

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



Finn Church Aid

Hope lifts up societies

2019 WAS A VERY POSITIVE year for the progress and operations of Finn Church Aid. It showed that the three themes that are at the very heart of Finn Church Aid’s work, namely Right to Quality Education, Right to Livelihoods and Right to Peace, continue to be essential given the current situation of the world. One might even say that their significance is just growing.

Education, livelihoods and peace form the pillars that together hold up entire societies. When people have an education, they have the possibility of ensuring their livelihoods. People with livelihoods in turn have hope. This is why both education and livelihoods affect peace within societies. Peace is also the prerequisite for both education and livelihoods.

The importance of these three essential elements has been realised in our programme countries, and it is a joy to see how those countries wish to develop the quality of their educational systems. Some examples of the success of Finn Church Aid in 2019 include the nationwide introduction of vocational education curricula in South Sudan and the better integration of career counselling into the educational systems of Cambodia and Myanmar.

The micro-enterprise projects of the Women’s Bank and the growing focus of our vocational education programmes on entrepreneurship training created secure livelihoods for thousands of families and new, young entrepreneurs. Supporting young entrepreneurs is particularly vital in the developing countries of Africa and Asia, where the number of job opportunities has failed to meet the employment demand of an ever-growing population. As said, livelihoods create hope. What parent would wish for anything other than to be able to independently provide for their family?

The creation of livelihood opportunities also requires some new methods of development cooperation. In 2019, we began our investing and lending operations through FCA Investments Ltd. As the name suggests, FCA Investments involves investment activities to strengthen small and medium-sized enterprises in high-risk countries. We also piloted entrepreneurship development in the creative industry as an entirely new area in 2019. The results were very promising, and we believe that entrepreneurship in the creative industry will become a new area of significance in the development of various forms of livelihood opportunities in the future.

In an ever-moving world, it is gratifying to see that the operations of our peace network grew as well and expanded especially in Asia. It is important that the idea of peace is born and brought up within the communities themselves, particularly in places where a diversity of realities co-exists together. Peace involves searching for common ground and common points of view.

All along, Finn Church Aid’s operations in humanitarian situations have increasingly changed toward actions for the benefit of refugees that are carried out in cooperation with the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and countries hosting those refugees. It is crucial for people who have ended up as refugees to have the opportunity to gain a quality education. This endeavour has been at the core of our operations in recent years. For example, approximately 1,800 teachers are already working in various educational programmes as employees recruited by Finn Church Aid in East Africa, in regions that host large numbers of refugees.

In 2019, the confidence of our donors and supporters showed as increased income, of which an increasing share was allocated to the costs of our actual development and humanitarian programmes. Finn Church

Aid is Finland’s largest international aid organisation. At the end of the year, our organisation employed approximately 2,200 people working in several European countries and the USA, in addition to our 14 countries of operation.

Our size on the global scale is in the medium range; however, it is important to keep in mind that the key objective of our operations is not always the number of beneficiaries, but rather the quality and accessibility of our support even under challenging circumstances. Usually, our programme countries are located in war zones or otherwise fragile operating environments. When we speak about the quality of our work, it is of paramount importance to find and engage professional staff.

The world is in a state of constant change, which is one of the most significant challenges in our work. At the time of writing this foreword, a multitude of dark clouds are looming over the world. The Covid-19 pandemic has gripped Finns and other developed countries as well as people in developing countries. Restrictions prevent normal operations and severely impact the economies of the countries involved and thereby the lives of individual people as well.

In light of this, we will have to prepare for global restrictions and challenges in the future. Our strong hope is to strengthen the objectives we have already achieved, but at the same time to enhance the capacity of the communities to survive the impacts of the pandemic. The prospects for this entire decade are very different to what the prospects were for 2019. ✚

Jouni Hemberg
Executive Director



Publisher: Kirkon Ulkomaanapu
Editor in chief: Noora Jussila
Editor: Elisa Rimaila
Layout: Tuukka Rantala
Photo editor: Saara Mansikkamäki
Cover photo: Sumy Sadurni
Printing house: Grano Oy
Helsinki, Kesäkuu 2020



04-05	Climate: A Part of Finn Church Aid’s Work
06-07	Our Work in the World
08-11	Africa: A Continent of Young Entrepreneurs
12-13	Better Opportunities in Asia through Career Counselling
14-15	Life Skills for Refugees in the Middle East: Mothers Support Youth in Communities
16-17	Right to Quality Education
18	Humanitarian Assistance: Everyone Has the Right to Receive Aid
19	Column: Emergency Aid and Development Cooperation Increasingly Linked to Each Other
20-21	Objective: A Just and Resilient World
22	The Focus of Advocacy: Impacting the Lives of the Most Vulnerable People

23	Column: Permanent Change through Advocacy
24-25	Right to Livelihoods
26	FCA Investments: Investments in Livelihoods and Peace
27	Column: Investments Create Sustainable Development
28-29	Right to Peace
30-31	Volunteer Networks: The World Changes When We Change it Together
32	Finn Church Aid Cooperation Partners
34	Ensuring Internal Funding Is Increasingly Important
35-37	Profit and Loss Account
38	Sustainable Results through Responsible Operations
39	Finn Church Aid Board of Directors 2019

CLIMATE: A PART OF FINN CHURCH AID’S WORK

CLIMATE CHANGE and its impacts cannot be ignored in humanitarian operations or development cooperation.

The rapid and uncontrolled advance of climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time. Climate change threatens habitats, peace, people’s livelihoods, and thereby all development around the world. Climate change and its impacts cannot be ignored in humanitarian operations or development cooperation. For these reasons, we have included the discussion on climate change in Finn Church Aid’s work.

While our work continues to focus on quality education, livelihoods and peace, we are not transforming into a climate organisation in the 2020s. Instead, we are going to do something more practical. In 2019, we developed a climate tool that helps us to systematically take climate change and environmental friendliness into account as a part of all our operations, whether in our programme countries or at our head office.

Climate change is often called a threat multiplier that causes, for instance, extreme weather phenomena, increasingly arid dry seasons, heavier monsoon rains, and greater difficulty in predicting the weather. Those suffering the most from the impacts of climate change also have the least possibilities to prepare for extreme weather conditions and natural disasters. This might be due to poverty, or the fact that their livelihoods are related, for instance, to weather-sensitive agriculture.

If climate change is not stopped, it will increasingly impact things like food security, the availability of clean drinking water, living conditions in various geographical areas, migration and sectors that are crucial in creating livelihoods in the world’s poorest countries.

Finn Church Aid’s work has for long paid attention to climate change and its impact. Especially in our Asian and African programme countries, we have carried out projects that seek to improve the level of local preparedness for natural disasters. Through our livelihood programmes, for example, we have been involved in creating sustainable livelihoods for communities that are dependent on farming by supporting education that will increase people’s knowledge about better cultivation methods and crops.

We have already made these efforts from the climate change point of view. Now we are going to take this work further. We are increasingly considering all our work from the perspective of the kind of education and livelihood that will be on a sustainable basis in the future and, for our project work, we are seeking partner organisations that have expertise in climate-friendliness.

Extreme weather phenomena, the problems caused by climate change and instability not only threaten local living conditions and sources of livelihood but also the impact of Finn Church Aid’s work. As an international aid organisation, we measure the success of our effort above all by the change it brings. From this perspective alone, efficient project work requires taking climate into account during all stages of our operations. 🌱

**EFFICIENT PROJECT
WORK REQUIRES TAKING
CLIMATE INTO ACCOUNT**



PROGRAMME AREAS

Examples of our work in 2019.

AFRICA

1 Central African Republic

Our peace work in the Central African Republic reached **14,030** people. In three cities, we started youth peace clubs where young people learn about controlling the spread of rumours, maintaining peace, and civil rights.



Christ-Christopher Vounda, age 20, youth peace club member

3 Uganda



“At first, I had to drop out of school when I got pregnant. Then I fled from South Sudan to Uganda with my mother and sisters. My daughter was born when I was 14, and then I was out of school for many years before I enrolled in the accelerated education programme to catch up. I enjoy school and seeing my friends there. I dream of becoming a nurse.”

Samia, age 18, Bidibidi refugee settlement, Uganda

6 Somalia

Through education, we supported **4,259** children and youth in refugee camps in Baidoa town who fled extreme weather conditions and conflict in their home regions. The support included the salaries of **58** teachers.



“When a woman learns something, the whole of society gains a lesson. Women usually take care of the children, and by educating women, we give children the best possible life. Our learners are in a vulnerable position. As they get an opportunity to gain an education, our country can become equal. I want to give these children and youth the opportunity to influence their own lives.”

Habibo Mohamed Nur, age 23, Baidoa, Somalia

2 South Sudan



“As women, we take care of businesses and homes. We intervene in disputes before they turn into conflicts. Young people listen to us because we are like mothers to them. With the support of FCA, we have learned to act systematically, and violence has decreased. I have found my happiness in the freedom to move and build a life of my own. I hope others will gain the same opportunity.”

Joyce Arkello, age 48, Pilbor, South Sudan

4 Kenya

In drought-ridden Baringo County, we supported the installation of water tanks and pipelines, providing access to water for **27,725** people

5 Eritrea

Our work in Eritrea reached **241** people, **196** of whom are hearing-impaired.

7 Mozambique

During 2019 and early 2020, we granted **462,778** euros from our disaster fund and allocated collection funds to support relief and reconstruction efforts in Sofala province after cyclone Idai.

We provided emergency support immediately after the disaster, and through our education sector programme, **3,169** children were able to continue their education. We constructed four schools and provided children and schools with materials for learning and teaching. Teachers also received training in psychosocial support. The schools were built with local labour, generating an income for the workers in the aftermath of the disaster.

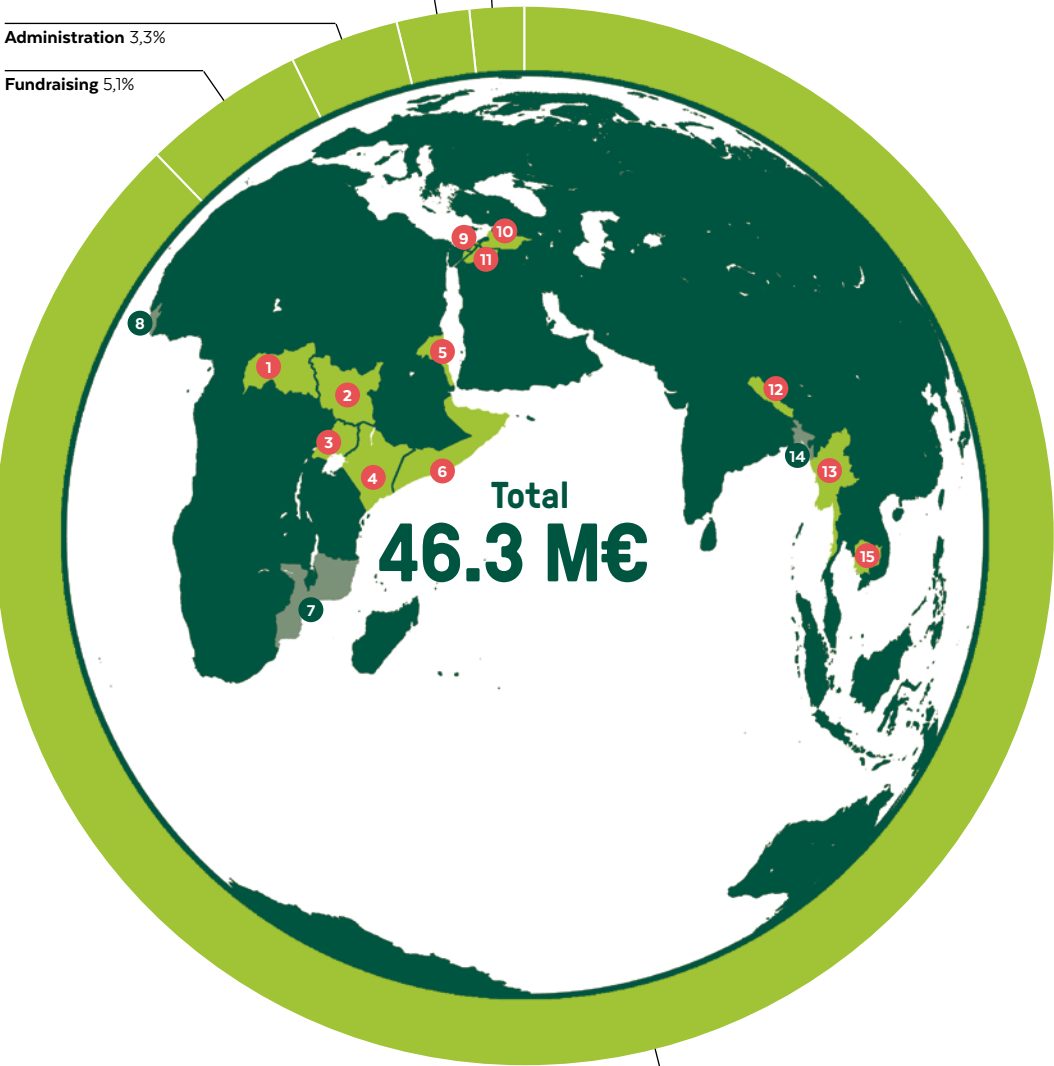
PROGRAMME WORK AND SUPPORT FUNCTIONS 2019

Communications 1,6%

Resource mobilisation 2,2%

Administration 3,3%

Fundraising 5,1%



Total
46.3 M€

Programme work 87,9 %

8 Liberia

In Liberia, we are promoting the rights of prisoners with EU support, together with the local NGO Serving Humanity for Empowerment and Development (SHED).

MIDDLE EAST

9 Israel and the Palestinian territories

In Israel, we supported the arranging of **80** workshops on social activism for the prevention of domestic violence, armed violence, and discrimination.

A total of **58** Palestinian children gained a volunteer mentor and participated in guided activities after school in East Jerusalem.

10 Syria

We provided **16,524** learners with school uniforms and school supplies in Syria. We also supported **403** learners with remedial classes and repaired six school buildings.

At the end of 2019, we granted **100,000** euros from our disaster fund to carry out emergency aid distributions in Al-Hasakah in northeastern Syria.

11 Jordan

Through our support, **995** Syrian refugees in Za'atari and Azraq refugee camps studied vocational skills, such as tailoring, hairdressing, mobile phone maintenance, and agriculture. We also supported the youth participants by linking them to working life.

A total of **288** people participated in our entrepreneurship training sessions.



“In Syria, I had a wonderful childhood among dear people. I was very athletic as a child. I still remember how I played football with my friends. Here at Azraq camp, our family of nine lives in a shelter built out of two shipping containers. I am now in class six and love to learn English. Previously, I did not know how to read English, but participating in English lessons has helped me very much. I would like to become a science teacher when I grow up.”

Seedra Omran Al Shayb, age 12, Azraq refugee camp, Jordan

ASIA

12 Nepal

We provided support for primary and vocational education to **1,900** children and youth from low-income families comprising former bonded labourers, ethnic minorities and Dalits.

We provided emergency aid to **6,156** people affected by disasters in five different regions. A total of **3,193** people affected by floods and landslides received support in the form of cash transfers.

14 Bangladesh

Together with our Danish affiliate, we engaged in programme cooperation focused on education and women among the Rohingya refugees at the Cox's Bazar refugee camp. Through our support, **748** women and girls were taught literacy and numeracy.

13 Myanmar

We distributed humanitarian assistance to **4,347** internally displaced people in Kachin State and northern Shan State.

A total of **2,574** children and youth gained access to education to resume their studies, and **26** teachers received training in career counselling, psychology, and children's rights.

15 Cambodia

A total of **8,497** learners participated in career counselling.



“Like many women in my community, I have experienced domestic violence. We have received support for discussion and conciliation. I am now cautiously optimistic about my marriage.”

Sak Dam, mother of five, Kampong Speu province in Cambodia

Africa: A Continent of Young Entrepreneurs

IN AFRICA, WE WORK particularly to ensure sustainable livelihoods for women and youth. Especially refugees that left their homes due to conflict have often not completed or even begun their education. Basic and vocational education, as well as entrepreneurship training, create security and prospects for the future. They also require stable societies, which is why we engage in long-term peace work in conflict-prone areas.

Uganda

Uganda hosts more refugees than any other country in Africa. FCA supports quality education, the entrepreneurship of women and youth, and the transition from learning to working life for both refugees and Ugandans. Most of the inhabitants of the refugee settlements of northern and southwestern Uganda are women and youth. Refugees co-exist with Ugandans in settlement areas.

In 2019, we supported the business training and career guidance of 1,610 youth. Almost all of the participants completed an internship as part of their training.

Women's Bank savings groups reached 8,394 women who benefited from training sessions and savings, as well as through loans granted by the groups to female entrepreneurs. In Kamwenge, Wakiso and Yumbe, women established 1,038 businesses last year; in Kamwenge alone, the women's groups saved 107,341 euros.

Our education activities impacted 67,997 learners at the primary level and 8,961 at the secondary level. We supported the construction of 49 classrooms in Uganda during the year, and the pupils of those schools were provided with school materials. We also distributed hygiene kits to girls so that menstruation would not interrupt their school attendance.

Teacher training is one of the cornerstones of quality education. A total of 2,605 teachers participated in our training courses in pedagogy, classroom management, and psychosocial support.

Our country programme in Uganda reached a total of 119,095 people last year.

South Sudan

Conflict, as well as extreme floods and drought, have caused displacement, food

In Somalia Finn Church Aid supports women to take an active role in civil society. Habibo Mohamed Nur, 23, works as a teacher in a primary school in Baidoa.



PATRICK WEINHARDT



1.



3.

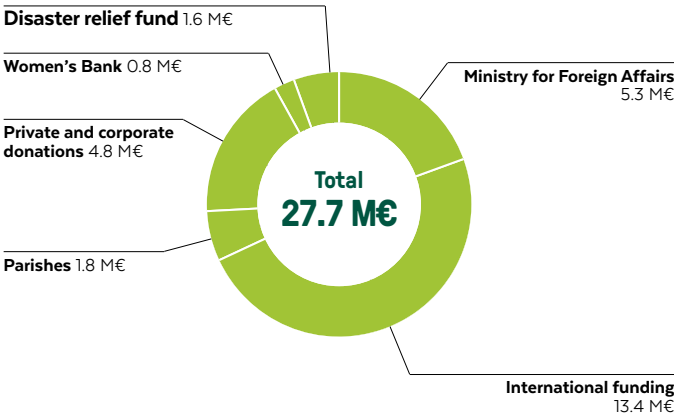


4.



2.

FUNDING



“Before the conflict, we had vast farmlands and enough food. When we fled to Uganda, we had to leave everything and our crops withered. Yei has now calmed down. The cash transfers supported us when we returned to start all over again. My brother, Pascal, completed his agriculture studies with the assistance and we have sowed our fields. We are now planning to open a shop.”

Siblings **Stella**, age 28, and **Pascal**, age 25, Yei, South Sudan

1. Jose Vicente Muzolande, 23, received food aid in Mozambique after hurricane Idai.

2. Chairwoman Adah Tukahirwa (in the middle) observed members of the women's saving group adding their deposits to the savings box in Kamwenge, Uganda.

3. Joyce Arkello Wavu, 48, is a mother of eight and a member of the women's peace group in Pibor, South Sudan.

4. Christ-Christopher Vounda is a member of a youth peace group in the Central African Republic.

scarcity and low school attendance in South Sudan. Without education, it is also difficult to find livelihood opportunities.

Finn Church Aid's work with education reached 40,797 children and youth in various locations. We supported pupils with learning materials and learning spaces. In South Sudan, it is much harder for girls to access school than it is for boys, but in 2019 almost 50 per cent of the learners in schools supported by FCA were girls. Sending children to school was promoted by supporting families with cash transfers, as well as through training in farming and fishing. In conjunction with these sessions, the parents

received livelihoods support, like seeds, water pumps and fishing equipment.

We supported a total of 2,028 farmers in the country, and this has a significant effect on local food production. In addition, 2,325 families in Fangak and Yei received cash transfers that help single mothers, in particular, to support their children's education. Parents can provide children with food and establish businesses, such as food stalls or restaurants that generate an income for the family.

Together with the Ministry of Education in South Sudan, we developed the country's first vocational education curricula, which was adopted in 2019. The programmes that we support trained 490 youth in hairdressing, tailoring or construction, among other trades.

We also supported local communities in leading peace processes. In Boma State, youth groups arranged two sports events around the theme of peace. Dialogues led by women in Gumuruk, Pibor and Lequangue reduced the number of violent incidents in these areas. In previous years, approximately five incidents were reported in Pibor every week, but now the average is one per week.

Somalia

Decades of violence have made Somalia one of the world's most fragile countries. The civil war which began in 1991 collapsed the country's central government, which provided a foothold to extremist groups that has caused further instability.

Finn Church Aid supports the strengthening of state structures in Somalia, as well as the role of women in society.

In cooperation with the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers and 1,104 influencers, we formulated a national framework promoting reconciliation in Somalia. The Council of Ministers ratified the agreement, and it formed an important milestone for the reconciliation efforts in Somalia.

We also supported the founding of a network of women's organisations in South West State. The network promotes a statute to ensure a quota of 30 per cent for female representation in politics and administrative structures. The network comprises 207 women who have completed FCA's advocacy training.

At the end of the year, 5.2 million people in Somalia needed humanitarian assistance due to conflict, internal displacement, floods and drought.

Kenya

Kenya has experienced rapid economic growth in the past decade; however, many people in rural areas continue to live in villages without electricity or running water. Kenya has also suffered from drought and floods in recent years, and scarce natural resources spark regional conflicts between various tribes.

In 2019, a total of 21,909 children and youth attended schools that are supported by Finn Church Aid, located in the regions of Turkana, Marsabit, and Garissa. We also secured the water supply of schools in drought-affected areas with new water tanks and pipelines.

5 828 learners (3,278 girls) participated in an accelerated learning programme where learners catch up with the school years they lost, for instance, due to conflict or child marriage. UGANDA

The number of violent incidents in northern Kenya fell in 2019 in areas where people were supported in finding sustainable livelihoods. For example, in Baringo, one group we worked with started generating an income from processing honey.

Women and youth played a significant role in peacebuilding in the Baringo region, where reconciliation is in process between disputing tribes. We regularly brought together more than 270 former warriors and ten women's discussion circles and supported the arrangement of sports events.

Central African Republic

The Central African Republic is among the poorest and most fragile countries of the world. Prolonged insecurity, political instability and ethnic conflicts have hampered the country's development and have led to the disintegration of essential public services and the structures of society.

In 2019, Finn Church Aid continued its peace work in the Central African Republic, and its support with education and livelihoods. We work in Bangui, the capital city, and in the western part of the country.

The objective of our peace work in the Central African Republic is to rebuild a society divided by conflict and to promote the peaceful co-existence of various populations and religious groups.

Youth peace clubs were founded in Bangui, as well as in Berbérati and Bozoum, located in the western part of the country. The youth received training in civil rights and learned about mitigating conflicts and the spread of rumours as well as maintaining peace. The most crucial objective of this operation is to turn young people into ambassadors of peace in their communities.

We continued our work to secure the access of children and youth to education in the western part of the country. In 2019, we reached 42,622 Central African children and youth, and an additional 396 illiterate women received literacy training.

We also worked to strengthen the activities of parents' associations and the provision of information to parents about the importance of education. During the year, we arranged 22 training sessions involving a total of 14,030 participants.


We promoted the livelihoods of vulnerable women by supporting them in the establishment of small businesses. During 2019, 21 women's groups received agricultural training, as well as seeds and tools. Six women's groups also participated in a training on livestock farming, after which they were supported in purchasing pigs.

Eritrea

Eritrea is a closed country that is one of the youngest and poorest in the world. We worked to improve the education of hearing-impaired children and youth and the quality of the country's teacher training. Our work in Eritrea reached 241 people, 196 of whom are hearing impaired.

We are the only actor in the country to have arranged vocational education for hearing-impaired youth. In 2019, 35 youth completed a training in tailoring at the schools for hearing-impaired located in Asmara and Keren. In addition, 54 primary school pupils, vocational school learners, and teaching staff members participated in entrepreneurship training.

We supported the education of hearing-impaired children by arranging for the delivery of digital learning equipment to schools in Asmara and Keren and for providing training on how to use the equipment. In addition to the learners, 24 teachers participated in the training.

Ethiopia and Eritrea concluded a peace treaty in 2018, but contrary to expectations, the conditions for operations of FCA and other international actors in Eritrea were very limited in 2019. We continue following the situation in the country through our advocacy work. 

Better Opportunities in Asia through Career Counselling

ASA RESULT of Finn Church Aid’s work, career counselling and guidance has become an integral part of the official curriculum of Cambodia. In 2019, career counselling was further developed in Myanmar and Nepal as well. In addition to education, our work in Asia aims to create sustainable livelihoods, especially for women and other marginalised people. Climate change is affecting agriculture in many places. Emergency aid was provided in Myanmar and Nepal during 2019.

Cambodia
Cambodia is severely affected by heat and aridity exacerbated by climate change. As a part of FCA’s work, farmers implemented new farming methods that improved crops. A total of 130 rainwater tanks were acquired for vulnerable households and communities, along with 12 water tanks and a water system for the communities and families.

Providing and developing career counselling is a significant part of our work in Cambodia. A total of 8,497 students (55 per cent of them women) participated in career counselling, which increased the participants’ knowledge and skills related to education and careers. We were involved in arranging two career events in the province of Battambang, with a total of 4,325 learners participating. They gained information about career and training opportunities.

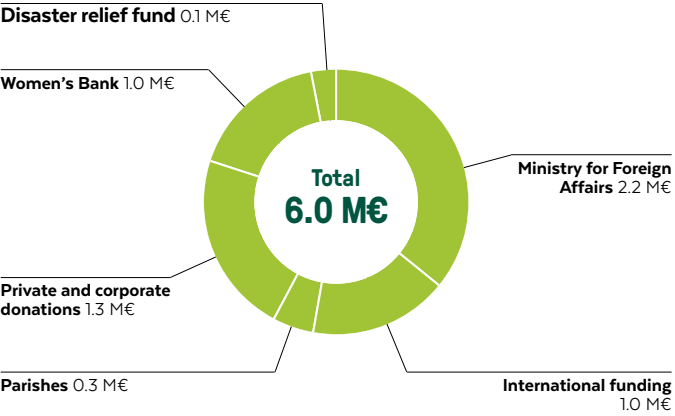
In cooperation with our partners, we also support entrepreneurship activities in Cambodia. A total of 134 farmers received support in agriculture and poultry farming, and 22 farmers’ groups and 24 small businesses were established. These groups ensured that agricultural products reached markets more efficiently than before.

Nepal
The impacts of climate change in Nepal include a decrease in precipitation, which causes drought and creates challenges for farming. Nepal is also prone to natural disasters, and last year, heavy winds, floods and landslides caused damage in many areas. We provided emergency aid to 6,156 people affected in five different regions. A total of 3,193 people affected by floods and landslides received support in the form of cash transfers.

Support to vulnerable groups, particularly women, former bonded labourers and Dalits, as well as livelihood opportunities are at the heart of our work. The independent livelihoods of women bring them appreciation in their communities, and the participation of women in public events has increased in Nepal. These activities support their freedom and increase their sense of self-respect. Women’s rights were advocated, for instance, by anti-violence committees. The committees were founded by women’s cooperatives that also support the victims of domestic violence.

The 28 cooperatives we work with in Nepal support independent livelihoods, and their administration has been developed. In addition to an increase in knowledge and skills, another important reason for the success


FUNDING



- 357** people participated in 17 trainings on climate change adaptable agricultural methods.
- 137** people became self-employed, while 134 were employed in agriculture and three in other business operations.
- 792** people became self-employed, 724 of them women.
- 1,393** people participated in 42 discussions and training sessions.
- 6,156** people received emergency aid in five different regions. 3,193 people affected by floods and landslides received cash transfers.
- 44** youth found employment after participating in vocational education.
- 590** vulnerable people found employment, 96 per cent of them women.

“I want to grow crops and enable the children to continue with their education.”

Sushila Chaudhari, a former bonded labourer, living together with her family in western Nepal. She received support for farming, and now the family is self-sufficient.



VEERA PITKANEN

ANOTHER IMPORTANT REASON FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE SMALL BUSINESSES LIES IN THE UNSECURED LOANS THAT THE COOPERATIVES GRANT TO GUARANTEE THEIR CONTINUITY AND GROWTH.

of the small businesses lies in the unsecured loans that the cooperatives grant to guarantee the continuity and growth of women-owned enterprises.

Myanmar
Myanmar is a country affected by local conflicts. Finn Church Aid supports inter-faith dialogue and the participation of youth in peace work. Five youth groups ensured that young people participated in peace work by arranging gatherings and workshops.

Finn Church Aid supported Nepalese Dakshina Chaudary in her studies to become a welder.

Together with our partner organisation Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC), we provided a minimum income for 858 households through cash transfers in camps for internally displaced people, in Kachin State and northern Shan State.

In 2019, one of the main priorities of our work in Myanmar was the development of career counselling. Local teachers were also offered training in pedagogy, psychology, and children’s rights. During the year, 12 career counsellors that participated in the training began career counselling in schools. A total of 2,574 children and youth received support to continue their education.

We also supported the employment and financial independence of vulnerable women and youth through education and financial assistance. During the year, women’s groups were founded in the communities to support livelihoods that strengthen independent decision-making. Part of the women’s group activities involved the development of an emergency plan in case of armed conflict. 📄

Life Skills for Refugees in the Middle East: Mothers Support Youth in Communities

SYRIA'S PROLONGED CIVIL WAR and its humanitarian consequences continued affecting our work in the Middle East in 2019. Finn Church Aid supported learners in the Middle East to access quality education and improved the opportunities of vulnerable people to find sustainable livelihoods.

Jordan

The large number of refugees from neighbouring countries affects Jordan in many ways. At the end of last year, more than 744,000 people lived in the country as refugees, most of them Syrians.

We promoted the livelihood opportunities of Jordanian and Syrian youth and young adults by supporting them with vocational education and entrepreneurship training. Young people took part in internships, established businesses and participated in career guidance sessions.

Together with other organisations, we were involved in developing recommendations to ease the registration of Syrian home-based businesses in Jordan.

We also arranged further training for teachers and roundtables for legal guardians about the significance of education and the harmfulness of child marriage, among other issues.

Our projects employed people of refugee origin, for instance, as teachers, camp coordinators, cleaners and guards.

Syria

In Syria, we continued the reconstruction of the education sector that collapsed during the civil war. We offered support to learners and invested in teacher training and school infrastructure.

Due to challenges related to financing and learning, our work in Syria focused on supporting children and youth exposed to the risk of marginalisation, for instance, by offering remedial classes. Additionally, a total of 16,524 children received financial support to acquire school uniforms and supplies.

We also financed the reconstruction of six schools that had suffered severe damage in the fighting in Eastern Ghouta. Once finished, the premises attracted more pupils and the number of learners grew on average by 40 per cent in 2019.

Training in interactive teaching methods, inclusiveness, and group work was given to 41 teachers, who later shared what they had learnt with new teachers, bringing the total number of teachers reached by the training to 160.

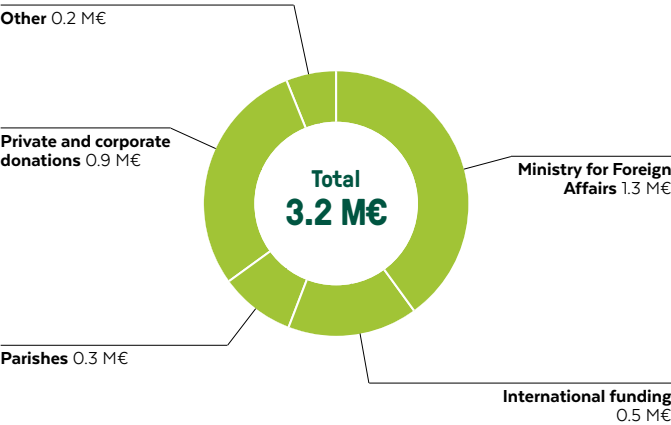
We also supported a local partner organisation in the development of its expertise and operations.

Israel and the Palestinian territories

In Israel and the Palestinian territories, Finn Church Aid worked in East Jerusalem and around Ramallah in the West Bank in 2019. The work focused on quality education and support to local civic activities.

In the West Bank, Teachers without Borders volunteers offered further training to 152 teachers, headteachers, and career counsellors who had been selected from poorly performing schools.

FUNDING



64 refugees that had received vocational education participated in an entrepreneurship training and received a start-up grant along with the equipment needed to start their business. JORDAN

78 new businesses were established as a result of the entrepreneurship training and start-up grants. JORDAN

160 Syrian teachers received further training in interactive teaching, inclusiveness and pedagogy. SYRIA

152 Palestinian teachers, headteachers, and career counsellors received training in learner-oriented methods, positive psychology, and stress management. They work in schools where 2,858 learners benefit from the training. PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

"I have a wife and two preschool-aged children. Previously, our livelihood was uncertain. At the recommendation of my friends, I participated in FCA's hairdressing training. I established a barbershop with a friend, but it burned down one night when a gas container in a nearby shop exploded. I felt as though I had lost everything. Then one of FCA's employees contacted me, and I was admitted into an entrepreneurship training. I also received barber tools and managed to establish a new business. Now I make enough income to provide for my family. My self-confidence also improved, and I'm proud of my business."

Sulieman Joodeh Abu Saloo, age 29, Za'atari refugee camp, Jordan



MAHMOUD ZAATREH



ABU TALIB AL-BUHAYA

THE WORKSHOPS ENCOURAGED YOUTH TO ENGAGE IN CIVIC ACTIVITIES BY RAISING AWARENESS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, ARMED VIOLENCE, AND DISCRIMINATION.

200,000 people fled the hostilities in northeast Syria in October 2019. Finn Church Aid supported refugees in al-Hasakah with emergency aid.

We supported both Palestinian and Israeli youth in actively promoting positive change in their communities. In East Jerusalem where young people are at considerable risk of becoming marginalised, we

supported training on positive methods of maintaining order, arranged for mothers and teachers. After the training, several mothers engaged in volunteer work in our partner organisation and offered children and youth the support of safe adults.


We supported the arrangement of 80 workshops at upper schools in Israel. The workshops encouraged youth to engage in civic activities by raising awareness of domestic violence, armed violence, and discrimination. The workshops were popular, and 60 per cent of the participants said that their knowledge about social affairs improved, thanks to the workshops.

During the year, we supported local volunteer work in East Jerusalem and the West Bank through a variety of initiatives, such as training 115 young adult volunteers in East Jerusalem to act as mentors to children at risk of marginalisation. ✖

RIGHT TO QUALITY EDUCATION

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES of our work is to ensure that as many children and youth as possible can attend school in our programme countries and receive a quality education. We work with both basic and vocational education and train teachers with the support of local professionals and the volunteers of our Teachers without Borders network. The work with education focuses particularly on children and youth who are refugees or otherwise in a vulnerable position.

Quality education should sustainably serve learners and local needs. This is why providing career counselling and teaching working life skills are an integral part of our education projects. We support the world's most fragile states to develop career counselling and vocational education that equip youth with skills and opportunities to find sustainable livelihoods after completing school.

Education improves the possibilities of a society to maintain stability. In an ever-changing world, the significance of education becomes increasingly apparent because it gives people knowledge and skills by which they can adapt better to the demands of their environment. Schools also serve as safe spaces for children and youth, especially when their surroundings are affected by various crises and disasters. Amid crises, teachers' ability to provide psychosocial support becomes invaluable. 

Education paves the way for building better societies. Finn Church Aid supports families to enable children's return to school in, for instance, South Sudan.

SUNNY SABURNI

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE AID

IN EMERGENCIES CAUSED BY NATURAL DISASTERS OR WARS, humanitarian assistance secures necessities like food, clean water, healthcare, clothes, and shelter. In a crisis, people who lost their homes also need latrines and washing facilities, and children need to return to school as quickly as possible.

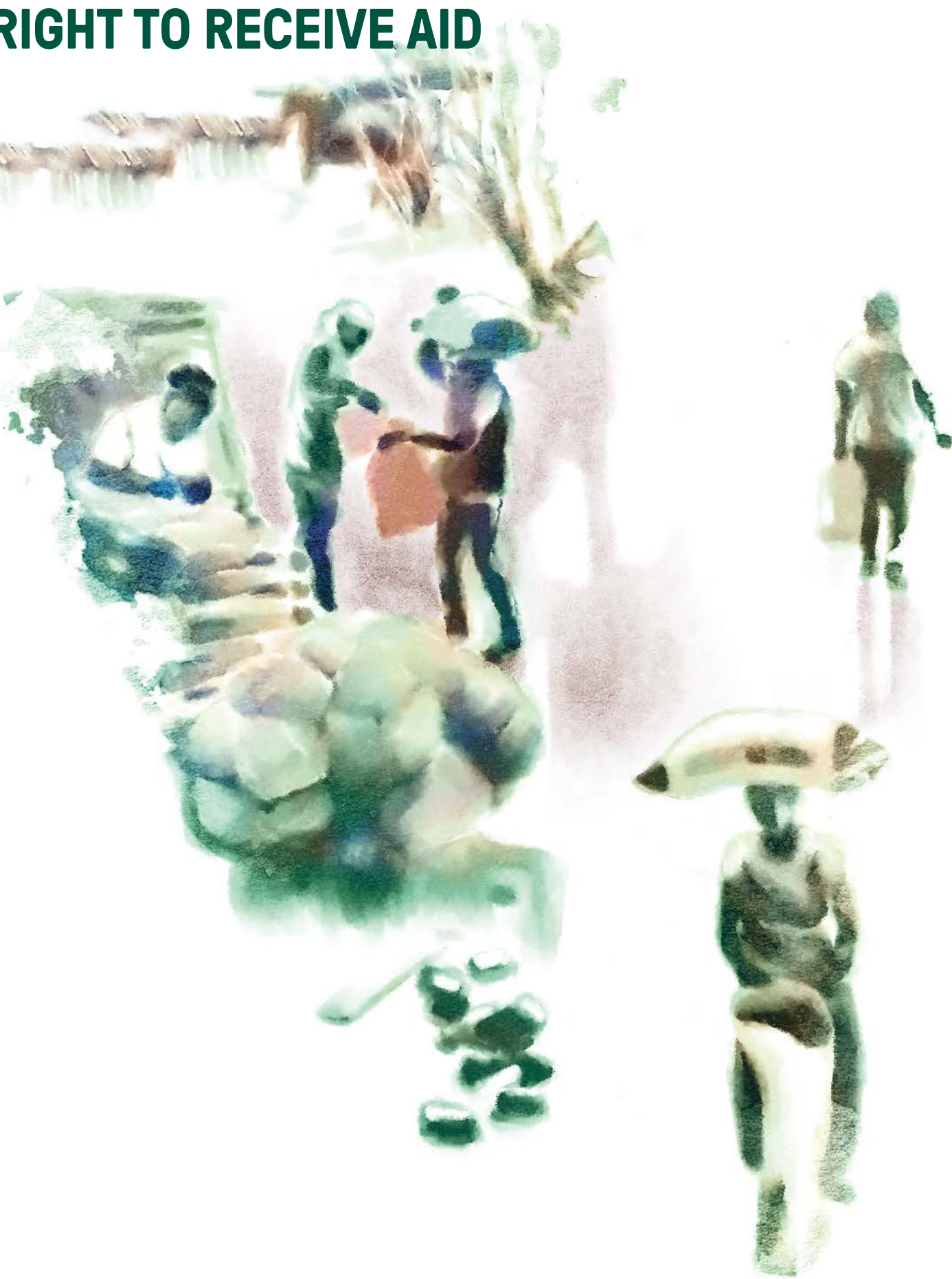
In 2019, Finn Church Aid’s work with humanitarian assistance highlighted the large number of protracted crises around the world. A significant portion of our humanitarian programmes focused on supporting refugees and internally displaced people.

The purpose of humanitarian assistance is to bring relief to those in dire need. Under the principles of international humanitarian assistance, every human being has the right to receive aid regardless of their ethnic background, religion or nationality. Humanitarian assistance respects local cultures and traditions, and the work is carried out together with the local people. In accordance with our values, the beneficiaries must also be able to participate in the planning and implementation of a humanitarian operation, as well as the assessment of its results.

In addition to receiving immediate emergency assistance, people must be supported in preparing for potential future disasters. We are responsible for the results of our work to both the beneficiaries and our donors.

FCA is certified against the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS), a humanitarian quality certification, as the first organisation in Finland.

To secure the efficiency and speed of humanitarian assistance, Finn Church Aid engages in close cooperation with international organisations and networks. Our donors and partners include the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), and many UN organisations. We are among the founding members of ACT Alliance, the global coordinator of the humanitarian assistance of church organisations. ✕



Emergency Aid and Development Cooperation Increasingly Linked to Each Other

THE EARTH IS AN UNPREDICTABLE PLACE. Regardless of where we live, we may all encounter a natural disaster, a political crisis, and the impacts of climate change in the short or long term.

Most of the people living in our areas of operation are not prepared for unexpected situations or disasters. In Africa, more than 60 per cent of the people live in rural areas on very meagre livelihoods.

Climate change is also weakening agricultural conditions around the world. Dry seasons are increasingly arid, precipitation is increasingly irregular, and the number of floods is higher than before with storms growing bigger and more unpredictable. This was experienced in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi in March of 2019 when cyclone Idai made landfall and left hundreds of thousands of people without shelter, food or water, and destroyed thousands of schools.

Many global issues including displacement, urbanisation, and climate change also affect humanitarian relief work. Crises have become prolonged, and an increasing amount of people who left their homes do not return to their home regions. Many problems, such as political crises and climate change, are linked to one another. Humanitarian work faces further challenges with unpredictable security situations. It is difficult for organisations to reach their operating areas, and employees face a challenging security environment. Fighting and unrest force people on the move.

We prepare for disasters at FCA and in our programme countries. Humanitarian relief work is always based on needs of the most vulnerable and ensuring their human rights. We provide emergency aid, such as food, water, shelter and cash transfers immediately after crises. We build temporary school facilities and distribute school supplies so that children can return to school as soon as possible. We train teachers to respond to the needs of children and youth who have had to faced exceptional circumstances.

Humanitarian assistance responds to sudden, unforeseen situations, and it is increasingly linked to long-term development cooperation.

In addition to emergency aid, our humanitarian work strongly focuses on supporting refugees, especially in the education sector and livelihoods. Currently, 70 million people across the world have had to leave their homes and live as internally displaced people in their home country or as refugees in neighbouring countries. In Uganda, there are more than one million refugees who fled fighting in South Sudan. Only a small amount of the world’s refugees goes further than a neighbouring country, for instance, to Europe.

The need for humanitarian assistance is significant and manifold. The Covid-19 pandemic of 2020 has impacted the humanitarian work of FCA more than any previous disaster. It also has had far-reaching consequences on the capacity of countries to care for their citizens, let alone refugees. What is needed now is a concerted effort from all actors to ensure that people will receive the support they need and that the economic fallout and health repercussions can be brought under control everywhere. ✕

Eija Alajarva
Head of Humanitarian Assistance



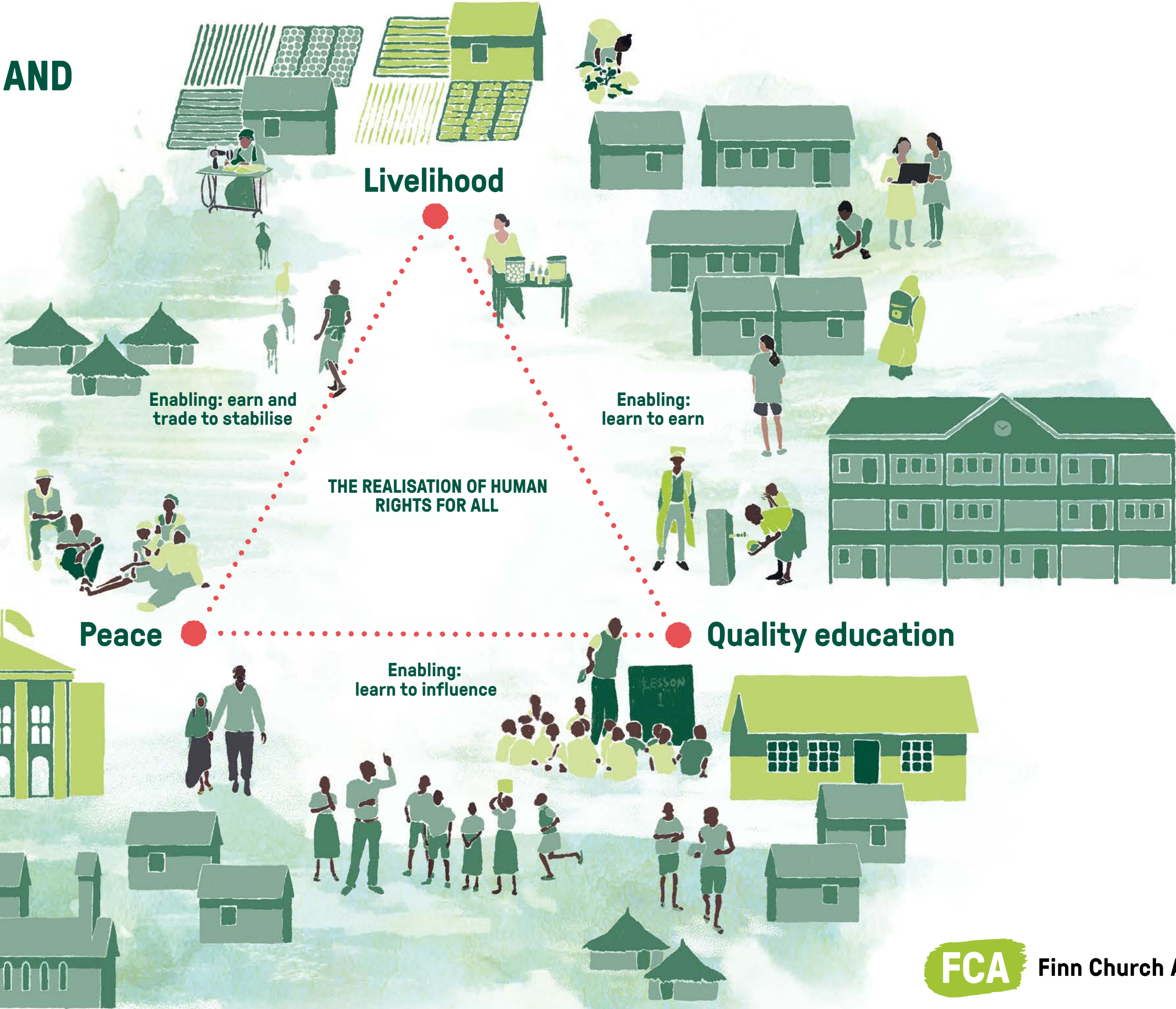
TATU BLONKOWSKI

OBJECTIVE: A JUST AND RESILIENT WORLD

FINN CHURCH AID is Finland's largest international aid organisation. We work wherever the needs are most dire.

Our vision is of a world comprised of resilient and just societies where everyone's right to peace, quality education, and sustainable livelihoods has been fulfilled.

Our values include unconditional love for our neighbours, unyielding hope, courage, and respect. We work with the most vulnerable people, regardless of their religion, ethnic background or political conviction.



THE FOCUS OF ADVOCACY: IMPACTING THE LIVES OF THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE

ADVOCATING FOR THE RIGHT of the most vulnerable people to live in peace, receive quality education and find sustainable livelihoods is at the core of our work.

Alongside development cooperation, humanitarian assistance, and investments, we need advocacy to achieve sustainable change. Through advocacy, we seek to remove the structures that create and maintain poverty, conflicts, and injustice.

We carry out advocacy work through our country programmes, internationally, and in Finland. In our programme countries, we seek to support local advocacy projects in cooperation with nationals, civil society organisations, and various networks.

In practice, advocacy can involve things like meeting decision-makers, arranging advocacy training, bringing various actors together, or supporting dialogues between people and decision-makers.

Our advocacy work focused on the rights of the most vulnerable people to quality education, livelihoods and peace, as well as the participation of women, youth, minorities, and religious and traditional actors in decision-making. Last year, we supported 51 advocacy initiatives in our programme countries, and 86 per cent generated positive change. Among a total of 419 activities were 53 campaigns and numerous meetings with decision-makers. We advocated the same themes both in Finland and internationally. ✕

VILLE NYKÄNEN

Permanent Change through Advocacy

IN OUR PROGRAMME COUNTRIES, decision-making is rarely democratic or inclusive, and as a result, it is difficult for citizens to make their voices heard. The space for civil society is often limited, and there are risks related to advocacy work.

Advocacy in these contexts requires perseverance and support. We do not always gain results on an annual basis; however, when advocacy work is successful, it can accomplish significant change. Changes to legislation, ways of doing things and attitudes are often powerful and long-lasting, and affect a substantial number of people at the same time. The need for continuous aid might disappear.

In all its work, Finn Church Aid's objective is to promote the right of the most vulnerable people to quality education, livelihoods, and peace. We also enable and support inclusive decision-making.

Women, youth, minorities, and religious and traditional actors are often left out of decision-making processes even though they play a crucial role in, for instance, resolving conflicts and building sustainable peace. Part of our advocacy work involves supporting the active role of these groups and enabling that their voices are heard in decision-making processes.

For example, the government in Somalia is still weak after the country's civil war. Together with the Network for Religious and Traditional Peace-makers, we supported the good governance and reconciliation work of the federal and state governments last year. We cooperated in developing the regional administration and the formation of districts in an area covering four states. Through advocacy, we ensured women's representation (a 30 per cent quota) in the leading committees of the regional administration and, in a significant way, supported the participation of women, youth, minority groups, and religious and traditional leaders in the development of the regional administration.

At its best, advocacy work can change the operations of a whole sector. For example, with FCA's long-term advocacy in Cambodia, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport decided to include career counselling in the Cambodian national education strategy for 2019–2023 and to develop a career counselling policy. Career counselling was previously not available in Cambodian schools.

Through advocacy, we succeeded in increasing the number of children and youth (especially girls) attending school last year and reducing the proportion of school drop-outs in our programme countries. In Finland, for the last several years we have pushed education to become one of the top priorities of the Finnish development policy and the objective was successfully accomplished last year when it was included in the government programme.

To maximise the results of our advocacy, we carry out this work on several levels. In our programme countries, advocacy usually takes place at the local level, although we raise the same issues at the national level as well. We also advocate in Finland and internationally, and we often cooperate with other actors and through numerous networks. Cooperation strengthens our message and reduces the risks faced by a single actor in countries with limited space for civil society. ✕

Katri Suomi
Head of Advocacy




SARA NANISIKAMANI

RIGHT TO LIVELIHOODS

A LIVELIHOOD IS A PREREQUISITE for a dignified life. All human beings have the right to livelihoods that enables them to provide for themselves and their families, increase their well-being, and participate in the development of the social, economic, and political situation of their communities as equal citizens.

In developing countries, small and medium-sized businesses generate most of the jobs that create livelihood opportunities. This is why Finn Church Aid supports the private sector in all its programme countries, including the world's most fragile states.

Our objective is to reduce poverty by promoting sustainable economic development. We particularly support the employment of women, youth, and refugees. We also support entrepreneurship through training and other initiatives to create new livelihood opportunities. In projects that develop livelihoods, participants are trained in entrepreneurship and particular trades. Cooperatives and savings groups are founded in the communities to support the businesses ideas. In 2019, we also started providing cash transfers to support business activities in regions recovering from conflicts or natural disasters. For community activities, it is essential that people create livelihoods for each other by purchasing products and services.

Livelihoods develop communities and support them in creating sustainable structures that generate stability and peace. Our projects also take account of the environment and local conditions. 

The former migrant worker Khincha Lal Pahari started making a decent income from his farm in his home country Nepal after a training by Finn Church Aid.

INVESTMENTS IN LIVELIHOODS AND PEACE

IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, the creation of new jobs plays a crucial role in the fight against poverty and inequality.

Investing in business operations is a new space for NGOs to support the economies of developing countries. In 2019, the operations of FCA Investments Ltd (FCAI), an investment company established by Finn Church Aid, were launched in earnest with the first private equity fund investments in a Ugandan and an Asian regional fund.

FCA Investments is set to respond to the needs of growing populations in developing countries for secure sustainable livelihoods and a decent income. According to World Bank estimates before Covid-19, more than 600 million jobs must be created globally by 2025, and the need is even greater because of the pandemic.

The challenge is so formidable that conventional development cooperation cannot answer all the demands. In this regard, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) play a decisive role by creating an estimated 70 per cent of new jobs, according to the World Bank, and the significance of SMEs is even greater in the world's most fragile states.

In developing countries, job creation is vital in the fight against poverty and inequality. Livelihoods bring hope and are crucial in securing sustainable peace.

Business initiatives are not born in a void. The capital needed for launching and growing businesses is little and difficult to acquire, especially in the most fragile states, where investor risks are high.

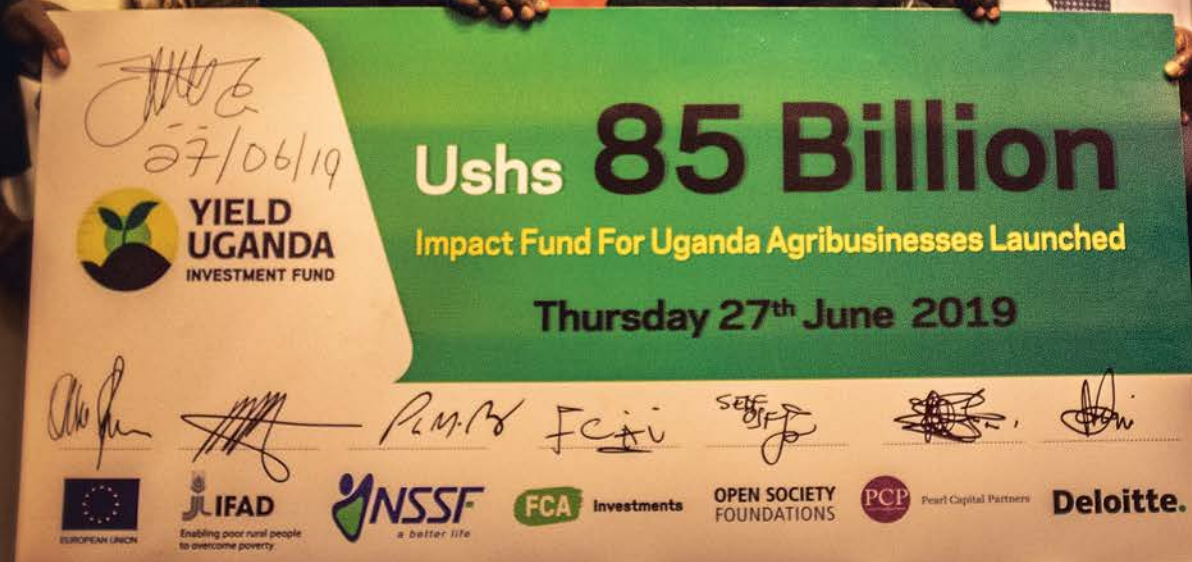
FCAI has now taken up the challenge with its first investment decisions. In addition to a private equity fund investment of 4 million euros made in Uganda last year, FCAI made its first direct investment in an egg production enterprise.

In addition to financing, FCAI offers SMEs technical assistance support in developing their business operations, in the areas of financial management through its Chief Financial Officer and other functional areas through the advisory group. The advisory group is composed of both Finnish and local business specialists and professionals, who voluntarily contribute their professional competence to enable SME's grow and become sustainable.

Accountability and sustainability are at the core of FCAI's investment strategy, in accordance with Finn Church Aid's core values. FCAI invests in socially and environmentally responsible businesses that create jobs, raise the income level of low-paid employees, and reduce poverty. Supporting female entrepreneurs and employing women and youth are also among the key objectives of the investments.

As FCA Investments grows its resources, it will also launch investment operations in other Finn Church Aid programme countries, such as Kenya, Jordan, Nepal, Myanmar, and Cambodia.

In 2019, FCA Investments Ltd (FCAI) made its first 4 million euro investment in Uganda.



Investments Create Sustainable Development

WE OFTEN EXPLAIN the idea of development cooperation through the simple analogy of fishing. If you give someone a fish, they will continue to be dependent on your aid. However, if you teach them to fish and provide them with a hook and line, they can catch fish whenever they want, and maybe even make their living by fishing for others as well.

Supporting business initiatives equals support to livelihoods, and that is a part of Finn Church Aid's core activities, along with quality education and peace. Just as no one would repair a car engine with one tool, development cooperation also needs a variety of tools. Sometimes people need food and soap while at other times they need vocational education or cash transfers – or a gentle push through investment. FCA Investments is the newest instrument in Finn Church Aid's development cooperation tool kit.

FCA Investments builds its operations on the idea of how we can support entrepreneurial people to employ others. To grow, these kinds of small and medium-sized enterprises often only need someone who believes in them enough to back their vision through investment.

FCA Investments strives to support initiatives with the potential to affect their communities as strongly and as sustainably as possible. In Somalia, for example, FCA Investments is prioritising investments in the fisheries sector.

Today, Somali's eat only a little fish because there is a shortage of coolers even in shops in the capital, Mogadishu and the fish is often spoiled before it is sold. However, unlike camels or goats that compete for the scarce drinking water and vegetation in what is a semi-arid country, fish would be a good and environmentally friendly source of nutrition in a drought-ridden Somalia.

FCAI is therefore investing in the Fisheries industry through partnerships with non-governmental organisations that help shops to acquire coolers. We hope that this increases the use of fish for nourishment and over time reduces the need for goats and camel rearing. It would help combat climate change in an arid and desert Somalia as fewer trees would be cut down to make room for pastures and also help reduce the incidence of famine in the country. The last major famine in Somalia is estimated by the UN to have killed 260,000 people between 2010 and 2012.

This example highlights how a well-considered investment can impact entire communities and their surroundings. When businesses thrive, entire communities thrive, and that is why we have established FCA Investments.

Emmanuel Obwori
Chief Operating Officer, FCA Investments




RIGHT TO PEACE

PEACE IS A PREREQUISITE for the realisation of human rights and sustainable development. When communities are allowed to live in peace, children and youth can focus on school and adults on livelihoods and building a stable society.

The peace work of Finn Church Aid focuses mainly on the world's most fragile countries, namely Central African Republic, South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, Myanmar, Nepal, and Cambodia. We also support peace-related work in Israel and the Palestinian territories. Many of these countries face additional challenges related to development.

Sustainable development can only be built on a firm foundation created through long-term peace work at the grassroots level. Examples of such initiatives include the identification and reconciliation of land and property disputes, family and human rights violations, as well as the peace processes related to these. Sustainable peace does not only mean that a conflict ends – it requires the inclusion and commitment of the entire community, as well as the changing of structures to support the peaceful co-existence of various groups.

Women, youth, and refugees, as well as religious and traditional actors, are at the very heart of our peace work. These groups are often left outside decision-making and formal peace processes. We support the active role of these groups and ensure that their voices are heard. Communities and grassroots actors play a crucial role in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. 

Women's groups are central grassroots level actors in peace processes in Pibor, South Sudan.



The World Changes When We Change it Together

WOMEN'S BANK

Women's Bank has been working since 2007 to fulfil the need for vocational education, entrepreneurship and equality of vulnerable women in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Last year, the Women's Bank raised an all-time fundraising record of 2,024,824 euros in donations. Other highlights of the year included the tenth Women's Bank Walk event, which consisted of more than one hundred walking events that raised a total of 100,000 euros.

By the end of 2019, Women's Bank had 3,416 monthly donors, 1,653 shareholders, and more than 3,000 volunteers. Through their support, Women's Bank carried out 13 projects in six countries, and globally, approximately 26,800 beneficiaries were involved in its activities through these projects.

Six volunteers participated directly in Women's Bank projects through the Skills Donation programme, which promotes female entrepreneurship and develops projects by combining the vocational competence of the Women's Bank network with project needs in the target countries. Ten volunteers also visited Cambodia in November of 2019 at their own expense to learn more about the project work of the Women's Bank.

Local Women's Bank groups and volunteer activities were arranged in more than 40 locations in Finland. Volunteers organised more than 500 events across Finland during the year.

WEFOOD

WeFood is the first surplus food supermarket in Finland. Finn Church Aid established it in 2018 as a part of its climate work, and by the end of 2019, the store had reduced food waste by 110,000 kilograms.

The surplus food supermarket is located in the Redi shopping centre in Helsinki, and 162 volunteers contributed to running the supermarket by working, for example, at the store or in its logistics. In its second year after opening, the number of WeFood goods suppliers rose to 31, and the food saved from waste through WeFood consisted mostly of fruit and vegetables.

TEACHERS WITHOUT BORDERS FINLAND

Teachers without Borders is a network that offers education sector professionals the opportunity to share their professional expertise in an international environment. The network volunteers participate primarily in the development cooperation projects of Finn Church Aid.

In 2019, 22 teaching and education sector specialists travelled abroad as volunteers through Teachers without Borders for three months, and 18 for a shorter, three-week period as part of the World Teacher programme.

The volunteers worked in Uganda, Kenya, and Eritrea in East Africa, the Palestinian territory in the Middle East, and Myanmar and Cambodia in Asia.

An additional 20 teachers participated in a mobile mentoring programme where Finnish teachers provided support through WhatsApp to their colleagues in refugee settlements in Uganda.

In late 2019, Teachers without Borders formed working groups of former volunteers to enable their continued participation in its activities.

The network has organised volunteer work since 2014, and last year it reached a new milestone by sending its 100th volunteer abroad.

CHANGEMAKER FINLAND

Changemaker Finland, the youth network of Finn Church Aid, promotes global justice by training youth in development issues and by arranging advocacy activities.

Last year, Changemaker organised a series of training sessions on the ABCs of advocacy activities in seven locations, attracting 109 youth participants. Changemaker also published a new guidebook of advocacy activities for youth and arranged a total of 130 trainings and other events in 17 different locations.

In its advocacy work, the network participated in a campaign to get a corporate social responsibility law enacted in Finland, campaigned on climate issues, and worked actively with the theme of Youth, Peace and Security as a part of the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 network.

Changemaker Finland advocacy activities, as well as the events and training sessions held across Finland, attracted 156 new members to the network, bringing its total amount of members to 954 at the end of the year.

The network also engaged in international cooperation together with Changemaker networks in other countries and the Community of Practice on Youth network of ACT Alliance, both of which it chaired throughout 2019.

In December, Changemaker Finland celebrated its fifteenth anniversary.

ECUMENICAL ACCOMPANIMENT PROGRAMME IN PALESTINE AND ISRAEL (EAPPI)

The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) programme sends volunteer human rights observers to the West Bank and East Jerusalem to support local communities and civilians and report human rights violations in Israel and Palestine.

Last year, 12 volunteers were sent to the area from Finland while 25 volunteers, who had been involved in EAPPI field activities at some point, participated in activities in Finland.

The number of volunteers is low, but the volunteers themselves are highly committed and engaged in, for example, carrying out advocacy work or disseminating information.

The EAPPI volunteers base their reports on being locally present and personally witnessing human rights violation incidents. In Finland, volunteers arranged a photo exhibition and roundtables at various libraries, schools, universities, and organisations. The advocacy work of the programme also targeted EU decision-makers. 📷



KEIJO LÄTALA



SAARA MANSIKAMÄKI

1.

2.

EAPPI VOLUNTEER / FCA



3.

CHANGEMAKER



4.

KARIN BRIDGER



5.

1. In 2019, the Womens Bank volunteers in Finland gathered over 100,000 euros.

2. Finn Church Aid's surplus food supermarket WeFood, opened in the Finnish capital Helsinki in 2018. The store is run by volunteers and has already saved 100,000 kilos of food.

3. The EAPPI volunteers base their reports on local presence and personally witnessed incidents in Israel and Palestine.

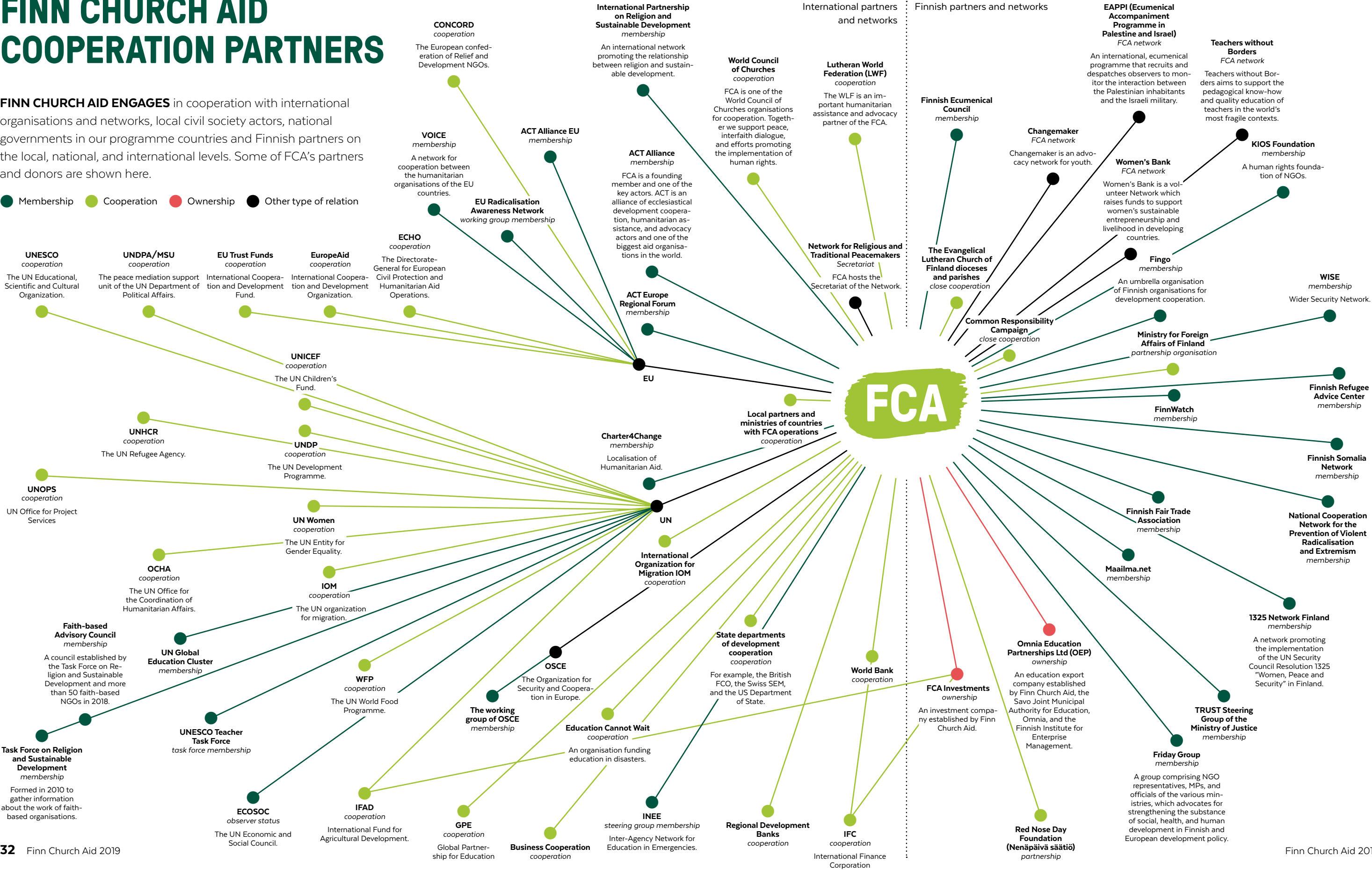
4. Changemaker trains young volunteers in development issues and advocacy.

5. Volunteers for the Teachers Without Borders network share their vocational expertise in an international environment, mainly in Finn Church Aid development programs.

FINN CHURCH AID COOPERATION PARTNERS

FINN CHURCH AID ENGAGES in cooperation with international organisations and networks, local civil society actors, national governments in our programme countries and Finnish partners on the local, national, and international levels. Some of FCA's partners and donors are shown here.

● Membership ● Cooperation ● Ownership ● Other type of relation



Ensuring Internal Funding Is Increasingly Important

FINN CHURCH AID'S FUNDING progressed favorably in 2019, with significantly increased international funding i from the previous year, and an increase in private donations as well. The amount of support from Finnish parishes fell slightly compared to 2018, following a decrease in the budgetary allocations and official collections of parishes.

International funding was FCA's most significant funding source in 2019. One of the strengths of Finn Church Aid is an extensive and diverse funding base that consists of several different international donors. We work with, for example, the EU, the DG ECHO, various UN organisations (UNHCR, UNICEF, UN WOMEN), Education Cannot Wait, and other international organisations, as well as the Ministry for Development in other countries. International funding is, however, short-term and tied to specific projects, which poses a challenge. Finances must be systematically and accurately planned and monitored, and we work with fundraising throughout the year, even with regard to international funding. In funding negotiations, the quality of our work has contributed to further funding, and we are an attractive partner to international donors in several countries.

As part of funding a project, international donors often require a significant proportion of internal funding by the organisation they support, which has resulted in a proportional increase in the need for internal funding. Finn Church Aid ensures internal funding for instance through fundraising in Finland, and this will be increasingly important in allowing us to respond to new global challenges, even in new operating areas, and to develop our programme work further.

Finn Church Aid's total income in 2019 was 45.9 million euros, an increase of almost 15 per cent over the previous year. The funding from international donors amounted to 14.9 million euros, and the support from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland was 10.3 million euros, of which the share of programme support remained the largest at 5.4 million euros. Humanitarian assistance funding rose from 2.9 million euros in the previous period of allocation to 3.8 million euros. Other funding by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs consisted of support provided by the Under-Secretary of State and the Political Department, as well as Finnpartnership.

The income from parishes amounted to a total of 7.4 million euros, of which 3.9 million were parish budgetary allocations and 1.0 million operating support from the Church Council. The income from the Common Responsibility Campaign amounted to 1.35 million euros, while the rest of the income from parishes consisted mainly of collections.

Private and business donations yielded a total of 11.5 million euros, which shows a growth of 0.9 million euros over the previous year. The



PATRICK MENNABDT

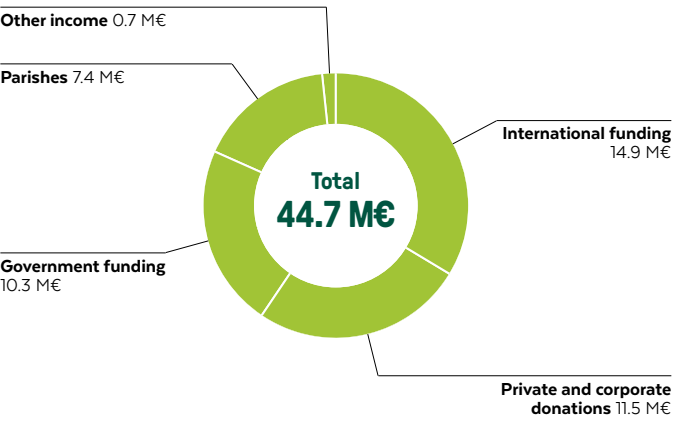
23-year-old South Sudanese Abir Mustafa studied construction in Juba. share of private donations was 10.6 million euros while that of business donations was 0.9 million euros.

Relief work expenses accounted for 40.7 million euros, including 2.9 million euros in programme planning, monitoring and development costs. Compared with the previous year, relief work expenses grew by 16 per cent. The proportion of these in relation to the total expenses was 87.9 per cent. Relief work support functions (i.e. communications, fundraising, stakeholder contacts, and general administration) generated expenses of 5.6 million euros or 12.1 per cent of the total costs. The deficit was 0.4 million euros, corresponding to a proportion of less than one per cent of the total income.

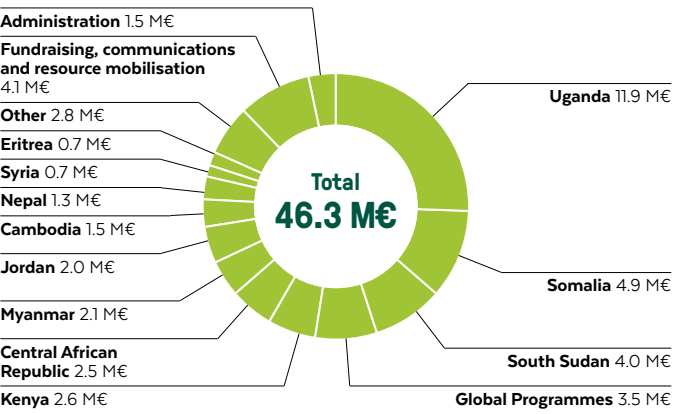
The Covid-19 pandemic will impact finances in the coming years and, thereby, our programme work as well. In the spring of 2020, FCA sought to minimize the impacts of the pandemic and we are prepared to continue our relief work in programme countries to support their recovery after the crisis. ✚

Jouni Hemberg
Executive Director

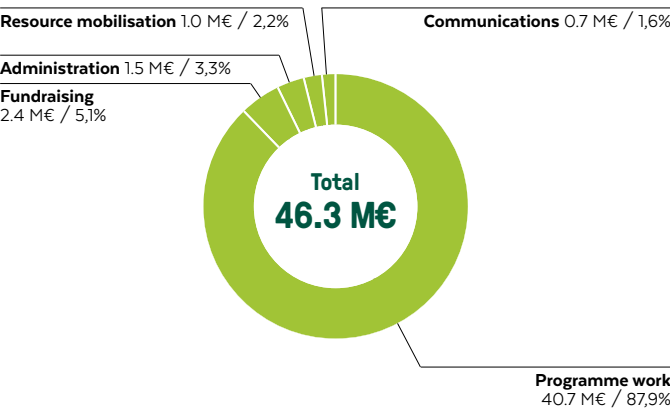
FUNDRAISING INCOME 2019



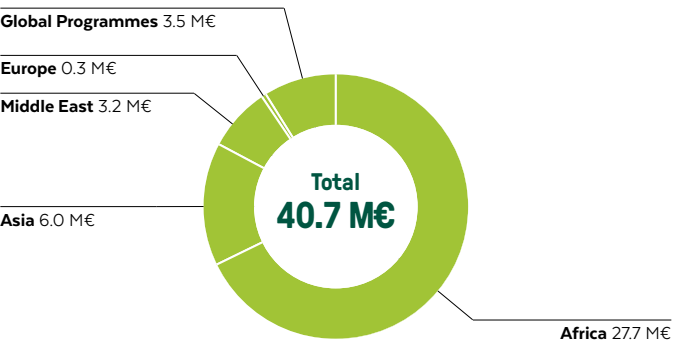
EXPENDITURE 2019



PROGRAMME WORK AND SUPPORT FUNCTIONS 2019



PROGRAMME AREAS 2019



Africa	27.7 M€	Middle East	3.2 M€
Uganda.....	11.9 M€	Jordan.....	2.0 M€
Somalia.....	4.9 M€	Syria.....	0.7 M€
South Sudan.....	4.0 M€	Palestinian Territories.....	0.4 M€
Kenya.....	2.6 M€	Yemen.....	0.1 M€
Central African Republic..	2.5 M€	Israel.....	0.0 M€
Eritrea.....	0.7 M€		
Mozambique.....	0.2 M€	Europe	0.3 M€
Liberia.....	0.1 M€	Finland.....	0.1 M€
Africa Regional.....	0.7 M€	Greece.....	0.0 M€
		Europe Regional.....	0.1 M€
Asia	6.0 M€		
Myanmar.....	2.1 M€	Global Programmes	3.5 M€
Cambodia.....	1.5 M€	Global Programmes.....	3.5 M€
Nepal.....	1.3 M€		
Bangladesh.....	0.6 M€		
Indonesia.....	0.2 M€		
Asia Regional.....	0.3 M€		

Profit and Loss Account k€

INCOME FROM OPERATIONS		GROUP	GROUP	PARENT	PARENT
		1 Jan.–31 Dec. 2019	1 Jan.–31 Dec. 2018	1 Jan.–31 Dec. 2019	1 Jan.–31 Dec. 2018
Aid activities					
Income	From the government	10 123	9 157	10 123	9 157
	Parishes	3 853	4 002	3 853	4 002
	From international funding sources	15 079	10 117	13 840	9 148
	Other income	32	43	31	41
		29 087	23 320	27 847	22 348
Expenses	Direct aid	-19 149	-16 066	-20 399	-17 452
	Personnel	-11 704	-9 306	-10 016	-7 902
	Other expenses	-9 877	-9 733	-9 032	-8 780
		-40 730	-35 105	-39 447	-34 134
Deficit		-11 643	-11 785	-11 600	-11 785
Support functions for aid activities					
Communications and stakeholder relations					
Income		182	161	182	161
Expenses	Personnel	-1 125	-1 108	-1 125	-1 108
	Other expenses	-625	-690	-625	-690
		-1 750	-1 798	-1 750	-1 798
Deficit		-1 568	-1 637	-1 568	-1 637
General administration					
Income		49	11	149	11
Expenses	Personnel	-2 176	-2 051	-2 176	-2 051
	Other expenses	-1 840	-1 960	-1 837	-1 960
	Appropriation to sectors	2 534	2 626	2 534	2 626
		-1 482	-1 385	-1 479	-1 385
Deficit		-1 433	-1 373	-1 330	-1 373
Deficit from operations		-14 644	-14 796	-14 498	-14 796
FUNDRAISING					
Income	Donations from individuals	10 583	9 886	10 583	9 886
	Donations from companies and organisations	899	761	899	761
	Donations from parishes	2 537	2 607	2 537	2 607
	Other income	366	200	366	200
		14 386	13 454	14 386	13 454
Expenses		-2 360	-2 211	-2 360	-2 211
Surplus		12 025	11 243	12 025	11 243
INVESTMENTS AND FUNDING OPERATIONS					
Share of profit in partly owned companies		6	1	0	0
Income		235	150	175	150
		-26	-19	13	-19
Expenses					
Surplus		215	132	188	131
Deficit		-2 403	-3 421	-2 284	-3 421
SUBSIDIES					
Subsidy from the Church Council		937	925	937	925
Profit/loss before fund transfers		-1 466	-2 496	-1 347	-2 496
FUND TRANSFERS					
Donation Fund		1 141	2 192	1 141	2 192
Disaster Fund		-150	-143	-150	-143
Women's Bank Fund		41	-86	41	-86
Aid Fund		-0	-0	-0	-0
		1 031	1 962	1 031	1 962
DEFICIT FOR CURRENT PERIOD		-435	-533	-316	-534

Balance sheet k€

ASSETS		GROUP	GROUP	PARENT	PARENT
		31 Dec. 2019	31 Dec. 2018	31 Dec. 2019	31 Dec. 2018
NON-CURRENT ASSETS					
Intangible assets					
Prepayments		203	0	203	0
Total intangible assets		203	0	203	0
Tangible assets					
Land and water areas		42	0	0	0
Buildings and constructions		177	0	0	0
Machinery and equipment		76	90	75	90
Total tangible assets		295	90	75	90
Investments					
Subsidiary shares		0	0	92	3
Shares and other interests		15 677	79	937	76
Other receivables		4 791	6 890	4 791	6 890
Total investments		20 468	6 969	5 820	6 968
CURRENT ASSETS					
Receivables					
Non-current		0	0	300	0
Current					
Prepayments for projects		910	724	1 188	704
Receivables carried forward		1 617	1 821	1 612	1 821
Other receivables		560	628	557	633
Total current receivables		3 087	3 173	3 358	3 158
Financial securities		586	100	100	100
Cash in hand and at banks		9 058	8 465	7 727	8 225
TOTAL ASSETS		33 696	18 797	17 582	18 541
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES					
EQUITY					
Subscribed capital		34	34	34	34
Other funds allocated to specific activities					
Donation Fund		805	1 945	805	1 945
Disaster funds		1 813	1 663	1 813	1 663
Women's Bank		2 207	2 245	2 204	2 245
Aid Fund 1985		118	118	118	118
Surplus from previous periods		4 477	5 012	4 478	5 012
Surplus/Deficit for current period		-435	-533	-316	-534
Total equity		9 018	10 483	9 135	10 482
LIABILITIES					
Non-current					
Debts		16 000	0	0	0
Current					
Prepayments received		4 893	5 230	4 884	5 226
Accounts payable		597	593	479	380
Other debts		1 482	919	1 521	978
Accrued liabilities		1 705	1 573	1 563	1 475
Total liabilities		24 677	8 314	8 447	8 059
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		33 696	18 797	17 582	18 541

You'll find Finn Church Aid's entire Financial Statement at finnchurchaid.fi/finances

Sustainable Results through Responsible Operations


DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION and humanitarian assistance can function efficiently and bring sustainable results only if they are carried out responsibly. Responsible actions and quality go hand in hand. One of the non-negotiable principles of humanitarian work is to *do no harm*, which means that aid operations should not have any harmful impact on people or the environment in which they live.

During the year, we began using new tools for risk management that allow Finn Church Aid or its employees to more efficiently identify and prevent risks that could be caused by our activities.. The risks are assessed from the perspectives of the local communities and people, and we also take account of the risks related to climate change.

We encourage the people we work with to provide feedback or file a complaint if they detect problems our operations have caused or if they suspect any abuse. The possibility to give feedback increases the confidence of people and helps them identify and resolve possible issues in time. To ensure that feedback can be given safely and confidentially, all our country programmes had introduced locally adaptable mechanisms for filing claims by the end of 2019.

For us, it is crucial to guarantee that people and communities in our programme countries can participate in planning, implementing, and assessing the projects that concern them. This inclusion strengthens local responsibility and ownership, and projects achieve longer-lasting results.

Competent staff, familiarity with the operating environment, planning that utilises local know-how, regular project monitoring and assessment, thorough risk management, and continuous learning also promote responsible and quality operations at Finn Church Aid. Our work is guided by international rules and standards, as well as internal operating principles and instructions. We are the only Finnish charity that has the humanitarian quality certification Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS).

Finn Church Aid assumes social responsibility by operating ethically and ecologically. At our offices, we seek to work in an environmentally friendly way and to use fair trade products during all meetings and encourage our employees to follow our lead. Our office in Helsinki is WWF Green Office certified and a number of our country offices have begun to follow similar accreditation. We are one of the founders of FinnWatch, which analyses and monitors the operations of Finnish businesses in developing countries. 

Loyce Bukami attends a savings group meeting in Rwamwanja refugee settlement in Uganda. The group was founded in 2019.



FREDRIK LERNERD

Finn Church Aid Board of Directors 2019


THE BOARD IN 2019 COMPRISED:

International Affairs Expert **Tarja Kantola** as Chair and Vicar **Olli-Pekka Silfverhuth** as Vice-Chair (since 2018), and

The following members:

Attorney **Tuomas Aho**,
Director **Sixten Ekstrand**,
Member of Parliament **Pekka Haavisto** (until June),
Reverend **Riikka Hietanen**,
Bishop **Kaisamari Hintikka** (as of April),
Member of Parliament **Anna-Kaisa Ikonen**,
Docent in Development Studies **Marjaana Jauhola**,
Vicar **Juhani Lavanko**,
Editor-in-Chief **Reetta Meriläinen**,
Master of Science (Econ.) **Ritva Ohmeroluoma**,
Journalist **Aila Paloniemi**, and
Reverend, International Ministry & Mission **Mark Saba**.
Executive Director **Jouni Hemberg** was the Secretary of the Board.

In 2019, expert members invited by the Board include Secretary-General **Mari-Anna Auvinen** from the Finnish Ecumenical Council, Director **Kalle Kuusimäki** from the Centre for Diaconia and Society, Executive Director **Riina Nguyen** from the international Diaconia of the Orthodox Church and mission organisation Filantropia ry, and Docent **Jaakko Rusama** from the Church Office for Global Mission.

The working committee 2019 comprised Tarja Kantola, Olli-Pekka Silfverhuth, and Marjaana Jauhola while the audit committee comprised Ritva Ohmeroluoma, Tuomas Aho and Sixten Ekstrand. The appointment of the working committee and audit committee will continue until the end of the current Board's term of office (i.e. June of 2020). 

FINN CHURCH AID IS GOVERNED by a Board of Directors, appointed by the Plenary Session of the Church Council. The Board consists of a Chair and 10-13 members. The Board of Directors elects a Work Committee and an Audit Committee from its members.

The Board of Directors convened five times in 2019. One additional meeting was organised by email, and the board also arranged a study and negotiation tour to the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva. The board was introduced to the operations of several ecumenical partner organisations, including the World Council of Churches, the Lutheran World Federation, and ACT Alliance.

Our work is funded by:



Finn Church Aid

Eteläranta 8, FI-00130 Helsinki, Finland

Tel. +358 20 787 1201

fca@kua.fi

finnchurchaid.fi



FCA

Finn Church Aid