



Finn Church Aid

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

FINN CHURCH AID'S COUNTRIES OF OPERATION 2017



Providing school meals and establishing parents' associations in **Central African Republic**.
P. 12



Repairing schools and hospitals in **Syria**.
P. 16, 18



Preventing hunger with food aid, agricultural training and seeds in **South Sudan**.
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Supporting asylum seekers with language guide project in **Finland**.
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Peace workshops bring youth together in **Myanmar**.
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● FCA office
● FCA Americas, office for fundraising and advocacy, Washington DC
*Work ended at the end of 2017

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

ENSURING QUALITY ASSISTANCE WHERE IT'S MOST NEEDED

2017 was a good year for Finn Church Aid (FCA). Our programme grew by over seven million euros. Many of our operating contexts remained fragile and insecure, but we succeeded in supporting hundreds of thousands of people through humanitarian assistance and development work, while also building the local communities' capacity against shocks and stressors.

The increased reach and impact of our work is the result of effective response to local needs and close cooperation and partnership with the relevant local, national and international actors.

In 2017, we continued to address the pressing need for quality education for children and youth. Access to quality education is an important prerequisite for employment and enhanced livelihood opportunities, which also contribute to social cohesion and reducing conflicts.

In Uganda, with an estimated number of 1.3 million refugees, FCA is implementing an innovative education initiative in collaboration with UNHCR and Omnia Education Partnerships Ltd., a Finnish education export company. The refugee youth who complete the training obtain a Finnish vocational qualification in entrepreneurship. The official certificate is valid in their country of origin and the country they have settled in.

Worldwide, over 65 million people have been forced to leave their homes and the plight of refugees is present in nearly all our programme countries in one way or another. In 2017, FCA supported refugees and internally displaced populations in Syria, Uganda, CAR, South Sudan, Somalia, Jordan, Myanmar, Bangladesh and Greece.

Our peace work has been multifaceted both at home and in our programme countries. We collaborate not only with traditional and religious leaders but also with women and youth.

Collective actions focusing on dialogue, mediation and local peace processes' support have generated concrete accomplishments, for example, in Somalia, CAR, South Sudan and Uganda. Our work has contributed to increasing peace and stability and reducing extremist activities that may undermine development progress and the realisation of human rights.

Developing the private sector to create jobs and livelihoods is a new and growing focus in FCA's work. Women's Bank has already been supporting female entrepreneurship for ten years. Its activity has expanded and has been further developed towards providing loans to small businesses.

Skilful and committed staff, experienced local partners and good collaboration with a number of local, national and global actors and networks have enabled our operations and the related results. We are grateful for the trust placed in our work by the general public and donors, and we promise to continue pursuing our efforts on behalf of human dignity.

Jouni Hemberg
Executive Director
Finn Church Aid



CRUCIAL IN OUR WORK

RESPECT

For the people with whom we work.
Mutual respect for each other's beliefs.

DIALOGUE

Appreciation of diversity and making connections between people who think in different ways. It is important to listen, not just talk, for our work is based on mutual learning.

TRANSPARENCY

The starting point of all our operations.
Operations based on good governance and the effective and documented use of the funds entrusted to us.

HUMAN RIGHTS

International human rights principles are the foundation of our work.
FCA is a rights-based actor.

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH AND WOMEN

Nine out of ten youths live in developing countries and their education requires more investment than ever. Women need support because they continue to experience extensive discrimination and still participate in the economy and politics less than men.

INNOVATIONS

Encouragement for ideas and thought.
Piloting new, sustainable solutions, for example, in building and education.



WORKING IN THREE THEMATIC AREAS

1.1 MILLION EUROS

collected by village banks and cooperatives are circulating as loans in Cambodian project villages.

71,000 PEOPLE BENEFITED

people benefited from material aid in support to sustain livelihoods and guidance in the use of materials for reconstruction.

RIGHT TO LIVELIHOOD

Employment, entrepreneurship and the rapid response to livelihood shocks are at the forefront of FCA's work in livelihoods promotion. The work focusses primarily on women and youth.

Considering the number of beneficiaries, community-based organisations that strengthen local livelihoods make up the largest work area of FCA. These organisations include farmer associations, producer and credit cooperatives as well as village committees overseeing the use of common resources. The number of these organisations receiving support was 1,766. Of the approximately 60,000 members, 59 per cent were women.

Communities were also supported to implement small-scale infrastructure projects for developing water and irrigation systems, adding value to agricultural produce through processing and post-harvest handling or repairing damages caused by disasters. A total of over 9,000 households benefitted from these operations. Post-crisis reconstruction provided cash for work to over 1,500 people. Further 5,000 families were given material support to boost income generation and/or restart food production.

Village banks and credit cooperatives strengthen the local economy by offering financing services for developing business

1,234 PEOPLE IN NEPAL

took part in processes and events to achieve reconciliation between freed bonded labourers and their ex-masters.

2,314 FORMER STREET CHILDREN

in Uganda were provided training in vocation skills and small business management to increase their chances of earning a livelihood, which strengthens individual and community resilience to violent extremism.

and agricultural activities. In 2017, the 535 grassroots microfinance providers supported by FCA had a total of 30,000 members, 17,500 of which were women. The great majority of the members took part in various training activities that enhanced their ability to generate income. While in the past the emphasis was on agriculture, now a greater part of the training is related to technical and entrepreneurial skills; over 75 per cent of the training focused on these kinds of capacities.

Entrepreneurship represents a clear area of growth for FCA. Nearly 5,000 people found work either as full-time or part-time entrepreneurs and 1,400 jobs were created in companies. Numerous country offices have made a special effort to invest in supporting the entrepreneurship of women and youth. In Uganda and Jordan, refugee youth are a special target group. In 2017, FCA embarked on a new area by starting the training of business advisers and coaches to meet the needs of the entrepreneurship projects. In Jordan, Nepal and Cambodia, over 50 business coaches received training not only from FCA's own staff but also from Women's Bank volunteers.

RIGHT TO PEACE

In 2017, Finn Church Aid (FCA) supported peace work on a global, national and local level.



A tailor with her own small business, Kalawati benefited from vocational training with FCA. Now she teaches young women about the trade. Photo: Jari Kivelä

The most important goal in FCA's peace work is to ensure inclusion. For example, it is vital that youth, women and religious and traditional leaders are involved in mediating conflicts and building peace.

The work is in line with the UN's goals for sustainable development and the UN Security Council's resolutions 1325 and 2250 concerning youth, women and peace.

In 2017, FCA continued to serve as the Secretariat for the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, which FCA founded at the UN's request. In July, the role of religious actors in preventing violence was recognised in a historical Plan of Action, launched in the presence of UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

FCA's peace work focused on the Central African Republic, South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, Myanmar, Nepal, Cambodia, Liberia as well as Israel and the Palestinian Territories. Land and property disputes, family rights and violations of human rights are among the issues handled in mediation and local peace processes.

Last year's peace work was firmly linked to livelihoods. In Kenya, for example, FCA supported efforts to raise livestock among communities in conflict with each other.

215,730 LEARNERS

benefited from FCA's education projects.

1,413 YOUTH RECEIVED

vocational training.

Collaboration between different themes intensified. An increasing number of peace projects include support activities related to livelihood, which reduces local tensions arising from e.g. scarcity of resources. The links between vocational training and livelihoods are obvious. Closer cooperation with actors from the private sector is beneficial both to the employment of young graduates entering a the world of work and to the networking of enterprises.

Income opportunities prevented cattle rustling and other matters of dispute.

In Somalia, FCA contributed to strengthen Somali civil society's capacity to engage with the government on peace and state building processes in connection with the Constitutional Review Process.

In Boma State, South Sudan, widespread internal violence was avoided for the first time for many years thanks to the peace process and signed peace agreements supported by FCA in 2016 and 2017. The state's top political leadership also changed in a historically peaceful manner, a promising sign for lasting peace and stability in the region.

In Myanmar, FCA provided training for 84 young peace activists from varying ethnic and religious backgrounds in peace mediation and avoidance of violence in their communities across the country.

In Finland, FCA and the Peacemakers' network has supported cooperation between Finnish authorities, religious communities, organizations, and families in the prevention of violent radicalization and extremism. Throughout the year, seminars and training sessions have reached hundreds of actors, experts and other professionals in Helsinki, Turku, Tampere and Oulu.

THEMES

RIGHT TO QUALITY EDUCATION

The path of learning leads to the future. Even under the most difficult circumstances, education offers the opportunity to make plans towards a better life.

In 2017, Finn Church Aid's education projects increased to 56. FCA improves the quality of education in numerous ways. With the support of FCA, 763 classrooms were built or restored. Thanks to the construction of new classrooms, class sizes have been reduced and pupils are receiving more individualized instruction.

Furthermore, FCA supported the education of 5,444 teachers.

Parental commitment to children's schooling is one of the most important ways to guarantee that a child attends school regularly and passes the year along with his/her classmates. FCA has established parent-teacher associations for almost all the schools it supports. These associations enable parents to get involved in their children's schooling and the school administration. Within the framework of the associations, the small business activities of parents have been supported, which has increased the parents' income, and thus led to more commitment on their behalf.

In Kenya, fewer girls have dropped out of school since clean drinking water became available in schools. The secondary level education of girls is often interrupted because girls are responsible for fetching water from a well that may be located several kilometres away from home. In the schools supported by FCA, students were also allowed to take clean drinking water home, making it possible for them to complete their education. In 2017, water distribution reached 13,000 pupils.

Simply going to school, however, does not guarantee a secure future. Education must ultimately lead to a profession. Therefore, career counselling and working life skills play an even greater role in FCA's education projects. Career counselling has continued successfully in Cambodia, where 9,127 students received counselling in 2017.

In eight country programmes a total of 2,619 young people started entrepreneurship training where they were helped to start their own business. In Jordan, for example, 96 per cent of the youth who participated in entrepreneurship training successfully established their own business with the support of a grant.

EASTERN AFRICA

PARTNERS: 10
STAFF: 143



2,119
families' income rose above the poverty line in Somalia with the support of FCA's livelihood projects.

27,358
pupils were able to start primary and secondary education in South Sudan.

95%
of 450 young people, who took part in vocational training in Rwamwanja Refugee Settlement in Uganda, have found a job with which they can support themselves.

In 2017, the impact of the prolonged conflict in **SOUTH SUDAN** was particularly visible through a shortage of food. In February, the UN declared that famine was affecting part of Unity State.

Finn Church Aid supported an extensive humanitarian operation, through which the World Food Programme's helicopters dropped packages of food in the region. In June, the famine was officially declared to be over.

FCA has improved the opportunities for nearly 2,000 people to earn a livelihood and obtain food for their families. For example in Fangak, 500 families received agricultural training, tools and seeds.

FCA continued to construct and rehabilitate school facilities, and to provide scholastic materials to support the return to school of children affected by conflict. Supporting for instance parents-teachers associations proved a successful way to impact on community participation and increase ownership of the projects. In 2017, FCA also started to support secondary education; thanks to the increased trust, FCA has influenced the planning of education on a national level.

In 2017, **UGANDA** experienced Africa's worst refugee crisis, with over one million refugees crossing the border from South Sudan. In recognition of FCA's refugee work, Uganda and the UNHCR chose FCA as a partner in advancing the cause of education and livelihood in Bidibidi, the second largest refugee settlement in the world.

In Bidibidi, FCA facilitated and guided work in the education sector with educational materials, school facilities, teacher training and by increasing the knowhow of school staff and families in the search for sustainable solutions.

In the past three years, FCA's work in Uganda has made it possible for 46,356 children to go to school. During the same period, 1,648 teachers have received training in pedagogy, classroom management, attending to the special needs of pupils and providing psycho-social support.

FCA's work with livelihoods in the rural areas of Uganda has raised 74 per cent of the 2,088 families getting assistance from the project above the poverty line in 2017.

In village savings groups supported by the Women's Bank, 2,444 people have succeeded in saving 95,400 euros. The 292 newly established enterprises created 876 jobs in the private sector, out of which women took up 788.

In **SOMALIA**, FCA has successfully improved livelihood opportunities of the country's internally displaced people through livestock interventions. During long-term projects, many families have succeeded in raising the number of animals to at least three times the number of cows and goats originally given to them.

Approximately 400 religious and over 2,000 traditional leaders were involved in the district

council formation process in Somalia, and in the rehabilitation and reintegration process of ex-combatants.

In **KENYA**, 20 youth and women groups who lost their entire household livestock to cattle raids, were trained on various income generating activities.

Women groups were financially supported to start farming or other alternative livelihoods in their communities. Young, former warriors received 300 goats. The strengthening of livelihoods has prevented cattle raids and other incidences of conflict.

Peace mediation between the Pokot and Markwet tribes continued with 32 meetings, in which a total of 1,634 people negotiated ways to continue peaceful co-existence in the area.

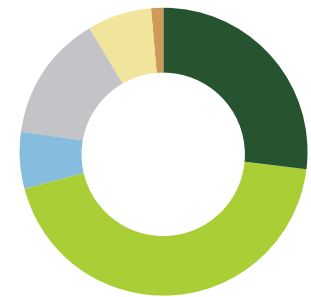
Photo: Fredrik Lerneryd



In **ERITREA**, FCA works in the education sector, strengthening the education of teachers in the two teacher training institutes in the country. FCA has promoted the introduction of new teaching methods and research as well as increased research-based teaching. Teach-

er training instructors were provided with training, workshops, study groups as well as individual and group guidance sessions.

During the year, 17 articles based on action research were published in a professional col-



FUNDING OF THE EASTERN AFRICA REGIONAL PROGRAMME	
Ministry for Foreign Affairs	4.3 M€
International funding	6.9 M€
Parishes	1.0 M€
Private and corporate donations	2.2 M€
Disaster relief fund	1.1 M€
Women's Bank	0.2 M€
Total	15.7 M€

Muja Rose, 34, tends her small vegetable patch in the Bidibidi refugee camp in Uganda. The egg plants and other vegetables she grows enable her to provide her children with a more varied diet in a difficult situation. Photo: Tatu Blomqvist



Photo: Hugh Rutherford

” Our elementary school was destroyed in the battles in 2015. We had no school for two years. We had to do our schoolwork outside. The rain and the scorching sun made it hard to learn. The school facilities built by FCA made it possible for us to concentrate again. Education will help us improve the wellbeing of our community. I always encourage my classmates to do their best in school so that we can rebuild our community in the future.

Nyatonga Chol, 13
South Sudan

WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

PARTNERS: 16
STAFF: 68



In 2017, Finn Church Aid decided to terminate its work in Sierra Leone and Liberia by the end of the year. In Liberia, FCA local employees established a Liberian NGO to carry on their work. FCA will also continue an EU-funded project in the country to support the legal protection of prisoners until the beginning of 2019.

IN LIBERIA, FCA focussed on reducing poverty by offering agricultural training and by developing cultivation methods. Young women in vulnerable situations were also given support to start vocational training.

The corn cultivation project saw the introduction of a business model in which the farmers paid back the financial aid they had received after the harvest. The farmers' payments made it possible to expand the project.

Women's groups and traditional leaders organised 12 meetings in which marital and land disputes as well as family violence cases were resolved. Women were encouraged to take part in societal decision-making. The activity attracted many new women's groups to join in.

FCA in collaboration with local partners improved the legal protection of prisoners by training religious and traditional leaders and actors in the legal system about human rights and by offering legal counsel to vulnerable prisoners, especially women and youth.

IN SIERRA LEONE, FCA supported the livelihoods of youth by organising vocational

training, especially for those who had previously dropped out of school. We also offered relief to those who had lost their homes in the mudslides in Sierra Leone's capital city in 2017. Finn Church Aid's work in Sierra Leone was discontinued at the end of the year.

FCA continued its peace work in the **CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC** by training communities in reconciliation skills for conflict situations. The country has been in turmoil since the civil war of 2013. The religious leaders and imams have received training that has reinforced their skills and roles as peace mediators.

School meals have shown to be the most important single factor to keep pupils in school. In collaboration with the World Food Programme, FCA organized school meals for 8,594 pupils. Four schools were able to establish school gardens, which provided ingredients for the lunches of 1,808 pupils.

There is an urgent need for teachers in the country, because the great majority of them fled persecution to neighbouring countries during the civil war. FCA has provided teacher training to parents in local communities to ensure that children have access to the education they deserve.

Parental interest in their children's schooling is a key factor in a child's education. FCA has established parents' associations that not only develop school activities but also improve the livelihood strategies of families. Commitment to children's education has grown as parents

175
175 parents received teacher training in the Central African Republic, where there is a shortage of teachers.

48
girls finished their vocational training to become plumbers, electricians, masons, auto mechanics and farmers. Thirty-three per cent of them were employed during their trainee period or after graduation.

129
prison guards and police took part in training on human rights and legal protection.

have realized that school activities benefit the entire family. In 2017, a total of 161 parents were involved in starting a small business as part of the activities related to the parents' associations.

FCA is the only Finnish NGO operating in the Central African Republic.

Photo: Tatu Blomqvist



FUNDING OF THE WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA REGIONAL PROGRAMME	
Ministry for Foreign Affairs	1.6 M€
International funding	1.1 M€
Parishes	0.4 M€
Private and corporate donations	0.7 M€
Disaster relief fund	0.6 M€
Women's Bank	0.2 M€
Total	4.5 M€

A pupil practises writing on a chalkboard at Saint Anne's girl's school. The school, which is in the Central African Republic, was rebuilt with the support of FCA. Photo: Tatu Blomqvist



Photo: Tatu Blomqvist

” School, at its best, can act as force for social unity. The most important things that a school can teach are the significance of peace and social belonging.

Jean Lessene
Head of the Education Sector
Bayanga, CAR

ASIA

PARTNERS: 19
STAFF: 27



9,127

students benefitted from career counselling in Cambodian schools.

286

youth from families of former bonded labourers in Nepal received vocational training, which included support for employment or establishing a business.

824

people received training to improve their skills for earning a livelihood in Myanmar

In **CAMBODIA**, even more schools adopted career counselling as career counsellors who had received training from Finn Church Aid went on to train new counsellors in Battambang province. Career counselling has made it easier for students to make study plans and choose future careers. In addition, there have been improvements in the interactions between students and teachers as well as the cooperation between schools and parents.

There were 5,467 participants in training dedicated to land rights and family law and alternative dispute resolution (ADR). As a result the community members have become more active in participating in the ADR mechanism, and 84 per cent of the 726 conflict cases that were submitted by community members to Commune Mediation Committees were solved.

A total of 304 events were organised to reduce poverty, where members of the community engaged in discussion with local authorities on how to develop their communities.

Livelihoods and entrepreneurship were promoted through women's agricultural cooperatives, savings groups, collective business groups, rice banks, water committees and producer groups. Poor girls and women living in remote areas received training in entrepreneurship and marketing.

Young volunteers from FCA's Cambodia Changemaker Network campaigned about the importance of education.

In **MYANMAR**, two peace workshops brought

together youth from different ethnic groups from the Shan and Kachin states. The Kachin and Muslim youth spent time together for the first time. These positive encounters changed how the youths felt about members of the other group. The peace workshops offered them a chance to study the fundamentals of peace work as well as negotiation and mediation skills. The aim is to consolidate the role of youth in the peace process, facilitate the collaboration of youth networks and strengthen the voice of women in peace work.

FCA continued supporting village groups and women's groups and expanded operations to Rakhine State.

The Education in Emergencies (EiE) project in the internally displaced persons camps made it possible for 7,700 children to keep attending school. The project also promoted inclusion, meaning children with disabilities were able to access education.

FCA successfully initiated a workshop to create a common framework with the Ministry of Education and EiE sector partners for contextualizing and operationalizing the INEE Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies in Myanmar and to develop EiE capacity among stakeholders.

In **NEPAL**, the reconstruction of schools destroyed in the 2015 earthquake continued. In 2017, a total of 320 classrooms were built, and the school construction project was completed. All in all, FCA built 334 schools and 178 temporary school spaces in the areas

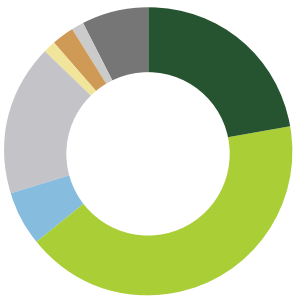
affected by the earthquake. FCA also provided teachers with further training and psychosocial support for pupils.

FCA supported the realisation of the rights of freed bonded labourers and Dalits by organizing discussions between the groups and authorities and by providing access to services, identity documents and children's education.

FCA continued providing assistance to women's groups and cooperatives. Due to these efforts, last year 557 new small business were established, 287 of which were led by women.

Heavy monsoon rains caused devastating floods in Nepal's low-lying tropical area in autumn of 2017. FCA initiated a project to repair school toilets and hand-washing facilities and distribute school supplies in the schools affected by the floods.

Photo: Veera Pitkanen



FUNDING OF THE ASIA REGIONAL PROGRAMME

Ministry for Foreign Affairs	1.7 M€
International funding	3.2 M€
Parishes	0.5 M€
Private and corporate donations	1.3 M€
Disaster relief fund.....	0.1 M€
Women's Bank	0.6 M€
Total	7.4 M€

Numerous visitors were attracted to FCA's stand at the Career Fair in Battambang, Cambodia.
Photo: Thomas Hommeyer



Photo: Ulla Kärki

” I received additional training in my profession as a seamstress. I enjoy my job because I can make many kinds of clothing. Business is going so well that I've been able to hire an assistant. I'm a widow and the single mother of a fourteen-year-old girl. She goes to school and dreams of becoming a doctor or a nurse.

Aye Aye Maw
Hsar Oh Chaung, Myanmar

THE MIDDLE EAST

PARTNERS: 7
STAFF: 28



13

new small and micro businesses were established thanks to FCA's entrepreneurship course in Jordan.

3,530

youth took English and computer driving licence courses, and participated in leisure activities in Jordan.

158

teachers received training in participatory teaching methods, child protection and life skills in Syria.

The main focus of Finn Church Aid's work in the Middle East was to improve the education and livelihood opportunities of Syrian refugees in Jordan and Syria.

In **JORDAN**, refugees received support at the refugee camps of Za'atari and Azraq as well as in the capital Amman. There was greater emphasis than in previous years on entrepreneurship training, which was also offered to vulnerable Jordanians. In this way, the work was intended to prevent conflicts between refugees and local people in a difficult economic situation. We promoted sustainable livelihood opportunities by helping people find jobs, collaborating with businesses and by fostering the establishment of small businesses.

Young people were offered classes in English, IT skills and craft workshops. Young people were also offered psychosocial support through sport and leisure activities, such as circus and football.

The activities have enabled young girls to take their place in public spaces and to challenge oppressive gender stereotypes. Through these activities, the community has begun to see the girls as individuals with dreams and aspirations beyond the home and marriage.

In **SYRIA**, FCA provided children and youth with access to education in cooperation with local partner, International Orthodox Christian Charities. The war has kept many Syrians out

of school. We supported the education of children and youth with remedial lessons, school fees and teacher training.

In addition, FCA took part in the renovation of 9 school buildings. In the projects, roughly 200 Syrians were offered cash for work in various jobs, including repairing schools and hospitals. We provided food assistance to 10,980 people in the Aleppo area.

In **ISRAEL** and the **OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES**, we provided Israeli youth with human rights training and Palestinians with agricultural projects.

A total of 550 Israeli youth took part in the human rights training organised for future

military recruits by Rabbis for Human Rights.

In Palestine, FCA furthered the livelihoods of families through agriculture and entrepreneurship training as well as with the help of village savings and loan groups. For example, 378 women took part in the agricultural and business courses. The women who took part in the savings and loan groups assisted the most vulnerable families in the villages by offering food and clothing as well as obtaining heaters for schools, thus enabling students to study in warm facilities.

In East Jerusalem, using drama and music, FCA offered psychosocial support for the life skills and schooling of children and youth.



Photo: Olli Pitkanen



FUNDING OF THE MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL PROGRAMME

Ministry for Foreign Affairs	0.5 M€
International funding	0.5 M€
Parishes	0.6 M€
Private and corporate donations	1.3 M€
Disaster relief fund	0.3 M€

Total 3.2 M€

In the village of Kufor Lqef in the Palestinian Territories, members of the cooperative pack the thyme mixture into packages for sale. Photo: Tatu Blomqvist

PROGRAMME AREAS



Photo: Tatu Blomqvist

” I was unemployed until I heard about the women's savings group. I started cultivating thyme 10 years ago, and I have succeeded in growing my crop to roughly half a hectare with the help of saving. The other women in our group have also been able to save, for example, for their children's schooling. I think all women should be able to go to work instead of staying at home.

Andaleeb Eid
the Palestinian Territories



HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

FCA REPAIRED SCHOOLS AND OFFERED LOCAL PEOPLE WORK IN SYRIA

Although Syria saw its seventh year of conflict, in some areas of the country children have already been able to return to school. Nonetheless, after years of warfare, most schools and other public buildings have either been destroyed in battles or have fallen into extreme disrepair due to lack of maintenance. The country has over six million internally displaced persons.

In 2017, Finn Church Aid, in collaboration with its partners, restored public facilities, such as schools, a care home for the elderly, a hospital and a playground in Syria.

The war has left four out of five Syrians living in poverty, making the opportunity to earn a living extremely urgent. The restoration projects employed a total of 292 vulnerable people through cash for work activities.

For example, in Aleppo, with FCA's support, four floors of the Al Basel hospital were restored. The project employed 19 people from Aleppo. The hospital provides free health care services to roughly 150,000 patients a year.

In addition, in Aleppo and the rural areas of Damascus, 80 women in vulnerable situations took part in projects in which woollen garments were prepared to distribute to the vulnerable children of the villages.

HOPE AND MOTIVATION

Even though children's access to schooling has improved in recent years, 1.7 million school-age Syrian children, that is, 43 per cent, are still not attending school.

With the support of FCA, nine schools in Syria have been restored; walls have been patched and repaired, classrooms painted, and desks fixed. Washrooms and water stations have also been repaired or rebuilt. The accessibility of the schools for disabled children and youth were taken into consideration during the renovation work.

In addition, FCA offered remedial instruction to 360 pupils who had been out of school for years; FCA also made it possible for 110 children and youth to attend school by providing support in school fees.

The renovation of the schools has meant a great deal to the communities. Absences have gone down and fewer children and youth leave school than before. Teachers are more motivated than ever.

School offers children and youth not only a sense of security but also hope for a normal life.

New paint, functioning toilets and hand-washing stations attracted children back to Atallah Sukkariya School in central Syria.
Photo: Olli Pitkänen



Greek youth and young refugees not only learn new things about coding, but they also find out about each other's cultures.
Photo: Sokrates Baltagiannis

POPULAR CODING WORKSHOPS BRING GREEK AND REFUGEE YOUTH TOGETHER

Many of the young refugees who have arrived in Greece had no opportunity to continue their schooling while fleeing their homelands. Others had already left school due to war or poverty. To help these refugees, Finn Church Aid initiated its operations in Greece in the summer of 2016. During 2017, a total of 4,896 children and youth took part in FCA's projects in Greece.

At the beginning of the year, FCA started to focus on helping to get children and youth back into school. Many children had been out of school for an average of two years, many for even longer. In the daytime activities organised by FCA and its partner organisations, children and youth were given language instruction in their native tongue and help with homework.

Since the end of the year, FCA's work centred on youth and we organized Code+Create

workshops for youth between the ages of 15 and 24. The young people involved were either Greek or had arrived in Greece as refugees. The purpose of the coding workshops is to facilitate the employment of young people and to increase dialogue between people of different backgrounds in Greece.

"Young people are excited about learning new skills. The workshops evolved into genuine meeting places, allowing many Greek and refugee youth to meet for the first time, and even find new friends," says **Antti Toivanen**, who was working as Greece Country Director in 2017.

The aim of the workshops was to reach youth, especially those with few opportunities, and help them gain skills that they would find tremendously useful in life and in succeeding in working life. Participants did not need to have any prior experience in programming,

only basic English skills and an enthusiastic attitude.

"It's a good idea to have people from different backgrounds in the groups. This way we can learn about new cultures," says Michalis, a 15-year-old Greek youth who has taken part in the workshop.

In the workshop he made some friends, including Said, an 18-year-old from Afghanistan. Said arrived in Athens in 2016 with his family, when life in Afghanistan became too dangerous.

"Getting to know Greek people has been hard, because not everyone speaks English. When I heard about this programme, of course I wanted to get involved. I really enjoy studying," says Said.

ASSISTANCE DURING DROUGHT AND FAMINE IN EASTERN AFRICA

An extremely severe drought plagued Eastern Africa in 2017. In Kenya, FCA responded to the situation in collaboration with ACT Alliance by delivering safe drinking water to schools, reaching a total of 15,273 children. In addition, schools were also provided with hand-washing facilities.

In Somalia, roughly 2,700 people benefitted in the Togdheer Region of Somalia when FCA financially supported households in coping with the drought. Wells were repaired with the help of the local communities to ensure the availability of safe drinking water; in the Baidoa District safe drinking water was delivered to over 400 people in emergency response.

After famine was declared in South Sudan, FCA immediately donated 50,000 euros from its Disaster Fund to the World Food Programme. The donation from Finn Church Aid was used to obtain 18,000 kg of nutritious grain-soya blend. The emergency food was delivered by airdrop. The volume guaranteed food intake for 5,040 people for 14 days.

BUILDING SAFE SCHOOLS IN NEPAL

After the devastating earthquakes of 2015 in Nepal, FCA has built safe school facilities to replace those destroyed in the quakes; FCA has also offered psychosocial support to pupils and further training for teachers.

Construction of schools was completed in 2017. The facilities built by FCA enabled 44,000 children to go to school.

Janak Secondary School is situated in Gimdi, in the mountainous central area of Nepal. Finn Church Aid constructed two classroom buildings for the school. Photo: FCA



HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN 2017

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	
Support in education	2 118 083 €
JORDAN	
Support for the Syrian refugees in education and psycho-social support	1 407 906 €
SYRIA	
Emergency aid, support in education and livelihood	444 368 €
MYANMAR	
Support in education	629 983 €
BANGLADESH	
Emergency aid for the refugees from Myanmar	9 675 €
NEPAL	
Support in education	3 745 076 €
SOMALIA	
Support for the returnees and emergency aid to drought-affected communities	647 886 €
KENYA	
Support in education and emergency aid to drought-affected communities	310 064 €
SOUTH SUDAN	
Support in education and emergency aid to drought-affected communities	1 906 995 €
UGANDA	
Support in education, focus on refugee children and youth	4 031 446 €
HAITI	
Emergency aid and reconstruction	454 544 €
GREECE	
Support in education, focus on refugee children and youth	2 406 857 €
SIERRA LEONE	
Emergency aid after floods and landslides	28 245 €
DEVELOPMENT OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RISK REDUCTION IN UGANDA, CAMBODIA, AND NEPAL (EUAV)	161 750 €
SUPPORT TO THE RAPID RESPONSE FUND (ACT Alliance)	70 000 €
HUMANITARIAN ROSTER	14 466 €
SUPPORT TO THE GLOBAL EDUCATION CLUSTER, RAPID RESPONSE TEAM	114 000 €

FOCUS ON REFUGEES IN ADVOCACY

Finn Church Aid and its partners continued to deepen and expand their advocacy work in 2017 on global, national and local levels.

In programme countries, FCA worked on over 140 advocacy initiatives, marking a notable increase in FCA's advocacy work and capacity. As a result, for example, 8,100 children re-enrolled in Kenyan schools, 600 cases of land rights disputes were solved in Cambodia and a declaration between warring communities on peaceful co-existence was signed in Boma State in South Sudan.

FCA's main advocacy focus in Finland and on the global level was on refugee questions.

Together with other Finnish NGOs, FCA organised a civil society event back-to-back with the international Syria donor conference in Helsinki, Finland. The event was successful in providing a place for the civil society repre-

sentatives from the region to express their views and to convey them to the UN main event. The event attracted approximately 250 participants, exceeding the expectations of the organizers. It was the first time in the sequence of Syria donor conferences that a civil society event was organised and since that, the conferences have included a civil society day.

FCA increased decision-makers' understanding on the realities of FCA's beneficiaries and the global refugee situation by hosting two groups of Finnish political party representatives, the Finnish Minister for Foreign Trade and Development and a delegation from Finnish Parishes to Jordan. FCA also hosted the Ugandan Refugee Commissioner's visit to Finland.

FCA co-organised a study visit for the Finnish Minister of Employment to the US to learn about the best practices for integrating refu-

gees and migrants, boosting their employment and preventing violent extremism, and to see if the same practices could be applied in Finland.

In collaboration with other Finnish NGOs, FCA campaigned actively to increase Finland's refugee quota. As a result, the Minister of Interior agreed to increase the quota but did not manage to get the whole government behind the proposal.

In addition, during 2017, FCA organised two side events, one on "Promoting the Right to Quality Education in Eritrea through Partnerships" during the UN Human Rights Council session and another on "Missing middle in investments" during the World Bank Spring meeting.

FCA participated in the follow-up work of the UPR (Universal Periodic Review) recommendations concerning Uganda, South-Sudan and Myanmar, and took part in an advocacy event in connection with adoption sessions of the UPR reports on South Sudan and Uganda in Geneva and its related events in the programme countries.

FCA provided over 40 written statements, participated in several hearings, spoke in numerous seminars and conferences, and was interviewed by the media on its key advocacy messages.

The chance to return to school and to continue their education without prolonged disruptions is essential to the future of children who have been forced to flee their countries as refugees. FCA and the European Union are replacing temporary tent schools with more permanent school facilities. Photo: Tatu Blomqvist



70 YEARS OF COURAGEOUS ACTION

Finn Church Aid was founded 70 years ago to channel aid from churches in the United States, Germany and Sweden for war-torn Finland. After the years of reconstruction, FCA evolved from being a recipient of aid into a provider of aid.

In the past ten years, FCA has become the largest development cooperation organisation in Finland and the second largest provider of humanitarian aid.

FCA's staff has increased from about 40 to almost 400. FCA decided to specialize in peace work, education and livelihood. We started establishing our own field offices, out of which we carried out our own projects. Thanks to the change, we have the capacity to help even more people.

Another crucial decision has been to boldly go where others do not want to or cannot go.

Courage is crucial to FCA's way of working. In fact, it's even a requirement when it comes to working in the world's most dangerous places. Courage also means standing up for our values and defending those who most need our help, especially when times are tough.

For example, FCA currently has operations in three of the most fragile countries in the world: South Sudan, Somalia and the Central African Republic.

In addition to long-term development cooperation, FCA has become a swift provider of humanitarian assistance in catastrophes and conflicts.

The great majority of employees work in the countries of operation. FCA also works closely with local organisations and authorities. The majority of FCA employees are local.

"Their local knowledge is valuable to us. At the same time, our projects are better rooted into local communities and the know-how stays there," says Head of Humanitarian Assistance **Eija Alajarva**.

The anniversary year culminated in the #courage2017 seminar held in Helsinki on 27 September. Seminar guests included representatives from FCA's Finnish and international partners, the Finnish government, the Finnish church, other civil society organisations, the media and parishes. Among the speakers were Finnish Prime Minister Juha Sipilä, Archbishop of Finland Kari Mäkinen and the UN Under-Secretary General and Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide Adama Dieng. Photo: Tatu Blomqvist



PARTNERS AND COOPERATION NETWORKS

Finn Church Aid carries out the fundamental diaconal task of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland in cooperation with international, local civil society and Finnish partners.

International partners and networks

Finn Church Aid is a founding member and one of the main stakeholders of 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 with 147 operators in over 100 countries. Its combined annual budget for relief work, humanitarian aid and advocacy is 1.5 billion euros. Membership in ACT Alliance is of great value to FCA. In 2017, FCA collaborated with ACT in providing humanitarian assistance in 10 countries; we also took part in ACT's advocacy work.

In addition, FCA is a member of ACT Alliance EU. Its main objective is to influence institutions of the European Union in decision-making processes that affect developing countries, to advance the cause of justice and peace, and to eradicate poverty.

In 2017, FCA facilitated the long-term development programmes of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in five different countries. The LWF is also a significant partner of FCA in humanitarian aid, especially in connection with reviewing the human rights situations of programme countries through the UN Human Rights Council's UPR processes.

We are one of the specialised cooperation organisations in the World Council of Churches. Together we support programmes that promote peace, facilitate interfaith dialogue and support human rights.

FCA serves as the Secretariat for the International Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers.

We cooperate with numerous UN organisations, especially in the areas of education and peace work. These organisations include the Children's Fund UNICEF, the development programme UNDP, UN Women, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees UNHCR, the Mediation Support Unit MSU of the UN's political unit, the International Organisation for Migration IOM, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs OCHA, the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural organization UNESCO and the World food programme WFP. We have a consultative status in the UN Economic and Social Council ECOSOC.

We have a framework agreement with ECHO, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Department. We are also a member of VOICE (Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies), a network of European organisations that provide humanitarian aid.

In 2017, FCA joined the International Partnership on Religion and Sustainable Development. FCA is also a member of the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE) Steering Group, the UN's Global Education Cluster, the UNESCO Teacher Task Force and the EU's Radicalisation Awareness Network; FCA is also a member of the working group in the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe OSCE.

Our partners also include Education Cannot Wait, a global fund dedicated to education in

emergencies, as well many countries' departments of international development, such as Great Britain's FCO, Switzerland's SEM and the US State Department.

Finn Church Aid has a growing number of local, bilateral partners: churches, church organisations and other religious organisations, and other civil society operators. These partners are experts in their own environments and they play a significant role in our efforts to achieve sustainable results.

Domestic partners and networks

Finn Church Aid works closely with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland's 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 in Finland.

In Finland, Finn Church Aid is a member of the Service Centre of Development Cooperation Kepa, the umbrella organization for Finnish civil society organisations; and Kehys, the national platform within CONCORD, the European NGO confederation for relief and development organisations. We are also a member of the Human Rights Advisory Board (IONK), the Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights (KIOS), the Finnish Refugee Advice Centre and Maalima.net, a Finnish news service on sustainable development, climate change and human rights. We are also a member of Wider Security Network (WISE), FinnWatch, the Finnish Somalia Network and Fairtrade Finland.

FCA is also a member of National Action Plan for the Prevention of Violent Radicalisation and Extremism, the TRUST steering group of the Ministry of Justice and the Green Party's development policy working group.

We are 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 is made up 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.



Finn Church Aid Board of Directors. From the left: Olli-Pekka Silfverhuth, Marjaana Jauhola, Reetta Meriläinen, Jouni Hemberg (Secretary), Tarja Kantola (Chair), Sixten Ekstrand, Tapio Luoma (Vice Chair), Juhani Lavanko, Ritva Ohmeroluoma, Tuomas Aho, Riikka Hietanen, Marja Jørgensen (member of the management group) and Tomi Järvinen (member of the management group). Missing from the photo are members of the Board of Directors, Anna-Kaisa Ikonen, Aila Paloniemi, and expert members, Mari-Anna Auvinen, Kalle Kuusimäki, Risto Jukko and Riina Nguyen. Photo: Tatu Blomqvist

FCA is one of the partners of the Red Nose Campaign in Finland.

Omnia Education Partnerships Ltd. (OEP), an education export company founded by Finn Church Aid, the Savo Consortium for Education, Omnia and the Finnish Institute for Enterprise Management, continued its operations in 2017. Toward the end of the year, training was organised for 20 instructors in Uganda. Within the framework of the first project, the first group of refugees graduated from the Finnish Further Qualification in Entrepreneurship.

Administration

Finn Church Aid is governed by a Board of Directors, appointed by the Plenary Session of the Church Council. The Board consists of the Chair and 10-13 other members. The Board of Directors elects a Work Committee and an Audit Committee from its members. The Board of Directors convened six times in 2017. In addition, the Work Committee held eight email-meetings and convened once.

FCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017

Chair: **Tarja Kantola**, International Adviser
Vice-Chair: **Tapio Luoma**, Bishop

MEMBERS

Tuomas Aho, Attorney
Sixten Ekstrand, Director
Pekka Haavisto, Member of Parliament
Katri Korolainen, General Secretary (until spring meeting 2017)
Kimmo Kääriäinen, Ecclesiastical Counsellor (until spring meeting 2017)
Ilkka Mattila, Director (until spring meeting 2017)
Reetta Meriläinen, Journalist
Ritva Ohmeroluoma, MBA
Olli-Pekka Silfverhuth, Vicar
Helena Tuominen, Diocesan Secretary (until spring meeting 2017)
Kent Wilska, Commercial Counsellor (until spring meeting 2017)
Secretary: **Jouni Hemberg**, Executive Director

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017-2020

On 21 March 2017, the Plenary Session of the Church Council appointed a new Board for Finn Church Aid for a period of three years, until the spring meeting 2020.

Chair: Tarja Kantola, International Adviser

NEW MEMBERS

Anna-Kaisa Ikonen, Mayor of Tampere
Marjaana Jauhola, Docent in Development Studies, Academy of Finland Research Fellow
Juhani Lavanko, Vicar
Aila Paloniemi, Member of Parliament

Riikka Piri (Hietanen), Bachelor of Theology and **Mark Saba**, Reverend, International Ministry & Mission

The following persons ended their term: Katri Korolainen, Kimmo Kääriäinen, Ilkka Mattila, Helena Tuominen and Kent Wilska. Other members continued in the Board.

EXPERT MEMBERS INVITED BY THE BOARD 2017

Mari-Anna Pöntinen (Auvinen), Secretary General of the Finnish Ecumenical Council
Risto Jukko, Director, Office for Global Mission, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland
Kalle Kuusimäki, Director of Diaconia, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland
Riina Nguyen, Executive Director, Orthodox Church Aid and Missions Filantropia

THE WORK COMMITTEE UNTIL SPRING MEETING 2017

The Work Committee was chaired by Tarja Kantola, with Helena Tuominen, Kent Wilska (until 3 October) and Tapio Luoma as members, and Jouni Hemberg as secretary.

At its inaugural meeting in May, the Board appointed a new Work Committee for the period 2017-2019: Tarja Kantola was elected as Chair, Tapio Luoma and Marjaana Jauhola as members.

AUDIT COMMITTEE UNTIL SPRING MEETING 2017

Chair Ritva Ohmeroluoma, members Tuomas Aho and Katri Korolainen.

At its inaugural meeting in May, the Board appointed a new Audit Committee for the period 2017-2019. Ritva Ohmeroluoma was elected as Chair, Tuomas Aho and Olli-Pekka Silfverhuth as members.

REPRESENTATIVE ROLES OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Jouni Hemberg represented Finn Church Aid in the following cooperation organisations: The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland Department of Foreign Affairs; the Red Nose Foundation (Chair), Orthodox Church Aid and Mission Filantropia; the Common Responsibility Campaign; the National Commission on Sustainable Development; the National Board for the Prevention of Violent Radicalisation and Extremism and the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies.

Personnel

Finn Church Aid is a multicultural specialist organization employing about one hundred professionals from a range of disciplines at its office in Helsinki, and over 200 people in programmes around the world.

In 2017, FCA's staff, particularly the number of locally hired personnel, continued to grow. At the end of 2017, FCA employed a total of 355 people, of which 115 worked in Helsinki, were distance working or on secondment, and 240 worked in regional and country offices either as expats (31) or locally hired personnel (209).

The total number of person-years in the organisation was 325.4, of which temporary F2F and telephone fundraisers counted for 4.6 person-years. The median age of staff was 42.6 years. Although Finn Church Aid has nearly the same number of male (51%) and female (49%) employees, there is a clear majority of women in Helsinki, while many of the field offices have a majority of men. FCA expats and personnel stationed in Helsinki had an average of 5.4 years of employment with Finn Church Aid. The majority of locally hired personnel are employed in short-term project assignments.

Approximately 78 per cent of FCA's employees working in Helsinki or stationed abroad have a degree in higher education and 10 per cent have graduated from basic or secondary education. Thirty-one per cent of employees have obtained their degree outside of Finland. A clear majority of those who have completed their degree abroad are employed in FCA's regional offices. The level of education of locally hired personnel varies greatly, depending on position or assignment.

Security

Security and risk management form an integral part of FCA's operations. All staff members are responsible for security. In 2017, we assessed the security training of staff and worked to improve it even more. The training of staff responsible for security in regions is also being developed. The security manager based in Helsinki supports the development of personnel security in difficult conditions and is responsible for safety operations as a whole.

The key security guidelines and country-specific emergency plans were updated in 2017.

In addition, country-specific risk assessments for offices were assessed. The standing regulations and country-specific guidelines that support the abovementioned documents were assessed to complement the general security plans. They are used to improve the security consciousness of the staff and prepare them for timely and appropriate action in emergency situations.

The most comprehensive training packages were the five-day security courses (HEIST, Hostile Environment Individual Safety Training) in Nairobi. The topics were first aid, fire safety, personal safety, risk assessment and driving safety. Now one-third of our entire staff have taken part in HEIST training. Training continues; based on the results, the training will be further developed.

In 2017, there were a few incidents requiring more severe security measures. Thanks to previous experiences, crisis management in these situations was timely and direct.

ACCOUNTABILITY TO THE PEOPLE WE WORK WITH

FCA operates in fragile contexts and emergency settings, often working with the most vulnerable people. Our organisation and all individual staff members have a duty to safeguard people's safety and wellbeing.

FCA is committed to creating and maintaining an environment that prevents staff misconduct and enhances accountability. Starting from recruitment, we emphasise high ethical standards and appropriate attitudes in our staff. We have a policy of zero tolerance of fraud, corruption and abuse of power in all forms, including harassment and sexual abuse. Staff members are personally and

collectively responsible for upholding and promoting the highest ethical standards of behaviour, set out in the FCA Code of Conduct. All staff must sign the Code of Conduct and pass an e-learning course.

FCA introduced a Child Safeguarding Policy in 2017. To uphold people's dignity and safety, FCA has an ethical standard on making and using images, videos and stories of people.

To minimise risks and adverse effects on the people and communities we work with, risk analyses are carried out regularly in all programmes. In the case that people feel that

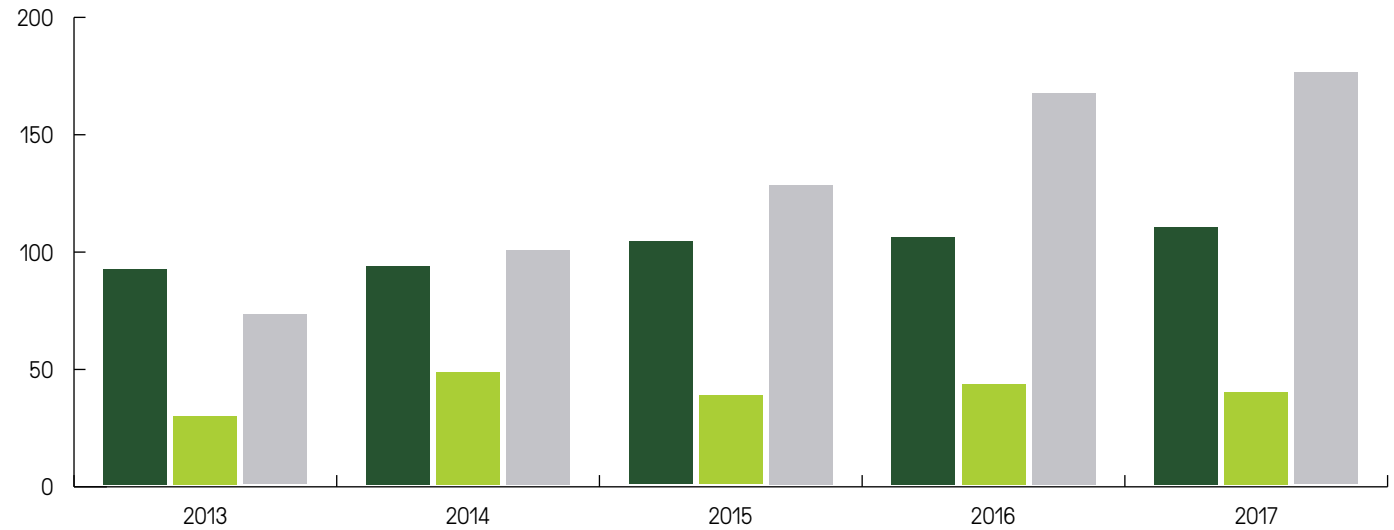
FCA or FCA staff has affected them negatively, they can express their dissatisfaction through a complaints mechanism. FCA investigates all suspicions of misconduct; disciplinary action against staff members will follow when necessary.

As the first Finnish member, FCA was certified against the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS) in 2017. Our performance is audited annually by external auditors.



PERSON-YEARS AT FINN CHURCH AID 2013-2017

- Finland
- Stationed personnel
- Locally hired personnel



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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

Finn Church Aid is:

- A Green Office certified by WWF since 2009.
- 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.



Changemaker

The main training events of Changemaker were two training weekends on development issues, two training sessions on advocacy and three on journalism. Changemaker made 19 visits to schools and parishes, reaching about 1,200 youth. Furthermore, Changemaker produced new peace-themed global education material for volunteers, teachers and youth workers. The network's greater visibility thanks to training courses and presence in church youth events increased membership by 225.

Changemaker's advocacy efforts focused on the Finnish refugee and asylum seeker policy. From May onwards, Changemaker campaigned to stop deportations to Iraq and Afghanistan. The campaign was promoted in four events during the summer and via social media. In October, a petition with 1,985 signatures was handed over to the Minister of the Interior Paula Risikko.

2017 was also the second and final year of Changemaker's project "In My Own Words", a collaborative effort involving young asylum seekers in Finland. The project organised a series of 18 video workshops in 10 cities. These workshops not only gave the youths a chance to express themselves but also supported their social integration into Finnish society. The videos produced during the project were shown in 33 public screening events around Finland and 21 videos were published online. All the screenings and online versions attracted a large audience and the project also gained wide visibility in the media, even getting evening news coverage by two of the main broadcasting companies in Finland.

The Changemaker weekend in Kuopio in October and other training events attracted many new members to Changemaker. Photo: Jonas Biström



EAPPI

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 a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on international law and United Nations resolutions.

In 2017, FCA deployed 12 Ecumenical Accompaniers to the Occupied Palestinian Territories with support from the MFA. Out of the 21 countries that participate in the EAPPI programme, Finland is one of the largest contributors. FCA also provided direct coordination support to World Council of Churches.

The volunteers are deployed in the West Bank, where they offer protective presence to vulnerable communities and monitor compliance with international humanitarian law and human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Following their deployment period, the volunteers participate in advocacy work mainly in Finland. They advocate for civilian protection and policy change, affirming the respect for human rights and international humanitarian law and urging the international community to actively promote a just peace for both Israelis and Palestinians.

Due to the continued increase in house demolitions in the West Bank, the EAPPI programme put extra effort both in the field and in advocacy work on demolitions.

EAPPI programme continued to improve its visibility and strategic advocacy outputs in social media and regular media, in addition to professional deployment management and monitoring work on the ground.

The main campaign for 2017, *Glimpses of Hope – Life under Occupation*, was arranged in November 2017. The 4-day events were arranged in Helsinki, Turku and Tampere with the main speakers from the Israeli-Palestine NGO *Combatants for Peace*. The Facebook-campaign linked to the events reached a total of 14,981 viewers.

EAPPI volunteers accompany children to school in East Jerusalem. The programme offers protective presence, for example, to children, so that they can make it safely to school. Photo: Jarmo Korhonen



VOLUNTEER NETWORKS

Women's Bank Volunteers are applauded for arranging a successful 10-year anniversary celebration. Photo: Maria Miklas

Women's Bank

2017 was a milestone year for the Women's Bank. After ten years of operations, Women's Bank has raised 12 million euros in funds, offering support to tens of thousands of women and their families. The volunteer network extends across 40 localities in Finland with over 3,000 volunteers.

The decade of operations was celebrated in May in Helsinki. The event was sold out with 300 Women's Bank supporters, volunteers and partners present. Other highlights of the celebratory year included a fundraiser for Women's Bank arranged by retiring Bishop Irja Askola and the yarn campaign jointly carried out with Novita Ltd. In addition to the nationwide events, volunteers organised hundreds of events around the country.

The nationwide Women's Bank Walk to show support for women's employment took place for the eighth year in a row. The walk was organized by volunteers from 70 localities and over 89,000 euros in funds were raised. The largest charity golf tour, Women's Bank Open, a tour of 26 golf clubs, raised over 33,000 euros. The 2017 Women's Bank Read book tour, superbly hosted by the author Rosa Liksom, raised 10,000 euros.

During the anniversary year, Women's Bank raised more funds than ever before – a record amount of 1.7 million euros.

In 2017, the Women's Bank supported the livelihoods and entrepreneurial efforts of 16,000 women in six developing countries: Liberia, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Nepal, Myanmar and Cambodia. The project expenditure was roughly one million euros, of which the share of administrative costs was 16.7 per cent.

Teachers without Borders

Teachers without Borders (TwB) is a network for teachers and educational professionals. The Network has an active role in awareness raising and developing Global Citizenship Education in Finland. TwB provides teachers in Finland with opportunities to use and develop their competencies by working abroad, supporting the capacities of local teachers and education sector development in developing countries and fragile contexts.

TwB network sent 21 long-term and 7 short-term volunteer teachers abroad to support FCA education projects in Eritrea, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal, Greece and Uganda. TwB network plays an important role in FCA's Right to Quality Education theme.

In 2017, TwB had a total of 1,800 members. Evaluation of the piloting phase of TwB work 2014–2017 from the start until today was carried out. The evaluation strongly recommended that the work with Finnish teacher volunteers should continue and to include it even more in FCA's strategic plans.

The theme of Global Citizenship Education focused on refugee situations and their root causes. TwB network participated in a Global Citizenship Education project that promoted active citizenship skills and offered new ways to implement the new National curriculum for education in primary and secondary education in Finland.

Pyramid erected during the World Teacher Programme in Ghana. 10 short-term volunteers from Finland participated in the programme, organised in partnership with a Dutch NGO Edukans. Photo: Elina Pohjonen

The Finnish Language Says Welcome language guide project under the aegis of TwB continued supporting asylum seekers to cope with everyday communication, increased their participation and supported their motivation and mental health in the process of asylum seeking. The work is funded by Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund AMIF.

In 2017, the project offered 15 trainings for 167 participants in a special language teaching method called *Toisto* (Finnish for 'repetition'), which emphasizes the significance of listening and repeating at the early stages of language learning. The project also developed new language teaching materials and supported different group activities for asylum seekers. The amount of participation in the language groups for asylum seekers was 3748 and altogether 88 volunteers were involved in the project.



STRONG ECONOMIC GROWTH

2017 did not start on a promising note: The previous year saw a cut in government funding from 15.5 million euros to 8.3 million. The situation took a turn for the better thanks to other financial sources. Cooperation with international donors remained fruitful and funding revenues exceeded the budget. Donations from private and corporate donors exceeded the budget by €3.2 million, or 34 per cent. The most significant was a major donation of €2.0 million.

The surplus for 2017 was 45,031 euros, and equity at the end of the year was €13.0 million. Of this, a total of €7.9 million were targeted donations for development cooperation and disaster and reconstruction work and Women's Bank. Current receivables totalled €2.9 million. Current liabilities were €6.8 million, of which €3.4 million were advance payments from various donors

REVENUE

Total revenue for the financial period was €44.3 million, which represents a 29 per cent increase from the previous year. Revenue from fundraising activities was €41.8 million.

EXPENSES

In 2017, Finn Church Aid spent €44.2 million on international aid and domestic operations. Operational expenses grew by 28 per cent from the previous year. Expenses for aid activities totalled €38.6 million, including €3.4 million for the planning and monitoring of programmes. Expenses for support functions for aid activities, general administration and fundraising were €5.7 million.

INTERNAL AUDITING IMPROVES
OPERATIONAL RELIABILITY

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 the organisation's monitoring, management and administrative processes as well as evaluating and improving the effectiveness of risk management.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The changes in the global development architecture will have a significant impact on the operations of Finn Church Aid in the coming years. The organisation must continue to develop new forms of operating and seek out new financing sources to realise its mission, vision and operational goals. For example, the prioritization of private sector funding in certain countries must be continued and expanded.

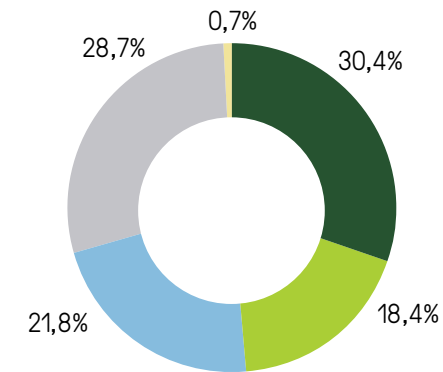
The implementation of the new strategy approved in 2016 was started in 2017. In addition to traditional aid, vocational training, job creation and improvement of livelihoods are strongly emerging as key areas in the work of FCA.

Through its operations, FCA must be able to demonstrate its clear added value and its experience of operating in difficult conditions. Partnerships with international actors, such as UN organisations, sister organisations of ACT Alliance and other non-governmental organisations will continue.



OUR HEARTFELT
THANKS TO ALL
OUR SUPPORTERS!

FUNDRAISING INCOME 2017

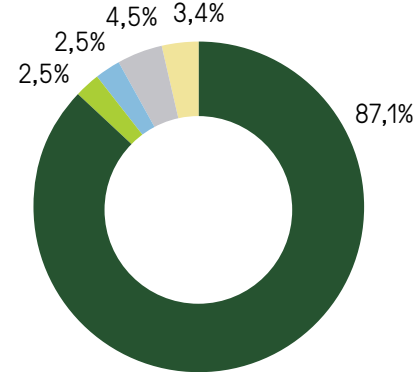


Private and corporate donations	12.7 M€
Parishes	7.7 M€
Government funding	9.1 M€
International funding	12.0 M€
Other income	0.3 M€

Total41.8 M€

Part of the income will be carried forward to next year.

PROGRAMME WORK AND
SUPPORT FUNCTIONS 2017

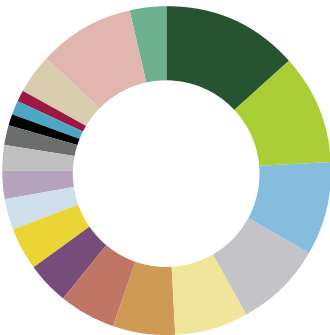


Programme work	38.6 M€
Communications	1.1 M€
Resource mobilisation	1.1 M€
Fundraising	2 M€
Administration	1.5 M€

Total44.2 M€

Programme work includes the costs of planning, monitoring and development.

EXPENDITURE 2017



Uganda	6.0 M€
Nepal	4.8 M€
Global programmes	4.0 M€
Somalia	3.8 M€
South Sudan	3.3 M€
Central African Republic	2.7 M€
Greece	2.4 M€
Jordan	1.9 M€
Kenya	1.8 M€
Myanmar	1.4 M€
Cambodia	1.2 M€
Liberia	1.1 M€
Eritrea	0.8 M€
Sierra Leone	0.6 M€
Haiti	0.6 M€
Syria	0.5 M€
Other	1.7 M€
Fundraising, communications and resource mobilisation	4.2 M€
Administration	1.5 M€

Total44.2 M€

Domestic work includes the costs of fundraising, communications, and resource mobilisation. Administration includes the costs of the director's office, finance and general expenses.

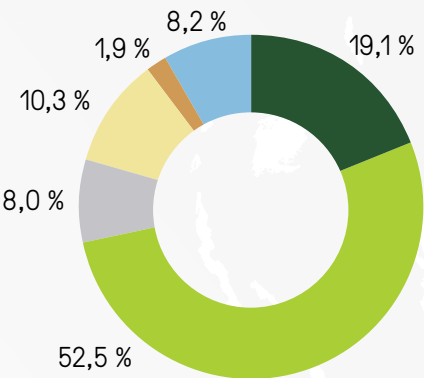
FINN CHURCH AID

PROGRAMME AREAS 2017

PROGRAMME AREAS	€	%
Africa	20 258 000	52.5
Asia	7 360 000	19.1
Europe	3 070 000	8.0
Global Programmes	3 985 000	10.3
Latin America and the Caribbean	720 000	1.9
Middle East	3 161 000	8.2
Total	38 554 000	

PROGRAMME AREAS

Africa	20.258,000 €
Asia	7.360,000 €
Europe	3.070,000 €
Global Programmes	3.985,000 €
Latin America and the Caribbean ...	720,000 €
Middle East	3.161,000 €



AFRICA	€
Eritrea	761 000
South Sudan	3 303 000
Kenya	1 812 000
Central African Republic	2 736 000
Liberia	1 139 000
Sierra Leone	640 000
Somalia	3 762 000
Uganda	6 015 000
Democratic Republic of the Congo	3 000
Africa Regional	87 000
Africa Total	20 258 000

ASIA	€
Bangladesh	8 000
Cambodia	1 153 000
Myanmar	1 435 000
Nepal	4 764 000
Asia Total	7 360 000

EUROPE	€
Greece	2 437 000
International work in Finland	400 000
Europe Regional	233 000
Europe Total	3 070 000

GLOBAL PROGRAMMES	€
Global Programmes	3 985 000

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	€
Haiti	578 000
Latin America and the Caribbean Regional	142 000
Latin America and the Caribbean Total	720 000

MIDDLE EAST	€
Israel	166 000
Jordan	1 859 000
Syria	488 000
Palestinian Territories	409 000
Middle East Regional	239 000
Middle East Total	3 161 000

Total	38 554 000
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PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT K€

INCOME FROM OPERATIONS

		GROUP	GROUP	PARENT	PARENT
		1.1. - 31.12.2017	1.1. - 31.12.2016	1.1. - 31.12.2017	1.1. - 31.12.2016
Income	AID ACTIVITIES				
	From the government	9 183	8 526	9 183	8 526
	From parishes	3 874	7 503	3 874	7 503
	From international funding sources	14 322	6 753	13 489	4 609
	Other income	51	64	40	53
		27 430	22 847	26 585	20 692
Expenses	Direct aid	-18 688	-13 806	-21 800	-14 594
	Personnel	-9 089	-8 161	-7 594	-6 710
	Other expenses	-10 776	-7 179	-8 314	-5 688
		-38 553	-29 146	-37 708	-26 992
Deficit		-11 123	-6 300	-11 123	-6 300

SUPPORT FUNCTIONS FOR AID ACTIVITIES
COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS

Income		280	190	280	190
Expenses	Personnel	-1 143	-977	-1 143	-977
	Other expenses	-1 064	-704	-1 064	-704
		-2 207	-1 682	-2 207	-1 682
Deficit		-1 927	-1 492	-1 927	-1 492

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Income		47	43	47	43
Expenses	Personnel	-1 843	-1 224	-1 843	-1 224
	Other expenses	-1 893	-1 675	-1 893	-1 675
	Appropriation to sectors	2 261	1 890	2 261	1 890
		-1 475	-1 010	-1 475	-1 010
Deficit		-1 428	-967	-1 428	-967
Deficit from operations		-14 478	-8 759	-14 478	-8 759

FUNDRAISING

Income	Donations from private persons	11 879	9 256	11 879	9 256
	Donations from companies and organisations	803	784	803	769
	Donations from parishes	2 786	0	2 786	0
	Income to be transferred	484	7 610	484	7 610
	Other income	63	5	63	5
		16 015	17 654	16 015	17 640
Expenses		-1 994	-2 839	-1 994	-2 824
Surplus		14 020	14 816	14 020	14 816

INVESTMENTS AND FUNDING OPERATIONS

Share of profit in partly owned companies		40	0	0	0
Income		4	7	4	7
Expenses		-1	-1	-1	-1
Surplus		43	6	3	6
Surplus/Deficit		-414	6 063	-454	6 063

SUBSIDIES

Subsidy from the Church Council		969	956	969	956
Profit/loss before fund transfers		555	7 020	515	7 020

FUND TRANSFERS

Donation Fund		-1 010	-3 127	-1 010	-3 127
Disaster Fund		993	-2 513	993	-2 513
Women's Bank Fund		-493	-1 667	-493	-1 667
Aid Fund		0	0	0	0
		-510	-7 306	-510	-7 306

SURPLUS/DEFICIT FOR CURRENT PERIOD		45	-286	5	-286
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BALANCE SHEET K€

ASSETS

		GROUP	GROUP	PARENT	PARENT
		31.12.2017	31.12.2016	31.12.2017	31.12.2016
NON-CURRENT ASSETS					
Intangible assets	IT Software	0	0	0	0
Tangible assets	Machinery and equipment	120	152	120	152
Investments	Shares and other interests	93	3	53	3
	Other receivables	6 305	7 153	6 305	7 153
Total investments		6 398	7 156	6 358	7 156
CURRENT ASSETS					
Receivables					
Current	Prepayments for projects	614	1 459	952	1 987
	Receivables carried forward	1 667	1 276	1 631	1 208
	Other receivables	585	1 224	560	1 173
Total current receivables		2 867	3 960	3 143	4 367
Cash in hand and at banks		10 438	11 483	9 635	9 339
TOTAL ASSETS		19 822	22 751	19 255	21 014

EQUITY AND LIABILITIES

EQUITY

Subscribed capital		34	34	34	34
Other funds allocated to specific activities					
	Donation Fund	4 137	3 127	4 137	3 127
	Disaster funds	1 520	2 513	1 520	2 513
	Women's Bank	2 159	1 667	2 159	1 667
	Aid Fund 1985	118	117	118	117
	Surplus from previous periods	5 007	5 293	5 007	5 293
	Surplus/Deficit for current period	45	-286	5	-286
Total equity		13 018	12 464	12 979	12 464

LIABILITIES

Current	Prepayments received	3 404	7 727	3 207	6 421
	Accounts payable	585	406	439	344
	Other debts	1 028	456	1 013	455
	Accrued liabilities	1 786	1 698	1 618	1 331
Total liabilities		6 804	10 287	6 276	8 551

TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		19 822	22 751	19 255	21 014
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**EDUCATION
CANNOT
WAIT**
a fund for education
in emergencies



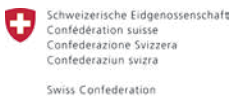
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