Finn Church Aid’s countries of operation 2016

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FCA office
FCA Americas, office for fundraising and advocacy, Washington DC
* Work supported by the Women’s Bank ended at the end of 2016
** Work ended 5/2017

FIRST TO DELIVER ASSISTANCE AFTER HURRICANE MATTHEW
SCHOOL ACTIVITIES FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN
100 PARTICIPANTS IN LOCAL PEACE MEETING
BETTER JOBS WITH CAREER COUNSELLING

UNITED STATES
GUATEMALA
HAITI
KENYA
ERITREA
PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES
SOMALIA
JORDAN
SYRIA
SOUTH SUDAN
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC
SIERRA LEONE
LIBERIA
CAMBODIA
MYANMAR
NEPAL
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Changes around us are happening fast. Each day seems to come with new surprises, both positive and negative. Finn Church Aid is needed now more than ever. As the number of wars and conflicts around the world rises, so does the need for aid. Political shifts and diminishing resources of global actors like the UN are creating a situation where there is a great need for professional organisations in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance, such as FCA. Organisations like us must also be able to renew themselves and find new ways of fulfilling their purpose. Last autumn, FCA released its new strategy. At the heart of our strategy are people’s wellbeing and ability to recover from disasters, and the realisation of human rights. With global migration on the increase, these issues become more and more important.

Finn Church Aid continued to focus its operations on the world’s most fragile and challenging environments. The post-conflict situation in Central African Republic, the new conflict in South Sudan and the drought in East Africa all had a negative effect on FCA’s long-term programmes. Still, the results we achieved give reason for hope. Even in difficult conditions, FCA managed to bring about dozens of local peace agreements and secured access to education for tens of thousands of children and youth. Emergency relief has been delivered to the most vulnerable people in South Sudan, Somalia, Haiti and Syria.

The European refugee crisis continued to affect FCA’s work, and humanitarian assistance in European countries continued. FCA launched a humanitarian education project in Greece. Work with immigrants in Finland was developed further. Our work focused on providing easily accessible assistance and preventing violent extremism. Cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior provides a basis for sustainable outcomes.

The major changes started last year in Finland continued. Cutbacks made in 2015 to official development funding entered into force and affected FCA’s work as well, as we were forced to shut down our operations in five countries and reduce our engagement in many others. Private donations continued to grow, however, and international donors continued to show interest in FCA’s work. Despite these challenges, we continue to grow and develop our operations. We are happy about our successes, for example Cambodia launching student career counselling as a result of our long-term work; the hundreds of classrooms built in Nepal after the earthquake; and over 60,000 children gaining access to education in Central African Republic.

Quality work comes from efficiency and professionalism, but also from us utilising our volunteer networks. The volunteers of Women’s Bank, EAPPI, Teachers without Borders and Changemaker are an important resource for us. But the most important resources are our donors and our partners. They make everything we do possible. So thank you to everyone who supported us in 2016.

Jouni Hemberg
Executive Director
Finn Church Aid

VISION
Finn Church Aid’s (FCA) vision is a world comprised of resilient and just societies where everyone’s right to peace, quality education and sustainable livelihood has been fulfilled.

MISSION
Action for human dignity.

VALUES
• Unconditional love for our neighbours
• Unyielding hope
• Courage
• Respect

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN A CHANGING WORLD

Jari Kivelä
Hanna Matikainen
WE DID IT TOGETHER 2016!

Women’s Bank has raised 10 million euros
Women’s Bank volunteer network, the Finnish innovation supporting female entrepreneurship in developing countries, reached a fundraising milestone of 10 million euros in August 2016. Women’s Bank’s funds are managed by Finn Church Aid which also implements its programmes. Women’s Bank, which was founded in May 2007, has proved that a strong bond between women in Finland and women in developing countries leads to tangible outcomes.

Finn Church Aid was the second largest school constructor in Nepal
In the two years following the Nepal earthquake, Finn Church Aid constructed 300 schools and safe school environments in the country for 44,000 children. Continuing normal education after a disaster is extremely important for children. This is why FCA began constructing temporary school facilities immediately after the earthquake. Last year we constructed semi-permanent classrooms with concrete walls, expected to last between 15 to 20 years.

Emergency assistance to Haiti after Hurricane Matthew
In October, Haiti became victim of hurricane Matthew which destroyed crops and resulted in severe food crisis within the poor nation. FCA quickly distributed assistance to the hard-to-reach disaster areas. Careful planning and efficient cooperation with local partner organisations made relief deliveries possible immediately after the disaster. FCA distributed food relief to 12,500 people in the worst hit regions.

Amazing donors and volunteers
We have 21,700 monthly donors and over 6,500 volunteers who support our work in different ways, for example by lending us their expertise, raising funds, participating in our campaigns or assisting with mailing. Together we are changing the world for the better. Without our donors and volunteers we could not continue our work.

Creating Cambodia’s career counselling system
In Cambodia, national development is hindered by a lack of skilled labour which is caused by almost half of the children dropping out of school because of pressure to help support their families, and from lack of information on career choices that could lead to better jobs. Finn Church Aid trained Cambodia’s first ever student career counsellors, and in the schools involved in this pilot programme the number of dropouts went down rapidly. These initial positive results have led to career counselling being included in the national curriculum, and career counsellors are trained for nationwide needs.

Study revealed what drives people to join extremist groups
Together with the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, we conducted an interview study with former members of Boko Haram. The study had the largest sample size to date, and results of the study help us understand why people join extremist groups and how violent radicalisation can be prevented. The study was published during the UN General Assembly and received wide interest in international media. The study was sponsored by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

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RIGHT TO LIVELIHOOD

Main focus remains on supporting vulnerable women and youth. People who have been forced to leave their homes, particularly young refugees, were taken up as a new group of interest.

Improving youth employment has become a primary goal in almost all FCA programme countries. Supporting employment complements our efforts in professional education and helps ensure that young people who have graduated from school either find work or are able to support themselves through entrepreneurship. In Uganda and Jordan, FCA worked with refugee youth. In Nepal, focus was on young people in danger of becoming marginalised because of their caste or ethnicity, and in conflict areas we focused on former child soldiers and children orphaned by war.

FCA improves the chances of young people and women to become successful entrepreneurs, and as their enterprises grow, to develop their businesses. In our Asian programme countries, cooperatives offer their members savings, financing and training services, and help women bring their products into the markets. Developing cooperatives doesn’t happen overnight, but when they are successful they strengthen an entire community. Education and advocacy on equality, land rights and ownership is also an important part of our work.

We built networks with the private sector in both Finland and our programme countries. The Women’s Bank’s Skills Donation programme was a success. Five professional entrepreneurs donated their skills to entrepreneurship projects in Nepal, Cambodia and Liberia. In Uganda and Jordan, Finnish and local businesses participated in developing education that will lead to employment.

More strongly than ever we are aiming to assist communities and families to maintain their livelihoods even in case of natural disasters or conflicts. Disaster preparedness reduces the need for emergency relief and the risk of becoming dependent on foreign assistance. We can already see these developments in our work.

RIGHT TO QUALITY EDUCATION

School brings stability in life and provides hope for the future for children, youth and their parents.

In 2016, Finn Church Aid involvement in the education sector grew remarkably. We had 45 projects on quality education, which is almost twice as many as in 2015.

FCA aims to provide everyone with an equal access to quality education even under disaster and conflict conditions. One of the best ways to improve the quality of education is to train teachers. In 2016, FCA trained 4,693 teachers in its programme countries.

It's important to motivate local communities and parents to support the education of children. The events FCA organised in 2016 covered topics such as the importance of education and particularly the importance of girls’ education.

FCA repaired classrooms in Central African Republic and South Sudan, both affected by ongoing conflicts, in Nepal recovering from a massive earthquake, and in Greece which had received large numbers of refugees. Thanks to FCA’s efforts, Cambodia is testing a student career counselling programme, which aims to direct young people towards higher education and better employment.

We are trying to link learning more closely to earning and employment. FCA supported professional education in six countries for over 3,600 people. Most young people in professional education are girls. In Uganda, professional education and entrepreneurship training was organised for young people at refugee camps. With the training they received young refugees can begin to earn their own livelihood.

RIGHT TO PEACE

Finn Church Aid and its partners continued to deepen and expand their peace work in 2016. The work is done on global, national and local levels. Peace and mediation processes between tribes and communities have been facilitated in Somalia, Kenya, South Sudan and Central African Republic.

In South Sudan FCA facilitated dialogues between key church affiliated actors in cooperation with the Vatican and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

In the state of Boma, tribes agreed on peace between each other and the neighbouring state of Jonglei. 40 leaders in key positions participated in the process. Over 90 per cent of participants said they were happy with the peace process which is a good indication that the peace is on a sustainable foundation.

In Somalia, peace work was expanded to efforts that support government structures. Women’s participation in the 2016 election was also supported.

Finn Church Aid and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers together released a study on former members of Boko Haram, an extremist group operating in Nigeria. The study was widely publicised. It delved into the reasons for joining and leaving the group, and the results raised interest in media and researchers. Finn Church Aid hosts the secretariat of the network.

In Finland, FCA has supported the Ministry of the Interior in work related to integration of asylum seekers. Members of municipalities and the Lutheran Church have been trained on issues relating to asylum seekers, violent radicalisation and meeting religious communities.

Late 2016, FCA launched a Reach Out project to support grassroots efforts of different religious communities to battle prejudice and hate speech. A methodology for supporting former young combatants, young people at risk of radicalisation and their families is being developed within the project.

The goal of the Reach Out is to prevent radicalisation by enhancing cooperation between government officials, religious communities and non-governmental organisations.
Finn Church Aid’s work in the Middle East focused strongly on assisting Syrian refugees in Jordan and Syria. In Jordan, refugees were assisted at the Za’atari and Azraq refugee camps and in the capital Amman. The work focused particularly on young people between 12 to 30 years of age, who were offered English classes, IT-skills, craft workshops and vocational training.

Literacy training and learning English helps refugees express themselves and makes them more independent. Young people have also received psychosocial support from sports and other leisure activities, like circus, football, karate and music. These activities have benefited both young people and their parents and have helped people get along better. With growing confidence, young people have begun to draw goals for themselves and make plans for the future.

In Syria, FCA has supported education for thousands of young people in cooperation with International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). The war has kept many Syrians out of school for years. With our support their situation has been improved by remedial lessons, school fees and teacher training.

The war in Syria, extended to its fifth year, was widely covered in news headlines last year. Last autumn, FCA launched a programme to deliver food assistance to Syrians in war-torn Aleppo and other badly suffered regions.

In Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories FCA supported human rights training for Israeli youth and agricultural projects of Palestinians.

FCA is the major sponsor of the human rights training organised for future military recruits by the Rabbis for Human Rights organisation. Last year, 800 young people attended the training.

FCA also concluded its fence-building project in Deir Ballout, the granary of the province of Salfit. Plantations in the village suffered from a severe wild boar problem, but thanks to the fences, farmers were able to continue producing food for their families and the rest of the province.
Funding of the Eastern Africa Regional Programme

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243 teachers participated in workshops and other teacher training activities in Ethiopia.

720 pastoral families in Somalia were supported through a cash for work project that enhanced grazing land.

27,305 people participated in regional peace mediations in Kenya.

EDUCATION AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN EASTERN AFRICA

Fighting between government and opposition forces in SOUTH SUDAN escalated significantly from July 2016 onward. Some of FCA’s staff members were temporarily evacuated because of the violence and projects fell partly behind schedule. FCA’s work for peace, education and livelihood has achieved many promising results despite the conflict. Violence in the state of Boma came to an end as a result of consultation and dialogue, which drove tribes in the state to agree on peace between each other and with the neighbouring state Jonglei. More conflict parties participated in the peace process than ever before, and over 90 per cent of them say they were pleased with the peace process. This suggests that the peace is on a sustainable foundation and will encourage communities to seek peaceful resolutions to conflicts.

Last year, FCA secured access to education for 10,469 South Sudanese children by building school facilities and supporting 288 teachers. In Pibor County, FCA created new income opportunities in food production in cooperation with the private sector.

In Eritrea, FCA continued developing the education sector together with Eritrean education authorities. The work is focused in supporting Eritrean teacher training institutes by strengthening research and pedagogic skills. Work was supported by Teachers without Borders volunteers. In addition, 30 journalists and 14 students of journalism participated in workshops on media competence and dialogue, which drove tribes in the state to agree on the state of Boma came to an end as a result of consultation and dialogue, which drove tribes in the state to agree on peace between each other and with the neighbouring state Jonglei. More conflict parties participated in the peace process than ever before, and over 90 per cent of them say they were pleased with the peace process. This suggests that the peace is on a sustainable foundation and will encourage communities to seek peaceful resolutions to conflicts.

Two delegations from Eritrean teacher training institutes visited Finland and got to know the Finnish school system. In SOMALIA, FCA is supporting the building and development of government structures and civil society. A union of non-governmental organisations has been founded with FCA’s support giving organisations a better chance to influence decision-making. Conflict resolution in local communities is supported through peacework. In 2016, FCA supported internally displaced people, returning migrants and other Somalis in gaining new income opportunities by organising professional education and courses, and by supporting the foundation of small-scale enterprises.

In KENYA, FCA is building peace in the fragile conflict-prone northern regions in cooperation with traditional and religious leaders. With FCA’s efforts, 73,255 people participated in local peace mediation processes. In September, FCA and UNICEF launched a project attempting to return 13,500 children back to school in the municipalities of Turkana, Garissa and Marsabit. At the Kakuma refugee settlement, FCA trained teachers in a year-long pilot project that aims to provide quality education to children in refugee camps.

“This has been my first chance to build an international network. Making a study trip to Finland and getting to know the Finnish education system has been very beneficial to me. Our cooperation has helped us to develop the quality of education.”

Amanuel Yosief, teacher trainer, Ashuna Community College of Education, Eritrea

“Thanks to FCA we have been able to find out the root causes of conflicts between tribes. We have also received support in organising transportation to the conference. Without it, many people would not have come at all.”

Stiven Domorita from the Pokot tribe talks about a peace conference between the Pokot and Markwet tribes in Kenya. The conference was organised by FCA and was the biggest one yet with one hundred participants.
Funding of the West and Central Africa Regional Programme

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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>4.7</strong></td>
</tr>
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LIVELIHOODS AND THE STATUS OF WOMEN WERE IMPROVED IN WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

In **LIBERIA** our work focused on improving the food security and livelihood opportunities of 2,000 families. With training, new tools and new cultivation varieties, the average farmland of families increased from 0.2 hectares to 0.6 hectares, which expanded and diversified their food production and improved their income.

70 women between the ages of 18 and 30, who had previously dropped out of school, studied plumbing, masonry, carpentry, mechanics, electrical work and agriculture with FCA’s support in a vocational education centre. Mothers’ clubs supported 175 vulnerable women and 50 male traditional leaders in Liberia received training on peace-building, women’s rights, human rights and democracy.

In **SIERRA LEONE** FCA supported four professional education centres in Sierra Leone and a total of 236 young women and men graduated from them. Particular attention was given to their employment, 126 graduates received a start-up grant, and 100 were given starting kits to help them get started in their profession. Students that set up small-scale businesses have been able to employ other young people through apprenticeship.

60 village committees and 60 local disaster response groups with a total of 780 members received training and can now plan and lead development efforts, such as the building of public spaces, community work and joined plots in the villages.

120 religious and traditional leaders participated in trainings on conflict prevention and mediation, and human rights. Village chiefs used new mediation techniques to resolve 25 local conflicts and disputes. Women’s participation in community decision-making was improved and domestic violence reduced.

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Work continued to improve the food security of communities affected by the Ebola epidemic in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

FCA’s work in **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC** (CAR) aims to improve the quality of education. FCA restores school buildings damaged in the conflict, trains teachers and provides schools with materials kits. In Ombella Mpolo for example, FCA is supporting more than half of the schools in the county. FCA also supported schools and vulnerable communities to set up farm plots to provide children with better nourishment and families with an income.

The Central African Minister of Education visited Finland and during the visit, a deal was made for FCA to send Teachers without Borders volunteers to CAR to support the development of teacher training.

By FCA’s initiative, a peace curriculum has been developed and 357 people from different parts of the country and from different communities trained to work as conflict mediators.
EDUCATION AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS IN ASIA

In CAMBODIA, main achievements in right to education included finalising and publishing the Career Counselling and Guidance Manual, developing the national curriculum and training existing career counsellors to become Career Counselling and Guidance Trainers. The new curriculum for secondary education includes career guidance as a subject, a major success for FCA’s advocacy work.

When extreme weather conditions led to drought, FCA improved the capacity of community members to use irrigation systems, conserve water and establish plastic containers. New agricultural skills on vegetable growing and poultry farming improve living conditions in disaster prone communities.

FCA provided skills on Alternative Dispute Resolution to Community Media- tion Committees. The work resulted in 726 successful conflict resolutions in communities.

Women’s groups were provided with training on Disaster Risk Reduction. In Cambodia to promote women’s participation in agricultural production and in marketing agricultural products.

Students (5,933 male / 4,126 female) in Myanmar gained access to formal education in 51 IDP camps and surrounding host communities in Northern Shan and Kachin states.

Teachers in Nepal were trained in disaster risk reduction, psychosocial counselling and child protection.

National-level events were organised in Cambodia to promote women’s participation in agricultural production and in marketing agricultural products.

Many young people choose the profession their parents tell them to, because they do not know about their options. In the Career Counsellor training, I learned how to find information and connect with other networks. I get information to share with my students.”

Vichet Un, is one of the first Cambodian Career Counsellors, trained by FCA in Battambang.

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“I’m extremely worried about the climate change, because it intensifies floods and drought. During the EU Aid Volunteers training, I have learned how communities can prepare for disasters and mitigate the damages.”

Sophy Kroeng, Community Facilitator, Preg Veng, Cambodia

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Sophy Kroeng, Community Facilitator, Preg Veng, Cambodia
Haitians received food assistance in the aftermath of hurricane Matthew. Children gained access to school, and 721 adults participated in literacy training in Haiti. Farmers (49% female and 51% male) in Haiti were trained in agriculture, business and entrepreneurship.

12 500
2 417
1 828

Ministry for Foreign Affairs 0.3
International funding 1.1
Parishes 0.7
Private and corporate donations 0.8
Women’s Bank 0.1
TOTAL 3.1

FCA’s HAITI country programme was shaped by two factors in the course of 2016. In June it was decided that due to the major cuts which occurred in government funding in 2015, and with the aim of consolidating its global programme, FCA would close the country programme and exit the country at the end of the year. Therefore the work focused on finalising the projects FCA was implementing.

Another major factor was Hurricane Matthew which hit Haiti in October. FCA was involved in the hurricane response and together with its local partner played a key role in helping local schools to overcome the consequences of the hurricane. Under the circumstances, the closure of the country programme was postponed until April 2017 to ensure proper implementation of the response.

FCA’s long-term involvement in strengthening the disaster preparedness and resilience of schools and communities was proven crucial by the wide damages caused by the hurricane. FCA Haiti’s effective immediate response was another added value of the Haiti country programme in 2016; through a wide network of actors, FCA was able to respond effectively to the needs of the affected population.

FCA continued its engagement in the education sector of Haiti by constructing 4 schools (44 classrooms) and rehabilitating 4 existing schools (24 class rooms) that were damaged by Hurricane Matthew in October 2016.

“After the hurricane, FCA also supported provision of psychosocial support and school meals at affected schools. This work also presented an opportunity to strengthen teacher’s skills and improve the availability of education materials through distribution of students’ and teachers’ kits.

Rural livelihoods in Haiti remain fragile and vulnerable to disasters. FCA addressed this problem by helping more than 400 households to apply new, more sustainable farming practices and building the capacity of local authorities in environmental protection and disaster preparedness.

In GUATEMALA Women’s Bank’s female empowerment and livelihood project ended in 2016. The project supported Maya Q’eqchi women in the Alta Verapaz region in their attempts to improve their livelihoods through agricultural training and small-scale loans. The women also received trainings from NGOs and communal women’s groups that supported them in participating more in the decision-making of village communities and municipal governments.

Maya girls are raised to listen to the male members of their families, and are generally not encouraged to express their own opinions. Women are now more confident and express their views firmly. Although only a few women participate in decision-making on a community or municipal level, important steps have been taken in the project to help Maya women forward.

“Last schools constructed in Haiti

“I have learned to cultivate many different varieties and make feed for my pigs. Earlier, I didn’t dare say anything because I don’t speak Spanish, but our teacher said I can use my own language, and now I am comfortable speaking in front of people. Nobody listened to us before, but that has changed.”

Rosa Lach, Cerro Alto, Guatemala

“Exceptional schools constructed in Haiti

“We received emergency supplies and food.”

Antonio Janvier and Audicile Montine are relieved. Hurricane Matthew ripped off the roof of the elderly couple’s house. Humanitarian assistance was distributed in Haiti’s Haut-Maturin quickly after the hurricane.

"Women’s Bank" and "Foreign Affairs" are highlighted with a green circle on the map. "Public" is highlighted with a green circle on the map.
FIRST TO DELIVER ASSISTANCE TO HAITI AFTER HURRICANE MATTHEW

Careful planning leads to smooth execution. Before the hurricane hit, we gave our partners a warning and mapped out routes for relief deliveries. Because of these preparations, Finn Church Aid was able to quickly deliver emergency relief when Hurricane Matthew’s destructive force hit south western parts of Haiti in October 2016. The hurricane destroyed crops resulting in a large scale food crisis within the poor country. FCA delivered emergency food assistance to 12,500 people, some of whom live in hard-to-reach areas.

“A week before the hurricane hit, when it arrived in the Caribbean, we made sure that all plans made by the ACT Alliance, the alliance of church affiliated humanitarian organisations, were still in effect. When it became clear that the storm was going to hit Haiti, I took a car and went around the regions that would be affected by it. I met with our local contacts who would help us get the relief deliveries to their destinations”, says Uluç Baslanti, FCA Country Manager for Haiti.

Resources allocated from the disaster fund and excellent local contacts made it possible to get everything moving quickly. “People in need of assistance had already been identified when we arrived to the area so we were able to immediately begin distributing emergency relief. We had also been in contact with the UN World Food Programme well in advance to request their assistance in the delivery. Without their help, deliveries would have been impossible. We were ready before any other organisation, so we had the sole use of WFP’s helicopter for over a week”, Baslanti explains.

“Our received a lot of positive feedback. One elderly lady came to thank us for a well organised delivery and said it made the people feel valuable in this difficult time and that had not been the case before. It felt very motivating.” FCA’s staff members worked in shifts to avoid exhaustion.

“Difficult conditions are a part of this work. But we are all happy to see we were the first ones on site to deliver assistance. We had to clear many fallen trees from the road to make our way forward.”

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN 2016

South Sudanese refugees waiting to be relocated into refugee settlements in Northern Uganda.

Humanitarian assistance in Uganda

Finn Church Aid was among the first organisations to assist South Sudanese refugees in Uganda, after violence in South Sudan escalated into the worst refugee crisis in Africa.

FCA’s humanitarian workers supported refugees at reception centres, offered them warm food and helped them settle into refugee settlements in Northern Uganda.

As a result of this work, FCA was given a major responsibility in promoting education and livelihood as partner organisation to the UN Refugee Agency UNHCR for 2017 and 2018. FCA’s education work for the refugees is also supported by UNICEF, ECHO and the AVSI Foundation.

SUPPORTING REFUGEE CHILDREN IN GREECE

8-year-old Fatima goes to school at the Finn Church Aid supported Dimitrion education centre in Greece.

Refugee children and youth who have arrived in Greece have been out of school, on average, for two years. At education centres they receive education that will prepare them for regular school, they have access to part-time activities, they are offered remedial lessons, they receive help with homework and language teaching in their native language.

Fatima and 11-year-old Maryam become friends when they met at school activities supported by FCA in Greece.
SCHOOL BRINGS SAFETY

Finn Church Aid specialises in humanitarian school construction. We built hundreds of schools in Nepal after its devastating earthquakes. Many of the schools are located in remote villages which would have had to wait for years to get safe school buildings without our help. Earthquakes have been the topic of much conversation with the students. A lot of preparation training has also been covered.

"I’m not afraid of a new earthquake", says 8-year-old Manjoli Shuh. "I know what to do."
PARTNERS AND COOPERATION NETWORKS

Finn Church Aid implements the basic diaconal mission of the church in cooperation with international organisations and networks, local civil society operators, and Finnish cooperation partners.

Foreign partners and networks

Finn Church Aid is a founding member and one of the main stakeholders of the ACT Alliance, a coalition of churches and faith-based organisations in development work, humanitarian aid and advocacy. ACT Alliance is one of the largest charity organisations in the world and includes 145 operators in over 100 different countries. Its combined annual budget for relief work, humanitarian aid, and advocacy is 15 billion euros.

Membership in the ACT Alliance is of a great value to FCA. In 2016, FCA cooperated with ACT in humanitarian assistance in 12 countries. In addition, FCA is a member of ACT Alliance EU. Its main objective is to influence decision-making processes in institutions of the European Union as these affect developing countries, in order to promote justice and peace, and the eradication of poverty.

FCA facilitated the long-term development programmes of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in five different countries, and the organisation is also a significant partner of FCA in humanitarian aid.

Through the World Council of Churches we support programmes that promote peace, facilitate equality and support human rights.

We work together with several UN organisations to promote education and peace work in particular. These organisations include the Children’s Fund UNICEF, the development programme UNDP, UN Women, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees UNHCR, and the Mediation Support Unit (MSU) of the UN’s political unit. We are a member of UN Global Education Cluster and have a consultative status in the UN Economic and Social Council ECOSOC.

FCA hosts the Secretariat for the international Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers.

In addition, we have a framework agreement with ECHO, the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid Department.

Finn Church Aid is also a member of VOICE (Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies), a network of European organisations providing humanitarian aid.

Finn Church Aid has a growing number of local, bilateral partners; churches, church organisations, other religious organisations, and other civil society operators. They are experts in their own operational environments and help us to achieve sustainable results.

FCA is applying the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) in all its operation. The standard supports high quality and accountable practices and promotes efficiency and continuous learning in all operation. FCA is the only Finnish member of the CHS Alliance.

Domestic partners and networks

We work closely with the dioceses and parishes as well as the Common Responsibility Campaign. We are also a member of the Finnish Ecumenical Council.

Finn Church Aid is a partner organisation of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

In Finland, Finn Church Aid is a member of the Service Centre of Development Cooperation Kepa, the umbrella organisation for Finnish civil society organisations; and Kehys, the national platform of CONCORD, the European federation of non-governmental relief and development organisations. We are a member of the following organisations and networks: The Development Policy Committee, the Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights (KOS), Wider Security Network (WISE), Human Rights Advisory Board (HRA), FinnWatch, Finnish Somalia Network and Fairtrade Finland.

We are also a member of the 1325 Network Finland which promotes the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 “Women, Peace and Security” in Finland, and the Friday Group that consists of NGO representatives, members of Parliament and officials from various ministries. The group advocates for the importance of social, health and human development in the development policies of Finland and the European Union.

We are also one of the partners of the Red Nose Campaign in Finland.

In 2016, we started new avenues of cooperation with the private sector. We founded the FCA Investments Ltd, which promotes economic and social development in developing countries by supporting small and medium size entrepreneur organisations.

In addition, FCA founded an education export company with the Savo Consortium for Education, Omiya and the Finnish Institute for Enterprise Management. One of its key goals is to facilitate Finnish accredited education, for example, refugee camps. With the Finnish Institute for Enterprise Management and Mercury Business School, we began developing vocational education in entrepreneurship and business management.

Social responsibility

Finn Church Aid carries its social responsibility by operating ethically and ecologically.

Finn Church Aid is:
• A Green Office certified by WWF.
• A fair trade working place and a founding member of Fairtrade Finland. We use Fair trade products.
• A founding member of FinnWatch, an organisation that studies and monitors Finnish companies operating in developing countries. We compensate for the CO2 emissions from our flights through Klima-Kollekte – Kirchlicher Kompensationsfonds gGmbH, a carbon-offsetting fund operated by Christian churches in Europe.

Members of Parliament and officials from various ministries. The group advocates for the importance of social, health and human development in the development policies of Finland and the European Union.

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Administration

Finn Church Aid is governed by a Board of Directors, appointed by the general assembly of the Central Administration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland. The Board of Directors elects a working subcommittee and an audit committee from its members. The Board of Directors convened five times in 2016. In addition, the working subcommittee held eight email-meetings and convened once.

Finn Church Aid Board of Directors 2016: Chair: Tarja Kantola, International Adviser: Tapio Luoma, Bishop: Members: Tuomas Aho, Attorney Sixten Ekstrand, Director Pekka Haavisto, Member of Parliament Katri Korolainen, General Secretary Kimmo Kääriäinen, Ecclesiastical Counsellor Ilkka Mattila, Director Reetta Meriläinen, Journalist Ritva Omeroluoma, MBA Olli-Pekka Sillahv, Vicar Helena Tuompo, Deputy Secretary Kent Wikska, Commercial Counsellor Secretary: Joulii Hemborg, Executive Director

The Working Subcommittee was chaired by Tarja Kantola, with Helena Tuompo, Kent Wikska (until 3 October) and Tapio Luoma as members, and Joulii Hemborg as secretary. The group consisted of the following organisations: Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, National Board for the Prevention of Violent Radicalisation and Extremism.

On 12 May 2016, the Finnish Patent and Registration Office accepted FCA foundation’s application to change its rules turning the three Deputy Members of the Board into actual members. The term of Milla Perukangas, Master of Social Sciences, as board member ended prematurely as she became an FCA employee.
Personnel

Finn Church Aid is a multicultural specialist organisation employing about one hundred professionals of different disciplines at its office in Helsinki, and over 200 people in programmes around the world. In 2016, FCA’s staff, particularly the number of locally hired personnel, continued to grow. At the end of 2016, FCA employed a total of 311 people, 103 of whom worked in Helsinki, over 200 in regional and country offices either as expats (47) or locally hired personnel (56). Total number of person-years in the organisation was 314.6, of which temporary F2F and telephone fundraisers counted for 5.5 person-years. In Helsinki, the median age of staff members was 41.6 years. Of FCA’s expats and personnel stationed in Helsinki, 24 per cent were men and 76 per cent were women. They had an average of 5.4 years of employment with FCA.

Approximately 87 per cent of FCA’s employees working in Helsinki or stationed abroad have a degree in higher education, and 15 per cent have graduated from basic or secondary education. 14 per cent of employees have gotten their degree from abroad, and the majority of them work in FCA’s regional offices.

Median age of personnel in regional and country offices was approximately 35 years. The gender ratio of locally hired personnel differs noticeably from that of personnel in Helsinki. 69 per cent of locally hired personnel in the regional offices were male.

Security

Security is the responsibility of the entire staff. Security guidelines are used to improve the security consciousness of the staff and to complement general security plans. They were entirely updated in 2016. Renewed, office specific risk assessments for all FCA’s countries of operation were finalised. Standing regulations and specific guidelines are used to complement general security plans. They are used to improve the security consciousness of the staff and to prepare them for timely and proper action in case of emergency.

The gravest event of 2016 happened in May when an employee working in Central African Republic died of malaria. As the security situation in South Sudan deteriorated, FCA’s staff was evacuated from the Pibor region in February, and all expat staff members were evacuated from the country in June. Thanks to previous experiences, crisis management in these instances was timely and direct. These new experiences will be used to further develop crisis management practices.

Advocacy initiatives increased

2016 was a challenging year for advocacy. The number of refugees and internally displaced people was record high, yet humanitarian aid needs were severely underfunded. In most of Finn Church Aid’s programme countries human rights were compromised, and the space for civil society was further reduced. Despite the hostile environment, FCA’s advocacy brought many positive results, particularly in programme countries. Over 60 advocacy initiatives took place in country programmes; an increase of 53 percent from 2015. Questions related to quality education, linking learning to earning, peace, and human rights, among other issues, were brought to the attention of decision-makers on local and national level. Many improvements were realised.

For example in Liberia, 45 women were trained in advocacy and legal rights. As a result, the women started claiming rights to land inheritance for family members and advocating against domestic violence. In Cambodia, 372 complaints on existing land rights disputes were submitted by rights-holders, which marks a sevenfold increase to previous year’s 135 complaints.

At the World Humanitarian Summit, FCA worked with the UN in organising a session on religious actors and humanitarian aid. FCA increased awareness on the importance of education in emergencies, and the need to include religious and traditional leaders, women and youth in peace building, and advanced the call for the locally led humanitarian aid delivery.

During the 2016 United Nations General Assembly, FCA together with Eritrean UN representation organised a side event titled “Young Professionals: Leading Youth, Peace and Security Work.” As a result, the Eritrean and Finnish youth-to-youth dialogue for peace gained recognition. For the first time in the UN General Assembly, large numbers of civil society actors and youth were advocating for the importance of education in emergencies. As a result, the High Level Meeting on Refugees and Migrants recognised the importance of receiving quality education within a few months of displacement. Reference was also made to the need of post-primary education – these were both great achievements for FCA.

In Europe, together with ACT Alliance EU, FCA spoke out against plans to condition development aid to developing countries’ compliance with readmission agreements and “performance” on migration control indicators.

In relation to Finland’s 2017 budget, Government Report on Development Policy and Government Report on Finland’s Foreign and Security Policy, FCA provided six written statements to Parliamentary Committees (Foreign Affairs, Environment, Employment and Equality, and Finance) and was invited to Committee hearings five times.

Together with other Finnish NGOs, FCA actively advocated for the human rights of asylum seekers. FCA met with civil servants from the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of the Interior, wrote letters; and issued several statements, joint letters and press releases, some jointly with other NGOs. Despite all these efforts, the Finnish government tightened family reunification policy and changed the laws on international protection and the right of asylum seekers to legal aid.

FCA also hosted two ministerial level visits to Finland, the Ministers of Education from Eritrea and Central African Republic, providing for education related advocacy with key education institutions in Finland.

By hosting several visits by Finnish politicians, civil servants and representatives of parishes to FCA projects in Jordan, FCA was able to increase their awareness on the realities of Syrian refugees and IDPs.
Women’s Bank has raised 10 million euros

One of the highlights of 2016 for Women’s Bank came when the network reached a total of 10 million in raised funds. A sum of 24,600 euros was raised in the first half of the year, Women’s Bank had raised a total of 10.8 million in funds raised.

The network reached a total of 10 million in funds raised.

By the end of the year, Women’s Bank had raised a total of 10.8 million euros, with 2016 being a record year with 1.55 million euros in funds raised.

CHANGEMAKER CAMPAIGNED TO END OVERFISHING

Highlights of Changemaker youth network’s activities included campaign to end overfishing, an international meeting and a new project for young asylum seekers.

The campaign against overfishing was presented at various events around Finland throughout the year. The petition requested Finland to take action and make sure that all European Union’s bilateral fisheries partnership agreements should include set maximum fishing quotas.

The campaign ended in December and the petition with 2,586 signatures was handed over to the minister of agriculture and environment Kimmo Tiilikainen. It was noted by the minister that the petition was one of the main reasons for the government to support the campaign petition.

EAPPI DREW ATTENTION TO HOUSE DEMOLITIONS

The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) is an ecumenical initiative that supports local and international efforts to end the Israeli occupation and bring the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to a resolution based on international law and United Nations resolutions.

The EAPPI volunteers offer protective presence to vulnerable communities, and monitor and observe that international humanitarian law is respected and human rights are fulfilled in the occupied Palestinian territories.

An increased number of house demolitions in West Bank reflected in the work of the volunteers in 2016. There was more emphasis on visiting the communities that had received demolition orders and on making incident-reports after the demolitions had taken place. The EAs cooperated with visiting diplomatic missions and NGOs, helping the locals draw attention to their situation.

After the deployment period the EAPPI volunteers directed their advocacy work mainly in Finland. In 2016, EAPPI focused on supporting the campaign against overfishing and building up the quality of the volunteer work as an organisation in recruiting, training and sending volunteers abroad.

EAPPI volunteer making a report in a bedouin village after house demolitions.
### Programme Areas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>M €</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>14,1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>4,1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Programmes</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>5,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>3,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>3,1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>0,9</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
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### Africa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
<td>263,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>637,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>2,299,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>66,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>1,507,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central African Republic</td>
<td>2,555,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>918,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Africa</td>
<td>131,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sierra Leone</td>
<td>775,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>3,109,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td>1,848,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>14,124,000</td>
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</table>

### Asia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>1,162,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>1,070,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>1,871,000</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>4,103,000</td>
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### Europe

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Region</th>
<th>€</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Europe Regional</td>
<td>376,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>338,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International work in Finland</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>934,000</td>
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</table>

### Global Programmes

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>€</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global Programmes</td>
<td>3,651,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Latin America and the Caribbean

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>€</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>111,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>2,120,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latin America and the Caribbean Regional</td>
<td>819,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3,050,000</td>
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</table>

### Middle East

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>101,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>2,159,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle East Regional</td>
<td>237,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestinian Territories</td>
<td>379,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>446,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>3,302,000</td>
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### INCOME STATEMENT

#### K€

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<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INCOME FROM OPERATIONS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aid activities</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From the government</td>
<td>8,526</td>
<td>8,526</td>
<td>16,767</td>
<td>16,767</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>From dioceses</td>
<td>7,503</td>
<td>7,503</td>
<td>15,041</td>
<td>15,041</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From international funding sources</td>
<td>6,753</td>
<td>6,753</td>
<td>8,829</td>
<td>8,829</td>
<td>4,659</td>
<td>4,659</td>
<td>5,953</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>53</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td>22,647</td>
<td>22,647</td>
<td>32,680</td>
<td>32,680</td>
<td>20,652</td>
<td>20,652</td>
<td>29,444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXPENSES</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct aid</td>
<td>-11,806</td>
<td>-11,806</td>
<td>-18,588</td>
<td>-18,588</td>
<td>-14,594</td>
<td>-14,594</td>
<td>-19,699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
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<td>-8,161</td>
<td>-8,151</td>
<td>-8,151</td>
<td>-6,710</td>
<td>-6,710</td>
<td>-6,435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expenses</td>
<td>-7,179</td>
<td>-7,179</td>
<td>-6,688</td>
<td>-6,688</td>
<td>-6,688</td>
<td>-6,688</td>
<td>-6,984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td>-29,146</td>
<td>-29,146</td>
<td>-36,353</td>
<td>-36,353</td>
<td>-26,992</td>
<td>-26,992</td>
<td>-33,117</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deficit</strong></td>
<td>-6,300</td>
<td>-6,300</td>
<td>-6,375</td>
<td>-6,375</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Support functions for aid activities**

#### Communications and stakeholder relations

| Income | 190 | 190 | 219 | 219 | | | | |
| Expenses | -977 | -977 | -844 | -844 | -977 | -977 | -844 | -844 |
| **Surplus** | -1,492 | -1,492 | -1,848 | -1,848 | -1,492 | -1,492 | -1,848 | -1,848 |

**General administration**

| Income | 45 | 45 | 27 | 27 | | | | |
| Expenses | -1,224 | -1,224 | -1,098 | -1,098 | -1,224 | -1,224 | | |
| **Deficit** | -1,179 | -1,179 | -1,179 | -1,179 | | | | |
| **Deficit from operations** | -8,759 | -8,759 | -6,720 | -6,720 | -8,759 | -8,759 | -6,720 | -6,720 |

**FUNDRAISING**

| Donations from private persons | 9,256 | 9,256 | 9,256 | 9,256 | | | | |
| Donations from companies and organisations | 784 | 784 | 486 | 486 | 769 | 769 | 486 | 486 |
| Income to be transferred | 7,400 | 7,400 | 7,400 | 7,400 | 7,400 | 7,400 | 7,400 | 7,400 |
| Other income | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 | | | | |
| **Total income** | 17,421 | 17,421 | 17,421 | 17,421 | 17,421 | 17,421 | 17,421 | 17,421 |
| **Surplus** | 14,582 | 14,582 | 14,582 | 14,582 | 14,582 | 14,582 | 14,582 | 14,582 |

**INVESTMENT AND FUNDING OPERATIONS**

| Income | 7 | 7 | 19 | 19 | | | | |
| **Surplus** | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 | | | | |

**SUBSIDIES**

| Subsidy from the Church Council | 956 | 956 | 885 | 885 | | | | |
| **Surplus/Deficit before transfer of funds** | 7,020 | 7,020 | 110 | 110 | | | | |

**TRANSFER OF FUNDS**

| Donation Fund | -1,127 | -1,127 | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| Disaster Fund | -2,513 | -2,513 | 0 | 0 | -2,513 | -2,513 | 0 | 0 |
| Women's Bank Fund | -1,667 | -1,667 | 0 | 0 | -1,667 | -1,667 | 0 | 0 |
| Aid Fund | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -1 | -1 | 0 | 0 |
| **Total transfers** | -7,506 | -7,506 | -7,506 | -7,506 | | | | |

**SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR CURRENT PERIOD**

| -286 | -286 | 109 | 109 | | | | |

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*In the Income Statement, costs for Global Grants fundraising are included under Fundraising activities. Income from Global Grants fundraising is included under Support functions.
Year of economic cutbacks

Cuts on government funding for development cooperation were applied fully in 2016. As a result, government funding went down from 15.5 million euros to 8.3 million. However, in terms of other financial resources, we continued to see positive developments. The deficit for 2016 was €286,255, and equity at the end of the year was €12.5 million. Of this, €7.4 million were targeted donations for disaster and reconstruction work and Women’s Bank. Current receivables totalled €4.0 million. Current liabilities were €10.5 million, of which €7.7 million were advance payments from different donors.

Revenue

Total revenue for the financial period stood at €34.4 million, which represents a 19 per cent decrease from the previous year. Revenue from fundraising activities was €35.4 million.

Expenses

In 2016, Finn Church Aid spent €34.7 million in international aid and domestic operations. Operational expenses dropped by 18.5 per cent from the previous year. Expenses for aid activities totalled €29.1 million, including €3.2 million for the planning and monitoring of programmes. Expenses for support functions for aid activities, general administration and fundraising were €5.5 million.

Internal auditing improves transparency

Internal auditing is independent and objective evaluation, monitoring and consultation of FCA work that adds value to Finn Church Aid and improves its operation. Internal auditing supports FCA and its higher executives to achieve their goals by providing a systematic approach to evaluating and developing the organisation’s monitoring, management and administrative processes as well as the effectiveness of risk management.

Future development

In 2016, FCA drew up and approved a new global open-ended strategy, the application of which began in 2017. Its central goal is to further improve the effect of FCA’s work. FCA continues its specialisation in three connected themes; right to peace, right to quality education and right to livelihood.

Finn Church Aid will expand its strategic partnerships, particularly with the UN and other international organisations. Cooperation with other organisations of the ACT Alliance and with relief organisations of different religious backgrounds continues and grows. Direct cooperation with governments in developing countries should also help us secure increased impact for our programmes.

Changes in global development architecture will greatly affect operations in the coming years. New forms of operating and new financing instruments must be found. For example, strong prioritisation of private sector funding in certain countries will continue and be expanded. Through its operation FCA must be able to express its clear added value and its experience of operating in developing countries, particularly in fragile contexts.

You’ll find Finn Church Aid’s entire Financial Statement of 2016 at finnchurchaid.fi/finances
Cover: Ville Palonen. Martha Ajol, 18, from South Sudan, fled from the city of Bor to Mingkaman. In Mingkaman she was able to enroll in a school constructed by Finn Church Aid.