

# FINN CHURCH AID GLOBAL PROGRAMME

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

**FCA**

Finn Church Aid

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword.....5

**PART 1**

**FCA global strategy 2017 onwards..... 6**

Finn Church Aid’s strategy and priorities.....7

    Identity.....7

    FCA is a rights-based actor.....9

FCA’s working contexts and policy framework.....9

    Fragile contexts.....9

    FCA Global programme policy context.....9

Working for just and resilient societies.....10

FCA’s strategic themes.....10

    Right to Livelihood (R2L).....10

    Right to Quality Education (R2QE).....12

    Right to Peace (R2P).....14

**PART 2**

**FCA’s programme overview and progress made in 2020.....16**

Global programme’s main objectives.....17

and analysis of results in 2020

    Impact Goal and the Main Objectives.....18

Guiding approaches and crosscutting issues.....26

    Gender.....26

    Do No Harm and conflict sensitivity.....28

    Climate action and environmental protection.....29

    Innovations.....30

FCA’s working modalities.....31

    Development cooperation.....31

    Humanitarian assistance.....32

    Advocacy.....34

    Investment – Capital for development.....36

Partnerships and international collaboration.....37

2020 annual programme reports.....39

Country programme annual reports by region.....40

    Africa.....41

        Central African Republic.....41

        Kenya.....45

        Somalia.....49

        South Sudan.....54

        Uganda.....58

    Asia.....64

        Bangladesh.....64

        Cambodia.....66

        Myanmar.....70

        Nepal.....74

    Middle East.....79

        Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories...79 (IOPT)

        Jordan.....82

        Syria.....86

Programme in Finland.....89

Networks and volunteering.....90

    Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers...90

    Teachers without Borders (TwB).....92

    Women’s Bank.....93

    Changemaker Network.....94

    EAPPI.....95

**PART 3**

**Programme quality assurance and accountability.....96**

FCA’s quality and accountability framework.....97

PMER and Learning.....97

Knowledge management and learning.....98

FCA Research.....98

**PART 4**

**Programme management and support.....100**

Administration.....101

    Finance and administration.....101

    Human Resources.....102

Financing of the Global Programme in 2020.....103

Communications.....104

Risk Management and security.....105

    Risk Management.....105

    Security.....106

List of acronyms.....107



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p. 23, 32 FCA NEPCO  
p. 47 FCA SOCO  
p. 45 Film Aid  
p. 37, 101 Karin Bridger  
10, 29, 54, 106 Maria de la Guardia  
p. 93 Petteri Järvinen  
p. 103 Jari Kivelä  
p. 43 Thierry Konde  
p. 35 Fredrik Lerneryd

p. 95 Nora Luoma  
p. 40, 68, 76 Saara Mansikkamäki  
p. 6, 11, 41 Patrick Meinhardt  
p. 93 Hanna Päivärinta  
p. 38 Hanna-Mari Rinne  
p. 82 Wisam Al Riyabi  
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## FOREWORD

# The coronavirus pandemic increased global poverty for the first time in twenty years but solutions also exist

**YEAR 2020 WAS EXCEPTIONAL FOR EVERYONE**, including for Finn Church Aid. Covid-19 pandemic had and continues to have, major global impact. Already prior to Covid-19 pandemic, few fragile and conflict-affected states were on track to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, and the spread of Covid-19 has further aggravated and multiplied the issues of fragility across countries and regions.

The pandemic has had a devastating effect on food systems and livelihood security of the people we work with. Urban poverty, particularly in the densely populated and informal settlements, has seen a sharp rise, and large numbers of migrant workers have lost their jobs and returned home with serious economic and social repercussions. In some countries, production and distribution patterns continue to be affected by lockdowns and additional controls at borders, affecting also the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance.

In many of FCA's programme countries, school closures have exacerbated the previously existing inequalities, and children who were already most at risk of being excluded from quality education have been most affected, in particular girls and children with disabilities. Youth too have suffered from disruption to learning and working. In response, FCA had to move from supporting classroom-based contact teaching to supporting distance education, as well as to preparing for rapid transitions from one form of teaching to another in all of its education projects. Together with our partners, we implemented new pedagogical solutions and ways of work resulting in uninterrupted education in many of our country programmes. Overall, despite all the challenges and reduced teaching time, the total number of learners supported by FCA was 351,542 in 2020.

FCA continued to actively support women's economic and social empowerment. However, lockdowns, travel bans and periodic closing of markets had a profound effect on women's incomes, savings and credit activities. Consequently, loans were restructured and loan periods were extended. Focus was on support to the existing businesses and ensuring their survival. In addition, several FCA programme countries took entrepreneurship trainings and business coaching to online platforms.

We are also proud of our pilot projects, such as the Creative Industries pilot project, which provides vulnerable youth in urban areas with skills needed in modern working life, successfully implemented in Kampala Uganda. In 2020, preparations started for new such projects in the Rwamwanja refugee

settlement, and in Nairobi, Kenya. Pilot initiatives for waste management, recycling of plastic waste, and use of insects for animal feed were also designed in Jordan, Kenya and Nepal, in collaboration with the private sector.

There are also continued concerns about the respect of human rights. The Covid-19 pandemic has amplified already complex conflict dynamics of fragility, accelerated the shrinking of the civic space and widened inequalities especially affecting women, and the marginalized and minority groups. However, there are important learnings from peacebuilding in the Covid-19 era and we will explore new technological and digital solutions for our peace work. In addition, in line with our commitment to promoting civic engagement, free and active civil society and inclusive decision-making, FCA continued to actively support various community-based groups and organizations to advance the rights of marginalized and excluded groups. A large majority of them reported having increased their participation in local development processes.

Following the rapid onset of the pandemic and the need for emergency response during the first half of 2020, several FCA offices started Cash based interventions for vulnerable households to cover their basic needs, and to alleviate food insecurity and lost livelihoods and incomes. Covid-19 related humanitarian responses also included distribution of hygiene items, awareness raising and provision of clean water.

In addition to Covid-19 pandemic, from time to time insecurity and unexpected events slowed down or interrupted programme implementation e.g. in the Central African Republic, Somalia, Kenya and South Sudan. Despite all the challenges, FCA supported hundreds of thousands of people in Africa, Asia and Middle East, and this work will continue.

Once again, we wish to express our gratitude to all our donors and the general public for their continued trust placed in FCA enabling us to carry on with this important work.



**Jouni Hemberg**  
*Executive Director*  
*Finn Church Aid*



## PART 1

# FCA GLOBAL STRATEGY 2017 ONWARDS



## FINN CHURCH AID'S STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES

FCA's vision of a world comprised of resilient and just societies is the foundation of our work. Together with our partners, we aim to empower people in fragile contexts to act for a positive and sustainable change.

**FINN CHURCH AID (FCA) IS THE LARGEST** Finnish development cooperation and an important provider of humanitarian assistance. FCA is a civil society actor founded by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland as an instrument of its international diaconia.

FCA contributes to positive change by supporting people in the most vulnerable situations in fragile and disaster-affected areas. We believe that the reduction of poverty requires achieving peace and the realisation of human rights, and that the local communities have the most sustainable solutions to the challenges in their own contexts. FCA specialises in three thematic priority areas: Right to Peace (R2P), Right to Livelihood (R2L) and Right to Quality Education (R2QE).

FCA programme's main objectives are in line with the Finnish development policy guidelines and are closely connected to the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). National poverty reduction strategies and other relevant context related frameworks, policies and standards also guide our work.

### Identity

FCA is a faith-based organisation. The Christian tradition of compassion and social justice guides us to reach out to the poorest, promote peace and ignite civil society advocacy. We treasure the different backgrounds and beliefs of our staff and partners. FCA is a member of ACT Alliance and is committed to working with its ecumenical and faith-based partners.

**FCA's aim is to tackle the root causes of poverty and injustice in legislation, customs, norms and practices, and to contribute towards the full realisation of human rights standards and principles.**

<sup>1</sup>PANEL: Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination and Equality, Empowerment, Link to the UN HR Framework.

### FCA is a rights-based actor

During 2020, FCA continued to strengthen its implementation of rights-based principles (PANEL<sup>1</sup>), based on the three recognized rights: Right to Quality Education, Right to Livelihood and Right to Peace anchored to the UN Human Rights Treaties: the International Covenant of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESC) and the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) other HR Treaties and the whole HR Framework. Thematic support was provided to FCA's country programmes facing growing challenges due to Covid-19 pandemic, shrinking civil society space and threats to the international human rights regime.

FCA and its partners continued to take part in and follow up on FCA's programme countries' Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR) related processes and the specific HR Treaty reviews. The Treaties followed and directly contributed to include the Covenant of Civil and Political Rights and the Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC), Convention of the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), and the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). On regional instruments FCA's work contributed to the African Charter on the rights and welfare of the Child (ACHPR), especially through our provision on education services in several programme countries. FCA continued to utilize and work towards strengthening the implementation of Collective rights, the UN SCR 1325 and 2250, UN Guiding principles on Business and HRs, and the utilization of Thematic, Country Specific Special Procedures and other mechanisms.

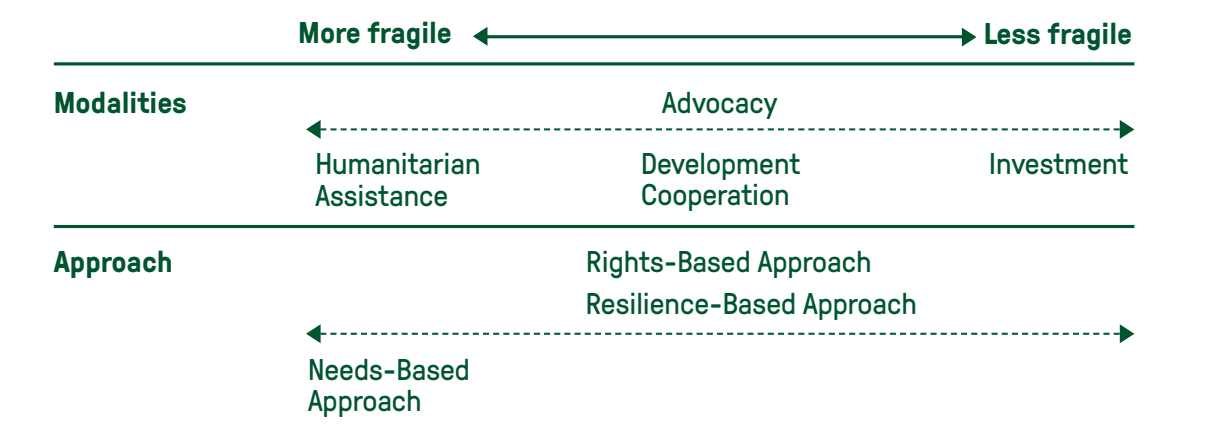
FCA's rights-based approach has been at the minimum progressive but when applicable, programme approach has succeeded in reaching a transformative level depending on the specific context and the overall space available for the civil society. The main aim has been to tackle the root causes of poverty and injustice in legislation, customs, norms and practices, and to contribute towards the full realization of human rights standards and principles.

During 2020, several CPs worked to increase the duty bearers' capacities and response to their obligations. In Cambodia, FCA continued to work with Commune Dispute Resolution Committees (CDRCs) and District Cadastral Committees (DCCs) in addressing local disputes. Similarly, work continued to enhance education authorities' and school counselors' capacities in improving education service provision. In Nepal, the strengthened platforms for RHs and government stakeholders' to come together resulted in improved information sharing, increased mutual collaboration and recognition of RHs as agents of change by the governments.



FCA ‘2RBA’

Resilience and Rights Based Approach



Dialogues on caste-based discrimination between the rights-holder groups and the government/political leaders resulted in increased interest to the issue by political leaders and to concrete initiatives and commitments aiming at reducing caste-based discrimination.

Support to the active participation and leadership of women and youth contributed to the increased and more inclusive involvement of right holders at different levels of decision-making processes. In many programme countries FCA successfully supported women’s participation and leadership in conflict prevention and peacebuilding. Similarly, positive progress on increased youth participation in decision-making and facilitating youth dialogues with duty-bearers took place e.g. in Somalia, Kenya, Cambodia, Myanmar and Uganda.

Simultaneously, supporting the positive role of religious and traditional actors has enabled constructive dialogue processes between the right holders and duty bearers and broadened the duty bearer role in different situations and how they relate to the temporary or moral duty bearer roles especially in fragile situations. Understanding the duty-bearer roles and power dynamics within the existing governance and decision-making structures whether official, parallel or temporary continued to be critical.

FCA continued to strengthen its capacity to promote inclusive societies. This entailed developing tools for right-based analysis and strengthened use of comprehensive context analysis, including increasing our capacities in disability inclusion in programme and project implementation. FCA has a MoU with Abilis Foundation, a Finnish disability organization for mutual collaboration in disability inclusion. Some of the planned activities were cancelled in 2020 due to Covid-19 but this cooperation will continue in 2021. During 2020, FCA promoted PwDs and CwDs access to education and continued schooling and took steps in disability inclu-

Support to the active participation and leadership of women and youth contributed to their increased and more inclusive involvement at different levels of decision-making processes.

sion in livelihood and peace related work. Altogether, FCA was able to reach 2,878 PwDs/CwDs (about 60 % girls and women) through education projects and different type of support provided in CAR, Kenya, Somalia, Uganda, Jordan, Syria, Nepal and Cambodia.

As part of advocacy efforts, FCA enabled dialogue and collaboration between different actors at local, national, regional and global levels. Capacity-development was provided to FCA Country Offices (COs) and to partners on advocacy work and dialogue building. FCA also continued collaboration with the LWF’s Local to Global RBA programme (L2G) promoting partner collaboration in reinforcing the implementation of RBA in programme and advocacy work. CSO consultations and writing of CSO reports for the coming UPR reviews were supported in Nepal and Myanmar, and advocacy leaflets with key messages were produced from the consultations together with LWF and FELM. A series of meetings with key Embassies and Permanent Missions based in Geneva, Switzerland, and the EU Delegation in Nepal were organized online in December allowing FCA and its partners to present the key messages and to influence Delegations’ recommendations to the coming UPR reviews to be held in January 2021.

# FCA’S WORKING CONTEXTS AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

FCA is committed to tackling poverty in fragile environments where local communities are faced with chronic poverty, conflict, climate change, environmental issues and general lack of opportunities. During 2020, Covid-19 pandemic further aggravated and multiplied the issues of fragility across countries and regions.

## Fragile contexts

FCA has made a strategic decision to focus on fragile contexts and countries where we believe our work can have the greatest impact. Our work is context driven and brings together addressing immediate needs, reduced vulnerability and enhanced resilience of people. The majority of FCA programme countries are conceptualised by the OECD as “chronically fragile states” and often experience alternating periods of relative stability and emergency caused by conflict or natural calamities- or both- with considerable consequences for the local populations. In fragile contexts, the obstacles to rights-holders’ ability to successfully claim their rights are the greatest and the duty-bearers are most likely to fail in providing protection and due accountability towards the local communities.

Already prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, few fragile and conflict-affected states were on track to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030<sup>2</sup>, and the weakest and most fragile states are also those worse affected by Covid-19 in the medium and longer term. The coronavirus pandemic has contributed to mass unemployment, increased poverty, heightened inequalities and political unrest. Border closures, trade restrictions and confinement measures have been preventing farmers from accessing markets, and agricultural workers from harvesting crops.

In many of FCA’s operating contexts, Covid-19 pandemic and its negative impact on the economy and other sectors is jeopardising the progress made in recent years. School closures have led to significant disruptions to education across the world, giving rise to learning losses and increases in inequality, while in many contexts Covid-19 has also exacerbated the underlying root causes of conflicts and conflict dynamics. This is visible in the decline in women’s and girls’

rights, and the rights of marginalized and excluded groups. The social disruption and economic losses have in particular increased girls’ and women’s vulnerability to different forms of violence and exploitation.

In many of FCA’s programme countries, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are providing essential services and support to the local communities, often substituting for government and reaching people who are vulnerable or marginalized. Yet, some of the moves to limit the freedom of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and CSOs are seriously reducing their capacity to operate independently and effectively. In many countries, the Covid-19 related restrictions have limited the space available for the civil society and caused the civil society groups to call on governments to adhere to legal obligations to respect and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms. During 2020, FCA continued to actively strengthen the capacity of its local partners and to support civil engagement at different levels in all of its programme countries.

## FCA Global programme policy context

FCA’s global programme has a strong correlation with major donor policy priorities. This is due to a shared commitment to international frameworks, such as 2030 Agenda and the commitments of the World Humanitarian Summit 2016 (WHS), including the Grand Bargain, as well as The Global Compact that seeks to address challenges related to today’s migration in ensuring that refugees and the countries and communities that host large numbers of refugees are not left behind.

FCA anchors the rights of education, livelihood and peace in the UN HR framework. Furthermore, the principles of sustainable development guide FCA’s operations and support the achievement of 2030 Agenda goals in our programme countries. FCA is committed to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in its three main dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in an integrated and comprehensive manner.

Finn Church Aid is fully committed to the Finnish development policy objectives and principles. FCA and Finnish development policy and development cooperation both focus on supporting developing countries in their efforts to eradicate poverty, reduce inequality and advance sustainable development.

<sup>2</sup>The difference in levels of fragility between extremely fragile and non-fragile contexts widened over 2012-2018. In most extremely fragile contexts, progress on eight Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has plateaued or is declining; in most non-fragile contexts, progress is increasing or on track (OECD States of fragility 2020)



# WORKING FOR JUST AND RESILIENT SOCIETIES

FCA strives to support people in making a positive, sustainable change that enables resilient and just societies where basic human rights are fulfilled. FCA's three thematic focus areas are associated with sets of rights: people have the right to live in peace and acquire quality education and sustainable livelihoods.

## FCA's strategic themes

### Right to Livelihood (R2L)

In Right to Livelihood (R2L), FCA continued to consolidate its work as a promoter of inclusive and sustainable economic development that provides people in vulnerable situations, particularly women, youth and populations on the move with increased opportunities for a decent living. Thematic development in 2020 reflected FCA's R2L strategy, effective from the start of the year, with necessary modifications made in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

FCA has major R2L components in the majority of its country programmes, addressing contextual priorities in FCA's R2L spearheads, namely employment, entrepreneurship and humanitarian livelihoods response. In 2020, FCA's operating countries faced different challenges in the face of Covid-19 and adopted different routes in mitigation.

Overall, the pandemic has had a devastating effect on food systems and livelihood security of the people we work with. Urban poverty, particularly in the densely populated and informal settlements, has seen a sharp rise, and large numbers of migrant workers have lost their jobs and returned

home, which has had both economic and social repercussions. Production and distribution patterns in all countries continue to be affected by lockdowns with closures and additional controls at borders hampering both imports and exports, affecting also the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance.

FCA's country programmes in Asia – Cambodia, Myanmar and Nepal – continued to promote women's economic empowerment, entrepreneurship, and access to finance and business services through cooperatives and other community-based models, supported by active advocacy for women's rights. Also in Uganda, the role of grassroots microfinance remained strong in boosting women's economic activities both in informal urban settlements, and in refugee settlements and their surrounding communities. Covid-19 control measures, such as lockdowns, travel bans and periodic closing of markets had a profound effect on both women's often informal businesses, typically farm- or home-based or in the service sector, and on their savings and credit activities. While savings acted as an important financial buffer, households also faced difficulties in repaying their loans due to reduced incomes. Consequently, loans were restructured and loan periods were extended. In Nepal, cooperative members received small fixed-term deposits into their savings accounts that helped sustain both the co-operatives and individual households financially. Smallholders were assisted in timely procurement of seeds and other farming inputs as well as in transporting their products to markets during restricted mobility.

Livelihood and business training and capacity building are integral elements in FCA's R2L work, which in most cases could not be implemented as planned due to social distancing or other Covid-related restrictions. To mitigate the immediate impact of these restrictions, FCA undertook to reprogramme its activities. Some country offices swiftly changed implementation modalities. In Jordan, the repeated lockdowns resulted in a decision to take FCA's entrepreneurship trainings and business coaching to online platforms. Despite initial challenges with poor internet connectivity and personal hesitations due to limited IT skills, the adaptation served its actual purpose of delivering activities; additionally, it saved costs and offered flexibility to daily schedules of the participants and the staff living under lockdown. Similar digital leaps were taken in other countries as well, and the encouraging results will impact FCA's post-COVID ways of working. The digital gender gap became also evident, requiring consistent action in the future.

FCA's Linking Learning to Earning (LL2E) approach that addresses the transition from education to employment remained FCA's main vehicle in employment related programming. In LL2E the most notable developments took place



in the private sector co-operation. The training content was increasingly planned in consultation with local companies to both ensure its market relevance, and to support the trainees' job-seeking. This has resulted in improved willingness of employers to offer on-the-job instruction as well as post-training employment to the trainees. The model to engage the private sector already in the planning phase is an efficient way of ensuring smooth transition to the world of work. Likewise, the country offices continued to develop informal livelihood skills training towards accredited vocational education (TVET) and broader recognition, which will provide better opportunities for entering the labour market. LL2E programming was increasingly done in synergy with FCA's other themes. E.g. in Somalia, prison staff and high-risk inmates were provided with TVET training as part of a socio-economic reintegration process designed to support convicts' un-involvement in violent extremism after release.

Following the rapid onset of the pandemic and the need for emergency response during the first half of 2020, FCA's cash programming experienced a surge. Ongoing activities were interrupted or adjusted, and budgets reallocated

**To mitigate the impact of Covid-19 restrictions, several country programmes swiftly took entrepreneurship trainings and business coaching to online platforms.**

for Covid-response. In some cases, funds were reallocated for emergency action to protect the lives and livelihoods of the most affected populations. FCA offices started cash distributions for vulnerable households to cover their basic needs and address their food insecurity. The country offices with prior experience in cash programming were able to respond to Covid-19 with minimum modifications, whereas the offices with less experience had to acquire the necessary



capacities fast. The interventions yielded important lessons learnt: cash can be an efficient vehicle both in emergency and other contexts, and the need for preparedness exists even when a country programme is not faced with an immediate humanitarian situation.

While every effort was made to adjust the projects to changing restrictions and COVID’s secondary livelihood effects, development of new initiatives continued. Practical guidance documents were produced and rolled out in cash-based programming, and Women’s Bank new strategy guided the development of women’s economic empowerment with strengthened entrepreneurship focus. A Creative Industries pilot was implemented in Kampala, Uganda, and preparations started for launch of new such projects in Rwamwanja refugee settlement, and Nairobi, Kenya in 2021, Covid-19 situation permitting.

FCA’s revised Climate Tool was rolled out in all country offices in 2020 and relevant other programming guidelines were updated accordingly, understanding that the necessity of climate action as integral part of R2L programming will outlive the Covid-19 pandemic. Climate Tool proved useful in e.g. designing activities promoting food security and livelihoods diversification. Based on the feedback, the tool will be further improved for systematic use in R2L.

Increased awareness of the urgency of climate action led country offices to explore circular and bio economy as potential fields for business and employment creation. Organic composting as a means for sustainable waste management and income generation was piloted in Rakhine, Myanmar, and vermiculture was scaled up in Nepal. Pilot initiatives for waste management, recycling of plastic waste, and use of insects for animal feed were designed in Jordan, Kenya and Nepal for implementation in 2021, in collaboration with the private sector.

While the Skills Donation scheme was put on hold due to Covid-19, Women’s Bank Strategy 2020–25 introduced a new initiative allocating 10 % of annual fundraising proceeds to piloting innovative business cases and models. Delayed by Covid-19, Women’s Bank funded egg farm in Uganda started egg production under the trademark Chiggi in December 2020.

In 2020, FCA and FCA Investments Ltd (FCAI) continued exploring the synergies between impact investment and FCA’s programme work in R2L, focusing first on capacity building and business development services. A practical application was FCA-FCAI partnership in Somalia to deliver Training of Trainers for business instructors and coaches based on an FCAI-developed curriculum.

In 2020, FCA and FCAI also advocated for SME financing solutions for fragile states, emphasising the requirement of sustainability, both in Finland and internationally. Substantially, the focus was on enabling impact investments by private individuals and addressing the structural obstacles to SME ecosystem development including access to finance, better functioning regulatory frameworks, and the value of the enhanced technical capacity of SMEs.



### Right to Quality Education (R2QE)

During 2020, FCA continued to promote improved access and better quality of learning based on FCA’s Education Strategy (2019) and its four strategic focus areas: Education in Emergencies (EiE); Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and Linking Learning to Earning (LL2E); Education Sector Development, and Teacher Education.

The Covid-19 pandemic greatly affected the implementation of FCA’s education work. Although primarily a health crisis, the pandemic has had many indirect effects on the realization of right to education in FCA’s country programmes. One year after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, more than 800 million students, equivalent to more than half of the world’s student population, continued to experience significant school closures, ranging from complete school closures to part-time study programs.<sup>3</sup>

FCA continued to implement its global education strategy. The guidance note on Education in Emergencies was approved in 2020, but the roll-out as well as the development of the guidance note on Teacher Education had to be postponed. Instead, FCA participated actively in creation of “Safe Back to School: A Practitioner’s Guide” of the Global Education Cluster and Covid-19 -related Advocacy Brief of INEE on “Learning must go on”.

FCA continued to build closer linkages between R2P and R2QE themes especially through increased focus on peace education. For instance, FCA conducted an internal mapping of peace education work. In addition, FCA has continued to study the potential of Digital Solutions, in order to promote education and learning amidst of the pandemic. A frame-

### FCA SOLUTIONS

No tech needs	Low data	Data intensive
Paper, pens, books, other graphic learning materials. Standalone data devices (with memory)	Radio and TV receiver, memory devices, SMS	Internet, computers, tablets, smartphones and devices and their applications
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paper, pens, books, other graphic learning materials, study packages</li> <li>Standalone data devices (with memory)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Solar powered radios with flash memory devices (Kenya)</li> <li>Mobile Mentoring (SMS ja WhatsApp) Uganda, Kambodzha</li> <li>Phone calls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internet; Mobile and Wifi</li> <li>Tablets, smartphones and devices</li> <li>Applications; WhatsApp, Zoom, Teams</li> </ul>
Personal guidance and differentiation are essential elements both in classroom based and distance learning, and there are various technical tools created that make it possible also in distance education.		

work for Distance Education Solutions for Covid-19 response was created and then guided our education implementation modalities.

Due to Covid-19 pandemic, many projects and activities had to be adapted as opposed to what was originally planned. FCA had to move from supporting classroom-based contact teaching to supporting distance education through various means and tools, as well as to preparing for rapid transitions from one form of teaching to another (hybrid/blended models and teaching in shifts) in all of its education projects.

In order to ensure continuation of learning during school closures, FCA used traditional teaching and learning materials and tools (e.g. books, written materials and self-study packages), analogue tools (radio lessons, SMSs) and digital tools (tablets, smartphones and devices and various applications such as Teams, Zoom, Telegram and WhatsApp).

There have been huge differences both between and within countries in terms of who has had access to digital distance learning opportunities. In the most fragile areas and in the most difficult contexts, Ministries of Education and/or educational institutions have not organised or have not been able to organize almost any educational activities. In Bangladesh, refugee schools have been completely closed during the entire pandemic because of the Refugee, Relief, and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) classifying education as a non-essential service. Fortunately, FCA was able to distribute home-study packages and provide PSS and GBV services on a rotational basis through its partnership with DCA. According to MoE Palestine, only 20 % of learners in the OPTs have had access to digital learning due to lack of devices. In addition, in some areas in South Sudan there

**Due to Covid-19 pandemic, many education projects moved from supporting classroom-based teaching to supporting distance education through different means and tools.**

are no radio or telecommunication connections. There are also great differences between countries in terms of access; the effects of Covid-19 did less harm on TVET in Myanmar, Uganda, Somalia and South Sudan, while in Syria and Cambodia the school closures entirely hampered access to TVET. As a result, the differences between learning outcomes have increased and the missed opportunities for distance learning will continue to affect learning outcomes in the longer term.

During 2020, FCA’s education specialists made a special effort to implement teacher education through distance education, and have produced a large number of teacher education modules and programmes from early childhood education to psychosocial support and mobile mentoring of teachers. Training teachers to use even the small opportunities that exist in teaching during the pandemic, has been important. The distance education materials created by FCA have been distributed also through Open Access channels to wider use, for instance through INEE and UNESCO.

<sup>3</sup> <https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-figures-show-two-thirds-academic-year-lost-average-worldwide-due-Covid-19-school>



Country offices were supported through thematic guidance by the Head Office and Teachers without Borders (TwB) volunteers' on how to best take advantage of the experiences by different FCA countries of operation in promoting online pedagogics and rapid implementation of new ideas during Covid-19 pandemic.

Personal guidance for individual learners and differentiation have been essential elements in classroom-based learning, and there are a number of technical tools that make them possible also in distance education. Using a variety of means – for example WhatsApp, SMSs, phone calls, even home visits and small group learning – provide opportunities to support learners. FCA has noted that providing access to education for learners has required the use of low technical or non-technical solutions, but teachers and headmasters have had better access to digital tools and online teacher education. Examples include teacher training in Bangladesh for host community teachers who have had access to Zoom and WhatsApp, and 8-module early childhood teacher training in Kenya, the final modules of which FCA could deliver as face-to-face training. We were also able to train school principals digitally in Kenya.

The pandemic has increased inequalities. Gender equality has remained one of the key challenges in R2QE. FCA has been able to promote investing in female teachers, but much more remains to be done. During the pandemic, FCA's integrated approach to quality education has proven crucial; especially in Education in Emergencies FCA included Child Protection and Psycho-Social Support into education service delivery.

FCA has been building on Finnish Education Expertise especially through collaboration with Teachers without Borders network. TwB has greatly facilitated FCA's work, and provided irreplaceable distance support to FCA's quality education implementation during the pandemic.

FCA signed a MoU with all five authorized Schools of professional teacher education in the universities of applied sciences in Finland. Foundations for future co-operation were laid in 2020 and it is hoped that in the coming years the collaboration will feed further resources and expertise in e.g. TVET teacher trainings, CGC trainings, TVET curricula building, research and tertiary/university level vocational education. A joint TVET study together with ILO, UNHCR and GIZ was also started in 2020.

**FCA will continue to utilize important learnings from peacebuilding during Covid-19 pandemic, including interactive radio shows and media platforms.**

## Right to Peace (R2P)

FCA continued to support inclusive peacebuilding with a focus on women, youth, people on the move as well as religious and traditional actors. FCA supported their active role at local, national and international levels and supported participation in policy and decision-making processes. 2020 was an exceptional year due to the Covid-19 pandemic for all FCA's programmatic work, including our work under R2P.

Covid-19 has amplified already complex conflict dynamics of fragility, prolonged conflict and displacement. Covid-19 has accelerated shrinking of the civic space and exacerbated the decline in women's rights, widened inequalities and marginalization especially affecting marginalized and minority groups. As such, Covid-19 risks pushing back previous gains in peace and development. To further complicate the picture, the Covid-19 pandemic has also affected traditional tools and methods of peacebuilding and dialogue that rely heavily on convening people together, reaching consensus and building trust. Shifting to online and digital spaces is not always possible, not least considering access and connectivity issues and their gendered aspects in our programme countries, but also perceptions around safety, security and trust in the online space. However, there are important learnings from peacebuilding in the Covid-19 era. As an example, interactive radio shows or social media platforms including WhatsApp have already been used before but with additional learnings from Covid-19 programming, we will continue to explore technological and digital solutions for our R2P work. 2020 also underscores the importance of maintaining flexible and adaptable support to local peacemakers to enable their conflict transformation efforts in a rapidly changing environment.

In 2020, our R2P work continued to focus on CAR, South Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, Myanmar, Nepal and Cambodia. The work is in line with the UN SDGs and the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 (Women, Peace and Security) and 2250 (Youth, Peace and Security). Our work supports locally led and owned conflict transformation efforts linking inclusive community processes to national level efforts and actors and duty-bearers at different levels.

Supporting women's participation and leadership in conflict prevention and peacebuilding is one of FCA's focus areas. In many programme countries, women are excluded from decision-making due to gender inequality and discrimination. These barriers are compounded for women belonging to various minority and marginalized groups. FCA continues to support women's collective action and voice to overcome these barriers in addition to also engaging men and boys, especially male opinion and moral leaders, in advancing gender equality. As an example, in South Sudan, Somalia and Kenya FCA continued to support spaces for women's collective action in peacebuilding. In Kenya, women's peace forums addressing intra- and inter community relations mobilized to address the Covid-19 induced rampant increase in cultural violence affecting women and girls targeting duty-bearers and members of community alike. In countries like Somalia, Myanmar and Nepal, women's participation in decision-making at different levels was coupled with socio-economic empowerment through supporting business development and income generation.



In Somalia, FCA has been supporting inclusive state formation, inclusive of women, youth and minority groups and together with the Network, National Reconciliation Framework. While 2020 was a challenging year, it also marked historic milestones in inclusive governance in Somalia with the election of women and youth to newly formed district councils as well as state assembly, building on FCA's long-term efforts to promote inclusive governance and women's political participation.

Another focus area is supporting youth participation. Youth participation in decision-making and facilitating youth dialogues with duty-bearers was supported e.g. in Somalia, Cambodia, South Sudan, Kenya and Uganda. In CAR, FCA supported 6 youth peace clubs that mobilized to not only combat hate speech and rumors linked to the tense election period, but also in relation to Covid-19 crisis.

In many contexts, religious and traditional actors have a unique role given their moral authority and legitimacy. FCA partnered with religious and traditional actors in countries like Somalia, Kenya, South Sudan, CAR and Myanmar. This entailed e.g. promotion of inter-faith harmony, combatting harmful cultural practices as well as Covid-19 prevention. In South Sudan, religious leaders have played an important role as mediators between the conflict parties at the national level, as well as peacebuilders at the local levels. In 2020, to amplify these efforts, FCA supported the active engagement of religious women and youth as part of the broader church-led peace efforts in partnership with the South Sudanese Council of Churches.

Inclusive peacebuilding with people on the move is part of our work, noting that people on the move often intersect with

other groups (such as women and youth) whose inclusion in conflict prevention and peacebuilding we support. This entails integrating social cohesion, dialogue and trust building in our work especially in host community contexts. Collaboration on joint livelihood or education opportunities can serve as an entry point for building trust and social cohesion between communities and groups. In Uganda, refugee settlements and their surrounding areas are often prone to conflict between communities. The TVET training centers supported by FCA also serve as a space as spaces for building trust, collaboration and personal relationships that enhance social cohesion, hence building more opportunities for peaceful co-existence. In addition, in primary and secondary schools supported by FCA in Uganda, more than 1,500 children and youth have been engaged in peace clubs and other peace building dialogues.

In addition to country-level efforts, we continued to engage in global advocacy on R2P focus areas, importantly including 1325 and 2250. As an example, workshop series between MFA, CMI, FELM and FCA was launched to share learnings and strengthen the implementation of Finnish 1325 NAP. The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers is an integral part of FCA's R2P efforts at different levels, and FCA's mandate to host the Network Secretariat for additional five years was renewed by the Network Steering Group in 2020. Main priorities for thematic development in 2020 related to the rollout of the thematic strategy including promotion of thematic synergies as well as building the thematic community of practice. As part of this, FCA started an internal process to strengthen our efforts in peace education.



A photograph of a woman with her hair in a bun, wearing a patterned blue and white dress, holding a baby. She is smiling and looking down at a small green packet being handed to her by another person whose face is partially visible in the foreground. The background is a bright, outdoor setting with other people in the distance.

## PART 2 FCA'S PROGRAMME OVERVIEW AND PROGRESS MADE IN 2020

## GLOBAL PROGRAMME'S MAIN OBJECTIVES AND ANALYSIS OF RESULTS IN 2020

FCA's Global Programme works towards our impact goal of a world where economically and socially empowered people in fragile contexts will contribute to a positive and sustainable change in creating resilient and just societies.

FCA's Global programme results framework 2018-2023 includes an impact level goal, three main objectives (MO1-MO3) and eight sub-objectives. They are directly linked with FCA's Strategy and its programmatic and organizational goals. The sub-objectives/outcomes have indicators that are monitored globally annually.

The country specific 2020 annual summaries focus on the main objectives and sub-objectives the respective country programme promoted in 2020 as well as some of the related key results.

IMPACT GOAL		
People in fragile contexts are empowered to act for positive and sustainable change in creating resilient and just societies		
PEOPLE AND PRIVATE SECTOR	PEOPLE AND GOVERNANCE	PEOPLE AND CIVIL SOCIETY
<b>Main Objective 1</b> People can claim and enjoy their right to inclusive and sustainable economic growth for poverty eradication.  <b>1.1.</b> Youth and young adults in vulnerable situations become economically self-reliant and contribute positively to social cohesion <b>1.2.</b> People in vulnerable situations engage in and benefit from inclusive and sustainable economic growth	<b>Main Objective 2</b> People can claim and enjoy their right to improved and inclusive governance and services.  <b>2.1.</b> Policies and processes promote a positive change and are transparent, responsive and participatory <b>2.2.</b> Children and youth have equal and uninterrupted access to inclusive quality education/learning <b>2.3.</b> Disaster affected people have access to essential life-saving assistance	<b>Main Objective 3</b> People fulfill their legitimate and active role for positive change.  <b>3.1.</b> Local communities and their members play an active and leading role in the societal development, contributing to enhanced social cohesion. <b>3.2.</b> Civil society partnerships and networks are strengthened and promote participation, open dialogue and positive social change. <b>3.3.</b> Disaster prone communities have enhanced capacity to save lives, alleviate human suffering [and bounce back] during and after disasters



# Impact Goal and the Main Objectives

**All FCA's work promotes the impact goal:**  
People in fragile contexts are empowered to act for positive and sustainable change in creating resilient and just societies.

In 2020, FCA's work contributed to the achievement of the below global programme main objectives through specific partnerships, approaches and actions.

## Main Objective 1

**People and Private Sector:** People can claim and enjoy their right to inclusive and sustainable economic growth for poverty eradication

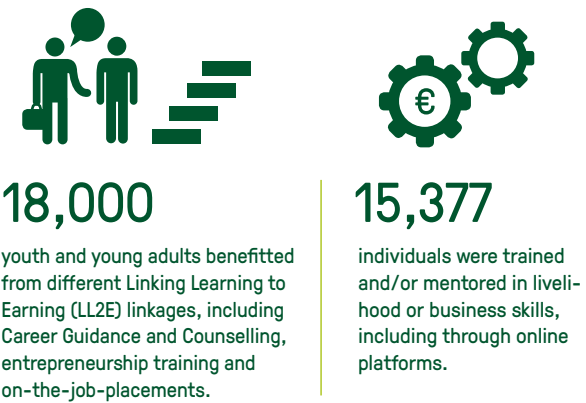
Under this objective, FCA focuses on the relation between people and private sector in the promotion of wellbeing and social stability for all. This is undertaken through a combination of vocational education, employment and entrepreneurship interventions, where private sector is the primary provider of economic opportunities, jobs and markets.

The Covid-19 pandemic set the tone to FCA's work in MO1, which is a cross-section between skilling people for earning a living in the private sector and supporting enterprise creation and growth through improved access to finance and business development services. Both education / training and businesses were among the sectors most severely impacted by the COVID related restrictions and their secondary effects on livelihoods. Thus the main aim of our work in 2020 took the direction of safeguarding the gains made during previous years and strengthening safety nets and survival-supporting services to both Covid-affected populations and businesses. FCA offices reacted by interrupting and adjusting ongoing livelihood-related activities following the changing Covid-19 regimes and reallocated budgets to respond to the pandemic in timely and appropriate ways. As the number of cases remained relatively low throughout 2020, the response in MO1 was mainly to mitigate the livelihood effects of Covid-19 restrictions, a situation which will undoubtedly change with the intensifying health crisis following disease outbreaks, as is expected.

### SO 1.1 Youth and young adults in vulnerable situations become economically self-reliant and contribute positively to social cohesion

FCA's Linking Learning to Earning approach is designed to ensure that youth are not only trained in vocational skills, but can also earn a living out of that skill after completion of training. Thus LL2E contains various market-oriented support mechanisms to smoothen the transition to the world of work either as employees or through self-employment.

LL2E activities were carried out in four countries (Myanmar, Somalia, Uganda and South Sudan) relatively unaffected by Covid-19, whereas the planned vocational education (TVET) programmes in Cambodia and Syria were postponed to 2021 due to school closures. The number of TVET students



receiving support in linking learning to earning has steadily grown, reaching 3,247 individuals in 2020. In Uganda, the LL2E model has gained a solid foothold in and around refugee settlements, as 80 % of global LL2E beneficiaries came from refugee hosting areas in the country. Refugee representation reached 70 %. LL2E targets a 50/50 ratio between young women and men, which was also reached in 2020.

A majority of TVET students benefitted from a combination of working life services that include e.g. career guidance and counselling (CGC, totalling 2,651), on-the-job training (2,400), entrepreneurship training (2,126), and direct business start-up support (291). Offering these services, particularly CGC, in other than TVET-related livelihood and secondary education contexts is a growing trend, which greatly contributed to the nearly doubled volume of service recipients from 10,000 individuals in 2019 to over 18,000 in 2020.

In a normal year, a systematic follow-up of the trainees' employment status six months after completion of their



LL2E cycles would have been carried out. In 2020, tracer studies could not be implemented, but lighter monitoring undertaken by some country offices showed surprisingly good results in spite of Covid-19. In South Sudan 298 trainees out of 414, over half of them women, got paid jobs immediately after their apprenticeships. As in previous years, this example and similar experiences in Somalia show that a proper job market survey prior to the selection of trades and engaging local businesses in curriculum design and training delivery notably increase both the employability of youth and the willingness of employers to offer them jobs after training.

Specifically targeting LL2E programmes to at-risk youth as a means to curb negative coping strategies, strengthened by relevant peace-building and psychosocial tools, is increasing. This effectively utilises the synergies of FCA's thematic pallet, incorporating peace, education and livelihood components. Representative examples can be found e.g. in South Sudan, Somalia and Uganda country programmes that together reached 2,415 such youth, of whom 55 % were young women. Overall, peace and social cohesion objectives are increasingly incorporated into MO1 programming, particularly in inter and intra community conflict contexts.

### SO 1.2 People in vulnerable situations engage in and benefit from inclusive and sustainable economic growth

The ultimate goal of FCA's work is to reduce inequalities, of which multi-faceted poverty is a key indication. MO1 addresses particularly the income aspects of poverty and uses

the rise of households above poverty level as an outcome indicator. As household surveys were mostly not possible during Covid-19 restrictions, some country programmes used less rigid methods to understand changes in poverty status. An example from Uganda reveals the variation in beneficiaries' income levels: the evaluation of a women's economic empowerment project in the informal settlements in and around Kampala indicated that 87 % of the beneficiaries (total 3,673) earned incomes above the national poverty line. This marks an increase of 26 percentage points compared to the baseline in 2018, which can be partly contributed to the urban opportunities the women were able to reap with the help of project services. The corresponding result in a similar project in rural Yumbe was 22 % out of 1,622, which, even if low, exceeded the target level by 7 percentage points. Thus, the global average of 67 % of surveyed beneficiaries reporting incomes above the poverty line, against the targeted 62 %, has ample variance across contexts.

The impact of Covid-19 can also be seen in the key indicator of job creation, which experienced a notable downturn from 1,300 in 2019 to 178 in 2020, whereas the number of existing jobs supported was 858. The decrease in 2020 is plausible, while it is also likely that jobs are under-reported due to Covid-19 challenges in field monitoring.

The majority of new businesses – 3,236 out of 3,333 – fall in the category of non- and on-farm self-employment that creates earnings to the owner only, and it can be safely assumed that in most cases the income levels in 2020 remained too low to provide for a decent living. The 97 micro and small enterprises established in 2020 were mainly



women’s collective businesses and cooperatives in line with the previous years, with a few exceptions in e.g. Jordan. FCA’s strategic shift from predominantly rural, on-farm income generation towards livelihoods diversification and urban locations is reflected in the share of non-farm income sources, 80 % as against 20 % of farm-based businesses. Business opportunities in circular and digital economy are showing growth potential.

The share of women remained high, at 80 % of all the new entrepreneurs, underlining FCA’s continued focus on women’s entrepreneurship. However, enterprise-related programming is increasingly incorporating wider economic empowerment goals. An interesting example of this is a project in Jordan with a strong inclusion and protection component, addressing the care and income needs of households with PwD and fragile elderly members, and leading to the establishment of 111 mainly home-based businesses.

In response to Covid-19, increased attention was given to supporting the existing enterprises’ survival through the pandemic through various means adapted to rapidly shifting restrictions. As a result, the number of enterprises receiving business development services (3,633) multiplied from

previous years, having been 606 in 2019. A total of 15,377 individuals were trained and/or mentored in livelihood or business skills, over 70 % of those trained being women. FCA’s capacity to offer online support in form of training and coaching improved throughout the year. Improved access to affordable financing remained a crucial element in livelihood related projects. In rural areas, on-farm businesses were supported both in accessing critical inputs for e.g. planting and delivering their products to markets during lockdowns, which also served food security purposes. The consequences of Covid-19 were not only negative: e.g. both in Nepal and Cambodia the closure of borders and thus reduced food imports created new markets for local agribusinesses. In Cambodia, emergency food aid was also procured locally through FCA-supported agricultural cooperatives.

In 2020, 46 % of the supported enterprises showed improved performance in key business areas, falling short of annual 78 % target. This is a clear indication of the present threats to livelihoods and underscores the importance of taking the impact of evolving Covid-19 situations into account in future MOI programming.

Main Objective 2

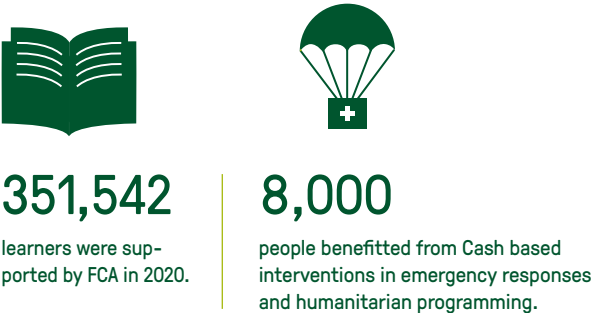
**People and Governance:** People can claim and enjoy their right to improved and inclusive governance and services

Under Main Objective 2, focus is on ensuring that people can claim and enjoy their right to improved and inclusive governance and services. This entails transparent and accountable institutions and effective, participatory and inclusive decision-making as well as strengthening the role of governments as duty bearers in proving essential services, notably in education and emergency relief.

2.1 Policies and processes promote a positive change and are transparent, responsive and participatory

In 2020, FCA engaged in various advocacy initiatives and capacity building targeting duty bearers at national and local levels, resulting in more inclusive policies and processes. FCA implemented altogether 50 advocacy initiatives, out of which 90 % produced a positive change. 56 % of the initiatives focused on Right to Peace, 26 % on Right to Education, 10 % on Right to Quality Livelihoods and 8 % on other human rights related issues. All included various advocacy activities i.e. 42 advocacy campaigns, 85 discussion events, 82 consultation meetings, 17 media engagements and several policy briefs.

FCA successfully promoted inclusivity of processes related to peace and governance in Somalia, Nepal, Kenya, Uganda, CAR and South Sudan. In Somalia, despite Covid-19, remarkable progress has been made in promoting national reconciliation and inclusive local governance and state building. Two new district councils were formed with historic representation of both women and youth. In South West State of Somalia, not only were historic number of women elected in state parliament, but also a state gender policy was developed which promotes the 30 % quota system. Similarly



in Kenya, Nepal and in Uganda, advocacy efforts on GBV and women’s rights provided positive results. In Kenya, this contributed to translating national 1325 plans to county level processes. In Nepal, promotion of non-discriminatory legal provisions resulted in endorsement of a Dalit empowerment bill and budget commitments from local municipalities.

In education, FCA promoted access and improved possibilities to learning during the school closures and lockdowns.



We advocated and supported the education authorities to implement safe return to schools and additional measures in hygiene and social distancing in the contexts of remote, hybrid and classroom-based learning. In addition, FCA supported efforts to improve access to quality education for conflict-affected children and refugees (Myanmar, Kenya, Uganda), inclusive education (Uganda, Somalia), recruitment of female teachers to address the needs of girls in schools (Uganda), access to TVET for women and youth (Nepal, Uganda), and improved carrier guidance and counselling services (Cambodia, Myanmar).

FCA promoted policies and practices addressing women’s improved livelihood opportunities and the economic rights of women and displaced populations. In Nepal, women’s cooperatives lobbied successfully for access to local development resources and government services to the cooperatives. In Jordan, municipality officers were trained in legal questions related to licensing of home-based businesses, while meetings with duty-bearers resulted in a set of recommendations on dismantling the barriers particularly women and Syrian refugees face in accessing job market and self-employment opportunities. In Myanmar, project-level evidence was utilised in consultation meetings with the Small-Scale Industrial Department resulting in a MOU for collaboration in women’s empowerment on union level.

FCA continued to support and strengthen the capacities ministries, authorities and institutions for improved capacity to deliver services and enhanced accountability towards the rights-holders. A total of 37 duty bearer capacity building initiatives reached 4,654 duty bearers (35 % female) and covered diverse topics, including education sector development, technical support due to Covid-19 and inclusive governance. Activities were adapted to the Covid-19 context and utilized interactive radio or social media platforms, or when possible, were organised as socially distant meetings.

In 2020, FCA offered technical support for MoEs and

created distance education manuals (IOPT) or teacher education modules (Kenya and Bangladesh). Strong collaboration with different coordination mechanism (Uganda, Bangladesh and South-Sudan) also provided excellent opportunities to support governments and education sector development. In the context of Covid-19, this also included strengthening disaster risk reduction and preparedness in education sector planning, policies and strategies.

In TVET sub-sector development, FCA contributed to policy formulation in South Sudan and Teacher Training Working group. In Uganda, Kyaka II settlement received accreditation from Directorate of Industrial Standards (DIT), which allows the center to administer exams of qualification standards of DIT and provide certificates for trainees. CGC sub-sector development took place in Cambodia and Myanmar. In Somalia, the grounds were cast for collaboration with the related ministries in charge of vocational education.

2.2 Children and youth have equal and uninterrupted access to inclusive quality education/ learning

FCA operates in fragile, and conflict affected countries where the temporary duty bearers, such as the UN or INGOs, may need to take on a greater role in the provision of goods and services. In 2020, FCA’s support to service provision was mainly in education and emergency aid. Covid-19 pandemic forced FCA and its partners to find new ways of work and to adapt activities as necessary. During school closures, access to learning in FCA’s programme countries varied from limited opportunities via distance education to no opportunities at all. Some educational programmes did not resume at all in 2020.

FCA and its partners continued to ensure access to protective, safe and stimulating learning environments during the Covid-10 pandemic. We collaborated closely with health and child protection actors to keep children and youth safe



and protected. This included awareness raising on Covid-19, provision of soap and hand-washing facilities and distribution of masks, training teachers in Covid-19 prevention and management, increasing focus on child protection and psychosocial support, and referring learners to specialized health services as necessary.

FCA and partners, clusters and MoEs developed and implemented new pedagogical solutions and ways of work resulting in uninterrupted education in many of our country programmes. In collaboration, we supported, among other things, the creation of home learning packages to home-based learning, facilitated radio-based learning, organized small group learning, and created community-based solutions to share learning materials and adapted materials for visually impaired learners. Online education was delivered with online contents through WhatsApp application, and psychosocial support through using tablets. Connectivity issues were addressed through solar panels for electricity. Career Guidance and Counselling was provided for students by phone, video lessons and through Mobile Counselling, and online Career Fairs were organised with private sector enterprises and educational institutions.

Despite all the challenges and reduced teaching time, the total number of learners supported by FCA continued to grow and reached 351,542 learners<sup>4</sup> (168,053 F, 182,218 M; 1271 not disaggregated by gender) in 2020 opposed to 245,662 in 2019. 88 % of all learners were refugees, internally displaced persons or from host communities.

During the first quarter of 2020, FCA supported access to ECD for 24,402 children (12,105 M, 12,297 F) with a significant increase in the number of learners in refugee camps and settlements of Uganda and Kenya. Unfortunately, for example in Uganda, ECD was not included in distance education programming provided by the government, and remained closed when other schools started the gradual re-opening in October 2020.

Primary education remained the biggest form of education supported by FCA (79 %) mainly through Education in Emergencies provision in involuntary displacement settings. The total number of learners supported at primary level<sup>5</sup> in 2020 was 258,659 (140,655 M, 118,004 F) and experienced a significant increase compared to year 2019. Factors that contributed to this included the growing number of refugees and the general increase in available funding for Education in Emergencies. The number of secondary general education students<sup>6</sup> also increased significantly between 2019 and 2020 and was 30,509 (16,815 M, 13,694 F). The relative proportion of girls increased slightly (from 43 % to 45 %), but boys still outnumbered girls.

In 2020, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) provision decreased from previous year. The total number of TVET students supported by FCA - formal and non-formal combined - reached 2,412 learners (1,132 M, 1,250 F) in 2020. However, many countries have built their capacity to develop the TVET sector in a more goal-oriented manner and FCA has contributed to this development.

<sup>4</sup> Includes 15,377 individuals trained and/or mentored in livelihood or business skills (see Sub-objective 1.2)

<sup>5</sup> 'Formal' category

<sup>6</sup> Formal education category

**In 2020, FCA supported 351,542 learners' access to quality education. Eighty-eight percent of them were refugees, internally displaced persons or from the host communities.**

FCA supported a variety of other trainings, for example Accelerated Learning Programmes, remedial education, literacy and numeracy training, peace education, and psychosocial support programmes attached to non-formal education and recreational activities (See MOI for short-term livelihoods and business training).

Male learners (52 %) outnumbered female learners (48 %) in the total number of learners supported by FCA. In formal primary and formal secondary education the majority of learners were male, whereas in non-formal education and in ECD most learners were female. In TVET, female learners slightly outnumbered male learners in both categories (in formal and non-formal TVET). This is a positive trend that needs to take place in formal education as well.

FCA supported Children with Disabilities (CwDs) in access to quality education in Uganda, Cambodia, Somalia, Kenya, Syria and CAR. Overall, FCA has succeeded in strengthening disability inclusion more systematically as part of the activities. FCA's support included scholarships and other support in school enrolment, catch-up classes, trainings to community education committees and teachers, and improved access to WASH. The total number of supported CwDs was approximately 2,400, most of them female. In real terms, the number is likely to be higher but is underreported due to challenges in data collection.

FCA has also contributed to better access to education through constructing new safe and protective learning environments in EiE contexts. In 2020, FCA constructed or rehabilitated 732 constructions, including semi-permanent and permanent classrooms, latrines, handwashing facilities and sport facilities. However, there is still a need for additional school infrastructure in order to accommodate the increasing number of refugees, including CwDs.

In 2020, passing exams and completing studies were challenging due to Covid-19, and additional efforts were taken by FCA, local education authorities and teachers to support students taking their exams. In those countries where students were able to take their exams, primary level completion rate of girls varied from 92 % to 100 % and completion rate of boys from 91 % to 99 %. Secondary completion rate varied from 92 % to 100 % for girls and from 89 % to 100 % for boys. TVET-programmes were successfully completed in three countries (South Sudan, Somalia and Myanmar).

The total number of teachers trained was 2,649 with 35 % of them female. 85 % of the surveyed/monitored teachers reported positive change (n=663). Most of the teacher education took place as in-service training. During Covid-19, FCA focused for example on creating materials and in delivering distance teacher education to teachers and Career Guidance Counsellors, where and when possible, mainly through

WhatsApp, Teams and Zoom. In 2020, TVET teacher education was introduced for the first time in Somalia, while the planned TVET teacher and CGC trainings in South Sudan were postponed due to the Covid-19. In Uganda, CGC trainings continued as ToT trainings and 10 trained Trainer of Trainers continued to deliver CGC trainings in their respective areas. A WhatsApp CGC group was formed for mutual sharing of ideas and support in CGC.

During the pandemic FCA has paid special attention to an integrated and holistic approach, and support to teacher and staff well-being has been included to the trainings as well. In 2020, altogether 2,526 staff and teachers were trained on psychosocial support, most of them were female.

### 2.3 Disaster affected people have access to essential life-saving assistance

FCA supported access to essential services by providing material support and Cash based interventions (CBIs) in its emergency operations and humanitarian programming. FCA's emergency support reached 44,628 beneficiaries (estimated over 50 % are female). FCA used CBIs to support 4,003 households benefitting over 8,000 people. Covid-19 accelerated additional needs in emergency support, prioritizing CBIs and repurposing of existing programme activities.

FCA provided food aid, clean water, non-food items and hygiene kits to over 2,000 IDPs in North and East Syria in temporary shelters, following attacks and fighting across the Syrian-Turkish border and the following displacement of 200,000 - 300,000 persons in the region in the end of 2019.

FCA, in cooperation with Islamic Relief Worldwide, provided clean water to 8,700 beneficiaries in Yemen, by repairing and rehabilitating two water supply systems, training of beneficiaries and organizing hygiene promotions to cover personal domestic and environmental hygiene approaches.

In Lebanon, in cooperation with Norwegian Church Aid, FCA provided food aid, hygiene and dignity kits as well as heaters and bedding sets for more than 7,000 people affected by the Beirut explosion in the autumn 2020.

In South Sudan, FCA contributed to improved food security and livelihoods for flood-affected population in Pibor County. FCA provide agricultural kits to 700 beneficiaries to enable them access to food and rebuild their income and assets.

In order to respond to Covid-19 needs, FCA and its Greek partner organization Apostoli, provided monthly food packages and weekly ready to eat rations to 1,613 beneficiaries and hygiene items to 596 beneficiaries in the refugee camps and to the most vulnerable Greeks in Athens, Greece.

In Nepal, Covid-19 and related lockdowns adversely affected especially the most vulnerable target groups. FCA supported 22,493 individuals from 4,190 households with food and hygiene materials.

In Cambodia, FCA distributed monthly food and cash assistance to 322 households for three months. Covid-19 awareness and prevention were also provided during the distribution process.

The Covid-19 pandemic brought about many limitations in terms of aid delivery due to restrictions and regulations on social distancing and along the supply chain, resulting in delays and challenging logistics. As a result, cash assis-



tance took center stage as the recommended delivery modality for aid distribution. As in 2019, Myanmar and South Sudan Country Offices implemented conditional Cash for Education (CfE) and unconditional cash transfers. Cambodia delivered cash-based assistance for the first time targeting 148 households, while Uganda implemented a Cash for Work programme as part of EiE programming to benefit families of Children with Disabilities (CWD).

SOCO's first voucher programme that started in 2019 exceeded the set targets and provided 3,220 vulnerable learners (1,874 M, 1,346 F) with learning materials and school uniforms. In addition, 309 most vulnerable student households fostering children or with children with special needs received also food vouchers to cover basic needs and alleviate food insecurity. In one of the targeted schools, Mustaqbal Integrated School, there was a 160 % increase in enrolment of CwD from 70 students (44 M, 26 F) to 228 (149 M, 79 F).



## Main Objective 3

**People and Civil Society:** People fulfill their legitimate and active role for positive change

Under MO3, FCA supported people as members of civil society to claim and fulfill their legitimate and active role. We continued to support the space and capacity of civil society – with a focus on traditionally excluded groups.

In 2020, all FCA's country programmes supported civil society through empowerment, capacity building, and networking support. The overall space for civil society is shrinking and the Covid-19 pandemic has only accelerated this trend. In addition to the Covid-19 safety and security measures, regulations and policies restricting the space of civic space and action can have a longer-term impact on our work in support of civil society. Furthermore, as 2020 was an election year in a number of our programme countries, our work needed to navigate the compounded effects of increased security issues, civic space restrictions, and Covid-19 restrictions.

Despite these challenges, there is visible progress and positive developments as a result of FCA's support to civil society space and action in 2020.

### SO 3.1 Local communities and their members play an active and leading role in the societal development, contributing to enhanced social cohesion.

Active role of the citizens and civil society was demonstrated through 62 civil society and community-led processes supported by FCA in 10 programme countries, marking a slight increase from 2019. These processes addressed inter- and intra-community relations and conflict resolution (30 %); promotion of women's right and reduction of gender-based violence (16 %); and economic empowerment of vulnerable groups (14 %). Other topics covered promotion of rights of vulnerable groups in diverse settings, right to education as well as Covid-19. In the Covid-19 context, some of these were organized utilizing interactive radio or social media platforms, or when possible, as phased, socially distant meetings the pandemic situation permitting.

In 2020, civil society and community actors also mobilized to address the primary and secondary impacts of Covid-19 in countries such as Syria, Somalia, Kenya, South Sudan, CAR, Nepal and Cambodia. They spread correct and timely information on preventative measures, engaged in response or highlighted the negative secondary impacts of the crisis, such as the rapid increase in gender-based violence or discrimination against marginalized groups.

As there are groups who are often left behind and excluded from decision-making, FCA continued to promote the meaningful participation and leadership of women and youth. 41 % of these 63 community-level processes were led by or specifically targeted diverse women's groups, cooperatives and networks, and 46 % of the processes were led by or specifically targeted youth groups or young women and men. We promote community-based organization, where e.g., cooperatives, women's empowerment committees, youth and peace clubs enable active participation in inclusive governance, conflict prevention and resolution efforts,



136

NGOs and CSOs partnered with and were supported by FCA. In addition, FCA supported 52 networks and 187 community-based groups.



63

community-level processes were supported by FCA in all programme countries to address socio-economic issues, civic participation in governance and women and human rights violations.

as well as economic life. In addition to supporting knowledge and capacity of the right holders to fulfil their rights as active citizens, linking to MO2, we seek to create an enabling environment for their role.

Key achievements were demonstrated in inclusive governance and democratization process in Somalia. We supported broad-based community level consultations and utilized radio and television to raise awareness on civic rights and opportunities to participate in political processes, with a focus on previously excluded and marginalized groups including women, youth, and minority clans. A total of 93 % of the people surveyed for a media monitoring exercise were aware of the district council formation process and the importance of community engagement. In 2020, not only were two new district councils formed, but also with historic representation of women and youth as newly elected members of the councils. In Nepal, FCA continued to support various community-based groups and organizations to advance the rights of marginalized groups including Dalits, ex-bonded laborers, and ethnic minorities. As a strong indication of increased trust between civil society and government actors, as well as of strengthened capacity of local civil society, the cooperatives and community groups supported by FCA received 96 % of the funds requested from the local government for various development initiatives.

Level of socio-economic empowerment is often linked to the ability of marginalized and excluded groups to claim their role as active citizens. Altogether 212 community based and civic groups reported to have increased their participation in development processes. In Somalia, Small Quick Impact Projects increased economic empowerment for members of a women's network who have seen their improved economic



status and opportunities for further participation in the political sphere and advocacy for women's political participation in general. Similarly in CAR, the youth peace clubs members supported by FCA also received IGA support to address some of the barriers to their active civic role only exacerbated by the Covid-19 crisis. In Myanmar, FCA supported 29 women groups to engage in collective income generating activities which contributed to a reported increase in women's decision-making power at the community level. In Jordan, a series of 56 group discussion events were organized in local communities on business development and obstacles that women face as entrepreneurs.

### SO 3.2 Civil society partnerships and networks are strengthened and promote participation, open dialogue and positive social change.

FCA direct support in form of capacity-strengthening, technical, thematic, and financial support reached 136 NGOs and CSO including co-implementation partners as well as diverse 187 community-based groups in 11 countries. These entailed of diverse range of actors and organizations ranging from academia, local CBOs, groups, and networks, as well as INGOs. The various community and civil society groups included cooperatives, producer groups, women and youth groups, peace committees as well as parent teacher associations and school management committees. Their initiatives and efforts are described above. FCA and its partners participated in and supported 52 networks at the country level. Furthermore, altogether 2,327 members of civil society (1,256 F, 1,071 M) benefitted from capacity strengthening on dialogue building, effective networking and/or civil society empowerment in 2020.

FCA continued to support the establishment of Community Education Committees and Parent-Teacher associations, which play a key role in increasing community members' commitment to education. In 2020, these also had a vital role in supporting communities to cope with the impacts of the Covid-19 crisis. FCA supported capacity building of Community Education Committees, and PTAs, on psychosocial support, child safeguarding and protection to identify the children in distress and timely intervene or

refer them for further support. In addition, community-based solutions were found to address the lack of learning materials and other challenges during school closures. FCA supported schools had 274 functioning parent-teacher associations in 2020. In Syria, due to context-specific restrictions, FCA supported the establishment of 11 community committees instead of PTAs. Furthermore, in CAR, FCA established 23 education networks at community level, composed of leaders and activists advocating for all children in the community to attend school.

### SO 3.3 Disaster prone communities have enhanced capacity to save lives, alleviate human suffering [and bounce back] during and after disasters

Finally, FCA worked with disaster prone communities to save lives, alleviate human suffering, and build back better after disasters (climate and non-climate induced). In 2020, FCA provided 66 trainings on preparedness, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) in Uganda, Kenya, Somalia, Nepal, and Cambodia. Of those trainings, 7 were provided at community level to key groups, providing them with knowledge, skills and tools to build their own resilience. For instance, in Nepal, climate resilient and sustainable agriculture was promoted among farmers. In Cambodia, climate resilient agriculture innovations, DRR and other CCA trainings were facilitated to Women Agriculture Cooperatives, District Committee of Disaster Management and Village Disaster Management Groups. In Kenya, CCA activities were implemented as part of a peace-building project, by training young people on beekeeping. Subsequently, 300 modern beehives were provided to engage communities in apiculture as a livelihood activity. Out of the 66 trainings, 59 were delivered at school level, focusing on DRR, creating thus more resilient and better prepared schools.

As a result of the trainings, a total of 24 emergency preparedness and response plans (EPRPs) were established, 2 of them at community level and 22 at school level. Additionally, in Nepal, a Climate Vulnerability Capacity and Risk Assessment was conducted supporting local duty bearers to design and establish an emergency response and a mitigation plan.



# GUIDING APPROACHES AND CROSSCUTTING ISSUES

FCA is a rights based actor and our work is guided by international human rights principles. We promote gender equality and Do No Harm Principles, and work for climate action and environmental protection.

## Gender

During 2020, FCA continued to promote gender equality both through integrating gender equality systematically in all FCA's operational work and working modalities and through specific women's empowerment projects. The Covid-19 pandemic was visible in the decline in women's and girls' rights and gender equality. All our actions aimed to reduce and tackle these negative effects and empower women and girls. Many of our projects adapted new forms of practices and succeed in reaching out to vulnerable groups as well as to ensure women's active participation through a variety of online solutions, use of radio, mobile phones, radio programmes and e.g. WhatsApp groups such as in Kenya by the Women Talking Circles.

The social disruption and economic losses due to Covid-19 have made women and girls particularly vulnerable to extreme forms of violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse and child marriages. Women and girls in marginalized communities, rural women and migrant women, including those with disabilities, are among those most affected. For example in Nepal efforts were intensified to work against GBV and violation of women's rights. Patriarchic values and practices prevail widely also in the communities FCA works with. The discussions with the communities focused on women's right to freedom of speech and opinion, their right to recreation, fair distribution of household work and violence faced by women. The Gender-Based Violence sub-committees and the Vigilance Group provided important support to women victims of violence, and the mechanisms established to process the cases of violence have built confidence amongst women. Community level dialogues and Family Dialogues were also conducted to reduce GBV during the pandemic, and activities focused on strengthening partnership with men and boys. Discussions on men's engagement to reduce GBV were e.g. organised during cooperative group meetings amongst women and men.

In Right to Livelihood (R2L), FCA continued to consolidate its work as a promoter of inclusive and sustainable economic development that provides people in vulnerable situations,

particularly women, youth and populations on the move with increased opportunities for a decent living. For example in Myanmar, the majority of beneficiaries continued to be women in economic empowerment projects. The women's economic empowerment project was extended and focused on provision of skills training to individual women and women groups and subsequently supporting them financially to set up individual and collective IGAs. The project raised awareness on gender roles, positive masculinities, family dynamics and opportunities for economic empowerment. The project also produced two learning documents: Women Economic Empowerment Weaving and Handicraft Capacity Development (UN Women Phase 2) and Women Economic Empowerment, Weaving and Handicraft Capacity Development (UN Women Phase 3).

In Right to Quality Education, gender equality remained an important cross-cutting issue and the effects of Covid-19 were clearly observed when schools closed and teaching was provided through different means of distance and hybrid modes of education. Special measures were taken to ensure girls access and continued schooling and to avoid drop outs especially among teenage girls and at secondary level and vocational training. FCA achieved good results in investing in educating more female teachers and ensuring girls' access to, retention in and continued education at different levels as well as in vocational training. In Kenya, special attention was paid to secure teenage girls continuing schooling by providing sanitary towels for them, improved safe and separate WASH facilities and training on Menstrual Health Management (MHM). Similarly, FCA trained duty bearers on child rights, anti-FGM laws, and mediation skills and provided awareness raising among stakeholders. In Jordan, Covid-19 pandemic put extra pressure on women who were most often responsible for overseeing their children's distance education, in addition to their other duties. While FCA did not challenge this gendered division of labour as such, the switch to online modalities in business development activities had the unexpected consequence of allowing greater flexibility in women's daily schedules and organization of different tasks. FCA also continued developing gender inclusive conflict sensitive education.

In Right to Peace, FCA was successful in increasing women's equal and meaningful participation in political and peace mediation processes, in communal affairs as well as in decision-making at different levels, including national and state-building efforts in fragile and post-conflict environments. FCA promoted inclusive peacebuilding with women and youth, people on the move, and with traditional, religious and faith-oriented actors in several country programmes as well as regionally, and



facilitated a series of online learning and exchanging workshops among Finnish peace building organisations. The first workshop presented inspiring positive progress in women's leadership and active participation in peace building processes and decision-making bodies in key state-building processes in South Western State (SWS) in Somalia.

We also continued to build FCA's and our partners' capacities to advocate women's human rights and to use all the available means in awareness raising, capacity building, trainings, programme development and advocacy. These efforts aimed at improving FCA and its partners' capacities in identifying gender related practical and strategic needs, roles and power dynamics to promote gender equality more efficiently. FCA continued its close collaboration with LWF, WCC and other partners in organizing women's human rights advocacy training for faith-based organizations. The online training was organized with 75 participants from around the world. FCA supported the participation of 12 participants, most of them from FCA country offices and one partner representative.

FCA collaborated actively with the ACT Alliance networks and working groups such as the ACT Gender Justice Community of Practice. In addition, FCA continued to follow the work of International Partnership of Religion and Sustainable Development, particularly the work stream of Gender Equality and Empowerment. Several FCA country offices contributed to the 16 Days of Activism against GBV campaign together with their partners and raising awareness of the important work against SGBV. FCA's Executive Director Jouni Hemberg

**During 2020, many FCA projects promoted women's active participation through online solutions, radio programmes and WhatsApp groups.**

and the archbishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, Rev. Dr Tapio Luoma became Ambassadors of the campaign Thursdays in Black, led by World Council of Churches, and published video messages and statements during the year. Several COs joined in the Thursdays in Black campaign with photos and sharing short stories in the social media platforms. For example, Uganda country office participated in the ACT global Gender justice programme activities under the theme for solidarity prayer "Harnessing protection for women and girls amidst Covid-19 Pandemic" with the aim of attracting the attention of the government, religious leaders, parents and key stakeholder and gate keepers on the need to provide protection for women and girls during the Covid-19 pandemic.

FCA is also an active member of the Finnish advocacy network for gender equality the Friday Group (under the Parliament of Finland Sexual and Reproductive Rights group) and participated in the follow up of the Finnish 1325 NAP progress and reporting, FCA being one of the implementing NGOs for the NAP.





**FCA continued to improve the integration of Do No Harm and conflict sensitivity into all of its work to avoid any negative impacts and maximize positive effects.**

## Do No Harm and conflict sensitivity

In line with the requirements of the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) framework, FCA improved the integration of Do No Harm and conflict sensitivity into all of FCA's work across country programmes to ensure programming avoids any negative impacts and maximizes positive effects.

All country programmes are required to keep up-to-date context analyses and ensure the meaningful participation and continuous dialogue with right-holders to adjust programming as needed. In 2020, FCA revised its planning guideline to provide more guidance on conflict analysis as an integral part of the wider do no harm analysis. The development of other aspects of do no harm progressed as well on the global level, such as drafting of a safeguarding policy, guideline for ethical communications, and data protection guideline, which are all to be completed and rolled out in 2021.

In the Covid-19 context, mainstreaming do no harm entailed quickly adapting digital or technological solutions or tools in programming, or organizing smaller, socially distant and safe meetings when possible and pandemic situation permitting. In education that meant also support to home-based education and self-study. In 2020, many activities were also cancelled or postponed due to the pandemic situation.

As an example, in Somalia conflict mapping and analysis have been carried out in various target districts before the initiation of peace talks and district council formation (DCF) process. The mapping has enabled FCA and its partners to have better picture of conflict dynamics and draw concrete actions to address historical grievances and existing conflicts before engaging with the communities to avoid harm on the community.

Any livelihood intervention has the innate potential to either disrupt or strengthen social cohesion. In displacement contexts FCA ensures that refugees and members of host community benefit from the interventions to mitigate potential conflicts between communities as well as to

contribute to social cohesion to maximize the positive effects of programming. As an example, in Uganda FCA promotes livelihood and economic self-reliance for refugees and members of host communities in protracted displacement settings, recognizing the importance of viable livelihoods and economic collaboration in promoting social cohesion and peace. The TVET centers served as a space for building trust and collaboration between different communities, therefore contributing to social cohesion outcomes. In Jordan, entrepreneurship trainings promoted ethical conduct of businesses; special attention was paid to fair competition and not intentionally harming rival businesses, which could potentially create tensions in local communities. Collaboration –instead of competition– was maximized among the individuals who live or work in the same area, to promote possible cooperation and reach a win-win solution. One of the new trainings provided in the camps were the cyber security and combating online crimes. This training raised the participants' awareness of the possibilities, means and clues of hacking and cyber-crimes so that they could protect their accounts and personal information and also not to cause any harm to others. This is an important new opening not only in terms skills provision but also to ensure that skills provided by FCA are used responsibly, hence not negatively affecting the surrounding society.

In Education in Emergencies, recognizing the important role schools play in conflict prevention, FCA has expanded its Teachers in Conflict Settings Trainings (TICC) to prevent conflict through Conflict Sensitive Education programming. FCA is continuously expanding its TiCC expertise across countries. The use of music, dance, drama and sports activities in education contribute to cognitive, social and emotional well-being, and have recreational and psycho-social health benefits. Conflict Sensitive Education has also been crucial in FCA's education programming during Covid-19, in order to reduce stigma and support safe, protected and healthy return back to school.

## Climate action and environmental protection

During 2020, FCA continued to improve and extend its climate action and environmental protection work, in a context of several global emergencies: climate change, biodiversity loss, overconsumption of natural resources and recently the Covid-19 pandemic.

Covid-19 pandemic associated effects and measures led to unavoidable delays and changes for some of the planned activities. However, despite this FCA continued to improve knowledge, skills, and attitudes of its staff to better align programmes and projects with FCA's Climate and environmental approach. FCA's revised Climate Tool and other updated programming guidelines were rolled out in all country offices, and climate action and environmental protection mainstreaming processes have allowed our country offices to move forward with a more systematic approach. Feedback from country offices is used to further improve the tools and approach for an effective mainstreaming of climate action work.

In 2020, FCA also started to integrate activities into ongoing projects to improve communities' resilience to climate change, and to reduce risks and improve the overall impact of the projects. For instance in Kenya, climate change adaptation activities were implemented as part of a peace building project by training young people on beekeeping. Beekeeping had been identified by FCA's climate tool as a suitable and feasible implementation activity in the region. Subsequently, 300 modern beehives were provided to engage communities in apiculture as a livelihood activity. The project and its impact will closely be monitored to potentially replicate the activities in other FCA projects. Information sharing and trainings were an important part of Climate Action and Environmental protection work for FCA. A total of 59 Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) trainings were provided at school level in Uganda, Cambodia, and Somalia reducing exposure and vulnerability as well as improving resilience of learners and school-staff to man-made and natural disasters. Additionally, seven DRR and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) trainings were facilitated at community level in Nepal, Kenya and Cambodia. For instance, in Nepal climate resilient and sustainable agriculture was promoted, helping to regenerate the fertility of agricultural land, enhancing environmental sustainability of production, and reducing environmental degradation. In Cambodia, the Climate Change Adaptive Agriculture project increased communities' resilience to the adverse effects of climate change through DRR and CCA trainings and the implementation of climate resilient agricultural innovations benefiting 3507 people, and all Women Agriculture Cooperatives were able to develop a DRR plan. Additionally, a vulnerability assessment in Samroang commune was conducted by CAMCO and the District Committee of Disaster Management, leading to the elaboration and implementation of a disaster preparedness plan. The commune was affected by flash floods in September 2020 but because of the disaster preparedness plan in place, 184 families were evacuated on time. FCA established a total of 24 emergency preparedness and response plans in several communities and schools of Kenya, Cambodia, Nepal, Uganda and Somalia.

The changing climate is impacting quality and availability of food in the world. Low-income groups are specially affected by food insecurity. In 2020, FCA started to design and implement approaches to address the issue. For instance, in Somalia, Food vouchers were provided to 309 most vulnerable IDP and host community households targeting crisis affected and food insecure families. The project evaluation concluded that assistance was very timely and relevant for the affected families to find positive coping mechanisms in response to the prolonged drought, flash flooding and African locust swarms, which were impacting Baidoa in early 2020.

Green office practices are also extending throughout FCA's country offices, aligning with FCA's global commitment to the Green Office principles. In the upcoming years, FCA will continue to reduce unnecessary travels and take advantage of new ways of working that we have adopted and implemented during the Covid-19 pandemic.

FCA contributes to the achievement of Paris Agreement's goal through supporting communities to transition towards sustainable development. In 2020, as part of the climate action approach, FCA started to explore new livelihoods/business opportunities on bioeconomy, circular-economy and creative-industries with low or zero-emissions and with a sustainable management of natural resources. We will continue supporting these new opportunities by greening TVET and LL2E and by establishing and strengthening networks between stakeholders to improve value chains and markets to generate more, better, and greener employment opportunities.

FCA's initiative "WeFood" –surplus food supermarket– has continued to support food waste reduction in Finland. In 2020, WeFood reduced food waste by 87,000 kg. The shop continued to be run by volunteers (110 volunteers) offering them a meaningful way to contribute to climate action.







## Innovations

Innovation is an important aspect in FCA's programme work to improve and amplify its impact. During 2020, Covid-19 hampered adopting fully this new approach and effectively exploiting the available resources. Some of the planned innovation workshops were cancelled when FCA was forced to adopt new ways of work. A huge need for remote work rose especially in Education. The education team sought the most effective solutions and particularly through digitalization. However, the overall objective was to define and develop simultaneously digital components and concepts that could be adapted to all themes and modalities.

FCA's earlier decision to prioritise digitalization was originally influenced by cost-effectiveness, opportunities to improve quality and reduce travel or the printing of learning materials, and thus contributing to mitigating climate change. The Covid-19 pandemic accelerated the standardization of new solutions, which were originally developed to meet specific local needs. The standardized solutions were chosen in line with FCA's strategy and the possibility to adopt them also in livelihood and peace work and in different working modalities, namely development cooperation, humanitarian aid and advocacy and even Investment.

When selecting solutions, the digitization strategies and practical systems of other functions as well as the possibility of ICT support were also taken into account. They serve as a framework for the development of digitization strategy of programme work.

FCA developed digital components with two different entities focusing on effective distance learning. The first was Fingo Powerbank, which is coordinated by the Finnish Development NGOs platform – Fingo. The aim is to increase civil society's capacity in three areas: innovations, technology solutions and corporate collaboration. During the pilot

phase, member organizations tested new technologies in practice. For FCA, this meant testing remote learning methods in the Kakuma and Kalobeye refugee settlements in Kenya. This included the distribution of radios to student groups, with the memory stick feature which allowed the recording of national education broadcasts and FCA-supported local radio broadcasts, while teachers' supported learners either face-to-face or remotely via WhatsApp. FCA also created guidelines and teaching support materials that were tailored for this purpose. Power Bank-project also includes active network meetings and workshops for CSOs to jointly create and pilot new and improved solutions and to facilitate the review and evaluation.

As part of the Omnia's apprenticeship training, three members of the education team started to develop the distance learning package from the perspective of service and product development and utilizing its processes. The team collected and developed the concrete components from infra and hardware to software, content and management in accordance with the general utility principles set out above. Grassroots involvement was effectively promoted thanks to one of the team members working in the target country Uganda directly with the beneficiaries. Teleworking solutions also served to support the work of Teachers without Borders –network volunteers when they were not able to travel to the target areas.

In addition, the scalable solutions require and open up opportunities for information sharing and cooperation with companies and other actors. For example, a large part of the content and its distribution platform is obtained from the Niilo Mäki Institute, a customized or supported network solution is sought together with a Finnish company, and the innovative entity enables international equipment suppliers to participate via their corporate social responsibility programs.

FCA innovation coordinator also participated in SDG Boosters, organized by Finnpartnership, UNTIL, Fingo and Business Finland. They brought together companies, NGOs, financial instruments and thematic experts to develop solutions and projects to address concrete needs identified in developing countries. The goal of the SDG Booster is to accelerate progress to the Sustainable Development Goals through the creation and implementation of innovative digital technology projects. Each SDG booster was comprised of two workshops around a thematic topic and a geographical region. FCA was active in the first, Geospatial technologies and GIS Solutions for IGAD countries and in Third, Education in Africa. Again, the planned visits to target locations were cancelled due to Covid-19.

**Innovations focused mainly on education and seeking the most effective technical solutions through digitalisation.**

# FCA'S WORKING MODALITIES

FCA's main working modalities are development cooperation, humanitarian assistance, advocacy and investment. The choice of the most effective modalities is based on the specific context and intervention. During 2020, FCA successfully adapted its ways of work in its countries of operation to address Covid-19 related challenges.

## Development cooperation

Many of FCA's operating contexts are characterized by alternating periods of stability and recurrent crises, and our country programmes are well equipped to adapt the working modalities as necessary. FCA sees development work as focusing on promoting a lasting positive change and improvement in people's well-being. We acknowledge that development challenges are context specific and complex, and that positive and sustainable progress involves tackling many different problems simultaneously, in the longer-term and in an integrated and comprehensive manner.

In 2020, amid the Covid-19 pandemic, FCA's development work continued to support the realization of respective national development goals and provision of universal social, economic and environmental rights and basic standards to all citizens and residents. At the core of FCA's development cooperation are the principles of local ownership, inclusive partnerships, focus on sustainable results and impact, transparency and mutual accountability between all partners.

FCA continued to enhance skills, knowledge and capacities, and develop and maximize impact of partnerships. In FCA's programme countries, context-specific solutions were sought to support the process of empowerment of the poorest women and men, with an even stronger contextualization and inclusiveness of the interventions. In many contexts, FCA has effectively promoted greater inclusion, while in some countries the Covid-19 pandemic has had a considerable negative impact on the well-being and incomes of the most vulnerable groups, and just and stable societies.

FCA's actions and interventions to address the global Covid-19 pandemic and its effects varied from one country and area to another, they were analyzed locally and relevant actions were developed accordingly. FCA also recognizes that while the impact of the pandemic continues to be severe and dramatic in many contexts, it also presents an



opportunity to seek new ways of doing things and to try to revolutionize development.

SDG's are featured in our global strategy, as well as in global programme and reporting. Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) form an essential part of the policy context guiding FCA's work and FCA's global programme contributes broadly to the SDG framework.

In 2020, FCA further continued the reflection on the humanitarian-development nexus, in relation to its own programme framework. Furthermore, FCA's country programmes work in close cooperation with the local actors in promoting local ownership. Civil society organisations, local partners and increasingly also the private sector actors, play a key role in achieving the set programme objectives, and FCA takes an active role in strengthening the civil society and civil engagement at different levels.





## Humanitarian assistance

FCA continued to work in a number of fragile programme countries and in protracted humanitarian crises, especially in refugee and IDP settings in the Central African Republic, Uganda, South Sudan, Jordan, Syria, Myanmar and Somalia. FCA also responded to acute disaster situations during the year.

Year 2020 was exceptional due to Covid-19 pandemic. Covid-19 affected FCA's programme countries and ongoing humanitarian programmes in multiple ways. Schools were closed and health care systems were stretched. Restrictions of movement and lockdowns affected FCA's capacity to implement ongoing programmes and some activities had to be cancelled or post-poned. FCA had to restructure its programmes and adapt new tools and ways of work.

In the spring, FCA started projects to prevent the spread of Covid-19 by disseminating information about the virus, and promoting good hygiene practices and social distancing measures. Activities included distribution of hygiene items, provision of clean water, and food aid and cash transfers to alleviate food insecurity and lost livelihoods and incomes. FCA also developed and promoted online learning possibilities for children and youth. Later in 2020, FCA started to integrate Covid-19 activities to its on-going humanitarian and development cooperation programmes.

In 2020, FCA responded to humanitarian situations in several countries. In late 2019, attacks and fighting across the Syrian-Turkish border had led to the displacement of 200,000 – 300,000 persons in the North and North East

**FCA's humanitarian responses in protracted crises focused on EiE and humanitarian livelihoods, including cash-based interventions for a more effective response.**

Syria. People fled the intense fighting to cities and towns near the affected areas where people were located to temporary shelter centers. In early 2020, FCA responded to acute needs through the provision of food aid and clean water and distributed non-food items and hygiene kits to the most vulnerable IDPs. The total number of beneficiaries was 2,018 persons.

In response to the severe emergency situation in Yemen, FCA implemented an Emergency WASH response in Dhamar Governorate in 2019 and 2020 in cooperation with Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW). As a result, 8,700 affected persons gained access to clean water through repairing and rehabilitating two water supply systems, training of beneficiaries and promoting appropriate hygiene practices.

In August 2020, an explosion occurred at the port of Beirut causing over 200 deaths, over 6500 wounded and around 300,000 displaced as well as significant destruction of livelihoods and property. The Beirut port explosion damaged 208 schools and interrupted the education of around 85,000 learners. One out of four children in Beirut

were estimated to be at risk of dropping out of school following the blast. As part of the immediate response, FCA in cooperation with Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) provided food aid, hygiene and dignity kits as well as heaters and bedding sets for a total of 7,000 persons.

After the immediate response, FCA and NCA planned a joint education in emergencies (EiE) project in Beirut together with a local partner, Réne Moawad Foundation (RMF). The project aims to improve access to quality education through restoration of classrooms and school yards, provision of support classes and Cash support to families to ensure return of children and youth back to school. Well-being of affected children is ensured through psychosocial support (PSS) and recreational activities and training of PSS facilitators and teaching staff. FCA has placed a humanitarian coordinator into NCA's office in Beirut, Lebanon.

FCA also continued the preparations of a humanitarian programme in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). FCA conducted its networking exercise with the relevant stakeholders, including UN agencies, NGOs and FBOs. FCA also participated in ecumenical dialogue platforms. Preparations for legal compliance included e.g. securing the sanctions exemption. Internal preparations focused on procurement, context analysis, setting up the country office and securing financing for the programme.

In Bangladesh, FCA continued to implement a joint programme with DanChurchAid interlinking addressing Gender Based Violence and promoting Protection with Education in Emergencies (EiE) targeting the most vulnerable refugees, especially women and girls, from Myanmar.

FCA ended the EiE response in Mozambique in the beginning of 2020. The response was launched after the Idai hurricane hit the country in the spring 2019.

Covid-19 pandemic started in Greece in February 2020. FCA and its Greek partner organization Apostoli started an emergency response in the refugee camps and among the most vulnerable Greeks in Athens in the late autumn. During 2020, monthly food packages and weekly ready to eat food rations were provided to 1,613 beneficiaries and hygiene kits were distributed to 596 beneficiaries. Work continues also in 2021.

FCA's humanitarian assistance was funded by various institutional funding organizations, such as MFA Finland, ECHO and UN organizations. Our humanitarian work was also supported through funding from Finnish parishes and private persons.

FCA's humanitarian responses and programmes in protracted crises focused on EiE and Humanitarian Livelihoods. FCA widened its humanitarian livelihoods portfolio by prioritizing cash-based interventions as a first-line means of response to emergencies to enable a quicker and more efficient response whilst safeguarding beneficiaries' dignity. The expansion of cash-based programming not only serves as an optimized, quick response alternative but it is also an efficient means to complement other programmes such as EiE distribution of education materials including school uniforms or food.

FCA explored the possibilities of new technologies in humanitarian Cash Based Interventions (CBIs). FCA continued to conceptualize FCA's approach with the objective of implementing blockchain-based CBIs in our programme

countries by creating new partnerships with private actors and a research institution.

FCA worked to strengthen Triple Nexus between humanitarian, development cooperation and peace programming. FCA strengthened its humanitarian preparedness and rapid response capacity at programme, country and organizational level. FCA Humanitarian Roster is a register of professionals available for field assignments even at short notice. The Roster acquired small number of new members, focusing on professional profiles in humanitarian programme management and coordination, EiE and emergency livelihoods. Due Covid-19 pandemic, field deployments did not take place, but recruited staff were providing remote support to the programmes.

In 2020, FCA took part in many online annual meetings of several global organizations, such as the Global Education Cluster (GEC), INEE, Global Food Security Cluster and other emergency livelihood specific organizations and networks. Based on the agreement between UNICEF and FCA, FCA's Stand-by Cluster coordination gave her support remotely to GEC RRT and country level education clusters. FCA participated in the Strategy Advisory Group and Partnership Forum of GEC.

FCA attended webinars and meetings organized by humanitarian networks of VOICE and ICVA. UNHCR organized its partner consultation and Executive Committee meeting virtually, which FCA staff attended. FCA attended meetings and webinars organized by the Charter4Change network which is committed to promote localization agenda.





## Advocacy

During 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the related security measures and restrictions, FCA's advocacy work was mainly done online. The change from face-to-face meetings to virtual ones was adapted quickly enabling active advocacy in our programme countries, internationally and in Finland.

Our advocacy work continued to focus on FCA's strategic themes: Right to Quality Education, Right to Peace, Right to Livelihood; shrinking space of civil society, gender equality as well as development and humanitarian aid policy and funding related questions. The indirect impacts of Covid-19 in developing countries, people in the most vulnerable position and aid sector were added to our advocacy focus from March onwards.

The changes brought by the Covid-19 pandemic had both positive and negative effects for FCA's advocacy work. On one hand, it was possible to attend meetings anywhere in the world without needing to travel. This provided enhanced opportunities to participate in important conversations and to bring voices from FCA's programme countries to different decision-making fora. Virtual communication also facilitated easier access to high-level decision-makers. On the other hand, Covid-19 restrictions further reduced the space for civil society and many important events were cancelled or postponed. In addition, many networking opportunities were lost due to limited opportunities for side conversations.

Despite the challenges, FCA's programme countries were able to conduct altogether 50 advocacy initiatives out of which 90 % produced a positive change. For example, there were significant results in Somalia in increasing women's political participation and representation in decision-making positions. In Uganda, advocacy towards local education authorities and international donors ensured that home learning possibilities were increased, and teachers' salaries were secured in some of FCA's operational areas during Covid-19 lockdowns. In general, in 2020 FCA's country offices assumed an increasing role in planning and executing the organisation's advocacy, which was a great success.

In Finland, FCA's advocacy contributed to Finland's Africa Strategy, Finland's Long-term Development Policy, Roadmap to 0,7 % ODA and development cooperation funding. FCA published written recommendations to Finland's Africa strategy, wrote related articles and blog posts, issued podcasts to raise the voices from Africa into the discussion, held meetings with State Secretary and civil servants who were responsible of writing the strategy and participated in several workshops and webinars to highlight FCA's recommendations. The Africa seminar we had planned to organize in March had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. The final Africa strategy reflects well FCA's recommendations. Equally, FCA contributed actively in the preparations of Finland's Long-term Development Policy and 0,7 % Roadmap. FCA's comments were included in the draft versions but the final version is still pending.

FCA also advocated actively towards the Government to increase development cooperation funding putting pressure to use the reserved funding in basket 2. From March onwards, the indirect impacts of Covid-19 pandemic further increased the need for Finland's response. Jointly with other Finnish NGOs, FCA met decision-makers, wrote letters and

**Virtual meetings facilitated access to high-level decision-makers but Covid-19 restrictions further reduced the space for civil society in many programme countries.**

organized a joint #muutosvoimaa campaign. To support our advocacy efforts, FCA published blogs and podcasts highlighting the impacts of the pandemic to education, livelihoods and peace in fragile contexts. The advocacy towards development funding was successful and at the end of the year, an increase of over 100 MEUR for 2021 was granted. FCA suggested concrete ways to Finnish Minister of Development and the regulatory authorities how private individuals could invest in development and impact, including through FCA Investments.

In addition, FCA dialogued actively with Finnish decision-makers, provided expert opinions and comments on short and long-term effects of Covid-19 to aid sector, Finland's 2250 NAP drafting, 1325 NAP implementation, Human Rights White Paper, Finland's 2021 budget plan, EU's Africa Strategy, Finland's role in comprehensive crisis management, triple nexus, peace and mediation. We also organized and spoke in several webinars and online events and were interviewed by the media. FCA also inspired people to take action and advocate in Finland for global justice and peace.

FCA also effectively links local advocacy initiatives to global processes. This is done by participating in international processes and networks relevant to our areas of specialization as well as by providing advocacy opportunities and enabling dialogue for local actors at the international level. One of the mechanisms used for this is Universal Periodic Review (UPR). During 2020, FCA supported UPR processes- CSO consultations and writing CSO shadow reports - in Nepal and Myanmar. In addition, advocacy leaflets and messages were produced and shared online by FCA's partners with key Embassies and Permanent Missions in Geneva, Switzerland and Delegations. FCA engaged with sister agencies and faith partners on geographic (Ethiopia) advocacy and thematically sought new partnerships in faith-based investments.

FCA continued its advocacy on the global learning crisis. Together with ECW and GPE, FCA lobbied Finland to provide funding for education and to join ECW and GPE. During the year, Finland confirmed its funding to both ECW and GPE. FCA did also a joint advocacy brief on education in emergencies and Covid-19 together with INEE, Plan, Save, UNICEF and organized a side-event at the national UNESCO GEM report launch event on inclusion in the most fragile contexts with speakers from our programme countries.

Our advocacy towards the EU continued to focus on EU's post-2020 financial framework and especially programming of EU aid. All of FCA's country offices were invited to a training organized by CONCORD on Programming of EU aid





2021-2027 and how to influence it. CAMCO, KECO, NEPCO and SOCO participated in country level consultations organized by EU delegations on programming. In addition, we supported and collaborated with ACT Alliance EU in advocacy efforts related to the new EU development cooperation instrument (the NDICI). The spending targets for action on human development, gender and climate change that we promoted were all adopted and 93 % of the NDICI spending will have to account as ODA. It also preserves civil society co-financing. In addition, FCA engaged with Commissioner Urpilainen's Cabinet on EU's Africa Strategy, the situation in Tigray and the Horn of Africa, and provided written input produced jointly with ACT EU.

FCA also participated online in HLPF as a member of Finland's official delegation and contributed to selected

workshops as well as to Finland's preparations to the Forum. Together with NETW and Brookings Institute, we published a research study on Boko Haram. Dissemination was organized as a digital Town Hall. Policy Briefs on Interfaith Dialogue and Freedom of Religion and Belief were produced and disseminated with the lead of World Faiths Development Dialogues.

During the reporting year, we enhanced FCA's and our partners' advocacy capacity. Advocacy trainings and inductions were organized supporting KECO, SOCO and CAMCO. Several sessions on sharing best advocacy practices were organized for the whole staff. Together with LWF, FCA also organized an online training on Women's Human Rights advocacy. These efforts have improved FCA's and its partners advocacy effectiveness and allowed for improved cooperation.

## Investment – Capital for development

In 2020, in addition to the involvement in the three fund-investments (closed earlier) and tracking their performance, FCAI kept engaging with local actors in both focus countries (namely Somalia and Uganda) to advance its direct investments there.

Targeting and investing in SMEs in least developed countries involve many contextual challenges, nevertheless, the Covid-19 crisis has exacerbated some of these challenges and made it even more difficult to operate and support these target SMEs. However, the economic repercussions of the crisis on the SMEs call for more engagement and make the interventions for private sector development more urgent to create jobs and save the livelihoods of the vulnerable.

Although the pandemic and the associated challenges significantly slowed down our progress in 2020, FCAI continued preparing deals and building its pipeline for direct investments.

Up to Dec. 2020, FCAI's pipeline in Uganda consisted of 20 deals from different sectors totalling €10M+ and the majority are in the Agri, food and beverages sectors. Out of these 20 deals, two are in advanced stages. In Somalia, the pipeline consisted of 10 deals amounting to €5.6M, and the majority are in the food and beverages sector. Three out of these 10 deals are in very advanced stages (close to approval).

Furthermore, FCAI managed to close its first direct investment in Uganda in 2020 with a total value of €459K. The investment was made in an egg-poultry farm, which is the biggest indigenously owned poultry farm in Uganda and one of the main egg-suppliers for UN agencies and refugee camps in the region.

On the private capital mobilization side, FCAI struggled with the legal requirements, investor protection laws, and the interpretation of the state-aid regulation, which made it difficult to create a proper structure for private fundraising. However, FCAI continues to work with legal experts to overcome this challenge and build a functional and scalable investment vehicle.

To advocate for more effective blended finance interventions, FCAI (as a member) has been actively participating in the OECD initiative "Community of Practice on Private Finance for Sustainable Development" (CoP-PFSD). The community puts emphasis on blended finance approaches and Impact Standards-Financing for Sustainable Development (IS-FSD).

In 2020, FCAI forged new partnerships with likeminded actors such as "International trade centre (ITC) SheTrade" and "Innovations against poverty (IAP)" to identify and support potentially impactful SMEs.

In addition, FCAI made an application late in 2020 to receive MIGA's Political Risk Insurance (PRI) facility for its potential investments in Somalia. The application included two investments totalling €1.4m (one is a fishery company and the other is an ice-cream manufacturer and distributor). Both companies are in the advanced due diligence phase. And to make its investments in Somalia fully compliant with Islamic finance requirements, FCAI approached the Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI), part of the Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDB). After thorough discussions and close engagement, both parties signed an agreement to allow IRTI to provide Islamic-finance advisory services to FCAI related to its investment activities in Somalia.

**FCAI closed its first direct investment in Uganda in an egg-poultry farm, the biggest indigenously owned poultry farm in the country.**

# PARTNERSHIPS AND INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

The principles of FCA's partnerships are the complementarity of roles and capacities, common goals, mutual respect of values, as well as transparency, accountability and learning from each other.

The breadth and depth of FCA's collaboration with humanitarian and development actors has increased in recent years, reflecting the centrality of partnerships in securing sustainable impact and effective and efficient use of available resources. During 2020, FCA continued to work to reinforce its relations not only with traditional, long-standing partners from the intergovernmental and international nongovernmental sectors (e.g. UN, EU, AU, ASEAN, GPE, ECW, INEE), but also to enhance cooperation with local partners and the private sector. Furthermore, FCA remained committed to continued close cooperation with its Global Ecumenical partners.

The global recognition that localisation is essential if capacitation and empowerment of rights-holders are to be achieved has prompted FCA to continuously expand its engagement with national and community actors, including religious and traditional actors. Similarly, FCA's increased public-private collaboration contributes not only to financing, but also to identification and implementation of innovative solutions.

In FCA's countries of operation, Covid-19 pandemic greatly affected our and our partners' work. At the same time, FCA also successfully established new partnerships and contributed to strengthening the capacity of the civil society actors as well as increasingly enhancing the capacities of the duty-bearers, such as local governments and their representatives. Many of the Covid-19 related interventions were developed and implemented together with our local partners and in close coordination with the national and local authorities.

In Finland, our partnership with MFA Finland is of significant strategic value. In addition, FCA participates in various networks and collaborates with ministries, different institutions, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland and its congregations, other religious communities, different civil society actors, academia and the private sector.

Our commitments are also made externally. FCA is certified against the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS), which challenges us to apply the nine commitments on quality and accountability. FCA has signed the Charter of Change and reaffirmed the Principles of Partnership, both emphasising localisation of humanitarian aid, and transparent and accountable collaboration with partners.







## 2020 ANNUAL PROGRAMME REPORTS

FCA's country offices have the main responsibility for programme implementation. The Helsinki Head Office responsibilities include overall strategic leadership, outlining general frameworks and a number of support and coordination functions.

The Secretariat of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers remains under the administrative affiliation of FCA, but has its own identity. The Network is part of FCA's international programmes (IPRO).

FCA also has a registered Office in the United States, with an office located in Washington DC. The FCA Americas (FCAA) represents FCA within the U.S. and was established to develop partnership strategies and support relationship development activities with US-based foundations, civil society actors, and multi-lateral institutions.

FCA has worked in Bangladesh since April 2018 in cooperation with its sister organization Dan Church Aid (DCA). FCA does not have a registered country office in the country, but we have seconded education staff and provided funding to the joint FCA-DCA humanitarian programme in the Cox's Bazar region.

In Liberia, FCA's cooperation with the local organisation SHED mainly focused on the implementation and monitoring of an EIDHR funded project.

In the Middle East, FCA works in Jordan, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (IOPT) and Syria. In early 2020, the regional office was still located in Amman and provided programme management and support services to all three country programmes. During 2020, FCA established a small country office is also based in East Jerusalem with focus on supporting FCA's engagements in the IOPT education sector. FCA's registration process in Syria was finalized in late 2019.

In 2020, FCA continued to work in the below countries in Asia, Africa and Middle East in development work, humanitarian assistance and advocacy with an additional focus on investments.

- ▶ Central African Republic Country Office (CARCO)
- ▶ Kenya Country Office (KECO)
- ▶ Somalia Country Office (SOCO)
- ▶ South Sudan Country Office (SSUCO)
- ▶ Uganda Country Office (UGACO)
- ▶ Bangladesh
- ▶ Cambodia Country Office (CAMCO)
- ▶ Myanmar Country Office (MYACO)
- ▶ Nepal Country Office (NEPCO)
- ▶ Jordan Country Office (JOCO)
- ▶ Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (IOPT) - reporting to JOCO
- ▶ Syria country office (SYCO)
- ▶ Lebanon
- ▶ Yemen
- ▶ Greece

**FCA's country programmes aim to use effectively our expertise, skills and added value. We focus on consolidating operations and ensuring high-quality implementation of our programmes.**



# COUNTRY PROGRAMME REPORTS BY REGION

In 2020, FCA supported operations in 15 countries. We worked in close partnerships with local and international partners and key stakeholders addressing immediate humanitarian needs and challenges related to Covid-19 pandemic, while maintaining and building the basis for long-term sustainable development

The country specific annual summaries include some key examples of Country Programme (CP) results, and our long-term operation in Bangladesh in 2020<sup>7</sup>, and the direct beneficiary numbers. In some CPs, partner implemented projects receive funding also from other donors besides FCA and FCA's back donors. The key results presented at country programme level include not only FCA's and its back donors' financial contribution, but also other donors' contributions.

The country specific project tables include the main projects implemented as part of the respective country programme in 2020<sup>7</sup> and may exclude some smaller projects or carry-overs from 2020. The primary funding source can also be seen in the country specific project tables.

<sup>7</sup>FCA's humanitarian operations in Greece, Lebanon, Yemen and Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), are described in section Humanitarian Assistance. In Liberia, FCA supported a local organization SHED with an EIDHR funded project.

**ASIA**  
Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Nepal

**MIDDLE EAST**  
Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (IOPT), Jordan, Syria

**AFRICA**  
Central African Republic, Kenya, Somalia, South-Sudan, Uganda



# AFRICA

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC



### Overview of CAR country programme


In 2020, the Central African Republic Country Programme (CP) was implemented in the prefectures of Ombella M'poko, Mambere Kadei, Sangha Mbaere, Nana-Mambere, Ouham-Pende, Ouham and Mbomou.

Humanitarian needs in CAR continued to increase, mainly due to persistent armed conflict, violence and tension preceding the presidential and parliamentary elections in December 2020, and the effects of Covid-19 pandemic. FCA's programme work was greatly affected by Covid-19 related restrictions. Schools remained closed for several months and social gatherings were banned. However, CAR country programme also found innovative ways to adapt activities and reach the beneficiaries e.g. through lessons through local radio programmes, training participants in smaller groups, using existing structures instead of creating new ones and effectively implementing the activities at the time when the restrictions were lifted.





**58,233**  
learners supported to access inclusive quality education.

During 2020, FCA's programme in CAR continued to focus on the improvement of access to inclusive quality education. In livelihoods, the CP supported the shift from a humanitarian crisis toward longer-term development that is more inclusive and sustainable, and succeeded in enlarging its donor base with new funding. In peace work, CAR country programme supported the empowerment of youth as active agents in their own lives and in the peaceful development of the country.



**5,813**  
community and youth peers were sensitized on conflict prevention, rumor management and peace education.

**69,888**  
direct beneficiaries reached by the Central African Republic Programme in 2020.

 33,171  36,717





Progress made in the country programme’s sub-objectives

Selected key results in 2020

<b>Main Objective 1</b> People and Private Sector: People can claim and enjoy their right to inclusive and sustainable economic growth for poverty eradication.	
SO 1.2 People in vulnerable situations engage in and benefit from inclusive and sustainable economic growth	46 new private sector enterprises created (28 by women).
<b>Main Objective 2</b> People and Governance: People can claim and enjoy their right to improved and inclusive governance and services.	
SO 2.1 Policies and processes promote a positive change and are transparent, responsive and participatory	66 % of education initiatives promoting children’s return to school were successful. 91 education authorities (9 F, 82 M) were trained in RBM. 717 administrative authorities, youth leaders, women leaders, local authority and religious leader (384 F, 333 M) were trained on civic and human rights.
SO 2.2 Children and youth have equal and uninterrupted access to inclusive quality education/learning	58,233 learners (27,702 girls, 30,531 boys) supported to access inclusive quality education. 587 teachers (133 F, 454 M) were trained on pedagogy, lesson planning, assessment and classroom management. 1,300 learners were reached by radio lessons during the school closure.
<b>Main Objective 3</b> People and Civil Society: People fulfil their legitimate and active role for positive change	
SO 3.1 Local communities and their members play an active and leading role in the societal development, contributing to enhanced social cohesion	70 youth received basic training (31 F, 39 M) on conflict prevention, rumor management and peace education. 5,813 community and youth peers were sensitized on conflict prevention, rumor management and peace education. 100 % of the 77 schools supported have parent-teacher associations.
SO 3.2 Civil society partnerships and networks are strengthened and promote participation, open dialogue and positive social change.	2 civil society partnerships were strengthened to promote participation, open dialogue and social cohesion. 532 network members (203 F, 329 M) were trained in dialogue building, effective networking and civil society empowerment.

Analysis of the key results and achievements

In order to contribute to the achievement of the right to inclusive and sustainable economic growth (MO1), FCA provided farming and business training as well as agricultural tools and seeds for women and youth groups. All groups and their members increased their production, enhancing their economic self-reliance.

Altogether 28 new women-owned enterprises were created with FCA’s support. The livelihood and economic recovery of women in the town of

Bozoum and its surroundings was strengthened through multi-sectorial support focusing on agriculture, micro-business, micro-finance and social cohesion.

A total of 25 women’s group representatives participated in trainings on women’s participation in decision-making and playing the role of mediator in their communities. In addition, 1,000 young people and women participated in trainings on small businesses, simplified accounting and different trades (soap making, processing

of agricultural products, carpentry, animal husbandry, etc.)

In order to address the negative economic impact of Covid-19 in the targeted families, six youth clubs from Berberati, Bangui and Bozoum were supported in the implementation of IGAs. The IGAs developed are mainly hairdressing salons, restaurants and soap making.

Furthermore, 120 households received training on agricultural practices, seed conservation, marketing of products and associative dynamics. The households were divided into 12 groups

and received funds necessary for their agricultural production activities. Training on business plans was organised in July 2020, and support was provided for 30 households processing agricultural products. The 12 groups cultivated three varieties of seeds: peanuts, sesame and red beans on 26.75 ha.

To fight Covid-19, five of the groups also manufactured 76,310 soaps and two groups prepared 2,000 protective masks allowing the vulnerable population to better protect themselves against the virus. The materials were prepared for later distribution in schools, public services, hospitals and some villages. 300 young people and women from the groups participated in training sessions on the design of business plans and simplified bookkeeping.

Under the objective the right to improved and inclusive governance and service (MO2), transparent, responsive and participatory policies and processes were strengthened through training of 91 education authorities (9 F, 82 M) on results-based management. 717 administrative authorities, youth leaders, women leaders, local authority and religious leaders (384 F, 333 M) were trained on civic and human rights in eight prefectures in order to promote participation by women and young people in decision-making in their localities. The community members and authorities also discussed problems encountered in their localities, in particular early marriages, education of young people, and the use of young people in mining sites. The overall aim is to develop a protective framework for young people and to encourage dialogue between the different members of the community.

CAR CP continued to have strong focus on enhancing inclusive quality education. A total of 58,233 learners (27,702 F, 30,531 M) including 206 learners with a disability benefited from access to inclusive quality education in 77 primary schools through training of teachers on pedagogy, lesson planning, assessment and classroom management, and distribution of school kits. The construction of 15 classrooms was finalized and eight classrooms rehabilitated. Distance education through radio lessons was organ-

<sup>8</sup> In FCA global data aggregation these 1,100 beneficiaries are considered under the category “short-term livelihoods training”.



ized for students during the school closure. A total of 587 qualified teachers and parent teachers (133 F, 454 M) received training on pedagogy, lesson planning, assessment and classroom management. All the 77 supported schools have a parent association to support children’s inclusive quality learning, and 12 of those associations were trained on their roles and responsibilities.

In addition, 1,100 women participated in literacy trainings during 2020<sup>8</sup>. A literacy campaign was conducted and reached 800 beneficiaries, 36 literacy centers have been created and 72 instructors have been trained to run the centers.

A number of actions contributed to supporting people to fulfil their legitimate and active role for positive change in societies (MO 3). FCA supported local communities and their members to play an active and leading role in societal development, contributing to enhanced social cohesion. Overall, 70 youth received basic training (31 F, 39 M) on conflict prevention, rumor management and peace education. After their training, the Youth Peace Clubs sensitized 5,813 community and youth peers during 23 activities on conflict prevention, rumor management and peace education in Bangui, Berberati and Bozoum.

Two civil society partnerships, Mediator Network (Réseau des Médiateurs) and Caritas Bozoum were strengthened to promote participation, open dialogue and positive social change through training of their 532 members (203 F, 329 M) in dialogue building, effective networking and civil society empowerment.

Through its various projects, FCA made it possible to gradually strengthen the political commitment and activism of young people and women, including negotiation and political education, as well as to formulate grievances and advocate for peaceful positive results. The trainings also prepared for the peaceful participation of different civil society groups in the presidential and parliamentary elections in December 2020. A total of 717 people benefited from training on education for Peace and Citizenship in the 21 sub-prefectures targeted by the MINUSCA project. In addition, 315 people discussed the documentary “A WA BE AFRICA”, which promoted citizenship and peaceful coexistence.

Evaluations

The final evaluations of MFA 11982 peace project and 11933 Women’s Bank project did not take place due to Covid-19 and political instability. Both projects continue in 2021 and the final project evaluations will be conducted during the coming year.

Partnerships and capacity building

FCA continued its partnership with Mediator Network (Réseau des Médiateurs), a local NGO working in social cohesion and peacebuilding. In collaboration with Mediator Network, FCA conducted social cohesion activities with Youth Peace Clubs and community members in Bangui, Berberati and Bozoum. Community leaders and



local authorities were trained on prevention of agro-pastoral conflicts and peacebuilding. Mediator Network benefited from capacity building and development of an internal procedure and management guide.

A new partnership agreement was signed with Caritas Bozoum. FCA collaborated with them under the CAR Joint Response 6 project to ensure food security and implement a Covid-19 response in the prefecture of Ouham-Pende.

At national level, FCA collaborated with the UN system (UNDP, IOM), CCO, MINUSCA, INGOs, national NGOs, government, communities and donors to ensure coordinated implementation and a complementary programme. FCA participated in OCHA general coordination meetings, working groups and cluster meetings, including Education, WASH, Child Protection clusters, as well as social cohesion working group. New donors and partners included UNDP and MINUSCA. FCA continued to enhance its strong partnership with Ministry of Education and UNICEF.

### Challenges and lessons learnt

In 2020, FCA's programme was greatly affected by Covid-19 and the insecurity linked to the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections. Most projects were on hold for some parts of the year. However, FCA was also able to find ways to address the challenges. FCA readjusted and reallocated funds in agreement with donors to purchase protective equipment against Covid-19. FCA also supported the education authorities in organizing remedial courses for students in examination class, as well as logistical support in accessing the distant schools, joint monitoring and delivery of final examination materials to the authorities in the target sub-prefectures.

Within the MFA-funded peace project, six youth peace clubs (31 F, 41 M) in Bangui, Bozoum and Berberati received material for the development of IGAs and training on the design of business plan and simplified account-

ing. By supporting the young people's livelihoods, FCA aimed at minimizing the economic impact of Covid-19 and distancing the youth from the risk of integrating armed groups during the electoral disturbances.

In order to effectively address Covid-19 related needs, CAR country programme also supported the production and broadcasting of radio programs by young people for young people, awareness-raising linked to Covid-19 and establishment of IGAs in order to reduce the economic impact of Covid-19 on young people. Despite the difficulties related to the Covid-19 context, young people were willing and determined to fully commit to the implementation of the activities defined in their action plans.

FCA received funding from two new donors, MINUSCA and UNDP. The livelihood component of the country programme was strengthened with UNDP funding as FCA developed IGAs and professional training activities in new locations in Bossangoa and Mbaiki.



### Project list and financial summary

Project nr	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Budget (€)	Costs (€)
11533	FCA CAR Programme support & Office	FCA	MFA, private	284,000	243,322
11903	CAR CO - FCA other projects PMER support	FCA	Private, Disaster funds	331,100	236,975
11933	Women's Bank project supporting women's groups in the war affected area of Bozoum	FCA	WB, MFA Dev	233,559	137,165
11982	Youth Peace Builders	FCA, Réseau des Mediateurs	MFA Dev, private	174,100	149,274
12006	CAR MFA HA EIE 2019-20	FCA	MFA HA 2019, FCA Disaster funds	302,035	301,392
12043	Rétablissement des services sociaux de base dans l'Ombella M'poko, secteur éducation	FCA	European Union (through UNICEF)	248,658	220,352
12102	Finding my Voice, strengthening political participation of youth and women in the electoral process	FCA	MINUSCA	81,493	75,213
12112	UNICEF-KFW L'approche intégrée de l'Education, Eau, Assainissement et Hygiène	FCA	KFW (through UNICEF)	530,027	358,822
12113	Support for sustainable income-generating activities for vulnerable people	FCA	UNDP	365,833	365,833
12114	DRA_CARJR6	FCA, Caritas	ICCO	523,682	451,143
12142	Support to groups through literacy and strengthening of technical and organizational capacities of members, Mbaiki / Lobaye CAR	FCA	UNDP	103,220	103,220
12171	Appui aux groupements à travers l'alphabétisation et le renforcement de capacités techniques et organisationnelles des membres MBAIKI 2	FCA	UNDP	59,534	26,086
Total (€)				3,237,241	2,668,798

### KENYA

#### Overview of Kenya country programme

Kenya Country Programme (CP) was implemented in Turkana, Marakwet, West Pokot, Baringo, Marsabit, Mombasa, Kwale and Kilifi counties. The country programme was self-implemented but through NETWS partnered with MUHURI, Tangaza University and Islamic Relief in enhancing the rights of religious minority groups.

In 2020, Kenya faced the effects of floods, locust infestation and the Covid-19 pandemic. The challenges resulted in reprogramming of KECOs activities and also led to the non-achievement of some of the planned results, including implementation of the livelihood assessment and graduation of primary school learners.

Covid-19 restrictions such as school closures exposed especially girls to many hazards including SGBV, teenage pregnancies and early marriages. Apart from Covid-19 related challenges, FCA



15,032

primary school children gained access to quality education.



14

interethnic dialogue radio sessions organised to strengthen peace processes.



24,658

direct beneficiaries reached by the Kenya Programme in 2020.

10,988 13,670

Kenya's operational areas were generally accessible. Nevertheless, there were major conflicts between Turkana and Pokot people of Kapedo towards the end of 2020, which led to the government of Kenya's deployment of military personnel in Baringo County. This had no direct impact on FCA's operational area as such but the military presence blocked FCA's access roads to targeted communities along the Kerio Valley and caused delays in project implementation.

#### Analysis of the key results and achievements

In order to support the achievement of the right to inclusive and sustainable economic growth (MOI), Kenya CP had planned to implement a livelihood thematic assessment to inform the expansion of CP's livelihood activities. However, the assessment was postponed due to restricted movement and meetings due to Covid-19.



Progress made in the country programme’s sub-objectives

Selected key results in 2020

Main Objective 2	
People and Governance: People can claim and enjoy their right to improved and inclusive governance and services.	
SO 2.1 Policies and processes promote a positive change and are transparent, responsive and participatory	<p>883 duty bearers (243 F, 640 M) trained on anti FGM laws, child protection policies and mediation.</p> <p>60 people (25 F, 35 M) trained on rights of religious minority groups, inter-religious dialogue and religious literacy.</p> <p>The training of 35 education stakeholders (12 F, 23 M) facilitated advocacy efforts on education for all, peace building, school based contingency planning and DRR.</p>
SO 2.2 Children and youth have equal and uninterrupted access to inclusive quality education/learning	<p>15,032 primary school children (6252 F, 8780 M) gained access to quality education.</p> <p>4,171 children (1935 F, 2236 M) gained access to early childhood development and education.</p> <p>100 youth (38 F, 62 M) trained on bee keeping.</p> <p>2031 learners (927 F, 1104 M) supported with infrastructure, including latrines and dormitories.</p> <p>198 teachers (51 F, 147 M) trained on Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) and pedagogical skills.</p> <p>320 teachers, support staff and PTA members (119 F, 201 M) trained on CBPS.</p>
Main Objective 3	
People and Civil Society: People fulfil their legitimate and active role for positive change	
SO 3.1 Local communities and their members play an active and leading role in the societal development, contributing to enhanced social cohesion	<p>14 interethnic dialogue radio sessions organised to strengthen peace processes.</p> <p>Formation of 7 Natural Resource Management committees.</p> <p>143 people (54 F, 89 M) participated in 14 awareness raising meetings to mitigate cultural violence against girls.</p> <p>6 CBOs supported through bee keeping and entrepreneurship training.</p> <p>7 Women talking circles (WTCs) engaged in meetings and peacebuilding radio programmes.</p>
SO 3.2 Civil society partnerships and networks are strengthened and promote participation, open dialogue and positive social change.	<p>3 civil society organisations, Muhuri, Tangaza University and Islamic relief were supported and capacitated.</p>

Under the objective the right to improved and inclusive governance and service (MO2), Kenya CP enhanced access to quality education with focus on protective learning environments. A total of 43 latrines, 15 semi-permanent classrooms, 34 handwashing facilities and 12 water tank bases were built. Furthermore, 26 classrooms, 28 latrines and five hand washing facilities were rehabilitated.

To adjust to the changing operational environment, CP facilitated virtual learning for all learners through provision of radios, development of lesson content and dissemination of the radio lessons through local radio stations. In addition, pre-recorded lessons from Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development were aired through local FM stations, and teachers’ online mobile mentorship was used to reach the learners. A total of 21,234 children were supported in access to quality education and protective learning environments in primary school and early childhood development during 2020.

Altogether 100 youth were trained on bee keeping in Baringo as part of climate adaptation activities. The training was conducted in open air and the number of indirect beneficiaries was estimated at over 300 (35 % F), including government officials. The trainings increased participants’ knowledge on bee keeping, tree planting, honey harvesting and marketing strategies. This is expected to increase the trained community members’ earnings from the sale of honey and its by-products, thus promoting communities self-reliance and resilience to the effects of climate change.

FCA Kenya trained duty bearers on child rights, anti FGM laws and mediation skills. The duty bearers included assistant county commissioners, chiefs, assistant chiefs, health volunteers, Ministry of Gender officers, security officers, education officers, peace monitors, and religious leaders. Through the training the duty bearers were able to gain an improved understanding of their mandate in taking action against perpetrators of GBV, contributing to their enhanced willingness and capacity to ensure respect of rights of women and girls at the community level.

Domestication of resolution 1325 on women peace and security was acted



on by strengthening the duty-bearers’ understanding of 1325 National Action Plan. The trainings increased duty-bearer capacity to promote inclusive peace processes at the local level.

2,100 (1,462 F, 638 M) vulnerable households in West Pokot Country received Non Food Items (water jerrycans, buckets, jugs and soap) to promote appropriate hygiene practices during Covid-19 pandemic. They also benefitted from constant water supply in their homes for drinking and hand-washing to curb the spread of Covid-19 virus.

In order to support people to fulfil their legitimate and active role for positive change in societies (MO3), Kenya CP strengthened traditional conflict resolution mechanisms. FCA facilitated the formation of seven Natural Resource Management (NRM) committees. The NRMs are key peace actors especially in resolving natural resource (water and pasture) conflicts along the community borders. They also engage in early warning and early response and work closely with duty bearers to maintain peace and security. The activities implemented created a platform to establish contacts, build networks, and discuss key issues affecting peace and security. The committee members requested subsequent meetings to develop sustainable action plans.

Kenya CP also facilitated two emergency meetings aimed at early warning and response, bringing together rights holders and duty bearers. During the meetings, the formal and informal peace structures developed peace

plans aimed at averting violent conflict. Water, grazing and pasture management rules were discussed and peace committees ensured that the made agreements were respected. The emergency preparedness plans were used to prevent conflict and retaliatory attacks along the border of Elgeyo Marakwet and Baringo counties.

Along the Kerio Valley, CP implemented interethnic dialogue sessions through 14 interactive radio programmes to strengthen peace processes during Covid-19 lockdown. Both duty bearers and right holders participated in the programmes through which Women Talking Circles (WTCs), herders, youth, religious and traditional leaders promoted peaceful co-existence. Four WhatsApp groups were formed afterwards to continue discussions among the interethnic groups as face to face meetings were not allowed due to Covid-19 restrictions. The WhatsApp groups contributed to early warning and early response systems as the youth and women continuously engaged with each other and addressed issues along the community borders.

Kenya CP promoted participatory peace processes also through WTCs and radio sessions. Out of 10 existing WTCs, seven were supported through radio programming in 2020. The sessions created platforms for women to sensitise the communities and discuss issues affecting young girls during the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, the messages of peace were broadcasted to a larger number of community members, increasing community



ownership of the issues and promoting peaceful co-existence in the local communities.

Evaluations

There were no evaluations in 2020. The evaluation of MFA funded NOT-KID project was postponed to 2021 as the project period was also extended to 2021.

Partnerships and capacity building

Kenya CP is largely self-implemented but through NETWS, CP partnered with MUHURI, Tangaza University and Islamic Relief in enhancing the rights of religious minority groups.

The CP collaborated actively within the ACT Forum and participated in national coordination platforms including the WESCOORD, a national technical working group on issues of Water, Environment and Sanitation. Kenya CP worked in close partnership with gov-

ernment actors including the Ministries of Education, Health and Security both at national and county levels. The education programme was implemented in Kalobeyei in collaboration with other education actors including UNHCR, UNICEF, LWF, NRC and Film Aid.

In addition, partnership with Teachers without Borders (TwB) for mentoring ECD and primary school teachers was essential in equipping teachers with robust pedagogical and school management skills.

**Challenges and lessons learnt**

Following the first Covid-19 case in Kenya in March 2020, the government instituted mitigation measures including closure of schools, restricted movement and gatherings. The restrictions affected country programme operations and planned project activities.

However, CP successfully facilitated virtual learning for learners. FCA was the first agency to roll out radio lessons

in Kalobeyei and became a reference for the other agencies to follow. The alternative strategies adapted in the implementation of the education programme saved time and costs while reaching many learners.

In addition, Kenya CP partnered with Film Aid Kenya to create public awareness on Covid-19 in Kakuma. CP also implemented inter-ethnic dialogue sessions via radio programmes to strengthen peace processes during the lockdown. The CP mobilized and facilitated 12 listening groups who contributed to the peace engagements by calling in. Issues, such as female genital mutilation, defilement and marriage of school going girls were discussed during the radio sessions. Women were able to express their opinions on the issues, encouraged community members to report the cases to the government officials and encouraged parents to ensure continued education opportunities for their daughters.

Project list and financial summary

Project nr	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Budget (€)	Costs (€)
11278	Northern Kenya integrated development project (NOTKID)	FCA	MFA Dev	150,300	141,262
11740	Peace and livelihood promotion for youth in Kenya	FCA	FCA	41,100	0
11782	KECO PMER support for MFA Frame funded projects	FCA	MFA Dev	282,900	132,292
11783	KECO PMER support for other than MFA Frame funded projects	FCA	FCA	196,800	117,164
12020	Provision of Safe and Inclusive Pre-Primary and Primary Education for Refugees and host community Children in Kalobeyei Settlement	FCA	FCA	3,296	2,616
12029	Schools as Integrated Service Platforms for Children on the Move	FCA	UNICEF	92,251	31,070
12048	Improving Access to safe water for 2018 Flood Affected populations in Marsabit County	FCA	UNICEF	17,101	17,953
12101	Improving access to safe and inclusive quality education for primary school aged children in Kalobeyei refugee settlement	FCA	UNICEF	401,582	365,807
12104	Emergency Response project for 2019 flood Affected Schools Children and communities in Kenya – West Pokot, Marsabit and Garissa Counties	FCA	FCA	50,000	44,679
12107	Provision of Safe and Inclusive Pre-Primary and Primary Education for Refugees and host community Children in Kalobeyei Settlement	FCA	UNHCR	580,173	588,876
12109	Improving access to safe water and sanitation for 2019 Flood affected Population in Marsabit and West Pokot Counties	FCA	UNICEF	42,268	39,291
12119	Emergency response project for 2020 Covid-19 pandemic affected primary school children and communities in Kalobeyei settlement, Turkana West sub-county, Turkana County, Kenya.	FCA	FCA	49,978	49,973
12131	Learning for Life: Early Childhood Development and Education for Displaced Children- Year III	FCA	UNICEF	156,532	133,861
12173	Education in Emergencies Response for COVID19- affected children in Kalobeyei Settlement and surrounding host community in Kenya	FCA	MFA HA	41,343	14,910
Total (€)				2,056,356	1,679,754

SOMALIA

Overview of Somalia country programme

In 2020, Somalia Country Programme (CP) was implemented in Jubaland, South West State, Hirshabelle, Galmudug, Mogadishu and Somaliland. CP worked in close cooperation with its local partners Centre for Research and Dialogue (CRD), Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA), and Gargaar Relief and Development Organization (GREDO). In addition, Somalia CP continued its collaboration and partnership with the government agencies.

Somalia continues to face a myriad of persistent and protracted armed conflicts and humanitarian crises driven by alarming political instability, widespread insecurity, rise of violent extremism, recurring and unpredictable erratic weather and climatic shocks, and recently the Covid-19 pandemic. It was estimated that 5.4 million Somalis were in need of humanitarian assistance in 2020. The global Covid-19

326

duty bearers trained on inclusive local governance, Wadajir framework, social reconciliation and gender equality.

450

state and non-state actors were brought together to agree on the initiation of district council formation process in the three launch events.

12,014

direct beneficiaries reached by the Somalia Programme in 2020.

4,803

7,211

outbreak affected international and national responses to the ongoing humanitarian crisis, as some planned resources were diverted and used to respond to the pandemic. Following the government's decision to reopen the country in June, the overall CP operation continued normally, however with stricter Covid-19 mitigation actions. This also led to tighter measures and additional costs in implementation to ensure appropriate safety measures including social distancing, less participants and provision of sanitization materials.

**Analysis of the key results and achievements**

In order to support the achievement of the right to inclusive and sustainable economic growth (MOI), Somalia CP started the TVET training of 35 youth on professional tailoring and garment design (18F, 17M) in October 2020. In addition, TVET instructors, business coaches and instructors participated in TOT on teaching methodology, entrepreneurship and CGC, which will contribute to the project achievements as well as to increasing the pool of qualified TVET

Finn Church Aid 2020 49



Progress made in the country programme’s sub-objectives

Selected key results in 2020

Main Objective 1 People and Private Sector: People can claim and enjoy their right to inclusive and sustainable economic growth for poverty eradication.	
SO 1.1 Youth and young adults in vulnerable situations become economically self-reliant and contribute positively to social cohesion	35 youth (18 F, 17 M) received CGC services from trained business coaches.
SO 1.2 People in vulnerable situations engage in and benefit from inclusive and sustainable economic growth	26 new businesses (20 F, 6 M) were created in small trading, beverage, foods and catering, livestock, fashion design and wedding services.
Main Objective 2 People and Governance: People can claim and enjoy their right to improved and inclusive governance and services.	
SO 2.1 Policies and processes promote a positive change and are transparent, responsive and participatory	<p>2 women and 13 youth elected among 21 council members in district council in Afmadow and 5 women and 17 youth out of 27 members in South Galkacyo.</p> <p>326 duty bearers (87 F, 239 M) trained on inclusive local governance, Wadajir framework, social reconciliation and gender equality.</p> <p>12 head teachers and deputy teachers (1 F, 11 M) trained on school leadership, management and monitoring of learning outcomes</p> <p>20 MoE staff (5 F, 15 M) trained on leadership and school supervision skills.</p>
SO 2.2 Children and youth have equal and uninterrupted access to inclusive quality education/ learning	<p>8,540 children (3746 F, 4794 M) enjoyed equal and uninterrupted access to safe and inclusive learning opportunities.</p> <p>189 grade 8th learners (81 F, 108 M) and 137 ABE learners (63 F, 74 M) passed the assessment carried out by MoECHE.</p> <p>35 women received entrepreneurship training and were supported to develop business plans.</p> <p>40 TVET instructors, business coaches and instructors (18F, 22M) received TOT-training on teaching methodology, entrepreneurship and CGC.</p> <p>300 Community Education Committees (CECs), teachers and project staff (98 F, 202 M) acquired knowledge and skills on psychosocial support, child safeguarding and protection.</p>
SO 2.3 Disaster affected people have access to essential life-saving assistance	<p>309 most vulnerable HHs from IDP and host communities provided with monthly food vouchers.</p> <p>2,331 learners (1117 F, 1214 M) accessed a one-off mobile cash transfer to purchase learning materials and uniforms.</p>

Main Objective 3 People and Civil Society: People fulfil their legitimate and active role for positive change	
SO 3.1 Local communities and their members play an active and leading role in the societal development, contributing to enhanced social cohesion	<p>191 community members (111 M, 80 F) participated in civic education, civic dialogues and radio broadcasting sessions.</p> <p>450 state and non-state actors (341 M, 109 F) were brought together to agree on the initiation of district council formation process in the three launch events.</p> <p>305 women and youth (157 M, 148 F) trained on inclusive governance, and gender mainstreaming.</p> <p>1024 people (909 M, 115 F) participated in social and trauma healing and in-depth social reconciliation.</p> <p>50 youth (40 F, 10 M) actively engaged in a joint debate to promote critical thinking.</p>
SO 3.2 Civil society partnerships and networks are strengthened and promote participation, open dialogue and positive social change.	<p>20 key members of BAYWAN equipped with networking, advocacy and programme management skills.</p> <p>2 community-led district peace committees (69 M, 18 F) established and supported to lead conflict management and resolutions.</p>
SO 3.3 Disaster prone communities have enhanced capacity to save lives, alleviate human suffering [and bounce back] during and after disasters.	<p>6 schools developed a DRR and safety plan on Covid-19 mitigation.</p> <p>60 CEC members (30 M, 30 F) participated in working sessions on DRR and school safety.</p>

and business instructors in Somaliland for the overall development on TVET sector. The strong engagement and partnership with MoE, MESAF and private sector built an excellent foundation for enhanced employability of the targeted trainees in the future. Successful partnership with FCAI in the provision of the entrepreneurship curriculum development and TOT training for business instructors contributed to improving sustainable economic growth of the vulnerable youth.

Seven Small Quick Impact Projects (SQUIPS) were rewarded to seven groups of 35 members of Bay Women’s Network (BAYWAN), and provided a support network for women and promoted 30 % quota system for women in leadership and decision making. The women participated in entrepreneurship trainings, and were supported to conduct market analysis for business creation and were rewarded with business grants to start up their businesses. According to tracer study in early 2021, five groups of 20 women are still running their businesses, even after the closure of the project in June 2020. Their participation in the project significantly improved their socioeconomic status- the new businesses

have enabled them to improve their family’s food security and their self-reliance and resilience during Covid-19 pandemic.

Under the objective the right to improved and inclusive governance and service (MO2), CP has worked towards district council formation (DCF) processes. In 2020, major emphasis was on Galmudug, Jubaland and South West State. Although most of the pre-power sharing activities in Jowhar and Buloburde were completed, the process was put on hold in early 2020, due to the intractable power sharing conflicts amongst the dominant clans, leading to the low willingness and less commitments from the state authorities in continuing the DCF process. Lobbying meetings with all FMS Presidents were organized in August 2020 to advocate for the high-level support in order to speed up the DCF process across all target districts.

Promotion of women’s political representation has achieved remarkable results. Targeted interventions aiming to address low capacity of women, young women, youth and marginalised groups, coupled with safe platforms to enable their active participation and strategic advocacy on 30 % quota

system for women, have contributed to the positive change of perception among key policy makers. These include the prominent clan elders who act as political gatekeepers, and play a key role in successful nomination and election of women in key governance structures.

BAYWAN’s strategic advocacy and commitment successfully led to the election of 16 female SWS MPs and 10 female councilors (out of 21 councilors) in Diinsoor district, representing a historical milestone in Somalia context. This indicates strong synergy between Somalia CP and capitalisation on success of one project to another to promote gender equality and women’s empowerment.

Furthermore, CP’s integrated approach to EiE with focus on accessibility, teacher trainings and professional development, and school-based protection mechanism, has promoted FCA as a credible education actor at FGS and FMS levels. The closure of all learning institutions from March to August 2020 due to Covid-19 affected the education programme to some extent but took place almost at the end of 2019/2020 academic year. FCA effectively promoted increased awareness of



the preventive measures and Covid-19 mitigation among IDP and host communities in Baidoa, as well as the safe return of the children to school in the new academic year.

Since the approval of NRF in 2019, national reconciliation has gained importance across FMS. Improved capacity and strong ownership of Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation (MOIFAR) in leading the NRF is more evident, with 81.5 % of surveyed 27 MoIFAR staff reporting satisfaction on the trainings and technical assistance provided and 100 % reporting that they apply the learnings in their work. The overall NRF process also ensured 30 % of women’s participation in all processes. Ongoing process in building a pool of peace mothers will provide opportunities for Somali women to effectively engage in peace and state building at different levels.

A number of actions contributed to supporting people to fulfil their legitimate and active role for positive change in societies (MO 3). Important milestones in promoting democratisation process in Somalia have been made in various target districts throughout the district council formation process. Key achievements include increase in dialogues and interface mechanisms between duty bearers and right holders and among the communities; active participation of women, youth and marginalised groups; improvement in community civic awareness and engagement; successful resolution of some historical grievances and conflicts, and a culture of positive dialogue among clan elders and community groups to resolve conflicts and disagreements.

The Somalia CP has successfully provided capacity building and effective support that have contributed to women, youth and marginalized groups to become key players in peace and state building in their communities. Success of BAYWAN has been attributed to timely technical assistance and targeted inventions, safe platforms and financial support following its establishment in 2019. The diverse backgrounds of BAYWAN members from different generations of women, across grassroots movement, civil society, government and legislation body help to intensify the impact of advocacy efforts.

Small Quick Impact Projects have also contributed to address financial barriers faced by women and enabled them to actively participate in advocacy and political and decision making processes. The continuation of BAYWAN’s activities beyond FCA’s support in June 2020, and the expansion of geographical coverage and increased membership show the relevance of FCA’s support in ensuring the longer-term sustainability of the network.

Evaluations

Three evaluations were conducted in Somalia. The National Reconciliation Framework support (12035) I and II, implemented in 2018-2020 with NETWS, was evaluated. The report concluded that through NRF, reconciliation is now a more sustainable effort with structures and mechanisms in place to guide interventions in a coherent manner. The evaluation of FCA’s EiE response (12010) noted that the project had a tangible positive impact as the number of enrolments significantly increased and parents were highly motivated to enrol their children in the target schools, particularly girls and CwDs. The evaluation of Promoting Participation and Representation of Women in Political Decision-Making in South West State (11948) concluded that the project effectively focused on social inclusion and gender equality, aligning with national and state-level priorities. The capacity building of change agents like traditional and religious leaders improved the understanding of gender mainstreaming.

Partnerships and capacity building

Cooperation and networking with donors such as German Federal Foreign Office/GIZ/KfW, USAID, Swiss Embassy, Save the Children, and UNOCHA/SHF team has lifted FCA’s expert profile in peace, state building, education and TVET. Cooperation with FCAI and the private sector was also enhanced in Somaliland, resulting in a partnership for business development, internships and job placements for youth.

FCA Somalia has continued to build close partnership with the government

agencies at federal, state and district levels. Key government institutions include MOIFAR, Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development (MoWHRD) and Ministries of Education, Culture and Higher Education in both South Central of Somalia and Somaliland. In 2020, six MoUs were signed.

CP supports its local partners through on the job trainings and mentorship, focusing on project management, procurement, finance and compliance with donors’ requirements and procedures.

Challenges and lessons learnt

In 2020, FCA’s local governance project was affected by political impasses between Federal Government and Federal Member States, which continues to derail state and peace building. The tension started to escalate again in mid-2020 over the electoral model of the national elections, which were delayed until 2021. Due to Covid-19 lockdown in March-May all gatherings, meetings and flights were banned. Due to poor infrastructure and limited access to technology and internet among target population, online meetings could not be organized. Overall, conflict resolution and negotiations require face-to-face dialogues and mediation by influential elders.

The implementation of TVET and education projects were constrained by the closure of all learning institutions due to Covid-19. Furthermore, FCA Somalia expanded its integrated approach in EiE to the hard to reach area of Hudur with considerable needs but where attacks and insecurity intensified from October 2020, causing damage to trucks carrying supplies and construction materials. This caused delays in the planned renovation of the classrooms and latrines and halted the construction of all new temporary learning spaces.

Despite good progress in quality education work, additional investments and efforts are needed to promote online and remote learning effectively and to address the risks of future potential school closures. Additional efforts are also needed for the effective integration of peace education into FCA’s education programme.



Project list and financial summary

Project nr	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Budget (€)	Costs (€)
10781	SOCO PMER support for MFA Frame funded projects	FCA	MFA Dev	336,695	360,611
11919	SOCO PMER support for other than MFA Frame funded projects	FCA	FCA	552,119	355,872
11935	Rehabilitation Pilot Project for High Risk Prisoners in the Baidoa Prison, Phase III	FCA, CRD	UNOPS	669,437	522,590
11948	SSF GESI	FCA, CRD	SSF GESI	516,630	481,479
11951	Strengthening local governance structures for more accountable and inclusive Federal Member States in support of the Wadajir National Framework – Phase II	FCA, CRD, EISA	EU-EEAS	1,272,509	1,272,509
12010	Education in Emergencies response in drought affected areas in Somalia	FCA	MFA HA	197,588	210,006
12011	Strengthening local governance structures and systems for more accountable and inclusive Federal Member States in support of the Wadajir National Framework	FCA	USAID	103,101	60,588
12091	Somaliland TVET project to improve quality and inclusiveness of TVET training and enhance earning perspective for the Somaliland youth	FCA	MFA Dev	270,000	126,675
12098	Support for freedom of expression and media in Somalia	VIKES	Comic Relief	25,000	25,000
12120	Inclusive Education in Emergencies for Crisis Affected Children in Baidoa of South West State of Somalia	FCA	FCA	68,960	68,960
12124	Emergency Preparedness Response to Covid-19 Pandemic for Crisis Affected Primary School Children in Baidoa, South West state of Somalia	FCA	FCA	13,000	13,000
12127	Integrated and Inclusive Education in Emergencies Response for Crisis Affected Children in Hard to Reach Areas of Somalia	FCA, GREDO	EU-ECHO, FCA	388,649	295,836
Total (€)				4,413,688	3,793,126





## SOUTH SUDAN

### Overview of South Sudan country programme

In 2020, South Sudan Country Programme (CP) was implemented in Central Equatoria State (Juba, Yei River County), Jonglei Sate (Pibor County, Fangak County, Bor County) and Lakes State (Awerial county).

The humanitarian situation worsened during the year due to several factors. Covid-19 led to the negative impact on implementation of projects. In particular the banning of gatherings and school closures affected FCA's education and peace programming. Schools were closed since March 2020, only two months after re-opening for the first term of 2020.

Insecurity in Pibor and New Fangak as well as a rise in revenge killings in Fangak County affected project implementation. To avoid exposing staff and beneficiaries to risk, at times activities had to be suspended momentarily. Insecurity along the transport



414

youths completed their apprenticeship in 17 private host organizations and institutions.



2,825

beneficiaries benefitted from unconditional cash transfers.



51,767

direct beneficiaries reached by the South Sudan Programme in 2020.

22,045 29,722

corridors also increased especially in Pibor, which caused loss of humanitarian supplies meant for the project activities. In New Fangak, temporary learning structures constructed by FCA were burnt during ethnic skirmishes between rival youth groups.

FCA's work was greatly affected in all project locations (except Yei) and particularly in New Fangkak and Pibor by severe flooding. This resulted in the temporary evacuation of staff from Pibor to Juba. Both New Fangkak and

Pibor FCA field offices were damaged by the floods and the implementation of projects encountered delays. By the end of 2020 the situation improved in Pibor but continued to worsen in New Fangkak.

Hyperinflation affected the country especially during the latter part of the year. This had a negative impact on project outcomes, notably cash related interventions. The costs of FCA's operations also increased dramatically.

### Progress made in the country programme's sub-objectives

#### Selected key results in 2020

##### Main Objective 1

People and Private Sector: People can claim and enjoy their right to inclusive and sustainable economic growth for poverty eradication.

SO 1.1 Youth and young adults in vulnerable situations become economically self-reliant and contribute positively to social cohesion	414 youths completed their apprenticeship in 17 private host organizations and institutions. 480 youths (293 F, 187 M) engaged in on-the-job placements and entrepreneurship training were less exposed to violence.
SO 1.2 People in vulnerable situations engage in and benefit from inclusive and sustainable economic growth	298 youth (142 M, 156 F) started employment after graduating from their various trades training.

##### Main Objective 2

People and Governance: People can claim and enjoy their right to improved and inclusive governance and services.

SO 2.1 Policies and processes promote a positive change and are transparent, responsive and participatory	7 advocacy initiatives were supported. 360 people (144 F, 216 M) including religious leaders/ICCs, community representatives, government officials and clan elders were reached through awareness raising and capacity building efforts.
SO 2.2 Children and youth have equal and uninterrupted access to inclusive quality education/learning	480 youth (293 F, 187 M) benefitted from TVET and short term livelihood training. 631 (321 F, 310 M) out of 681 (355 F, 326 M) learners graduated.
SO 2.3 Disaster affected people have access to essential life-saving assistance	6,347 beneficiaries (3577 F, 2770 M) benefitted from agricultural inputs and fishing gear and training in agricultural and fishing methods. <sup>9</sup> 2,825 beneficiaries (2015 F, 810 M) benefitted from unconditional cash transfers.

##### Main Objective 3

People and Civil Society: People fulfil their legitimate and active role for positive change

SO 3.1 Local communities and their members play an active and leading role in the societal development, contributing to enhanced social cohesion	21 processes involving CBOs, youth groups, women groups, were supported (at least 30 % women representation). 11 CBOs were supported in peace work. 100 % of supported schools have established PTAs.
SO 3.2 Civil society partnerships and networks are strengthened and promote participation, open dialogue and positive social change.	30 youth provided with capacity strengthening in peace processes. 25 persons provided with skills and knowledge on peace building and causes of conflict. 70 youth participated in youth advocacy training.

<sup>9</sup> Most of these beneficiaries are counted under "short-term livelihoods training" in the global data aggregation.



Analysis of the key results and achievements

In order to support the achievement of the right to inclusive and sustainable economic growth (MO1), South Sudan CP supported 414 youth to complete their apprenticeship in 17 private host organizations and institutions. Out of the 414 youth, 298 (142 M, 156 F) got paid jobs immediately after completing the training, which will contribute to their economical self-reliance and enhanced social cohesion of their communities. The youth had participated in TVET programmes in FCA-supported TVET centers in the previous years. In total, 480 youth (293 F, 187 M) who engaged in on-the-job placement/internship after the entrepreneurship training, were less exposed to violence as a result.

Under the objective the right to improved and inclusive governance and service (MO2), FCA's country programme focus is on enhanced access to quality education and promoting young adults economic self-reliance through TVET. However, due to Covid-19, primary level education was adversely affected by school closures. Pupils, including FCA-supported 39,998 (15,198 F, 24,800 M) primary level learners, were in school only for two months before a directive was issued for all schools to be closed due to Covid-19. Schools in urban and peri-urban areas with access to radio programming benefitted from radio broadcastings. FCA supported the Ministry of Education to support final level primary examinations upon partial school reopening for P8 (primary) and S4 (secondary) classes in October 2020. FCA also collaborated with the Ministry of Education in establishing authorized digital content for use in hard to reach areas in Jonglei State. The ministry also provided textbooks for distribution in those areas. The efforts were affected by severe flooding and the initiatives will continue in 2021.

During 2020, the advocacy initiatives included deliberation on reconciliation measures, trust and relationship building, efforts towards behavior change, human rights awareness and promotion of messages on human rights. Capacity building and awareness raising activities targeted religious leaders, clan elders, community representatives, government of-

ficials, general population and peace committees. FCA also implemented awareness raising activities on the prevention of Covid-19.

In order to ensure disaster affected people's access to essential life-saving assistance, a total of 6,347 beneficiaries (3577 F, 2770 M) benefitted from distribution of agricultural inputs and fishing gear as well as training in agricultural and fishing methods for improved production.

Unconditional cash transfers targeted the most vulnerable persons. In the latter part of the year, the cash distribution mechanism had to be reviewed due to unfavorable exchange rate, which led to a financial loss for the end beneficiaries.

A number of actions contributed to supporting people to fulfil their legitimate and active role for positive change in societies (MO 3). FCA promoted participatory peace processes, which contributed to enhanced social cohesion and peaceful coexistence of the communities. FCA collaborated with the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) and Standard Action Liaison Focus (SALF) at national and local levels to reach grassroots communities. Youth and women were supported through capacity strengthening and were engaged in peace processes. Trainings on skills and knowledge on peace building and causes of conflict were also conducted. 70 youth received training also on advocacy, including skills on non-violent conflict resolution.

Evaluations and studies

In 2020, one end of project (11962) evaluation was conducted in South Sudan. The evaluated project focused on strengthening civil society and enhancing technical and vocational education and training (TVET) for youth employment in South Sudan. The recommendations included the need for more training on business skills and life skills to boost the confidence of the youth. In addition, policy level recommendations included the development of a harmonized TVET policy for South Sudan and fast tracking the process of TVET Policy development. It was noted that FCA should also ensure access to funds for youth embedded in a policy and legal framework (e.g. youth fund). Furthermore, additional investment is needed

for the development of infrastructure in the TVET centers in order to effectively promote quality education.

Partnerships and capacity building

FCA continued to work and support South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) in the implementation of APP (Action Plan for Peace). This partnership enabled SSUCO to access a rich network, including religious leaders and government officials, as well as to make linkages to the local and national level peace processes.

FCA established new partnerships with Oxfam South Sudan, Windle Trust International and World Vision International South Sudan in Education Cannot Wait Multi-Year Resilience Programme (MYRP) 2020-2022.

Challenges and lessons learnt

During 2020, FCA's programme was affected by Covid-19, major flooding, intercommunal violence and hyperinflation. All these factors caused severe delays in project implementation.

In order to adapt to the situation caused by Covid-19 pandemic, radio programming was used to reach a wider audience since gatherings had been banned. Interactive talk shows were used to stimulate discussions. In addition, women and youth, clan elders, traditional leaders, religious leaders, interchurch committees and peace committees were involved in women led dialogue, promoting youth interaction, spreading peace messages through the media and providing targeted capacity development support to women and youth of faith and their active engagement in peace processes. This promoted the continuity of peace activities and ensured that earlier achievements would not go to waste. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, FCA also used digital audio players (DAPs) to deliver learning in areas without radio network as well as for the teacher training.

FCA continued to promote an integrated programme approach and for instance, peace projects incorporated livelihood components. The EMPOWER TVET project also incorporated peace work and peace education components. ECHO projects continued to implement livelihood and child protection components.

Project list and financial summary

Project nr	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Budget (€)	Costs (€)
10598	SSUCO South Sudan Field Office	FCA	MFA, private, parishes	291,000	236,298
11527	Enhancing sustainable peace and inter-communal reconciliation in Jonglei	FCA	MFA, private, parishes	290,000	188,552
11742	Livelihood support towards early recovery and resilience - Phase II	FCA	MFA Dev, private, parishes	180,000	180,312
11774	RBA Horn of Africa Project in South Sudan	LWF	Private, parishes	50,000	50,000
11775	Support for implementation of South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) Action Plan for Peace	FCA	EU (through NCA)	52,939	52,939
11904	SSUCO CO - FCA other projects PMER support	FCA	Private	214,000	269,306
11962	SSD Strengthening civil society and enhancing technical and vocational education and training (TVET) for youth employment	FCA	EU (through NCA)	384,251	448,779
11964	Providing safe access to basic education and protection services for crisis affected populations in Fangak County, Jonglei State, South Sudan	FCA, SALF	ECHO, DF	260,547	272,791
11969	Provision of equitable access to quality education for conflict affected children, youth and out-of-school children in Jonglei State (GPAA & Fangak) and Lake State (Awerial County), South Sudan	FCA	UNICEF, DF	366,290	376,047
11978	Emergency Response to Worsening Humanitarian Crisis	FCA	ACT Alliance	23,241	38,949
12004	SSUCO MFA HA project in 2019-2020	FCA	MFA HA 2019	552,597	522,803
12079	Integrated Education, Food Security and Livelihood Support for Returnees and Vulnerable Populations in Central Equatoria, Jonglei and Upper Nile State, South Sudan	FCA	MFA HA 2020	400,000	371,659
12092	Advocating for, Promoting Peace and Reconciliation through Civil Society, Women and Youth of Faith (APPEAR)	FCA	MFA Dev, private, parishes	210,000	94,459
12095	Teacher Education in South Sudan (TESS)	FCA	MFA DEv, private, parishes	270,000	94,278
12100	Education in Emergencies support for flood-affected counties in Jonglei State (Pibor, Duk and Uror Counties)	FCA	UNDP SSHF	226,019	178,694
12123	Emergency Response for Covid-19 Prevention in School Environments in Mingkaman, Tonga and Fangak County, South Sudan	FCA	FCA Disaster funds	35,000	28,454
12126	ACT Appeal SSD191 - Flood Crisis Response in South Sudan	FCA	ACT Alliance	31,951	31,951
12135	Management Function of South Sudan's Education Cannot Wait Fund	FCA, Oxfam, World Vision, Windle Trust International	Save the Children International	1,458,322	1,458,322
12145	Providing access to basic education, protection, livelihood and nutrition services to populations affected by conflict in Jonglei and Upper Nile States, South Sudan	FCA	ECHO, DF	300,000	170,159
Total (€)				5,596,157	5,064,752





## UGANDA

### Overview of Uganda country programme

In 2020, Uganda Country programme (CP) was implemented in the districts of Arua, Adjumani, Yumbe, Obongi, Koboko, Kamwenge, Kyegegwa, Mubende, Wakiso and Kampala. FCA worked in close cooperation with its local partners Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum (UMYDF), Rural Action Community Based Organization (RACOBABO), Uganda Change Agent Association (UCAA) and Development and Relief Initiative (DRI).

The Covid-19 pandemic left communities devastated and public goods shuttered, affecting economic activities and limiting access to and quality of education. All schools and other learning institutions were closed in March and schools re-opened for candidate levels in October. This resulted in a dramatic increase in protection needs of the most vulnerable, including young girls, children and persons with disabilities (PwDs).



**171,987**

children and youth gained access to quality education.



**1,320**

teachers were trained in learner centered teaching, child protection, inclusive education and Covid-19 prevention and management.



**182,400**

direct beneficiaries reached by the Uganda Programme in 2020.

89,555 92,845

abilities (PwDs). Child abuse, domestic violence and conflicts have been on the rise as well, especially in refugee settlements. According to a survey by UNCDF (2020), about 50 % of informal businesses were out of business or fell below the poverty line already after one month of lockdown, with severe repercussions on the food security situation. The economic activities started to pick up very slowly after summer 2020.

The pandemic posed great challenges to the implementation of the CP and affected in particular activities requiring children's participation. Plans had to be modified to reallocate funds in part to Covid-19 response related actions. UGACO participated in a series of meetings with the government of Uganda aimed at coordinating the Covid-19 response and engaged in the Districts' Task Teams to support the

### Progress made in the country programme's sub-objectives

#### Selected key results in 2020

##### Main Objective 1

People and Private Sector: People can claim and enjoy their right to inclusive and sustainable economic growth for poverty eradication.

SO 1.1 Youth and young adults in vulnerable situations become economically self-reliant and contribute positively to social cohesion	1,925 (1032 F, 893 M) youths received vocational training. 1,925 (1032 F, 893 M) BTJET trainees benefitted from entrepreneurship trainings, CGC and on-the-job placements/internships. 521 youth trained in 2019 also received CGC.
SO 1.2 People in vulnerable situations engage in and benefit from inclusive and sustainable economic growth	3,556 (66 %) supported vulnerable HHs earned a living above the national poverty line 1,702 people started a smallholder business.

##### Main Objective 2

People and Governance: People can claim and enjoy their right to improved and inclusive governance and services.

SO 2.1 Policies and processes promote a positive change and are transparent, responsive and participatory	8 advocacy initiatives supported increased access to inclusive quality education, peace-building and climate justice. 1,320 (473 F, 847 M) members of school governance structures and 30 (10 F, 20 M) district officials participated in trainings and sensitization events.
SO 2.2 Children and youth have equal and uninterrupted access to inclusive quality education/learning	171,987 (81,029 F, 90,958 M) children and youth's access to quality education was supported, incl. 1,038 CwDs (504 F, 534 M). 1,320 teachers (473 F, 847 M) were trained in learner centered teaching, child protection, inclusive education and Covid-19 prevention and management. 1,741 teachers (732 F, 1009 M), 121 members of school governance structures and 2 project staff were trained in psychosocial support. The teacher-pupil ratio higher than 1:150 in primary and secondary schools improved to 1:93 and 1:67 in targeted refugee settlements. 72 classrooms, 151 latrine stances and 62 teacher accommodation units were constructed in refugee settlements.
SO 2.3 Disaster affected people have access to essential life-saving assistance	31 (25 F, 6 M) families with CwDs were supported with cash for work opportunities, supporting their children's access to education.

##### Main Objective 3

People and Civil Society: People fulfil their legitimate and active role for positive change

SO 3.1 Local communities and their members play an active and leading role in the societal development, contributing to enhanced social cohesion	Local communities active participation was supported in 5 processes focusing on prevention of youth violent extremism, peace education, access to quality education and women's economic empowerment. Over 1,500 children and youth engaged in peace clubs and peace building dialogues. PTAs of 101 targeted schools were supported.
SO 3.2 Civil society partnerships and networks are strengthened and promote participation, open dialogue and positive social change.	4 civil society partnerships and 8 networks were supported. 1,045 (595 F, 450 M) people enhanced skills in dialogue building and effective networking.
SO 3.3 Disaster prone communities have enhanced capacity to save lives, alleviate human suffering [and bounce back] during and after disasters.	52 DRR trainings were facilitated in targeted schools. 11 emergency preparedness and response plans were developed and incorporated into 11 school improvement plans.



mobilization of teachers and home learning. UGACO had to scale down staff in offices but programme implementation continued and once the restrictions were lifted, the CP was able to fast track activities under strict observance of SOPs set by Government ensuring results and quality.

#### Analysis of the key results and achievements

Uganda CP continued to support the right to inclusive and sustainable economic growth (MO1) of especially vulnerable women and youth, both in rural and urban contexts. The CP promoted livelihood opportunities for refugees and local populations in refugee hosting districts, through agribusiness and skills development for employment and entrepreneurship in the formal and informal sectors.

Refugee settlements and their surrounding areas, as well as urban slums, face various social and economic challenges and are known to be prone to violence. Against this background, the CP has targeted vulnerable out-of-school young women and men and provided them with vocational skills trainings and increased access to employment or self-employment, encouraging girls to get involved in male-dominated trades. Babycare facilities were also set up to support female students with babies in Kyaka and Rwamanja. Vocational training has been reinforced with career guidance and counselling (CGC) as well as with on-the-job placements, to strengthen the linkage between training and em-

ployment. By bringing youth from different communities together, training centres also serve as spaces for trust building and collaboration. The Linking Learning to Earning (LL2E) interventions contribute to vulnerable youth's economic self-reliance as well as to enhanced social cohesion and peaceful co-existence.

FCA contributed to women's social and economic empowerment through income generating activities (IGAs), Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and entrepreneurship skills development. VSLAs have played a crucial role in enabling women to finance business start-ups and enterprise development at community level. As a result, women have increased self-employment opportunities and income levels.

Covid-19 pandemic complicated implementation, monitoring and slowed down project progress. However, although most BTNET trainees are still awaiting certification from the Directorate of Industrial Training and were unable to graduate, they managed to complete their training. Among them, 335 have already accessed some of form of employment thanks to FCA's business track model supporting youth with existing business ideas, and the Community-Based Training model (CBT) to all BTNET projects to support safe vocational education in smaller groups.

A large number of initiatives contributed to people's right to improved and inclusive governance and services (MO2), with strong focus on inclusive and equitable quality education. The CP pursued its advocacy efforts to-

wards the Ugandan government but also the local governments, communities and donors. The main initiatives aimed at ensuring increased access to quality education as well as system strengthening, while additional advocacy efforts focused on the mitigation of the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. Through the EiE cluster and direct advocacy engagements with UNHCR, ECHO and PRM, prioritization of generally neglected secondary education in refugee settlements was achieved and additional funds were secured for 2021. FCA continued to lobby districts to adopt and use the quarterly education coordination meetings as a system strengthening mechanism in the four refugee hosting districts of Yumbe, Adjumani, Moyo and Koboko. In addition to the districts adopting the meetings, they also funded the activities themselves for the first time. With support from FCA, UMYDF participated in the development of the national peace policy and also, for the first time, engaged the youth, local district stakeholders and Muslim leaders to embrace youth participation in peace building processes in Kampala, Wakiso districts and in Yumbe district. Through the ACT Alliance Uganda Forum, FCA participated in advocacy activities, which resulted in the Parliament of Uganda initiating, debating and passing the climate change bill and the sexual offences bill.

Covid-19 related activities included awareness raising; provision of WASH materials; provision of 166,530 home learning packages and 3,000 radios for primary, secondary and AEP learners; and capacity building for teachers and other stakeholders to ensure continuity of learning while schools were closed. FCA advocated donors and districts' local governments for the continuation of teachers' salaries, increased recruitment of teachers and their return to refugee settlements to support home-learning activities. ECHO and ECW responded positively and additionally, the Kyegegwa district technical administration endorsed the return of 389 teachers in Kyaka at the height of the Covid-19 lockdown, reaching 2,813 learners.

One of the major achievements in 2020 was enhanced access to quality education for 171,987 (81,029 F, 90,958 M) children and youths from refugee

and host communities in 101 targeted schools and three BTNET centres, including 1,038 CwDs. The adopted approaches included formal (ECD for the first time, primary and secondary), as well as non-formal education (Accelerated Education Program, vocational skills and short-term livelihood trainings). Key interventions included the provision of scholastic materials to learners, teacher trainings and teaching materials, strengthening of school governance structures and improvement of school infrastructure. Further, FCA increased support towards availability of teachers, which resulted in greatly improved teacher-pupil ratios in targeted primary and secondary schools. The teacher trainings in psychosocial support were particularly important during the pandemic, especially in the refugee communities, and improved teachers' wellbeing and built their capacity to support learners. FCA also promoted environmental protection in 45 schools in Yumbe, where environment school clubs were formed and organized tree-planting activities during the World Teachers' Day celebrations.

Furthermore, FCA continued supporting schools in the refugee settlements in enhancing accessibility, improved school facilities, teacher training on inclusive education and training of SMCs on their roles in supporting CwDs. In addition, various awareness raising activities and "back to school" campaigns were conducted to attract candidate CwDs back to school in October 2020, when government opened schools again.

All targeted schools have been supported in various ways to ensure that the governance structures are fully constituted and active and able to fulfill their responsibilities. FCA convened training and sensitization events for members of SMCs/PTAs/CMCs and BOGs on the roles of governance committees in school monitoring, development of School Improvement Plans (SIPs) and School Development Plans (SDPs), and their role in child protection. District level stakeholders were strengthened to play a more active role in teacher training, teacher support supervision, school inspection and monitoring. School governance structures and district level stakeholders received information on Covid-19 prevention, and management of suspected and



confirmed cases. In addition, the education expert seconded by UGACO to UNICEF carried on the work started in 2019 with UNICEF and the MoE for the formulation of the new Education Sector Strategic Plan for Uganda.

Several initiatives supported people to fulfil their legitimate and active role for positive change in societies (MO3). UGACO made an effort to ensure at least 30 % of women benefiting from all interventions. FCA actively promoted the participation of parents and communities in increasing access and improving the quality of education. This was done through community sensitization on child protection and demanding greater accountability, and capacity building of community based monitors (CBMs). All FCA supported schools have a parent-teacher association to support children's inclusive quality learning.

As a co-lead of the Education in Emergencies (EiE) working group, FCA supported a harmonised approach to refugee support operations and dissemination of key learnings, especially from the Covid-19 interventions. UGACO also played a key role in the Education Response Plan (ERP) Information Management Task Team and Covid-response District Task Teams. In addition to providing funding to address the intervention needs and prepare for possible emergencies, FCA

also supported the District Task Teams to plan and respond to Covid-19. This was mainly achieved through joint planning sessions, distribution of preventive materials and post distribution monitoring assessments to determine the level of utilization and adherence to the SOPs.

Peaceful coexistence was promoted through inclusive peacebuilding activities with focus on peace education and encouraging youth leadership and participation. The CP supported the engagement of children and youth in peace-building activities in primary, secondary and vocational education to build the capacity for early detection and resolution of conflicts and potential or real violence. Youth's active participation in local decision-making was enhanced through improved skills in dialogue building and effective networking. Peace-building was also promoted by youth peace clubs as agents of peace education in the communities. FCA supported youth advocacy platforms on issues affecting their wellbeing as well as youth inclusive policy development and implementation related to PVE.

In a bid to improve disaster prone communities' capacity to prepare for and recover from adverse events, in collaboration with the environmental protection partner and the districts'







environment office, FCA emphasized Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in programming. The CP supported the formation of DRR committees and clubs in schools in Kyaka and Bibidi refugee settlements, which conducted trainings and sensitisations to ensure that DRR awareness and mitigation measures are mainstreamed in schools. Emergency preparedness and response plans were developed and incorporated into schools’ improvement plans in Kyaka. Their implementation was launched with tree planting and sensitization of learners and parents.

### Evaluations

A total of four final project evaluations were conducted in Uganda. The final evaluation of UGACO new MFA HA 2019-2020 project noted that the investment in software activities reinforced the achievements of the project’s ‘hardware’ activities, making the schools able to deliver quality education and provide a safe protective, inclusive quality learning environment. One of the main recommendations was organisation of refresher trainings and orientation of teachers on SNE, child protection and disability integration more frequently during the first years of project implementation.

The final evaluation of the three-year Rwamwanja TVET Project for Congolese refugee and host community concluded that vocational skills training effectively promotes access

to employment and is a pathway to self-reliance for vulnerable youth. It also noted the project presents a strong case for further development and expansion of FCA’s vocational skills training programme.

The three-year livelihood programme Empowering Women and Girls to excel in businesses in informal settlements/slums in Kampala and Wakiso Districts implemented through DRI was also evaluated. One of the key recommendations focused on the introduction of group marketing for increased access to competitive markets for women’s businesses and products.

The final evaluation of the three-year Women in Development Project for Yumbe and Arua districts in Uganda noted that by providing women with access to credit, VSLAs have become a decisive factor for engaging in IGAs where sensitization and training alone are not sufficient motivators.

### Partnerships and capacity building

FCA continued to support civil society partnerships and networks in an effort to expand operations but also to ensure quality implementation, and strengthen presence and visibility. Uganda CP continued its collaboration with the existing four partners UMYDF, RACOB AO, UCAA and DRI. In order to enhance programme quality, partners received training in reporting, M&E and financial management. Furthermore, UGACO remained an active partner of UN agencies and strengthened donor relations with UNICEF, UNHCR, ECW, ENABEL, PWRDF and BPRM. UGACO also worked in consortia under EU-ECHO and EU-Horizon funded projects for enhanced impact-driven programming and visibility.

FCA also invested in collaboration and coordination with ACT Forum, local and national platforms including NCHRD-U, UNNGOF, FENU and Peace Platform among others. FCA continued to co-chair the EiE working group together with UNHCR and the office of Prime Minister to coordinate the refugee education operations in the country. Equally important partners were the responsible government agencies, Office of the

Prime Minister and beneficiary districts. Following UNHCR’s and OPM’s request, FCA contributed by training the district education officials on the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) data collection needs and processes and hence contributed to wider capacity building efforts targeting partners and local governments, and consolidated its influence on the refugee education operation.

Furthermore, the CP invited private sector partners to participate in BTNET curriculum design and validation, and to provide industrial work placements, to ensure relevance between trainings and market needs.

### Challenges and lessons learnt

Covid-19 pandemic constrained learning due to school closures and restrictions of movement, as well as a host of psychosocial and protection issues. As a response, FCA provided alternative and innovative learning mechanisms such as facilitation of radio-based learning, home learning packages, teacher outreaches to support learners from their homes and their communities as well as community learning centres. A post-distribution monitoring study indicated that 94 % of the sampled learners had accessed at least one form of home learning support. Teacher trainings evolved to increasingly incorporate psychosocial support and elements of Covid-19 response, equipping teachers to take an active role in protecting learners, also in view of the re-opening of schools. FCA conducted small group sessions in communities by Mobile Education Clinics to obtain feedback on education and accountability challenges. This innovation ensured continuity of home-based learning, sensitization of the communities on protection issues and Covid-19 prevention as well as provision of immediate counselling for those in need.

The dire situation also led to an increased number of conflicts over land and/or limited resources in refugee hosting districts. In response to this, it was decided that UMYDF, FCA’s peace partner, should extend their work on youth engagement in West Nile region.

### Project list and financial summary

Project nr	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Budget (€)	Costs (€)
11526	UGACO PMER support for MFA Dev. funded projects	FCA	MFA Dev, FCA	358,200	274, 578
11562	Rwamwanja TVET Project for Congolese refugee and host community	FCA	MFA Dev, FCA	400,000	388,526
11683	Enhancing Civic Engagement and Economic self-reliance for peaceful and violent free communities in Yumbe and Kampala districts	UMYDF	MFA Dev.	270,000	269,977
11777	Women’s Income Generating Support (WINGS) Project	RACOB AO	WoB, MFA Dev.	140,000	140,000
11844	Taping Agriculture potential for Employment through Skill-ing (TAPES)	FCA	AVSI	7,215	7,453
11864	Empowering Women and Girls to excel in businesses in informal settlements/slums in Kampala and Wakiso Districts	DRI	WoB, MFA Dev.	220,000	219,614
11870	Women in Development Project for Yumbe district, Uganda	UCAA	WoB, MFA Dev.	210,000	208,488
11906	UGACO PMER support for other than MFA Frame funded projects	FCA	FCA	428,000	346,873
11918	Feasibility Study and preparation of a business and investment plan for a Poultry project in Uganda	FCA	WoB, MFA Dev.	4,684	4,684
11966	INCLUDE (INnovative and inCLUusive accelerated eDucation programmE for refugee and host community children)	FCA (consortia project)	EU-ECHO, FCA	2,225,918	2,225,918
12007	Quality of Education Improvement (QEI) Project in Mubende District	RACOB AO	Comic Relief, MFA Dev.	120,000	119,136
12009	UGACO new MFA HA 2019-2020	FCA	MFA HA, FCA	73,719	73,719
12022	SPEAR, Sustainable Primary Education and Accelerated Response, Education Cannot Wait (ECW) Programme, Uganda	FCA	ECW	1,617,876	1,570,030
12027	Enhancing Youth Employability and Entrepreneurship through skills training and small business development in Yumbe District	FCA	ENABEL	62,412	54,189
12049	SCORE PROJECT PHASE III	FCA	UNICEF, FCA	273,542	302,031
12051	LEARN — Lasting Education Achievements Responding to Needs	FCA	BPRM	1,558,930	1,540,646
12070	Education in Emergencies Assistance to South Sudanese (SSD) refugee children in Bidibidi (Yumbe) and Maaji II and III (Adjumani)	FCA	MFA HA	603,137	603,137
12073	Skilling Refugee Youth Project in Kyaka II refugee settlement	FCA	MFA Dev.	229,500	228,446
12074	Education Management for Primary, Secondary and Vocational skills training in Bidibidi, Palorinya, Kyaka and Rwamwanja Refugee Settlements	FCA	UNHCR, FCA	3,315,629	3,362,058
12090	Promoting Youth Employability Through Enterprise and Skills Development (PROYES)	FCA	ENABEL	161,045	161,045
12116	Koro School Project	FCA	FCA	32,800	34,267
12122	Covid-19 Disaster Preparedness in Palorinya and Rwamwanja refugee Settlements in Uganda	FCA	FCA	50,000	49,975
12128	Continued Learning through Rapid Response to Covid-19	FCA	ECW	113,512	110,149
12137	HealthyFoodAfrica	FCA (consortia project)	EU Horizon 2020	40,000	17,045
12141	Construction of FCA Field Office in Kyaka II Refugee Settlement	FCA	FCA	50,000	56,990
12148	LEARN — Lasting Education Achievements Responding to Needs	FCA	BPRM	1,519,087	1,519,087
12176	Support to Safe Quality Learning for Refugees in Palorinya and Rwamwanja settlements	FCA	PWRDF	11,863	11,863
Total (€)				14,097,069	13,899,905



BANGLADESH

Overview of operation in 2020

General context in 2020

Over 855,000 Rohingya refugees currently reside in 34 extremely congested settlements surrounding Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh after fleeing an outbreak of violence in Myanmar in August 2017. Despite significant progress during the first phase of the humanitarian response, the Rohingya refugees still require significant sustained and multi-sectoral humanitarian support. The Rohingya lack secure legal status and do not have the right to move freely, work, or access formal education, and rely on humanitarian aid for all of their basic needs. The congested nature of the camps poses serious safety, security, and wellbeing risks, particularly for women and girls, who continue to be at disproportionate risk of GBV, including domestic violence, forced/child marriage, and exploitation and trafficking. Access to sustained formal

and non-formal education services for girls and women is further compounded by sociocultural barriers, domestic support roles, movement restrictions, confinement in their homes, and significant safety and security risks within the camps. Meaningful education opportunities serve as a fundamental protection tool and offer a durable solution for refugees, particularly for women and girls who are predisposed to significant protection risks.

Existing challenges, inequalities, and protection concerns for women and girls continue to be exacerbated due to the effects of Covid-19. Education facilities, including female only spaces, were closed as part of the containment measures and access to GBV and protection services for women and girls was severely limited. Findings from recent assessments indicate that during the pandemic, there was alarming increase in GBV, child labor, and child marriage

that will make it harder for children and youth, particularly women and girls to return to school or education opportunities. Because education was classified by the Refugee, Relief, and Repatriation Commissioner (RRRC) as a non-essential service, 6,000 learning facilities have been closed and NGOs working in education remain unable to access the camps regularly. Despite the lifting of access restrictions to all other sectors, education is still characterized as non-essential by the RRRC as of March 2021 and access remains severely constrained.

Analysis of the key results and achievements

FCA has implemented its humanitarian portfolio in cooperation with Dan Church Aid (DCA), and through funding from MFA. FCA and DCA have been instrumental in reaching adolescent and youth women and girls through integrated Education, Protection, and Disaster Risk Reduction programming. During the Covid-19 pandemic, NGO activities have been severely restricted and services were interrupted due to a strict lockdown imposed by the government of Bangladesh as a pandemic containment measure. However, the project continued to provide life-saving GBV services while also supporting continuous learning for women and girls through the delivery of home learning kits and remote training to education facilitators and volunteers. The project underwent strategic changes in order to meet the evolving education and protection needs of the rights holders brought on by Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdown and access



restrictions. Because GBV was considered an essential health service, FCA/DCA was able to access the Women and Girls Safe Spaces on a rotational basis to continuously offer PSS support, case management, and counseling for women and girls exposed to GBV. Because education remained a

non-essential service, DCA/FCA pivoted its approach to reaching teaching and learners through a distance education model. To reach teachers during the lockdown, DCA/FCA developed a remote teacher training package using Zoom and WhatsApp. The approach, methodology, and lessons learned

were consolidated into a comprehensive training package that has been shared globally across other education sector responses.

Partner and project list

Project nr	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Budget (€)	Costs (€)
12008	MFA HA 2019-2020 grant to Bangladesh	DCA	MFA HA	285,905	285,905
12076	Enhancing Protection and Empowerment of Women through Education and Skill Development (MFA HA 2020-2021)	DCA	MFA HA	300,000	341,488
11994	Emergency assistance to people affected by the earthquake and tsunami in Central Sulawesi, Indonesia - IDN182	CWS	FCA	84,095	84,095
Total (€)				670,000	711,488



## CAMBODIA

### Overview of Cambodia country programme

In 2020, Cambodia Country Programme (CP) was implemented in Phnom Penh, Battambang, Banteay Meanchey Kampong Chhnang, Kampong Speu, Pursat and Siem Reap provinces. The CP worked in close cooperation with its local partners LWD, CWCC, PKO and ICCO and the Cambodian government, notably the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) and National Employment Agency (NEA), and Swedish Public Employment Service.

Although Cambodia successfully prevented, until the end of 2020, the Covid-19 from becoming a major health emergency, the country is one of the most severely affected by Covid-19's economic impacts in Asia. It is estimated that poverty will be nearly doubled to 17.6 % and the unemployment rate rises to 4.8 %. Loss of jobs and decreasing income is pushing especially the most marginalized people at high risk. This has a long-lasting impact in the country where youth make up over 60 % of the population and results of global pandemic might be fully seen only after several years.

The school closures since mid-March 2020 influenced the learning of over 3 million learners and had an impact on country programme's planned activities. Although the blended learning approach has been adopted, many students have limited access to online learning materials due to poor internet access, lack of electronic devices and ICT skills, while family members have limited knowledge and time to support their children. Livelihood activities, such as capacity building and awareness raising for stakeholders and Women's Agriculture Cooperatives (WAC) were also affected.

#### Analysis of the key results and achievements

Under the objective the right to inclusive and sustainable economic growth (MO1), 14,656 students (55 % females) received CGC, which provided them with essential knowledge, skills and



14,656

received Career Guidance and Counselling through classroom guidance.



40

schools were provided with teaching materials to support Mobile Counselling Centres, home-based learning and teaching during Covid-19 pandemic.



32,387

direct beneficiaries reached by the Cambodia Programme in 2020.

17,507 14,880

attitude for their future education and career. Part of this support was provided in classroom and later continued online and through phone calls, telegram and video lessons, as well as through Mobile CGC Centres when schools closed down. As part of implementing the Linking Learning to Earning (LL2E) approach, CAMCO collaborated with NEA to organize an Online Career Fair where CGC services were promoted widely. The fair reached 30,000 online viewers and 5,522 jobs were announced. Notably, the number of job seekers was 1,508. In addition, the Dr. Job Career Show to promote awareness on labor market information was organized by NEA.

CP continued to build the capacity of targeted 17 Women's Agriculture Cooperatives (WACs) through entrepreneurship skills and digital marketing training and weekly coaching and mentoring. As a result, the Cooperatives demonstrated improvement in their accounting systems. In 2020, nine new producer groups of chicken raising were formed and received revolving funds from the project. Additionally, the project supported two WAC committees in collective centres for buying and selling of rice seed and business loans to WAC members. WACs and relevant local authorities participated in a study visit in Siem Reap province to learn about safe vegetable planting, eco-farming and collective weekend market. The number of WAC members increased by 14 % (677 people) compared to 2019, and was 5,656 members in 2020.

Under the objective the right to improved and inclusive governance and service (MO2), CAMCO enhanced

access to quality education and worked with education authorities, partners and youth groups to respond to Covid-19. One of the major achievements in 2020 was progress on CGC policy aiming to improve the education system and quality of education in Cambodia. The policy is almost finalized and will support the education authority to integrate CGC service both in the general education and teacher training education system nationwide.

In order to respond to the needs and challenges caused by school closures due to Covid-19 pandemic, Mobile Counselling Centers (MCCs) were established and reached 3,441 students and their families. Lessons were conducted at locations with an easy access to children to help children maintain their schooling routine. The CP distributed teaching materials to 40 targeted schools to support Mobile Counselling Centre, home-based learning and teaching during the outbreak of Covid-19. Schools also received hand sanitizer, reusable facemasks, soap and empty bottles to refill hand sanitizer.

Furthermore, students benefited from the video lessons disseminated through Telegram, chat groups and Facebook sites that School Counsellors (SCs) and schools have created. The 21 video clips that were produced to supplement CGC learning materials will reach wider audiences in the future and have positive longer term impact.

The Cambodia CP piloted an extra-curricular activity of Reading Clubs with grade 3 students in the three primary schools to address the challenges faced by 40 % of the children who do

### Progress made in the country programme's sub-objectives

#### Selected key results in 2020

##### Main Objective 1

People and Private Sector: People can claim and enjoy their right to inclusive and sustainable economic growth for poverty eradication.

SO 1.1 Youth and young adults in vulnerable situations become economically self-reliant and contribute positively to social cohesion

14,656 students (8086 F, 6570 M) received Career Guidance and Counselling through classroom guidance.

Online Career Fair reached 30,000 online viewers. 36 domestic and international companies, enterprises, educational institutions joined this program

SO 1.2 People in vulnerable situations engage in and benefit from inclusive and sustainable economic growth

11 new enterprises were created including 9 new producer groups and 2 Women's Agriculture Cooperatives (WACs).

##### Main Objective 2

People and Governance: People can claim and enjoy their right to improved and inclusive governance and services.

SO 2.1 Policies and processes promote a positive change and are transparent, responsive and participatory

5 advocacy initiatives produced positive changes in economic empowerment, education and youth participation policy and/or practice.

41 capacity building and awareness raising events were conducted for 441 duty bearers (68 F).

SO 2.2 Children and youth have equal and uninterrupted access to inclusive quality education/learning

16,284 (8908 F, 7376 M) children and youth gained access to quality teaching and learning.

83% students completed primary school and 91% students completed their grades in the secondary school.

133 teachers (67 F, 66 M) were trained on CGC and new teaching methods.

40 schools were provided with teaching materials to support Mobile Counselling Centres, home-based learning and teaching during Covid-19 pandemic.

SO 2.3 Disaster affected people have access to essential life-saving assistance

556 households received cash and food assistance as the response to economic and health crisis brought by the Covid-19 pandemic.

##### Main Objective 3

People and Civil Society: People fulfil their legitimate and active role for positive change

SO 3.1 Local communities and their members play an active and leading role in the societal development, contributing to enhanced social cohesion

4 local processes were supported with at least 30% of women participation.

19 CBOs were supported to increase their participation in development processes, with at least 30 % of women participation.

SO 3.2 Civil society partnerships and networks are strengthened and promote participation, open dialogue and positive social change.

Four partner CSOs, 20 CBOs and 8 networks were supported in advocacy and development work.

SO 3.3 Disaster prone communities have enhanced capacity to save lives, alleviate human suffering [and bounce back] during and after disasters

3 DRR/CCC trainings were provided to 57 community participants (34 F, 23 M).

682 people (491 F, 191 M) from 21 villages gained knowledge on disaster preparedness activities.

5 emergency preparedness and response plans were established in schools and one plan was developed at district level.



not have adequate literacy skills before transiting from primary school to lower secondary school. The Reading Clubs were tutored by volunteer community members trained by FCA. After four months of special support and learning in small groups, all 82 participants had learned to read and write. This successful pilot approach is extended to new primary schools in 2021.

Altogether 133 teachers participated in in-service trainings. At the end of the year, 79 % of them reported that they are applying the new methods in their teaching, and are motivated to further develop their pedagogical skills. Observations made by the project staff also indicate that there is a clear shift towards a positive discipline in teachers' work and passion to work for the benefit of the children.

Onsite and online coaching and mentoring provided to Master Trainers (MTs) continued throughout the year. A gradual swift from traditional teacher-led methods to a more learner-centred approach in the trainings has taken place. MTs confidence as local experts and facilitators of knowledge sharing has also become stronger.

All livelihood related projects adjusted their plans to respond to Covid-19 in the target areas. The country programme distributed rice and cash assistance to 643 households through three distributions. CWCC project provided cash as-

sistance to 148 families. This contributed to addressing the targeted households' food shortage for 3 months.

CAMCO conducted awareness-raising on preventive measures against Covid-19 through education and communication materials and also provided hygiene materials, masks and 10 water filters to two Covid-19 quarantine centres. In addition, information about the quarantine centre was shared with migrant returnees.

After the flash flood in October 2020, CAMCO provided 10 lower secondary schools and three upper secondary schools with 2,407 textbooks and cleaning and hygiene packages.

A number of actions contributed to supporting people to fulfil their legitimate and active role for positive change in societies (MO3). Through the CWED II project, CAMCO continued to support WACs to join platforms and to raise their concerns towards the duty bearers. Also, farmers were supported to attend the National Farmer Forum organised by the NGO Forum.

The Dream School project facilitated regular meetings between the schools and local education authorities at district and provincial level to support open dialogue and close involvement of the education officers in the daily running of the schools. The project also supported the schools to facilitate discussions with families, community leaders and representatives of minority groups to tackle challenges that cause disruptions in children's education. The project staff are members of the communities themselves, and have been able raise even difficult issues with the communities and different stakeholders, including early marriage, domestic violence and children working to support family income.

The schools involved family members, community leaders and village residents in creating school development plans that are more responsive to actual needs. The schools also mobilized fundraising campaigns to implement the development plans and as a result for instance clean water systems were installed.

The country programme continued to enhance the capacity of Commune Dispute Resolution Committees (CDRCs) and District Cadastral Committees (DCCs) so that they are able to address local disputes. Overall, 420 participants

(252F) gained knowledge on Land Law and Land Registration, and basic Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and family law through 28 awareness-raising sessions conducted. Significantly, the DCCs and CDRCs received 451 complaints from community members and solved 360 of the cases (80 %) successfully.

CAMCO has also established a small grant facility for youth to support youth led action in Cambodia. In collaboration with People Centre for Development and Peace (PDP Centre) and World Vision International (WVI), the country programme promoted youth participation in Covid-19 awareness raising and emergency response activities in Preah Vihear and in Siem Reap. As a result, 86 families received food items and hens for livelihood improvement.

World Environment Day celebration 2020 was conducted online through Facebook live and local radio talk shows because of Covid-19. Notably, 13 radio talk shows were conducted to promote awareness raising on environmental protection and to bring together young people and policy makers from the Ministry of Environment in Cambodia.

As a result of the disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (DRR/CCA) trainings, WACs developed a DRR plan to minimise risks affecting their members. The CP also promoted agricultural techniques for climate change adaptation, targeting producer groups. Active cooperation between the schools and leaders of the local communities resulted in joint projects to plant trees in the villages to reduce the effects of climate change. A total of 205 youth increased their knowledge and skills on DRR/CCA preparedness and Covid-19 protection. Youth also supported the development of five DRR/CCA plans.

### Evaluations

CAMCO conducted three project evaluations and one study in 2020. A study on cost-effectiveness of CGC service provision in Cambodia was conducted and findings from this research will be incorporated into the CGC policy, which will be finalised in 2021.

Dream School project was evaluated in August 2020. The report concluded that the project has developed a strong relational foundation on which to build future education initiatives and is now in a good position to focus on learning

### Project list and financial summary

Project nr	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Budget (€)	Costs (€)
11435	Land and Livelihood Advocacy Project (LLAP)	LWD	MFA Dev, private	42,000	37,938
11713	Changemaker Cambodia	FCA	MFA Dev, private	49,500	34,803
11753	Cambodia office PMER support for the MFA frame funded program	FCA	MFA Dev, private	377,200	303,406
11873	Climate Change Adaptive Agriculture	LWD	MFA Dev, private	75,000	71,143
11874	Cooperation for Women's Economic Development (CWED) - phase 2	LWD, ICCO, FCA	WB, MFA Dev	256,605	208,928
11875	Enhancing career guidance and counselling at secondary school level	FCA	MFA Dev, private	150,000	102,699
11876	Dream school project - phase 2	PKO, FCA	MFA Dev, private	70,000	62,223
11892	FCA other projects PMER support	FCA	Private, parishes	11,500	768
11992	Career Guidance and Counselling in Secondary Schools	FCA	SIDA	416,674	350,661
12052	Inclusive actions for improving women's social status through skills, employment and economic development (INSWEED)	CWCC, FCA	WoB, MFA Dev	125,000	70,242
Total (€)				1,573,479	1,242,811

outcomes. Key recommendations included shifting focus to schools which are less urban and less resourced and re-allocation of budget to be more in line with global best practices.

The evaluation report of Land and Livelihood Advocacy (LLAP) project recommended to promote synergy between Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and livelihood work and experience sharing with other CDRCs, to develop IEC materials and integrate Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in the commune public forum.

The three-year project Climate Change Adaptive Agriculture (CCAA) implemented in 2018-2020 was also evaluated. Some key activities implemented in CCAA project that were confirmed to be relevant by the final evaluation have been integrated in LLAP. For instance, LLAP will promote resilient agriculture practices and climate resilient small-scale infrastructure.

### Partnerships and capacity building

As part of CAMCO's livelihood response to the mounting Covid-19 crisis food and cash distributions were organised with partners CWCC, LWD and ICCO. As part of the process, partners' and FCA

staff's capacity on food and cash assistance programming was deepened, mainly through on-the-job training by more experienced colleagues and with the support of Head Office Humanitarian Unit. The Agricultural Cooperatives who participated in the procurement process of purchasing rice, were given an opportunity for learning-by-doing training on procurement processes.

Intensive capacity building continued in education programme as teachers at Dream Schools, the Dream School Project Team, Reading Club tutors and CGC Master Trainers were provided with coaching and mentoring to support their professional growth. Also, individual and group mentoring sessions on selected topics were conducted by Teachers without Borders online volunteers on a weekly basis.

Youth groups in Preah Vihear province received coaching and mentoring on Covid-19 emergency response processes. This included identifying and selecting vulnerable groups, partnership building, collaboration with local authorities and NGO partners, and other project management related issues. CAMCO built the capacity of its four staff members and CNN project's five youth members on conflict sensitivity by Do No Harm trainings.

CAMCO team put a lot of effort into redesigning the tools for CB and trainings, adapting everything for online utilisation. This also required new kind of capacity building of the rights-holders, as very few were able to use modern tools like Zoom.

### Challenges and lessons learnt

Due to Covid-19 related restrictions on meetings and school closures, and due to CAMCO team working from home or in a hybrid mode since mid-March 2020, all projects have gone through re-planning, re-budgeting and postponing of activities. For instance, there have been challenges in supporting students' access to the TVET centre due to the closure of the centre caused by Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic also greatly affected FCA's planned capacity building efforts targeting local partners and staff.

However, although Covid-19 has negatively affected Cambodia, the opportunity to promote local agriculture products is observed. Given the high domestic demand with less available imported products, this has enabled some farmers to produce more locally.







## MYANMAR

### Overview of Myanmar country programme

In 2020, Myanmar Country Programme (CP) was implemented in Ayerwaddy Region, Kayin State, Rakhine State, Yangon Region, Kachin State, and Southern and Northern Shan. FCA worked in close cooperation with its local and international partners Metta, RMO, KLF, STH, CERA, MCC, LWF, PYOE, EEI and DFSS.

The global Covid-19 pandemic did not have a significant health impact in Myanmar in 2020. Instead, the impact was mainly socio-economic with greatly reduced incomes for people and considerable increase in poverty. The pandemic had a significant impact on MYACO's operational context as well as on the country programme. Severe restrictions were in place from late March and affected the planned activities (e.g. gathering of people; school closures etc.). Projects and activities were cancelled and projects and programmes had to be subsequently redesigned.

The General Elections were conducted in November without much



**421**

people (97 % women) were self-employed through individual IGAs.

**11,747**

direct beneficiaries reached by the Myanmar Programme in 2020.

6,775 4,972



**29**

women groups were supported for their increased participation in development processes.



problems. However, there were reports especially from the Myanmar Armed Forces (Tatmadaw), of widespread voter fraud. This would in early 2021 precipitate the military coup d'état.

There was limited armed ethnic conflict throughout 2020 in Myanmar, except in Rakhine State where fighting between the Arakan Army and the Tatmadaw caused new displacements of

over 81,000 people. Returns and resettlements of IDPs went ahead in Kachin and Rakhine at a small, localised scale.

#### Analysis of the key results and achievements

Under the objective the right to inclusive and sustainable economic growth (MO1), MYACO's focus was to create

### Progress made in the country programme's sub-objectives

#### Selected key results in 2020

##### Main Objective 1

People and Private Sector: People can claim and enjoy their right to inclusive and sustainable economic growth for poverty eradication.

SO 1.1 Youth and young adults in vulnerable situations become economically self-reliant and contribute positively to social cohesion

62 youth (43 F, 19 M) out of 93 graduates were employed after attending vocational training.

93 graduates benefitted from start-up equipment to start self-employment.

SO 1.2 People in vulnerable situations engage in and benefit from inclusive and sustainable economic growth

421 people (97 % women) were self-employed through individual IGAs.

1,544 people were supported through collective IGAs.

All 21 enterprises supported in 2019 demonstrated improved performance in 2020.

##### Main Objective 2

People and Governance: People can claim and enjoy their right to improved and inclusive governance and services.

SO 2.1 Policies and processes promote a positive change and are transparent, responsive and participatory

Three advocacy initiatives produced positive changes in women's economic empowerment, interfaith dialogue and Career Guidance and Counselling (CGC) services. Three awareness raising events reached 74 people.

SO 2.2 Children and youth have equal and uninterrupted access to inclusive quality education/learning

3,075 (2029 F, 1046 M) children and youth benefitted from access to education and continued learning.

16 teachers from 6 monastic schools in Yangon were trained in CGC.

60 women from Rakhine State attended short-term livelihood training.

SO 2.3 Disaster affected people have access to essential life-saving assistance

Cash for education assistance provided to 677 conflict affected households.

A safer school environment was created for 7,335 (3,945 F) students by providing Cash for school grants to 19 schools.

##### Main Objective 3

People and Civil Society: People fulfil their legitimate and active role for positive change

SO 3.1 Local communities and their members play an active and leading role in the societal development, contributing to enhanced social cohesion

29 women groups were supported for their increased participation in development processes.

SO 3.2 Civil society partnerships and networks are strengthened and promote participation, open dialogue and positive social change.

Ten partner CSOs and 29 CBOs/groups were supported in advocacy and development work.

employment opportunities for youth and women through LL2E mechanisms, participating in individual Income Generation Activities, and setting up micro-businesses. Despite the challenging operating environment with many Covid-19 related restrictions, FCA successfully supported IGAs of women affected by protracted conflict, displacement and poverty, resulting in higher incomes.

In Rakhine State, 12 new collective women groups were established and provided with a financial grant to organise collective IGAs. MYACO continued supporting six micro compost businesses in Rakhine State and 15 women groups in Kayin State, which had been set up in 2019. All the businesses improved their financial performance and organizational structure.

The key activities during 2020 included skills training to individual women and women groups and subsequently supporting them financially to establish individual and collective IGAs for sustainable economic growth at household level and community level. Besides IGAs, 30 people (24 F) were employed by local businesses after their graduation from vocational trainings following



several consultative meetings with the local business owners.

MYACO and LWF jointly developed innovative video animations of the Myanmar Artisan Toolkit (MAT) in local languages to enhance the educational effectiveness of FCA’s livelihoods trainings. The CP also created a proof of concept for organic composting in conflict-affected areas of Rakhine as a means of sustainable solid waste management and income generation for conflict affected people.

An important achievement during 2020 was the women-led Covid-19 response in Rakhine, where women’s groups used their existing production capacity (e.g. sewing skills) to produce re-usable cloth face masks. The masks were subsequently sold in bulk via FCA to numerous UN agencies and INGOs in Myanmar and distributed to those in need.

Despite the challenging nexus setting MYACO has been able to continue its work on sustainable livelihoods. MYACO has been able to build on the foundations of needs-based aid delivery and rights-based community development approaches towards more market-based approaches and market systems development. During 2020, work continued focusing on market linkages, product quality enhancement, and developing and enhanced understanding local markets and value chains.

Under the objective the right to improved and inclusive governance and service (MO2), MYACO advocated the Ministry of Education in order to include CGC under the National Education Strategic Plan Phase II (NESP II). Advocacy efforts were successful and CGC was included under NESP II and MYACO signed a Letter of Agreement to implement a 3-year CGC pilot project in over 40 government schools.

Based on the evidence from women empowerment projects, MYACO has carried out several consultation meetings with the Small Scale Industrial Department (SSID) since 2019. As a result of this dialogue and discussions, SSID and MYACO entered into an MOU agreement to implement a women empowerment programme for three years at union level.

Since 2018, MYACO in collaboration with technical experts and religious leaders produced an interfaith curriculum to use in Church Schools. MYACO

also facilitated interfaith dialogue workshops among church leaders and built a dialogue culture in six regional Councils of Churches areas in 2020.

MYACO provided support for LWF on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). In 2020, UPR project provided the submission of a coalition of INGOs in Myanmar to the third UPR. It includes the key areas of citizenship/legal identity, freedom of movement, women’s rights, persons with disabilities, education, housing, land and property.

Throughout 2020, MYACO delivered educational assistance by providing counselling services to students from monastic schools, cash for school for children in emergency setting, vocational training to youth, short skills trainings to women and teacher trainings. A total of 677 (354 F) primary and high school students from Northern Shan benefited from cash for education to continue their education in prolonged conflict-affected areas. Furthermore, 2,305 primary and middle school students (1,129 F) from 6 monastic schools around Yangon were provided CGS services. Most of the education services provided to primary and secondary schools including CGC were halted after April due to Covid-19, but MYACO was able to provide home-based learning support and worked on the digitalisation of some of the CGC materials while schools were closed.

The CP successfully expanded its work with cash-based transfers in humanitarian and nexus settings as part of an existing project funded by UN Women in Rakhine that also promotes women’s leadership. A new MHF-funded project using various cash modalities in EiE and Food Security sectors also started. These new interventions were made possible through FCA’s increased visibility and track record in innovative and adaptive cash programming in Myanmar benefitting school-age children and vulnerable women especially.

Under the objective supporting people to fulfil their legitimate and active role for positive change in societies (MO3), 29 women’s groups were endorsed financially to engage in collective IGA activities in 2019 and 2020. This has also promoted women’s greater decision-making power. Additionally, the women groups saved some portions of income generated from collective IGA as a community development fund. The savings will be utilised for

self-help community development activities with women’s active participation in designing and implementing the activities.

In order to enhance youth participation in the peace process, youth were trained on conflict transformation, facilitation and documentation and grouped into 5 youth groups in 2018 and 2019. The youth and peace campaign planned for 2020 had to be canceled due to Covid-19 related restrictions.

## Evaluations

MYACO conducted two project final evaluations in 2020. Women Socio-Economic Reconstruction in Kayin State project was evaluated and concluded that Women Empowerment Committees (WEC) established in 15 locations are conducting their respective activities, but they still require continuous technical support to become more sustainable. The evaluation also noted that it is important to establish Township level Women Network where the representatives from each WEC are selected to participate. FCA and KLF learnt that there are vast opportunities to boost the local economy through creating the local value chains development and agro-based industries.

The project Increased participation in Myanmar’s peace process in Kayin State implemented in 2018-2020 was also evaluated. The project had designed Women Empowerment Committees (WEC) meetings as a platform for sharing of knowledge and experiences as well as the latest updates related to formal Peace process. The platform was utilized quite well in the first year. However, in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the project had to change the discussion platform to posting information and news on the KLF web page and social media page. In addition, the evaluation noted that especially women face difficulties in participation at grassroots level due to socio-cultural barriers common in Kayin State.

## Partnerships and capacity building

In 2020, MYACO entered into a new partnership with three organizations- Pyoe Development Foundation (PYOE), Ethnic Equality Initiative (EEI),

and Dai-Fin Social Services (DFSS). All three are local CSOs based in Kachin State.

The CP continued to coordinate and consult with the Embassy of Finland in Myanmar, and continued its collaboration with Finnish peer organisations Finnish Refugee Council (FRC) and Abilis, especially in the areas of CGC, Covid-19, and joint proposal development. Throughout 2020, MYACO actively participated in and supported Government and Development Partners (DPs) (co)led working groups, especially the Education Development Partner Coordination Group (EDPCG), co-led by Finland and UNESCO.

As a key added value of FCA as an international organisation, MYACO remained committed to “doing and learning together” with its partners. Throughout 2020, MYACO and its partners struggled with the Covid-19 pandemic, and MYACO provided practical guidance and hands-on support, especially to local partners to facilitate

project revisions, replanning and budgeting, and donor liaison and reporting. Through targeted hands-on support during project cycle management, MYACO was able to capacitate its partners to deliver their projects effectively. Organization of joint trainings was difficult in 2020, but local trainings still took place, in smaller groups and with Covid-19 preventive measures.

FCA also supported DCA-NCA in conducting participatory CSO capacity building research, which has shed new light on how local CSOs in Myanmar perceive capacity building efforts and how they can be improved.

## Challenges and lessons learnt

The Covid-19 pandemic continued to heavily impact the country programme throughout the year. Many activities were cancelled and some reprogramming took place to provide Covid-19 emergency response. MYACO focused on Covid-19 preventive measures in-

cluding distribution of soap, hand sanitizer and face masks. In addition to many activities being suspended and redesigned, also data collection, monitoring and reporting was severely hampered due to the pandemic and its resulting movement and working restrictions.

## Challenges and lessons learnt

The conflicts in Northern Shan and Rakhine slowed down FCA’s operations, for instance the UNWOMEN project and LWF project in Southern Rakhine. Travel restrictions covered all parts of Rakhine outside of Sittwe.

MYACO designed and implemented three innovative new projects, which have an important strategic value for the CP: a cash-for-education pilot in Northern Shan, animations of the Myanmar Artisan Toolkit, and humanitarian cash-based programming in Northern Myanmar.

## Project list and financial summary

Project nr	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Budget (€)	Costs (€)
11563	Myanmar CO MFA PMER support / office budget	FCA	MFA Dev	281,500	188,959
11624	Myanmar Universal Periodic Review (UPR)	LWF	MFA Dev	10,000	10,000
11880	Myanmar CO - FCA Other PMER support costs	FCA	FCA	225,000	193,166
11896	Women Socio-Economic Reconstruction in Kayin State	KLF	WoB, MFA Dev	80,539	80,277
11897	Linking learning to earning for out-of school adolescents in Taunggyi	RMO	FCA	70,000	62,432
11898	Peace project STH	STH	MFA Dev	95,000	38,519
11901	Career Counselling Guidance	FCA	FCA	53,000	48,150
11902	Interfaith Research Project	MCC	FCA	50,000	37,902
12001	Enhanced food security and livelihoods for displaced conflict-affected people	KBC, FCA	MFA HA	9,505	9,505
12002	Increased participation in Myanmar’s peace process in Kayin State	KLF	MFA Dev	53,415	49,339
12014	Innovation and Start up project	LWF	FCA	56,710	56,710
12040	Solid Waste Management Innovation in Sittwe	LWF, FCA	HARP-F	46,505	42,122
12053	Education in Emergencies in Northern Shan State, Myanmar	METTA	FCA	75,932	75,932
12055	Project for Humanitarian and Development Assistance in Rakhine State	LWF, CERA, FCA	UNWOMEN	182,244	166,170
12083	Empowering Women for Business Success	LWF	WB, MFA Dev	122,420	115,949
12139	Women’s Empowerment and Resilient Inclusive Communities in Rakhine Phase 3	LWF, CERA, PYOE, FCA	UNWOMEN	247,774	117,515
12151	Integrated Education and Food Security and Livelihoods Support for Conflict-Affected People in Kachin State	DAI FIN, EEI, FCA	MHF	148,901	85,043
Total (€)				1,808,445	1,377,690





## NEPAL

### Overview of Nepal country programme

In 2020, Nepal Country Programme (CP) was implemented in 10 districts in four provinces (provinces 2, 3, 6 and 7). FCA worked in close cooperation with its local partners SOLVE, FWEAN, Sahakarya, NNDSWO, IDeS, FKWDF and MAG.

Nepal's economy has been severely affected by Covid-19 pandemic. Vulnerable groups such as women, children, marginalized ethnic groups and castes and people with disabilities (PwDs) have been pushed further into poverty due to the vast economic impact Covid-19 as a result of the long lockdown, lack of tourism, and an almost complete shut-down of the hospitality sector. Many of Nepal's migrant laborers returned from abroad during 2020 after losing their jobs, which has reduced the remit-

<sup>10</sup> This is the number of direct beneficiaries of NEPCO projects excluding those who benefited from COVID-19 relief distributions.



**22,493**

people were provided food and handwashing soaps for one month as the response to food scarcity and the health crisis due to Covid-19 pandemic.

tances. Ultimately, this has led to more unemployment and a higher number of people who suffer from food insecurity.

Children have also become more vulnerable as a result of Covid-19. During 2020, schools were closed for several months and children fell behind in education, especially in the rural areas where online schooling has not been an option during the pandemic. This has been coupled with an increased risk of child malnutrition and a higher risk of

**28**

cooperatives and **91** CSOs with at least **30%** women participation were supported for their increased participation in development processes.

child marriages and children going into child labour.

The government at all levels has been forced to address the current pandemic situation rather than focusing on long-term development. In the second half of 2020, there were also continued and increased political turbulence and protests, political violence and unrest.

Overall, Covid-19 greatly limited the implementation of planned activities both at local and national level. In order

**21,156<sup>10</sup>**

direct beneficiaries reached by the Nepal Programme in 2020.

👤 16,295 👤 4,861

### Progress made in the country programme's sub-objectives

#### Selected key results in 2020

##### Main Objective 1

**People and Private Sector: People can claim and enjoy their right to inclusive and sustainable economic growth for poverty eradication.**

SO 1.1 Youth and young adults in vulnerable situations become economically self-reliant and contribute positively to social cohesion

66 (17 F, 49 M) TVET training graduates (from 84 trained) are earning a living from self-employment or employment.

10 out of 22 Enterprise Development Facilitators (all women) trained in 2018-2019 were recruited by different local governments. The rest have been engaged in different jobs in previous years.

SO 1.2 People in vulnerable situations engage in and benefit from inclusive and sustainable economic growth

56 jobs were secured (40 new jobs and 16 existing jobs) for the most vulnerable women and other marginalised community members.

905 self-employments were created (80 % owned by women).

4,557 people were provided Covid-19 recovery support for their on and off-farm enterprises/self-employments.

Out of 695 enterprises supported in 2019, 459 (66%) enterprises demonstrated improved performance in 2020 through increased profit generation and new market linkages.

##### Main Objective 2

**People and Governance: People can claim and enjoy their right to improved and inclusive governance and services.**

SO 2.1 Policies and processes promote a positive change and are transparent, responsive and participatory

123 advocacy events and campaigns with 7 different initiatives were conducted.

One training on anti-discrimination laws and human rights framework for 24 duty bearers was conducted.

SO 2.2 Children and youth have equal and uninterrupted access to inclusive quality education/learning

612 people (573 F) received short-term livelihood training, 25 women received SIYB training and 435 children from primary and secondary levels received educational support.

2,150 students participated in debates on CBD and inclusion through 26 extracurricular events organized in 23 schools.

SO 2.3 Disaster affected people have access to essential life-saving assistance

22,493 people were provided food and handwashing soaps for one month as the response to food scarcity and the health crisis due to Covid-19 pandemic.

##### Main Objective 3

**People and Civil Society: People fulfil their legitimate and active role for positive change**

SO 3.1 Local communities and their members play an active and leading role in the societal development, contributing to enhanced social cohesion

The CP supported 6 processes through 348 events with a minimum 30 % participation of women.

28 cooperatives and 91 CSOs with at least 30% women participation were supported for their increased participation in development processes.

28 cooperatives received cash grants worth € 169,732 (96 % of the funds requested) from government for building construction and vocational trainings.

SO 3.2 Civil society partnerships and networks are strengthened and promote participation, open dialogue and positive social change.

A CSO position paper was submitted for the third UPR cycle with the contribution and involvement of representatives from 91 CSOs.

Seven partner CSOs, 70 CBOs (28 cooperatives, 42 CBOs and groups) and 33 different networks were supported in advocacy and development work.

296 CSOs' and CBOs' members (214 F, 82 M) participated in capacity building events.

SO 3.3 Disaster prone communities have enhanced capacity to save lives, alleviate human suffering [and bounce back] during and after disasters

A Vulnerability Capacity and Risk Assessment (VCRA) study in Lalitpur was presented to the local government to support emergency response and mitigation planning.





to address the effects of the pandemic, NEPCO adapted some of its projects as well as provided humanitarian assistance to the vulnerable households.

#### Analysis of the key results and achievements

Under the objective the right to inclusive and sustainable economic growth (MO1), the CP was successful in establishing self-employment for 905 people (80% women) despite the Covid-19 pandemic. This was made possible due to prioritization of activities supporting income generation through skills and access to finance and markets. The CP provided small enterprise start-up support to the most vulnerable rights-holders including returnee migrants, which is also one of the reasons for the high number of self-employment creation.

Covid-19 recovery support was provided to 4,557 rights-holders enabling them to start/continue their enterprises. This included vegetable and poultry farming support, savings support to cooperative share members,

interest subsidy for loanees, and off-farm enterprise support. The savings subsidies and loan interest subsidies were crucial for the rights-holders and also the three cooperatives in sustaining their economic activities. This was important to avoid cooperatives' poor financial situation in 2020.

To promote resilience and sustainability, the CP focused on increased ownership of the rights-holders where they also contribute their resources in establishing enterprises and starting self-employments. Creation of group enterprises has also been a key strategy in improving shared learning amongst the rights-holders, enabling them to start individual enterprises in the long run. The enterprises have been successfully linked to the governments through Junior Technical Assistants at the local government providing technical services to on-farm enterprises.

The CP also supported the rights-holders advocates in getting their locations declared as 'pocket areas', thus benefitting from higher level of support from the local governments. For instance, Ghusel in Lalitpur district

was declared a 'pocket area' for kiwi-fruit farming and the RHs were able to access a grant of € 34,146 from the government Agriculture Knowledge Centre.

In 2020, 28 cooperatives provided collateral free loans to 2347 RHs amounting to € 926,347, which is €137,046 less than in 2019. The main reason for this reduction is the Covid-19 created uncertainties in the livelihood sector. Together with access to finance, the entrepreneurs were supported with product developments (Dhaka clothes, vermicompost) and access to markets for their improved performance.

Under the objective the right to improved and inclusive governance and service (MO2), the CP executed 123 advocacy events on seven different initiatives positively affecting women and people belonging to vulnerable Dalit communities, former-bonded labourers and ethnic marginalised communities. Examples of successful advocacy efforts include access to citizenship certificates and rehabilitation of ex-bonded labourers, including economic recovery of the returnee migrant labourers.

Furthermore, the CP successfully supported the endorsement of a Dalit Empowerment Bill by one of the Rural Municipalities. The advocacy on rights of Dalits have resulted in increased solidarity, increased participation of Dalits in the rituals of so-called upper caste groups, increased participation in public decision-making processes, increased involvement of local governments in prioritizing and addressing the issues of caste-based discrimination and increased funds allocation to the Dalits by local governments. In 2020, seven cases of caste-based discriminations were identified and underwent a fact-finding process for taking necessary legal actions. Extracurricular event of debate competition in three schools contributed in creating a conducive learning environment for Dalit students.

A local partner NNDSWO was actively involved in protests and rallies for seeking justice for the victims of caste-based discrimination. NNDSWO, together with other like-minded organisations, continue to litigate one the cases at the Supreme Court.

Despite the difficult situation created by Covid-19 pandemic, the CP was able to reach 637 rights-holders through various short-term vocational/SIYB trainings and 435 marginalised students with educational support. The training events were possible through adapting the group trainings to on-site coaching and online trainings. Some trainings were also possible while ensuring physical distancing. The continued support played an important role in ensuring students' continued motivation to study even during the pandemic when schools were closed from March to December 2020. During this time some schools adopted online education (internet, radio, TV) but were out of reach to most students from marginalised communities.

A nationwide lockdown lasted for almost five months starting in March 2020 and adversely affected the local communities, especially the most vulnerable target groups. In response to food scarcity and the health crisis brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic the CP supported 22,493 people from 4,190 households with food and handwashing soap for one month. The CP also promoted safe hygiene practices and raised awareness on GBV



during the pandemic through various IEC materials. The active participation of the RHs and the local governments showed increased empowerment of the RHs and enhanced accountability of the local governments in creating and promoting an environment of inclusive governance and services.

The CP also supported government of Nepal in developing cash and voucher assistance guideline through the Cash Coordination Group (CCG). The group provided funding and technical assistance in developing the guideline to be implemented by the local levels.

A number of actions contributed to supporting people to fulfil their legitimate and active role for positive change in societies (MO3). Several dialogues and trainings were conducted between the rights-holders, different groups, Human Rights Advocacy Alliances (HRAA), and local government and political leaders. The government stakeholders have shown increased interest in promoting the human rights issues and have started to strengthen their systems to reduce discrimination. Concrete initiatives include community level mitigation, First Information Report (FIR) filing and bringing caste-based discrimination cases to the judicial system; public hearings on

caste-based discriminations leading to commitments by local governments to take appropriate actions. The active engagement of HRAA on Dalit issues has increased trust towards them amongst the police administration as well and the HRAA members are now being asked by the police to bring issues of discrimination or any other social issues to their attention.

There is also increased awareness by the local governments and the RHs on the need to engage men on women's rights issues. Men have acknowledged women's need in participating in public events, and some men have committed to provide necessary support, for instance by taking a personal guarantee for loans taken by their female counterparts.

Despite the pandemic, the cooperatives and RH groups continued their advocacy with the local governments to support them in enhancing vocational skills, supporting their enterprises and infrastructure development of cooperatives. The advocacy work was successful with over 96 % of the funds requested being granted. This has positively contributed to the empowerment of the RHs' and cooperatives' and has built the local governments' trust in them, translating into potential



increased future support from the government. The CP has facilitated RHs active participation in the government facilitated public events, bringing the RHs and the government stakeholders together to coordinate and collaborate for a common cause.

GBV sub-committees continued to provide support for women facing violence and were supported by another informal watch group called Vigilance Group. Three cases of GBV were referred to the judicial committee at the local government office. Community level dialogues, events like Family dialogues, and radio programs were conducted to raise awareness on GBV issues and to reduce GBV during the pandemic.

**Evaluations**

Four project evaluations were planned for 2020. Three projects received one year's extension to ensure full implementation of activities prevented by Covid-19 and the final evaluations will take place in 2021. One project received a six months extension due to Covid-19, hence the final evaluation was also postponed to 2021.

**Partnerships and capacity building**

The capacity building of partners and CP team members on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (CCA/DRR) and Disability Inclusion have resulted in increased understanding and knowledge of the issues. Due to Covid-19 the original in-depth training was limited to a two-day online orientation for each of the aforementioned themes. This orientation has been used as a basis for partners' plan to integrate CCA/DRR. A detailed in-depth training will follow in 2021 to ensure good integration of the issues.

The CP also provided coaching to partners on monitoring and evaluation tools and techniques. Capacity building planned for duty bearers was hugely affected by Covid-19 as trainings and similar events had to be cancelled due to safety regulations implemented by the government.

**Challenges and lessons learnt**

Many long-term development projects were halted during the long lockdown in 2020 and social distancing requirements continue to hamper activities such as workshops, trainings and conferences at both field and national level. For a large part of the year, the CP changed focus to food distribution to address the immediate needs for the most marginalized groups during the pandemic. The Government of Nepal did not allow INGOs to distribute cash as a response to the pandemic and food distribution was therefore the best second option.

The pandemic provided an opportunity for increased networking through the UN Clusters and AIN Working Groups and also new learnings through webinars and online trainings. The CP team got an opportunity to participate on a broader arena than usual. The team and partners learnt a lot from the work with the food distribution, and how to operate in the field during a pandemic with lockdown and social distancing measures in place.

Project list and financial summary

Project nr	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Budget (€)	Costs (€)
10837	Nepal field presence / PMER support for MFA frame funded program	FCA	MFA Dev	329,750	305,302
11751	Socio-economic empowerment of disadvantaged women and girls in Lalitpur district of Nepal (SEED)-finalization of 2019 activities	SOLVE, FWEAN	FCA	14,670	15,179
11865	Women Employment through Sustainable Access to Finance and business Skills	Sahakarya, FWEAN	WOB, MFA Dev	169,320	149,135
11866	Supporting Collective Voice and Action against Caste Based	NNDSWO	EU Development	44,736	38,248
11882	Advocating for consolidation of Equality and Non-discrimination for Sustainable Peace (ENDS) Action in Nepal	NNDSWO	MFA Dev	75,044	68,992
11887	Economic and Social Empowerment of freed Haliyas and other marginalized groups	FKWDF, IDeS	MFA Dev	160,529	158,087
11894	FCA other projects PMER support	FCA	Private funds	10,460	4,868
12057	Upscaling socio-economic empowerment of disadvantaged women	SOLVE, FWEAN	WoB, MFA Dev	141,000	126,354
12058	Strengthening Social and Economic Justice to Vulnerable ethnic minority women and men	Sahakarya	MFA Dev, FCA	99,287	94,132
Total (€)				1,044,796	960,297

MIDDLE EAST

IOPT

Overview of IOPT country Programme

In 2020, IOPT country programme worked in East Jerusalem and in several communities in Israel in collaboration with local civil society organizations. The country programme continued its engagement in quality education, and promoted the availability of non-formal education. In parallel, FCA capitalized its education engagement to support also civil society activities at the community level.

Covid-19 slowed down FCA's efforts to strengthen the quality of formal education, as both Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories experienced several national and local lock-downs during which the schools implement-



ed fully or partially distance education. However, this switch from class-room based learning to distance education allowed the country programme to identify sectoral development needs that will be addressed in 2021. In non-

formal education, the pandemic led not only to piloting online activities but also to ensuring that also learners from vulnerable backgrounds are properly equipped to participate virtually.





Progress made in the country programme’s sub-objectives

Selected key results in 2020

Main Objective 2	
People and Governance: People can claim and enjoy their right to improved and inclusive governance and services.	
SO 2.2 Children and youth have equal and uninterrupted access to inclusive quality education/learning	78 Palestinian children were mentored by volunteers and accessed non-formal education activities.
	60 Palestinian children were equipped with tablets to ensure their access to distance education activities.
	208 Palestinian children participated in weekly non-formal education activities such as arts and sports.
	231 students of Jewish and Palestinian origin participated in extra-curricular activities in Israeli secondary schools.
	350 Israeli students in pre-military academies participated in an introduction to human rights course organized by Israeli rabbis.
Main Objective 3	
People and Civil Society: People fulfil their legitimate and active role for positive change	
SO 3.1 Local communities and their members play an active and leading role in the societal development, contributing to enhanced social cohesion	A steering committee comprising of 15 volunteers supported the implementation of the non-formal education project.
	225 mothers participated in a training on positive discipline and parenting techniques.
	A series of 47 workshops on socio-political issues were organized in Israeli secondary schools.
SO 3.2 Civil society partnerships and networks are strengthened and promote participation, open dialogue and positive social change.	72 volunteers were trained to support children at high risk of marginalization from education and 8 facilitators were capacitated to conduct workshops in Israeli secondary schools.
	Three East Jerusalemite CBOs were mentored to support their volunteer management and non-formal education activities.
	Three local NGOs were provided with project funding in education.

Analysis of the key results and achievements

In order to promote access to improved and inclusive services (MO2), FCA continued to promote the availability of quality non-formal education in IOPT. In 2020, the Big Brother Big Sister project in East Jerusalem reached 78 children at high risk of marginalization from education. Their schooling was supported by providing them with volunteer mentors and access to non-formal education activities. The project worked with East Jerusalemite children also more broadly, as 208 other young Palestinian learners were involved in non-formal education activities organized by local volunteers and CBOs to introduce them to arts and sports. Rapid needs assessments conducted

with local CBOs at the escalation of Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the targeted children’s poor access to distance education in the absence of technical devices as well as their need for positive outlets in the distressing situation. Therefore, the project facilitated the non-formal education activities and other forms of interaction between the children and their mentors by providing 60 tablets and taking activities to online platforms. Active out-reach in social media and Whatsapp by project volunteers ensured good contact with the children and their caregivers and promoted learners commitment to the online activities. Pre- and post-activity questionnaires show the positive impact on schooling and overall well-being of the children of the Big Brother Big Sister

model. In the pre-questionnaire, 10 % of the parents reported that their child showed no commitment for school attendance, but following their participation in the project the percentage was less than 1 %. Similarly, prior to participation in the project 46 % of the parents reported their child’s physically violent behaviour and 55 % were worried about other non-physical violence committed by their child, while in the post-questionnaire the numbers were down to 20 % and 35,5 % respectively. In Israel, a local partner supported by FCA made non-formal education available for 231 students in the form of extra-curricular workshops on complex socio-political issues. Due to Covid-19-related lockdowns and restricted access to schools, the project did not reach its original target of 400 learners.

One successful solution identified in the situation was reaching out to students through the Challenge program that supports Israeli learners with academic difficulties and enabled their physical access to schools even during their overall closure that imposed distance education on other learners. The students that participated in the project demonstrated encouraging learning results. Prior to the workshops, 46 % of the participants indicated no interest or previous exposure in the topics discussed in the workshops. However, after completing the workshops 60 % of them reported an increased understanding of socio-political issues and as many as 81 % indicated interest for civic action.

Furthermore, 350 students in total took part in an introduction to a human rights course organized by rabbis in seven pre-military academies that prepare Israeli youth for military service. Teaching took place in a mixed modality offering lessons both online and face-to face in small groups at the academies. The course is expected to continue in 2021 with other sessions of the human rights curriculum.

With a view to promoting the active and legitimate role of civil society (MO3), the country programme continued to create synergies between its education sector engagements and local civic action. Three civil society processes were supported in 2020, all of them with at least 30 % of female participants. In Israel, a series of 47 workshops on socio-political issues was conducted in local secondary schools for students of both Jewish and Palestinian origin to promote discussion and critical thinking on the issues. The process did not reach its original target due to Covid-19 measures restricting

access to schools. However, despite Covid-19 related setbacks, a school in Qalansawe witnessed a success story of academically challenged workshop participants asking for the continuation of the workshops, although mobilizing them for extra-curricular activities had initially been challenging.

In East Jerusalem, a steering committee formed by 15 volunteers supported the implementation of the Big Brother Big Sister project by facilitating coordination between stakeholders, planning and organizing project activities and identifying solutions for carrying on with the project despite repeated lock-downs. The same project brought together 225 East Jerusalemite mothers for a community-level parenting training with positive outcomes. All the respondents of the post-training evaluation felt that the training had helped them to better understand their children, 75 % of them believed their communication with their children had improved after the training and 71 % said saw the training contributing to a better a relationship with their children.

FCA contributed to building local capacities for civic action, which also supported programme implementation. In Israel, eight facilitators were trained to conduct extra-curricular workshops on socio-political issues in secondary schools. In East Jerusalem, 72 university students participated in a training to become voluntary mentors for children at high risk of marginalization from education.

Evaluations

Two evaluations were planned in 2020 but had to be cancelled due to conflicting priorities and uncertainties and restrictions due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Partnerships and capacity building

Three Palestinian and Israeli NGOs received funding for initiatives implemented in the education sector. Furthermore, three East Jerusalemite CBOs were coached in project implementation and volunteer management to ensure the sustainability of the Big Brother Big Sister concept after the end of the project itself.

FCA continued its active involvement in the education cluster, which offered an important forum for identification of sectoral needs under the pandemic situation in coordination with the relevant stakeholders and helped the country programme to adjust its plans accordingly.

Challenges and lessons learnt

Covid-19 pandemic constituted a major challenge for FCA’s engagements in IOPT’s education sector by restricting access to beneficiaries and other key stakeholders. Therefore, e.g. Teachers without Borders volunteers could not be deployed in the West Bank in 2020 and the planned activities for teachers’ capacity-building in schools and related advocacy at the policy level had to be put on hold. In parallel with these setbacks, the lockdowns caused by Covid-19 revealed capacity-building needs especially in distance education. The country programme adapted to the situation and worked remotely with Finland-based Teachers without Borders volunteers to develop an assessment framework and a manual for teachers’ distance education training that will be operationalized in 2021 in collaboration with local schools.

Project list and financial summary

Project nr	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Budget (€)	Costs (€)
11668	Instilling Human Rights Values in Israel's Future Soldiers	Rabbis for Human Rights	FCA	7,500	9,624
11819	East Jerusalem Big Brother Big Sister Project	PCC	MFA Dev	100,000	100,000
11990	School Workshops Project phase II	Sadaka Reut	FCA	20,000	19,211
12005	Teachers without Borders	FCA	MFA DEV	65,000	2,051
11848	IOPT office budget	FCA	MFA DEV	110,762	80,301
Total (€)				295,762	211,187





## JORDAN

### Overview of Jordan country programme

In 2020, Jordan country programme focused on promoting women's, youth's and Syrian refugees' livelihood opportunities by developing small local businesses and addressing structural issues that hinder economic activity. The country programme also continued its long-term engagement to offer non-formal education for young Syrian refugees. The country context was heavily affected by Covid-19 pandemic and the related restrictions, but FCA and its beneficiaries were also able to find innovative solutions that enabled the continuation of many activities.

  
**184**  
new businesses were created and 30 existing businesses were supported.

  
**3,856**  
Syrian refugee youth took part in non-formal education activities.

  
**4,345**  
Direct beneficiaries reached by the Jordan Programme in 2020.  
 1,940  2,405

## Progress made in the country programme's sub-objectives

### Selected key results in 2020

#### Main Objective 1

People and Private Sector: People can claim and enjoy their right to inclusive and sustainable economic growth for poverty eradication.

SO 1.1 Youth and young adults in vulnerable situations become economically self-reliant and contribute positively to social cohesion

LL2E mechanisms benefitted 235 persons through business coaching and post-support follow-up.

214 youth were equipped with start-up grants and 5 with start-up tool kits, and 16 participants were supported in direct employment.

69 % of the entrepreneurship training participants in Za'atari refugee camp and 81 % in host communities continued to have sustainable IGAs 6 months after FCA's intervention.

170 participants in skills and livelihoods trainings were provided with CGC.

SO 1.2 People in vulnerable situations engage in and benefit from inclusive and sustainable economic growth

184 new businesses were created and 30 existing businesses were supported.

168 businesses demonstrated improved performance after FCA's support.

The businesses supported by FCA provided employment to 56 people.

#### Main Objective 2

People and Governance: People can claim and enjoy their right to improved and inclusive governance and services.

SO 2.1 Policies and processes promote a positive change and are transparent, responsive and participatory

Two training events were organized for 13 officials from municipalities targeted by FCA's entrepreneurship project.

A report on women's entrepreneurship was produced based on a discussion event organized for key stakeholders.

A key stakeholder meeting was organized for exchanging experiences on the national decentralization agenda.

SO 2.2 Children and youth have equal and uninterrupted access to inclusive quality education/learning

246 Jordanian and Syrian participants took part in "How to Start Your Own Business" training.

3,856 Syrian refugee youth took part in non-formal education activities.

58 Syrian refugee teachers were trained in social and life skills and participated in non-formal education activities.

73 Syrian refugees earned incomes by supporting the implementation of project activities as teachers, trainers, mobilizers and security guards in the refugee camps.

#### Main Objective 3

People and Civil Society: People fulfil their legitimate and active role for positive change

SO 3.1 Local communities and their members play an active and leading role in the societal development, contributing to enhanced social cohesion

A series of 56 discussion events on business development and promoting women's entrepreneurship attracted 1,011 participants (35 % of them females).

SO 3.2 Civil society partnerships and networks are strengthened and promote participation, open dialogue and positive social change.

A local partner organization was capacitated in financial management and fund-raising.





### Analysis of the key results and achievements

In order to promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth (MO1), FCA provided entrepreneurship training courses to 246 participants in Jordan. In line with the country programme priorities, 57 % of them were young women and 33 % Syrian refugees, who often lack other meaningful livelihood options in Jordan. After the course, 235 participants were involved in business coaching, 214 of them were equipped with start-up grants and five participants received start-up kits. Furthermore, 16 participants found employment in Za'atari camp.

In 2020, 184 new businesses were established with support from the country programme. Support was also provided to 30 existing businesses for their further development and expansion. Nearly 80 % of the supported businesses reported improvement in their performance despite the harsh economic situation created by Covid-19. The benefits were not limited to entrepreneurs themselves, as their businesses were able to offer employment to 56 people. Out of these, 49 jobs were entirely new, whereas seven existing jobs were maintained despite Covid-19 and the economic downturn it caused in Jordan. FCA played a key role in sustaining jobs in businesses it supported, following successful negotiations with a donor organization for

an increase of grants for entrepreneurs to enable them to keep on employing people, hence mitigating economic repercussions of the pandemic.

During 2020, FCA piloted promoting entrepreneurship development in Za'atari refugee camp. Despite the highly challenging circumstances of the camp environment, some encouraging progress was made. Out of the 52 Syrian camp residents who completed the entrepreneurship training, 69 % continued to generate income 6 months after FCA's intervention. 58 % of the successful participants were females, which is an excellent result in an environment characterized by conservative norms that easily restrict the space and opportunities available for women. In the host communities, 81 % of the supported businesses continued generating incomes 6 months after FCA's intervention.

In order to contribute to improved and inclusive governance and services (MO2), FCA continued to promote a more conducive policy environment for small businesses it supports in Jordan. In 2020, 13 municipality officials participated in two trainings to strengthen their capacity in legal questions related to registration and licensing of home-based businesses, a question that has particular importance for women and Syrian refugees who often run their businesses from home. Awareness raising was also conducted in the same municipalities on business

coaching. Moreover, FCA brought together stakeholders from municipal and governorate levels, local councils and women's organizations to discuss barriers hindering women's economic activity. Based on these discussions, a report with recommendations was produced for local authorities. FCA also organized a meeting for key stakeholders such as municipalities, donors and NGOs to exchange experiences from work related to the national decentralization agenda.

In total 3,856 Syrian refugee youth benefitted from non-formal education activities. 1,737 learners studied in non-formal English and Math classes, while 1,949 participants were involved in recreational activities such sports, circus and music. Altogether, 170 youth participated in skills and livelihood training courses complemented by career guidance and counselling (CGC). Furthermore, FCA's education activities provided income-earning opportunities for 73 Syrian refugees, who supported programme implementation by making their skills and community-related knowledge available as teachers, trainers, mobilizers and security guards.

The country programme also trained 58 Syrian refugee teachers in promoting of social and life skills that was consequently integrated into other education activities with good results. Accordingly, 97 % of the surveyed students in the non-formal education project in Za'atari and Azraq camps reported that they had improved capacity to handle real-life situations, had increased their self-confidence and felt that they had also played a role in building the confidence of others. In addition, 82 % and 85 % of the surveyed male and female participants reported increased confidence in returning to education.

To promote the active and legitimate role of civil society (MO3), a series of 56 events were organized by FCA to stimulate discussion on entrepreneurship and women's economic activity in local communities. The events attracted more than 1,000 participants with 35 % participation by females.

### Evaluations

The end of project internal evaluation for project Youth Empowerment in the Camps validated previous observations

made in host communities about entrepreneurship development and on-the-job training. The former seems to be the best alternative in terms of effectiveness and positive impact, whereas the latter is undermined by the lack of interest and motivation of both the trainees and the employers. The learnings help to sharpen the focus of the country programme and to steer it towards activities with the best potential to make a sustainable difference, i.e. business development and self-employment.

### Partnerships and capacity building

The country programme's entrepreneurship development activities were supported by its partner organization Help Age International that provided protection services for vulnerable family members, hence enabling aspiring entrepreneurs to work on their businesses. FCA also worked closely with six municipalities to strengthen the capacity of their officials in legal questions related to entrepreneurship. In addition, one local community-based organization was trained to build its capacities in financial management and fundraising.

FCA co-chaired the government liaison community of practice in Jordan and co-founded the Vocational Training Taskforce led by UNHCR. This combined with active participation in cluster meetings at Za'atari camp increased the visibility of the country programme among both governmental and non-governmental stakeholders.

### Challenges and lessons learnt

Covid-19 affected provision of education services, with restricted meetings and access to the refugee camps during lockdowns. In response, FCA managed to put many of its education activities online, experiencing consequently both successes and challenges. On the one hand, the recreational activities delivered online reached both the enrolled youth as well as their family members. On the other hand, maintaining the interest and commitment of the participants was more challenging in the online modality and there was a downward trend in the completion of non-formal education courses in the spring 2020.

Covid-19 and its impacts also affected businesses supported by FCA, as

people's mobility and social contacts became more limited. Most heavily affected were business activities that require face-to-face service delivery. However, some entrepreneurs successfully adapted their business to the new circumstances by e.g. trying out online marketing and working with relatives with permits allowing free mobility to support the delivery of their products to customers.

FCA put its entrepreneurship trainings online to enable the continuation of entrepreneurship development despite the pandemic. Despite initial difficulties such as hesitation of less tech-savvy participants and poor Internet connectivity, the online solution was used successfully to deliver training sessions and was cost-effective in terms of saving travel costs, venue rents etc. Moreover, it gave especially female participants more flexibility to participate according to their daily schedules, as many of them are mothers and responsible for overseeing their children's distance education in parallel with their own training and other duties. Later on, also business coaching took place in online platforms to ensure the health and safety of both the participants and the coaches.

### Project list and financial summary

Project nr	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Budget (€)	Costs (€)
11996	Social and Economic Empowerment of Women	Bayt Al Hikmah	WoB, MFA Dev	151,392	115,491
11999	Promoting resilience and education for out of school children and youth in Azraq and Za'atari refugee camps in Jordan	FCA	MFA hum	150,000	128,790
12037	Municipal Businesses Project	Help Age International	Dutch MFA	853,377	794,797
12054	Bridging the Learning Gaps II	FCA	Comic Relief	40,000	49,322
12065	Camp support	FCA	FCA	40,000	73,746
12066	Youth Empowerment in Syrian Refugee Camps II	FCA	FCA	150,000	44,877
12154	Youth in Tech, Women in Business	FCA	Mondo	15,840	10,715
10780	Middle East Regional Office budget	FCA	MFA Dev	122,696	109,860
11911	Self-funded PMER	FCA	FCA	351,784	225, 848
<b>Total (€)</b>				<b>1,875,089</b>	<b>1,553,446</b>





## Progress made in the country programme’s sub-objectives

### Selected key results in 2020

#### Main Objective 2

People and Governance: People can claim and enjoy their right to improved and inclusive governance and services.

SO 2.2 Children and youth have equal and uninterrupted access to inclusive quality education/ learning	<p>4,749 learners took part in non-formal education activities.</p> <p>3,867 school children attended remedial classes organised both face-to-face and online.</p> <p>11 school buildings were rehabilitated to serve 9345 learners.</p> <p>3,000 learners were equipped with school kits and uniforms.</p> <p>108 Syrian teachers participated in in-service trainings on Education in Emergencies and psychosocial support.</p>
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2.3 Disaster affected people have access to essential life-saving assistance	<p>23,571 students and family members benefitted from hygiene kits distributed as a part of Covid-19 response.</p> <p>318 displaced households in North-East Syria were equipped with food, kitchen kits and children’s clothes. 106 households were provided with water.</p>
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#### Main Objective 3

People and Civil Society: People fulfil their legitimate and active role for positive change

SO 3.1 Local communities and their members play an active and leading role in the societal development, contributing to enhanced social cohesion	<p>A series of 14 events were organized to mobilize people to join community committees in order to support their local schools.</p> <p>36 community members were trained in psychosocial support and protection issues to support the establishment of community committees.</p> <p>A series of 28 awareness-raising events were organized for schoolchildren on Covid-19, early marriage and child labour.</p>
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SO 3.2 Civil society partnerships and networks are strengthened and promote participation, open dialogue and positive social change.	<p>One local civil society organization was supported with funding and capacity-building.</p>
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## SYRIA

### Overview of Syria country programme

In the aftermath of a decade of armed conflict, the country context of Syria in 2020 was characterized by a steep economic decline combined with Covid-19. Amidst these difficulties, FCA’s country programme continued its work to support the recovery of Syria’s education sector with focus on provision of non-formal education and strengthening local capacities. As a new opening, local communities were mobilized to become more active in supporting their schools through volunteering. Covid-19 created significant challenges in all sectors of the society including



3,867

school children attended remedial classes organised both face-to-face and online.

education. However, FCA’s country programme played a key role among INGOs in developing solutions to effectively promote distance education in its education response.



23,571

students and family members benefitted from hygiene kits distributed as a part of Covid-19 response.



35,575

Direct beneficiaries reached by the Syria Programme in 2020.

18,292 17,283

### Analysis of the key results and achievements

In addition to approximately 2,4 million Syrian children having been marginalized from education during the decade-long conflict, an alarming number of students attend school without learning results. With a view to improved and inclusive governance and services (MO2), in 2020 FCA’s country programme provided 4,749 learners with access to various types of non-formal education.

A literacy course was made available for 50 learners to prepare them for further studies e.g. in TVET. Following the course, 74 % of learners passed the literacy test organized by the Syrian Ministry of Culture. Furthermore, 382 out-of-school children took part in catch-up classes and 450 children from both inside and outside the formal education system participated in

self-learning programmes. In total 538 out-of-school children enrolled back to formal education system in 2020 after attending different non-formal education activities offered by FCA.

A total of 3,867 school children at risk of marginalization from formal education attended remedial classes organised both face-to-face and online to complement and support the education available in the school system. According to pre- and post-testing and national exam results, 96 % of the participants improved their academic performance. In order to facilitate access to online learning, FCA covered Internet fees for the most economically distressed learners.

In parallel with providing education services, the country programme also worked to improve both physical and social infrastructure of Syria’s education sector. In 2020, FCA supported

rehabilitation of eleven school buildings that provided learning facilities for 9,345 learners. Professional capacities of Syrian teachers were strengthened through organizing in-service training for 108 teachers to deepen their knowledge of Education in Emergencies and psychosocial support. 94 % of the teachers indicated strengthened capacities in these topics after participation in the trainings.

Provision of education services was further supported by distribution of material aid. Overall, 3,000 Syrian learners from economically distressed households were equipped with school kits and uniforms to facilitate their access to education. The Covid-19 pandemic caused severe concerns in many households and discouraged parents from sending children to school. In response, the country program also distributed hygiene kits to learners



and their families benefitting a total of 23,571 individuals.

FCA was also involved in the provision of humanitarian aid to displaced population with acute needs in North-Eastern Syria, where thousands of families found themselves in temporary shelters after Turkey’s military operation late in 2019. The intervention equipped 318 households with food, kitchen kits and children’s clothes. Furthermore, 106 households were provided with water for a month.

In order to encourage a legitimate and active role of civil society and to promote positive change (MO3), the country programme organized a series of 14 awareness-raising events with the aim of mobilizing local community members to join community committees that support schools in their areas. Consequently, 11 committees were established in the targeted schools. Establishment of community committees was further boosted by a training provided to 36 community members in psychosocial support and protection. Especially youth took an active interest in acquiring such skills and knowledge; 1/3 of the training participants were under 25 years of age. Another series of 28 sessions was conducted to raise awareness among school children on topics such as Covid-19 and detrimental effects of early marriage and child labour; organization of the awareness-raising engagements was supported by active community members.

### Evaluations

The country programme conducted an internal evaluation for the project Ensuring Right to Education for Conflict Affected Learners in Rural Damascus. The findings highlighted the importance of including non-traditional topics such as psychosocial support to training of teachers who work with crisis-affected learners. Successful integration of such specialized areas to teacher training positively contributes to psychosocial well-being of learners, who can be further supported by more intensive involvement of parents in schooling. The evaluation also concluded that online learning is an effective means to provide education services in exceptional circumstances such as Covid-19, but as a new modality its monitoring and evaluation are still a challenge.

### Partnerships and capacity building

In 2020, Syria country programme provided funding for one local partner organization, which was also capacitated to enhance its performance in monitoring and evaluation. FCA also joined forces with a number of other ACT Alliance members working with the same partner to ensure coordination and synergies of their capacity-building efforts.

### Challenges and lessons learnt

The country faced major challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic that further delayed livelihood interventions planned with a local partner as well as constituted a health risk for learners and teachers involved in non-formal education activities. In addition to distributing hygiene kits to learners and their families, the country programme tackled the situation by putting its remedial classes online, hence reaching 1817 learners whose studies would have otherwise been badly affected. FCA was the first INGO in Syria to pilot distance learning during the pandemic, and the country programme has now a model that can be both applied further in Syria and replicated in other countries with similar needs.

Furthermore, bank transfers to Syria continued to be difficult. In addition, the economic crisis in Syria was further intensified by rapid inflation, which affected FCA’s local partner’s financial planning and meeting obligations towards service providers and suppliers. With the other INGOs, FCA participated in successful advocacy efforts towards Syrian authorities to adjust the exchange rate of the Syrian Central Bank in favour of humanitarian organizations.

## PROGRAMME IN FINLAND

FCA’s work in Finland via resource mobilization, volunteer networks, communication and fundraising has the objective of supporting and resourcing FCA’s global programme. FCA cooperates with many domestic actors, volunteer networks, and other NGOs and state authorities..

### Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland and Parishes

FCA’s work in Finland via resource mobilization, volunteer networks, communications and fundraising has the objective of supporting and resourcing FCA’s global programme. FCA co-operates with many domestic actors, including Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland (ELCF) and its Parishes, volunteer networks, other NGO’s and state authorities. FCA’s aim is to be an innovative partner and to develop new initiatives in line with its global strategy, as well as to share organizational know-how to the benefit of the Finnish society.

The parishes of ELCF are FCA’s important partner-network. Through budget funds, private fundraising campaigns, church collections and various local voluntary activities, they are important donors and supporters of FCA’s work. In 2020, key activities focused to strengthen FCA’s message and feedback mechanism to the parishes and FCA’s relationship with the key donors and liaison persons in the ELCF. Because of the various meeting restrictions, the Covid-19 pandemic affected significantly the result of the church-related fund-raising, namely church collections and the Common Responsibility Campaign. However, FCA continued to organize meetings and trainings for partners and volunteers, mainly online, to ensure continued support to FCA’s work. Due to the pandemic, field visits for the key liaison persons in the parishes could not be organized, either.

### Reach Out- project

The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers (Network) and FCA are part of Religious Premises Security Working Group set up by the Ministry of the Interior. The aim of the working group is to gather information on security threats to religious communities, in particular Jewish synagogues and Muslim prayer rooms / mosques, and to make suggestions on how their security can be improved through trainings, security skills and activities, and organization. In November, a survey was conducted on the safety and the sense of security with the key stakeholders and faith com-

munity members. A total of 309 responses were received.

In May, the Network and FCA organized an Iftar dinner, which breaks Muslims’ daily Ramadan fast. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the dinner had to be held on line but it was important to organise this annual dinner attended by different religious communities, youth and authorities.

As part of the PVE work, the Network organized Community dialogue trainings and events: Dialogue Trainings and community dialogue events were organized in accordance with the Erätauko-method in cooperation with the Batch Break Foundation. Batch-break dialogue training was organized for influencers and employees in the communities in the partner cities. The aim of the training was to provide Actors with new tools for the prevention of violent extremism, and to strengthen the effectiveness of the work by leaving know-how and agency in the communities.

### Phase two of the Finnish Language Says Welcome -project Learning the Language of Participation

Learning the Language of Participation is the second phase of the Finnish Language Says Welcome -project supported by the European Union’s AMIF-fund. The project promotes learning of the language needed for democratic and societal participation targeting young people with refugee background and migrant parents with small children who are at risk of marginalization. In cooperation with the target group representatives and other stakeholders from the field of education and immigration and integration services, the project will develop and disseminate new multimedia teaching materials focusing on democracy education and learning of the Finnish language. In 2020, the project continued to cooperate with parishes, educational institutions, municipalities and other relevant organizations with the aim of raising their awareness of the target groups’ needs and increasing the visibility of FCA’s domestic work with refugees and other vulnerable groups. The newly developed language teaching materials were successfully piloted within different integration and multicultural groups. As a result, nine material entities were developed and finalized, all of which touch upon learning language for social participation and learning to be an active citizen in democracy. These materials are seen to fill in a gap in integration and language learning processes in Finland.

Women’s Bank also continued to empower and facilitate the volunteer network in Finland to take action for global justice, while FCA’s Changemaker Finland network also continued its work by educating young people about development issues and organising advocacy campaigns.

### Project list and financial summary

Project nr	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Budget (€)	Costs (€)
11997	Ensuring Right to Education for Conflict-Affected Learners in Syria	EPDC	MFA HA	175,000	193,230
12062	Education in Emergencies Response for Out of School Children in Rural Damascus and Dara’a, Syria	EPDC	ECHO	860,629	288,936
12063	Vocational & Educational Support for Syrian Youth	GOPA-DERD	FCA	38,600	12,609
12086	Emergency Response in North-East Syria	EPDC	FCA	100,167	133,083
12169	Education in Emergencies in Rural Hama	FCA	UN OCHA	95,855	N/A
12068	PMER Syria	FCA	FCA	176,255	72,190
Total (€)				1,446,506	700,048



# NETWORKS AND VOLUNTEERING

FCA networks’ work was adjusted to the global context. They promoted collective engagement and cooperation for global justice through thematic and technical expertise overseas, advocacy and-fundraising efforts.

## Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers

Since its creation, the Network has transformed to a coalition of 85 members and supporters, which uniquely allows the Network to increase synergies between different organizations based on their expertise and comparative advantage. As per the Network’s strategy for 2020-2025, the Network’s vision is a world where religious and traditional actor play a positive role in preventing violence and contributing to sustainable peace. The Network recognizes the critical role of religious and traditional actors in peacebuilding, mediation and conflict transformation. The Network’s Mission is to enhance the effectiveness of efforts towards peaceful and inclusive societies by increasing active collaboration between religious and traditional actors and other key stakeholders in conflict transformation. The Network is a connector fostering local ownership and collaboration among national, regional and global actors who have diverse abilities in the field of peacebuilding, mediation and conflict transformation, including religious and traditional actors, grassroots peacemakers, civil society organizations, academic institutions, think thanks, private sector, national governments and intergovernmental institutions.

The Network’s work in 2020 was in line with the Network’s Strategic priorities: 1) Clarifying the Network structure and ensuring the Network serves its members and supporters; 2) Empowering local peacemakers and their respective communities; bridging international, regional, and local mediation and broader peacebuilding processes; 3) Strengthening the leadership of women and youth in religious and traditional peacemaking and broader peacebuilding processes; 4) Supporting the positive role of religious and traditional actors in preventing violence at the local, regional, and international levels; and 5) Creating opportunities and space for religious and traditional peacemakers to contribute to, and help shape, international policy frameworks that are relevant to conflict prevention and peace.

The Network is committed to advancing the 2030 Agenda in achieving inclusive and sustainable development and

peace, particularly contributing to the SDGs 5, 16 and 17. Other guiding frameworks include the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (UNSCR 1325) and the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda (UNSCR 2250 and 2419). The Network is committed to the principles of Human Rights Based Approach.

The Network’s global programme work is currently carried out through regional approaches that focus on Europe and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), South and South East Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa. Additionally, the Network has global networking, advocacy, capacity-building and research initiatives, while maintaining its capacity to react to pressing needs of peace and mediation support through its members and partners globally.

Since the inception of the Network, MFA Finland has been a vital partner and essentially involved in the development of the Network. MFA Finland’s support to the Network falls under Finland’s overall pursuit and actions aimed to foster and promote sustainable and inclusive peace, international stability, democracy, good governance, human rights, the rule of law, and equality. Furthermore, the Network emphasizes local ownership, inclusive participation, civil society’s role, and dialogue between religions in peacebuilding, mediation and conflict resolution.

In 2020, there were a number of key achievements. These included good progress on strategy implementation, enabling more structured peace-building, mediation and dialogue through the Network. In addition, during Covid-19 response the Network reacted fast. The first Socially Distant Townhall was organized already in April 2020 only after two weeks after the lockdown. Furthermore, digital dialogue format development “on the go” engaged diverse peace building actors ahead of the curve. As a result, the Network organized a total of 14 global Socially Distant Townhalls with different thematic and geographic focus, including 600 actors from grassroots peacemakers to high-level UN officials. The Network also developed five guidance documents identifying ways in which religious and traditional actors and communities can play a pivotal role in preventing the spread of Covid-19 as well as serve as a source of comfort and support in their communities. As the pandemic greatly impacted equity and inclusion, two of the guidance documents specifically focused on mechanisms for religious and traditional actors to advance inclusion, as well as to identify and address intimate partner violence, in pandemic response and recovery. In addition, the Network collaborated with multi-faith leaders to write an article for the World Economic Forum on how Islam, Judaism and Christianity can come together during Covid-19.

Adjustment to Covid-19 sensitive programming meant that the Network teams in all regions screened programmes

## 2020 project list and financial summary

Network Regional Program	Project	Region/Country	Partners	Budget (€)
Global Program	Core support	Global	MFA POL-50 / as of 10/2020: Center for Mediation POL-60	400,000
Global Program	Core support	Global	Oman	99,108
Global Program	Core support	Global	FCA	264,533
Global Program	Establishing a Platform of Faith Mediators (PFMs)	Global	Berghof Foundation, The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers (Network)	3,626
South and Southeast Asia Regional Program	Amplifying Leadership of Local Youth in Preventing Violent Extremism in South Asia (ALLY)	India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh	Network & FCA, UNOY, RDS, YDF, SLU, CCD	80,188
South and Southeast Asia Regional Program	Southeast Asia: Advancing Inter-Religious Dialogue and FoRB (SEA-AIR)	Thailand, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and wider South and Southeast Asia	Network & FCA, SNF, RfP, IRW, WFDD	325,264
South and Southeast Asia Regional Program	Awareness with Human Action (AHA!)	Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and wider South Asia	Network & FCA, IRW, CCD, CPJ/BRAC University, Sarvodaya, YDF	154,349
Europe and Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regional Program	Preventing and Addressing Violent Extremism through Community Resilience in the Balkans and MENA (PAVE) including work in Finland	MENA and Balkans	Berghof Foundation, Network & FCA, FMSH, UNSA, KCSS, UU, AUB, ELIAMEP, MEI, FUNDEA, USF, TCD, EURICE	53,008
Europe and Middle East and North Africa (MENA) regional program	Reach Out 3	Finland	Ministry of the Interior, Network, Local networks for the prevention of violent radicalism in Helsinki, Turku, Tampere and Oulu, Erätauko Foundation, The University of Helsinki, Save the Children, The Helsinki Deaconess Foundation	82,580
Europe and Middle East and North Africa (MENA) regional program	Training pilot on Muslim communities in Europe	Finland		13,268
Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Program	Religious minorities in Kenya: overcoming divides, respecting rights	Kenya	MUHURI, Network & FCA, Islamic Relief Kenya, Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims,	62,717
Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Program	Somalia National Reconciliation Framework (NRF2 and NRF3)	Somalia	Tangaza University	408,512
Total (€)				1,947,152



and projects and adjusted them as needed. Projects were implemented through slight adjustments, through alternative digital implementation, and as Covid-19 specific response. Overall, the implementation capacity remained relatively high, even compared to 2019. Network's implementation and quick adaptation capacity has also been recognized by major donors such as the EU, requesting the Network in Asia to implement regional a peace-related Covid-19 response project.

Inclusion is mainstreamed in all work of the Network, and the Network has also inclusivity-focused activities and initiatives. In 2020, the Network hosted three Socially Distant Town Halls focusing on issues around inclusivity, developed four inclusivity-focused documents to support religious and traditional leaders' responses to Covid-19, created and participated in global, regional and national advocacy initiatives, initiated the reformulation of the global Inclusivity Community of Practice, launched SEA Women Peacebuilders Network, supported women-led and youth-led research initiatives in South and Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, as well as supported building capacities and leadership of women and youth related to peacebuilding and mediation.

Under the lead of partners Berghof Foundation and German Foreign Office, the secretariat contributed to a new

platform for faith mediators, with 9 track 1 - track 2 faith-oriented mediators from diverse regional and religious backgrounds being engaged in this pilot.

The Network enhanced partnerships and collaboration in Sahel and Sudan. The Network held a consultation on the situation in the Sahel in Washington, D.C with the Finnish Embassy, also participated by Minister Haavisto. As a result, concrete recommendations on potential areas of engagement for the MFA Finland to support peacebuilding and stability in the Sahel region were identified. As a follow-up, the Network and CMI developed a discussion paper and recommendations for potential engagement, which were discussed together with representatives from MFA Finland in August 2020. Additionally, the Network conducted a comprehensive research on the Sahel region entitled 'Supporting efforts in engaging with local religions and traditional leaders in Burkina Faso and Mali'. In Sudan, the Network established relations with local civil society organisations, the Office of the Prime Minister, and the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Sudan. The Network is planning to collaborate with these actors to implement initiatives in Sudan in 2021-2022.



## Teachers without Borders (TwB)

In 2020, Teachers without Borders (TwB) Finland and its volunteers continued to provide valuable support for quality education initiatives in FCA's country programmes. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the international (in-country) TwB work became and remains on hold since March 2020. As a response, TwB work was efficiently adapted accordingly in cooperation with the Country Offices. New distance volunteering opportunities were developed to respond to the critical need of ensuring continuation of learning during the crisis. In the beginning of the year, 15 in-country volunteers were trained and altogether eight in-country volunteers were deployed to FCA Uganda, Cambodia and Myanmar in the beginning of the year until their deployment was interrupted by the pandemic. Altogether 17 distance volunteers supported quality education in FCA education programmes in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Kenya, OPT and Myanmar.

The volunteers continued to support the professional development of education actors, from teachers to district officials, in early childhood-, primary- and secondary education, as well as career guidance counselling (CGC) initiatives. The online-volunteers developed, for example, training packages, and provided distance training, mobile mentoring and coaching. Through the TwB, Finnish education expertise is contextualized to respond to local stakeholders' and context's needs.

Guided by the TwB strategy, working with the thematic of global learning crisis was continued with the returned volunteers. Around 30 volunteers actively supported TwB domestic work via communications, visibility, marketing, visits, and pedagogical support for material development. Moreover, the network and its volunteers actively participated in



Educa 2020 fair, and attended other education field's events to promote the network's activities. In addition, the returned volunteers actively participated in training of new volunteers.

The TwB network continued working together in close collaboration with its steering committee members MFA, Ministry of Education, National Agency of Education, Teacher Union, University of Helsinki, Church Council and FINGO, to find opportunities to use Finnish education and pedagogical expertise to address the worldwide learning crisis. Representatives of the volunteer body were included in the steering committee from 2020 onwards.

As a member of the Unesco International Task Force on Teachers for Education 2030, TwB was able to promote Finnish expertise in teacher training, and to support teacher management in crises and emergency situations by contributing to the related working group.

## Women's Bank

During the extraordinary year of 2020, Women's Bank (WoB) continued its unwavering support for women's sustainable entrepreneurship and livelihoods in fragile contexts. In 2020, WoB unit was formed with the responsibility for overseeing all private, community and corporate fundraising and hosting a large volunteer network taking action for global justice.

The impact of Covid-19 was undeniable on WoB's operations both in Finland and programme countries. In 2020, Women's Bank raised a total of 1,6 million euros. This was an 11% decrease from the previous year. The sustained support from long-term private donors increased as much as 6 % from 2019. Within the unpredictable economic context, WoB relies increasingly on its monthly donors and "Shareholders". The impact of Covid-19 significantly impeded events and sales and put severe restrictions on volunteers' capacity to fundraise.

The digital jump took place almost overnight but was quickly embraced by the volunteer network. Events and engagements were taken to online platforms and a rolling online webinar series put together. The pandemic had a deep impact on the volunteers' methods of engaging as a community and extensive efforts were put into supporting work within a digital environment. The nationwide network comprised of 42 local groups with over 3,000 active volunteers. The flagship campaign, "Women's Bank Walk" raised 60,000€ in funds through novel digital methods. Women's Bank Golf took place across 16 golf clubs and raised a record level of funds at 44,000 €.

FCA is entrusted with the management of WoB funded projects overseen by the WoB Steering Group. WoB Management Group contributed to fundraising and volunteer

support and the Development Group advised on project and concept innovation.

In 2020, the WoB portfolio included 12 entrepreneurship, education and cooperative projects in six countries: Cambodia, Nepal, Myanmar, Uganda, Central African Republic and Jordan. The number of direct beneficiaries was 21 100. The impact of Covid-19 was significant, affecting some countries more than others. In several projects, funds were reallocated to necessary Covid-19 relief activities during the acute phase of the first wave. Jordan and Myanmar were able to continue work with minimal disruption by taking some of the project activities online.

New strategy for WoB funded projects was approved with an even clearer focus on impact, entrepreneurship and sustainability, further strengthened by the "10 % initiative" that directs WoB funding to innovative business cases and models in countries. Skills Donation initiative explore distance participation opportunities.

**In 2020, WoB funding supported entrepreneurship, education and cooperative projects in six countries and reached 21,100 beneficiaries.**





## Changemaker Network

Changemaker Finland is the youth network of Finn Church Aid. Changemaker is an advocacy network based on volunteer work and youth participation. It strives for global justice by organizing advocacy campaigns and educating young people about development issues and ways to change the world. In 2020, 128 new members joined the network, 35 % of which attended the network's activities at least twice during the year. At the end of 2020, the network had 1,030 members.

Strategic focus points for the year were youth empowerment and grassroots-level engagement, with the organization's goals achieved especially through engaging advocacy trainings. In 2020, a total of 23 Advocacy ABC trainings were held, attracting 161 participants. The network also offered trainings on journalism and sustainability in the clothing industry. Altogether, 28 trainings were organized with 201 young participants.

The network's volunteers and coordinators organized other events such as a Changemaker weekend, discussion events, campaign planning meetings and visits to schools and congregations. The network also attended national and local events. Altogether, 143 events in 13 different towns and online were organized.

**At the end of 2020, the Changemaker network had 1,030 members. Altogether, 143 events were organized in 13 towns and online during 2020.**

Changemaker's main campaign in 2020 dealt with the importance of development aid funding in Finland. The campaign (Kehyä, kiitos!) consisted of a petition, a social media campaign in which young people were asked to share why they thought development aid was important, the publication of an opinion piece by the chair in Helsingin Sanomat (the biggest newspaper in Finland), and meetings with members of the Finnish parliament. The campaign was rganized in close collaboration with Fingo.

Changemaker continued to publish its own biannual

magazine Globalisti (circulation of 8,000 copies/year). The magazine is popular in schools and is also circulated to network members and parishes. The magazine is produced by volunteers. The theme of the first 2020 issue was 'home' and the second, 'internet freedom'.

## EAPPI

EAPPI (Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel) is the World Council of Churches ecumenical initiative through which FCA yearly deploys 10-12 volunteers for three months as human rights observers to I/oPt (Israel/Occupied Palestine Territory). The program 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. The volunteers support local vulnerable communities by giving protective presence, monitoring the compliance of the international humanitarian law and human rights in the area and by engaging in advocacy work mainly in Finland.

The unpredicted Covid-19 pandemic had severe impact on the program's implementation as most of the annual plans had to be changed, due to impossibility to deploy volunteers. In 2020 FCA was able to deploy only four volunteers, of which three had to be rapidly evacuated, as the borders for exiting I/oPt was closing on a very short notice. The programme's well-prepared evacuation system, which was put at test for all 23 internationals in need of rapid evacuation, proved to function very well in crisis. The collaboration between the local EAPPI office and FCA was intensive and systematic, resulting in successful evacuation and debriefings of the Finnish volunteers.

With no international presence in the West Bank, the amount of human rights violations faced by the local communities increased during 2020. EAPPI-model sees advocacy as a means of protective presence, hence the program rapidly changed its implementation focus to advocacy and communications activities.

In order to respond to the urgent need of more visible and impactful advocacy work, the EAPPI-community of all sending organisation and WCC strengthened and systemized its collaboration on advocacy, leading to two wide spread advocacy campaigns during 2020.

Through the joint advocacy efforts, several synergies and larger impact were seen, as duty bearers including decision

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the network was unable to organize many of the planned live events and campaign activities. Nevertheless, in 2020, the network's online trainings and other activities reached more young participants than in previous years and was overall successful for the network.

makers, religious leaders and the broad public of several countries were simultaneously targeted. This positive outcome from the year 2020 will be further developed into a standardized operating model of EAPPI, as joint advocacy initiatives will have positive impact on the programs objectives, also when physical presence of the volunteers will be allowed again.



**The positive joint advocacy outcomes in 2020 will be further developed into a standardized operating model of EAPPI and will further enhance the programme's impact.**



## **PART 3 PROGRAMME QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

## **FCA'S QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FRAMEWORK**

FCA strives at ensuring effectiveness and high quality of work, and accountability to all key stakeholders and the communities we work with. During 2020, we continued to apply the highest INGO sector standards, including the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS).

As part of organisational restructuring, a cross-organisational task force started to revise FCA Quality Management System (QMS), with the aim of improving its consistency and clarifying related roles and responsibilities.

The CP level quality and accountability self-assessment process continued. UGACO, NEPCO and MYACO completed the assessments and developed Accountability Improvement Plans. The remaining self-assessments were postponed until 2021 due to the Covid-19 situation. An intermediary report was compiled of the findings, allowing FCA to utilize the collated findings in 2021 annual planning and for the benefit of the organisational restructuring process.

FCA's safeguarding mechanisms were further developed in 2020 through the recruitment of a Safeguarding and Investigations Officer, drafting of a holistic safeguarding policy, revision of FCA's Code of Conducts, and improvement of FCA's investigation capacity through further training. Country programmes were supported in adapting their Complaints Response Mechanisms to the prevailing Covid situation with reduced access to communities. Movement restrictions complicated timely investigation of sensitive complaints, and several cases were investigated remotely. The Complaints Focal Points Community of Practice continued to convene virtually to promote cross-organisational learning in complaints handling. The Community of Practice meetings were utilized for country programs to share best practices on how to ensure that FCA continues to welcome and address complaints, and take measures for preventing safeguarding incidents during the exceptional time of reduced face to face contact with communities. Guidance on safeguarding was also contributed to the FCA Covid-response guidelines drafted by the Humanitarian Aid Unit.

The CHS maintenance audit was successfully conducted in May 2020. In response to the remaining corrective action required (CAR) that relates to informing communities about FCA's expected staff behaviour and PSEA commitments, a project level information sharing template was developed and rolled out in connection with the newly developed information sharing guideline.

Further guidance on how to prevent unintended negative effects on communities was developed, notably through new Do No Harm guidance included in the revised Planning Guideline. The guidance links closely with the newly revised environmental approach, conflict sensitivity, and safeguarding frameworks.

### **PMER and Learning**

At the Global Level the programmatic focus was in reviewing the FCA performance indicators and preparing for the practical testing and eventually roll out of FCA's enhanced planning and monitoring system that will be powered by the online project management system (SAMPO, formerly known as NOW). The SAMPO Steering group was re-established and a project management team was established to further support the SAMPO roll out. In terms of project planning and monitoring component for SAMPO, PME sub-group was established for the steps for SAMPO testing with real project data and transition during 2020.

FCA Global Programme Indicator content was specified and the data compilation guideline was updated, keeping in mind changes in FCA's programming focus areas, validity and reliability of the measures, and future compatibility with SAMPO.

At the project level, the revision of the FCA climate tool was finalised and climate action and environmental protection was integrated into FCA's CP and project level PME guidance. In addition, PME guidelines were further strengthened in terms of explicit mainstreaming of FCA's crosscutting priorities (including climate sensitivity, RBA, gender equality, conflict sensitivity/do no harm) in the project planning, monitoring and evaluation cycle.

The internal MEAL Community of Practice (CoP) met quarterly to discuss and reflect on current issues relating to M&E, accountability and learning. In addition virtual learning amongst the country programme M&E officers took place through peer-sessions and online discussions. Specific focus was on data collection approaches, practices and tools, considering also COVID implications. An evaluation training for staff was organised followed by a management response training later on. In addition several inductions for new staff were organised.

The Eritrea Country Programme was evaluated externally in the beginning of 2020 and the CAR Country Programme's evaluation was also concluded in early 2020. The findings, recommendations and management responses of HO initiated country programme and thematic



evaluations and impact assessments were discussed in Management Team meetings, in regular programme meetings and shared with the whole organisation through the intranet/Yammer.

15 project evaluations and two impact assessments were undertaken. Some planned evaluations were postponed due to the pandemic. The findings and recommendations of the project level evaluations are reflected upon at country programme level and feed into the design of new projects. The learnings from an individual project have also been shared with a wider FCA audience if the topic is significant for a wider audience. An internally conducted organisational learning assessment was undertaken during the year in Liberia. Studies and research were also conducted.

## Knowledge management and learning

The awareness and understanding of Knowledge Management was advanced through regular interactions with FCA staff in various departments, units and offices. Due to the pandemic no face-to-face global/cross-regional programme workshops were organised in 2020. However, several country programme planning workshops were organised virtually and these enabled a wide FCA participation. The wider use of virtual platforms enabled joint learning and reflection between HO and the country programmes.

New information sharing and knowledge transfer mechanisms were developed to support learning and country offices hosted seven “sharing of best practices and lessons learnt” sessions virtually during 2020. Staff also attended many webinars enabling learning from outside of FCA. The use of the FCA intranet and Yammer were used more actively for sharing information internally and digitalisation advanced in many other ways (through systems such as SAMPO and FABO). FCA started publishing summaries of country programme and thematic evaluations and impact assessments on its internet pages.

In addition to the on-going MEAL CoP (as discussed in the above section), the R2P CoP was launched. There were also internal CoPs for Complaints Response Mechanism and human resources. A new “FCA’s digital programme capacity” CoP was established. Several co-ordination and working teams/groups also operated across the organisation in a similar manner as the CoPs. FCA participated also in various external platforms advancing information and knowledge sharing within FCA and externally (group memberships, participation in external CoPs, reference and working groups, peer learning/cross-learning forums & workshops in collaboration) with various actors & partners.

The integration of Knowledge Management into human resource processes to support institutional memory also

**The use of virtual platforms enabled wide participation and effectively promoted joint learning and reflection within FCA.**



took steps forward. Altogether five new courses were added into FABO, the development discussion process was revised and peer support groups were facilitated.

FCA’s Information Sharing Guideline was developed in 2020 and it was rolled out extensively. This document outlines what is at least shared, with whom, when and how, however always taking into account the “Do No Harm” principle.

The update of the programmatic sections in the “Document Management Guideline” started.

## FCA Research

The FCA Research Coordination Group continued as a learning platform and co-ordination body by facilitating the collaboration with Finnish and foreign universities and researchers. The primary purpose of this Group continued to be the co-ordination between FCA and its academic partners in research, learning and development. FCA Research Co-ordination Group had six members involved in the core activities; two from country offices, three from Head Office and one from Finnish academia. The new academia member was nominated in the last quarter of the year. The group had three meetings and several e-mail consultations throughout the year. The collaboration with certain universities, such as with University of Jyväskylä and University of Helsinki were strengthened by closer collaboration and separate coordination meetings.

During 2020 FCA Research Coordination group was involved in various global and local research projects, or studies that were conducted by master students. Topics of these were related to all FCA’s thematic areas, including humanitarian work and advocacy. Regular updates of the co-ordination were shared through Yammer for wider FCA community. Approximately 25 different research proposals passed through the co-ordination mechanism during the year. The co-ordination group continued to monitor the progress of Knowledge Management by receiving the regular updates on it in its meetings. Additionally, a Global Grants expert shared the expertise on research funding with regular updates. The Group boosted also the internal preparations for certain research calls by having separate coordination activities that supported internal discussions.





# PART 4 PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

## ADMINISTRATION

The role of Head Office support functions is to ensure and improve the quality of FCA's programmatic work and administration and to enable good core functions globally.

### Finance and administration

Despite Covid-19 and the uncertainties it caused in financial planning, FCA achieved a significant increase in global institutional fundraising. Global institutional funding represented approximately 45 % of all funds raised in 2020. However, the pandemic affected FCA's operations and the total expenditure was about the same as in 2019.

The general challenges related to global institutional funding remained the same. Most of the global institutional funding remains short-term, project-based and tightly earmarked, which poses a major challenge for the overall global annual budgeting of FCA. The use of the global institutional funding is also subject to a variety of donor instructions and expectations, which has forced FCA to develop its operations and in particular global financial management related practices, such as new tools for the application processes and cost allocation. The changes in programme funding also heavily affect HR planning, translating into short employment contracts for project staff.

MFA Finland's continued support has ensured longer-term funding for FCA's country programmes. MFA Finland funding has allowed FCA to maintain and further develop its field presence in most programme countries. During 2020, FCA completed the closure of operations in Eritrea but did not open new country programmes. In addition to FCA's Country Offices, many country offices have opened smaller "satellite" field offices in order to have support functions closer to the locations where programme activities take place, often several hundred kilometers from the main country offices.

FCA's Country and Field Office staff are in charge of the daily planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER) and take part in the actual implementation of programmes and projects. The offices also support the capacity building of local partners. The staff include Programme and Project Coordinators, Thematic Experts and staff working in programme support in finance, logistics, HR and general administration. FCA's presence in its countries of operation enables LRRD, agility, close working relationships with partners and donors and quality PMER and effective implementation of programme work.

There were few changes in FCA's global core finance and administration staff in 2020. International Operations



**FCA's presence in its programme countries enables agility, close working relationships with partners and donors, quality PMER and effective implementation of programme work.**

Team, consisting of the Logistics Manager and Compliance Manager, was moved under the Finance Department. This ensures better coordination and more effective support especially in tasks related to procurement and compliance monitoring. Almost all activities related to financial and administrative support and monitoring were restricted to online activities, since Head Office staff were unable to visit the Country Offices. Some of the Country Office audits had to be conducted online, which caused delays in audits as the supporting documentation had to be shared online. However, many new trainings and support sessions were successfully moved online, a practice that will be continued in 2021.





The development of the new project management system- NOW continued in 2020 and will be launched in 2021. In addition, FCA begun preparations to replace the current financial management system Navision with a new integrated ERP system. The new ERP is scheduled to be operational in late 2021- early 2022. The new ERP system will significantly reduce the required manual consolidations of data as well as support effective reporting and monitoring of financial activities.

## Human Resources

At the end of 2020, Finn Church Aid (FCA) had 1,374 employees, of whom 120 worked in the Helsinki office, 31 expatriates served in the programme offices and 1,222 were hired locally. Total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) stood at 2,418. The ratio of locally hired employees in the programme countries was 97 %, which is in line with the objective to employ local staff whenever possible.

The Covid-19 pandemic shifted the focus to organising and supporting the new way of working. Helsinki office staff started full-time teleworking in mid-March 2020. Teleworking became the new normal in many of FCA's programme countries, too. The situation required different approach to work and work community, ways of working and new skills by all staff. Training of tools and skills needed at telework was provided; e.g. online facilitation skills.

In the Good Leadership at FCA programme, events concerning organising work, managing workload, self-leadership and recovery from work were organised. Material to

support change management and remote management was shared with the programme offices. Tools for workplace well-being, coping at work during the pandemic and continuous telework were shared by the occupational health care. A workplace well-being programme for FCA was developed in 2020; it will be launched in early 2021.

The events were held online after mid-March. Also the Leadership Forum, where head office management team and the country directors meet, was organised online. FCA developed induction material on the e-learning platform (Fabio) and produced induction videos, which both can be used regardless of location or time.

Head office staff provided online trainings to programme office staff e.g. safeguarding, quality and accountability. Best practices were shared across FCA via communities of practice in e.g. complaints handling and people management. Programme office staff participated in online trainings in e.g. security and project management.

**At the end of 2020, FCA had 1,374 employees, of whom 120 worked in the Helsinki office.**

# FINANCING OF THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME IN 2020

In 2020, FCA's Global Programme financing was based on main four funding sources: global institutional donors, Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Finland, church and private funding. We continued to strengthen our donor relations and build new partnerships at the global and national levels.

In 2020, FCA expended a total of 47,8 M€ on aid and other operations. The income for the period was 47,9 M€. The result of the financial period was 0,1 M€. At the end of 2020, total equity was 10,2 M€. Advances received for disaster relief work, reconstruction, Women's Bank and other operations totaled 10,3 M€ on the balance sheet.

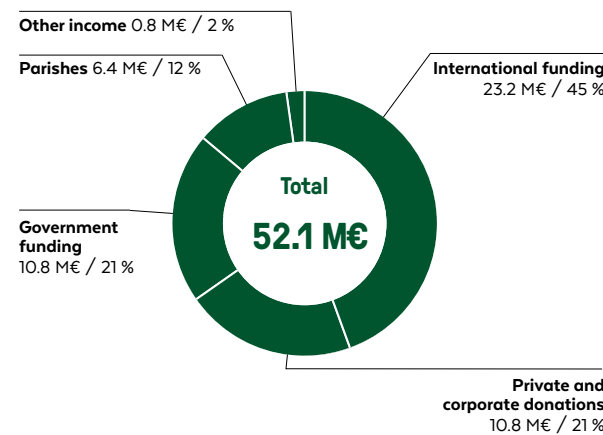
The Ministry for Foreign Affairs funding totaled 10.8 M€. Funds from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs made up 22,6 % of FCA's total income.

Support received from the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran parishes, including proceeds from the Common Responsibility Campaign and operational subsidies from the Church Council totaled 6,4 M€ and was 13,4 % of the total income.

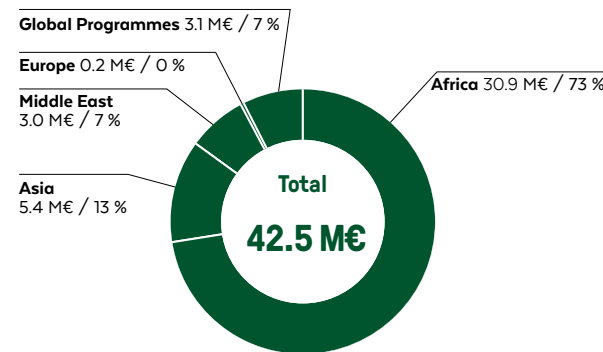
Income from international funding sources (e.g. EU, ECHO, ACT, SSF, USAID, UN organisations) was 23,2 M€ and 48,6 % of the total income. Income from the private sector was 10,8 M€ and represented 22,6 % of the total income.

In 2020, FCA used 89 % of the funds on programme work and 11 % on programme support, including communications, fundraising, stakeholder relations and general administration.

## 2020 Fundraising income



## 2020 Programme areas





# COMMUNICATIONS

In 2020, FCA communications unit continued producing high quality communications materials in video, online and print formats, as well as working for earned media coverage. The Tekoja magazine was rewarded as the most reader-friendly media by ProCom's OmaMedia contest.



In 2020, FCA increased its focus on international communication, although the Covid-19 situation caused setbacks in implementing the planned activities. During the year, FCA recruited its first communications officers in Kenya and Somalia, in addition to one in Uganda, to boost content production and the communication of project work within programme countries and on FCA's website and social media.

Despite not being able to travel, the communications unit managed to document FCA's work comprehensively thanks to a strong freelancer network in East Africa and staff who had received communications training. FCA's work was mentioned in several articles in Kenyan and Ugandan media, such as Daily Monitor and The Observer, and gave interviews to AFP on its corona response and received several media requests from international media, such as Al Jazeera and BBC, related to its education work.

The new situation with the Covid-19 pandemic as well as the renewal of FCA's organisational structure increased the need for workplace communication.

Media covered FCA's work out of FCA's own initiative, as well as following media's requests to provide expert accounts about our work and operating contexts. FCA's staff was interviewed 30 times during the year e.g. about the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic to education, livelihoods, and refugee settlements in FCA's programme countries, the humanitarian situation after the explosions in Beirut, impact investing and FCA's plans to start working in North Korea. According to media monitoring, FCA was mentioned 210 times in the print and online media during 2020.

FCA produced two short documentary videos for the Common Responsibility Campaign (CRC). The documents attracted 8,788,000 views while being broadcasted on The Finnish Broadcasting Company Yle's television channels from February to April 2020. In addition, FCA produced several articles for church-related media, materials for volunteers for fundraising purposes and advocacy work for the campaign in the parishes.

A total of 125 articles, news stories, blogs and photo stories were published on FCA's homepage. In addition, FCA

published 82 videos on Facebook and 36 on YouTube, and continued to produce FCA Talks podcasts to reach new audiences (13 episodes published in 2020). More attention was paid to versatile use of the produced materials in multiple channels, which increased cost-effectiveness.

In 2020, the number of visitors on FCA's website increased by over 31,000 compared to 2019 (22% annual increase). Furthermore, there were 60 % more readers for FCA's articles on FCA's website than in 2019.

FCA's English social media activity grew rapidly in 2020, particularly on Twitter, where the reach and number of followers have seen a steady rise throughout the year, much due to strong contributions from the country offices and new modes of working. The Finnish social media sites continued to attract more followers, and e.g. the Finnish Facebook site's reach was over 2,2 million in 2020.

The new, refreshed and redesigned Tekoja magazine, with circulation of 40,000 in 2020, was published mid-February, featuring Common Responsibility Campaign as well as Women's Bank programmes in Uganda and humanitarian operations in Syria. The second issue published in September featured climate change and its impacts in FCA's programme countries. Due to budgeting, Tekoja Magazine was reduced to two issues in 2020.

A reader survey of the renewed Tekoja magazine was done in the autumn with excellent results reported. The content of the magazine was graded 8.8/10 and the design 8.9/10. 91% of the respondent said the magazine provides sufficient information on the impact of FCA's work, and 61% noted the magazine has increased their willingness to donate to FCA. The Tekoja magazine entered ProCom's OmaMedia contest, and was rewarded as the most reader-friendly media in 2020. The jury urged FCA to consider restoring the number of issues back to four per year for increased engagement and commitment.

Changemaker youth network continued to publish its own biannual magazine Globalisti (circulation of 8,000 copies/year). The magazine is popular in schools and is also circulated to network members and parishes. The magazine is produced by volunteers.

# RISK MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY

In 2020, FCA continued to assess, analyse and minimize risks through our risk management system and processes, and improved work practices and security measures.

## Risk Management

FCA's risk management work continued throughout the organisation. The risk assessment process stayed unchanged: entering into a new programme country a context analysis including risk assessment is done. During the project planning stage the risks (internal/external) related to the project are assessed and a mitigation plan is prepared. Implementation includes active risk management.

The risk assessment tool was in use both in country offices and head office departments. Programme countries and HO departments assessed and reported risks regularly, and a summary of risks, including global risks assessed by the Management Team, was presented to the Board of Directors three times/year.

The work to support country office risk management started together with compliance assessment missions in October and November 2019, respectively in Cambodia and Nepal. Sensitive issues were discussed with country directors and Senior Management Teams and a dedicated report was developed and shared with FCA Management Team for easy follow-up. Based on country offices' other commitments, the exercise was planned to restart in February 2020, but was halted by the spread of Covid-19 and consequent travelling restrictions, which severely affected the overall operations.

Quality and accountability self-assessments were carried out in five country offices, and improvement plans were developed based on the audit findings. The assessments helped the COs to identify possible weaknesses in their safeguarding mechanisms and practices, and to act upon them. The assessments will continue in 2021 to cover the remaining COs.

A new position of Investigation and Safeguarding Officer at the head office was filled in August 2020. This new resource helps to improve FCA's preparedness to address sensitive complaints and reported incidents in a timely manner, and to minimise risks that may occur due to delays in resolving the cases. Development of FCA Safeguarding Policy also started. With the policy and related guidance, FCA will set out guiding principles on safeguarding holistically.



Guidance on Do No Harm analysis and project level risk assessment was included in FCA's revised project planning guideline, to ensure that risks and possible unintended negative effects to communities and other local stakeholders are also identified and mitigated against.

Safeguarding introduction trainings were provided remotely for new staff. Country programme staff were encouraged to complete certified trainings for safeguarding and PSEA available in Kaya and other relevant online training platforms. Safeguarding related information, guidelines and materials were shared with the country programmes, and safeguarding practises and mechanisms were set up based on context and needs. Child Safeguarding Focal Points were assigned in each Country Office and sub-offices. Due to Covid-19 security training was transferred to various online platforms.



Security

The security and safety of FCA personnel is a priority. This translates into a strong commitment to mitigate risks to an acceptable level through continuously improved work practices, security measures, appropriate trainings, risk management and overall awareness.

The foundation of staff security is a wide community acceptance of our presence and work, achieved through clear communication of our mandate and goals, coherent actions and on-going dialogue with the local communities and authorities. These are supported by protection measures in response to specific risks and in some rare cases deterrence, such as the use of armed guards for the office and the residence or for the transport in some extreme situations. However, the deterrence must always be carefully considered and is the last possible protective measure. FCA engages the local communities mainly in cooperation with local and international NGOs and aims for a close relationship and involvement of the community.

The primary management tool for security preparedness in FCA country offices is the Security Plan and general security awareness. Country Security Risk Assessments, Standard Operating Procedures and Contingency Plans are in place to provide practical security tools for security man-

agement and field personnel. In addition to Helsinki-based Security Manager, FCA continues to assess and provide regional- and country level security management staff to assist personnel as required in security related issues and training. Continuous monitoring of FCA procedures, policies, guidelines, assessments and Emergency Plans are other critical components of the security global annual plan.

Proactive risk management aims to prepare for threatening situations and the security risk assessment takes into account various factors that can cause dangerous situations. The most common of these in 2020 were road accidents and infectious diseases, and the political situation in the programme countries created a largely unstable climate.

The most important challenges in 2020 related to the Covid-19 pandemic. In the early stages of the pandemic, staff guidance on preparedness and response was key. As the pandemic evolved and programme countries increased national restrictions, e.g. in terms of movement and access, FCA evacuated and repatriated some of our staff in co-operation with embassies.

In 2020, FCA invested in relevant trainings and increasing security awareness. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and restrictions, physical trainings had to be cancelled and security training was transferred to various online platforms to ensure continuity of training and staff awareness.

Signature

Helsinki 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Finn Church Aid



Jouni Hemberg  
Executive Director

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACT (Alliance)	Action by Churches Together	FCAI	Finn Church Aid Investment Ltd
ACHPR	African Charter on the rights and welfare of the Child	FGS	Federal Government of Somalia
		FWEAN	Federation of Woman Entrepreneurs' Associations of Nepal
ADR	Alternative Depute Resolution (ADR)	GBV	Gender-Based Violence
BTVET	Business, Technical, Vocational Education and Training	GEC	Global Education Cluster
		GEJCP	Gender Equality and Justice Community of Practice (ACT Alliance)
CAMCO	Cambodia Country Office	GRF	Global Refugee Forum
CAR	Central African Republic	GTHS	General and Technical High Schools
CARCO	Central African Republic Country Office	HEIST	Hostile Environment Individual Security Training
CBD	Caste-Based Discrimination	HO	Head Office
CBDMC	Community Based Disaster Management Committees	HRAA	Human Rights Advocacy Alliance
		IAEVG	International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance
CBM	Community based monitor		
CBO	Community-based organization	ICCO	Inter-church Organization for Development Cooperation
CCA	Climate Change Action	ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
CCAA	Climate Change Adaptive Agriculture	ICESC	International Covenant of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CCN	Changemaker Cambodia Network		
CDRC	Commune Dispute Resolution Committees	IDP	Internally Displaced Person
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
		IGA	Income Generating Activities
CERA	Community Empowerment and Resilience Association	INEE	Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies
CERD	Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
		IOM	International Organization for Migration
CfE	Cash for Education (CfE)	IOPT	Israel and the Palestinian Territories
CGC	Career Guidance and Counselling	IPRO	FCA's International Programmes
CHS	Core Humanitarian Standards	IRW	Islamic Relief Worldwide
CM	Changemaker	KECO	Kenya Country Office
CO	Country Office	LDC	Least Developed Countries
COP	Community of Practice	LL2E	Linking Learning to Earning
CP	Country Programme	LNGO	Local Non-Governmental Organisation
CR	Common Responsibility	LWD	Life with Dignity (Cambodia)
CRC	Common Responsibility Campaign	LWF	Lutheran World Federation
CRC	Convention of the Rights of the Child	MCC	Mobile Counselling Center
CRPD	Convention of the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities	M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
		MEAL	Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning
CRD	Center for Research and Dialogue (Somalia)	MERO	Middle East Regional Office
CRDP	Convention of the Rights of the Persons with Disabilities	MFA	Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Finland)
		MINUSCA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic
CRM	Complaints Response Mechanisms		
CSO	Civil Society Organization	MoEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (Cambodia)
CVE	Countering Violent Extremism	MolFAR	Ministry of Interior Federal Affairs and Reconciliation
CWCC	Cambodia Women's Crisis Center	MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
CwD	Children with Disabilities	MUHURI	Muslim for human rights
DCA	Dan Church Aid	MYACO	Myanmar Country Office
DCCs	District Cadastral Committees	NCA	Norwegian Church Aid
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	NDC	National Dialogue Conference
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	NEPCO	Nepal Country Office
EAPPI	Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme on Palestine and Israel	NETW	Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers
		NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
EAs	Ecumenical Accompaniers (Finland)	NRF	National Reconciliation Framework (Somalia)
ECCD	Early Childhood Care and Development	NRM	Natural Resource Management
ECHO	European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department	NSSF	National Social Security Fund
		OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN)
EIDHR	European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights	ODA	Official Development Assistance
		OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
EIE	Education in Emergencies		
EISA	Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa	P/CVE	Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism
		PANEL	Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination and Equality, Empowerment, Legality
ELCF	Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland		
EPRP	Emergency Preparedness Response Plan	PME	Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
EU	European Union	PMER	Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting
EUAV	EU Aid Volunteers	PSS	Psychosocial support
EUAV	European Union Aid Volunteers	PTA	Parent-Teacher Association
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	PwD	People with Disabilities
		QMS	Quality Management System
FCA	Finn Church Aid	R2L	Right to Livelihood
FCAA	Finn Church Aid Americas		



R2P	Right to Peace	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
R2QE	Right to Quality Education	UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
RBA	Rights Based Approach	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
RRRC	Refugee, Relief, and Repatriation Commissioner	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
RRT	Rapid Response Team	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
SC	School Counsellor	UNU-WIDER	United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals	UPR	Universal Periodic Review
SDP	School Development Plan	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
SIP	School Improvement Plan	USIP	United States Institute of Peace
SME	Small and Medium Sized Enterprise	VDC	Village Development Committees
SOCO	Somalia Country Office	VIKES	Foundation for Media and Development (Finland)
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures	VOD	Vocational Orientation Department
SQUIPS	Small Quick Impact Projects	VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Association
SRA	Security Risk Assessments	WAC	Women's Agricultural Cooperatives
SSCC	South Sudan Council of Churches	WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
SSF	Somalia Stability Fund	WB	Women's Bank
SSUCO	South Sudan Country Office	WCC	World Council of Churches
SWS	South West State	WEC	Women Empowerment Committees
TA	Technical Assistance	WFP	World Food Programme
TFIMs	Traditional and faith-oriented mediators	WGSS	Women and Girls Safe Spaces
TICC	Teachers in Conflict Settings Trainings	WHS	World Humanitarian Summit
TLS	Temporary Learning Space	WPS	Women Peace and Security (United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325)
ToT	Training of Trainers	YLE	National Broadcasting Company (Finland)
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training	YPS	Youth, Peace and Security (United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250)
TwB	Teachers without Borders		
UGACO	Uganda Country Office		
UMYDF	Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum		
UN HR	United Nations Human Rights (mechanisms)		
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women		
UN	United Nations		
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme		

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