal
- Three-year commitment of FCA’s partner UNF and FCA on strengthening the rights-based approach and integrated holistic programme approach has gained successful results in 2014, collected as a part of the preparatory work for the Nepal’s second UPR review (2015).
- There is increased response of the Government towards rights-holders, including the most marginalised such as the freed Hijras and Kamaru’s. The work has promoted to reduce discriminatory practices and promote equality in the Nepali society, contributed towards more equal access to services and justice, and higher recognition on topical human rights concerns of the Nepali people. Affirmative actions have narrowed the gender gaps. Various HR concerns, especially related to discriminatory practices, are now taken into agendas at various political forums and international platforms.

DRC
- Design of FCA’s partner, RAJECS, advocacy plan increases efficiency and effectiveness and collaboration with networks on increasing women’s involvement in local political processes, advocate for the poverty law of DRC, and to strengthen the implementation of the NAP 1325 by establishing regional committees in the eastern part of DRC.

Cambodia
- Communities have become more involve with lobbying the government in to establish services they are in need, e.g. concerning water sources and sanitation facilities, and there has been more space for discussion the communal concerns with the local authorities.

Table 2
Objective 1: Local communities in fragile contexts have strengthened their assets and capability to develop their livelihoods in sustainable ways

FCA has been engaged in livelihoods development for several decades. The traditional medium is collaboration with other national partners in several Country Programmes and are on the rise globally. More focused R2L work will with time increase the impact of our work through accumulated experience and expertise in selected priorities; more efficient networking and market access; fostering economic empowerment and enterprise. An important objective entered the pilot stage. On the advocacy side, interest. Nearly 200 households were earning additional earnings into the wellbeing of their families. This enabled their husbands to venture into undertakings with higher financial risk, yet recognising the crucial contribution of women. The different stages of human security to take risks is a common phenomenon established by enterprise research all over the world. The evaluation also reported significant improvements in the status and participation of women in community. The evaluation also revealed notable changes in attitudes as regards the role of women. In addition to providing for their families financially, women participate in household decision-making on a more equal and sounding and have a say on the use of funds, which implies increased control over life cycle changes. The emergence of micro and small enterprises in the service sector, including and trading businesses that deliver local products to the larger markets of Kathmandu Valley.

Results and Developments in R2L

In 2013-2014 FCA engaged in pro-poor enterprise development for the examined and replicated in other FCA regions. A de-liberated R2L specialisation firmly grounded on regional context is a direction FCA will embrace in its future program in R2L. In 2013-2014 FCA engaged in pro-poor enterprise development for the examined and replicated in other FCA regions. A de-liberated R2L specialisation firmly grounded on regional context is a direction FCA will embrace in its future program in R2L.

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Objective 5: Local communities have strengthened their resilience to shocks including natural and man-made disasters and the effects of climate change that negatively impact their livelihoods

FCA’s operating areas are prone to a wide array of natural disasters. Many of the countries are also traumatised by recurring or protracted local conflicts or war. Exacerbated by poverty and fragility of states, disasters cause severe and often sudden erosion of people’s livelihood assets. Components that build the bounce-back capacity of communities enabling fast recovery have become part and parcel of FCA’s livelihood programming. FCA’s work on resilience is implemented either in form of separate disaster risk reduction projects or progressively mainstreamed into R2L interventions. Many of the components promoting sustainable livelihoods such as skills upgrading, community organisation, grassroots savings & credit and income diversification also serve to strengthen people’s coping capacities. Appropriate means are highly context specific and are to be considered carefully. E.g. influx of money in a community may draw the attention of context specific and are to be considered carefully. E.g. influx of money in a community may draw the attention of context specific and are to be considered carefully. E.g. influx of money in a community may draw the attention of context specific and are to be considered carefully. E.g. influx of money in a community may draw the attention of context specific and are to be considered carefully. E.g. influx of money in a community may draw the attention of context specific and are to be considered carefully. E.g. influx of money in a community may draw the attention of context specific and are to be considered carefully. E.g. influx of money in a community may draw the attention of context specific and are to be considered carefully.

For example in Haiti, a country extremely vulnerable to natural disasters of varying kinds, FCA supported a Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Programme run jointly by the members of ACT Alliance National Forum. In 2014 the Programme trained a total of 69 Community Based Organisations across the country in disaster preparedness, reaching thousands of households. The CBOs were also encouraged to develop small DRR projects for local implementation; three such projects were awarded funding in 2014.

Objective 4: Local communities/rights-holders and duty-bearers work together to provide adequate and sustainable legislative and policy framework for livelihood development

Livelihoods related advocacy is increasingly incorporated in FCA’s Country Programmes. This is standard at project level where community structures are supported to claim the rights and local and district authorities capacitated in their role as duty-bearers. Examples are given in the Advocacy chapter (1.3.6); local advocacy typically reflects communities’ immediate and varied concerns.

As a shared R2L related feature across FCA’s operating areas, land right issues are gaining in importance. Thus they are also becoming widely integrated in FCA’s Country Programmes. In 2013-2014 land related concerns were raised in Myanmar, South Sudan, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Somalia and DRC. FCA partners were engaged successfully in land rights advocacy in Nepal, Cambodia, and Guatemala and Honduras. In Nepal, land rights advocacy is particularly strong, linking the grassroots to national level policy making concerning e.g. access to land by freed Hariyans and Kamayas as well as by women.

FCA is in the process of identifying partners and networks to strengthen national level efforts in the area of land rights. On a global scale, FCA seeks to join hands with the Lutheran World Federation and other international partners.

1.3.5 Right to Education (R2E)

Right to Education (R2E) was introduced in FCA as a new thematic focus from the beginning of year 2013. Before that FCA had begun to develop the specialisation in education in emergencies, but education for development took its first steps in 2013. Background in livelihood made it possible to have a smooth transition to the new theme with focus on vocational and skills training.

R2E theme had three objectives for 2013-2014. The results of R2E theme are discussed here.

Results and Developments in R2E

Objective 1: People in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts with limited educational background have access to quality vocational training/skill development.

Vocational and skills training was implemented in 17 FCA’s Country Programmes. Only Somalia’s, Kenya’s, CAR’s and OPT’s Country Programmes were without vocational training activities. In Lebanon, Mozambique, Zimbabwes and Central America they were implemented in link to R2L –activities. This is natural if taken into account the extent of livelihoods work done by FCA during the years. Vocational and skills training has included both non-formal and formal education and training. Formal training has taken place in collaboration with Ministries and official certificates have been delivered by education authorities (e.g. in DRC, Sierra Leone and South Sudan). In particular, in refugee situations and in projects linked to livelihood the skills training has been non-formal of nature (e.g. refugee or IDP situations in Jordan, Liberia and Myanmar).

Vocational and skills training opportunities have been offered in particular to youth and women who have lost their first chance (“second chance education”). For instance in DRC 383 vulnerable youth including former child soldiers, teenage mothers, street kids, orphans were trained in a profession during one-year training course. In Nepal the beneficiaries were school drop-outs and unemployed youth, in Mozambique orphaned children and youth and in Central America rural indigenous women. Often it has been necessary to integrate literacy and numeracy training as well as life-skills training and psycho-social support into the curriculum.

FCA has increasingly focused on linking learning to earning and thus bridging the gap in between vocational training and employment or self-employment - for instance in Sierra Leone, DRC, Nepal, and in refugee situations in Jordan with income generating activities and in new openings in Uganda. In Nepal 72 % of new graduates were employed, 28 % have started their own business. In Congo DRC at ETN vocational training institute students were provided a three-month trainship after the training. Some youth were organised into saving and credit associations and the development of the groups were supported. 66 % of graduated youth in March 2014 were employed or self-employed.

“Linking learning to earning” is a strong approach in FCA’s R2E theme. Also “earn while you learn” has been suggested by a consultant in Uganda BTIVET assessment.

This approach includes three types of elements to be developed further:

1. vocational training curriculums and teaching methods need to be developed to contain both practical and theoretical studies, business skills and employability skills
2. different solutions need to be available in employment and self-employment after graduation (e.g. IGTs, trainships, saving and credit associations) and
3. linking learning to earning –related elements should be focused on in the projects, including developing of the carrier counselling and follow up of the graduates.

In South Sudan FCA supported vocational and teacher training programme by reinforcing the capacity of trainers by taking them through an in-service training programme. There was a marked improvement in the performance of students trained by teachers who underwent the training programme. Also the Teacher training was conducted with no reported cases of dropping out. 89% obtained good results and therefore the quality of teachers in Western Equatoria State and beyond improved. Most of the graduates of the training programme are now employed either by the government or in private schools.

Development of the quality of vocational education will be an important focus area during the next programme period 2015-2017.

Objective 2: Children and youth living in disaster (both natural or man-made) affected communities have equal, uninterrupted access to quality education and safe and protected learning spaces through preparedness and response capacity of communities, including authori ties.

During 2014 FCA has rehabilitated 53 schools, created 59 Temporary Learning Spaces and 10 Child Friendly Spaces, constructed 18 semi-permanent and 5 permanent school buildings as well as 47 semi-permanent classrooms and 2 Early Childhood Development Centres in disaster affected communities. In many cases provision of school furniture

N.B. All information in above sections is related to FCA’s activities in 2014.
Community participation and commitment has been one of the core elements of FCA’s education theme. During 2014 a number of Country Programmes reported of formation and training of parent - teacher associations (PTAs) and school management committees. These activities in 10 PTAs, support teachers, school directors’ and PTAs’ training in community mobilisation and Cash for Work (in CAR), continuous dialogue with local authorities to improve their response capacity to implement State priorities in education (in DRC), sensitisation of parents for the importance of education, child rights and child protection (in DRC and Lebanon), training of PTAs on school management (in DRC, South Sudan, Myanmar, and Cambodia), advocacy training to communities to lobby for primary education, literacy training and vocational training (in Angola and Mozambique), close collaboration with educational departments (in most countries), commitment of parents for the reduction of drop-out rates (in Nepal) and strengthening active participation of community members as citizens, contributing to their empowerment and understanding of education as public good and human right (in Haiti).

Towards Education Sector Development in Fragile Contexts

In Haiti the Regional Office supported a initiative focused on support to education quality in co-operation with Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Government of Finland, as well as Finnish companies. The collaboration between the Finnish and Haitian ministries for education resulted with a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in March 2014 between the two governments.

Collaboration of FCA and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland with Eritrea Government resulted also in a MoU and project plan to support teacher training development in Eritrea.

In several countries there are clear programmatic entry points to the sector development in existing projects, especially through vocational training (Sierra Leone, Nepal, Uganda).

In Cambodia education is one of the core themes of FCA, which is implemented through partnership with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS). The R2P programme in Cambodia has been expanding since early March 2014 with focus on enhancement of vocational orientation and career guidance at secondary education level. FCA co-operates with Vocational Orientation Department (VOD) of the MoEYS to disseminate Vocational Orientation Guideline to secondary teachers in 2 provinces (Kampot Chhinnang and Battambang). See more information in chapter 1.5 Volunteering, Teachers without Borders and Cambodia Country Programme report in chapter 3.

In Cambodia through Humanitarian Response Forum, FCA has built a network with the MoEYS and other key humanitarian organisations and UN agencies to establish a national education cluster in order to strengthen preparedness and capacity of education sector. FCA has been working together with other stakeholders to develop Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) for education sector which has been disseminated nationwide.

FCA is increasing its contribution to support education sector development especially in fragile situations. It would be recommended that the role of education would be consciously reflected, assessed and studied in nation building in fragile contexts – including in Somalia with the gradual turn of the country to the state-building.

1.3.4 Right to Peace (R2P)

2014 was marked by substantial changes with regards to conflict and stability globally: Major fighting broke out or continued in at least four of FCA’s Programme Countries. According to estimates over 2000 people have died in Gaza, and according to U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs 69% of those were civilians. Countries such as South Sudan and Central African Republic have also suffered from a high number of civilian casualties. While being estimates the terrible trend of high civilian casualties continues. Additionally, 2014 has seen an increase of transnational and very violent extremist movements: The consequences of the rise of the Islamic State, a radical Islam group that has seized large areas of territory in eastern Syria and across northern and western Iraq, can be seen in the numbers of refugees arriving in neighbouring countries. Similary Boko Haram is destabilising an already fragile area, with Chad being under pressure from multiple conflict affected countries, including Central African Republic. In addition, many of those macro-level political and religious conflicts are worsened by long-term local and regional conflicts. In this challenging context, FCA has continued to strengthen its Right to Peace (R2P) work as well as peace programming, as a peacemaking and peacebuilding actor as well as a multiplier and convener through the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers.

During the year 2014 FCA continued and extended its peace making and conflict transformation work both geographically and thematically. Positive community level mediation and reconciliation experience from different parts of Somalia have been replicated similarly with some success in Northern Kenya and South Sudan.

Community level peacemaking needs to be understood as a long-term process. Having said that, there are certain process milestones giving an indication of progress: In many local and regional conflict systems, the readiness to volunteer and the development of capacity of the people working in these systems is a key step in building a peace focused pipeline.
reflect on conflict and have a dialogue about change is such an indicator. Both in Kenya and Somalia those conflict transformation dialogues have reached a more formal level in signing local level peace agreements (four in Somaliland and one in central Somalia). Together with peace councils as local peace support structures (depending on the context called for example “Common Peace Commit-tee” (CPC) or “peace committees”) the agreements provide frameworks for sustaining peace. Capacity development has been an integral part of those community and district level peace making efforts. Those key support structures main function is sustaining peace: In practice, the regional (peace committees of Somaliland) have intervened in two erupted conflicts, carrying out peace awareness raising in zones and settlements affected by conflicting clans. The committee managed to settle the other conflict at an early stage, thus preventing escalation of full-scale conflict.

Elsewhere, the Common Peace Committee (CPC) visit-ed conflict sites and got the conflicting parties to agree on a ceasefire. In South Sudan, the local peace processes are not quite as far, but also there capacity development as well as joint conflict analysis has been implemented. Similar interventions than FCA’s work in Somalia have also been implemented to some extend in Northern Kenya as well as in South Sudan. While FCA recognises the added value of religious and traditional leaders in peace making, and is using this approach successfully, FCA has also aspired to understand the approach.

Apart from that, FCA increased its efforts to work with national actors on informal dialogue processes. Religion-faithelement-based actors are often well positioned to act as ‘bridge builders’ due to the moral and spiritu-lar legitimacy to influence the opinions of people. FCA has worked with insider mediators especially in Somalia, Kenya, South Sudan, DRC and Central African Republic.

Key to local level peace making and reconciliation in FCA’s contextual understanding as well its ability to work through conflict sensitive approaches [see also 1.2, conflict sensitive]. Here FCA has strengthened its global thematic assessment and awareness as a feedback guide for example in Cen-tral African Republic, Kenya, Occupied Palestinian Terri-tories, and Liberia have contributed to strengthening inter-ventions on the conflict level.

The work on Somalia also shows how specifically UNSC 1325 can be applied on local level: Women had their own conflict analysis meeting and results of that meeting were positively recognised by men. Somalia continues to be a strong case of bottom-up peace making: The tra-di-tional work on peace has gradually turned into a more comprehensive support to State-building in Somalia. Simi-larly, in addition to peace conventions in DRC, FCA and partners have designed a training module for women on different forms of dialogue and on different levels of intervention. In Cambodia for example as a result of series of consultations with youth organisations a group of young women was formed to lead the process of establishing a dynamic youth mechanism that plays an important role in non-violent, peaceful, open and respected for peacebuilding, for a bet-ter future. This includes actions and decisions of private sector and government in policies and social issues that are conducted. The network, therefore, was named Cambo-dian Changemaker Network (CCN). In Nepal projects with an originally strong rights focus have been modified to see strong efforts being made to involve and promote local initiatives in peace building, for example through women’s groups and youth groups. In the pOi, as a result of the Partner Pal-estinian Centre for Peace and Democracy (PCPD) project, there is enhanced knowledge and capacities of Palestin-i-an youth on the principles of just peace, as stipulated in the Palestinian Declaration of Independence, United Na-tions Resolutions and International Laws and declarations. The trained youth are strongly promoting the UN track in the different districts of the West Bank. In DRC a group of people has started to take positive political action while deplo-red the current conflict situation. The work is af-fairs in the DRC and the country’s future. The Alternatives act as a platform for change, linking local, provincial and national forces of change and empowering and facilitating their mobilisations. As long as the issue is viewed from another background (UN, business, university, military, agricultu-re etc.), the Alternatives work through informal dialogue to come up with much needed and profound agendas for change.

Objective 4: Decision-makers are willing and equipped to bear their responsibility to promote citizen security, includ-ing peaceful resolution of conflicts and protection.

In fragile contexts especially, many governments are strug-gling to play a constructive role in peacebuilding, for ex-ample, national dialogues and traditional mediation mechanisms are struggling with fragmented and complex con-flicts with many conflict parties. Transnational move-ments with unclear political aspirations make the opera-tion environment even more unpredictable.

However, FCA’s peace programme during 2014 and its new programme for the years 2015-2017 provide a frame-work for adapting to this new reality. Together with the changed environments. FCA has increased efforts in operationalising UNSC 1325 as well as New Deal inspired instruments and good practice. In line with FCA’s rights-based approach and as a result of the thematic linkages. FCA recognises that it needs to avoid working in silos and rather identify areas of syn-ergy, both internally and externally with partners.

During 2014, FCA has started adjustments to better sup-port and disseminate the new interventions. During planning phases of ongoing projects, the areas of joint concern are identified: Land ownership for example as a rights-issue might be a conflict driver, a bar-rier for livelihood projects, and at times also an indicator of limited rights awareness. This combination of joint anal-ysis and joint implementation has also been introduced during 2014, for example in interventions covering human rights education, parents & teacher associations as an “in-terface” into the community (training students and parents on non-violent conflict resolution in conflict-prone neigh-bourhoods in Haiti); in linking learning to earning —proj-ects in number of conflict-affected communities; and projects also covering sensitisation on key conflict drivers. An example of linking all three themes can be found in Myanmar: Education and Livelihoods provide meaningful alternatives and choices for people to avoid engagement in conflict. Aside from rational-economic motives, a bet-ter level of education and understanding mitigate further conflicts and can de-escalate tension in communities and between different groups.

Thematic synergies have strengthened the RBA imple-mentation and integration of the three themes more tightly together. However, challenges still remains in linking these important subjects to the overall work. Work is needed in revising the objectives and actions to the current thematic priorities and the operational context, the fragile statues and situations, as well as the strategy of FCA’s work. The continuous development of the RBA-implementation guide the work to better identify the vulnerabilities and marginalised groups specific to each region, e.g. paying more attention to various forms of vulnerabilities such as youth, gender, disability and ethnic minorities.

FCA will continue to develop its cross-thematic syner-gies also in 2015.

1.3.6 Advocacy

In 2014 FCA was active in advocacy work in its pro-gramme countries, globally and in Finland. Advocacy fo-cus was on FCA’s three strategic themes: R2E, R2L and R2P.

In addition, FCA also advocated on broader development co-operation and humanitarian aid related issues such as the upcoming big international negotiations on Post-2015 development agenda. Finance for Development and World Humanitarian Summit.

Advocacy in the Programme Countries

In line FCA has a rights-based approach and as a result of its continuous support to train and build the capacity of rights-holders to claim their rights, the level of rights-holders’ advocacy activities increased remarkably in 2014. Local institutions, especially women and youth, were very active in lobbying local authorities and/or national government on their community problems instead of wait-ing for bigger actors to lobby for them. As a result of their advocacy work great improvements to education, liveli-
In 2014 FCA was also active at the EU level advocacy work, both independently, through ACT Alliance (for- mer APRODEV) as well as through FCA’s other partner or-ganisations and networks (IDPS, RAFEJE, and VOICE). During 2014 summer a major alert was raised by the European Parliament that the EU would run out of li-
bidity on 2015. In addition, FCA is planning on placing more emphasis on these processes in the coming years.

In 2014, FCA put efforts in discussing ways to con-trIBUTE to the 3125 Global Review (Global Study). To this
end, FCA held discussions with Minister Elizabeth Rehn in Helsinki and with UN Women in New York. This work will continue beyond the reporting period.

In 2014 FCA produced a comprehensive study on radi-
calculation and recruitment in al-Shabaab in Somalia. The study was launched in a Religious Actors Combating Rad-
icalisation and Radicalization workshop in Turkmen stan organized by the Network for Religious and Traditional
Peacebuilders. The workshop explored radicalisation and efforts to combat violent extremism within the Christian, Muslim, Jewish, and Buddhist faiths and engaged US decision-
makers and politicians with the religious leaders from around the world on the topic. During the workshop participants provided and provided key recom-
medations for policymakers on how to support religious
leaders in their peace and mediation initiatives.

The New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States from Buru- san 2011 provided a natural framework for FCA to put rights-based approach in action with its emphasis on state
building and statebuilding, which led the process of drafting the Declaration on Hu-
man Right to Peace, to hold better and more frequent con-
tsultations with the UN Member states, UN agencies and
the civil society, with a view of reaching a consensus on the
Declaration on Human Right to Peace. With its engage-
ment, FCA was the most important external supporter of
the global initiative, with great significance to FCA’s strat-
egy and its mission to really put the importance of state
building and statebuilding on the agenda. At the end of
2014, FCA commissioned a study on the Gen-
eral Programme advocacy plan was done in DRC. The aim is to
continue the collaborative global initiative, with great significance to FCA’s strat-
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### Table 3

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<tr>
<th>Example of advocacy results in programme countries</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manto municipality declared mining-free-zone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manto, Salama and Sîca assigned municipal budget to 40 micro-irrigation systems, fencing 42 family plots and monthly scholarships to 5 university students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACT Monsanto law abolished</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reformed forest surveillance and increase in the number of forest guards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endorsement of Kamlari Education Guideline for Kamlari girls up to grade 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary school constructed for Kamlari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>136 educational scholarships for Kamlari</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidance on Joint Land Ownership finalised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>107 couples received joint land ownership certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissemination of 34 fried Halwais worth USD 28,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50 community associations received USD 19,341 from government and non-government authorities for ISAs, education, health facility improvement, entrepreneurship development and drinking water supply.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment of a farmer association, farmer forum, strategic plan and prioritised actions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 successfully mediated land cases</td>
</tr>
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| Zacchaeus Education Unit launched to empower religious leaders to play a much clearer role in conflict prevention and mitigation. In Somalia the process for setting up an Interim Administration for the Central Regions of Somalia, the clans represented by the Technical Committee as well as Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) and Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs (MOIFA) have explored different power sharing options between the clans. In 2014 FCA supported this process by training the Technical Committee on conflict resolution and conflict management. In addition, through FCA’s influence the quota for women’s participation in the delegation that will vote on the interim administration constitution was set to 30%. In relation to land rights, FCA provided capacity building and awareness raising on Alternative Dispute Resolutions, land laws and other relevant legal frameworks to local authorities among others in Cambodia. As a result the local authorities have understood how to solve problems of land dispute; and also changed their attitudes being encouraged and able to mediate conflict. Seven land dispute cases, 30 land cases were successfully mediated by these trained participants. Land rights issues are becoming widely integrated in FCA’s Country Programmes and topical concerns were raised for example in Cambodia, Nepal, Honduras, Guatemala, South Sudan and Somalia (see chapter 1.3.1 Right to Livelihood). Overall the level of advocacy work in 2014 varied across regions and within regions as well. In 2014 FCA saw an increased number of projects integrating advocacy elements into them and advocacy played an important role in the sustainability of the work. As a consequence many tangible and positive results were achieved. Some programme countries considered advocacy a back of advocacy resources and how much more they would benefit from an advocacy plan. In 2014, a Country Programme advocacy plan was done in DRC. The aim is to draft advocacy plans for most of the Country Programmes or Regions during 2015-2017. **Global advocacy** In 2014 FCA’s global advocacy matured and FCA was able to improve its aim of linking local work to global level. While global advocacy has become an elemental part of FCA’s work as can be seen in the following global advocacy results, linking the local and global work still more seamlessly is a challenge that will be improved in the latter part of the strategic period. Advocacy messages from local level were successfully brought to international level through Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and CEDAW processes. For example in DRC FCA’s partner RAIFEJ’s CEDAW report was published on the web pages of the UN DCHR and the expert group providing recommendations for DRC government adopted some of the recommendations by RAIFEJ in their final report to the DRC Government. FCA also supported its partners Myanmar and Nepal in preparing for second cycle of UPR in 2014. In addition, FCA is planning on placing more emphasis on these processes in the coming years. In 2014, FCA put efforts in discussing ways to contribute to the 3125 Global Review (Global Study). To this end, FCA held discussions with Minister Elizabeth Rehn in Helsinki and with UN Women in New York. This work will continue beyond the reporting period. In 2014 FCA produced a comprehensive study on radicalisation and recruitment in al-Shabaab in Somalia. The study was launched in a Religious Actors Combating Radicalisation and Radicalization workshop in Turkmen stan organized by the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacebuilders. The workshop explored radicalisation and efforts to combat violent extremism within the Christian, Muslim, Jewish, and Buddhist faiths and engaged US decision-makers and politicians with the religious leaders from around the world on the topic. During the workshop participants provided and provided key recommendations for policymakers on how to support religious
actively in the process both through joint NGO activities in Finland as well as through supporting ACT Alliance EU and ACT Alliance New York office. A major effort was done on influencing and commenting on the UN intergov- ernmental process on Sustainable Develop- ment Financing (ICSDF) report. One of the Committee’s co-chairs, Ambassador Pertti Mäijänen said that the paper 11 critical outcomes that the ICSDF report must include prepared by NGOs, is a key reference and input for him in the final negotiation and drafting stage.

In addition, FCA together with ACT Alliance EU (for- mer APRODEV) was successful in promoting dialogue with EU Development Commissioner, Hahn for civil society and on hu- man rights, especially in Central America were CSO work is deteriorating. ACT Alliance EU with the support of FCA co-led an intense coordination work with Central Ameri- can countries to assure a strong and credible Observatory responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Association Agreement between the EU and Central Amer- ica. The EU’s recognition of ACT Alliance EU’s expertise and advocacy work during the negotiation and ratification of the Association Agreement resulted in that DG promot- ed the participation of ACT Alliance EU in the European component of a Domestic Advisory Group as a full mem- ber with voting rights. In relation to Middle East advocacy work FCA together with ACT Alliance EU worked on top- ics such as forced displacement, destruction of infrastruc- ture and forced displacement in Syria, to convey the messages. In 2014 efforts in 2014 included Member States reaching an agreement on principle to request compensation for the destruction and seizure of EU funded infrastructure and 16 member States Publishing advice to their companies about the risks involved in investing settlement-related activi- ties.

In 2014 FCA participated in EU level advocacy work also being a member of the Development Policy Committee, KEPA, Kyevs, KATU, IONK, the 1325 Network in Finland, Fri- day group and Finnwatch. Membership in these networks provided FCA with a good position to participate and ad- vocate the issues related to the issues related to the cross-cutting objectives of the Finnish development policy. In addition to the aforementioned joint election campaign, examples of this work in 2014 were contribution in the writing of the Annual Report of the European Development Policy Committee and making remarks towards the end of the current reign of the gov- ernment of Finland; constant participation in post2015 process through commenting decisions, taking part in hearings, and FCA's staff members. In addition, FCA's staff members. In addition, FCA’s staff members. In addition, FCA’s staff members. In addition, FCA’s staff members. In addition, FCA’s staff members. In addition, FCA’s staff members. In addition, FCA’s staff members. In addition, FCA’s staff members.

Advocacy in Finland

In Finland, key advocacy focus in 2014 was on Right to Education. FCA’s yearly thematic campaign raised su- cessfully the issue of teacher shortage in development countries. FCA published an ABC -leaflet on the need for proper teacher training, organised a panel discussion on right to education during World Village festival and met several high-level parliamentarians. The campaign message was spread through social media, TV, YouTube and print. The campaign will be described more in detail in the chapter 3, “Communications and Campaigning”.

In addition, FCA continued to raise awareness on Right to Peace by participating in a panel discussion on youth and radicalisation in Port Suomi-Arena, by publishing an article on Somalia in the Horn of Africa magazine.

participated actively in the Finnish Somalia Network.

With the Parliamentary elections coming up in 2015 and the constant cuts on official development assistance (ODA), FCA gathered a group of high level political party par- liamentarians in May to lobby to Parliament in order to show the results of development co-operation on grass root level. Due to Ebola epidemic the visit was cancelled but FCA held a meeting and gave the party members a pre- sentation on Liberia’s situation. New visit was arranged and it took place in January 2015 in Cambodia. Links with Members of Parliament were also strengthened through Women’s Bank initiative.

In preparing for the Parliamentary elections, FCA took also active part in planning, preparing and launching a joint NGO election campaign Maailman taloudentekijät, coordinated by Kepa. The main part of the campaign was executed by FCA’s staff members.

In addition, FCA engaged with governmental officials in various meetings, wrote several letters and statements and participated in Parliament’s Committee hearings and advocacy work during the negotiation and ratification of the Association Agreement resulted in that DG promot- ed the participation of ACT Alliance EU in the European component of a Domestic Advisory Group as a full mem-

In 2014 FCA participated in EU level advocacy work also being a member of the Development Policy Committee, KEPA, Kyevs, KATU, IONK, the 1325 Network in Finland, Fri-

Because of the armed conflict and the political situation in the country or region. These were Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Myanmar, South Sudan, Somalia, Uganda, Liberia and Jordan. In July 2014 an armed conflict broke out between In- saaf and Government. The conflict was so serious that it est one between Palestinian factions and Israel since the Second Intifada that ended in 2005. With MFA humani-

tarian aid funding FCA supported displaced and conflict- affected people towards restoring normality, self-reliance and dignity by a provision of unconditional cash grants. We ensured also appropriate and technically high quality psychosocial support to trauma-affected children and their families.

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1.4 Partners and Networks

Finn Church Aid (FCA) works together with a number of partners and networks. As a faith-based organisation, FCA has developed special expertise in working with other faith-based organisations. FCA co-operates with ecumenical and international faith cooperation and adherence to humanitarian principles and human rights. FCA works also with secular, often grass-root organisations.

International Partners and Networks

FCA is a founding member and one of the main stakeholders of ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together), which is a coalition of many faith-based and secular organisations working together in over 140 countries on three targeted areas: humanitarian aid, development and advocacy. ACT Alliance is supported by 25,000 staff from member organisations and it mobilises about EUR 1.5 billion for its work each year. ACT Alliance membership is of major strategic value for FCA.

In 2014 FCA worked successfully together with ACT Alliance on some of its humanitarian operations, helped to draft various policies to improve alliance development work and advocated jointly on Post-2015 development agenda. World Summit on Humanitarian Aid and climate change. In 2014 ACT held its General Assembly and a new strategy was drafted and approved. FCA participated actively in both the drafting process of the strategy and the assembly. In addition, FCA participated in two of the ACT Alliance Advisory Group's one on humanitarian policy and practice and the other on communications, media and branding. FCA was also a member of Community of Practice on Gender Equity and Justice and Community of Practice on Safety and Security. As the Alliance has grown, it became clear that there is a need to decentralise the ACT Alliance Secretariat and restructure its work. In 2014 FCA supported the process of restructuring, which will be in effect in 2015 and is hoped to improve coordination. More detailed information on the cooperation can be found in the Co-operation chapter in section 1.3.6. (see also chapter 3.1.6: Advocacy) is a platform for cooperation for European church-based development organisations related to ACT Alliance. The main objective of ACT Alliance EU is to influence decision-making processes in the European Union institutions as these affect developing countries, in order to promote justice and peace, and the eradication of poverty.

ACT Alliance EU working groups on Rights, Participation, EC and International Funding and Relief, Gender, Reference Group as well as in two regional groups for Central America and the Middle East. The advocacy work of the fore-mentioned groups was very active and successful. More detailed information can be found in the advocacy chapter (1.3.6.3) of this report. In addition, FCA was represented in ACT Alliance EU’s Policy Advisory Group which supports ACT Alliance EU on the policy leadership level. During 2014 policy advisory work consisted mostly of evaluating ACT Alliance EU’s work and planning for the future. Drafting of a new strategy was started, focus areas were discussed and possibilities to influence EU decision-making in the most effective way were evaluated. The former name PRODEV was replaced with the new name ACT Alliance EU on January 1st, 2015. A new strategy with new working methods will be adopted in spring 2015 with the official launch of ACT Alliance EU.

Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is FCA's oldest and by volume the single largest partner in implementing development and humanitarian aid programmes. In 2014 FCA co-operated with 11 LWF country programmes managed by LWF Department for World Service. FCA's involvement with World Service is demonstrated later in this report under country programmes.

FCA promoted the LWF Development and Capacity Building programmes. Through these programmes in the field of e.g. disaster preparedness, gender equality and good governance, it was possible for Finn Church Aid to support wider scale of small churches. Supporting churches in rural areas is a successful method to build capacity of such institutions which have been there for a long time and which will stay no matter of catastrophe, conflict or alike. It also links strongly with FCA strategy on empowering local churches via ecumenical alliances and in relation to building capacity for disaster preparedness.

In addition FCA supported LWF's projects in the field of religion and development. FCA has collaborated for example with the department in order to link human rights and gender related advocacy efforts in FCA’s programme countries with the UN on both levels as well as between UN agencies and ACT Alliance. FCA has a permanent representative based in Geneva. LWF's programme on human rights and the Cluster Coordinator has been deployed to the Humanitarian Aid and Regulation and Financial Regulation.

FCA works closely with the EU delegations and ECHO offices at country level in many programme countries. FCA has been implementing European Union funded development projects since 1995. In 2014 FCA started the implementation of two new projects in Rakhine State, Myanmar under the ECHO Children of Peace Initiative and an EU development project on conflict resolution in South-Central Somalia under the Non-State Actors programme.

Over the last three years FCA has systematically built partnerships and deeper collaboration with the World Bank and Regional Development Banks both on HQ and country level. The collaboration includes CDWAW and UPR recommendations, advocacy as well as programme collaboration. FCA has also been involved in the coordination of EU development projects in Central Asia, such as EU support to Tomsk region. FCA has been working for the establishment of the EU Human Rights and Development Dialogue and the EU Human Rights and Development Partnership Framework. These efforts have led to the establishment of the Human Rights and Development Dialogue and the EU Human Rights and Development Partnership Framework.

In 2014 FCA supported the launch of ACT Alliance EU. A new strategy with new working methods will be adopted in spring 2015 with the official launch of ACT Alliance EU.

FCA represents the ACT Alliance and the faith-based others of ACT Alliance EU’s work and planning for the future. Drafting of a new strategy was started, focus areas were discussed and possibilities to influence EU decision-making in the most effective way were evaluated. The former name PRODEV was replaced with the new name ACT Alliance EU on January 1st, 2015. A new strategy with new working methods will be adopted in spring 2015 with the official launch of ACT Alliance EU.

Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is FCA's oldest and by volume the single largest partner in implementing development and humanitarian aid programmes. In 2014 FCA co-operated with 11 LWF country programmes managed by LWF Department for World Service. FCA's involvement with World Service is demonstrated later in this report under country programmes. In addition FCA supported LWF Department for Mission and Development Capacity Building programmes. Through these programmes in the field of e.g. disaster preparedness, gender equality and good governance, it was possible for Finn Church Aid to support wider scale of small churches. Supporting churches in rural areas is a successful method to build capacity of such institutions which have been there for a long time and which will stay no matter of catastrophe, conflict or alike. It also links strongly with FCA strategy on empowering local churches via ecumenical alliances and in relation to building capacity for disaster preparedness.

In addition FCA supported LWF's projects in the field of religion and development. FCA has collaborated for example with the department in order to link human rights and gender related advocacy efforts in FCA’s programme countries with the UN on both levels as well as between UN agencies and ACT Alliance. FCA has a permanent representative based in Geneva. LWF's programme on human rights and the Cluster Coordinator has been deployed to the Humanitarian Aid and Regulation and Financial Regulation.

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FCA has been active in the planning of the new strategic plan for Global Education Cluster during 2014. New roles and responsibilities have been negotiated within Global Education Cluster and the Cluster Coordinator has been deployed to Mauritania (Sahel food crisis), to Pakistan and three times to Central African Republic.

FCA has a formal MoU based partnership with UNHCR concerning humanitarian logistics. FCA and UNICEF signed a MoU in 2012 concerning the Rapid Response Mechanism for Functional Non-State Actors. FCA has employed one full-time expert for use of country cluster activation and coordination. The expert will be seconded to UNICEF.

As a member of the gEC, FCA has been involved in the planning of the new strategic plan for Global Education Cluster during 2014. New roles and responsibilities have been negotiated within Global Education Cluster and the Cluster Coordinator has been deployed to Mauritania (Sahel food crisis), to Pakistan and three times to Central African Republic.

The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers has also strong collaboration with various UN agencies as part of its network activities.

The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers

The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers was initiated in 2013 as a direct result of UN Secretary General's report noting that despite the unique role of religious and traditional peacemakers, “they are often not fully acknowledged, and their potential contribution remains underutilised.” ([UN GA Report A/68/811, 2012]) Furthermore, the report acknowledged that enhanced dialogue and collaboration with religious leaders is essential in supporting the development of UN media-
In 2014, special focus was given to widening the network of actors involved. The Network secretariat was responsible for mapping of regional/thematic actors and organised collaborative consultations for joint action planning. FCA is one of the development organisations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA) Partnership of the Action Plan gave a good opportunity to learn from these assessments when improving its modalities on work-planning and partnership management. In 2014, first edition of the Network, the Network was financially supported by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland (Unit for UN and General Global Affairs) and Finn Church Aid. The Network’s objective is to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of mediation efforts through strengthening local ownership and supporting the positive role of religious and traditional leaders in mediation. In specific, the Network seeks to:

1. engage in advocacy to promote the role of religious and traditional actors play in peacebuilding
2. develop strategies to support local ownership and local structures in peacebuilding
3. support and facilitate synergies and collaboration

In 2014, several achievements and partnerships were established.

In domestic co-operation, FCA has several channels for collaboration and FCA works actively together with other Finnish development actors. FCA is a member of the Service Center for Development Co-operation (Kepa) and the Resettlement of Finnish Quota Refugees (KePRA). There are several thematic and timely working groups in which FCA is involved. These are Quality Assurance Working Group of the Partnership NGOs of MFA, coordinated by Kepa and the Security and Development Working Group, Global Education Reference Group, Task Force on Post 2015 and Steering Group of European Year of Development coordinated by Kepa. In addition, FCA participates actively in ad hoc working groups and advocacy initiatives raised on topical needs such as the West African working group and general discussion on development aid effectiveness and quality issues, coordinated by Kepa.

In 2014, FCA has partnered with a large number of NGO’s, churches and church-related development organisations, totalling over 30. During the years 2013-2014 new partnerships have been started and some old ones terminated due to e.g. exits from selected countries. Thus the total number of partners has remained relatively stable.

FCA works first and foremost with and through partners and therefore partnership management has become a central issue for FCA. Need for careful, transparent and uniform selection of partners has become more crucial when FCA has increased the share of local, bilateral partners in its partnership portfolio. Many of the new partners are relatively small and working in fragile contexts. All partnerships should be based on mutually shared values, commonly agreed goals and respect for human rights (non-negotiable). In addition, selection of partners is based on qualities such as actor’s ability to deliver a substantial change in the given environment, organisational capacities, the relevance of partner’s thematic expertise, the local ownership and the relevance of partner’s thematic expertise. Local ownership is a critical criterion when choosing partners.

The key goal regarding operational partnerships for 2014 was revision of the FCA Partnership Policy and relating guidelines, including launching of a Partnership Agreement model. However, due to strategic dimensions of the Partnership Policy this work was postponed until 2015, to be carried out jointly with other development cooperation strategies.

The programme aims to contribute to a just and lasting peace in Israel and Palestine through the work of volunteers, Ecumenical Accompaniers (EAs). The work of EAs can be divided into three distinct areas: monitoring the human rights situation, providing protective presence (including advocacy work) and offering support to local communities, NGOs and churches, who use non-violent means to promote peace in the area. Accompaniment method provides much more than physical protection. Through the EAs’ presence, EAPPI also engages with the psychological and emotional well-being of those whom live under occupation. Living in the communities brings the EAs closer to the real needs of the population. The sight of EAs in their vests in the West Bank helps people feel that they are not forgotten by the international community. The programme is well respected and appreciated by both the Palestinians and the Israelis. The Israeli peace movement – a small part of Israeli society - appreciate EAPPI’s presence at their non-violent demonstrations and vigils. Many of those Israeli organisations feel internalised and isolated and need support from the international community to help them pressure their government from both the inside and the outside.

In 2014 FCA sent 13 EAs to Occupied Palestinian Territories for 3 months each. Finland is one of the bigger contributors to the programme. All volunteers participated in a four-day-training and a briefing session prior to deployment, as well as a debriefing session after their mission.

Finnish Church Aid and engagement at 8 placements: Jerusalem, Jerusalem Al-Ram, Bethlehem, Hebron, Tulkarm, Jeryyus, Yassun and Yatta (South Hebron
The EA's presence, and decreased harassment has had a positive effect in school attendance. The EAs also brought attention to the situation in the settlement expansion and the forced displacement of Bedouins. One EA participated in a WCC-organised Brus-
sels trip and brought these issues up in meetings with Finnish MEPs.

The EAs also brought attention to the situation in the West Bank in numerous press articles, blog posts and social media items written in Finnish and Swedish. For examples a journalist EA held a popular blog at YLE Svenska. An EA's personal blog post about Sodastream's settlement activities attracted 30,000 views. Many EAs were also interviewed in different media outlets.

Teachers without Borders

Teachers without Borders (TwB) is a network for teachers and educational professionals. The Network provides support for global education in Finland, an opportunity to use and develop teachers' competencies by working abroad and support the capacity of local teachers in developing countries. Teachers without Borders (TwB) network aims to:

1. Develop the quality of education in the most fragile states by supporting pedagogical skills of local teachers and by supporting educational sector generally.
2. Support global education in Finnish school by developing tools, models, methods and new material for everyday school life.
3. Offer opportunities for education professionals to expand their expertise by volunteering in developing coun-
tries for 3-12 months or by participating in The World Teacher Programme.
4. Offer training process for Finnish education profession-
als by developing their abilities as a volunteer in education sector in fragile states and by supporting their com-
petences as a global educators.

The TwB Network has been directed by a steering commit-
tee since autumn 2012 that includes: Trade Union of Educa-
tion (Chair), Finnish National Board of Education (Opetsushallitus, Vice Chair), Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Vice Chair), Ministry of Education and Culture (OKM), CIMO center for International University of Helsinki and Oulu University Service Center for Development Co-operation (KEPA), Kenya, Department of teacher Education (OKL), National Church Council of evangelical Lutheran Church and Finn Church Aid, which the steering committee has named the network's secretary.

TwB Network organised the World teachers' day semi-
nar on 5.10.2014 in Helsinki which gathered around 70 edu-
cation professionals. In the seminar TwB Network gave

Luukko

result from the Capacity Building through Voluntarism pilot

The expert volunteers focused on strengthening the capac-
ity of local partners or Regional Office by capacity building activities through workshops, trainings, support and on the job training of local staff and possibly local communities. By analysis of the needs of the local organisation was decided the focus of the volunteer placement together with Regional Offices and HQ.

The political situation in South Sudan is very fragile, political instability prevented many pre-service and in-service teachers from attending lectures. Other challenges were shortage of food in KITE, shortage of educational re-

The political situation in the region got more difficult and security deteriorated significantly. Therefore it was de-
cided to move the volunteer to Uganda to another project by the end of the year 2014.

The recruitment process of volunteer teachers was or-
decided to move the volunteer to Uganda to another project by

The West Africa and Jordan posts will be re-opened for 2015 vol-
unteer recruitment.

The selected teachers were trained on 26-22.8.2014 in Teachers without Borders training in Helsinki. The main content areas in the training were volunteers' identity and personal growth, dialogue as an orientation and com-
munication, Human Rights-based Approach, Education in Emergencies, intercultural communication and activities in voluntary work. culture and Religion, Empowerment in de-

Results from the Capacity Building through Voluntarism pilot

The tasks of TwB volunteer were to improve the quality of

teacher training in KITE especially concentrating on the teaching methods and the teaching of English language.

The political situation in South Sudan is very fragile, political instability prevented many pre-service and in-service teachers from attending lectures. Other challenges were shortage of food in KITE, shortage of educational resources, shortage of staff and the missing principal. Lots of

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Education specialist at FCA Asia Regional Office, Cambodia

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The tasks of TwB volunteer were to improve the quality of

teacher training in KITE especially concentrating on the teaching methods and the teaching of English language.
The actions that took place during the volunteer term were following:

- Organising the FinnEdu (Finnish Education Forum) – education seminar and event, which presented Finnish education system and FCAs education work for participants from the ministry of education of Cambodia and other education sector actors. The seminar was presented in three television channels.
- Participation in the Partner assessment of a new potential partner organisation
- Taking part of the model school and learning environment piloting and planning of film and other material production for Finnish schools to support their global education
- Organising trainings for the local Changemaker youth network in media skills and production
- Education Needs Assessment in Myanmar, North-Shan district, related to Kachin crisis

The volunteer term was evaluated very positively and the impact and relevance of actions carried out were appreciated by the FCA and our partners’ staff.

Education specialist at Ministry of Education, Cambodia FCA started a two-year project in 2014 supporting the Ministry of Education in Cambodia in building up a career counselling curriculum and organising pilot teacher trainings together with the ministry. During 2014 there were two Thai volunteers to carry out this project. The project will continue until the end of 2015, when the curriculum should be in use in the selected schools and the first teacher training pilots have been carried out.

During 2014 there was a base study done for curriculum writing process, the curriculum was written in communicative process with the ministry and the pilot trainings were planned to take place in Battambang district in career counselling together with the ministry of education and district leadership: 50 teachers from 5 different schools and local NGO representatives will be trained. Pilot consists seven months with 21 contact working days and pre-tasks before the contact periods. Mentoring will be organised before the contact period, if needed.

The process of planning the career counselling curriculum with the Ministry of Education was successful, but slow including lots of bureaucracy and difficult decision-making processes. In conclusion the first two volunteers considered they did not achieve as much as they wished for but on the other hand the set goals were reached. Trust building and personal relations towards the ministry takes long including lots of bureaucracy and difficult decision-making processes. In 2014 the first two volunteers together with the volunteers local fundraising make this possible.

In 2014 Women’s Bank got a new chairwoman when Reetta Meriläinen, a former long-term editor-in-chief of Helsinki Sanomat, started in this position.

The biggest annual event is a massive fundraising effort called “walk a profession for women”. In 2014 this was organised for the 5th time and it was simultaneously held in 28 different communities. The event raised over EUR 60,000 and brought together over 1,500 Finnish people to support women in developing countries.

During 2014 Women’s Bank supported projects in 12 of FCA’s programme countries: Cambodia, Nepal, Myanmar, Guatemala, Haiti, Kosovo, O.P.T., Angola, Uganda, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Democratic Republic of the Congo. This was a first year of implementation of Women’s Bank’s projects in Myanmar. In 2014 Women’s Bank made an exception and allocated funds for Liberia and Sierra Leone to battle Ebola epidemic. By the end of the year Women’s Bank’s projects came to an end in Angola, Kosovo, O.P.T. and Haiti. Therefore the work will continue in 8 countries. So far the Women’s Bank has been able to support over 25,000 people in 13 different countries.

In 2014, Women’s Bank took important steps towards a skills donation programme that would make the substantial private and finance sector expertise of the volunteer community available in project development and implementation as well as in seeking new models and sources for financing project interventions. First short-term assignments of Women’s Bank volunteers will take place in Asia and West Africa in 2015.

Changemaker

Changemaker is an advocacy network for youth and young adults that strives for global justice. All the activities target social structures that uphold or promote injustice. Changemaker was founded in 2004 and is a part of FCA. In November 2014 Changemaker celebrated its 10th anniversary by organising four events throughout one day and by inviting its members and stakeholders to the celebration.

The three main themes of advocacy in Changemaker are peace, debt and environment. In 2014 the main campaign of the network was organised by the debt group in co-operation with several other organisations. The theme of the campaign was tax havens. During the campaign Changemaker collected postcards for three major Finnish companies (Stora Enso, KONE and UPM Kymmene) to encourage them to become trailblazers in more transparent country-by-country reporting of their paid taxes. The campaign activities in Changemaker were both planned and executed by the volunteers in the network.

Changemaker has 19 local groups around Finland working for global justice. During the year 2014 an age limit was set for the membership to ensure true youth leadership. The age limit is 35 years and because of the limitation 183 members were excluded from the register of members. Most of the loss was compensated by active recruiting of new members and as a result a minor reduction in the number of members occurred. At the end of year 2014 Changemaker had 1,589 members.

Changemaker does also global education. Representatives of Changemaker educated 49 students to use educational materials of Changemaker and visited 16 confirmation camps and 7 schools educating hundreds of youth to global issues.

Changemaker’s own magazine, Globalisti, which covers global issues, was published twice during the year. The theme of the first issue was youth (4,700 copies printed) and the theme of second issue was tax havens (3,500 copies). Globalisti reached an audience of thousands of youth at various events and schools, where teachers could order the magazine via SubjectAid service (all together 4,640 copies).

As well as the campaign and local groups, the editorial staff of Globalisti consists of volunteers.
2. Programme Management and Development

2.1 Organisation

Organisational Structure

FCA has become a more global organisation during the last few years. This has meant developing the organisational structure and adopting new ways of working in the organisation. After an organisational reform in 2013 some additional changes were made in the organisational structure in 2014. One aim was to have better synergy between fundraising and communications. Hence, Fundraising and Communications departments were merged.

Another aim was to strengthen FCA Programme’s thematic development and improve support for the programme work in the Regional and Country Offices. In October 2014 leadership of thematic development of all three themes (R2L, R2E, and R2P) was given to FCA’s International Director.

Consequently six thematic staff members were relocated to International Programme Department (IPRO) from other departments of the organisation. After this change thematic development, RFA, gender advisory and advocacy support for Regional and Country Offices are within IPRO mandate. In addition international voluntarism and Teachers without Borders are more closely coordinated from within IPRO. After the reassignment of the thematic advisors, Programme and Organisational Development department (PODE) remains the whole organisation’s development, quality assurance and planning department.

CAB, the cabinet of advocacy work, ceased to exist in 2014 and its resources were appointed to the Secretariat of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers. The secretariat remained under the administrative affiliation of FCA, but has its own identity.

The preparations for opening an office in USA started in 2013. Finn Church Aid USA Inc. was registered in the state of Delaware and District of Columbia (Washington) in December 2014. The office focuses in network and partnership building as well as fundraising. The office interacts with the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, US government entities such as USAID, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM), Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) as well as ACT Alliance North American members. The office organises promotional activities and events. The office also accommodates the Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers Washington Director in addition to the FCA Executive Representative, the Grants Coordinator and the Senior Assistant.

FCA Regional and Country Offices

In mid-2014 FCA’s East and South Africa Regional Office reorganised the regional structures so that in addition to the already existing South Sudan and Somalia Country Offices two new Country Offices were established: one to Uganda, Kampala and one to Kenya, Nairobi. The reason behind this was that FCA’s own implementation had grown in the region, and that working modality requires project management to be done as close to the project as possible. It helps also to clarify the responsibilities on regional and country levels. The new structure has proven to be a good way to organise FCA’s work in the field and it will be developed further during 2015.

The Regional Offices were:
- West Africa Regional Office in Monrovia, Liberia – WARO
- Central Africa Regional Office in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) – CARO
- Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office in Nairobi, Kenya – ESARO
- Asia Regional Office in Phnom Penh, Cambodia – ARO
- Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office in Port-au-Prince, Haiti – LACRO
- Middle East Regional Office in Amman, Jordan – MERO

The country offices were:
- Kenya Country Office in Nairobi – KEKO shares the same office space with ESARO
- South Sudan Country Office in Juba – SSUCO
- Somalia Country Office in Hargeisa, Somalia and – SOCO
- Uganda Country Office in Kampala – UCACO
- Central African Republic Country Office in Bangui – CAR
- USA office in Washington – USO

Other Field Presence

- Nepal presence opened in June 2013 with one locally recruited programme coordinator. Presence operates under ARO.
- Sierra Leone presence was established in 2013 with one locally recruited Programme Coordinator. A locally recruited Finance and Administration Assistant started in 2013. Presence operates under and is included in the budget of WARO.
- South Central Somalia, Mogadishu presence was strengthened during 2014 with two expats and two locally recruited staff permanently based there. Other Somalia Country Programme staff were working part time in Mogadishu as well.
- The Philippines: FCA had a small field team working in the Philippines for school construction work until November 2014.

2.2 Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

With the FCA strategy 2013-2016 in place, FCA started to measure the results of its work at four levels: strategic level, overall programme level, country programme level and project level. The strategy has determined the general objectives for the organisation.

FCA’s overall programme’s main three themes have been divided into 12 objectives (for Right to Livelihood, 5 for Right to Education, 4 for Right to Peace)., which have integrated the cross-cutting themes and the objectives for development co-operation, humanitarian aid and advocacy. Signs of success for the objectives. In addition FCA had objectives related to institutional capacity and organisational development, all which have their own signs of success.

2014 was a year of major development for FCA’s programme level objective and indicator work. Learning from the implementation of the two-year programme (2013-2014) and in the preparation of the programme for 2015-2017, FCA defined the programme’s objectives and signs of success into clearer objectives, sub-objectives and more concrete indicators.

An International Programme Planning workshop was organised in Helsinki for Finn Church Aid’s programme staff. The main objective of the workshop was to work in a participatory manner on Finn Church Aid’s programmatic objectives’ setting and indicators. Work continued in Finn Church Aid’s programmes. The result of this process was the finalisation of Finn Church Aid’s Global Programme 2015-2017 in August 2014.

To support programming and improve its quality, during 2013-2014 FCA developed a context analysis format and thematic assessment formats. The purpose of the context analysis format is to ensure that the contexts, where FCA operates in, are analysed more thoroughly and according to RBA principles. Ideally the context analysis phase should be followed by the thematic assessment within the given context. Both of these tools aid FCA’s programming. These two phases have in our experience assisted programme purposes and improved programming quality.

During 2014 revisions to FCA’s PME project level guidelines and formats were started and the process is on-going. The development of the PME system and documentation on the intranet was furthered during 2014. In early 2015 the redeveloped PME intranet site was launched.

At organisational level, planning was done annually and monitoring and reporting on the results was done on a quarterly basis. Each function and Field Office planned and reported against FCA’s strategic objectives and every employee’s personal work plan contributed to achieving the strategic objectives. FCA Board approved the organisational level annual plans and the Management Team oversaw the planning, monitoring and reporting process as well as looked at the fulfillment of the objectives. In addition to quarterly reporting, the regional representatives reported on management and operational issues to their supervisor on a monthly basis. As this system started oper-
2.4 Studies Conducted in 2014

FCA conducted all together nine (9) thematic assessments and two (2) context analyses in the Country Programmes during 2014. The purpose of thematic assessments and context analyses has been described in the chapter 2.2 “Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting”. Thematic assessments have been proved to be very useful in developing of the FCA’s Country Programmes. Main conclusions from the assessments are discussed in the Country Programme Reports in the chapter 3.

In addition, FCA and the implementing partners conducted a range of other studies, such as project evaluations (9), midterm evaluations (4) and other studies for example feasibility studies, rapid needs assessments and baseline surveys. In 2014 more emphasis has been given on information sharing and learning from different kind of studies and assessments, so that analysed information feeds into the planning phase at the project and country programme levels.

2.5 Risk Management, Internal Audit and Security

Risk Management

The risk management system has been developed during 2013-2014. All FCA’s Regional Offices started to use the tool during this period, meaning that risk assessment is now integrated into the quarterly planning and reporting system at FCA.

Risks were assessed on a quarterly basis, first by functional level and thereafter at the Management team level. The key risks were handled at the Board level.

FCA works in fragile contexts that cause additional risks for the organisation and our programmes. Thus all below mentioned risks evolve from fragile working environment. FCA’s field presence functions as a mean of risk mitigation by supporting finance and programme management but also raises risks for staff security and other human resource issues.

Key risks and actions taken at organisational level in 2014 were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risks</th>
<th>Risk definition</th>
<th>Actions taken</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Financial management and systems</td>
<td>Risk of fraud cases, corruption and misuse of funds.</td>
<td>High quality finance professionals hired, Procurement training for staff organised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Programme management/ quality</td>
<td>Risk of low programme quality due to capacity gaps of local partners/FCA staff</td>
<td>Developing the programme quality and accountability (theme work, planning, implementation, reporting, evaluation and learning). Systematically and disciplined use of guidelines.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Staff security</td>
<td>Risk of social and political unrest, man-made and natural catastrophes and criminality, which can endanger the security of FCA staff, property and programmes.</td>
<td>Systematically use of security plans and risk management. On-going training scheme in place, preparedness plans in place and clear communication &amp; response plan in place.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Human resources and leadership</td>
<td>Difficulty to recruit staff with right competencies to challenging contexts of operation. Risk of high turnover of staff in challenging contexts.</td>
<td>Efficient HR policy, systems and lean procedures. A sustainable leadership development programmes for Global Management Team has been started.</td>
</tr>
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Internal Audit

Internal Audit is an organisationally independent and objective assurance and consulting activity that is guided by a philosophy of adding value to improve the operations of Finn Church Aid Foundation (FCA).

It assists FCA in accomplishing its objectives by bringing a systematic and disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the organisation’s governance, risk management and internal control.

Internal audit main focus in 2014 was on five specific objectives:

1. Contents, relevance and effectiveness of risk mitigation methods were evaluated.
2. Assurance of good governance practices; transparency, sound financial management, adequacy of resource utilisation and compliance to operational standards and requirements.
3. Monitoring of financial management practices; processes and compliance were monitored in the head office and six field offices. Procurement training was arranged in four field offices.
4. An extensive internal control mechanism evaluation was conducted in the head office and was an integral part of the field mission objectives.
5. Administrative field mission was carried out in West Africa Regional Office, Middle East Regional Office, Asia Regional Office, Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office and the Central African Republic - Country Office.

During the period of 2013-14, audit committee of the Board has been actively involved in the development and monitoring of organisational control structures and met several members of the Management Team to gain insight of operational procedures.

In West Africa due to Ebola epidemic mitigation plans were prepared and the programmes adjusted to respond the situation. Strong security follow-up, strict security orders and evacuation plans made.

In Somalia, limiting staff movement to Mogadishu only to essential visits to reduce risk.
Security

FCA is continuously aiming at improving work practices, security measures and appropriate training, especially in contexts of medium to high security constraints. The main FCA security strategy is acceptance of our presence and work supported by our values and coherent actions and a dialogue within the communities and the authorities, supported by measures of protection within specific identified risks and in some rare cases of deterrence as in using armed guards for the office and the residence or for transport in some extreme situations. This means that we enter communities through partners and seek close relations and the involvement of the community both through leaders and ordinary members. A key element is clear and coherent communication of our mandate and goals with the community as well as the limitations of our actions. Security is achieved when all staff are safe, relative to an assessment of the risks to staff and the organisation.

The primary management tool for security preparedness at the FCA mission offices is the Security Plan. Security Plans were under review during 2014 and standardising the plans and procedures begun in order to provide better and practical security tools for Regional Representatives, Country Managers and field personnel. In addition FCA Security Policy was introduced. In addition to the Helsinki-based Security Manager FCA recruited a Regional Security Manager to assist personnel in all security related issues and training FCA staff on the field. Regional Security Manager is positioned in Somalia, Mogadishu and operates mainly in high-risk countries. FCA continued providing travel security training for HQ personnel and emergency first-aid training for travellers. For personnel working and travelling to Ebola infected countries Ebola Safety e-Course was presented. In 2014, in case of emergency, ICE, 24/7, response center was formed in order to deploy as well as ensuring adequate support measures be put to orientation of new staff members prior to their deployment as well as ensuring adequate support measures to international staff during the deployment. FCA offers e.g. work counselling to all international staff and encourages staff to use online training centres to help take care of well-being during deployment.

FCA has become a more global and multicultural organisation during the last few years. As a result FCA has invested in developing leadership culture as well as adopting new ways of working in the organisation. The work in developing organisational culture and cross-cultural communications continued in 2014. Managers in Helsinki office participated in training in change management and how to promote a common management culture. A project to develop FCA’s leadership culture with the global management team was initiated in 2014. The global management team is comprised of senior management in Helsinki office and regional representatives in the programme offices. The project continues in 2015. The challenges of remote communications and remote management to a multicultural working environment were on the agenda in the global management team’s meetings. A training material for cross-cultural communications to be used in training was made.

FCA encourages the staff to develop their competencies and share their knowledge within the organisation. Competence development issues are included in the development discussions, and a part of working time is reserved for competence development. In 2014 FCA organised staff trainings in e.g. education in emergencies and rights-based approach. Language training, first aid training and security training are organised continuously. To ease access to trainings from all offices FCA entered into partnership with a Nordic sister organisation to use an e-learning platform and to develop a common training curriculum.

Some minor check-ups for terms of international assignments were conducted as well as a project of renewing the remuneration system was initiated. The process of checking all job descriptions started in 2014 and continues in 2015.

During the period of 2013-2014 the job satisfaction of the staff has remained positive and staff feels that the content of the job has strong influence in that. Work at FCA is considered interesting, meaningful and relevant and staff feels that it is nice to be absorbed in the work. People feel that they are able to use their competence and experience at work. Relations to colleagues, supervisors and team members function well. Co-operation between staff representatives and the management works well.

Improvements have been made in e.g. security management, office space and occupational health care. Psychosocial support has been offered to the staff working in programme offices. However, well-being and security at staff working in fragile contexts still needs attention. Also working in a multicultural environment requires further investments in developing cultural sensitivity.

2.6 Administration

2.6.1 Finance and IT administration

FCA HQ finance unit divided responsibilities and tasks on a geographical basis between four Financial Controllers. It has turned out to be an effective and efficient way to producing tangible results. However considering the working conditions at the FCA mission offices is the Security Plan. Security Plan is of paramount importance.

FCA’s IT infra went through some developments also in 2014. The finance software for HQ (MS Navision) was upgraded to version 2013. This gives more features and stability and makes sure that interfaces to other software are possible and easy to develop. MS Sharepoint was also upgraded to the new version. Sharepoint includes FCA’s intranet, document handling and project management. Both Navision and Sharepoint were installed to the new servers, which gives more secure, stable and efficiency at HQ new printers with secure printing option were implemented and installed.

FCA’s Intranet was renamed and small improvements were done. This work will continue also in the future.

Three visits to the Field Offices were made by FCA HQ’s IT personnel. Those visits included computer checks, installations and updates as well as IT training and negotiations with local Internet providers and IT-support.

2.6.2 Human resources

At the end of 2014, Finn Church Aid had a total of 256 employees, of whom 95 worked in the Helsinki office, 43 expatriates served in the programme offices and 118 had been hired locally. Total FTEs stood at 242. Number of expatriates and locally hired staff increased as planned, and the ratio of locally hired employees in the programme offices was 75 %.

The amount of recruitments decreased compared to previous year. There were 15 job openings in Helsinki office and 18 in programme offices. In fragile contexts the duration of international assignments remained fairly short and the staff turnover quite high. More emphasis needs to be put to orientation of new staff members prior to their deployment as well as ensuring adequate support measures to international staff during the placement. FCA offers e.g. work counselling to all international staff and encourages staff to use online training centres to help take care of well-being during deployment.

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Staff situation in FCA’s Programme Offices at the end of 2014 (as full-time equivalent):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>International Staff</th>
<th>Local Programme Staff</th>
<th>Local Administration Staff</th>
<th>Local Support Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asia Regional (ARO)</td>
<td>4,00</td>
<td>5,33</td>
<td>2,00</td>
<td>1,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Philippines</td>
<td>4,45</td>
<td>0,00</td>
<td>0,00</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central African Republic (CAR)</td>
<td>4,66</td>
<td>8,39</td>
<td>0,79</td>
<td>3,18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of Congo (CARO)</td>
<td>4,61</td>
<td>1,56</td>
<td>1,90</td>
<td>2,16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti (LACRO)</td>
<td>4,04</td>
<td>8,33</td>
<td>4,00</td>
<td>5,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East (MERO)</td>
<td>4,89</td>
<td>9,24</td>
<td>2,02</td>
<td>2,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East and Southern Africa (ESARO and KECO)</td>
<td>5,45</td>
<td>4,73</td>
<td>3,49</td>
<td>1,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia (SOCO and Mogadishu)</td>
<td>6,51</td>
<td>3,01</td>
<td>2,49</td>
<td>9,11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan (SSUCO)</td>
<td>4,44</td>
<td>1,51</td>
<td>1,07</td>
<td>2,00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda (UGACO)</td>
<td>0,00</td>
<td>1,25</td>
<td>1,26</td>
<td>0,42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Africa Regional (WARO)</td>
<td>2,89</td>
<td>5,00</td>
<td>5,00</td>
<td>4,86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>47,69</td>
<td>46,95</td>
<td>24,02</td>
<td>30,73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.7 Fundraising and Finance

Domestic fundraising
FCA continued using various fundraising methods for example face-to-face street recruiting, telefundraising, Direct Response TV spots, Alternative Gift (Tuisenlaiten Lahja) and digital fundraising. Regular monthly donations were also in 2014 the backbone of FCA’s private fundraising. FCA’s monthly donors tend to be very loyal to the organisation. FCA also participated in the National Broadcasting Company’s (YLE) annual fundraising campaign “Yle Helps Red Nose Day” (YLE Hyvä Säätiön Nenäpäivä).

The same thematic framework with Tokoja -campaign was used to communicate a fundraising message, to maximise audience’s understanding of FCA’s work. In 2014 the theme was education. Fundraising activities follow thereof the Tokoja -campaign life cycle, but use different and specific effective channels for fundraising. Integrated campaigning of communication and fundraising is a long term global trend, which FCA also follows, to give Finnish audience a wide picture of the FCA’s programme.

The year 2014 was more challenging in private fundraising than 2013, especially in corporate fundraising. Corporates concentrated their support widely to domestic collections. This seems to have influence to many NGO’s collections. This seems to have influence to many NGO’s collections. Corporates concentrated their support widely to domestic collections. This seems to have influence to many NGO’s collections. Corporates concentrated their support widely to domestic collections. This seems to have influence to many NGO’s collections. Corporates concentrated their support widely to domestic collections. This seems to have influence to many NGO’s collections. Corporates concentrated their support widely to domestic collections. This seems to have influence to many NGO’s collections. Corporates concentrated their support widely to domestic collections. This seems to have influence to many NGO’s collections. Corporates concentrated their support widely to domestic collections. This seems to have influence to many NGO’s collections. Corporates concentrated their support widely to domestic collections. This seems to have influence to many NGO’s collections.

Domestic fundraising
In 2014 FCA reached the targets set to parishes and church income.
Parishes’ humanitarian action teams reacted actively to Philippines and Ebola disasters by collecting a remarkable amount of income by box collections.
The Surviviri (Spring Hymn) -campaign has reached a level of national annual spring event, and has found its place in parishes’ lifecycle.
The Common Responsibility Campaign (CRC) is an important income source for the MFA partnership programme. The Common Responsibility Campaign income had a slight decrease of 3 %, but it did not have a negative effect on FCA’s self-financing share of the partnership programme.

Global Grants
In 2014, GG actively supported FCA’s Regional Offices to scale-up their projects through institutional donor funding instruments. The successes reached a wider range of our Country Programmes across the full scope of FCA’s thematic strategy. This includes the innovative ECHO Children of Peace initiative which provides education assistance in Myanmar for children and youth in the Rakhine IDP camps, the Canadian Food Grains Bank food security action in South Sudan, the Somalia Stability Fund (donors include DFID, MFA Netherlands and the UAE) extending our successful peace interventions to the Central Regions of Somalia, UNICEF education in emergencies assistance for vulnerable children and youth in CAR and finally, US-AID (led by Mercy Corps in a broad consortia) emergency response to significantly reduce or eliminate the Ebola virus through a community-led social mobilisation campaign in Liberia.

In total, FCA sent 22 funding applications to institutional and international donors. Of the 22 proposals 70% were development proposals, whilst 30% were humanitarian projects.

Main achievements during 2013-2014 in Fundraising:
Global Grants (GG) is a growing area of income to FCA and it brings both opportunities and challenges. FCA has been able to diversify funding through GG, which is healthy for the organisation. This development continues also in the next programme period. Challenges occur mostly in working methods, as the cycle for proposals is often very fast and demanding. FCA is in a good position in reaching a remarkable amount of funds from private donors, which can be used as a co-funding to global grants. This means larger and more effective programmes.

FCA has found the co-operation with Development Banks and World Bank very fruitful and long-term partnership is an area FCA wants to develop further with these actors. FCA’s presence USA is important in effective co-operation with banks and governmental actors like USAID and Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM), and also in reaching new donors like private institutions and funds.

Finance Figures 2014
In 2014 FCA expended a total of 34,1 MEUR for aid and development co-operation activities the total of 8,1 MEUR (7,9 MEUR in 2013) respectively. In addition, FCA as a Secretariat of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers received 0,496 MEUR from the MFA for the Network. Thus funds from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs made up 41,8 % of the income.

Support received from the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran parishes, including also proceeds from the Common Responsibility Campaign and operational subsidies from the Church Council totalled 7,9 MEUR (7,8 MEUR in 2013) and thus from total income 23,3 % (24,8%).

Income from private donors totalled 7,7 MEUR (7,5 MEUR in 2013), international funding sources including EU and ECHO 2,8 MEUR (1,9 MEUR) and businesses and organisations 1,0 MEUR (1,0 MEUR). From collection of former funds, such as the Women’s Bank.

Africa continued to be the most significant work area with the expenditure of 12,8 MEUR (12,3 MEUR in 2013).

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3. Annual Programme Reports

I. Communications and Campaigning

FCA communications in 2014.

Finn Church Aid (FCA) has an open information policy, which means that everyone has access to timely, relevant and clear information about our organisation and its activities, achievements as well as misgivings. Information for the general public is available on our website, magazine and via other channels. FCA is always open with both our donors and the people we assist in their work as well as the people we assist, host communities and partners. Communication strengthens trust, increases understanding and improves the impact of our work.

FCA website provides an overview of who we are, what we do and where we work. Website provides information about our administration, policies, strategy and finances. FCAs new web-pages were published in April 2014. In addition to the main web-pages there are six different web-pages: toisenlainenlab.finn, naistenpankkilab.finn, changemakerlab.finn, opettajamikaloja.finn, eappilab.finn and peace-makersnetwork.org. The FCA main web-pages are in Finnish, Swedish and English.

Social media has an increasing importance in communications. In year 2014 FCA started Twitter accounts in Finnish and English as well as an Instagram account. FCAs Finnish Facebook site achieved 10,000 likers in 2014 and also the amount of likers in English site raised over 600. Amount of FCAs Newsletter subscribers was over 9,000. FCAs Communications Unit made 73 press releases during the year 2014. That was 15 more than in 2013.

Finnish media covered intensively FCAs work in Jordan with Syrian refugees and humanitarian response after typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines as well as the conflict in CAR. FCA programme specialists were also frequent invitees to radio and television programmes several times during the year. FCA sent Communications officer Ulla Kanka to Jordan to cover the year beginning from April to help our partner to meet its communications needs. Our Communications Officers reports from CAR and Myanmar got also wide media coverage.

Resulting the good experiences of the communication volunteers, another round was started to recruit three more volunteers to Asia, Middle East and Central Africa Regions. The end of year 2014 and the beginning of 2015. However the volunteers can’t be a permanent solution to the Regional Office’s communications needs. At the moment only one Regional Officer, namely Johannes Kiviniemi, is responsible for communications specialist.

FCAs increased presence in our working countries has resulted both new challenges and new possibilities to communications. The internal communications to a multi-cultural and multilingual staff has an enormous important role. On the other hand we are now closer to the information sources which give us more chances to serve Finnish media right from the field. Also the need for international communications has increased due to the increased international funding.

Campaigns and publicity materials funded by the MFA

Tekoja theme campaign

The aim of the Finn Church Aid’s Education campaign 2014 was to raise the issue of global learning crisis. The global teacher shortage and low quality of pedagogical skills are setbacks for all development efforts. In 2013 there was a gap of 1, 6 million primary teachers in the world. The total number of children out of school is 57 million and 69 million youth are without possibility for secondary education. Of the worlds 650 million primary school age children, at least 250 million are not learning the basics in reading and mathematics. The remaining 130 are in primary school but are not learning the minimum standard of learning. Campaign also raised the issue that education is a strategic investment. Quality education leads to more rapid and sustainable economic growth and development. Education also increases job opportunities, helps house-holds to escape poverty, reduces early births, empowers women and children, and children’s lives and improves child nutrition. Educated people are more tolerant and concern about the environment.

FCA defined the target group based on definition of ‘Finnish’ whose values and attitudes were most positive for campaigns cause. All communication and marketing channels (TV, social media, guerilla-activities) were chosen according to the media behavior of the target group. Some of the activities also targeted for public and general and were designed to attract youth to participate in the campaign. Especially digital media was widely used in the campaign FCAs presented the stories of teachers in fragile states and how they benefitted from development efforts. The press release was organized and the media equipped with campaign information and material. The campaign message was spread through the TV, web, e-letter, social media, outdoor advertising and print.

FCA produced communication materials, videos and stories of teachers’ important role in developing countries. Materials were published in the web-page www.tekoja.kampaanaj.fi and in the social media. FCA also participated in Maalmin Kylässä festival, organised a photo exhibition in collaboration with Meeri Koutaniemi and held a panel discussion with Teacher without Border (TwB) network on how to best utilise the Finnish educational professionalism in development co-operation. ABC-leaflet also received a positive feedback from the learning profession- als. Feedback from the parishes reflected that the material was found useful. Those target groups still need printed materials as they cannot fully rely on internet materials. Especially activating material is widely used in events and youth-targeted campaigns. There is a need for simple tools which help to communicate on global development. Campaign can also help parishes to connect with local schools if material is relevant and useful in that context.

Quantitative measures included the number of persons seen the TV commercial and visibility in general number of articles published in magazines and newspapers and number of persons signing the petition. Other indicators were the number of materials ordered and distributed and numbers of parishes take action during the campaign. FCA has more than 10,000 followers in Facebook and social media was actively used in order to spread the campaign messages to our target group and social media activities. Together more than 7,000 Finnish signed a petition on teachers’ role in fragile states and this was handed over to Minister Krista Kinnun during the World Teacher Day celebration in October.

Tekoja Magazine

FCAs own quarterly magazine has a circulation of 36,000. It is also available in electronic format on FCAs website and issuu.com with about 1,100 subscribers.

Each issue had a main theme based on FCAs work. The first issue in 2014 was about indigenous people and their rights. It included a feature story from Guatemala telling the story of a young indigenous woman and her struggle to get forward in life. The second issue focused on right to education, especially lack of trained teachers and qual- ity of education in the developing world. This was also the theme of FCAs main campaign – Act for Education – in the year 2014. The third issue continued the theme of education focusing on Education in Emergencies with stories from the Central African Republic and Myanmar. It also had an article on radicalisation of young people.

The fourth issue featured voluntary work through Teachers without Borders Finland, covering also the Ebola epidemic and its impacts on the health work and a follow-up story on the reconstruction work in the Philip- pine.

Many readers gave feedback on the ‘Tekoja’ magazine as they read it part in the vote on the best material issue. This feedback includes comments on thanking the maga- zine for telling about situations not featured in the Finnish media such as the situation in Central African Republic or Myanmar. The readers thanked the magazine for its positive view and also for including stories on impact of FCAs work.

Examples of the feedback (translated into English):

“It is nice, that the impacts of the money spent are made tangible. I like to read about the results – that inspire me to act. I already know a lot (too much!) of the miseries. A reader survey was conducted in 2012. The phrasing is to do a survey every five years. The outcome of the survey was very positive and pleasing. One issue of the magazine is read or flipped through 2.1 times. Each issue is read by 170 women. This doubles the circulation. A high figure, 98 percent of the readers, is either very satisfied or satisfied with the magazine. “The magazine brings the world and people in different parts of the world close to me. I get different information of the lives of people, than in other magazines. The aid and its results become tangible.”

Common Responsibility Campaigns documentaries

The short documentaries Osa 4 and Maa 7 in 2014 were broadcasted by the Finnish Broadcasting Company Yle television channels in February-April 2015. They were also available in the campaign website, and in DVD format (Annex 10), used as education material for the Campaign in parishes. FCA has a five year contract with Yle from the broadcasting of the documentaries.

During the year 2014 the documentaries made in 2013 were impacts on fragile states and FCA’s peace work and a follow-up story on the reconstruction work in the Philip- pines. The films were also used in the events organised by parishes related to the Common Responsibility Campaign.

The feedback was in general very positive. It was said that the films were used by every parish. In February 2015 it was also mentioned several times that the films were use- ful in the various parish events and provided an excellent opportunity to discuss development issues in with groups of different ages.

4. See chapter 4 for detailed information on MFA Partnership Programme financing.
II. Country Programme Reports

In this chapter FCA’s 18 major Country Programmes are presented; 16 of them were funded from the MFA Partnership Programme in 2013 and 2014. The Country Programme Report Summaries have been prepared based on FCA’s Country Programme Annual Reports 2014 as well as two-year reports from the Country Programmes. The reports are holistic meaning that they present different work modalities and examples of results from all projects of the Country Programmes. The Country Programme Reports are grouped under the respective Regional Programmes. A short regional introduction is given prior to the Country Programme Reports.

This report is also the Final Report of the programme period 2013-2014. Thus the Country Programme Reports and Regional Summaries cover the achievements and contribution to the FCA Global Programme objectives during the year 2014, and aggregated results from the past two years when relevant. The section “Development of the Country Programme during 2013-2014” also summarises the overall development in the strategic themes and programmatic objectives.

The financial summary for each Country Programme and Region consist of the actual costs stated in FCA’s accounts at the end of 2014, in addition the costs of the MFA partnership agreement projects. Project lists contain all projects implemented during 2014, the implementing partners and primary funding sources.

3.1 West Africa

1. Financial Summary of the Regional Programme (Country Programmes not included)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project number</th>
<th>Project name</th>
<th>Partner</th>
<th>Primary funding source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10706</td>
<td>Capacity building of local partners</td>
<td>All Liberia and Sierra Leone partners</td>
<td>MFA partnership agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10710</td>
<td>Baseline study, project evaluations and country programme evaluation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Private, parishes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11427</td>
<td>WARO resource mobilisation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Private, parishes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11520</td>
<td>Thematic assessments and context analysis</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Private, parishes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11553</td>
<td>Support to “Social mobilisation and Awareness Creation” in response to Ebola outbreak in Liberia and Sierra Leone</td>
<td>FCA together with the local partners</td>
<td>MFA partnership agreement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11610</td>
<td>Health and Wellbeing Programmes of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Facilitating a Collaborative Response to the Ebola Crisis between Faith-based Organisations and UN Agencies</td>
<td>WCC</td>
<td>Parishes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1155A</td>
<td>Ebola Project</td>
<td>FCA together with the local partners</td>
<td>FCA Ebola fundraising campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10480</td>
<td>West Africa Regional Programme Office</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>MFA partnership agreement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Regional Programme Overview

West-Africa is one of the poorest regions in the world and FCA’s programme countries Liberia and Sierra Leone are among the most deprived countries in the region. The challenges the two countries are facing are similar. These include the bad state of infrastructure (roads, energy, telecommunication etc.), poor basic services (health, education, water and sanitation) and weak public institutions, coupled with poor governance and high level of corruption. Both countries went through a civil war that ended just over 10 years ago. In both countries 60-70% of the people live below the poverty threshold, many of them in extreme poverty.

Both Sierra Leone and Liberia are well-endowed in natural resources. The availability of arable land and abundant rain form the basis for agricultural development. The economies are dominated by agriculture, mining and government delivered services. The contribution of the non-agricultural sector to the economies shrank during the long wars but was recovering gradually until in 2014 many investors left the countries, mainly because of corruption, but using Ebola as a trigger.

It is estimated that in Sierra Leone about 2/3 of the working-age population is engaged in subsistence agriculture, but the expansion of agriculture is mostly driven by foreign direct investments rather than by the local farmers. This has increased the vulnerability of the population and in some cases is sowing the seeds of instability. The situation in Sierra Leone is very similar, with informal businesses and subsistence farming being the main sources of income for the major part of the population.

In 2014, the Ebola outbreak highlighted the poor governance and high rate of corruption in the Ebola-hit countries. Whatever socioeconomic gains had been gained were lost. The populations are disappointed and dissatisfied, and peace has become more fragile. The outbreak had a huge impact on social services, and schools and universities were closed for several months. The crisis also caused political instability. In both countries investigations are on-going on the use of Ebola related funding. The crisis has also revealed that the money provided by the international community in the recent years to strengthen the states and their infrastructure has not been effectively used.

FCA’s West Africa Regional Office (WARO) was established in Monrovia in 2009, while FCA had local staff working in Sierra Leone already prior to the official registration in the country in May 2013. In the end of 2014, WARO staff consisted of three expatriate and thirteen national staff, two of whom were based in Sierra Leone. WARO staff conducted frequent monitoring visits in the project locations, and the Monrovia based Regional Office staff also supported and visited local colleagues and partners in Sierra Leone.

Thanks to its well established presence in the Region, WARO has been able to network effectively and engage in various platforms. FCA staff has built strategic relationships across the region with a number of local and international NGOs, UN agencies, donors and relevant government ministries and has supported the local communities in bringing advocacy messages to decision makers.

Development projects that fall within the thematic areas of Right to Livelihoods (R2L) and Right to Education (R2E) were the main pillars of the Liberia Country Programme in 2013-14. In Right to Peace (R2P), women’s rights have been integrated in the livelihood project’s Mothers’ Clubs. In 2013, local partners’ capacity in peace
The Ebola disease put practically all FCA’s work in the region on hold in August 2014. FCA took an active part in the fight against the Ebola outbreak in Liberia and Sierra Leone. In October, FCA launched Ebola sensitisation and education in four counties in Liberia, through three partners and a self-implemented response in the Nimba County. In the end of 2014 FCA was selected to be part of Mercy Corps/USAID consortium of Ebola Community Action Platform, the ECAP project. All in all, FCA and its partners’ response reached 200 communities in Liberia and about 100 communities in Sierra Leone.

2. Overview of the Liberia Programme

According to the 2013 Human Development Report, Liberia ranks 174 out of 187 countries. It is estimated that over 70% of the population of 4.1 million live below the poverty line of US$1 a day. About 60% of the population is illiterate, with rural females overrepresented. Overall, the challenges faced by Liberia are numerous. These include the poor state of infrastructure (roads, energy, telecommunication etc.), lack of basic services (health, education, water and sanitation) and weak public institutions, poor governance and high level of corruption. In many areas food insecurity is high and Liberia is heavily reliant on food imports.

Since the end of the long civil war just over a decade ago Liberia has been relatively stable. However, in late May 2014 the deadly and contagious hemorrhagic Ebola Virus Disease started spreading throughout the country with a high fatality rate. This resulted in a state of emergency leading to closure of borders, restriction of movement and ban on public gatherings. Schools were also closed. The Ebola outbreak had a negative impact on Liberia’s economy and affected food production and food security. Whatever socioeconomic gains had been gained in the recent years were lost.

The Ebola outbreak also caused political instability. Investigations are on-going on the use of Ebola funding. The crisis highlighted poor governance and high rate of corruption. The population is disappointed and dissatisfied, and peace has become more fragile. The emergency was regional and therefore also had cross-border impacts and consequences.

In September-October 2014, FCA West Africa Regional office put together a fast and efficient response

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1. Financial Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project number</th>
<th>Project name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10641</td>
<td>Legal Education with Rural and Semi-urban Women and Men to Ensure Compliance with Gender Sensitive Human Rights</td>
<td>AFELL</td>
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<td>10642</td>
<td>Economic Empowerment for Girls and Women in Post-war Liberia</td>
<td>FIAE Liberia</td>
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<td>10702</td>
<td>Rural Agriculture Program</td>
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<td>Urban Agriculture project</td>
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<tr>
<td>11471</td>
<td>Support to secondary education of Ivorian refugees in Nimba county</td>
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<td>Support to non-formal secondary education in PTP refugee camp, Grand Gedeh county</td>
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<td>11528</td>
<td>Bringing poultry to next level</td>
<td>FCA self-implemented</td>
<td>Private</td>
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In September-October 2014, FCA West Africa Regional Office (WARO) put together a fast and efficient response

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to the Ebola outbreak. In August 2014, the ongoing project activities were largely suspended and funds re-allocated toward FCA and local partners’ Ebola response activities. These included awareness raising/social mobilisation and distribution of sanitization materials, as well as provision of psycho-social support. Through self-implementation and collaboration with local partners, FCA reached 200 local communities in Liberia.

2.1 Programme Objectives and Achievements

2.1.1 Right to Livelihood

Local communities in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts have strengthened their assets and capability to develop their livelihoods in sustainable ways

- Over 60% of the targeted 151 farm families adopted innovative methods of farming. Their crop yields increased by over 90% and the new method also cut the required farming time in half.
- Women have equal access and control over productive resources and assets
- Over 80% of targeted farm families, predominantly headed by women, were able to send their children/grandchildren to school, provide more food for their families and to pay medical expenses thanks to income generated from the sale of vegetables.
- All 7 Mother Clubs were involved in income generation activities (pastry, soap making, tailoring, boot making), and manufacturing business promotion, and farming.
- 7 Mother Clubs accounted for over 10,000 USD as profit. With the income generated, the Mother Clubs have been able to continue paying school tuitions and support 50 disadvantaged girls from primary to secondary level.
- The two new Mother’s clubs - Gaemue and Zardun - established their own scholarship schemes to cater for disadvantaged girls.
- Local communities have strengthened their resilience to shocks including natural and man-made disasters and the effects of climate change that negatively impact their livelihoods
- 151 farm families were trained in organic farming practices/techniques and 60% of them applied the acquired skills.

2.1.2 Right to Education

- Of the 7 Mother Clubs, 2 implemented a functional adult literacy programme that catered for a total of 47 learners, while 42 learners in the other Mothers Club started but could not complete the cycle due to the spread of the Ebola virus.
- All 175 Members of the 7 Mother clubs learned about equal rights to justice, inheritance and property rights as they relate to traditional and civil marriage, gender based (GBV) and domestic violence and their prevention. The trained Mothers conducted 2 awareness campaigns in the neighbouring communities.
- Girls’ and boys living in disaster (both natural and man-made) affected communities have equal, uninterrupted access to quality education and safe and protected learning spaces through preparedness and response capacity of communities, including authorities
- Girls’ attendance rate improved thanks to the opening of a daycare center in both schools.
- End of the year exams showed over 90% success rate.
- A skills training center was opened in March in Bahn camp and provided training in tailoring, mechanics, hairdressing, carpentry/masonry classes for 110 students. Due to the Ebola outbreak and school closure, the first class will graduate in 2015.
- The Education in Emergencies project in the Bahn refugee camp provided secondary education to 200 refugee adolescents.

2.1.3 Right to Peace

- Religious and traditional leaders and possible other non-formal structures are positively contributing to conflict prevention, mediation, conflict resolution and peace and actively promote human rights.
- Thematic assessment to Right to Peace was done, but due to Ebola outbreak the planning of the new peace project was postponed.

2.2. Development of the Country Programme during 2013-2014

In 2013-2014, the focus of Liberia programme was on Right to Livelihoods and Right to Education. Thematic conflict assessment was done in June 2014 to inform the development of Right to Peace work in Liberia, but due to the Ebola outbreak this work was put on hold. However, during 2013-2014 FCA continued to support women’s legal and human rights education through Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia.

FCA’s main intervention in Right to Education was the provision of secondary education to about 250 Ivoirian refugees in 2013 at refugee Bahn camp in Nimba and in 2014 to 450 refugees in Bahn and PTP camp in Grand Gedeh. In addition, a skills training center for 110 students was opened in Bahn camp in March 2013. Due to the Ebola outbreak also the camp schools were closed.

In 2013-2014, the livelihood programme continued working almost exclusively with rural women supporting and developing poultry and vegetable farming and skills trainings geared towards self-employment through small businesses. Strong emphasis was placed on moving away from activity-based to results-based work and increasing the beneficiaries’ incomes. Encouraging results of the first poultry project by PNO lead to the introduction of poultry components in other local partners’ projects as well. In 2014, the focus shifted further to enhance longer term profitability and sustainability. As a result, FCA commissioned a feasibility study of the poultry sector and decided to support the development of a business plan for the PNO run poultry farm.

The Ebola disease put practically all FCA’s project work in Liberia on hold in August 2014. In October 2014, FCA and its partners launched an Ebola sensitisation and education campaign in four counties working through three partners and self-implementing in one county. Overall, the FCA response reached 200 communities in Liberia.

3. Evaluations and Studies

An evaluation of the FCA Country Programmes/projects in Liberia and/or Sierra Leone was planned for 2014 as the last programme evaluation was carried out in 2011 and many projects were coming to an end of their second 3 year project cycle in 2014. Evaluations could have informed development of new projects. However, due to the Ebola outbreak the evaluations had to be postponed. Funds budgeted for evaluations were used for the Ebola response.

4. Capacity Building

Since the establishment of field office in Liberia and later Sierra Leone, FCA has organised two capacity building workshops for partners annually. In 2014, two workshops were supposed to focus on project management as most of the projects in the region were ending in December 2014. However, due to the Ebola outbreak these workshops could not be organised and the budgeted funds were reallocated toward the Ebola response.

An assessment of partners’ capacity building needs was
carried out with the aim of reviewing FCA’s partner capacity building strategy, but this was not possible because of the Ebola response.

5. Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt
The abrupt suspension of regular programme activities due to the outbreak of the Ebola coupled with the State of Emergency led to partners’ funds being reallocated toward the Ebola response. The partner work plans and budgets were reviewed and new agreements signed. Monitoring of partners’ projects was limited due to the restriction of movement, but at the same time partners were closely engaged in the response activities that were carried out partly as joint implementation between FCA and the partners.

The Ebola outbreak also caused challenges at project level. The closure of borders made it difficult to procure certain materials, such as raw materials used to prepare chicken feed. For greater cost-effectiveness and to minimise the risk of partners and beneficiaries alike losing their layers, poultry partners were advised to adapt their project strategy from supporting the targeted individual project beneficiaries to managing mini-poultry pens. As a result, the number of beneficiaries increased significantly (from the initial 125 to 435) and the changes of survival of the layers was improved. Savings were made as no feed had to be provided for the free ranging chicken.

2. Overview of the Sierra Leone Programme
Sierra Leone is one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world. United Nations’ 2014 Human Development Index (HDI) ranks Sierra Leone 183rd out of 187 countries. It is estimated that 70% of the total population of 6.2 million lives under the poverty line. The majority of Sierra Leoneans have no formal education (two-thirds of women aged 15-49 and half of men aged 15-49). The overall literacy rate is 51% (35.5% for women and 51.5% for men). Women and girls suffer from systematic discrimination in all areas of life.

The political and security conditions have been generally stable during the past decade following the long civil conflict. Agriculture is the mainstay of the population, but Sierra Leone remains highly dependent on food importation. It is estimated that of the 780,000 hectares of available farmland, only 15% is being used for food production. The level of food insecurity is high. In 2011, about 2.5 million people were food insecure, representing 45% of the population. One major challenge to food security is the underdeveloped agricultural sector that is characterised by over-reliance on traditional and subsistence agriculture and minimal use of improved farm practices and agricultural inputs.

In late May 2014 the deadly and contagious hemorrhagic Ebola Virus Disease hit Sierra Leone, with a high fatality rate. The president of the Republic declared a state of Public Health Emergency in August 2014, leading to closure of borders, restriction of movement and ban on public gatherings. Schools were closed. The Ebola outbreak affected the livelihoods of many Sierra Leoneans, disrupted trade and public services and reversed the impressive economic gains made in past few years. The Ebola outbreak also had a negative effect on food production and food security, thus affecting most the already vulnerable members of the population.

In Right to Livelihoods (R2L), FCA continued to work with existing partners (PICEP in Kenema, Moyamba and Bo districts, Green Scenery on Bonthe Island) and selected duty-bearers (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture) to support poor communities in diversifying and improving food and livestock production. The programme built on approaches that empower the targeted communities to improve household food security and income through trainings in productive farming methods in vegetables, rice, cassava and poultry farming.

1. Financial Summary

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Actual Costs:} & \quad \text{EUR 673,999} \\
\text{MFA partnership agreement (PA) EUR 300,836 EUR} & \\
\text{Project number} & \quad \text{Project name} & \quad \text{Partner} & \quad \text{Primary funding source} \\
10311 & \text{Integrated Community Empowerment Project} & \text{PICEP} & \text{MFA partnership agreement, private, parishes} \\
10649 & \text{Bonthe Island Environmental and Livelihood project} & \text{Green Scenery (GS)} & \text{MFA partnership agreement} \\
10704 & \text{Diploma Youth Friendly Centre} & \text{RADA} & \text{Red Nose Day - campaign} \\
10705 & \text{Empowering women and girls through vocational skills training and adult literacy} & \text{FAWE SL} & \text{Women’s Bank} \\
11063 & \text{Empowerment Project for Women} & \text{PICEP (EPW)} & \text{Women’s Bank} \\
11463 & \text{“Pře Ťať/Ga - Peace Always” Promoting a Culture of Non-Violence in Communities in Pujehun District} & \text{NMJD} & \text{Parishes} \\
\end{align*}
\]
In Right to Education (R2E), FCA focused on practical skills trainings targeting women and youth. Implementing partners FAWE and RADA were supported to improve the training facilities and to increase the quality of training in Makeni and Kabala Centres and in Zimmi and Bo. Both partners collaborated with local duty-bearers, such as the Ministry of Education to contribute towards the development of technology based skill trainings, certification of the training and trainings of trainers and support to graduates and with traditional and local leaders to ensure the provision of the necessary physical assets (land and building) to accommodate the trainings.

In Right to Peace (R2P), the livelihoods opportunities and second chance education promoted peaceful cohabitation in the target communities, and a peace project working with the religious and traditional leaders implemented by NMJD started in Pujehun district, in the southern province of Sierra Leone.

2.1. Programme Objectives and Achievements

2.1.1 Right to Livelihood

Local communities in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts have strengthened their assets and capability to develop their livelihoods in sustainable ways.

- A total of 56 acres were cultivated with cassava benefitting 28 Key Contact Farmers –KCFs (M20, F8), 52 acres were cultivated with groundnut benefitting 31 KCFs (M 19, F 12) and 135 acres cultivated with inland valley swampy rice benefiting 60 KCFs (M 42, F 18).
- Pilot scheme of mechanised rice cultivation (120 acres) with a total yield of 26 tons i.e. 520 (50kg) bags benefited 90 vulnerable farmers, mostly women.
- 18 fish ponds were established benefiting 59 youth (M 33, F 17).
- 3,600 layer chicks were distributed to 120 new and 50 old backyard poultry farmers and eggs collected and sold from June 2014 until the end of the year generating an average income of 46 USD per month per beneficiary.
- A total of 560 small-scale holders play a role in local and national processes.
- 32 Village Development Committees (304 M, 182 F) that were established in 2012-2013 were trained in Rights-based Approach, Gender, HIV&AIDS, and development planning and project management.
- Participation and membership of women in the VDCs has increased to nearing the indicative rate of 40% from 70 female to 30 female.
- The targeted 32 committees have an increased capacity to plan and implement development activities in their respective communities. Community Actions Plans have been implemented and included e.g. constructing a 3-classroom school, a community meeting place (bar-ray), dwelling houses and self-developed fish ponds.

2.1.2 Right to Education

Women, men and youth in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts have access to quality educational background.

- 250 trainees could not complete the training courses due to the Ebola outbreak.
- 80 students were trained in social mobilisation and making a meaningful contribution in awareness raising on Ebola in project communities.
- It was not possible to monitor the target of “60% of graduates of previous year from the 4 vocational skills training centres are employed or self-employed” mainly because of the Ebola outbreak.
- RADA and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology organised a two-day workshop and a policy conference on the theme “Technical and Vocational Education in Sierra Leone with particular reference to the Southern region to improving access and quality”. 80 education experts, authorities and students from different training institutions participated in the conference.

2.1.3 Right to Peace

Local communities in disaster affected or fragile contexts have enhanced capability to prevent and resolve conflicts promoting the respect of human rights with the active participation of women and youth.

- A new peacebuilding project with focus on training of local level actors in conflict mediation started as planned. 45 traditional and religious leaders were trained in peace, Human Rights and conflict transformation.
- 15 Community Peace and Development Committees were formed in each of the operational communities in the three chiefdoms. These started 10 initiatives to address livelihood issues and settled 16 disputes/conflicts (land, theft, marital).

2.2. Development of the Country Programme during 2013-2014

No new changes were made in the focus of the Sierra Leone Country Programme in 2013-2014. In Right to Education FCA continued supporting two old partners (FAWE and RADA) who both managed two informal skills training centers. Annually both centres provide training for about 140 students. In addition, RADA has been active in advocacy work for example on Government recognition of informal and vocational Education Training (TVET) institutions and curricula development. In 2013-2014 FCA’s funds were used to improve the infrastructure in the skills training centres in Bo, Makeni and Kabala, and they now provide a good and safe environment for training activities.

Following the declaration of National Health Emergency schools were closed and all NGOs had to stop their normal development activities and focus on the Ebola response. Consequently, training activities in RADA and FAWE’s skills training centres could not finish their courses in 2014. Training only resumed in April 2015.

Both 3-year skills training projects were to end in the end of 2014, but due to Ebola the training activities could not be finished and hence projects were extended to 2015.

Within the thematic area Right to Livelihood, FCA continued working with a long-time partner PICEP supporting two projects with funding from MFA and Women’s Bank. PICEP’s integrated community empowerment approach combines development of community structures and both subsistence and semi-commercial and mechanised farming environmentally friendly farming practices and vulnerable women’s economic empowerment have been strongly emphasised in PICEP’s projects. Poultry farming was adopted by PICEP following successful projects by FCA’s partners in Liberia.

The third livelihood project started in 2013 with Green Scenery and has been implemented on the remote island of Bonthe with particular reference to the Southern region to improving access and quality. 80 education experts, authorities and students from different training institutions participated in the conference.

An evaluation of the FCA’s Country Programme/projects in Liberia and/or Sierra Leone was planned for 2014. The evaluations could have informed the planning of new projects, at the start of a new three year project cycle. However, due to the Ebola outbreak the evaluation had to be postponed. Funds budgeted for evaluations were used for Ebola response.

PICEP commissioned its own mid-term evaluation of its MFA and Women’s Bank funded projects. The evaluation report and its conclusions were shared and discussed with FCA.

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An assessment of partners’ capacity building needs was carried out in the second quarter of 2014 with the aim of a later review of the capacity building strategy. This was not possible in the Ebola response situation. At project level, FCA Field Office in Sierra Leone continued to support partners in project implementation, but systematic impact assessment was not possible due to the unforeseen changes in the operating environment, and restrictions on movement of partner and FCA staff and thus monitoring and evaluation visits.

5. Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

Upon approval of partners work plans and budgets and the subsequent transfer of funds, activities continued as planned until August 2014 and the outbreak of the EVD. The declaration of the national public health emergency resulted in the closure of all educational institutions, restricted movements across the country and the temporary banned all NGO interventions other than Ebola response. As a result of the intensity of outbreak, outstanding partners’ project funds were directed towards the fight against Ebola.

The Ebola response activities helped to raise awareness of the disease and the necessary preventive action. In general, FCA and its partners co-operation with traditional and community leaders and the local authorities was one of the reasons for the success of the response. In Sierra Leone, NMJD with FCA’s support mobilised traditional leaders by organising a meeting with all Paramount Chiefs of Bo district. The Government then later organised a similar meeting on the national level.
2. Regional Programme Overview

In 2013 and 2014, the security situation was particularly difficult in the North Kivu DRC and the Central African Republic (CAR). In North Kivu in 2013, various MFA funded projects experienced serious implementation delays due to the M23 rebel group attempting to cease the city of Goma in July, August, September, October and November 2013. Certain project areas, and especially in Rutshuru, were not accessible for regular project monitoring visits. Because of high insecurity, in August 2013 the expatriate staff had to relocate from Goma to Bukavu. During 2014 the tensions shifted from merely military to political concerns, as the population expressed its discontent with the potential constitutional change that would allow President Joseph Kabila to continue for a third presidential term. The security situation in North Kivu remained volatile and later in the year deteriorated in particular in the Ituri region but also in Rutshuru and Masisi, making an already difficult humanitarian situation even worse.

For the last two years, the Central African Republic (CAR) has been sliding towards a total collapse. In March 2013, the Séléka rebel group overthrew the government in violent clashes with the CAR military and foreign troops. December 2013 saw an unprecedented surge in violence and chaos that accelerated this downfall. In January 2014, President Bozizé resigned and was replaced by Catherine Samba-Panza but the conflict continued. In January 2014, nearly 500,000 people were displaced across the country - the vast majority of them in Bangui. The violence continued throughout 2014, with several massacres committed by the anti-balaka against Muslim civilians, forcing thousands of Muslims to flee the country.

Established in DRC in 2009, FCAs Central African Regional Office (CARO) consisted of three expatriates and seven national staff in 2014, and of five expatriates and 21 local staff in CAR. The Lutheran World Federation implemented projects in Chad and Burundi were supported from the CARO in Goma until respective exits in 2013 and 2014. The CAR Country Office was established in Bangui in August 2013 and in 2014 the work focused on establishing a solid base for the operations. As a result, in the last two years FCAs has reinforced its presence in the region, strengthening its own capacity to self-implement projects, while at the same time building strong partnerships with local and international organisations to ensure timely and quality support to the targeted populations.

In the last two years in DRC the livelihood component has been mainstreamed into new projects. Saving and credit was linked with projects on womens rights and gender-based violence.

In 2013, FCA developed a concept of a business incubator, which provides newly established small-scale businesses mentoring, training, and credit to improve the profitability of small businesses. In 2014, the business incubator was introduced with a credit facility, supported by mobile technology (M-PESA).

Support to vocational training was strengthened and FCA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Norwegian Church Aid (NCA). Following this, the number of vulnerable youth who participate in a one year vocational training almost doubled. FCA also supported curriculum development for vocational education in collaboration with the local authorities.

In DRC, FCA also has a strong advocacy component in its projects, working closely with the Government authorities especially at Provincial level in North Kivu. In advocacy on womens rights there have been discussions with the relevant authorities, such as Provincial Government Minister, to mainstream FCAs work with the Government priorities.

In the course of 2013-2014, FCAs operations in CAR focused on R2E and were mostly self-implemented. The overall objective of FCAs intervention was to support the re-establishment of the education system in the provinces of Nana-Mambéré and Ouham-Pendé. Later in 2014, the Country Programme was successful in obtaining funding from both MFA and UNICEF and the programme expanded rapidly. FCA CAR has managed to develop a clear FCA added value and has become one of UNICEFs main implementing partners in CAR.

Some R2P elements have been integrated in most CARO projects. In 2014 in CAR, the R2P activities included two visits in Bangui organised by the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers and Finn Church Aid. In DRC, the Alternatives peace project started in 2014 with the aim of encouraging and facilitating initiatives that challenge the existing system and promote peace in DRC.
Informal work and small farming are the main sources of income. According to the African Development Bank, more than 70% of the youth in DRC have no jobs. The lack of skills and education make the youth dependent on the informal economy. The general lack of opportunities also contributes to the attractiveness of joining the armed militias.

The on-going conflict and widespread poverty in North Kivu have had a dramatic impact on the security and quality of life of local resident women. The status of the Congolese women is low and women are largely excluded from decision-making and meaningful participation. The prevailing impunity combined with the on-going armed conflicts contribute to various violations of human and women’s rights, including sexual and gender based violence (SGBV).

The programme also provided essential life-saving services. In 2014, 6,000 households’ food consumption index was increased by a minimum of 45%. The beneficiaries CSI was also increased by 18 points, which was enough to reach the 42 targeted points (food consumption index). Out of the 129 farming associations targeted, 112 have surveillance systems in place.

2.1.2 Right to Education

Women, men and youth in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts with limited educational background have access to quality vocational training/skill development programs.

- The enrollment rate of girls in the ETN training center was 27%, as compared with the target of 50%.
- 383 youth were registered in both Goma and Masisi Training Centres in 2014.
- By December 2014, 60% of youth who had graduated from the ETN vocational training center in March 2014 were employed or self-employed.

Girls and boys living in disaster (both natural or man-made) affected communities have equal, uninterrupted access to quality education and safe and protected learning spaces through preparedness and response capacity of communities, including authorities.

- 6 semi-permanent classrooms and 9 temporary learning spaces were constructed.
- 3,718 (1,773 girls) out-of-school children from displaced families were identified and integrated into targeted schools and benefited from catch up classes. 10,652 (4,914 girls) students in host schools from returnees and resident families have remained in school.
- 24,415 parents (15,424 adults - 8,950 females and 8,991 children & youth - 5,093 girls) were sensitised on the importance of education, children’s rights and child protection.
- 108 members of the parents committees were trained on school management.

2.1.3 Right to Peace

Local communities in disaster affected or fragile contexts have enhanced capability to prevent and resolve conflicts promoting the respect of human rights with the active participation of women and youth.

- A pilot project on women’s role in conflict resolution was implemented and the results documented.
- 15 protection risk reduction plans were established for 14 schools and 2 catch up centers.

In the fragile conflict and post-conflict environment women’s rights and participation at all levels of the society is enhanced in line with UNSCR 1325 (DRC context specific objective).

- 2 meetings with National Assembly and Senate, 2 meetings with Ms. Questor of the National Assembly, three meetings with the deputies from the provinces, 4 debated with strategic allies of the civil society, 4 provincial workshops.
- 67 cases of violence against women, out of which 37 sexual violence cases, were taken to court; 20 of the latter were subsequently prosecuted and the perpetrators sentenced in 2014.

2.2 Development of the Country Programme during 2015-2014

In 2013-2014, Right to Livelihoods (R2L) was strengthened and mainstreamed into new projects. Saving and credit was linked with projects on women’s rights and gender-based violence. In 2014, the business incubator introduced in 2013 continued and provided newly established small-scale business monitoring, training and credit to improve profitability. As part of the business incubator, a credit facility was piloted in 2014, supported by mobile technology (M-PESA). The first results were positive, the reimbursement rate being 85% at the end of 2014.

FCA DRC also implemented its first self-implemented humanitarian project in DRC.

- The project focused on two major activities: saving and the life-sustaining food distribution to the targeted vulnerable and displaced populations and improving the resilience of vulnerable host populations through improved agricultural production.
- In food insecurity/emergencies, FCA and LWF implemented the ECHO funded food security programme in the North Kivu province. Working with small farmers association to market and sell. As a result, 14,400 displaced and returnee households were supported, exceeding the target of 10,000 households.

In Right to Peace (R2P), two new vocational training curriculum modules were developed with the partner organisation ETN in collaboration with the local authorities. These modules were 1. Transforming agricultural products and 2. Livestock Development. These curricula have been shared with local authorities and UNESCO in Kinshasa. In LWF’s (Réseau des Associations des Femmes Juristes de l’Est de la République Démocratique du Congo), DF (Dynamique des Femmes Juristes), CAU (Collectif Alpha Ujuvi), and FJDF (Femmes Juristes), RAFEJE (Réseau des Associations des Femmes Juristes de l’Est de la République Démocratique du Congo), DJF (Dynamique des Femmes Juristes). The advocacy efforts to improve women’s role in DRC should be increased.

The advocacy efforts to improve women’s role in DRC should be increased.

- Increase synergy between partners’ work to support integrated programming and impact; for example, ETN could support women lawyers to improve the income generating activities of their projects.
- The communities and authorities should have even greater involvement in the project planning phase.
- To tackle the lack of funding for the FCA projects, exit plans are necessary to encourage local communities’ ownership of the end products and to ensure longer term impact.
- Enhanced continuum and sustainability built in the humanitarian, development, saving and credit and income-generating activities could be more integrated in the project design.

A. Capacity Building

A specific capacity building programme was designed for FCAs local partners. An emphasis was on advocacy training for the four women lawyer organisations of RAFEJE. As a result, a comprehensive advocacy plan was developed for RAFEJE.

- FCA Project Assistant participated in training on “Training of Trainers” in order to ensure continued high quality of capacity building and other support to the local partners in DRC.

All partners participated in partners’ capacity building workshops, which included training on the development of logical framework analyses (LFAs) and exercises such as the problem/objectives tree analysis. The capacity building programme also included peer-evaluation activities, whereby the partner organisations themselves evaluated each other’s projects.

FCA HQ also trained partners on FCA procurement procedures and rules, and they are expected to follow these in their daily work.

5. Challenges and Lessons Learnt

The FCA DRC Country Programme has made considerable progress in the last two years but challenges remain. In order to increase the quality of programming, it will be necessary to develop comprehensive monitoring and evaluation plans to collect information in a more systematic manner and to ensure quality reporting of performance and change.

The self-implemented humanitarian project was a challenging new opening for the Country Programme. The project itself was successful but some internal processes and tools required for effective self-implementation still need to be fine-tuned.

Partners’ reporting, monitoring and evaluation capacity varies but remains at times limited. Continuous capacity building will continue to take place.

The lack of road infrastructure and insecurity make access to project sites difficult, costly, and risky and at times limits regular monitoring and timely corrective action.

Transferring funds in the field is also risky, due to the security situation in Nord Kivu. To address this, the Country Programme is already assessing the use of e-transfer systems, and using the services of mobile phone companies to transfer money, not only to facilitate the transaction but also to limit the risks of fraud and misappropriation.
Central African Republic (CAR)

2. Overview of the Central African Republic (CAR) Programme

CAR is one of the poorest countries in the world with a human development index that places it in the 185th position out of 187 countries (UNDP 2013). The country’s history is characterised by regular cycles of violence with serious consequences on its development and the well-being of its people. The constant political unrest in CAR can be linked to a failure of governance and a failure to provide basic services and security for the majority of the population, in particular in the marginalised rural areas that are prone to armed opposition. The effects of this chronic humanitarian emergency include a general breakdown of law and order and gross violations of human rights, including sexual and gender based violence.

In 2014, the agricultural sector was greatly disrupted by the on-going crisis. In May 2014, 1.6 million persons were in need of food and in December 2014, OCHA estimated that 2.7 million of the 4.6 inhabitants in CAR were in need of immediate assistance, half of them children. The security situation greatly hampered the delivery of aid by FAO, WFP and NGOs, with regular attacks on the aid convoys. In addition to difficult logistics and insecurity, limited funding also made it challenging to address the humanitarian needs in CAR.

According to OCHA, in the end of 2014 there were over 430,000 internally displaced persons inside CAR, of whom 51,000 in Bangui. After a few weeks of positive trend in the return of IDPs, renewed violence took place in October 2014 seriously disrupting humanitarian operations. The violence forced many people to leave their homes and seek refuge in public buildings, including schools.

The impact of the crisis on the education sector has been considerable. The looting and destruction of schools and public buildings, including schools.

The projects’ cycle in CAR does not follow the calendar year and several projects that started in the spring of 2014 are now coming to an end. The focus of work CAR is in education, but links with R2P and possibly later R2L are being considered for new projects that are about to start in the summer 2015. The R2P work with the Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers that started in 2014 will continue. R2P will activities also will include the peace education in schools.

5. Evaluations and Studies

There were no specific evaluations, impact assessments or studies conducted in 2014. Two end of project visits took place in 2014 in July and September during which two schools rehabilitated by FCA were assessed by a team consisting of the Ministry of Education, a representative from UNICEF and members of FCA staff (Bimbo, Bogoua). The assessment feedback was very positive, congratulating FCA on the high quality of school constructions and good co-operation with the other stakeholders and UNICEF.

6. Capacity Building

FCA CAR is not working with local partners, but the programme is largely self-implemented. However, as part of the implemented education projects a number of trainings have been organised for the staff in the sub offices from the Ministry of Education, for teachers and school directors. The PTAs have also been sensitised and have received trainings on the importance of education, maintaining the educational outputs created by the projects and on how to encourage children to return to school.
5. Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

The challenges in 2014 did not have a major impact on the objectives set for 2014. However, considerable exchange rate fluctuations in 2014 contributed to fewer activities being implemented, as compared with the original budgets and work plans. The Country Programme is implemented in a challenging context. In 2014, insecurity in October and November in particular affected the planning and implementation of activities in Bangui and elsewhere. Because of the rapidly changing situation the made plans needed to be revised and adapted regularly.

Some implementation delays were due to the difficulty to procure materials from Cameroon and the rainy season making some project areas inaccessible for a certain time. The capacity of local authorities and partners is low and there are few qualified teachers in CAR. The parent teachers who are in charge of teaching in many schools have low levels of education themselves. Often they do not receive a pay for their service, negatively affecting their motivation and commitment. Because of the need to find alternative ways of making a living, teaching can be interrupted at certain times of the year (planting and harvesting) and of the week (market days etc.).

In terms of challenges affecting work toward the set programme objectives, the level of education in the local communities is low and considerable amounts of time need to be spent on sensitisation activities before the start of projects. Promoting girls’ access to school is also particularly difficult. Many parents still don’t see the value in educating their daughters and early marriage is common.

The quality of education remains low and there are few centres for parents and children to register their presence and establish a Country Office. Furthermore, FCA is an active member of local ACT Forums in the region. Regional coordination among ACT members takes place in Nairobi. In Uganda, FCA was elected as the chair of the local ACT forum.

FCA’s work in the region is managed by the FCA East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) in Nairobi. FCA has Country Offices in Somalia, South Sudan, Kenya and Uganda of which the latter two were established in 2014. Furthermore, FCA is currently in the middle of the process to register presence and establish a Country Office in Mozambique. In 2014, the Mozambique and Angola programmes as well as the process of exiting from Zimbabwe were managed and coordinated from the Regional Office. In addition, the Regional Office acts as a support function for the Country Programmes in terms of grants management and donor relations, security, thematic expertise, communications, administration, HR and finances. At the end of 2014, FCA employed altogether 81 staff members in the region, based in either the regional or country offices.

2. Regional Programme Overview

In East and Southern Africa FCA works in Somalia, Kenya, South Sudan, Uganda, Mozambique and Angola. By mid-2014, FCA completed the exit process from Zimbabwe. In addition, preparations and groundwork for opening the Eritrea Country Programme took place in 2014 leading to the Eritrea programme being added to FCA’s regional portfolio at the beginning of 2015. The regional context is versatile, ranging from the relative stability of Mozambique and Uganda to two of the most fragile states in the world, namely South Sudan and Somalia. Another conflict prone context is northern Kenya.

FCA’s regional programme consisted of Country Programmes with different thematic scopes. Right to livelihoods, implemented in different context-specific ways, was the main theme for FCA in Uganda, Mozambique and Angola where commendable economic growth has failed to translate into markedly reduced levels of poverty and inequality. In addition, Uganda hosts alarming numbers of Congolese and South Sudanese refugees. Therefore FCA implemented an education in emergency response in two refugee settlements. In 2014, the South Sudan context was characterised by the ongoing civil war and deteriorating food security situation to which FCA responded through humanitarian action in education as well as food security and nutrition sectors. FCA in Somalia focused on continuing and expanding its long-term right to peace work, supplemented with a humanitarian IDP voluntary return project in Somaliland. Somalia programme remains the largest of FCA’s Country Programmes in the region. In Kenya, FCA works in the conflict affected and prone northern counties with a strong focus on right to peace.

MFA of Finland strongly facilitated and supported the groundwork for FCA entering Eritrea. Important steps forward were taken in the latter half of 2014 when FCA delegation travelled to Asmara to meet with government officials and discuss the opportunity of FCA launching an education programme there. A follow-up visit of FCA’s education specialists confirmed that both sides were willing to engage in co-operation. After thorough data gathering and a series of negotiations on the strategy, an official Memorandum of Understanding between FCA and the Government of Eritrea was signed in January 2015.

FCA has continued to build and maintain strategic partner- nerships with institutional donors, UN agencies, relevant government institutions and other NGOs both locally in the countries and regionally at the Nairobi level. In 2014, FCA was able to secure significant grants from Somalia Stability Fund, EU/PEACE and USAID for its peace work in Somalia and Kenya. Furthermore, FCA is an active member of local ACT Forums in the region. Regional coordination among ACT members takes place in Nairobi. In Uganda, FCA was elected as the chair of the local ACT forum.

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2. Overview of the Kenya Programme

Kenya

Kenya with relative stability compared to the neighbouring countries, particularly Somalia and South Sudan, has a history of hosting large numbers of refugees, fleeing both armed conflicts and drought-induced famine. Although the economic, political and social development indicators of Kenya are relatively positive, development challenges remain high in its arid and semi-arid lands, inhabited by about 10 million Kenyans and an estimated half of them living in poverty. Government services are weak in these areas, which are also highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and conflicts.

In 2014, FCAs work in Kenya focused on the arid and semi-arid lands region of Northern Kenya, where violent conflicts between pastoralist communities have become widespread and increasingly severe. The complex patterns of conflict have had severe and negative effects on the involved communities; in particular loss of human life and the root causes of the conflicts relate to lack of livelihood opportunities and poverty.

During 2014, FCAs work in Turkana was closely linked with each other. In order to synergise the two projects, focus of the Turkana project has been extended to cover peace and DRR work in semi-arid land region. In this initiative, FCAs work on increasing the capacity of duty-bearers and local communities to prevent and resolve conflicts and on enhancing the role of religious and traditional leaders in conflict prevention, mediation, resolution and reconciliation on grass-roots, county and national levels. The REGAL-IR project and FCAs project in Turkana closely link with each other.

2.1 Programme Objectives and Achievements

2.1.1 Right to Livelihood

Local communities in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts have experienced the effects of conflict in the Turkana County, with the root causes being lack of livelihood opportunities and poverty.

During 2014, FCA worked with local partners TUPADO and Catholic Bishops in Turkana and PACIDA and CIFA in Marsabit. The co-operation with LWF Kenya was put on hold after the Dadaab education response closed in March 2014. In addition, FCA continued to be an active member of the ACT Alliance Kenya Forum.

2.1.2 Right to Education

Girls and boys living in disaster (both natural or man-made) affected communities have equal, uninterrupted access to quality education and safe and protected learning spaces through preparedness and response capacity of communities, including authorities.

• During 2013-2014, in the Dadaab education in emergencies project, special needs education (SNE) was supported. The awareness raising campaigns led to enrolment of 22 (3 female, 19 male) SNE learners. Altogether 1,032 SNE learners were supported through procurement of SNE teaching and learning materials. In addition, five SNE teachers were recruited, four of them from among the refugee population. In the same project, an accelerated learning programme for over-age learners was supported through teacher training and its student enrolment was enhanced, resulting in 300 new learners.

Refugees with limited educational backgrounds have access to quality vocational training/skills development

The Dadaab education in emergency project, in 2013-2014, facilitated vocational skills trainings for altogether 145 refugee youth (78 female, 67 male) in motor vehicle mechanics, driving, sewing and soap making. In addition, 30 youth (15 female, 15 male) were trained in business development skills and 30 youth (13 female, 17 male) in bookkeeping and simple accounting. Literacy classes were organised for 168 (68 female, 100 male) for youth enrolled in the vocational training center.

2.1.3 Right to Peace

Inter communal conflicts in Northern Kenya are reduced and mitigated through involvement of community leaders in conflict mediation (country-specific objective)

• In 2014, in the Turkana Project, FCA facilitated dialogue between political leaders of Turkana and Pokot counties.

The dialogue led to signing of three peace agreements. The conflicting communities were met in their farming tools during the maize planting period. • In the REGAL-IR project, conflict assessments in all the five counties and mapping of conflict hotspots have been conducted. In most communities the dialogue and peace efforts have just been launched. However, community engagement through community dialogue forums contributed to the reduction of open conflicts during drought period. In addition, a dialogue meeting in Garissa led to the warring communities signing an agreement on cessation of violence, after which communities started to share grazing fields. Altogether so far four agreements on land use and sharing of the resources such as pasture and grazing fields have been signed. Furthermore, FCA has trained all the REGAL-IR consortium members in Do No Harm approach.

2.2. Development of the Country Programme during 2013-2014

FCA established its presence in Kenya already in 2010 in order to manage and coordinate its Country Programmes in the region. FCAs Kenya programme was launched in 2013; however some humanitarian responses had been implemented before as well. In 2013 FCA strongly focused on education response in Dadaab refugee camp. In 2014 the focus shifted towards peace work through the opportunity to join the consortium implementing the US-AID-funded REGAL-IR project. However, FCA has kept on developing education in emergency concepts in order to be able to contribute towards realisation of the right to education of the refugee population residing in Kakuma and Dadaab camps.

Ahead of the electoral period in 2013, FCA facilitated the disaster preparedness planning of the ACT Alliance Kenya Forum, whose members have a complete coverage of whole Kenya. Furthermore FCA was active in the Kenya Humanitarian Forum led by UN-OCHA and in the donor community forums in Nairobi.

3. Evaluations and Studies

As part of the REGAL-IR project, FCA conducted a conflict study in 5 counties of northern Kenya, namely Garissa, Marsabit, Isiolo, Turkana and Wajir. The study provided report, analysis and recommendations that will help FCA and its partners to plan and implement relevant and efficient right to peace interventions in the area.

The overall findings indicate that majority of the conflicts in all the five counties are still active. They also demonstrate that generally the main types of conflicts are driven by scarcity of natural resources, land ownership and boundaries disputes, cattle rustling, tribal and clan hostilities, and political differences. At county level, the findings show that most conflicts are also resource-based in Wajir while in Garissa majority are both resource based as well as due to land ownership and border disputes. On the contrary, ethnic-based conflicts are common in Marsabit whereas in Isiolo and Turkana respectively, the conflicts are mainly of cattle rustling type. In addition, the study determined that natu-
rul resource-based conflicts are mainly driven by pastoralist lifestyle which is the main economic mainstay of the indigentious residents of these counties. Other conflict types like cattle rustling are sometimes driven by repugnant cultural practices, such as the requirement for the youth to kill and raid animals to marry. Conflicts are also triggered by political incitement and unclear or un-demarcated boundaries.

The conflicts bear heavy impacts on the respective communities economically, socially and psychologically while at the same time lead to serious human rights violations. In particular, women and children are impacted most as women suffer atrocities such as rapes while children drop out of school, parents and an atmosphere conducive to their growth and development. The study found that several mediation efforts have been attempted to try and resolve these conflicts in various counties with the aim of reducing these impacts. In this process, traditional leaders have contributed by applying traditional approaches, which include dialogue and joint decision making, to conflict resolutions while religious leaders have used religious approaches, in order to try and mediate the conflicts. Furthermore, the government has often formed mediation committees to try and resolve these issues.

The study therefore established that, although there is already much concerted effort focusing on these conflicts; for example various international actors are assisting these counties through support in education, resource provision, funding, capacity building, awareness and others; some fresh momentum is necessary. This is where the role of FCA becomes necessary. This study found that FCA may implement interventions that support communities and create pathways to conflict resolutions. The study found that the main roles FCA may play in the five counties are capacity building and awareness and others; some fresh momentum is necessary. This is where the role of FCA becomes necessary. This study found that FCA may implement interventions that support communities and create pathways to conflict resolutions. The study found that the main roles FCA may play in the five counties are capacity building, logistical support, and school construction, dig boreholes for water, support peace initiatives, and address root causes of conflicts. Specifically, in Wajir and Marsabit, the major role of FCA could be logistical support and school construction while in Garissa and biolo, the main role could be capacity building for various peace actors and lastly in Turkana, FCA’s main role could be support to and facilitation of various peace activities.

In addition to the conflict analysis, FCA conducted an education needs assessment in Kakuma refugee camp in order to generate data and background information for future openings in education in emergencies work.

4. Capacity Building
FCA trained all the REGAL-IR consortium partners on Do No Harm approach and conflict sensitivity. The trainings were conducted in five counties of northern Kenya and reached a total of 100 staff members of both consortium partners and local organisations.

5. Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt
There is a high security risk in northern Kenya due to the ongoing conflicts and especially high prevalence of terrorist attacks around the area. In 2014, the risk did not directly affect FCA programming, but high security measures need to be taken while travelling in the northern counties.

The high expectations from different stakeholders and communities constitute a challenge for the right to peace programming. FCA has responded to this through high level of involvement of the communities and stakeholders during baseline surveys and immediate response. The involvement of politicians in the peace processes has reduced suspicion towards FCA’s work. With regards to this, achieving and maintaining the back-up from the politicians is often time-consuming, as there are almost parallel governance structures and often the national and county government structures seem to contradict each other.

### 2. Overview of the Somalia Programme
Somalia represents one of the most critical fragile states in the world. Like the rest of the Horn of Africa, the country has been suffering from the adverse consequences of both man-made and natural disasters in much of its recent history. Out of 170 countries, Somalia ranks among the bottom five least developed countries as measured by United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP) Human Development Indicators (HDI) which stands at 0.285 against the maximum value of 1. The alarmingly low HDI indicator partly reveals the state authorities’ low capacities to provide public services to citizens, particularly youth and women. Gender inequality index for Somalia is remarkably high at 0.77% out of a value of 1, marking significant gender inequality whereas the overall frustration index that captures nine socioeconomic and political factors among Somali youth surveyed for the HDI scored as high as 3.96 out of 5. Furthermore, 82 percent of Somalis are considered poor across multiple dimensions.

In 2014, FCA in Somalia’s fragile context focused on its peacebuilding and state-building efforts and humanitarian responses in livelihoods sector implemented in Somaliland.

As result of more than two decades of civil war and the subsequent evolution of very localized socio-political and security dynamics in different regions of the country, Somalia has de facto become divided in three major zones being Somaliland (which regards itself as an independent country), Puntland (which regards itself semiautonomous) and South-Central Somalia. The Northern parts have achieved a fragile semblance of peace and stability through bottom-up conflict transformation with a sustained focus on resolving issues at the community level. Local communities, namely religious leaders and traditional clan elders have played an important role in conflict prevention and management in the North. However, sustainability of reached peace agreements is questionable and state capabilities in conflict prevention remain weak as inter- and intra-clan conflicts still regularly erupt in the Northern parts of Somalia.

The peace processes in South-Central Somalia have been heavily focused on top-down task of state-building and power-sharing that has not engaged the population at large.
Year 2012 marked the end of eight-year transitional federal government in South-Central Somalia, now replaced by a post-transition federal government and provisional constitution. The federal government is currently tasked with forming states by the end of 2016 – as agreed in the New Deal. Despite the positive changes in the political arena, post-transition efforts towards peace and stability in South-Central Somalia face numerous challenges, namely related to the fragile federal government. Under the current situation, with a very weak central government, the establishment of functioning federal state administrations may indeed appear as the most viable option.

In 2014, as a member of the Somalia Return Consortium, FCA Somalia Country Office launched a humanitarian project in Somaliland and Puntland with an intention to support the voluntary return movement of IDPs from bigger cities to their villages of origin. The UNCHR led Return Consortium members are implementing highly standardized interventions focusing on voluntary return and livelihood recovery support throughout Somalia. FCA was present in Somaliland, Puntland and South Central Somalia. Support from the MFA partnership programme to the Somalia Country Office was the key factor enabling FCA to expand the Country Programme as well as maintain and further enhance its presence in South-Central Somalia. Committee for Peacebuilding, Centre for Health, Education and Environment (CJHE), Haqour for Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development, Horn of Africa Centre for Peace (HACP) and Centre for Research and dialogue (CRD).

2.1 Programme Objectives and Achievements

2.1.1 Right to Livelihood

Local communities have strengthened their resilience to shocks including natural and man-made disasters and the effects of climate change that negatively impact their livelihoods.

In 2013-2014 through two humanitarian interventions, cash for work was provided to 1785 agro-pastoral and non-food items and cash aid for five months and some cash for livelihoods startup. In addition, many of them emphasised that their children have got free education in the villages of origin and that they are willing to be part of community integration process to maintain their lifestyle after the completion of the project. The project continued up to April 2015.

Women have equal access and control over productive resources and assets

In 2013-2014, by providing cash for work for 616 women and unconditional cash relief for 593 women, FCA increased their household purchasing power and access to basic necessities.

In the voluntary return project launched in 2014, 69 per cent of project of the beneficiaries in Somaliland and 87 per cent of the beneficiaries in Puntland were female-headed households. The returning households were provided with basic necessities for living, i.e. food and non-food items in December 2014. The project continued up to April 2015.

Local communities, in disaster affected or fragile contexts have strengthened their assets and capability to develop their livelihoods in sustainable ways.

In the SPPI project, FCA and its local partner facilitated state and non-state actors to address charcoal production-related conflicts in the quarterly dialogue meeting in Sanaag region in Somaliland during the last quarter of 2014. The meeting participants agreed on bringing most of the traditional chiefs of the region to the next quarterly meeting in order to establish regional regulations against conflict and to create an enabling environment to address and solve the root causes behind the conflicts.

In 2013-2014, the CRPIP project contributed to an articulated understanding of the value of safety and the continued need for safety in each of the conducted peacebuilding meetings. The committee managed to settle the other conflict at an early stage and secure a ceasefire for the other conflict. Regarding the four conflicts resolved during 2014, reconciliation effort included a session on the root causes of conflict as part of the process that lead to signing of the peace agreement. Women and youth’s role in peace-building was enhanced by training 129 women, out of which 35 were youth, and 63 male youth peace activists on peace and conflict resolution. In addition, the project facilitated the inclusion of women in regional peace committees of Soo and Sanaag, reaching an overall female percentage of 23 per cent in the committees.

In 2013-2014, the CPIC project contributed to an articulated understanding of the value of safety and the continued need for safety in each of the conducted meetings for intra-clan reconciliation. Women were facilitated to hold their own meetings and were praised by the men for being able to be more active and organised than the men.

The Peace Initiative in Bay and Bakool was launched in 2014 and facilitated a resolution for on conflict. In addition, SOCO and its local partner facilitated one special Common Peace Committee (CPC) meeting in December 2014 as a response to an emergency situation of a newly erupted conflict between two clans of Mirifle. The conflict costed 10 lives, villages were burnt down and most of the people had to flee to the neighbouring villages settled by other clans. Representatives of the CPC and the two conflicting clans formed a committee of nine members. The committee visited the conflict area and got the conflicting parties to agree on a ceasefire. Furthermore, the CPC managed to intervene in another intra-clan conflict in Mirifle. The conflict that started in November was resolved in December, before revenge attacks were taken by the victim side of the first attack. In addition, a CPC was established in South West Somalia and consists now of 15 members, including one youth and two female members.

Religious and traditional leaders and possible other non-structural forms are positively contributing to conflict prevention, mediation, conflict resolution and peace and actively promote human rights.

As a result of the SPPI project implemented in 2013-2014, 180 prominent Imans in Somaliland and Puntland participated in Imans’ meetings where they reported having regularly provided Friday prayers and advised local youth against all conflicting behavior. In the dialogue meetings that were facilitated as part of the project, clans, religious leaders, major districts, women and youth were all represented.

During 2013-2014, the CRPIP project supported six clans to hold preparatory meetings for intra-clan reconciliation to take place. During clan meetings emphasis was placed on actually bringing sub-clans together in the same room and not necessarily on resolving outstanding conflicts. What was achieved was to identify conflicts and put in place an agreement of how they should be solved. The committees, which clans must do on their own. Religious and traditional leaders of the region have been instrumental for the Central Regions Interim Administration formation process.

Decision-makers are willing and equipped to bear their responsibility to promote citizen security, including peaceful resolution of conflicts and protection and promotion of the equal human rights of the members of communities, with special attention to the protection of the most vulnerable.

In 2013-2014, the SPPI project established and facilitated the work of three regional peace committees in Somalia (Sool and Sanaag regions). The committees enjoy highest level of legitimacy as they represent different sectors of the society and the regional authorities. In Sool and Sanaag, the community leaders, female and youth peace activists together with regional authorities jointly identified root causes of conflicts, including structural causes. The meeting participants developed regional peace-building plans and for five years to address and solve the root causes behind the conflicts and to create an enabling environment to address problems between clans through peaceful means. In 2014, progress towards establishment of the administration has been made and it’s expected to be in place by the end of 2015.
2.2 Development of the Country Programme during 2013-2014

In 2013-2014 FCA managed to significantly expand its funding base and especially peace work. New grants from DFID, Somalia Stability Fund and EuropeAid enabled FCA to take a gradual turn towards state-building efforts, in addition to the traditional FCA three-fold approach to peace building, i.e. capacitating peace activists, facilitating duty-bearer rights-holder dialogue and supporting traditional/religious leader in conflict resolution. During the years, FCA in its peace work also shifted gradually from self-implementation to partner implementation and co-implementation with partners. FCA identified, assessed and approved three partners to implement peace projects in all regions of Somalia; CRD in South-Central Somalia, HACP in Puntland and Haqsoor in Central Somalia. FCA appreciates MFA’s support for the Somalia Country Office, which in 2013-2014 enabled FCA to significantly develop and expand the Country Programme. The most notable benefit of this support is that in 2013 FCA was able to kick-start its presence and engage in the peace work in South-Central Somalia. Through MFA support FCA’s presence in South-Central Somalia was further enhanced in 2014. Without this support, FCA would have been unable to receive wide acknowledgment for R2P work from international donors and to expand the funding base in the current scale.

While the unstable and volatile situation in Somalia has been heavily affecting the bordering countries, especially Kenya and Ethiopia, FCA has achieved significant gains towards peacebuilding and stabilisation process of the region. In light of the overall regional engagement in the peace and stability sector, FCA entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development with focus on Somalia, but the MoU is open to a broader co-operation to help achieving peace, prosperity and regional integration. In addition, FCA in the region established useful relationships with African Union and World Bank. As a member of the Somalia Return Consortium, FCA started the process of registering as a partner for WFP in Somalia in order to receive food items for distribution.

3. Evaluations and Studies

External mid-term evaluations of the SPPI project and the Peace Initiative in Bay and Bakool were conducted. Both evaluations focused mainly on finding ways to improve the projects’ approach and logic in order to reach higher impact. Peace Initiative in Bay and Bakool were conducted. Both evaluations focused mainly on finding ways to improve the projects' approach and logic in order to reach higher impact.

4. Capacity Building

In its capacity building efforts FCA focused on improving the partners financial capacity through several training sessions. Training on the job was frequently provided as well taking the opportunity of joint work sessions on monthly basis for specific project purposes, such as financial monitoring and reporting. Improvements in partners’ financial and administrative capacity are evident. Programmatic capacity building was provided to the partners through on-the-job support in work planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting. Clear improvements in reporting, work planning and better understanding of peace programming were witnessed. However, despite the improvements, the partners still relied heavily on FCA’s support. Therefore, in 2015, FCA will continue to focus on building local partners’ capacity.

5. Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

One of the major challenges in Somalia remains insecurity. FCA has responded to this by strengthening the Standard Operating Procedures, especially reducing movements within and outside Mogadishu. However this results in less on-site monitoring of the activities. More local staff has been put in place, but FCA emphasizes that also their security has to be ensured. FCA’s Regional Security Manager, based in Nairobi, strongly focuses on ensuring the safety of FCA and its partners’ staff and often travels to Somalia.

FCA acknowledges that on the one hand, the peace work it implements has the potential to draw communities together to work collaboratively towards shared goals, but on the other hand, it has the potential to create or exacerbate tensions within or between communities. Thus, following the Do No Harm principle, FCA and its local partners put in every effort to ensure all decisions taken at all stages of project management are well-informed. Concretely, this means working closely with the communities in order to understand the causes, drivers and triggers of violent conflicts and consulting all relevant stakeholders on selection of participants to the activities, namely in order to ensure balanced clan representation.

Another challenge is the low level of capacity of the local partners. The exercise of building the partners’ capacity is a massive challenge and a lot of time and resources are needed for it. FCA is highly motivated to continue the capacity building efforts, but in some cases might have to look into the opportunities of directly self-implementing activities.

Programmatically, Right to Livelihood theme has perhaps the greatest potential to strengthen and complement the Right to Peace interventions. It should be noted as well that humanitarian aid that aims to give access to productive resources to both men and women will continue to be an important strategy for FCA in 2015 in order to enable communities in Somalia to meet their immediate needs. Humanitarian interventions in Puntland and South-Central Somalia are currently not planning to use FCA’s role as recognised actor in peacebuilding which might at some level compromise FCA's role as a neutral and impartial humanitarian actor. In the education sector, the main challenge is the lack of limited funding opportunities. FCA tries to tackle this by developing quality and relevant proposals for potential donors.

2. Overview of the Uganda Programme

Uganda is a low income country with a population of approximately 34.5 million people and a very high population growth rate at 3.2 per cent per annum, one of the highest in the world. More than half of the population is under 15 and the population is expected to exceed 56 million by 2023 with the current population growth rate. Poverty remains firmly entrenched in the country’s rural areas. Around 40 per cent of all rural people live in abject poverty. Uganda remains one of the least developed countries in Africa and with the Human Development Index at 0.444 Uganda ranks at 164 out of 187 countries of the world. While the country has achieved commendable economic growth and development results, they have not translated into markedly reduced levels of poverty, especially in the northern region.

Uganda borders with critical fragile states of South Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In 2014, the South Sudan conflict resulted in mass displacement and triggered an influx of refugees to northern Uganda. In addition, the country continues to host a significant amount of Congolese refugees due to the volatile situation in DRC. Contrary to other refugee countries, Uganda itself is a relatively stable country. The political situation has improved and multi-party system has been re-stored. However, tensions under the surface are evident and the actual power-sharing remains undone. The year 2014 marked the opening of FCA’s Country Office in Uganda, which enables FCA to enhance support to its local partners and opens opportunities to extend and further develop the Country Programme. FCA in Uganda supported initiatives that take into account a variety of economic, so-
2.1 Programme Objectives and Achievements

2.1.1 Right to Livelihood

Local communities in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts have strengthened their assets and capability to develop their livelihoods in sustainable ways.

- In 2014, in the Katakwi Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) project, 25 village saving and loan associations (VSLA) were promoted and the 750 members are actively saving and engaged in small businesses to foster economic empowerment. The resources are used to finance the plans that they have earlier come up with. In the same project, District Disaster Management Technical Committee successfully lobbied earth moving machines from the Office of the Prime Minister for opening roads, drainage channels and desilting of valley dams. In addition, the committee lobbied the district leadership to pass a bylaw for community members in waterlogged areas to continue desilting the tranches and plant trees. As a result, waterlogging has tremendously reduced in the target areas and food security situation has improved.

- The Kampala Slum Dwellers’ Advocacy and Development Project supported a total of 17 savings groups in order to boost their various businesses. The savings component of the project has proved that the commitment and collective efforts of the urban poor towards improving their lives and living environment is feasible. The project emphasises community livelihood projects as a strategy to address poverty.

- Women have equal access and control over productive resources and assets.

- In 2014, three community dialogue meetings with focus on women’s rights to productive assets like land, sexual reproductive health were conducted as part of the Pader Farmers Empowerment Project. A total of 404 (of which 127 male and 277 female) persons participated in the dialogues. As a result of the community dialogue meetings, 42 right issues were brought to the attention of duty-bearers. Around 75 per cent of the group members expressed that there is increased participation of women/girls in decision-making, e.g. women make decisions on the type of business, type of crops to plant, family planning method, participate in VSLA groups, participate in cancer screening, educate their children among others.

- The Kampala Slum Dwellers’ Advocacy and Development Project project emphasised community approach by working in Uganda through the Economic Empowerment and Self-reliance for Women project.

- As a result of the Kampala Slum Dwellers’ Advocacy and Development Project, 6766 awareness sessions have been conducted; while 3 right issues have been brought to the attention of duty-bearers. Around 80 per cent of the group members expressed that women can own land and animals, and children are allowed to inherit land irrespective of their gender. In addition, women are now initiating dialogue meetings with duty-bearers.

- As a result of the Education in Emergency response, 6 girls in decision-making, e.g. women make decisions on the type of business, type of crops to plant, family planning method, participate in VSLA groups, participate in cancer screening, educate their children among others. The pupil absenteeism has reduced, thanks to the continuous monitoring tools for monitoring of all DRR activities in the district and collective efforts of the urban poor towards improving their lives and living environment is feasible. The project emphasises community livelihood projects as a strategy to address poverty.

- In the Katakwi DRR project, training was conducted for the 306 group members of the Policy Committee members on carrying out vulnerability assessment, hazard and risk mapping and 16 of 20 members attended. In addition, 177 awareness sessions have been conducted; while 3 right issues have been brought to the attention of duty-bearers. Around 80 per cent of the group members expressed that women can own land and animals, and children are allowed to inherit land irrespective of their gender. In addition, women are now initiating dialogue meetings with duty-bearers.

- The Economic Empowerment and Self-reliance for Women project was launched in 2014. A comprehensive training on VSLA methodology was conducted. A total of 60 women attended the training sessions. As a result of the training a total of EUR 15,873 has been saved by the women and was used to start up several income generating activities. Trainings in entrepreneurship and enterprise selection were also conducted to project beneficiaries in Gulu and Oyam districts. A total of 41 women were trained to promote local business. The training introduced the participants to several methods of entrepreneurship, financial management and bookkeeping. The training sessions were attended by widows, women living with HIV/AIDS, and young married couples who had dropped out of school due to being unable to afford school fees.

- As a result of the Women's Bank Project, 102 individuals and 177 awareness sessions have been conducted; while 3 right issues have been brought to the attention of duty-bearers. Around 80 per cent of the group members expressed that women can own land and animals, and children are allowed to inherit land irrespective of their gender. In addition, women are now initiating dialogue meetings with duty-bearers.

- As a result of the Women’s Bank Project, 102 individuals have been in position to open individual income generating activities. The training included not limited to retail business, goat rearing, poultry and drug shop. VSLA members’ capacity has been built and all the VSLAs can make decisions in their VSLAs. The project closed in the end of 2015, but Women’s Bank continues to support FCA’s work in Uganda through the Economic Empowerment and Self-reliance for Women project.

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Through the interreligious council of Uganda, which is a member of Religions for Peace, FCA is exploring possibilities preparing to the 2016 general elections which might trigger disorder in the country. In 2014, FCA held planning meeting with the Director of Interreligious council on a possible collaboration. FCA has also held discussions with the Uganda Joint Christian council on role that they can play in the forthcoming elections. Furthermore, FCA commissioned an assessment aimed at providing comprehensive analysis and recommendations that will help the Network of Religious and Traditional Leaders and its members to plan and implement relevant and efficient activities in the face of the upcoming elections.

FCA is a member of the peace cluster hosted by the Office of the Prime Minister in which all peace related agencies work together. As a result, FCA has contributed to the first ever Peace Policy for Uganda which is waiting for approval from the cabinet of the government. If approved the policy will be a very good tool to foster peaceable coexistence in Uganda and will empower religious leaders to play a much clearer role in conflict prevention and mitigation.

Through farmer group activities in the ECSL project, in one of the project areas the Christians and Muslims have adapted peaceful coexistence to peace and coexistence between members of different faiths. They now work together in order to develop themselves and their communities. In addition, the project has achieved significant gains towards reducing sexual and gender-based violence through community sensitisation.

During 2013-2014 FCA in Uganda built relations with different line departments and aligned its work with several key government policies such as the Uganda refugee policy, the Business, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (BTVET) Strategy plan, the Agricultural Zoning Framework, the Vision 2040 and the primary education policies. As a result of this, Government of Uganda’s Office of the Prime Minister has commended FCA for its methods of work and has expressed its willingness to enhance coexistence in Uganda and will empower religious leaders to play a much clearer role in conflict prevention and mitigation.

The establishment of the Uganda Country Office in 2014 enables FCA to develop the Country Programme more flexibly, further enhance its support to the partner organisations and constantly assess the situation in the country. In 2014 FCA became an active member of the education cluster chaired by UNHCR and the peace cluster hosted by the Office of the Prime Minister. Furthermore, FCA was elected as a chair of the Uganda ACT Forum. In order to widen its partner-base in the country, FCA identified two new local partners, Rural Action Community Based Organization (RA-COBAO) and Development Relief Initiative (DRI). Through FCA’s thematic work in Uganda, it has managed to strengthen its presence in the field of peace building, economic empowerment and development.
The little progress made in urban education, health and ba-
sic infrastructure during the first two years of independence
is on the verge of being annihilated by the civil war. At the
same time the international community has been obliged to
shift from long-term development interventions towards
humanitarian response.

In 2014, FCA in South Sudan continued to operate in the
fragile context with a focus on humanitarian assistance in
the education sector, security sector, but at the same time
holding on to the long-term development projects as well.
Moreover, FCA engaged in reconciliation and peacebuild-
ing efforts in Jonglei state in co-operation with The Church
Leaders Mediation Initiative (CLMI), FCA continued to
partner with Mundri Relief and Development Association
(MRDA) and IWF South Sudan, and to coordinate its ac-
tions with other ACT Alliance members. Due to partners’
lack of capacity to operate in the very difficult context, year
2014 marked for FCA also a shift to self-implementation of
humanitarian operations.

2.1 Programme Objectives and Achievements

2.1.1 Right to Livelihood

Local communities in disaster affected or otherwise fragile
contexts have strengthened their assets and capability to
develop their livelihoods in sustainable ways

- In 2014, in the MOFTAD project, 230 farmers were
  trained on better agricultural techniques and draught
  power, dairy farming was piloted at the demonstration
  farm in Mundri, youth were supported with basic tools
  and seeds to enable them to use a demonstration farm
  plot secured for their use and discussed with the community
  how to improve the commercialisation of farm products.
  As a result of employing better agricultural practices, farmers on average cultivated 5 acres of cereal
  crops which is more than double than before. The aver-
  age time the farmers spent on land preparation reduced
  from 7 to 2 days. In return, crop productivity almost
doubled from an average half a ton per hectare to one
  per hectare. Poultry farming activities saw each par-
ticipant generate an average of USD 30 per month after
  only working 20 minutes per day allowing them to al-
locate time for other activities as well. Furthermore out-
of-work youth have been found motivated to contribute
to their own livelihood.
- In the Kotobi project, in collaboration with the Minis-
try of Education, Science and Technology and the com-
munities, 30 (27 male, 3 female) students were recruited
and began their training in the Kotobi Institute of Teach-
er Education (KITE) in 2014. Furthermore, 23 (17 male, 6
female) students completed their second year of training
in KITE, graduated and most of them were employed ei-
ther privately or by the government or by other
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locate time for other activities as well. Furthermore out-
of-work youth have been found motivated to contribute
to their own livelihood.
- In the Kotobi project, a vocational and skills training
  centre was established. Curriculums were developed
by local instructors for masonry, tailoring, catering, me-
chanics, welding and carpentry. Altogether 72 students
were enrolled for the courses in 2014.

Local communities (women and men and youth) have
strengthened their resilience and capacity to respond to
shocks including natural and man-made disasters and the
effects of climate change that negatively impact their liveli-
hoods

- In the MOFTAD and MEYST projects, the capacity of
  the women, men and youth was reinforced through trainings
  on better agricultural techniques and vocational skills in
  order to enhance their and their communities’ resilience
towards future shocks.
- As a humanitarian response to the deteriorating food
  security situation, emergency food aid was distributed to
altogether 4,275 IDP households in Mundri. Through food-for-work activities community assets (3 roads, 1
school compound, 2 community compounds, 1 bridge and 3 hospitals) were rehabilitated and 370 participants
  received food rations. In addition, 12 water sources were
rehabilitated and 20 village technicians were trained on
  basic maintenance of the sources.
- As part of the ACT South Sudan Appeal – Conflict Re-
sponse, food items, seeds and tools were distributed to 1,338 IDP households.

2.1.2 Right to Education

Women, men and youth in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts with limited educational background have access to quality vocational training/skill development

- In the Kotobi project, in collaboration with the Minis-
tory of Education, Science and Technology and the com-
munities, 30 (27 male, 3 female) students were recruited
and began their training in the Kotobi Institute of Teach-
er Education (KITE) in 2014. Furthermore, 23 (17 male, 6
female) students completed their second year of training
in KITE, graduated and most of them were employed ei-
ther privately or by the government or by other
institutions. All the stu-
dents did their school practice in Mundri West County
during the year. The teachers who previously could only
  teach in Arabic are now able to use English as teaching
language as well. In addition, the KITE’s teacher training
programme was supported in 2014 through deployment
of a Teachers without Borders volunteer (see chapter 1.5 Volunteering).

Girls and boys living in disaster (both natural or man-
made) affected communities have equal, uninterrupted
access to quality education and safe and protected learn-
ing spaces through preparedness and response capacity of
  communities, including authorities

- Through the education in emergency response, 1,854
  children, youth and adults, most of them IDPs, have ac-
  cess to inclusive safe and protective emergency learning
  spaces and emergency teaching and learning supplies.
  Altogether 35 temporary learning spaces and 30 school
  latrines were constructed. The model of the learning
  spaces constructed by FCA received wide acknowledge-
ment among the education cluster members and other
  education actors (e.g. teachers, PTA members, education
  officials). Over 90 per cent of the children and youth re-
  ported feeling safe and protected in the learning spaces
  and having access to necessary basic education material.
About 75 per cent of the children were able to demon-
strate awareness on the subjects taught and the skills
acquired. Both boys and girls reported feeling comfort-
able using the school latrines that were constructed.
The awareness raising campaigns on e.g. WASH, peace, gen-
ders based violence child protection reached 4,363
children, youth and adults. Through the teacher training
activities, around 80 per cent of the teachers were able to apply
the acquired skills and knowledge on daily basis.

2.1.3 Right to Peace

Local communities in disaster affected or fragile contexts have enhanced capability to prevent and resolve conflicts
promoting the respect of human rights with the active par-
ticipation of women and youth

- In 2014, in the peace and reconciliation project in Jon-
glei state, CLMI and FCA facilitated community confer-
ences and the establishment of peace committees which
promoted the active participation of all members of the
community, with special emphasis on the involvement of
women and youth. The communities began a dialogue
that addresses the origin and history of the people, the
roles of different members of the community, particu-
larly traditional leaders, women and youth. Through the
dialogue, the communities are discussing root causes of
intra and inter-communal conflicts and solutions to end
the violence. Furthermore, the communities were working on and documenting traditional conflict reso-
lution and peacebuilding mechanisms that are inherent
in local traditions, customs and values. From amongst
themselves, the communities chose members to be part
of the peace committees, making sure that women and
  youth participants were involved and able to participate
  fully in the activities of the committee.
- In the Jonglei and Pibor administrative region, 6 new peace
  committees were established and 10 community-based
civic educators were trained in 2014. Gender based vio-
  lence (GBV) related problems were addressed through
training of 9 religious and traditional leaders on how to
  respond to it, raising awareness among the communities
  and 90 GBV survivors were identified and counselled.

Religious and traditional leaders and possible other non-
  formal structures are positively contributing to conflict
  prevention, mediation, conflict resolution and peace and
  actively promote human rights

- Communities in Greater Pibor Administrative Area, Jon-
glei mandated members of CLMI to facilitate peace and
  reconciliation processes in the project area. CLMI is
  committed to carrying out follow-up activities that will
  contribute to the successful implementation of the peace
  agreement in Greater Pibor Administrative Area. FCA fa-
cilitated CLMI’s work and trained them in conflict reso-
lution, peace building as well as project management.

2.2. Development of the Country Programme
during 2015-2014

Due to the ongoing conflict, FCA was obliged to restructure its presence and work in the country. In early 2014 it be-
came evident that FCA’s partners did not have the capacity
to implement humanitarian responses in the areas that FCA
through careful consideration and in cluster coordination
found necessary to target. Therefore FCA opened field offic-
els in Mingkaman and Pibor and became fully operational in
the field, self-implementing its humanitarian interventions.
In 2014, FCA’s South Sudan Programme grew significantly,
one of the reasons being that FCA managed to secure fund-
ing for a humanitarian response from Canadian Foodgrains
Bank. Growth and self-implementation has meant significa-
tive increase in the number of FCA’s local staff employed
in the country. In long-term FCA is committed to work with
and build the capacity of its local partners and local staff.

FCA built very good relations with Food Security & Livelihood and Education clusters at national and county
levels. The clusters in South Sudan have proven to be very
good platforms for sharing of information, especially on the
humanitarian situation in the areas of intervention.

In right to livelihood theme, FCA focused on developing
the work by introducing more efficient agricultural methods
aimed at increasing productivity and improving the Coun-
try Programme’s emergency livelihood capacity aiming at
further livelihood work beyond the humanitarian project
cycle. In 2014, FCA successfully implemented an education
in emergency response with a focus on construction of tem-
porary learning spaces (TLS). Given the conflict that erupt-
ed in the midst of the 2013-2014 programme period, moving
from school construction projects implemented in 2013 to
TLS construction in 2014 was a logical choice based on as-
essed needs. In addition, FCA decided to further enhance
its right to peace work in 2014 through collaboration with
religious leaders given that they are held in high esteem by
all stakeholders in peace work.

3. Evaluations and Studies

In 2014, FCA in South Sudan conducted two project-spe-
cific assessments. A baseline survey on emergency food as-

sistance to IDPs in Mundri West County was conducted in August and enabled FCA to plan the emergency response funded by Canadian Foodgrains Bank. In December, FCA conducted a rapid needs assessment in Pibor County, Jonglei as part of the planning phase for another emergency food assistance project implemented in 2015.

4. Capacity Building
The Country Programme worked closely with MRDA to build the capacity of the partner organisation. This was an ongoing routine and was usually combined with monitoring visits. Lessons learnt were drawn for better delivery of aid. The capacity of CDMI was reinforced through trainings in conflict resolution, peacebuilding and project management and through the secondment of an FCA project staff member to work closely with the implementing partner.

The capacity building initiatives drew in positive results in project activities. The partners also showed improvement in the preparation and timeliness of project reports. However, a high turnover of partners’ staff to some extent negates the gains made. Therefore continuous capacity building efforts are needed.

5. Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt
The major challenge facing South Sudan is conflict. For this reason the Country Programme has been keen on linking together the work on all three thematic areas. It is found especially important to include peace work components in education and livelihoods programming. With the volatility in the country, FCA has been careful in its approach to programme work by being conflict sensitive while adopting the Do No Harm approach. This is also because FCA works with different ethnic groups within the same geographical location. All in all, FCA has been able to hold on to its reputation of a neutral actor.

In terms of operating in South Sudan, another major area of concern is insecurity. Due to the volatility of the situation, insecurity is a constant risk for both FCA and partners staff. To avoid security threats such as carjackings, robberies and muggings, FCA took all possible efforts including but not limited to observing UN curfews, constant monitoring of the situation and adopting clear security procedures.

In terms of operating in South Sudan, another major challenge is the high costs in the country. South Sudan being a net importer the cost of supplies, services and works is prohibitively expensive which affects even the day to day running of the office. The conflict further weakened the economy which further increased the operational and living costs during 2014. Furthermore, due to very poor infrastructure, many areas in South Sudan are accessible only in the dry season. Therefore careful planning and preparations are needed in order to launch or monitor activities in certain areas.

FCA’s South Sudan Country Office (SSUCO) has been experiencing a high turnover of staff due to very challenging context having an impact to some extent to the institutional memory of SSUCO. To bridge the gaps, SSUCO has been supported by FCAs Regional Office in Nairobi and HQ in Helsinki. Regarding hiring of staff locally, certain skills were found to be limited in the country. However, through developing a thorough recruitment process FCA was able to recruit capable local staff members.

While a large share of the South Sudanese population is in need of urgent food assistance and government is unable to cater even for the very basic needs, FCA finds it essential to improve the communities’ resilience to future shocks as well. Therefore, while engaging in humanitarian food security and nutrition interventions, FCA uses the linking relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD) approach. In 2014, in practice this actualised when alongside food assistance distributions FCA provided farmer households with seeds and tools in order for them to be able to re-start the agricultural cycle.

Traditionally in the South Sudanese culture, leadership and decision making have been in the hands of males, and more specifically older males. This is true also in the field of (traditional) conflict management, as old men have been and still are the central actors, which has meant that women, youth and other (marginalised) groups have been side-lined. One goal of the peace work was to widen participation and be more inclusive. Peace committees established in Greater Pibor Administrative Area brought together a broad representation of the community. The project was therefore able to capitalise on the contribution of the various groups. Men, women, youth, elders, cattle keepers, religious leaders, traditional leaders and local authorities are all represented in the committees.

2. Overview of the Mozambique Programme
Mozambique has experienced accelerated rates of growth over the past decades, averaging 7.2 per cent per year and its projected growth rates stand at as high as 8 per cent per year. However, the growth has failed to serve the whole population and translate into significant reductions of poverty.

Mozambique continues to be one of the poorest countries in the world with Human Development Index value at 0.393 ranking 176th out of 187 countries.

Out of the population of 25.8 million almost 40 per cent of Mozambicans live in urban areas and an estimated 75 per cent of them in unplanned informal settlements, of which many lack basic services such as clean water or sanitation. Mozambique’s high population growth rates have led to high numbers of new entrants to labour market each year. Hence many young people find employment only in the informal sector or in for of temporary, marginal jobs. Mozambique’s rural population, on the other hand, rely heavily on small scale farming with outdated agricultural techniques and an average landholding of only 1.8 hectares. While Mozambique is one of the most land-abundant countries in Africa, only 6–7 per cent of the arable land is currently cultivated.

With an estimated 1.6 million Mozambicans living with HIV/AIDS, the country bears the heavy burden of the epidemic. The epidemic has long undermined development and socio-economic gains of the country. Furthermore, Mozambique is prone to natural disasters, particularly to flooding in the rural areas. Gaza province where one of the

Mozambique

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project number</th>
<th>Project name</th>
<th>Actual Costs: EUR 677,752</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10504</td>
<td>Gaia Integrated Community Empowerment Project</td>
<td>MFA Partnership agreement EUR 677,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10599</td>
<td>Xikheleni Urban Development Project</td>
<td>MFA partnership agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign (CRC), private</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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FCA projects are implemented faced flooding in 2014, but not on the same level as in 2013.

Today, Mozambique is better known for a successful end to war rather than as a country prone to a new conflict. However, the country is characterised by certain features that already for years have undermined its peace and stability. In 2014, the rift between the ruling party and the opposition led to violent clashes, which however calmed down through a mediated process by the general elections held in October.

During 2014, FCA’s programming in Mozambique focused on the right to livelihoods theme. FCA and its local partners CEDES and LWF worked with the poor and marginalised communities in Gaza’s rural and Xikheleni’s urban areas. The projects included certain elements that promote right to education as well. However, as Mozambique faces severe challenges in terms of both quality of and access to education, FCA recognises the need to further develop its work in the education sector. Furthermore, FCA in Mozambique started to develop its right to peace work through the religious and traditional leaders, in order to address the challenges related to the fragile peace in the country.

The Mozambique Country Programme was managed and coordinated by FCA’s East and Southern Africa Regional Office in Nairobi. In 2014, FCA’s opportunities to develop the Country Programme were carefully assessed. As a result, FCA decided to launch the process of registering its presence in Mozambique.
2.1 Programme Objectives and Achievements

2.1.1 Right to Livelihood

Local communities in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts have strengthened their assets and capability to develop their livelihoods in sustainable ways.

- In the Gaza project, vocational training (in sewing, carpentry and manufacturing of bricks and lamps) in all four project districts has contributed to improved livelihoods of the youth. In addition to giving the youth vocational skills, the project supports their efforts to create sustainable small businesses. For youth these opportunities provide important alternatives to migrating to South Africa in order to find employment. In 2014, 155 young people (101 female, 54 male) attended the trainings.
- As a result of sensitisation and training, behaviour changes are visible in the communities of Gaza. Increased ownership is seen in initiatives such as the water fee that is collected among the community members, administered by the water committees, and used to drill water sources for animal consumption or repairing existing water pumps. 13 traditional water sources were drilled and are now benefiting 3,250 households. Communities are also engaging in the government project to drill more sources of potable water. As a result, 14 new water sources catering for 3,310 households were drilled in 2014. Furthermore, food conservation skills have led to significant changes in the dietary habits. Quality of the diet has improved and food is available for the whole year and particularly for the next season.
- In Gaza, all the 24 participating communities have functioning disaster risk management committees. In 2014, considerable work was carried out by the disaster risk management committee in collaboration with local government body for disaster response. Committees mobilised communities to save crops and prepare the populations to move to safe areas hence minimising negative flood impacts on the communities. The government in partnership with FCAs implementing partner LWF trains all the communities on disaster preparedness, including aspects of early warning measures and response measures in case of flooding. As a result, the communities are now prepared to take shelter from flooding and have adopted conservation agricultural approaches. In 2014, 8,194 hectares of agricultural land were destroyed by floods in Chokwe district, compared to 13,780 in 2013. However, pro-activity and preventive approaches led to minimal losses in 2014 floods in terms of e.g. land, food, animals and business. 
- In the urban context of Xikheleni, altogether 219 vulnerable households’ home gardening was supported. As a result, the households’ average number of meals increased from 1–2 to 2–3 per day.

Vulnerable households in FCA operational areas with special emphasis on women and youth have enhanced and diversified their livelihoods and been empowered to claim their livelihood-related rights (country-specific objective)

- In Gaza project, there are 26 VICOBAs (village bank) groups functioning with 662 members, of whom 438 (86 per cent) are women. Women have gained self-esteem through engagement in saving and small business, as it allows women to have some cash of their own, and decide what they want to do with it. VICOBAs groups serve as well as a forum to discuss social challenges among the women. In addition, 18 community development committees (CDCs) were registered as associations and two are going through the registration process.
- In 2014, in the Xikheleni project, 36 people living with HIV/AIDS of which 26 women and 10 men initiated and developed their businesses that generated income that they used to improve their living conditions, i.e. housing conditions, food security and nutrition and children’s school materials. In addition, 16 youth (4 female, 12 male) were trained in hospitality and tourism and 6 of them (5 male, 1 female) were hired to the formal business sector in Maputo.
- Both projects retained a strong gender consideration, e.g. the Gaza project reported that 64 per cent of community development committees (CDCs) leadership is female (women occupy 46 of 72 leadership positions). Of 609 CDC members 52 per cent (293) are women and 48 per cent (271) are men. Both women and men are engaged in community development and women are able and allowed to express their thoughts and feelings.

2.1.2 Right to Education

Women, men and youth in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts with limited educational background have access to quality vocational and literacy development

- In Xikheleni, 35 children (22 girls and 13 boys) were issued with identification documents. Of 609 CDC members 52 per cent (293) are women and 48 per cent (271) are men. Both women and men are engaged in community development and women are able and allowed to express their thoughts and feelings.
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2.1.3 Right to Peace

Religious and traditional leaders are positively contributing to conflict prevention, mediation, conflict resolution and reconciliation, while promoting and respecting human rights

- Through support from the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, a workshop on reconciliation and peace was held in Cheringoma and was attended by 24 leaders from various existing religious congregations in Cheringoma district. The main objective was to provide religious leaders with capacities to address the concepts of reconciliation and peace based on biblical principles in order to further disseminate in their communities and or the churches they represented. Furthermore, A Seeds of Peace initiative was launched and reached over 350 people in Inhambane village. A symbolic distribution of 350 kg of “seeds of reconciliation and peace” was done as a way of getting the communities to start reconciliation and peaceful co-existence. The initiative was supported by the district government.


In 2013–2014 FCA continued to support its partner organisations implementing the two projects in Mozambique. In addition, in 2013 FCA supported ACT Alliance Mozambique Forum members’ joint response to the severe flooding in Gaza.
FCA carefully evaluated its opportunities to expand the scope of its work in Mozambique. As a result, FCA decided to begin the process of registering its presence in Mozambique. This will enable FCA to more closely work with the partners, expand the scope of and improve its work in all three FCA priority themes in the country and to establish relations with donors that can potentially contribute to the development and growth of the Country Programme. First round of meetings with institutional donors and government departments took place in 2014.
Furthermore in 2014, in order to enhance religious leaders’ role in peacebuilding and reconciliation, FCA launched a small-scale pilot intervention under the right to peace theme supported by the Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers. Consultations with the Embassy of Finland in Maputo significantly informed the launch and development of the peace work.

3. Evaluations and Studies

No evaluations or studies were conducted by FCA in Mozambique in 2014.

4. Capacity Building

In mid-2014, a capacity assessment of FCAs local partner, CEDES, was conducted. An important finding was the need for a gender policy. Thus FCA has committed to support the partner to develop one in 2015 and a support plan based on the other findings was agreed with the partner. In addition, FCA continued to provide administrative and technical support to the partners. In December 2013, specific training for the partners in project documentation, communications and reporting was organised. Since then, the quality of partners’ reports has improved significantly; shown by e.g. good success stories, gender disaggregated data and quality photos.

5. Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

Mozambique, and particularly Gaza, is more frequently and severely affected by natural disasters than any other country in Africa. During 2014, significant damage to property, e.g. road cuts and property damage, was caused by natural disasters, mainly flooding. LWF Gaza project worked with the government and communities to expand BR activities in the vulnerable communities.

A major risk in Mozambique is the instability of the political environment and society and lack of reconciliation efforts all the way from national to community levels of the society. The instability as such did not affect FCAs programmatic work in 2014, but FCA initiated peace work in the country through supporting the role of the religious leaders in mediation and peace building.

Mozambique is a country with high data limitations having very few studies done on the different issues. As such, most data is unavailable although government reports have generated some estimates often used by development agencies in planning for their work. Such documents include the Mozambique National Strategy, the Poverty Reduction Paper and the National Strategic HIV/AIDS Response Plan 2010–2014 among others. Data used by FCA and partners has been adopted from such documents with high limitations in regards to gender and age disaggregation. An effort is being made in 2015 to do a comprehensive desk review to analyse available data in the education sector that is relevant to FCA work. It is hoped that this analysis will generate gender disaggregated data to support future programming.
Angola

2. Overview of the Angola Programme

Angola has experienced a remarkable recovery since the 25-year-long devastating civil war that ended in 2002. With the restoration of peace and relative political and socio-economic stability Angola is showing clear signs of development. The economic outlook remains favourable, as a result of the country’s natural resources, mainly oil and diamond reserves. Angola’s Human Development Index value has continued to increase throughout the last 15 years reaching 0.526 in 2013 and the country now ranks 149th among the listed 187 countries.

Many challenges undermining Angola’s development still remain. Landmine contamination severely restricts efforts to reconstruct and increase the availability of basic services to the Angolan population. Furthermore, the exploitive remnants of war hinder food production by posing a risk for agriculture. In addition, severe drought experienced in 2012–2014 has resulted in alarming levels of food insecurity. Unemployment rates are high especially in urban settings and among women and youth whose livelihood opportunities are limited due to insufficient education and marketable skills. As a result, poverty is prevalent and the impact of the oil-driven economic boom on living conditions has been marginal.

In 2014, FCA continued to support two projects implemented by LWF Angola with a focus on Right to Livelihood, but exited both projects by end of the year. The humanitarian mine action project implemented by DCA will continue until end of 2015, after which FCA exits the country. Strong focus was laid on building the partners’ capacity in order to enable them to sustainably continue their work after FCAs exit. In addition, FCAs East and Southern Africa Regional Office in Nairobi supported the partners through linking them with potential donor partners. Both LWF and DCA played an active role in the ACT Alliance Angola Forum, especially during joint response to the drought in 2012-2014.

2.1 Programme Objectives and Achievements

2.1.1 Right to Livelihood

Local communities in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts have strengthened their assets and capability to develop their livelihoods in sustainable ways

- The final evaluations of IRDP and the WESED projects indicated that by end of 2014, the socio-economic standing of communities at household level has improved considerably due to a number of combined initiatives introduced in the communities that have ultimately contributed to the reduction of household vulnerability levels. The initiatives included savings and credit schemes (SACS), fish ponding, bee keeping, vegetable production for household consumption and sale and introduction of new agricultural techniques and seed varieties that have allowed increased household production. For example, the data of the purchase power survey conducted as part of the SACS indicates that there has been 96% increase in income in 70% of families participating in SACS. Again, this shows an exponential increase compared to the 20% target set by the project, while 64% of women attending adult classes can read and write.

- Furthermore, the 18 village development committees (VDCs) established in the IRDP project have shown good knowledge of the role, principles and norms of operation and the different VDCs are generally governed by principles of good governance in their village development. They are able to design and implement their own activity plans, use participatory principles for decisions making, through consultation and information sharing with other members of the community, prepare basic reports and strive to be transparent and accountable to their communities. In addition to this, instead of only waiting for external support, VDCs independently lobby the government for solutions to their community problems. As a result, 75% of local development initiatives are supported by the government, e.g. advocacy work has led to the construction of 4 markets for peasant farmer producers to sell their crops, 5 small bridges to improve access to main business centres, one classroom school, a health post, 2 boreholes equipped with water pumps and trained maintenance groups and 4 trained fish ponding technicians. In addition to this, 5 schools and 5 health posts were rehabilitated and 5 seedbeds for vegetable production were established. Nine of the VDCs have disaster preparedness and response plans. LWF has an exit strategy, schedule and guidelines for the transfer of responsibility to local VDCs and SACS groups.

- In the Humanitarian Mine Action Programme, by end of 2014, DCA finalized mine clearance operations in Alto Campo, with the completion of three large minefields. The work commenced in August 2012. The total area of the cleared area was 857,128 square meters. The land was handed over to the local population in a joint ceremony with national authorities. The local communities are now able and it is safe to start using the land.

2.1.2 Right to Education

Women, men and youth in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts with limited educational background have access to quality vocational training/skill development

- The communities through the VDCs and the SACS have developed advocacy skills and been active in advocating for e.g. education in their communities. In the IRDP project, the community advocacy work has initiated the construction of one school with 6 classrooms and rehabilitation of 5 schools, and 5 health posts were rehabilitated and 5 seedbeds for vegetable production were established. The project has also enabled illiterate women to increase household income, women’s participation in decision-making bodies and processes in the community, improved dialogue among couples and shared decision making between men and women on family level issues. The project has also enabled illiterate women to read, write and make basic calculations; hence increasing their opportunities to become more active citizens. Altogether 30 SACS groups with 317 members (229 women) were formed and trained, overshooting the target of 24 groups with 300 members. However, given the fact that the groups are not yet formally registered or linked to a government or private institutions to ensure their long term sustainability, and some still experience some operational challenges, they will still need time to be consolidated.

2.1.3 Right to Peace

Local communities in disaster affected or fragile contexts have enhanced capability to prevent and resolve conflicts

- The IRDP project initiated creation of human rights, justice and public safety, and livelihood initiatives. Consequently, project exit evaluation confirmed that all communities visited by the evaluation team showed understanding of rights and responsibilities of rights and duty-bearers. However, there are still signs of knowledge gaps on women and child rights.

In 2014, FCA supported two projects implemented by LWF Angola with a focus on Right to Livelihood, but exited both projects by end of the year. The humanitarian mine action project implemented by DCA will continue until end of 2015, after which FCA exits the country. Strong focus was laid on building the partners’ capacity in order to enable them to sustainably continue their work after FCAs exit. In addition, FCAs East and Southern Africa Regional Office in Nairobi supported the partners through linking them with potential donor partners. Both LWF and DCA played an active role in the ACT Alliance Angola Forum, especially during joint response to the drought in 2012-2014.

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2.2. Development of the Country Programme during 2013-2014

In 2013, FCA took the decision to exit Angola, based on careful evaluation of FCA’s opportunities to support the development of Angola and its citizens. The reasons behind the decision included, but were not limited to high cost of operation in the country, the intention to globally concentrate resources in order to achieve higher impact and the very complicated travel requirements to the country. Therefore new openings in the Country Programme were not planned. The management responsibility of the Angola Programme was transferred from the FCA HQ to FCA’s Regional Office in Nairobi in 2013. The Regional Office supported and together with the partners planned the exit process in order to ensure sustainability of the results achieved in the projects.

During 2013-2014, all projects were implemented according to the agreed plans, final evaluations were conducted on both LWF projects and FCA focused on building relevant capacities of and providing technical support to the partners.

3. Evaluations and Studies

Both LWF’s projects were thoroughly evaluated in October-December 2014. The final evaluations provided concluding remarks, including but not limited to the following:

**R2P project**
- The project addresses the real needs faced by internally displaced communities and those that were returning from exile and needed to be reintegrated, mobilised and organised for local development, increase their knowledge and respect for human rights, gender equity and HIV and AIDS awareness.
- The project has been contributing towards the enhancement of the communities and partners development capacity, so they play a responsible and rightful role within a just and democratic society. This has been translated by community organisation and action with increasing women participation in decision-making structures, more equitable gender relations at family level, higher level of HIV and AIDS/STI awareness, improved mother and child care, sanitation and hygiene, higher literacy rates, increased and improved household production and income and women’s empowerment for social and economic development.
- In the wake of FCA’s exit, LWF should ensure the results achieved so far are kept, consolidated, improved and shared for scale up and replication. Further detailed documentation including the use of audio-visual aids to make the information more accessible and accessible to different audiences should be commissioned to preserve the results of the project until exit.
- LWF should seek to mobilise resources for the project in the phase of FCA exit with its current funding partners and the Angolan Government. A good documentary of the current project showing the changes it has made on people’s lives and a proposal for the scale up of the current project might attract their interest. The launch of both the project documentation (written and audio-visual) could be done at the same time with an appeal to current and potential future donors.

**WESED project**
- The project has met the real challenges of rural women living in the three municipalities. Specifically, rural women’s vulnerability to accessing credit; lack of women’s ownership to land and property and inequitable women participation in the socio-economic development processes; lack of a micro finance sector in the rural areas that could create self-employment opportunities that enhance self-sustainability; and high illiteracy rates among rural communities and the Angolan Government. A good documentary of the current project showing the changes it has made on people’s lives and a proposal for the scale up of the current project might attract their interest.

4. Capacity Building

FCA continued to provide remote technical support to the partner. There was constant communication for support to the Coordinator on matters of programme and management.

In June 2014, FCA provided in-country support to LWF in planning for the exit of the IRDP and WESED projects. During this visit, budget reviews were discussed and agreed assets and disposal proposals were made to FCA and an exit plan was developed and agreed. In addition, exit evaluation plans were agreed. During the visit, FCA together with the partner and beneficiaries also conducted joint monitoring of both LWF projects.

During the exit evaluations, unfortunately, FCA’s efforts to obtain visas to travel to Angola to support the partner failed. Consequently, the partner oversaw the exercise to the end. However, FCA supported the process of evaluations remotely all the way from shortlisting and reviewing the applications and selecting the most ideal to reviewing and approving the evaluation reports.

Even though the R2P theme is not operational in the Country Programme, trainings on conflict sensitivity were included in the projects to ensure communities were equipped with relevant skills to prevent and respond to basic conflicts at the community level. Conflict sensitivity has also been integrated with the trainings of the VDCs as a governance issue. Consequently, as reported elsewhere, the VDCs have elaborate governance structures and have over time developed relevant leadership and conflict resolution skills.

5. Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

It has proven difficult for the expatriate staff to enter the country and for FCA’s partner DCA to import goods from overseas. The visa and customs clearance procedures are complicated and time-consuming. This has resulted in e.g. FCA staff being not able to travel to the country during final evaluation of the LWF projects, a project staff member being unable to obtain visa after several efforts and DCA having to cope with serious delays in getting the necessary spare parts in the country. Furthermore, heavy rains and floods annually affect the already poor infrastructure in the project areas, leading to partners being unable to access the areas.

LWF has mainly been challenged by the exit of FCA from supporting its projects. However, LWF has been able to open discussions with some potential donor partners.

The WESED project was an important lesson learnt for both FCA and LWF. Through SACS model, self-sustaining community structures were established and strengthened.

FCA is currently, in 2015, piloting the replication of the SACS model together with its local partner in Mozambique’s urban areas. Given the pilot project is a success, the model could be replicated together with LWF in Mozambique’s rural areas as well.
3. Asia

3.1 Asia

1. Financial Summary of the Regional Programme (Country Programmes not included)

<table>
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<th>Project number</th>
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<th>Partner</th>
<th>Primary funding source</th>
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2. Regional Programme Overview

Finn Church Aid programme countries in Asia region include Cambodia and Myanmar in South East Asia and Nepal in South Asia. The overarching objective of FCA’s support to Asia region is the sustainable reduction of poverty. Despite the relative economic growth in the region, the number of people living in poverty has remained the same or even increased due to increasing inequality. Demographic changes are transforming the social landscape in the region. Asia’s population is increasingly young. Migration has featured broad movements of young women and men to urban areas seeking employment. FCA targets mainly the rural poor and broad movements of young women and men to urban areas.容量 is an important challenge for development.

Many people live on flood plains or are exposed to seasonal flooding in Nepal. Relief support was provided to severely affected households by FCA. In Philippines FCA supported the recovery of education sector after the typhoon Haiyan that caused large-scale damage in November 2013. In December 2014 another typhoon, Hagupit, hit Philippines. Damages to the semi-permanent schools built by FCA remained small and did not prevent the safe use of the buildings.

In Myanmar, many communities were affected by conflict. FCA provided in 2013-2014 support to uprooted people living on IDP camps in Rakhine. In addition, through EU-funded Children of Peace project around 8000 Muslim and Buddhist children and youth living on IDP camps in Rakhine were supported to continue their education in safe learning environments. FCA also received humanitarian funding from Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support IDP’s in Kachin and Northern Shan states, where conflict with sporadic fighting has affected people now for several years.

FCA is an active member of local ACT Forum in each programme country. ACT Forum meetings are generally organised 3-4 times per year. In Cambodia, FCA held the position of Forum Convener organising meetings and sharing information with other ACT members. Forum’s joint Emergency Preparedness and Relief Plan (EPRP) was finalised. In Cambodia, FCA also attended Humanitarian Response Forum meetings as a representative of ACT to coordinate its aid with other development actors, including UN agencies and local and international NGOs. FCA especially contributed to development of education sector response plan through participation in education cluster and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Education in Emergencies (EiE) working group.

In Nepal ACT Forum also prepared EPRP and contributed to humanitarian response and implementation of early recovery activities through Rapid Response Fund (RRF) mechanism. In Myanmar ACT Forum updated its EPRP and members collaborated with each other in training activities.

Capacity development has an essential role in FCA’s work in Asia. Capacity development support is carried out by giving

3.2 Asia
### 2. Overview of the Myanmar Programme

The rapid transition to an open economy and estimated economic growth of 8.3% in 2014 there are positive signs for economic development of Myanmar, although this remains dependent on sustained reforms in several policy areas. Myanmar still faces severe political challenges, including ongoing ethnic conflict and religious tensions. Access to conflict-affected populations remains difficult though restrictions in some areas have been relaxed markedly in ongoing ethnic conflict and religious tensions. Access to conflict-affected populations remains difficult though restrictions in some areas have been relaxed markedly in recent years.

### 2.1 Overview of the Myanmar Programme

This country setting and the dynamics of the changes and conflicts work in different ways in each of the areas where FCA is providing support and assistance. For the Kachin and Northern Shan states, there has been movement in small businesses and clusters. The number of registered internally displaced people (IDP) across Kachin and Northern Shan States has reached 98,000 as of OCHA Bulletin December 2014. In this area, FCA has been involved in the implementation of the FCA and Metta had to adjust some of the original plans to mitigate the urgent gaps and needs of new IDP arrivals. In Rakhine the tensions have continued to compound in 2014, with restrictions on the freedom of movement for the Muslim communities. This has had a devastating effect on their livelihoods, rights to healthcare, access to education and their right to live with dignity. United Nations agencies and International NGOs that try to provide assistance to all communities have been persistently threatened and harassed by influential community, political and religious groups. In Rakhine FCA has a partnership with Lutheran World Federation and with funding from ECHO Children of Peace initiative supported IDPs in the large Muslim camps and some smaller Buddhist re-settlements. The project supported children affected by communal violence in IDP camps by providing access to both formal and non-formal education, as well as psychosocial support.

The FCA efforts in the Delta, Chin and Kayin concentrated on livelihoods and women’s empowerment, and are more long term development oriented, incorporating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in the environment vulnerable to cyclones and flooding. The project for FCA’s long-term livelihood support projects was through the provision of necessary seeds and farming tools.

### 2. Programme Objectives and Achievements

#### 2.1.1 Right to Livelihood

Local communities in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts have strengthened their assets and capability to develop their livelihoods in sustainable ways.

- With FCA-supported IBRP and Women’s Livelihood project 1,855 villagers participate in self credit & savings schemes through 121 livelihoods/women/youth and farmer groups. Village Self Assessment (VSA) in 2014 shows a steady improvement in reaching food security and additional income generation. 49% villages estimated that they are at improved and 50% at advanced/graduated level.
- With humanitarian funding 2,941 households from 11 camps have received necessary seeds and farming tools to cover their basic food security needs.

#### 2.1.2 Right to Education

Women, men and youth in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts have strengthened their resilience and capacity to respond to shocks including natural and man-made disasters and the effects of climate change that negatively impact their livelihoods.

- Villages have improved their practices related to environmental conservation, natural resources management, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. 63 CBDRM (Community Based Disaster Reduction Management) committees were facilitated to make Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA) and develop Disaster Preparedness Plans in all villages. The committees received kits for disaster preparedness and response. Skills trainings in first aid, early warning, light search & rescue and WASH assistance were conducted in the villages.
- 97 Village Development Committee and CBDRM committee members in Chin and Delta areas have attended the natural resource management and climate change adaptation training and applied the knowledge in their planning. In Chin, Upland Farming Practice training was provided for 14 villages, focusing on planting techniques conserving soil and avoiding erosion. In Delta 1,844 houses use the energy saving stove, planted trees and apply knowledge on reducing plastic usage.

#### 2.1.3 Right to Land

Women, men and youth in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts with limited educational background have access to quality vocational training/skill development.

- In Rakhine FCA provided access to 813 children/youth aged 11-17 (24% girls) in Muslim and Buddhist IDP camps to non-formal education and basic literacy and numeracy classes, life skills education and recreational activities.
- In Kachin and Northern Shan 2,230 IDPs (1,088 male
Girls and boys living in disaster (both natural or man-made) affected communities have equal, uninterrupted access to quality education and safe and protected learning spaces through preparedness and response capacity of communities, including authorities:

- In Kachin an N. Shan FCA with Metta built 7 Temporal Learning Spaces (TLS) and one extension to primary school allowing 486 IDP students (213 boys and 273 girls) access to protected, adequate and safe learning. 2 Early Childhood Care and Development Centres were also constructed for 93 small children (43 boys and 50 girls). Basic training was provided to 21 Child Friendly Spaces facilitators who are community volunteers. 1,840 IDP children in Early Childhood Care and Development Centres, primary and middle school were provided with study materials while 377 IDP students have received tuition fees. To ensure motivation of volunteer teachers to conduct daily classes in IDP schools, they were provided with small subsidies. Sport materials and other equipment for Child Friendly Spaces were provided to 11 camps to provide children with recreational opportunities. Furthermore, 46 semi-permanent latrines have been constructed at schools.

- Observations and ad hoc feedback from project staff suggests that parents and teachers increasingly encourage the education of their children, the school drop-out of children decreased, and the burden of parents is reduced during the hardship times. The temporary learning spaces and school facilities provided with the support of FCA are effectively utilised for teaching and learning while sometimes used by committee members and parents as a meeting place at night. The safety and continuation of the education is highly considered by the leaders and parents/teachers.

- With ECHO funding 10 Child Friendly Spaces and 4 Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) were constructed in 10 camps in Rakhine, allowing 5,831 children from Muslim and Buddhist camps to have access to protected, adequate and safe learning environment. Teaching capacity in camps was supported by recruitment and training of 30 (17 Female) Child Friendly Space Animators and 60 (27 Female) TLS volunteer teachers. Educational kits were also provided to animators, volunteer teachers and NFE Facilitators, as well as children.

- In IRDP the construction of new school buildings as well as furnishing of existing ones with fencing, playground and playing materials was supported with the contribution of communities to improve the access to safe learning environment. 2,712 School Kits have been provided to 812 students.

Rights-holders are able to claim their right to education and the capacity of duty-bearers (state authorities) to provide quality education has been strengthened.

- In Rakhine all schools in the camps supported by FCA (including TLS and CFS) have achieved active parent teacher associations and there is close collaboration and supervision with the educational departments.

- In IRDP a workshop for Parent-Teacher Associations (PTAs) and teachers on role of PTAs and Child Rights has been conducted to 12 schools in Chin.

2.1.3 Right to Peace

Local communities in disaster affected or fragile contexts have enhanced capability to prevent and resolve conflicts promoting the respect of human rights with the active participation of women and youth.

- Peace education has been integrated in life skills training for IDP youth. Recreational activities have been organised enhancing understanding, collaboration and reconciliation skills.

- The implementing partner LWF promotes awareness raising on cross-cutting issues that are also emphasised by FCA. To enhance rights-based empowerment, Community Empowerment Facilitators were trained to monitor and promote people’s participation in their respective villages. Working together with Gender Equality Network, LWF supported awareness raising on women rights.

- Through capacity building of interest groups, local associations (VDCs, women/youth groups etc.) and implementing partners a wide range of skills related to transparency, accountability, participation and equality are enhanced, empowering people and improving their ability to address conflict situations based on a better understanding of context and linkages.

Decision-makers are willing and equipped to bear their responsibility to promote citizen security, including peaceful resolution of conflicts and protection and promotion of the equal human rights of the members of communities, with special attention to the protection of the most vulnerable.

- FCA supported LWF’s work on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) coordination to prepare for the 2015 review of Myanmar at the Human rights Council. At the end of 2014 consultations were held with beneficiaries (women, men, youth and government representatives) in LWF intervention areas in Ayeyawaddy, Chin and Kayin state. Those consultations focused on Land Rights, Right to Water, Birth Registration, Nationality and Gender related issues to be included in the Universal Periodic Review report.

2.2. Development of the Country Programme during 2013-2014

- Prior to 2013, FCA work in Myanmar has been based on ad hoc need assessments for humanitarian assistance on one hand and support to LWF’s development programme on the other. In order to ensure a strategic and focused approach and to increase effectiveness of assistance provided, FCA drafted the first FCA-Myanmar Multi-Year Country Programme (2013-2016).

- FCA has during 2013-2014 consolidated its partnership with two implementing partners, LWF Myanmar and Metta foundation that are not only well recognised actors in Myanmar, but have also increased their scope of intervention and established themselves via a nationwide collaboration. Two major humanitarian grants (one from MFA and one from ECHO) have been received and successfully implemented with these partners, concentrating mainly on education in IDP camps and providing quality learning conditions for over 35,000 children.

- The programme has successfully facilitated linking relief, rehabilitation and development (LRRD) in the projects, connecting emergency intervention with longer-term sustainability.

- While livelihood and education themes have been strengthened in FCA programme, the opportunities and possible niches for Right to Peace support have also been explored. With this in mind FCA commissioned Right to Peace thematic analysis in 2014 as basis for planning, as well as more specific stakeholder analysis of possible partners for the peace programme.

3. Evaluations and Studies

Right to Peace Assessment was conducted in August 2014 by an independent consultant. The assessment provides an overview and analysis of the conflict in Kachin and Northern Shan States as well as the situation in Rakhine State. It further looks at peace infrastructures at national and at state levels. Finally, the report provides suggestions for FCA’s Priorities in the country. As an international actor, FCA, together with ACT Alliance and other partners is strongly encouraged to play their role in advocating for:

- The need for environmental and social impact assessments to become a legal requirement for all development projects.
- The fair and equitable allocation and distribution of aid across the country by donors and the international community.
- The need for flexible funding mechanisms, particularly institutional donors, in order to respond to changing circumstances and LRDR.
- The need for all actors to apply basic Do No Harm principles and conflict sensitivity in all programmes in all areas, not just conflict-affected, including projects funded by FCA.
- The need for all actors to respect local partners’ roles and contributions to the ongoing humanitarian crisis.
particularly in Kachin and Northern Shan States and in the longer-term processes in the country.

A set of 15 further recommendations are put forward by the report, detailing what kinds of concrete activities FCA could support to develop its peace programme and integrate it with livelihoods and education activities. The process of defining FCA priorities for Right to Peace theme in Myanmar is on-going, taking the recommendations of the assessment as reference and guidance.

4. Capacity Building

FCA provided education in emergencies training to Metta’s team, helping the partner to increase the quality of implementation due to better knowledge of EiE activities. In addition, as the outcome of this training, the basic concepts of EiE are widely discussed and shared with the teachers and parents in the target camps of N. Shan for the improvement of the children’s education. Within the Kachin IBP response project training in psychosocial support and Do No Harm –principle were provided to Metta staff and volunteers.

Within IRDEP and Children of Peace initiative project there were several capacity building initiatives implemented with LWF staff related to both technical as well as administrative/organisational issues. There is performance follow up for staff, and results show a diminished turnover. M&E and RBA skills of the staff have been enhanced, and there is improved networking, contacts and sharing with government partners. FCA Education Consultant assisted LWF’s EiE and community-based psycho-social support (CBPS) teams to collect base line data. LWF EiE and CBPS teams participated in a training of Minimum standards of INEE and Do No Harm approach in conflict sensitive education, facilitated by the FCA Education Consultant.

5. Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

The major challenges for the programme implementation have been those of security and political conflicts in Rakhine, Kachin and Northern Shan states. In Rakhine LWF’s field office in Sittwe did not run in full capacity in April 2014 as a measure of security precaution due to the mob attack and ransacking of INGOs and UN premises in March. Local government advised agencies to search new locations for premises, and the confinement of UN and INGOs to a designated ‘Safe Zone’ has led to a sharp rise in operating costs due to scarcity of space and facilities. In general the situation in Rakhine remains very tense and volatile, and international organisations are continuously threatened and harassed by influential actors who don’t wish assistance to reach the Muslim communities.

Years of denying citizens’ right to organise has resulted in a weak civil society in Myanmar, with seemingly low levels of awareness and involvement of the population. This defines a strong need for applying the rights-based approach. The government of Myanmar is still very reluctant to face complaints related to political issues from INGOs. However, some initiatives like the LWF-led involvement of civil society in UPF process and the Humanitarian Re-

sponse Joint Strategy Team with the participation of Metta are gaining momentum. The elections in November 2015 are a critical test for the reforms.

Although men and women are equally excluded from many political and social processes, women bear the brunt of the effects of oppression more than men due traditional gender systems. This results in a situation of double exclusion for women. It has been observed in both humanitarian assistance initiatives to the IDPs, as well as in the livelihood development and empowerment focused projects, that women are becoming more equally involved and confident in activity management and community issues. They received technical and skills training to enhance their livelihood activities and support towards greater participation in community issues, decision making and claiming more ownership. In the Humanitarian projects SPHERE and INEE minimum standards are followed from project planning to actual implementation which together with capacity building has oriented the partner staff to address properly gender issues.

A significant change in IDP’s attitudes was observed, as a sense of ownership over provided education and WASH facilities increased. After the construction or distribution of materials, the project handed over the accomplished facilities officially to camp management committees. The project has ensured that IDP’s have a proper awareness about their rights and about the maintenance of the facilities provided to them, which has proved successful.

Limited capacity of partner staff was a challenge affecting all projects, meaning that plans have to be adjusted to the reality. The staff capacity affects for example reporting, as it was difficult to get information about progress and impact of the projects. Capacity building of the partners needs to be continued and reinforced to ensure timely and good quality planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the activities.

In 2014 FCA Myanmar Programme was coordinated from Asia Regional Office in Cambodia with only the humanitarian coordinator present in Myanmar, which made it challenging to fully support partners in their development efforts or build new partnerships and networks. FCA as an organisation must establish itself in Myanmar and reinforce its staffing to better follow up partnership development, explore funding possibilities and engage in new activities like developing a more substantial peace component of the Country Programme. The long-term approach of FCA regarding Right to Education also needs to be further defined, as currently it has mainly focused on EiE.

2. Overview of the Nepal Programme

In recent 3 years, Nepal gained 3.4% to 4.9% annual economic growth which is the lowest in comparison to its neighbours countries. Economic Survey 2014 further reports that 23.8% Nepalese population stills lives below the poverty line. Despite the availability of jobs in domestic market, because of lack of relevant education and skills, youths are either under-employed in agriculture sector or in high-risk-low-paid abroad jobs mainly in India, Malaysia and countries of Middle East. Discrimination based on gender, caste and ethnicity is still a major problem and is deeply rooted in traditions, culture, religions and beliefs. It has contributed to exclude women, dalit and other low-caste communities from socio-economic resources. As a result, they have lost confidence to claim and enjoy their rights even in increasingly favourable policy and legal environment.

Right to Livelihood continued to be the focus theme of FCA’s programme in Nepal, implemented in partnership with LWF. FCA with its partners fostered meaningful participation, representation and socio-economic empowerment of poor women, former bonded laborers, landless tenants, unemployed youths and people exposed to disasters. Innovative and sustainable farm and off-farm activities were supported to maximise the production and profit levels of rural unprivileged population. The co-operative activities were supported, and women were equipped with a variety of skills to improve their social and economic conditions.

FCA’s new strategy was taken forward in Nepal as the Right to Education theme was strengthened with the focus on Technical and Vocational Education and training (TVET). A new project on TVET was piloted in 2014 with the new partner – Underprivileged Children’s Educational Programmes (UCEP). Through this and other projects women and young people were equipped with a variety of market oriented skills and technical education. Poor and marginalised children were supported to continue their education without interruptions. FCA has established a good coordination network with TVET funding agencies, donors, implementers, employers, technical training providers and other stakeholders aiming at avoiding duplication and promoting synergy in TVET sector.

1. Financial Summary

Project name 10094 10086 11011 11012 11059
Project number 10794 10796 11011 11012 11059
Primary funding source NNO/SWGO UCEP MFA partnership agreement, private, parishes LWF Nepal Women’s Bank MFA partnership agreement, private, parishes
MFA partnership agreement EUR 525,636
Actual Costs: EUR 693,891 EUR 693,891 EUR 523,636

1. Financial Summary

Nepal

Project name Enhancing Dignity of Freed Haliyas, Kamaiyas and Kamlaharis
MFA partnership agreement, private, parishes
Partner UCEP
Project number 11011

1. Financial Summary

Nepal

Project name Power - Promotion of Women’s Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
MFA partnership agreement, private, parishes
Partner LWF Nepal
Project number 11012

1. Financial Summary

Nepal

Project name Cultural Rights in Labour
MFA partnership agreement, private, parishes
Partner LWF Nepal
Project number 11059
Local communities in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts have strengthened their assets and capability to develop their livelihoods in sustainable ways:

- In LWF’s Nepal Development Programme the food security of 1,104 small-holder families has been improved in 2014 through increased agriculture production and selling the surplus to the market. 491 small-holder families, acquired joint land ownership and are consuming fresh vegetables for better nutrition. 421 marginalised households produced 78 metric ton cash crops and collectively earned USD 44,850 selling the production. 318 landless households accessed public land for farming, thus increasing their income and improving their food security.

- Marginalised groups received training in socially and economically sustainable, environment-sensitive farming and non-farm income. About 600 farmers belonging to 30 groups were trained in Innovative agricultural activities and techniques such as System of Rice Intensification, Organic farming, integrated pest and nutrient management system and production of high-value low-volume crops.

- Through the support to marginalised ex-bonded labour (Haliyas and Kamayas), 585 households got involved in commercial farming and improved farm production, and earned an average additional income of USD 500 per year. 318 families of this group have been provided with irrigation facilities through three irrigation schemes, helping them to improve the production levels. Another 200 marginalised families have been trained in livestock production. Out of them 50 households are involved in pig farming, 19 in goat farming and 70 households in poultry, and are earning an additional income of USD 409 per annum.

- During 2013-2014 altogether 7,882 persons (5,207 women) have formed 33 co-operatives. Total savings available in all co-operatives was USD 275,375 of which USD 179,098 (65 %) was mobilised among share holder members as co-operative loan. Co-operatives have invested more than 80% loan in productive sector and have more than 99% of loan recovery rate. Apart from co-operatives, 199 freed Haliya (former bonded labour) groups supported by FCA collected and mobilised USD 54,088 among the members during 2014. Furthermore, 10,946 persons (72 % women) belonging to 47 small interest groups continued savings and credits activities.

- After vocational skills training supported by FCA during 2013-2014, 2,334 graduates were provided with job placement and business start-up. 72% percent of them were employed, earning an average annual income of USD 1,200 each. The rest of the 653 graduates have just started their own business. It is too early to count their net income.

Women have equal access and control over productive resources and assets:

- Improved access of women to financial services with out collateral through co-operatives supported by FCA has encouraged them to take loans and start their business. 2,087 women are the share - holder members of 8 women-owned and women-managing schemes in Lalitpur district. 1 district level federation of 8 women-led co-operatives has been formed. Total fund available in all 8 co-operatives is USD 196,705 of which USD 138,037 (70 %) is being mobilised among the member women as co-operative loan. All 2,087 women are saving regularly and accessing the loans with cheap interest rate. Increased access of rural women to the financial services through co-operatives has made positive impact in their overall socio-economic condition.

- With the support of Women’s economic promotion project (POWER) women’s co-operatives have established market center in Kathmandu whole sale market points and are directly selling their farm produce. Collection centers have been established in villages and road-side points to collect farm produce such as green man-compost, fresh vegetables, spices and staple crops have been produced by groups of women and sold to markets. An interactive workshop was held between producers and Federation of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nepal and the potential marketing opportunities of either raw or processed food and non-food items (for example honey, coffee, ginger and turmeric) has been explored.

- 107 cooperatives (9 Dalit, 59 Ethnic Minorities, and 19 others) acquired (Joint Land Ownership (JLO) certificate in 2014, providing official ownership to women together with their husbands over the land area of approximately 32.6 hectares. It has enhanced confidence of women and their status and dignity in family and society.

- 166 women and girls of Lalitpur district have been provided with skill development training, 154 among them are self – employed through small businesses and earning USD 360-1,440 on an average per annum. Furthermore, 172 women and girls, after short term training, are employed through their own agro-based enterprises and are earning an average USD 345-1,380 per annum.

Communities are supported in and provided with essential life-saving services for the most vulnerable members affected by disasters and fragile context:

- 10,808 people were sensitised on disaster risk reduction and climate change risk adaptation measures during 2013-2014. 2,083 vulnerable families (54 % women) of the most at – risk communities participated in vulnerability and capacity assessment and prepared 100 hazard and risk management plans. 1,593 the most vulnerable risk households and 30 hectares of agricultural land have been protected from floods through bio-engineering practices.

- 40 community clusters have functional disaster preparedness and response teams, and the members have knowledge and skills on disaster risk reduction, early response and rescue. 753 households of 16 clusters have sufficient coping capacity due to adoption of safety net measures including community grain banks, seed banks, early warning systems, emergency funds and assets. 2,083 vulnerable families (54 % women) have more than 99% of loan recovery rate. Apart from co-operatives, 199 freed Haliya (former bonded labour) groups, graduated in 12 different market-oriented–short-term (MOST) vocational skills. Furthermore, 36 dropped-out adolescent girls, belonging to 144 freed Haliya (former bonded labour) groups have formed 33 co-operatives. The co-operatives have collected and mobilised USD 54,088 among the members during 2014. 10,946 persons (72 % women) belonging to 47 small interest groups continued savings and credits activities.

Local communities/rights-holders and duty-bearers work together to provide adequate and sustainable livelihood and policy framework for livelihood development:

- Duty-bearers have improved awareness and capacity of playing instrumental role in livelihood development. This has been demonstrated by a stronger co-operation between rights-holders and duty-bearers to improve policies and legislation around livelihood development. Duty bearers have also been received by the District Development Committee and other local level agencies for example to promote women’s access to local resources and services.

- As part of disaster preparedness and recovery, 837 freed Kamayia (669 women) families received from the government 140 hectares of land, and timber worth USD 81,060 to build houses. 1,298 landless people received the landless identity certificate, which will help them to access government land in the future. 144 freed Haliya groups succeeded to access government financial resources equal to USD 99,309 for skills trainings, income generation activities, disaster risk reduction, construction of self-help childhood development centers. In consultation with the Ministry of Land Reform and Management, Joint Land Ownership guideline has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry for approval. FCA supported a national land rights campaign organised to ensure land rights within the constitution with a key slogan “Secure Housing to all, Agricultural Land to Farmers.” 765 land right activists from 54 districts including Lalitpur participated in the campaign. 28 women supported by FCA participated in 3rd National Women Landless Farmers’ Conference that raised various issues related to women and land.

2.1.2 Right to Education

Women, men and youth in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts with limited educational background have access to quality vocational training/skill development:

- FCA Nepal Country Programme supported women, dropped-out girls and unemployed youths to enhance their access to formal and non-formal education. In 2013-2014 altogether 2,334 youths, women and dropped-out girls, majority of them from marginalised freed bonded labour groups, graduated in 12 different market-oriented–short-term (MOST) vocational skills. Furthermore, 36 dropped-out adolescent girls, belonging to 144 freed Haliya (former bonded labour) groups have formed 33 co-operatives. The co-operatives have collected and mobilised USD 54,088 among the members during 2014. 10,946 persons (72 % women) belonging to 47 small interest groups continued savings and credits activities.

Girls and boys living in disaster (both natural or man-made) affected communities have equal, uninterrupted access to quality education and safe and protected learning spaces through preparedness and response capacity of communities, including authorities.
Rights-holders are able to claim their right to education and the capacity of duty-bearers (state authorities) to provide quality education has been strengthened.

- The advocacy work facilitated by FCA support has resulted in endorsement of Kamlari Education Guideline, contributing to improved access of Kamlaris (girls working as household help) to quality education without interruptions.
- A National Seminar on “Potential and Pitfalls of TVET Sub Sector in Nepal” was organised by FCA in Kathmandu.

2.1.3 Right to Peace

Local communities in disaster affected or fragile contexts have enhanced capability to prevent and resolve conflicts promoting the respect of human rights with the active participation of women and youth

- Eight women co-operatives have established ‘Affected Women Support Fund’ keeping 5 per cent from the profit to provide immediate legal, material and psychosocial support to the victims of domestic violence. Each of the co-operatives has formed violence against women (VAW) monitoring sub-committees and complaint mechanisms have been established in the project areas. The public service announcement has helped to spread a key message against VAW including domestic violence. Economic empowerment of women and access of women to capital through co-operatives has also decreased the cases of domestic violence.
- Rights-holders have organised themselves to influence relevant policies and legal frameworks. The capacity of district and national federation of freed Haliyas, Freed Kamaia Women Development Forum, Kamari networks, kamaia groups, committees and their associations has been increased to claim and enjoy their rights and to hold the duty-bearers accountable through training, on site coaching and exposures. With the support project 3,436 freed Haliyas, ex-Kamaiyas and Kamlaris participated actively in local and district level advocacy efforts to claim and enjoy their rights.
- Reports on human rights situation of Dalits were published annually and widely disseminated to sensitise rights-holders and make duty-bearers more accountable.
- Reports covered and analysed the cases of caste based discrimination, untouchability and human rights violations of Dalit community during 2013 and 2014 in about 50 districts of Nepal. Out of 310 caste based human rights violation cases monitored and documented, 204 cases were settled by formal justice mechanisms.

Decision-makers are willing and equipped to bear their responsibility to promote citizen security, including peaceful resolution of conflicts and protection and promotion of the equal human rights of the members of communities, with special attention to the protection of the most vulnerable

- Horizontal dialogues between former bonded labourers and their ex-masters have been increased in order to enhance social harmony, tolerance and mutual cooperation and relationship. Joint Haliya debt dismissal campaign was held together by Haliyas, local landlords and local government authorities with participation of 1,902 people, and as result the debt of 34 freed Haliyas equivalent to USD 28,510 was dismissed in an amicable environment. In addition, many landlords realised their faults and expressed their commitments to respect the rights of the Haliyas.
- As result of FCA-supported advocacy work the responsiveness of government to freed Haliya labour issues has increased, thereby speeding the rehabilitation process. Integrated Freed Haliya Rehabilitation Modality designed by the government of Nepal last year is now being slightly modified to address the demands of freed Haliyas and their associations. With the project facilitation 2,727 adult community members have received citizenship certificate, and a total of 940 vocational training qualifications have been made including birth, marriage, death and migration. Government’s nutritional allowance was provided to 1,518 persons and social security allowance to 188 persons belonging to freed Haliya and ex Kamaia families.

2.2. Development of the Country Programme during 2013-2014

- The period 2013-2014 marked the establishment of FCA’s presence in Nepal. The Country Programme Coordinator started his work in June 2013. In 2014 FCA was officially registered with the Government of Nepal at the end of the year, signing a General Agreement with Social Welfare Council / Ministry of Children and Social Welfare / Government of Nepal. The GA will be valid for 5 years till December 2019. This has opened up an avenue to expand the Programme in the country with greater visibility and recognition.
- With the presence in the country FCA has been able to participate actively in various advocacy initiatives in livelihood, human rights and education issues. FCA actively contributed to livelihood policy development with numerous government bodies across a variety of fields. In consultation with the Ministry of Land Reform and Management, Joint Land Ownership (JLO) guideline has been prepared and submitted to the Council of Ministry for approval. Freed Haliya and former Kamaia rehabilitation modality and action plans were prepared and finalised. Draft riverbed farming policy has been prepared, as a result of continuous advocacy and lobbying, in collaboration with other organisations. Wasted lands will be made available for the poor for farming, once the policy is approved. Micro-enterprise became a part of the industrial policy framework in Nepal, leading to 35 percent exemption for women in registration fees and a special fund for women. In 2013-2014 the partnership base of FCA was expanded with two new partners UCEP and WVAF. With these partnerships the education and peace components of FCA Nepal programme are significantly strengthened.
- FCA established itself as recognised actor in TVET sub-sector, becoming a founder - member of TVET knowledge management network. The collaboration not only helps to maximise the effective and efficient use of resources, but it also streamlines the strategic direction of TVET sector development in Nepal.
- FCA Nepal Programme has contributed a lot to the protection of women who were forced to live with a stigma. Women were at the focus of the Country Programme interventions. Women groups have increasingly stepped forward and claimed their recognition in the society. This demonstrates that women have achieved a sense of confidence. Government authorities and communities consulted and listened to women. Women’s access to and control over livelihood assets, services and opportunities has been increased.

3. Evaluations and Studies

Enhancing dignity of Freed Haliya, Kamaia and Kamlari project was evaluated externally as the project phase 2011-2014 came to an end. The evaluation commended the use of group based approach and found the project relevant, effective and efficient in supporting the target communities’ ability to claim their rights. Similarly, noticeable positive impact was seen in the access of rights-holders to physical, social and economic assets. However, it was noted that there is dire need of interventions that can help the rights-
4. Capacity Building

The knowledge base and skills of partner staff in the areas of financial management, audio visual documentation, gender and sexual inclusion, HAP and transformative education have been enhanced. Altogether, 262 partners’ staff members, 57 among them women, from LWF and NNDSWO participated in 19 different events of capacity building activities across different areas. Staff prepared action plans to transfer the learning into action. Capacity building support helped the partners to a large extent in improving the quality of work. With the capacity building support partners drafted workforce diversity and inclusion guidelines, gender equality and social inclusion mainstreaming guidelines, country strategy, and strategic plan, among others.

2 staff from LWF Nepal and 2 staff from SOLVE Nepal (Women’s co-operative organisation involved in women’s livelihood project implementation) participated in a day-long regional round table discussion on Agricultural Co-operatives organised in Cambodia by FCA. The main objectives of the roundtable were to promote common understanding, identify needs and key challenges, document good practices and discuss potential mechanism for co-operation and information sharing. The reciprocal visit organised between Nepalese and Cambodian livelihood partners was a useful formation sharing. The reciprocal visit organised between Nepal and Cambodia for the new phase of the project starting in 2015.

5. Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

The unexpected floods affected several of the working districts in 2014, severely damaged road networks and other infrastructures, hampering smooth transportation of farm produce to the markets. The high turn-over of implementing partner staff also imposed challenges to the effective and timely implementation of the Country Programme.

Despite the advances made in improving the rights of former bonded labour there are still significant challenges.

Eight years after signing the agreement, Haliyas have yet to receive the relief and rehabilitation packages promised by the government. The lack of access to alternative livelihoods as promised in the agreement signed between Government of Nepal and Haliya federation has also compelled many Haliyas to continue as bonded labourers with their former landlords. The draft Haliya Labour (Prohibition) Bill has not been passed yet, and the Government has yet to form the high level Haliya Rehabilitation Commission, as agreed. Although the Government has pardoned the debts owed by Haliyas to landowners, there has been very little follow-up or enforcement. Many Haliyas are facing new problems with their landlords, with some being increasingly under threat to repay loans or to continue working in debt-bonded labour. Social exclusion based on caste/ethnicity and gender remains prominent problem and is deeply rooted in traditions, cultures, religions and beliefs.

FCA with its partners continues to address these inequalities and social injustice, which present a major hindrance for the social transformation. A long-term commitment and continuous advocacy efforts at all levels are required to make an impact. Advocacy should be based on evidence, knowledge and experiences of the rights-holders and be led by them to increase its legitimacy and to effectively influence duty-bearers/policy-makers. The campaigns also need to be linked with other social campaigns and civil society networks to create more pressure to the duty-bearers to fulfill their obligations.

The co-operatives need to prepare and formalise broader investment plans in coherence with local resources, capacity and interest of poor rights-holders. Co-operatives need further support on record keeping, accounting, meeting procedures, investment planning, and membership management. More intensive work on business to business linkages and value addition through partnerships with private sectors is needed. FCA will continue to support the development of the co-operatives in 2015 and beyond.

Although FCA has managed to establish the presence in Nepal and expand its partnerships and programmes, there is need to reinforce the Country Office which is currently composed of one person. To provide sufficient support to partners and ensure programme development, coordination and advocacy at country level, additional investment in human resources is necessary.

2. Overview of the Cambodia Programme

Cambodia started the year 2014 with great political concern, in addition to social and economic challenges. Followed by the distrust and complaints on the results of the national elections which took place in July 2013, the opposition party continued its boycott, refusing to join the National Assembly. The political deadlock prolonged for almost 1 year, until in September 2014 CNRP decided to join the National Assembly. The elections of provincial and district councilors were conducted in June. Elected by commune councilors, most of the former provincial and district councilors were re-elected and only few new ones were selected among the younger generation. Poverty remains rampant especially in rural areas where people are dependent on agriculture and related activities. Job creation in the formal sector is lagging, making it difficult for the large youth population of Cambodia to have prospects of employment and earning decent incomes. Migration continued to be a challenge, as thousands of Cambodian migrants moved from their rural communities to find jobs in towns and in other countries like South Korea, Thailand and Malaysia. Most of the migrants are illegal as they do not have proper documents and work mainly in the construction and agricultural industry. Migration led to loss of human resources in rural areas including the FCA’s target villages.

Right to livelihood, the major component of the FCA Cambodia Country Programme, is implemented in partnership with Life With Dignity (LWD), Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and Cambodia Women’s Crisis Centre (CWCC). In 2014 FCA continued to focus on improving the income generation activities of rights-holders, especially members of women’s groups, village banks and women’s agriculture co-operatives, to develop them towards small and medium enterprises. Women’s Agricultural Co-operatives (WACs) are agricultural organisations playing a pivotal role in promoting local rural development, assisting their members to improve agribusiness by promoting collective business and facilitating access to agricultural inputs and markets. Provincial Department of Agriculture and local authorities have shown positive support to the operation of WACs in terms of technical assistance and market information.

FCA with its partner LWD has worked in 2014 to improve communities’ awareness of their rights related to land ownership and use, and to provide spaces for peaceful reso-
lution of land conflicts. Further steps in clearing the land mines also helped people to use land safely for livelihood development.

The Right to Education programme in Cambodia has been expanding since early March 2014 with the focus on development of vocational orientation and career guidance at secondary level education in partnership with Vocational Orientation Department (VOD) of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS). The MoU with the MoEYS was prepared to be signed early 2015. Through Humanitarian Response Forum, FCA has been networking with the other key humanitarian organisations, UN agencies and MoEYS to establish a national education cluster in order to strengthen preparedness capacity of the education sector.

FCA’s Right to Peace programme in Cambodia focused increasingly on youth, which is seen as potential key agent of development in Cambodia. FCA supports leading youth organisations like Khmer Youth Association (KYA) which has youth networks and advocacy activities in many provinces. FCA with KYA supported the establishment of Cambodian Changemaker Network (GCN) and provided its members with capacity building opportunities in Cambodia and abroad to strengthen their knowledge and skills in various themes.

FCA has been very active member in the ACT Forum in Cambodia, participating in the capacity development activities, coordination of responses in emergency operations, development of emergency preparedness plans as well as developing the forum towards advocacy work. In addition, FCA was the Forum convener in 2014.

The Country Programme has been operating in 370 villages in 60 provinces. It has encouraged 1,135 women newly joined AC or Village Banks (VB) in 2014, which is more than last year. This indicates that more and more households are generating income locally. This is consistent with result of Annual Village Self-Assessment (AVSA), which positively confirmed the gradual increase of household incomes.

Women have equal access and control over productive resources and assets

• Among the 32 co-operatives supported by FCA, there are 24 Women and Co-operatives (WACs) which are functioning under the leadership of women in 4 provinces, providing benefits to 4,484 member households including 3,201 women. Moreover, 13 village banks (VB) were supported in the target areas which directly benefit 781 families. VB’s and WAC’s have helped their members to access loans from 50$ to 250$ with low interest rate and thus set up their small businesses or to improve their agriculture production through the use of better crops varieties and sufficient inputs. WAC’s trade inputs such as organic fertilizer, animal feed and fuel, enabling them to increase their capital and business gradually, while at the same time their members saved money and time for transportation as they can buy inputs and materials near their homes of five provinces: Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang, Pursat, Battambang and Siem Reap, and Phenom Penh Municipality.

• Based on final evaluation of the Women: Hope and Growth project covering the period from 2011 to 2014 showed that average daily income of direct beneficiaries at the end of the project had increased from USD 1.20 as measured by the baseline survey to USD 5.73. With more productive livelihoods and higher income generation, other basic needs are slowly being addressed, e.g. children’s education, health, nutrition and water. Improved rural based employment has also contributed considerably to reducing migration which remains a critical challenge for many rural areas of Cambodia.

• Gender gaps were decreased in the programme area, for example number of women having position in Village Development Committees (VDCs) and CBOs increased. At least 50% of the members in local management structures were women. Results of Annual Village Self-Assessment (AVSA) indicated that gender equality, ownership and responsibility of ACs improved. Women’s issues were raised and discussed in many meetings, discussions, and events. Their voices – raising their concerns, issues, challenges, and views – have been increasing heard and taken into consideration in decision-making.

Local communities (women, men and youth), have strengthened their resilience and capacity to respond to hazards including natural and man-made disasters and the effects of climate change that negatively impact their livelihoods

• Similar to 2013, training, awareness and exposure visits in 10 provinces improved the capacity of communities to adapt to climate change. At least 1,391 households applied climate change adaptation methods, like using the resilient crop varieties and planting vegetation to help to save water.

• DRR plans were developed and integrated into village development plans and Commune Investment Programme for support and implementation. Community members actively engaged in DRR activities. They developed their respective household DRR plans, particularly those living in disaster prone areas. Community members engaged in small scale irrigation system construction, establishing help in clearing the land for building houses and roads that has been cleared in Phnom Proeuk district, Sihanoukville.

FCA launched the project for enhanced Career Guidance and Vocational Orientation at secondary school (11534) in co-operation with the MoEYS. In 2014 the Career Guidance Curriculum has been developed with support of with Teachers without Borders volunteers. Career Guidance Manual was drafted and will be finalised in 2015 during the pilot career counsellor training.

In 2014 already 95 teachers from 19 lower secondary schools in 2 provinces were trained on vocation orientation guidelines and established school committee for vocational orientation management.

In IRDP non-formal education was supported, enabling 63 adults including 30 women, who never went to school, or dropped out at early stage, to improve reading and writing skills of Khmer language and learn some basic life skills. Educational materials were provided to 526 children from poorest households, helping to reduce dropout rate.

FCA’s partner Cambodian Women’s Centre (CWCC) organised various campaigns and awareness raising events on girls’ education and children’s rights, reaching directly 1163 people. To improve their chances and equal employment opportunities, CWCC has provided life skills training to 62 girls and Job Interview training to 23 secondary school students from grades 9-12. They also organised two vocational trainings on “Customer Services and Food Hygiene” and “Chicken Raising to 48 scholarship students and their parents in order to build their capacity for improving livelihood activities.
Children and youth living in disaster (both natural or man-made) affected communities have equal, uninterrupted access to quality education and safe and protected learning spaces through preparedness and response capacity of communities, including authorities

- FCA supported the development of Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) for Education Sector in 2013-2014. 1,000 copies of EPRP were printed with co-financing from Save the Children and UNICEF. MoEYS has disseminated the Ministerial Directive to establish Provincial/ District/ school Education Committee/team to develop EPRP for each province. MoEYS has provided training for Provincial Office of Education to support District Office of Education and schools located in most disaster prone areas to develop their EPRP’s in 2014 and 2015.

Rights-holders are able to claim and duty-bearers (state authorities) have capacity to provide quality education

- CWCC co-operated with local authorities, school support committees and teachers to identify 100 vulnerable girls who dropped out from school or have potential to dropout to receive scholarship and continue their education. CWCC has facilitated establishment of one District Group consisting of 4 members to provide advice, support and guidance to the Local Education Working Groups for the scholarship programme. CWCC has also established and supported 4 Local Education Working Groups which consists of 7 members.

- Through National Education Partnership, FCA has advocated the MoEYS to address concerns of teachers through World Teacher Day celebration. About 3,200 community members, children, teachers and local education authorities participated in the event. Documentary film related to current situation of education was produced, and several campaigns conducted in public places of Phnom Penh by Changemakers.

- FCA organised the Finnish Education Forum, sharing know-how and learning solutions that would benefit Cambodian education system. 50 participants from MoEYS Departments, NGO’s and other key stakeholders participated, and the event gained visibility in the local media including newspapers and TV.

2.1.3 Right to Peace

Local communities in disaster affected or fragile contexts have enhanced capability to prevent and resolve conflicts promoting the respect of human rights with the active participation of women and youth

- In RDIP and Land and Livelihood Advocacy project target communities 148 households, including victims of land conflicts, domestic violence, gangsters and sexual harassment raised their respective conflict cases to local authorities, like Village Leaders and Commune Councils to find support, intervention or solutions. Those that were not possible to be resolved at local levels were referred to relevant legal bodies.

- A group of youth was supported for Cambodian Changemaker Network (CCN), which will lead the process of establishing a dynamic youth mechanism to play an important role in non-violent, peaceful, open and respectful advocacy for a better future, targeting actions and decisions of private sector and government in policies and social issues. The network aims at promoting participation of youth in decision-making in order to cause positive change in the areas of education, good governance, human rights and peace. FCA provided advocacy and media training and capacity support to CCN, which helped them to organise various advocacy events including, Campaign on World Teacher Day and Campaign on Human Rights Day. Through the campaigns, CCN engaged diverse people including, students, media, school directors, villagers and local authority.

- FCA provided support to the local organisation Working Group for Peace (WGP) to raise public awareness on peace building and active non-violence practices in all circumstances for a sustainable peaceful living environment. 20 people including 10 women from different background attended the 5 day training on Personal Discipline of Non-Violence to become activists for positive change.

- Decision-makers are willing and equipped to bear their responsibility to promote citizen security, including peaceful resolution of conflicts and protection and promotion of the equal human rights of the members of communities, with special attention to the protection of the most vulnerable.

- Working Group for Peace (WGP) was supported to organise a Campaign on International Peace Day (IPD) on 21st September 2014 in Cambodia. The campaign raised the public awareness on peace building efforts through widespread media messages and campaign materials, engaging participants from different religious - Buddhist, Muslim and Christian.

2.2 Development of the Country Programme during 2013-2014

- FCA has succeeded in becoming a more visible and known development actor in Cambodia through active networking and strengthened collaboration with other development actors in its thematic priority areas, especially Right to Livelihood (R2L), for example through organising national level events bringing together multiple stakeholders to share best practices and improve collaboration. Also, FCA has joined the Development Partners (DPs) Land Sector Working Group, which opens up an opportunity for information sharing and building relationship with relevant DPs.

- FCA’s support to Agriculture Co-operatives and Village Banks is starting to bear fruits and bring real benefits especially to women in the rural areas. As the result of the capacity development, most of the VB Council members (90% women) are able to lead the management and operation of the VBs successfully, transparently and accountably. The knowledge and confidence level of VB and AC members has been increased, and they have successfully prepared and implemented their business plans. Women’s economic status has thus been gradually improved, as evidenced by increase of average incomes by almost 500% during the past 4 years.

- Also in the education sector FCA Cambodia has made big developments during the past 2 years, becoming a recognised partner in NGO sector and with the Government. FCA is nominated as member of Board of Directors of NGO Education Partnership, playing a coordination role at national level and doing joint advocacy for policy changes. National Education in Emergency (EiE) working group has been established with the involvement and support by FCA, which also provided financial and technical assistance to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS) to develop emergency preparedness plans for education sector.

- The relationship with the MoEYS was strengthened in 2013-2014, culminating in the signing of MoU covering the period 1 July 2014 to 31 December 2017. The MoU formalises FCA’s contribution to achieving Cambodia’s development goals as outlined in the Education Strategic Plan 2014 – 2018. Concrete steps in this co-operation were already made in 2014, as the career guidance curriculum and vocational orientation guidelines were developed by MoEYS/Vocational Orientation Department (VOD) with the technical support of FCA and Teachers without Borders volunteers.

- FCA advanced in developing its Right to Peace programme, focusing on the youth. After series of consultations in 2013-2014 Cambodia Changemaker Network (CCN) was established in 2014 with the support of FCA, chosen as a key strategic approach to bring youth together as allies to build collective efforts for justice, peace and development for Cambodia.

5. Evaluations and Studies

Integrated Rural Development Project (RDIP): LWD conducted final evaluation of its country strategy 2009 – 2014. According to the result of final evaluation of the Country Strategy 2009-2014, the rights-based empowerment approach applied by LWD is relevant to the context, effective, efficient and makes good impacts to people’s lives. Group approach is efficient and it is strongly recommended to be replicated. Work of LWD has been greatly recognised and communities and governments demonstrated the sustainability of the work. The new strategy 2015-2020 of LWD was drafted taking into account the recommendations of the evaluation, continuing the rights-based and community group approach. The new phase of the FCA supported RDIP renamed “Empowerment towards Self-Reliance Programme” was launched in 2015 based on the new strategy.
Women: Hope and Growth project (WHG). LWD hired a local consultancy firm to conduct the evaluation of its 4 years Women: Hope and Growth project (WHG) implement-
ed in four provinces covering the period from January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2014 with funding support from FCA / Women’s Bank. Overall finding was that WHG project is a successful project and responsive to needs at the household and community level in terms of building livelihoods, life skills and knowledge of women and their communities. All activities have been achieved as planned from 80% to 100%, but ultimate outcomes for livelihoods impacts are still be assessed in longer term. There are also some good lessons learned along with recommendations to be considered in the next phase of project development. LWD has designed and submitted the new 3 year project entitled Co-operation for Women’s Economic Development (CWEDD) to FCA to address the evaluation findings and continue supporting and building the capacity of the WACs and VIBs.

4. Capacity Building

LWD provided financial support to CWCC to conduct training to project staff on three priority topics including Basic Data Analysis & SPSS, General Office Skills and Customer Service Skills. 9 LWD staff received Introductory Training on Basic: Alternative Land Dispute / Conflict Management and Mediation Skill for Land Dispute and Training on Family and Land Laws. These two trainings have increased the knowledge and skills of project staff to effectively provide technical support, mentoring and coaching to local governance actors in their target areas.

15 Cambodian youth from diverse backgrounds have been learning media and journalistic skills in the media club since July 2014 with the support of Finn Church Aid. Practical skills were provided, for instance interviewing, writing stories, taking photos for social media and writing stories, which are useful for partners including KYA and Changemaker to support their advocacy work. FCA has also supporting KYA and CNV and youth to attend international training and events improve the areas that are relevant to their work. These trainings enhanced their knowledge about peace concept and strengthened their peaceful advocacy skills. In late November 2014, FCA has provided technical support to KYA and Changemaker to develop proposal to UNDEF, learning together in the process about designing, planning and writing concept proposal which can benefit them in the future to be able to apply for other funding opportunities.

FCA supported a team from Cambodia consisting of LWD, Enterprise Development Institute (EDI) and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to visit and learn from the co-operatives programme in Nepal in December 2014. The knowledge and information learnt from Nepal and included in the development of the proposal for Co-operation for Women’s Economic Development (CWEDD) project. This study tour was a follow up from the roundtable discussion meeting on co-operatives in Cambodia. A team of FCA partners from Nepal also visited Cambodia to see and learn about the co-operatives there, participating also in roundtable discussion on agriculture co-operatives.

Another exchange visit was also conducted by a team from LWD Myanmar to Cambodia to learn the experience of Cambodia’s projects supported by Women’s Bank.

5. Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

Due to the change of the Minister of Education and education system reform combined with the high bureaucracy and hierarchy, FCA has encountered challenges in the partnership and co-operation with the MoEYS. For these reasons it took long time to prepare the project agreement for signing with the MoEYS. The co-operation with the government agencies at various levels is important in order to be able to build capacities and influence policies for larger impact as long as possible while working only at grass roots level. FCA will continue working on different levels with various stakeholders despite the challenges that this implies. With formalised relations with the Ministry the co-operation is expected to be smoother in the continuation.

The co-operation with the local level authorities and government officials was not always easy. The political deadlock after the national election from July 2013 until October 2014 decreased their motivation and in fact many government officials including did not much co-operate and support the programme activities and implementation. As consequence, some planned activities which required their participation, co-operation, coordination and/or support were postponed many times. In addition, a number of planned activities of LWD’s project staff to effectively provide technical support, mentoring and coaching to local governance actors in their target areas.

Fear and low commitment of local authority in dealing with land conflict was observed in many target areas, especially regarding the conflicts between community farmers with rich people/private company or high ranking officials especially regarding the conflicts between community farmers with rich people/private company or high ranking officials of the government. They tended to avoid dealing with such cases or delay the complaints or advocacy processes of the communities. Further capacity building and advocacy towards the local authorities is important to ensure their commitment to enhanced land rights.

LWD’s approach of employing field staff to stay and work right at the villages during working week was appreciated as successful. It speeds up the project implementation and improves effectiveness through coaching, mentoring and encouragement rather than just from formal training and extension service. It is a very effective method in building capacity and competency of people, especially those who have low educational backgrounds, and is cost effective as it save lots of money from formal training.

FCA in collaboration with CSOs and networks organised a number of advocacy events to bring community members, CSOs and related government officials together to discuss, find effective solutions and improve governance related to land and natural resources management, contributing to respect for human rights and sustainable livelihoods in Cambodia. The concerns and issues raised by the participants will be taken to the National Assembly and relevant government agencies for their consideration. The government is increasingly recognising and acknowledging the role of CSOs in Cambodia development work.
ing these problems through three thematic objectives: right to peace, right to livelihoods and right to education. Themes are interlinked and aim at contributing to a more secure, resilient and equal societies. Country Programmes target mainly the rural poor and marginalised groups through activities supporting social and economic empowerment. The main focus groups are women and youth. Due to high vulnerability of the people and their livelihoods, disaster risk reduction activities are integrated into sustainable livelihood development to ensure communities’ resilience. FCA’s livelihood activities focus on strengthening the capacities of communities and individuals to improve their situation and make demands to duty-bearers. Promoting the participation of and dialogue between youth, women and men in community and local development, as well as strengthening local capacities to advocate for inclusive and just policies, has also been our main focus in right to peace related work. In education, the Haiti programme has focused on providing safe learning spaces for children, but also increasingly on the quality of education and school governance. Also future resilience and preparedness has been taken into account by integrating the human rights and disaster risk reduction in school curricula and teachers training.

In 2014 there were no major disasters in FCA programme countries in the region. However, Central American countries were suffering from drought that has caused severe impacts in the region. FCA supported the ACT Appeal on Central America Drought (El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua). The overall goal of the emergency response was to ensure access to food and water during the critical period of shortage and support the recovery phase. In order to be prepared to respond in future emergencies in Haiti, FCA continued to strengthen its contingency plan and took a leading role in the development of ACT Haiti Forum’s Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan. FCA is an active member of the ACT Haiti Forum, and in 2014 FCA also participated in the preparation of an emergency simulation, community-level capacity building strategy, field network expansion and visibility development. In addition, ACT co-operation continued on the joint climate change project. Other themes of common interest included the training of partners on gender equality, as well as advocacy on the two governments signed in September 2014. Overall, FCA has expanded its presence, strengthened the local networking and partnerships, and has built staff and partners capacity to ensure high quality programme.

In 2014 increased efforts were directed to strengthen the synergies in capacity building of partners with NCA and Christian Aid. In September common training on gender was organised. Coordination also permitted FCA to invite all partners to participate in NCA training on do-no-harm and the ACT joint project to advocacy training. Improved coordination with sister organisations will continue in 2015. In Central America, capacity building efforts had a focus on the sustainability of the projects and partners work, as well as skills related to fundraising during the exit phase 2014 - 2016.

Established in 2010, FCA Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office in Haiti consisted of 21 staff at the end of 2014. Presence in the region enables us to network and engage in various platforms, and one of the main efforts was to increase FCA’s connectivity and advocacy capabilities through 2014. The preparatory work related to a construction programme of 10 public schools for the Haitian Ministry of Education with funding from Finnish MFA (separate from partnership agreement), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and FCA, also allowed FCA to increase its geographical presence. FCA has also contributed to the discussion on the importance of improving education quality within Haiti’s NGO platform CLOT’s education committee and by supporting the collaboration between IDB and the Ministries of Education of Finland and Haiti. This resulted in a seminar for exchange of experience by Finnish education experts and MoU between the two governments signed in September 2014. Overall, FCA has expanded its presence, strengthened the local networking and partnerships, and has built staff and partners capacity to ensure high quality programme.

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In Central America (Guatemala & Honduras)

2. Overview of the Central America Programme

FCA Central America Programme focuses on Honduras and Guatemala, although it also has a regional approach (Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and Nicaragua) especially in advocacy work and capacity building. The region faces common challenges of which insecurity, inequality and climate induced disasters can be defined as the main issues affecting and shaping countries and their societies. The insecurity has multiple causes and consequences, such as inequality, poverty, unemployment, lack of opportunities for the youth, corruption, impunity, and lack of democratic tradition. Increased activity and presence of gangs, drug cartels and organised crime have penetrated the societies at all levels. Use of military force to tackle public security issues together with illegal and arbitrary use of force in the name of crime prevention has been a growing tendency. States face increasing challenges in ensuring the individual and collective rights of the population. Social conflicts, related to land rights and use of natural resources, are common and the space for civil society political action is very limited. Use of violence and forced resettlement of peasants by the police and military forces, and criminalisation of human rights defenders and community leaders for their action is common. Indigenous and Afro-descendent populations are especially affected and often lack the opportunity and the means to participate in decision-making and claiming more inclusive policies.

The rise in crime, violence, and political and social instability are linked to the inequalities present in the region. No effective economic and social policies are in place to distribute wealth, address inequalities and guarantee universal access to economic, social and cultural rights. Countries

| Project number | Project name | Partner | Primary funding source |
|----------------|--------------|---------|------------------------|}

1. Financial Summary

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The rise in crime, violence, and political and social instability are linked to the inequalities present in the region. No effective economic and social policies are in place to distribute wealth, address inequalities and guarantee universal access to economic, social and cultural rights. Countries
Local communities in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts have strengthened their resilience and capacity to respond to hazards including natural and man-made disasters and the effects of climate change that negatively impact their livelihoods

- In 2014 LWF Central America Program supported five communities in Alta Verapaz in strengthening their skills related to the legal framework for risk reduction in disasters and climate change. Three of the communities are objects in the network of youth in the region. FCA also supported the ACT Appeal on Central America Drought (El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua) in 2014. It has since been implemented by ACT members, LWF Central America being responsible for its coordination and implementation.

2.1 Programme Objectives and Achievements

2.1.1 Right to Livelihood

Local communities in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts have strengthened assets and capability to develop their livelihoods in sustainable ways

- 100 families in Guatemala and 42 families in Honduras have improved agricultural production and availability of food as a result of skills training and sharing of experiences within the LWF Central America Program: Life, Dignity, and Justice for the Peoples of Central America. Community members were trained as agricultural promoters working for the benefit of their communities. A basic grain (corn and bean) reserve was established, post-harvest handling and marketing of basic grains was promoted, and forest and fruit tree nurseries where planted.

- The project has contributed to the access and availability of food in the target communities.

- In Alta Verapaz, Guatemala, 611 women and 43 men in 25 communities have received skills training in diversified agricultural production and small economic initiatives to increase their income. As a result, 84 families were diversified, contributing to the food security of the families. Women have increased knowledge related to successful farming methods and have shared best practices with other women and communities.

- In Apacilagua, Honduras, 180 families continue with the process of improving their livelihoods. In 2014 the main focus area has been the harvesting of water resources for irrigation through establishing water pools, grey water wells and irrigation systems. These facilities decrease the risk of losing harvests, being thus very important in the project area where drought is an acute problem. Cashew nut production continues and is providing additional income for the families. It has also been further promoted for being a highly drought resistant cultivation and legal constitutions for two Peasant Associate businesses were applied.

Local communities (women, men and youth) have strengthened their resilience and capacity to respond to hazards including natural and man-made disasters and the effects of climate change that negatively impact their livelihoods

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2.1.2 Right to Education

Women, men and youth in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts with limited educational background have access to quality vocational training/skill development

- A total of 195 rural indigenous women in 25 communities received literacy training. 90 % of the women finished the first year of literacy training, increasing their literacy from numbers one to 100, and can do basic arithmetic operations. The women have also learnt important study skills and are taking small steps towards literacy. 542 literacy promoters PACOs have been strengthened and 56 people have been trained in environment protection and advocacy. A total of 87 youth have so far been selected for the insertion of youth in local development and fund-raising plan for the recycling microenterprises and installation of nursery gardens for income generation.

- 7 schools have established school gardens with special support from PACO youth, improving the nutritional values of the school snacks.

- The Women’s Bank project in Guatemala made great efforts and successes, while maintaining leadership and the local partners that now have improved skills to support active participation of women in the communities and municipal level. 22 women beneficiaries of the project have taken part of community development councils, contributing to the fact that women’s voices are increasingly heard in these fora and can be transmitted towards the municipal policies and duty-bearers. Women also participate more in other public places such as parents’ committees.

- Numerous advocacy actions were implemented in 2014 and LWF Central America Program has strengthened relationships and coordination with public institutions and NGOs. The PICA has been better coordinated, as well as demands and proposals made. Six communities supported by the Pop Nij Association have advanced in the legal land ownership and have strengthened skills regarding the defense of territories and natural resources. LWF partners also participated in denouncing the Act Monsanto law, seeking the privatisation of native seeds that was rejected by the national congress due to social pressure from the indigenous sectors. In Honduras, Manto municipality was declared mining-free zone by municipal agreement made in an open council.

FCA was also active at the EU level advocacy work related to Central America, and results of the APRODEV’s Central America Advocacy Program in the European Union (PICA) are presented in the chapter 1.3.6. Global Advocacy. PICA has access to high level up to date information which supports strategic advocacy actions and entry points for lobbying the EU institutions, allowing PICA to better support its members’ and Central America partners’ advocacy work.

2.1.2 Right to Education

Women, men and youth in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts with limited educational background have access to quality vocational training/skill development
2.1 Right to Peace

Local communities in disaster affected or fragile contexts have enhanced capability to prevent and resolve conflicts promoting the respect of human rights with the active participation of women and youth.

- The LWF Central America Program supported various citizens’ initiatives promoting respect for human rights and prevention of different forms of violence, with participation of women and men and youth. At regional level, training in masculinities of 117 men and 110 women has strengthened the rights-based approaches and gender in the programme. Community based Citizen Observatories for Peace in Guatemala have strengthened skills by participating in a Human Rights training programme organised by the Office for Human Rights and University of San Carlos. Judges, prosecutors, municipal officers and other local actors have also participated in awareness raising activities part of the training programme. As a result, community members and observers are better informed about local level work on human rights and citizen security. Municipal actors are also increasingly informed about the issues related to human rights and security that the communities face.

- In Santa Rosa de Copán and Nueva Arcadia, Honduras, women have been trained and organised in order to strengthen their capacities aimed at preventing gender based violence. The project has also contributed to the strengthening of youth networks in both municipalities. In Cuyugayua and San Pedro, integrated to the project in 2014, youth groups and women's groups were organised and trained in citizen security and participation. Additionally, activities of awareness raising and coordination with municipal and educational actors were implemented in support of these processes.

- The municipal reconciliation centres of Santa Rosa and Nueva Arcadia are functioning and provide alternative ways for peaceful resolution of conflicts. During 2013 and 2014 altogether 43 volunteer facilitators were trained and integrated to the network and 133 conflicts were resolved.

- The work in promoting increased participation of women and youth in violence prevention and gender equality was strengthened in 2014 in Apaciguala. Six community based Violence Prevention Committees were formed, focusing on citizen advocacy and political participation, and they have set a community agenda for violence prevention. Committees participated in defining municipal strategies for reducing risk factors leading to violence, especially against women and youth, and have organised trainings on human rights and violence prevention in schools. They have also sensitised community judges in violence prevention.

Decision-makers are willing and equipped to bear their responsibility to promote citizen security, including peaceful resolution of conflicts and protection and promotion of the equal human rights of the members of communities, with special attention to the protection of the most vulnerable.

- Santa Rosa and Nueva Arcadia continue implementing public policies on citizen security, and Santa Rosa also has an approved citizen security strategy. In Cuyugayua and San Pedro the process has initiated and municipal authorities and municipal and social actors are co-operating in citizen security related issues. In 2014 mainly awareness raising, information sharing and training of actors participating in the process of adoption and implementation of public policies on citizen security have taken place. This included training different groups in order to build awareness and active participation violence prevention. Municipal authorities (police, judges, prosecutors etc.) also have strengthened skills related to violence and insecurity, and thus a better capacity to act.

- As a result of a various training processes with youth groups in Guatemala within the LWF Central America Program, young people have taken initiative in making proposals for the benefit of their communities. The Municipal Youth Policy 2014 – 2020 of Villa Nueva is currently in its final stages of approval. In communities such as Methos (%46), Villa Libertad (%39) and Villa U. I. L. Ilasa, Unidos por la Paz and El Bucaro, the youth movement is countering violence and positioned as agents of change in building a culture of peace. More than 500 rural indigenous women are involved in community based Violence Prevention Committees have been trained in human rights, gender and political participation in 2014. Awareness raising campaigns reaching men, women and local authorities were also organised and altogether 700 women and 200 men participated in these activities. These have contributed to strengthened skills and empowerment of the women, who have participated in co-ordination with other actors in decision making and their rights in front of the duty-bearers. A proposal to regulate the selling of alcohol in the municipality was made together with the municipal Women’s Office and Health Centre, as alcohol abuse is one of the major causes of domestic violence. The initiative represents the local women’s interest and contributes to their right to a life free of violence.

2.2 Development of the Country Programme during 2013-2014

The LWF Central America Country Programme has had a strong focus on sustainable livelihoods and promotion of human rights, as well as inclusive policies and citizen security. The work supporting livelihood activities through various projects has continued during 2013 – 2014 and has approximately 1,000 families in the project areas. Due to the exit decision taken in December 2013, there were no further efforts made for strengthening the Country Programme in 2014, as focus was shifted to support the sustainability of project results and capacity of implementing partners. Ongoing FCA projects will be implemented as planned and will end by the end of 2016, and the downsizing of operations has been mainly done by cutting planned but not yet started projects. Also the support to the LWF Central America project had to be cut, on which decisions were taken together with the partner.

In 2014 Central America Country Programme had new project phases starting with most projects. Many projects had been evaluated before planning the new implementation phases, and for this reason, programme development did occur separate from the exit decision. The programme has strengthened the thematic linkages, integrating R2P more strongly to the R2L. Especially, the project 11168, Strengthening Local Governance for developing livelihoods in Apaciguala, contributed to the strengthening of R2P by incorporating a violence prevention component to the project and contributing to a stronger interlinkage of R2P and R2L in the Country Programme. Also the Women’s Bank project in Guatemala contributed to the social and economic empowerment of rural indigenous women, and strengthened the R2P and especially the second chances for non-formal education opportunities of rural indigenous women. This project also contributed significantly to linking R2E and R2L in the Country Programme. A stronger focus has also been towards enhancing resilience and reducing vulnerabilities of the target communities. The new LWF Central America Country Programme for 2014 – 2019 has been approved and strengthens the local capacities to develop sustainable livelihoods, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability and injustice in the societies of Central America. Communities have been sensitised in protecting natural resources and in risks related to selling lands to megaproject companies, especially in Guatemala, but also in Honduras. Communities are also familiar with the legal framework related to DRR and climate change and are organised in community, municipal and regional level networks coordinating in Disaster Reduction and work have strengthened skills and basic tools in emergency response. As a result, they are able to improve the living conditions and respond to hazards affecting their communities.

3. Evaluations and Studies

The first phase of the project Strengthening of local governance for livelihoods development in Apaciguala (11168), Honduras (4/2012 – 3/2014) was evaluated in 2014. The evaluation had various recommendations that have been taken into account adjusting the 2015 work plan. These can be concluded as following:

1. Continue to support the actions and mechanisms supported by the project in order to assure the sustainability of the project results.
2. Work with youth presents an opportunity to create new generation of community leaders and project facilitators. Also the project needs special attention in generating formal education opportunities and training in women’s rights and participation.

3. Food security remains the main vulnerability of the project zone and the southern region of Honduras. There is demand for more investigations, piloting of drought resistant cultivations and new techniques for storage and transport to locally produce water resources for domestic and agricultural use.

4. Strengthening of local economy through new community initiatives such as poultry, artisan food processing and local handicraft initiatives need to be studied for alternative livelihood and income generating activities in the community.

5. Revising regularly the working methods within the communities and extending the work to a more local level, benefitting from the strengthened skills and increased participation within the communities. New kind of community facilitators could support the process, generating increased skills, innovations, creativity, alternative solutions and proposals.

6. Capacity Building

The Capacity Building in 2014 was linked to the planning of the exit process together with partners. The project 11540 LWF Central America Capacity Building in Resource Mobilisation was designed after the exit negotiations in February 2014. Through this project FCA aims at supporting LWF in strengthening the capacity to find new sources of funding during and beyond FCA’s exit period. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the strengthening of sustainability and continuity of the LWF work in Central America. This is done through strengthening the capacity of LWF and its partners in resource mobilisation, fundraising and project/proposal design and writing.

5. Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

The main challenges for the Country Programme and project implementation are caused by the high levels of insecurity. Some projects have had challenges in maintaining the level of participation of the right-holders in the activities. This challenge increases during important seasonal of agricultural production, with harvesting and temporary income opportunities outside the communities. Due to some activities needed to be postponed, but the challenges were also overcome by establishing more flexible working hours, allowing the project staff to organise activities during weekend. Regarding agricultural production activities, the main challenge has been the long period of drought experienced in the region, causing loss of crops. This in turn caused rise in prices of basic goods and the cost of living, forcing families to move in search of work, limiting the possibility to participate in the Central America strategy for 2014 – 2019. This challenge could have been addressed in more strategic planning and promotion and implementation of water harvesting systems and alternative economic initiatives have been significant opportunity for the challenge.
The context analysis conducted by FCA in early 2014 clearly shows that the human rights situation in Haiti has not improved during the past years. In 2014 Haiti ranked 168th in the Human Development Index of 0.471 according to the UNDP. Human rights situation worsened due to the 2010 earthquake, and over 100,000 people are still living in tents in unsanitary conditions. Life and food became more expensive, and in 2014 it was estimated that 77% of the population live in poverty. More than two thirds of Haitians are affected by unemployment or underemployment.

Political instability in Haiti has lasted years and the political crisis was increasingly evidenced during the second half of 2014 with numerous protests and demonstrations taking place. Apart from the presidential elections, no other elections have been called since the 2010 earthquake. The legislative elections, supposed to take place in October 2014, were once again suspended and in January 2015 the parliament was dissolved, leaving the president to rule by decree. The political instability and fragile social structures have greatly hindered the reconstruction of the country, and different forms of conflict continue affecting the Haitian society. They are not always open and visible but rather hidden in unjust practices and policies, including the non-functioning of democracy and lack of awareness and accountability.

In 2014 Right to Education continued to be the biggest theme in FCA’s Haiti Programme. Its focus has still been heavily in the infrastructure side and provision of safe permanent learning spaces for children, but also increasingly in the quality of education and school governance. Due to the fact that Haiti has very low levels of school attendance even in basic education, FCA’s focus has continued to be in children. Haiti is also considered one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to natural hazards such as hurricanes, earthquakes, landslides and flooding, and rural livelihoods are especially weak and highly vulnerable to disasters. FCA Haiti programme’s Right to Livelihood activities focus on strengthening of capacities of communities and individuals to improve their situation and make demands to authorities, but still maintain important components of preparation and disaster risk reduction. Concrete disaster risk mitigation activities included, training in DRR of various actors, strengthening the capacities of the local communities, and building disaster proof learning spaces and training teachers in DRR. Regarding the Right to Peace, many of the current activities are integrated into the work on the other two themes. Most importantly there is human rights and peace/tolerance training in schools, but also community sensitisation on rights, and advocacy at the local and national level integrated in livelihoods projects. The peace and human rights activities focus on building a more democratic and functioning society.

2.1 Programme Objectives and Achievements

Women have equal access and control over productive resources and assets

- The capacities of 238 women and 44 men to build and manage economic initiatives increased in 2014, as a result of trainings and support to economic initiatives within the Women’s Bank project. After accounting training, 38 women and 16 men can do bookkeeping and are able to consider the different costs to determine the selling price and to plan their goods. 12 new economic initiatives on animal husbandry, agriculture and community stores, managed by women’s groups were also initiated.
- Additionally, as a result of diverse training and support to income generation activities, 496 women have increased average income among beneficiaries by 19–54 per cent within the Women’s Bank project in Haiti. The community store registered a profit of almost EUR 57,000 in 2014. In 2013 and 2014 households received inputs such as seeds and tubers, and their productive capacities are stronger as a result of systematic training and accompaniment carried out within the LWF Haiti Country Programme.

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Local communities (women, men and youth), have strengthened their resilience and capacity to respond to hazards including natural and man-made disasters and the effects of climate change that negatively impact their livelihoods.

- **DRR and contingency plans** exist in the LWF project areas, and community members have been sensitised. 194 community members (111 women), and authorities were sensitised in Grande Anse during a 3-day campaign on climate change and good practices. In addition, 42 schools in Palmes were sensitised and participated in a drawing competition. Several awareness raising activities were undertaken on erosion, its causes, effects and consequences, as well as actions to take to reduce erosion. Through the ACT joint programme for climate change and DRR, vulnerable communities with limited access to radio programs were sensitised on climate change through a campaign using community radios network.

- In Palmes, local civil protection structures (22 women, 31 men) were trained on national DRR system and data is being collected for designing yearly contingency plans. A successful disaster simulation exercise was conducted in cooperation with several NGOs, communal civil protection committees and local authorities, schools, churches, CBOs and community members. Early warning mechanism is in place and monitored. In Macaya 94 persons (17 women), members of warning systems, emergency brigades, local authorities and community leaders were trained and focal points were assigned. 88 people (37 women) participated in the assessment of DRR skills of community representatives.

- **Mitigation activities** based on risk mapping were realised in the LWF project and community members have acquired skills related to construction techniques. Soil conservation activities have taken place, such as planting of hedges and seedlings, building of stone thresholds, stone walls and lines, rehabilitation of ravines, and construction of dikes, ponds and agricultural roads. This has reduced the risk of flooding and erosion common in several areas located close to watersheds. In Palmes 60% of the water is now captured by the mechanical structures in place. 32,979 seedlings in Macaya and 34,385 in Palmes were transplanted in the framework of reforestation activities. In Ouanaminthe, an area of 6,000 m2 has been reforested with 4,460 fruit trees and 9,325 forest trees, protected by fence to impede animals from destroying it. Three community projects are propagating good practices by training on concrete activities strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities in rural areas. Farmers have adopted agro-climatic and environmental adaptation techniques developed and disseminated with the participation of 69 CBOs (Systemic Rice Intensification system, reforestation, compost technology, soil conservation, processing of solid waste and recycling of plastic).

### 2.1.2 Right to Education

Women, men and youth in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts with limited educational background have access to quality vocational training/skill development

- 59 young people took part in the vocational studies of the youth training center part of the LWF project. 27 students participated in the study programme on small mechanical engines and 32 were studying of the tile industry. Some students are earning an income through self-employment and short-term work, others are gaining more experience by working with senior professionals.

- A vocational school was constructed in Port-au-Prince, with a capacity of providing improved learning conditions to 240 students (80 % women).

Girls and boys living in disaster (both natural or man-made) affected communities have equal, uninterrupted access to quality education and safe and protected learning spaces through preparedness and response capacity of communities, including authorities

- During 2013 and 2014, 6 hurricane and earthquake proof, environmentally friendly schools with a total number of 44 classrooms were completed and are functioning, complying with Government of Haiti standards. As a result, approximately 476 children now have safe learning spaces.

- Through community mobilisation integrated to the school construction projects, community ownership and participation in school administration has increased. The process lead to stronger parent-teacher-community associations to take collective responsibility of the schools’ needs.

- 50 schools participating in the project Support to quality education in Leogane and Gressier through the promotion of better school governance and reduction of inequalities by supporting the implementation of the school’s needs.

- 51 schools in Artibonite and Ouest departments supported by project activities are gaining more experience by working with senior professionals.

- As a result, approximately 900 teachers and 72,000 students have an enhanced understanding of the schools’ needs.

### 2.1.3 Right to Peace

Local communities in disaster affected or fragile contexts have enhanced capability to prevent and resolve conflicts promoting the respect of human rights with the active participation of women and youth

- A youth peacemaker network with 478 members has been established around 8 schools in the most conflictive and vulnerable communities in greater Port-au-Prince area. The network counts with 170 schools staffs that have been trained to support the groups. Schools have requested the inclusion of parents in the project in order to promote the culture of peace and non-violence in community level. 680 parents have been sensitised on aspects of peace and non-violent conflict management. Teachers and school staff have capacities to train students on peace, non-violence and reconciliation and have replicated this with 3,415 youth (1,671 male and 1,744 female). Participants report decrease in conflict between students and outside school. Sports and culture activities for 5,000 youth and summer activities for 500 youth from conflictive neighbourhoods have permitted awareness raising on peace and conflict prevention, as well as offered alternative spaces for the youth that are vulnerable to joining violence.

- 572 CBO members and local authorities are able to promote human rights in project areas after receiving training and/or information on human rights and citizen participation (eg. the CEDAW) in Creole within the LWF project activities. As a result, the local level civil register offices testify increased birth declaration.

### 2.2. Development of the Country Programme

**During 2013-2014**

The Haiti Country Programme has a strong focus on Right to Education and Right to Livelihood. Right to Education remains the largest theme mainly due to the volume of con-
illiterate youth from 16 to 24 years of the vulnerable sectors; education, and education of over-school aged children and development of the public education sector in general. In 2014, FCA also carried out all three thematic assessments in Haiti, as this is a highly relevant to the overall development challenges in the country. R2P has been also increasingly integrated to FCA’s livelihoods projects. In 2014, FCA aimed at strengthening the R2P theme in Haiti, as this is a highly relevant in planning the continuation of the project. The evaluation recommended the continuation of the project, and a strengthened focus on women’s “social empowerment”, including more substantial literacy training. Evaluation findings and recommendations have been very relevant in planning the continuation of the project that started in January 2015.

4. Capacity Building

In addition to ongoing support and accompaniment to partners through meetings and continuous dialogue aimed at enhancing the quality of projects, FCA provided support to and partners to access to capacity building in 2014. FCA supported the participation of three partner staff members in MANGO trainings on NGO financial management. Capacity building plans with FCA partners, MISSEH and SGI were also made. In this framework, FCA supported MISSEH’s strategy process and internal capacity building on PME. FCA supported PME training to SGI’s local partners implementing the ACT Alliance joint climate change project activities, as well as the retraining of SGI’s CBO training manuals, which is also used and distributed by the Government. FCA had also planned to hold gender and RBA training for partners, but modified the plans in order to have improved coordination with NCA and Christian Aid. In September 2014 a first common training on gender was organised with the participation of the staff of 4 FCA partners and four FCA staff members. Coordination also permitted FCA to invite all partners to participate in NCA training on do-no-harm and the ACT joint project to advocacy training. A specific capacity building effort was an action plan created by FCA, NCA and Christian Aid to build the capacities of RNDOH, a crucial human rights act in Haitian society, doing unique monitoring work of state accountability, but on the other hand showing weaknesses in administrative and financial skills. In 2015 capacity building will continue to be planned in close co-operation with NCA and Christian Aid to allow for synergies.

5. Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

Within the Haiti Country Programme and implementation of projects, it has become clear that the capacities of local partners to understand the difference of needs-based emergency work and long-term rights-based development work require continuous support, in order to guarantee sustainable change and reduce dependency on outside aid. The overall goal was to reorient FCA’s work from construction sector towards more rights-based long-term development and quality programme management. Some challenges remain, such as changes in programme staff and budget limitations, affecting the programme development and design of new projects within the Country Programme.

In 2014, one significant improvement related to capacity building has been the coordination and co-operation with ACT sister organisations, especially with Christian Aid and NCA with whom FCA shares office space, in finding synergies in the programme management. We share most partners with one or both sister organisations and also have some joint projects. Joint coordination has proved particularly useful for partner capacity building, as has been presented above and this could be enhanced in the future to cover all partners.

Also the community mobilisation incorporated into the construction projects both strengthens the rights-based approach of our construction work (as we focus on the empowerment, participation and ownership as a right of the local communities) and also facilitates the implementation and results of our construction work. FCA community mobilisation was systematically developed during 2014 and a guiding documentation on FCA’s community mobilisation approach is under work and will be finalised during 2015. Through the community work, we have had various success stories in the communities we work in. These include collective labour work by the community to cover unforeseen costs in the budget, especially in accessing the sites involving labour intensive road rehabilitation in areas where the duty-bearers have failed to meet their obligations.

Other local community mobilisation incorporated into the construction projects both strengthens the rights-based approach of our construction work (as we focus on the empowerment, participation and ownership as a right of the local communities) and also facilitates the implementation and results of our construction work. FCA community mobilisation was systematically developed during 2014 and a guiding documentation on FCA’s community mobilisation approach is under work and will be finalised during 2015. Through the community work, we have had various success stories in the communities we work in. These include collective labour work by the community to cover unforeseen costs in the budget, especially in accessing the sites involving labour intensive road rehabilitation in areas where the duty-bearers have failed to meet their obligations.
2. Regional Programme Overview

FCA programme countries in Middle East region are Jordan, Lebanon, Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories (IOPT) and Syria.

The Syrian conflict, which has been ongoing for 4 years, is reshaping the geopolitical map of the Middle East with deeper sectarian divisions and changing the dynamics of not only individual countries, but also the region in general. According to UNHCR, around 4 million Syrians have fled their homes to the neighbouring countries. It is also estimated that over 210,000 people have lost their lives and over 6 million are internally displaced. In 2014 FCA addressed the situation inside Syria by supporting a humanitarian project targeting refugees in Northern Syria. The objective of the project was to provide immediate assistance to 633 refugee families in form of distribution of food kits and hygiene kits. Furthermore, FCA started preparations for a project aiming to map partners and options for peacebuilding activities in Syria.

The majority of the 4 million Syrian refugees are hosted by already poor communities in the neighbouring countries, where rents have increased significantly, social and physical infrastructure are stretched and the prices for basic commodities have been affected heavily; hence creating tensions between refugees and host communities. Problems faced by the refugees are especially severe for children. Vast majority of school-aged Syrian refugee children in residing in neighbouring countries are out of school, even though for example Lebanon and Jordan have opened access to school for Syrian children. Many of the schools in communities hosting Syrian refugees are extremely overcrowded affecting the quality of education. FCAs response to this challenge focused on Education in Emergencies in Jordan, a country with one of the highest Syrian refugee populations.

In order to ease this situation, FCA supported Syrian crisis, severe restrictions on the right to freedom of movement and access to services for Palestinians continue to limit their access to livelihoods in the occupied Palestinian territories. In order to ease this situation, FCA supported Palestinians in their efforts to enhance livelihood options through food production in the West Bank. In addition to livelihood-related work, humanitarian aid in the form of psycho-social support was delivered in Gaza to mitigate the consequences of the armed conflict that broke out in 2014.

Given the regional developments of the past years, Right to Peace is a priority theme for FCA in the Middle East, particularly in terms of preventing tensions from escalating into conflicts. The focus of peace work in 2014 was on supporting partners initiatives that provided youth in the Middle East with opportunities to engage in civil society action and to make their voices heard in a peaceful manner. FCAs have a dual approach regarding working modalities in the Middle East. In Jordan we are self-implementing the humanitarian education project. In Lebanon and IOPT we are working through partners and our role is clearly in capacity building of the local CBOs. It has been the strategy of FCA in the Middle East in the past couple years to work more closely with the local CBOs.

Established in January 2012, Middle East Regional Office (MERO) in Amman consisted at the end of 2014 of 17 staff members, of whom 3 were expatriates. In addition, FCA Head of Global Grants was based at MERO. MERO office in Amman experienced several changes in staffing, including in senior management in 2014.

MERO staff conducted frequent monitoring visits in country and at regional level. Having a presence in the region enables us to network and engage in various platforms. FCA staff has continued to as network and build strategic relationships, mainly in Jordan and Palestine, with local and international NGOs. UN agencies, donors and relevant government ministries and to bring advocacy messages from local communities to decision makers.

Somewhat overshadowed by the regional nature of the Syrian crisis, severe restrictions on the right to freedom of movement and access to services for Palestinians continue to limit their access to livelihoods in the occupied Palestinian territories. In order to ease this situation, FCA supported

3.6 Middle East

2. Overview of the Jordan Programme

Jordan is considered as an upper middle income country. However, the rating does not demonstrate the socio-economic polarisation, the unstable political situation and the lack of civic participation. The gap between the urban and rural areas, as well as between genders when talking about employment rates is dramatic. All this is amplified by the fact that on top of the longer-standing refugee populations from Palestine and Iraq, Jordan is currently hosting more than 600,000 officially registered Syrian refugees, which constitutes a significant challenge to its infrastructure and other resources. The actual amount of Syrian refugees in Jordan is estimated to be up to 1.5 million people. The future of the Syrian refugee population in Jordan is also a key factor that will shape FCAs Country Programme: will the conflict continue forcing the refugees to settle in Jordan and if so, will the Jordanian government accept their integration to society in host communities or continue implementing its policy to increasingly place Syrians in the camps.

In 2014 FCA worked on livelihoods in Jordan both in development and humanitarian contexts. In terms of development work carried out under R2L, the target group is young women in vulnerable socio-economic position. In 2014 FCA focused on working with three local women NGOs in southern Jordan. These partnerships aims at improving women’s and families’ living standards through enhancing women’s civil and economic rights knowledge and providing skills to enable women to access job opportunities available, as well as providing local women in vulnerable life situations with vocational training in catering, knowledge on civil and economic rights as well as basics of marketing and entrepreneurship.

The main focus of FCA in Jordan remained on the humanitarian work with Syrian refugees and Right to Education. The huge amount of refugees residing in Jordan is putting considerable pressure on the education system, which has been unable to adequately serve all Syrian refugee children and youth. FCA has been addressing this situation since 2012 with a project built on a combination of non-formal education activities and psycho-social support, of which the latter has been implemented in the form of recreational and sport activities. The main target group of the project is refugee youth aged 15-24. FCA has also facilitated small-scale income-generation efforts by running a barber/hairdressing salon in King Abdullah Park refugee camp and by providing a caravan for Za’atari, where 10 participants set up a mobile repair workshop. In 2014 FCA expanded the activities to the new camp in Azraq, around 100 km east of Amman. The preparations for working with the host communities were also started in neighbourhoods in East Amman and northern governorates. This work has an increasing importance in FCAs humanitarian response in Jordan.
as 80% of the Syrian refugees are located in host communities outside official camp structures.

FCA continued its involvement in the Jordan-Lebanon-Syria regional ACT forum and contributed to the ACT appeal SYR 131.

2.1 Programme Objectives and Achievements

2.1.1 Right to Livelihood

Local communities in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts with limited educational background have developed livelihoods in Jordan in the most result-oriented way. FCA's long-term strategy to develop livelihoods in Jordan is currently under further consideration.

No new openings were made under Right to Peace during the reporting period. However, FCA is aware of the needs related to this theme stemming particularly from the tensions between Syria refugees and the local population; hence opportunities for developing Right to Peace in Jordan will be explored.

3. Evaluations and Studies

ACT Alliance Syria Appeal SYR 121. Independent evaluation of the response and the related process

FCA's follow-up on the recommendations:

Livelihoods: Linking livelihoods to the humanitarian response is highly difficult due to the government policies in Jordan, but the situation is actively monitored to identify any new opportunities. Also linking life skills training in camp to transferrable skills that can be brought with the youth back to Syria is an initial initiative to future restructuring and recovery work inside of Syria.

Community mobilisation: FCA activities are based on the feedback from beneficiaries, on focus groups and discussions with the community. Activities are a response to the needs expressed by the community and are designed according to the suggestions provided by the potential beneficiaries. Trainers and teachers are chosen among the Syrian refugees. In order to be both meaningful and attractive, skills training should lead into realistic income-generating prospects. For the moment, the focus of the Jordanian government is education, which in Jordan concentrates on basic skills and technical skills training for Syrian refugee youth. In order to be both meaningful and attractive, skills training should lead into realistic income-generating prospects. For the moment the policies of the Jordanian government constitute an obstacle for FCA's interest to develop livelihood activities for the Syrian target group.

Experiences gained in enhancing the capacity of local community-based organisations has demonstrated that capacity building initiatives require a genuine commitment from all parties involved and will produce intended results only with time. FCA will therefore have to consider whether this is the best possible way of developing its partner portfolio in Jordan or should comply with alternative approaches be adopted.

5. Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

The main challenge of incorporating FCA's three teams into one Country Programme in Jordan lies in linking education and livelihoods in the humanitarian context. FCA's focus in the humanitarian action is on education, which in Jordan concentrates on basic skills and technical skills training for Syrian refugee youth. In order to be both meaningful and attractive, skills training should lead into realistic income-generating prospects. For the moment the policies of the Jordanian government constitute an obstacle for FCA's interest to develop livelihood activities for the Syrian target group.

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6. Capacity Building

With a view to potential new partnerships, FCA implemented a capacity-building project for three local women's organisations in Ma'an and Tafila between 2013-2014 to enhance the capacity of their staff and volunteers in domains such as legal and human rights awareness, RBA, IT skills, leadership skills, English and management of micro enterprises and small scale projects.

FCA staff attended the HAP and PME training in September 2014 given by the headquarters staff members. Additionally, individual staff members attended trainings in several subjects related to development and humanitarian work.

Partnership relations: FCA has networked with local CBOs to recruit them to support host community work. Moreover, new funding sources have been identified in co-operation with the Global Grants unit.

Capacity building for Syrian volunteers: Teachers and trainers working with FCA have attended capacity building related to psycho-social support.
Lebanon

2. Overview of the Lebanon Programme

Lebanon’s development is highly sensitive to domestic and regional political instability. Since 1990, after the devastating 15-year long civil war, the country has made steady economic progress, but has been continually affected by chronic bouts of political instability and sectarian strife, many of which have spilled into open conflict. Currently the Syrian crisis is a major challenge for Lebanon’s political stability, resources and economy. According to UNCHR, there were one million registered Syrian refugees in Lebanon in April 2014, adding to Lebanon’s internal difficulties and scarce resources.

The FCA Lebanon Country Programme has been directly affected by changes in the country and regional context, namely by the Syrian crisis of which the implications greatly affect the neighbouring Lebanon. These implications have created both needs for the kind of work FCA does uncor- respondent their own initiatives.

2.1 Programme Objectives and Achievements

2.1.1 Right to Livelihood

Local communities in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts have strengthened their assets and capability to develop their livelihoods in sustainable ways.

- At least 15 women have engaged in small business endeavors by providing food products for local restaurants after having participated in skills training in 2014.

2.1.2 Right to Education

Women, men and youth in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts have enhanced capability to prevent and resolve conflicts promoting the respect of human rights with the active participation of women and youth.

- At least 160 local and Syrian women were provided with skills training in catering and handicraft to enhance income-generating opportunities during the reporting period 2013-2014.

2.1.3 Right to Peace

Local communities in disaster affected or fragile contexts have enhanced capability to prevent and resolve conflicts promoting the respect of human rights with the active participation of women and youth.

- In 2013 and 2014, 150 Lebanese youth from different ethnic and religious backgrounds were offered capacity building in issues such as communication, facilitation, leadership and teamwork skills; networking; time management; anger management; body language; and conflict management. These developments will be closely monitored by FCA.

5. Evaluations and Studies

The project “Artistic workshops and protection for children rights” was planned to be evaluated in December 2014, but due to problems in finding a qualified evaluator, the evaluation had to be postponed.

6. Capacity Building

Since its establishment, FCA’s Regional Office in the Middle East has organised capacity-building for its partners at the occasion of the annual partner meeting. In 2014 the capacity-building workshop focused on project design and monitoring. Capacity-building support has also been provided during monitoring visits.

5. Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

A major challenge was encountered under Right to Livelihood, as the planned partnership with a local grass-roots organisation in the north of the country did not materialise due to security conditions. Overall, the partner portfolio in Lebanon requires expanding and development to meet the growing needs under each theme. To ensure the adequate capacity of the current and future partners to implement high-quality projects, FCAs must also allocate sufficiently working time of its Amman-based staff to work in closer cooperation with them in Lebanon.
## 1. Financial Summary

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<th>Partner</th>
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</table>

## 2. Overview of the Israel & Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) Programme

Palestinian civilians across the OPT continue to be subject to threats to their lives, physical safety and liberty from conflict-related violence, and from policies and practices related to the Israeli occupation, including settler violence. The year 2014 witnessed the highest civilian death toll since 1967 due to the July-August hostilities in Gaza, and a significant increase in Palestinian fatalities in the West Bank. There was also a marked increase in Israeli casualties, as a result of Gaza hostilities and from tension in East Jerusalem. In the Gaza Strip, 1.8 million Palestinians endured the worst escalation of hostilities since 1967: over 1,500 Palestinian civilians were killed, more than 11,000 injured and some 100,000 remain displaced. In the West Bank, increased confrontations between Palestinian demonstrators and Israeli forces resulted in the highest casualty levels in recent years, while settlement expansion and the forced displacement of Palestinians in Area C and in East Jerusalem continued. Overall, some 4,000,000 Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip remain under an Israeli military occupation that prevents them from exercising many of their basic human rights.

The forced displacement of Palestinians continued in 2014 in the Gaza Strip, and in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Forced displacement is primarily driven by escalations in hostilities between Israel and Palestinian armed groups in the Gaza Strip and by policies and practices related to the ongoing occupation in the West Bank, particularly in Area C and East Jerusalem, where the Israeli authorities continue settlement expansion, contrary to international law, at the expense of the housing, livelihood and development needs of Palestinian communities.

Israel restricts Palestinian movement within the OPT through a combination of physical obstacles, including the Barrier and checkpoints, bureaucratic constraints, such as permit requirements, and the designation of areas as restricted or closed. This multi-layered system impacts the flow of persons and goods between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, compound the fragmentation of the OPT.

Disrupt family and social life, undermine livelihoods and augment the suffering of communities. These restrictions impede access to services and resources, disrupt family and social life, undermine livelihoods and compound the fragmentation of the OPT.

## 2.1 Programme Objectives and Achievements

### 2.1.1 Right to Livelihood

Local communities in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts have strengthened their assets and capability to develop their livelihoods in sustainable ways.

- During the reporting period 2013-2014, women-headed households involved in the Women's Bank livelihood project in the West Bank have been able to produce enough food in their home gardens to feed their families, but also enough to sell surplus from their homes. The participants have also been linked to the Palestinian Minister of Agriculture, which has resulted in pro-bono support to the women.
- In 2013, 50 fresh graduates and unemployed students in Gaza were provided with internships and had their diploma fees paid off. As a result, they all now have their university diplomas and have also learned important skills on how to write the CVs and job applications. 8 students (6 females, 2 males) managed to get employment beyond the internship. Furthermore, due to the increased awareness in the community and the...
The Israeli civil society is better informed on the situation and included in advocacy, thus a chance for a just and durable solution remains.

2.1.2 Right to Peace

- In 2013 the conference From Truth to Redress provided a forum for discussions on implications of the return of Palestinian refugees in terms of Israel’s physical, cultural and economic space, the nature of its future society, the status of Palestinians and Jews living there, the nature of its regime, and last but not least, the practicalities of returning property after 65 years of displacement.

- In 2014 three local models of return for Palestinian refugees was developed in co-operation between Palestinian and Israeli civil society activists. In addition, an event was organised in Israel to meet former Palestinian residents of the village that had been replaced by their community. The event provided an opportunity for both parties and the audience to share testimonies of their experiences. These actions were complemented by a course on transitional justice with focus on policies related to displaced persons.

Palestinians have an increased capacity to demand and exercise equal rights.

- In 2014, 120 Palestinian youth attended human rights events organised in schools in East Jerusalem. Youth, supported by adult professionals, also wrote and produced radio shows on human rights and designed visual material to promote the shows. Three advocacy campaigns on the issues of tourism, economy and freedom of movement were organised in East Jerusalem by local community members who had been trained in campaigning and media.

2.2 Development of the Country Programme during 2013-2014

The IOPT Country Programme framework 2013-2014 has been a time of transition in terms of the partner base. In 2013, FCA began phasing out of older partnerships that had at some stage been relevant, but no longer applicable under FCA’s new themes – Right to Education, Right to Peace and Right to Livelihoods. In addition, as FCA had opened its Regional Office in Amman in June 2012 and had more presence and frequency visiting the projects sites, there would be no need to channel funds through other INGOs working in IOPT. The thematic needs assessment was conducted in August 2014 in order to identify gaps, needs, potential new partners as well as recommendations on the way forward for the programme. It gave the Programme a much clearer idea of FCA’s niche operating in oPT and recommended to establish new partnerships with Palestinian NGOs and local community-based organisations to implement the programme. Right to Peace and Livelihoods were identified as the primary thematic areas to continue working in and currently the portfolio demonstrates this by having a majority of projects under Right to Peace. In addition, in 2013 FCA began working with an Israeli organisation, Zochrot, which works towards peace and the rights of Palestinians.

3. Evaluations and Studies

Thematic Needs Assessment 2014: Key findings (Some of the findings are further discussed in the last section of this country report.)

- Adopting a strategic focus for programmes in IOPT, ensuring the rights to peace, livelihoods and education coalesce around youth as a particularly marginalised group.
- Ensuring a national approach that seeks to mitigate the impact of the continuing separation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.
- Elaborating a funding strategy (not only relying on Ministry for Foreign Affairs).
- Reducing the number of programme partners and focusing on Palestinian NGOs would enable more effective use of available funds and increase sustainability.
- Establishing strategic partnerships with individual INGOs and UN agencies working in similar fields.
- Supporting partners to develop more innovative programmes.
- Encouraging programme partners to engage in more ambitious joint initiatives.

4. Capacity Building

Since its establishment, FCA’s regional office in the Middle East has organised capacity-building for its partners at the occasion of the annual partner meeting. In 2014 the capacity building workshop focused on project design and monitoring. To serve more specifically the Palestinian partners, a needs assessment training was organised in Jerusalem and Gaza for ACT Palestine Forum members (including 2 of FCA’s non-APP partners), conducted by RedR UK.

Moreover, continued support was offered to partners in day-to-day management of their projects, including building their capacity on proposal writing and budgeting to larger donors.

5. Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

FCA does not have a big role in Education in the IOPT, although its theme aligns well with the needs identified. As according to the thematic needs assessment that took stock of what FCA is capable of doing in IOPT, also given the restricted human resources, it became clear that FCA should concentrate more on Right to Livelihood and Right to Peace, in particular the latter where FCA has strong in-house expertise.

According to the thematic needs assessment, FCA should ensure the centrality of beneficiaries (particularly young people) in design and implementation of programmes, encourage peer-to-peer support and knowledge-sharing activities, and encourage appropriate use of social media and other technologies to support realisation of rights to education, livelihoods and peace. This will materialise more in 2015, given that the thematic needs assessment was only conducted in August/September 2014.
### 4. Summary of the MFA Partnership Programme's Incurred Costs and Financing in 2013-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE descriptions</th>
<th>BBUDGET EUR in 2014 (as 2013)</th>
<th>INCURRED EUR in 2014 (as 2013)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Project Costs</td>
<td>8,708,282</td>
<td>8,421,955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Project Planning and Evaluation, Resource Development</td>
<td>149,540</td>
<td>108,709</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Information and Publicity Activities</td>
<td>44,100</td>
<td>47,402</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Administration</td>
<td>1,053,209</td>
<td>994,227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme's Overall Costs</td>
<td>10,332,091 (10,788,824)</td>
<td>9,942,272 (10,233,100)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### FINANCING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>EUR</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government support</td>
<td>8,000,000 - 8,104,65 (amount of 2013 reimbursement recorded for 2014)</td>
<td>81% (2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-financing from Finland</td>
<td>1,846,299 (1,976,391)</td>
<td>19% (2013)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-financing from Abroad</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Funds</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Helsinki 10th June 2015.

Finn Church Aid Foundation

Jouni Hemberg
Executive Director

Finn Church Aid Foundation

Tommi Järvinen
Director of International Co-operation

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5. Self-financing include private donations (individuals, corporations, communities, parish collections, Common Responsibility Campaign and Red Nose Day campaign.)

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### 5. List of Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AC</td>
<td>Agricultural Cooperative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT (Alliance)</td>
<td>Action by Churches Together</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFULI</td>
<td>Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARRO</td>
<td>Association of Regional Councils of Churches related Development Organisations in Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARSO</td>
<td>Asia Regional Office (Finn Church Aid)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASS</td>
<td>Bureau of Strategic Education and Training (Bash)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BFRM</td>
<td>Bureau for Refugees and Migration (US Government)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BTVPET</td>
<td>Business, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (Pact)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAR</td>
<td>Central African Republic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARI</td>
<td>Central African Regional Office (Finn Church Aid)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBDMR</td>
<td>Community Based Disaster Management Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBOS</td>
<td>Community Based Organisation Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDCA</td>
<td>Community Development Committee (Cambodia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COOR</td>
<td>Community Development Committee (Orange)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCD</td>
<td>Centre for Development (Democratic Republic of Congo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHRC</td>
<td>Core Humanitarian Standard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIROC</td>
<td>Centro de Investigación y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (Honduras)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLAN</td>
<td>Latin American Council of Churches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLIC</td>
<td>Candlelight for Health, Education and Environment (Somalia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMU</td>
<td>The Church Leaders Mediation Initiative (South Sudan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONRAD</td>
<td>Coordinaciones locales de reducción de desastres - local disaster reduction coordinators (Guatemala)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONCORD</td>
<td>Confederation for Relief and Development Organisations in Europe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPARD</td>
<td>Church of Uganda Planning, Development and Rehabilitation Department (Uganda)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPINH</td>
<td>Common Peace Initiative (Honduras)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPC</td>
<td>Common Peace Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRIC</td>
<td>Caribbean Regional Peace Initiative Project (Dominican Republic)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRCC</td>
<td>Cambodian Women’s Crisis Center (Cambodia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSA</td>
<td>Dan Church Aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DFI</td>
<td>Development Finance Initiative (Ghana)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRC</td>
<td>Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
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<tr>
<td>DRI</td>
<td>Development Relief Initiative (Uganda)</td>
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<tr>
<td>EBI</td>
<td>Education for Basic Inclusion (Uganda)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECI</td>
<td>Education for Community Inclusion (Uganda)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECPH</td>
<td>European Commission Partnership for Humanitarian Assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>EEP</td>
<td>Education for Emergency Preparedness and Resilience (Finn Church Aid)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETN</td>
<td>Eastern and Southern African Regional Office (Finn Church Aid)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEU</td>
<td>Education for Emergency Preparedness and Resilience (Finn Church Aid)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAD</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAME</td>
<td>Forum for African Women (Education) (Eastern) (Liberia and Sierra Leone)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FCA</td>
<td>Finn Church Aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FFSR</td>
<td>Félibration des Écoles Protestantes des Haïts (Haiti)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDS</td>
<td>Federal Government of Somalia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDSF</td>
<td>Femmes Dafar de Bol roam (Democratic Republic of Congo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEC</td>
<td>Global Education Cluster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GG</td>
<td>Global Grants (Unit, Finn Church Aid)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GGG</td>
<td>Global Grants (Guatemala)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HACF</td>
<td>Hon of Africa Center for Peace (Somalia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAPC</td>
<td>Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (Humanitarian Accountability and Quality Management)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAP</td>
<td>Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (Somalia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAA</td>
<td>Humanitarian Accountability Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HRP</td>
<td>Human Rights-based approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HQ</td>
<td>Headquarters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICSO</td>
<td>Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (IRIN)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICHN</td>
<td>Inter-Church Network for Development and Relief (Liberia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDB</td>
<td>International Development Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDP</td>
<td>Internally Displaced Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFES</td>
<td>International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IGDA</td>
<td>Income generating activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFSG</td>
<td>Income-generating activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INGO</td>
<td>International Non-Governmental Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISO</td>
<td>International Organisation for Migration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INOS</td>
<td>International Standards for Education in Emergencies, minimum standards for Education in Emergencies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISOCO</td>
<td>International Standards for Development Cooperation (Pakt)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTR</td>
<td>Konsensusbildningstrategin för utbildning och utveckling (Sweden)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTRM</td>
<td>International Standards for Migration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBEDP</td>
<td>Integrated Basic Development (through Empowerment) Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IECO</td>
<td>Kenya Country Office (Finn Church Aid)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KITE</td>
<td>Kibati Institute of Teacher Education (South Sudan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KFA</td>
<td>Khoris Youth Association (Cambodia)</td>
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<td>LACRO</td>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office (Finn Church Aid)</td>
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<tr>
<td>LBRD</td>
<td>Linking Risk, Rehabilitation and Development</td>
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<td>LMH</td>
<td>Life With Dignity (Cambodia)</td>
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<td>LMN</td>
<td>Lutheran World Federation</td>
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<tr>
<td>LPW</td>
<td>Lutheran World Federation (Poland)</td>
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<td>LTD</td>
<td>Lutheran World Federation (Thailand)</td>
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<td>MECO</td>
<td>Middle East Council of Churches - Damascus and Social Justice (Lebanon)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MECO</td>
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<td>MECO</td>
<td>Middle East Council of Churches - Damascus and Social Justice (Lebanon)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>METTA</td>
<td>Metro Development Foundation (Myanmar)</td>
</tr>
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</table>