



FINN CHURCH AID
actalliance



FINN CHURCH AID'S PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Annual Report 2013

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Introduction

Year 2013 was the first year of Finn Church Aid (FCA) strategy period 2013–2016 and also the first of two-year MFA funding agreement. New strategy continues to develop more holistic Country Programme based operations including all forms of activity: development cooperation, humanitarian aid and advocacy covered by different funding sources. FCA's thematic specialisation continues to be based on three strategic themes, but significant changes were made on them. The new three themes are **Right to Education (R2E)**, **Right to Livelihood (R2L)** and **Right to Peace (R2P)**. The focuses of the new themes are more sharpened and limited compared to previous ones which give us possibility to concentrate our resources better and thus be more effective and efficient.

Focusing operations in fewer, often fragile, countries, and focusing on more narrow sectors, is a challenging strategy but enables us to bring added value to the operations. As an example, the crisis in Central African Republic and South Sudan escalated at the end of the year and we were able to respond very quickly. Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines in November and FCA responded to the emergency by building schools. Year 2013 was also a very successful year for the global grants, especially in Somalia where FCA received large funding from European Commission and DFID.

In 2013 FCA directed funding into 30 countries 24 being focus or exit countries and of which 16 were funded from Partnerships Agreement with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Geographically 48 % of the partnership agreement funding was directed to Africa, 14 % to Asia, 15 % to Latin America and the Caribbean region and 7 % to the Middle East.

FCA strengthened its presence in the programme countries through the six existing Regional and two Country Offices and new presence in Nepal and Central African Republic. The change from a traditional funding organisation into an actor working with now over 80 partners at the grassroots level continued. FCA also self-implemented projects in exceptional cases specifically in humanitarian contexts, such as in Jordan with Syrian refugees and Liberia with Ivorian refugees, but also few cases in development work as part of peace initiatives in Somalia. FCA also put a lot of effort into capacity building of our local partners. The role of the FCA Field Offices has become extremely important regarding practical capacity development planning, execution and working with local partners.

FCA continues to be the largest organisation in development cooperation and the second largest in humanitarian work in Finland. FCA is the only Finnish full-member of ACT (Action by Churches Together) Alliance. Coordination of actions both globally and in 140 countries of operation strengthens the effectiveness of the work done by member organisations. FCA has actively participated in further developing of ACT joint collaboration and coordination on global and local levels in the programme countries.

This annual report represents FCA's work holistically, but special emphasis is given on the MFA partnership programme. The report outlines programme overview (section 1), programme management and development (section 2), annual programme reports including Country Programmes and Communications and Campaigning activities included in the MFA framework (section 3), Summary of the Partnership Programme Incurred Costs (section 4), List of Annexes (section 5) and List of Acronyms used in the report (section 6).

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 cooperation, 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 cooperation with its ecumenical and faith-based partners and promoting inter-faith cooperation in aid and advocacy work.

FCA is a rights-based actor. Our action is guided by international human rights standards and principles. Equality, non-discrimination and accountability are at the core of 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 facili-

tate dialogue and accountability between the two.

The complete FCA Strategy is attached to this report (Annex 1).

Strategy as well as strategic themes and cross-cutting principles which are presented next in this section are the core guiding our work in three modalities: development cooperation, humanitarian assistance and advocacy. Moreover, working with partners and networks in different levels as well as using expert volunteers supporting our programme quality are integrated in our programme work. These all form together the idea of ***one programme approach***. The work of FCA through its Country Programmes reflects these principles of cross-cutting issues that are integrated in the programme work.

1.2 Strategic themes

During the new strategic period 2013-2016 Finn Church Aid has focused on three interrelated themes: Right to Livelihood, Right to Education and Right to Peace.

Right to Livelihood (R2L)

Finn Church Aid has a wealth of experience in livelihoods related work. In the new strategy 2013-2016, the focus of Right to Livelihood theme was sharpened to encompass access to and control over productive resources including land and water, issues related to markets as places where goods and services are traded, and recognition of the fact that participation in markets requires education, skills and capital often in the form of credit.

The way FCA works with communities fosters participation, inclusion and socio-economic empowerment of the vulnerable groups in each context. FCA also promotes local and national duty bearers' commitment and capacity to address the structural problems affecting the livelihoods of the poor.

FCA develops the capacities and opportunities for viable, profitable enterprise and decent employment of poor women, youth and the landless. We also adopt a business approach to small holder agriculture, enabling farmers to produce and deliver surplus to the market once their food and subsistence needs have been met.

Skills upgrading, both for production and for business, is an integral part of all R2L programmes. Linking enterprise and employment with the Right to Education theme, we strive to ensure that vocational training graduates have a smooth transition from school to work and to active citizenship. Secure and sustainable livelihoods are also a stabilising factor in society and for example prevent youth radicalization thus promoting the Right to Peace.

In emergencies, the preservation, recovery and develop-

ment of the resources necessary for the future livelihoods of disaster affected people are a priority and supplement life-saving activities. In fragile contexts, FCA also works to strengthen the resilience of communities and their livelihoods to natural and man-made disasters and the negative effects of climate change.

2013 being the first effective year of the new strategy, a succession of workshops were organised both in Helsinki and in the regional offices to provide strategic guidance to FCA and Partner staff in R2L programme planning and implementation. New approaches to collaborating with for example the corporate sector were explored and new partnerships were sought with international and national actors engaged in enterprise development. The year also saw the launching of a Working Group that brings together the expertise of Women's Bank and FCA professionals for development of women's enterprise.

Right to Education (R2E)

Right to Education is a new thematic focus area in FCA. In the thematic work the main objectives are 1) strengthened quality of education, 2) increased employment possibilities through skills training and vocational training, 3) safe and secure learning environments as well as 4) community ownership in education. FCA's Right to Education work and the strategic choices apply to development cooperation, to humanitarian assistance (education in emergencies) and to advocacy work, even though projects related to provision of temporary and other learning spaces are mainly implemented through education in emergencies response. Linkages to other strategic themes have been realised in particular through vocational and skills training with strong link to employment possibilities as well as through peace education.

FCA has supported both affected communities (target groups: women and youth, girls and boys, especially youth in need of second chances) to claim their rights as well as the duty-bearer (e.g. the state) especially in situations of acute disasters and in fragile situations.

During this first year of the strategic period 2013-2016 the thematic work concentrated on providing further strategic guidance to FCA's and Partners' staff in orienting the programme towards new strategic objectives. Several orientations, planning meetings and trainings have taken place during the year.

During 2013 FCA has further developed the specialization through new partnerships in education as well as through participation in local and global education clusters. FCA has trained new education in emergencies experts for the Roster (see section 1.4.2) and maintained stand-by mechanism with Rapid Response Team of Education Global Cluster/UNICEF. New international funding opportunities have been searched for the programme work.

Right to Peace (R2P)

The Right to Peace is inherent in the Charter of the United Nations and is recognised by numerous resolutions of the

UN General Assembly, Commission on Human Rights, and the Human Rights Council.

Right to Peace in FCA work can be divided into three areas: 1) Conflict Prevention; 2) Conflict Resolution and 3) Reconciliation. Conflict Prevention projects support duty bearers (e.g. local government) and right holders (e.g. local communities) in setting up mechanisms to tackle grievances that could lead to different forms of violence and conflicts. Conflict prevention projects also support the prevention of new or re-emerging conflicts. Furthermore, they include development of conflict prevention methodologies and capacity building including trainings, projects supporting the prevention of radicalizations (religious as well as ethic/tribal hatreds) of youths as well as peace education for teachers, children and youth carried out in schools or included into other activities. The latter thus has interlink with the R2E theme.

FCA's conflict resolution work aims to empower local communities, duty-bearers and right holders by utilizing local knowledge and conflict resolution mechanisms, e.g. mediation. We aim to identify inclusive and sustainable solutions and complement the work by international expertise when necessary. We provide support to local peace processes by offering capacity building to religious and traditional leaders, and aim to strengthening the participation of women in peace processes and decision-making mechanism.

Reconciliation for Finn Church Aid means trust-building projects that aim at healing the wounds and effects in order the conflict to re-emerge, projects that support dialogue between former enemies and trust-building, projects and activities that address the roots causes of the conflict as well as progress which includes development of reconciliation methodologies and training materials applicable to different stakeholders.

Several new R2P related projects were started during 2013 specifically with international funding sources.

1.3 Cross-cutting principles

According to the strategy (2013- 2016) FCA continues to base its work on rights-based approach. Along with RBA programme work FCA recognises several themes as cross-cutting throughout its programme focus. These are risk management, risk reduction, conflict sensitivity, gender sensitivity, climate change and environmental considerations.

Rights-based approach

We aim to reinforce our own and partners' capacity to tackle the structural causes of poverty, inequality and instability and to create opportunities for positive change in the societies. The rights-based approach (RBA) empowers people as subjects and rights-holders, but as part of society and its structures. FCA's focus is to stress the importance of mutual responsibility, openness and accountability.

As FCA is a rights-based actor, RBA forms a fundamental ground to all our work. Our action is guided by interna-

tional human right 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.

In 2013, efforts continued in strengthening our commitment to RBA by holistic approach of programme work (including humanitarian work and advocacy) and in further development of our programme focus under three themes, the Right to Education, Right to Livelihood and Right to Peace. Integration of RBA to various PME tools at partner, programme and project levels were advanced and formed a part of the FCA Programme Manual, which was finalised in spring 2013.

FCA Regional and Country Offices were encouraged to utilise a document package of universal human rights instruments and treaties finalised in late 2012. The package includes country specific documents on the main HR Treaties and a document on how NGOs can engage with UN Treaty mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review. The Regional and Country Offices as well as the FCA HQ were recommended to utilise the advocacy opportunities at international, national and local levels with relevant networks and partner consortiums as part of global impact advocacy objectives.

Training and information sessions were held at HQ and in connection with the annual programme planning week, in 2013 held in Liberia among the programme staff. An induction to RBA and gender equality included an introduction of the ACT Gender Inclusive Right-Based Development Training Manual (finalised in 2013 by the ACT Community of Practices on Gender Equality and Justice and Rights and Development). The Senior Adviser for Right Based Approach participated in international dialogue on human rights based approach to development at EU and domestic forums (June; November 2013). In Finland, FCA's and its one of the main partner, Lutheran World Federation (LWF) long-term experiences was presented at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs panel discussion "Implementation of the Human Rights Based Approach to Development" in June 2013.

Gender

In 2013, 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.

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. This continued to form a strong part of FCA's work, for example by continued funding through Women's Bank.

The implementation of gender equality as a cross-cutting principle was further strengthened in 2013 by the introduction of FCA new strategy and the recently published policy guideline (Gender Equality – Principles for FCA Programme Work). The guideline and materials from ACT Alliance recently finalised Training package "Gender-

Inclusive Right-Based Development" was presented in a news flash session at HQ in spring. The materials have been utilised regularly when providing support to Regional and Country Offices' programme planning processes and to fundraising initiatives for global grants.

FCA continued mainstreaming gender in advocacy work 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). In early 2013, the Friday group launched a series of discussions on the implementation of the cross-cutting objectives in the Finnish development policy targeted to MFA head of officers and key politicians. FCA took actively part in designing and implementation of the dialogue series.

In addition, FCA strengthened the role of gender equality in the Right to Peace thematic work by providing support to FCA's local partner's RAFFEJE in DRC to participate in the NGO consultation on the DRC CEDAW review in June 2013 with follow-up plans on the implementation of the National Action Plan of the 1325 (UN Women, Peace and Security Resolution). Advocacy work was supported under the R2P thematic work and in Finnish networks, as FCA's Senior RBA and Gender Adviser was selected as a member of the Steering Group of the 1325-network in Finland.

As FCA's activities are implemented mainly through partners and as part of an international Alliance, FCA finds it crucial to support gender mainstreaming also in these networks. In 2013, FCA participated actively in ACT Alliance's Gender Equality and Justice Community of Practice regularly held teleconferences and by participating and annual meeting of the APRODEV Gender Reference Group, which met in the spring 2013 in London.

Climate change and disaster risk reduction (DRR)

In 2013 FCA continued to promote the environmentally and climate-friendly approach as cross-cutting theme and continued 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. utilization 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.

Climate change and disaster risk reduction (DRR)

FCA continued to integrate conflict sensitivity approach as cross-cutting theme in all its operations and by specially targeted efforts when operating in conflict prone areas. This meant:

1. emphasising the importance of understanding the context in where FCA operates,
2. understanding the interaction between the FCA's work and,
3. acting upon understanding this interaction in order to avoid negative impacts and maximise positive impacts.

In general, FCA continued to provide capacity building of local actors and offering support to build dialogical opportunities between parties, in addition to targeted peace and reconciliation processes and conflict prevention work.

1.4 Modalities of Work

1.4.1 Development cooperation

In 2013 FCA's development cooperation programme was implemented in 24 countries and 16 of them were in MFA partnership framework. Detailed Annual Programme Reports are placed in section 3.

FCA operates in regions where the number of relief organisations is limited and where FCA's activities and expertise bring added value. The majority of FCA's operating countries are fragile countries, whose governments are unable to adequately secure the safety and well-being of their citizens. Through development work and together with local communities, FCA aims at supporting the process of empowerment of the poorest and most vulnerable

women and men in their struggle to improve their living conditions and claiming their rights and holding the duty-bearers accountable. This work is aimed to make life more secure, to support human dignity and self-respect, and to create a fairer society where everyone has access to a safe livelihood.

The year 2013 was the first year of the new FCA strategy 2013-2016 with new thematic specialisation areas. Right to Livelihood theme was the strongest one in 2013: 74 % of partnership agreement's projects' costs were falling under this theme. Most of the Country Programmes contributed to the objective of strengthening the local communities' assets and capability to develop their livelihoods in sustainable ways, women and youth especially in focus. In most cases, people were supported in diversifying agriculture and livelihood options and trained in order to gain surplus for markets. Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Agricultural Cooperatives (ACs), Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSLAs) or Village Banks (VBs) are proven to be effective way to empower communities to develop their livelihoods and are integral part of FCA Programmes. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities were included at least in 7 of reported 16 Country Programmes' projects in 2013.

Unlike the livelihood theme, Right to Education is a new strategic theme for FCA. In 2013, there was only couple of Country Programmes which contained education



Photo: Zara Järvinen

as an independent theme for development work, because FCA has a strong focus for Education in Emergencies (EiE) in humanitarian aid. Partnership agreement funds were directed to vocational training for youth in DRC, teachers' education in South Sudan and integration of human rights training into the school curriculum through teachers training in Haiti making altogether 5 % of the frame funds. However on top of that, Integrated rural development projects implemented for example in Cambodia, Nepal, Mozambique and Uganda contained also education components even though the main focus were in livelihood theme.

FCA has gained positive results through our peace work specifically in Somalia. This continued also in 2013. The theme is relatively new for many Country Programmes and further assessment and planning is needed to integrate it in meaningful way in each context. As the 2013 was the first year of the new strategy, peace theme was applied in Country Programmes as a continuum for themes of previous strategy: “stable societies” and “rights and participation”. Besides conflict resolution work in Somalia, the peace theme was also integrated in South Sudan, OPT, Cambodia, Nepal and Haiti Country Programmes. The target groups and project objectives were divergent, from peace education in OPT and Haiti, to advocating for rights of marginalised groups in Nepal and Cambodia. Right to Peace constituted 21 % of projects' related costs of partnership agreement frame.

1.4.2 Humanitarian assistance

FCA used a total of 7,89 MEUR for humanitarian assistance, reconstruction and mine action programmes in 2013, making its share of FCA's international work approximately 30 %. The allocations by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for FCA's humanitarian aid in 2013 were 4,9 MEUR. There was a small increase in the funding, due to the worsening refugee situation in Syria and neighbouring countries and natural disaster in the Philippines. Humanitarian Mine Action continued in Angola and Cambodia, the total funding from the MFA in 2013 being 0,8 MEUR.

In 2013, 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, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Uganda, Liberia and Jordan.

In November 2013 typhoon Haiyan, locally known as Yolanda, made landfall in the Eastern Samar Province in the Philippines. The typhoon was the strongest in the recorded history. FCA used the MFA funds to support the first phase emergency response in the country. FCA uses its' own private funding to provide 50 temporary and semi-permanent school rooms/learning spaces in four Municipalities in Eastern Samar.

FCA continued working in the Central African Republic (CAR), where a Programme Office for the response was established. Against a backdrop of persistent political in-

stability, low socio-economic standards and weak governance, the country has experienced increasing levels of violence since December 2012. On 5th of December 2013, violence escalated even further when Anti-balaka militia attacked Bangui and Bossangoa. To respond to the acute needs and adapt to the recent events, FCA's focus is in the re-establishment of schools in the country. We have also included Cash for work and sanitation components in the programme.

FCA used a total of 0,9 MEUR of private funds for humanitarian assistance in 2013. Most of these funds were targeted to Mozambique, Uganda, Myanmar, Cambodia and the Philippines. FCA used ECHO funding of 0,4 MEUR for the humanitarian work in DRC. Short-time humanitarian personnel from FCA's Roster were assigned to Jordan and the Philippines for programme planning and monitoring.

FCA's preparedness and responding capacity was further strengthened by recruiting humanitarian coordinators to the Country and Regional Offices. Disaster preparedness and risk reduction (DRR) planning continued throughout the organisation. The goal is to have a Disaster Preparedness plan in all FCA's Offices which will be revised regularly.

In 2013, FCA has continued the cooperation with UNICEF. The purpose is to support UNICEF in its role as co-Lead of the global Education Cluster (gEC). According to the agreement, FCA seconded by own funds one stand-by personnel who was a member of the Education Cluster Rapid Response Team. His task was to support the capacity development efforts of the Education Cluster at global level and he was also available for rapid deployments by UNICEF to humanitarian operations. Part of his time was used to build FCA's own capacity in relation to Education Cluster. A stand-by staff member, based in Helsinki, had assignments in Pakistan and Central African Republic in 2013.

FCA Humanitarian Roster

FCA has established a Roster of professionals who are available for missions in crisis and post-crisis areas even at a very short notice. Over the years, a few Roster members have also been recruited to long-term or permanent international positions with FCA.

In its present form, the Roster was established in 2008, and comprises now of 150 members representing a wide variety of expertise, from humanitarian aid professionals to e.g. teachers and constructing engineers. New members are normally accepted once a year, after their successfully completing a four-day Basic Training Course.

In 2013, the criteria for selecting Roster members were revised, to better correspond with the needs of FCA's current strategic and thematic choices. In 2013, 26 new members joined the Roster, after passing the Basic Training Course. Roster members were also offered specific training in e.g. Sphere minimum standards.

During 2013, six Roster members were sent to missions of different lengths to Eastern Africa, Haiti, Jordan and the Philippines. One of them was seconded to a partner organisation, while others worked with FCA's Country or

Regional Offices. In addition, one Roster member was recruited to a permanent position in FCA's HQ, while another member was recruited after a temporary position to a corresponding one in another Regional Office.

1.4.3 Advocacy

Advocacy work is essential from the rights-based approach to development. While working together with the rights-holders and building their capacity, it is needed to work (together with partners) to hold the duty-bearers accountable for their responsibility to ensure human rights and to address the structural obstacles for the realisation of human rights. Building capacity of both rights-holders as well as duty-bearers is needed.

Duty-bearers can exist on different levels. Therefore, FCA is carrying out advocacy work at different levels: local/national, international level as well as domestic (Finnish) level. The local/national level advocacy is done by supporting our local partners in our programme countries. On the international (e.g. UN and EU) level FCA can be operational either on its own, together with our partners or as part of our networks. The staff of FCA's Field Offices has an essential role in contributing to the local and international advocacy work and networking activities. During 2013 FCA made international advocacy plans both for Right to Livelihood as well as Right to Peace. Due to lack of human resources, International advocacy on Right to Livelihood was on hold and more progress should happen during the year 2014.

With respect to the global networks, FCA was strongly involved in the advocacy on peace-related issues. FCA supported Costa Rica led process where UNHRC was trying to find consensus on the issues related to “right to peace”. FCA participated in the hearing on this matter in Geneva in Autumn 2013.

FCA has been supporting Somali religious and traditional elders in their efforts to work for stable Somalia. FCA work in Somalia was not only local/national, but reached international discussions and was successfully facilitating dialogue and solutions from the field to the UNSC level. FCA supported Somali civil society in their efforts in New Deal discussions, both internationally as well as nationally. FCA became a member in the working group dealing with issues related to more inclusive politics in Somalia.

In 2013, FCA continued also to work in close collaboration with Somali Diaspora in Finland. This cooperation enabled FCA to network and channel its advocacy work in Finland and also to seek synergies and cooperation with the numerous Somali diaspora of Finland.

In addition to thematic advocacy, Finn Church Aid planned and initiated advocacy work in the field of fragile states and fragility issues. FCA was presented in UN General Assembly's opening week.

FCA has also been active at the EU level advocacy work, both independently, through APRODEV as well as through FCA's partner organisations. FCA strengthened Haitian food security advocacy work vis-à-vis EU by join-

ing Coordination Europe-Haiti (COEH) network. FCA has been active through APRODEV in influencing EU's Common Agriculture Policy. FCA was also a member of Finnish pilot on more coherent development policies in the field of food security. Based on FCA strategic decisions, this work will not continue after 2013.

Highlights for the domestic/national advocacy in 2013 were letters to governmental officials as well as Parliament's Committee on International Affairs. FCA produces briefing papers for example on Syria. In domestic politics FCA continued to raise the issue of fragility and role of fragile states both in Finnish development policies as well as in the global processes such as Post-2015. FCA contributed to the statements from Kepa and Kehys in relation. Links with Members of Parliament were strengthened through Women's Bank initiative, Tekoja Campaign as well as KPT (Kehityspoliittinen komitea - Development Policy Committee). FCA participated in the panel discussion organised by KATU in Suomi-Areena with the topic of Syria. FCA raised the issue of refugees as well as necessity of developing more effective tools to end the crisis in the region.

FCA participated actively in the discussions around strengthened role of Finland in mediation. We emphasised among other things the need for utilizing the existing know-how on mediation in the planning of the future work; the need to think mediation holistically in relation to political and developmental work. FCA participated actively in the national peace-mediation working group coordinated by the MFA. FCA was also asked to participate in the planning of the high-level National Dialogue seminar which will be held in Säätytalo, Helsinki in March 2014.

Fragile states featured high on FCA's advocacy in Finland. Dialogue with the Members of Parliament, the MFA and other NGO's was lively and aimed at realisation of the Governments Programme's goal of creating a National Strategy for the support of fragile states.

FCA also conducted an advocacy campaigning “Tekoja” in 2013. This campaign will be described more in detail in the section 3, Information and Publicity Activities.

1.5 Partners and Networks

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

Global Level

Finn Church Aid is a founding member and one of the main stakeholders of ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together). Cooperation within the ACT Alliance has major strategic relevance for FCA in all the fields of humanitarian aid, development work and advocacy. ACT country and regional forums are the principle means of coordinating humanitarian and development initiatives in the local

context. FCA participates actively in the cooperation and development of ACT forums in the areas where we have field presence. More information in FCA's participation in ACT related activities on local level can be found in the Country Programme Reporting section of this report. At the global level FCA has been supporting development of ACT Alliance. In the year 2013 FCA also participated in ACT Alliance Humanitarian and Advocacy Advisory Boards.

In 2013 **ACT Alliance** had more than 130 member organisations and activities in 140 countries. ACT Alliance is supported by 25,000 staff and mobilises about \$1,5 billion for its work each year.

Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is FCA's oldest and by volume the single largest partner in implementing development and humanitarian aid programmes. In 2013 FCA cooperated with 13 LWF country programmes managed by LWF Department for World Service. Additionally, FCA continued to support two former country programmes that have been localised to being separate, national organisations with close connections to World Service. FCA's involvement with World Service is demonstrated later in this report under country programmes. In 2013 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 good 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. A small amount of support was also directed for the work of the Department for Theology and Public Witness, which is responsible for UN advocacy and for interreligious dialogue. This department is mandated to advocate towards UN Geneva functions on behalf of the Lutheran Churches worldwide. Therefore, linking FCA advocacy in country level more closely e.g. with UPR processes in collaboration with LWF Department for Theology and Public Witness is being sought.

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. In 2013 FCA supported WCC work in the field of human rights, peace and climate change. During the year 2013 WCC held its 10th General Assembly where right to peace was the most relevant theme. Finn Church Aid supported the thematic programme of the assembly by organising one major thematic plenary together with World Council of Churches. The keynote speaker of the plenary was Nobel Laureate Leyman Gbowee with whom FCA begun partnership as part of the preparations of the event. Furthermore, FCA organised a side event in the Assembly with the title: "Women Religious Leaders as Peacemakers". In this event Nobel

Peace Laureate Leyman Gbowee together with Somali civil society activist and co-chair of the Somalian technical Selection Committee, Ms. Halima Ibrahim Ishmael spoke for the role of women in peace building. FCA was playing a crucial role in helping WCC to focus in the direction of peace work in their future programme planning. FCA is continuing to collaborate with WCC in this respective area.

Global Education Cluster established in 2007 by the IASC as part of the cluster approach, the Education Cluster works to uphold education as a basic human right and core component of humanitarian response. The Education Cluster is co-led at global level by UNICEF and Save the Children. FCA is one of the 29 members of the global Education Cluster (gEC) and participates also in the local country level clusters where present and when relevant. Education in Emergencies is the thematic specialisation area of FCA's humanitarian response. As member of the gEC Working Group, gEC Field Operations' Task Team and the gEC Infrastructure and Supplies group FCA took part in implementing of the gEC three year Strategic Plan. FCA participates also in a thematic Working Group of Youth/ Adolescent and also took the lead in preparing environment friendly, child friendly, emergency proofed and cost effective building standards for school reconstruction in emergency situations. FCA has established the Education Cluster Rapid Response Team (RRT) together with Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children and UNICEF. 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 employed a full-time standby Cluster Coordinator and deployed him through standby arrangements with UNICEF. The coordinator has been deployed to Mauritania (Sahel food crisis), to Pakistan and recently to Central African Republic.

During 2013 FCA took steps forward to strengthen the cooperation with various UN organisations

Mediation Support Unit of Department for Political Affairs (MSU) The year 2013 was a milestone for FCA collaboration with UN in the field of peacebuilding and the role of religious and traditional leaders in it. FCA prepared the first meeting of network of religious leaders which took place in January 2013 in Helsinki. Mediation Support Unit (part of UN Department of Political Affairs) has been initiating together with FCA, Organisation of Islamic Collaboration as well as Religions for Peace the Network which first meeting was held in Helsinki. MSU gave FCA the task to organise the meeting and it was funded by Finnish MFA. In the meeting FCA was appointed to become the interim secretariat of the network with the aim to begin network activities, help raising funds for the network and its projects as well as develop a programme which could be owned by wider community of organisations and actors. Mediation Support Unit of UN – as a member of the core group of the network – is guiding the work of the network, which is implemented mainly by the secretariat, Finn Church Aid.

UN partnerships FCA works bilaterally with several UN agencies on both global and local levels. The grassroots collaboration focusses in practice in Humanitarian or Development programmes and on global level in advocacy and innovations creation. 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 Office's can also support FCA programmes financially. The cooperation and partnerships on the global level are often linked into advocacy and innovations creation.

In 2013 FCA cooperated with UNICEF, UNDP (United Nations Development Program), UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), UNHCR (United Nations Refugee Agency), UN Women and UNFPA, 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 and preparations for similar relation with UNICEF started in the end of the year 2011.

FCA represents the ACT Alliance and the faith-based NGO's in the UNDP Civil Society Advisory Committee.

Regional Level

Finn Church Aid is a member of several networks related to FCA's advocacy themes. On a global level FCA is a member of the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance. FCA is working also with International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN) and Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) but their work has been evaluated in the light of FCA new strategy.

FCA also works through regional networks. Among these, APRODEV has specific strategic relevance. APRODEV is a platform for cooperation for European church-based development organisations related to World Council of Churches. The main objective of APRODEV 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. FCA is represented in APRODEV working groups on Rights and Participation, EC and International Funding for Development and Relief as well as in Gender Reference Group. In addition FCA is represented in APRODEV's Policy Advisory Group which supports APRODEV on the policy leadership level. FCA also works actively together with APRODEV regional groups for Central America and the Middle East. During the year 2013 FCA has been evaluating the work of APRODEV, which is becoming ACT



Western European platform, and its possibilities to influence in EU decision-making. APRODEV has been building its capacity over the years and is very well recognised actor in EU policy making level. It is also building capacity of its members in the field of EU fundraising efforts. While working with and through APRODEV, FCA begun to build up its own capacity towards EU co-operation by hiring a consultant working in Brussels mainly in fundraising, but also in the field of specifically targeted advocacy efforts. FCA supported during the year 2013 Somali civil society in order for them to attend high-level New Deal processes and meetings which took place in Brussels in the EU framework.

Other European-level engagements include FCA's membership in the Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies (VOICE) and the Confederation for Relief and Development Organisations in Europe (CONCORD). Both organisations work to advance relief and development organisations cooperation 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 2013 FCA started an ECHO project in DRC to improve food security in the territory of Lubero. Two grant agreements were signed at the end of the year to start implementation in the beginning of 2014; one under the ECHO Children of Peace Initiative for an Education in Emergencies project in Rakhine State, Myanmar; and another under Non-State Actors and Local Authorities for a EU development project on conflict resolution in South-Central Somalia.

Bilateral Partnerships

FCA has partnered with a large number of local NGO's, churches and church-related development organisations, totalling over 80. FCA understands that a societal change is only sustainable when local communities are capable to act. This is why FCA has during the past years increased its field presence to facilitate cooperation with local partners.

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.

In 2013 FCA enhanced bringing these principles in practice by revising and launching the partner assessment guideline and format. Principles of accountability, as defined in HAP standard, were also considered in the revised edition. The assessment helps compiling a baseline for partner's capacities, and for developing a capacity building plan. The initial phases of the partnership assessment are conducted by the Field Offices and new partnerships are approved by FCA's Board of Directors.

The selection of bilateral partners takes place through a thorough assessment process which includes investigation of the prospective partner's administrative capacity and their ideological basis, compatibility with FCA's strategic goals and willingness and commitment for cooperation.

The guiding principles for all FCA partnerships are:

- *Equality*: Commitment on respect all our partners and their sovereignty, not depending on origin, size, capacities or resources of each partner.
- *Transparency*: Commitment on equal dialogue, timely sharing of relevant information, open communication, and honesty between the partners and towards all stakeholders.
- *Participation*: Commitment to listen people we aim to assist, and to integrate their views in decisions throughout the project cycle. Rights holders - the women and men within local communities - are the key agents in finding solutions to development challenges in disaster affected and fragile contexts.
- *Responsibility*: Commitment on upholding accountability in all our partnerships. Each member of a partnership has an obligation to each other to accomplish their tasks responsibly, with integrity and in a relevant way. The partners, right holders and other stakeholders have the right to raise complaints when we fail keeping our commitments or meeting our standards, and receive a response through an effective, accessible and safe process. FCA is in a process to start developing a Complaint and Response Mechanism in 2014.
- *Mutual learning*: Commitment on continual learning from experience to improve performance.
- *Complementarity*: The partnerships shall be built on comparative advantages and complementary contributions of each member of the partnership.

The findings of self-assessment against the HAP Standard clearly indicated the need for FCA to further develop and systematise the modalities and procedures of working with partners. In 2014 the FCA partnership policy will be revised, and guidelines for working with partners, as well as a partnership MoU, will be developed and launched.

Capacity Building

Capacity building (CB) efforts can take place on various operational levels: National/local partners as well as national/local duty bearers, International ecumenical networks and partners, as well as FCA HQ and Regional or Country Offices. The role of the FCA Field Offices has become extremely important regarding practical capacity development planning and execution. All CB activities are based on analysis of offices' own and our partners' needs, and build the long-term capacity development plans based on these.

In 2013, formal CB projects were conducted in 13 of the reported 16 Country or Regional Programmes with the MFA funds (section 3). In addition to these projects, CB was included in many other FCA projects as well, were the empowerment of local communities and capacity development of local partners were implemented in various ways. Also, FCA staff are continuously indirectly involved in building capacities of the partner organisations, for example in the areas of project planning, financial support, development of knowledge in terms of content and/or operation, promotion of networking and institutional relations in addition to links to international and global development dialogue.

In addition to CB on Country Programme level, FCA has also supported LWF/DWS's global CB initiatives. LWF DWS Secretariat and its country programs have been able to demonstrate a significant improvement of their capacity in supporting affected people and communities in an efficient way due to this increased capacity also those programmes FCA is supporting. The projects in 2013 focused on two major areas: 1) Capacity building in quality and accountability systems 2) Organisation of accountability workshops in Uganda with seven country programmes participating.

FCA's own staff training is introduced in the section 2.6.2.

Domestic Cooperation

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.

FCA works actively together with other Finnish development actors. FCA is a member of the Service Center for Development Cooperation (Kepa ry.) and the Finnish NGDO Platform to the EU (Kehys ry.). FCA participates in the work of the so-called "Perjantai-ryhmä" (the Friday Group) of the Finnish All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population and Development, the Civil Society Conflict Prevention Network (KATU), The Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights (KIOS), FinnWatch, the Finnish Somalia Network (Suomen Somalia-verkosto), the Advisory Board on Human Rights of the MFA, and the association for Promoting Fair Trade in Finland. FCA partners with several domestic church-related diaconal actors, such as the Helsinki Deaconess Institute and Yhteisvastuukeräys (the Common Responsibility Campaign). FCA cooperates with local parishes and dioceses of the Evangelical Lu-

theran 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 (Ylen Hyvä).

FCA is also represented in Kehityspoliittinen Toimikunta (KPT). Through active participation in the KPT it has been possible for FCA to partake in Finnish high-level development aid policy making. FCA representative was attending KPT visit to Copenhagen in spring 2013 in order to learn more about development aid policy issues also in the neighbouring countries.

Cultural Orientation Training for Quota Refugees

In October 2013 FCA started a new initiative: Cultural orientation training for quota refugees selected to be resettled in Finland. Working with quota refugees in their countries of origin complements the work FCA is doing with refugees in the Programme Countries.

The three-day training provides 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 the refugees in the Finnish society. The aim is to support integration process when they will move to Finland. Practical arrangements related to the training are done in close cooperation with the local UNHCR in each country where the training is held. In the fall and winter of 2013 FCA conducted trainings in Turkey, Rwanda and Malawi.

Finnish Immigration Service, who is responsible for the resettlement mission of Finnish quota refugees, is the contracting authority of the project. They were actively participating in developing the training content as well as giving their support with the training arrangements. FCA has the overall responsibility for the project including financial management in addition to the practical arrangements for conducting the training. FCA has contracted Diak (Diaconia University of Applied Studies) and Helsinki Region Interpreting Centre (Helsingin Seudun Asioimistulkikeskus) as service providers. They are responsible for planning and utilizing the training modules and interpretation during the training. The project is funded by the European Refugee Fund (Euroopan Pakolaisrahasto).

1.6 Volunteering

FCA had several volunteering possibilities in 2013: EAPPI programme, EU Aid Volunteer -pilot, Teachers without Borders, Volunteer Communicators in FCA's Regional Offices, 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.



Photo: Mirva Helenius

The programme aims to contribute to a just and lasting peace in Israel and Palestine through the work of 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 also 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 is an advantage that brings EAPPI closer to the real needs of the population. The image 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 in 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. EAPPI supports various Israeli organisations in their actions and events in the West Bank (olive tree planting, harvesting, house rebuilding). Many of these organisations feel internally isolated and need support from the international community help them pressure their government from both the inside and outside.

During 2013 with financial support received from the MFA, FCA sent 14 EAs to Occupied Palestinian Territories. Finland is one of the bigger contributors to the programme. All volunteers participated in a four days training and a briefing session prior to deployment, as well as a debriefing session after their return from the area. One EAPPI-volunteer was for the first time in the programme's history denied entry to Israel. The volunteer has Finnish nationality but other of volunteer's parents has Arabic origin. Though

this was not given as the official reason for denying visa, it was clear from the investigations done by the Israeli authorities that this made them suspicious of the volunteer. The EAPPI-programme as well as other agencies in the human right sector, have witnessed tightened border control when entering Israel during the previous year.

A new placement was opened in northern part of Jerusalem close to the Qualandia Check point. Finnish EA's kept the presence and engagement at 8 placements: Jerusalem, Jerusalem Al-Ram, Bethlehem, Hebron, Tulkarm, Jayyus, Yanoun and Yatta (South Hebron Hills). During 2013 closer collaboration was piloted with UNICEF in the West Bank. EAs gave protective presence to Palestinian school children in several placements as part of UNICEF's Access to School-program. Furthermore the human rights violation reports by the EAPPI programme are shared and used by more human rights organisations than previously i.e. by UN agencies.

In the spring 2013 a follow-up study was done on the FinnWatch report on corporate connections to Israeli illegal settlements in Finnish context. Due to the advocacy campaign done by the EAPPI-programme "Label the Origins" (Alkuperä merkkää -kampanja) clear positive results could be shown: The food chain S-Ryhmä has clarified their labeling of products coming from the OPT (labelling them: miehitetyt palestiinalaisalueet). Due to the report Kesko stopped selling products originated in OPT. There are still corporations with linkage to the illegal settlements in Finland that has not changed their policy though advocacy work has been done towards them.

EU Aid Volunteers -pilot

FCA in a consortium of two other European partners ICCO (the Netherlands) and DECCB (Czech Republic) received

an EU-grant for the implementation of the EU Aid Volunteer programme. The programme runs under the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) of the European Commission. During 2013 FCA deployed 5 volunteers to its partner organisations in Cambodia (Life with Dignity), Nepal (LWF) and Uganda (Church of Uganda and LWF).

During 6 months the volunteers were engaged in capacity building activities, for example training of local staff, drafting guidelines and doing needs assessments, on Disaster Risk Reduction/ resilience with the objective to strengthen the capacities of local partners. The local partners rated the overall volunteer deployment as positive and confirmed that their priority needs were fulfilled by the deployment.

A well working deployment programme was set up and was rated successful by both local partners and volunteers. In general, 83% of the deployed volunteers were satisfied with the programme, although all of them shared both positive and negative experiences.

Teachers without Borders

Teachers without Borders -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 -network is aiming to:

1. develop the quality of education in the most fragile states by supporting pedagogical skills of the teachers.
2. support global education in Finnish schools by developing tools, models, methods and new materials suitable for everyday school life.
3. offer opportunities for educational professionals to expand their expertise by volunteering in developing countries for 3–12 months or by participating in The World Teacher Program.

Teachers without Borders -network is headed by a steering group since autumn 2012. Members of the steering group are Trade Union of Education (Chair), Finnish National Board of Education (Opetushallitus, Vice Chair), Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Vice Chair), Ministry of Education and Culture, Center for International Mobility CIMO, Universities of Helsinki and Oulu, Service Center for Development Cooperation KEPA, Evangelical Lutheran Church and Finn Church Aid, which the steering group has named the network's secretary and coordinator of its action. FCA recruited one full time coordinator and other FCA's old staff member was using 50 % of the working time for development of the network.

The year 2013 was successful in opening and making the network known in Finland. Over 250 teachers and educational professionals joined the network after the Educa trade fair in January 2013. By the end of the year, there were over 700 registered professionals in the network. The opening seminar of the network held in 5th of October 2013 was attended with more than 100 teachers. In May 2013 Teachers without Borders Facebook page was also opened. At the end

of the year it had 1,300 followers. A Twitter account was also opened. In the spring 2013 a Global Education Week -attachment was added to the Opettaja -magazine, themed Teachers without Borders. The network also published a pamphlet. Different media outlets also covered the network in several stories.

The discussion meeting aimed for a liaison with members of the Finnish parliament was held in 15th of November 2013, in which the networks' message was the actions of Teachers without Borders fill a clear void in development work sector and is well suited to carry out Finnish education export.

The first search for Teachers without Borders international volunteers was held in November 2013. The search focused on FCA's programme countries Cambodia, Liberia/Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Jordan. First six volunteer teachers for 3-12 months deployment were selected in early 2014.

FCA made a cooperation agreement with Edukans, a Dutch organisation, of which one content is cooperation with FCA/Teachers without Borders and Edukans' World Teacher Program. In this agreement, 10 teachers are selected for volunteer work in Kenya to support the local educational system and Kenyan teachers, together with Dutch teachers. The Kenya assignment for the volunteers will take place during the year 2014.

Volunteer Communicators

Since FCA has extended its programmes to six Regional Offices covering about 20 countries in Africa, Asia, Middle East and Latin America including the Caribbean, the need for professional communicators in the areas FCA works has increased.

FCA decided to have a pilot programme and recruit four professional communicators on voluntary basis to work in four different Regional Offices starting before the end of the year 2013. Since September 2013 volunteers started gradually the assignments in East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO), West Africa Regional Office (WARO), Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office (LACRO) and the Middle East Regional Office (MERO). Asia Regional Office (ARO) had a communication volunteer as a pre-pilot already in 2012-2013. Central African Regional Office (CARO) did not receive a volunteer since the area is having serious conflicts and safety concerns.

Each of these volunteers was initially recruited for period of six months. All volunteers had similar functions as a volunteer communicator: to provide stories, blogs and photos for FCA publications and Finnish media, to create an annual communication plan for each Regional Office and its countries, to liaise with journalists, donors and other stakeholders and oversee and plan the programme visibility and to train the Regional Offices and FCA's partner organisations' staff members in communications. They all had also responsibility to gather storylines for fundraising purposes and to support visiting journalists or other visitors from Finland.



Photo: Sini Tyvi

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's volunteer network was chosen as the Fundraiser of the Year 2012 by The Finnish Fundraising Association (VaLa ry). The award was given in recognition of the work done by thousands of Women's Bank volunteers. Women's Bank also received international recognition in 2012 Global Awards for Fundraising as Chairman of the Women's Bank Steering Group, Ritva Ohmeroluoma, was nominated among the three finalists in the Outstanding Volunteer category.

At the end of the year 2013 Women's Bank reached a new milestone of 6 million euros in donations, 1,373 shareholders and 3,444 monthly donors. Women's Bank expanded to 35 localities across Finland with over 40 local groups. 5 new local groups started in 2013.

During 2013 Women's Bank supported projects in 11 of FCA's programme countries: Cambodia, Nepal, Angola, Guatemala, Haiti, Kosovo, OPT, Uganda, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Democratic Republic of the Congo. During 2013 two pilot projects on poultry production were funded in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

15th September "walk a profession for women" fundraising event was organised in 24 localities in Finland to support women's education, rights and livelihoods in developing countries. Over 50,000 EUR was raised in a one-day event which brought together over 1,500 people across Finland. Another national event "Golf profession for women" was organised in 60 fields across Finland. A two year cam-

paign raised over 21,000 EUR. Moreover in 2013 a national campaign "Business angel" was launched by Women's Bank volunteers in March and brought hundreds of new monthly donors.

A charity book "Lautasellinen Iloa" (A Plate of Joy) was published by Women's Bank activist with traditional Finnish and ethnic recipes from Women's Bank project countries and literary text donated by Finnish authors like Lehtolainen and Jari Tervo.

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.

The three main themes of advocacy in Changemaker are peace, debt and environment. In 2013 the main campaign of the network concentrated on environment; more specifically on land grabbing. The campaign was both planned and executed by the volunteers in the network.

Changemaker continued growth in 2013. New local groups were founded in Haapajärvi and Iisalmi but at the same time five local groups were withdrawn because of inactivity. Therefore the total of Changemaker local groups is 19. The membership of the network increased 12 % adding the total number of members to 1,635.

Changemaker does also global education. Representatives of Changemaker visited 47 confirmation camps educating hundreds of youth to global issues. Also Changemakers own magazine, Globalisti, which covers global issues and was published twice during the year, reached an audience of thousands of youth at various schools and events. As well as the campaign and local groups, the editorial staff of Globalisti consists of volunteers.

2. Programme Management and Development

2.1 Organisation

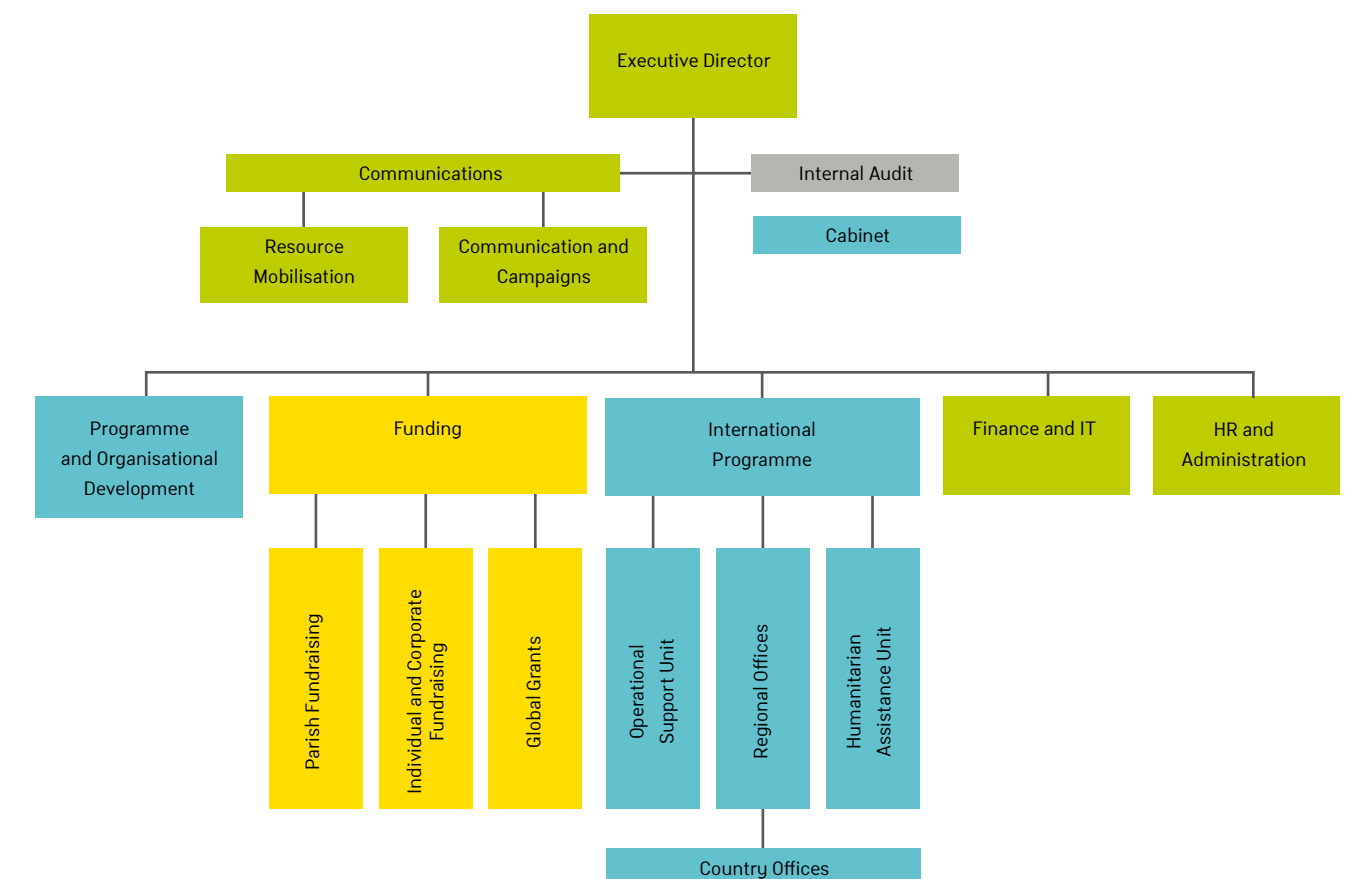
Organisational Structure

FCA launched a new HQ structure in the first quarter of 2013 to better implement the new strategy with thematic specialisation and support the work of Regional and Country Offices.

The main change was joining the two area units, Afru (Africa) and EAMLAC (Asia, Europe, Middle East and Latin America/the Caribbean), as one Operational Support Unit (OPS), which works under Department of International Programme (IPRO). Head of unit, six desk officers for the Regional and Country Offices, as well as coordinators for MFA funding and Volunteering are now working in OPS. Humanitarian Assistance Unit (HUA) continued to be part of IPRO, supporting FCA's humanitarian assistance programmes and humanitarian/emergency coordinators in the field. The change in moving administrative responsibilities concerning project work to the Field Offices continued in 2013, making the role of FCA HQ increasingly towards overall strategic guidance and technical support.

Other main change in the HQ structure was developing the former Organisation Development Department towards "Department of Programme and Organisational Development" (PODE) which now takes care of developing PME, cross-cutting issues, quality and accountability, overall development of the organisation as well as coordinating thematic support in strategic themes. During 2013 coordinator for Right to Peace theme moved other tasks within FCA. Hence former Advocacy unit now called "Cabinet and Secretariat for Network of Traditional and Religious Peacemakers" (CABI) focusing on working as a secretariat of the network adopted also coordination of Right to Peace thematic support. According to this change international advocacy work and global programmes administered by former Advocacy unit were transferred to IPRO. Domestic advocacy was transferred to Department of Communications and Campaigns.

Global Grants Unit (GG) increased in size and placed coordinators in selected Regional Offices.



FCA Regional and Country Offices

Operating five Regional and two Country Offices remained the same as previous year, however EARO (Eastern Africa Regional Office) took the responsibility from FCA HQ in supporting Southern Africa Country Programmes Angola, Zimbabwe and Mozambique thus changing the office status to ESARO (Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office). Former Haiti Country Office received a status of Regional Office, LACRO (Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office), increasing the number of regional offices to six during 2013.

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:

- South Sudan Country Office in Juba – SSUCO
- Somalia Country Office in Hargeisa, Somaliland – SOCO

Other Field Presence

Besides the Regional and Country Offices FCA had presence in the following locations in 2013:

- Nepal presence opened in June 2013 with one locally recruited programme coordinator. Presence operates under ARO.
- Sierra Leone presence established in 2011 continued with one locally recruited programme coordinator and a new finance and administration assistant who started in 2013. Presence operates under and is included in the budget of WARO.
- South Central Somalia, Mogadishu presence became operational in the last quarter of 2013 with one expatriate. Presence operates under ESARO.
- Presence in Central America programme was planned to operationalise during 2013. However, the Management Team decided to conduct an assessment on feasibility of possible presence and future of the programme prior establishment (see section 2.4).
- A Programme Office for the humanitarian response in Bangui, the Central Africa Republic (CAR) was established in the autumn 2013. Office had three staff members in December 2013.

2.2 Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

With the new FCA strategy 2013-2016 in place, FCA has 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 have been developed for the objectives. In addition FCA has objectives related to institutional capacity and organisational development, all which have their own signs of success.

Each of the Country Programmes has a 4-year multi-annual plan, which has incorporated the relevant objectives from the overall programme's objectives and signs of success. Besides the common objectives, each Country Programme has been able to add a few context specific objectives and signs of success. Besides the multi-annual plans, each Country Programme prepares an annual plan. In a Country Programme the project portfolio consists of projects that have similar objectives as the Country Programme. FCA's Country Programmes fall under an umbrella of a Regional Programme. This is an area that is being developed further during 2014.

At programme level during 2013 development work was done to ensure that the contexts where FCA operates in are analysed more thoroughly and according to RBA principles. The context analysis phase will then be followed by a thematic assessment within the given context. Both of these tools will aid FCA's programming. We aim to learn from this process during 2014.

At project level many partners have their own PMER systems and on their use we have agreed upon mutually. Some smaller partners use FCA's PMER tools and guidelines and FCA strives to develop these partners' capacities in their planning, monitoring and evaluation of the activities. The partners, in many cases with active support from the FCA offices, are responsible for monitoring the day-to-day and implementation of the projects.

During 2013 several project level guidelines and formats were revised and updated. The most significant being the revision on the partner assessment guideline and format. The revised format acts as an assessment tool for FCA and the partner in assessing the partner's capacities as well as elements of risk related to a number of areas, but it also supports the FCA partner in developing its programmatic and organisational capacities.

Monitoring and reporting is done continuously at project level, quarterly at project level and annually at project, country programme and the overall programme levels. Evaluations took place at project level in 2013.

The development of the PME system and documentation on the intranet was furthered. Lastly the programme and project PME process description was revised following the organisational restructuring.

At organisational level planning is done annually and monitoring and reporting on the results is done on a quarterly basis. Each function and Field Office plan and report against FCA's strategic objectives and every employee's personal work plan contributes to achieving the strategic objectives. FCA Board approves the organisational level annual plans and the Management Team oversees the planning, monitoring and reporting process as well as looks 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.

The Country Programme and organisational plans have to feed into one another as well as support one another.

Even though the above mentioned system needs to be further developed, it is however foreseen that planning, monitoring and reporting will gradually improve to enable FCA to continually learn and to be accountable for the progress of the work, towards the partners and the rights-holders on the one hand, and the funding partners and individuals on the other hand.

2.3 Quality Assurance and Accountability

Quality is defined in FCA as: To achieve the most significant and sustainable change with the optimal use of available resources as experienced by the rights-holders.

Quality is seen as a comprehensive concept, covering all sectors of operations, starting from detecting changes in the operational environment to the strategy, processes, partnerships and impact assessment. One of the key components of quality assurance is organisational reflection and learning and how the learning is organised and put into practice.

The development of a comprehensive quality management system continued focusing on accountability. The organisational accountability development project plan was revised, and the project was started with introductions to HAP Standard and organisational accountability for management and staff. An accountability workshop for senior management and key staff members was organised, and separate inductions were organised for organisational units. The HAP Steering Group and the HAP Team, together with the project manager, guided the process. Policies and systems check and self-assessment against HAP Standard was completed in Helsinki HQ. The main improvement needs and action points were identified, and the results will serve as baseline for the accountability development project. The self-assessment process was also started in the field with Asia Regional Office, Phnom Penh.

As part of its accountable and transparent management, FCA revised its Programme and Operations Manual in June 2013. The manual includes programmatic and operational guidance in the areas of policies and principles, management, PMER systems, human resources, communications,

finance, fundraising and security. It is foreseen that revision needs to be done on an annual basis to ensure integrity of the manual.

2.4 Studies Conducted in 2013

Review of Finn Church Aid Programme and Operations in Central America

FCA conducted a review of the FCA programme and operations in Central America in October – November 2013. This review included a period of 25 working days in Central America, mainly in Guatemala and a visit to Honduras, where FCA partners and other stakeholders were interviewed. The main objectives of the review was to analyse the relevance of the FCA themes in the region, added value of FCA presence in Guatemala and Honduras within the FCA strategy, and thus the continuity of FCA operations in the region.

The conducted review suggested establishing FCA presence in Central America based on various reasons. However considering the overall strategic needs and long term financial situation, the FCA Management Team came to the conclusion that FCA cannot commit the necessary funding needed to establish a meaningful and strong enough presence in the region in the long run. In this meeting on December 10 in 2013, Management Team also took the decision to exit from Central America. This decision included two steps: 1) to continue operations in Central America as previously planned in 2014 and 2) withdrawal during 2015 – 2016.

The exit decision was communicated to FCA partners and stakeholders in the region in January 2014 and in February 2014 FCA representatives held exit negotiations with partners in Central America. As a result of these negotiations, exit plans, with information regarding the partnership and FCA projects, were drafted and afterwards finalised and signed by FCA in March 2014. Exit plans include the schedule of withdrawing the FCA operations from Central America and this will be finalised by the end of 2016. Also FCA support to its partners during the exit period is included in these plans. The Review is attached to the report (Annex 7).

Field Presence Assessment

The FCA Board decided to conduct field presence review in order to understand added value the field presence has made for the realisation of the FCA's strategic objectives. In addition, the task was to examine the organisational set-up of the Field Offices and give recommendations on alternative models as well as on the pros and cons of FCA self-implementation versus working through partners.

Interviews of FCA Field Office staff and representatives of partners in the two regions formed the core of the data collection. The review was commissioned by FCA in October 2013 focusing on two regions: Asia and East and Southern Africa. The review looked to following aspect and gave recommendations on: Partnerships, organisational set-up, levels of decentralization, self-implementation vs. working

through partners, quality of programmes, internal communication and organisational learning, financial management, human resources, cost structure, staff structure, funding opportunities and added value of strengthened field presence.

FCA's Management Team and responsible units will establish workplans for implementation of recommendations given in the Assessment. The Assessment will be reviewed by the FCA Board in autumn 2014. The Field Presence Assessment was conducted with FCA's own funds.

Studies conducted in Country Programmes

Following studies were conducted with the MFA funds and are presented in section 3 Annual Programme Reports and attached to the report (Annex 7).

- Liberia: Feasibility Study on Commercialization of a Poultry Project (Rural Agriculture project, PNO)
- Kenya: Assessment of Livelihood Opportunities for Women & Youth in Northern Kenya; The case of Turkana South and Pokot Central Sub-Counties
- Lebanon: Women's Role and Voice in Lebanon - A Needs Assessment Report

Country Programmes conducted also project evaluations during 2013 which are presented in Country Programme Annual Reports in section 3 and are attached to the report (Annex 8).

2.5 Risk Management, Internal Audit and Security

Risk Management

FCA continued working in challenging and fragile environments, which increases the risks involved in all operations. That is why FCA has placed emphasis on pro-active use of risk management assessment in its regular work.

At the end of 2013 all FCA Regional Offices had completed the risk management training and had started using the tool, meaning that the risk assessment is integrated into the quarterly planning and reporting system at FCA. There are still some challenges in using the tool as regular basis, but management puts constantly efforts in improving the systematical use of the tool.

Risk assessment covering the whole organisation has been undertaken under the leadership of the FCA's Management Board, in order to have a comprehensive analysis of the risk environment of the organisation (both internal and external analyses are used).

Risks are analysed and monitored on a quarterly basis, and risks are managed systematically. The results of the assessment will be taken into account in the Risk Management Plan, which will be an integral part of the annual plan.

The overall mandate and responsibility of Risk Management is at the FCA Board of Directors. FCA's Security Manager and Internal Auditor are using the risk management assessment in their work.

Internal Audit

Institute of Internal Auditor's standards of auditing were used as a reference to the audit processes. FCA guidelines and applicable laws and standards were employed as criteria for the audit.

Internal audit focused on three objectives in 2013:

- 1.Assessment of the organisations compliance to good governance principles. Good governance includes transparency of operations, sound financial management, the adequacy of resource utilization and good decision-making. The aim is to promote credibility, efficiency and transparency on the operations management.
- 2.In evaluation of project management processes, the focus was on functionality of operational guidelines. The aim was to ensure the sufficiency of resources and processes.
- 3.Evaluation and assurance of the field financial management's process- and regulatory compliance and sufficiency from the risk management perspective.

To provide independency from the line management, internal audit reports to the audit committee. The committee is nominated by Board of Directors.

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.

FCA has provided First Aid training to Helsinki HQ personnel in 2013, and equipped all international staff out of Finland as well as HQ personnel travelling into the Regional and Country Offices and field with First Aid bags and personal security items. Security Manager from HQ visited all FCA's presence locations at least one time during the year but in the high-risk countries several times more. Visits concentrated on training staff on and strengthening security matters in the offices. In 2013 country specific basic security instructions were compiled and updated.

2.6 Administration

2.6.1 Finance and IT administration

The global finance team was significantly strengthened in 2013 in order to have sufficient resources available for efficient financial support to the programmes and at the same time maintaining internal controls. The HQ support was organised in a manner that each Office has a specific focal point at HQ and access to on time financial management support. In addition the Country Offices were strengthened in Somalia and Central African Republic as well as the Central African Regional Office in Goma through international recruitments. A lot of emphasis was put on good staff induction held by the HQ finance staff.

Most importantly the 2012 annual audits were carried out on time without major difficulties in early 2013 as was the MFA audit in June. The oversight of the partners was further improved by placing more resources on assessing the financial management capacity of new and existing partner as well as the monitoring of the partners e.g. monitoring of completed audits and audit remarks and related reporting to the FCA Board. In addition the budgeting instructions for 2014 we completely revised which resulted in more accurate budgeting.

In order to ease the work in FCA HQ and Regional and Country Offices, IT environment was further developed and updated during 2013.

Almost all FCA staff in Programme Offices have computers purchased and installed in the HQ. This gives more stable IT environment, security and helps maintain FCA's IT infrastructure. Three visits to Programme Offices were paid 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.

In the FCA HQ, new versions of finance software (MS Navision) and MS SharePoint (including FCA intranet, project and document handling) started to be developed. These two projects continue also during 2014. Furthermore a new reporting tool (MS SQL Server Reporting Services) was introduced in 2013. This tool gives opportunity also for non-finance staff with no entrance into formal finance software to make their own reports and follow financial events on selected projects.

2.6.2 Human resources

At the end of 2013, Finn Church Aid had a total of 207 employees, of whom 98 worked in the Helsinki office, 35 expatriates served in the Field Offices and 74 had been hired locally. Total FTEs stood at 193. In addition to this, temporary face-to-face and telephone fundraisers added four more FTEs. Helsinki HQ staff number has decreased due to the end of fixed-term contracts related to projects of previous strategy. Number of expatriates and locally hired staff increased as planned.

The amount of recruitments has increased compared to previous year. There were 26 of 47 job openings in HQ and 21 in Field Offices. The duration of international assignments needs to be extended in order to diminish the effect of natural turnover rate in the field work in challenging circumstances. The emphasis on recruitments is to increase the ratio of locally hired staff in the Programme Countries, but also international recruitments and moderate growth in HQ support functions are required.

After reforming the organisational structure in FCA in the beginning of 2013 the responsibilities both between new functions as well as HQ and Regional Offices have been specified. E.g. the role of Desk Officers and the Theme Coordinators has been discussed and various models have been piloted. All in all time to adapt to changes in organisation and develop new operational procedures is still

Staff situation in FCA Field Offices at the end of 2013 (as full-time equivalent):

Office	International Staff	Local Programme Staff	Local Administration Staff	Local Support Staff
ARO	3,00	3,29	1,91	1,00
CARO	3,20	1,00	1,00	2,16
CAR	1,29	0,00	0,00	0,00
ESARO	3,15	2,21	3,00	1,00
LACRO	5,69	5,71	2,20	4,10
MERO	3,41	4,55	0,75	1,25
SOCO	3,44	2,05	2,00	17,28
SSUCO	2,85	0,92	1,00	1,00
WARO	2,94	4,27	3,67	5,00
Total	28,98	24,00	15,53	32,78

needed and the results will be seen later.

The roles and responsibilities in staff induction process have been developed. As a result the time reserved for induction at the beginning of employment has been planned more effectively. FCA has also piloted mentoring as a method of orientation. Special focus in staff training was set on improving the knowledge in strategic themes and understanding the roots, identity, values and modes of FCA operations. Another main objective in staff training was to develop the organisational culture as multi-cultural and global yet still a Finnish organisation. In 2013 special emphasis was given to improve the security of the staff and the offices both in Finland and abroad. Training courses were arranged on first aid, travel security and working in high-risk areas.

Some minor check-ups for terms of international assignments were conducted as well as a project of renewing the remuneration system was planned. The structure of annual job satisfaction survey was renewed to serve better the needs of globally operating organisation and to bring out the most important factors of staff motivation and well-being.

2.7 Fundraising and Finance

Domestic fundraising

The year 2013 was once again a good year in private fundraising. FCA continued to use various fundraising methods, for example face-to-face street recruiting, Direct Response TV –spots, Alternative Gift and Women’s Bank. FCA also participated in the National Broadcasting Company’s (YLE) annual fundraising campaign “Yle Helps Red Nose Day” (Ylen Hyvä Säätiön Nenäpäivä). The Philippines typhoon -catastrophe campaign was very successful and FCA received legacies more than ever before in its history.

FCA continued giving feedback to our donors of the achievements in the field and how the work we do has changed the lives of the beneficiaries.

There were big changes in the payment systems in the end of 2013. Direct debit came to its end in Finland the replacing method being e-invoicing. The conversion of direct debit monthly donors to e-invoicing system was very challenging and required a lot of effort as well as resources.

Parish Fundraising

The results from the parish fundraising were different than the budget scenarios let believe in the beginning of the year 2013. The possibility of deficit in the budget didn’t happen, mostly because of the parish contributions and Syria and the Philippines catastrophes. The total amount of parish contributions increased because of the big parish contributions and their new policy to allocate the budgeted money.

FCA put efforts to be more approachable for smaller parishes as their partner in international diaconia. Since the Finnish Church itself is in a difficult economic situ-

ation and the theological debate between missiology and diaconia, the funding has reflected to FCA’s parish fundraising as well. Also decreasing number of members of the church reflected to our result especially FCA’s official parish collections since people are not attending Sunday services as much as before. This has been a trend already for quite many years.

The Common Responsibility Campaign income increased 2 %.

Global Grants

Further to establishing the Global Grants unit (GG) in November 2011, GG embarked on generating organisation-wide processes in 2012 towards systematic institutional donor intelligence gathering and quality proposal development. In 2013, GG actively supported FCA’s Regional Offices in growing established and innovative FCA projects through institutional donor funding instruments. Combined with engaged Regional Office staff, the GG were successful in supporting funding growth and quality programming.

The donor funding that was approved in 2013 from GG efforts thus far include DFID, ECHO, EuropeAid and USAID. Much of the funding has been for the Somalia Peace Initiatives that were initiated with MFA funding back in 2009. The Somalia Stability Fund (donors include DFID, MFA Netherlands and the UAE) funding approval for circa over two years for FCA’s Peace Initiative in Puntland and Somaliland was the catalyst to the success story of FCA’s actions in Somalia launched in February 2013 and complementary to the MFA project. The programme has since scaled-up through active participation in grants activities and informing institutional donors of the value through the evidence base. FCA signed a two year grant agreement with EuropeAid end of last year on Somalia Peace Initiative project in Bay and Bakool. As a result of these actions, FCA is now the largest actor in Somalia on peacebuilding. The USAID funding is through a consortium led by the well-established and regarded Adeso for peace initiatives in North Kenya. The largest and most recent project approval is through DFID over two years in the Somalia Central Regions.

The ECHO projects include a food security and nutrition intervention in DRC launched in May 2013 and an education in emergencies project in Myanmar notably from the Nobel Peace Prize fund. Both projects are in partnership with FCA’s long-term implementing partners, LWF. FCA’s GG unit was able to develop the capacity of LWF towards successful funding growth through ECHO.

Finance Figures 2013

In 2013 FCA expended a total of 31 MEUR for on aid and other operations, which represents a decrease of 6,2 % from 2012. The income for the period was 31,4 MEUR representing a decline of 4.5% compared to the previous financial year. The surplus for the financial period was 0, 35 MEUR after two deficit years. At the end of 2013, equity stood at 5,9 MEUR (5,6 MEUR at the end of 2012). Advanc-

es received for disaster relief work, reconstruction, the Women’s Bank and other operations totalling 8,6 MEUR on the balance sheet (6,1 MEUR at the end of 2012). This includes the assets of former funds, such as the Women’s Bank.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs provided funding for development cooperation activities the total of 7,9 MEUR (7,7 MEUR in 2012) of which, however, FCA reimbursed small amount* to the MFA. 4,9 MEUR (5,3 MEUR) was received for humanitarian aid from the MFA. Thus funds from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs made up 40,8% 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 7,8 MEUR (7,8 MEUR in 2012) and thus from total income 24,8% (23,7%).

Income from private donors totalled 7,5 MEUR (9,5 MEUR in 2012), international funding sources 1,7 MEUR (0,5 MEUR) and businesses and organisations 1,0 MEUR (0,8 MEUR).

Africa continued to be the most significant work area with the expenditure of 12,3 MEUR (13,2 MEUR in 2012).

The total programme expenditure in 2013 was 26,0 MEUR which consists of:

Development cooperation 16,1 MEUR = 62 %

Humanitarian aid (incl. HMA and reconstruction) 7,9 MEUR = 30 %

Advocacy 1,5 MEUR = 6 %

Global Programmes 0,5 MEUR = 2 %

*FCA internal monitoring system observed inconsistencies regarding payment of taxes to the authorities in the DRC. FCA informed the MFA immediately when suspecting the mismanagement. The following special purpose audit concluded that payment vouchers were not supported with original receipts and taxes paid as per FCA records differed significantly with amounts as per statements from the tax authorities. The amount of taxes entered into FCA’s accounts lacking reliable supporting documentation amounted to EUR 17,413. The equivalent amount with required interest rate was returned to the MFA in March 2014 (see Annex 2).



Photo: Ville Asikainen

3. Annual Programme Reports

I. Communications and Campaigning

FCA communications in 2013

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-page project started in March 2013. Alternative Gift -page published beginning of November. The target of project was to have renewed six different sub-web-pages published by April-May 2014.

During 2013 we achieved a new visitor record in our Facebook site totalling of 7500 likers. Amount of FCA's Newsletter subscribers was 8130. FCA's Communications Unit made 58 press releases during the year 2013. That was 10 more than in 2012.

The Dudesons (Duudsonit) in Liberia was on Finnish TV (Sub and MTV) for several times in spring time reaching almost one million Finnish viewers.

FCA communications had special sessions on the current issues in FCA programme countries with media houses and their foreign news journalists. Events were successful in YLE, STT, Ilta Sanomat, Helsingin Sanomat and Aamulehti reaching about 50 journalists. Media hits were 1518 in numbers of which 71 % was about FCA and the rest about our other networks such as Women's Bank or brands like Alternative Gift. The number however is not totally holistic and is missing for example interviews in Yle morning show, Aamu-tv. Finnish media covered intensively FCA work in Jordan with Syrian refugees and humanitarian response after typhoon Hayan in the Philippines. FCA programme specialists were also frequent invitees to radio and television programs several times during the year.

Communications officer Ulla Kärki and photographer Ville Asikainen travelled to the Philippines after the disaster in December. Photos were supplied for Finnish media and ACT Alliance mediabank. Timing of the trip was very successful taking place exactly one month after disaster. This made it possible to supply material that others did not have access to. Furthermore end of the year 2013 saw huge conflict situations in Central African Republic (CAR) and South Sudan. Both being our programme countries, it was important to be able to offer timely information for Finnish media in order to raise awareness on the conflicts and their effects on people.

By the last quarter of the year 2013, FCA recruited and

sent four communication volunteers to develop communications in four Regional Offices: Haiti, Kenya, Jordan and Liberia. At the beginning every volunteer had a six-month contract. Volunteer presence in respective areas has increased FCA visibility and news distribution.

FCA got three ambassadors for our strategic themes: photographer Meeri Koutaniemi for peace, artists Lauri Tähkä for livelihood and Jesse Kaikuranta for education. They all visited FCA programme countries (Jordan, Nepal, Sierra Leone) before a public nomination. The duty as ambassador includes supporting to advocates about FCA's work. They also give us visibility and publicity among audience and donors in Finland.

Campaigns and publicity materials funded by the MFA

Tekoja theme campaign

The aim of the Tekoja (Action) campaign 2012–2013 was to increase the knowledge on Youth and Livelihoods issues, to bring youth global employment into a public discourse in Finland and to create opportunities for concrete action. One important aspect of Tekoja Campaign was to challenge the negative stereotyping of youth as threatening, irresponsible and violent and increase the understanding that youth should be given a voice and opportunity to participate in the development of their countries and communities.

The second year (2013) of the campaign paid special attention in young women's livelihood and role in fragile context. As part of this object FCA published a briefing paper "Women and girls; Indispensable 50 %" (Annex 10).

The main communication activities included TV, printed media, social media and web-marketing. Women's education print won a price as a best monthly advertisement. FCA placed advertisements to Church media in order to thank parish youth works and other who participated in collecting over 15 000 names to a petition on youth livelihood addressed to President Sauli Niinistö.

Action campaign material was being distributed during different public events. In FCA stands the campaign message was put into practice by encouraging audience to sign the petition and sharing "Key to a profession" ink tattoos with campaign logo.

Feedback concerning campaign material was collected from FCA parish contact persons. The campaign had succeeded in creating concrete activities and discussion on youth and attitudes towards them. In general campaign material was found relevant and convenient to use. Especially true stories of young people living in development countries were regarded inspiring in youth work. 75 % of contact persons answered that they had shared the campaign information with other stakeholders and 82 % had used the campaign material.

Planning of the Education Campaign 2014 started in the end of the year. FCA organised workshops in order

to clarify campaign message and material was collected from Sierra Leone and Nepal. The advertisement agency planned a concept for media campaign.

Tekoja Magazine

FCA's own quarterly magazine has a circulation of 33,000. It is also available in electronic format (Issuu) with about 1,000 subscribers. We consider it important to offer this option, especially for the younger generation.

Each issue had a main theme based on FCA's work. The first issue's main theme was the Common Responsibility Campaign. In 2013, the campaign's cause was assisting the elderly. The second issue featured the plight of the internal refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The third issue had stories about situation of the Syrian refugees in Jordan and FCA's circus project, which is helping young people at Za'atri refugee camp. The fourth issue featured women's livelihoods and FCA's work in Nepal, with the popular artist and FCA's ambassador for livelihood, Lauri Tähkä, on the cover. The cover picture was taken during his visit to Nepal to see FCA's work there.

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 DRC. The readers thanked for magazine's positive view and also for including stories on impact of FCA's work.

Examples of the feedback (translated into English):

"This story made me think how strong Nepalese women are because they are able to work as entrepreneurs in a very challenging environment. Their children will learn from their mother that a woman can rule her own life."

"Refreshing reading in the middle of what the media ordinarily offers."

"A stark story on the situation in DRC really opened my eyes."

Common Responsibility Campaign's documentaries

The short documentaries (2,5 and 4 minutes) made in Cambodia in 2012 were broadcasted on the Finnish Broadcasting Company Yle television channels in February-April 2013. They were also available in the campaign website, and in DVD format (Annex 10), used as education material for the Campaign in parishes.

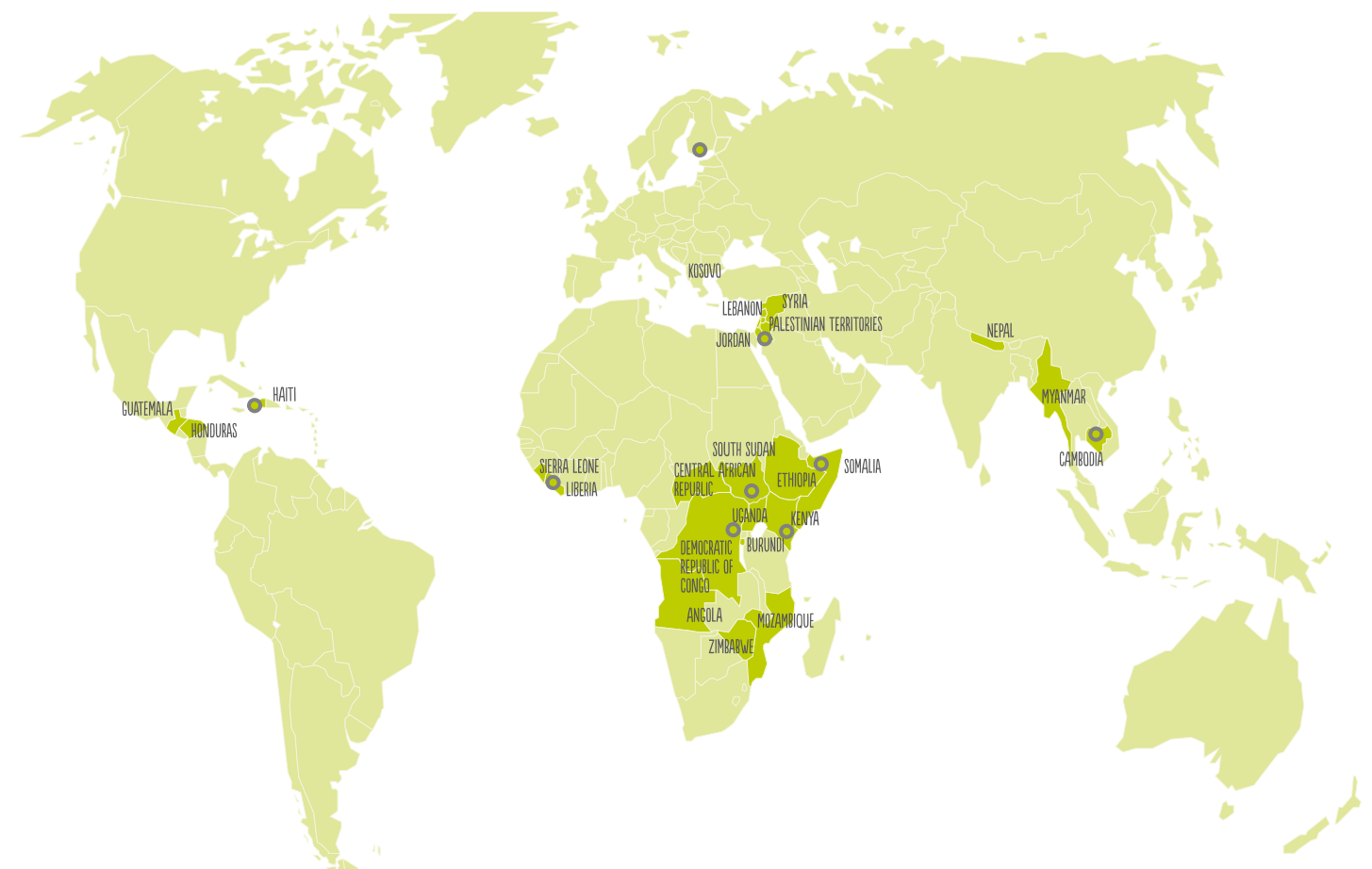
Examples of feedback (translated into English):

"The films work both at the war veterans' rehabilitation events and at confirmation schools. The films are needed."

"The film on Cambodian elderly was very touching. This kind of a documentary which brings you close to the people it tells about, work best."

The documentaries for the campaign 2014 were filmed in Guatemala in May 2013.

FCA'S OPERATING AREAS IN 2013:



II. Country Programme Reports

During 2013, 16 of FCA’s Programme Countries were included in the MFA partnership programme. We had six Regional Offices and two Country Offices as well as presence in four locations (see section 2.1). In the following, the Country Programmes funded by the MFA partnership framework in 2013 are reported. All reporting on activities and results is based on the information collected from the partners’ annual monitoring reports, from evaluations made in 2013 or from FCA Field Offices’ observations. The actual costs in every Country Programme represent the figures stated in FCA’s accounts at the end of 2013. Project lists contain all projects implemented during 2013 regardless of a funding source. MFA funded projects are highlighted with colour.

3.1 West Africa

FCA’s programme countries Liberia and Sierra Leone in West Africa are among the poorest countries in the region. The challenges the two countries are facing are similar. These include the poor state of infrastructure (roads, energy, telecommunication etc.), lack of basic services (health, education, water and sanitation) and high level of corruption. Both countries also went through a rough civil conflict that only ended just over 10 years ago. United Nations’ 2013 Human Development Index (HDI) ranks Sierra Leone 180 and Liberia 174 out of 187 countries and in both countries 60-70% of the people live below the poverty line, many of them in extreme poverty.

However, the decade of peace and stability following long civil conflicts in both countries have witnessed lot of improvements. Both countries have held two democratic and peaceful elections, even if not totally uncontested. According to the 2013 Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) Liberia and Sierra Leone are both in a group of five countries (all post conflict) to lead the table of biggest improvers on the continent in terms of overall governance. Governance in Sierra Leone and Liberia has improved significantly since 2000 and in particular has seen notable improvements in category ‘Safety and Rule of Law’.

In fact after years of civil conflicts, Sierra Leone and Liberia today in a way form an island of stability in the West African sub-region surrounded by Ivory Coast and Guinea that both suffer from political instability. Luckily in 2013

there were no changes in the general regional context that would have an effect on the FCA Country Programmes. Elections in Guinea in 2013 were peaceful and didn’t have an impact on Sierra Leone or Liberia. In 2011, the clashes in neighbouring Ivory Coast following disputed presidential elections brought in Liberia significant number of refugees. FCA with ACT Alliance was one of the first organisations to answer the needs of Ivorian refugees and has continued support them by providing access to education.

Core of FCA’s Country Programmes in the West Africa region are projects in thematic areas Right to Livelihood and Right to Education. In Liberia, FCA’s livelihood interventions are supporting women living in rural and peri-urban areas in crop, vegetable and poultry farming. Women groups are supported to generate income through making and selling for example of handicrafts, clothes and soap and by forming savings and loan groups. In Sierra Leone, FCA supports farmers including women in crop, vegetable, fish and poultry farming. Promotion of environmentally friendly farming methods are mainstreamed in FCA’s projects in agricultural sector, in particular in Sierra Leone where also environmental conservation and resilience to climate change are important project objectives.

In theme Right to Education, FCA manages directly a secondary school in Bahn refugee camp for approximately 350 Ivorian refugees. In Sierra Leone, FCA supports 4 skills training centres with around 300 students. Most of students are girls and young women, often with small children, and many have no or poor literacy skills. Hence, skills training centres provide also literacy and numeracy training, thereby giving many students a second chance to learn how to read and write while acquiring vocation skills that can lead to employment or starting of own small business.

Strengthening partners’ capacity to effectively and efficiently implement projects has been one of the key objectives of the Regional Office. This has been done through regular coaching and mentoring by FCA staff and organising regularly capacity building workshops for implementing partners from both countries. These workshops provide a platform for both FCA and the partners to exchange ideas and share best practices.

Established in March 2008, FCA West Africa Regional Office is located in Monrovia, Liberia, consisted at the end of 2013 of 16 staff members, 4 females and 12 males, including 3 expatriates and 13 nationals. The sub-office in Bo, Sierra Leone consisted of two national staff.

Liberia



Photo: Jari Kiveliä

Actual Costs:	
EUR 769,444	
MFA partnership agreement (PA) EUR 144,515	
List of Projects:	
10641	Legal Education with Rural and Semi-urban Women and Men to Ensure Compliance with Gender Sensitive Human Rights
10642	Economic Empowerment for Girls and Women in Post-war Liberia
10702	Rural Agriculture Program
10703	Women & Girls Agriculture Program
10832	Urban Agriculture project
11071	Awareness raising on gender issues
11073	Capacity Building and Advocacy Work with ACT Liberia Forum
11074	Support to Ivorian refugees in Nimba county
11117	Humanitarian aid MFA, WARO
11410	Unesco support to secondary education in Bahn camp, Nimba
11471	Support to secondary education of Ivorian refugees in Nimba county
11473	Development of Livelihoods and Education Opportunities in Butaw District in Sinoe County

Overview of the Liberia Programme

August 2013 marked the first decade of peace after the end of civil conflict of more than 10 years. Despite the relative stability that the country has enjoyed over the past decade Liberia is still a fragile post-conflict state in terms of politics and socio-economic situation.

As one of the 10 least developed countries in the world, Liberia still experiences a high rate of poverty and food insecurity, and it is heavily reliant on food imports. It is estimated that over 70% of the population of 4.1 million live below the poverty line of US\$1 a day and close to 50% even live in extreme poverty of under US\$0.50 a day. 59% of the population is illiterate with rural female featuring overwhelmingly in this group. Reaching the MDG on universal primary education still lies far, even if access enrollment numbers have slightly improved in recent couple of years. Education Statistics for the republic of Liberia 2013 reports a gross enrollment of 65 % for the pre-primary, 52 % for the primary and 22 % for the secondary school lev-

els. Girls’ enrollment is lower than boys at all levels.

FCA continued to work with four local partners in Liberia. Project New Outlook (PNO) is implementing the Rural and Urban Agriculture Projects, Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL) the Legal Education -project, Forum for African Women Educationalists, Liberia (FAWE Liberia) Economic Empowerment for Girls and Women -project and finally the partner Sustainable Livelihood Promoters Programme (SLPP) implemented the Awareness raising on gender issues -project.

Right to Livelihood remained the core theme for the programme in 2013. The livelihood work concentrated in diversifying and increasing agricultural production, increasing income base of the most vulnerable through promotion of informal business and micro-enterprises and enhancing the food supply/security of refugees and selected households in host communities in Nimba by providing support to produce food and earn income.

Humanitarian project in Nimba continued to be FCA’s

Actual Costs:	
EUR 464,020	
MFA partnership agreement (PA) EUR 464,020	
List of Projects:	
10706	Capacity building of local partners
10710	Baseline study, Project evaluations and Country Programme evaluation
10480	West Africa Regional Programme Office

main intervention under thematic area Right to Education. Around 300 Ivorian refugees were provided secondary education by teachers who are refugees themselves. Furthermore FCA's partner FAWE continued to implement a project based on Mothers club-concept that has skills training and adult literacy as main components. To take the skills training to another level, FAWE developed a proposal for the establishment of a more functional vocational education center in Buchanan. The submitted proposal was approval by Women's Bank for implementation in 2015.

In 2013, there was no peace project implemented as a stand-alone project; however, activities that are associated to peace and the unification of individuals, families and communities were implemented as cross-cutting issues by partners (AFELL and SLPP) and in the humanitarian project implemented by FCA. These activities concerned issues such as the right to participation of women, gender based violence, access to justice, inheritance law and basic human rights.

Most of the direct beneficiaries of FCA supported interventions in Liberia were women contributing specifically to women's economic and social empowerment. Hence, gender is not a cross-cutting issue, but a clear focus of the Country Programme.

Programme Objectives and Achievements

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 Rural and Urban Agriculture projects, the focus was in raising poultry for commercial egg production, innovative farming of crops such as, banana and pineapple; providing agriculture training to the target beneficiaries; training of beneficiaries to use small open spaces for agricultural production as well as working with them to identify and access market for distribution of their produces.
- In 2013 FCA's partners supported 140 existing subsistence farming households and additional over 130 new farming households into poultry farming for the production of eggs for the local market. Of the mentioned 140 existing farming households, 50 were supported by FAWE, 25 by SLPP and 65 by PNO. Of the new farming households 35 were support by FAWE, 73 by PNO and 25 by SLPP.
- After receiving project inputs, farming households were provided technical training in poultry management, small business skill and eggs packing. Households received the total of 3380 layers that produced approximately 2535 eggs per day in all the projects lasting for six months in 2013.
- About 85% of project beneficiaries successfully cultivated various vegetables and earned income instead of suspending cultivation during the rainy season. The

droppings (manures) from the poultry pens were used to improve the production of vegetables in the fields and droppings were often sold to earn extra income.

- The introduction of new farming techniques into partners' projects has led to continuous farming throughout the year, thereby prompting an increased productivity and income for farm families. Similarly, poultry beneficiaries have diversified their income base by engaging themselves into petty trading, vegetable production, cassava production, and rice farming with the profit realised from poultry. With the provided project support (trainings & supplies), about 70% - 75% of these beneficiaries have created alternative sources of income (diversification of income base). In other livelihoods project it was reported that the number of marketers has increased by 40% from previous years. This means that approximately 640 new marketers are now doing business in markets rehabilitated with FCA funding.

Women have equal access and control over productive resources and assets

- In 2013, FAWE planned to expand its Mothers Club small business loan scheme to mothers of the vulnerable girls they are supporting in school fees. The project did not give loan to any clubs/mothers, however, previous clubs or mothers of loans continue to maximise profits from their respective business ventures and at the same time taking additional loans where applicable for the improvement of their livelihood.
- Mother's Clubs have also taken charged of their respective project and are now playing a more proactive role in it. Market productivity shows an increase, with linkages to markets within and out of the country for the sale of their products (artifacts).
- Project beneficiaries of FAWE's project succeeded in acquiring a Central Bank loan of 250,000 Liberian Dollars (approximately 3050 USD) to be used to purchase feed for their layers.

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

- 216 families in total (21 in Bahn camp; 145 refugee-families and 50 vulnerable families in host communities) were supported (seeds, tools, poultry and small ruminant) to supplement food supplies and thus ensure food security. Beneficiaries showed a strong commitment to farming and part of the crops seedlings were sold on the local existing market, to ensure sustainability.
- The Country Programme promoted environmentally friendly farming practices and discouraged harmful practises such as slash and burn, shifting cultivation and use of inorganic fertilizers in the livelihood projects. Farming households were trained to practice organic agriculture and introduced farming practices like crop

rotation, carrying out very minimum tillage of soil and provide mulching of soil as well as growing crops in polythene bags/empty sacs.

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

- FAWE-Liberia implemented skills training programme (tailoring, quilting-making, pastry, soap-making, embroidery and art & craft) for mothers and disadvantage girls of Bensonville and Kendeja Mother's Clubs. Over 50 girls and mothers graduated from the programme and were later organised into mini-cooperatives to make products for sale.
- Functional literacy programmes were established by FAWE and operated in two project communities; Yarrowlee (level two) and Gaemue (level one). Approximately 100 women and some men benefited from the programme.

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

- Secondary education was provided to 355 Ivorian refugees (230 male and 125 female) in Bahn Camp using French as teaching medium and adhering to Ivorian education system; teachers (21) were recruited among the refugees; support was given also to local schools in selected host communities in Nimba County to integrate Ivorian refugee children in Liberia education system and ease local children access to school.
- In 2013, FCA opened a Girls Club and a day care center in the secondary school of Bahn Camp. Both initiatives aimed at helping girls' attendance to rise, providing the girls and their children with a safe and healthy environment where communication and self-help are encouraged. Girls meet weekly at the Girls club to discuss issues affecting girls in general on the camp and in the school, like teenage pregnancy, personal hygiene, HIV/AIDS educational challenges etc. The availability of the daycare greatly increased the teenage mother's attendance from 12 to 37; the kids are brought in before classes by their mothers and are cared for by the Parent Teacher Association while their mothers are in class.
- At the end of the school year, girls' attendance had raised from 72 to 125 attending classes daily in Bahn Camp project.
- School infrastructure in Bahn refugee camp was improved through renovation temporary buildings and construction of a new one permanent building with a library and science lab. FCA provided students with learning materials such text books, note books and sta-



Photo: Jari Kiveliä

tionary. One of the major achievements in 2013 was organising the informal exams for students in the final year of the school. Unfortunately exams were not recognised by Ivorian Ministry of Education.

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

- FCA continued to build partners' capacity in peace work through training workshop in conflict sensitivity and resolution and enhanced networking and search for options for peace work.
- SLPP piloted gender equality and women's empowerment project titled "Enhancing Women's Participation in Decision Making" in four clans in Garwula District, Grand Cape Mount County. The pilot project which lasted for three months promoted gender equality, women's rights and participation through training, awareness raising and media campaign.
- AFELL's lawyers trained 144 members of Mothers' Clubs in Banjor, Kendeje, Bensonville, Yarrowlee and Buchanan communities in legal rights awareness. Women learnt that women and men have equal rights to access justice and enjoy equal human rights; women were also taught how to seek legal assistance in case of domestic violence.
- Awareness raising and training campaigns on human rights, domestic violence and access to justice that were organised by members of Mothers' Clubs covered 47

catchment communities. Traditional and community leaders participated in community trainings.

- Teachers and members of Peace clubs in FCA-managed secondary school in Bahn refugee camp received training in conflict resolution.

Studies

FCA commissioned a feasibility study on the poultry component of partner PNO’s Rural Agriculture project. The decision to commission a study by external consultant was based on identification of challenges that the project was facing and opportunities that the project has.

The study looked at the implementation of the project as well as prospects for developing the project, most notably the component of poultry far, into a commercially sustainable egg production unit. The study confirmed that there is indeed a good opportunity to develop the project into an economically sustainable commercial enterprise. This, however, would require further investments in the egg production unit/farm, for example in a cool storage for processed eggs, development of packaging materials and marketing strategy and crowing of corn and soy beans for feed production as a long term as a risk management strategy.

The study made recommendations that should be taken into account when implementing the county plan for 2014. These relate for example to training of beneficiaries and the staff of egg production unit/poultry farm. According to the feasibility study, to make the Egg Production Unit function as an autonomous business enterprise, a startup cost of 75% of the projected income as seen in the first year of operations has to be provided by a donor, or through a bank loan. Therefore FCA has to explore which options to pursue in supporting egg production in Liberia.

Capacity Building

In 2013, FCA organised two capacity building workshops - one in Liberia and other in Sierra Leone - for its 8 partners in the region. The topic of the first workshop was conflict sensitivity, while the second one focused in fundraising and project cycle management. The idea behind selecting fundraising as training topic was to encourage partners to seek other donors in addition to FCA. Currently some partners have multiple donors, whereas some partners have FCA as the sole source of funding. Fundraising workshop was facilitated by Global Grants Coordinator from FCA HQ.

As a project support the Field Office continued to provide support to partners in matters related to project implementation and since mid-year after recruitment of Finance Officer in particular to financial management. Project reporting by partner continued to be a challenge in terms of quality and timeliness. Reporting was a topic in both capacity building workshops on 2013, but improvement in the quality of reporting has been only marginal. It seems that reporting is often seen to just a burden and administrative requirement, not a management tool.

Liberia ACT Forum has “1,5” local members: Lutheran Church of Liberia and its Lutheran Development Services. The International members are three: ICCO, FCA and Church World Service that since 2013 has a presence in Liberia. Local members continue to struggle with capacity and funding issues. They would need to be worked with hand-in-hand, but in 2013 FCA had no resources, especially time, for this. FCA took the lead in the development of MoU for the forum and organised one-day planning workshop. Furthermore, FCA supported local members to participate in Regional ACT Forum in Ouagadougou, and was represented by Regional Representatives there. Clearly many of the Forums struggle with similar issues as Liberia Forum and therefore the role of the Regional Forum would need further clarification.

Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

Right to Livelihood

Poultry project have brought lot of visibility to FCA and its partner PNO. However, there are number of risks related to poultry. Investment made in procurement of chicks relatively high and provision of feed to beneficiaries in the beginning of the project is expensive. In the second half of 2013, extra funds were allocated to both poultry projects due to miscalculation related to feed. To make beneficiaries to understand the logic of sustainability in chicken rearing is sometimes challenging as well. Therefore, continuing training of beneficiaries is of paramount importance for the project to have a positive impact in communities. The challenges related to the regular availability of poultry feed has been a major constraint poultry projects and have required constant attention. Through field monitoring and by providing guidance to partners FCA was able to tackle the problem of feed availability.

One lesson learnt is the importance of involving beneficiaries in the planning and implementation of their project. This was evident in particular with FAWE’s project in which participation bred a strong sense of ownership among clubs and members. It was confirmed by beneficiaries that the sense of ownership taking root in FAWE’s programmatic areas was created through participation. Further, it was realised that the involvement of men in programmes designed to support women yields results quickly and adds more value to the project.

The implementations of the Liberia Programme faced challenges ranging from the late approval of project documents by FCA partly due to partners late submission and to delays in narrative and financial reporting. This is turn created delays in payment of funds to partners and subsequently affected execution of planned activities. Quality and timeliness of reporting was discussed in capacity building workshops organised for the partners. Quality of financial reporting has been improved due to increased support given by FCA Finance Assistant in Western Africa Regional Office.

Sierra Leone



Photo: Anna-Liisa Raunio

Actual Costs:

EUR 600,390

MFA partnership agreement (PA) EUR 310,402

List of Projects:

10313	Integrated Community Empowerment Project
10649	Bonthe Island Environmental and Livelihood project
10704	Digloma Youth Friendly Centre
10705	Empowering women and girls through vocational skills training and adult literacy
11063	Empowerment Project for Women
11249	Research into the Roles of Traditional Leaders in Sierra Leone Peace Process

Overview of the Sierra Leone Programme

It is estimated that 3.7 million out of the population of 5.9 million live on less than USD 1.25 a day in Sierra Leone. There is also a tremendous inequality in income distribution. About 2/3 of the working-age population is engaged in subsistence agriculture, but the expansion of agricultural is not driven by the farmers, but mostly Foreign Direct Investments (FDI). It is estimated that since 2009 more than a fifth of the country’s arable land has been leased to foreign companies whose activities are directed towards cultivating cash crops for export. This has increased the vulnerability of population and in some cases is sowing the seeds of instability. Disputes related to the use of natural resources and land ownership can lead to conflicts at local level.

FCA continued to work with existing partners PICEP (Integrated Community Empowerment –project) and Green Scenery (Bonthe Island livelihood -project) as well as selected duty bearers (e.g. Ministry of Agriculture) to support poor communities in diversifying and improving food and livestock production. The main objectives were the improve-

ment of households’ food security and income through provision of farming inputs and training in productive farming methods (for example vegetables, rice, cassava) and poultry and fish farming.

The Country Programme had also a strong focus on Right to Education. Two of FCA’s four partners, FAWE and RADA, both managed two skills training centres in four different locations (Makeni, Kabala, Zimmi and Bo) providing skills’ and vocational training.

More than 90% of beneficiaries of FCA-funded projects in Sierra Leone are women and girls. Gender equality and human rights along life skills are included in curricula of FAWE’s and RADA’s skills training centres. Also Green Scenery’s project has a small awareness raising component on gender issues.

There is no active ACT Forum in Sierra Leone, but FCA continued to collaborate and explore synergies with Christian Aid and Sierra Leone Council of Churches. After Regional ACT Forum meeting in Burkina Faso it was decided to make an effort to vitalize the forum. FCA shared MoU of Liberian ACT Forum and sponsored a planning meeting in

Freetown. It was decided to start the activation by mapping out thematic and geographic areas of work of each member organisation. As ICCO, Christian Aid and FCA are all partners with RADA and Green Scenery, more coordination, or for example a donor meeting, is planned to be organised.

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 2013, PICEP's Integrated Community Empowerment project supported 127 farmers (86 male, 41 female) with agricultural inputs (seeds, tools, extension services) to produce rice, cassava and groundnut, 60 youth (40 male, 20 female) in upland fish farming, 30 youth (18 male, 12 female) in corn production, 42 widows in beekeeping and 150 women received chickens and training in poultry. Subsidized eggs production generated significant income (approximately 50 USD/month) per beneficiary in June-December with 20% savings target to enable procurement of new chicks after those given to the by the project stop laying eggs.
- There has been increase in food production as verified through observation, but no detailed data was yet available to provide statistical evidence of change.
- Green Scenery's project on Bonthe Island supported around 35 households living in 3 fishing communities to engage in farming and diversify their farming production. Communities adopted new crops and varieties

(cassava, ground nuts, rice, and vegetables) and there is anecdotal evidence of good yields leading to reduced hunger period and improved food security. Furthermore, as a result of good yields, some project communities wanted to get a cassava processing machine and some non-project communities were able to buy seeds from project beneficiaries. In Bonthe town, 20 women were supported to start preparations for poultry farming.

- Furthermore, Bonthe project communities and households' eagerness and commitment towards the project improved as household's income increased with the introduction of new varieties of crops (diversification) in the project year 2013. Gradual learning and acceptance of new skills in agriculture took place among the communities and a healthy competition for improving the standard of living was growing within and among beneficiaries and communities. Households started replicating the skills acquired from the project site to their individual household farm sites within the communities. Moreover, adjacent communities paying regular learning visits to the project communities made request to the project management for assistance with similar project.
- Bonthe Municipal Council showed strong commitment towards the project and assigned their Monitoring Officer to regularly monitor project implementation, give feedback to the Council for appropriate action and advice to project management team. As a positive example of its engagement, the Council noted that use of children to carry sand to the construction site of poultry house (as beneficiaries themselves were old) was not acceptable.



Photo: Ulla Tarkka

Women have equal access and control over productive resources and assets

- Revolving loans were given to 6 groups of 6 graduates out of approximately 120 students attending two skills training centres run by FAWE.
- In the skills training run by RADA in Zimmi, approximately 150 graduates were organised in 11 groups and provided with small seed money.

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

- Sierra Leone is among the ten most vulnerable countries in the world to the impacts of climate change. Greens Scenery's project on Bonthe Island has been designed to strengthen household's resilience to climate change through development of adaptive capacity through farming techniques, agricultural diversification.
- In general, the Country Programme promoted environmentally friendly farming practices and discouraged harmful practices such as slash and burn, shifting cultivation and use of inorganic fertilizers. Farming households were trained to practice organic agriculture and introduced farming practices like crop rotation. As regards poultry, the droppings from layers are usually used to fertile farming soils as it has no negative effect on the soil.
- In PICEP's Integrated community empowerment project environmental conservation and management is one of the result areas. In 2013, trainings were conducted for 160 members of 32 Community Based Disaster Management Committees (CBDMCs) who in turn would serve as trainers in their respective communities. In collaboration with the Village Development Committees and local community chiefs, CBDMSs developed by-laws on indiscriminate logging, fire handling/control, and other disaster risk behaviors.
- PICEP project also promoted so called The Sustainable/Sloppy Agricultural Land Technology (SALT) by establishing demonstration sites where farmers were given on-farm agronomic training on SALT as a land protecting (soil erosion control) and conserving farming method. Farmers enrolled for this practice recognised the advantages associated with SALT, but did not yet started the practice since land is not a limiting factor to their upland farming ecology. They were however willing to minimise the slash and burn farming and do more of low land/swamp farming.

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 Right to Education theme was strongly linked to Right to Livelihood theme in the Country Programme as the four skills training centres supported by FCA aimed at providing students with skills and knowledge that would help them to find employment or start their own business after graduation. To this end, graduates were provided with start-up kits and small business training and on-job training in order to gain practical experience.
- Over 300 adolescent, majority of which were girls, were enrolled in 4 vocational skills training centres supported by FCA. Literacy was included in curricula of the centres. No statistics are yet available on graduate's engagement in small business.
- The centres run by FAWE had only young women as students, whereas RADA's centres trained also young men. FAWE's centres provided training in horticulture/farming, dressmaking, weaving, catering and hospitality trade for 120 students, while RADA's centres offered training in masonry, welding, carpentry in addition to tailoring and hairdressing for approximately 200 students.
- A total number of 120 trainees (109 female and 11 male) successfully completed training at RADA's Zimmi Skills Training Centre. These trainees and 30 out of the 59 last batch of trainees who graduated from the Jendema center were organised into 11 groups to be supported with some seed money to start own businesses in their areas of trade. International volunteers supported RADA in development of Business support and business plan component in the second half on 2013.
- At the Bo center, 77 trainees (50 female and 27 male) proceeded to the second year. In addition to vocation skills training, students at both centers were taught life skills (gender issues, HIV awareness, reproductive health rights and human rights). Knowledge gained has enabled trainees to be involved in owned activities, engaging peers in one to one and group discussions. This, to a large extent, has created increased knowledge and gradual change of behavior and attitude of trainees as relates to the mentioned issues.
- Partners were supported to improve the physical training facilities to accommodate further skills and to enhance the quality of training. RADA's Centre in Bo went through a rapid expansion with the construction of additional classroom buildings to house more trainees and thereby catered for the increasing demand for skills training in the second biggest city in Sierra Leone. Unfortunately, FAWE were not able to introduce new subject although facilities in Makeni centre were rehabilitated to accommodate skills training in electricity. Consequently, FCA decided to reduce project budget and reallocate the same amount to RADA that prepared feasible plans for expansion.
- Given the low literacy level of some learners and motherhood status of others adult literacy class participants, kindergarten/crèche services were provided at the skills training centres supported by FCA.
- Starting of skills training (boat building) in Bonthe as one project activity was not considered cost-effective or feasible due to poor planning and preparation by Green Scenery.

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 view of a possible intervention under the theme Right to Peace, FCA commissioned a study on the role of religious and traditional leaders in conflict prevention, mediation and resolution. The study conducted by the Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD) provided basis for planning of peace project. NMJD was requested to submit a project proposal for FCA’s review. Networking was started with stakeholders in peace work.
- In 2013, village development committees (VDC) in Kenema and Bo districts were trained in conflict resolution and take up challenge in dealing with community conflict situations before they escalate into violence. 16 new VDCs in 16 communities were established and Community Action Plans and constitutions developed for them. VDCs received training in peace building and gender equality and some engaged in mediating low-level disputes in communities.

Capacity Building

In 2013, FCA organised two regional capacity building workshops - one in Sierra Leone and one in Liberia – for all of its 8 partners. The topic of the first workshop was conflict sensitivity, while the second one focused on fundraising and project cycle management. The idea behind selecting fundraising as training topic was to encourage partners to seek other donors in addition to FCA. Currently some partners have multiple donors, whereas some partners have FCA as the sole source of funding. Fundraising workshop was facilitated by Global grants coordinator from FCA HQ. In addition, FCA sponsored two partners based in Bo to participate training in EU proposal writing held in Freetown.

The Field Office continued to provide support to partners in matters related to project implementation. Project reporting by some partners continued to be a challenge terms of quality and timeliness. Reporting was topic in both capacity building workshops, but improvement of quality has not yet been significant.

Partners’ financial oversight was strengthened as a result of recruitment of Finance Assistant who was assigned to work closely with partners in order to ensure that financial procedures and internal control mechanism were in place and respected. The quality of financial reports was to some extent improved through the support given to partners in financial management. With the recruitment of Finance Assistance, the Country Programme Coordinator was left with more time to spend on monitoring of project activities.

Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

In 2013 PICEP in Tunkia chieftdom faced a severe challenge in having most of beneficiaries’ land in valley swamps taken away from them by the Government and given to the foreign mining activities. PICEP was advised to seek for alternative

farm lands in the south to salvage the plight of beneficiaries. Land issues needs close monitoring, and collaboration with other FCA partners with special knowledge in this sector should be considered.

Working with Green Scenery has proven to be challenging particularly in terms of timely reporting. Implementing a livelihood project seems difficult for Green Scenery that is in essence an advocacy organisation. While partnership with an advocacy organisation is useful in strategic sense it creates problems for efficient and effective programme work. In 2013, the budget originally allocated for Green Scenery had to be reduced due to late commencement of the project as a result of delayed submission of project document. FCA could explore options where Green Scenery would provide knowledge of local conditions and technical know-how for the project, while some other organisation would take care of project management. Currently, PICEP provides support to Green Scenery in poultry.

FCA funded vocational and skills training centres are yet to have NCTVA’s (National Council for Technical and Vocational Education) accreditation from the Technical Vocational Unit of the Ministry of Education Science and Technology for trainees that opt for advance course in their respective areas of specialization. The bureaucratic and diverse nature of the processes involved has had a dwindling effect on the registration of the centre to attain this status. FCA needs to play a role in this issue in particular as the Country Programme has a strong Right to Education component.

While there is no doubt that FCA’s partners would not be providing relevant skills training, there is need for continues assessment of skills training market. Furthermore, as start-up kits are a big investment, more information is required to assess to what extend they actually help graduates to set up their own sustainable business alone or with other graduates. However, there are clear indications and evidence that some of graduates have been able to generate income with skills they have acquired. In any case, more post-graduation support and follow-up monitoring is needed to gather evidence-based information. This is an issue in which some partners need support.

Under the Right to Education theme, the Teachers without Borders network could be used to support the Ministry of Education. Identification of issues and local partners for co-operation needs to be explored. The first volunteer teacher to be assigned probably to the project implemented by FAWE could be used to assist in the assessment and planning.

The frequent changing of partners’ auditors has affected Country Office’s financial reporting in terms of availability of accurate and consistent financial balances of previous year. Varied procurement procedures between FCA and Partners and made it difficult to identify authorised expenditure thresholds for different procurements.

3.2 Central Africa

During the year 2013 FCA worked in four countries in Central Africa Region: Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Central African Republic (CAR), Chad and Burundi. The overall objective was supporting the vulnerable populations to regain their dignity. The main work was accomplished through the partnership with LWF in DRC, Chad and Burundi and with other local partners. FCA’s Central Africa Regional Office (CARO) locates in Goma, DRC.

The security problems in DRC and CAR during the year affected the smooth implementation of some approved projects in line with FCA global strategies following the three thematic objectives. Right to Livelihood and Education themes were the strongest in the region supported by Right to Peace activities.

The CAR office was established in 2013 following the strategic decision made by FCA HQ in collaboration with Regional Office (CARO) in order to have a presence for more coordination and assistance in humanitarian need the country started facing due to fighting between the CAR government troops and SELEKA rebel group, which ended with their win on the loyal army and cease of the power in the capital city in March 2013. FCA was officially registered in September 2013. FCA has been working in the country be-

fore the humanitarian operation. A pilot project on food security linked with livelihood started in 2012 ended in 2013 and was completed by FCA’s partners OSEEL and CARITAS.

In Burundi, FCA doesn’t have a physical presence but worked in partnership with the LWF that is implementing FCA financed projects since 2009. For the year 2013, the project executed by LWF has seen the positive impact on the beneficiaries. FCA is expected to exit Burundi by the end of 2014.

Same as for Burundi, FCA did not have a physical presence in Chad but worked through LWF. LWF has been present in Chad and working with IDPs since July 2007, with the CAR refugees since 2008 and with the Sudanese refugees since 2009. During these years in the country LWF staff and auxiliaries have been working closely with the target population and maintained good relations. FCA exited from Chad in 2013.

During the year 2013, lots of changes took place within FCA’s CARO office in relations with human resources, with an appointment of a New Regional Representative who started early January, the replacement of the Programme Coordinator in March 2013 and the DRC Humanitarian Coordinator leaving to open the CAR office.

Actual Costs:	
EUR 532,066	
MFA partnership agreement (PA) EUR 532,066	
List of Projects:	
10715	Central Africa Regional Programme Office

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)



Photo: Mike Toivanen

Actual Costs:	
EUR 1,885,047	
MFA partnership agreement (PA) EUR 460,467	
List of Projects:	
10437	Kubagu development and capacity strengthening project
10584	LWF - DRC Staff Capacity Building Project
10603	Youth Empowerment project
10933	Local Partners' Capacity Building Project
11061	Advocacy and women's participation (RAFEJE)
11157	Recovery and rehabilitation for IDPs and returnees in Beni and Lubero
11184	Reinforcement of treatment of children suffering from severe malnutrition in health zones of Kayna, Lubero and Kibabi, Masisi
11210	Women lawyers fighting for women's rights (DFJ)
11211	Women lawyers for progress of women (FJDF)
11212	Integrating female community leaders and women in the conflict prevention, mediation and resolution
11246	Support to psycho-social and economic reintegration of youth
11265	Humanitarian assistance in education
11296	Humanitarian support to IDPs in South Lubero and South Masisi
11355	DRC 2012 ACT Appeal
11357	Tendela School Project
11377	LWF nutrition and food security humanitarian project 2013
11393	Supporting women's engagement to global advocacy and discussions on successful UNSCR 1325 implementation through the CEDAW process
11394	DRC 2013 ECHO project
11413	Education in Emergencies response in Kitchanga Region, North Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo

Overview of the DRC Programme

The fragile state and governance structures in DRC are manifested in corruption, absence of social services, a culture of impunity, human rights violations, decayed infrastructure, a distorted market, unemployment and uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources. Movement of armed forces has caused displacement and disruption of livelihoods activities. In eastern DRC, the conflict has created a situation of a continuing humanitarian emergency. The area is a very challenging environment for development work and the security situation is fragile and potentially volatile.

FCA conducted projects in relation with the three thematic areas as defined by the Global FCA strategy, Right to Livelihood, Right to Education and Right to Peace in DRC. The interventions zones are the following: The Oriental Province, Kubagu and in North Kivu Province including Goma, Rutshuru, Masisi, Beni and South Lubero territories. The development projects implemented in 2013 fell under Right to Livelihood with the partners LWF, ETN, DFJ and COPERMA, Right to Education with ETN and LWF and Right to Peace with DFJ, FJDF and RAFEJE while the humanitarian projects concentrated on livelihoods (LWF) and

education (Collectif Alpha Ujuvi).

The year 2013 was challenging in terms of security in the areas in which FCA works in and especially in the North Kivu. During the course of 2013, various projects experienced implementation delays due to attacks of the M23 rebel group, which tempted to cease the city of Goma four times in the course of five months (July-November 2013). The fighting between M23 and the DRC loyal army started unexpectedly and changed our plans focusing more on staff security and prevented project monitoring during on-going fighting. Our implementing partners faced the same challenges since they could not access areas outside Goma and the war affected areas.

Livelihood theme continued in Kubagu implemented by LWF but was also strengthened during 2013 as the component was mainstreamed into new projects in the Country Programme. FCA together with its partner organisation DFJ (Dynamique des Femmes Juristes) decided to include saving and credit activities in a project that had previously mainly dealt with legal assistance for the victims of sexual violence, enhancing the economic well-being of victims of sexual violence and other community members. This was solved by sub-contracting two other organisations with relevant experience to be in charge of credit- and saving activities.

FCA has continued working on professional training, linking training and improved skills with enhanced employment and earning opportunities. 150 youth were trained in profession in FCA funded vocational training centre managed by the partner ETN, and thereafter these youth have formed business associations, where they run small businesses in groups.

The thematic of peace is also mainstreamed in several projects of the DRC Country Programme. FCA with its partners continued working with local leaders in order to support community level conflict resolution and link better human rights violations, specifically regarding sexual violence, with the official judiciary system.

DRC Country Programme supported RAFEJE, a network of four women lawyer organisations, in the advocacy for UNSCR 1325 at local, national and international level, also highlighted in the FCA's Global Impact Plan for Right to Peace. The advocacy work adhered to improving women's constructive and equal participation without discrimination to peace processes at local, national and global levels. In June 2013, RAFEJE and FCA's Central Africa Regional Office organised a meeting in Goma, in which the network identified its strategic focus relating to the UN's CEDAW process.

Programme Objectives and Achievements

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

- Based on a survey of 136 households in Kubagu project, the percentage of beneficiaries having an income of less than one dollar a day has decreased from 79 % to 64,7 %.

- 47 livestock kits were provided to the selected project beneficiaries under Kubagu project in the Oriental Province. The innovative model used is "rotational kit", as beneficiaries are required to give livestock to other beneficiaries once their animals reproduce.
- 150 youth at ETN vocational training centre have been trained in a profession and supported in establishing small-scale enterprises in groups or individually through Youth Empowerment project.

Women have equal access and control over productive resources and assets

- Creation and support of 8 new VSLA (Village Saving and Loan Association) promoting revolving credit and saving for vulnerable women, often victims of sexual and other human rights violations. In total there are 16 VSLA groups created by the project of Women lawyers fighting for women's rights in Nyiragongo, Rutshuru, Bweremana Sake and Kitshanga. Also six female associations for credit and saving were structured in Kubagu.
- Establishment of 8 income-generating activities for women associations were supported in Women lawyers fighting for women's rights project.
- Income-generating activities were supported for women beneficiaries as 67 start-up kits were provided followed by monitoring of the evolution of small businesses in Kubagu.

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

- 575 households use new environmentally friendly agricultural practices and the use of agroforestry technique (avoiding burning forest for agriculture but using crop rotation) has increased from 52% to 63 % in Kubagu.
- Risk management and contingency plans exist in communities including screening of acute crisis instruments and their social/market consequences (seed banks, cash/ Food for work options etc.)
- In humanitarian projects 4,500 conflict affected population in South Lubero benefited from food assistance, short term food security and livelihoods; 587 out of the 600 targeted children suffering from malnutrition have been treated; 2,033 children suffering from malnutrition were treated and 434 children suffering from the severe malnutrition have been treated exceeded the target set for the project which was 200.

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

- 60 community leaders have been trained with the support of Kubagu project (6 women and 54 men) on agroforestry, micro zoning and agriculture law and awareness

raising was organised on entrepreneurship, women's leadership and empowerment

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

- Vocational, entrepreneurship, literacy and life skills training for youth, support in setting up businesses in groups as well as sensitisation and community awareness-raising on need of the vulnerable youth through Youth Empowerment project has showed following results during 2013:
- 150 young people completed one-year vocational training in profession coupled with 144 hours of entrepreneurship and leadership training, presentation of individual business plan and literacy learning (32 unalphabete youth read, write and calculate) and therapy for the traumatised youth;
- 35 youth conducted a three-month internship after the training programme;
- A production unit for welding has been established and an assessment of its profitability was conducted by an external consultant;
- 5 VSLA (Village Saving and Loan Association) groups for parents and graduated students were established to promote their self-employment, saving mentality and business creation;
- 10 awareness sessions against sexually transmitted diseases and HIV, protection of the environment, reproductive health, education, citizenship, and gender were organised. A change in behavior of young people was observed about HIV, as it was noticed that young came to ask for practical advice and took the condoms placed in the toilet;
- A babysitter was recruited to enable the young mothers to study without disruption and 25 youth having no home or family families were housed, fed and cared for.

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 disaster situations FCA and partners implemented successfully the concept of Education in Emergencies including disaster proofed, child and environmentally friendly learning spaces;
- 404 girls and 496 boys were provided access to school through the construction of 4 semi-permanent classrooms;
- 35 school boys and girls have been equipped by teachers that have received a special training and qualification in teaching children that have missed a chance to get the education. They are taking their class at Kitchanga Sec-

ondary School Building facilities;

- All 400 children supported with fees to access end of primary school leaving exams took part in the exams. 368 of the 400 children passed the exam, a success rate being 92% (142 girls, 226 boys);
- 900 school age beneficiaries were provided with catch-up lessons at school. 765 of these (404 girls and 496 boys) passed their end of year exams as a result. This represents an 85% pass rate.

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

- Four “community structures” were piloted, integrating actors such as police, political leaders, local youth, interest group representatives, churches, traditional leaders and civil society actors to support awareness raising on human rights at community level. The community structures have also referred cases of human rights violations to FCA's partner organisations of women lawyers which have processed the cases in the court system.
- In total, the Country Programme supported 174 cases of human rights violations to be taken to the court system, mainly related to sexual violence through the partners of FJDF and DFJ's projects.
- Two awareness campaigns and capacity building held on sexual violence, women's rights and conflict mediation attaining 1,438 people, including 900 women and 538 men through DFJ's project and 1,114 people sensitised on women's and human rights in the community through 48 radio broadcasts through FJDF's project.
- Through FJDF's project 71 meetings with relevant authorities were organised to support the proceeding of the human rights violations identified and 60 members of the community structures were trained on respective issues.
- In DFJ project areas there were several community lead educational initiatives in peace and human rights education in schools as well as psychosocial support for affected people. DFJ provided psychosocial support in total for 623 beneficiaries survived from sexual and human rights violations.
- 11% of local leaders in DFJ project area confirmed that the violations against rights of women and children have reduced.

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

- RAFEJE, a network of four women lawyer organisations in DRC, participated in the UN's CEDAW process (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimina-

tion against Women). In its report to the CEDAW committee, RAFEJE emphasised the implementation of the UN Security Council's resolution 1325. RAFEJE also urged the Government of DRC to approve a realistic budget for implementing equality politics and for resisting gender based violence. RAFEJE's report has been published on the web pages of the UN OHCHR. Also the expert group providing recommendations the Government adopted some of the recommendations by RAFEJE in their final report.

Congolese women are still under-represented particularly in official conflict resolution and the Network recommended that DRC's government would promote the equality between men and women in all its peace negotiations. For example, only two women are participating in the peace negotiations between the government and M23 insurgents in Kampala.

Capacity Building

FCA provided capacity building for partner organisations in DRC also in 2013. An external consultant was recruited to improve the capacity of the partners to implement livelihood projects. The consultant organised a training on income-generating activities (IGA) to the field agents of the local partners, so that they would better equipped to implement IGAs in their projects. Based on the pre- and post-tests, the knowledge of 80% of participants increased on the subject. The consultant also conducted field visits to monitor the implementation of activities and further train local partners. For example, in Rutshuru he trained 68 agents on IGAs, VSLA (Village Saving and Credit Association) and developing business plan. He also provided recommendations on how to develop partners' capacities in entrepreneurship and livelihoods.

A three-day training on advocacy was organised for partners to learn how to elaborate a detailed advocacy plan. Representatives of five different partners participated in the training. Partners have included the elaboration of advocacy plans for the projects in the annual plans for 2014. FCA HQ representatives provided Regional Office staff training in livelihoods and in advocacy. Is has now decided to mainstream project level advocacy plans to most of region's projects to increase the impact of grass-root level activities.

A three-day meeting was organised to prepare for the annual planning process of 2014. The meeting also included training on results-based project planning and logical framework. The annual workplans 2014 now include more “SMART” indicators and have more coherent information across partners, as FCA mainstreamed the reporting format.

FCA had a separate capacity programme for the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in the DRC. The activities were the following:

- 14 LWF staff members were trained on managing agricultural cooperatives. The module to establish cooperatives has been distributed to project personnel. The LWF trained staff has trained in return local agents in Beni and Kisangani. Two cooperatives have been initiated in Beni and two others in Kisangani, which however are still at an initial stage.

- Training on community resilience was organised in Kubagu, in the Oriental Province of the DRC. Apart from community resilience, the training covered the issue of REDD+, an important notion specifically for the project Kubagu and agroforestry. LWF Kisangani together with FCA is planning to develop fundraising with regard REDD+ in 2014.

An evaluation was conducted between November and December 2013 to evaluate the impact of the capacity building project in LWF project sites in Goma, Masisi, Beni and Kisangani. The performance of 65% of LWF's staff improved in the themes of the capacity building.

FCA Regional Office also carried out a five day financial capacity building in the first week of December aimed at plugging the various gaps identified during both the annual audit process and our own internal monitoring visits. The broad themes of the financial capacity building revolved around budgeting, reporting and year end procedures.

Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

In Eastern DRC discrimination against women in many aspects is still very common. Increasing people's knowledge of human rights and women's rights in particular is an essential prerequisite for the promotion of gender equality. Both women and men are engaged in the education and sensitisation work done by FCA's local partners. Despite ongoing efforts, the challenges remain considerable and many prejudices against women continue to persist. Traditional attitudes and practices are difficult to challenge and at times not just men's but also women's resistance to change is strong.

The volatile and rapidly changing context in some of the target areas posed particular challenges also in 2013. Access to project area is a challenge in DRC in general. This limits the ability of FCA to supervise partners and also poses challenges to partners in implementing activities.

Weaknesses in financial management capacity and reporting of partners have brought some challenges. FCA has put a lot of emphasis on improving partners' project and financial management in the course of the year. The management letters of partners' audits from the year 2012 pointed out some drawbacks. Each partner was visited and the notions and recommendations of the audits were discussed in detail. Partners were given time until July 2013 to make necessary changes. Thereafter, another round of evaluations were organised. As a result, FCA had to terminate the collaboration with one partner. Capacity of partners' financial management was continued to improve due to identification of weaknesses, support and training given to them. This has increase quality of partner's reporting even though further support is still needed.

The project reporting of partners was also found at times insufficient. The partner reporting was often based on number of activities instead of results. FCA provided more guidance on how to report and streamlines the information provided by different partners.

In 2013, FCA's Regional Office faced also some internal challenges including investigation of mismanagement (see also section 2.7, under “Finance Figures 2013”). FCA inter-

nal monitoring system observed inconsistencies regarding payment of taxes by FCA CARO to the authorities in the DRC. The following special purpose audit concluded that payment vouchers were not supported with original receipts and taxes paid as per FCA records differed significantly with amounts as per statements from the tax authorities. During 2013 FCA started to implement recommendations given for the CARO as a result of the investigation.

Overall financial management of the Country Programme improved significantly during the year at the FCA's Regional Office. We have over the period identified key weaknesses in our systems and set in place measures ranging from recruitment of a new Finance & Administration Coordinator. Strengthened office resources also increased the budget of the CARO office during 2013 (see Annex 2).

3.3 East and Southern Africa

In 2013, the FCA East Africa Regional Office became the East and Southern Africa Regional Office (ESARO) as responsibility for FCA programmes in Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe were added to the regional mandate in addition to Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda Djibouti and Ethiopia that were already managed from Nairobi. This expansion included the recruitment of new regional support staff based in Nairobi as well as an expansion of presence in the Programme Countries in the region. Offices in Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan were strengthened and a registration process to open a Country Office in Uganda in 2014 was started in 2013. As some programmes expanded, FCA also phased out of activities in Djibouti as part of the strategic plan to consolidate efforts into key focus countries as well as ending humanitarian projects in Ethiopia.

Peace Building and Education in Emergencies were the focus themes of ESARO in 2013. FCA's mediation work in Somalia was developed further to engage more strongly with governance and long-term stabilization efforts. Drawing on the lessons learnt from Somalia, FCA began preparing for the expansion of peace building activities into Northern Kenya and South Sudan, where similar types of ethnic conflict exist. FCA was also involved in advocating for peaceful elections in several countries in the region, working with religious and traditional leaders to promote peace.

In Education in Emergencies, FCA supported activities in refugee camps in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. Recognizing greater needs in the countries of origin of the refugees, FCA decided to begin to focus future education in emergencies activities to target IDPs within Somalia and South Sudan. The FCA's third theme, Right to Livelihood, continued also to be adopted in the programme portfolio of the region. Livelihood projects continued in Uganda, Mozambique and South Sudan as well as in Angola and Zimbabwe. Furthermore, support for demining continued in Angola.

Recognizing the extensive needs within the ESARO region, FCA began to approach international donors for resources to expand programmes. Contracts were signed with the Somalia Stability Fund/DFID, UK Stabilisation Unit of the British High Commission and the European Union for additional projects within the region. FCA also participated in ACT Appeals in Somalia, South Sudan and Mozambique. These initiatives have increased the visibility of FCA in the region and increased resources to carry out our programmes.

FCA is a member of ACT local forums in Kenya, Somalia, Uganda and Southern Africa. In Kenya ACT local forum, FCA acted as a chair for six months in 2013.

Kenya



Photo: Paul Jeffrey



Actual Costs:	
EUR 319,008	
MFA partnership agreement (PA) EUR 25,360	
List of Projects:	
11122	Capacity Building of LWF Staff
11278	Turkana Host Community livelihood & DRR project
11280	Dadaab Education in Emergencies

Actual Costs:	
EUR 652,821	
MFA partnership agreement (PA) EUR 469,800	
List of Projects:	
10741	East and Southern Africa Regional Programme Office
10803	Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) climate change
10860	Development of East Africa Regional Disaster Preparedness
10861	Monitoring and Human Resources to Regional Somali Refugee Programme
10862	East African Humanitarian Partners Capacity Building Workshop
11298	Regional Advocacy Project (ACRL) Strengthening Multi-Religious Collaboration for Peace Building, Reconciliation and Sustainable Development
11299	Regional Programme Implementation and Local Partners' Capacity Building

Overview of the Kenya Programme

FCA established the office in Kenya already in 2010. The focus of the presence has been strongly regional, and the year 2013 was the first year when Kenya Country Programme's development work started to be developed through the identification of a local partner, even though humanitarian assistance projects have been implemented already in past years. At the end of 2013, the formal decision to accept TUPADO as FCA's local partner was made and a livelihood assessment was conducted in Turkana area in Northern Kenya in order to plan future activities with the partner.

Kenya Programme had a strong education focus in EiE (Education in Emergencies) within the refugee camp context. In 2013, EiE activities were piloted in the Dadaab refugee camp in collaboration with LWF Kenya/Djibouti programme. The main focus of the project is supporting out-of school refugee youth with vocational skills training, including literacy, numeracy, life skills and basic business skills training. In addition FCA provides technical expertise to the partner in designing and implementing a vocational training programme that will enable the beneficiary youth to establish and sustain income generating activities. Other

components of the education project in Dadaab camp contained FCA's financial support for LWF activities on special needs education and early childhood development.

Even though the programme is still new and quite fragmented, there are long strides already made especially in peace projects which are at the inception level. However, each of the on-going projects has programmatic aspects of FCA's Regional Programming in East Africa.

Programme Objectives and Achievements

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

- TUPADO was identified, assessed and approved as a local partner to implement livelihood and DRR project in Turkana. Also a livelihood assessment was undertaken but activities could not be implemented due to conflict which erupted in the identified project area. Therefore

peace building activities have been started by FCA in the project area in 2014.

- The livelihood assessment was conducted. Key recommendations are summarised in “Studies” section.
- In Dadaab through LWF, 20 youth were trained on driving, 57 people on tailoring and 48 participants were trained in soap making processes. All these will ensure livelihood or employment for the participants at the end of the project.

Right to Education

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 commissioned a learning space assessment one month after the launch of EiE project in May 2013. Emerging from the assessment findings was the realisation that LWF did not have the technical skills (structural engineers) to plan and implement high quality, innovative school project. Following the assessment findings, FCA recruited a structural engineer to support LWF in Dadaab to design Early Childhood Development Centers (ECDCs). As a result of the technical designs for ECDCs, the ministry of education in Kenya approved the designs which were used to construct the newly completed two ECDCs. The admirable centers located in Kambioos camp in section 8 has made it possible for 100 children to get a place to learn. Each classroom is able to accommodate 50 learners.
- Kenya is also one area having negative impacts of climate change. Therefore climate sensitivity was considered and ensured in all projects. FCA climate mainstreaming tool acted as a point of reference in this regard. For example in Dadaab, classrooms were designed in such a way that was sensitive to possible floods in the area and sufficient water drainage facilities were considered. Any destruction of natural vegetation during the construction process was not allowed.
- In Dadaab refugee camps, FCA and its partner LWF identified a total of 29 teachers and sent them for an in-service training at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology. This activity was conducted in the month of August when the schools had closed and the teachers were free to attend the training. The training focused on Accelerated Learning Program, Concepts and Pedagogy.

Right to Peace

- Right to Peace was a cross cutting principle in the Kenya Country Programme in 2013. FCA was part of the ACT Kenya forum that advocated for peaceful election by airing peace messages through local media. This was mainly due to the fears of possible repletion of the post-election violence that took place after the 2007 elections.

FCA was actively involved in peace advocacy efforts concerning Kenya and the region through the Kenya ACT forum.

- During 2013, FCA applied funding from international donors for implementing peace efforts in conflicting communities in Northern Kenya. The plans realised and the project started in early 2014. Peace theme is strengthened in the future.

Studies

FCA conducted an assessment on a new proposed livelihood and DRR project area in Northern Kenya, Turkana and Pokot communities (annex 7). The key findings were:

- The poverty prevalence rate and poor access to basic services in the whole region covered during the assessment is extremely high.
- It was noted that drought is the main disaster in Northern Kenya. Drought is changing in complexity, periodicity, intensity and its overall impact on the livelihood of the local communities. In the two counties, the rate of afforestation is very negligible in light of the very high rate of forest clearing mainly for purposes of extracting short term livelihood opportunities through burning charcoal. Thus, the reality of climate change may complicate issues in the region and needs to be addressed.
- There exists very clear social and cultural boundaries in the allocation of power and responsibilities which are negatively creating impediments in development of livelihood opportunities for different groups, such as women and youth, among the two pastoral communities living in the Northern Kenya region.
- Constrains of youth opportunities; There is high illiteracy levels and shortcomings of the formal education system affecting youth from Pokot and Turkana pastoral communities. Hence, the need for deliberate move to promote and encourage youth sensitive entrepreneurship opportunities for both short-term and long-term employment opportunities.
- Diversifying livelihood options; Pastoralism and livestock is the main source of livelihood. Although a range of non-pastoralist livelihood activities are being pursued, very few of these activities return as much income as livestock production and still employ a significant size of the population compared. Dependence on one source makes the communities vulnerable. Therefore livelihood options should be diversified and there are good possibilities and demand for example green vegetable production.
- Gender disparity in livelihood opportunities is high. Women’s possibilities for diversified livelihood options should be supported.
- The impact of community village banking concept have showed good results in other parts of Northern Kenya and thus should be considered integrating as a one component of proposed livelihood project.

Capacity Building

In the year 2013, there the human resources and accountability of partners were strengthened.



Photo: Paul Jeffrey

On human resource (HR) management of LWF officer in Nairobi has strengthened. Capacity building has improved the communication with staff and better staff retention. These aspects are a core in quality programme implementation. The current ‘project’ in HR – which is a continuation of the FCA support – is focusing on the value added by HR and on developing Result Oriented Job Descriptions.

Accountability has been strengthened through training of staffs and beneficiaries. The focus of the FCA support has been on two different events. First a capacity building workshops for LWF staffs from Country Programmes across East and Central Africa was organised in Nairobi. From LWF 4 staffs were trained. As a follow up to this, accountability training and capacity building was done in Kakuma during October – December with the main focus being Information sharing with beneficiaries and communities served, participation of communities in planning, decision making, monitoring and training.

Additionally, in the context of the Dadaab EiE -project technical support provided by FCA included the following:

- Transparent tendering process
- Contract management
- Site supervision
- The management of quality
- Production of quality reports with gender disintegrate information
- Designing EiE projects

Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

Kenya Country Programme is a new one despite the location of Regional Office in Nairobi since 2010. Country Programme is still searching its shape and focus of work.

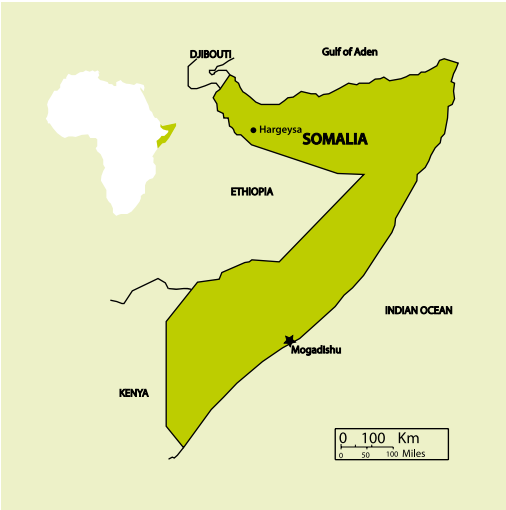
The livelihood assessment was conducted in 2013 and a project was planned to start in Northern Kenya with a new partner TUPADO. However the plans had to be postponed because of escalated conflict in the proposed project area. FCA decided to start peace related activities in the area drawing from experience and successes in the other parts of the region. The changed plans were communicated to TUPADO and future possible opportunities to partner with them are kept open once situation settles.

The new county governance in Kenya has not done much in areas of Northern Kenya (Turkana and Pokot). For example there are no foreseeable plans in order to enhance the situation of children’s school attendance. Therefore there are big needs for development programmes in Northern Kenya. However, the allocated funds compared to the needs on the ground do not totally match and therefore new resources should be sought.

Somalia



Photo: Ville Asikainen



Actual Costs:	
EUR 2,084,767	
MFA partnership agreement (PA) EUR 637,276	
List of Projects:	
10001	Youth Vocational Training Assessment
10763	Somali Peace Initiative Programme (PIP)
10781	Somalia Country Programme Office
10858	Emergency WASH & Social rehabilitation Support to Mogadishu IDPs and Host Communities
11085	Pastoral Education Project
11300	Emergency assistance to drought affected communities in Somaliland
11322	Water Trucking to Mohamed Moge IDP settlement in Hargeisa
11330	Capacity Building for Local Partners
11353	Somali Peoples Peace Initiative Project (SPPI)
11384	Act Somalia Forum coordination
11404	Expanding FCA peace work to South Central Somalia (Mogadishu Office and Central Regions Grand Consultation Conference)
11406	Central Regions Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation Initiative – Preparatory Phase
11454	Emergency assistance to drought affected communities in Somaliland II
11487	Humanitarian Assistance for Victims of the Tropical Cyclone in Puntland

Overview of the Somalia Programme

Somalia ranks as one of the least developed countries in the world. Twenty years of civil war and widespread militia rule have undermined Somalia’s viability as a state and remains as barrier to meeting the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets. The collapse of the central government in 1991 has over the years translated into high insecurity, especially in the south and central parts of Somalia, weak and often absent public services, very weak economy and poor infrastructure, abuse of human rights and impunity of law breakers.

During the year 2013 FCA remained active in local, regional and national networks on peace building as well as documented its unique three-fold conflict resolution approach composed of conventional, Somali traditional and

Islamic methods into a Conflict Resolution Manual. Due to the conflict-prone context and FCA’s expertise in peace building, the Right to Peace remained the strongest theme in Somalia. This can be seen in the increased donor funding to FCA’s peace work. During the year FCA attracted a noticeable global donor, Department for International Development (DFID), to fund two new peace projects and the DFID funding for SSPI project is channeled through Somalia Stability Fund (SSF). During 2013 a total of six peace projects were implemented of which two will directly continue also in 2014.

FCA’s Somalia Country Office (SOCO) continued its work in Hargeisa, Somaliland, however FCA has been legally registered both in Somaliland and Puntland. FCA continued to strengthen its operational capacity by hiring

new staff including PME Officer and Finance Manager in 2013. FCA up-scaled its peace building and conflict resolution programmes in the South Central Somalia (SCS), with special focus on Central Regions of Mudug, Galgadud and Hiiraan as well as the South Western regions of Bay and Bakool. In 2013, it was made the decision to open an office in Mogadishu to work closely with the implementing partners and Somali Federal Government (SFG). As a direct result of the Mogadishu office, FCA was able to establish presence in SCS by basing one full-time project manager in the capital. Through the expansion, Central Regions Grand Consultation Conference was organised in June 2013.

In 2013 FCA continued to partner with Candlelight for Health, Education and Environment (CLHE), Haqsoor for Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development (Haqsoor) and Horn of Africa Center for Peace (HACP). Center for Research and Dialogue (CRD) was approved as a new implementing partner in South Central Somalia given their long field presence and work experience in that part of Somalia to which FCA extended its peace and advocacy programmes.

Programme Objectives and Achievements

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

- Project work on livelihoods in 2013 focused on humanitarian assistance. During the year it was successfully implemented three projects: two cash for work as a response to drought affected areas in Awdal and Sahil regions of Somaliland and a humanitarian emergency response project to the cyclone affected areas in Puntland. The projects improved livelihood conditions of the beneficiaries and lifesaving assistance reached the affected community members in the areas of operation. As a result, the target communities’ resilience as well as standard of living improved supporting the recovery processes.
- Drought response included two cash for work/ unconditional cash relief projects in pastoral and agro-pastoral villages in three drought affected regions in Somaliland where 2,500 households not only were enabled to get access to food and meet other immediate basic needs, but also were able to strengthen the overall community resilience against future shocks by rehabilitating community assets such as rural feeder roads and irrigation canals through to the cash for work schemes.
- In addition, as an immediate response to the tropical cyclone affecting Northern Somalia in November 2013, FCA implemented an emergency response project in two of the most affected coastal districts of Puntland. The project provided 700 households with cash sufficient to purchase a minimum food basket as per Sphere Standards for a period of two months.

Right to Education

- Somalia Country Programme did not implemented education projects in 2013 as its focus in terms of human resources and funding was on peace work. However, during 2013 a concept note on peace education in Somaliland and Puntland was developed targeting UNICEF’s expected call for proposal on peace education. In addition, it started drafting a project proposal on TVET in Somaliland. While working on the project ideas, FCA identified the need for allocating adequate human and financial resources to conduct necessary groundwork for the proposals. Thus, investing in a thematic assessment on education in Somalia would benefit FCA’s aim to expand its programme work to include education.

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

- With the support of PIP project, FCA supported Ministry of Women and Family Affairs in Puntland and empowered women-led organisations to sensitise women leaders from all regions of Puntland when it comes to their active role in peace building and conflict resolution. As a result, women’s peace building plan has been developed by Puntland-wide “District Women coalition”. Furthermore, the project supported raising awareness on peace, conflict resolution and human rights.
- The Central Regions Conflict Resolution project supported seven clans to hold preparatory meetings for intra-clan reconciliation to take place. One of the primary planned results of the project was to address the major longstanding intra-clan issues which have inhibited cohesion and further reconciliation. The majority of these intra-clan issues have resulted in violent and fractious disputes including loss of lives and limited movement due to insecurity. At each of the intra-clan meetings in 2013, resolutions were made on some of these more serious issues. In addition, women’s committees were part of the Abgal intra-clan resolution meeting and the Habar Gidir preparation meeting. Women were also included within the resolution meetings with the Dir, Marehaan, and Harti clans. Women have played a distinct role as pressure groups who apply pressure on the traditional elders to find positive solutions. Furthermore, each clan developed an inclusive committee of traditional elders that would represent the clan in future inter-clan dispute resolution. In the case of the Marehaan committee, they also have reported that they have successfully and independently intervened and resolved two conflicts that arose after the conflict resolution meetings were held.

In South Central Somalia, there has been an articulated understanding of the value of safety and the continuity of safety in each of the preparatory meetings for intra-clan reconciliation. The acceptance of reconciliation initia-

tives is in itself an attempt at developing greater security stability and a culture of peace. The leadership of the traditional elders enhances the validity of these points.

- Traditional and religious leaders as well as regional and local authorities have participated in conflict resolution supported by SPPI project resulting in the resolution of seven active conflicts in Sool, Sanaag and Mudug regions. Furthermore, as evidenced by FCA's observation, the religious leaders have actively participated in disarming and dismantling clan militias when conflicts erupted in Sool and Sanaag regions. Due to cultural restrictions, women have not been directly participating in intra- or inter-clan conflict resolution. Instead, they have resolved conflicts within/between families and neighbours. In addition, 379 (205 men, 174 women) beneficiaries including religious and traditional leaders, authorities, women and youth were trained in conflict resolution. The trainings were conducted using FCA's conflict resolution manual which combines the conventional, Somali traditional and Islamic conflict resolution techniques.
- In SPPI project, the key local community leaders and authorities have jointly carried out peace awareness campaigns to areas where conflicts started. In addition, regional peace building plans have been developed as part of the project. The plans include a need for reviving culture of peace among community members.
- Through the SPPI project it was also established and strengthened regional peace committees with planned action plans to address underlying root causes of conflicts is an evidence of existing platforms. By the end of the year 2013, the committee has been established in Mudug and the ones for Sool and Sanaag are pending. Quarterly dialogue meetings between community leaders (rights-holders) and government officials (duty-bearers) with diverse representation of clans, religious orientations, major districts, women and youth have also created an informal structure for better consultation and cooperation in regional peace building.
- Key resourceful persons from women and youth organisations participated in Training of Trainers (TOTs) training on conflict resolution and peace building. The trained TOTs also participated in training 180 focus group members including women and youth on conflict resolution and peace building in Sool and Mudug. Furthermore, the TOT training included two peace activist poets (1 woman and 1 male youth) who have produced poems on peace building and conflict resolution knowledge to sensitise and educate their people.

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

- PIP project contributed to and supported the newly adopted peace building policies in Somaliland and Punt-

land. These policies are expected to guide the building of nation-, region- and district-wide mechanisms for addressing and preventing arising conflicts. Furthermore, the Ministry of Interior of Somaliland has taken initiatives to protect law enforcement agencies from possible revenge actions when negotiating with clan elders. The idea was introduced by FCA and if/when proven successful, it will address the weak capacity of law enforcement authorities as it is identified one of priority root causes of conflict to be addressed in Sool and Sanaag regions.

- Through the support to Central Regions Grand Consultation Conference in Mogadishu in June 2013, FCA brought Somali Federal Government (SFG) together with community and political leaders as well as NGOs from the central regions of Somalia to discuss the way forward for peace, reconciliation, and eventually governance structures. The focus of the consultative discussions heavily revolved around what the stakeholders present thought was necessary in the process to achieving peace and reconciliation in South Central Somalia. Outcomes from the meeting included a workplan on the way forward and increased avenues for donor-federal government-regional government interaction.
- Central Regions Conflict Resolution project supported the decision-makers to work with conflict affected communities to identify mechanisms to address structural root causes of conflicts. This process is led by the SFG and the project has been developed under heavy consultation with the SFG. The government has engaged in each of the preparatory and actual meetings either by sending a representative of the Ministry of Interior and/or sending a delegation of members of parliament to the region for the meeting.
- Through SPPI project during the regional quarterly dialogue meetings in Sool and Sanaag, state and non-state actors identified root causes of conflict. Based on this, they developed a regional peace building plan that will be validated at the first meeting in 2014. The final version will include a selection of five root causes of conflict to be addressed by the regional peace committees.

Capacity Building

In 2013, full updated partnership assessments of two implementing partners in Somaliland, CLHE and Haqsoor, were conducted. In addition, HACP's and Center for Research and Dialogue's (CRD) financial capacities were assessed using the updated FCA partnership assessment format. As CLHE scored high in both the PMER and financial side of the assessments, focus was placed on supporting the other implementing partners. Programme-wise it was identified the following capacity gaps in Haqsoor: weak senior level management (Board and CEO) and capacity building needs in workplanning and reporting capacities. The senior level management issues were discussed with Haqsoor project staff and an official communication was sent to the board. FCA staff focused on capacitating Haqsoor's project staff on PMER. This included joint workplanning sessions, sharing

of activity reporting and participant list formats as well as providing thorough comments on Haqsoor's reporting. This has proven successful. Haqsoor's increased capacities to set and keep targets as well as report on the progress made is evident in the activity reports and quarterly report from late 2013.

The financial part of the partnership assessments of HACP, Haqsoor, CLHE and Center for Research and Dialogue (CRD) identified the need to have the local partners operate an accounting system that would not only meet the financial management needs of the local partner but would also enable them to provide more relevant financial reporting. As a response, through Local Partners' Capacity Building project the purchase of QuickBooks 2011 was made and installed it in the offices of HACP, Haqsoor and CRD. CHLE had an appropriate accounting system in place and did not need QuickBooks. As part of this process, training on QuickBooks was organised in Hargeisa to the three key finance personnel from HACP, CRD and Haqsoor.

In terms of other capacity building, FCA supported HACP in security and safety related operational costs through Partners' Capacity Building project. In South Central Somalia general management structure of CRD has increasingly improved as a result of continuous on-the-job support of Central Regions Conflict Resolution Project Manager. Furthermore, the local partner has improved in its data collection, understanding of positive and negative implementation techniques as well as recording lessons learnt as a way of interior monitoring and evaluation. This is evident in observing the partner's work and reviewing its reports.

Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

Integrating the three strategic FCA themes in Somalia Country Programming would be very important given the potential synergies and complementarities between the themes. This ideal thematic integration and pursuit of these synergies have been among the objectives in the last couple of years. However, the planning and particularly the actual implementation of such integrated programmes are not particularly easy. It takes lot of planning, context analysis, identification and securing of funding sources. Also in 2013, both human and other resources such as funding and time available posed challenges to achieving this objective of theme integration. The rapid expansion of peace projects and FCA field presence in the South Central Somalia also meant less human and financial resources available for the realisation of a more balanced thematic integration in the country. As a lesson learnt, FCA aims to budget enough human and financial resources to conduct solid preparatory work - such as baseline assessments - for developing education and livelihood project proposals that have interlinkages to peace work.

Otherwise related to the actual content and implementation of programme work, it has been noted that the bottom-up process has been the most effective. The meetings related the peacebuilding that were able to properly identify which level of the clan was appropriate to begin at were the most successful. The quality of the facilitators from the clans and



Photo: Ville Asikainen

their commitment and standard of work will have a large impact on the results obtained from the meetings. It is necessary to have someone who is eligible to participate but also can report back, guide conversation and help implementation. When the intra-clan reconciliation process had a strong backing from the Somali Federal Government (SFG), the process came to stronger and outcomes were better than when SFG did not engage. Therefore FCA's peace projects are actively engaging decision-makers and authorities in bottom-up process.

The conservative Somali society is largely male-dominated and women have little direct role to play in resolving conflicts in the field. Yet, they are pivotal for any peacebuilding and conflict resolution efforts. For example, by including women in the reconciliation meetings, the Central Regions Conflict Resolution project, has added significant value to the productivity and pressure for success of the meetings. Women were given a distinct and important role in the advancement of these meetings and they played it to pressure the traditional elders to find positive solutions during the meetings. By recognizing women's remarkable contribution to intra-clan peace processes in South Central Somalia, the project linked to FCA's higher level advocacy work in promoting Somali women's participation in national peace processes in line with UN resolution 1325.

For humanitarian and development efforts in Somalia, insecurity and instability are usually considered as serious potential obstacles. This has not been the case only for the volatile South Central Somalia (SCS), but also for the

usually more stable Northern provinces of Somaliland and Puntland. In SCS, the armed confrontation between Al-Shabab and African Union Mission in Somalia/SFG continued which has impacted also the local population and at times further restricted humanitarian operations. The targeted assassinations remotely controlled explosive devices and suicide bombings remained a very serious threat in Mogadishu throughout 2013. When it comes to the Northern Somalia, fortunately most of the serious security-related risks did not materialise. FCA's main approach to mitigate the above mentioned security risks is to train its staff, stay updated and alert as well as maintain working communications with

NGO Safety Programme in Somalia. For example, the PME Officer as well as Programme Manager based in Mogadishu participated in Hostile Environment Individual Safety Training -course in Hargeisa in the autumn 2013.

Following the recommendations from Puntland government, which favours INGO-LNGO partnership rather than INGO-INGO partnership, FCA decided not to implement anymore projects with ADESO which was LNGO now grown into INGO. FCA did not officially discontinue the partnership and ADESO remained partner. It was agreed to join forces, when opportunity and need arises for Somalia operations.

Uganda



Photo: Ulla Kärki



Actual Costs:	
EUR 937,103	
MFA partnership agreement (PA) EUR 650,005	
List of Projects:	
10077	Reduction of extreme poverty and hunger in the post-conflict areas of Gulu and Oyam districts in Northern Uganda
10078	Empowering Communities for Sustainable Livelihoods project (ECSL)
10303	Sembabule community based project
10362	Katakwi integrated rural development project
10531	Women's Bank project
10612	Kampala slum dwellers' advocacy and development project
10821	Pader Farmers Empowerment Project
11316	Uganda Capacity Building for Local Partners
11319	Uganda Education in Emergencies in the Rwamwanja Settlement
11408	Evaluation of MFA frame projects ending in 2013 in Uganda
11492	School Sanitation and Health project

Overview of the Uganda Programme

FCA originally started operating in Uganda due to the conflicts in the northern part of the country. Discontent in the North gave rise to resistance, including groups like the Lord's Resistance Army, abducting thousands of children and randomly killing and destructing in Uganda and neighbouring countries. There has been a significant return of those displaced by conflict in northern Uganda. The overwhelming majority of the 1,8 million internally displaced people (IDPs) who lived in camps at the height of the crisis returned to their areas of origin and others were resettled in new locations during the year. However, returnees faced continuing difficulties due to inadequate basic services and limited support to rebuild their livelihoods. The return process was also marred by land conflicts which lead to violence in some areas.

Because of the history of the country, Country Programme has focus on LRRD. FCA's work in Uganda focuses on the country's poorest people and on the most economically deprived areas. FCA works with communities that have been affected by conflict in Northern and Eastern

Uganda as well as south western region to improve their living conditions and claim their rights by holding the duty-bearers accountable. FCA implements through the partners a broad range of work - from helping to reduce poverty in rural areas to enabling people to be better prepared for disasters, as well as promoting the rights of women and other marginalised communities.

During 2013 Uganda faced influx of refugees from the neighbouring countries. The conflict between M23 and the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) that started in 2012 resulted in tens of thousands of refugees fleeing the DRC into Western Uganda in 2013 stretching Uganda's social services and humanitarian resources to breaking point. FCA together through the ACT Uganda forum supported Education in Emergency activities with our own disaster fund. Similarly, thousands of South Sudanese fleeing violence in December 2013, crossed into neighbouring Uganda, where resources and land to meet their needs was in short supply. By the end of 2013 some 7,580 South Sudanese had entered Uganda.

Uganda being a relatively stable country, most of FCA work concentrated on livelihood development and disaster preparedness and risk reduction (DRR) remained as an integral part in all projects. However, due to the influx of refugees from the neighbouring countries, Education in Emergencies work was implemented to provide second chance education opportunities to school going children. Two of the livelihood projects, Sembabule community based -project and Katakwi Integrated Rural Development -project, were evaluated in 2013. Main results are included in this report.

FCA continued to cooperate with our long-term partner Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Uganda, as well as two of smaller local partners, Uganda Change Agent Association (UCAA) and Church of Uganda (CoU) – PDR.

Programme Objectives and Achievements

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 the start of the Pader project, 1,600 farmers were registered and were involved in different income generating activities (crop production, livestock rearing, petty business, charcoal burning, and selling out labour). Out of these, only 600 individual households were having a stable income generating activities which are sustainable. FCA through LWF supported all the registered individuals with inputs, trainings and other skills to support their income generating activities and as a result by the end of the year, 1,501 households have realised a percentage increase in income from their enterprises returns. Commercial farming as for source of income increased from 38 % to 62 % and casual labor on farms from 30 % to 79 %.
- A total of 1,501 (M=444, F=1,057) farmers were trained on VSLA and started practicing saving at household level, almost 50% of the households were able save 20,000 shilling in a month compared to 8,000 shillings per month at the start of the year. The project also trained and facilitated running of village savings and loan associations among 1,501 individuals in 37 farmer groups in Pader district.
- The end of year monitoring data showed that 13 of the 26 VSLA groups formed and supported in Katakwi district, Eastern Uganda were able to share out Uganda shillings 43,526,700 in December 2013. The shared out money was used individually to initiate livelihood and income generating activities such as: retail shops, acquiring bulls for ox-plough, construction of huts, buying household items and food, and payment of school fees for the children. Successful VSLA groups encouraged more households to enroll in 16 new VSLA groups and save to improve their families
- The evaluation of Sembabule project confirmed increased farm productivity among 1,200 food insecure households: 66% of households could afford two meals

a day, while 26% had three and 8% one meals a day respectively; 35% increase in productivity for food in insecure households as a result of the same quantity of reduction on number of households that graduated from having one meal between the baseline and end of year evaluation.

- Sembabule evaluation findings also indicated that 86% of the households interviewed had some surplus after harvest in the immediate last season. Therefore an increase of farm productivity of 30% was met based on reduction on households who had only one meal and the fact that 79% of target households accessed their food from their gardens.
- Gulu and Oyam district project aimed at improving livelihood among people who earn less than US\$1 per day in Paicho Sub-County of Gulu District and Otwal Sub-County of Oyam District Northern Uganda. The primary focus group for the project was a total of 4,179 community members of selected model parishes in Paicho Sub-County (Gulu District) and Otwal Sub-County (Oyam District). This target groups comprised of poor grassroots men and women engaged in subsistence agricultural production. The target group was also comprised of small scale artisans, petty traders as their main forms of occupation. Among the target group was a significant number of out-of-school youths that had attained adult age but lacked gainful employment skills. The project employed the VSLA methodology and ten groups consisting of 300 members were trained. Through the VSLAs, group members were able to plan and invest in long-term activities, and meet expenses such as healthcare and education costs for their families. The project also trained 22 participants in improved agricultural practices. The objective of the training was to equip participants with skills in improved agricultural methods. As a result of this training, participants started establishment of Kitchen gardens, planting improved seeds and in rows in order to realise high yields.

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

- As people are settling in their original land in Pader after 20 years in camps, most of the trees and vegetation cover are under intense degradation, a lot of trees being cut for construction of houses, firewood, and to open up land for agriculture. Most of the household registered had one or two trees in their compound and from the baseline approximately 3,000 trees were seen in the compound of all the registered farmers. During the year, individuals were supported with fruit tree seedlings that can be raised to provide fruits for consumption, shade, wind breaks, fire woods and income from the sale of fruits or integrated on their farms to conserve the environment through agro-forestry.
- The Pader project increased the knowledge levels among the farmers on disasters and mitigation measures as it

greatly improves on the responses and management of naturally occurring and man-made hazards in terms of preparedness, detection of early warning signs and proper response mechanisms. This will help to limit the chances for further man-made disaster occurrences. When a sample of 200 household was interviewed from Lapul and Pajule villages during the monitoring visits, they demonstrated high level of understanding on disasters, how it is foreseen, how traditionally the communities can respond to disasters if it occurs and activities that exposes an area to disasters. 68% of the sampled populations were knowledgeable on how to manage the disasters communally before occurrence and after occurrence during the year compared to 30% at the beginning of the year of project implementation.

- FCA supported LWF to distribute 8,036 seedlings in 2 sub counties of Katakwi district from the nursery site to the targeted 120 households. The survival rate for the seedlings increased from 45% to 75% due to the trainings, sensitisations and demonstrations conducted at village levels. With more trees surviving, the tree cover in the target areas improved, households were able to sale and eat pawpaws, oranges and guavas they planted during the project period.
- During the year, the Katakwi project trained communities in community managed disaster risk reduction (DRR) and as a result 6 community action plans were implemented by community action plan committees to prevent and mitigate hazards.

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

- The Kampala slum dwellers advocacy and development project was scaled up to 4 additional cities of Kabale, Mbarara, Arua, and Mbale in 2013. This project of the urban poor built capacity and advocacy skills for slum dwellers to become key stakeholders in the urban development arena, and improve livelihoods. This expansion of the project to national scale provided an opportunity for having more members in order to realise a strong voice for the urban poor to contribute towards influencing policy.
- As a result of various engagements, the Government of Uganda through its different line ministries realised that local citizen participation is a useful tool to enhance public policies responsiveness to the peoples' needs. FCA partner LWF through ACTogether, participated with Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development in the formulation of a National Urban Policy in response to rapid urbanization.
- “The Empowering Communities for Sustainable Livelihood” is implemented by CoU– PDR. The project sought to promote the right to food and education among 400 target rural households. The targeted households were supported by training 20 Farmer Mentors to offer extension services to the targeted rural households, and 40 Volunteers for Community Action (VCA) who promote

social accountability and good governance in education. Notably, the project employed the Self-Help Approach with more emphasis on training and extension services for the farmers and advocacy for quality service delivery. The project facilitated Farmer Mentors with bicycles to facilitate their voluntary technical backstopping to their farmer groups. Furthermore the knowledge acquired has built the confidence of the VCA to actively engage in social accountability. For instance the VCA in Yumbe district reviewed the operations of a government programme, National Agricultural Advisory service in 2013. The review revealed accountability issues which the VCAs brought to the attention of the responsible duty bearers for action.

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

- Katakwi project supports school feeding in Palam Primary School through agriculture by delivering potato vines, maize, vegetable seeds and green grams. The dialogue meeting was conducted with the parents in Palam Primary School at the closure of first term in May 2013 and the parents agreed to contribute 1 basin of sliced potatoes and UGX 1000 for buying fire wood and paying the cook at the beginning of second term. The 178 children in upper primary can now access mid-day meals on a daily basis and the school was able to open and register the candidates for primary seven class.
- 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
- EiE project in the Rwamwanja settlement focused on enabling Congolese refugee children to get access to education by provision of learning shelter in refugee settlement, implementation of DRC education curriculum and skills training for youth. Child friendly learning spaces (six classrooms and two teachers houses) were constructed. The construction of classrooms in the settlement reduced on pupil classroom ratio from 1:290 before the start of this project to 1:175 at the end of the project; it also reduced on the congestion within the schools in the settlement.

Right to Peace

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's partner COU– PDR was active in peace related work. In 2013, Church of Uganda through the Uganda

Joint Christian Council spearheaded dialogue meetings between the host community and the refugees in Rwamwanja. Rwamwanja refugee settlement was gazetted by the Government specifically to host and resettle refugees. This settlement last hosted Rwandese refugees in the 90s. When the Rwandese refugees left the settlement, the land was grabbed and people settled on it. When the Congolese refugees flee to Uganda, the government allocated this settlement to host them but the land was already occupied illegally. As a result of this, there was tension between the refugees and the host community. ACT Uganda forum, of which FCA is a member, launched a peace project to promote harmonious living between the Congolese refugees and the displaced Ugandan natives in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement. This project involved Religious leaders who conducted dialogue meetings which prevented the outbreak of further violent conflicts as well as the escalation of violence between the refugees and the host community.

Evaluations

Two of the Uganda Country Programme's projects were evaluated in 2013. Both of the evaluation reports are attached to this report (Annex 8).

Sembabule community based -project

The Sembabule community based project started in 2004 with the support from FCA as a community based response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Phase I and II focused on increasing awareness on HIV/AIDS to positively change people's attitude and behaviour, improving capacities of communities and families to care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS and empowering orphans, vulnerable children (OVC) and youth to take informed decisions about their lives and improve their socio-economic status. Phase III started in 2011 concentrated more on supporting improved and sustainable livelihoods of vulnerable population, environment protection and on health. The evaluation was conducted in August 2013, with an overall purpose of establishing the impact of the project. The evaluation was end of project evaluation, as 2013 was the last year FCA supported the project.

- Interventions were found to be highly relevant to the needs of the target population especially the fight against HIV/AIDS and improving livelihoods. The project interventions tallied well with district and national priorities, and were also aligned to the LWF Country Strategy (2009-2014). Furthermore, the project livelihood interventions were in tandem with the FCA right to livelihood theme.
- The project largely achieved and in some cases surpassed, planned outputs especially in Phases I and II. The challenge, however, during these phases was for the potential of achieved outputs to significantly contribute to the desired project outcomes, given that the project geographical spread was vast.
- In phase III, a number of objectives on water and sanitation as well as support for OVC were not accomplished

owing to both funding limitations and changes in donor and LWF priorities. The implication of this adjustment was absence of systematic DRR strategies, neglect of vulnerable youths and children, and limited or no emergency response interventions. It is, however, commendable that LWF was able to fill some of the aforementioned gaps through introduction of other projects; unfortunately these projects were not treated as part of the Sembabule project.

- In regard to food security, there was an increase of 28% from baseline for households that could afford two meals a day and a reduction of 35% in households having one meal a day implying a commensurate increase in production in these families. It was established that 86% (138) of households were able to retain a surplus from harvest, and 53% (84) had more than 100 kg of grain for sale. Such households had found it easier to go through the recent long drought with adequate food. Despite increased crop production, postharvest handling remained a key challenge as the project did little to support this.
- It was noted that the LWF founded youth vocational training centre was handed over to the district through the process which was poorly planned. The district was not prepared to manage the associated responsibilities leading to the centre. By the time of closure, the centre had trained up to 234 youths (100 Male; 134 Female) in various vocational skills. The evaluation established that 10% (22) of skills trained OVC in targeted households had initiated viable IGAs mostly in tailoring, carpentry and agriculture. Of these, 50% of them were able to earn at least UGX 100,000/= a month and thus able to support their families.
- Regarding household incomes, it was observed that 67% of the households had sale of garden products as their main source of income while a significant number depended on petty trade, boda boda transport business and casual labour, a positive change from the baseline status as sources were diversified. Findings indicate that most households targeted receive most of their incomes seasonally and annually than monthly. This could provide important insights on how to alter savings and loan practices to allow savers save more during bumper harvest seasons. Women dominated the lower earning ranks and thus most vulnerable compared to men who were majority in upper income brackets. All respondents interviewed had joined VSLA groups and 43% (71) of them had saved between UGX 100,000 and 300,000 with the groups. Overall, 67% of respondents who had obtained loans from VSLAs to start IGAs were women and the IGAs mainly included crop farming (67%), retail trading (22%), sale of livestock (9%) and boda boda business (5%).
- Concerning health, findings indicate that LWF as a key actor had contributed significantly to the reduction of HIV/AIDS prevalence rates from 17.8% in 2002 to 10.7% in 2010 and subsequently to 8.2% by the end of 2013. A significant change in sexual behaviour especially among the youth was equally noted. Findings indicated that HIV/AIDS knowledge and awareness had improved

significantly but misconceptions were still prevalent at community level.

- Evaluation findings show that 90% of the households were aware of good environmental practices and majority (62%) was involved in tree planting. The intervention was, however, being done at a small scale limiting its effectiveness. Termites and pests, prolonged drought and charcoal/brick burning remained key environmental challenges.
- Community sensitisations, health outreaches and livelihood activities (VSLAs) were the most felt project interventions at community level. The change from focus on individuals to solidarity groups increased the effectiveness of interventions. Additionally, engagement of community based structures like VACs, village health teams and school anti-AIDS clubs enhanced the project's reach and impact.

The Sembabule project continues in smaller scale with other funding sources after FCA's exit in 2013.

Katakwi Integrated Rural Development -project

Katakwi Integrated Rural Development project was implemented by LWF with support from FCA to respond to the resettlement needs of people in Katakwi and Amuria districts that were returning from Internally Displaced Peoples Camps (IDPs) after years of insurgency and cattle rustling caused by LRA rebels in 2003 and Karimajong respectively.

In light of evaluation results presented in the report, the evaluation recommended as follows;

- Considering of designing Katakwi project phase III it was noted that in spite of the interventions undertaken by the programme, Katakwi and Amuria communities required further support in education, child protection, gender, health, food security, disaster risk reduction, and water and sanitation.
- Future LWF projects of this nature should provide for a midterm evaluation. The entire Katakwi project was designed to be implemented in six years but with no provision for mid-term review.
- In the event of Katakwi project III, LWF should support community based structures, created by the project, to transform into formal CBOs or associations.
- Future LWF interventions in Katakwi and Amuria should promote agriculture both as a source of food and business.

FCA continues to support the Katakwi project in developing a sustainable transition and new plan for the following years as FCA will phase out from the project after 2015.

Capacity Building

During 2013, one local partner, Uganda Change Agent Association was supported to establish systems and organisational policies by the FCA's ESARO office. The capacity building support was offered by both programme and finance team. The partner staff were introduced to the policies and the actual training to operationalise the policies

was planned to take place in the following year. The capacity building aimed at ensuring effectiveness and compliance in bookkeeping and programme quality. This support resulted into improved reporting and bookkeeping by the partner.

Beside the formal capacity building by FCA, a lot of support for Ugandan partners were given as one-on-one guidance. FCA Office being in place in Nairobi has showed its benefits working in close co-operation with partners. In 2013 it was decided to invest more in Uganda programme and preparations was started to sift the Programme Coordinator previously based in Nairobi to be based in Kampala, Uganda in 2014.

Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

FCA continued to implement stable Country Programme with our local partners and no major setbacks occurred during the year.

Gender equality was put into consideration in all projects, while some projects had special emphasis on women (e.g. Women's Bank funded project) both women and men were considered in the project planning, implementation and monitoring to ensure equal participation of men, women, boys and girls. However, there are challenges related to traditional gender roles that keep undermining equal opportunities and rights to boys and girls, men and women. For example, women still have limited control over their assets. Also, FCA ensured that partners' reports reflect gender disaggregated data.

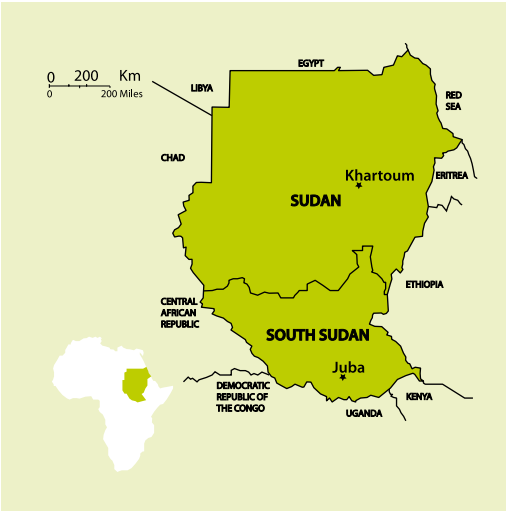
For FCA to increase financial growth for the Uganda Country Programme, more local partners with moderate capacity need to be identified. The current local partners have limited capacity to administer funds especially from strong institutional donors. This will be taken up in 2014. It was also continued to note a need for increased visibility of its supported work in Uganda and it would be carried forward in the following year. The FCA Uganda Country Programme will identify new local partners in order increase the local partners' portfolio in development projects to enhance sustainability.

Education in Emergencies work was implemented to provide second chance education opportunities to school going children. In the same year, the development of education theme commenced following the World Bank's 2013 report on education and health services provision in Uganda. The report noted that education remains weak highlighting significant knowledge gaps among teachers, posing serious challenges to the country's long-term social and economic progress. FCA plans to make a positive contribution in strengthening the quality of education in 2014. This initiative would reinforce the link between FCA's grass roots work and global level advocacy.

South Sudan



Photo: Kofi Ajisa



Actual Costs:	
EUR 1,017,952	
MFA partnership agreement (PA) EUR 475,382	
List of Projects:	
10339	Sudan Ecumenical Forum, general support
10598	South Sudan Country Programme Office
10789	Mundri Education and Skills Training (MEST)
11065	Sustainable food security in Mundri West County
11068	Local Partners Capacity Building Project
11214	Towards equality and stable society in Mundria Area (TESSMA)
11220	Promoting peace and peaceful resolution of local conflicts
11221	Support to ACT capacity building initiatives
11323	Wärtsilä Karika-Mundri school building project
11352	Karika primary school compound project
11378	Jonglei Education and Emergency Preparedness & Response Project
11379	NCA-FCA Joung Emergency & Disaster and Risk Reduction Project
11387	Emergency preparedness in Jonglei State, South Sudan
11399	South Sudan Conflict Assessment 2013
11433	Jonglei peace initiative preparatory phase

Overview of the South Sudan Programme

The social and political situation in South Sudan is not stable. In addition to the volatile situation with the northern neighbour Sudan, inter-community conflicts over cattle, water and other natural resources continue to cause displacement and death. The violence had affected thousands of people, with many of them being displaced and many more losing their livelihood. On a political scene, the internal dissension within the leadership of the governing Sudan People Liberation Movement party led to the dismissal of top government officials. The fighting initially confined to the capital Juba quickly spread to other part of the country. The atmosphere of distrust among various ethnic groups, created a humanitarian and economic crisis, and sabotaged the already slow recovery of the newly independent country.

The South Sudan Country Programme devoted special attention to communities' Right to Livelihood to take advantage of the relative peace in the target areas. Decades of independence war with Sudan and protracted internal conflicts

have destroyed communities' livelihood assets. The low institutional capacity and consequent shortfalls of extension services and skill exposure make the recovery difficult and is thus in the focus of FCA's support to local institutions in development of agriculture, entrepreneurship, and job oriented vocational skills.

South Sudan continues to rank at the bottom of global education indicators with only 44 % of children enrolled in primary school and conflict, natural disasters and displacement compounding low rates. Teacher capacity is exceptionally low as only 2,7 % of South Sudan's 28,000 primary school teachers have a tertiary qualification and only 44 percent of teachers having completed primary school education. On average, South Sudanese schools have a ratio of 198 pupils for every teacher, and the situation is significantly worse in emergency-prone areas. Furthermore it is estimated that 80% of the country population cannot read or write. Girl's access to schools and school retention rates are one of the lowest in the world. By design, the education programme of FCA in South Sudan focuses on education

in emergency, education access, and improvement of education quality in the country. In this perspective, FCA has expanded the education expertise by having the Regional Education Coordinator based in South Sudan. During 2013, FCA has become an active member of the National Education Cluster as well as the Jonglei Education Cluster, and ensured that FCA education programming were in line with Education Cluster objectives.

The 2013 humanitarian assistance interventions in War-rap and Jonglei States combined education and food security activities as well as a plan to gradually introduce long-term development activities in the LRRD context to ensure that alleviation of immediate suffering of IDPs and host communities go together with resumption of economic and other basic activities in the target areas.

Since independence in July 2011 South Sudan has grappled with significant challenges related to internal conflicts and the creation of state institutions. FCA, through Right to Peace strategic theme, committed to contribute to peace building in the country. In preparation for the peace work in Jonglei area - the hotspot of post-independence conflicts in the country - FCA commissioned a study to understand the underlying causes of the various clashes. The study considered the dynamics and actors involved in the conflict and the prospects for peace. It examined the institutional (e.g. government, churches) response to the crisis and practical policy responses by the international community as well as looking at the origins of the conflicts in the target area and to some extent, the entire country.

FCA continued to work with its partners Mundri Relief and Development Association (MRDA), Resource Centre for Civil Leadership (RECONCILE), Lutheran World Federation (LWF) South Sudan, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) and ACT Alliance South Sudan Forum.

FCA joined resources and voice with other ACT members in South Sudan to support the restructuring efforts of SSCC. The monthly members meeting are forum for discussion on various issues influencing respective programmes in the country and occasion to update each other on security, political and social issues. We also put together a consortium and consequent project document to raise fund for joint intervention in conflict prone areas of Jonglei State. Though the proposal did not succeed, it was a proof that we can work together on common interest areas. ACT members were encouraged to be involved also in FCA lead peace project in the country.

Programme Objectives and Achievements

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 pilot market oriented agriculture development project "Sustainable food security in Mundri West County" had three components with varied level of success:

- The ox-plough component helped the pilot group of 20 households (HHs) to acquire each a set of oxen-drawn plough, a highly valued asset that eased up and speeded up soil preparation for cropping. It increased cereal farm size from average of 2,8 feddan/year to 7,8 feddans in 2013 while non-project farmers remained at the pre-project size. Project HHs was thus able to triple their annual cereal production covering the annual 2 to 3 month deficit experience in the past as well as have a surplus (in average 40% of production) for sale this year and a reasonable seed stock for next planting season. Ox-ploughing decreased also non-harvest labour and time which is important significance especially for women.
 - Tree nursery and vegetable production component included formation of three experimental vegetable production women groups in Mundri. They were trained and supported in seasonal and off-season vegetable production under basic irrigation system. This activities resulted 8 feddans of highly productive vegetable farm were set up, adding between SSP70 to SSP100 to the monthly income each of the women involved. The vegetable activity appealed to a number of young people who have adopted the new income source.
 - Mundri farmers training Centre (MFTC) component did not respond to expectation. Though under the direct management of MRDA, it failed to deliver commercially viable results.
- 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**
- 420 people (40% women) in target MRDA's project's ox-plow area built resilience to climate change through faster, easier and productive crop farming approach leading to higher food production and hence a creation of safety stock of both seeds and lean-time food consumption or sale. Today the farmers no longer worry about household food security but work toward ensuring efficient use of the surplus they are now producing.
 - To protect against mono-crop failure, FCA worked with partner and farmers to extend the farm area devoted to non-staple crops such as sesame, ground nut and other vegetable. Improved and shorter maturity varieties of cassava and ground nut were also introduced.
 - Resilience against maize market uncertainty was achieved by introducing a poultry production activity to absorb the maize surplus in case of unfavorable price or influx of imported maize in the local market.
 - However, FCA acknowledges that it is not enough to build farmers resilience by supporting them to increase and diversify production and income sources; it requires additional actions against different shocks.
 - To ensure food security in Joung IDPs and Returnees settlements, Akon North Payam of Gogrial West County, Warrap State, 1,000 beneficiaries (886 females and 114 males) were supported to plant 100,000 gr of assorted vegetable seed after agro-technic training in 4 villages.

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

- Under Mundri Education and Skill training (MEST) FCA supported Kotobi Institute of Teachers Education for the second year to train 60 primary school teachers (26 males and 5 females) covering 30 pre-service teachers completed the first of the 2 year training programme and 30 pre-service teachers graduated on December 2013 after completing the required 2 year training programme.
- As part of their 2013 practical training, the 60 trainee teachers were deployed in 20 primary schools in four (4) Western Equatoria State Counties (Maridi, Mvolo, Mundri East and Mundri West) where they impart the newly acquired teaching skills on a total of 640 boys and girls for 6 weeks.
- Under the Wärtsilä Karika-Mundri school building project it was constructed and fully furnished eight classrooms and a staff room, a water well, two additional toilets and a perimeter fence to bring Karika Primary School to the UNICEF/ Sphere education facility standard. 301 children issued from 2,142 households of 15,000 rural families benefit from this hygienic, accessible, permanent and safe learning environment.
- The Joung humanitarian aid project supported construction and furnishing of two (2) classrooms, and office and storage. The building was completed in December 2013.

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

- FCA supported the partner , RECONCILE, in Promoting peace and peaceful resolution of local conflicts project to train and support 45 county government administrators and Councilors in peace and conflict transformation, participatory planning and governance for peace in Morobo County, Central Equatoria State; 30 community leaders and 30 volunteers from 5 sub-districts were trained on early conflict identification, peaceful process in resolving local conflicts, basic advocacy processes, and sensitisation on non-violent ways of claiming their rights. The volunteers and leaders formed 5 community peace committees and conducted a peace campaign that reached 15 rural communities of about 6,000 people.
- MRDA's project Towards equality and stable society in Mundria Area (TESSMA) worked through well-trained individuals and groups (10 civic educators, 18 headmen, 24 women groups and 10 secondary schools) to sensitise the 149,185 community members and 1,250 secondary school learners about their basic rights and local conflict resolution mechanism.

- FCA supported Kotobi teachers' education college to introduce peace education in their curriculum so that the graduate teachers learn to instill peace culture into the learners at early age.

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

- FCA conducted Jonglei Conflict Assessment in 2013, which established the conflict context, causes and types in Jonglei State from the period before the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (2005) to the reporting period (2013).
- Based on the recommendations of the Assessment, the service of the renowned Ecumenical Envoy for South Sudan, Dr. Sam Kobia was hired to work with high level government, opposition, rebels, and church leaders to find a common ground for discussion on conflict situation and possible peace negotiation in South Sudan.
As result of Dr. Kobia's engagement the consulted government officials welcomed the idea of the FCA designed approach to the Jonglei issue that the Ecumenical Envoy shared with them and the South Sudan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation welcomed the proposal and gave the assurance that the Government of South Sudan will be amenable to cooperation with the ecumenical community in peace endeavors.

Capacity Building

FCA's South Sudan Country Office (SSUCO) staff conducted a need assessment for partners' capacity building (CB) in 2013. The 2013 CB plan was developed based on the following results:

- Financial management and administrative weaknesses identified when reviewing the Management letters of partners' audits of 2012 as well as the progress reports of FCA funded projects in 2012.
- Review of partners concept notes and full proposals for the year 2013; FCA had to collaborate with most of the partners to work on flow of logic between different levels for these documents.
- Assessment of fieldwork ability of programme staff of partner organisations, especially on participatory methodologies to ensure right holders input in the project planning and feedback on implementation.
- Training needs expressed by partners who identified their PME weaknesses.

A lot of effort was put on one-in-one coaching of partners in many of above mentioned capacity building needs. Furthermore, FCA organised two PME trainings during 2013. The first one concentrated on Participatory Approaches in Project Planning. 11 participants from partner organisations (MRDA, RECONCILE and SSCC) attended. The end of training feedback shows that participants have improved their understanding of the concepts, principles and rationale of participatory approaches, strengthened their skills in applying different participatory techniques and approaches in

project planning, monitoring and evaluation.

The second PME training focused on project formulation and implementation. 12 participants from partner organisations attended. The main objectives of the training was to enhance participants' knowledge, understanding and skills of the second and third stages (project formulation and implementation) in a Project Cycle, use the training to review 2014 project concepts, discuss full proposal format and content, and conduct clinic on partnership, programme, and projects status. Each organisation discussed their project or programme aspirations and resource needs. The training showed improvement of skills in project concept and proposal formulation as well as development and execution of a monitoring plan.

Substance training was also given on crop and poultry production for FCA's partner MRDA and beneficiaries as well as training on EiE for Christian Aid, DCA, LWF and MRDA.

High turnover of partners' staff reduces the institutional knowledge and capacity despite our capacity building efforts. Partners are either not capable of hiring well-qualified staff and regularly lose trained staff to bigger organisations due to poor working conditions engendered by limited resources available. This seems to be continuing challenge, however, FCA will support partners and look for solutions for example by seconding volunteers or staff to accompany partners in their work.

Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

Roads in South Sudan are in bad shape and access to areas outside Juba and besides Juba-Nimule axe is difficult and in some cases impossible during raining season, which is often half of the year. Some geographical areas with the most vulnerable communities are only accessible by air and hospitality facilities are scarce making the project implementa-

tion relatively expensive. Other areas are not accessible due to insecurity caused by the ongoing conflicts. These issues pose challenges on implementation and monitoring of the programme, but FCA's presence in the country has helped the situation and ensured close collaboration with the partners.

Due to fragile peace situations and frequent humanitarian crisis, resources meant for development interventions are often diverted to emergency interventions hence a stagnant situation of livelihood strategies and access to basic services (education, health and other civil and social services). In order to make sustainable development possible, government, local and international partners should work towards lasting peace in the country. Despite the community level progress, the peace programme at national level lack adequate direction hence the slow advancement. FCA will look for a relevant entry point that will allow significant contribution to peace both at community level and at national level. The recent posting of Regional Peace Programme Coordinator is expected to give directives to South Sudan Programme in 2014.

FCA has made important contribution on education quality, access and infrastructure in South Sudan, but given the really bad state of education in the country, FCA will review its funding engagement for education programme and consider increasing resources to this thematic area that is of special importance for livelihoods and peace development in the country. FCA will continue to work towards improving access to and quality of education, technical and vocational skills training focusing on market demand as well as facilitating temporary import of necessary inputs, services, expertise to ensure transfer of know-how to nationals. This is possible through support to local partners and also by engaging national leadership and international communities through well-targeted advocacy work.



Photo: Kofi Ayisa

Mozambique



Photo: Oskari Rantala



Actual Costs:	
EUR 813,075	
MFA partnership agreement (PA) EUR 693,142	
List of Projects:	
10046	Gaza Integrated Community Empowerment Project (ICEP)
10919	Xikheleni Urban Development Project
11192	ACT Forum support
11364	Mozambique Flood Response MOZ131

Overview of the Mozambique Programme

High economic growth over the last 20 years (approximately 7.2% per year for the last decade) has not managed to create a more inclusive society. In the contrary, the cleavage between the majority of the population living in rural areas (65% – 70%) and the developing urban-middle-class strata has widened. Mozambique’s economic performance is thus marked by extremes, largely due to the ongoing megaprojects on the one hand and the structure of an underdeveloped, mainly agrarian economy on the other. The country remains one of the poorest in the world, ranked by the UNDP’s 2011 Human Development Index at 184th place out of 187 countries.

The formal economy remains largely urban and accounts for only 32% of overall employment. With 300,000 new labor market entrants each year due to high population-growth rates (currently 2.8% annually), many young people find employment only in the informal sector or in form of temporary, marginal jobs.

Politically, the context was unstable with the continued

conflicts between the ruling government and the opposition in 2013. This was mainly a resultant of skewed resources distribution, manipulation of the democratic systems and processes, and marginalisation of the political opposition group among others. This resulted in casualties amongst the civil and military forces, and in disruption of livelihoods as well as displacements of communities in the affected districts particularly Sofala and Inhumbane.

Perennial floods caused by the Limpopo river that cut through most of the project locations called for an emergency response from February to October 2013. Between December 2012 and February 2013, heavy rains caused floods in some areas, particularly along the Limpopo River blocking access roads to Mabalane, Chigubo, and north of Chokwé and Guija districts where FCA partner, the LWF, is implementing the Gaza ICEP project. Families in Maputo slums also experienced the floods.

During 2013, FCA focused on the livelihood and education themes in Mozambique. Two partners continued to implement projects integrating the two themes, however,

Right to Livelihood being the strongest. The Programme continued working with the poor marginalized rural and urban communities through the LWF Gaza project and the CEDES Urban Development Project respectively. There is also a growing link between the livelihood and education themes through the skills training of the communities and a further link between training and employability, as some of the beneficiaries of the skills training have secured employment after the training. In addition, the flood response carried out in the country incorporated lifesaving and livelihoods recovery interventions.

During the reporting period, management of the Mozambique Programme was officially transferred from FCA HQ to East and Southern Africa Regional Office (Nairobi, Kenya), where a Programme Coordinator was hired to oversee the Programme.

Programme Objectives and Achievements

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

- Livelihood development of vulnerable groups, such as HIV/AIDS affected people, orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) as well as women, continued to be in focus of Mozambique programme. Good results was also shown in sensitising target groups on various diseases (HIV/AIDS, malaria, cholera) thus decreasing households’ vulnerability for disrupted earning of livelihood due to infections. For example in the Gaza project, a total of 93% (412) people that participated in the monitoring survey in September 2013 reported to be aware of HIV/AIDS.
- The Gaza project is currently working with 24 communities. As a result of the skills training, all the 24 communities discussed and developed Community Development Plans. These plans reflect the problems that the respective communities are facing and the proposed solutions. In addition, all the 24 communities have established Community Development Committees (CDCs). The CDCs are in charge of guiding community development by appointed members from the communities. CDCs are a good indicator of communities going forward with their own development noting the level of their marginalisation. The projects will continue to nurture this bottom up approach.
- In regard to the objective of equitable and effective participation of men and women in CDCs and women in leadership roles (45% women 55 % men) by 2015, monitoring of the Gaza project confirms that 609 CDCs members 52% (317) are women and 48% (292) are men. Both women and men are engaged in community development processes in all 24 communities of project intervention. As a result, the voice of the women is visible in the community plans that reflect well the specific needs of women (water, school, pre-schools). In addition,

women are also actively engaged in CDCs leadership.

- As part of increased food security, 80% (10,090 HHs) surveyed by the Gaza ICEP project are breeding small animals which include goats, pigs, sheep, cows, rabbits, ducks and chicken. This is over and above the target indicator of 62% (7,820 HHs) out of 12,613HH expected to breed 3 types of small animals (chickens, ducks, and rabbits). Consequently, 91% of the families have at least two meals a day, which represents 1% over the target indicator of 90% (11,084 HHs) out of 12,613 HHs has at least 2 meals a day all year round. This was further linked to the result in which 2,748 HHs (1280 men and 734 women) increased food production from 86,840 tons to 176,906 tons.
- Xikheleni project continues to deliver very unique outcomes on livelihoods. Many beneficiaries (73HHs) who are targeted under the HIV/AIDS intervention have successfully initiated kitchen gardens to supplement their nutritional status. Many show-cased their gardens that have been innovatively been protected from domestic animals. Most reported being able to access vegetables from the gardens. Other beneficiaries have successfully initiated income generating activities (IGAs) that have contributed significantly to their improved livelihoods and development of other HH assets.
- In regards to HHs participating in VICOBAs (village banks) have increased their income and savings, many communities continued to appreciate the role of community savings and credit schemes. For example in Gaza ICEP project locations, a total of 18 VICOBA groups were established, mobilised savings and started issuing loans to members.
- From sensitisations on water resources protection, monitoring survey confirmed that at least 60.8% of the 12,316 HHs at baseline consume clean water in Pandzane and Nhambozdo communities in Guija district. In addition, 15 boreholes were protected from domestic and wild animals. Protecting the boreholes contributed to reduction in incidence of waterborne diseases such as typhoid that in the past caused death of community members. In relation to water resources, there was increased sustainability of water resource management with a total of seven (7) water committees collecting fees to build repair and rehabilitation kitty for sustainable water resources management.
- Although early in the year the Mozambique programme was partially disrupted by the perennial floods, communities who benefitted from emergency relief support reported good harvest of maize, draught tolerant crops and horticulture products. To maximise the use of these products, the project trained communities on food conservation. As a result, the target households have increased their daily meals, from 0 to 3 in some communities and had food during the dry period which took place from October 2013 to March 2014.

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

- Trainings in DRR were conducted for the flood affected communities and necessary basic equipment provided as part of disaster preparedness and early warning systems. Subsequently, communities reported to have used this equipment to alert their constituents of approaching disasters and hence they were able to pro-actively respond by either moving to higher ground or constructing silos on high ground to protect their produce from floods.
- Communities are also able to conserve their excess farm produce in preparation for a likely food shortage in the future. Most interestingly, communities have adopted conservation agriculture approaches not only to increase their farm produce but also to conserve the environment and also prepare for droughts.

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

- Community advocacy efforts through the Rights Based Approach (RBA) are notably realising good results. During the reporting period, 2 boreholes and 4 wells were drilled as a result of community efforts in LWF project

locations, benefitting 655 HHs. Other advocacy issues included lobbying the authorities to build more schools and to open more roads to facilitate the movement between the neighbour communities. As a result for example in one location called Bomofo, the government has opened a road to the community and has also sent the registrar of persons into the community to facilitate registration for National Identity Cards since the location is very far from town where IDs are issued.

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

- Skills' training is increasingly becoming a preferred option in the project locations with tangible results. Evidence is available of pieces of clothes sewn and sold for income, petrol lamps and school bags. Other beneficiaries have successfully secured gainful employment with the private sector and are earning a good income (Xikheleni project specifically), while others have successfully initiated their own IGAs and are doing well. In Xikheleni project for example, during the year, the project enrolled 15 youths (2 girls and 13 boys) to attend vocational training. The internship enabled the youth to practice their skills and get an opportunity to access the job market. The successful trainees increased their capacity to support their vulnerable families and also support their siblings.
- In regard to promoting access to education for OVCs and youth groups through acquisition of Poverty Certificates, at least 24 members were trained on the importance of formally registering and getting the poverty certificate to its members. 120 households represented by 78 women and 42 men were sensitised and managed to secure 15 Poverty Certificates for the same number of OVCs (10 boys and 5 girls). These certificates will ensure these children and youths access school.

Capacity Building

A joint capacity building training was organised for all FCA's Southern African partners from Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Angola in December totalling 10 participants. Training focused in project documentation, reporting and communication. Weaknesses in these areas were noticed during monitoring visits and in discussions with partners during 2013. FCA's Programme Coordinator for Southern Africa and Communications Volunteer placed in ESARO facilitated the training.

As the training was organised in late 2013, it is not possible to report lasting outcome yet. However, there was notable improvement in the quality of the annual reports submitted by the partners in mid-February, while there are still some challenges with quality of reports and lack of critical data. The support for the partner is now increased due to Programme Coordinator placed in Regional Office.

Training for Humanitarian Response was also organised. This enabled the partners in planning and execution of the Mozambique flood response as well as in the evaluation of the action.

Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

Perennial floods disrupted project work which caused pushing forward work from the affected quarters, often leading to increased work load for partners towards end of the year. To address this, partners were allowed to reschedule their work and support was provided where needed to accomplish the work plans by the close of the year.

The Xikheleni project remains small scale yet the demand for the project support is high. Many community members are interested to access support from the project but its scope can only accommodate a limited number. To go around this, the partner has been advised to gradually graduate beneficiaries who are capable of self-sustaining themselves. This is ongoing to enable the project to recruit new beneficiaries.

There is good evidence in participatory approaches in community development in the project locations. During the monitoring visit, all community members – men, wom-

en and young people – actively show-cased the outcomes of their work. Men had innovated animal kraals and silos while women was successful in IGAs, in Maputo, the kitchen gardens, other developments accruing from their expanded business engagements, food preservation methods and products resulting therein among others. Young men had been active on their skills training and showed records of income made from their sale.

The political climate remains unstable and this affects programming in the country. FCA looks for opportunities to undertake a comprehensive thematic analysis on Right to Peace to find entry points to peace building in the country.

There is a need for capacity assessment of CEDES to be done in 2014 to enable developing a capacity strengthening plan. Missing assessment has made it hard for FCA to decipher the capacity gaps to work on strengthening the quality of work funded by FCA. CEDES is a local NGO with limited technical capacity and hence the capacity assessment is an essence to find the most critical issues in which support is needed. Mozambique being one of FCA's focus countries, capacity strengthening of the local partners is a primary requirement.

Photo: Oskari Rantala



3.4 Asia

Finn Church Aid Programme Countries in Asia include Cambodia and Myanmar in South East Asia and Nepal in South Asia. The overarching objective of FCA's support to Asia 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. FCA targets mainly the rural poor through activities supporting social and economic empowerment. Women and youth are main focus groups in the region.

Political situation remained unstable in FCA Programme Countries. National elections took place in Cambodia and Nepal, creating tensions and outbreaks of occasional violence. In Cambodia, the election results were challenged by the opposition and political deadlock remained unsolved, with frequent mass demonstrations taking place in the city of Phnom Penh. Elections aside, land remained the single most contentious issue in Cambodia. In Myanmar, the peace process was not moving forward and many internally displaced people (IDP) remained in camps and new clashes between armed forces in Kachin and North Shan states caused more people to flee their homes. In Rakhine state, there has been communal violence causing deaths and forcing people to escape; moving to the camps or leaving the country. FCA supported implementation of humanitarian projects in both conflict affected areas.

Asia is the most disaster prone area in the world. Many people live on flood plains or are exposed to seasonal cyclones. Natural disasters not only place human lives at risk but also undermine development. In 2013, there were number of regional disasters, of which FCA responded to major flood in Cambodia and typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) in the Philippines. In Nepal, floods affected some of our working districts in Far-West region.

FCA is an active member of local ACT Forums in each programme country. ACT Forum meetings are generally organised 3-4 times per year. In Cambodia, FCA facilitated training workshop on Emergency Response and Preparedness Plan (EPRP) in June 2013. During the floods FCA responded together with other ACT members to provide humanitarian aid to flood affected communities. FCA also joined Humanitarian Response Forum meetings to coordinate its aid and contributed to development of education sector response through participation in Education in Emergencies working group. EPRP plan was also in process in Nepal ACT Forum.

Capacity development has an essential role in FCA's work in Asia. Capacity development support is carried out by giving financial support to implementing partners in order to enable them to enhance their organisational and personal skills as effective stakeholders of civil society, and offering capacity development and technical support on FCA's own thematic focus areas as well as cross-cutting issues.

Established in May 2011, Asia Regional Office (ARO) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia consisted at the end of 2013 of eight staff members, including three expatriates and four national staff based in Cambodia, and one national staff member based in Nepal. ARO staff conducted frequent monitoring visits in country and at regional level. Having a presence in the region enables us to engage in various platforms. FCA staff has continued to attend various meetings as well as network and build strategic relationships across the region with local and international NGOs, UN agencies and relevant government ministries and to bring advocacy messages from local communities to decision makers.

Myanmar



Photo: Meeri Koutaniemi

Actual Costs:	
EUR 379,991	
MFA Partnership Agreement (PA) EUR 133,751	
List of Projects:	
10844	Metta Regeneration Initiative 2010-2014
10948	Local Partner Staff Capacity Building
10993	Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) Myanmar
11021	MYA Provision of water supply systems
11226	MYA start-up
11227	MYA Programme Development
11294	Kachin IDP response through protective value of livelihood and education opportunities
11375	Emergency and Relief Assistance for the Internally Displaced (AID) Northern Shan State in Myanmar
11395	Urgent Assistance for School Students Affected by a Typhoon in Thapyay Kan Ah Thin Village, Bago Region, Myanmar
11022	Disaster Risk Reduction / AZEECON

Overview of the Myanmar Programme

In 2013 a lot of changes have occurred in Myanmar. There are many positive developments, such as the constitutional review process, a possible country-wide ceasefire that could eventually lead to peace talks, and an inflow of foreign direct investments for local infrastructure projects. Most remarkably, Myanmar's transparency rating has also risen. However, there are other factors undermining these changes, such as the ongoing Kachin conflict, the recent attack on protesters at a copper mine in northern Myanmar, and communal violence in Rakhine State and Meikhtila Township, Mandalay Region. As a result of resumed conflicts and violence, many civilians have been internally displaced. The huge unmet basic needs of still remain in the IDP camps.

Due to these needs, FCA has increased the humanitarian aid in the partners' working areas, both to respond to the current situation with IDPs and possible coming natural hazards in 2013. FCA's partner Metta Development Foundation has implemented Emergency and Relief Assistance

for the Internally Displaced (AID) Northern Shan State in Myanmar. Furthermore FCA received MFA humanitarian funding for Kachin IDP response in the autumn 2013. Beside the IDP response, FCA decided to fund Metta's humanitarian aid project on repairing roofs of two school buildings in the primary and middle school compound damaged by a typhoon so that 490 school children could continue going to school without long interruption.

The education structure in Myanmar is chronically under-funded and poorly coordinated. One of the greatest challenges in the education sector is the low student retention and completion rates, lack of qualified teachers and school. In some rural border areas, children from ethnic groups have no access to schooling because of geographic isolation, IDP status, family poverty or on-going ethnic conflict. FCA is making preparations to support our partners to work in the IDP camps or resettlement areas and communities that will host IDPs and returnees, to improve access to quality education and improve the quality of education.

Actual Costs:	
MFA Partnership Agreement (PA): EUR 305,539	
List of Projects:	
10835	Asia Regional Programme Office
11028	Partners' capacity building and partner meetings in the region

The focus on livelihoods has been on empowering the communities to obtain improved and sustainable socio-economic livelihoods. The development work is focusing on building the resilience of the communities for the possible natural or man-made hazards. FCA's partner LWF Myanmar implements the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). Also, we have been working to enable communities to manage and mitigate disaster risks, and prepare for and respond effectively to disasters and emergencies. FCA has increased the humanitarian aid in the partners' working areas, both to respond to the current situation with IDPs and possible coming natural hazards. The response includes providing livelihood opportunities and skills training to the vulnerable IDPs.

Delegation of the MFA of Finland conducted an evaluation visit to Myanmar in November 2013 and visited also FCA's Rural Development Programme (IRDP) in the Delta area. ARO Regional Representative joined the evaluation trip. The feedback was very positive and delegation was impressed of the progress and opportunities created by the comprehensive programme.

Programme Objectives and Achievements

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 IRDP, the Village Self-Assessment (VSA) suggests that out of 50 villages in the Delta, 22% villages feel that communities have improved level of food security and income. Similarly 76% have advanced and 2% are at graduated level. This means that there has been gradual increase in the food security and income levels of the communities. However, results from the Partner Household Self-Assessment depict slightly a different scenario (understandable, because partner households belong to the lower socio-economic strata of the communities). At the household level, out of 511 partner households, 66.7% claim to have improved food security and income levels, whereas 21.5% are in advanced stage. Around 10% partner households are still at low level.
- LWF (IRDP) provided small livestock (piglets, chicken and ducks) to 328 poor partner households to improve their income and nutrition.
- In Kachin State humanitarian assistance, 116 IDP households received start-up fund for livelihood initiatives in Hpum Lum Yang and Je Yang Camps in Laiza. 5 groups consisting of 20–30 members established for livelihood initiatives. 2,700 households from 11 camps in Laiza have received necessary seeds and farming tools.

Local communities 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

- A two-day training course on Climate Change adaptation was held in Bangladesh in June 2013. The training was organised by RDRS Bangladesh as part of AZEECON (Asian Zone Environment and Emergency Cooperation) Exchange, Exposure and Training Visit programme. A total of 15 participants from AZEECON member countries, Myanmar being the chair of the network in 2013, took part in the training course. The topics covered in the training included overview of the impacts of climate change; innovation and best practices on climate change adaptation; field trip with meeting with the Village Disaster Management Committee (VDMC); Community rice bank; homestead plinth raising; using of vermi-compost fertilizer and how to apply all the learnt issues in own Country Programme.
- LWF assists villages for disaster risk preparedness and response through Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) processes: training task force members, mass awareness activities, mitigation activities and preparedness plans. CBDRM sub-committee's awareness on disaster risk mitigation and climate change adaptation has broadened through Community Empowerment Facilitator (CEF) facilitation in monthly meetings. International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction event, Township disaster management committee meeting and early warning task force group meeting has improved networking with respective government departments.
- The vulnerability and capacity assessment process helped each CBDRM to produce hazard maps, and supported to prepare disaster preparedness plan. Tree planting and plastic management campaign continues, proving communities commitment towards environmental management. Only one village reported to have reached the graduated level. Almost equal number, 24 and 25 villages reported that they have achieved improved and advanced level respectively. It should be noted that during 2013 there has been no incidence of disasters requiring response. Considering the coastal nature of the villages and from the VSA results it can be concluded that the villages require working more on the preparedness aspects and consequently need for continued support of the project.
- Apart from the mass awareness activities, partner households are coached on household disaster preparedness plan preparation and the implementation is ensured through subsequent follow-up. The partner households' self-assessment exercise revealed that negligible number (2) of households are still at low level of preparedness. At least 59% households believe to have advanced capacity, around 30% have improved capacity and nearly 10% are graduated.

Right to Education

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



Photo: Meeri Koutaniemi

- In Sittwe, in the camps assigned to LWF for EiE, LWF constructed 10 Temporary Learning Spaces (TLSs); number of TLSs was based on the number of children aged 6-10 years in the camps. Later Government Department of Education handed over one TLS constructed by them. Therefore LWF is managing 11 TLSs.
- As member of EiE sector, UNICEF organised 6 days Training of Trainers (ToT) for 7 trainers to train the Community Teachers. Participants included LWF Education Officer, 5 Muslim IDPs (former Government school teachers) and 1 staff member from UNICEF. LWF Education Officer and the 5 IDP trainers trained 36 teachers (14 females) in group of 18 for 6 days. During the training each teacher was provided with teacher's kit, including e.g. blackboard and broom. Teaching in 11 TLSs started around mid-October.
- The EiE Sector, also LWF as member of it, has prepared a standard student kit, including e.g. exercise copies, pencils, erasers, ruler, school bag, umbrella, water container and lunch box. All 2,749 children attending TLS were given student kit.

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

- In November LWF staff in Sittwe facilitated to organise Parent Teacher Associations in all 11 TLS including 91 members (21 females). Associations' trainings and meetings focused on TLS security, protection of students, use of infrastructures (facilities), TLS functioning (teaching and learning) and develop the work plan for associations to report back to LWF.

Right to Peace

- FCA is generally assessing the stakeholders and working areas in order to make a positive contribution to peace building in Myanmar. Especially the role of (religious) leaders', youth, and women in the communities is explored to contribute to this process. The emphasis of the work is on the community level and on the preventative work. After carrying out the necessary assessments, networking with the right stakeholders and receiving technical support, a peace project is to be designed in 2014. Myanmar new peace initiatives should link to the basic

needs of affected people, as their possibilities to access the services linked to these needs were mostly disrupted due to consequences of armed conflicts.

Capacity Building

FCA has supported LWF staff capacity with separate Local Partner Staff Capacity Building project. LWF has reported that the training events have been crucial for LWF in developing the capacity of its staff. In 2013, this was especially important because the project enabled LWF Myanmar to expedite mainstreaming Rights Based Empowerment (RBE). RBE training was organised in three parts: first workshop was for senior staff, where 12 staff members, 4 of them female, participated. The workshop included familiarization with different key concepts, principles and terminologies important for a rights-based empowerment approach and basic understanding of the principles and obligations of human rights. It also enabled participants to identify obligations of duty-bearers and familiarization with different tools used to analyse from a Rights perspective.

Change in attitude involved reflection over personal experiences and appreciate how perceptions on development paradigms change over time and how they differ between people and organisations and appreciations for criticisms and opportunities underlying universal human rights. Since the training the senior staff members have started using empowerment language more extensively at all levels. As a consequence of this, in July 2013 the log-frame for Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) was modified to fit RBE.

The follow-up workshop in RBE was organised in August to reflect on the applications of the past training's learning. Participants shared their experiences and challenges encountered. Third part of the RBE training was workshop on RBE methods (stepwise participatory approach): three day work shop was organised for all field staff with participatory teaching techniques. The results of this training were good: 18% participants succeeded in the pre-test, whereas the percentage of succeeded staff members jumped to 64% in the post-test.

In addition to the extensive RBE training package, other trainings such as Logistic and Supply Change Management Training, Community Facilitation skill Refresher Training for Child Rights Convention, Orientation of Security Focal Point on Risk Management and New Staff Orientation Training in Chin State were organised during the year. Finance related MANGO trainings were held in Yangon, where programme, finance and administration staff attended. This gave theoretical exposure to the Project Officers and others on management and its relation to the practical things they do in their job.

Communication workshop on advocacy, community and collecting stories was organised for 38 staff members. The purpose of the workshop was to provide knowledge on various aspects to be considered for advocacy work and the importance of stories to document changes. Dynamics of individual and collective advocacy work were discussed. References were made to the RBE approach. Regarding collecting stories, the participants were briefed on the concept "human touch" stories that reflect the lives and feelings of the people. Since then some improvement has been observed in getting stories from the villages, however needs for further support exists.

Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

Finding an entry point to work in the education sector has been welcomed and relatively easy through EiE. Finding a way to build a peace programme in the country has been more challenging though potential partners have been identified and FCA has access to two conflict prone areas through the partners. More technical support is needed to design the Right to Peace project and more need to be known about the tense context in many areas.

Concerning the partner's work, LWF Myanmar should continue to strengthen its strategic engagement with the links between at all levels of government: Central, Regional, District, Township, Village Tract and Village level. More follow up coaching for staff is needed to be able to facilitate VDCs on leadership, roles and responsibilities, rules and regulation in leading their village communities. Also, more understanding and mainstreaming on the concepts of rights based empowerment can facilitate the empowerment of the VDCs, communities and local authorities as well.

LWF Myanmar started to track and document the processes and products of rights based empowerment more systematically, effectively and efficiently. They are particularly interested in building on the graduation process and the self-assessment tools required. The RBE mainstreaming work has contributed and revising the logframe was another good step. Now it is time to continue to catalyze the process organically from the bottom up with our community based rights holders partners and from the top down with our government duty bearers.

In PME level, all these measures aim to strengthen the staff and communities to have the confidence and competence to be empowered to the level that they can responsibly and sustainably take control of their own development processes and thus also become a positive influence on that governance system locally and nationally.

Nepal

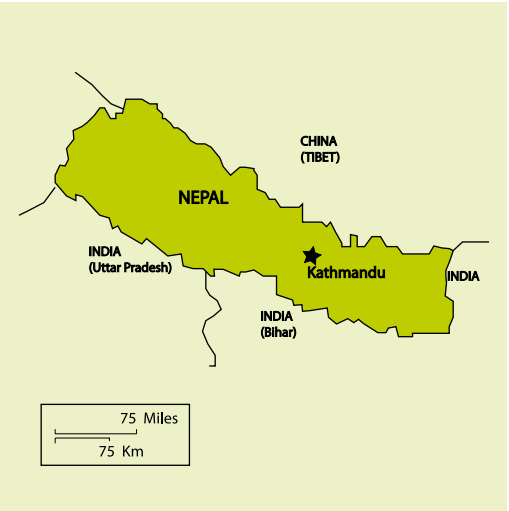


Photo: Ville Asikainen

Actual Costs:

EUR 701,578

MFA Partnership Agreement (PA) EUR 592,859

List of Projects:

10048	Nepal Development Program
10489	Staff Capacity Building of LWF Nepal
10794	Defending Human Rights of Dalits in Nepal
10837	Nepal Field Presence
10968	Combating Poverty and Gender Injustices through Women's Cooperatives
11020	Building Climate-resilient Rural Livelihoods in Bardiya and Kanchanpur Districts of Nepal
11141	Enhancing Dignity of Freed HaKK (Haliyas, Kamaiyas and Kamlaris)

Overview of the Nepal Programme

Nepal Country Programme has fostered participation, inclusion and socio-economic empowerment of poor women, former bonded labors (freed Haliyas and ex-Kamaiyas), landless tenants, Dalits and indigenous communities and people exposed to disasters. Emphasis has been given to install micro and small scale enterprise development, gainful employment for women and youths through both on-farm and off-farm enterprises. Advocacy has been considered as a crucial approach for the Country Programme aiming at increasing access to and control over of right holders to livelihood assets, services and markets.

The Country Programme has aimed at providing Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to out of school youths and unemployed women under the Right to Education theme. Skills and know-how have been imparted at local level among the unemployed women and youths relevant to the local context and linked to the market opportunities. Early Childhood Development Centers have been established in communities to provide ample opportunities

to the poor parents to access free pre-school education for their children. School enrollment campaigns for primary levels have been closely linked to the awareness raising.

In Right to Peace theme, the Country Programme has mainly focused on carrying out peace building actors mapping and exploring opportunities for partnership with Nepalese national NGOs, civil society organisations and their networks. The Country Programme has also emphasised developing a programme to implement / localise the National Action Plan on United Nation's Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs). 1325 and 1820, which promotes the increased participation and contribution of women in peace building process. Significant efforts have been made to empower right holders (Dalits, landless, former bonded laborers, human rights defenders, women and youths) to claim and enjoy their rights and entitlements and to build the capacity of duty bearers to fulfil their obligations. Domestic violence monitoring committees and domestic violence victims support funds have been formed and are functional.

The heavy monsoon rains that occurred during June -

August triggered large floods, landslides, water inundation and logging in different parts of the country and our 18 working districts were among the worst hit districts due to the incessant monsoon rains, resulting in the death of 44 people, temporarily displacement of 1,752 families and more than 10,000 families were badly affected. From the third week of December, temperatures in the Tarai have lowered significantly and normal life has been affected by winter cold, with poor people, the elderly, children and street dwellers being the most affected.

FCA's partners in Nepal are the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Nepal and the Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organisation (NNDSWO). FCA established presence in Nepal in 2013. One programme coordinator is working with close cooperation with partners and participates actively in the ACT Nepal Forum.

Programme Objectives and Achievements

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

- The Country Programme has organised 10,946 persons (72 % women) into 437 small interest groups which continued savings and credits equivalent to USD 1,543,184. The group members have used the money in improving their production and marketing the surplus. Also 35 CBOs and 4 CBO federations have been organised to promote livelihoods.
- 7,168 freed Haliya families including 3,312 women have been organised under 369 groups 1302 Kamaiyas and 274 Kamlaris have been organised into 69 groups.
- 32 organisations working with Tharus and ex-Kamaiyas formed the United Committee for the Elimination of Kamlari Practice, and staged demonstrations in Kathmandu asking government to abolish Kamlari system.
- Through expansion of production activities, small holders have maintained their households and have increased market access and income. 1,373 small holder women out of targeted 3000 have sold their surplus fresh vegetables, raw milk, ginger, turmeric and chilies to the markets and earned USD 77,800 this year.
- Gender gaps in accessing resources have been decreased by providing joint land ownership certificates to 58 married couples through Women's Cooperatives -project. More than 2,000 women have access to financial resources through cooperatives. The women and other socially excluded people have been involved in income generating activities, saving and credits. Targeted activities have remained instrumental to increase their awareness of the different economic programmes, services and markets available.

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

- 10,808 people have been sensitised on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change risk adaptation measures through Climate-resilient rural livelihood project. Risk management and contingency plans have been prepared and are in place in communities. 53 disaster risk management plans have been prepared at local and district levels in line with Local Disaster Risk Management Planning Guideline 2011, and are functional. 1,593 households and above 30 hectares of agricultural land have been protected from floods through river training constructing embankments using bio-engineering techniques planting fast growing deep rooted plant species. 43 emergency response funds have been established in local levels and a DRR resource center has been established at the district level.
- In addition 1,062 families have installed smokeless improved cooking stove and bio-gas plant to minimise greenhouse gas emissions. 1,456 farmers have used flood and drought resistant crop varieties, changed their cropping patterns, and reduced the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. 1,076 persons have used botanical pesticides and organic manures in their crops, raised house plinth level and grain storage, and practiced zero tillage and river bed farming as climate change adaptation practices. Three climate change field schools established in the communities have helped them to increase rice and wheat production by 15 per cent, thus, increasing their food security for additional 4 months. Two seed banks and seven grain banks have been established directly benefitting above 1,000 most at-risk households.

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

- Government of Nepal endorsed three years long freed Haliya Rehabilitation modality and earmarked USD 320,000 for their sustainable and just rehabilitation. The rehabilitation modality was jointly prepared by the government, freed Haliya and civil society organisation.
- Out of 19,056 freed Haliyas surveyed by the government in 2010, so far 7,878 received Identity Cards and 10,796 have been verified. So far 1,291 ID cards are being issued in the name of women.
- Government of Nepal officially announced the abolishment of Kamlari practice in 2013 and agreed to set free and rehabilitate all Kamlaris, as well as write-off any outstanding loans of Kamlari families, provide compensation to Kamlari families, and to carry out free and fair investigation into the cases of former Kamlaris.

Photo: Ville Asikainen



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

- Nepal Development Program had also education components. School enrolment campaigns have been organised by groups, CBOs and child rights networks in collaboration with government and non-governmental actors. They have succeeded in raising awareness of community members about children's right to education. This has resulted in increased enrolments and attendance of students at primary level. Awareness of the causes and consequences of dropping out of school has been raised, resulting into school drop-out rates. As a result, 100 per cent school enrolment at primary level has been ensured in 4 VDCs.
- 219 ex- Kamlari and 30 freed Haliya girls have been supported with full scholarships to continue their secondary level education in schools. 11 freed Haliya and ex- Kamaiya girls have been supported with full tuition fees, accommodation, travels, stationeries, food and have been enrolled in 15 months long agriculture and veterinary technician course. Similarly, other 23 freed Haliya and ex- Kamaiya girls have already completed

29 months long auxiliary nurse midwife training. They have been working in different hospitals, health posts and other health facilities as part of on-the-job training.

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

- 103 Santhal (indigenous groups) and Majhi (fisherman) youths and traditional leaders have been mobilised for promoting peace, good governance and raising human rights awareness. Altogether 848 people (343 women) were sensitised about the existing laws against caste based discriminations with the support of LWF's Nepal Development Program.
- Defending Human Rights of Dalits project supported altogether formation of 28 local human rights defenders' networks in 28 districts that have reported and documented 124 cases of caste based discrimination and untouchability. The trends of justice seeking through formal and informal mechanism have been increased among Dalit community.
- 232 (100 women) human right defenders have been trained to build their capacity and knowledge on international human rights frameworks, non-discrimination, Caste Based Discrimination and untouchability (Crime and Punishment) Act 2011, Domestic Violation Act and General Provision of National Code.

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

- Duty bearers have become more aware and responsive to the rights and entitlements of the right holders. FCA's long-term support for the freed HaKK project has contributed to this change through LWF's advocacy work. Some noteworthy changes are:
 - The official announcement of the abolition of Kamlari system in Nepal by Government of Nepal;
 - Allocation of USD 320,000 for the just rehabilitation of freed Haliyas by the Government of Nepal;
 - Verification of 10,796 freed Haliya families, identity Cards distribution to 7,878 freed Haliya families;
 - Distribution of 140 hectares of land to 837 ex- Kamaiya families, among others.

Capacity Building

The Programme has supported LWF with separate Local Partners' Capacity Building -project to improve their overall performance for efficient and effective programme management. This year, 68 staff (18 women and 50 men) participated in 12 events of capacity building activities under different areas.

The key achievements of the capacity building support in 2013 include: enhanced knowledge, understanding and skills of staff on financial planning, management, internal control system, financial monitoring, investigate allegation against fraud and corruption, procurement, fraud management, human resource management, team building, planning, monitoring and evaluation system.

The capacity building support has been very useful for partners to enhance the knowledge base and skills of staff on thematic and organisational areas. The immediate results of the capacity building support have been reflected explicitly in day-to-day actions of staff. Consequently, our partner has drafted workforce diversity and inclusion guidelines, gender equality and social inclusion mainstreaming guideline, Country Programme strategy (2014-2019), Country Programme document (2014–2016), among others. These instruments have helped LWF Nepal and its implementing partner organisations to a large extent in improving the quality of work, which is bringing positive results towards their performance and ultimately having greater impact for beneficiaries.

Evaluations

LWF Nepal carried out a final evaluation of their country strategy 2008-2012. The process was not funded but otherwise supported by FCA and following recommendations may have effects on LWF country strategy in Nepal in coming years and thus also influence on FCA's funded projects.

The evaluation found the objectives as such relevant, but recommended several adjustments to be made in them. For example in livelihood development it was recommended to include skills development and employment in the programme objectives, continue with food security and income and discontinue with water, sanitation and health related objectives. This is thus in line with FCA's strategic objectives. The development programme of LWF Nepal currently spreads over 20 districts. This wide geographic spread of activities is expensive in terms of logistics, but it also impedes the development of programme coherence and synergies between different projects. Evaluation recommended LWF to drop their programme from the East and focus on Far-West part of the country.

Natural disasters are increasingly frequent, and therefore it will be important to focus more on supporting the development of livelihoods that bear resilience to shocks, e.g. an improved asset base, savings, skills and social networks. LWF should consider people affected by such disasters belonging to their focus group. Recommendation was also given to take a stronger focus on women from socially and economically disadvantaged groups, and give more attention to economic empowerment of women from such groups. LWF has gained much experience working with ex-bonded labourers. These groups are usually most vulnerable and marginalised and landlessness is one feature of these groups. The evaluation suggested that LWF should stop working on people living with HIV/AIDS and focus more on above mentioned groups.

RBA was an important viewpoint in the evaluation, and it was recommended that LWF would become less involved in working with communities directly, but rather build the capacities of duty bearers (mainly district authorities), who should support communities in getting prepared for disasters and in managing and mitigating risks.

Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

The Country Programme aimed and continues to address deep-rooted inequalities and social injustice, often based on traditional values and beliefs, consequently, which present a major hindrance for the social transformation. A long-term commitment and continuous advocacy efforts at all levels are, therefore, required in order to have a long-lasting impact on mentioned issues. Thus, advocacy should be based on evidence and knowledge and experiences of the right holders and be led by them to increase its legitimacy and to make it powerful to influence duty bearers and policy-makers. Also the Haliya, Kamaiya and Kamlari campaigning needs to be linked with other social campaigns and civil society networks to create more pressure to the duty bearers to fulfil their obligations.

The political stalemate in Nepal continued in 2013 with the failure of the first Constituent Assembly to promulgate new constitution and was dissolved in May 2012. With the political deadlock continuing, the risk of a return to violence is increasing. The dominating interests of political parties in caste, class, ethnicity and regionalism instead of national unity, has eroded the state capacity to consolidate the democratic gains. The political elite has institutionalised grand corruption, impunity and personalised rule. Several strikes were observed throughout the year, as effective with markets and education institutions remaining closed. Our partners were compelled to postpone or cancel their planned activities and community visits and planned programme implementation activities were re-scheduled. Key government and political counter-parts were busy with election preparations and campaigning providing low or no opportunities to collaborate.

The unexpected massive floods hit several of our working districts, severely damaged road networks and other infrastructures, hampering smooth market access for agricultural produce, produced by our targeted groups. Furthermore adverse political conditions, frequent strikes, absence of an elected body at the local level, high staff turnover of partner staff members, especially LWF Nepal, were posing significant challenges to the effective implementation of the projects. However, the programme was continuously assessed, updated and the local situation understood throughout the year, which helped in adopting measures to militate against the challenges and accomplish desired results. The planned programme activities were re-scheduled and accomplished later. The field presence with FCA's own coordinator in place has shown its benefits in supporting the partners on these kinds of issues.

Cambodia



Actual Costs:	
1,241,276 EUR	
MFA Partnership Agreement (PA): 622,973	
List of Projects:	
10049	Integrated rural development through empowerment project (IRDEP)
10488	Staff Capacity development of LWD
10953	Women: Hope and Growth
10955	Land rights awareness
11010	Climate change adaption through improved access to irrigation and agriculture techniques
11030	Water Supply System construction in IRDEPs KC and PS
11177	Landmine and ERW clearance for development
11217	Primary School Building in Phnom Kravanh district, Pursat province, Cambodia
11218	Women In Action project (WIN)
11223	CAM Right to Education
11350	Water Supply System in IRDEP-KC SLC area
11481	Cambodia Flood Response KHM 131

Overview of the Cambodia Programme

Cambodia continues to suffer from the legacy of decades of war and internal strife. Poverty remains to be rural where households are dependent on agriculture and its related subsectors. Corruption and lack of legal protections for investors continue to hamper economic opportunity and competitiveness. The economy also has a poor track record in creating jobs in the formal sector, and the challenge will only become more daunting in the future since 50% of the population is under 20 years of age and large numbers of job seekers will begin to enter the work force over the next 10 years. Cambodia is also one of the most land mined countries in the world.

Right to Livelihood, the major component in the Country Programme, is implemented through the partnerships with Life With Dignity (LWD), Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and with the new partner Cambodian Women's Crisis Center (CWCC). In 2013 the livelihood programme focused on improved livelihoods of community members in targeted

area and preparation for moving forward to the next level in small-scale business development. Agricultural Cooperatives is a key structure with the potential to assist community members to expand their production and business scale. Also further steps in clearing the land mines helped people to use land for livelihood development.

Right to Education theme has been further strengthened in the Country Programme. Education related work is implemented by LWD and CWCC. In 2013, based on an education assessment that was finalised earlier in the year, FCA has initiated activities targeting the secondary education level, liaising with Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS), UNESCO and UNICEF to enhance programmatic synergies. FCA plans to sign MoU with MoEYS in 2014 to contribute more effectively to the national vocational orientation policy development and implementation. FCA also participated in Education sub-sector and EiE working group in Cambodia to explore the possible areas of work to develop an education programme for the Country Programme.

FCA is also an active member of the NGO Education Partnership (NEP), which is a NGO network with focus on the education sector, to advocate for improved quality of education through providing trained teachers to remote areas.

Right to Peace has been integrated in the Country Programme through LWD's Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDEP). Based on the recommendations of a Right to Peace study conducted in December 2012, peace initiatives in Cambodia should be targeted women and youth as the entry point. In addition to the capacity building provided to women through IRDEP, Women Hope and Growth -project provided capacity building to women through strengthening women groups and enhancing women's economic development. The women were encouraged to become a member of agricultural cooperatives, village banks and collective business groups in order to build their confidence and voice out their concerns in public forums.

An opportunity was provided to youths to share their concerns relating to land issues, political dialogues and other social activities through organising workshops such as youth forum on land and housing rights, reflection workshop on community based youth network, Mekong Peace Journey and peace walk campaign in Oddar Meanchey. In addition, FCA has contributed to peace building in Cambodia through joint funding to youth and peace programme in Cambodia through the Khmer Youth Association (KYA) and the Working Group for Peace (WGP) which plays active role in promoting peace in Cambodia through engagement of youth. KYA programme staffs had an opportunity to visit Finland and learn about the model of Changemaker network. The innovative idea of moving forward with the establishment of a youth network initiative in Cambodia was one of the results from the exchange visit.

In 2013, Cambodia Country Programme has contributed to development work through our partners covering all together 391 villages of 61 communes in 11 districts of five provinces: Kampong Spue, Kampong Chhnang, Pursat, Battambang and Siem Reap. Some delays in project implementation occurred due to political instability, demonstrations and escalated violations caused by disagreement on the result of National Election held in July. Also heavy rains and flooding occurred in some projects' implementation areas.

Programme Objectives and Achievements

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

- Based on the village-self assessment (VSA) in IRDEP, the local authority leadership has been improved, and they are more accountable to their citizens as rights-holders. 43 Commune Councils have increased capacity in planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting. They have eventually supported community development work and initiatives more frequently and efficiently. 320 Villages Development Committees (VDCs) and several

community based organisations (CBOs) have also improved capacity in managing development process.

- Agricultural cooperatives (ACs) have played an important role to support their members' access to markets, both products and inputs, such as fertilizer, fuel and seed in Women Hope and Growth project. The members got cheaper price and longer-term pay back conditions compared to the direct purchase from wholesaler or private actors. Some of the ACs support their members in selling their products, especially rice, which is the main income source of farmers, to get better price through collective sale and sharing the market information.
- In 2013, MAG's clearance teams have removed and destroyed 968 anti-personnel mines, 5 anti-tank mines and 2,269 items of unexploded ordnance and released 188,352 m² of land (118 per cent of the second year project target) back to communities for safe productive use. Land cleared of mines was used by the communities to plant fruits and crops for improving their livelihood.

Women have equal access and control over productive resources and assets

- The concept of women empowerment was applied actively in Agricultural Cooperative (AC) and Village Bank (VB) activities in Women Hope and Growth. There are 24 Women Agricultural Cooperative led by women with 4,339 members, included 3,164 women (73%). Women took good leadership positions as chief of AC and were able to run their businesses. As a good outcome, their social status was increasingly recognised by men. More women issues such as domestic violence, women business, gender discriminations and women participation in social development work were raised and integrated into commune investment plan.
- At least 842 members (751 women) of 13 VBs have run their micro or family business using loan from the VB in their respective villages. Community members were happy with the operation of VB and interested to start their family business with loan from the bank. The micro family businesses have been set up, such as weaving, selling grocery and cakes, selling second hand clothes, buying and selling agriculture products (vegetable, rice, chicken) at village and commune markets. They have generated income from their businesses to support their household livelihood, save, and pay interest to the bank.
- Water Supply System project has contributed to providing better access for women and children to water resources. More than 240 households benefited from the project.

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

- 40 villages located in the most disaster prone areas in working areas of IRDEP have developed DRR plan and integrated into the village development plan and com-

munity investment plan. Community members actively engaged in DRR activities totaling 1,750 households benefited from them. As a result, they have developed their household DRR plan. Community members engaged in small-scale irrigation construction process, establishment and functioning of rice bank providing loans in rice to poor people who were challenged by seasonal food shortage, community pond construction, as well as dam and canal construction. 1,308 households applied climate change adaptation methods, like using selected rice seed instead of ordinary rice seed, and used resilient crop. Some of them planted vegetables in sacks which saves water.

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

- 44 participants from district authority representatives, Commune Councils, Village Leaders, LWD's Community Empowerment Facilitators and Community Empowerment Officers got ToT on Right Based approach (RBA) and on land registration policy and guideline conducted by co-facilitators of FINNMAP and LWD through Lands Rights Awareness -project. After the course, a training curriculum was developed to conduct the training targeting community focal people. 161 focal people, (63 women) got training on land registration and RBA.
- Furthermore Land Rights Forums were organised in Social Land Concession area of Aoral district, Kampong Speu province and Sameki Meanchey of Kampong Chhnang province in collaboration with district authorities. The forums aim to provide opportunity to right holders to raise their concerns related to land issues and human rights. 929 people (50% women) attended the forums.

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

- IRDEP had also education components. Seven primary schools conducted International Children's day, Teachers' day and "Learn without fear" -campaign with a total of 1,373 participants including 282 parents and 678 students, in cooperation with local authority, district officers, the district office of education and provincial department of education. A number of community awareness raising sessions on the value of education and consequences of drop out were organised at community level. VDC and school committees worked together to motivate parents to send their children to school.
- In the scholarship programme of IRDEP, 298 of the most vulnerable school children received scholarship package consisting of bag, uniforms, books, pens and shoes to continue their studies in primary school. It reduces the high dropout rate of poor children who have to leave

school early because of the poor economic situation of the family.

- At least 1,557 students (50% girls) benefited from school construction with the support from IRDEP in terms of improved learning environment and access to school. 221 students, majority at secondary level, benefited from the dormitory which provides an opportunity to continue studying especially for girls who live long distance away from school. The improved access to education and better school facilities have resulted in increased enrolment.
- In Women in action -project, 100 poor students were selected from Kralanh district, Siem Reap province for a scholarship programme which supports them to continue their studies at upper secondary level, thereby giving girl students from poor households equal opportunity to access higher education.
- In partnership with the Vocational Orientation Department of Ministry of Education Youth and Sport (MoEYS), Vocational Orientation Guidelines for secondary school level were printed and distributed nationwide (24 provinces and municipalities) through the Right to Education -project. The Guidelines have been developed by MoEYS with technical support from UNESCO. Due to limited annual budget allocations from the national government and lack of technical capacity and human resources it will be a challenge for the department to integrate the policy to school curriculum and roll out the initiative. FCA will continue the support to roll out this initiative in Cambodia and advocate with relevant actors.

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

- The first national preparedness and recovery plan that Cambodia has developed for the education sector in Cambodia, the Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP), has been developed by local consultant and MoEYS, with financial and technical support from FCA through the Right to Education -project, Save the Children and UNICEF. The EPRP in Education will be officially launched in 2014 and it will be disseminated to all 24 provinces in Cambodia. FCA is planning to follow up on the application of EPRP at school level.

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

- Right to Education -project contributed also to the annual World Teacher Day -campaign. The aim was to promote students in lower and higher secondary school interested to be a teacher in their home village or commune. The World Teacher Day was celebrated by NEP with publication of some posters and notebooks and slogans with key messages to the students. At least 8,000 notebooks and

1,500 slogans have been distributed to five target provinces of FCA. NEP distributed other 16,000 notebooks and 5700 slogans to its members in nine provinces.

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

- With the support from IRDEP, 1,607 households raised their issues related to land rights abuses, conflicts, domestic violence, gangsters and sexual harassment, for resolution to relevant authorities which showed a change of attitude towards conflict and conflict resolution. 921 of the raised conflicting issues were addressed by village leaders and commune councillors. The ones which were not solved were referred to upper levels of relevant bodies.
- IRDEP, Women Hope and Growth and the Land rights awareness -project have continued to provide capacity building to community members and key focal people, especially to commune councillors. The understanding of most of commune councillors increased and they played active roles in facilitating community awareness raising sessions on national laws such as marriage and family, domestic violence and human trafficking. Village leaders also showed similar positive change in terms of knowledge, attitudes and behaviour towards the goal. The most important positive result was that local authorities paid much more attention to them, listened to the cases and addressed them in a peaceful and successful manner.
- FCA provided funding to Working Group for Peace (WGP) to conduct peace walk in the district close to the Cambodia-Thai borders. At least 200 people participated in the Peace Walk on 24th May 2013: Buddhist monks and nuns, various NGOs, representatives of local authorities and university students, local high school students, some villagers, including Muslims and Christians.
- FCA contributed in initiative of regional learning process on peace building for young adults in Mekong region. 27 youths from six countries, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thai, Vietnam and China, participated in 15 days training in Myanmar. The course consisted of class training and field visit to communities and NGOs in Myanmar. Participants gained new skills and practical tools to analyse conflict and solution in their respective countries

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

- A joint initiative of peace building campaign in Cambodia was established. The joint initiative has been agreed

during the NGO coordination meeting related to the election in order to mobilise resources to take some actions during the National Election period. The actions aimed to minimise the violence of pro-party during the National Election. Working Group for Peace (WGP) agreed to coordinate and mobilise resources and youth to conduct the peace election programme. 4,000 T-shirts, 115 stickers and 300 hats with peace message were distributed. 50,000 photocopies of King's message for peaceful election were distributed. A non-violence message spot through radio programme was developed and broadcasted. The first peace gathering was conducted in front of the Royal Palace with about 2,000 civil society participants, majority of them youths.

Capacity Building

In June 2013, FCA facilitated Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (EPRP) -workshop for ACT Forum members. ACT Forum members also shared their disaster preparedness and emergency plans with each other. Joint ACT Forum Cambodia EPRP was developed during the workshop and will be finalised in 2014.

FCA provided support to LWD for Capacity Building project in order to conduct the trainings to field operation staffs on three priority topics such as report writing, presentation skills and community mobilisation. The results show that 159 staffs applied the new reporting format and process learnt from the training. They planned to provide report writing skills training to the community partners. Also community mobilisation was in focus. As a result 154 staff members attended and facilitated communities to organise community mobilisation plan. Trainer team conducted the pre- and post-test to measure the result of the training which indicated impressive learning curve of partner staff abilities.

In August 2013, FCA hired an external consultant to provide training on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation to senior staff of partners, LWD and CWCC with 14 participants. The field exercise was conducted to practice the monitoring tools. As the result, participants have understood the concept of the logical framework and reporting objectives. Based on the consultant's recommendations, the logical framework and reporting content of respective organisations have been reviewed during the training days.

In Land Rights Awareness -project, 15 LWD staffs attended two training courses on Rights- based approach and legal land registration process which were conducted by LWD resource person and technical expert of FINNMAP. After the training, participants gained knowledge and developed their action plan for sharing their knowledge to community members through trainings and awareness raising sessions. All participants have conducted the training to key people and awareness sessions to their respective communities.

Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

There were not major setbacks during the year in projects' implementation. However, some delays occurred during the year. National election delayed some project activities as the local authorities participated in the election campaign delaying planned cooperation and approval for the events



at village or commune level. Authorities and social service providers have been reluctant in fulfilling certain duties.

Flash flood during third quarter of 2013 affected more than 20 provinces. This also delayed project implementation especially in Battambang, and Siem Reap province. LWD with funding support of ACT Alliance has provided assistance to 4,585 households in the target province. Moreover, some activities of Women in Action -project in Siem Reap province have been postponed to next year because most of the target area was flooded and there was no access during the flooded period.

Some of the project areas were also affected by drought, prolonged of raining during the raining season that affected to farmers' crops, especially rice in Battambang province and Phnom Srouch district, Kampong Spue province. The village disaster management committee (VDMC) raised the challenge to Provincial Committee for Disaster Management. As a result, most of the paddy rice has been saved through intervention of Provincial Committee members by providing fuel and pumping machine.

Not fulfilled human rights, especially land rights, is still the most significant issue affecting to the people's livelihoods since most of the vulnerable people are farmers who depend on the agricultural activities. The land encroachment without clear demarcation by the people in power or by companies is still common. The land rights awareness was intended not only for farmers but also for relevant local authority through forums, meetings, and consultations in order to provide opportunity for duty bearers and rights holders to share their concern and mutual understanding. The peace building among stakeholders is the most important issue to consider in the next annual plan to be connected to the work already done.

Collective business concepts seem to be new for community members and partners, which meant that the community business, especially Agricultural Cooperative business, did not yet expand. The capacity building of both project staffs and community leaders need to be more in focus in the programme next year. The external resources in business enterprise need to be identified and introduced to the partners.

Rural-urban migration is the challenge not only for community development, but also national development. Non-skilled labour will bring less input into economic development. Many youth have migrated without proper skills. Therefore more attention on vocational and skills training, particularly in case of youth at the secondary school, will be pursued in the next year's plan of the Country Programme.

3.5 Latin America and the Caribbean

FCA's operating countries in Latin America and the Caribbean include Guatemala, Honduras and Haiti. Regional Office (LACRO) locates in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Right to Livelihood is integrated in both Haiti and Central America Programmes. Besides strengthening the livelihood opportunities, DRR and climate change adaption and mitigation activities are in focus on both areas. For example a very remarkable success has been achieved in Haiti where a national advocacy platform on climate change has been founded as a result of ACT Alliance Haiti joint project for which FCA is the main donor. Initiative clearly continues to enhance the visibility of ACT Haiti Forum's joint climate change/DRR activities and increases connectivity with different civil society and governmental actors.

Right to Peace theme has also common features in both areas of the region. The theme is mainly concentrated in improving the human rights situation. In Central America citizen security and dialogue between rights holders and duty bearers are supported while in Haiti human rights and peace education is strengthened for example through teachers training, making them comfortable to incorporate respective themes into the curriculum.

Actual Costs:	
EUR 502,822	
MFA Partnership Agreement (PA): 502,822	
List of Projects:	
11251	Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Programme Office

Right to Education is a strong theme in Haiti due to school construction work which FCA has been doing since the earthquake in 2010. The activities have moved from provision of temporary learning spaces to long term sustainable solutions both in terms of construction as well as improving the functioning of schools and quality of education through Quality Education -project piloted in 2013.

In 2013 FCA decided to conduct a review on FCA's programme in Central America and its future as well as possibilities to open a field presence in Guatemala. However considering the overall strategic needs and long term financial situation, the Management Team came to the conclusion that FCA cannot commit the necessary funding needed to establish a meaningful and strong enough presence in the region in the long run. Thus the decision was made to exit from Central America. This decision included two steps: 1) to continue operations in Central America as previously planned in 2014 and 2) withdrawal from Central America during 2015 – 2016. FCA's operations in Haiti will continue as originally planned in strategy 2014-2016 and beyond that.

Central America
(Guatemala & Honduras)



Photo: Riikka Seppälä

Actual Costs:	
EUR 586,796	
MFA Partnership Agreement (PA): 541,571	
List of Projects:	
10125	CLAI - support to the pastoral of youth and Culture of Peace
10276	Central America Sustainable Development and Advocacy Program
10631	Central American Advocacy Program in the European Union
10841	Central American Capacity Building Programme and Specialization in Gender and Strategic Disaster Risk Reduction
11034	Promoting Human Development through Access to Peace and Justice
11168	Strengthening Local Governance for Livelihoods Development in Apacilagua, Honduras
11244	Support for Rights Based Citizen Security policies in Central America
11351	Support for LWF/DWS Central America program's project evaluation and strategy process
10949	Women's socioeconomic empowerment in Alta Verapaz
11388	Central America Field Office
11472	Support for Human Rights Defenders in Central America: International Human Rights Observation for Elections in Honduras

Overview of the Central America Programme

The main issues affecting Central American societies are high levels of insecurity, inequality, climate induced disasters and an unstable post-conflict environment. The transition to a functioning democracy has been incomplete in these societies, and the tendency to return to the use of military forces to tackle public security issues is growing, together with illegal and arbitrary use of force in the name of crime prevention. General violence and gender-based violence is reported to have increased again in 2013 and the presence of gangs, drug cartels and organised crime that have penetrated the society in all levels (political, public and private sectors, society at large) is becoming of permanent nature.

FCA Central America Programme focuses its work in two Central American countries, Guatemala and Honduras. In 2013 there were some specific situations and challenges that affected these countries in particular.

The high and increasing levels of social violence in Central America have led to a militarization of public policies

concerning citizen security and the societies in general. In Honduras this became more and more evident in 2013 by the creation of Military Police and the overall presence of military in the Honduran cities. Also increased levels of internal displacements of people that receive no humanitarian aid have been reported. In addition to this, Honduras had general elections in November 2013 which were held in a context characterised by high levels of violence, criminality, persecution and political violence, threats towards human rights defenders, lack of transparency, perception of fraud and persistent electoral impunity.

In addition to the problems related to the state response in citizen security related issues, environmental problems and conflicts related to extractive industries and commercial monocultures, such as palm oil, as well as human right violations in affected communities are common in the region. In Guatemala, there has been an increase in criminalization of human rights defenders and community leaders for their actions linked to the defense of land rights and natural resources. The international actors (such as Oxfam and



Swedish Embassy) have identified the importance of INGOs of becoming more urgent in the past couple of years, especially in the current context of increasing polarization of the societies and the openly hostile attitude of governments towards claims for more social justice. There are signs that the attacks against organisations that work on impunity, land rights of the indigenous peoples, or defend the rights of the women or sexual minorities, are increasing.

For the challenging and complex regional and country contexts described here, our implementing partners need to constantly assess the risks and challenges present in their actions, which in many ways make their work more complicated and has at least an indirect impact on the work and implementing the country programmes. FCA conducted in October – November 2013 a review of its programme and operations in Central America, and many of these challenges and changes in the context were also among the findings of the review that is enclosed to the FCA Annual Report 2013. Furthermore based on the same review and strategic goals, as already mentioned, FCA decided to exit from Central America by the 2016.

FCA has five partners in Central America covering following working areas: Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Central America Programme (Guatemala, Honduras and regional), Centro de Investigación y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (CIPRODEH) (Santa Rosa de Copán and Nueva Arcadia in Honduras), Christian Aid and Centro de Desarrollo Humano (CDH) (Apacilagua, Choluteca in Honduras), Latin America Council of Churches (CLAI) (Honduras, regional) and an international partnership with APRODEV.

Central America programme has a strong focus on Right to Livelihood and Peace, even though the focus on religious and traditional leaders has not been developed. In livelihood, focus has been on sustainability and disaster preparedness and risk reduction. Women's empowerment is getting stronger as a new Women's Bank project was initiated in 2013.

Programme Objectives and Achievements

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 LWF's Sustainable Development and Advocacy Program in Poptún and San Luis Petén, in Guatemala, has contributed to diversification of agricultural production of 63 families that now have improved and diversified cultivations (yam, cooking banana, tomato, pepper, cacao, coconut etc.) that provide families with food and also additional income due to selling these products in the market. In Honduras, department of Olancho, 60 families have been able to diversify their agricultural production with 6 permanent and 12 temporal varieties, including mango, orange, avocado, papaya, tomato and redroot, contributing to their improved diet.
- In Apacilagua municipality project's (Honduras) activities contributed to the improved production and livelihood through diversification of agrological products such as manioc, sweet potato, cashew and banana plant that are resistant or can tolerate the draught common in the region. Increased diversity in production and training in agricultural techniques has contributed to improved food security in the communities. Some families were able to establish irrigation systems with the technical help of the project and were thus able to expand their productive season, which again contribute to improved security of basic nutrition for their families.
- Apacilagua community members participated in workshop where they elaborated small economic initiatives taking into account the strengths and conditions of the zone which then were identified and prioritised. Five of these economic initiatives will be further elaborated and realised with the continuation of the project in 2014.
- The implementation of new project in Alta Verapaz started in October 2013, though the process of baseline collection and analysis, coordination visits to the communities by the implementing grassroots organisations preparing recruitments and equipment for the project implementation between October 2013 and December 2016, which focuses in strengthening the rights and participation of indigenous women in general and their right and capacity to livelihood in particular.

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

- The community contingency and risk management plans were revised and actualised in Apacilagua in 2013. An early alarm system was incorporated to the plans, enabling the population to take into account the flooding zones with production potential as well as the effects of the climate change for improved production. Also a space for wider and improved communication and co-ordination between local emergency committees was established connecting the CBOs to the municipal level.
- Through Sustainable Development and Advocacy Program (Guatemala), communities have been sensitised related to decrease the selling of lands to megaproject companies and to protect natural resources and thus contributing in guaranteeing the food security of the families in the regions of Poptún and San Luis Petén. Furthermore, 6 municipalities now have organised forest fire commissions with operative plans and doing advocacy work towards the local authorities in order to get institutional position and budget within their municipalities. Petén is the only department of Guatemala that has elaborated strategy for integral management of fire, as well as a Campaign for Education and Communication for the Reduction of Forest Fires, as a result of the support given to LWF local partner and wide community participation.
- The Sustainable Development and Advocacy Program in the municipality of Chisec (Guatemala) has trained 14 local disaster reduction coordinators (COLRED – Coordinadoras locales de reducción de desastres) in risk management, elaboration of community contingency plans and basic tools in emergency response. In 2013 altogether 253 members of the COLRED's (49 % being women) were trained in logistic management in emergencies, WASH, dengue and malaria prevention, and attention to women and newborns. Through the strengthened capacity in communities, they are able to improve the living conditions and respond to hazards affecting the communities. Four COLREDs have started implementing their contingency plan in the emergencies presented in 2013. Also in Honduras, community organisations have been trained in damage evaluation, risk mapping, disaster prevention and reduction plans and emergency response.
- FCA's support to LWF's Central America Capacity Building Programme and Specialization in Gender and Strategic Disaster Risk Reduction has contributed to improved capacity of local communities and civil society organisations to participate in DRR work and civil protection initiatives.

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

- In Honduras the Sustainable Development and Advocacy

Program has been further strengthened the local community youth environmental organisation and identified fora for the insertion of youth and fundraising in order to manage recycling microenterprises and installation of nursery gardens for income generation. 33 young people have also been trained in environment protection and advocacy in 2013. The youth social movements also participated in the processes of observation and monitoring of the general elections in November.

- In Apacilagua, the communities have been able to coordinate more efficiently with municipal authorities and have achieved results from greater participation and engagement of the local melon company to support economically the construction of health clinic to the municipality.
- Through APRODEV's Central American Advocacy Program in the European Union, FCA has contributed to ensuring that the principles of ownership, partnership and participation as well as the respect for human rights, gender equality and the alleviation and eventual eradication of poverty are fundamental in the European Union policies regarding Central America. APRODEV is seen as serious and reliable civil society actor to input on EU policy making processes. This is proved by the fact that sometimes EU officials directly contact us with information or just to update APRODEV on current issues on areas it works. Also on certain issues reaction to APRODEV's demand is being evidenced, on certain not as EU officials see APRODEV analysis critical (especially on European investments in CA and analysis on EU's Latin America Investment Facility). But here, APRODEV contribution for civil society organisations and their lobbying work is important.

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

- Sustainable Development and Advocacy Program in Baja Verapaz has trained 37 teachers in methods for educating through play and artistic expression, providing them improved didactic skills in order to promote integral change in students. This was a result of a cooperation established with the Departmental Direction of Education of Baja Verapaz.
- New Women's Bank project started in Alta Verapaz in October 2013 has started organising alphabetization activities for the targeted 554 women in the 34 communities of the Chisec municipality and 2 in San Pedro de Carchá. Almost half of the targeted adult population (47%) cannot read or write, showing that there is increased need to support the inclusive insertion of the indigenous and rural populations to the educational system. Even at present, the school enrolment rate is low in the area and only 58 of 100 children manage to finish elementary school. Project activities are mainly targeted for women who are the most vulnerable due to their con-

dition of being indigenous and rural as well as have not received schooling at all or have attended only 1-2 years of basic education. These women will also participate in other non-formal education activities such as education on women's rights and basic accounting.

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

- With the support from Sustainable Development and Advocacy Program in Guatemala Citizen Observatories are implementing monitoring exercises related to access and quality of education in 4 out of 7 municipalities in Alta Verapaz. In the municipalities of Raxhurá and Senahú these activities and advocacy towards the Ministry of Education have resulted improved attention to students and that teachers are giving out the required number of classes they are supposed to have.

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

- Sustainable Development and Advocacy Program in Guatemala: In 7 municipalities of Alta Verapaz above mentioned Citizen Observatories are fundamental in contributing to inclusive citizenship and community participation by promoting and defencing human rights and basic services at local level. Women and youth have actively participated in these initiatives. Also in Quetzaltenango municipality, after successfully promoting formative, organisational and advocacy processes together with youth organisations, a Public Policy on Culture was elaborated through a participatory process and youth have been visible actors of change and transformation towards more just and peaceful societies. Observatories have also been successful in establishing alliances between other civil organisations as well as local authorities. Although, still the majority of citizens participating in observatories are male, the participation of women and youth is remarkable: 42% and 31% respectively. The observatories promote peaceful conflict resolution within the communities, institutions and local authorities by utilizing the dialogue, negotiations, citizen initiatives and strengthening relationships between various actors and thus contribute to the citizen security within the communities.
- Promoting Human Development through Access to Peace and Justice in Honduras: In Santa Rosa de Copán and Nueva Arcadia Local Citizen Security Commissions are functioning and their capacities and resources (for example office, personal, relationship with municipal and legal authorities) have been strengthened, and they are contributing to the implementation of public policy on citizen security and violence prevention as well as strengthening of a culture of peace within the two municipalities. Conciliation Centers funded within project

are also functioning and have been recognised by the municipal authorities and resolved 66 cases in 2013. This is a new form of action, providing local population with alternative and peaceful ways to resolve conflicts. In 2013, 27 new volunteer facilitators have been formed to be part of the conciliator network. Furthermore, the municipal authorities (preventive police, judges, prosecutors) have increased information and skills related to design and elaboration of Strategic Security Plan, current situation and analysis of insecurity and violence in the municipalities and thus have better capacity to act.

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 coordination with our partner CIPRODEH, the municipalities of Santa Rosa de Copán and Nueva Arcadia now have strengthened municipal support for the rights of women and youth; In Nueva Arcadia municipal women's office was granted 5 % of municipal revenues for its budget. The project has also contributed to the strengthening of youth networks in both areas. In Nueva Arcadia the Municipal Women's Office carried out trainings to 23 men who have been denounced of domestic violence contributing thus to the work related to prevention of domestic violence. In Santa Rosa de Copán, this activity was directed to young men as preventive measure and had the participation of 25 individuals.
- FCA supported the work of Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI) in its Pastoral of Youth and Culture of Peace and especially with strengthening of the capacity of the youth in churches to work as peer youth trainers and application of the Guide to Church and Sexual and Reproductive rights that was elaborated in collaboration with UNFPA in 2012. Altogether 140 young people were capacitated at regional level. Unfortunately the activity had to be cancelled in Honduras due to the resignation and fleeing from country due to death threats of the president of the national board of CLAI. The Guide also includes training on prevention of domestic and gender-based violence to be carried in churches.
- FCA also supported the International Human Rights Observation for Elections in Honduras organised during the elections in 2013. The importance of organising this observation mission was defined by the International Federation of Human Rights in its mission to Honduras in September 2013 due to the context of political violence and insecurity in which the elections were held. The final report of the mission presents some findings and recommendations such as 1) context of intimidation, insecurity and militarization of the electoral process; 2) clear indices of manipulation of votes and lack of transparency in the process although the elections; 3) lack of confinable information for the Honduran electorate and lack of freedom of expression; and 4) vulnerability of the Honduran electoral system.

Evaluations

FCA supported together with other sister agencies the final evaluation of the LWF/DWS Central America Sustainable Development and Advocacy Program in Central America. The final evaluation was carried out during February – March 2013 and FCA representative was part of the evaluation team and participated in the first half of the evaluation. The evaluation recommended of including the human rights and transition to justice as specific objectives to the regional strategy. Also increased and better coordination at local level was recommended in the areas of implementation of project as well as preparing plans for exiting particular zones of intervention that were recommended to be expanded to new communities with follow up and support to the existing areas of implementation. The evaluation recommended the collection of baseline data to work as the foundation for the new regional programme. Based on the evaluation results, strategic planning for 2014-2019 was organised during the 2013.

Also, the Promoting Human Development through Access to Peace and Justice in Honduras was evaluated in October-November 2013 (final evaluation for the first phase of the project 2012–2013) and with the help of findings citizen security is to be expanded to a new implementation zone in the second phase of the project in 2014–2016.

Capacity Building

A Capacity Building project for partners was budgeted for 2013, but the activities did not take place as FCA's field presence in the Central America was not established. The

capacity building budget was re-allocated to Haiti. FCA has not been supporting partners through direct capacity building, but has financed it through LWF.

Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

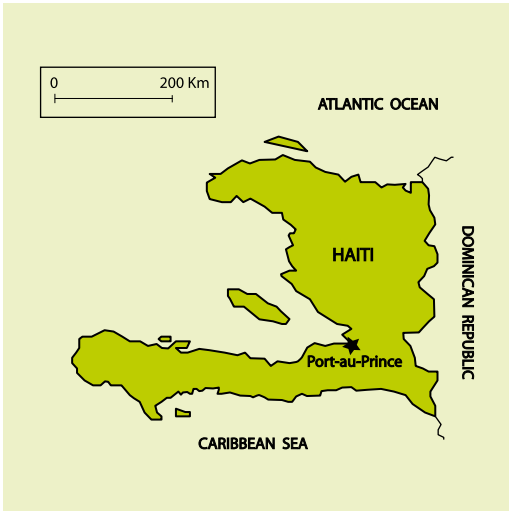
The plans to further strengthen the Right to Peace in the Country Programme were taken further and a feasibility study on citizen security was finalised in December 2013. The process was already very much delayed but FCA was planning to join this regional joint-programme with the APRODEV members present in Central America contributing to the improved citizens' knowledge on the national citizen security policies and ways to be involved in the designing and monitoring of the policies as well as possibilities of engaging in dialogue with the authorities on the policies. FCA was actively participating in the formulation of this initiative, but delays in the process as well as changes in FCA's human resources affected this process and after exit decision FCA had to withdraw from this initiative.

The main change in implementing the Country Programme Action Plan in 2013 has been the exit decision taken in December 2013. Due to this decision no planned and budgeted new initiatives is to be implemented and FCA has negotiated and elaborated exit plans with each partner in the region and these will be implemented during 2014-2016.

Haiti



Photo: Anna Kaupila



Actual Costs:	
EUR 1,547,971	
MFA Partnership Agreement (PA): 562,700	
List of Projects:	
10274	Integrated development and sustainable livelihoods in rural West, Southeast and Grand Anse departments of Haiti
10795	Crossing the boundary: Monitoring and Education for Change
10959	Building the capacities and strengthening the socioeconomic situation of rural women in Haiti
10978	ACT schools / Haiti Appeal
11003	Reconstruction of Earthquake and Hurricane Resistant Schools, UNDP
11017	Christian Ville / former St. Pierre school
11018	School reconstruction MLAL
11033	Program on Adaptation to the Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction
11255	Peace and tolerance education in schools
11256	Strengthening the resilience of schools in face of disasters
11274	Renafanm vocational school reconstruction
11293	RECONST: IDB school program, FCA
11341	Quality education project
11389	Haiti Resource Mobilization
11478	Capacity building of local partners

Overview of the Haiti Programme

Haiti context analysis, which was conducted by FCA in the beginning of 2014, clearly shows that the human rights situation in Haiti has not changed to better direction in last years. Instead it has worsened due to 2010 earthquake, over 100 000 people still living in tents in unsanitary conditions, and life and food become more expensive. Besides political crisis lasted already years, Haiti is ranked 161st out of 186 in the group of countries with a “weak human development” according to the UNDP with a rate poverty of 77% and a human Development Index of 0.454. More than two thirds of Haitians are affected by unemployment or underemployment.

Right to Education is the biggest theme in FCA’s Haiti Programme, mainly due to the volume of school construction projects. The focus has still been in the infrastructure

side and providing secure learning spaces, but as the situation in Haiti can no longer be described as an emergency, this situation is being re- considered on the point of view of FCA strategy and long term view. A new project on the quality of education, implemented during 2013, is considered as first step in this direction. Due to the fact that Haiti is a country with extremely low levels of school attendance even on the level of basic education, FCA’s focus has continued to be in children.

Right to Livelihood is another important theme in Haiti, where particularly rural livelihoods are very weak and highly vulnerable to disasters. FCA Haiti programme strives to ensure that rural livelihood activities pay attention to women’s and men’s needs and rights, encouraging their participation in most of the activities and offering some activities specifically for women. This is particularly the focus

of Women’s Bank project that starts from the basic level of providing literacy training as a basis for the promotion of women’s participation in the society.

Haiti is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to natural hazards such as hurricanes, earthquakes, landslides and flooding. Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) is thus highly important for the Country Programme and is addressed through various projects and as a cross-cutting approach. The programme includes concrete disaster risk mitigation activities, training in DRR for different audiences, strengthening the capacity of civil society to participate in national and regional debates on DRR, building disaster proof learning spaces and training teachers on DRR. With ACT Forum working group FCA aims to strengthen the capacity of Haitian civil society to advocate towards their government and international actors to take stronger measures on climate change mitigation and adaptation and to empower local communities in their efforts to cope with the phenomenon. Through these actions the programme aims at building the resilience of livelihoods, local communities and schools among others.

Right to Peace is very relevant theme in Haiti, a country that suffers from high political instability and where order is being maintained by a UN peace mission. Important work is being done in human rights awareness raising, considered a very important aspect of peace, as in Haiti conflicts 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. Many of the current activities of FCA’s Programme in Haiti related to peace theme are integrated with other 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.

LWF Haiti continues to be long-term partner specifically in livelihood related project. RNDDH and Service Chretien Haiti (SCH) continued to be FCA’s partners too. MISSEH (Mission Sociale des Eglises Haitiennes), a local member of ACT forum, was chosen as a new implementing partner on peace theme in 2013. In school construction work FCA partners with NCA in finalising the construction of water, sanitation and hygiene-related components in nine so-called “Green Schools”. UNDP and Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) among others have been funding construction work.

Programme Objectives and Achievements

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

- Through the LWF’s Integrated Development and Sustainable Livelihoods project the capacity of households to generate income for their families through environmental and farming activities and through moving up the val-

ue chain has been increased, as a result of support to 40 micro solidarity groups (MUSOs). MUSOs increase communities’ financial management capacity and increase income. The daily per capita income has increased from 1 USD/day to 2.22 USD/day in Foret des Pins. Up to 41% of them are female headed households.

- Furthermore 150 households’ capacities to generate income have been increased as a result of support to implementation of pilot farms that include reforestation and food production and animal husbandry. They can afford more productive and diversified livelihood options.

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

- The attenuation of barriers and stereotypes related to gender resulted in better synergy between men and women in the communities, risk management and contingency plans exist in communities including screening of acute crisis instruments and their social/market consequences (seed banks, cash/food for work options) have resulted through Integrated Development and Sustainable Livelihoods -project.
- The communities are also better prepared to mitigate impact and cope with disasters, as a result of training of civil protection structures, simulation exercises and cooperation with authorities. Mitigation actions such as road rehabilitation have been undertaken. Early warning systems have been strengthened through trainings.
- Communities’ resilience has also been strengthened and they have improved awareness of climate change and natural disasters, as a result of sensitisation activities that have reached 16,500 people, including rights-holders and local authorities.

In addition, activities that contribute to DRR, such as reforestation, soil protection, agro ecological gardening/farming have been integrated to income generation activities. Diversification of livelihoods has contributed to resilience.

- Dialogue between rights holders, civil society and the local and regional authorities on how to integrate local DRR initiatives into Governmental DRR structures and strategy has improved linkages between these groups. Local authorities and civil protection structures are now better coordinated to establish early warning systems.
- ACT Alliance’s joint Program on Adaptation to the Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction has been successful gathering over 500 civil society organisations, faith communities, local authorities, several hundred small farmers and school children increasing their awareness of the causes and consequences of climate change for Haiti and for food security. Haiti’s first civil society platform on climate change was created, forming a basis for advocacy work towards the government to promote stronger climate change policies that ensure compliance with international agreements and treaties

ratified by the Haitian government. Local advocacy and networking initiatives between communities, authorities and religious leaders on reforestation and forest protection were supported in Grand Anse.

- The ACT program has trained 65 journalists and the conduction of an awareness-raising campaign through 48 community radios which have improved knowledge about climate change and vulnerable communities' resilience is strengthened as a result of improved knowledge of environmental problematic, soil protective structures and reforestation, introduction of new agricultural techniques and solid waste management and capacity building of grassroots organisations.
- The Strengthening of resilience of schools in face of disasters -project strengthened capacity of youth and teachers to reduce the impact of disasters, as a result of training of 200 teachers in 65 schools. Schools are now capable of drafting disaster response plans.

Right to Education

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

- Women and men have been trained in agriculture and animal husbandry, and have the capacity to participate in the development of their respective communities through the support of Integrated Development and Sustainable Livelihoods project.

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

- Reconstruction projects completed three hurricane and earthquake proof schools in 2013 complying with Government of Haiti standards, and 4 were about to be finished in first two quarters of 2014.
- 50 schools were provided with furniture and other equipment, which benefitted directly 5,250 children and 250 teachers provided better learning environments in these schools. 10 artisans were trained and proved with tools to undertake the maintaining of this equipment and other school infrastructure.
- Projects contributed to the establishment of school councils in 50 schools. 49 schools directors and 163 school council are aware of their roles and responsibilities and understand the importance of participatory school management. Also active Parent- Teachers Associations and teacher training provided by communities and authorities.
- Monitoring and Education for Change and Quality education -projects have together contributed to teachers' training. Teachers are capable of integrating classes on human rights and peace and tolerance in the curricula, contributing to the quality of education in the participant schools.

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

- Integrated Development and Sustainable Livelihoods -project have supported local organisations' and authorities' sensitisation on human rights. CBOs are equipped with civic education tools, including capacity to articulate their rights and obligations as citizens.

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

- 131 teachers have practical skills in human rights that they are able to transmit to students through Monitoring and Education for Change -project.
- 266 teachers and other school staff have now capacities to train youth on peace, non-violence and reconciliation. Less violent behavior is observed among the youth trained in peace and tolerance through the specific project.

Capacity Building

Since it was not possible to conduct a capacity building workshop for Central American partners due to lack of FCA staff in Central America, it was decided to use the remaining budget for CB in Haiti. A training workshop on participatory methods was organised by FCA to 24 staff members of local partners and three FCA local staff members in December 2013. This enables partners to strengthen the consideration of rights-holders and their opinions and needs in their work. FCA will be doing follow-up on the results and action plans prepared in the workshop.

In addition, FCA supported the participation of two partner staff in MANGO finance training in November 2013 in order to strengthen partners' financial management capacity.

Within the projects, capacity building of local partners is an important aspect of all LWF work, and this is supported by FCA as a specific project objective.

The capacities of new partners by FCA's partner assessment grid were started, which permits the creation of a systematic capacity building plan in the future.

Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

Challenges remaining in adaptation of our new strategy and operations after four years of earthquake in Haitian context to resources mobilised from emergency funds with tight deadlines. However, direction has been started to be changed more to transferring the focus from school construction to education contents and quality. This is in line with FCA's rights-based strategy and highly relevant in Haiti.

Right to Peace theme has been integrated into the Country Programme and important work is being done in human rights awareness raising. However, further planning is needed and an assessment will be done during 2014 related to this theme in order to find possible new entry points.

A partnership with IDB opens the opportunity to top our own and build more schools and open education possibilities for the poorest children in Haiti as it is possibility to turn FCA Haiti school construction towards building of community and public schools instead of private school construction, the trend which started in 2011. This partnership has also the ability to function as a key for collaboration in other thematic areas, such as a new EDU (Education) concept, which is in the product development phase, women's entrepreneurship, and DRR and citizen security.

FCA undertook a mapping of potential new partners in order to reduce the dependency of a couple of old partners. Two organisations were assessed using FCA's new project grid and accepted as potential partners and a third one was chosen to later assessment. Planning will take place with new potential partners to see possibilities for collaboration in the future.

Photo: Marjut Tervola



3.6 Middle East

FCA works in three countries in the Middle East: Jordan, Lebanon and Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT). Middle East Regional Office (MERO) is located in Amman, Jordan. In 2013 the MERO continued to expand its activities as well as its staff. Several staff also changed or got new positions over the year. By the end of 2013 MERO office had 13 staff.

During 2013 FCA continued the focus on livelihoods for women in the region and supported partners working in this sector in Lebanon and the OPT. With the aim of expanding these activities, a capacity building project was carried out with new Jordanian partner to capacitate it for a livelihood project to be implemented in 2014. FCA also carried out a baseline study to assess women’s economic and civic participation in south and north of Lebanon to prepare the ground for new livelihood activities. No new Lebanese livelihood partners were identified despite active efforts, which was partially due to the worsening security situation.

The educational projects expanded throughout the region. For example in the OPT, two new partnerships were established with organisations combining elements of peace and education in their work. However, the main focus of the work was on the Syria refugee response in Jordan. FCA responded to the crisis by providing non-formal education and psycho-social support in the refugee camps of Za’atari and King Abdullah Park.

FCA continued its involvement in peace activities focusing especially on youth and providing them skills and knowledge related to non-violent civic action, peacebuilding and human rights in the OPT and Lebanon. In Jordan, FCA continued to support women’s possibilities for democratic and peaceful civic participation, whereas in Israel a new partnership was launched with an organisation working on right to return of the Palestinian refugees. Working on peace issues in IOPT is a very delicate issue, and FCA has been contacted several times by the ‘NGO Monitor’- a part of the Israeli Government. In 2013 no major incidents occurred but the travelling between Amman and Palestine is getting increasingly more difficult for the coordinator based in Amman.

Middle East Related Advocacy Initiatives

In 2013, FCA cooperated with Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, Turku University of Applied Sciences and students from Aalto University in a documentary

film project. In the framework of this project, FCA funded and facilitated four groups of students (a director and a camera operator in each), which worked 10 days in the Middle East shooting short documentary films. The project resulted in four documentaries of 10-15 minutes depicting everyday life of young women in Jordan, Lebanon, OPT and Israel. Their premier was held at “Helsingin Lyhytelokuva-festivaali” in November 2013. The aim of the project was to deconstruct negative stereotypes related to the Middle East, which is often seen only in terms of violence, religious fundamentalism and women’s oppression. This film series provides an alternative perspective to the region by following four different young women, whose everyday occupations and interests vary from work in an Islamic aid organisation to managing a heavy metal band. Its focus on young adults links the project on FCA’s priority target group in the Middle East. The film material will be used in FCA’s communication and outreach activities in Finland. The DVD including the four short documentaries are attached to this report (Annex 9). Furthermore, FCA continued its involvement in WCC’s EAPPI programme (see section 1.6.) as well as in APRODEV Middle East Working Group which has been active and published several advocacy documents.

Capacity Building

In November 2013, FCA’s partners from Jordan, Lebanon and OPT participated in the regular annual meeting held in Amman. Global and FCA advocacy tools and mechanisms training provided and FCA presented the regional advocacy film youth documentaries produced in 2013. All partners was divided into groups and asked to present advocacy plans relevant to their country context or experiences. Capacity building was provided during the visits the programme coordinators paid to the partners throughout the year.

During the year, local staff has participated in several trainings, especially within the humanitarian action. Trainings provided by UN agencies and other INGOs within subjects such as psycho-social support, gender based violence and humanitarian coordination took place continually. In November 2013, in collaboration between FCA and Church of Sweden, longer psycho-social support training was conducted in Amman for FCA staff. The country coordinators have also taken on the responsibility of capacity building with their existing partners for example on report and proposal writing.

Jordan



Photo: Soraja Nasser El-Dine

Actual Costs:	
EUR 704,333	
MFA Partnership Agreement (PA): 39,563	

List of Projects:	
10796	Jordanian Institute for Women Leaders
11208	Non-formal Education for Syrian Refugees in Jordan
11282	Livelihoods Program in remote areas in Jordan
11411	Informal Education for Syrian Refugees in Jordan (2nd ACT appeal)
11462	Za'atri ICT lab

Overview of the Jordan Programme

Jordan is currently facing demographic, economic and environmental pressures: a high population growth rate (high fertility rate: 3,8 children per woman), scarcity of water, increasing poverty and high unemployment rate of 14 % (unofficial rate estimated 30%), especially among the youth unemployment rate being 29,3 %. The global financial crisis and regional turmoil are challenging the country’s economic growth and further intensifying the challenges on Jordan’s development.

As a result of regional conflicts, Jordan has hosted several waves of refugees: Palestinians, Iraqis and most recently Syrians. The influx of Syrian refugees to Jordan since 2011 has led to population increase of 15%, which has increased the stress on existing resources, contributing to the rising costs of living and adding to the competition over livelihoods.

In 2013, FCA focused on preparing the ground for supporting the local communities in the areas assessed and selected in 2012 through partnering with a women’s NGO in Maan in southern Jordan to improve women’s role in

economic and civic participation. FCA targeted a women organisation called Al Anwar Society for Ladies to build its capacity for future cooperation in the domain of women’s livelihood. The actual projects activities with the partner have started in 2014. The capacity building project implemented in Maan falls under Right to Livelihood, as the main objective is to build the capacity of women to enable them compete with men in the job market.

FCA is running a humanitarian programme in Za’atari and King Abdullah Park refugee camps in Jordan, with an overall goal of improved resilience and wellbeing for Syrian refugee youth between 15-24 years. The humanitarian programme is a part of the regional humanitarian response coordinated by UNHCR as outlined in the Regional Response Plan, where FCA operates in the Non-formal Education sub-sector (under Education) and Psychosocial services (under Protection). The organisation is also a member of ACT Alliance’s Jordan/Syria/Lebanon-forum, which has released two appeals for assistance to the affected in the Syrian conflict. FCA’s humanitarian refugee response in the Syrian refugee camps has mainstreamed a psychosocial component

Actual Costs:	
EUR 296,980	
MFA Partnership Agreement (PA): 291,177	
List of Projects:	
10780	Middle East Regional Programme Office
10797	Regional Partners Capacity Building
11281	Middle East Related Advocacy Initiatives, MERO own project activity
11286	Middle East Related Advocacy Initiatives

throughout all activities. Targeted refugee youth from Syria in camps are empowered to positively engage in their communities and contribute to decreasing the negative impact on the environment. At the end of the year, it was time for FCA to renew the operational permit and seek approval for an expansion of the programme into host communities from the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation the procedures however being time consuming and adequate staff and time needed to be assigned for preparations. Due to this, FCA has not yet started to work in host communities but is prepared to begin as soon as the permits are obtained.

In terms of Right to Peace, FCA responded to the turbulences of the Arab Spring by continuing to support women possibilities for democratic and peaceful civic participation in Jordan. Through its partnership with Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS) from 2009 to 2013, FCA supported a project titled Jordanian Institute for Women Leaders which aims at providing Jordanian women with participatory skills and democratic knowledge to become competent decision-makers.

Programme Objectives and Achievements

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 started partnership with Al Anwar Society for Ladies in 2013 aimed at building organisation's capacity in project planning and implementation so that actual livelihood project could start in 2014. FCA implemented the capacity building project for the organisation, as well as networked with relevant public and private entities. A set of trainings have been conducted on following issues: administrative and financial management, basic English, IT- and computer skills, communication- and management skills, legal awareness, proposal writing, gender mainstreaming, gender based violence, life skills and food safety.
- The capacity building resulted in a proposal for livelihood project improving women and families' living standards through enhancing women civil and economic rights knowledge, providing key and soft skills to build their capacity to enable them access to job opportunities available. The partner implements the project with FCA's support in 2014.

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 specialised in EiE and has been filling a gap in the coordinated response by focusing on Syrian refugee youth between 15-24 years. Various needs assessments

and focus group discussions have showed a need for strategies to occupy their time with meaningful activities and skills development.

- In 2013, FCA has been providing classes in Za'atari and King Abdullah Park refugee camps in Jordan, such as literacy, English and classes on computer skills, as well as recreational activities. Among the physical activities, the social circus (in cooperation with Nablus Circus School and Sirkus Magenta) has been a highlight and the training has received international attention. FCA has also implemented skills training courses in the camps, such as electricity maintenance and barber training. Approximately 4,500 beneficiaries have participated in these FCA's programme activities of non-formal education and psycho social support services to Syrian refugee youth in Jordan.
- As a member of ACT Alliance, FCA's humanitarian response was studied in an external evaluation of the ACT Appeal, in which the operation's size was well justified by its impact on the beneficiaries and described as innovative and well-received.

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

- 10 professional women who have potential to become transformational public servants and actively engaging civil society were selected to participate in the Jordanian Institute for Women Leaders project acquired knowledge about the role of civil society organisations in the promotion of democracy as well as the skills and knowledge in the field of leadership and time management. All participants gained knowledge about leadership skills and awareness, conflict resolution skills, dealing with the media, and they became able to give training courses in a number of issues on which they were trained over the past year.
- The participants hold a round table symposium in December 2013 to review experiences of Jordan, Palestine, and the Arab countries in the field of women's leadership.
- 126 women in six governorate of Jordan (Zarqa, Jerash, Ma'an, Madaba, Irbed, Karak) were able to gain knowledge about leadership skills in order to participate, the role of women in political participation, applied models on women's participation, women's participation in political life, campaign management skills, the rights of women in Jordanian laws, the experience of women in the democratic process, the empowerment of women in all areas, and time management.

Capacity Building

Partners of the Jordan Country Programme attended in the regional annual meeting and capacity building which was reported under Regional Report. Furthermore FCA used



Photo: Meeri Koutaniemi

its in-house expertise to conduct a set of capacity building awareness sessions implemented in Maan. The sessions included issues such as gender based violence, gender mainstreaming in CBOs' policies and projects, women legal protection context in Jordanian constitution and laws. The sessions were part of capacity building of and livelihood project development with Al Anwar Society for Ladies.

Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

The projects were implemented smoothly with no major challenges faced in 2013. The proximity to the border and economic strains on Syrian refugees and Jordanians affect overall security and the situation remains fragile. In camps, disturbances at distribution points, demonstrations and fires have been occurring. The high influx of refugees into host communities has also placed pressure on towns and

villages, due to lack of service provision, increased cost of living and unemployment. FCA closely monitors the situation, follows security guidelines and updates and reassesses conditions for project implementation when necessary.

Jordan programme has been indirectly affected by the challenges. Activities related to the livelihood theme is highly applicable in the current circumstances, but all its opportunities including vocational trainings and work skills is limited to Jordanians according to the Jordanian government's new policy, while the Syrian refugees are not allowed to benefit from these opportunities nor access to the job market in general. The high rate of unemployment among Jordanians leads the government to put restrictions on Syrians' job accessibility to avoid competition between both parts.

Lebanon



Photo: ACT/Natalie Naccache



Actual Costs:

EUR 124,207

MFA Partnership Agreement (PA): 70,716

List of Projects:

10154	Refugees and Migrant Workers in the Middle East
10634	Children's Rights via Artistic Workshops –Livelihoods Project
11400	Participation beyond Age, Peace Beyond Fear

Overview of the Lebanon Programme

Lebanon’s development is highly sensitive to domestic and regional political instability. The Lebanese socio-political order is shaped by communal and familial loyalties, and institutionalised sectarianism has been historically dividing the Lebanese. In 1975 the political disagreements between different sects escalated into the 15-year long bloody civil war, devastating the physical, economic and social infrastructure of the country. Since 1990 the country has made steady economic progress, but has been continually affected by chronic bouts of political instability and peace challenged both by tensions inside and outside its borders.

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 scar resources. In addition, Lebanon’s economy heavily relies on tourism and service sector, and since the beginning of Syrian crisis Lebanon’s GDP growth has gone down significantly to 1 percent or less from 3.5 in 2011. FCA did not respond to the humanitarian needs of the Syrian refugees in Lebanon in 2013, as the response was focused in Jordan. However, FCA’s old partner ICNDR

extended its project to include Syrian refugee children in the artistic workshop activities.

Even though Lebanon ranks quite in the high human development category, Lebanon suffers from a high poverty rate with significant regional disparities. The poor are mostly unemployed and unskilled workers, working in sectors such as agriculture and construction. Despite a high literacy rate and school net enrolment ratios, Lebanese women’s economic participation is low. The labour force participation rate of women aged 15 and above is 22 % compared to that of 72% for men. However, also female participation in the labour force is also unevenly distributed among regions.

In 2013 FCA expanded its current focus on civic participation and citizenship enforcement under the theme of Right to Peace. FCA focuses on strengthening the realisation of human rights and participation, through encouraging youth from both gender to become active citizens in their societies, aware of their rights and responsibilities. Engaging young people to civil society is expected to contribute to a more peaceful and stable Lebanon. 2013 saw major amplification of the political polarization in Lebanon, emanating from regional complexities, particularly related to the current situation in Syria. Lebanon is facing an increasing

significance of the growing number of Syrian refugees and various cross-border incidents. The combined effect of these developments underlines the importance of engaging Lebanese youth in peaceful and democratic civic action.

FCA continued the partnership with DSJ in the project of “Refugees and Migrant Workers in the Middle East”. Also a new partner was identified. Sustainable Democracy Center (SDC), building upon ten years of experience in grassroots activities promoting a culture of peace in Lebanon, is implementing a pilot project “Participation beyond Age, Peace beyond Fear” which further develops their previous work in Lebanon in order to achieve more sustainable peaceful change. The project reflects the pioneering strategy adopted by SDC in its approach to children’s rights and building a culture of peace. This strategy focuses on making youth partners in civil society programmes and not only mere beneficiaries in the peace building process.

Programme Objectives and Achievements

Right to Livelihood

- In 2013, FCA continued supporting its existing partners and worked to identify new partners and initiate cooperation, especially in the grassroots level in South Lebanon (NGOs as well as and local secular and/or religious charities), the projects of which aim to strengthen the socio-economic standards of living in their areas and especially encourage women to become active. Unfortunately, no new partner succeeded FCA selection criteria as FCA has received inconvenient proposals lacking basic elements.
- In late 2013 FCA carried out a baseline study assessed women’s economic and civic participation in south and north of Lebanon (see “Studies” in Lebanon report).

Right to Education

- No specific education projects have been implemented in 2013, but consider all livelihoods and peace projects as also education construction and consolidation projects as these activities will contribute to enhancing the knowledge of human rights norms particularly raising awareness among target audience about women’s and children’s rights.

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

- FCA continued its partnership with ICNDR targeting Lebanese from age 10 to 14 years including children and youths with disabilities as well as OVC in addition to their community. The children benefit from artistic skills and the awareness sessions on child rights and protection to enable them express their own understanding of their rights via artistic tools. On September 2013, ICNDR submitted an extension to the project to include Syrian refugees in the activities, FCA approved the extension

and a three month activities were implemented. 944 children participated in artistic workshops (442 Lebanese, 502 Syrians) and 1,078 participated in summer camps (535 Lebanese, 543 Syrians).

- The parents and the community (467 participants) participated in three awareness sessions discussing children rights and protection issues. The parents gave good feedback and asked ICNDR to continue the projects in the area especially with children.
- In 2013, FCA supported DSJ’s project titled Refugees and Migrant Workers in the Middle East, which consists of three sub-projects; Community Development, Our Lady Dispensary and Awareness Raising on Human Rights of Prisoners. The three components of the project targeted beneficiaries as following: Awareness raising, number of beneficiaries: 76 (35 persons representing national authorities and international actors / 30 church participants and 11 resource persons), MECC Socio-Medical Centre -Our Lady Dispensary, number of beneficiaries: 7200, in majority women, children and elderly people. Human Rights Approach to Prison Management, number of beneficiaries: 30 officers directly working with prisons and prisoners (one third women). Total number of beneficiaries is 7,306.
- As for peace and reconciliation, DSJ targeted the most marginalised groups in the community, mainly stateless minorities: Assyrians, Syrian Orthodox, Lebanese internally displaced families, Iraqi Assyrians, Chaldean refugees and Ethiopian, Egyptian migrant workers and uprooted people, both Christian and non-Christians. DSJ provides social services for Lebanese internally displaced persons, migrant workers and refugees and provide medical assistance to women, children and the elderly, as well as assist in their social integration in the Lebanese Community that leads to develop the concept of peace and reconciliation among community inhabitants. On the other hand, through the awareness and prison projects, DSJ’s succeeded to lead the advocacy and awareness towards promoting the knowledge of migrant’s rights and assist in issuing the Anti- trafficking national strategy. In fall 2013, DSJ submitted a concept note that better adjusted to FCA thematic objectives under livelihood targeting both Lebanese and Syrian women. The concept was approved by FCA.

Studies

FCA assigned a consultant to conduct an assessment concerning women’s rights status in south and North Lebanon. The final report was submitted in 2014 but the actual assessment was conducted in 2013. Assessment is attached to the report (Annex 7). The main results were the following:

According to participants in this study, past efforts for women have often failed due to:

- Isolation of the issue of women status and women’s rights from other policy, political, economic, social, and cultural issues
- Designing women programs that only benefit women without showing the potential impact on other segments of the population

- Excluding underprivileged, uneducated women and women with special needs from any intervention at the local level
- Focusing only on raising awareness without a call for action to support and engage stakeholders for the cause of women empowerment
- Creating unsustainable networks and platforms that are only created momentarily for project results and not community impact
- Focusing on technical skills and not expanding the skill set to include economic empowerment and projects that could generate income

Based on these expected results, any programmatic action to support women by FCA would benefit from being framed as:

- Linking women empowerment to improving the economic situation for men, women, children and adults from all sectarian communities,
- Showcasing how a greater role of women in local affairs paves the way for more active citizenship and political accountability at the local level,
- Highlighting that women are the main victims of weak social services and therefore these issues should be integrated into future social policy reforms and efforts.

FCA's efforts are therefore more needed than ever. Before beginning programmatic planning, FCA needs to make three strategic choices to address the identified gaps in the status of women. Social Empowerment, Economic Empowerment and Civic or Political Empowerment were the most frequently requested operations by the participants. The planned FCA activity could take a form of Capacity Building, Alternative Service Provision, Advocacy, Awareness Raising or Grants.

Capacity Building

FCA built its partners' capacity and skills through the regional capacity building trainings implemented in 2013(reported under Middle East Regional Report), as well as by spending time in one-to-one project support between the Programme Coordinators and partner organisations' staff.

Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

During 2013 FCA terminated its partnership with Nahwa Al Muwatiniyah (Na-aM) which implemented the Civic Rights Programme in previous year. The organisation issued a new strategy at the end of 2012, and FCA was informed that there will be no staff working in Na-aM. The whole structure is based on a network of volunteers and activists who join the campaigns as a support groups. Fortunately the new partner SCD was identified and partnership started in 2013.

Recent incidents in Lebanon clearly showed that the Lebanon is still troubled with a culture of violence with groups ready to return to violence as a means of achieving their demands. Today, the crisis in Lebanon remains chronic due to the politically polarised environment emanating from regional complexities, particularly related to the current situation in Syria. This situation has amplified the political polarization in Lebanon, spreading fear of more security incidents and a potential outbreak of civil unrest.

Accordingly, FCA decided not to proceed with partner's capacity assessment of one of the potential partner in Akkar-North Lebanon in 2013. FCA took this decision to mitigate the risk of its staff facing any security problem during assessment or later on project implementation. Another action was taken related to south Lebanon ICNDR project. FCA used to visit frequently the project location, but according to the high risk related to visits, all meetings were held in the partner's office in Beirut.

Above mentioned issues have constrained development of the Country Programme. However, conducted assessment on women's rights feeds good material for planning of new activities.

Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT)



Photo: Terhi Kinnunen

Actual Costs:	
EUR 676,097	
MFA Partnership Agreement (PA): 235,891	
List of Projects:	
10155	Development Work with Palestinian Refugees in the West Bank and Gaza
10250	EAPPI - Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel
10560	EAPPI - Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel, Global coordination
10798	Promoting the Democratic Process in Palestine
10831	Improving the Economic Opportunities and Livelihoods of Vulnerable Women in the West Bank
11159	Creating Hope
11190	Providing Psychosocial Support for Children in Northern Gaza
11365	ACT Appeal 2013, NCA
11370	Psychosocial Support Program for Children
11998	Right to Peace Project – Rights First
12345	Right to Peace

Overview of the OPT Programme

OPT continues to be affected by the on-going unrest in the Middle East region, which escalated into a devastating turmoil in Egypt in July 2013. As a result, the Rafah border, serving as a lifeline to Gaza from Egypt, was closed indefinitely and left thousands of people stuck inside and outside Gaza. This has led people in Gaza relying solely on goods and products coming from Israel, which are double the price of those from Egypt. Due to this sudden increase, Gaza is facing a problem of food insecurity, which will be one of the biggest challenges this year, in addition to ongoing security problems. Furthermore, the continued conflict in Syria has created a domino-effect and caused tension in Syria's neighbouring countries, but also caused Syria's Palestinian refugees to uproot themselves yet again and seek shelter elsewhere, for example in Lebanon. Furthermore Israel published plans for 3,100 new settler homes being built in the occupied territories.

FCA's work in OPT focuses on Right to Peace theme, especially on human rights education and promotion among Palestinians. FCA's partners PCPD (Palestinian Center for Peace and Justice), MEND (Middle East Nonviolence and Democracy) and Zohrot are implementing the peace projects. The Country Programme included also one Right to Livelihood project implemented by IOCC (International Orthodox Christian Charities) as well as Education through partner DCA (DanChurchAid) in psychosocial work and Creating Hope project.

EAPPI programme is also part of OPT Country Programme, but being a global initiative it is administered from FCA HQ. EAPPI programme aims to contribute to lasting peace in Israel and Palestine through the work of Ecumenical Accompaniers (EAs), the volunteers deployed through the programme, to offer protective presence, monitoring and documentation of human rights violations as well as awareness raising (see section 1.6).

Programme Objectives and Achievements

Right to Livelihood

Women have equal access and control over productive resources and assets

- Only livelihood project in OPT programme was “Improving the Economic Opportunities and Livelihoods of Vulnerable Women in the West Bank”. The project supplied the beneficiaries with tools and seedlings for longer-term agriculture production; provided the beneficiaries with chicken and needed equipment, tools and production materials to help produce and market their livestock products.
- Women-headed households have been able to produce remarkable surplus that they have been able to sell at the local markets. For example household gardens for 40 women beneficiaries produced 12,267kg where they’re consumption was only 2,153kg. The surplus of 10,114kg earned them in total ILS 44,769. Furthermore project has succeeded in providing the women a good experience of being able to provide income for their families through eggs they get from chickens.
- Gender gaps in access to resources have decreased. Based on monitoring visits and discussions with beneficiaries and the project team, women have gained more confidence in themselves through being able to provide for their families. Given that their husbands are unemployed or do not have permits to cross to Israel for work, their livelihoods activities support the whole family and provide them with extra money from selling the surplus.

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 DCA’s psychosocial support project, 56 % of all beneficiaries of the project are girls, project successfully referred children most affected with psycho-social problems to psychologists in order to provide them with proper treatment. The town committees have acknowledged that the issue of psycho-social health should be dealt also within the community and that the community can also engage in activities for the improvement of psychological health of the children.
- Importance of continual equal access to education and “second chances” is lifted up in global discourse and role of “second chances” is understood stronger in education policies. Through Creating Hope project, 50 fresh graduates and unemployed students were provided with internships and their diploma fees were paid off. As a result, they all now have their university diplomas. 8 students (6 female, 2 male) managed to get employment beyond the internship as a result of the project. As the project raised the awareness of the community and the universities on the dilemma of missing diplomas, the

participating universities waived the diploma fees of 25 students (22 women) outside of the project scope as a good gesture.

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

- Through the Promoting the Democratic Process in Palestine -project, culture of citizenship, including understanding of citizenship security is promoted. By the end of the year, the youth have learnt about the International Humanitarian Law and they are advocating for the Palestinian decision makers into becoming part of (members) in the different United Nations organisations, mainly a member of the International Criminal Court.
- Youth showed increased understanding of their rights and involvement in political work, and worked on initiatives to make their voices heard by decision makers. Decision makers have participated in the demonstrations conducted in front of the representatives, and they listened to the youth speeches. Pre- and post-questionnaires used in the activities showed an increase of 40% in knowledge and 55% in change of attitudes.
- Peace and human rights education were provided in schools through MEND’s Rights First project. 110 students were trained during 2013 in five schools in human rights and other subjects according to the curriculum of “Rights First”. The training raised awareness of the students on issues of human rights and democracy, where these subjects are not usually included in the academic curriculum of the schools. It provided a solid basis for all other activities - the students gained the understanding and could promote human rights and democracy when they producing media spots and other materials for the open day, while sharing their knowledge with other students in the school.
- Zochrot’s Right to Peace programmes offered a new way of dealing with a particularly critical and divisive issue of the conflict, with both parties to the conflict involved and using a bottom up approach. They aim to overcome long standing frustrations, stereotypes and prejudices and to build the capacity of the Israeli and Palestinian target groups to create wider support for practical and rights-based solutions for Palestinian refugees and IDPs in their societies. Their programmes enhanced understanding, recognition, trust, capacity and alliances among Palestinians and Israelis. Both parties were exposed to their own and the other’s narratives as well as to the other side’s respective rights, needs and grievances.
- Overall 6 new local models of return were presented in the frame of the 2 parts panel: “Return Now! Reports from the field” on the second day of the international right of return conference organised by Zochrot in Tel Aviv in September 2013. The localities presented were Gaza, Iqrit, Mi’ar, al-Ruis, al-Ar-aquib and al-Lajun. 2

models of return to the destroyed Palestinian villages Mi’ar and al-Ruis were presented based on community planning strategies for imagining and building towards a future return. In doing so, urban planning had utilised techniques, mapping, and community planning methods in ways that allowed the re-envisioning how these sites can be rebuilt to accommodate returnees. Following the successful introductory Transitional Justice, Zochrot aims to further deepen the understanding of the local and regional issue of transitional justice in the case of Israel/Palestine offering the broader civic society community more courses and seminars on implementing TJ practices in the case of Palestine/Israel. Thus, the course “Transitional Justice to Civic Society” was developed with Dr. Ron Dudai, from the Transitional Justice Program, Minerva Center for Human rights, The Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The course was composed from 4 meetings, 3 hours each and took place during July 2013.

Capacity Building

In November 2013, FCA development team organised the Regional Annual Partner Meeting, with an emphasis on advocacy and social media. The meeting enabled all partners to share their work, in addition to two select partners presenting their advocacy work and how they conduct it in their countries. FCA HQ team also provided presentations on advocacy tools.

FCA staff has provided significant capacity building throughout the year by working closely with partners, cre-

ating and introducing standard logframes that all partners now have to utilise. In addition, new quarterly project reporting formats were created as well that link to the logframes, therefore urging partners to follow their planned activities. The new formats will also aim to provide information that has largely been lacking from the current reporting documents. OPT Programme Coordinator will continue to support the partners and work with them on institutional donor proposals to access larger funding for their projects.

Challenges Remaining and Lessons Learnt

There has been a realisation that FCA needs to take stock of the work we have conducted in the past years in OPT and also to assess how we can continue working in the context. Given that there was a change in our thematic areas last year, existing partners have had to adjust to this change, also as a result some of the projects have not been continued. Furthermore, since we work through partner organisations on the ground, there is a need to assess the current partnerships, analyse the context and what FCA’s niche in the sectors is in OPT, as well as ensure that the partnerships we have are organisations that have sufficient capacity to manage the projects accordingly. A needs assessment/context analysis will be conducted during 2014.

Restriction of movement of the Palestinian population due to e.g. check-points new Israeli settlements is a major factor undermining Palestinian livelihoods and ultimately right to peace in the region. This root cause and its consequences are addressed both from peace and livelihood perspectives.



Photo: Kaisa Honkala

4. Summary of the PA Programme's Incurred Costs and Financing in 2013

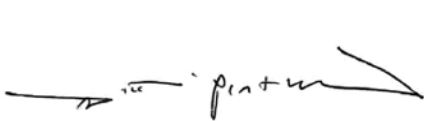
EXPENDITURE	BUDGET EUR	INCURRED EUR
A. Project Costs	9,177,531	8,761,993
B. Project Planning and Evaluation, Resource Development	63,310	48,521
C. Information and Publicity Activities	469,100	464,657
D. Administration	1,078,882	927,837
Programme's Overall Costs	10,788,824	10,203,008

FINANCING	EUR	%
Government support	7,900,000 - 13,387 (recorded for 2013 of the returned sum to the MFA)	77
Self-financing from Finland	2,458,323	23
Self-financing from Abroad	0	0
Other Funds	0	0

The auditor's assurance and signature, see Annex 5.

Helsinki 25th August 2013.

Finn Church Aid Foundation



Antti Pentikäinen
Executive Director

Finn Church Aid Foundation



Tomi Järvinen
Director of International Cooperation

5. Annexes

- FCA Strategy 2013-2016 (**Annex 1**)
- Financial Report 2013 (**Annex 2**)
- Finn Church Aid’s Annual Report 2013 and Annual Accounts 2013 (**Annex 3**)
- Finn Church Aid’s Audit Report for 2013 (**Annex 4**)
- The Audit of the Partnership Agreement 2013
- The audit report (**Annex 5**)
- Summary of relevant audit findings, recommendations and actions taken (by Finn Church Aid) (**Annex 6**)
- Studies conducted in 2013 (**Annex 7**)
 - Review of Finn Church Aid Programme and Operations in Central America
 - Liberia: Feasibility Study on Commercialization of a Poultry Project
 - Kenya: Assessment of Livelihood Opportunities for Women & Youth in Northern Kenya; The case of Turkana South and Pokot Central Sub-Counties
 - Lebanon: Women’s Role and Voice in Lebanon - A Needs Assessment Report
- Evaluation Reports (**Annex 8**)
- Middle East short documentary films: "Yksi Lähi-itä, Neljä tarinaa" (**Annex 9**)
- Material for Information and Advocacy Projects (**Annex 10**)
 - *Tekoja* Magazines 1–4/2013
 - *Tekoja* Campaign
 - Common Responsibility Campaigning

6. List of Acronyms

AC	Agricultural Cooperative
ACHRS	Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (Jordan)
ACT	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)
CAR	Central African Republic
CARO	Central Africa Regional Office (Finn Church Aid)
CB	Capacity Building
CBDMC	Community Based Disaster Management Committees
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CC	Climate Change
CCC	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)
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)
COLRED	Coordinadoras locales de reducción de desastres - local disaster reduction coordinators (Guatemala)
CONCORD	Confederation for Relief and Development Organisations in Europe
COPERMA	Communauté des Planteurs et Eleveurs en Région Maraichère (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
CoU-PDR	Church of Uganda Planning, Development and Rehabilitation Department (Uganda)
CRD	Center for Research and Dialogue (Somalia)
WCCC	Cambodian Women's Crisis Center
DCA	Dan Church Aid
DSJ	Diaconia and Social Justice (Lebanon)
DWS	Department for World Service (Lutheran World Federation)
EA	Ecumenical Accompaniers
EAPPI	Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme
ECDC	Early Childhood Development Center
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
FAWE	Forum for African Women Educationalists (Liberia and Sierra Leone)
FCA	Finn Church Aid
FJDF	Femmes Juristes pour les Droits de la Femme et de l'Enfant (Democratic Republic of Congo)
FTE	Full-time equivalent (human resources)
GAATW	Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women
GDP	Gross domestic product
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)
HAQSOOR	Haqsoor for Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development (Somalia)
HMA	Humanitarian Mine Action
HUA	Humanitarian Assistance Unit (Finn Church Aid)
HQ	Headquarters
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee (coordination of humanitarian assistance)
ICEP	Integrated Community Empowerment Project
ICNDR	MECC - Inter-Church Network for Development and Relief
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IDSN	International Dalit Solidarity Network
IGA	Income-generating activities
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
IOCC	International Orthodox Christian Charities (Palestine, Jordan)
IRD(E)P	Integrated Rural Development (through Empowerment) Programme
KYA	Khmer Youth Association (Cambodia)
LACRO	Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office (Finn Church Aid)
LNGO	Local Non-Governmental Organisation
LRRD	Linking Relief, Rehabilitation to Development
LWD	Life With Dignity (Cambodia)
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army (Uganda)
MAG	Mines Advisory Group
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MECC	Middle East Council of Churches
MEND	Middle East Nonviolence and Democracy (OPT)
MERO	Middle East Regional Office (Finn Church Aid)
MFA	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
MISSEH	Mission Sociale des Eglises Haitiennes (Haiti)

MoEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (Cambodia)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRDA	Mundri Relief and Development Association (Sudan)
MUSO	Micro solidarity groups
M23	Mouvement du 23-Mars, Congolese Revolutionary Army (DRC)
Na-aM	Nahwa al-Muwatiniya (Lebanon)
NCA	Norwegian Church Aid
NCTVA	National Council for Technical and Vocational Education (Sierra Leone)
NEP	NGO Education Partnership (Cambodia)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NMJD	Network Movement for Justice and Development (Sierra Leone)
NNDSWO	Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organisation (Nepal)
OPT	Occupied Palestinian territories
OVC	Orphan and vulnerable children
PA	Partnership Agreement (between Finn Church Aid and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland)
PACJA	Pan African Climate Alliance
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)
PICEP	Partners in Integrated Community Empowerment Programs (Sierra Leone)
PIP	Religious and Traditional Leaders Peace Initiative in Somalia
PME	Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
PMER	Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting
PNO	Project New Outlook (Liberia)
RADA	Rehabilitation and Development Agency (Sierra Leone)
RAFEJE	Réseau des Associations des Femmes Juristes de l'Est de la République Démocratique du Congo (DRC)
RBA	Rights-based Approach
RBE	Rights Based Empowerment
RECONCILE	Recourse Center for Civic Leadership (South Sudan)
RED++	The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
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)
SCH	Service Chretien Haiti
SCS	South Central Somalia
SLPP	Sustainable Livelihood Promoters Programme (Liberia)
SMART	Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound indicators
SOCO	Somalia Country Office (Finn Church Aid)
SSF	Somalia Stability Fund
SSUCO	South Sudan Country Office (Finn Church Aid)
TLS	Temporary Learning Space
ToT	Training of Trainers
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
UCAA	Uganda Change Agents Association (Uganda)
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
VAC	Village Advisory Committee
VB	Village Bank
VCA	Volunteers for Community Action
VDC	Village Development Committee
VDMC	Village Disaster Management Committees
VOICE	Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies
VSA	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
WCC	World Council of Churches
WGP	Working Group for Peace (Cambodia)

ACTION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY.

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