



FINN CHURCH AID  
**actalliance**

# **FINN CHURCH AID GLOBAL PROGRAMME**

Annual Report 2014 and  
Final Programme Report 2013-2014

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# Introduction

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 FCA's 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
- 2. Programmatic transition (2013-2014 -> 2015-2017)
- 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 FCA's strategy identified three strategic themes, Right to Education (R2E), Right to Livelihoods (R2L) and Right to Peace (R2P), which are now the foundation of FCA's 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 FCA's 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 staff's skills in the approach were improved by training. Programme planning and support functions at HQ were consolidated.

While a vast majority of FCA's programmes continue to be implemented with partners, the number of self-im-

plemented 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 FCA Country Programmes (chapter 3), Summary of the Partnership Programme Incurred Costs (chapter 4) and List of Acronyms used in the report (chapter 5).



# Snapshots of Finn Church Aid's work during 2014

Hilkka Hyrkko



## JANUARY 2014

In January 2014, Finn Church Aid (FCA) was admitted to a US-AID-funded consortium led by African Development Solutions to implement the peace component of a five year REGAL-IR project aiming at improving resilience and economic growth in five counties of northern Kenya. This represents an opportunity for Finn Church Aid to extend its peace work from neighbouring Somalia to the conflict prone context in northern Kenya. Finn Church Aid's role is to facilitate mediation and strengthen community-based conflict prevention and mediation mechanisms. Furthermore, Finn Church Aid will build the capacity of other consortium members in conflict sensitivity. (See more in chapter 3.3; Kenya)

## 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 begun 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)

## 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 on teachers' role in fragile states and it was handed over to Minister of Education. (See more in chapter 3.1 Communications and Campaigning)



Pasi Aaltonen

## 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 light weight 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.



Paul Jeffrey/ACT Alliance

## JULY 2014

In July Finn Church Aid received flash funding from the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the Gaza response. Funds were

used for immediate distribution of food and non-food items. This was turned into cash transfers to vulnerable families as soon as banks started to operate and a beneficiary selection system was placed. Finn Church Aid also seconded a Psychosocial Expert to provide psychosocial support for psychosocial caregivers of traumatised children and youth, who themselves were affected by the conflict to enable them to continue with their work with children of Gaza. (See more in chapters 1.3.7 Humanitarian Assistance and 3.6; Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories)

## 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 on-going 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 provision of psycho-social support. A total of 300 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)

USIP



## 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 extremism within 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 (IDB) towards launching the co-operation between Finland and Haiti.

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/higher 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)

## NOVEMBER 2014

Finn Church Aid decided to start establishing a complaint handling system, covering the country programmes and the Head Office in Helsinki. The system enables our stakeholders - priority being on communities and people directly affected by our work - to raise concern and complain when they think we have failed to meet our stated commitments in quality and accountability. The system also helps us to intervene in timely manner if things are not going as planned, as well as to improve and learn. Linked to this, Finn Church Aid revised the staff Code of Conduct and developed a Code of Conduct for Contractors and Service Providers to better meet current needs. (See more in chapter 2.3)



Sanna Kaskeala

## DECEMBER 2014

Finn Church Aid's programme plan for the years 2015-2017 was approved for a new period of the MFA partnership programme funding. The programme continues with specialisation in three interrelated themes, right to livelihood (R2L), right to education (R2E) and right to peace (R2P) with revised programme objective and indicators. 18 country programmes (16 in 2013-2014) will be funded from the partnership programme. The two new countries in the partnership programme are the Central African Republic (CAR) and Eritrea. Finn Church Aid has been working in CAR and Eritrea through different work modalities for several years, however 2015 will mark reopening of the Eritrea programme after four years.



# 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 partner organisations, national poverty reduction strategies and local circumstances are also taken into consideration by Finn Church Aid and its partners.

### In strategy for 2013–2016 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 traditional 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.

#### 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. We treasure the different backgrounds and beliefs of our staff and partners. FCA is a member of ACT Alliance and is committed to working in close co-operation with its ecumenical and faith-based partners and promoting inter-faith co-operation in aid and advocacy work.

#### Rights-based approach

FCA is a rights-based actor. Our action is guided by international human rights standards and principles. The PANEL principles of RBA, namely participation, accountability, non-discrimination and equality, empowerment and link to human right standards form the basis to our work. FCA

believes 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, humanitarian imperative, impartiality, independence and neutrality. 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).

FCA's 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 Nations Human Rights instruments. Survival, development and participation dimensions embedded in Civil and political, 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 making a decent living**, especially in states without any kind of social support system.

FCA sees that supporting rights related to peace, education 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 situations<sup>1</sup>. In recent years the number of 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<sup>2</sup>. The vast majority of FCA's programme countries are on the 2015 list, including eight<sup>3</sup> chronically fragile countries, namely CAR, DRC, Eritrea, Haiti, Liberia, Myanmar, Sierra Leone and Somalia.

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 fragility discourse also on local and district level, in order to support community resilience as well as empowerment 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 conditions.

## 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 reduction (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 gender equality as a cross-cutting principle in all our work. Growing attention was put into strengthening the involvement of women in decision-making processes and peace work such as linking the United Nation's Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) in more concrete ways in selected Country Programmes and advocacy initiatives of the Right to Peace (R2P) work.

In gender specific projects, FCA focuses on promoting 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 Livelihood (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 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

### Examples of results in gender equality work

- FCA's programmes have succeed in paying more attention to existing gender roles and the context 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 decisions on the use of the gained assets. 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 male community members.
- In 2014, the programme work has paid increased attention to gender based violence (GBV) in several regions at local to national level. For example, FCA supported its partner RAJEJE in DRC to follow up and develop their advocacy work more strategically on the promotion of gender 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 utilised 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

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 positions to sexual and gender based violence.

In 2014, FCA participated actively in ACT Alliance's Gender Equality and Justice Community of Practice regularly held meetings, preparation of gender equality material for the ACT Assembly held in Dominican Republic 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

1. The number of countries differs depending on which list is used. The 50 country list is a combination of the 2014 World Bank, AfDB, ADB Harmonized List and the 2014 Fragile States Index.  
2. See for example OECD: States of Fragility 2015. Meeting Post-2015 Ambitions.  
3. South Sudan has not been counted as it has not existed as an independent country during the listing period.



and continued through 2014 with discussion events held with different actors in the field of development with the closing seminar held in March 2015.

**Climate change and disaster risk reduction (DRR)**

In 2014 FCA continued to promote the environmentally and climate-friendly approach as cross-cutting theme and to take into consideration the effects of and preparation for climate change in operations and future programme planning. Efforts to strengthen the resilience of communities and their livelihoods against future shock including natural and man-made disasters and the negative effects of climate change continued as an integrated holistic approach. Capacity building, e.g. utilisation of Finn Church Aid Climate Mainstreaming Tool was encouraged in partner and network collaboration, especially when working in climate change vulnerable contexts. FCA sees Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) as an important approach for environmental and climate sensitive planning and work against climate change.

**Conflict sensitivity**

For FCA, both conflict sensitivity and “Do No Harm” approaches are well integrated to the majority of operations and interventions. Conflict sensitivity entails “Do No Harm” elements, but also covers additional elements such as supporting intervention effectiveness. Essentially, conflict sensitivity requires actors to be well aware of the context, fully respect and sustain local ownership, ensure that all interventions take the context into account to avoid or at least minimise negative impacts and maximise positive impacts, in general and specifically on conflict dynamics. FCA continues to mainstream conflict sensitivity and “Do No Harm” through all phases of the project cycle, including planning monitoring and evaluation.

Application of conflict sensitivity is substantial especially in peace programming; however, at least minimal application of conflict sensitivity applies to all of FCA's programme work. Working in fragile contexts with a relatively high probability of violent conflict, any interven-

tions needs to be aware of how it possibly relates to conflict dynamics. This is why also education and livelihood interventions across all modalities integrate conflict sensitivity.

In practice, during 2014 FCA has further invested in thorough context as well as thematic assessments. During the planning phase for example, conflict sensitivity may require thorough deliberation of how processes can be participatory and inclusive, as the same time supportive rather than counterproductive to the conflict dynamics.

During implementation of projects, conflict sensitivity may be integrated to monitoring mechanism. In conflict resolution interventions conflict sensitivity is already a central aspect (for example in community conflict mapping).

Working on conflict transformation is politically sensitive in many countries FCA works on, and the safe space available for operation needs to be checked constantly. Often very concrete and seemingly small actions can have negative effects. This may be even the name of a project, or what flags are visible at FCA's offices.

FCA continues to learn and improve its practices, using conflict sensitivity. A major challenge is that conflict sensitivity does not only apply to clearly specified and easily understandable conflicts, but also to multi-level complex conflicts as well as how those conflicts and conflict driver are perceived by stakeholders.

**1.3 Progress and developments of our programme work**

**1.3.1 Rights-based approach (RBA)**

The FCA's Programme Annual Report 2013 concluded that there remain many challenges in reinforcing the linkages between RBA, gender equality and international advocacy work in the different areas of work, e.g. in Regional Offices and partnership networks. In 2014, efforts were made to respond to the needs.

Overall, the RBA manifested in FCA's Country Programmes through different modalities such as sensitisa-



Antti Reenpää

**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 DBs and other stakeholders and overall the PANEL principles have contributed towards positive development.

**Nepal**

- The long-term commitment of FCA's partner LWF 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 Haliyas and Kamaya'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, RAFEJE's, advocacy plan increases efficiency and effectivity and collaboration with networks on increasing women's involvement in local political processes, advocate for the equality 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 involved with lobbying the government in to establish services they are in need, e.g. concerning water sources and health facilities, and there has been more space for discussion the communal concerns with the local authorities.

Table 2

tion, 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 Treaty Body reviews and the UN Human Right Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism. The UPR has becoming a widely recognised and recommended HR and advocacy measurement of observation of the holistic situation of the given country.

In 2014, the implementation of RBA in FCA areas of work developed well towards improved sustainability. Work has been more strategically designed and managed and use of RBA tailored tools has been put into effect. Projects implementation have strengthen capacities of beneficiaries, enhancing community participation and positive societal attitude change, community co-operation and social cohesion, building technical capacity of local partners. RBA based programming has been advanced and capacity building to strengthen citizen participation have been promoted. Transparency and accountability of duty-bearers and rights-holders have become regular components of the work. The involvement of rights-holders and dialogue building with and towards duty-bearers has been advanced through various mechanisms. The results indicate that the participation of rights-holders has been strengthened and the programmes increasingly reflect the opinions and needs of the rights-holders and the work aims to tackle the root causes of the inequalities and needed changes. The

work has promoted dialogue building and collaboration between partners and local authorities, the duty-bearers, at different governance levels. Monitoring visits have ensured direct feedback and sharing understanding our FCA's values and objectives as well as overall strengthening of the RBA principles (PANEL) to be integrated in the programme 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 bring 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

co-operation, and livelihood related interventions are implemented in all our regions. In the majority of countries, with Uganda, Mozambique, DRC, Nepal and Cambodia leading the way, Right to Livelihood remained the main programme focus.

In 2013-14, R2L programming advanced considerably. Close collaboration with our southern partners on the community level is a core strength in FCA's livelihoods related work. With increased attention to institutional and policy level via advocacy and duty-bearer capacity building it forms the basis for FCA's rights-based programming within R2L.

Synergies between livelihoods, education and peace have been actively sought and promoted. The consolidation of activities that build community resilience in face of disasters has strengthened the linking of relief and development in the R2L portfolio and will continue to do so in the future. This is a priority given FCA's concentration on countries in fragile situations, often alternating between periods of emergency and relative stability.

The year 2014 saw a sharpening of FCA's focus to promoting small-holder organisation for increased production and market access; fostering economic empowerment and enterprise of women; and easing the transition of youth from school to the world of work. Promotion of social enterprise entered the pilot stage. On the advocacy side, issues related to access to and control over key livelihood resources, most notably land, featured 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 partnerships with relevant NGOs, public and private sector actors; and improved sharing of good practices across the global FCA.

## Results and Developments in R2L

### **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 the country programmes of Lutheran World Federation within the framework of their Integrated Rural Development approach. LWF co-operation was continued in 2013-14, renegotiated with LWF to better match FCA's R2L priorities. Partnerships with livelihood-specialised NGO partners were strengthened substantially, marking a shift in FCA's direction.

In Asia, FCA has chosen to concentrate on economic and social empowerment of rural communities via grass-roots organisation. In 2014, over 400 community groups and co-operatives were functional in Cambodia, Myanmar and Nepal, having a total membership exceeding 16,000 women, men and youth from disadvantaged sections of

society. In addition to context specific agendas, each organisation engaged in savings and credit coupled with support to micro-economic activities in agriculture and/or entrepreneurship and value chain development. At the end of 2014, the 33 co-operatives active in Nepal had accumulated a capital of USD 274,375 that was reinvested as loans to boost members' economic activities. In 2014, FCA Regional Office (ARO) organised the first Agricultural Co-operative Roundtable that summoned key NGO and Government players in the Cambodian co-operative sector to discuss the future prospects and challenges in that field. FCA's partners from both Cambodia and Nepal attended the Roundtable, followed by the Cambodian counterparts visiting Nepal later in 2014. Both events served to strengthen FCA and its partners' public and private networks in the co-operative arena, and the lessons from the visits were also utilised by partners in their 2015 project plans. A deliberated R2L specialisation firmly grounded on regional contexts is a direction FCA will embrace in its future programming in R2L.

In 2013-2014 FCA engaged in pro-poor enterprise development for social impact. In 2008, FCA had started piloting semi-commercial egg production in Liberia, where over 90 percent of eggs were exported from Europe and Asia. By the end of 2013 FCA's three partners had reached a combined monthly volume of over 200,000 eggs and become major players in the market drawing also investor interest. Nearly 200 households were earning additional income from their backyard coops housing a total of 5,500 hens, in addition to the nearly 4,000 layers in partner-run production units. In 2014, a feasibility study followed by a business plan was carried out by poultry specialists to map out a model for converting the projects into a self-sustained, profitable social enterprise that can grow out of donor funding and continue to benefit a growing number of vulnerable households. The process was put to a halt by the 2014 Ebola outbreak in Liberia and Sierra Leone, but will resume as soon as the epidemic is over. The lessons learnt and research done in Liberia will also serve project formulation in Haiti, where a feasibility study for commercial-scale egg production is underway. In a smaller scale, the Liberian model has already been replicated in Sierra Leone and South Sudan.

One of the contexts for FCA livelihoods work is returnee communities where people resettle after a prolonged internal displacement or refugee period. In Somalia, FCA assisted 350 refugee households' voluntary return from Kenya to Somaliland and Puntland. In DRC, FCA worked to build food security in the highly volatile North Kivu communities that accommodate a varying number of internally displaced households. In the returnee communities of the stabilising northern Uganda, where food security is a priority, FCA has chosen to work with households dependent on subsistence farming. Through participation in Village Savings and Loan Associations, a total of 3,500 households were able to diversify their income sources by engaging e.g. in small-scale trading and retail trade and cottage industries. Annual average savings per household rose from 100 euros in 2013 to 228 euros in 2014, and the effects

can be seen in increased enrolment in secondary schools, construction of permanent houses and investments such as motorbikes. Further 1,500 smallholders were trained in farming practices to increase productivity and supported to access markets through value chain development.

In association with the Right to Education (R2E) theme, support to employment and enterprise of vocational training graduates gained impetus in 2013-14. The linkage between learning and earning is described in more detail under the chapter on R2E. An interesting pilot was launched in DRC, offering business incubation services to 47 mainly female graduates of a FCA-supported vocational training centre for war-affected youth. The pilot started in 2014 by beneficiary selection based on assessment of business ideas to be followed by business training and coaching in 2015. Start-up loans up to USD 1,000 will be also made available; the loans will be managed via the M-Pesa mobile banking system.

In Liberia and Sierra Leone, the outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease had grave economic and social repercussions on the populations. Ebola epidemic paralysed the economies of the affected countries, closed markets and left fields unfarmed which lead to an acute food crisis; fear of infection eroded the social fabric already weakened by years of conflict.

The spread of Ebola with its social and economic consequences exemplifies the vulnerability of FCA programme countries to sudden crises and the interrelatedness of state fragility, poverty and people's livelihoods. For FCA, this highlights the importance of maintaining our capacity to act in acute livelihood shocks in all our contexts, linking the emergency action with longer-term development goals for sustainable results.

### **Objective 2:**

***Women have equal access to and control over productive resources and assets***

In 2013-14 FCA continued to invest in women's social and economic empowerment and enterprise. An important vehicle in this work is Women's Bank (Naisten Pankki) that has boosted the development of new women-specific models to FCA's R2L work, replicable also in other FCA regions. Acknowledging that women's role and participation in economy is largely overlooked, their property and inheritance rights denied and their opportunities for gainful employment diminished by lack of education, women and particularly woman heads of households are given preference in the majority of FCA's R2L interventions.

An economic empowerment project for women typically combines micro financing components with upgrading of business and productive skills as well as management and leadership training. An advocacy element is included for promoting equal rights for women to access and control livelihood assets such as capital and land. Raising rights awareness is a common component, and projects also involve men in appropriate roles when necessary for obtaining the project goals in specific socio-cultural contexts.

Project evaluations in Cambodia, Haiti and Angola re-

vealed 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 standing and have a say on the use of funds, which implies increased control over household resources. Membership in a savings and credit group builds self-esteem and offers a forum to discuss social challenges faced by women; leadership positions in groups and co-operatives serve as a qualification for wider participation in community development. This is seen in the increasing number of women selected in Village Development Councils and similar bodies traditionally governed by men. Strengthened self-confidence was also manifested in the way women approached FCA with their own proposals. In Haiti family planning was incorporated in the project following a request from female participants of MUSO (savings and credit) groups wishing to limit the number of children in their already large families primarily for economic reasons.

The evaluation carried out in Moxico and Lunda Sul in Angola showed that the 24 women's saving and credit associations established in 2011 had become powerful engines of local economy. It was noted, however, that women preferred group businesses and invested their increased 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 their wives. The difference of women and men's willingness 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 on community level as well as a decrease in domestic violence. Encouraged by the success of the project, the model will be replicated in Mozambique starting 2015.

Inclusive livelihood and enterprise development requires several years for the results to mature and become sustainable. Long-term development funding enables this development. In Lalitpur, Nepal, a Women's Bank funded project was launched in 2008; 300 underprivileged, mainly illiterate women organised into savings and credit groups, where they were offered basic training in skills and money management. The modest start has given rise to a network of eight women-led credit co-operatives that offer loans for productive purposes and social schemes for cases of domestic crisis such as illness or death. The co-operatives are also associated with private sector actors that provide business and market development services to the members. At the end of 2014 the co-operatives had a combined membership of 2,100 and a capital of USD 200,000. Consultations for merging the co-operatives into a Women's Cooperative Bank were started in 2014. In addition to a substantial increase in farm produce – mainly fresh vegetables and meat – and food processing, the co-operatives have boosted the emergence of micro and small enterprises in the service sector, including trading and transport businesses that deliver local products to the larger markets of Kathmandu Valley.



### Objective 3:

**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 trodden 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 armed groups and put the beneficiaries at risk.

Following are examples of FCA work in 2014 supporting communities' capacity to prepare for acute crises:

- community structures, e.g. committees for disaster risk reduction
- community contingency and risk management plans
- promotion of district and regional level disaster risk reduction agendas

- early warning systems for e.g. drought and floods
- awareness raising and training in disaster risk reduction

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 of successes 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 Coun-

try 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 Haliyas 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.

### 1.3.3 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, Zimbabwe 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 situation 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 traineeship after the training. Some youth were organised into saving and credit associations and the development of the groups were supported. 60 % 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 BTJET 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. IGAs, traineeships, 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 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 authorities.**

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



Rami Kolehmainen



and latrines as well as distribution of educational materials are combined with the provision of learning spaces.

The provision of learning spaces does not automatically contribute to quality education. FCA is committed to focus more and more on quality education (Right to Quality Education). FCA's Education in Emergencies (EiE) is already in a number of countries forming an "EiE package", which includes provision of the learning space and school furniture as well as provision of educational materials, teacher training and psychosocial support - to be further productised as a holistic package. In some cases schools also provide additional services as school feeding or health services.

Teacher training as an element of education programming has been increasingly important in FCA's education projects during 2014. Teachers without Borders –initiative will provide unique opportunities in developing the quality of education in all levels.

Education Thematic Assessments have contributed greatly to the quality and relevance of the R2E programming, e.g. in Haiti and Uganda and it is recommended to continue making thematic assessments in FCA's programme countries.

Some context specific challenges have been reported in refugee contexts. In Jordan there are challenges due to host government policies; the Ministry of Education limits the possibilities of NGO activities. In Liberia even though the refugee secondary schools are still not recognised by the Ivorian government, through support by UNHCR and the Liberian Ministry of Education, FCA has been able to deliver certificates to all graduated students. These certificates can be used if the students want to enrol back in school in Cote d'Ivoire, or to enrol in the Liberian system. FCA will continue advocating for the validation of the schools with support from UNHCR and other refugee education partners.

Despite of the challenges in the refugee contexts some of the success stories came from the same contexts: in Liberia girls' attendance rate in both FCA run secondary schools in the two refugee camps improved thanks to the opening of a day care centre. The issue of pregnant girls' right to education is also discussed within the Post-2015 goal setting and FCA got positive publicity of global EiE networks due to solutions that made it possible for adolescent girls to attend secondary school. In Liberia end of the year exams were held and showed over 90% success rate. FCA was approached by UNHCR to take over the secondary school in Little Wlebo Camp in Maryland County, Liberia. This third and last camp is home to 9,000 Ivorian refugees. FCA would then be the sole refugee secondary education provider in Liberia and build further its reputation of a solid Education in Emergencies partner. In Jordan some of the innovative solutions for psychosocial support like circus and sports have generated a lot of positive publicity both in Finland and in international media.

**Objective 3:**  
**Rights-holders are able to claim and duty-bearers (state authorities) have capacity to provide quality education.**

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 included 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, Haiti and Central America), 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), awareness raising on early childhood development in Cambodia), 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 an initiative focused on support to education quality in co-operation with Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and 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) signed in September 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 R2E 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 (Kampong Chhnang 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 organisation and UN agencies to establish a national education cluster in order to strengthen preparedness capacity of education sector. FCA has been working together with other stakeholders to develop Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) for education sec-

tor 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 Islamist 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. Similarly 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.

In 2014 FCA has continued to support communities in the non-violent transformation of conflicts as well as in the prevention of conflicts, using community mediation and reconciliation as a model. FCA has also continued developing mechanisms to support sustaining peace on sub-national and national level. Here the work is focused on inclusive processes, paying special attention to the role of traditional actors, religious actors, youth and women. This is also in line with UNSC 1325, which apart from many other things is demanding for a more comprehensive role of women in peace processes. In line with its rights-based approach, FCA has continued to identify ways to support states in fragile situations, for example but not limited to initiatives associated with "New Deal".

#### **Results and Developments in R2P**

**Objective 1 & 2:**  
**Local communities have enhanced capability to prevent and resolve conflicts AND Religious and traditional leaders are positively contributing to conflict prevention, mediation, conflict resolution and peace and actively promote human rights.**

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



Finn Church Aid, Somalia



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 four in Northern Kenya). Together with peace councils as local peace support structures (depending on the context called for example “Common Peace Committee” (CPC) or “peace committees”) the agreements provide frameworks for sustaining peace. Capacity development has been an integral part of those community and district level peacemaking efforts. Those key support structures main function is sustaining peace: In practice, the regional peace committee of Sool (Somaliland) has 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 any escalation of full-scale conflict.

Elsewhere, the Common Peace Committee (CPC) visited 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 extent 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 limitations of this approach.

Apart from that, FCA increased its efforts to work with national actors on informal dialogue processes. Religion-, faith- and tradition-based actors are often well positioned to act as the insider mediators with the moral and spiritual 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 peacemaking and reconciliation is FCA’s contextual understanding as well its ability to work through conflict sensitive approaches [see also 1.2, conflict sensitivity]. Here FCA has strengthened its global thematic assessment guidelines. Assessments for example in Central African Republic, Kenya, Occupied Palestinian Territories, and Liberia have contributed to strengthening interventions in those areas.

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 peacemaking: The traditional work on peace has gradually turned into a more comprehensive support to State-building in Somalia. Similarly, in its community level interventions in DRC, FCA and partners have designed a training module for women in the conflict prevention, mediation and resolution. Here 120 women and 30 men were trained in conflict ridden territories of Rutshuru, Walikale and Masisi

**Objective 3:**  
**Local communities are part of peace process structures through dialogue**

In FCA’s peace work, another work stream focusses on how local civil society actors can influence peacemaking on regional or national level. While FCA is supporting national dialogues processes depending on the conflict context, this work may focus on different groups in different regions, 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 youth was formed to lead the process of establishing a dynamic youth mechanism that plays an important role in non-violent, peaceful, open and respectful advocacy for a better future. This includes actions and decisions of private sector and government in policies and social issues that are conducted. The network, therefore, was named Cambodian Changemaker Network (CCN). In Nepal projects with an originally strong rights focus have been modified to see how excluded groups such as the Dhalits can participate in peace building, for example through women’s groups and youth groups. In the oPT, as a result of the Partner Palestinian Centre for Peace and Democracy (PCPD) project, there is enhanced knowledge and capacities of Palestinian youth on the principles of just peace, as stipulated in the Palestinian Declaration of Independence, United Nations 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 policial action while being concerned about the current deplorable state of affairs 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 them to achieve their aims. As influencers with various backgrounds (UN, business, university, military, agriculture 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, including peaceful resolution of conflicts and protection.**

In fragile contexts especially, many governments are struggling to play a constructive role in peacebuilding, for example because of the lack of capacity and partly lack of political, or even more directly, government being themselves a conflict party. On international level, FCA has been supporting the “New Deal” and been contributing to operationalising Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals (see chapter 1.3.6 Advocacy). On prevention and consolidation side FCA has worked with governments of Liberia and Sierra Leone to reduce the risk of renewed violence due to and consequences of Ebola epidemic. In Uganda, FCA has joined the became a member of the National Peace platform hosted by the Office of the Prime Minister in which all peace related agencies work together. As a result of the peace cluster FCA has contributed to the first ever Peace Policy for Uganda which is before the Cabinet of the government of Uganda. If approved the policy will be a very

good tool to foster peaceful coexistence in Uganda and will empower religious leaders to play a much clearer role in conflict prevention and mitigation. Related to supporting good governance, FCA has supported setting up an Interim Administration for the Central Regions of Somalia. Clans represented by the Technical Committee have explored different power sharing options between the clans, to ensure the new structure can be in principle sustainable and takes into account concerns related to conflict sensitivity.

While broad participation to national peace processes as well as working through insider mediators increase much needed national ownership, international advocacy efforts mirror the need to increase and sustain national ownership of both problem analysis and suggested solutions. FCA has contributed to strengthening insider mediators at least in South Sudan and Central African Republic. Apart from using a rights-based approach in our implementation, FCA has also supported a broader normative development of a human right to peace.

### **Towards enhanced peacemaking in fragile and quickly changing environments**

FCA has made considerable progress in its thematic work related to peacemaking and peacebuilding. Both geographically and conceptually, there are many substance areas that have been further developed and that also need development in the future.

First of all, the changes in the way that violent conflicts are fought, with increasingly states being not able or willing to resolve those conflicts, pose major challenge to conflict transformation programmes. Many intervention methods are not suited for the changing environment. For example, national dialogues and traditional mediation mechanisms are struggling with fragmented and complex conflicts with many conflict parties. Transnational movements with unclear political aspirations make the operation environment even more unpredictable.

However, FCA’s peace programme during 2014 and its new programme for the years 2015-2017 provide a framework fit for purpose even in difficult implementation environments. FCA has increased efforts in operationalising UNSC 1325 as well as New Deal inspired instruments and goal setting. In practice, key areas for further development include:

1. to better recognise and conceptualise local mediation and reconciliation efforts by distinct groups of actors
2. to continue to demonstrate and strengthen the sustainability of peace support structures
3. to enhance faith-oriented and tradition-oriented peacemaking by creating hybrid models that better reflect rights-based approach and sustainable peace.

### **1.3.5 Thematic Synergy**

FCA has continued to implement its interventions through its three main themes Right to Education (R2E), Right to Livelihood (R2L) and Right to Peace (R2P). While seeing the added value to focus on those themes, FCA and its partners have aspired to support holistic change, often go-

ing to the thematic linkages. FCA recognises that it needs to avoid working in silos and rather identify areas of synergy, both internally and externally with partners.

During 2014, FCA has started adjustments to better support joint thematic interventions. During planning phases, areas of joint concern are identified: Land ownership for example as a rights-issue might be a conflict driver, a barrier for livelihood projects, and at times also an indicator of limited rights awareness. This combination of joint analysis and joint implementation has also been introduced during 2014, for example in interventions covering human rights education, parents & teacher associations as an “interface” into the community (training students and parents on non-violent conflict resolution in conflict-prone neighbourhoods in Haiti); in linking learning to earning –projects in number of countries; or in community livelihood 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 better 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 implementation and integration of the three themes more tightly together. However, challenges still exists in linking the ongoing projects to the three themes and further work is needed in revising the objectives and actions to the current thematic priorities and the operational context, the fragile states and situations, as well as the strategy of FCA’s work. Continuous development of the RBA based programming guide the work to better identify the vulnerabilities and marginalised groups specific to each regions, 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 synergies also in 2015.

### **1.3.6 Advocacy**

In 2014 FCA was active in advocacy work in its programme countries, globally and in Finland. Advocacy focus 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 with FCA’s 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 communities, especially women and youth, were very active in lobbying local authorities and/or national government on their community problems instead of waiting for bigger actors to lobby for them. As a result of their advocacy work great improvements to education, liveli-



hood and peace were realised as can be seen in (the examples provided in) the table 3.

In some areas where the rights-holders capacity to advocate still needs to be enhanced, FCA worked on their behalf. For example in Kenya, FCA staff encouraged pastoralist communities to send their children to school and at the same time FCA continuously reported on educational gaps noted in their visits to alert the duty-bearers on the rights denial of the communities, which proved to be powerful.

In addition to capacitating the rights-holders to claim their rights and making sure that the duty-bearers were fulfilling their obligations, in 2014 FCA placed a lot emphasis in its programme countries advocacy work to support the duty-bearers to fulfil their duties, which resulted in very positive outcomes.

In Cambodia, Central African Republic (CAR), DRC, Eritrea, Haiti, Nepal Sierra Leone and Uganda FCA provided strong support to the duty-bearers in relation to quality education and especially vocational education. For example in Cambodia, through FCA's support to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYs), a career guidance was developed and career guidance in schools was set up. Similarly FCA worked closely with government and local authorities in DRC and as a result development of vocational training work, student selection and curriculum development progressed. In Haiti FCA's support to the collaboration between the Inter-American Develop-

ment Bank and the Ministries of Education of Finland and Haiti resulted in a seminar with exchange of experience by Finnish education experts and a signing of a MoU on co-operation between the two governments.

In Somalia and Uganda FCA supported the duty-bearers intensively in their peace work. In Uganda FCA was a member of the Peace cluster hosted by Prime Minister Office in which all peace related agencies work together. FCA contributed to the first ever peace policy for Uganda, which is before the Cabinet of the Government of Uganda. If approved the policy will be a very good tool to foster peaceful coexistence in Uganda and will 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 Resolution, land laws and other relevant legal frameworks to lo-

cal 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 were received and three 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 expressed lack of advocacy resources and many 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 global level through Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and CEDAW processes. For example in DRC FCA's partner RAFEJE's CEDAW report was published on the web pages of the UN OHCHR and the expert group providing recommendations for DRC government adopted some of the recommendations by RAFEJE in their final report to the DRC Government. FCA also supported its partners Myanmar and Nepal in preparing for second cycle of UPR in these countries in 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 contribute to the 1325 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 Combatting Radicalisation and Violent Extremism workshop in Washington organised by the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers. The workshop explored radicalisation and efforts to combat violent extremism within the Christian, Muslim and Buddhist faiths and engaged US decision-makers and politicians in a dialogue with the religious leaders from around the world on the topic. During the workshop participants produced and provided key recommendations for policymakers on how to support religious

leaders in their peace and mediation initiatives. The New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States from Busan 2011 provided a natural framework for FCA to put rights-based approach in action with its emphasis on state society relations, accountability and structural change needed to build more resilient state. FCA worked on New Deal in Somalia and Central African Republic (CAR); on Ebola Response together with the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS); and facilitated and hosted IDPS Civil Society Platforms' advocacy visit to Helsinki. FCA was part of the delegation of Finland to the IDPS Steering Group meeting in Freetown in June 2014, and organised and facilitated a meeting between the local civil society organisations and the Minister of Development Co-operation and IDPS Co-Chair Pekka Haavisto.

At the end 2014, FCA commissioned a study on the Gendered Effects of Ebola in Liberia. This work took note of the multiple sources of discrimination that the Ebola outbreak has caused, some of them affecting particularly hard women. While the scope of the study was not on Right to Peace, it highlighted how shocks in fragile context increase vulnerabilities, cause loss of livelihoods and possibly threaten the social stability of the country. It also shows how the principles of the New Deal on peacebuilding and statebuilding could be utilised in highly fragile situations more efficiently especially in situations such as Ebola epidemic, which endangers the positive development the countries have had in economic and political recovery.

Apart from using RBA instrument to support its peace work and conflict transformation, FCA also supported normative development of instruments and conventions. For example, FCA's support enabled the Costa Rican Mission, which led the process of drafting of the Declaration on Human Right to Peace, to hold better and more frequent consultations 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 engagement, FCA was the most important external supporter of the global initiative, with great significance to FCA's strategy and its thematic focus on right to peace.

In 2014 FCA was also active at the EU level advocacy work, both independently, through ACT Alliance EU (former APRODEV) as well as through FCA's other partner organisations and networks (e.g. Concord HRBA Task Force, VOICE). During 2014 summer a major alert was raised by the European Parliament that the EU would run out of liquidity for development budget by September 2014. FCA together with ACT Alliance EU and VOICE launched a targeted lobbying action towards the European Parliament and the Member States in favour of strong development and humanitarian aid budget in 2015. The objective of damage control was achieved but more efforts will be needed to find a long term solution including a through the mid-term review of the Multi-annual Financial Framework in 2016-2017.

The year 2014 was a key year to prepare for the launch of the intergovernmental negotiations on the Post-2015 framework and the outcome document of the 2015 Financing for Development conference. FCA participated

Examples of advocacy results in programme countries	
<b>Honduras</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Manto municipality declared mining-free-zone</li><li>Manto, Salama and Silca assigned municipal budget to 40 micro-irrigation systems, fencing 42 family plots and monthly scholarships to 5 university students</li></ul>	<b>Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Palestinian youth promoted the UN track in the different districts of the West Bank, invited to partake in political sessions along with politicians and prepared youtube-videos marking Palestinian Declaration of Independence event, the second marking the political symposium in Tulkarem.</li></ul>
<b>Guatemala</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>ACT Monsanto law abolished</li></ul>	<b>Mozambique</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>14 new water sources</li><li>Government commitment to build schools and water sources in 10 communities in 2015</li><li>Contribution to peaceful election period and transition into the new government.</li></ul>
<b>Haiti</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reinforced forest surveillance and increase in the number of forest guards</li></ul>	<b>Angola</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Allowing the construction of 4 markets for peasant farmers and 5 small bridges</li><li>Construction of 6 classroom school, health post and 2 bore-holes equipped with water pumps</li><li>5 schools and 5 health posts rehabilitated</li></ul>
<b>Nepal</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Endorsement of Kamlari Education Guideline declaring free education for Kamlari girls up to grade 12</li><li>Primary school constructed for Kamlaris</li><li>136 educational scholarships for Kamlaris</li><li>Guideline on Joint Land Ownership finalised</li><li>107 couples received joint land ownership certificate</li><li>Dismissal of debt of 34 freed Haliyas worth USD 28,510</li><li>Freed Haliya communities received USD 78,341 from government and non - government authorities for IGAs, education, health facility improvement, entrepreneurship development and drinking water supply.</li></ul>	<b>Somalia</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>180 prominent Imams in Somaliland and Puntland preached about peace on Friday prayers and advised local youth against all bad behaviors such as creating or being part of conflicts</li></ul>
<b>Cambodia</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Establishment of a farmer association, farmer forum, strategic plan and prioritised actions.</li><li>3 successfully mediated land cases</li></ul>	

Table 3



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 Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF) report. One of the Committee's co-chairs, Ambassador Pertti Majanen said that the paper 11 critical outcomes that the ICESDF report must include prepared by NGOs serve as a key reference and input for him in the final negotiation and drafting stage.

In addition, FCA together with ACT Alliance EU (former APRODEV) was successful in promoting dialogue with EU Delegations on space for civil society and on human rights, especially in Central America where CSO work is deteriorating. ACT Alliance EU with the support of FCA co-led an intense coordination work with Central American NGOs, resulting in the creation of a regional Observatory responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Association Agreement between the EU and Central America. 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 promoted the participation of ACT Alliance EU in the European component of a Domestic Advisory Group as a full member with voting rights. In relation to Middle East advocacy work FCA together with ACT Alliance EU worked on topics such as forced displacement, destruction of infrastructure and Israeli settlements. Positive steps forward in the advocacy 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 activities.

In 2014 FCA participated in EU level advocacy work also through NGO Cambodia Coalition Network on land grabbing and human rights violations in Cambodia, the he Concord Human Rights-Based Approach Task Force (HRBA TF) on the implementation of the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and the EU Tool Box on HRBA for the Member States and represented ACT Alliance EU in CONCORD Funding for Development and Relief working group.

#### Advocacy in Finland

In Finland, key advocacy focus in 2014 was on Right to Education. FCA's yearly thematic campaign raised successfully 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 key governmental officials to convey the messages. The campaign message was spread through social media, TV, YouTube and prints. 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 Pori Suomi-Areena, by publishing an article on Somalia in the Horn of Africa magazine. FCA

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 members and prepared a field visit to Liberia 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 presentation on Liberia's situation. New visit was organised 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 in 2015.

In addition, FCA engaged with governmental officials in various meetings, wrote several letters and statements and participated in Parliament's Committee hearings on issues related to Post2015 process, World Humanitarian Summit, human rights, official development aid and FCA's programme countries. In these occasions FCA raised endlessly the messages from its programme countries' realities and succeeded in raising awareness on them.

Continuous joint advocacy and sharing of information took also place through various networks that FCA is a member of like Development Policy Committee, KEPA, Kehys, KATU, IONK, the 1325 Network in Finland, Friday group and Finnwatch. Membership in these networks provided FCA with a good position to participate and advocate for effective and competent development policy making in Finland. 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 Development Policy Committee and making concluding remarks towards the end of the current reign of the government of Finland; constant participation in Post2015 process through commenting decisions, taking part in stakeholder hearings and working on Post2015 indicators; a dialogic process initiated Friday group on the implementation of the cross-cutting objectives of the Finnish development policy, in particular gender quality and reduction of inequality.

#### 1.3.7 Humanitarian assistance

FCA used a total of 8,1 MEUR for humanitarian assistance, reconstruction and mine action programmes in 2014. The funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) for FCA's humanitarian aid in 2014 was 5,6 MEUR. There was a small increase in the funding, due to the sudden political crises in the occupied Palestine Territories and Ebola response in the Western Africa. Humanitarian Mine Action continued in Angola and Cambodia, the total funding from the MFA in 2013 being 0,8 MEUR.

In 2014, funds granted by the MFA for humanitarian assistance were mainly targeted to FCA's programme countries, where the humanitarian situation continues to be fragile, due to conflicts or post-conflict situations 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 Israel and Gaza. The July-August conflict was the deadliest one between Palestinian factions and Israel since the Second Intifada that ended in 2005. With MFA humanitarian 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 caregivers.

FCA continued working in the Philippines in 2014 after the Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda hit the country in November 2013. FCA used MFA humanitarian aid funds to the first phase emergency response there. FCA built 47 semi-permanent school classes in Eastern Samar, in the Philippines, using its' own private funding.

In Central African Republic, FCA provided education in emergencies (EiE) interventions in beginning of 2014 as response to the acute crisis and large scale internal displacement in Bangui. Parallel to the UNICEF funded EiE programme, FCA launched education programme in the western part of the country with funding from MFA, UNICEF and FCA disaster funds. The core of the programme is reinsertion of approximately 30,000 children back to schools through provision of safe learning spaces including water and sanitation and provision of catch up classes. The overall budget for 2014 was 1,3 MEUR.

In Liberia, FCA received 200,000 EUR as Flash Funds from MFA to respond to the acute Ebola crisis. The funds were directed towards awareness rising and distribution of hygiene materials in communities affected by the potentially lethal virus. The intervention was planned to reach 4000 families directly.

FCA used a total of 750,000 EUR from its' own disaster fund for humanitarian assistance in 2014. Additionally FCA used also UNICEF and ECHO funding in its' programme countries. Most of these funds were targeted to CAR, the Philippines, South Sudan, Liberia, Gaza, Syria, Iraq, Serbia, Myanmar and Central America. Short-time humanitarian personnel were assigned to Gaza/oPt, South Sudan, the Philippines and Liberia for programme planning and monitoring.

In the years 2013 and 2014 FCA has strengthened its' operational capacity in humanitarian aid responses. FCA's goal is to be a globally known operational organisation within the international humanitarian community and an attractive partner with national and international funding institutions. To achieve this, we have strengthened our capacity and resources to carry out own operations, by enhancing FCA's operational capacity and thematic specialisation we will be able to increase our financial volumes and the use of different funding possibilities. FCA has also a strong commitment to humanitarian advocacy issues in Finland and globally.

Since 2013 Learning Space Coordinator has been responsible for the coordination of construction and devel-

opment of learning spaces, ensuring the quality, capacity building, preparedness for emergencies, as well as for the development of networks.

Creating better places for education in emergencies is a multi-dimensional co-operation with FCA thematic advisors and experts in roster, Teachers without Borders -network, consultancy and other companies, universities and individual students. Besides the recently published Construction Manual, we have also provided training on the guidelines and planning of pilot projects to programme staff. Thus we are able to test and develop new initiatives and approaches and we will promote the successful solutions.

The Construction Manual includes also the process description and design guidelines. These help to ensure quality and efficiency of the work, give humanitarian minimums and FCA values as checklists for the plans and designs, offers model solutions for rapid implementation and ideas like New Learning Space for improving learning environments.

FCA has continued the co-operation with UNICEF. FCA is an active member in the Global Education Cluster. According to the agreement between FCA and UNICEF, FCA seconded by its own funds one stand-by personnel, who was a member of the Education Cluster Rapid Response Team (see chapter 1.4, Global Education Cluster).

#### Humanitarian Roster

The Humanitarian Roster is one of FCA's means of maintaining and enhancing the organisation's capacity to react in a rapid and efficient way, especially in the context of sudden disasters.

Since 2008, FCA has recruited over 160 roster members with a variety of professional backgrounds. New members are normally accepted once a year, after their successfully completing a four-day Basic Training Course. Since 2013, shortlisted candidates have been interviewed before being accepted to the course. This has proved to be most useful. At the same time the number of applications has been rising considerably.

In 2013, the criteria for selecting Roster members were revised, to better correspond with the current strategic and thematic priorities of FCA's humanitarian aid. This has meant focusing on a more restricted variety of expertise in the selections, the priority being on professionals of humanitarian aid, education and construction. In 2014, a special Basic Training Course was arranged for architects, engineers and experts of logistics and procurement.

By providing additional training to Roster members, FCA also aims at enhancing their strategic skills. In 2014, the main focus was on Education in Emergencies. On this topic, two courses were arranged, targeted to both Roster and FCA's staff members. In addition, a Rapid Needs Assessment Course was organised.

During 2014, nine Roster members were assigned to altogether eleven field missions of different lengths, six of them to the Philippines. Other areas of assignments were Jordan, Gaza, Kenya and Somalia. In addition, two Roster members were hired to long-term positions in the organisation.



## 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 emphasises ecumenical and inter-faith co-operation 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 coalition of more than 140 churches and affiliated 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 in some of humanitarian operations, helped to draft various policies to improve alliance's 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 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 co-operation in the field can be found in the Country Programme Reporting chapter (3. II) of this report.

**ACT Alliance EU (former APRODEV)** (see also chapter 1.3.6 Advocacy) is a platform for co-operation 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 has been building its capacity over the years and is very well recognised actor in EU policy making level. In 2014 FCA worked actively in ACT Alliance EU working groups on Rights and Participation, EC and International Funding for Development 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 on the results can be found in the advocacy chapter (1.3.6) 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 discussed and possibilities to influence EU decision-making in the most effective way were evaluated. The former name APRODEV 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 2014 FCA also 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 Department for Theology and Public Witness, which is responsible for UN advocacy, theological, ecumenical and interfaith work. This department is mandated to advocate towards UN Geneva functions on behalf of the Lutheran Churches worldwide. 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 level on issues such as CEDAW and UPR processes. A joint training on these processes has been planned for 2015 spring.

In addition, FCA supported LWF to revise their planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting system.

**World Council of Churches (WCC)** is with its 345 members by representation the largest global fellowship of Christian churches. In the field of international diaconia and advocacy work WCC works to engage in Christian service by serving human need, breaking down barriers between people, seeking justice and peace and upholding the integrity of creation. WCC is a longstanding actor in the field of human rights with and towards the UN.

WCC's overarching theme for 2015-2021 is Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace. As the thematic focus of WCC lies strongly on peace it links very well with FCA's strategy. During 2014 FCA worked together with WCC in its planning towards the realisation of the Pilgrimage. More concretely FCA supported WCC's work in the field of interreligious dialogue and co-operation, capacity building for conflict resolutions and reconciliation and specifically focusing on Middle-East peacebuilding. With the outbreak of Ebola, FCA participated and supported WCC in its efforts to develop tools for alternative burial rituals and practices that are culturally acceptable and avoid the risk of contagion.

In addition, FCA supported a mission to Northern Iraq to support the displaced minorities after the rising of Islamic State. A long term co-operation between WCC and FCA continued also in 2014 through EAPPI programme (see chapter 1.5 Volunteering).

FCA is also a member of the **Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance**, which will be joined together with the WCC in 2015. In addition FCA is a member of Voluntary Organisations in Co-operation in Emergencies (**VOICE**) and the Confederation for Relief and Development Organisations in Europe (**CONCORD**) (through the Finnish platform to the EU – Kehys ry). Both organisations work to advance relief and development organisations co-operation in advocating for development issues on European level.

FCA has a four-year framework partnership agreement (2014-2018) with the **European Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO)** continuing the long-term partnership. The agreement is based on a financial risk assessment of FCA conducted by the Commission and repeated annually to assess the compliance with the conditions and criteria laid down in the Humanitarian Aid 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 an Education in Emergencies project 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 and Local Authorities 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 levels. The collaboration includes networking, advocacy as well as programme collaboration. FCA is also constantly building relations with international organisations and donors both at a global and local level, as well as with national and local governments in countries of operation. A good example of this kind of collaboration is FCA's and the government of Haiti/FAES (Fonds d'Assistance Economique et Sociale) co-operation and MoU concerning construction of 10 public schools in Haiti. This co-operation is supported and funded by the Finnish MFA and IDB.

**Global Education Cluster** FCA has been one of the core members of the global Education Cluster (gEC) since 2010 and participates also in the local country level clusters where present and when relevant.

As a member of the gEC Working Group FCA has been actively 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 for the implementation of the new strategic plan.

FCA has established the Education Cluster Rapid Response Team (RRT) together with Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children and UNICEF and is a member of the RRT Steering Committee. The RRT is a group

of education in emergencies and information management experts who are rapidly deployable to support education coordination in humanitarian situations. FCA has a full-time standby Cluster Coordinator through standby arrangements with UNICEF. This is the third year of this arrangement and the Cluster Coordinator has been deployed to Mauritania (Sahel food crisis), to Pakistan and three times to Central African Republic.

**UN partnerships** FCA works bilaterally with several UN agencies on both global and local levels. The grass-roots collaboration focusses in practice in Humanitarian or Development programmes and on global level in advocacy and innovations creation on our three thematic areas. FCA aims to build close collaboration with the UN Country Offices in various programme countries through cluster / sector working group collaboration or direct partnerships. The UN Country Offices can also support FCA programmes financially when relevant. The co-operation and partnerships on the global level are often linked into advocacy and innovations.

In 2014 FCA co-operated with UNICEF, UNDP (United Nations Development Program), UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), UN-HCR (United Nations Refugee Agency), UN Women and UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund), UNPOS (United Nations Political Office for Somalia), UNDPA (Department for Political Affairs) and UNHRD (United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot) in various humanitarian situations.

FCA has a formal MoU based partnership with UNHRD concerning humanitarian logistics. FCA and UNICEF signed a MoU in 2012 concerning the Rapid Response Team deployments for Education Clusters in L-3 emergencies. FCA has employed one fulltime expert for use of country cluster activation and coordination. The expert will be seconded to UNICEF.

FCA represents the ACT Alliance and the faith-based NGO's and chairs the UNDP Civil Society Advisory Committee since April 2014. UNDP Civil Society Advisory Board has been involved in UNDP strategy implementation planning, organisational review of UNDP and in Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals preparations. The Committee also advises UNDP on policy issues such as in UNDP's "Guidelines on Engaging with FBOs and Religious Leaders" which was published in October 2014.

The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers has also strong collaboration with various UN agencies as part of the 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 actors in peacemaking, they "are often not fully acknowledged, and their potential contribution remains underutilised." (UN GA Report A/66/811, 2012) Furthermore, the report acknowledged that enhanced dialogue and coordination with religious leaders is essential in supporting the development of UN media-



tion capacity. To meet this need, a network of organisations working with religious and traditional leaders was established to facilitate better links and enhanced co-operation between local peacemakers and international and national initiatives. Finn Church Aid was invited to host the Secretariat for 2014 and develop the Network structure and functions in close co-operation with the Core Group (Religions for Peace, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Finn Church Aid). Furthermore, the Network regularly consults with the Mediation Support Unit, in the UN Department of Political Affairs and UN Alliance of Civilizations who, together with Religions for Peace, Organization of Islamic Cooperation and Finn Church Aid, initiated the formation of Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers.

The Core Group has prolonged FCA's mandate to act as the Secretariat of the Network for three years (2015 -2017). In 2014, the first operational year 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. provide support for local peace mediation initiatives,
2. engage in advocacy to promote the role of religious and traditional peacemakers and sensitise actors engaged in high-level peace processes on the positive role religious and traditional actors play in peacebuilding,
3. conduct timely research and develop thematic expertise and
4. support and facilitate synergies and collaboration-building between different actors involved.

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 processes. By the end of 2014 more than 40 vital actors, including inter-governmental agencies and regional bodies, academic institutions, international and national governmental organisations were involved in the Network.

The Network activities are conducted as collaborative efforts between the Network member organisations and the secretariat. In 2014 these activities included comprehensive studies and mappings, international advocacy events and trainings, and regional consultations with religious and traditional leaders. The Network commissioned studies on the role of religious and traditional leaders in peace-making in different contexts (Central African Republic and Myanmar) and a comprehensive study on radicalisation and recruitment in al-Shabaab in Somalia. The mapping results along with key recommendations were also shared with relevant actors, among them the UN. The Network supported a number of local peace initiatives especially in South-East Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa focusing on inter-faith approaches in peacebuilding regionally. In its activities, the Network paid special focus to thematic is-

ues: 1) de-radicalisation and combatting violent extremism, and 2) gender. Under these themes, the Network seeks to evolve mechanisms to promote the realisation of UN-SCR 1325 goals and counter violent extremism, addressing the adverse effects that extreme religious views or harmful cultural practices are or can be causing, based on analysed information.

#### Partnerships in the Programme Countries

FCA has partnered with a large number of NGO's, churches and church-related development organisations, totalling over 80. During the years 2013-2014 17 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, and the relevance of partner's thematic expertise. Local rootedness is a crucial 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 till 2015, to be carried out jointly with revision of FCA Global Strategy.

FCA's working with partners was systematically reviewed in connection with the self-assessments against the HAP Standard, which were carried out in five Regional Offices during the year 2014. Also some local partners were interviewed. FCA will draw from lessons learned from these assessments when improving its modalities on working with partners.

Also launching the FCA Quality and Accountability Framework (QAF) - the document setting out FCA's commitments in quality and accountability - was postponed to 2015. The requirements on quality and accountability for partners will be included in the QAF.

Main achievements during 2013-2014 in partnerships:

- The self-assessments against HAP Standard, carried out in 2013-2014, have provided comprehensive information on how to improve FCA procedures on working with partners.

#### Partnerships and Networks in Finland

FCA is one of the development organisations in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA) Partnership Agreement Scheme. MFA is FCA's largest individual funding partner with significant strategic value.

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 ry.) and the Finnish NGO Platform to the EU (Kehys ry.). There are several thematic and timely working groups in which FCA is involved with. 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 Post2015 and Steering Group of European Year of Development coordinated by Kehys. 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.

Through the membership in the advisory Board on Human Rights (Kansainvälisten ihmisoikeusasioiden neuvottelukunta, IONK) FCA participated in the assessment/evaluation of the Human Rights Strategy of the Foreign Service of Finland (2013) and the Human Rights Action Plan of Foreign Service of Finland (2013 – 2015). The first assessment of the Action Plan gave a good opportunity to learn more and find key entry points for strengthening the HRBA in Finnish Foreign Service and possibilities for collaboration between the civil society, the MFA and the Embassies of Finland.

Other memberships in bodies/networks include KIOS, (Kansalaisjärjestöjen ihmisoikeussäätiö) The Finnish NGO foundation for Human Rights), the Civil Society Conflict Prevention Network (KATU), the Finnish Somalia Network (Suomen Somalia-verkosto), FinnWatch and the association for Promoting Fair Trade in Finland.

In church-related diaconal actors, FCA partners with several actors, such as the Helsinki Deaconess Institute and Yhteisvastuukeräys (the Common Responsibility Campaign). FCA co-operates with local parishes and dioceses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church on issues of international diaconia and ecumenically as a member of the Finnish Ecumenical Council. FCA is also a partner with YLE in the YLE Helps –scheme (Nenäpäivä).

#### Cultural Orientation Training for Quota Refugees

In 2014, FCA continued to carry out cultural orientation trainings for quota refugees before their arrival to Finland, an initiative started in 2013. Working with refugees in their countries of origin complements FCA's work with refugees in the Programme Countries.

The three-day trainings provide refugees with practical information on Finland (education system; health care and social welfare; Finnish culture and society), Finnish language as well as the rights and responsibilities of residents in Finland. The aim is to support the resettlement process and integration to the Finnish society. Practical arrangements of the trainings were made in close co-operation with the local UNHCR, and in the case of Lebanon, IOM.

In 2014, the training modules were already well developed, making it easy to arrange similar trainings in Iran, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon, with the total number of 720

participants. The face-to-face teaching was complemented with a web site providing all the necessary information in the refugees' own languages.

Finnish Immigration Service, who is responsible for the resettlement of Finnish quota refugees, is the contracting authority of the project. FCA has the overall responsibility for the project including financial management and practical arrangements of the trainings. FCA's service providers were DIAK (Diaconia University of Applied Studies), who were responsible for the content of the trainings, and Helsinki Region Interpreting Centre (Helsingin Seudun Asioimistulkikeskus).The project is funded by the European Refugee Fund (Euroopan Pakolaisrahasto).

#### 1.5 Volunteering

FCA had several volunteering possibilities in 2014: EAPPI programme, Teachers without Borders, Women's Bank and Changemaker advocacy network for youth.

#### EAPPI

The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) is an ecumenical initiative that seeks to support local and international efforts to end the Israeli occupation and bring a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based on international law and relevant United Nations resolutions. The programme started in 2002 from the request of the local churches in Jerusalem.

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 sectors: monitoring of 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 EA's 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 received and appreciated by Christian and Muslim communities. Members of the Israeli peace movement – a small part of Israeli society - appreciate EAPPI's presence at their non-violent demonstrations and vigils. Many of these Israeli organisations feel internally isolated and need support from the international community help them pressure their government from both the inside and 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 return.

Finnish EA's kept their presence and engagement at 8 placements: Jerusalem, Jerusalem Al-Ram, Bethlehem, Hebron, Tulkarm, Jayyus, Yanoun and Yatta (South Hebron





Hills) and Jordan Valley. During 2014, the placements of Tulkarm and Al-Ram were closed and Jordan Valley opened in return. The Jordan Valley placement allows for improved coverage of Area C.

The EAs continued to regularly monitor checkpoints, agricultural gates, schools and places of worship. In places where the EAs have been present, there has been a recorded reduction of violence from soldiers and settlers. The EAs provided protective presence to 3 568 children and 304 teachers in 14 schools across the West Bank. Both teachers and pupils have reported increased sense of security due to the EA's presence, and decreased harassment has had a positive effect in school attendance.

EAs also provided protective presence during the olive harvest season. They witnessed restricted access to churches and mosques during religious holidays and Friday prayers. The EAs were present in about 10 % of all house demolitions, arrived during or after another 10 %, and reported to organisations providing shelter and psychosocial support. The Israel-Gaza war and several escalations of the conflict affected the human rights situation on the ground as well as the work of the EAs, as they had to avoid many working areas for security reasons.

#### EAPPI advocacy work in Finland

In Finland, EAPPI advocacy events reached an estimated 6,000 people. The photo exhibition Life, Occupied by three photographer EAs was visited by 3,000 people. Similar exhibitions attracted audience as well. The EAPPI University tour included lectures in five universities; Helsinki, Turku, Tampere, Rovaniemi and Jyväskylä. At the World Village

festival, the EA's talked with hundreds of people who, in turn, wrote post cards to Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) demanding accurate labelling of settlement products. Skype was used to contact Israeli and Palestinian human rights activists during university lectures and human rights –themed classes where pupils asked questions directly from their counterparts in the West Bank. The EAs also wrote appeals to politicians and public figures against the settlement expansion and the forced displacement of Bedouins. One EA participated in a WCC-organised Brussels 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 develop-

ing tools, models, methods and new material for everyday school life-

3. Offer opportunities for education professionals to expand their expertise by volunteering in developing countries for 3–12 months or by participating in The World Teacher Programme.
4. Offer training process for Finnish education professionals by developing their abilities as a volunteer in education sector in fragile states and by supporting their competencies as a global educators.

The TwB Network has been directed by a steering committee since autumn 2012 that includes: Trade Union of Education (Chair), Finnish National Board of Education (Opetushallitus, Vice Chair), Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Vice Chair), Ministry of Education and Culture (OKM), CIMO center for International Mobility, Universities of Helsinki and Oulu, Service Center for Development Co-operation (KEPA), Kehys ry, 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 Teachers without Borders Network Steering committee had four meetings during the year.

The TwB Network has grown. At the end of the year 2014 there were almost 900 registered members and about 2,000 followers in social media (Facebook and Twitter).

TwB Network organised the World teachers' day seminar on 5.10.2014 in Helsinki which gathered around 70 education professionals. In the seminar TwB Network gave the petition for the global education issues to the minister of education and culture Krista Kiuru. TwB participated also in Maailma koulussa -seminars in Rovaniemi and Helsinki universities and has act as part of the network of global educators. TwB coordinators lectured in universities of Jyväskylä and Oulu. TwB participated for example in Educa fair 2014 and World Village Festival, where high level panel discussions on global education issues were organised.

TwB network participated in The World Teacher Programme organised by Edukans, a NGO from Netherlands. 10 Finnish education professionals together with Dutch teachers travelled to Kenya for two weeks in April-May 2014. The main objective of the programme was to develop the local education together with Kenyan, Finnish and Dutch teachers.

#### Capacity Building through Voluntarism

General objective of the Capacity building through Voluntarism project is to increase capacity of FCA's partner organisations in the programme countries or FCA's Regional Offices in one thematic sector and give operational programmatic support by expert volunteer deployment. In 2014 the thematic focus was education, and therefore it was decided to co-operate with the Teachers without Borders.

The recruitment process of volunteer teachers was organised by FCA and CIMO in November 2013. The search focused on Finn Church Aid's programmes in Cambodia, Liberia/Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Jordan (the Syrian refugee programme). The first six volunteer teachers for international work (for 3-12 months) were selected in early

2014, however only four of them were deployed in Cambodia and South Sudan. Due to Ebola epidemic it was not possible to deploy a volunteer in Liberia/Sierra Leone and recruitment of an Arabic speaking teacher turned out to be a challenge, thus leaving the place in Jordan vacant. The West Africa and Jordan posts will be re-opened for 2015 volunteer recruitment.

The selected teachers were trained on 20.-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 communication, Human Rights-based Approach, Education in Emergencies, intercultural communication and activities in voluntary work, culture and Religion, Empowerment in development co-operational and in humanitarian work, education and development, security and health, communication and advocacy tools, and psychosocial support.

#### Results from the Capacity Building through Voluntarism pilot

The expert volunteers focused on strengthening the capacity 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.

#### Education advisor for Kotobi Institute of Teacher Education (KITE), South Sudan

Kotobi Institute of Teacher Education Center located in Mundri district in South Sudan. FCA has supported KITE through the local partner organisation MRDA since 2010. 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.

As 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 the volunteers work was to help out in teaching where there weren't enough tutors to cover the needs.

TwB volunteer also had a role in counselling both the staff and students ("having a shoulder to lean on") when the situation became difficult. Educationally, the volunteer concentrated on teaching English to in-service students, Arabic speaking teachers who had come to KITE to improve their English language. The volunteer found work very challenging but also very rewarding.

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

#### Education specialist at FCA Asia Regional Office, Cambodia

The tasks of TwB volunteer were to build up the capacity of planning and implementation of the educational projects of FCA and our partners in Cambodia and rest of the region.



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 FCA’s 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 TwB 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 time. A lesson learnt from this experience was that in similar kind of projects there should be even stronger support from the long-term FCA employees or the volunteer terms should be longer than six months. The change of volunteers should be built overlapping to pass all the necessary information and contacts.

#### **Women’s Bank**

Women’s Bank is a volunteer community and a fund for supporting women’s sustainable entrepreneurship and livelihood in developing countries. Women’s Bank was founded

in May 2007 by the FCA and a group of influential women who had visited Liberia and were moved by the living conditions of women there.

Women’s Bank has over 3,000 volunteers in over 30 local groups, all over Finland. These groups organise events to fundraise for Women’s Bank’s fund. During the year 2014 the volunteers organised over 500 events. Out of these events 65 % are focused on fundraising while rest are spreading the information of the Women’s Bank’s work.

By the end of the year 2014 Women’s Bank has collected over EUR 7,7 million for women in developing countries. Out of that EUR 1,3 million was raised during the past year. Over 1,400 shareholders and some 3,000 monthly donors 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 Helsingin 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, OPT, 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 funded something else than women’s livelihood projects: it 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, OPT 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.



Minna Törrönen

# 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.

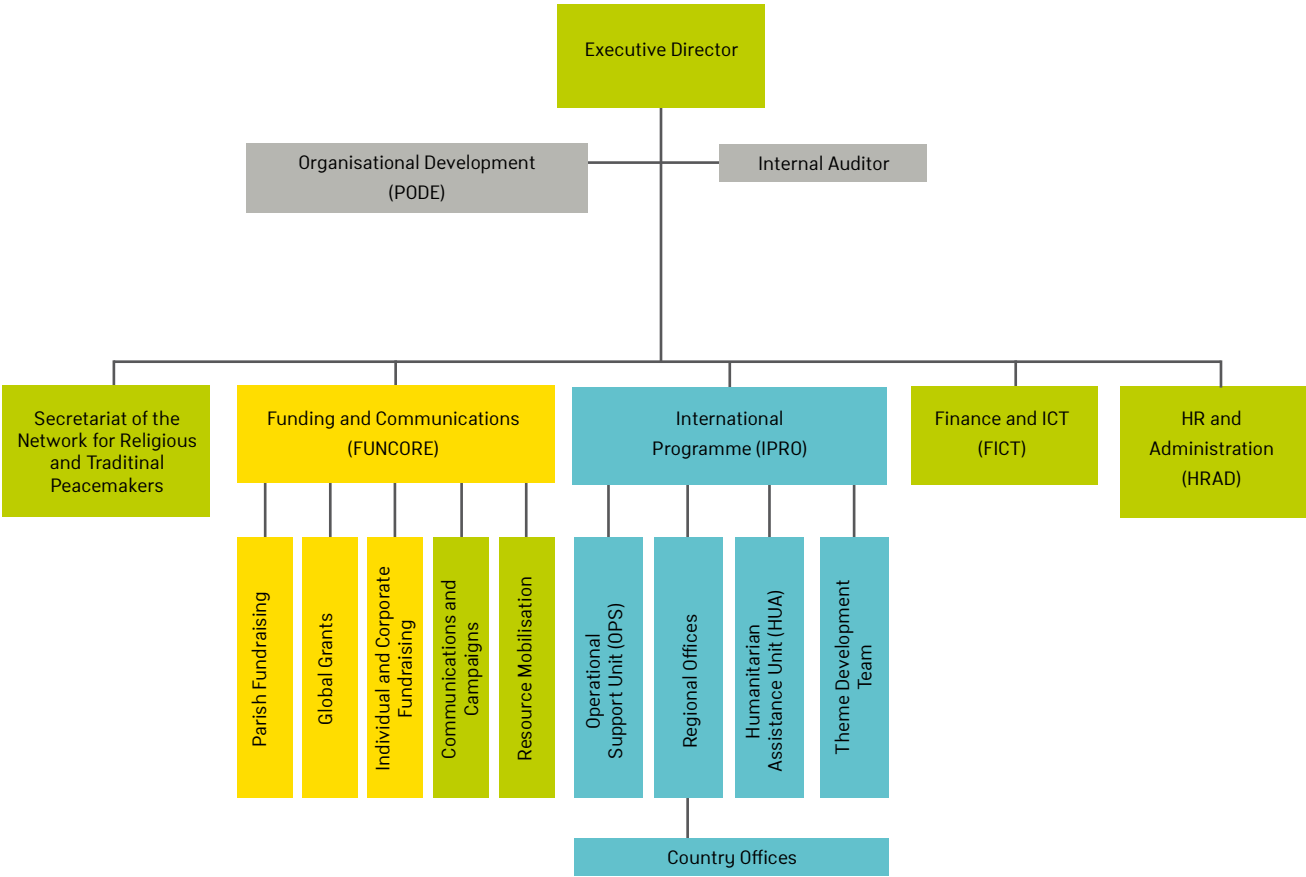
Another aim was to strengthen FCA Programme's thematic development and improve support for the programmatic work in the Regional and Country Offices. In October 2014 leadership of thematic development of all three themes (R2L, R2E, and R2P) was given to FCA's International Director.

Consequently six thematic staff members were relocated to International Programme Department (IPRO) from other departments of the organisation. After this change thematic development, RBA, 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.

CABI, 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 Colombia (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 – KECO shares the same office space with ESARO
- South Sudan Country Office in Juba – SSUCO
- Somalia Country Office in Hargeisa, Somaliland – SOCO
- Uganda Country Office in Kampala – UGACO
- 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 2011 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 (5 for Right to Livelihood, 3 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 were developed 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 country 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 programming 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 fulfilment 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-



ating, we noted that the sequencing is too rapid and hence from 2015 onwards internal organisational reporting will be done three times a year instead of four times a year.

The Country Programme plans and organisational plans have to feed into one another as well as support one another. This is an area that needs more work on – how to ensure that these parallel processes do not duplicate work.

Organisational learning is a topic that was discussed at many levels in FCA during 2014. Strengthened efforts have been made to ensure that learning takes place at different levels. A good practical example of this is FCA’s participation in a study on Learning in Development being undertaken by the University of Jyväskylä. This is a topic that will receive even more attention during 2015.

Main achievements during 2013-2014 in PME development:

- further development of the organisational level PME and linking it to programme PME
- development of the programme for 2015-2017 and development of the PME system to support it
- revision and finetuning of FCA’s project level PME guidelines and formats started
- development of the new PME process description in 2013
- emphasising FCA as a learning organisation
- revised version of the Programme and Operations Manual

2.3 Quality Assurance and Accountability

FCA continued developing Quality and Accountability Management System based on the 2010 HAP Standard, adapting requirements of the Standard in FCA policies, guidelines and procedures. Organisation-wide self-assessment process against the HAP Standard was completed; the assessments were carried out in 2014 in East Africa, West Africa, Central Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, and in Middle East Regional Offices. The Quality and Accountability Framework - the document setting out FCA commitments in quality and accountability - was approved, but defining the management system was still ongoing. The Framework will be completed and launched in early 2015. FCA Complaints Policy and relating guidelines were developed, but starting the piloting of the Complaints Response Mechanism was postponed to early 2015. Work was started to incorporate the HAP requirements in the PME-system. The Standard was considered when updating the Humanitarian Aid Policy. FCA staff Code of Conduct was revised, and Code of Conduct for Contractors and Service Providers was developed and launched to improve accountability of non-partner actors participating in project implementation. This demand has become urgent especially in Haiti, where local contractors are implementing school construction projects.

The new Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) was approved in December 2014. The CHS will replace the HAP Standard, and the latter will not be actively promoted after 2014. This will effect on how FCA will continue developing its Quality and Accountability Management System. FCA

will decide about its approach towards the CHS in 2015.

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), mid-term 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:

Risks	Risk definition	Actions taken
1. Financial management and systems	Risk of fraud cases, corruption and misuse of funds.	High quality finance professionals hired, Procurement training for staff organised  Partnership, finance background assessment on prospective partners has been made.  Financial support and monitoring strengthened – FCA's local finance staff regular visits to partners.
2. Programme management / quality	Risk of low programme quality due to capacity gaps of local partners / FCA staff.	Developing the programme quality and accountability (theme work, planning, implementation, reporting, evaluation and learning). Systematical and disciplined use of guidelines.  International Programme Week in 2015 will concentrate on monitoring, evaluation and FCA as a learning organisation.
3. Staff security	Risk of social and political unrest, man-made- and natural catastrophes and criminality, which can endanger the security of FCA staff, property and programmes.	Systematical use of security plans and risk management. On-going training scheme in place, preparedness plans in place and clear communication & response plan in place.  In West Africa due to Ebola epidemic mitigation plans were prepared and the programmes adjusted to response 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.
4. Human resources and leadership	Difficulty to recruit staff with right competencies to challenging contexts of operation.  Risk of high turnover of staff in challenging contexts.	Efficient HR policy, systems and lean procedures.  A sustainable leadership development programme for Global Management Team has been started.

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.

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 traveling 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 assist FCA personnel mission wide. In addition ICE assist FCA Crisis Management Team in significant security incidents if/when required. Staff is the organisations most valuable asset, therefore FCA continues developing and improving security guidelines and practices.

2.6 Administration

2.6.1 Finance and IT administration

FCA HQ finance unit divided responsibilities and tasks on a geographic basis between four Financial Controllers. It has turned out to be an effective and efficient way to support and monitor the financial management in the programme countries. Even though the good internet connection in all offices enable daily communication the aim has been to meet all new or existing finance staff members at least once a year either in the programme countries or at HQ. The face-to-face meetings are essential especially when working in a multicultural context. In 2014 all staff responsible for the field finances met in Helsinki for a combined training and planning week which will now be held every year during the latter half of the year. FCA global

financial management team has been a good mix of local and international staff with the emphasis to build everybody's capacity.

One clear challenge has been that FCA mainly operates in very challenging environment in the programme countries which means that staff have to be changed or rotated early enough which again means pressure on recruitment and induction of new staff. FCA's global financial management team at HQ and in the regional offices has however so far been successful in "filling the gaps". Finding capable French-speaking finance staff has also required a significant amount of work. In 2014 new finance staff was recruited to offices in Kenya, CAR, South Sudan, Somalia, Uganda and Jordan.

The improvements in partner financial management have continued and despite the large amount of projects and partners the results of the capacity building are producing tangible results. However considering the working environment the presence of skilled FCA finance available to support and monitor the work in the programme countries is of paramount importance.

FCA's IT infra went through some developmentalso 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 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 or-

ganisation 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 in 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 orientation 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 plat-

form 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 of staff working in fragile contexts still needs attention. Also working in a multicultural environment requires further investments in developing cultural sensitivity.

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

Office	International Staff	Local Programme Staff	Local Administration Staff	Local Support Staff
Asia Regional (ARO)	4,00	3,33	2,00	1,00
The Philippines	4,45	0,00	0,00	0
Central African Republic (CAR)	4,66	8,99	0,79	3,18
Democratic Republic of Congo (CARO)	4,61	1,56	1,90	2,16
Haiti (LACRO)	4,04	8,33	4,00	5,00
Middle East (MERO)	4,89	9,24	2,02	2,00
East and Southern Africa (ESARO and KECO)	5,45	4,73	3,49	1,00
Somalia (SOCO and Mogadishu)	6,51	3,01	2,49	9,11
South Sudan (SSUCO)	4,44	1,51	1,07	2,00
Uganda (UGACO)	0,00	1,25	1,26	0,42
West Africa Regional (WARO)	2,89	5,00	5,00	4,86
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,69</b>	<b>46,95</b>	<b>24,02</b>	<b>30,73</b>



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 (Toisenlainen 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” (Ylen Hyvä Säätiön Nenäpäivä).

The same thematic framework with Tekoja -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 Tekoja -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 income in Finland, including FCA.

Developing donor relationship and donor communication is a vital part of FCA’s private fundraising. Donors are entitled to hear about the results of FCA’s work. Therefore we continued giving feedback to our donors of the achievements in the field and how our work we has changed the lives of the beneficiaries.

Parish and Church

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 Suvivirsi (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.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs provided funding for development co-operation activities the total of 8,1 MEUR (7,9 MEUR in 2013). 5,6 MEUR (4,9 MEUR) was received for humanitarian aid from the MFA. 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).

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

Finance Figures 2014

In 2014 FCA expended a total of 34,1 MEUR for on aid and other operations, which represents an increase of 10 % from 2013 (31 MEUR). The income for the period was 33,9 MEUR (31,4 MEUR in 2013) representing an increase of 8 % compared to the previous financial year. The deficit for the financial period was 0,24 MEUR (surplus at the end of 2013 0,35 MEUR). At the end of 2014, equity stood at 5,7 MEUR (5,9 MEUR at the end of 2013). Advances received for disaster relief work, reconstruction, the Women’s Bank and other operations totalling 8,7 MEUR on the balance sheet (8,6 MEUR at the end of 2013). This includes the assets of former funds, such as the Women’s Bank.

22 FUNDING APPLICATIONS SENT IN 2014



# 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 with the people interested in our 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 finance. FCA's new web-pages were published in April 2014. In addition to the main web pages there are six different subweb-pages: toisenlainenlahja.fi, naistenpankki.fi, changemaker.fi, opettajatilmanrajoja.fi, eappi.fi and peacemakersnetwork.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. FCA's Finnish Facebook site achieved 10,000 likers in 2014 and also the amount of likers in English site raised over 600. Amount of FCA's Newsletter subscribers was over 9,000. FCA's Communications Unit made 73 press releases during the year 2014. That was 15 more than in 2013.

Finnish media covered intensively FCA's 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 Kärki to the Philippines for a 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 were started to recruit three more volunteers to Asia, Middle East and Central Africa Regional Offices. They started at 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 Office, namely ESARO, has an own communications specialist.

FCA's 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 informa-

tion 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 world's 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 households to escape poverty, reduces early births, empowers women to overcome discrimination, saves mothers' and children's lives and improves child nutrition. Educated people are also more tolerant and concern about the environment.

FCA defined the target group base on definition of Taloustutkimus and chose particular group People with a vision' whose values and attitudes were most positive for campaigns cause. All communication and marketing channels (TV, printed media, social media and web-marketing, guerilla-activities) we 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 (Maailma Kylässä, Social media quiz). During the campaign FCA presented the stories of teachers in fragile states and how they benefitted from development efforts. The press release was organised and media equipped with campaign information and material. The campaign message was spread through the TV, web, e-letters, 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 webpage www.tekoja-kampanja.fi and in the social media. FCA also participated in Maailma 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 on the need for proper teacher training was published and distribut-

ed to parishes, trough TwB network and during Maailma Kylässä festival.

In order to reach the youth FCA challenged public celebrities Noora Karma, Musta Barbaari and Tommi Evilä to teach a lesson in a high school in Helsinki and Tampere. The media was also invited to attend and they were equipped with press release including information of the global teach shortage and the need for proper teacher training in development countries. Campaign and global education material was also produced for the parishes.

Achievements of the results and objectives were assessed through the campaign cycle. Campaign staff collected the feedback and comments from the campaign and followed carefully the discussion in the media and social media. Qualitative feedback was also collected from the parishes and analysed the publications in the media. The Education campaign succeeded in raising awareness on global learning crisis. In particularly media was interested in roles and stories of individual teachers and used the information FCA had provided. Also stories of Finnish teachers volunteering in developing countries were generally considered interesting. ABC-leaflet also received a positive feedback from the learning professionals. Feedback from the parishes reflected that the material was found useful. These target groups still need printed materials as they cannot fully rely on internet materials. Especially activating material is widely used in events and youth gathering and there is a need for simple tools which help to communicate on global development. Campaigns 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 message and FCA organised 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 Kiuru during the World Teacher Day celebration in October.

#### Tekoja Magazine

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

Each issue had a main theme based on FCA's work. The first issue's main theme was 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 quality of education in the developing world. This was also the theme of FCA's 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 fragile states and FCA's peace work and a follow-up story on the reconstruction work in the Philippines.

Many readers gave feedback on the Tekoja magazine as they took part in the vote on the best story in each issue. This feedback includes comments on thanking the magazine for telling about situations not featured in the Finnish media such as the situation in Central African Republic or Myanmar. The readers thanked for Tekoja magazine's positive view and also for including stories on impact of FCA's work.

Examples of the feedback (translated into English):

*“It illustrated well, how there's faith in the future even in very difficult circumstances, and how important the opportunity to go to school is. It also told how aid is delivered and makes a difference.”*

*“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 plan 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 1.9 persons, which almost 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 Campaign's documentaries

The short documentaries (2,5 and 4 minutes) made in Haiti in 2014 were broadcasted on 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 broadcast by Yle (the Finnish Broadcasting Company). 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 documentaries were of high quality and touching. It was also mentioned several times that the films were useful 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

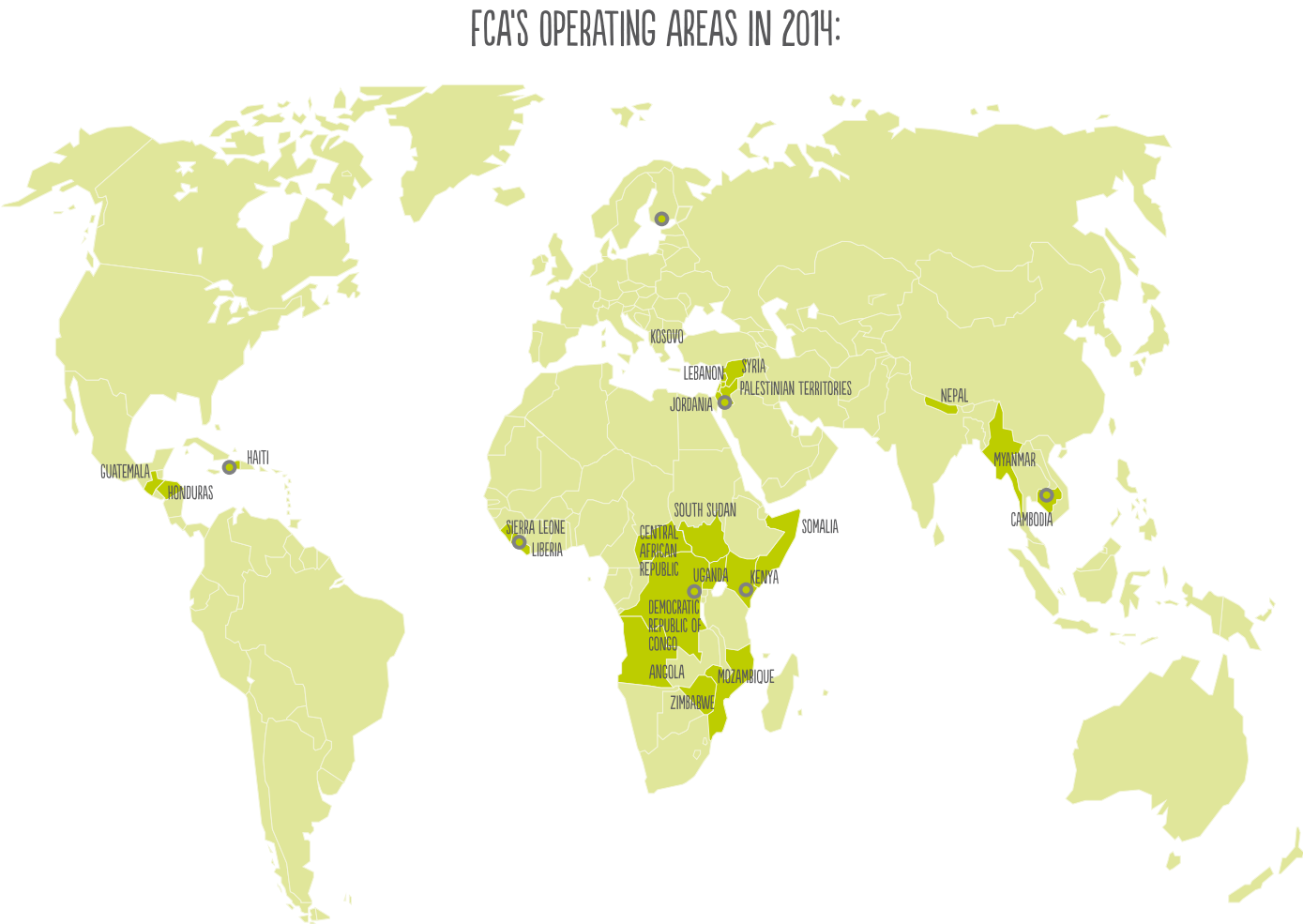
In this chapter FCA’s 18 major Country Programmes are presented; 16 of them were funded from the MFA Partnership Programme in 2013 and 2014. The Country Programme Report Summaries have been prepared based on FCA’s Country Programme Annual Reports 2014 as well as two-year reports from the Country Programmes. 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)			
<b>Actual Costs:</b> EUR 517,876 MFA partnership agreement (PA) EUR 437,069			
Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary funding source
10706	Capacity building of local partners	All Liberia and Sierra Leone partners	MFA partnership agreement
10710	Baseline study, project evaluations and country programme evaluation	-	Private, parishes
11427	WARO resource mobilisation	-	Private, parishes
11520	Thematic assessments and context analysis	-	Private, parishes
11553	Support to "Social mobilisation and Awareness Creation" in response to Ebola outbreak in Liberia and Sierra Leone	FCA together with the local partners	MFA partnership agreement
11610	Health and Healing Programme of the World Council of Churches (WCC ) Facilitating a Collaborative Response to the Ebola Crisis between Faith-based Organisations and UN Agencies	WCC	Parishes
11554	Ebola project	FCA together with the local partners	FCA Ebola fundraising campaign
10480	West Africa Regional Programme Office	-	MFA partnership agreement



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 shrunk 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 Liberia 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 coun-

tries. 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

work was supported through trainings in conflict resolution in Liberia and Sierra Leone, and a thematic assessment was conducted in 2014 to inform the development of future R2P activities in Liberia.

In R2E, the focus was on the humanitarian projects in refugee camps in Nimba and Grand Gedeh. A skills training center was opened in March 2014 in the Bahn camp. Within the framework of this project, FCA has developed an excellent working relationship with UNHCR.

Development projects that fall within the thematic areas of R2L and R2E were the cornerstones of the **Country Programme in Sierra Leone**. A new project in R2P with a focus on traditional and religious leaders also started in 2014. With the launching of the first peacebuilding project in Sierra Leone, networking/advocacy in R2P started in conjunction with the New Deal conference in Freetown in June 2014.

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.



Jussi Laurikainen

## Liberia



Reetta Meriläinen

### 1. Financial Summary

**Actual Costs:**  
EUR 665,630  
MFA partnership agreement (PA) EUR 145,866

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary funding source
10641	Legal Education with Rural and Semi-urban Women and Men to Ensure Compliance with Gender Sensitive Human Rights	AFELL	Women's Bank
10642	Economic Empowerment for Girls and Women in Post-war Liberia	FAWE Liberia	Women's Bank
10702	Rural Agriculture Program	PN0	MFA partnership agreement
10703	Women & Girls Agriculture Program	SLPP	Women's Bank
10832	Urban Agriculture project	PN0	MFA partnership agreement
11471	Support to secondary education of Ivorian refugees in Nimba county	FCA self-implemented	MFA humanitarian
11489	Support to non-formal secondary education in PTP refugee camp, Grand Gedeh county	FCA self-implemented	FCA relief fund
11528	Bringing poultry to next level	FCA self-implemented	Private

### 2. Overview of the Liberia Programme

According to the 2013 Human Development Report, Liberia ranks 174 out 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 (WARO) put together a fast and efficient response



to the Ebola outbreak. In August 2014, the on-gong 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

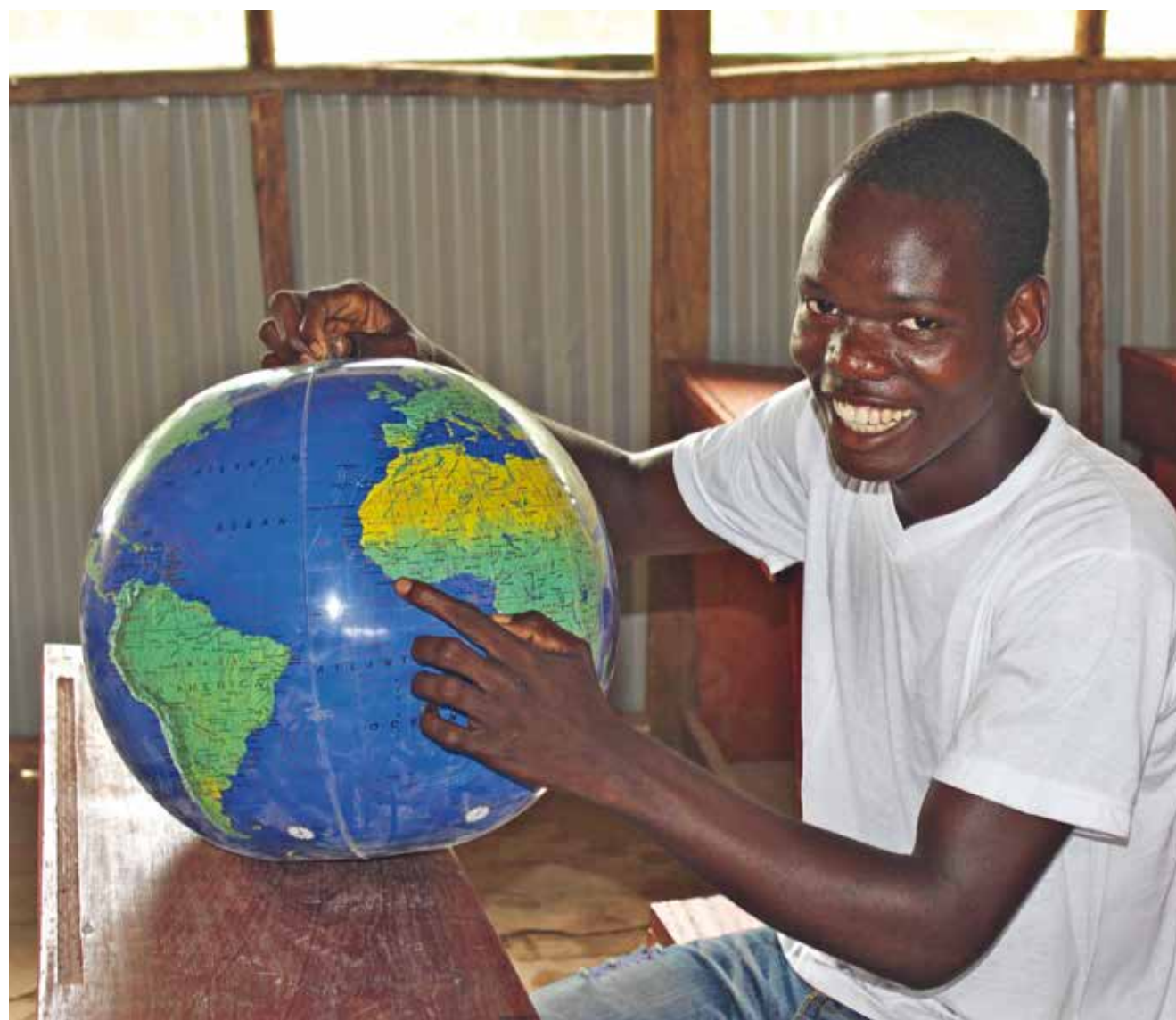
**Local communities in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts have strengthened their assets and capability to develop their livelihoods in sustainable ways**

- 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 into 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, quit making), and manufacturing business promotion, and farming.
- 7 Mother Clubs accounted for over 10,000USD 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**



Ulla Tarkka

- 151 farm families were trained in organic farming practices /techniques and 60% of them applied the acquired skills.

### 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**

- 1 new Mother's club was established.
- All club members and 10 % of community members trained in life skills, literacy and SME-development.
- Access to learning provided for at least 50 girls by the Mothers' clubs. The Mother Clubs provided school materials and supplies. The targeted disadvantaged girls went to school and also participated in skill trainings such as soap making, pastry and tailoring.
- 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 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**

- 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 Ivorian refugees in 2013 at refugee Bahn camp in Nimba and in 2014 to 4500 refugees at 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.

Sierra Leone



Antti Reenpää

1. Financial Summary

Actual Costs:  
EUR 673,999  
MFA partnership agreement (PA) EUR 300,836 EUR

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary funding source
10313	Integrated Community Empowerment Project	PICEP	MFA partnership agreement, private, parishes
10649	Bonthe Island Environmental and Livelihood project	Green Scenery (GS)	MFA partnership agreement
10704	Digloma Youth Friendly Centre	RADA	RedNoseDay -campaign
10705	Empowering women and girls through vocational skills training and adult literacy	FAWE SL	Women's Bank
11063	Empowerment Project for Women	PICEP (EPW)	Women's Bank
11463	"Pis Taay Go - Peace Always" Promoting a Culture of Non-Violence in Communities in Pujehun District	NMJD	Parishes

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 for 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 of 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.



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 trainings, training 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 benefiting 28 Key Contact Farmers –KCFs (M20, F8), 52 acres were cultivated with groundnut benefiting 31 KCFs (M 19, F 12) and 135 acres cultivated with inland valley swamp rice benefiting 60 KCFs (M 42, F 18).
- Pilot scheme of mechanised rice cultivation (120 acre) with a total yield of 26 tons i.e. 520 (50kg) bags benefited 90 vulnerable farmers, mostly women.
- 10 fish ponds were established benefiting 50 youths (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.
- 6 Community village saving and banking schemes at poultry project locations with 270 members were functional, giving out loans and collecting interest/recovering loans flouted out to members.

Efforts to diversify production were hampered due to the Ebola outbreak. Many farmers abandoned their fields and travel restrictions made it difficult for provide technical support to the beneficiaries.

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

- More than 30% of beneficiaries in agricultural interventions supported by FCA are women; in poultry projects 100%.
- 72 widows were supported in planting fruit tree seedlings in the village fruit tree nurseries.
- 750 chicks given to 20 women on Bonthe Island started

laying eggs in September at satisfactory rate until an animal disease killed most of the layers in October.

**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**

- Approximately 140 households in 5 communities on Bonthe Island were supported through provision of farming inputs and training to improve livelihood strategies and build their resilience against negative impact of climate change.

**Female 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 60 male – 40 female from 70 male – 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 eg. 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 with limited educational background have access to quality vocational training/skill development**

- 268 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 livelihoods issues and settled 16 disputes/conflicts (land, theft, marital).

## 2.2. Development of the Country Programme during 2013-2014

No major 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 Technical 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, students in RADA's 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 approached 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. The project aims to support communities to diversify and improve their farming practice, also in view of addressing the impact of climate change on fishing as a traditional source of income.

The first Right to Peace project started in 2014, focusing on traditional and religious leaders and conflict resolution. The project was implemented only for a few months before the Ebola outbreak.

The Ebola disease put practically all FCA's work in the

region on hold in August 2014. All donors approved FCA's request to reallocate the unused funds to the Ebola response related activities (MFA, Women's Bank, Ylen Hyvä Säätiö – RedNoseDay).

## 3. Evaluations and Studies

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.

## 4. Capacity Building

Since the establishment of the field office in Liberia and later Sierra Leone, FCA has organised two capacity building workshops for partners annually. In 2014 two workshops were planned with focus on project development. However, due to the Ebola outbreak these workshops could not be organised as planned and the budgeted funds were used for Ebola the response.

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.

3.2 Central Africa

1. Financial Summary of the Regional Programme (Country Programmes not included)			
<b>Actual Costs:</b> EUR 532,660 MFA partnership agreement (PA) EUR 442,660			
Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary funding source
10715	CARO Central Africa Regional Office	-	MFA partnership agreement
10926	Burundi Youth Empowerment Project	LWF Burundi	Private, parishes

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 Beni territory 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 Djotodia 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-balakas against Muslim civilians, forcing thousands of Muslims to flee the country.

Established in DRC in Goma in 2009, FCA's Central Africa Regional Office (CARO) consisted of three expatriate and seven national staff in 2014, and of five expatriate 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 FCA 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 women's 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 women's rights there have been discussions with the relevant authorities, such as Provincial Gender Minister, to mainstream FCA's work with the Government priorities.

In the course of 2013-2014, FCA's operations in CAR focused on R2E and were mostly self-implemented. The overall objective of FCA's 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 UNICEF's 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.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)



Tuuli Hongisto

1. Financial Summary			
<b>Actual Costs:</b> EUR 1,710,371 MFA partnership agreement (PA) EUR 431,597			
Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary funding source
10437	Kubagu development and capacity building project	LWF DRC	MFA partnership agreement, private, parishes
10603	Youth Empowerment project	ETN	MFA partnership agreement, private, parishes
10933	Local partner's capacity building project	All FCA's DRC partner	MFA partnership agreement
11061	Women's Advocacy project	RAFEJE, DFJ	MFA partnership agreement
11210	Women lawyers fighting for women's rights	DFJ	MFA partnership agreement, private, parishes
11211	Women lawyers for progress of women	FJDF	MFA partnership agreement, private, parishes
11212	Integrating female community leaders/women in the conflict prevention, mediation and resolution	FCA self-implemented	Private
11296	Support to IDPs in South Lubero and South Masisi	LWF DRC	MFA humanitarian
11357	Tendela School Project	LWF DRC	Parishes
11377	LWF nutrition and food security humanitarian project	LWF DRC	MFA humanitarian
11394	DRC 2013 ECHO project	LWF DRC	ECHO, private, parishes
11413	Education in Emergencies response in Kitchanga Region, North Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo	COLLECTIF ALPHA UJUVI	MFA humanitarian
11443	Support to small entrepreneurship and income generation for the vulnerable youth in Goma, DRC	ETN	Women's Bank
11502	Emergency nutrition, food security and psychosocial support for the vulnerable IDP and returnee communities in Masisi territory, North Kivu, DRC	LWF DRC	MFA humanitarian
11514	ECHO 11394 non-cost extension	FCA	Private, parishes
11521	Emergency food distribution, contributing to livelihood and improved resilience for conflict affected communities in North Kivu, DRC	FCA self-implemented	MFA humanitarian
11529	DRC livelihoods assessment	-	MFA partnership agreement

2. Overview of the DRC Programme

In 2014, the country context in DRC remained volatile, in particular in North Kivu. According to OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), North Kivu hosts more than one million internally displaced persons, representing over one third of the displaced population in DRC. The humanitarian situation remains precarious due to the

on-going activity of the armed groups, the difficulty to access basic services and the effect of insecurity on food production. The Government is unable to respond efficiently to the humanitarian needs, creating a humanitarian imperative for the international and national organisations to respond.

Most Congolese are extremely poor and 59 % of the population lives with less than USD 1,25/ day (UNHDR).



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 girls and 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 serious violations of human and women's rights, including sexual and gender based violence (SGBV).

It is in the above context, that the FCA DRC Country Programme supported the targeted local communities in strengthening their assets and capabilities to develop their livelihoods in sustainable ways, with focus on promoting women's equal access to and control over productive resources and assets. To address the humanitarian needs in the most vulnerable communities affected by the conflict, the programme also provided essential life-saving services.

*In 2014, FCA's partners in DRC included the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), ETN (Équipe d'éducation et d'encadrement des traumatisés de Nyiragongo), RAFEJE (Réseau des Associations des Femmes Juristes de l'Est de la République Démocratique du Congo), DFJ (Dynamique des Femmes Juristes), CAU (Collectif Alpha Ujuvi), and FJDF (Femmes Juristes de Butembo.)*

## 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**

- 87 new businesses created (10 as part of the Youth Re-insertion project and 77 as part of the Women Enterprises project.) All the 87 individual and group businesses (100%) were fully functional at the end of 2014.
- As part of the Women's Bank funded project, a total of USD 28,879 was granted as business loans to 80 beneficiaries (67 young females and 13 young males). The average monthly loan repayment rate stands at 84%. The risks related to remoteness of beneficiaries from loan disbursement and repayment points were reduced by the introduction of mobile phone transfers (eTransfer).
- In total 22 agricultural co-operatives were formed and their production increased (both hum. and dev. projects). The associations were grouped into 4 collectives.

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

- 1,246 women and some men were grouped into 56 savings and credit groups (VSLA).
- 872 members (70% of VSLA members) received loans and 523 (60%) had fully paid back the loan back by the end of 2014.

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

- At the end of the ECHO project, 6,000 households' food consumption index was increased to a minimum 44,55 points.
- 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**

- 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 centre 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 returnee 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 debates with strategic allies of the civil society, 4 provincial workshops, Press conference in Kinshasa in December.
- 67 cases of violence against women, out of which 37 sexual violence cases, were taken to court; 20 of the latter were successfully prosecuted and the perpetrators sentenced in 2014.

## 2.2 Development of the Country Programme during 2013-2014

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 businesses mentoring, 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: life-saving and life-sustaining food distributions to the targeted vulnerable and displaced populations and improving the resilience of vulnerable host populations through improved agricultural production.

In food security in emergencies, FCA and LWF implemented the ECHO funded food security programme in the North Kivu province. Working with small farmers associations, the project sought to produce enough vegetables for the associations to market and sell. As a result, 14400 displaced and returnee households were supported, exceeding the target of 10800 households.

**In Right to Education (R2E)**, 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. Small Livestock Development. These curricula have been shared with local authorities and UNESCO in Kinshasa.

**In Right to Peace (R2P)** the *Alternatives* -project started with the aim of supporting 16 influential Congolese civil society members (civil society, staff members of the United Nations, former politicians, former rebels, women leaders, journalists etc. in finding alternative ways to promote peace building in DRC.

## 3. Evaluations and Studies

DRC Livelihoods Assessment was conducted in 2014 and its main conclusions have been addressed as much as possible in the planning of new projects. The main recommendations included:

- In livelihood programming a stronger linkage between good governance and Right to Peace is necessary.
- Increased funding for the credit scheme is necessary to reach all the youth that graduate from the FCA supported vocational training programme.

- The advocacy efforts to improve women's role in DRC should be increased.
- Increase synergy between partners' work would 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 enhance the sustainability of 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 projects, for example, saving and credit and income-generating activities could be more integrated in the project design.

## 4. Capacity Building

A specific capacity building programme was designed for FCA's 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 week, 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 impact 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)



Ville Asikainen

1. Financial Summary			
<b>Actual Costs:</b> EUR 1,141,386 MFA partnership agreement (PA) EUR 0,00			
Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary funding source
11383	CAR 131 ACT Appeal project	FCA self-implemented with some co-operation with local partner OSEEL	MFA humanitarian, FCA relief fund, other global financing, parishes
11500	Emergency support to re-establish education in the North-West region of Central African Republic	FCA self-implemented	MFA humanitarian
11516	R2P programme development project in CAR	FCA self-implemented	Private, parishes
11519	CAR Follow-up project of 11383 financed by UNICEF	FCA self-implemented	Unicef
11525	Global Partnership for Education project in CAR	FCA self-implemented	Unicef, MFA humanitarian
11533	CAR Country Programme Office	-	FCA relief fund

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-gong 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 the displacement of teachers and learners limited access to education in CAR. According to the CAR Education Cluster report (Feb 2014), 70% of the schools surveyed in Bangui had been attacked and looted, 48% in Ouaka and 44% in Ombella-Mpoko. The report also noted in February 2014 that 37% of the school children enrolled in school in 2012-2013 were not for 2013-2014. The quality of education is affected by the lack of capacity of the education authorities,

lack of learning and teaching materials and the overcrowded classrooms. Most teachers in CAR have not received any teacher training.

The UN agencies and INGOs prioritised and addressed the most pressing needs as identified in the CAR 2014 Strategic Response Plan. The temporary learning and protection programme, funded by UNICEF established temporary learning spaces (TLS) that continue to operate in many areas and will do so until schools are more secure. However, the continued population movements and violent clashes in some provinces challenged the provision of structured education, child protection activities and the timely delivery and supply of school supplies to schools that were starting to reopen.

2.1 Programme Objectives and Achievements

2.1.1 Right to Livelihood

There were no livelihood projects implemented in CAR in 2014

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**

- 53 schools rehabilitated by end of May 2015
- 3 latrines were rehabilitated as part of the MFA funded education project.
- 14 latrines in the 7 targeted schools rehabilitated and equipped with water points (ACT Appeal).
- 27 schools as part of the MFA (humanitarian) funded project were reequipped with the necessary furniture and teaching materials.
- 100% of the children surveyed as part of the ACT Appeal education project noted that they felt their learning environment had improved and was safer.
- 18 schools received learning and other materials as part of the MFA funded education grant. 4 more schools received school manuals.
- 4 Temporary learning Spaces have been rehabilitated. 1,080 children have taken part in the project activities (ACT Appeal).
- 358 children participated in TLS activities in the four IDP sites in Bangui (UNICEF).
- 72 PTA members and 7 school directors received training in community mobilisation, maintenance of project outputs and school reopening process (ACT Appeal)
- 10,151 learners took part in catch up classes, with 6,972 passing the final exam (UNICEF).
- Over 27,000 persons were sensitised on the importance of schooling and on community mobilisation (UNICEF).
- Distribution of school kits and back bags for 17,255 learners and 289 teachers (UNICEF).
- 72 members of the PTAs and 7 school directors participated in 4 different sensitisations on the management of

project outputs, such as rehabilitated schools, community mobilisation and reopening of schools (UNICEF).

- By end of May 2015, about 450 people will have benefited from Cash for Work activities (MFA humanitarian project).

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.**

- Baseline on the potential role of the traditional and religious leaders in conflict resolution has been completed and the conclusions and recommendations of the study have been integrated into FCA’s plans in R2P

2.2. Development of the Country Programme during 2013-2014

The Country Office was established in Bangui in August 2013. In late 2013 and during the first half of 2014 the focus of the Programme was on establishing a solid base for its operations in CAR. Later in 2014, the Country Programme was successful in obtaining funding from both MFA and UNICEF in education and the programme expanded rapidly.

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 will also include the peace education in schools.

3. 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, Begoua). 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.

4. 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.





Catianne Tijerina

## 5. Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

The challenges in 2014 did not have a major impact 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 Cameroun and the rainy season making some project areas inaccessible for a certain time,

The capacity of local authorities and partners is low and resources that they have available are few. In the given context promoting ownership and sustainability is particularly challenging.

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 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.).

## 3.3 East and Southern Africa

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

#### Actual Costs:

EUR 564,114

MFA Partnership agreement EUR 285,158

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary funding source
10741	Eastern Africa Regional Programme Office (ESARO)	-	MFA partnership agreement
11505	ESARO resource mobilisation	-	Private, parishes
11589	Eritrea Project, preparations	FCA self-implemented	Private
10007	Zimbabwe Integrated Rural Development Project	Lutheran Development Service-Zimbabwe	Private, parishes

### 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 partnerships with institutional donors, UN agencies, relevant government institutions and other INGOs both locally in the countries and regionally at the Nairobi level. In 2014, FCA was able to secure significant grants from Somalia Stability Fund, EUROPEAID 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.

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 61 staff members in the region, based in either the regional or country offices.



FCA, Somalia



Kenya



Finn Church Aid, Kenya

1. Financial Summary			
<b>Actual Costs:</b> EUR 313,487 MFA Partnership agreement EUR 113,642			
Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary funding source
11278	Turkana livelihood & DRR project	Local CBOs and Dioceses of Eldoret, Kitale and Lodwar	MFA partnership agreement
11280	Dadaab Education in Emergencies	LWF	MFA humanitarian, private
11440	REGAL-IR – Peace Building	Consortium lead by Adeso	USAID
11639	Conflict assessment in Northern Kenya	-	MFA other

2. Overview of the Kenya Programme

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 draught-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, FCA's 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 property, displacements, disruption of socio-economic activities and livelihoods, increased hatred between communities, food insecurity and malnutrition.

FCA's Kenya programme was launched in 2013 and entered in 2014 to its second year of implementation. While the education in emergency project in Dadaab refugee camp

continued up to March 2014, FCA was brought in to a US-AID-funded consortium led by Adeso to implement the peace component of a five-year REGAL-IR project that aims at improving resilience and economic growth in the arid and semi-arid land region. In this initiative, FCA focuses 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 FCA's project in Turkana closely link 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 addition to the original scope of livelihoods work. However, FCA acknowledges the need to address the livelihood related challenges of the communities as well, as many times the root causes of the conflicts relate to 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 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, as part of the Turkana livelihood and DRR project, FCA in collaboration with Catholic dioceses of Kitale, Eldoret and Lodwar procured and distributed 1,410 kg of maize seeds to 3,520 households. The seeds helped keep the communities who had been fighting to be engaged in farming activities rather than fighting. Many households also got a good harvest which ensured food security at the household level for the families who had lost their livestock to cattle rustlers.

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 emergency 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 witnessed to share 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. FCA's Kenya programme was launched in 2013; however some humanitarian responses had been implemented before as well. In 2013 FCA strongly focused on education in emergency 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 boundary 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-



ral resource-based conflicts are mainly driven by pastoralist lifestyle which is the main economic mainstay of the indigenous 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, 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 Isiolo, 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

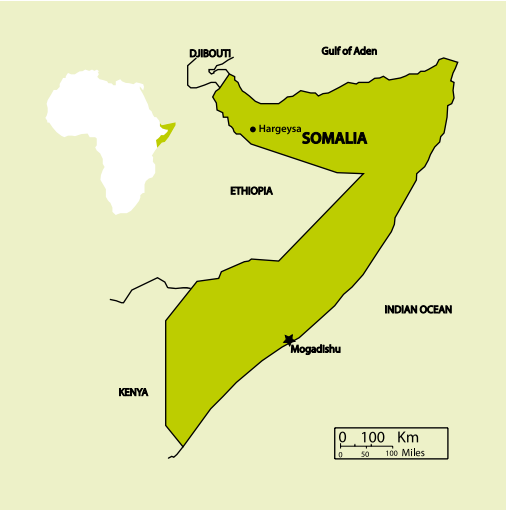
There is a high security risk in northern Kenya due to the ongoing conflicts and especially high prevalence of terrorist attacks around the area. In 2014, the risk did not directly affect FCA programming, but high security measures need to be taken while travelling in the northern counties.

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.



Hilkka Hyrkkö

Somalia



FCA, Somalia

1. Financial Summary

Actual Costs:  
EUR 2,511,730  
MFA Partnership agreement EUR 475,580

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary funding source
10781	Somalia Country Programme Office	-	MFA partnership agreement, private, parishes
11353	Somali Peoples Peace Initiative Project (SPPi)	HACP, Haqsoor	DFID
11406	Central Regions Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation Initiative – Preparatory Phase	CRD, HACP	DFID/ Somalia Stability Fund (SSF)
11434	The Peace Initiative in Bay and Bakool	FCA self-implemented	EUROPEAID, MFA other, private
11454	Emergency assistance to drought affected communities in Somaliland	CLHE	MFA humanitarian
11497	Facilitation of voluntary return and immediate recovery support for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in their places of origin in Somaliland	CLHE, HACP	MFA humanitarian
11503	Central Regions Peace Initiative Project (CRPIP) /Phase II	CRD	Somalia Stability Fund (SSF)

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 Indicator (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 0.776 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 functioning federal 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 for building governance and ensuring social service provision to the Somali people.

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. FCA partnered with Candlelight for Health, Education and Environment (CLHE), Haqsoor for Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development, Horn of Africa Center for Peace (HACP) and Center 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 pastoral households (616 female headed, 1169 male headed) and unconditional cash relief to 830 households (593 female headed, 237 male headed) in Somaliland. The households' purchasing power and access to basic necessities increased as they were able to re-open their credit lines and reduce selling their remaining animals. Furthermore, the cash for work activities strengthened the target villages' resilience by rehabilitating community assets such as doing soil conservation and constructing irrigation canals, roads and sand dams as part of the cash for work schemes.
- FCA started to work on IDP matters in a coordinated manner with other INGOs under UNHCR-led Return Consortium for Somalia. In the intention to return survey conducted in IDP settlements in Burao in Somaliland and

Galkayo in Puntland, many IDP households confirmed that they are willing to return to their villages of origin. As a result, FCA has supported 300 IDPs and 82 host community families. The post-return assessments confirm that the returnee families have expressed that their living conditions in the villages are better than in the IDP settlements in the urban towns. As a return package, the mainly pastoralist households were provided with goats, non-food items and food 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 otherwise 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 the recurrent production of the charcoal and related conflicts. This is believed to be the most effective way to address the livelihoods related conflict as the government of Somaliland considers clan chiefs as respectable members of communities to be in a better position to establish resolutions against the charcoal production. The government will take up the role of enforcing the regulation.

### 2.1.2 Right to Education

- In 2013-2014, FCA did not implement any education projects. While innovating and fundraising for new openings in the education sector, FCA focused its resources on implementing quality peace work and humanitarian interventions in the livelihoods sector.

Hikka Hurrkô



### 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 2013-2014, the SPPI project facilitated the resolution of 11 conflicts in the three target regions in Somaliland. In addition, during the latter half of 2014, regional peace committee of Sool managed to intervene in two erupted conflicts before they developed into fully fledged violent 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 and secure a ceasefire for the other conflict. Regarding the four conflicts resolved during 2014, each 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 Sool and Sanaag, reaching an overall female presentation of 23 per cent in the committees.
- In 2013-2014, the CRPIP project contributed to an articulated understanding of the value of safety and the continuity of safety in each of the conducted six preparatory 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-formal structures 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 Imams in Somaliland and Puntland participated in Imams' meetings where they reported having regularly preached about peace in their 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 what steps are required to resolve the conflict, 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 Somaliland (Sool and Sanaag regions) and Puntland (North Mudug region). 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 peacebuilding plans with five prioritised causes of conflict to be addressed by regional peace committees.
- Central Regions Interim Administration formation process facilitated in the CRPIP project aims at establishing an inclusive and fair administration that is able to fairly 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. Government of Somalia has taken an increasingly active role in the process, pushing for inter-clan dialogue.
- In 2014, the Ministry of Interior of Somaliland was supported to start drafting of the first National Security Strategic Plan.

## 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 Somaliland.

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 much 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 Somaliland 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.

## 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 emphasises 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 especially conflict-affected communities. Thus, following the Do No Harm -principle, FCA and its local partners puts 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 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 Somaliland to meet their immediate needs. Humanitarian interventions in Puntland and South-Central Somalia are currently not planned due to FCA's role as recognised actor in peacebuilding which might at some level compromise FCA's status 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.

## Uganda



LWF Uganda

## 1. Financial Summary

**Actual Costs:**  
EUR 780,805  
MFA Partnership agreement EUR 522,673

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary funding source
10078	Empowering Communities for Sustainable Livelihoods project (ECSL)	CoU/PDR	Common Responsibility Campaign (CRC)
10531	Women's Bank project	LWF Uganda	Women's Bank
10612	Kampala slum dwellers' advocacy and development project	LWF Uganda	MFA partnership agreement, CRC, private
10821	Pader Farmers Empowerment Project	LWF Uganda	MFA partnership agreement, CRC, private
11316	Uganda Capacity Building for Local Partners	UCAA	CRC
11437	RBA training for Uganda Partner Staff	FCA for the local partners	MFA partnership agreement, CRC
11438	Economic Empowerment and self- reliance for Women	UCAA	Women's Bank
11439	Support to ACT Uganda Forum	ACT Uganda	CRC
11498	Education in Emergency Assistance to the Congolese & South Sudanese refugees in Rwamwanja and Adjumani refugee settlements	FCA Uganda	MFA humanitarian
11526	Uganda Country Programme Office	-	MFA partnership agreement, CRC
11530	Education thematic and BTVEAssessments in Uganda	-	MFA partnership agreement, CRC
11603	Katakwi DRR Project	LWF Uganda	MFA partnership agreement, CRC, private

## 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 50 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 0.484 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. Uganda itself is a relatively stable country. The political situation has improved and multi-party system has been restored. However, tensions under the surface are evident and the actual power-sharing remains undone.

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-



cial, political, and ecological factors that impact on people's ability to live their full potential, from livelihoods interventions, disaster preparedness and risk reduction to education in emergency response in the refugee settlements. The rights-based approach in FCA's programming was further enhanced through organising a specific training in RBA for the partners' staff.

Right to Livelihood remains the main theme in FCA's Uganda Country Programme and is complemented by elements of Right to Education and Right to Peace. FCA geographically focuses its work in Central, Eastern and Northern regions of Uganda. In 2014, FCA in Uganda continued to partner with LWF Uganda, UCAA and CoU/PDR. Throughout the year, FCA was an active member of the ACT Alliance Uganda Forum, participating in the Forum's advocacy 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**

- 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 eldership to pass a bylaw for community members in waterlogged areas to continue desilting the tranches and plant trees. As a result, water-

logging 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 tenable. 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 without objection from their spouses or community. Around 80 per cent of the group members expressed that women can now 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. 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 mothers 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 have been in position to open individual income generating activities, including but not limited to retail business, goat rearing, poultry and drug shop. VSLA members' capacity has been built and all the VSLA 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.

**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 livelihoods**

- In the Katakwi DRR project, training was conducted for the District Disaster Policy Committee members on carrying out vulnerability assessment, hazard and risk mapping and 16 out of 20 members attended. In addition, 177 awareness sessions have been conducted; while 3 radio talk shows have been conducted on DRR-related information especially on water logging and droughts. As a result of these awareness campaigns, communities and local leaders have stepped up efforts to use DRR mitigation methods like digging trenches to maintain the gardens and keep the floods at bay which has provided more arable land for agriculture leading to a reduction in food insecurity. Communities managed to replicate demonstrated DRR practices including: proper hygiene and sanitation, constructing drainage/diversion channels for storm water, water resistant huts and pit latrines, digging of underground tanks to collect water for production. Joint monitoring and evaluation on implementation of DRR action plans by platform members was conducted. As a result, 10 Partners organisations developed joint monitoring tools for monitoring of all DRR activities in the district and reports submitted to the District Disaster Management Committee for planning.
- Citizen activism has been at the core of the Kampala Slum Dwellers' Advocacy and Development Project. Participation of slum dwellers in community/settlement and municipal forums has enhanced public policies responsiveness to the peoples' needs in the different regions. All the five divisions of Kampala city now have functional forums with a representation of all the different interest groups. The two regions of Jinja and Mbale have also had tremendous success as a result of these forums which have been popularised and become spaces for meaningful dialogue between the local governments and the people.

### 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**

- As a result of the Education in Emergency response, 6 semi-permanent classrooms were constructed in Rwamwanja refugee settlement for Congolese refugees and 6 semi-permanent classrooms in Adjumani refugee settlement for South Sudanese refugees. The classrooms were equipped with 510 desks. This provided comfortable learning spaces 1,530 refugee children enabling them to acquire education. In addition, the classrooms benefit the host communities as well reducing the burden of the refugee crisis on the Ugandan school system. The project emphasised community approach by working closely with the district leaders, other line departments, the parents and refuge welfare committees to ensure proper implementation of project activities in line with national education standards and create advocacy to keep children in school. This realised mainly through consultative meetings with the district leadership and community members before the start of the project to get their ideas and views on the implementation and joint monitoring of the project. This approach helped to create a sense of co-operation and collective responsibility in bringing education services nearer to the people in Rwamwanja refugee settlement and Adjumani. The project continued up to March 2015.
- As part of the ECSL project, 90 School Management Committee (SMC) members together with some members of Parents Teachers Associations (PTA) were oriented on their roles and responsibilities, rights of children, right to education and girls' education. As a result, an association for the Head Teachers and SMCs was formed by the participants to address common challenges faced by schools. Furthermore, the project organised child monitors' dialogue and advocacy meetings with key stakeholders including parents, county authorities and local community leaders. The child monitors brought up challenges such as poor performance in primary schools, challenges such as poor attention given to the pupils by parents, low teacher pupil ratio, poor pupil attitude towards education and the inadequate supervision by inspectorate department from the District Education Office among others. The pupil absenteeism has reduced, which can also be partly attributed to the activity of the child monitors.

### 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.**





- 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 peaceful 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 collaboration instead of seeing each other as enemies due to religious differences. 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.

2.2. Development of the Country Programme during 2013-2014

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) Strategic 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 started discussions aimed at strengthening the collaboration.

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 (RACOBABO) and Development Relief Initiative (DRI).

Thematically the Right to Livelihoods theme remained the priority theme for FCA in Uganda, but significant gains were made in Right to Education and Right to Peace programming as well as interlinking the three themes together.

In 2013-2014 FCA's refugee response focused on Education in Emergency operations, but through lessons learned in the Rwamwanja refugee settlement, in 2015 FCA is aiming at a more comprehensive way of linking relief, rehabilitation and development by addressing the growing level of unemployment among the Congolese refugees and host community youth with a longer-term BTVET project.

3. Evaluations and Studies

FCA conducted an education thematic assessment, which analysed the general education context in the country and specifically in the central and northern regions. The assessment provided recommendations that will assist FCA and its partners to plan and implement relevant and efficient initiatives in the education sector. The recommendations included, but were not limited to improving networking with relevant stakeholders in the education sector, researching the opportunities of government affordable Public Private Partnerships, focusing on improving quality of teaching e.g. through deploying Teachers without Borders volunteers and linking BTVET learning to employment creation.

Later in 2014, the education thematic assessment was complemented with a more specific BTVET assessment on Congolese refugees. The study examined the skills beneficial to Congolese refugee youth both in Uganda and DRC and the host community youth. Furthermore, the study assessed the current level of unemployment among both refugee and host community youth to establish alternative BTVET opportunities that the youth can engage into to earn living. The assessment led to designing of an initiative that supports employable skills and competencies relevant in the labour market of both Uganda and DRC. The project will be launched in 2015.

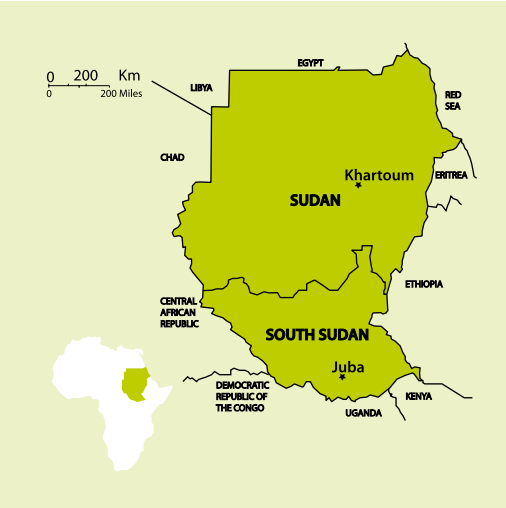
4. Capacity Building

FCA organised training for partners on rights-based approach in 2014. Altogether 29 staff members from LWF, CoU/PDR and UCAA participated in the training. The main focus was on strengthening the partners' capacity to shift focus from servicing needs to building capacity of individuals and communities to understand, claim and fulfil their rights. Furthermore, the participants were trained in approaching their own development as an ongoing process to enhance skills in building relationships with key duty-bearers, advocacy and designing strategic partnerships for effective delivery of development projects.

5. Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

No major setbacks occurred in 2014. There are certain limitations in the local partners' capacity in proposal writing and reporting and their understanding of FCA policies and operating procedures. In order to respond to this challenge FCA is committed to capacity building of partners. However, FCA assessed that in short-term the partners' capacity is not high enough to implement quality education in emergency response targeting especially learners with special needs in the Adjumani refugee settlement. Therefore FCA decided to choose self-implementation model for the new initiative launched in Adjumani in 2015.

South Sudan



Hilika Hyrkö

1. Financial Summary			
<b>Actual Costs:</b> EUR 1,887,680 MFA Partnership agreement EUR 827,862 EUR			
Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary funding source
10339	Sudan Ecumenical Forum, general support	SSCC (South Sudan Council of Churches)	Private
10598	South Sudan Country Programme Office	-	MFA partnership agreement
11131	Humanitarian programme support	-	MFA humanitarian
11221	Support to ACT capacity building initiatives	ACT forum	Private
11378	Jonglei Education and Emergency Preparedness & Response Project	LWF South Sudan	MFA humanitarian
11379	NCA-FCA Joint Emergency & Disaster and Risk Reduction Project	NCA	MFA humanitarian
11387	Emergency preparedness in Jonglei State, South Sudan	LWF South Sudan	MFA humanitarian
11445	Market Oriented Farmers Training and Development and civic education project (MOFTAD)	MRDA	MFA partnership agreement, private, parishes
11451	Kotobi teacher training and vocational training project	MRDA	MFA partnership agreement
11499	Education in Emergencies Response to Conflict Related Displacement in South Sudan	FCA self-implemented	MFA humanitarian, FCA relief fund
11510	ACT South Sudan Appeal - Conflict Response	MRDA, ACT Alliance	FCA relief fund
11527	Enhancing sustainable peace and inter-communal reconciliation in Jonglei	FCA together with CLMI	Parishes, Private
11531	Emergency Food Assistance for IDPs in Mundri West County, West Equatoria State	FCA self-implemented	Canadian Foodgrains Bank
11609	Feasibility Study on the Agricultural Value chains in Central Equatoria, South Sudan	-	Private

2. Overview of the South Sudan Programme

Year 2014 in South Sudan was characterised by the civil war stemming from a power struggle within the ruling party making the world's youngest nation one of the most fragile states in the world. The armed conflict broke out in December 2013 and escalated into an open war that engulfed approximately a third of the country. The conflict triggered mass displacement of some 1.9 million people, equalling to 16 per cent of the population. Around 1.4 million were internally displaced and half a million sought refuge from the

neighbouring countries. Furthermore, due to the conflict, South Sudan faced a severe food security and nutrition crisis; around 7 million people were estimated to be food insecure out of which 3.9 million in urgent need for assistance.

Even before the civil war, the economy of South Sudan was crippled by a devastated economy caused by years of pre-independence neglect, decades of liberation war, post-independence internal conflicts, marginalisation of rural economy, isolation of remote communities due to inaccessibility and countrywide shortage of skilled human resources.



The little progress made in urban education, health and basic 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 longer-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 and food security sectors, but at the same time holding on to the long-term development projects as well. Moreover, FCA engaged in reconciliation and peacebuilding 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 LWF South Sudan, and to coordinate its actions 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 average time the farmers spent on land preparation reduced from 7 to 2 day. In return, crop productivity almost doubled from an average half a ton per hectare to one to per hectare. Poultry farming activities saw each participant generate an average of USD 30 per month after only working 20 minutes per day allowing them to allocate 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, mechanics, 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 livelihoods**

- 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 Response, 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 Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the communities, 30 (27 male, 3 female) students were recruited and began their training in the Kotobi Institute of Teacher 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 either by the government or by private schools. All the students 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 learning 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 access 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 acknowledgement 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 reported 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 comfortable using the school latrines that were constructed. The awareness raising campaigns on e.g. WASH, peace, gender-based violence and child protection reached 4,163 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 participation of women and youth**

- In 2014, in the peace and reconciliation project in Jonglei state, CLMI and FCA facilitated community conferences 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 begun a dialogue that addresses the origin and history of the people, the roles of different members of the community, particularly 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 have started working on and documenting traditional conflict resolution 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 MOFTAD project's peace component, 6 new peace committees were established and 10 community-based civic educators were trained in 2014. Gender based violence (GBV) related problems were addressed through training 20 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, Jonglei mandated members of CLMI to facilitate peace and reconciliation processes in the project areas. 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 facilitated CLMI's work and trained them in conflict resolution, peace building as well as project management.



Finn Church Aid, South Sudan

## 2.2. Development of the Country Programme during 2013-2014

Due to the ongoing conflict, FCA was obliged to restructure its presence and work in the country. In early 2014 it became 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 offices 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 funding for a humanitarian response from Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Growth and self-implementation has meant significant 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 Country 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 temporary learning spaces (TLS). Given the conflict that erupted 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 assessed 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-specific 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 CLMI 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 geographic location. All in all, FCA has been able to hold on to its reputation of a neutral actor.

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 are 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 FCA’s 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 elder 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.

Mozambique



Ruth Muthoni

1. Financial Summary

Actual Costs:  
EUR 677,373  
MFA Partnership agreement EUR 677,373

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary funding source
10046	Gaza Integrated Community Empowerment Project	LWF Mozambique	MFA partnership agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign (CRC), private
10919	Xikheleni Urban Development Project	CEDES	MFA partnership agreement, CRC, private

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 178<sup>th</sup> 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-economical gains of the country. Furthermore, Mozambique is prone to natural disasters, particularly to flooding in the rural areas. Gaza province where one of the

FCA projects is 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 engaged in lobbying the government 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 dry 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 committees in coordination 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 local government in partnership with FCA's 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 conservational 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-activeness and preventive approaches led to minimal losses in 2014 floods in terms of e.g. land, food, animals and human lives.
- 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 VICOPA (village bank) groups functioning with 662 members, of whom 438 (66 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. VICOPA 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 training/skill development**

- In Xikheleni, 35 children (22 girls and 13 boys) were issued with poverty certificates in 2014. These certificates facilitated children and youth's access to school and communities have seen this as very relevant to help the households who cannot afford for their education. Furthermore, 32 children (18 girls and 14 boys) were also registered and issued with identification documents.
- In 2013, four CDCs in Gaza initiated three advocacy actions for rights and justice related problems affecting their communities, including education. The advocacy efforts continued in 2014 and as a result, government committed to build schools and water sources in 10 communities in 2015.
- Vocational and skills development opportunities are in place in both Gaza and Xikheleni serving altogether 171 (105 female, 66 male) youth in 2014.

### 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 Inhaminga 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.

### 2.2. Development of the Country Programme during 2013–2014

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 the 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 FCA's 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 DRR 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 FCA's programme 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



Ruth Muthoni

1. Financial Summary			
<b>Actual Costs:</b> EUR 906,605 MFA Partnership agreement EUR 0,00			
Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary funding source
10009	Moxico Integrated Sustainable Livelihoods and Community Empowerment	LWF Angola	RedNoseDay -campaign, private, parishes
10019	Humanitarian Mine Action Programme in Angola	DCA	MFA humanitarian (HMA)
10918	WESED Women Empowerment project	LWF Angola	Women's Bank

2. Overview of the Angola Programme

Angola has experienced a remarkable recovery since the over 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 explosive 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 FCA's exit. In addition, FCA's 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 SACSs. 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 IRPD 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 6 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 finalised 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.

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

- According to the final evaluation of the WESED project, by end of 2014, the project had contributed tremendously to women's socio-economic empowerment, through

increased 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.

**2.1.2 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.
- In the WESED project, literacy skills have empowered women not only in managing their SACSs but also their income generation activities. They are able to keep better records, as they have learned to read and write. Most of the women and men who attended adult literacy classes are able to read and write and make basic business calculations. Furthermore, the skills they have acquired in literacy classes are not only being used in SACS related activities, household and community levels but also for women's increased and improved capacity to take advantage of their participation in different forms of community processes often hindered by the lack of such skills in the past.

**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**

- The IRDP project initiated creation of human rights, justice and reconciliation groups and facilitated their 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.



## 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 partner.

## 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:

### IRDP 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 attractive 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 enhances self-sustainability; and high illiteracy rates among rural women hindering their active participation in important forums and positions in the community.
- The project has contributed to women's socio-economic empowerment, through increased 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, increasing their opportunities to become more active citizens. However, given some of the groups not being yet formally registered or linked to a government/private institution to ensure their long term sustainability, and some still experiencing operational challenges, they will still need time to be consolidated. In fact, capacities once developed also require continuous use, support and maintenance so that they do not degenerate
- The changes the SACS project is making in the lives of its beneficiaries and family members and community should be continued, consolidated and deepened. A commitment of at least a further 3 to 5 years, with an investment in creating and maintaining institutional memory, fed by an effective monitoring and evaluation function, would allow for learning, adjustment, and comparisons of methods and results over time. It would also allow a sustained investment in the skills, knowledge and commitment of those who lead and manage socio-economic development in the communities of Moxico and Lunda Sul.

- Given the government's interest in rural development and women's advancement, LWF should develop a strategy that allows SACS groups a privileged position in influencing debates on rural and women development through micro-finance initiatives. SACS groups experience particularly on governance, transparency and joint decision-making should inform operational procedures of any future forms of government support to rural micro-finance and business development.
- LWF should quickly identify good experiences of the establishment of community/rural banks or financial institutions to support the SACS groups if they continue to grow and hence handle larger sums of cash.
- 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.

## 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.



3.4 Asia

1. Financial Summary of the Regional Programme (Country Programmes not included)			
<b>Actual Costs:</b> EUR 1,737,199 MFA Partnership agreement EUR 358,493			
Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary funding source
10835	Asia Regional Programme Office	-	MFA partnership agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign (CRC), private
11028	ARO Staff and Partners Capacity Building	FCA to the local partners	MFA partnership agreement
11482	School Construction Response to Typhoon Haiyan in Philippines	NCCP, ACT Alliance	Parishes, private, Other Global financing
11479	ARO resource mobilisation	-	Parishes, private
11496	Typhoon Haiyan in Philippines - ACT Appeal PHL131	ACT Alliance	MFA humanitarian
11524	Context and thematic assessments in ARO	-	MFA partnership agreement
11617	Typhoon Hagupit in Philippines 2014	NCCP	FCA relief fund

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 marginalised groups through activities supporting social and economic empowerment. Women and youth are our main focus groups in the region. FCA has expanded its presence, strengthened the local networking and partnerships and built capacity of the staff and partners to ensure high quality results.

Political developments in our programme countries are generating broad demand for reform in key sectors of the economy and governance as well as improved social service delivery. Such reforms are often sensitive and can represent an important challenge for development.

Asia is one of the most disaster prone area in the world. Many people live on flood plains or are exposed to seasonal cyclones. Nepal and Myanmar are geographically located in earthquake prone areas. Natural disasters not only place human lives at risk but also undermine development. In the FCA Country Programmes disaster risk reduction and climate change were integrated into sustainable livelihood development to ensure communities' resilience. Fortunately, there were no major disasters in 2014 in FCA programme countries, even though other countries in the region and especially Philippines were affected by severe typhoons.

Although there were no major natural disasters, some smaller ones occurred in FCA's programme countries. For example, in Nepal flash floods in Kailali, Far-West Region affected communities. Relief support was provided to se-

verely 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 conflicts. 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 to 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

financial support to FCA's implementing partners in order to enable them to enhance their organisational and personal skills as effective stakeholders of civil society, and offering training and technical support related to FCA's own thematic focus areas as well as cross cutting issues. In 2014 FCA organised two major national events in Cambodia, FinnEd – Finnish Education Forum and Agricultural Co-operative Roundtable meeting; and one event in Nepal to promote coordination and collaboration as well as to share best practices in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET). FCA organised regional study tours/exchange visits for project partners from Nepal, Cambodia and Myanmar to learn and share practices for example on livelihoods related work. Capacity building is not only limited to the partners. FCA staff also attended trainings and developed their skills and knowledge on various issues, in order to better support partners and implementation of programme activities. Established in May 2011, FCA's Asia Regional Office (ARO) in Phnom Penh, consisted at the end of 2014 of 11 staff,

of which 9 staff were based in Cambodia, one staff (programme coordinator) based in Nepal and one staff (humanitarian coordinator) based in Myanmar. In addition, FCA Global Grants (ECHO) adviser was based at ARO. ARO 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 network and build strategic relationships across the region with local and international NGOs, UN agencies, donors and relevant government ministries and to bring advocacy messages from local communities to decision makers. During the reporting period ARO has hosted both local and international volunteers, providing young Cambodians opportunities to gain valuable working experience and getting additional support and technical inputs from Finnish specialists in the areas of education and media and communication.



Rami Kolehmainen



Myanmar



Ville Asikainen

1. Financial Summary			
<b>Actual Costs:</b> EUR 838,094 MFA Partnership agreement EUR 150,850			
Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary funding source
10993	Integrated Rural Development Project (IRDP) Myanmar	LWF Myanmar	MFA partnership agreement, private, parishes
11227	MYA Programme Development	Metta	MFA partnership agreement
11294	Kachin IDP response through protective value of livelihood and education opportunities	Metta and FCA	MFA humanitarian
11395	Urgent Assistance for School Students Affected by a Typhoon in Thapayay Kan Ah Thin Village, Bago Region, Myanmar	Metta	FCA relief fund
11432	Project for Improving Women's Livelihood	LWF Myanmar	Women's Bank
11461	EU Children of Peace Initiative - Education assistance to children in IDP camps in Rakhine State, Myanmar	LWF Myanmar	ECHO, private, parishes

2. Overview of the Myanmar Programme

With 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 the last year. Myanmar was identified as one of twelve “extremely vulnerable” countries globally in the 2013/2014 ECHO Global Vulnerability and Crisis Assessment.

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 State areas FCA's interventions are more humanitarian in nature and linkages have been

created for rehabilitation and resilience on longer term. Due to the armed conflict in these areas the displacement is dispersed in small camps and clusters. The number of registered internally displaced people (IDP) across Kachin and N. Shan States has reached 98,000 as of OCHA Bulletin December 2014. In this area FCA has in partnership with Metta provided assistance to IDP's with MFA humanitarian funding, promoting access to education, and providing skills and vocational training and livelihood opportunities. The escalation of fighting during the project implementation in N. Shan and Kachin states impacted the intervention. As the number of IDPs increased and new camps developed during the implementation, 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, right 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 in 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 partner of FCA for long-term livelihood support projects was LWF.

ACT Forum Myanmar is active and well-functioning. Towards the end of 2014 the thematic focus has been in peace as members are sharing their experiences and plans around it. FCA has been actively involved in Forum even without permanent representation in Myanmar. FCA Asia Regional Office is emphasising the importance of establishing its official presence in the country from 2015.

**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**

- With FCA-supported IRDP 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.

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

- In 2014 a new project was launched with Women's Bank funding to improve food security and income of women through agriculture/livestock activities and small businesses. 12 Women groups (WG) were supported with capacity building in organisational development and functioning. They received also support to develop their credit & savings guidelines. 45 trained members of WG's were active in Entrepreneurship Development Network

Asia (EDNA), networking with other women involved in small business and entrepreneurship. 181 members made regular savings and 30 new businesses were started by the group members in 2014. 152 women took loan to initiate or improve their small businesses, and another 55 women received training in agriculture and livestock production, helping them to improve their productivity.

- Focus groups for women and youth increasingly participate in Village Development Committees as members and participants addressing social issues (child rights, violence, gender, trafficking and sports). 11 out of 12 Women's groups were able to mobilise resources to support, lead and manage village development works with active participation of WG' members. 21 WG members were involved in making Village Development plans in their respective villages. They also organised events related to for example domestic violence and human trafficking in four townships. Leadership trainings were provided to 1-2 members per group, improving their confidence in decision making.

**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 livelihoods**

- Villages have improved their practices related to environmental conservation, natural resources management, disaster risks reduction and climate change adaption. 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.

**2.1.2 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 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



and 1,333 female) of 501 households received start-up funds and training for livelihood initiatives in Laiza and N. Shan. Trainings were provided in basic financial management, agriculture and animal husbandry, food preservation, soap making, handicraft & carpentry and stove making.

**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 Temporary 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) are having 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 Ayeyarwaddy, Chin and Kachin 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.



Ville Asikainen

## 2.2. Development of the Country Programme during 2013-2014

- Prior to 2013, FCA work in Myanmar has been based on ad hoc needs 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 commis-

sioned Right to Peace thematic analysis in 2014 as basis for planning, as well as a 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 LRRD.
- 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 IDP 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-lead involvement of civil society in UPR 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.

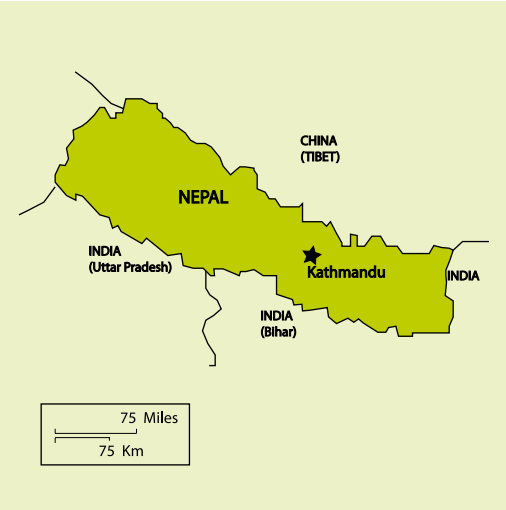
Although men and women are equally excluded from many political and social processes, women bear the brunt of the effects of oppression more than men due traditional gender systems. This results in a situation of double exclusion for women. It has been observed in both humanitarian assistance initiatives 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 IDPs' 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.

Nepal



Asdis Bjarnadottir

1. Financial Summary

Actual Costs:  
EUR 693,891  
MFA Partnership agreement EUR 523,636

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary funding source
10794	Defending Human Rights of Dalits	NNDSWO	MFA partnership agreement
10836	NEP Programme Development	UCEP	MFA partnership agreement, private, parishes
10837	Nepal field presence	-	MFA partnership agreement
11141	Enhancing Dignity of Freed Haliyas, Kamaiyas and Kamlaharis	LWF Nepal	MFA partnership agreement, private, parishes
11412	POWER- Promotion of Women's Economic, Social and	LWF Nepal	Women's Bank
11459	Cultural Rights in Lalitpur		
	Nepal Development Programme 2014-2016	LWF Nepal	MFA partnership agreement, private, parishes

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 neighbouring 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 Programs (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.



The Right to Peace theme was also developed as part of the Country Programme, and FCA identified a Nepalese NGO World Vision Advocacy Forum (WVAF) as a new partner. Defending human rights of Dalits project has been slightly modified by the implementing partner Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization (NNDSWO) to incorporate peace components. Emphasis has been put to increase participation and contribution of women and youths in peace building process. Particular attention was given to improved access to land, reducing domestic violence, promoting gender equality and social inclusion, as well as monitoring and documenting human rights violation cases of Dalits. Capacity building of rights-holders and duty-bearers to implement the national and international human rights instruments was further supported.

In 2014 FCA continued to operate its Programme in Nepal with one staff (Country Programme Coordinator) based in the country.

## 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 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 established kitchen gardens 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 farm and non-farm income. About 600 farmers belonging to 30 groups were trained in Innovative agricultural activities and appropriate technologies such as Systemic 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 each per year. 316 families of this group have been provided with irrigation facilities through three irrigation schemes, helping them to improve the production levels. Another 280 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 400 each 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 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 437 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 supports. 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 without 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-managed co-operatives 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 130,037 (66 %) is being mobilised among share holder members as 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. Tons of vermi-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 powder) has been explored.
- 107 couples (9 Dalit, 59 Ethnic Minors, and 39 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 345-1380 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 106 disaster risk management plans. 1,593 the most at 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 bio-engineering schemes. Five VDCs have emergency funds of USD 2,810.
- 4,373 families have enhanced their coping capacities adopting climate change adaptation practices. The supported communities have installed smokeless cooking stoves and bio-gas plants to minimise greenhouse gas emissions, have used flood and drought resistant crop varieties, changed their cropping patterns, and reduced the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, increased the use of biological pesticides and organic manures, raised house plinth level and grain storage, and practiced zero tillage and river bed farming.

**Local communities/rights- holders and duty-bearers work together to provide adequate and sustainable legislative 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. Commitment has been received from District Development Committee and other local level agencies for example to promote women's access to local resources and services.
- As result of advocacy and lobbying, 837 freed Kamaiya (669 women) families received from the government 140 hectares of land, and timber worth USD 810,060 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 early childhood development center and education.

- 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 which 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, many 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 freed Haliya and ex- Kamaiya families, were re-enrolled in higher education and provided with full financial support to secure technical degree in Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) and Agriculture and veterinary technicians. Improved access to TVET has contributed to diversify livelihood alternatives and sources of income.
- Support was provided to the modernisation of Sano Thimi Technical School (STTS), run by a new FCA partner UCEP. Modernisation of the school has contributed to improve the training quality. 121 trainees have been graduated in 10 different potential employable trades in 2014. Out of them, 40 were women three-wheeler tempo drivers. The tempo driver women are now preparing for four wheeler driving license, and efforts are in place to help them finding jobs at public micro-bus, private companies and office drivers. Basic tools and implement kit boxes have been provided to all 121 graduates. 99 graduates have secured their job with salary ranging between USD 600 – 1,140 per annum as an initial level income which will be increased as they gain experience.

**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**



- School enrolment campaigns succeeded in raising awareness among parents and resulted in improved enrolment and retention of primary level students. Awareness of the causes and consequences of school drop-out has resulted in 100 % primary school enrolment in 4 VDCs of Kailali district. Furthermore, 412 dropped-out students belonging to freed Haliya families were re-enrolled in primary level, and 355 ex-Kamlaris and freed Haliya girls were provided with full scholarship support to continue their secondary level education. 156 (51 % girls) school drop-outs passed 10th grade after being enrolled in 4 tuition centers. Computer classes were provided to 178 school drop-outs (49 % girls). 126 children (62 % girls) were enrolled in community-based Early Childhood Development Centers.
- With FCA support during 2013-2014, 106 community and district level as well as 7 secondary school level disaster risk management plans were put in place. The school management committees (SMCs), teachers, parents and students are prepared for disasters through quiz competitions, simulation exercises, mitigation measures, and trainings. 1,481 community members contributed to establish small scale mitigation measures and safety nets, including disaster proofed, child and environmentally friendly learning spaces to implement EiE programmes successfully in case of emergencies.

**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 violation.

- Rights-holders have organised themselves to influence relevant policies and legal frameworks. The capacity of district and national federation of freed Haliyas, Freed Kamaiya Women Development Forum, Kamlari networks, kamaiya 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 project support 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 co-operation 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 bonded 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 vital registrations 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-Kamaiyas 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 Women, 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 participated in and 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 Kamaiya 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 position 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, Kamaya 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-



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holders in increasing their access to natural and political assets. The project has done tremendous efforts to collaborate with duty-bearers in agriculture and land sectors, but the evaluators recommend that it should additionally work with other relevant duty-bearers for example in forestry and education sectors. The project has implemented wide range of interventions to improve the livelihoods of the different sections of rights-holders. Some of the interventions such as co-operative establishment and extension, and income generating activities have been highly beneficial. The scattering of the land ownership is a broader problem in Nepal and it is recommended by the evaluation that some sort of consolidation measures can be deployed in this regard. Similarly, off-farm employment activities need to be put in the focus. The project has implemented various organisational development activities, which has helped the stakeholder institutions to become more effective. There is further need of conducting collaborative movements and advocacy work by all the concerned right-holders' organisations. The recommendations of the evaluation have been taken into account when planning the new phase of the project starting in 2015.

4. Capacity Building

The knowledge base and skills of partner staff in the areas of financial management, audio visual documentation, gender and social 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 guideline, 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 pilot of peer learning, wherein 4 staff from LWF and SOLVE and 5 staff from partners of FCA Cambodia participated.

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 fulfil 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 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.

Cambodia



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1. Financial Summary

Actual Costs:  
EUR 965,848  
MFA Partnership agreement EUR 393,184

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary funding source
10049	Integrated rural development through empowerment project (IRDEP)	LWD	MFA partnership agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign (CRC), private
10953	Women: Hope and Growth	LWD	Women's Bank
11177	Landmine and ERW clearance for development	Mines Advisory Group (MAG)	MFA humanitarian (HMA)
11218	Women In Action project (WIN)	CWCC	Women's Bank
11225	CAM Programme Development	FCA self-implemented	MFA partnership agreement
11435	Land and Livelihood Advocacy Project (LLAP)	LWD	MFA partnership agreement, CRC
11534	Enhance Career Guidance at Secondary Education	FCA with the MoEYS	Parishes

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 councillors 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 education level 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 in all development work in the country. 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 (CCN) 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 of 60 communes in 11 districts of five provinces; Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang, Pursat, Battambang and Siem Reap, and Phnom Penh Municipality.

## 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, MAG finished demining 12 minefields, and released 368,287m2 of land (almost double compared to 2013). At least around 514 families, composing of 2,458 people including 1,221 females have used the road that has been cleared in Phnom Proeuk district, allowing safe transportation of their agricultural products to markets and safe access to school for children. Released land has been used for building houses and development of livelihood activities. Communities received mine risk education and now know how to protect their lives and livelihoods.
- 32 Agriculture Co-operatives (AC) have been supported in 2013-2014 in two LWD projects (IRDP and Women: Hope and Growth), bringing economic benefits to their members and the wider local community. The AC's help their members to develop their productive

activities and businesses by providing them with loans and trading inputs and materials. AC also encouraged farmers to produce and sell collectively agriculture products and facilitated the access to market for better price. 1,650 households including 1,155 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 Agriculture Co-operatives (WAC) 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 gain profit 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 and at lower price.
- 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, food security and nutrition. 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, equity and responsiveness 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 increasingly 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 were organised to strengthen 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 vegetables in sacks helping 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, establishment and functioning of rice banks, community pond construction, etc. In this only, at least 1,220 households benefited from DRR activities.

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

- Through the Integrated Rural Development through Empowerment Program (IRDEP), commune council members in 45 Communes have received capacity building support, and have demonstrated better performance of their roles and responsibilities. Many commune councils played more active role in supporting village level governance and CBO's to plan, implement and monitor development activities and initiatives, and showed more positive attitude and behaviour towards transparency and accountability to their citizens. 325 Village Development Committees (VDCs) have also improved their capacity, developed funding proposals and submitted them to the relevant government institutions at sub-national levels. VDCs have also built up their networks with government and NGOs, playing important roles in advocacy for better social services provision.
- 53 people (villagers, Village Development Committee members and village leaders) including 11 women attended 3 days training on land law, land registration and basic Alternative Dispute Resolution / Conflict Management and Mediation for Land Dispute in two provinces. As the result of capacity building, seven land dispute cases were received and three land cases were successfully mediated by these trained participants
- FCA together with other actors organised 3 major events in 2014 bringing together different actors ranging from local communities to ministry level to discuss challenge and solutions to livelihood related issues:
  - 5<sup>th</sup> National Farmers' Forum with the theme “*Together to Empower Smallholder Farmers towards Market Oriented Interventions and Climate Resilience in Agriculture*” was the biggest, attended by 856 participants (325 women) including senate members, parliamentarians, diplomats, farmers’

representatives, donors, development partners, and provincial authorities.

- “8<sup>th</sup> National Advocacy Conference” with the theme “*Working together to promote effective reform on Land and Natural Resources Governance in Cambodia*” discussed how to strengthen existing mechanisms of land conflict resolution and improve good governance on land and natural resources management in contributing to respecting human rights and sustainable livelihoods in Cambodia.
- Roundtable discussion on Agriculture Co-operative Development in Cambodia aimed to promote common understanding among key actors of the purpose and role of ACs for rural community economic development; identify needs and key challenges facing ACs in business development; document best practice/key success factors for ACs in Cambodia and discuss potential mechanism for co-operation and information sharing amongst ACs support organisations and input for an AC policy to government.

### 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 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 committees 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 life skills. Education materials were provided to 526 children from poorest households, helping to reduce dropout rate.
- FCA's partner Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre (CWCC) organised various campaigns and awareness raising events on girls' education and children's rights, reaching directly 1163 people. To improve their chances to find employment and / or continue their studies, 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 Hospitality” 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 Coordination 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 IRDP 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 to form 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 create 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 Disciplines 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 religions - 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



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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 4 past 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.

### 3. Evaluations and Studies

Integrated Rural Development Project (IRDEP): 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 IRDP, 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) implemented 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 to 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 (CWED) to FCA to address the evaluation findings and continue supporting and building the capacity of the WACs and VBs

4. Capacity Building

FCA 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 LWD’s 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 CCN 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 was incorporated in the development of the proposal for Co-operation for Women’s Economic Development (CWED) 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 LWF 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 than is 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 which needed involvement and participation from community were also postponed, as the government put restrictions on meetings and assemblies.

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 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.

LWF’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 also increasingly recognising and acknowledging the role of CSOs in Cambodia development work.

3.5 Latin America and the Caribbean

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

<b>Actual Costs:</b> EUR 480,165 MFA Partnership agreement EUR 480,165			
Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary funding source
11251	Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Programme Office	-	MFA partnership agreement, private, parishes

2. Regional Programme Overview

FCA’s programme countries in Latin America and the Caribbean region include Haiti in the Caribbean and Guatemala and Honduras in Central America. Countries differ in geography, history and culture, but share some common features.

The region is characterised by a long history of political instability and weak governance, high levels of insecurity, inequality, discrimination and environmental degradation, as well as natural and also manmade disasters affecting livelihoods as the main development issues. Out of the three countries, Haiti is poorest and has additionally suffered from a devastating earthquake in 2010: the reconstruction has been slow and has been hindered by the political instability. The general insecurity due to presence of gangs, drug cartels and organised crime and militarization either by

own forces or as the perceived need to have foreign stability forces to maintain security, are creating challenges for sustainable development efforts. At the same time, roots causes of the instability and insecurity are found in the structural poverty and inequality, lack of inclusive social policies and educational opportunities, fragile social structures and migration flows, as well as high levels of corruption and impunity. These are widely left unattended due to governance that is neither accountable nor transparent. The social and political problems are further increased by the environmental degradation and climate change, which is affecting the region intensely.

FCA in the Latin American and the Caribbean region is contributing to supporting the local civil society actors and communities in strengthening their resilience and address-



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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 and 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 main themes of common effort included the training of partners on gender equality, as well as advocacy on the new NGO law in Haiti and the discriminatory treatment of people of Haitian descent in the Dominican Republic.

Capacity building of the staff and partners is very important for FCA in the region and globally. Capacity building is carried out by supporting financially FCA partners in enhancing their organisational and professional skills as effective stakeholders of civil society, as well as offering training and technical support in FCA’s thematic focus areas and cross cutting issues. 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 CLIO’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.

Central America (Guatemala & Honduras)



Ville Asikainen

1. Financial Summary

Actual Costs:  
EUR 691,817  
MFA Partnership agreement EUR 527,130

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary funding source
10125	CLAI - support to the pastoral of youth and Culture of Peace	CLAI	Common Responsibility Campaign (CRC)
10631	Central American Advocacy Program in the European Union	ACT Alliance EU/ Aprove	CRC
10841	Central American Capacity Building Program and Specialization in Gender and Strategic Disaster Risk Reduction	LWF Central America	MFA partnership agreement, CRC
10949	Women's socioeconomic empowerment in Alta Verapaz	LWF Central America	Women's Bank
11034	Promoting Human Development through Access to Peace and Justice	CIPRODEH	MFA partnership agreement, CRC
11168	Strengthening of local governance for livelihoods development in Apacilagua, Honduras	Christian Aid	MFA partnership agreement, CRC
11388	Central America FCA support for exit	FCA for the partners	MFA partnership agreement, CRC
11457	LWF Central America Program: Life, Dignity, and Justice for the Peoples of Central America	LWF Central America	MFA partnership agreement, CRC
11540	LWF Central America Capacity Building in Resource Mobilisation	LWF Central America	MFA partnership agreement, CRC
11613	Humanitarian Support to Drought affected in Central America	LWF Central America	FCA relief fund

2. Overview of the Central America Programme

FCA Central America Programme focuses on Honduras and Guatemala, although it also has a regional approach (Guatemala, Honduras, 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



lack sustainable means and incentives to enable livelihoods for the majority of the population. Central America is also very prone to disasters and various natural hazards, and climate change is further challenging the coping mechanisms of the population. In 2014, Central American countries were especially affected by prolonged dry season and lack of rain-fall causing drought and loss of harvests as high as 100 per cent.

Central America Country Programme tackles these problems through three thematic objectives: Right to Peace, Right to Livelihoods and Right to Education. These are interlinked, but the programme has a relatively strong focus on R2L and R2P. Main areas of work are sustainable and resilient communities, strengthened participation of youth, women and men in community and municipal development, as well as strengthened local capacities to advocate for more inclusive and just policies. R2P work in Central America has a strong focus on rights and participation, the FCA strategic themes until 2013, which have not been systematically developed during the current strategy period in the Country Programme. In the end of 2013 FCA decided to exit from Central America and 2014 was marked by exit negotiations with partners. Strong focus on the exit process has been on supporting the sustainability of the projects and capacities of partners during the exit phase 2014 - 2016.

FCA has five partners in Central America covering following working areas: Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Central America Programme (Guatemala, Honduras and regional), Dan Church Aid and Centro de Investigación y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (CIPRODEH) (Santa Rosa de Copán, Nueva Arcadia, San Pedro de Copán and Cucuyagua in Honduras), Christian Aid and Centro de Desarrollo Humano (CDH) (Apacilagua, Choluteca in Honduras), Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI) (Honduras, regional) and an international partnership with APRODEV. FCA has no direct collaboration with ACT Forum Central America or the ACT national fora in the programme countries due to lack of presence in the region. However, most of our partners in Central America are ACT members and we have joint projects with ACT members having presence in the region. FCA also supported the ACT Appeal on Central America Drought (El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua) in 2014. It was 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 their 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 were installed in Guatemala, improving 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 diversification of agricultural production and small economic initiatives to increase their income. As a result, 84 family gardens 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 Associative 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**

- 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 organised in the network of Local Coordinators for Disaster Reduction (COLRED) and participate in municipal instances for the protection of natural resources. During 2013-2014 over 350 members COLREDs have strengthened skills in risk management, contingency plans and basic tools in emergency response, being able to improve the living conditions and better respond to hazards affecting their communities.
- In Apacilagua, the drought Early Warning System was designed and the process defined, including installation of field equipment, training of community participants in reading and collection of data. The equipment (rain gauges, environmental thermometers and soil moisture meters) will be handled by the community members trained in 2014: 24 men, 30 women and 24 youth. The system will provide information on weather conditions and support families in making decisions regarding livelihood activities. Information on the nutritional situation of small children, morbid-

ity and birth rate will also be collected. The information generated at local level can feed for the national strategies for livelihoods development and Disaster Risk Reduction of both governmental and non-governmental entities. The project is also contributing to the strengthening of the regional risk management platform integrated by organisations and institutions operating in the southern region and a committee responsible monitoring the implementation of the Regional Risk Management Agenda.

- Central American Capacity Building Program and Specialization in Gender and Strategic Disaster Risk Reduction continued and 7 docents and tutors were hired, and a study curriculum, including 4 modules (48 lecture hours in 2 seminars and 120 lecture hours divided into 40 sessions) was designed and in implementation in 2014 (<http://www.elearninglwf.org/>). 33 students from different organisations (LWF partners, NGOs, Attorney for the Defence of Human Rights and Permanent Round Table for Risk Management) finished studying the module 1 with focus on gender studies and started the module 2 on gender, public policies and risk management. Also a seminar on Emergency Preparedness Plans and Emergency Response with gender focus and a workshop on Community based psychosocial support were organised.

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

- Within the LWF Central America Program in 2014, an agreement with 3 municipalities, Manto, Salamá and Silca (Olancho, Honduras), was achieved in support of the productive activities of families. As a result, livelihoods and food security was strengthened by fencing 42 family plots, and by providing 40 micro-irrigation systems. The university studies of 5 PACO youth were also supported with a monthly scholarship. During 2013 and 2014, the community youth environmental promoters PACOs have been strengthened and 56 people have been trained in environment protection and advocacy. Organised youth have an advocacy plan for the insertion of youth in local development and fundraising plan for the recycling microenterprises and installation of nursery gardens for income generation. 7 schools have established school gardens with the support from PACO youth, improving the nutritional values of the school snacks.
- The Women's Bank project in Guatemala made great efforts towards greater empowerment and leadership of 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 now form 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. Various joint activities have been coordinated, as well as demands and proposals made. Six communities supported by the Pop Noj Association have advanced in the legal land ownership and have strengthened skills regarding the defence 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 American 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**

- A total of 195 rural indigenous women in 25 communities received literacy training. 90 % of the women finished the first year of training, know the alphabet and numbers from 1 to 100, and can do basic arithmetic operations. The women have also learnt important study skills and are taking small steps towards literacy.
- 542 women and 82 men have strengthened skills in resource management, through participation in trainings on family budgeting and business administration. They also have strengthened practical skills related to income and expenses, gains and losses and business plans, as well as agricultural skills in order to improve their livelihood opportunities. Women's groups have identified small economic initiatives to be implemented in 2015 and have participated in the decision making related to these initiatives.
- In Honduras, local structures and youth leadership skills in Manto, Silca and Salamá have been strengthened through Leadership schools. Youth have been trained in context analysis, participation, leadership, and they participated in preparing advocacy agendas and a strategic plan for MAO (strategic partner of LWF). In 2013 and 2014, 167 youth participated in the training process. In 2014, 4 advocacy agendas were elaborated and the youth replicated 15 trainings in their communities, further promoting the organisation



and participation of the youth, and demanding the fulfilment of their rights by the municipal authorities.

### 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**

- 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 130 women has strengthened the rights-based approach and gender equality within 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 observatories 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 capacities and to develop actions aimed at preventing gender based violence. The project has also contributed to the strengthening of youth networks in both municipalities. In Cucuyagua 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 Apacilagua. Six community based Violence Prevention Committees were formed, focusing on citizen advocacy and political participation, and they have a set 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 Cucuyagua 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 Mezquital, Villa Lobos I/II, Santa Isabel I/II, La Isla, Unidos por la Paz and El Búcaro, the youth movement is counteracting violence and positioned as agents of change in building a culture of peace.
- More than 500 rural indigenous women organised in community groups 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-operation with other actors in demanding the fulfilment of 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

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 reaching 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 despite 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 Apacilagua, 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 R2E 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 strategy for 2014 – 2019 continues supporting 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 work and 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 Apacilagua (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. However, work with young women still 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 transportation of 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.

### 4. 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 seasons of agricultural production, with harvesting and temporary income opportunities outside the communities. Due to this 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 weekends. 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 community development. In this context, promotion and implementation of water harvesting systems and alternative economic initiatives have been significant respond to the challenge.

Haiti



Marjut Tervola

1. Financial Summary			
<b>Actual Costs:</b> EUR 1,313,026 MFA Partnership agreement EUR 606,254			
Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary funding source
10274	Integrated development and sustainable livelihoods in rural West, Southeast and Grand Anse departments of Haiti	LWF Haiti	MFA partnership agreement, private, parishes
10795	Crossing the boundary: Monitoring and Education for Change	RNDDH	MFA partnership agreement
10959	Building the capacities and strengthening the socioeconomic situation of rural women in Haiti	LWF Haiti	Women's' Bank
10978	ACT schools / Haiti Appeal	FCA self-implemented	Parishes, Private
11003	Reconstruction of Earthquake and Hurricane Resistant Schools UNDP	FCA with BAEH	UNDP, Private
11017	Christian Ville / former St. Pierre school	FCA self-implemented	Parishes
11018	School reconstruction MLAL	FCA self-implemented	Private
11033	Programme on Adaptation to the Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction	SCH	MFA partnership agreement
11255	Peace and tolerance education in schools	MISSEH	MFA partnership agreement
11274	Renafanm vocational school reconstruction	CPB	ICCO
11293	IDB school construction programme	FCA self-implemented	Private, parishes
11341	Quality education project	FCA self-implemented	Canadian Foodgrains Bank
11389	Haiti Resource Mobilisation	FCA self-implemented	Private, parishes
11414	Quality school management with community participation	FEPH	MFA partnership agreement RedNoseDay -campaign
11416	Capacity building of local partners	FCA to the local partners	MFA partnership agreement
11417	Evaluation of LWF Haiti country strategy	LWF Haiti	MFA partnership agreement
11522	Haiti Context Analysis and Thematic Assessments	-	MFA partnership agreement

2. Overview of the Haiti Programme

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 out of 187 countries, defined as a country of “weak human development” and a 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 communities. They are not always open and visible but rather hidden in unjust structures and practices, 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 on 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.

In 2014 FCA had five implementing partners in Haiti. LWF Haiti continues to be long-term partner specifically in livelihood projects. We also continued working with the Réseau National de Défense de Droits Humains (RNDDH), Service Chretien Haiti (SCH) and Mission Sociale des Eglises Haitiennes (MISSEH). A new partnership was assessed and approved, and FEPH (Fédération des Écoles Protestantes d’Haïti) started to implement the project “*Support to quality education in Leogane and Gressier through the promotion of better school governance and reduction of risks for children*”. Co-operation with FEPH had already started in 2013, as service-providers in FCA’s self-implemented quality education project. In school construction work FCA partners with NCA in finalising the construction of water, sanitation and hygiene-related components of the schools. In addition, FCA continued to play an active role in the ACT Haiti forum. In 2014 the main effort focused on finalising the forum’s joint emergency preparedness plan. FCA also took upon the forum presidency for 2015. ACT co-operation continued on the joint climate change project, aiming at strengthening the capacity of the Haitian civil society to advocate towards the government to take stronger measures on climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to empower local communities to cope with the phenomenon.

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**

- Households in LWF project areas of Grand Anse and Ouest have increased access to formal financial services that enable them to expand their productive activities through savings groups (mutuelles de solidarité or MUSOs). Members of the savings groups, mostly women, affirm being able to expand their productive activities, such as animal husbandry, and being able to finance school fees and other family needs. Altogether, 116 MUSOs received financial and technical support in 2014, and have stronger capacities in financial management. They are organised in active networks that support and guide the individual groups.
- 462 households have increased their capacities to engage in ecological farms for increased income generation. During 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.
- Income generating activities such as animal husbandry 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 around EUR 850 at the end of the year and the store managers have identified profitable ways to invest the funds, including the purchase of 16 sheep. The activities have a strong potential to increase revenues and multiply the benefit for a larger group of community members. The community store has enabled bread bakers to increase their profit margin by 125 HTG (Haitian Gourdes, 2.3 EUR) due to decreased travel costs, in addition to saving time for other activities.

**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 profit for 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 access to different resources, such as finance and information. Training on reproductive health and rights, gender equality and literacy is attacking the



root causes behind the gender gaps. Some participants are starting to develop leadership in community development and have increased access to local level decision-making and political activities.

- Also the participants of the 116 MUSOs supported within the LWF Haiti Country Program are mainly women, who now have increased access to financial resources.

**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 (131 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 co-operation 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 have necessary equipment. 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 Palmes, 19,500 bamboo seedlings were produced and 15,344 transplanted. The construction of water catchment structures (Macaya and Forêt des Pins) ensures a sustainable access to water even during periods of drought.

- Within the ACT Forum joint programme, 70,000 seedlings were produced and planted in the deforested mountains in Seguin. Community members are mobilised and support reforestation activities: 14 nursery staff and 81 volunteers were trained. In Ounaminthe, 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 agricultural 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 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, environmental friendly schools with a total number of 44 classrooms were completed and are functioning, complying with Government of Haiti standards. As a result, approximately 1 476 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.
- 60 schools participating in the project Support to quality education in Leogane and Gressier through the promotion of better school governance and reduction of risks, have school councils in place, with the representation of directors, teachers, children and parents. They have received training on their roles and func-



Minna Elo

tioning as well as the importance of parent's role in school management. A capacity building plan for the staff of participant schools was created and teachers' skills in DRR and protection issues, as well as directors' skills in leadership, have been improved in 2014. After training on advocacy and child rights, school director networks in project areas have advocacy plans that focus on monitoring the implementation of the Government's Universal Education Programme, promotion of public libraries and the quality of school books. Dialogue has been established with authorities.

### 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 also 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. Local partners also organise "paper days" with local authorities, to mobilise community members to get their identification papers processed.
- 51 schools in Artibonite and Ouest departments support the training of teachers in human rights, and encourage them to replicate these trainings in schools. 164 new high school teachers have an enhanced understanding of human rights and are committed to transmitting it to their students according to their action plans, contributing thus to a more peaceful and just society

### 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-

struction projects. In 2013-14 FCA moved away from the construction of semi-permanent learning spaces and other emergency related initiatives. FCA's focus has been on the provision of safe permanent learning spaces and increasingly on the quality of education and school governance. In 2013 and especially during the annual planning for 2014, FCA started to integrate a community mobilisation approach into its education infrastructure projects. Community mobilisation approach aims at strengthening the participation of local communities as active rights-holders and increasing their ownership in education and school management. As Haiti has very low levels of school attendance even in basic education, FCA's focus in Haiti continues mainly on children. In 2014, FCA also strengthened its work on the quality of education, with a project implemented by a new partner FEPH. FCA also focused its efforts on support to education quality in co-operation with IDB and Government of Finland, supporting actively the coordination between the Finnish and Haitian ministries for education, resulting in signing of a MoU between the two governments in September 2014.

Right to Livelihood work has a focus on rural livelihoods and disaster risk reduction and most of FCA's work continues to be channeled through LWF. In 2013-14, FCA has moved from emergency-response oriented livelihoods programme to a more enhanced focus on livelihoods related advocacy and dialogue with duty-bearers. Important work on supporting savings groups MUSOs and women's economic empowerment in Macaya region was also carried out. In the ACT Alliance joint project on climate change, focus was shifted more towards livelihoods and food security.

In 2013-14 FCA has increased its work on Right to Peace, maintaining the focus on awareness raising on human rights, peace and non-violence among youth through education activities. 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 "root problem" to the overall development challenges in the Haitian context of instability and political crisis. The aim was to do a conflict study as a basis for development of new initiatives. Instead, FCA decided to undertake the overall thematic assessment on R2P, and leave the conflict study to actual project development phase.

### 3. Evaluations and Studies

Haiti context analysis was conducted by FCA in April 2014, providing important information for the Country Programme. FCA also carried out all three thematic assessments in 2014.

The Right to Education thematic assessment recommends focusing of FCA activities action such as, to promote and participate in advocacy for the right to education and development of the public education sector in general and especially in communities which lack of public school infrastructure; to prioritise and focus on the field of basic education, and education of over-school aged children and illiterate youth from 16 to 24 years of the vulnerable sectors; and to establish a partnership with the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training, and public education

institutions for structured interventions in the Palms area in the fields of literacy and Education of young people excluded from the system.

The Right to Peace assessment identifies various forms of conflicts and violence present in Haiti, such as, political violence, land conflicts, and different forms of interpersonal violence, including domestic violence, gender based violence, child abuse etc. The study indicates that the instruments directed to fight against different forms of violence are not adequately applied since Haiti remains among the countries where severe conflicts and violation of rights are common. It identifies different state institutions as well as other actors, such as the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and NGOs, as well as Haitian civil society organisations and religious leaders and their roles in maintaining peace in local communities and prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts. There is an urgent need to support this kind of work, especially in the most vulnerable communities of both urban and rural areas.

Right to Livelihood assessment was carried out in the end of 2014. During the annual planning for 2015, it was decided that the study would focus on egg production and rural livelihood strategies in order to provide the most support to planning of new FCA interventions. The study provides an important analysis on popular class rural household livelihood strategies, and examines different approaches to promoting a local economy of egg production. It also identifies the constraints and challenges to it, as well as opportunity points and a strategy in which these can be turned into profits, by an overall focus on local technology and improved access to new, low cost technologies.

In addition to the thematic assessments, altogether three Haiti Country Programme projects were evaluated in 2014.

- FCA's self-implemented Quality education project (11341) was evaluated, emphasising the need to reorient FCA's education activities from privately owned (including church-owned) schools to public and/or community schools in order to guarantee the results in terms of more democratic and participatory schools management. The evaluation estimated that the main beneficiaries had been the school owners/directors, and not the actual rights-holders - vulnerable children and their parents. The schools benefitted greatly from the project with better furniture etc. but they did not decrease school fees. On the other hand, the results in terms of enhanced learning environments in the schools were clearly positive.
- LWF strategy evaluation was realised also in early 2014. The recommendations emphasised the importance of a clear Theory of Change which should focus on resilience and rights-based approach, in addition to reinforcing the PME system and human resource management of LWF Haiti, and maintaining an emergency response capacity. A new LWF country strategy was developed based on the evaluation.
- The project "Building the capacities and strengthening the socioeconomic situation of rural women in Haiti" (10959) with women's bank funding was evaluated in

August 2014. In order to be able to use the results in the planning of the new project phase this evaluation was not a final evaluation, but was realised after 22 months of project development. The evaluation found that the project is effective and the activities have or may have positive results. However, the project period was too short to produce measurable impact. 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 10959 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 and/or supported partners to accede 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 SCH were also made. In this framework, FCA supported MISSEH's strategy process and internal capacity building on PME. FCA supported PME training to SCH's local partners implementing the ACT Alliance joint climate change project activities, as well as the reprinting of SCH'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 RNDDH, a crucial human rights actor 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 designing 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.



3.6 Middle East

1. Financial Summary of the Regional Programme (Country Programmes not included)			
<b>Actual Costs:</b> EUR 507,215 MFA Partnership agreement 405,445			
Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary funding source
10780	MERO Middle East Regional Programme Office	-	MFA partnership agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign (CRC)
10797	Capacity Building of the Middle East	FCA to local partners	MFA partnership agreement, CRC
11405	MERO resource mobilisation	-	Private
11536	Syria humanitarian aid project	-	FCA Syria fundraising campaign

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. FCA's response to this challenge focused on Education in Emergencies in Jordan, where Syrian refugee youth aged 15-24 were provided with non-formal education and psycho-social support.

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

Palestinian women 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.

FCA's 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.

Jordan



Terhi Kinnunen

1. Financial Summary			
<b>Actual Costs:</b> EUR 723,374 MFA Partnership agreement EUR 13,191			
Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary funding source
11282	Capacity Building of two CSOs in South Jordan	FCA self-implemented	MFA partnership agreement, CRC
11283	Vocational training for Women in Maan (AWSL communal Kitchen)	AWSL	Common Responsibility Campaign
11411	Non-formal Education for Syrian Refugee Youth in Jordan	FCA self-implemented	MFA humanitarian, ACT Alliance funding
11462	Za'atri ICT lab	FCA self-implemented	Mondo

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 FCA's Country Programme: will the conflict continue forcing the refugees to settle in Jordan and if so, will the Jordanian government accept their integration to the 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's 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 FCA's 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 have strengthened their assets and capability to develop their livelihoods in sustainable ways**

- 60 women were trained in 2014 in Ma'an in catering skills and knowledge on civil and economic rights as well as basics of marketing and entrepreneurship. The project also established contacts with local businesses to inform of the newly available work-force.
- In 2014 FCA facilitated small-scale income generation in the refugee camps of Za'atari and King Abdullah Park, where in total 16 Syrian refugee youth (both female and male) engaged in mobile phone repair and barbering/hairdressing.

### 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**

- See above for the results in Ma'an.
- During the implementation period running from April 2013 to March 2015, approximately 2,400 Syrian refugee youth took part in basic skills and technical skills trainings provided by FCA.

### 2.2 Development of the Country Programme during 2013-2014

Right to Education remains as the most advanced theme in FCA's Jordan Country Programme both in terms of volume and quality. An addition to expanding the humanitarian response to Azraq camp, two new openings were made under this theme in 2014; firstly FCA started preparations for expanding the humanitarian project Non-formal Education for Syrian Refugee Youth in Jordan to cover not only refugee camps but also host communities that serve as a home for 80 % of the Syrian refugees in Jordan; secondly, FCA took

initial steps in exploring "linking learning to earning" in the refugee camp context by facilitating income generation initiatives of 16 Syrian refugee youth. The future direction of this line of work will be largely defined by the policies of the Jordanian government chooses to adopt in order to deal with the Syrian refugee community.

During the reporting period 2013-2014, FCA worked with three local community-based organisations in Ma'an and Tafila in order to strengthen their capacity to implement projects under Right to Livelihood. After the capacity-building, one of the organisations has successfully obtained funding from the Jordanian government for a women's livelihood project in Ma'an. However, FCA's long-term strategy to develop livelihoods in Jordan in the most result-orientated way 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 of 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 restructure 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 population living in the camps.

**Feedback and complaint mechanisms:** Suggestions/complaints boxes were installed in the activity sites, to permit beneficiaries to express freely their opinion about the activities provided by FCA.

**Partner 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.

### 4. 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.

### 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.

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 complementary and/or alternative approaches be adopted.



Lebanon



Sustainable Democracy Center (SDC)

1. Financial Summary			
<b>Actual Costs:</b> EUR 125,419 MFA Partnership agreement EUR 95,248			
Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary funding source
10634	Artistic workshops and protection for children rights	ICNDR	MFA partnership agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign (CRC)
11261	Assessment on women's rights in south and north Lebanon	-	Private
11400	Participation beyond Age, Peace beyond Fear	SDC	MFA partnership programme, CRC
11476	Empowering Host Communities in Lebanon	MECC-DSJ	CRC

**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 under its strategic themes and constraints for what can be implemented under the challenging and often unpredictable conditions.

FCA strove to start co-operation with a Lebanese grass-roots organisation working with both Lebanese and Syrian women in the north of the country, but this plan was halted by security issues, which prevented the partner assessment and would have undermined future monitoring activities.

Therefore the work under the livelihood theme was reduced into a project implemented by Middle East Council of Churches/Unit for Diaconia and Social Justice (MECC/DSJ), which operated in host communities to ease the socio-economic situation of local and Syrian refugee women in Bekaa Valley and in Beirut.

In the context of Lebanon, the country being aware of citizenship, including rights and responsibilities of both citizens and decision-makers and strengthening dialogue between the parties, is a way forward to fight corruption, restrictions of confessional political system on reforms that would help Lebanon to become a modern and rights-based state and forward towards lasting peace and tolerance. Therefore strengthening civic participation was FCA’s priority thematic approach in Lebanon during the previous strategic period, and it has now been gradually being altered into Right to Peace objectives. Consequently, 2014 was the last year for the children’s rights project implemented by Inter-Church Network for Development and Relief (ICNDR) , whereas under the peace theme FCA continued working with Sustainable Democracy Center (SDC), which implemented a project that provided Lebanese youth with capacity in peacebuilding and advocacy and supported their own initiatives.

FCA continued its involvement in the Jordan-Lebanon-Syria regional ACT forum.

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 with limited educational background have access to quality vocational training/skill development**

- 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, moderation and facilitation of dialogue, strategic planning/SWOT, project management, fundraising and social marketing. After having participated in the training, the targeted youth organised 20 advocacy events (workshops, seminars etc.) related to youth participation, peacebuilding and inter-communal dialogue in Lebanon.
- Approximately 500 participants were sensitised to children’s rights and 26 animators capacitated for running children’s rights clubs in 2013 and 2014 to ensure the sustainability of the clubs after the project.

2.2 Development of the Country Programme during 2013-2014

The Lebanon Country Programme 2013-2014 was characterised by a transition from “the Rights and Participation” approach to work more focused on Right to Peace, which has also meant changes in the partner base. Given the protracted crisis in Syria and its impact on the neighbouring Lebanon, which already before the Syrian war was an exceptionally fragmented society, there is an obvious need to expand and further develop Right to Peace in the Country Programme in



Sustainable Democracy Center (SDC)

terms of identifying new innovations with the existing partner and/or complementing the portfolio with new partners.

The Syrian crisis has had severe implications for the socio-economically most vulnerable segments of the Lebanese society. At the same time the Syrian refugee community suffers from increasing poverty. FCA’s work under Right to Livelihood and Right to Education has been directed to address this situation both with the local and the refugee population, but during the reporting period its efforts were somewhat hampered by the worsening security situation. However, the related needs are more than obvious and will require expanding the partner base under these themes.

The long-term strategy under all three themes will be shaped by on the one hand the continuation of the Syrian crisis and on the other hand on the policies of the Lebanese government in terms of dealing with the refugee population. These developments will be closely monitored by FCA.

3. 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.

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. Capacity-building support has also been provided during monitoring visits.

5. Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

A major challenge was encountered under Right to Livelihoods, as the planned partnership with a local grass-roots organisation in the north of the country did not materialise due to security reasons. Based on this experience, FCA will have to reconsider its geographic approach to partnerships and take into account the parameters of accessibility laid out by 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, FCA’s must also allocate sufficiently working time of its Amman-based staff to work in closer co-operation with them in Lebanon.



Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT)



Paul Jeffrey/ACT Alliance

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. 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 outside world, including the West Bank; into farming and fishing areas within Gaza; and within the West Bank, in particular into East Jerusalem, in areas isolated by the Barrier, ‘firing zones’, the Israeli-controlled area of Hebron city (H2), and land around or within Israeli settlements. Combined, these restrictions impede access to services and resources, disrupt family and social life, undermine livelihoods and compound the fragmentation of the OPT.

FCA addressed immediate needs stemming from this complex situation by supporting psycho-social work of its sister agency DanChurchAid (DCA) in Gaza, where conflict-affected children were provided with psycho-social support intended to promote their recovery from the war of the summer 2014.

FCA’s long-term focus remained on Right to Peace, under which projects were implemented both in OPT and Israel. Palestinian Center for Peace and Democracy (PCPD) continued its project in the West Bank providing young adults with knowledge about advocacy and international law as

well as support for their own advocacy initiatives. The human rights training project in East Jerusalem schools with Middle East Non-Violence and Democracy (MEND) came to its end in 2014, whereas a pilot project was carried out with Grassroots Jerusalem, which supported East Jerusalemite communities in organising local advocacy campaigns. In Israel FCA continued co-operation with Zochrot under its project that develops models for the return of Palestinian refugees. To expand its portfolio in Israel, FCA identified a new partner for Right to Peace, with whom co-operation would begin in 2015.

Year 2014 was the final year of Women’s Bank funding for a long-term livelihood project implemented in the West Bank by International Orthodox-Christian Charities (IOCC). New opportunities for livelihood promotion were explored in 2014, which led to a pilot project to be implemented with a new partner in 2015 with a view to developing co-operatives in the West Bank and simultaneously prioritising work with local civil society.

ACT Palestine Forum is an active ACT forum, but since IOPT Programme Coordinator has been working from Amman, it has proven to be difficult to attend those meetings. However, starting from May 2015 since the IOPT Programme Coordinator will be based in Jerusalem, FCA will be able to attend APF meetings as well.

Internationally FCA continued its involvement in EAPPI programme of the World Council of Churches and deployed 13 volunteer human rights observers in communities in the West Bank (see also chapter 1.5, Volunteering). FCA also contributed in the advocacy activities of the APRODEV Middle East Working Group in Brussels, which focused e.g. on human rights accountability, the siege around Gaza and the illegal settlement construction.

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





universities on the dilemma of missing diplomas, 25 other students (22 females, 3 males) had their diploma fees waived by their universities as a good will gesture.

### 2.1.2 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**

- During the reporting period 2013-2014, awareness-raising in the West Bank has enhanced knowledge and capacity of Palestinian 200 youth on the principles of just peace, as stipulated in the Palestinian Declaration of Independence, United Nations Resolutions and International Laws and declarations. The targeted youth are strongly promoting the UN track in the different districts of the West Bank. Youth are considered as leaders on the local district level - they are invited to partake in political sessions along with politicians. The initiatives taken by the youth in 2014 included e.g. a radio sport on peace based on international legitimacy with approximately 500 000 listeners and a workshop on constitutional issues that attracted nearly 100 participants in Tulkarem.

**The Israeli civil society is better informed on the situation and included in advocacy, thus a chance for a just and durable solution remains**

- 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 monitor-

ing. 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-APF 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

EXPENDITURE	BBUDGET EUR IN 2014 (in 2013)		INCURRED EUR IN 2014 (in 2013)	
A. Project Costs	8,708,282	(9,177,531)	8,421,935	(8,761,993)
B. Project Planning and Evaluation, Resource Development	149,500	(63,310)	108,709	(48,521)
C. Information and Publicity Activities	441,100	(469,100)	417,402	(464,657)
D. Administration	1,033,209	(1,078,882)	994,227	(927,837)
Programme's Overall Costs	10,332,091	(10,788,824)	9,942,272	(10,203,008)

FINANCING	EUR	%	
Government support	8,100,000 – 4,026.43 [amount of 2013 reimbursement recorded for 2014] (7,900,000 – 13,387 reimbursement recorded for 2013)	81 %	(77 %)
Self-financing from Finland <sup>5</sup>	1,846,299 (2,316,395)	19 %	(23 %)
Self-financing from Abroad	0	0	
Other Funds	0	0	

Helsinki 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

Finn Church Aid Foundation



Jouni Hemberg  
Executive Director

Finn Church Aid Foundation



Tomi Järvinen  
Director of International Co-operation

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

5. List of Acronyms

AC	Agricultural Cooperative
ACT (Alliance)	Action by Churches Together
AFELL	Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia
APRODEV	Association of World Council of Churches related Development Organisations in Europe
ARO	Asia Regional Office (Finn Church Aid)
BAEH	Bureau Anglican d'Education en Haiti (Haiti)
BPRM	Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (US Government)
BTVET	Business, Technical and Vocational Education and Training
CAR	Central African Republic
CARO	Central Africa Regional Office (Finn Church Aid)
CBDRM	Community Based Disaster Reduction Management Comittee
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CCN	Cambodian Changemaker Network (Cambodia)
CDC	Community Development Committee
CDH	Centro de Desarrollo Humano (Honduras)
CEDAW	The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (UN)
CEDES	Comité Ecumenico para Desenvolvimento Social (Mozambique)
CHS	Core Humanitarian Standard
CIPRODEH	Centro de Investigación y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (Honduras)
CLAI	Latin America Council of Churches
CLHE	Candlelight for Health, Education and Environment (Somalia)
CLMI	The Church Leaders Mediation Initiative (South Sudan)
COLRED	Coordinadoras locales de reducción de desastres - local disaster reduction coordinators (Guatemala)
CONCORD	Confederation for Relief and Development Organisations in Europe
CoU-PDR	Church of Uganda Planning, Development and Rehabilitation Department (Uganda)
CPB	Centre Petion Bolivar (Haiti)
CPC	Common Peace Committee
CRC	Common Responsibility Campaign
CRD	Center for Research and Dialogue (Somalia)
CRPIP	Central Regions Peace Initiative Project (Somalia)
CWCC	Cambodian Women's Crisis Center (Cambodia)
DCA	Dan Church Aid
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
DFJ	Dynamique des Femmes Juristes (Democratic Republic of Congo)
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DRI	Development Relief Initiative (Uganda)
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EA	Ecumenical Accompanier, volunteer (EAPPI)
EAPPI	Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme
ECHO	European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department
EIE	Education in Emergencies (Humanitarian Assistance)
EPRP	Emergency Response and Preparedness Plan
ESARO	East and Southern Africa Regional Office (Finn Church Aid)
ETN	Equipe d'Education et Encadrement des Traumatises de Nyiragongo (Democratic Republic of Congo)
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FAWE	Forum for African Women Educationalists (Liberia and Sierra Leone)
FCA	Finn Church Aid
FEPH	Fédération des Écoles Protestantes d'Haiti (Haiti)
FGS	Federal Government of Somalia
FJDF	Femmes Juristes de Butembo (Democratic Republic of Congo)
gEC	Global Education Cluster
GG	Global Grants (Unit, Finn Church Aid)
GS	Green Scenery (Sierra Leone)
HACP	Horn of Africa Center for Peace (Somalia)
HAP	Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (Humanitarian Accountability and Quality Management)
HAQS00R	Haqsoor for Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development (Somalia)
HMA	Humanitarian Mine Action
HRBA	Human rights-based approach
HQ	Headquarters
ICESDF	Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (UN)
ICNDR	Inter-Church Network for Development and Relief (Lebanon)
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IDPS	International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding
IGA	Income-generating activities
INEE standards	Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies; minimum standards for Education in Emergencies
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
IOCC	International Orthodox Christian Charities (Palestine)
IONK	Kansainvälisten ihmisoikeusasioiden neuvottelukunta
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRD(E)P	Integrated Rural Development (through Empowerment) Programme
KECO	Kenya Country Office (Finn Church Aid)
KITE	Kotobi Institute of Teacher Education (South Sudan)
KYA	Khmer Youth Association (Cambodia)
LACRO	Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office (Finn Church Aid)
LRRD	Linking Relief, Rehabilitation to Development
LWD	Life With Dignity (Cambodia)
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
MAG	Mines Advisory Group
MECC - DSJ	Middle East Council of Churches - Diaconia and Social Justice (Lebanon)
MEND	Middle East Nonviolence and Democracy (OPT)
MERO	Middle East Regional Office (Finn Church Aid)
MEP	Member of the European Parliament
METTA	Metta Development Foundation (Myanmar)



MFA	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
MISSEH	Mission Sociale des Eglises Haitiennes (Haiti)
MoEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (Cambodia)
MOFTAD	Market Oriented Farmers Training and Development and civic education project (South Sudan)
MOIFA	Ministry of Interior and Federal Affairs (Somalia)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRDA	Mundri Relief and Development Association (South Sudan)
MUSO	Micro solidarity groups
M23	Mouvement du 23-Mars, Congolese Revolutionary Army (DRC)
NCA	Norwegian Church Aid
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NMJD	Network Movement for Justice and Development (Sierra Leone)
NNDSWO	Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organisation (Nepal)
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OFDA	Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID)
OPT	Occupied Palestinian territories
PA	Partnership Agreement (between Finn Church Aid and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland)
PANEL	Participation, accountability, non-discrimination, equality, empowerment empowerment and link to human right standards (principles of RBA)
PCPD	Palestinian Center for Peace and Democracy (OPT)
PICA	Central American Advocacy Program in the European Union
PICEP	Partners in Integrated Community Empowerment Programs (Sierra Leone)
PME	Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
PMER	Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting
PNO	Project New Outlook (Liberia)
PTA	Parent – Teacher Association
RACOBAAO	Rural Action Community Based Organization (Uganda)
RADA	Rehabilitation and Development Agency (Sierra Leone)
RAFEJE	Réseau des Associations des Femmes Juristes de l'Est de la République Démocratique du Congo (Democratic Republic of Congo)
RBA	Rights-based Approach
RNDDH	Réseau National de Defense des Droits Humains (Haiti)
RRT	Education Cluster Rapid Response Team
R2E	Right to Education, theme (Finn Church Aid)
R2L	Right to Livelihood, theme (Finn Church Aid)
R2P	Right to Peace, theme (Finn Church Aid)
SACS	Savings and Credit Scheme
SCH	Service Chretien Haiti
SDC	Sustainable Democracy Center (Lebanon)
SLPP	Sustainable Livelihood Promoters Programme (Liberia)
SMC	School Management Committee
SNE	Special Needs Education
SOCO	Somalia Country Office (Finn Church Aid)
SPPI	Somali Peoples Peace Initiative Project (Somalia)
SSF	Somalia Stability Fund
SSUCO	South Sudan Country Office (Finn Church Aid)
TLS	Temporary Learning Space
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
TwB	Teachers without Borders Network
UCAA	Uganda Change Agents Association (Uganda)
UCEP	Underprivileged Children's Educational Programs (Nepal)
UGACO	Uganda Country Office (Finn Church Aid)
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDPA	United Nations Department of Political Affairs
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNHRD	United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UN OHCHR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNPOS	United Nations Political Office for Somalia
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UPR	United Nations Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USO	United States Office (Finn Church Aid)
VB	Village Bank
VDC	Village Development Committee
VOD	Vocational Orientation Department
VOICE	Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies
(A)VSA	(Annual) Village Self-Assessment
VSLA	Village Saving and Loan Association
WAC	Women's Agricultural Co-operatives
WARO	West Africa Regional Office (Finn Church Aid)
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WESED	Women Empowerment Project (Angola)
WCC	World Council of Churches
WFP	World Food Programme
WG	Women's Group
WGP	Working Group for Peace (Cambodia)



# ACTION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY.

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