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Examples of FCA's Right to Peace projects

The Central Regions Peace Initiative Project in Somalia activities includes facilitating dialogue within sub-clans and sub-sub clans to address their long-standing grievances, promoting inter-clan reconciliation and conflict resolution. It also strengthens an inclusive and participatory process focusing on regional administrative development, and supports capacity building (engagement with federal government ministries, regional and local leadership, traditional leaders, civil society and women leaders). The project is part of a larger programme aiming to develop stable and effective governance in the central regions of Somalia.

A conflict resolution project in Northern Kenya will engage conflicting communities and strengthen indigenous grass root conflict-resolution institutions and mechanisms. Activities include e.g. organizing intra-tribal dialogue forums for the five targeted communities (Turkana, Pokot, Rendille, Borana and Samburu). The project will enable local groups to establish a committee whose members will come from the conflicting partners, as well as from women's groups, youth groups and possibly local county officials. The committee will help plan and implement activities for the resolution of the conflict.

Finn Church Aid (FCA) is a Finnish NGO in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance. FCA operates in over twenty countries across four continents, and has over 60 years of experience.

FCA specialises in supporting local communities in three priority areas: right to peace, right to education and right to livelihood.

In addition to our local level Right to Peace work, we support the ongoing finalization of the United Nations Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace which will be finalized in 2014. We also work as an interim secretariat of the Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers.

We are a member of the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP), a founding member of the ACT Alliance and a long-term partner of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. We have a framework partnership agreement with Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) of the European Commission. We also have a growing number of local partners.

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RIGHT TO PEACE

Peace work which integrates local knowledge and international processes

Finn Church Aid (FCA) believes that the best way to achieve positive development and stability is through increased community ownership.

FCA peace work includes:

- facilitating horizontal and vertical dialogue for peace between rights-holders and duty-bearers
- promoting the role of traditional and religious leaders and women in peace processes
- facilitating peace and reconciliation processes
- training and enabling communities in conflict prevention
- engaging with international level processes for global impact, and linking them to work on the local level
- developing methodologies and guidance
- supporting consensus-building among UN Member States regarding the Declaration on the Right of Peoples to Peace

We link our right to peace work and our right to education and livelihoods work: e.g. promoting the culture of peace in schools in South-Sudan and Somalia, providing technical and vocational skills training projects to conflict-affected youths in The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Liberia and Sierra Leone, and solving land conflicts in Cambodia and Liberia.



Supporting peace work in local communities

FCA aims to become a globally recognized player in supporting peace work in local communities.

We will

- train religious and traditional leaders in becoming effective peace builders
- help them solve local conflicts and
- support them in influencing national and international peace processes.

Our baseline study indicates that in fragile states such as Somalia, traditional and religious networks are widely seen as having the capacity and public trust to have a significant impact on finding solutions for sustainable peace.

Somali peace process

One of our success stories is our support for the Somali peace process. FCA has put great effort into empowering the religious and traditional leaders in the peace and state-building work of Somalia.

Our efforts to link the Somali elders more closely with the Somali authorities as well as with the United Nations have been successful. We have opened channels for discussion and assisted in the country's peace and state-building process and seconded a staff member to the transitional government of Somalia in 2012.

Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers

FCA works as an interim secretary of the Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, a service function for international and local mediation and peace-building initiatives.

The Network consists of religious and traditional leaders and organizations supporting their mediation and peace-building efforts. The initiators of the network are the UN Mediation Support Unit (MSU) in the Department of Political Affairs, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Religions for Peace (RfP) and Finn Church Aid (FCA).

The objective of the Network is to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of mediation efforts through strengthening local ownership and supporting the positive role of religious and traditional leaders in mediation.

The network's activities include assignments by the MSU or other international actors to consult, mobilize and facilitate contacts with the religious & traditional leaders and carry out baseline assessments; task forces with thematic focuses; and training for UN and state mediators and religious and traditional leaders. The Network places special emphasis on gender, and provides channels to support female religious- and traditional leaders, and also sensitizes men to the issues of women rights and the benefits that non-discrimination and inclusion of women bring.

