



FINN CHURCH AID
actalliance



**FINN CHURCH AID
GLOBAL PROGRAMME**

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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Our work is funded by:



Tumultuous year for relief work

In 2015, development co-operation and humanitarian assistance received an unprecedented amount of attention.

In spring the ground shook in Nepal with devastating consequences. Early summer the Finnish government announced it was making severe cuts in development cooperation funding, and in autumn came news of the distress of people fleeing to Europe and of the rising numbers of refugees.

Finn Church Aid (FCA) responded by taking an active role in public discussion on the effects of development funding cuts and the rights of asylum seekers.

Cuts in funding forced FCA to end some development projects, close down one field office and lay off some personnel. We were forced to completely close down our operations in five countries.

Yet the need for aid is greater than ever. What is needed now is an even stronger investment in developing and stabilising the countries of origin of refugees.

It was not all bad, though. The government's decision to invest in the development of the private sector in developing countries opened up possibilities for non-governmental organisations to develop new funding and operating channels. FCA accepted the challenge and initiated a new type of investment fund to support small and medium sized enterprise in developing countries.



*Jouni Hemberg
Executive Director*

Asylum seekers took Finland and the rest of Europe by surprise. The arrival of approximately 35,000 asylum seekers in Finland inspired people to volunteer and offer their help, but unfortunately elicited hate speech and opposition as well. Finn Church Aid restarted operations in Europe and in Finland.

Once again Finn Church Aid's operations in its programme countries received plenty of recognition from rights-holders, national officials and donors. In Nepal, FCA's rapid response in building temporary learning spaces for 17,000 pupils was praised. In

Somalia we were involved in 36 regional peace processes and had a significant role in the creation of the Central Regions State. In Uganda we began providing special needs education for disabled refugee children and opened a vocational school for refugee youths.

Following our strategy we operate in fragile countries and challenging contexts. Often in these countries other actors and organisations are all but absent. Our staff deserves the praise for our accomplishments. We also wish to sincerely thank all our donors and all volunteers in our networks.

Executive Summary

2015 was the first year of FCA's Global Programme for 2015-2017. We continued to work under the themes Right to Livelihood (R2L), Right to Education (R2E) and Right to Peace (R2P). This report covers all FCA's activities, regardless of funding source, and aims to give a comprehensive picture of what we have achieved during 2015.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Finland remains FCA's single largest donor with a total grant of 10 MEUR. However past years FCA has been growing through international fundraising, and in 2015 global grants grew significantly from 2,8 MEUR in 2014 to 8,8 MEUR in 2015 with broadened donor base. Finnish Evangelic Lutheran Church continued its strong support for FCA's work. FCA spent a total of 42,6 MEUR to aid and other operations in 2015.

In 2015, FCA had 18 focus countries. We work according to a holistic programme approach, combining

long-term development co-operation, humanitarian assistance and advocacy.

In 2015, FCA started to phase out programmes in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mozambique and Lebanon as well as speeded up the exits from Central America (Guatemala and Honduras) due to the funding cuts announced by the Finnish Government, resulting in a decrease in MFA funding for 2016. The exit from Angola was also finalised in 2015.

In this report, we assess our results from different perspectives. Chapter 1 gives an introduction to who we are, where we work and summarises results related to FCA's Global Programme as well as represents our partners. Chapter 2 takes a geographic perspective, presenting what FCA and its partners have achieved in the programme countries. This chapter represents also FCA's networks and international programmes. Chapter 3 represents FCA's programme management and development.

Snapshot of 2015 Key Results:

Right to Livelihood (R2L)	Right to Education (R2E)	Right to Peace (R2P)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FCA supported over 700 providers of community microfinance services, mainly credit co-operatives and grassroots savings and credit groups owned and managed by their members. They served a total of 45,000 members, 70% of whom were underprivileged women. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FCA has facilitated the access to early childhood development (ECD), primary and secondary education for over 81,000 students which includes the access to vocational education for 2,500 students. FCA has supported vocational and skills training for youth in seven countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FCA was engaged globally in over 400 local level peace processes, and 20 national and sub-national level peace processes. FCA has worked with over 1,000 actors in local level, at least 50% of which are traditional and religious actors.

SNAPSHOTS OF FINN CHURCH AID'S WORK DURING 2015



JANUARY

In 2015, FCA expanded its operations to Eritrea and began working in the two teacher education colleges in the country. With one full time education specialist and two Teachers without Borders (TwB) experts working in these colleges, we have strengthened the professional development of educators and supported new pedagogical practices to be rooted in the institutional culture. During 2015 we started supporting the design of new curricula, research practices and teaching methods in the colleges. Initiatives such as Action Research, Pedagogical Forums and Study Circles, have sparked enthusiasm for the teaching profession among Eritrean youth and boosted teacher educators' professional identity. (See more about TwB in chapter 2 II, and Eritrea programme in chapter 2.3)



FEBRUARY

The amount of young people entering the labour market annually is expected to rise from 300,000 to 400,000 in the near future in Cambodia. FCA piloted the first Career Counselling Training for teachers in Cambodia in 2015. A seven-month programme for 10 teachers in Lower Secondary School was carried out by two Teachers without Borders (TwB) volunteers in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS). A manual for Career Counsellors was developed and a positive change in both teachers and students' attitude towards school, learning and making future plans was found to be remarkable. One pilot school reported that during the academic year the number of dropouts decreased from 100 to 20. The teachers gained new knowledge and skills and practical experience on career counselling. FCA aims to continue to support MoEYS to conduct further training courses to increase the numbers of counsellors, to transfer the materials online and look into using social media and other innovative approaches as educational tools. (See more about TwB in chapter 2 II, and Cambodia programme in chapter 2.1)



MARCH

FCA started a campaign titled Peace United with the aim of promoting models to prevent marginalisation and conflicts among refugee youth. As a part of the campaign, footballers Laura Österberg Kalmari and Aki Riihilahti and journalist Kaj Kunnas visited Zata'ari refugee camp in Jordan in order to help FCA

to launch Peace United and to raise awareness of the Middle East refugee crisis in Finland. (See more about Peace United Campaign in chapter 2 III, and Jordan programme in chapter 2.5)



APRIL

On 25 April a 7,8 magnitude earthquake occurred in Nepal. FCA started its response immediately by channelling funds to meet the immediate needs of the affected people. FCA distributed food packs, shelter materials, non-food items and started its Education in Emergency interventions. A construction team was established and an education specialist recruited in early May. The response efforts resulted in the construction of 170 temporary school buildings (333 classrooms) to which FCA distributed learning and teaching materials. Teacher training was also organised in teaching methods and psychosocial support to bridge the education gap caused by the devastating earthquake. (See more in chapter 2.1)



MAY

A survey, conducted in 2015 by a leading market research company Taloustutkimus, compared how journalists perceived the communications of 23 non-governmental organisations. In the overall score, FCA communications ranked highest of all, scoring 8.36 points out of 10. FCA ranked third in reliability, which was the most valued category by the journalists, and made the top 6 also in openness, speed and understandability. FCA also received a commendation for its Annual Report 2014 in the contest for large organisations and foundations organised by professional services organisation PwC Finland. The report received praise for visual presentation of financial information and for authenticity. (see more about communications in chapter 2, III)



JUNE

Finland's newly elected Government decided to reduce Official Development Aid by 43% in 2016. FCA advocated intensively for Finland to bear its international responsibility and raised awareness on the importance of aid in addressing the root causes of poverty and global refugee crisis. FCA argued that quick aid cuts are short sighted politics, which will only contribute to the

deepening of crises, leaving millions of people without help and eroding of Finland's development and humanitarian aid professionalism, quality and reputation. Together with other Finnish NGOs FCA organised a demonstration (see picture) and collected over 40 000 signatures objecting the steep cuts. (see more about advocacy work in chapter 1.3.7)



JULY

FCA participated in the design of a new training course on Women's rights advocacy in Faith Based Organisations in collaboration with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). Other partners involved were World Council of Churches (WCC), World Young Women's Christian Association and ACT Alliance. A one-week training was held in July in Geneva in connection with the CEDAW's 61st Session aiming to strengthen the capacity and knowledge base of FBOs on women's rights, the UN Human Rights framework and utilisation of advocacy opportunities from local level to international level. The training increased participants' capacities and understanding of the importance of local actors to participate in country-related consultations and other advocacy activities on women's human rights, the need to strengthen the inclusion of civil society actors in CEDAW and other treaty mechanisms and the linkages with the UN Universal Periodic Review of their country. FCA sponsored participants from our partner organisations from Haiti, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Nepal and, FCA staff participants from Uganda and Nepal.



AUGUST

Until the end of August, refugee and migrant arrivals to Europe in 2015 hit 267,000 after death-defying journeys across sea and land. The majority of those taking the route to Europe were refugees coming from Syria, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Iraq and Somalia and their numbers continued to rise rapidly. Most people arriving were fleeing war, conflict or persecution at home, as well as deteriorating conditions in many refugee-hosting countries and countries of transit which did not offer safety or the possibility to establish a new existence. FCA through its' ACT Alliance members in Greece, Hungary and Serbia provided humanitarian assistance including food, shelter, necessary non-food items and clean water to the refugees. In addition, FCA urged the EU to put in place policies and mechanisms that effectively guarantee that human rights of refugees are met, that obligations and responsibilities enshrined in EU and international law are respected and that ensure solidarity between Member States.



SEPTEMBER

The Minister of National and Technical Education of Central African Republic (l'Éducation Nationale et de l'Enseignement Technique - MENET), Mr. Elois Anguimate, and his two delegates FCA and a number of Finnish education sector stakeholders and representatives in Finland in September 2015. The visit was the result of an excellent working relationship between FCA and MENET in CAR and had the aim of discussing and developing this co-operation further. During the visit FCA and MENET signed an MOU, a bilateral agreement that lists possible future shared initiatives between FCA and MENET that will aim to promote access to and quality of education in CAR. (See more about CAR programme in chapter 2.2)



OCTOBER

FCA and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers engage in collaboration to work with reception centres and asylum seekers in Finland. Focus is to engage local and religious communities from the nearby areas to support the asylum seekers and to facilitate positive interaction and engagement of local community.



NOVEMBER

The world's most prominent experts in peace and reconciliation gather in Helsinki for the second conference on Non-Formal Dialogue Processes and National dialogues. The conference offers a platform for communities suffering from conflict and communities in a state of change to discuss the best ways of supporting national peace processes.



DECEMBER

FCA takes its first steps in launching a complaints system in 2015. Through the system we strive to ensure our stakeholders' right to issue a complaint and have it addressed. FCA offices in Haiti and Somalia pilot the system, and a contextualised version is designed by the staff after receiving training on complaints handling.

FINN CHURCH AID'S PROGRAMME COUNTRIES



**HEAD OFFICE
HELSINKI, FINLAND**



**LATIN AMERICA AND
CARIBBEAN REGIONAL OFFICE
PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI**



**WEST AND CENTRAL AFRICA
REGIONAL OFFICE
MONROVIA, LIBERIA**



**EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA
REGIONAL OFFICE
NAIROBI, KENYA**



**MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL OFFICE
AMMAN, JORDANIA**



**ASIA REGIONAL OFFICE
PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA**

- = Regional Office
- = Country Office
- = FCA Americas, office for fundraising and advocacy, Washington DC
- * Work ended at the end of 2015

1. Programme Overview

1.1 Finn Church Aid's Strategy and Priorities

Finn Church Aid (FCA) is a legally registered foundation that carries out development co-operation, humanitarian assistance and advocacy work on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Finland.

The goals of FCA operations are in line with the Finnish development policy guidelines, such as the Finland's Development Policy Programme, and are closely connected to the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals and newly launched Agenda2030 & Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). When planning and implementing operations with partner organisations, national poverty reduction strategies and local circumstances are also taken into consideration by Finn Church Aid and its partners.

In strategy for 2013–2016 FCA has defined itself as follows

Mission

Action for human dignity

Vision

We change the world through support for people in the most vulnerable situations.

We believe that local communities find the most sustainable solutions to the challenges in their own contexts. Finn Church Aid (FCA) will contribute to positive change by supporting people in the most vulnerable situations within fragile and disaster-affected areas. We specialise in supporting local communities in three priority areas: the Right to Peace, Livelihood and Education. We aim to become a global leader in supporting peace work in traditional communities and a strong actor within ACT Alliance's network in issues related to livelihood and education. These thematic areas are not separate channels of activity but form one programme with different entry points. We enhance our programmes through global advocacy.

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 in close co-operation with its ecumenical and faith-based partners and promoting interfaith co-operation in aid and advocacy work.

Rights-based approach

FCA is a rights-based actor. Our action is guided by

international human rights standards and principles. The PANEL principles of RBA, namely participation, accountability, non-discrimination and equality, empowerment and link to human right standards form the basis to our work. FCA believes that sustainable change requires tackling the root causes of inequality and non-realisation of human rights and working with both rights-holders and duty-bearers. As a rights-based actor, FCA's role is to facilitate dialogue and accountability between the two.

The rights-based approach is equally valid in the context of humanitarian crises. Humanitarian assistance is based on humanitarian principles: humanity, humanitarian imperative, impartiality, independence and neutrality. These principles outline people's rights to protection and assistance as defined in human rights law, humanitarian law and refugee law.

Strategic themes

FCA's strategic themes are Right to Peace (R2P), Right to Education (R2E) and Right to Livelihood (R2L).

FCA's commitment to support the resilience of communities and the empowerment of people especially in states in fragile situations has a solid backing in the United Nations Human Rights instruments. Survival, development and participation dimensions embedded in Civil and political, and Economic, social and cultural rights directly link with FCA's strategic themes. No development can happen without at least a minimum level of **stability and peace**. A single conflict can push a country decades back in its development. In bid to assist people in their own development, **access to learning, knowledge and information** is one of the strongest enablers for empowerment. Survival and development is not only linked to stability and access to knowledge; people's development opportunities are closely dependent on **generating an income and making a decent living**, especially in states without any kind of social support system.

FCA sees that supporting rights related to peace, education and livelihood, as well as combining the three, is most helpful in countries in difficult situations. In its work during 2015 FCA has continued to transform these sets of rights to concrete actions, supporting people to reconcile and participate, to learn and develop, and to earn and sustain a living.

Fragile contexts

FCA has focused its activity within disaster-affected and fragile contexts. Fragility refers here in a broad sense to states and administrative areas that fail to provide basic services to people and to protect people from violence

because of unwillingness or inability to do so. This is often combined with limited legitimacy. FCA's response aims to increasing resilience of communities in fragile contexts through interventions in livelihoods, education and peace.

In recent reports, the OECD has listed 50 countries in fragile situations¹. In recent years the number of countries on this list has increased, however, some countries also managed to improve their situation (for example Angola or Georgia). Most concerning are 23 countries that have been on all list from 2007-2015. Those countries can be referred to as chronically fragile countries². The vast majority of FCA's programme countries are on the 2015 list, including eight³ chronically fragile countries, namely CAR, DRC, Eritrea, Haiti, Liberia, Myanmar, Sierra Leone and Somalia.

Disaster-affected and fragile contexts pose the gravest threat to human dignity and realisation of human rights. It is in these situations where the obstacles to rights-holders' ability to successfully claim their rights are greatest and where duty-bearers are most likely to fail in providing due accountability towards the local communities. It is in these contexts and countries that the impact of FCA's support is bound to have the greatest impact.

Cross-cutting principles

- Gender: FCA's objective is to ensure that all our activities contribute to sustainable change towards a more equal

enjoyment of human rights by men and women in the communities and societies we work in. FCA continued to implement a strong twin track approach to gender equality, through 1) specific women's empowerment projects and 2) mainstreaming gender equality as a cross-cutting principle in all our work.

- Climate change and disaster risk reduction (DRR): FCA continued to promote the environmentally and climate-friendly approach as a cross-cutting theme and to take into consideration the effects of and preparation for climate change in operations and future programme planning. Efforts to strengthen the resilience of communities and their livelihoods against future shock including natural and man-made disasters and the negative effects of climate change continued as an integrated holistic approach.
- Conflict sensitivity: For FCA conflict sensitivity means that we are well aware of the context, fully respect and sustain local ownership, ensure that all interventions take the context into account to avoid or at least minimise negative impacts and maximise positive impacts, in general and specifically on conflict dynamics. FCA continued to mainstream conflict sensitivity and "Do No Harm" through all phases of the project cycle, including planning, monitoring and evaluation.

1.2 FCA's Global Programme Objectives

FCA's Global Programme (2015-2017) aims at supporting the resilience of communities and the empowerment of people especially in states in fragile situations in three thematic areas - Right to Livelihood, Education and Peace - to achieve the following objectives:

Right to Livelihood (R2L) 	1. Communities have the capacity to combat poverty through inclusive and sustainable livelihoods development	2. Communities participate in dialogues aiming at improved legislative and policy framework for sustainable livelihoods	2. Communities participate in dialogues aiming at improved legislative and policy framework for sustainable livelihoods
Right to Education (R2E) 	1. Communities have equal and uninterrupted access to education	2. Quality of education is improved	2. Quality of education is improved
Right to Peace (R2P) 	1. Local communities in fragile contexts have enhanced capacity to prevent and resolve violent conflicts, using inclusive mechanisms and focussing on the respect for human rights	2. Duty-bearers and intermediaries have the capacity to bear their responsibility to protect citizens from violent conflict, with focus on supporting community resilience	2. Duty-bearers and intermediaries have the capacity to bear their responsibility to protect citizens from violent conflict, with focus on supporting community resilience

1. The number of countries differs depending on which list is used. The 50 country list is a combination of the 2014 World Bank, AfDB, ADB Harmonized List and the 2014 Fragile States Index.

2. See for example OECD: States of Fragility 2015. Meeting Post-2015 Ambitions.

3. South Sudan has not been counted as it has not existed as an independent country during the listing period.

FCA's Global Programme is based on a Programme statement and objectives and their indicators. Some of the objectives and indicators are globally monitored and some are context-specific. By having globally monitored objectives and indicators FCA is able to collect similar type of data for the different Country Programmes. This data can then be aggregated at Country Programme level and after that at Global Programme level. Each project within a FCA Country Programme has to feed into at least one objective.

See more about FCA's Global Programme in chapter and 1.3 and PME in chapter 3.2.

1.3 Progress and Development of our Programme Work

1.3.1 Rights-based approach (RBA)

In 2015, FCA continued to strengthen its rights-based approach (RBA) in all three areas of work. All FCA's procedures and tools are based on the principles of RBA.

Overall, the RBA manifested in FCA's Country Programmes through different modalities such as sensitisation, awareness raising, capacity building and training, and various forms of advocacy work through local partners and alliances on local, national and regional levels to have constructive and dialogue-building collaboration between different actors and interest groups.

On global level, FCA got increasingly involved in international processes such as high level political meetings, the UN Treaty Body reviews (e.g. CRC, CEDAW), the UN Human Right Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism and UN Human Right Council Special Side Events (e.g. DRC). The UPR has become a widely recognised and recommended HR and advocacy measurement of observation of the holistic situation of the given country. FCA took important steps in getting involved more systematically with the UN Universal Periodic Review processes and got involved in two country reviews (Nepal and Myanmar) and in preparatory consultative processes concerning Haiti, Uganda and Somalia in 2015. These examples encouraged other Country Programmes and partners to get involved in local and national processes and pay attention to topical developments in the civil society space.

Concerning partner collaboration in reinforcing RBA in the programme and advocacy work FCA followed up the RBA training held with three Ugandan partners in 2014. The results of their action plans were followed up in a report presented in the International Programme Week among FCA staff in Uganda 2015. FCA participated in the LWF's Local to Global programme, particularly in the support of Myanmar UPR project, identifying possible Country Programmes to be involved in 2016 and contributing to programme development for planning the year 2016. Gender advocacy training was organised in collaboration with LWF Women in Church and Society (WICAS) Department in July 2015. The training capacitated participating organisations and their partners

Examples of results from strengthening RBA in 2015

Uganda

Follow up on RBA training (2014) for FCA partners showed strengthening of RBA in all three partners programme work. Results show increase in community ownership of project achievements as well as failures, community general wellbeing, ignition of hope and aspirations among community members and wide scale community participation in the respective communities' development. The follow up report and lessons learned were discussed among FCA staff during the International Programme Week in Uganda 2015.

DRC (exit country)

Follow up of FCA's partner, RAFEJE's, advocacy plan implementation towards three objectives was successful until the country programme had to be closed: increase efficiency and effectivity and collaboration with networks on increasing women's involvement in local and national political processes, advocate for the equality law of DRC, and strengthen the implementation of the NAP 1325 by establishing regional committees in the eastern part of DRC. The work continues by the support from International Alert in 2016.

Nepal

FCA supported for the second time its partner NNDSWO to take part in Nepal's 2nd UPR review (November 2015): a total of 71 Dalit organisations participated in national and regional level consultation and prepared a report on the human rights situations of the Dalits in Nepal. The report was submitted to OHCHR Geneva and presented in the 23rd session of UPR second cycle.

Myanmar

In Myanmar FCA participated in the LWF's UPR programme from Local to Global with the support to Myanmar UPR project. The LWF UPR report on Myanmar was submitted to the United Nations on 23 March 2015 and focused five key areas of current human right concerns in the country: right to land, access to safe water, birth registration, nationality and gender equality.

Lebanon (exit country)

FCA supported SDC's advocacy campaign to promote youth participation in decision-making through Participation, Legal Advocacy and the Participative Associative Model (PAM). PAM was considered as one the most progressive and successful initiatives on a national level by the Higher Council for Childhood Ministry of Social Affairs, and other civil society organisations in the fourth and fifth national report on the Rights of the Child (2005- 2014).

and staff to work particularly on UPR and gender advocacy mechanisms as described more in detail in the section on Gender. The FCA programme countries that participated succeeded in effective utilisation of the gender advocacy training. Four FCA partner organisations (Nepal, , DRC and Liberia, Haiti) and two staff members (Nepal and Uganda) have got involved with UPR processes (Nepal, Uganda, Haiti), CEDAW follow up (DRC, Liberia) and other global and national processes:

- In **Nepal** FCA provided financial and capacity building support to its partner, NNDSWO (Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organisation) and Dalit CSOs coalitions to enable them to take part and raise their concerns in Universal Periodic Reviews. 71 Dalit organisations participated in national and regional level consultations and prepared a report on the human rights situations of the Dalits in Nepal. The report was submitted to OHCHR Geneva and presented in the 2nd cycle of the Nepal UPR review. Out of 126 recommendations made by the UPR review committee, nine are related to Dalit human rights are in line with the first Nepal UPR recommendations given in 2011.
- In **Myanmar** the improved situation allowed for open dialogue with the civil society, which FCA supported in partnership with LWF's Myanmar UPR programme Local to Global to contribute to the country's 2nd review of the UPR. LWF facilitated a series of consultations in its programme areas. Based on grassroots evidence and participation from beneficiaries and stakeholders in its project areas some 303 people were involved, including 169 women. During the consultations, the following issues were identified as key human rights violations to be presented in the UPR report by the communities: land, access to safe water, birth registration, nationality and gender. In addition international advocacy activities around the UPR review of Myanmar were organised in Geneva in November 2015, e.g. meetings with missions in Geneva and others to present their key issues of concerns and recommendations in relation to human rights in Myanmar.
- In **Cambodia**, specific Land and Livelihood Advocacy -project focused on the peaceful solution of land conflicts and enhanced dialogue between and among authorities and community members. Land issues are one of the major root causes of conflicts in Cambodia. Awareness raising, public forums, trainings and workshops about Alternative Dispute Resolution, conflict prevention, land laws and other relevant issues were organised and nine Commune Mediation Committees (CMC) were formed. They helped to solve 119 conflicts in a peaceful way and community members were satisfied with CMCs' conflict resolution that helped save time and money and contributed to harmony in the communities.
- In **Haiti** a training workshop on Rights-based approach was jointly organised with Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Christian Aid (CA) and FCA for staff of local partners in May 2015. The aim was to help partners on how to integrate Rights-based approach in their work with the communities in order to ensure sustainable development. A training on Gender Inclusive Rights-Based Approach was held in **Honduras** for partners by ACT Alliance and Church of Sweden, based on the online manual developed by the ACT Alliance Gender Equity and Justice Community of Practice (CoP) and Rights and Development CoP few years back.

1.3.2 Gender

In 2015, FCA continued to implement the twin track approach to gender equality, through

- *specific women's empowerment projects, in particular enhancing women's economic empowerment and*
- *mainstreaming gender equality by integrating gender equality components systematically in all FCA thematic areas of work and working modalities.*

Continued efforts were paid to strengthening the involvement of women in decision-making processes and peace work at different levels of governance. Women's

Examples of results in gender equality work

- FCA's programmes have continued strengthening gender aware and gender equal concrete actions in all three themes in an integrated manner. Economic empowerment of women has increased the well-being of the family and contributed positively to more equal participation of women and men in community level decision-making processes. Context sensitive approaches and capacity building of women and men on human rights and gender equality issues as part programmes have led to increased result based impact.
- In Nepal, Increased women's access to and control over land, finance and other productive resources have drastically reduced violence against women.
- FCA continued to support saving and credit schemes as part of the R2L projects. For women and young girls, the group membership offers a forum to discuss social and other challenges faced in life. Also results confirm progress in the change of attitudes: equal access and control of resources are increasingly recognised and actively promoted through saving and credit schemes also by male community members.
- FCA continued to pay targeted attention to gender based violence (GBV) in several regions at local to national level and took part in international advocacy through 16 Days of Activism campaign, in which stories and photos from the I-OPT region were presented by the FCA EAPPI volunteers (see more in chapter 1.3.7).
- Gender Advocacy training organised in collaboration with LWF WICAS programme has capacitated FCA partners and staff and they have got involved in global level processes in highlighting the continuous need to pay attention to gender equality issues and actively tackle with gender disparities.

economic empowerment, equal access to resources, assets and decision-making from household level to community and upper level governance bodies was strengthened along with equal access to education and vocational training thus contributing FCA's aim to increase synergies between the themes.

For example, in Somalia the strategic needs were considered within the overall traditional and cultural set-up ongoing in the country. While the need to have more women representation is clear and evident, FCA needs to pay attention to the way this is actually put in place. The scenario in Somalia is totally fragmented and every

opportunity needs ad hoc analysis and an implementation plan. FCA has pushed to have inclusive process at every step of the programme cycle, without entering in open conflicts with the traditional elders and clan leaders. Dedicated sessions for women representatives were planned and took place in the peace-building and governance projects. The voice of the women did successfully reach the bigger audience. To point out some results: FCA's local partner is successfully managed by a Somali woman, FCA and Center for Research and Dialogue (CRD) managed to have women representatives in the common peace committees (CPC) (15%), the chairman of the project's Technical Committee was a woman, recommendations coming from the women groups were incorporated in the draft Constitution and there were specifically tailored project that targeted principally women HH.

In gender specific projects, FCA focuses on promoting the economic empowerment of women as a means to achieving a more equal enjoyment of human rights for men and women, in particular under the specific theme Right to Livelihood (R2L). This continued to form a strong part of FCA's work in 2015, for example by continued funding through Women's Bank.

In education increased attention was paid to ensure that programmes aid targeted attention to ensure girls and boys equal access to education, from primary to secondary level education as well as to increase equal possibilities to vocational training and second change educational needs. In addition, work modalities very further developed in FCA's speciality on Education in Emergencies and community based psycho-social support in humanitarian responses.

Concerning women's increased participation in peace work efforts in many countries have been successful. Experiences from e.g. FCA Kenya show that in the REGAL-IR consortium mainstreaming gender equality has proceeded even better than anticipated. Most often the groups including women or women peace groups have been able to proceed with peace efforts in a more advanced manner compared to the areas where women are not included.

Some selected results from Country Programmes:

- In **Palestine** a total of 27 women headed households were empowered by acquiring new skills in good farming practices, adopted economically and environmentally sustainable practices, and knowledge about co-operative work and principles and utilisation of collective purchasing. In addition 125 women headed households produced a surplus over household consumption as a result of FCA's intervention and they were able to sell it in the market, the average annual sales per household reached EUR 3,135, which represents a considerable rise in income for them thus enabling to invest in children's schooling, improved nutrition and take part in economic development in their community.
- In IOPT participants of the PCPD project were empowered

by building the capacity of female young leaders, paving their way to access the public and political spheres, which are largely controlled in Palestine by a patriarchal social structure, especially prevalent in the marginalised locations of the region. The project encourages men and women to work together, in an equal manner, to develop and implement initiatives. All responsibilities were shared without any specific attributions to gender, building on individual strengths and capacities to achieve results rather than predetermined roles.

- In **Cambodia** issues of land ownership remained critical and especially concerning women's position in the co-operatives and their economic empowerment. In Nepal, FCA's programme succeeded in continuing to empower women and now they are organised in groups and networks to amplify their collective voices against all forms of discriminations based on gender. Women owned and women managed co-operatives have been strengthened to increase women's access to finance. Joint land ownership certificates have been distributed between husband and wife as part of the long-term work among the Kamayas in the Far West region of the country.
- In **Guatemala and Honduras**, increased participation and awareness of human rights and gender equality at community and municipal level have been one of the key outcomes of FCA's work. Women are playing more diverse roles in the public sphere and have assumed responsibilities at community level. Also youth have increased skills and interest for community level work and advocacy, and organised youth groups of both female and male and mixed groups have been actively engaging in human rights related actions, violence prevention, as well as promotion of sustainable use of natural resources and environmental protection.
- Findings from for example **Mozambique** confirm that awareness raising efforts by Community Development Organisations and Community Development Committees do contribute to behaviour change towards gender equality. There have been a reduction of cases when young girls abandon school to get married, and also reduction of cases when young boys are sent to herd cattle instead of going to school. Now families are more aware of the importance of sending boys and girls to school.
- FCA programmes have paid increased attention against gender based violence (GBV) as part of the programmes. In **Mozambique**, LWF evaluation results show that there have been improvements in gender equity and human rights, particularly in the reduction of child sexual abuse, domestic violence against women and increased gender equity and women participation in both family and community structure power circles.
- In **Haiti**, the work has empowered and increased women's capacity to raise their voice to complain about the prevailing practices widely known in the communities. The theme was integrated e.g in the trainings held in the women's groups as part of the other project components. After training on domestic violence, the participants

decided to undertake a door-to-door visit to women who generally suffer violence from their spouse. A commitment was made to continue with awareness and denounce these cases to the Human Rights Cell set up within the project. Similar elements were integrated in the project in South Sudan: GBV survivors were followed up and assisted through the distribution of seed grants as a way of helping them get back on their feet and to help with the healing process. Unfortunately, conflict in the area forced them to flee and abandon their initiatives which were only at the early stages of implementation so it was not possible to follow the long term impact of the action.

FCA has provided tailored capacity building on **gender advocacy training in collaboration with LWF Women in Church and Society (WICAS) Department** in order to strengthen local to global advocacy work on gender equality, especially from the faith-based organisations' perspective among FCA partners and staff. A one week Gender Advocacy Training was held in connection with the 61st CEDAW session in Geneva, July 2015. FCA supported four partners (Nepal, Haiti, DRC and Liberia) and two staff (Nepal, Uganda) member to Gender Advocacy Training, which was organised in collaboration with LWF WICAS programme. Each participant has been able to utilise the training effectively, either in through RBA strengthening in programme work or through Gender Advocacy initiatives. For example in Liberia, FCA's Partner AFELL (Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia) was supported to attend a CEDAW-training in Geneva and later on contributed to Liberia's preparation for CEDAW review meeting and continue collaboration with the UN Women in the country. In DRC, FCA's partner participant from the RAFFEJE female lawyers' network continued effective gender advocacy work at national and local level, with commitment to financial support from International Alert in 2016 due to FCA exit in DRC.

In 2015, FCA participated regularly in ACT Alliance's "Gender Equality and Justice Community of Practice" skype meetings and utilised ACT Alliance Gender specific training and capacity building materials in country programmes and networks.

1.3.3 FCA's working context and Holistic Programme in 2015

Finn Church Aid (FCA) has made a deliberate choice to work in fragile contexts where governments have reduced capacity to uphold human rights and respond to the needs of the people. Such contexts are typically characterised by alternating periods of relative stability and emergency caused by conflict and natural calamities - often the two intertwined - with devastating effects on the populations. In the last five years, each year has seen more conflict, increasing risk of violent extremism, and more victims. The number of casualties per conflict is growing, and civilian populations – citizens, residents, refugees, returnees, and IDPs – continue to pay the price in dislocation and

the long-lasting impacts of the collapse of government services, including education, healthcare and economic development.

Year 2015 saw an outbreak of acute conflict in South Sudan in areas that had earlier been spared of violence, bringing FCA's longer term development projects in Mundri County to a halt for an undetermined time and inflicting a need for immediate humanitarian response. Uganda continued to receive refugees fleeing the conflicts in South Sudan and the DRC along its northern and western borders. The Syrian refugee situation in Jordan – both in the camps and in affected Jordanian communities - remained severe and the conflict in Syria persisted. On a more positive note, the assisted return of Somali refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) continued in Somaliland. Developments in Somalia and Myanmar suggest that peaceful solutions can and indeed must be sought.

Towards the end of 2015, Liberia and Sierra Leone were declared free of Ebola transmission; with isolated EVD cases being reported, anxiety over a new major outbreak persisted. During the last quarter of 2015, FCA was able to relaunch the development projects discontinued by the epidemic for over a year and the closed FCA-supported schools were opened again.

A major earthquake struck Nepal in April 2015. While work continued undisrupted in the Far Western areas not affected by the earthquake, the regions around Kathmandu valley were severely hit. Over 80% of FCA's beneficiaries experienced significant losses of material assets, including houses, crops and animals. Even if human casualties were relatively low, the very basis of people's lives and livelihoods was shattered. As a response, FCA distributed basic foods and emergency shelters, built safe temporary learning spaces and trained teachers to deal with the shock in the affected communities; in August 2015 the discontinued development projects were redesigned and restarted.

FCA's strength is and continues to be its **ability to adjust its programmes to the drastically changing environment, both in terms of thematic focus and operating modalities.**

Thematic synergy across and between the Right to Peace (R2P), Education (R2E) and Livelihood (R2L)

FCA programmes work in a holistic manner, recognising the role of the three themes as well as their interrelatedness for achieving sustainable change.

A key element of conflict transformation is to understand the underlying reasons for the conflict and contribute to addressing those. Here R2L and R2E themes provide concrete added value, with regards to for example addressing land rights in Cambodia; identifying sustainable alternative livelihoods in response to cattle raiding in South Sudan; understanding the role of religion and pseudo-religious education in Central African Republic; or providing specific human rights education to transform conflicts in IOPT / Israel.

A concrete manifestation of thematic synergy are projects bridging from one theme to another, such as

projects linking vocational education and training (TVET) with direct employment opportunities (Linking Learning to Earning). Here, activities falling under one theme contribute to a positive outcome in another.

Similarly, R2L interventions benefit from the understanding of conflict drivers when addressing livelihood issues involving shifts in traditional power balance such as the economic empowerment of women that may result in gender based violence.

FCA is also linking its themes by using the substance from one theme but methods and approaches from another (R2E), exemplified by training and education on mediation capacity (R2P) or upgrading of farming or business practices (R2L).

1.3.4 Right to Livelihood (R2L)

Right to Livelihood (R2L) is a major theme in 11 of FCA's Country Programmes. Seven of them suffered from or were gravely affected by major man-made or natural disasters in the course of 2015, while others enjoyed relative stability that stimulated progress toward R2L programme objectives.

The fragility of our operating environments and their susceptibility to different calamities underline the need to link emergency and development programming and sustainable livelihood strategies that promote resilience of the populations.

The cuts imposed by the Finnish Government on development funding resulted in rapid closure of a number of strong R2L programmes viz. the Democratic Republic of Congo and Mozambique; decisions to pull out from Angola and Central America had been made earlier. The focus shifted from programme implementation and development to ensuring a responsible exit and sustainability of the results obtained so far.

All in all, FCA's livelihood portfolio and the size of individual projects shrank in 2015, crises resulted in abrupt livelihoods erosion and the subsequent reorientation of work in many locations, and at the same time notable progress was made in the areas of co-operative and business development and linking learning to earning for job creation that will bear fruit in the coming years.

Snapshot of FCA's Right to Livelihood (R2L) programme in 2015

- FCA supported over 700 providers of community microfinance services, mainly credit co-operatives and grassroots savings and credit groups owned and managed by their members.
- They served a total of 45,000 members, 70% of whom were underprivileged women.
- At the end of 2015, they had accumulated a capital of over 3,6 million euros that circulated in the communities as credit.
- In addition to credit, the members had access to savings facilities, social loans, training in productive and business skills and marketing support.

Progress of the R2L objectives

1. Communities have the capacity to combat poverty through inclusive and sustainable livelihoods development

FCA is committed to rights-based poverty alleviation which prompts us to work with the poor and vulnerable members of society as defined in each particular context. Fragility is commonly associated with the state's weak role in development, and from people's point of view fragility also implies the persistent and systematic existence of social, political and economic uncertainties that severely affect people's livelihoods. The gravest effects are felt by the poor and vulnerable.

The vulnerabilities stem from issues of gender, ethnicity, disability or caste/clan and lead to weak access to societal services such as education or health and non-participation in political processes, further aggravating exclusion. Also youth suffer from limited access to gainful, decent employment; the position of war-affected youth in conflict-prone situations is particularly dire.

FCA's new set of global indicators were taken to use in 2015 with the establishment of baselines in projects started during the year. Under this objective, the indicators measure the movement of project beneficiaries below and above the poverty line. The baselines conducted in 2015 indicate that globally a clear majority, **up to 80-90 percent of the beneficiary households or individuals in the interventions fall below the national poverty line** at the project's start; monitoring and evaluation results in 2016 will indicate whether our interventions were successful or not in reaching the goal of poverty alleviation.

2. Communities participate in dialogues aiming at improved legislative and policy framework for sustainable livelihoods

As a rights-based actor, FCA undertakes to build the capacities of and facilitate linkages between communities, civil society actors and policy makers to ensure equitable economic and livelihoods development. Livelihoods related advocacy is increasingly incorporated in FCA's Country Programmes. Evaluation and research reports are shared with stakeholders; joint forums and consultations are organised bringing together the representatives of civil society, government and private sector to inform and discuss livelihood issues of concern; media and awareness campaigns are run e.g. regarding women's economic and social rights.

At project level, advocacy typically reflects communities' immediate concerns, often related to access to land and other critical livelihood resources and services as well as promoting gender equal practices in ownership and decision-making. Contacts with local and regional authorities help ensure government support – also in terms of finance - to livelihood development initiatives and thus sustain the results.

Land related advocacy is particularly active in Cambodia and Nepal, both at local and national levels. In Cambodia, FCA commissioned a mapping of local land disputes in preparation for a specific Land and Livelihood Advocacy -project. Land grabbing is a major issue in Cambodia addressed by numerous NGOs. FCA's added value has been in linking this problematic to a community-driven approach, establishing nine Commune Mediation Committees and bringing in the local authorities. A total of 119 local land disputes have been solved through this medium.

In Mozambique and Nepal, FCA successfully integrated advocacy components in its R2L programme work. In Nepal, advocacy efforts were focused on the joint land ownership between spouses, women's access to finance and other productive resources and the right to land of freed Kamaiya, the bonded labourers in Far Western Nepal. In Mozambique, saving and credit group members were trained on how to advocate to the local government e.g. to gain access to development funds.

In Haiti, FCA continued to support the Civil Society Platform on Climate Change that collaborates with Government structures, UN agencies and civil society actors to direct attention to the importance of disaster risk reduction and the effects of climate change.

In 2015, Myanmar and Nepal were reviewed at the UN Universal Periodic Review, whereas Liberia and the DRC were in the follow-up phase of CEDAW Periodic Report. FCA facilitated the participation of its partners in national consultations and joint submissions of report. In Nepal, focus was on the elimination of discriminatory practices against Dalits. The Myanmar Joint Submission highlighted human rights concerns on land possession and ownership, access to safe water, birth registration, nationality and gender equality.

3. Communities have strengthened their assets and capabilities to protect, restore and develop their livelihoods in sustainable ways

The following thematic developments can be observed in FCA's Country Programmes:

- Rural orientation remained prevalent, but there was a clear shift towards off-farm livelihoods and agro-based business growth benefitting the poor in the majority of Country Programmes
- A number of Country Programmes, e.g. Liberia, Uganda, the DRC and Jordan, extended or prepared to extend their work to urban and semi-urban environments
- Agricultural co-operatives and producer associations strengthened their role as engines of rural development with improved management and broader services including access to markets and microfinance, with Cambodia and Nepal taking the lead
- Small business and enterprise creation supported by Credit Plus microfinance was the backbone of R2L work in a number of Country Programmes, particularly in the DRC, Nepal, Myanmar and Cambodia

- Readiness to collaborate with the private sector increased, with Uganda leading the way
- Linking Learning to Earning –approach for (self-) employment of youth after vocational training was adopted and further developed specifically in Uganda, Nepal and the DRC where a Business Incubator model was successfully piloted
- Recognition of the urgent need for building disaster preparedness and resilience strengthened globally, leading to the decision to start developing FCA's emergency livelihoods response including cash based programming.

Instead of sectoral or individual focus, FCA has chosen a community based approach to livelihoods development. **During 2015, FCA contributed to the development of over 1,200 different community based structures ranging from committees managing common water or forestry resources to seed and animal banks, communal microfinance providers and co-operatives.** Of these, 165 concentrated on disaster risk reduction and preparedness in countries like Haiti, Nepal and Myanmar, all extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

The total membership in different community structures exceeded 70,000 individuals in 2015; over 13,000 of these received short-term training and skills upgrading in e.g. productive and business skills and improved agricultural methods. Environmentally sustainable practices were also spreading in communities, including the use of renewable energy and energy saving stoves, organic farming, waste management and post-harvest handling.

Local Community Based Organisations and Village Development Committees were grassroots partners in most locations, representing the voice and ownership of the community and contributing to the long-term sustainability of the intervention results.

In microfinancing, FCA has successfully adopted a so-called "Credit Plus" approach that includes an integrated package of services. Access to credit is combined with savings facilities, non-productive (social) loan facilities, production-oriented and business training and marketing support. **In 2015, FCA supported and built the capacity of over 700 grassroots savings and credit groups and credit co-operatives;** also a number of agricultural co-operatives provided loans to their members. Cambodia, Nepal and Uganda followed by Myanmar, Haiti and the DRC led the way in microfinance.

Credit Plus scheme directly benefitted more than 45,000 individuals globally, over 70% of whom were women. Indirectly the number of beneficiaries including household members and dependents approached 250,000, and particularly the larger co-operatives with 200 and more members had a stimulating effect on the local economy. **At the end of the year, the accumulated capital exceeded 3.6 million Euros mostly in savings, co-operative shares and interest paid on credit.** Some established co-operatives gained access to loan capital from subsidised government funds; seed money has in some cases been provided by the project. This can be considered a remarkable achievement,

taking into account that the members generally fall into the “extremely poor” category and cannot access regular banking services, and the co-operatives are managed by the members themselves, many of whom are illiterate.

The Credit Plus scheme has boosted the incomes of the members and paved way to a more business-like approach to entrepreneurship and rural livelihoods. The number of undertakings that can be categorized as informal enterprises – providing full-time employment at least to the owner and increasingly also to employed staff – grew particularly in Uganda, Nepal and the DRC, but the numbers are still relatively low and to a degree unreliable due to the national differences in enterprise and employment definitions.

In the humanitarian interventions cash based approaches are gradually replacing direct distribution of food and non-food items, where feasible. A total of 3,000 individuals, mostly men, participated in FCA’s cash for work programmes in e.g. Jordan, South Sudan and Nepal; unconditional cash was piloted in Somalia and the DRC, where a mobile based system was successfully tested with Burundian refugees and Congolese host communities. Encouraged by the results FCA is preparing to extend its cash based programming. Direct distribution is still valid in emergencies and during recovery phase; agricultural tools and seeds, poultry and small ruminants, and non-food items including shelter were distributed to 4,500 households, whereas further 2,000 households procured such items at a subsidised rate. Similarly, FCA assisted communities to rehabilitate churches and hospitals, construct potable water and irrigation systems and build roads and bridges in a total of 115 communities in Cambodia, Nepal and South Sudan.

Development in R2L programme

FCA is entering a new strategy period as of 2017. To prepare for that, a Right to Livelihood (R2L) survey of ongoing work and new direction was commissioned in 2015. There is a clear need to sharpen the overall goals and specific focus of R2L both for optimal use of resources and to respond to the changes and trends in the operating environment.

Youth unemployment in the global south is gaining increased attention; the median age in FCA’s operating countries is 20 and below, and 60 to 80 per cent are either un- or underemployed or engaged in 3D jobs (dirty, dangerous and demeaning). Year 2015 saw a sharpening of FCA’s Right to Education (R2E) theme with focus on quality vocational education aiming at employment and enterprise creation. This will have repercussions on the R2L theme as well, through increased collaboration with private sector actors – both businesses and providers of essential business services - and development of new models for business incubation and acceleration, already piloted in the DRC. The latter is important as self-employment is the most likely option given the scarcity of paid job opportunities in FCA contexts.

FCA’s current development work in R2L is focused on rural contexts, co-operatives and small-scale entrepreneurship of women and youth supported by grassroots “Credit

Plus” microfinance. A gradual shift towards more urban areas has already started, through building value networks and market linkages for expanding co-operatives and development of urban businesses and jobs at a larger scale. This underlines the significance of incorporating the decent work agenda in FCA’s programming. Also managing value chains/networks and markets for the poor will be brought in as important new components, and business financing will receive more emphasis.

Private sector partnerships bring an added dimension to FCA’s work, be they strategic partnerships in programming and project development or intervention-specific private-public-people networks. A mentoring / skills donation initiative linking Finnish business specialists with R2L programmes and projects in the South is being developed with Women’s Bank, a unique pool of private sector and business development expertise. The Skills Donation model was tested in 2015 in Liberia and Cambodia, and year 2016 will see the piloting of the concept.

Developing the capacity in R2L early response in emergencies, taking the piloted cash based approaches to regular intervention level and addressing the livelihood challenges of displaced and refugee populations are highly applicable in our operating environments and also follow the shift in donor preferences from short term material aid towards resilience and sustainable development.

Following the unprecedented influx of refugees to Europe and Finland from e.g. conflict-ridden Syria and Iraq, FCA has also taken first steps to create and diversify livelihood options for refugees and host populations both in camps and local communities. To succeed globally, this undertaking requires wide multi-stakeholder collaboration between the international aid community, governments, private sector and civil society, and eradication of the silos between humanitarian aid and development co-operation.

Global Advocacy on R2L

At international level FCA participated in EU level advocacy work also through NGO Cambodia Coalition Network. This network consists of European NGOs active in development co-operation and human rights issues and aimed to build dialogue between the EU and the Kingdom of Cambodia concerning issues on land grabbing and human rights violations in Cambodia. It write open letters to EU High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, European Commissioner for Trade and the EU Special Representative (EUSR) for Human Rights among other high-level officials, particularly concerning the sugar trade agreements between the EU and Cambodia and highlighting the importance of ensuring competent human rights impact assessments in the agreements and trade policy.

Another sector where FCA was active on international level in 2015 was the ACT EU Private Sector Reference Group. It serves as a platform for discussion and joint planning in issues related to private sector engagement in development. Advocacy for the adoption of UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and a joint study on the role of private sector instruments, including finance,

in small and medium-sized enterprises development in the south were among the activities in 2015.

1.3.5 Right to Education (R2E)

FCA’s Right to Education (R2E) theme saw new openings during 2015 in particular vis-à-vis the quality of education. In access to education the developments were twofold: on the other hand the situation in Ebola-affected Liberia caused the closure of FCA supported secondary schools in the Refugee Camps, on the other hand new opportunities for access were provided to totally new beneficiary groups. FCA Nepal Country Programme responded timely to the massive earthquake in April with a project focusing on the education sector, aiming to provide uninterrupted access to quality education and to improve the quality of teaching. At the end of 2015 FCA launched a new project to support basic education and remedial classes of 2,131 children in Syria. The majority lives in the Dara’an region, where the Syrian war began in 2011. Equally, FCA took steps towards an increase in supporting education of urban host community refugees in Jordan.

Snapshot of FCA's Right to Education (R2E) programme in 2015

- FCA has facilitated the access to ECD, primary and secondary education for over 81,000 students of which 2,500 were vocational education students.
- FCA has supported vocational and skills training for youth in seven countries.
- FCA developed quality of education in many different ways during 2015. Teacher education was supported in a number of countries as an essential part of FCA’s education programming. Over 3,100 teachers were trained.
- Thanks to the efforts of FCA and Teachers without Borders; Ministry of Education in Cambodia incorporated career counselling in the national curriculum; In Eritrea FCA has built the capacity of two teacher education institutes; In Uganda FCA launched a special education project to reach refugee children with disabilities.

Progress of the R2E objectives

1. Communities have equal and uninterrupted access to education

FCA has contributed to Right to Education by **facilitating access to education for vulnerable and marginalised** - including disaster and conflict affected - children and youth. Among the most vulnerable groups are e.g. girls, boys and youth in remote areas (Haiti, Cambodia), former bonded labourers (e.g. Freed Haliyas, ex-Kamaiyas Kamlaris and Dalits in Nepal), rural out of school girls (Nepal), teenage mothers (Liberia), out of work youth (South Sudan), refugee Children with Disabilities (South Sudan), refugee youth at Refugee Camps (Liberia, Jordan, Uganda, Kenya, Jordan), Internally Displaced children and youth (DRC, Myanmar, South Sudan), youth associated

with armed groups and victims of violence (DRC). FCA promotes the principles of inclusive education; vulnerable children and youth benefit of access to general education services.

FCA has been able to answer to **new arising needs** rapidly through Education in Emergencies response. New beneficiary groups during 2015 were targeted: school-age children inside Syria, earthquake affected children in Nepal, Ebola-affected students in Liberia and South Sudanese refugee children with disabilities (CwDs) in Uganda, Ajumani Refugee Settlement.

FCA has facilitated access to early childhood development (ECD), primary and secondary education for over 81,000 students mainly through formal education. Some of the secondary education provided was non-formal, due to challenges related to curriculum choice and recognition of education which are often the most controversial and difficult issues to resolve in refugee contexts.

FCA’s biggest projects providing improved access to education are in the areas which have seen large scale emergencies, either natural disasters (Nepal, Haiti) or armed conflicts with big numbers of refugees or internally displaced people (Central-African Republic, Uganda, South Sudan, Myanmar). Nepal and CAR have been the largest Education in Emergencies responses in 2015 in terms of direct beneficiaries. Participation in UN clusters has allowed FCA to share its knowledge and expertise, and FCA has become a known and respected actor in national education clusters. Government of Nepal’s Ministry of Finance felicitated FCA with a letter of appreciation for its outstanding works to respond to education in emergency in time.

FCA’s strategic focus on youth - and in particular on youth in need of second chances - has increasingly been realised in 2015 through emphasis on youth programming – as has been the case in FCA’s Country Programmes e.g. in Jordan (Syrian refugee youth), Liberia (Ivorian refugee youth) and Uganda (Congolese refugee youth). In addition, a number of projects providing access to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) have been launched. FCA has gained a lot of valuable understanding on working with crisis affected youth.

During 2015, **FCA has supported vocational and skills training for youth in seven countries**, namely Uganda, Congo DRC, Sierra-Leone, Liberia, South-Sudan, Jordan and Nepal (in Uganda and Jordan projects have been self-implemented). Numbers of beneficiaries are still relatively small, 2,500 in 2015, for different reasons. The international education community and donors have begun only recently - thanks to Sustainable Development Goals – to increase their focus and support to vocational education. In addition, FCA’s strategic decision to work in fragile situations means that new initiatives can be extremely challenging to realise: it can be difficult to identify duty-bearers in the first place and they might not have resources to expand education services outside the compulsory education. Supporting the initiation of new types of educational services demands a lot of efforts and



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capacity also from FCA's staff and partners. In refugee contexts there are additional challenges related to refugee policy. *All in all, there is a huge need for more flexible solutions in post-primary education, which is a challenge also to FCA.*

FCA has provided literacy training for example in Haiti, Jordan, Nepal, Liberia and Guatemala. There is a constant need to integrate literacy and numeracy training also to vocational education due to the interruption of educational paths of the crisis affected youth.

Year 2015 FCA took steps towards increasing **support to urban refugees**. Jordan office expanded their work from the Syrian refugee camps into the urban communities by building facilities for new activities for four Host Community Centers in Amman and around.

Developments and Challenges in 'Access to Education'

Many access related challenges necessitate efficient advocacy and collaboration with the Ministries and education partners. Refugee education can be a highly politicised and emotive issue for host governments, refugee communities and countries of origin. Curriculum decisions relate to access to examinations and certification and can have far-reaching implications for refugee children and youth, in particular to their future educational and livelihood opportunities. UNHCR's new education policy encourages co-operation with national education authorities for early adoption and/or transition to use of the country of asylum curriculum in refugee settings. Displacement data shows that close to two-thirds of refugees are displaced for more than five years, and the average period of displacement is 20 years. The data suggests that in most refugee contexts, education services need to be provided for at least a medium term. Use of country of asylum curriculum provides access to accredited, supervised and accountable education services.

FCA has faced challenges related to refugees' access to certification and recognition of studies. In Liberia FCA implemented and supported secondary schools in three refugee camps. After Ebola, intensive English classes were provided to all students and staff to support reinsertion into the Liberian system from the Ivorian system (from French system into English). In Jordan, refugee students have very limited access to vocational education. This issue is politically sensitive and it demands advocacy efforts by education partners jointly to address the issue - in order not to put one partner in danger.

2. Quality of education is improved

FCA has constructed **learning spaces** mainly in large scale emergencies, where the numbers are huge; with 170 temporary learning spaces (TLS) (equal 333 classrooms) FCA was one of the biggest NGOs in Education in Emergencies in Nepal Earthquake Response. In South-Soudan FCA constructed 35 temporary learning spaces in conflict affected areas. In CAR FCA has rehabilitated 84 schools damaged and destroyed by armed groups. Permanent school construction has taken place in Haiti (16 classrooms) and Uganda (10), but also a growing number of schools have been constructed for technical and vocational education: one in Haiti, one in Uganda. Rehabilitation of two vocational and skills training institutes has taken place in Sierra Leone and seven in Jordan. Construction of TVET institutions is a new element in FCA's R2E implementation. It has some unique features as the learning environment needs to support work-based learning and entrepreneurship training (need for specific spaces for showrooms, ateliers, shops and restaurants). This is an example of how infrastructure and physical learning space are linked with the quality of education.

FCA has shifted the focus more and more to **quality of education**. The main activity for improving quality is supporting and implementing of **teacher training**. The second most important activity is to provide **teaching and learning materials**. It has been noted that it is not sufficient just to distribute materials – teachers should also be trained in how to use this new material. This valuable lesson was learnt in Nepal.

FCA has organised **a number of teacher trainings** in almost all of the education projects. The contents of trainings vary: the most common were learner centered teaching methods, inclusive education, DRR, WASH and school safety, psychosocial support and life skills and the use of different materials in teaching. Most of the teacher training is in-service training. Year 2015 FCA supported pre-service teacher training only in two Country Programmes, namely South-Sudan and Eritrea. A total of 3114 teachers were trained, 2 782 were teachers in-services and 332 teacher students in teacher training institutes. FCA is developing its approach in teacher education towards holistic and long term **Teacher's Professional Development**.

Eritrea has been a unique case within FCA's R2E with the particular focus on **building the capacity of two teacher education institutes**. Quality education is a key concern for the Government. Through a range of professional development activities conducted by FCA staff and Teachers without Borders volunteers Faculty staff reported improved understanding and capacity to implement graduate level leadership programmes, integrate ICT into their teaching practice, conduct research, and promote critical thinking and inquiry-based learning in their classrooms. An action plan for developing Eritrea's first national innovation hub was also created. In terms of FCA's approach it has proven effective to have mentors/ education specialists based in Asmara and embedded in the institutions – this leads to a much deeper and sustained impact than visiting consultants. This approach could be considered also in other Country Programmes for capacity building and development of educational institutes.

In 2015, FCA strengthened collaboration with National Ministries of Education to reach lasting results. Often there is a natural entry point to the **sector development**, originating from ongoing programme work that provides opportunities to the collaboration with national education authorities at different levels. FCA has also facilitated collaboration between Ministry of Education in Finland and the Ministries of Education in our partnering countries.

Exchange in education practices and study visits are a key to foster partnerships and common understanding. FCA invites high-level education sector stakeholders to learn about the solutions developed in Finland and to introduce Finland's policy in education sector reform.

Year 2015 Minister of Education in Central African Republic Mr. Elois Anguimate and his delegation visited Finland invited by FCA. During the visit CAR Minister of Education and FCA signed a Memorandum of Understanding. FCA continued also close collaboration with Ministries of Education in Cambodia, Eritrea and Haiti.

Development and Innovations in R2QE

Year 2015 FCA initiated a big number of new innovations and openings in Quality Education.

- A unique pilot initiative was developed between MoEYS, FCA and Teachers without Borders in Cambodia. 15 teachers and education staff from four schools were trained during seven months in **career counselling**; these teachers became the first ever career counsellors in Cambodia. As a result of this pilot training, important changes were identified in terms of professional growth and core competencies of career counsellors during the seven months training, particularly in professional identity. In addition, changes in students' attitude towards school, studies and future were identified. The amount of dropouts diminished clearly, and schools identified career guidance as the main reason of this development. This collaboration resulted in MoEYS incorporating career counselling in the national curriculum.
- Towards the end of 2015, DFID funded a pilot educational project for refugee teachers in Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. This was an innovative initiative which focused on the use of mobile phones (SMS and WhatsApp Messenger) **to support a larger teacher training programme through mobile mentoring (m-mentoring)**. Post-training support helped teachers apply what they had learned. During the m-mentoring prototype, teachers received instructional support tips and motivational quotes about classroom management. This pilot project continues with a new phase with increasing focus on coaching and mentoring refugee teachers.
- The development of the **FCA Teacher Training Package** started in December 2015. Based on the teacher training material developed in Uganda by Teachers without Borders volunteers, the following basic modules for teachers were identified: 1) Learner-centered approach, 2) Inclusive education, 3) Protective education and 4) Community Based Psychosocial Support. Two support modules were identified: one for parents and one for religious leaders. (See chapter II for Teacher without Borders.)
- In 2015, FCA launched **three pilot projects in order to develop learning environments**: Cambodia office assessed and planned a model school prototype, which is based on an initiative of the Ministry of Education. Ugandan office built an efficient vocational school in Rwamwanja refugee settlement. School environment supports work-based learning and entrepreneurship training, providing internships for students in workshops, fields and in the restaurant. Nepal office built very efficiently 170 temporary learning spaces after the earthquake and it enabled to get additional funding from UNICEF to build more. In addition to these Nepal office can build 15 more resilient learning space models and in one site also using structures based on a plastic recycling innovation.
- An **Emergency Special Needs Education project** was initiated to South Sudanese Refugees in Adjumani refugee settlement in Uganda to reach children with

disabilities. 75 teachers were trained in special needs and inclusive education.

Global Development and Advocacy on R2E

In 2015 FCA strengthened its presence within and its contribution to the Global Networks in Education. In addition of being an active member of the Global Education Cluster (see 1.4 for Partnerships and Networking), FCA became a member of the Inter-Agency Network of Education in Emergencies (INEE) and its Working Group on Standards and Practices. The group leads the mobilisation of Education in Emergencies (EiE) knowledge and develops innovative strategies to professionalise capacities within the field of EiE with an overall emphasis on having a clear impact at the field and country-levels. The WG also serves to increase partnerships with the private sector, social innovators from the global North and South, and non-traditional government partners. FCA also became a member of the UNHCR led Refugee Teacher Training Working Group and UNESCO's Teacher Task Force. In addition, year 2015 saw very active local and regional level collaboration and coordination in education and increasing partnerships in particular with UNICEF in different countries.

In 2015, FCA advocated for the Right to Quality Education for all and stressed the need for education also in emergencies and post emergency situations. Despite both parents and children identifying education as one of their highest priority needs in emergencies, less than two percent of all humanitarian funding has gone to education. On a global level, the key advocacy focus on this aspect was on the sustainable development goal 4 and Agenda 2030.

In addition, FCA worked closely with Governments of Finland, Sweden, Germany, the US as well as with the EU and UN with a view to contribute to strengthening the international engagement with Eritrea and to explain FCA's Right to Education programme work in the country. International interest in FCA's experiences in Eritrea was significant.

Together with the Cambodian Ministry of Education and Sport FCA organised an international Education Conference and took part in education sector advocacy co-operation between Finland and the US. The latter was facilitated by Finland's Independence Fund and the focus was on global education crisis including education in emergencies and the possible new partnership to support developing countries education sector.

1.3.6 Right to Peace (R2P)

In 2015, FCA worked in eight countries with ongoing conflicts. Almost all of our programme countries belong to regional conflict systems and are affected on one way or another by the conflict.

In response to the fast changing and alarming situation in many countries, FCA has been focusing its work on two main mechanisms:

- Work through its current programme, either directly or indirectly, both as FCA co-implementing with partners and as facilitator and

Snapshot of FCA's Right to Peace (R2P) programme in 2015

- Overall, FCA was engaged globally in over 400 local level peace processes, and 20 national and sub-national level peace processes
- FCA has worked with over 1,000 actors in local level, at least 50% of which are traditional and religious actors
- Over 1,500 young women and men were included in peace processes across different levels

- As the secretariat of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers (see also the chapter on the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers, 2 II).

Progress of the R2P objectives

1. Local communities in fragile contexts have enhanced capacity to prevent and resolve violent conflicts, using inclusive mechanisms and focusing on the respect for human rights.

FCA and its partners were able to achieve relevant results, working through bottom-up approaches and starting on local level in many of its programme countries. FCA added value comes from its ability to engage different actors in society, may it be on different levels (vertical inclusion) and across different segments of society (horizontal inclusion). The inclusion of clans in developing federalism in Somalia presents for example of vertical inclusion. Horizontal may refer to collaboration of different groups on local level. Inclusivity challenges the traditional notions of so-called 'official' peace actors, incorporating local and grassroots actors in addition to conflict parties and other state actors. By linking these stakeholders, peace process (sometimes called infrastructures for peace) facilitates greater communication, collaboration and co-ordination between diverse stakeholders to increase collective action.

FCA continues to produce results in fragile contexts being part of a broader peacemaking community. In most conflicts, FCA cannot produce sustainable results alone.

Inter and Intra Community

In sub-Saharan Africa FCA especially focused on traditional and religious peace makers and bottom-up peace processes:

- In **Kenya**, FCA facilitated work on **nine peace agreements** signed in five counties. FCA has facilitated or contributed to over **250 local peace processes**. Those processes brought together intra- and inter-communal stakeholders. In addition, the processes clearly linked rights-holder and duty-bearers in an attempt to create appropriate and sustainable peace support mechanism. Stakeholders included for example religious leaders, traditional leaders, influential opinion leaders, representatives from conflict parties, women, youth, local and national government. As result of these interventions, communities have equally demonstrated commitment towards a peaceful co-existence; exhibited by the fact

that communities through their representatives can now confidently call for emergency peace dialogue meetings amongst themselves without necessarily seeking FCA to support the process.

- In **South Sudan**, FCA facilitated community level dialogue. Through a project supported by IOM (International Organisation for Migration), with funding from the EU Peace and Stability Quick Impact Fund, peaceful relations among age-set groups in Pibor County were also promoted through income generation activities. This was effective in cementing gains and transforming attitudes towards peace. The chance to earn a livelihood can be equated as peace dividends resulting from the prevalence of peace. This therefore encourages those involved in disruptive behaviour such as cattle rustling or age set fighting, and in many cases out-of-work youth, to engage them instead in productive activities that have demonstrated to result in earning an income.
- In **Somalia** FCA supported peace and state-building processes on multiple levels. On the local level, FCA has supported the re-establishment of the Common Peace Committee, a regional structure in charge of conflict resolution in the region of Bay and Bakool. As a result of the very substantial intra- and inter-clan reconciliation work, FCA is increasingly supporting evolving governance and federalist structure development. In relation with the administration formation process FCA and partners resolved **29 inter-clan conflicts** in Galmudug (26 in Dhusamareb and 3 in Adado). Here the bottom-up peace-making as an enabler for governance on different levels can be clearly demonstrated. The resolution of inter-clan conflicts paved the way for the administration conference to take place and produce desired results.

Intra- and inter group processes

In order to respond to the conflict specific setup and challenges, FCA uses a variety of methods to reconcile or reduce tension between groups. FCA may address religious, ethnic, age, and political dimensions of conflict or a combination thereof. As a global player, FCA needed to respond to the combination as required by the conflict context:

- In **Central African Republic (CAR)**, this means that FCA addressed both the intra-Muslim tensions while also following-up on working through the religious undercurrent of the recent national conflict. In **South Sudan**, the focus is on intra- and inter-ethnic groups.
- Power balance and analysis has been a very central concern in many interventions. For example, in **Nepal**, community level tensions between former-bonded labours and their ex-masters have been minimised to establish social harmony. Debt dismissal campaigns and interaction between freed Haliyas and their ex-masters was successful to dismiss the loan of 22 freed Haliyas. The ex-masters played an important role to rehabilitate freed Haliyas. Aiming at social cohesion and harmony, horizontal dialogues between freed Haliyas and their ex-masters have been carried out. Such dialogues focussed acquiring land from the masters amicably and fixing fair

wage rate for skilled and unskilled labour. Local conflicts related to land, labour and loan have been minimised through mediation and counselling. Similarly, freed Haliyas and ex-masters have jointly carried out income generation activities through which socio-economic harmony and co-existence persisted.

Taking just the countries where FCA works, **youth are the majority** in terms of percentage of total population: today, out of 1.8 billion young people, about nine out of 10 people between the ages 10 and 24 live in less developed countries. Youth present the potential for change, and are known to adapt quickly to changing circumstances. Yet, they are often excluded from meaningful participation. In the recent years youth have increasingly become a focus of FCA's work. While responding context specifically, FCA has created spaces for youth to influence as peace assets and peacemakers:

- In **Cambodia** 210 youth joined the Changemaker (CM) network and increased their capacities in democratic participation. 100 members attended 53 meetings/workshops, four representatives participated in international political processes such as the ASEAN Youth forum. Recommendations to important statements were produced, including a Cambodian Youth Forum statement to government emphasizing issues such as right to education; land rights, corruption and freedom of expression. CM representatives also contributed to ASEAN People's Statement regarding human rights and CSO engagement.
- In **Palestine**, FCA's partner PCPD is working with youth on local and district levels, mobilising like-minded youth in various locations across the West Bank and designing initiatives to advocate for just peace through a solid understanding of international human rights standards and principles. In total FCA, through supporting PCPD has supported 72 local level and 21 district level processes, involving 1630 women and 917 youth.

In many and within many contexts, youth have limited access to (political) decision making at different levels, often limited job opportunities and limited access to formal education. In addition and possibly related to the above, youth are involved in violent conflicts. Similar to other actors, young men and women may positively contribute to the transformation of violent conflict, or indeed driving violent conflict. In this context, political conflict, which may include religious undercurrents or so-called violent extremism, needs to be understood and challenged in order to improve the sustainability of peace processes.

- FCA worked especially with youth in **Kenya** on problematising radicalisation: In seven county, six sub-county and four national processes FCA work has worked with youth on dialogue processes about the challenge of extremism and entry points for positive change.

Overall, FCA can demonstrate through its results that bottom-up processes contribute to the legitimacy of informal and formal peace structures at all levels. Such

legitimacy is essential in order for the process to be viable and sustainable.

2. Duty-bearers and intermediaries have the capacity to bear their responsibility to protect citizens from violent conflict, with focus on supporting community resilience

FCA's focus in its peace work has been on a different civil society actors and their role on peacemaking and peacebuilding. In order to make progress though on peacemaking, FCA engages also governments and UN agencies in order to support peace processes and protection of civilians.

- In **Somalia**, FCA has played a substantial role in the development of federal state structures. The Central Regions Peace Initiative Project has addressed long-standing grievances through reconciliation, and support and facilitate a peaceful federal state-formation process in the Central regions of Somalia. Due to developments in the political context, support to creating a governance structure became a priority as it was estimated that enhanced stability in the Central Regions through consultations and dialogues may lead to reconciliation and improved governance within and between the participating parties. FCA contributed to major changes and results: in January 2015, some of the clans started a reconciliation meeting in Dhusamareb on their own initiative. The administration formation process ended on 5.7.2015, when the state president was elected by the new state assembly, making Central Regions the first interim administration with a parliament, parliament speaker, and draft charter in place before the selection of the president. This got a lot of praise both from Somali government and clans and the international community, as the Central Regions state formation process has generally been considered one of the hardest ones in Somalia due to the area's multitude of clans and violent past. While these results are impressive as such, also the process quality itself manage to produce impressive results likely to increase the sustainability of the administration formation process: for example the process indicator required to have at least 80 % of the 11 clans of Central Regions are represented in the Delegation of the Interim Administration formation process, yet the project achieved 100%. Similarly encouraging, the actual financial community contribution to the process was double as high as originally required.

Different forms of dialogue, including national dialogue, are a central tool for peace processes. **The Second Conference on Non-Formal Dialogue processes and National Dialogues** was organised by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Finland together with a NGO consortium consisting of Finn Church Aid, Crisis Management Initiative, Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission and Common Space Initiative/UNDP. Overall the conference consisted of 18 sessions and workshops over three days with 220 professionals and practitioners of the field of mediation and peacebuilding coming together in an

exchange of thoughts and experiences. Here especially the exchange between actors representing state institutions and other actors was useful. FCA together with the consortium provided a much needed space for joint reflection and in-depth discussion between practitioners, stakeholders and experts involved in or working with dialogue processes in different contexts. Key results include joint analysis of the developments, trends, best practices and challenges pertaining to informal dialogue processes and National Dialogues, including local and national peace infrastructures and inside mediation. The conference has been particularly timely in the context of strong non-state actors as conflict parties. It brought together experiences especially from Myanmar, Yemen, Somalia and Tunisia. Through presentation of these countries it was possible to analyse challenging change processes in the midst of respective mediation and peacebuilding efforts.

3. Religious and traditional leaders are positively contributing to conflict prevention, mediation, conflict resolution and reconciliation, while promoting and respecting human rights

FCA's niche area of working with and through religious and traditional peacemakers aims at meaningful inclusion of religious and traditional actors in peacebuilding and –making is improving the quality of peace processes and contributes to the sustainability of peace outcomes. This objective works defacto cross-level from local, via national to international levels. [please also the more detailed section on “Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers” in chapter 2., II.].

- In **CAR** FCA continued to support the intra-Muslim reconciliation. The Network organised four preparatory visits to Central African Republic (CAR) and meetings with government authorities and local and international stakeholders to facilitate communication between them and the Muslim community. Building on these consultations, the Central African Republic - CAR Technical Meeting, hosted by KAICIID in Vienna on 26-27 August 2015, convened six delegates from CAR representing local administration, women's groups, and religious leaders of Muslim communities. The CAR Technical Meeting provided the representatives, the organising partners - the Network and KAICIID Dialogue Centre together with OIC and the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies - and selected key stakeholders an opportunity to assess the current situation and topical issues in CAR from the perspective of various Muslim communities, to agree on the best way forward, and to explore how this joint initiative can support the capacity and agency of Muslim groups in CAR. The technical meeting provided an opportunity for the two disputed Imams of the CAR delegation to directly address and discuss their disagreements pertaining to peacebuilding in CAR face-to-face for the first time in six years. This constituted a significant milestone in the intra-Muslim reconciliation process overall.



Daniel Fekete, Hungarian Interchurch Aid

- In **South Sudan**, the approach is slightly different; Religious actors are contributing to the transformation of political and ethnic conflicts, through so called faith-oriented insider mediators. As national and internal actors (compared to external mediators), insider mediators are working often behind the scenes and use their influence and legitimacy to constructively alter the behavior and relationships of parties in conflict. Using facilitation, dialogue and mediation, they work horizontally and vertically, formally and informally, at local, regional and national levels. Following by the collapsed round of peace talks in March 2015, the South Sudanese Church leaders decided to hold a consultation meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia between the 13th and the 16th of April 2015, on how to bring the warring parties back to the negotiating table. Church leaders agreed to be more active and vocal in advocating for peace, and renewed their commitment in bringing sustainable peace to South Sudan. During the meeting, Ethiopian church leaders, WCC, AACC and ACT Alliance members expressed their support to the work of the religious leaders.

25 South Sudanese church leaders, along with lay members and partners, met for a retreat in Kigali, Rwanda between the 1st and the 7th of June 2015, to reflect, to learn and to come up with a concrete plan of action to advance peace and reconciliation in South Sudan. On the 8th of August 2015, South Sudanese church leaders officially launched its Peace Process in a public event that brought together interfaith religious leaders, NGOs, CSOs, members of the international community, government representatives and the press.

The capacity of religious and traditional actors to support each other even across national borders has been recognised and promising practice has been created around this approach, for example in Libya and Asia (See more in chapter 2. III.). At the same time, faith and

tradition-oriented dialogues need to be complemented by other more inclusive peace support mechanisms, to ensure human rights at large are taken into account. FCA has invested in ensuring that not only high-level peace processes are more inclusive, but to ensure the often patriarchic and conservative structures of religious and traditional actors are challenged to become more inclusive, in line with UNSCR 1325 and 2250 [see Network section for more details].

Development in R2P programme

Our programme experiences show a clear direction in line with our theory of change: **bottom-up peace making and community peace-building provides an important basis from which other interventions can be and should be developed.** Somalia provides a classical example of bottom-up governance strengthening. Elsewhere, the relative peace is used as a starting point to work on development outcomes as a sustainability mechanism. Facilitating opportunities for political and economic inclusion while at the same time preventing political violence and so-called ‘violent extremism’ gets increasingly attention. This means that FCA is continuing to advance consolidated peace through extending its hybrid approach of peacebuilding and conflict transformation to sustainable development outcomes and peace dividends. FCA puts the peace process and the “right to live in peace” into the center and works with actors which are often excluded, such as faith-oriented actors, women, and youth.

In 2015, FCA has invested in its programme development and focused on some peace actors to increase our programme reflection and increase our depth of analysis. FCA's commissioned regional comparative study (Somalia, Northern Kenya) has documented FCA's generic model of community reconciliation as a local and sustainable peace support structure, based on experiences in Somalia and Northern Kenya. As result FCA has received credible

evidence for its direction to work across peacemaking levels and peace outcomes. FCA's efforts have included and continue to include aspects of capacity-building and facilitation of more official-level negotiations that go beyond – while supporting – community reconciliation or mediation efforts. FCA and its partners have worked with diverse actors at different “tracks”. The study findings and the direction of the Somalia Country Programme are well aligned.

FCA has also commissioned studies on in depth and participatory conflict assessment in Syria and in Myanmar, paying especially attention to different levels of peace actors as well as their understanding of peace. On both an analytical as well as a policy level, observers often put most of their attention on national conflict dynamics and they see political and military elites as most important actors to make peace. The studies are considering well local conflict dynamics and views on the conflict. FCA will use the findings of the highly complex conflict systems for its programming in 2016.

In addition, FCA and the Network have commissioned a study to identify more broadly the needs of religious and traditional peacemakers to better contribute to the constructive transformation of violent conflicts. A key result from the study is a suggested framework for conceptualising and contextualising tradition- & faith-oriented insider mediators (TFIMs) as a specific subset of insider mediators and religious and traditional peacemakers;

FCA sees important elements for development on its radar: those include for example how peace processes can be better linked to consolidated peace. This is also in line with the broader Agenda 2030 goal setting, of the “right to live in peace” not being limited to absence of violence at large, but also including peace dividends. FCA aspires to work through fully inclusive processes. However, the number of male and female participants largely depends on the context of the peace process and the starting point of the activity. In Nepal for example, more women than men were included. In Somalia, even though much less women than men were represented, having at least some representation of women in peace processes is a step forward. While numbers of peace processes on different level provide interesting overview, FCA's peace work and its progress reporting is largely depending on the combination of quantitative and qualitative analysis, as peace processes are highly contextual.

Global Advocacy on R2P

FCA, UNDP and the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) organised in co-operation with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland in June 2015 a high-profile conference on Inclusivity in Fragile States. The conference discussed especially Somalia, Sierra Leone and Afghanistan. It was attended by representatives of civil society organisations incl. a traditional leader, and the Government officials from the three countries. The conference highlighted the crucial role that non-state actors play in fragile settings, suggested ways to enhance inclusive approaches in building resilience in fragile states and through this, impact.

The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers Gender Working Group contributed to the UNSCR 1325 review process by feeding in recommendations on women of faith's engagement in peacemaking efforts in protracted conflicts to ensure this focus is highlighted and woven throughout actions in the future. Also, the Network Secretariat took part in the Inter-Agency Working Group that took a vital lead in advancing UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security.

In 2015, FCA continued to support the drafting of the Declaration on Human Right to Peace through the co-operation with Costa Rica. The Costa Rican UN Mission led the work to find consensus on text of the Declaration. FCA support ensured that Costa Rican Mission was able to allocate needed resources to the consultations and seeking consensus among the UN Member States. In the end, the Human Rights Council could not agree on the wording and thus the Declaration was not adopted. The process however was well documented, many key issues on Right to Peace were debated in Geneva and in the capitals. Furthermore, UNESCO initiated late 2015 a project to build on the results of the Costa Rican led working group.

1.3.7 Advocacy

2015 was an exceptional and extremely busy year in advocacy work for FCA. During the year Finland's newly elected Government decided to cut its official development aid by 43 per cent, the number of refugees arriving to Europe increased unexpectedly throwing Europe into a refugee reception crisis and three major UN decision-making conferences - development finance, sustainable development goals and climate change – took place. FCA together with its partners advocated actively on these topics and raised awareness and public discussion especially on official development aid and refugees highlighting the situation in the countries of origin and the importance of addressing the root causes.

In its programme countries, FCA continued to support its local partners' advocacy initiatives in order to strengthen the voice and capacity of local communities both within their countries as well as in raising the issues to global level.

In the Country Programmes over 40 advocacy initiatives took place. As a result pressing questions in relation to education, peace and livelihood were brought up to decision-makers attention and some improvements were realised (see chapters 1.3.4 – 1.3.6 and Country Programme reports in chapters 2. I.). Yet, in many of FCA's programme countries, a further reduction of civil society space was evident which challenged advocacy work. In some of the countries new laws were passed with restrictions on NGOs and in others political environment towards NGOs continuously hardened. This led FCA to carefully weigh the risks versus benefits of its advocacy work. Also alternative strategies to direct advocacy had to be considered.

In 2015, FCA enhanced its advocacy capacity and appointed an Advocacy Manager, established a matrix Advocacy Core Team within the Head Office in Helsinki and an Extended Advocacy Team with Advocacy Focal Points in the programme countries. The new structures improved

FCA's internal advocacy coordination, which strengthened bridging advocacy from programme countries to Finland and to global level.

The following paragraphs give an overview of the most salient aspects of the advocacy work FCA conducted within this context.

Development Policy and Funding

In the beginning of the year a former Finnish Diplomat Matti Kääriäinen published a book “Kehitysavun kirous” in which he claimed that development co-operation had not brought about any positive results. That was a kick start for a yearlong discussion on the benefits and results of development co-operation and humanitarian aid, which was heightened during the debates prior to Parliamentary elections in April and culminated with the newly elected centre-right government deciding to cut development assistance by 43 per cent and shift focus towards private sector.

FCA took an active part in the public and political discussions showing the benefits and result of development co-operation through its work and highlighted the negative effects that proposed financial cuts would lead to. FCA was interviewed in 10 TV programmes and at least in 9 radio programmes on the topic. According to the media follow up, FCA and development aid cuts were referred to in printed and electronic media 102 times throughout the year. FCA issued 15 press releases, wrote several articles highlighting the good results of its work, published countless messages on social media (twitter, Facebook and Instagram) and set up a webpage on the cuts with info graphs.

In addition, FCA was in contact with all the members of the Parliament, wrote letters and had numerous meetings with the key decision makers including the new Ministers. FCA was heard in the Parliamentary hearing on the topic and provided written statements to Parliamentary Committees. FCA called the Government, Parliament and civil servants to consider the consequences of their short sighted politics asking to spare the sector from major cuts or at least to do them in a step wise manner to allow time for humane exits.

In order to strengthen its advocacy, FCA took also part in Finnish development and humanitarian aid organisations joint advocacy efforts. In March FCA together with other NGOs organised a seminar at the Parliament called “Suoraa puhetta kehitysyhteistyöstä” to show the good results of our work and called Members of the Parliament to continue to respect Finland's international commitment to aid. FCA presented results from its Right to Peace (R2P) work in Somalia. The seminar was attended by over 100 people and there were four debates organised in which all the parties of the Parliament were represented. On that day NGOs joint hashtag #eikoyhimmilta reached the highest publicity in social media in Finland. Also a press release was issued.

During the summer, after the newly elected Government had announced its plans to cut development aid, FCA together with the other Finnish NGOs started a joint campaign. The campaign was active in social media with

weekly stories asking to sign a petition to save Finland's development co-operation. The petition was signed by over 41,000 people and handed to Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Lenita Toivakka in September during a mass demonstration for Development Co-operation, which the organisations organised jointly.

At the end of the year FCA together with its ACT Nordic sister agencies – Norwegian Church Aid, Dann Church Aid and Church of Sweden – launched a report “The End of Nordic Exceptionalism?” which sought to answer whether we are seeing the end of Nordic exceptionalism in foreign and development policies and efforts or not? It also described the main features Finland's, Norway's, Sweden's and Denmark's development aid and policies the last 15 years. The report was launched in a high level Nordic Development Conference organised jointly by ACT Nordic in Oslo in November. The Conference was attended by over 250 people with many high level speakers like Jeffrey Sachs, Erik Solheim and Heidi Hautala. In relation to the conference, the ACT Nordic agencies did a joint op-ed⁴ that was published in the main newspapers of Finland, Norway, Denmark and Sweden. In addition, Helsingin Sanomat published Jeffrey Sachs's article calling for the Nordics to continue its exceptional foreign and development policy instead of cutting their aid budgets.

FCA's advocacy work succeeded in providing a strong counter voice against those questioning the benefits and results of development co-operation both in the public and in political debates. Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee unanimously recommended to the Government to return the financial support for NGOs development work after hearing NGOs. This was a rather remarkable advocacy result because the Government parties are all well represented in the Committee and it has a lot of respect. In addition, the opposition parties publicly supported the abolishment of the cuts. Despite all the advocacy efforts, the Government Finland stuck to its decision and cut development aid by 43 per cent.

Once the new Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Toivakka took office, she started the process of drafting a new development policy. FCA took active part in commenting it and advocating for the importance of continuous commitment to human rights-based approach, education, peace and civil society space. There were also many discussions on the role of private sector and the rules that it should adhere to. In addition, FCA took actively part in the advocacy work of the Friday Group (a sub group of the Population and Development all party group of the Parliament of Finland) which specially focuses on gender equality and the reduction of inequality as cross cutting objectives of the Finnish development policy as well as the implementation of human rights-based approach.

In 2015, FCA together with 12 other NGOs continued with a joint Parliamentary election campaign called Maaileman taloudentekijät coordinated by KEPA. Campaign's aim was to raise discussion on how sustainable economy could reduce inequality everywhere. The campaign was successful in its use of social media (interactive election debates, internet

4. opinon editorial

videos and blogs). According to Helsinki University research the campaign was one of the most active and interactive twitter campaigns. Also campaigns questions and answers site (vaalikone) was visited over 95,000 times by people looking for information on their candidate. Despite the many positive results, the campaign received critique for not addressing the development fund cuts in a stronger manner.

Refugees

During 2015 Europe faced a major refugee influx from Middle East and Africa and European states were not prepared for it. FCA took an active role in advocacy work highlighting the varying root causes of difficult refugee situation worldwide and the need for support for people as close to their origin as possible. FCA stressed that when people are forced to flee, they need to be treated with dignity, according to international conventions and EU needs to work together and share the responsibility. Development co-operation and humanitarian aid need to be met with adequate and internationally agreed response including funding.

With this regard, FCA wrote several statements and background papers, press releases and articles and spoke in seminars. Refugee questions featured also in FCA's social media. Together with the ACT Nordic sister agencies FCA issued an op-ed, which was published in all the Nordic countries main newspapers. Together with ACT Alliance EU FCA prepared a joint statement to EU governments, which was used for targeted advocacy. FCA was also interviewed in TV, radio and printed media on the topic. In addition, refugee questions featured strongly also in FCA's development aid advocacy work. This work will continue also in 2016 with a help of recently hired European Refugee Crisis Advocacy Officer to the ACT EU.

FCA took refugee question also up in the regular church occasions which FCA arranges on a monthly basis in dioceses around Finland. FCA has also given its' input to the different statements which the church leaders have presented on the refugee issues

In addition, in 2015, FCA highlighted the funding and operational challenges between humanitarian and development co-operation in several background papers and statements. Instead of working separately in humanitarian aid and development assistance, there is a need to combine these two. FCA called for development assistance and long term planning to start from the beginning of the crisis, especially in protracted crises and refugee settings. Funding for the protracted crises should also be flexible, regardless of the nature of work and different funding sources. FCA took the issue also up in the UNHCR NGO consultations in June and in the 66th session of UNHCR Executive committee meeting in the autumn, where FCA participated as a member of the Finnish delegation. Due to FCA's advocacy the issue was raised in Finland's official statements.

Agenda 2030, Climate Change and World Humanitarian Summit (WHS)

2015 was a crucial year for development policies, with a Conference on Finance for Development conference (July), the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (September) and Climate Conference (December) providing

a new direction for international development. In addition, the preparations for the first ever World Humanitarian Summit took place. FCA supported its partners advocacy efforts in programme countries, did joint advocacy together with Finnish NGOs, ACT Alliance EU and ACT Alliance on these topics.

For Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals related advocacy work, FCA continued to work jointly with Finnish NGOs as member of the Finnish NGO's Post-2015 Task Force. In 2015 one of the key outputs of the Task Force was a position paper on Post-2015 agenda, which also presented indicators for each of the sustainable development goals that civil society considered important and provided the reasoning behind them. FCA's focus and contribution was on universality, human rights, gender, education, peace and livelihoods. The positions were provided to the decisions makers and presented at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs NGO consultations in preparation for the Agenda 2030 meetings and in seminars where the topic was discussed. The taskforce also provided various comments and statements throughout the negotiation process. The taskforce met with a representative of the Finnish Statistics Bureau to lobby its indicator related work as the indicators were not negotiated by the governments but the UN Statistic Bureau.

2015 marked a great result for ACT Alliance's climate change advocacy to which FCA has contributed over the years. In the recent years it has been FCA's partners that have worked on the issue more than FCA itself. FCA's Country Programme in Haiti worked on climate change advocacy through supporting the organisation of three workshops with the relevant stakeholders and by supporting the participation of ACT Alliance established Civil Society Advocacy Platform in the CoP 2015 meeting in Paris. In addition, FCA supported the advocacy efforts of the ACT Alliance climate change advocacy by taking part in the climate change campaign, signing ACT's statements and spreading the word on climate pilgrimage. As clear result of ACT Alliance's advocacy the Paris climate agreement recognises loss and damage as a new, third pillar of the post-2020 climate regime, separate from adaptation.

In 2015, FCA participated actively in the preparation for the first World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) to be held in 2016. Among other things FCA took part both in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland consultations in 2015 and WHS Europe consultation arranged by OCHA in Hungary in January 2015.

Advocacy on Human Rights and Gender

FCA together with its partners continued advocacy on international human rights mechanisms like Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and CEDAW processes. In 2015, FCA focused on Nepal and Myanmar and in Haiti and Somalia FCA has supported its partners in preparing and following up for the UPR process where reviews will take place in 2016 (see more in chapter 1.3.2).

FCA participated in the establishment of Side by Side, which is a faith movement for gender justice, initiated by Christian Aid and a group of faith-related development work organisations. In 2015, the movement held several regional workshops to establish regional coalitions to work

on gender justice and explore how people of faith can work for gender justice in their geographical contexts. FCA participated actively in the initial phase of the movement and took part in Eastern Africa Regional workshop held in Nairobi in November.

FCA took part in a campaign against gender based violence, called 16 Days of Activism (26 Nov – 10 Dec) as a part of a coalition of faith-based organisations, including LWF, Anglican Communion, Islamic Relief Worldwide, Mission 21, World Council of Churches, World Communion of Reformed Churches, World YWCA and Church of Sweden. The theme in 2015 was "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World: Make Education Safe for All". The campaign published selected stories on daily basis during the three week period, including FCA programme countries, particularly from I-OPT stories and photos taken by FCA's EAPPI volunteers. FCA staff showed solidarity to the campaign by wearing black every Thursday and posting photos of staff on social media and sharing them in our networks

The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) produced several factsheets about current human rights issues in the West Bank. These were distributed to the public and especially to delegations visiting EAPPI placements. One highlighted the attacks against human rights defenders in Hebron, decreasing their possibilities to provide protective presence to Palestinian schoolchildren, affecting their right to education. It was presented to an UNOCHA delegation visiting Hebron. Soon after, UNOCHA issued a statement saluting the protective presence work, which helped to bring attention to the situation in Hebron.

In summer 2015, EAPPI increased its protective presence in the village of Susiya, threatened by demolition. Advocacy efforts were also strengthened on local and international level. The EAs assisted the local community in hosting over 20 international delegations. The EAPPI International Advocacy Officer delivered a statement to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva about Susiya. EAs sent urgent appeals to MEPs and Special Representative to the EU about the subject, leading to one written parliamentary question

on the subject.

In November 2015, EU issued guidelines on accurate labelling of products from Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. While the interpretative statement is in line with its previous statements and policies, the EU was nonetheless actively affirming its position against the occupation, and taking a stand that the civil society has been calling for. After FCA's campaign for accurate labelling of origin (2012-13), the EAs have been active in the issue, appealing also to MEPs, e.g. during the annual EAPPI lobby trips to Brussels, arranged by WCC. Information about EAPPI advocacy work in Finland can be found in chapter 2. II.

New Deal and Ebola

The New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States from Busan 2011 provided a natural framework for FCA to put rights-based approach in action with its emphasis on state society relations, accountability and structural change needed to build more resilient state. A special focus in New Deal implementation in 2015 was the nexus between New Deal and Ebola response. FCA appointed an Executive Representative towards Ebola Response with special focus on global advocacy and coordination. This temporary re-assignment lasted until July 2015.

The Ebola outbreak posed a risk to the fragile West African states that threatened not just individuals and communities, but the state structures at large. FCA organised jointly with UNDP and the International Dialogue (IDPS) secretariat a workshop to find practical ways in learning lessons from New Deal framework to the Ebola response. Furthermore, FCA staff was asked by IDPS to carry out a short-term consultancy to deepen the workshop results. These recommendations fed into the International Donor conference in July 2015 in New York.

FCA commissioned a study "Gendered Impacts on Ebola in Liberia" as a response to highlighting the need to pay attention to gendered impacts crisis have on vulnerable groups of people, most of the girls and women. The study was widely distributed within FCA networks, through ReliefWeb, to UN Women Liberia and the international actors working in the region.



Ville Palonen

1.3.8 Humanitarian assistance

FCA received 8,8 MEUR to be used in humanitarian assistance, reconstruction and mine action programmes in 2015. The funding from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) for FCA's humanitarian aid in 2015 was 5,9 MEUR. Humanitarian Mine Action continued in Angola and Cambodia, the total funding from the MFA in 2015 being 0,8 MEUR.

In 2015, funds granted by the MFA for humanitarian assistance were mainly targeted to FCA's programme countries, where the humanitarian situation continues to be fragile, due to conflicts or post-conflict situations in the country or region. These were Nepal, Central African Republic (CAR), Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Myanmar, South Sudan, Somalia, Uganda and Jordan.

FCA used a total of 900 000 EUR from its' own disaster fund for humanitarian assistance in 2015. Most of own funds were targeted to CAR, Nepal, Syria, Uganda, DRC, Ukraine, South Sudan, Liberia, Myanmar, Serbia, Hungary and Greece.

On 25 April 2015 a 7,8 magnitude earthquake occurred in Nepal. FCA started its response immediately by channelling funds to meet the immediate needs of affected people. FCA distributed food packs, shelter materials, non-food items and started its Education in Emergency interventions. A construction team was established and an education specialist recruited in early May. The response efforts resulted construction of 170 temporary school buildings (333 classrooms) to which FCA distributed learning and teaching materials. Teacher training was also organised in teaching methods and psychosocial support to bridge the education gap caused by the devastating earthquake.

Until the end of August, refugee and migrant arrivals to Europe in 2015 hit 267,000. The majority of those taking the route to Europe were refugees coming from Syria, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Iraq and Somalia and their numbers continued to rise rapidly. FCA through its' ACT Alliance members in Greece, Hungary and Serbia provided humanitarian assistance including food, shelter, necessary non-food items and clean water to the refugees.

FCA has invested a lot in the global fundraising in 2015, such as applying funds from ECHO and UN organisations. Humanitarian funds granted by UN or other international donors were mainly targeted to CAR, Jordan and Somalia in 2015.

FCA participated also in the UNHCR NGO consultation in June and in the 66th session of UNHCR Executive committee meeting in the autumn as a member of the Finnish delegation. The main messages from the meetings were a shift from refugee camp settings towards integration of refugees to the host communities and education was set high in the priority list. FCA has continued the co-operation with UNICEF in the global and country level. FCA is an active member in the Global Education Cluster. According to the agreement between FCA and UNICEF, FCA seconded by its own funds one stand-by personnel, who was a member of the Education Cluster Rapid Response Team. He worked in CAR and Nepal to coordinate the cluster work in 2015.

There was a lot of humanitarian advocacy done in 2015 due to the financial cuts from MFA, but also due to the changes in the working environment and policy discussions. It became clear that working in silos does not function anymore between humanitarian assistance and development co-operation, and actors have to find new flexible working ways and solutions. Instead of working separately in humanitarian aid and development assistance, there is a need to combine these two. Development assistance and long term planning should start from the beginning of the crisis, especially in protracted crisis and refugee settings. Funding for the protracted crisis should also be flexible, regardless of the nature of work and different funding sources. FCA has actively taken up these issues both in Finland and global forums.

FCA participated also actively in the preparations and Europe regional consultation and hearings of the World Humanitarian Summit which will be arranged in May 2016.

Humanitarian Roster

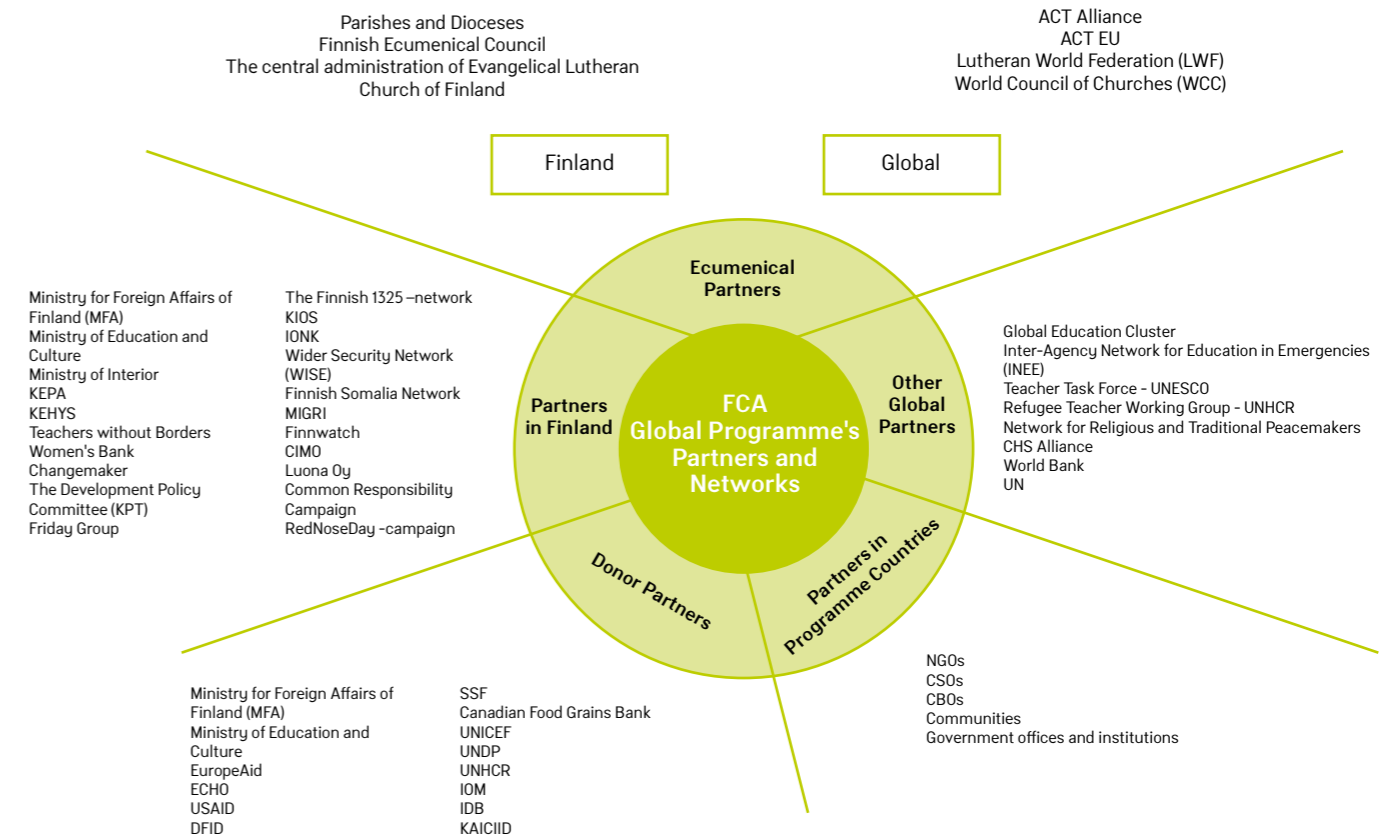
The Humanitarian Roster is one of FCA's means of maintaining and enhancing the organisation's capacity to react in a rapid and efficient way, especially in the context of sudden disasters. Development of the Roster will continue in line with the broader aim of enhancing the rapid response capacity of FCA and of providing qualified human resources to its humanitarian operations.

Since 2008 FCA has recruited over 180 roster members with a variety of professional backgrounds. New members are normally accepted once a year, after successfully completing a four-day Basic Training Course. Since 2013, shortlisted candidates have been interviewed before being accepted to the course. This has proved to be highly useful in order to ensure that the selected members have skills relevant to FCA's strategic focus, are motivated and available for deployments when needed.

During the past years the number of applications has been rising considerably, especially from international candidates. In 2015, altogether 181 applications were received, of which 22 were selected and participated in the Basic Training Course. The focus in the selection was on professionals of humanitarian aid and education, with a few logisticians and communication specialists also included.

By providing additional capacity building to Roster members FCA aims at enhancing their strategic skills, and thus ensuring the quality of FCA humanitarian response. In 2015, training courses were organised on Education in Emergencies and SPHERE standards, with participation of both roster members and FCA staff.

During 2015, 12 Roster members were assigned to altogether 14 field missions of different lengths, seven of them to Nepal. Other areas of assignments were Central African Republic, DCR, Uganda and Kenya. In addition, one Roster member was hired to a long-term position in the organisation and another for a short-time assignment as an education specialist in the HQ. The main sectors of assignments were coordination of humanitarian aid, education in emergencies and construction.



1.4 Partnerships and Networks

Finn Church Aid (FCA) works together with a number of partners and networks. As a faith-based organisation FCA has developed special expertise in working with other faith-based organisations. FCA emphasises ecumenical and inter-faith co-operation and adherence to humanitarian principles and human rights. FCA works also with secular, often grass-root organisations.

International Partners and Networks

FCA is a founding member and one of the main stakeholders of **ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together)**, which is coalition of more than 140 churches and affiliated organisations working together in over 100 countries on three targeted areas: humanitarian aid, development and advocacy. ACT Alliance is supported by 25,000 staff from member organisations and it mobilises about EUR 1,5 billion for its work each year. ACT Alliance membership is of major strategic value for FCA.

In 2015, FCA continued worked successfully together with ACT Alliance on several humanitarian operations, helped to draft various policies to improve alliance's development work and advocated jointly on Agenda2030 and its sustainable development goals, World Summit on Humanitarian Aid and climate change. FCA supported ACT Alliance's brand building and communications by seconding its Communications Directors to ACT Alliance for a year. In addition, FCA was nominated to three of ACT Alliance's Advisory Groups: Fundraising, Communications, Media

and Branding and Complaints Handling. FCA was also a member of Community of Practice (CoP) on Gender Equity and Justice as well as CoP on Safety and Security. As the Alliance has grown, in 2015 ACT Secretariat decentralised its functions from Geneva to Bangkok, Nairobi, San Salvador and Amman. The decentralisation was hoped to improve coordination, but as the process was in such early steps in 2015, it was difficult to analyse the results. More detailed information on the co-operation in the field can be found in the Country Programme Reporting chapter (2. I.) of this report.

ACT Alliance EU (see also chapter 1.3.7 Advocacy) is a platform for co-operation for European church-based development organisations related to ACT Alliance. The main objective of ACT Alliance EU is to influence decision-making processes in the European Union institutions as these affect developing countries, in order to promote justice and peace, and the eradication of poverty. ACT Alliance EU has been building its capacity over the years and is very well recognised actor in EU policy making level.

In 2015, FCA worked actively in ACT Alliance EU working groups on Rights and Participation, EC and International Funding for Development and Relief, Gender Reference Group (merged with the ACT Community of Practice Gender Equity and Justice) as well as in two regional groups for Central America and the Middle East. The advocacy work of the before mentioned groups was very active and successful. More detailed information on the results can be found in the advocacy chapter (1.3.7) of this report. In addition FCA was represented in ACT Alliance EU's Policy Advisory Group which supports ACT

Alliance EU on the policy leadership level. During 2015 policy advisory focused on finalising the strategy for ACT EU. A new strategy with new working methods was adopted in spring 2015 with the official launch of ACT Alliance EU. The former name APRODEV was replaced with the new name ACT Alliance EU on January 1st, 2015, but public launch took place in spring.

Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is FCA's oldest and by volume the single largest partner in implementing development and humanitarian aid programmes. In 2015, FCA co-operated with eight LWF Country Programmes managed by LWF Department for World Service. FCA's involvement with World Service is demonstrated later in this report under Country Programmes.

In 2015, FCA also supported LWF Department for Mission and Development Capacity Building programmes. Through these programmes in the field of e.g. disaster preparedness and church sustainability it was possible for FCA to support wider scale of small churches. Supporting churches in rural areas is a successful method to build capacity of such institutions which have been there for a long time and which will stay no matter of catastrophe, conflict or alike. It also links strongly with FCA strategy on empowering local churches via ecumenical alliances and in relation to building capacity for disaster preparedness.

In addition FCA supported LWF Department for Theology and Public Witness, which is responsible for UN advocacy, theological, ecumenical and interfaith work. This department is mandated to advocate towards UN Geneva functions on behalf of the Lutheran Churches worldwide. FCA has collaborated for example with the department in order to link human rights and gender related advocacy efforts in FCA's programme countries with the UN level on issues such as CEDAW and UPR processes. In 2015, FCA organised a joint advocacy training with LWF for Faith Based Organisations with a special focus on Women's human rights together with World Council of Churches (WCC) and World Young Women Christian Association (YWCA). Each participating organisation sent several partners to the one-week training in Geneva.

In addition, FCA supported LWF to revise their planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting system.

World Council of Churches (WCC) is with its 345 members by representation the largest global fellowship of Christian churches. In the field of international diaconia and advocacy work WCC works to engage in Christian service by serving human need, breaking down barriers between people, seeking justice and peace and upholding the integrity of creation. WCC is a longstanding actor in the field of human rights with and towards the UN.

WCC's overarching theme for 2015-2021 is Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace. As the thematic focus of WCC lies strongly on peace it links very well with FCA's strategy. During 2015 FCA worked together with WCC in its planning towards the realisation of the Pilgrimage. More concretely FCA supported WCC's work in the field of interreligious dialogue and co-operation, capacity building for conflict resolutions and reconciliation and specifically focusing on Middle-East peacebuilding. With the outbreak of Ebola,

FCA participated and supported WCC in its efforts to develop tools for alternative burial rituals and practices that are culturally acceptable and avoid the risk of contagion. In addition, FCA DRC Country Office collaborated closely with WCC, which had impact even at global level. DRC was one of WCC's focus countries, and FCA was part of an alliance that organised a side event on DRC during the UN Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva in autumn 2015. One of FCA's DRC staff members was to participate in the event, but unfortunately was not able to. Later in 2015 UN Human Right Council adopted a resolution on DRC, based on this meeting.

A long term co-operation between WCC and FCA continued also in 2015 through EAPPI programme (see chapter 2. III.).

FCA has a four-year framework partnership agreement (2014-2018) with the **European Commission Directorate General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (DG ECHO)** continuing the long-term partnership. The agreement is based on a financial risk assessment of FCA conducted by the Commission and repeated annually to assess the compliance with the conditions and criteria laid down in the Humanitarian Aid Regulation and Financial Regulation.

FCA works closely with the EU delegations and ECHO offices at country level in many programme countries. FCA has been implementing European Union funded development projects since 1995. In 2015 FCA implemented an Education in Emergencies project in Rakhine State, Myanmar under the ECHO Children of Peace Initiative and an EU development project on conflict resolution in South-Central Somalia under the Non-State Actors and Local Authorities programme.

Over the last three years FCA has systematically built partnerships and deeper collaboration with the **UN, World Bank and Regional Development Banks** both on HQ and country levels. The collaboration includes networking, advocacy as well as programme collaboration. FCA is also constantly building relations with international organisations and donors both at a global and local level, as well as with national and local governments in countries of operation. A good example of this kind of collaboration is FCA's and the government of Haiti/FAES (Fonds d'Assistance Economique et Sociale) co-operation and MoU concerning construction of 10 public schools in Haiti. This co-operation is supported and funded by the Finnish MFA and IDB.

UN partnerships FCA works bilaterally with several UN agencies on both global and local levels. The grass-roots collaboration focusses in practice in Humanitarian or Development programmes and on global level in advocacy and innovations creation on our three thematic areas. FCA aims to build close collaboration with the UN Country Offices in various programme countries through cluster / sector working group collaboration or direct partnerships. The UN Country Offices can also support FCA programmes financially when relevant. The co-operation and partnerships on the global level are often linked into advocacy and innovations. FCA's office in Washington DC and presence in New York through Network for Religious

and Traditional Peacemakers enable close co-operation with the UN organisations at the global level.

In 2015, FCA co-operated with UNICEF, UNDP (United Nations Development Program), UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), UNHCR (United Nations Refugee Agency), UN Women and UNFPA, UNSOM (United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia), UNDPA (Department for Political Affairs) and UNHRD (United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot) in various humanitarian situations.

FCA has a formal MoU based partnership with UNHRD concerning humanitarian logistics. FCA and UNICEF signed a MoU in 2012 concerning the Rapid Response Team deployments for Education Clusters in L-3 emergencies. FCA has employed one fulltime expert for use of country cluster activation and coordination. The expert will be seconded to UNICEF. In 2015, FCA and UNESCO started negotiations on future collaboration possibilities and a MoU.

FCA applied **ECOSOC** (United Nations Economic and Social Council) observer status in 2015, which was approved in April 2016. With the observer status FCA can provide written and oral statements to ECOSOC or its major forums including the Human Rights Council and organise jointly with UN agencies "parallel events" in conjunction with Council meetings. Additionally FCA can now better facilitate the international advocacy work of its partners.

FCA represents the ACT Alliance and the faith-based NGO's and co-chairs the **UNDP Civil Society Advisory Committee**. UNDP Civil Society Advisory Board has been involved in UNDP strategy implementation planning, organisational review of UNDP and in Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals preparations. The Committee also advises UNDP on policy issues.

Furthermore FCA co-operated closely with UNDP in Ebola response in Liberia and Sierra Leone in 2015, as well as thematically in nexus between Ebola response and state fragility. FCA and UNDP organised jointly a conference on civil society inclusivity in fragile states with the support of MFA Finland.

UNESCO Teacher Task Force Teachers without Borders network became member of UNESCO teacher Task Force. Task Force annual meeting in December 2015 was postponed and took place in Mexico City in March 2016. The membership was officially approved there. Teacher Task Force advocates for, and facilitates the coordination of international efforts to provide sufficient numbers of well qualified teachers to achieve United Nations Education for All (EFA) goals and later SDGs. The Task Force participates in and supports teacher development initiatives of policy-making and monitoring, knowledge production and resourcing.

The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers (NETW), and FCA as the Secretariat of the Network, has also strong collaboration with various UN agencies as part of the Network activities. The UN-initiated Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers established an office in New York in July 2015 in order to support the meaningful inclusion of religious and traditional peacemakers in UN mediation and peacebuilding processes. While the Network

has co-operated with a number of UN agencies since its inception, including but not limited to UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA), UN Alliance for Civilizations, UN Office of Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities and UN Women, the aim of the New York office is to further that collaboration and strengthen partnerships with entities such as UNDP, Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), Security Council, UN member states missions and peace building civil society present in New York.

As a highlight, the Network Secretariat together with its partners organised a pilot training on Religion and Mediation for UN DPA and Department of Peace Operations' (DPKO) staff in 2015 with a request to continue organising tailor-made trainings for the UN in 2016 and beyond. The Network's Gender Working Group contributed to the UNSCR 1325 review process by feeding in recommendations on women of faith's engagement in peace-making efforts in protracted conflicts. Also, the Network Secretariat took part in the Inter-Agency Working Group that took a vital lead in advancing UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security. Furthermore, the Network's UN Office provides advocacy support for local religious and traditional peacemakers, including women of faith, towards the UN through organising events and dialogues at the UN headquarters. (*See more about NETW's work in chapter 2, II.*)

FCA has been one of the core members of the *global Education Cluster (gEC)* since 2010 and participates also in the local country level clusters where present and when relevant. As a member of the gEC Core Group FCA has been actively involved in the activities of Global Education Cluster during 2015. FCA has participated in the support of national level coordination as part of the joint global level function. An example of this is a specific capacity support that gEC gave to Nepal education cluster in Psychosocial Support during the earthquake. In 2015 FCA was also actively involved with gEC in revision of Education Needs Assessment Guidance and a pilot training related to that development work.

FCA has a full-time Education Cluster Coordinator through standby arrangements with UNICEF as part of the Education Cluster Rapid Response Team (RRT). 2015 was the fourth year of this arrangement and the Cluster Coordinator has been deployed to Mauritania (Sahel food crisis), Pakistan, Nepal and three times to Central African Republic.

Partnerships in the Programme Countries

FCA has partnered with a large number of NGOs, CSOs, churches and church-related development organisations.

FCA works first and foremost with and through partners and therefore partnership management is a central issue for FCA. Need for careful, transparent and uniform selection of partners has become more crucial when FCA has increased the share of local, bilateral partners in its partnership portfolio. Many of the new partners are relatively small and working in fragile contexts. All partnerships should be based on mutually shared values, commonly agreed goals and respect for human rights (non-negotiable). In addition, selection of partners is based on qualities such as

actor's ability to deliver a substantial change in the given environment, organisational capacities, and the relevance of partner's thematic expertise. Local rootedness is a crucial criterion when choosing partners.

FCA as a rights-based actor co-operates also with local duty-bearers in order to increase their capacity to step into their role in fulfilment of human rights for all. These kinds of partnerships include for example co-operation with local government offices and institutions.

More information about partners in the Programme Countries, please see Country Programme Annual Reports in chapter 2. I.

Partnerships and Networks in Finland

FCA is one of the development organisations in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA) Partnership Agreement Scheme. MFA is FCA's largest individual funding partner with significant strategic value. FCA co-operates also with the Ministry of Education and Culture as well as Ministry of Interior.

FCA works actively together with other Finnish development actors. FCA is a member of the Service Center for Development Co-operation (Kepa ry.) and the Finnish NGO Platform to the EU (Kehys ry.). There are several thematic and timely working groups in which FCA was involved in 2015. These are Quality Assurance Working Group of the Partnership NGOs of MFA, coordinated by Kepa and the Security and Development Working Group, Global Education Reference Group, Task Force on Post2015 and Steering Group of European Year of Development coordinated by Kehys. In addition, FCA participates actively in ad hoc working groups and advocacy initiatives raised on topical needs such as the development funding cuts working group and West African working group and general discussion on development aid effectiveness and quality issues, coordinated by Kepa.

In 2015, FCA was also a member of Finland's Development Policy Committee, Committee of International Affairs of Human Rights Issues (IONK), The Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights (KIOS), Advisory Board of The Finnish 1325-network, The Friday Group (sub-group of the Population and Development Group of the Parliament of Finland), the Wider Security Network (WISE), the Finnish Somalia Network (Suomen Somalia-verkosto), FinnWatch and the association for Promoting Fair Trade in Finland. Membership in these networks provided FCA with a good position to participate and advocate for effective and competent development policy making in Finland. FCA is also a partner with YLE in the RedNoseDay -campaign (YLE Helps -scheme, Nenäpäivä).

Evangelical Lutheran Church in Finland

FCA co-operates with local parishes and dioceses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church on issues of international diaconia and ecumenically as a member of the Finnish Ecumenical Council.

The parishes and the dioceses support and participate in FCA's fundraising campaigns. The income from the parishes and the Church Council (incl. Common Responsibility Campaign - Yhteisvastuukeräys) was nearly a quarter of the total fundraising income at the FCA. In addition to funding FCA's work, the parishes have also an important role in raising awareness about global justice. In 2015, awareness raising continued to take place for example in gatherings, services and schools.

FCA supported and organised events and training for the contact persons and other volunteers in the parishes. The training included education & sharing days in every diocese as well as a study trip to Haiti and. The sharing days were thematically bounded to FCA's ongoing campaigns and other outlets such as working for peace, preventing radicalisation and providing humanitarian aid in disasters.

Private Sector Partnerships

FCA's approach in private sector partnerships is to encourage businesses in Finland to provide solutions that boost development and humanitarian operations alongside our ongoing work. As a third sector actor with deep understanding of the context and wide networks FCA can ensure that private sector partners can base their operations in developing and emerging markets on ethical, sustainable and impact driven principles. Most importantly we continued to engage with local businesses in the programme countries to link the vocational training models with real market demand to ensure livelihoods.

For example the launch of our new "fast track model for skills for jobs" vocational training programme for refugee youth arriving in Rwamwanja, Uganda, started the series of pilot projects that develop solutions and services that improve learning opportunities in fragile contexts together with new private and public sector partners. Rwamwanja partnership project is funded by FinnPartnership, to explore the prospects of building business consortium for educational services to be implemented more widely in Uganda and then potentially to scale for other FCA programme countries.

FCA participated in a number to relevant forums on Public-Private Partnership (PPP). For example our delegate attended UNDP Resilience Development Forum in Jordan, PPP occasion in Copenhagen at the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and several events and meetings in Helsinki arranged e.g. by MFA, Kepa, Finpro and Confederation of Finnish Industries (Elinkeinoelämän keskusliitto).

In 2015, FCA started also preparations for establishing 'FCA Investment', an investment fund, to start new operation models alongside traditional forms of development co-operation. The aim is to provide conditional capital to small growing businesses and co-operatives to contribute to fair economic development in the countries where we work. FCA is seeking co-operation with ACT Alliance sister organisations in establishment of the fund. Concrete steps for launching FCA Investment will take place in 2016.

1.5 Fundraising and Finances

Domestic fundraising

Year 2015 was exceptional in that sense that there were two big catastrophes: the Nepal earthquake and European refugee crisis. Finnish audience found especially the European crisis very important and donated generously, but also the Nepal earthquake raised a lot of funds.

FCA also implemented a smaller fundraising campaign in order to compensate the governmental development aid cuttings, but that didn't bring any significant results.

FCA continued using various fundraising methods for example face-to-face street recruiting, telefundraising, direct marketing, Direct Response TV -spots, Alternative Gift (Toisenlainen Lahja) and digital fundraising. Regular monthly donations continued being the backbone of FCA's private fundraising. Direct corporate donations were marginal; the way to implement corporate fundraising is moving more and more towards real co-operation.

FCA also participated in the National Broadcasting Company's (YLE) annual fundraising campaign "YLE Helps RedNoseDay" (Ylen Hyvä Säätiön Nenäpäivä).

Parishes and Dioceses

The parishes (408 pcs) and the dioceses continued to support and participate in FCA's fundraising campaigns in 2015. Furthermore they are in an important role in supporting and organising the Common Responsibility Campaign (Yhteisvastuukeräys). In 2015, it brought 1,57 MEUR to the FCA, 60 % of total income of the campaign. FCA was able to reach income goals but at the same time the trend in Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church and parishes losing members have impacts to our funding while parishes

are struggling with decreasing income. However FCA has very stable brand amongst the parishes.

The parishes allocate budget funds to FCA's work. They also admit offerings to FCA in addition to those which are appointed by the Church Council. The income from the parishes and the Church Council (incl. Yhteisvastuukeräys) was nearly a quarter of the total FCA's fundraising income.

One of the highlights of the year was Suvivirsi, the sing-along campaign. Nearly 200 parishes were involved and the campaign has gotten an official status in Church Administration's yearly calendar. The most successful fundraising event was broadcasted from Turku in September live in Yle1. Turku Cathedral Youth Choir decided to dedicate their concert for FCA and the show had nearly 500,000 viewers and got one of the best results in text messaging donations ever.

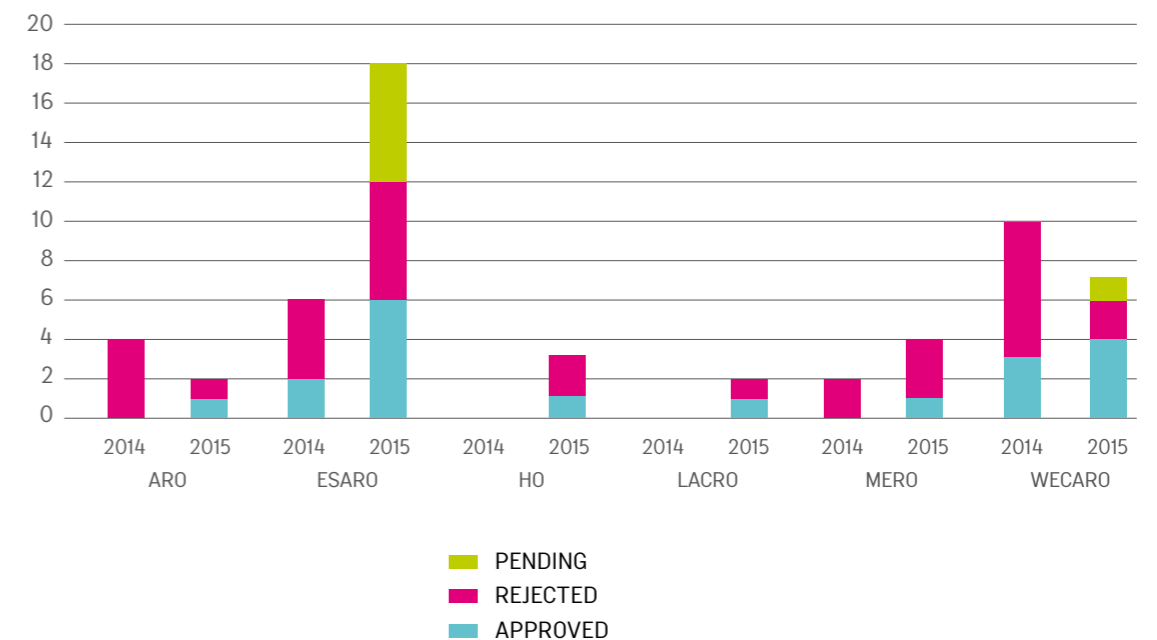
People were touched by the need of help for asylum seekers and street collection as well as extra Sunday collections at the parishes were held all over the country.

We are expecting strong support from the parishes in the future as well, but we need to maintain and develop our brand because of a more difficult financial situation that parishes are facing.

Global Grants

2015 was a year marked by a steady growth for FCA and Global Grants (GG). GG unit actively supported FCA's Regional Offices to further scale-up their projects through institutional funding. The number of applications submitted to institutional donors increased significantly compared to 2014 demonstrating pro-active initiative of Regional and Country Offices in co-operation with GG.

FUNDING APPLICATIONS SENT IN 2014 AND 2015 BY REGIONAL OFFICES



In 2015, FCA sent 36 funding applications to global institutional donors, compared to 22 in 2014. Of the 36 proposals 53 % were development proposals, whilst 47 % were humanitarian projects. FCA's scope of donors was also widened from previous years. Majority of the proposals, 16, were sent to UN, mainly to UNICEF, UNHCR and IOM. The rest of the proposals were sent to EuropeAid (seven), USAID (four), ECHO (three) DFID (two) and BPRM, IDB and foundations.

FCA's success rate in 2015 was 39 % (2014 23 %), with several proposals still pending. The main reasons for success lie in the strengthened donor relations and negotiations done locally in countries of operation combined with timely planning, building on existing projects with clear added value and a team effort by staff in the field and at HO.

The successes reached a wider range of our Country Programmes across the full scope of FCA's thematic strategy. This includes both EuropeAid CSO-LA funding for engaging civil society in political dialogue and state building process in Interim South West Administration and Banadir in Somalia, and EuropeAid/EEAS funds to support the Interim Regional Administration in governance in the same area; UNICEF education in emergencies projects in Jordan (Syria crises), Nepal (earthquake) and several projects in CAR (internal conflict); IDB funding for school construction in Haiti; UNHCR funding to support Somali returnees from Yemen; ECHO/EU volunteers funding to support disaster risk reduction activities in several partner countries; and pilot projects with The Immediate Response Facility (IRF)/UNOPS funding for rehabilitation project for high risk prisoners in Somalia, IOM funding for promoting livelihoods in South Sudan and DFID funding for mobile mentoring for refugee teacher professional development in Kenya.

The objective of diversifying FCA's funding, in which the unit invested its efforts, is therefore slowly showing results, even if work still needs to be done in terms of planning to be better prepared for fast and demanding proposal processes, invest in strategic choice of donors and stronger donor relations, and improving quality of proposal through improved data collection, analyses and capacity of staff. However there is a great potential in combining funding from international institutional donors with the support from MFA, parishes and private donors to enable larger and more effective programmes.

After the Finnish government announcement on the cuts from development co-operation budget and its impact on NGOs in June 2015, FCA was in a relatively good position, having invested in GG already years in advance. However, it was clear that in the coming years FCA still needs to invest even more in getting funding from other institutional donors. It was decided to centralise the unit to support the organisation globally from HO from the beginning of 2016. This will allow specialising even further on our priority donors ensuring donor compliance when applying and managing grants.

Finances

In 2015, FCA expended a total of 42,6 MEUR for on aid and other operations, which represents an increase of 15,3 % from 2014 (34,1 MEUR). The income for the period was 42,7MEUR (33,9 MEUR in 2014) representing an increase of 16,4 % compared to the previous financial year. The surplus for the financial period was 0,109 MEUR (deficit at the end of 2014 0,24 MEUR). At the end of 2015, equity stood at 5,8 MEUR (5,7 MEUR at the end of 2014). Advances received for disaster relief work, reconstruction, the Women's Bank and other operations totalling 13,2 MEUR on the balance sheet (8,7 MEUR at the end of 2014). This includes the assets of former funds, such as the Women's Bank.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs provided funding for development co-operation activities the total of 10 MEUR, of which 9,2 MEUR (8,1 MEUR in 2014) through Partnership Agreement, 0,053 MEUR through EU project co-funding support and 0,78 MEUR for the Secretariat of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers. 6,7 MEUR (5,6 MEUR) was received for humanitarian aid. Thus funds from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs made up 39,3 % of the income.

Support received from the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran parishes, including also proceeds from the Common Responsibility Campaign and operational subsidies from the Church Council totalled 8,0 MEUR (7,9 MEUR in 2014) and thus from total income 18,7 % (23,3%).

Income from international funding sources⁵ totalled 8,8 MEUR (2,8 MEUR in 2014), private donors 8,2 MEUR (7,7 MEUR), and businesses and organisations 0,8 MEUR (1,0 MEUR).

Africa continued to be the most significant work area with the expenditure of 17,0 MEUR (12,8 MEUR in 2014), followed by Asia and Middle East with 6,5 MEUR (6,5 MEUR), Latin America and the Caribbean 5,4 MEUR (2,5 MEUR), Europe 0,4 MEUR (0,2 MEUR) and Global Programmes 3,3 MEUR (2,4 MEUR).

In 2015, FCA used 85,3 % of the expenditure for the programme work and 14,7 % for the programme support including communications, fundraising, work with the stakeholders and general administration

2. Annual Programme Reports

I. Country Programme Annual Reports

In this chapter FCA's 18 major Country Programmes are presented; the reports are holistic meaning that they present different work modalities and examples of results from all projects of the Country Programmes. The Country Programme Reports are grouped under the respective Regional Programmes. A short regional introduction is given prior to the Country Programme Reports.

A 'Snapshot of Key Results in 2015' under each Country Programme represents number of beneficiaries reached and key results based on indicator data from 2015. It is good to note that different kinds of work modalities and projects are able to reach different amount of people (beneficiaries). Hence financial volumes of the Country Programmes and the total beneficiary numbers are not necessarily comparable between different Country Programmes.

The Country Programme level snapshots show which projects contribute to the results mentioned therein. The Country Programme project listings also indicate whether the project is self-implemented by FCA or implemented by a partner.

In some Country Programmes, a few partner implemented projects receive funding also from other funders besides FCA and FCA's back donors (funds are pooled). It is good to note that in these specific cases, the data (result examples) aggregated at Country Programme level consists of not only of FCA's and FCA's back donors⁶ financial contribution, but also of other funders' contributions. Such projects are marked in the Country Programme project listings.

5. Including EU, ECHO, ACT, SSF, IDB, USAID, DFID, KAICIID, UNICEF and others

6. FCA's primary funding source can be seen in the project listings under each Country Programme.



"Students really need support from their teachers now", says Jitendra Lama, Mathematics and Health teacher at Bal Bikas Secondary School on the outskirts of Kathmandu. The school's buildings were badly damaged by the earthquakes. Bal Bikas is one of the 170 schools to which FCA constructed safe, bamboo-framed classrooms, with latrines and hand-washing facilities.

2.1 Asia

Partners: 13
Personnel (in FTE⁷): 18,76

FCA Asia Regional office in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, oversees three programme countries namely: Cambodia, Nepal and Myanmar. In 2015, FCA opened its own office in Yangon, Myanmar and hired more staff to initiate programming and liaising in the country. In addition, Nepal Country Programme volume grew rapidly after the earthquake due to the emergency response leading to significant staff increases in Kathmandu.

In 2015, FCA has strengthened its' presence, local networking and partnerships in Asia and built capacity of partners and own staff to ensure that we continue achieving high quality results. Right to Education theme has been especially strengthened in the region, reflected in FCA's education in emergency work in Nepal and in development of career counselling and vocational orientation in Cambodia. Moreover, thematic education assessments were

carried out in Nepal and Myanmar.

Nepal was seriously affected by two major earthquakes that occurred in April and May 2015. FCA Country Programme was also affected by the disaster, but the office was quick to respond to the needs of the people affected. FCA's work focused mainly on emergency response and recovery in collaboration with ACT members and UN Clusters.

The implementation of the ACT joint response after the typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines was completed in 2015. FCA used MFA humanitarian aid funds and through large ACT joint response provided assistance altogether to 412,473 beneficiaries in following sectors: food, shelter, livelihood, water and psychosocial support. FCA also seconded a logistics specialist and communication specialist to support implementing ACT members. FCA also provided emergency assistance through ACT members to Vanuatu islands after cyclone Pam caused large-scale damage there in March 2015.

FCA is an active member of local ACT Forum in each programme country. FCA participated in a Regional Forum held in Delhi, India in September 2015. A new ACT Regional

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Final budget (EUR)	Costs (EUR)
11496	Typhoon Haiyan in Philippines ACT Appeal PHL131	ACT Alliance	MFA Humanitarian, private	30,000	76,283
11630	Emergency Assistance to Vanuatu, Cyclone Pam	ACT Alliance	Private, parishes	50,000	50,000
11482	School Construction Response to Typhoon Haiyan in Philippines	FCA, NCCP	Private	15,000	35,933
11028	ARO/Partners' Capacity Building and partner meetings in the region	FCA/all ARO partners	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	50,000	12,787
11479	ARO resource mobilisation	FCA self-implemented	Private, parishes	50,000	28,338
11564	ARO Regional Thematic Assessments	FCA self-implemented	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	15,000	18,451
10835	ARO office PMER support for the MFA frame programme	FCA self-implemented	MFA Partnership Agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign	394,999	346,834
Total costs (EUR)					568,626

7. Full-time equivalent - Henkilötövuosi

Cambodia



1. List of Projects and Financial Summary

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Final budget (EUR)	Costs (EUR)
11218	Women in Action project (WIN)	CWCC	MFA Partnership Agreement, Women's Bank	30,000	76,283
11534	Enhance Career Guidance at Secondary Education	FCA with MoEYS	Parishes	50,000	50,000
11643	Bridges of Education: New Generation School in Cambodia	FCA, PKO	Private	15,000	35,933
11549	Cambodia Changemaker Network (CCN)	Khmer Youth Association	MFA Partnership Agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign	50,000	12,787
11177	Landmine and ERW clearance for development	LWD, MAG	MFA Humanitarian	50,000	28,338
11551	Empowerment toward Self-Reliance Programme (ESRP) ⁸	LWD	MFA Partnership Agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign	15,000	18,451
11552	Co-operation for Women's Economic Development (CWED)	LWD	MFA Partnership Agreement, private	394,999	346,834
11435	Land and Livelihood Advocacy Project (LLAP)	LWD	MFA Partnership Agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign		
11634	Women's Bank Skills Donation	FCA self-implemented	Women's Bank		
Total costs (EUR)					568,626

Office was established in Bangkok.

2. Overview of the Cambodia Programme

Law on Associations and NGOs (LANGO) was passed in July 2015 implying restrictions to NGO operations in Cambodia. The new NGO law allows the authorities to arbitrarily deny NGOs registration and shut them down meaning that the operational space for CSOs in Cambodia is becoming more limited although FCA and its partners have not been directly affected.

The key Right to Livelihood (R2L) issue targeted by the

Cambodia Country Programme in 2015 was on agricultural co-operatives and improvement of business skills, particularly among women, whose participation is hindered by traditional gender roles. Another focus was conflicts related to land ownership, because of its' crucial importance for the sustainability of rural livelihoods. Furthermore, Landmine clearance has ensured that vulnerable mine-affected communities can benefit from landmine and UXO clearance integrated with the development initiatives.

Regarding Right to Education, a key issue addressed

8. Pooled unearmarked funds

by FCA was the development of career counselling and vocational orientation. This focus was chosen due to the extremely high proportion of youth in the Cambodian population and the difficulties that youth from poor rural backgrounds face in trying to finish their studies and find their place in the labour markets.

This was also an opportunity to use the added value of FCA's Teachers without Borders (TwB) programme. In order to ensure sustainability and duty-bearer involvement, FCA co-operated closely with Cambodia's Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS). FCA was able to provide important added value by using Finnish expertise through the TwB programme to respond to a significant gap in the Cambodian education sector, supporting the development of career counselling.

FCA's work on Right to Peace (R2P) focused on developing channels for the young people's participation in building a more democratic society in Cambodia, as well as in the promotion of reconciliation mechanisms to tackle recurrent land conflicts. Cambodia's political situation is characterised by tensions and corruption, and the youth are

generally seen as the crucial actor in defining the country's future. FCA's added value has been in building youth networks based on the successful Changemaker concept.

FCA continued partnership with five local partner organisations. Co-operation with a new partner Puthi Komar Organization (PKO) was started with regards to Teachers without Borders (TwB) programme and planning for a new model school project.

The Country Programme has been operating in 11 districts of five provinces; Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang, Pursat, Battambang, Siem Reap and Phnom Penh Municipality.

During 2015, FCA held the deputy presidency of the ACT Cambodia Forum. The most important common initiative was the updating of the ACT Emergency Preparedness and Response plan, a process in which FCA had an active role and continues to play a leading role particularly in education in emergencies. There was active dialogue ongoing particularly with UNESCO, ILO and UNICEF regarding FCA's work with the MoEYS on education and career counselling.

3. Progress made in the Country Programme's set objectives and sub-objectives during 2015

a) Snapshot of Key Results in 2015

Cambodia Country Programme reached 63,681 direct beneficiaries: 21,534 women, 20,467 men, 9,970 girls and 11,710 boys in 2015		
Right to Livelihood (R2L)	Nine Commune Mediation Committees were formed and they helped to solve 119 conflicts in a peaceful way Projects contributing to this result: 11435	12 Women's agricultural cooperatives had 1,970 female members and had a remarkable end of year capital of over 150,000 EUR. Projects contributing to this result: 11552
Right to Education (R2E)	2,600 secondary school students (52 % girls) at risk of dropping out of school have now access to career counselling services. Projects contributing to this result: 11534	National education system was strengthened through capacity support by four TwB Education Advisors and three education workshops. Projects contributing to this result: 11534
Right to Peace (R2P)	Local authorities' ability and willingness to engage other actors to prevent conflict was improved through eight land and natural management fora facilitated by LWD. Projects contributing to this result: 11435	210 youth joined the Changemaker network and increased their capacities in democratic participation. Projects contributing to this result: 11549
Advocacy	A joint campaign on World Teacher's Day resulted Teacher Policy Action Plan (TPAP) approved and teachers' salaries increased	Changemaker representatives also contributed to ASEAN People's Statement regarding human rights and CSO engagement. Projects contributing to this result: 11549

b) Key Achievements during 2015

Right to Livelihood (R2L): FCA's focus was on promoting women's position in the co-operatives and their economic empowerment, an aspect that is not this strongly present in other NGOs' projects. Land grabbing is a major issue that numerous NGOs work on, particularly in advocacy. FCA's added value has been in linking this problematic to a different approach, focusing on reconciliation and community level conflict resolution, bringing in the local authorities.

FCA with other funding partners has contributed to the communities, and particularly women's, increased assets and capabilities to develop sustainable livelihoods have increased significantly. As an example, 4,776 people have improved access to assets like agricultural materials, seeds and family ponds. 63 communities have access to improved community assets such as spill ways, ponds and wells. 2,069 people (54 % women) received training in on-farm, off-farm skills or business skills.

FCA with other funding partners' contribution has made it possible that almost 30,000 people (73 % women) are members of 489 micro-finance structures (including savings groups and agricultural co-operatives). 18 female-owned micro enterprises were established and 10 further developed.

During 2015 in landmine clearance project, 100% of clearance and land release activities were undertaken and 100% of the land cleared has been utilised for agricultural use. The post clearance impact assessments revealed that the land will be used for a variety of different crops, with 68% for cassava cultivation and 23% rice. 27,316 people from approximately 4,727 households benefitted from improved access to resources, expanding their livelihood opportunities.

A specific Land and Livelihood Advocacy -project focused on the peaceful solution of land conflicts and enhanced dialogue between and among authorities and community members. Land issues are one of the major root causes of conflicts in Cambodia. Awareness raising, public forums, trainings and workshops about Alternative Dispute Resolution, conflict prevention, land laws and other relevant issues were organised and nine Commune Mediation Committees (CMC) were formed. They helped to solve 119 conflicts in a peaceful way and community members were satisfied with CMCs' conflict resolution that helped save time and money and contributed to harmony in communities.

Right to Education (R2E): A unique pilot initiative was developed between MoEYS, FCA and TwB. 15 teachers, NGO and education staff from four schools were trained during seven months. 2,600 secondary school students (1345 girls, 1255 boys) at risk of dropping out of school have now access to career counselling services. This collaboration resulted in MoEYS incorporating career counselling in the national curriculum.

Teacher training curriculum for career counselling was reviewed and further materials prepared. FCA continued

discussions with several development partners and the MOEYS in order to replicate and expand the training. Training manual and other resources were put online, and plans were made to use social media as a tool for education. FCA also continued to monitor practises at the school level and how trained counsellors were performing. All pilot schools continued allowing counsellors to work in their new roles and conduct regular counselling classes and sessions for students.

The national education system was strengthened through capacity support by four TwB Education Advisors and three education workshops. Six advocacy initiatives were organised at different levels, addressing the need to improve educational opportunities. A joint campaign on World Teacher's Day had important unplanned results: Teacher Policy Action Plan (TPAP) was approved and teachers' salaries increased. A new partner PKO hosted first TwB volunteers already in 2015. Planning for a model school project with PKO was advanced through planning and FCA and TwB volunteers exchange visits and community consultations to obtain sufficient information for the problem analysis. Furthermore, four teachers from the Lauttasaari school contributed to improve the quality of teaching in schools in Battambang.

Right to Peace: Cambodian Changemaker network project contributed to youth's political participation in a peaceful manner, focusing on building young people's capacities in advocacy and awareness-raising, as alternative ways of participation in addition to protests that tend to become violent in the Cambodian context. 210 youth joined the Changemaker network and increased their capacities in democratic participation. 100 members attended 53 meetings/workshops and four representatives participated in international political processes such as the ASEAN Youth forum. Recommendations to important statements were produced, including a Cambodian Youth Forum statement to government emphasizing issues such as right to education, land rights, corruption and freedom of expression. Changemaker representatives also contributed to ASEAN People's Statement regarding human rights and CSO engagement.

4. Evaluations, Assessments and Studies

Women in Action project (WIN): Cambodia Women Crisis Centre (CWCC) conducted a Mid Term Evaluation (MTE) of the project in 2015. The review concluded that the project design effectively addressed the problem of poor and vulnerable women and girls, focusing women's livelihoods and girl's access to education. The outstanding achievement of the project's first two years is the establishment of saving groups that give poor women access to low interest loans. The most successful component of the project is supporting girls' to access education. Good practices identified in the review included the involvement of Buddhist monks in the SGs, which not only improved the effectiveness of the project by building trust, but also helped to change the mind set of



people and monks, reflecting the understanding of “Saving for Change” in helping the poor, and raised awareness and helped to reduce violence against women and girls. The recommendations of MTE have been discussed with the implementing partner and taken into account in the planning of the last two years of the project.

Co-operation for Women’s Economic Development project (CWED): The baseline survey was conducted by Enterprise Development Institute (EDI) in March-April 2015 in Kampong Speu, Kampong Chhnang, Pursat and Battambang Provinces for LWD’s CWED project and to enable beneficiaries to have an impact on project targets. The main recommendations for LWD included to review the project logframe against the baseline report in terms of demographic, social, economic, Women Agricultural Co-operative (WAC) and individual household income and assets; to address some key challenges faced by agriculture co-operatives and build linkages to existing networks across the country; to focus the capacity building support on training WAC committee members and WAC members so they can achieve improved production, management functions, and leadership with a clear future vision for farmer co-operatives or enterprise. These recommendations were discussed with LWD and taken into account in the

final project plan.

Pilot Project on Career Guidance in Battambang: The evaluation was based on interviews of 10 trainees and 22 administrative staff after the September 2015 training and comparison of the results in March 2015. It was concluded that the training responds to an important gap, lacking linkage between the education/vocational training and the skills that industry and businesses need. The training achieved its main goal, to strengthen and expand the implementation of vocational orientation and career guidance and counselling in secondary education. Important changes were produced in terms of professional growth and core competencies of career counsellors during the seven months training. This led to important changes in students’ attitude towards school, studies and future and a clear decrease in dropouts, and to increased co-operation between schools and parents. The recommendations were mainly linked to the clarifying the roles of different authorities of MoEYS and others, in order to institutionalise the model in the Cambodian educational system. At the end of the year, FCA continued its collaboration with the MoEYS and contributed to the process of developing a new national curriculum in order to include career guidance and counselling.

Landmine clearance for development: The project, that had been implemented in 2012-2015, was evaluated in December 2015 - January 2016. The evaluation identified important impacts and benefits of the project. At the household level, the project has increased agricultural production and household incomes, improved food security, improved housing, increased commercial value of land, better access to markets and social services, and improved safety for individuals on their own land. Women have been actively encouraged to plan longer-term investments and improve their entrepreneurial capacity. As a result, many women participated more actively in household decision-making about land utilisation and investments. The most important benefit at community level is increased safety that enables all community members to expand their range of economic activities with better access to farm land, common property resources and markets. Land mine clearance has also made infrastructure such as schools and health centers more accessible for community members.

However, it was noted that the benefits are however unevenly distributed at both the household and community level, as households with more and better quality land and higher capacity to invest tended to benefit the most. The evaluation concluded that LWD’s community development activities had added significant value to MAG land mine clearance investments. The assessment team recommended that MAG and LWD should continue their collaboration to increase the benefits of land mine clearance for all beneficiary households in their respective communities, to achieve an appropriate balance between economic and social objectives concerning effectiveness and equity.

5. Capacity Building

During 2015, FCA partners have become stronger and more independent of FCA support, including becoming able to diversify their funding from different donors. FCA staff has been working closely with partners to support them in building their capacity, in addition to organising specific

capacity building workshops. Close collaboration between FCA and PKO on funding proposal development regarding education theme, equally built PKO’s capacities in project design and development of funding proposals.

Thematic indicators’ orientation workshop was organised in July 2015 to build a common understanding about how to collect relevant information for each indicator. The workshop was attended by 15 participants from the NGO partners including LWD, CWCC, KYA and PKO as well as FCA staff. As a result of a half-day workshop, partners got a better understanding on monitoring and data collection.

Markets for Poor (M4P) training was organised together with ICCO in May 2015 in Phnom Penh. 24 participants (six females) came from different partner NGOs working on R2L theme. The main facilitators came from ICCO regional and Cambodia offices. The topics covered included Market Development as approach, Sector Analysis and Strategy Formulation, Intervention Design, Monitoring and Results Measurement (DCED) and Formulation of Re-entry Action Plans.

6. Challenges effecting the programme and lessons learnt

Law on Associations and NGOs (LANGO) was passed in 2015 implying restrictions to NGO operations in Cambodia. The LANGO did not affect FCA or its partners directly, but the space for CSOs in Cambodia is becoming more limited and may affect our work in the future.

Major natural disasters did not occur in Cambodia in 2016, but the earthquake in Nepal did affect the programme indirectly by requiring focusing FCA’s regional human resources in Nepal.

The main challenge affecting the Country Programme and its implementation were linked to the budgetary cuts in MFA funding that implied significant reductions of project budgets, and thus required the redefinition of project plans and annual work plans already for 2015, but especially for 2016 in many of FCA’s R2L projects. A second challenge was related to staff turnover and reduction.

Myanmar



Ville Asikainen

1. List of Projects and Financial Summary

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Final budget (EUR)	Costs (EUR)
11654	MMR151 – Myanmar Flood Emergency	ACT Alliance, LWF Myanmar	Private	50,000	50,000
11561	Advancing Sustainable Peace in Myanmar	CPCS	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	50,000	32,735
11461	MYA EU Children of Peace Initiative – Education assistance to children in IDP camps in Rakhine State, Myanmar	LWF Myanmar	EU Humanitarian, parishes	157,076	127,969
10993	Integrated Rural Development Project ⁹	LWF Myanmar	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	120,000	120,000
11432	Project for Improving Women's Livelihood (PIWL)	LWF Myanmar	MFA Partnership Agreement, Women's Bank	125,000	118,793
11624	Myanmar Universal Periodic Review (UPR) ¹⁰	LWF Myanmar	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	8,000	8,000
11605	MYA Humanitarian assistance to IDPs in Myanmar in 2015	Metta	MFA Humanitarian	477,064	338,251
11294	Kachin IDP response through protective value of livelihood and education opportunities	Metta	MFA Humanitarian	68,000	57,555
11662	MYA Myanmar Program Development	FCA self-implemented	Parishes	25,000	25,005
11563	Myanmar Field Presence support for the MFA frame programme	FCA self-implemented	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	160,000	88,966
Total costs (EUR)					967,274

2. Overview of the Myanmar Programme

In 2015, significant events in Myanmar were the National Ceasefire Agreement on 15 October and the first free

democratic elections held on 8 November. The Agreement ended the armed hostilities in the Southeast (Kayin), but was not signed by key opposition groups in Kachin and Shan, which leaves a great uncertainty. Aung San Su Kyi's

9. Pooled unearmarked funds
10. Pooled unearmarked funds

party NLD got a sweeping victory in the elections and won more than 95% of the 75 seats (25 were reserved for the military). These events pave the way for development in Myanmar, even though it still is identified as an extremely vulnerable country. For example ongoing ethnic conflicts cause displacement of people and access to conflict-affected areas remain a challenge.

In Rakhine, Kachin and in Northern Shan FCA has in partnership with METTA implemented humanitarian assistance projects that supported conflict-affected internally displaced people (IDPs). The projects supported children in IDP camps by providing access to formal and non-formal education, psychosocial support as well as IDP families to improve their livelihoods and build resilience.

The FCA efforts in the Delta, Chin and Kayin concentrated on livelihoods and women's empowerment, and are longer-term development oriented, incorporating Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in the environment vulnerable to cyclones and flooding.

Aside from development activities that are mostly set around empowerment of women and youth through livelihoods in the Delta region, FCA has addressed working out the concept of learning to earning and defining peace interventions. For this first steps have been set to identify new partners and realise this more in new ongoing programmes with the existing partners. In developing peace work (R2P), FCA conducted a partnership assessment of Center for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPCS) from Siem Reap, Cambodia in September 2015 and agreed to commission a pilot research project on conflicts in Rakhine and Kachin states.

2015 was a year of change for FCA in Myanmar in

terms of the starting up of establishing and registering the organisation and exploring the strategic direction of the Country Programme. FCA has established its own office in Yangon and has now a core staff of three in Myanmar. FCA is processing its official registration and anticipates completing this procedure in 2016. FCA's increased presence in the country has had positive influence on the network building and engagements with crucial institutions like UNICEF for its Education in Emergency component. It has also strengthened its partnerships and technical assistance towards the local partners.

For further programme development FCA carried out two studies in 2015. The Thematic Education Assessment identified the potential areas for FCA's education involvement, especially focusing on the possibilities for youth and strengthening the learning for earning concept. In collaboration with FCA's Cambodia Programme an internal assessment was made to map potential youth organisations for future engagement in the Myanmar.

In 2015, FCA's supported programmes in Northern Shan state and Delta Area, Chin and Kayin states.

With the ACT forum FCA has engaged in "Get Our ACT Together" (GOAT) initiative, which aims to explore closer collaboration between ACT partners in the country. For Myanmar, this has resulted in sharing resources and currently the development of a joint project for the Southeast region.

Myanmar ACT members have updated their Emergency Response plan in October 2015. The ACT forum meets regularly and shares information, training opportunities, best practices and looks for synergies between actors and

3. Progress made in the Country Programme's set objectives and sub-objectives during 2015

a) Snapshot of Key Results in 2015

Myanmar Country Programme reached 9,766 direct beneficiaries: 3,425 women, 2,496 men, 1,826 girls and 2,019 boys in 2015		
Right to Livelihood (R2L)	124 village Development Committees have been formed and engaged in activities with township authorities, and relevant departments as Agriculture, Relief and Resettlement, Livestock and Land Recordings Projects contributing to this result: 10993	388 women's group members have engaged in profitable part-time activities either on/off farm and enhanced family income Projects contributing to this result: 10993, 11432
Right to Education (R2E)	2,304 IDP students were able to continue their school education in Northern Shan Projects contributing to this result: 11605	Psychosocial support training provided for 50 Volunteer teachers (84 % women) Projects contributing to this result: 11605
Advocacy	303 people (56% women) at the community level were involved in the UPR process Projects contributing to this result: 11624	The LWF's UPR report on Myanmar was submitted to the United Nations on 23 March 2015 Projects contributing to this result: 11624



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programmes.

b) Key Achievements during 2015

Right to Livelihood (R2L): In 2015 FCA Myanmar has supported a total number of 1,409 poor rural households in the Delta area and 303 Internally Displaced People's (IDP) families in Northern Shan to improve their livelihoods and build resilience. Training in both on/off farm skills, business skills, providing start-up funds and establishing credit and savings groups had a significant positive effect on households' situation.

FCA with other funding partners have contributed to R2L development resulting in 388 womens' group members have engaged in profitable part-time activities either on/off farm and enhanced family income through access of loans and the combined 28 women groups have a common capital of 44,000 euros as a balance by the end of 2015. This is an increase of 5% (in Euros). As a result women stated 50% rise in food security and that they are able to get better quality of nutrition. They improved and repaired their houses, acquired new household equipment, sent children to school and saw both their social status improved as well as a positive effect on health. The numbers of women and youth increased till 40% and 30% in Village Development Committees and other structures.

The programme has had a very favourable impact on the position of women in the rural communities where the projects were implemented in terms of their participation in governance and significance as economic actors/players. In the States these benefits are directly related to the different ethnic groups, which statistically have the least access to basic and quality services and lowest levels of income.

Right to Education: With the partner Metta FCA supported the Right to Education in Northern Shan state by enabling 2,034 IDP students to continue their school education after being uprooted by continuing armed conflicts in the Northeast region of Kachin and Shan states. Many of the IDP camps are small groupings around churches mostly from the same villages or group of villages where it was unsafe to stay. Most pupils are able to attend the existing regular schools. Due to the distance six Temporary Learning Spaces were set up in the camps.

25 camps received aid that increased pupils' access to quality education. This comprised Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS), Early Childhood Development Centers, volunteer teachers, student/teacher kits, learning materials and student fees. WASH facilities complemented the school environment in 25 camps, together with life skills training

and protection measures.

Right to Peace: FCA partnered with the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPCS) in Cambodia to conduct a research on how to best establish and create a conducive peace environment through a grass roots analysis of conflicts and involve key community leaders to facilitate this process (interfaith dialogue). The pilot project addresses the ongoing violence in Rakhine and Kachin State by increasing the capacity of peace building organisations and to have an in-depth understanding of the conflict as inputs for strategic interventions.

Findings of the research will be available in June 2016 and will be an important input for further formulation of FCA's peace initiatives in Myanmar. Important is that the study also includes capacity building of key community leaders (different ethnic groups, faiths and women) who are expected to play a key role in this dialogue driven process.

Advocacy: FCA was one of the funding partners to support LWF in the UPR (Universal Periodic Review) process. Based on grass roots evidence and participation from beneficiaries and stakeholders in its project areas 303 people were involved, including 169 female. During the consultations, the following issues were identified as key human rights violations to be presented in the UPR report by the communities: land, access to safe water, birth registration, nationality and gender.

There were international advocacy activities around the UPR review of Myanmar in November 2015, e.g. meetings with missions in Geneva and others to present their key issues of concerns and recommendations in relation to human rights in Myanmar.

4. Evaluations, Assessments and Studies

EU funded Children of Peace project in Rakhine: FCA and LWF conducted a partial assessment/evaluation on "Increase of Self Esteem" to determine the outcome for the protection component for Muslim and Buddhist IDP children in April/May 2015. Outcome was a high level of appreciation for the assistance in terms of schooling, recreational and psychosocial activities the project had put in place for the children. This was an important result concerning wellbeing of beneficiaries in the camps. Due to unrest, LWF was not able to do the baseline the year before so an assessment was made at the end.

The thematic assessment on education for Myanmar was conducted by a consultant in December 2015. The aim of the assessment was to get a general picture and identify the major challenges of the education sector in Myanmar. The report provided recommendations to FCA on how to develop its programme further in the education sector, for instance including shifting focus from short-term humanitarian projects to long-term development work, linking skills trainings to national TVET standards, advocating and supporting government to provide education

for IDP children.

The results of the assessment will be used in developing FCA's education programme in Myanmar and in the new strategic planning for Myanmar. The opportunities in the field of education are significant as only a few actors are focused on the quality improvement of education. Also institutional donors like EU and UNICEF lay more emphasis on education components in their calls.

The coordinator of Changemaker Network from FCA Cambodia conducted a **pilot assessment of the youth organisations and networks active in Myanmar** in December 2015. The aim was to explore the possible collaboration with youth groups and identify youth issues that FCA and its partners could address or better address in its projects. The new youth programme can benefit from the experience of the Changemaker programme in Cambodia.

5. Capacity Building

In 2015, FCA has supported partners in capacity building on management and M&E, as well as technical inputs for Education in Emergencies (EiE) and livelihoods.

In general FCA has observed that partners experience huge time pressure in implementation and field staff still needs capacity building in monitoring and reporting. Capacity building of the partners needs more attention in 2016 and for this purpose also new staff has been recruited and FCA has had a local Programme Officer since November 2015. Capacity building needs to be reinforced to ensure timely and good quality planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the activities.

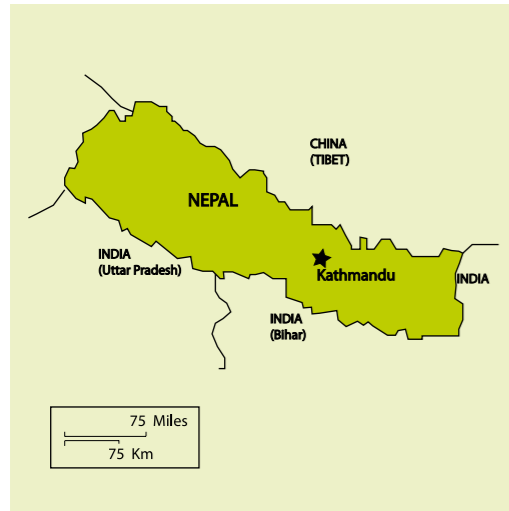
6. Challenges effecting the programme and lessons learnt

In livelihood projects it has been noted that many of the microenterprise activities face a glass ceiling in reaching a more established and formal level of business operation. This is due to missing market linkages, capital, remoteness and for the IDPs the unstable economic and political environment in which they operate. With LWF it has been discussed to add "starting capital" and/or "equipment/toolkits" to assure that trainees can establish income generating activity.

In Northern Shan security risks were the greatest challenge to the implementation of the project. Due to the sporadic moments of fighting, some implementation of activities was delayed. This especially affected the transportation of materials to the project locations and IDP children's attendance in host community schools. Occasionally the fighting reached the IDP camps and the activities had to be temporarily suspended. These serious security risks were managed by delaying the activities until they were safe to resume.

FCA's registration process in the country has been delayed due to the November elections and the following five months of "hand-over" period.

Nepal



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1. List of Projects and Financial Summary

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Final budget (EUR)	Costs (EUR)
11636	Nepal Earthquake Response 2015	ACT Alliance, FCA, UCEP; WVAf, CMC	ACT, private, parishes	899,052	685,211
11637	Nepal Earthquake Response 2015 MFA ¹¹	FCA, LWF, UCEP	MFA Humanitarian	600,000	555,832
11687	Nepal Earthquake Response by ICCO	ICCO, ACT Alliance	Private	100,000	100,000
11555	Actions for Advancing Freedom of Freed Haliya, Kamaiya and Kamlaris	LWF Nepal	MFA Partnership Agreement, private	245,000	245,000
11412	Promotion of Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Lalitpur	LWF Nepal	MFA Partnership Agreement, Women's Bank	194,235	188,801
11459	Nepal Development Programme ¹²	LWF Nepal	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	50,000	50,000
11557	Equality and Non-Discrimination for Sustainable Peace (ENDS)	NNDSWO	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	33,156	30,500
11625	Addressing Concerns of Nepalese Dalit through Second Cycle of UPR	NNDSWO	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	15,000	14,170
11550	Skills training and Technical Education for Employment Programme	UCEP	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	80,000	80,000
11568	Promoting Equality and Accountability for Change and Empowerments (PEACE)	WVAf	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	60,000	58,332
10837	Nepal Field Presence support for the MFA frame programme	FCA self-implemented	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	55,000	32,134
Total costs (EUR)					2,039,980

11. LWF share pooled funds

12. Pooled un earmarked funds

2. Overview of the Nepal Programme

A massive 7.8 magnitude earthquake with an epicentre approximately 80 km north-west of the capital city, Kathmandu, struck central Nepal on April 25th 2015. This earthquake was followed by 400 aftershocks leading to mass destruction of human lives and infrastructure forcing a change in the FCA Country Programme priorities and hindering smooth implementation of the activities.

FCA Nepal Country Programme responded timely to the massive earthquake by collaborating with ACT members, UN Clusters and Government of Nepal. Two new humanitarian aid projects were implemented that were not part of the original Country Programme Annual Plan 2015. A project with ACT Alliance members focussed on education sector, aiming to provide equal and uninterrupted access to quality education and to improve teaching quality. A MFA funded humanitarian project concentrated on life-saving activities, for example, providing basic foods, emergency/temporary shelters and cash for work.

The earthquake also affected the livelihood of targeted population in the worse-hit districts. FCA's long-term development co-operation programme was able to reshape quickly to respond to the emergency situation. The Country Programme continued to promote sustainable economic

recovery through supporting micro-enterprises, income generation activities, community infrastructures and skilling people.

In 2015, FCA worked in the following geographical areas: all nine districts of Far West Region, Lalitpur, Kavre, Bhaktapur and Kathmandu districts of Central Region, and Mid-West and East Regions of Nepal.

The Country Programme explored partnership opportunities with Nepalese local NGOs specialised in psychosocial issues to provide psychosocial supports to the earthquake affected teachers, students and their parents. Consequently, Centre for Mental health and Counselling Nepal (CMC) was selected as a new partner for psychosocial support work while responding to Nepal massive earthquake.

In 2015, FCA has established a good relationship with UN agencies, in particular with UNICEF, ACT Alliance members, NGOs, government ministries and departments and civil society networks. FCA is a core member of Nepal Education Cluster at the national and sub-national levels. In addition, FCA has become a member of Association of International NGOs (AIN) as one of the major Finnish CSOs working in Nepal.

3. Progress made in the Country Programme's set objectives and sub-objectives during 2015

a) Snapshot of Key Results in 2015

Nepal Country Programme reached 32,936 direct beneficiaries: 9,155 women, 6,704 men, 10,318 girls and 6,759 boys in 2015		
Right to Livelihood (R2L)	Debt dismissal campaigns and interaction between freed Haliyas and their ex-masters was successful to dismiss the loan of 22 freed Haliyas amounting EUR 33,107. Projects contributing to this result: 11555	3,279 women accessed financial resources through co-operatives as shareholder members. Projects contributing to this result: 11555, 11412
Right to Education (R2E)	17,077 school children had access to 333 safe classrooms. Projects contributing to this result: 11636	1,602 teachers were trained on different issues including use of educational supplies, psychosocial support, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and school safety Projects contributing to this result: 11636
Right to Peace (R2P)	Among 475 members of the local peace support structures, 68 % were women. This serves as evidence of increased willingness and capacity of the duty-bearers and right-holders to engage conflict affected women in peace support structures.	
Advocacy	71 Dalit organisations participated in national and regional level consultation and prepared a report on the human rights situations of the Dalits in Nepal. The report was submitted to OHCHR Geneva and presented in 2 nd UPR Nepal review. Projects contributing to this result: 11625	

b) Key Achievements during 2015

Humanitarian assistance and Education in Emergencies:

FCA together with ACT Alliance Nepal Forum members started earthquake response since day one and jointly issued a full appeal “Nepal Earthquake Response”. FCA was the only requesting member to respond in education in emergency. ACT forum has been intervening in remote and isolated village development committees (VDCs) of 11 districts with a response, early-recovery and reconstruction programmes. ACT forum has reached to 98,289 households and 479,650 people.

After the earthquake FCA met the immediate food and shelter needs of 15,000 families distributing basic foods and emergency shelters, collaborating with ACT Alliance Nepal forum members. FCA’s education in emergency work also met the educational needs of over 17,000 students building 170 safe and secure temporary learning spaces along with adequate water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. The work was implemented in three earthquake-affected districts, filling urgent gaps and needs identified by Nepal Education Cluster, while promoting sustainable and impactful recovery and transition and the right of children to education.

FCA’s efforts in building the capacity of 1,602 teachers have contributed to improve the quality of teaching. FCA Nepal, being a core member of the training curricula development committee, contributed significantly to develop the teachers’ training package. Teacher training

has components that contribute to long term resilience and institutional disaster preparedness as well.

The Country Programme’s development and humanitarian work received great coverage in Finnish, Nepalese, FCA and ACT Alliance media. The Government of Nepal’s Ministry of Finance congratulated FCA with a letter of appreciation for its outstanding work to respond to education in emergency in time. FCA is well established and known as a key actor within the international humanitarian communities working in Nepal, specialised in education in emergency (EiE) work.

In 2015 FCA Nepal has diversified its funding base. FCA also built its’ own capacity to respond to a large scale emergency in education, WASH, shelter and food sectors. Following the emergency response, the number of staff in FCA Nepal Country Office increased from one staff (Country programme Coordinator) in 2014 to the team of 36 professionals. This included a large team of short term humanitarian project staff, mainly consisting of construction engineers.

Right to Livelihood (R2L): FCA has encouraged innovative and sustainable farm and off-farm activities to maximise the production and profit and enhance communities’ resilience in case of emergencies. In addition, gender gaps in accessing livelihood assets have decreased. Altogether, 5,829 beneficiaries have accessed livelihood assets, among them



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84 % are women. Above 3,000 women accessed financial resources through co-operatives as shareholder members. 14 co-operatives are completely led and managed by women. Women have been provided with equal opportunities in training.

Skill development training provided to unemployed youths and women followed by job placement and business start-up support have proved to be a stabilising factor in a society, preventing youth radicalisation, thus promoting the **Right to Peace (R2P)**. Conflict affected women (CAW) and other youths affected by previous armed conflict were given priority while selecting participants for technical vocational education and skill development training.

Increased women’s access to and control over land, finance and other productive resources have drastically reduced violence against women. Furthermore, a series of dialogues held between Dalits and non-Dalits, Haliyas and masters, Kamaiyas and landlords has contributed to create social harmony and realising peace in the communities. The Country Programme has empowered former bonded labourers, Dalits and women to amplify their voices to claim their rights. At the same, FCA has built the capacity of local authority to fulfill their obligations.

Local conflicts related to land, labour and loan have been minimised through mediation and counselling. Similarly, freed Haliyas and ex-masters have jointly carried out income generation activities through which socio-economic harmony and co-existences persisted.

Advocacy: FCA provided financial and capacity building support to its partner, Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization (NNDSWO) and Dalit CSOs coalitions to enable them to take part and raise their concerns in Universal Periodic Review (UPR). 71 Dalit organisations participated in national and regional level consultation and, prepared a report on the human rights situation of the Dalits in Nepal. The report was submitted to OHCHR Geneva and presented in the Nepal UPR second review. Out of 126 recommendations made by UPR review committee, nine are related to Dalit human rights.

4. Evaluations, Assessments and Studies

The Country Programme carried out a **Country Context Analysis** and an **Education Thematic Assessment** of Nepal to open up new avenues to strengthen our interventions in Nepal. Furthermore, a rapid need assessment of Promotion of Women’s Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Lalitpur (POWER) project was conducted as this project was badly affected by the April earthquake.

The main recommendations of the **Country Context Analysis** undertaken in May 2015 were that FCA should develop and implement school based DRR and child friendly approach; low caste communities such as Dalits, Haliyas and Kamaiyas should be provided with livelihood and education support; and improve the economic situation

of women and girls. The Country Programme has responded by developing the education in emergency programme, by securing funding from UNICEF and ACT and by continuing working with Dalits, Haliyas and Kamaiyas. FCA has also planned to extend the Women’s Bank funded project to support women and girls at least for the next three years.

The Education Thematic Assessment was conducted in November 2015 and recommended that FCA would support market oriented TVET programme in remote districts, train Sano Thimi Technical School Instructors on career counselling, up-to-date pedagogical tools and new technology and recruit Teachers without Borders volunteers to carefully prepared assignments based on the local needs. The assessment also emphasised the need to create a national level advocacy campaign to promote the attractiveness of TVET. The Nepal Country Programme has included these recommendations in its annual plan for 2016.

The rapid need assessment of POWER project¹² recommended to continue supporting income generation through skills training, providing seeds and other farm inputs to those who lost them in the earthquake, contributing to build permanent shelters and animal sheds and capacitating local community in disaster risk reduction. FCA is continuing skill training and has provided seeds and other farm inputs where as other ACT members are encouraged to build shelter, wherever possible. Based on the changing context, the livelihood strategy had adopted an integrated approach bringing employment intensive reconstruction works by training/providing skills to people.

5. Capacity Building

FCA has provided continuous support to its implementing partners, which has improved the quality and effectiveness of project interventions. A partnership assessment had been carried out for all new partners. Findings from the assessment were incorporated into the capacity building plan.

As a result of continuous capacity building the long standing partners rely less on FCA and have become more independent in planning and implementation. FCA partners have accessed the funding from Government of Nepal, other INGOs and bilateral donors. The outcome of capacity building support was reflected explicitly also in staff’s day-to-day actions and staff prepared an action plan to transfer the learning into action.

Through UPR project two staff members from NNDSWO and FCA participated in training of Women human rights advocacy for faith based organisation. Nepal Earthquake Response included trainings in First Aid, INEE standards, safety and security and WASH for staff members of local implementing partners WVAF and UCEP and FCA.

6. Challenges effecting the programme and lessons learnt

The earthquake damaged road networks, buildings and other infrastructure, hampering smooth transportation of

13. Promotion of Women’s Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Lalitpur

relief and construction materials and development inputs. Unavailability of reliable suppliers and lack of adequate amount of quality goods and services increased workload of FCA staff significantly and delayed the response.

The protests and strikes led by “Madhesi political parties” in southern Nepal and economic blockade in response to the new constitution resulted in fuel shortages and price hikes, threatened the availability of goods and supplies, restricted travel throughout the country and affected the provision of relief materials and transportation in all isolated project areas. This posed also significant challenges to the effective and timely implementation of the Country Programme in 2015.

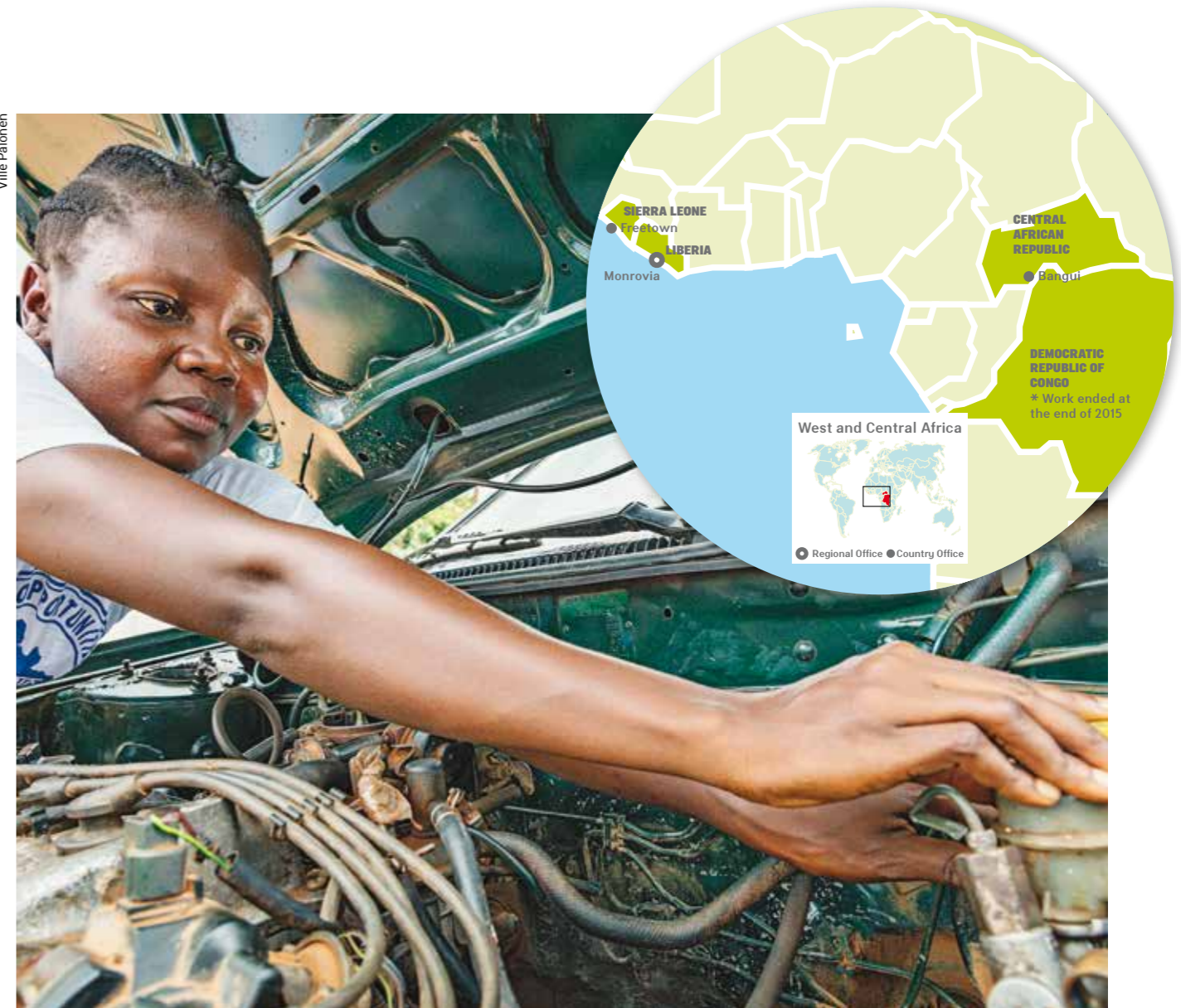
The POWER project was severely affected, 95 % of the houses were destroyed, number of livestock lost and six cooperative members died. The “Skills training and Technical Education for Employment Programme, STEP” project was also affected as the training participants left the vocational school to return to home and thus classes were interrupted. These projects came to a complete stop for four months, but were restarted again in the autumn.

The working space of CSOs like FCA has narrowed down in Nepal due to stricter government regulation. After the earthquake, government is frequently changing policies, guidelines, operating procedures.

Participation in UN clusters has allowed FCA to share its knowledge and expertise, and FCA has become a known and respected actor in the education, WASH and logistical clusters. Cluster coordination at different levels not only helped to avoid duplication but also leveraged the impact of the resources.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) has been further strengthened in the long-term development work to prepare communities to respond and to minimise the risk of disaster. School based preparedness, including the preparation and implementation of a school contingency plan, is an effective approach to link response to the preparedness and vice-versa. Psychosocial support provided to the community, teachers, students and their parents after the earthquake had a major influence in getting them back to normalcy.

Ville Palonen



27-year-old Miatta K. Xarkpahwowl is studying to become a car mechanic at the LOIC vocational school in Gbarngan, Liberia. FCA supports the professional education and employment of vulnerable young women.

2.2 Central and West Africa

Partners: 14

Personnel (in FTE¹⁴): 45,1

Finn Church Aid’s (FCA) Central Africa Office (CARO) and Finn Church Aid’s West Africa Office (WARO) became FCA West and Central Africa Region (WECARO) in 2015. The WECARO Region was led by the WECARO Regional Representative based in Monrovia, Liberia. The establishment of the WECARO Region was to promote improved regional co-operation between the different FCA offices in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Central African Republic (CAR). Non-formal discussions and one regional meeting took place in 2015 in June in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. Issues discussed during the meeting included WECARO risk analysis and

mitigation, WECARO opportunities and challenges and strategy planning. All FCA WECARO staff also participated in a short training in fundraising.

The country contexts of DRC and CAR remained volatile throughout 2015, and the security and operational related challenges in CAR in particular continued to challenge FCA’s work. In DRC, the second half of 2015 focused on ensuring FCA’s responsible exit by January 2016, following considerable reductions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA) funding. In Liberia and Sierra Leone the uncertainty of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) delayed the restart of FCA and partners’ longer term projects. In early 2015 new projects started and additional resources were allocated to the fight against EVD and later to support EVD recovery activities. In 2015, FCA worked with all together 14 partners in DRC, Liberia and Sierra Leone, while in CAR interventions were directly implemented by FCA.

14. Full-time equivalent - Henkilötyövuosi

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Final budget (EUR)	Costs (EUR)
11554	Ebola project	FCA together with the local partners	MFA Humanitarian, parishes	611,000	453,780
10706	WA Regional Capacity building of local partners	All Liberia and Sierra Leone partners	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	5,000	4,276
10710	Baseline Studies and Evaluations	FCA self-implemented	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	45,000	28,919
11427	WARO resource mobilisation	FCA self-implemented	Private, parishes	35,000	26,977
10480	WARO office PMER support for the MFA frame programme	FCA self-implemented	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	426,000	414,143
Total costs (EUR)					928,095

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)



1. List of Projects and Financial Summary

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Final budget (EUR)	Costs (EUR)
11601	Entrepreneurship and livelihoods development of vulnerable households and Innovations in Value Chain Systems in Walikale	ALPM	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	77,000	76,547
10603	Youth Empowerment Project	ETN	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	115,000	111,684
11443	Support to small entrepreneurship and income generation for the vulnerable youth in Goma, DRC	ETN	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	50,000	49,906
11600	Holistic Women's Empowerment Project	FJDF, DFJ	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	120,000	117,471
11587	Humanitarian assistance in food security, reducing malnutrition and social reinsertion of populations affected by violence in Masisi, North Kivu, DRC	LWF DRC with FCA	MFA Humanitarian	550,000	399,856
10437	Kugabu Local Development and Capacity Building Project	LWF DRC	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	115,000	115,000
11502	Emergency nutrition, food security and psychosocial support for the vulnerable IDP and returnee communities in Masisi territory, North Kivu, DRC	LWF DRC with FCA	MFA Humanitarian, private	74,000	62,859
11642	COD-151 – Response to Burundian Refugees influx in DRC	FCA self-implemented	Private, ACT	100,000	97,319
11602	Alternatives Group to find long lasting solution to kivus conflict-project	FCA self-implemented	Private, parishes	50,000	41,706
11521	Emergency food distribution, contributing to livelihood and improved resilience for conflict affected communities in North Kivu, DRC	FCA self-implemented	MFA Humanitarian		25,953
10933	Local Partners' Capacity Building	All DRC partners	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	21,500	21,071
11688	DRC country programme evaluation	FCA self-implemented	Private, parishes	14,500	12,900
10715	DRC office PMER support for the MFA frame programme	FCA self-implemented	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	569,500	557,271
Total costs (EUR)					1,689,543

2. Overview of the DRC Programme

The FCA Country Office was opened in Goma, North Kivu, DRC in 2009. The decision to exit from DRC was made in the autumn 2015 and was effective by January 2016. The exit decision was taken due to the development funding cuts informed by the Finnish Government. FCA and its partners' work in DRC focused on Right to Livelihoods (R2L) and Right to Education (R2E). The active promotion of women's rights was part of the Country Programme (CP) since the start. A smaller Right to Peace (R2P) programme component was developed in 2014, bringing together a group of influential persons to identify the causes of the DRC conflict and to propose alternative ways to promote positive change through advocacy efforts.

In 2015, the CP was implemented in Goma, Masisi, South Lubero, Rutshuru, Nyiragongo, South Kivu, Oriental province and Kisangani. The partners included Equipe d'Education et d'Encadrement des Traumatés de Nyiragongo (ETN), the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Dynamique de Femmes Juristes (DFJ), Femmes Juristes pour les Droits de la Femme et de l'Enfant (FJDF) and RAFFEJE - the network of four women's organisations of Eastern DRC, while the humanitarian project in Uvira territory, South Kivu was FCA self-implemented.

In 2015, FCA's work in livelihoods focused on enhancing agricultural production, support to small and medium business creation and improving the local business environment through advocacy. In education, the focus was on promoting access to education in both emergency and development contexts. Longer-term, development

education projects enhanced access to and the quality of vocational education, while Education in Emergencies (EiE) focused on ensuring access to schools for the children of families affected by the influx of Burundian refugees through financial support to the targeted families and schools.

In addition to the development and implementation of a number of successful programme initiatives in R2L and R2E, in the first half of the year FCA successfully established contact and was in ongoing discussions with a number of new potential donors. Later in the autumn these discussions had to be abandoned. The focus of FCA's work then shifted to enhancing the sustainability of the actions and providing intensive support to the local partners with the aim of ensuring a responsible exit from DRC.

In 2015, FCA also greatly increased its involvement and role within the ACT DRC Forum. At the time of the Burundian refugees' crisis in May 2015, FCA took the lead in the needs assessment mission in South Kivu and then coordinated the writing process of the Appeal and subsequent dialogue with ACT Geneva. Furthermore, as FCA was unable to take on the suggested role of the ACT Forum Coordinator due to the closing of the Country Office, the FCA humanitarian coordinator was appointed the ACT Forum technical coordinator.

FCA's final contribution to the ACT Forum's work was the drafting of the ACT DRC Forum Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan. In the context of the upcoming elections, adding to an already volatile environment, the document will provide essential information and guidance in case of large scale emergency in the coming years.

3. Progress made in the Country Programme's set objectives and sub-objectives during 2015

a) Snapshot of Key Results in 2015

Right to Livelihood (R2L)	Creation and capacitation of 48 association of farmers (of 50 persons each – total 2,400 persons) with seeds and tools and chicken distribution Projects contributing to this result: 11587 3,080 households have increased their income Projects contributing to this result: 11642, 11587	860 persons have been structured into 44 agricultural organisations, where they learn new farming techniques and introduction of new non-traditional crops Projects contributing to this result: 11601 680 persons trained in income generating activities (IGA) and 2,400 persons trained in community fields Projects contributing to this result: 11642, 11587
Right to Education (R2E)	1,199 children, including 413 girls (34,5%) attend school in South Kivu Projects contributing to this result: 11642	12 schools improved (roofing, school furnitures) in South Kivu Projects contributing to this result: 11642
Right to Peace (R2P)	1,212 persons sensitised on peaceful coexistence and social cohesion Projects contributing to this result: 11601	

b) Key Achievements during 2015

A Country Programme evaluation conducted in the late 2015 by an external consultant gave a highly positive account of FCA and its partners' work in DRC. The evaluation concluded that the R2L component was extremely relevant to the Congolese context and to the targeted rights-holders. It was carried out efficiently and largely achieved its objectives in the target areas. Similarly, the R2E component was seen as highly relevant to the needs of the targeted youth in the conflict-prone environment of the Kivu regions. The component almost fully achieved its CP objectives, with particular success in enhancing the skills and knowledge of the beneficiaries.

According to the Country Programme evaluation, the impact of the **livelihood component (R2L)** was particularly positive and brought concrete positive changes in the lives of those who accessed credit as part of the vocational training project and those who were grouped in Village Savings and Loan Associations (linking learning with earning). The evaluation noted that many of the targeted beneficiaries are now able to maintain their households, have enhanced access to local markets and have increased their incomes.

The Feminine Entrepreneurship project that was initiated in 2014, started to bear results in 2015. The targeted women gained access to and control over productive resources through the savings and credit associations. Altogether during 2014 and 2015, FCA supported the establishment of 102 new businesses, out of which 80 % were led by women. Very positive results were identified in 2015, including an increase in the income of the project participants, and 17 women were even able to employ other persons in their businesses. The loan repayment rate was at 80% at the end of the year 2015. The Country Programme evaluation also noted that the economic empowerment of the women has potentially had a positive impact on diminishing the gender gap in the targeted communities.

The ETN managed vocational training centres in Goma and Masisi enhanced the youth's access to quality vocational training in masonry, car mechanics, woodwork, culinary art, esthetics, plumbing, electronics and welding, among others. The comprehensive training was followed by important advisory support services and access to credit (linking learning with earning). The impact of the programme increased greatly when the vocational trainings were linked with credit schemes for the youth and the established co-operatives. According to the Country Programme evaluation, at the end of the training cycle, most interviewed graduated students reported feeling more capable, self-confident and independent.

The Business Incubator model that was introduced in 2014 to complement the above mentioned ETN run vocational training project, started to bear results. Several innovative and successful business concepts were developed by the graduated youth and received ongoing support by the project. The type of businesses ranged from joint ventures in welding and metal fabrication, carpentry and tailoring to tenths of individual manufacturing businesses, mostly in Goma. In the end of 2015, the average monthly profit of these small businesses was \$60 in Goma and over \$90 in Masisi.

In Masisi, 2 out of 3 of the business owners are members of one or more savings clubs.

The FCA self-implemented humanitarian project was successful in enhancing food security and access to education in South Kivu. The project was an excellent example of successfully linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development, laying the groundwork for more sustainable development during a humanitarian intervention. To ensure greater impact and lessons learnt, two important components were included: providing cash support to improve food security of the rights-holders, and providing cash support to increase access of the targeted children to education. This approach, developed in coordination with both the food security and education clusters and in line with the recommendations of the cash working group, proved successful in tackling two major problems in the area. The project allowed FCA to provide assistance to all the rights-holders (both in food security and education) under one activity (cash distribution), while fine-tuning its use through separate trainings for each of the target groups. The project also made use of mobile money transfer, a new approach for FCA, allowing easier logistics, better security and monitoring.

In Right to Peace (R2P), the most relevant activities related to women's rights advocacy work with RAFFEJE, as RAFFEJE created a regional network of women lawyer organisations of DRC, Burundi and Rwanda. International Alert took over financing this activity in 2016 as FCA decided to close the DRC office.

Also in advocacy, as a part of developing the cash-based programming work, FCA together with ETN visited DRC Central Bank in Kinshasa to advocate for a microfinance status for ETN. The Vice Governor of North Kivu Province strongly supported the application and the process was ongoing at the time of FCA's exit from DRC.

The close collaboration between FCA DRC Country office and World Council of Churches (WCC) had impact even at global level. DRC was one of WCC's focus countries, and FCA was part of an alliance that organised a side event on DRC during the UN Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva in the autumn 2015. Later in 2015 UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on DRC, based on this meeting.

In Right to Education (R2E) too, progress was made in advocacy. FCA and the EPS (North Kivu education authority) agreed about the placement of a Teachers without Borders (TWB) volunteer in the Ministry. The person was going to support the Ministry in developing teacher training in the province. UNICEF was strongly in support of the planned initiative and contributed to the concept note development process.

4. Evaluations, Assessments and Studies

A Country Programme evaluation was conducted in the end of December 2015 with the aim to provide an independent assessment of the achievement of the expected outputs and outcomes of the Country Programme, in particular 2013-2015, and the related impact in the lives of the targeted rights-holders. The evaluation also identified lessons learnt and keys to success and provided practical recommendations for their replication in similar operating contexts.

The evaluation conclusions were greatly positive in R2L and R2E. In R2L, FCA and its partner successfully put into practice earlier 2014 project evaluation recommendations that focused on the need to better link the training component with business opportunities to have a durable impact on the youth population; on the need to support women's organisations with technical capacity to develop Income Generating Activities (IGAs); and to incorporate activities that enhance women's economic capacity and women's education. In 2015, FCA successfully promoted all these aspects as part of ETN project in Goma and Masisi and the new Feminine Entrepreneurship project in Pinga.

However, the Right to Peace (R2P) programme component was found not yet to have made a considerable impact. The promotion of women's rights under the R2P component relied upon the yet limited capacity of women lawyer organisations (DFJ and RAFFEJE). At the national level, advocacy efforts by RAFFEJE to change the law on equality between men and women were seen as extremely relevant, but would have needed to be enforced. The women lawyers' associations supported by FCA were thought to have potential to become leaders in the promotion of women's rights in the Kivu Provinces, and should FCA had continued its work in DRC in the longer run the impact of their work would probably also have become more visible and measurable.

The two main best practices identified by the evaluation as having greatly contributed to the success of the programme were the strategy to "link learning and earning" for boosting the impact of the vocational training programme and the use M-PESA mobile money system while transferring cash to the beneficiaries. The system proved effective in reaching a large number of beneficiaries in a limited time, at a distance, and with limited resources for quality follow up after the disbursement.

5. Capacity Building

Developing the capacity of local organisations to plan and deliver efficient and effective services to the rights-holders played a significant role in 2015 and will support the continuity of the work started together. Besides daily one-on-one coaching, two group trainings five days each were organised with 16 members of staff and management of FCA's four local partners (ETN, ALPM, DFJ & FJDF) to share

knowledge on project planning, monitoring and evaluation. A two-day training was also organised with the management and teaching staff of ETN to discuss vocational skills training curriculum development and teaching methodologies. A study visit to Songhai Development and Training Centre was organised with the National Coordinators of ALPM and ETN to share keys to successful skills training, environmentally friendly and effective business approaches to small holder farming.

In the role of ACT Forum technical coordinator, FCA took the lead in organising several ACT meetings and assessing the capacity building needs of the ACT members in Eastern Congo. This was followed by two successful trainings on the Appeal mechanism participated by the staff of seven ACT member organisations.

6. Challenges effecting the programme and lessons learnt

There have been a number of challenges related to operating in the difficult conflict prone environment of the Kivus. Ongoing risk assessment and risk mitigation have played an important role throughout FCA's presence in DRC. The loss of key staff and challenges in recruitment affected the programme. The sometimes still limited financial capacity of local partner organisations required intense support and monitoring. To address this, capacity building of partner staff, internal controls, regular project visits, enhanced HR administration and external audits have taken place.

The most important lessons learnt from FCA's experience in DRC suggest that interlinkages between the different sectors boost impact. In the case of DRC this was particularly successful in linking education and livelihoods components. Working through local partners clearly promotes sustainability of development programmes, while direct implementation in humanitarian operations enhances visibility and fundraising capacity at the local level. Through direct implementation and thanks to the presence of skilled and motivated staff, FCA was able to build a quality programme and a good reputation among development and humanitarian actors at the local level, which would have also enhanced fundraising, would FCA's work have continued in DRC in 2016.

Central African Republic (CAR)



Catianne Tijerina

1. List of Projects and Financial Summary

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Final budget (EUR)	Costs (EUR)
11500	Emergency support to re-establish education in the North-West region of Central African Republic	FCA self-implemented	MFA Humanitarian, private	226,000	271,766
11604	Access to transition education in the Western part of Central African Republic	FCA self-implemented	MFA Humanitarian	265,000	228,170
11633	Assistance to Support & Protect war affected vulnerable communities in the CAR – CAF151	FCA self-implemented	ACT	276,976	212,610
11525	Global Partnership for Education project in CAR	FCA self-implemented	Unicef, MFA Humanitarian, private	150,000	181,927
11516	Community conflict resilience project	FCA self-implemented	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	86,000	85,965
11645	Global Partnership for Education 2015-2016	FCA self-implemented	Unicef	119,920	52,158
11646	Gbaya Doumbia School Rehabilitation Project PK5	FCA self-implemented	Unicef	5,666	6,248
11533	CAR office PMER support for the MFA frame programme	FCA self-implemented	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	220,000	218,014
Total costs (EUR)					1,256,858

2. Overview of the Central African Republic Programme

By mid-2015 CAR was slowly recovering from two years of insecurity and political instability. Large areas of the country were still suffering from occupation by and in-fighting between various armed groups. A new crisis in Bangui was triggered by an isolated criminal episode, the killing of a Muslim man, on 26 September 2015. The worst part of the unrest lasted for a couple of weeks, when all humanitarian activities were stopped, and over 200 humanitarian staff were evacuated out of the country. The new crisis coincided with the reopening of schools and the return of children. As a consequence, many of the gains and progress made in early 2015 were lost and represented a further major damage to the recovery and rebuilding of CAR.

In 2015, Right to Education (R2E) remained the most prominent pillar of FCA's programme in CAR. As relative calm started to return to some FCA target areas, people were slowly returning to their villages of origin. Many of the school infrastructures were damaged, teachers had fled the area, and schools were to a large extent still operating on a very low capacity. Even today many schools are only able to function due to the community's efforts and commitment and the parent-teachers who however often have had little education themselves. In 2015, to address the above mentioned challenges, FCA's education intervention focused on the rehabilitation and construction of school infrastructures, training of teachers and parent teachers, distribution of school kits and learning materials, organisation of catch-up classes, and Parent Teacher

Association (PTA) trainings. The operational areas included the capital Bangui and in the Western part of the country Sangha-Mbaere, Mambere-Kadei and Ombella M'Poko.

FCA continued to develop and strengthen its partnership with UNICEF and the Ministry of Education and Technical Training in CAR (Le Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale et de l'Enseignement Technique (MENET) de la République Centrafricaine). A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in Helsinki in the summer of 2015 as a framework for future collaboration between FCA and MENET. While in Helsinki, the CAR Minister of Education and his delegates also met a number of Finnish education sector specialists and authorities. As part of the MoU, FCA is committed to support the capacity building of the education sector professionals through the provision of thematic expertise and organisation of trainings, and to support the development and implementation of peace education in CAR.

3. Progress made in the Country Programme's set objectives and sub-objectives during 2015

a) Snapshot of Key Results in 2015

Central African Republic Country Programme education component reached over 36,000 direct beneficiaries (projects implemented in mid-2014-2015; 2015 until mid-2016)		
Right to Education (R2E)	<p>5 projects improved the educational opportunities of the most vulnerable</p> <p>Projects contributing to this result: 11525 (2014-2015); 11645 (2015-2016); 1500 (2014-2015); 11604 (2015-2016); 11633 (2015-2016)</p> <p>2,359 community and Parent – Teacher Associations' (PTA) members sensitised on the importance of education</p> <p>Projects contributing to this result: 11604, 1500, 11633, 11645</p>	<p>244 teachers trained in various subjects</p> <p>Projects contributing to this result: 11500, 11604, 11633</p>
Right to Peace (R2P)	<p>5 intra-Muslim reconciliation meetings organised</p> <p>Projects contributing to this result: 11516</p>	

b) Key Achievements during 2015

Right to Education (R2E): As part of our MFA humanitarian funded project that promoted enhanced access and quality of education and ended in the summer of 2015, more than 12,433 learners, teachers, PTA and community members benefitted from school rehabilitation, Cash for Work (CfW) activities, and teacher and PTA trainings. In addition, families and community members participated in sensitisation activities that were held as part of the rehabilitation of the 26 targeted schools.

The follow-up MFA funded project continued with similar activities, namely rehabilitation of school buildings and building of latrines and schools kitchens, organisation of catch-up classes, distribution of learning and teaching materials, teacher trainings and back-to-school sensitisation

FCA was also successful in capitalising on its comparative advantage in the education sector by coupling Right to Peace (R2P) activities with R2E projects. In view of enhanced social cohesion and peacebuilding, the approach has been particularly pertinent when rehabilitating secondary schools. In addition to peace education in the targeted schools, FCA's work in R2P also included support to intra-Muslim reconciliation in the Central African Republic.

Through the ACT Appeal mechanism, in 2015 FCA CAR received funding from its sister organisations, namely Church of Sweden and ICCO Netherlands, to support and protect war affected vulnerable communities and to promote children's safe return to school. As part of the ACT Appeal, coordination and sharing of information continued with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF).

campaigns and activities. By the end of the project in the summer 2016, an additional of 6,933 learners, teachers and community members will have benefited from the project activities.

The ACT Appeal project was implemented in nine schools between April 2015 and May 2016 and in 2015 reached a total of 901 persons in the initial sensitisation phase. As part of this project, the targeted learners and teachers received learning and teaching materials. The project also provided training to parent-teachers who have been identified by the local communities to provide basic education and who fill an important gap and make up for the huge existing shortage in trained teachers. The PTAs also benefitted from sensitisations, and play an important role in encouraging parents to send their children to school.

The total estimated number of direct beneficiaries reached by the end of the project in May 2016 is 6,677.

The UNICEF funded GPE2 project is implemented from July 2015 to July 2016. The project promotes children's return to school in the rural area of Sangha Mbaere. The project is procuring and distributing tables, benches and other essential equipment for 81 classrooms, supporting the training of teachers and parent teachers and promoting children's return to school through sensitisation activities in the local communities. By the end of the project the total number of beneficiaries will be almost 10,400.

FCA also continued to play an essential role in supporting local level coordination. FCA established two education programme coordination committees comprised of Academic Inspectors, Education Sector Coordinators, Regional Education Directors, and FCA's education project coordinators. The main role of the committees is to work closely with the MENET, PTAs, School Management, and education development actors in their respective areas. They identify pertinent education needs, link up with various institutions to monitor and evaluate the implementation of education activities and make recommendations for future improvements. The committees consult and work with the local populations and are part of the local complaints mechanism.

Right to Peace (R2P): FCA worked closely with the Ministry of Education and UNICEF to develop Peace Education modules and to provide pre-service teacher trainings. Tools were developed for the peace training for the parent-teachers. The peace education modules for the Parent Teacher Association were also finalised by FCA and have been approved for future use and implementation.

FCA also supported the intra-Muslim reconciliation in organising four preparatory visits to Central African Republic (CAR) and meetings with government authorities and local and international stakeholders to facilitate communication between them and the Muslim community. Building on these consultations, the Central African Republic, hosted by KAICIID in Vienna on 26-27 August 2015, convened a technical meeting with six delegates representing local administration, women's groups, and religious leaders of Muslim communities. The CAR Technical Meeting provided the representatives, the organising partners and selected key stakeholders an opportunity to assess the current situation and topical issues in CAR from the perspective of various Muslim communities, to agree on the best way forward, and to explore how this joint initiative can support the capacity and agency of Muslim groups in CAR.

In addition, FCA in partnership with Cordaid-CAR, and the Réseau Foi Culture et Education-RCA (RFCE) engaged actors in dialogues on Religions and Peace, focusing on the links between religious teaching and peace values.

4. Evaluations, Assessments and Studies

No formal project evaluations took place in 2015. However, all projects are designed and developed based on the necessary context, conflict, vulnerability and needs assessments. Joint field visits with UNICEF and other important stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Education take place



regularly. FCA remains one of the most important UNICEF partners in CAR, and their feedback has been largely positive and co-operation productive.

5. Capacity Building

FCA CAR is not working with local partners, but the programme is largely self-implemented. However, as part of the implemented education projects a number of trainings have been organised for the staff in the sub-offices from the Ministry of Education, for teachers and school directors. The PTAs have also been sensitised and have received trainings on the importance of education, maintaining the educational outputs created by the projects and how to encourage children to return to school.

6. Challenges effecting the programme and lessons learnt

The country context and the operating environment in CAR are particularly challenging. In addition to ongoing insecurity and the related challenges, the country infrastructure is in a bad condition or does not exist, and a major part of the country is inaccessible during the long rainy season. The procurement and transportation of quality materials and equipment is time consuming and expensive. The health related problems are considerable, while very basic health services are only available in Bangui. Electricity is only available in Bangui and the town of Boali and power cuts are daily. Piped water is only available in central Bangui.

The short cycles of the humanitarian work and the changing target areas in CAR make it challenging to assess the programme's medium-term impact on different targeted vulnerable groups. The context of CAR is particularly challenging with insecurity affecting work plans and limiting movements, and so the follow-up of the already constructed schools and their personnel is difficult and expensive. As a result, in 2015 FCA designed and implemented more comprehensive education packages focusing on greater sustainability of the interventions, rather than rapid and lighter rehabilitation of a larger number of schools.

Liberia



Ville Palonen

1. List of Projects and Financial Summary

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Final budget (EUR)	Costs (EUR)
10642	Economic Empowerment for Girls and Women in Post-war Liberia	FAWE Liberia	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	130,000	123,503
11576	Sustainable Agriculture Project for Rural Women in Liberia	PNO	MFA Partnership Agreement, Women's Bank	120,000	119,755
11566	Improving the Socio Economic Status of Rural Women in Grand Cape Mount County	SLPP	MFA Partnership Agreement, private	100,000	99,908
11616	Ebola Advocacy/Information Campaign with Mercy Corps	FCA self-implemented	USAID	561,200	549,965
11619	Liberia Ebola Flash Appeal 2015	FCA self-implemented	MFA Humanitarian	150,000	137,694
11489	Support to non-formal secondary education in PTP refugee camp, Grand Gedeh county	FCA self-implemented	Private	83,300	85,068
11471	Support to secondary education of Ivorian refugees in Nimba county	FCA self-implemented	MFA Humanitarian	80,000	83,530
11632	Support to Secondary Education in Little Wlebo refugee camp, Liberia	FCA self-implemented	Private	36,000	35,907
Total costs (EUR)					1,235,330

2. Overview of the Liberia Programme

The post-Ebola context strongly affected Liberia Country Programme in 2015. While the start of normal project work was to some extent delayed, new humanitarian interventions expanded the Programme in terms of funding, partners and activities. While Right to Livelihood (R2L) and Right to Education (R2E) remained the thematic focus areas, new approaches and activities were introduced into FCA's work. Strong thematic expertise and experience in Education in Emergencies (EiE) and in food security/agriculture, solid financial management capacity and long-term partnerships with local organisations enabled FCA to make its own significant contribution to Ebola response and recovery in Liberia.

The new post-Ebola food security project started in April 2015 in Cape Mount and Gbarpolu counties and significantly increased the number of the targeted beneficiaries in 2015. Thanks to the reallocation of unspent funds, FCA and its partners were able to support the fight against the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in five counties first from September to December 2014, and then with Mercy Corps /USAID funding from January to April 2015.

The schools re-opened in March after having been closed because of Ebola. While the school year in FCA-managed secondary schools at three refugee camps for Ivorian refugees was greatly disrupted, classes were held in an accelerated fashion and learners passed their exams in August. Intensive English classes were provided to all students and staff to support their reinsertion into the

Liberian schooling system. Because of the EVD, FCA was not able to welcome a Teachers without Borders (TWB) - volunteer to support the project, as was originally planned. FCA closed its Education in Emergencies project in Bahn, PTP and Little Wlebo camp at the end of 2015.

After the end of the EVD, FCA's long-term partner FAWE was able to continue to support vulnerable girls' and women's access to vocational training and the Income Generating Activities by the Mother's Clubs in the local target communities. In the same vein, partners PNO and SLPP continued their work in supporting women in vegetable and poultry farming.

The start of the Right to Peace (R2P) -project was delayed due to the EVD outbreak as the local partner was involved in FCA's two Ebola response projects. As a result, only the baseline assessment was done in 2015. However, almost 300 women received rights awareness trainings in FCA's projects in 2015.

FCA participated actively in post-Ebola related advocacy together with other INGOs. The Regional Office also facilitated work and visits of the FCA's Ebola representative

and the visit of the Special Representative on EDV of the Foreign Ministry of Finland to Liberia. FCA's networking and fundraising efforts, as well as participation in different coordination mechanism were significantly increased in 2015.

In 2015, the Liberia Country Programme operating areas included Montserrado, Grand Bassa, Bong, Margibi, Cape Mount and Gbarpolu as well as Nimba, Grand Gedeh and Maryland where FCA worked with Ivorian refugees. The programme was implemented with FCA's partners Forum for African Women Educationalists – Liberia (FAWE), Project New Outlook (PNO), Sustainable Livelihood Promoters Programme (SLPP) and Rural Human Rights Activist Programme (RHPAP). A Dutch INGO ZOA and a local organisation, Africa 2000 Network, were also members of the FCA led ECAP consortium and contributed to the Ebola response. FCA continues strategic partnership with Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia (AFELL) that supported two projects in the Country Programme by proving women's rights training.

3. Progress made in the Country Programme's set objectives and sub-objectives during 2015

a) Snapshot of Key Results in 2015

Liberia Country Programme reached 5,966 direct beneficiaries in 2015		
Right to Livelihood (R2L)	168 beneficiaries with improved income generating activities (IGA) Projects contributing to this result: 10642 7 Savings and Credit groups with 175 members established and functional Projects contributing to this result: 10642	1,998 persons trained in farming and business skills Projects contributing to this result :11554, 11566, 11576
Right to Education (R2E)	Total number of persons accessing secondary education 505 (341 male, 164 female) 188 girls and women supported to access vocational training Projects contributing to these results: 11471, 10642	3 semi-permanent secondary school structures constructed, one in each camp 2 activity centres constructed for Mothers' Clubs Projects contributing to these results: 11471, 10642

b) Key Achievements during 2015

Right to Livelihood (R2L): The most relevant result of the Country Programme was the provision of livelihood support in post-Ebola recovery phase to more than 1,800 beneficiaries (half of them women) thereby helping communities on the one hand to recover from impacts of the Ebola outbreak on their livelihood and food security, and on the other laying foundations for moving away from subsistence farming to sustainable livelihoods. Direct unconditional cash transfers

helped the target households to stabilise their financial situation and distribution of tools and seeds through a market-approach and related trainings stimulated the local markets and food production.

The transformation of PNO's semi-commercial poultry farm to a viable commercial business received continuous support from FCA also in 2015. FCA provided funds for the renovation of poultry barns, including the feed mill unit, and 1,800 layers were procured for the farm. Moreover, two

volunteer advisers from Women's Bank visited Liberia to assess PNO's semi-commercial poultry farm and provided helpful recommendations for the way forward. Also other partner, SLPP, was supported to develop semi-commercial as well as backyard poultry farming. In total, nearly 200 beneficiaries received chickens from FCA in 2015.

Right to Education (R2E): The Education programme in Liberia in 2015 was two-fold: An Education in Emergencies (EiE) project was self-implemented by FCA on three sites and a vocational education project was implemented through our local partner FAWE. For the EiE project, 505 refugee youths attended secondary school and 100 youth vocation skills trainings in Bahn refugee camp.

FAWE sponsored 40 out-of-school young women and girls between the ages of 18 to 30 years in Technical Vocational Educational Training. These young women and girls are being trained in the skills of plumbing, carpentry, masonry, mechanic, electricity and agriculture in two targeted TVET institutions FAWE also supported and worked with four Mothers Clubs that provided skills trainings to 138 women in rural and peri-urban communities. A Teachers Without Borders (TWB) volunteer was also seconded to FAWE for a period of six months and provided several capacity building trainings for the Mothers' Clubs, skills trainers and trainees, TVET beneficiaries and FAWE staff. The volunteer also helped to develop a skills training curriculum in traditional skills, such as soap making.

From February to September 2015 FCA led a post-Ebola back-to-school project in 25 schools and 35 communities in Putu District, Grand Gedeh County. The project reached over 3,000 people in the target communities and schools with Ebola prevention and hygiene protocols. The response was not included in the original Country Programme Annual Plan as it was implemented in support of the Education cluster reopening the Liberian schools in the aftermath of the Ebola epidemic.

In advocacy, a study on "Gendered impact of Ebola in Liberia" was conducted in January-February by a PhD student of University of Turku and was later shared widely among international organisations, donors, national authorities and INGOs in Liberia. The researcher was interviewed in UNMIL radio and the study was also published in Reliefweb. FCA also signed an advocacy letter on humanitarian coordination submitted by INGOs to international organisation working in Liberia and initiated a similar letter on principles for post-Ebola recovery in the Liberia INGO forum. FCA's Partner AFELL (Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia) was supported to attend a CEDAW-training in Geneva and later on contributed to Liberia's preparation for CEDAW review meeting.

4. Evaluations, Assessments and Studies

No formal evaluations or assessments were undertaken in 2015. Project monitoring was very intensive throughout the year in terms of field monitoring and regular meetings with partners to assess progress made and discuss possible challenges faced. In particular, the monitoring of implementation of the three month ECAP –project required considerable time and resources as part of this intervention FCA led a consortium of six NGOs.

5. Capacity Building

While it was not possible to organise separate capacity trainings for partners in the post-Ebola phase, partners continued to benefit from the technical and capacity support provided by FCA programme and finance-administration staff. Participation in the FCA -led consortium implementing ECAP-programme also helped to build partners' capacities in many respects, including the use of mobile monitoring tools. In November, a one-day work shop was organised to discuss results-based monitoring and to introduce FCA's new project planning guidelines and formats.

6. Challenges effecting the programme and lessons learnt

The continuous recurrence of EVD during the first quarter of 2015 constituted a major challenge disrupting the smooth planning and implementation of projects until April. In May 2015, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared Liberia free of EVD transmission allowing partners to hurriedly redesign their interventions to cater for project beneficiaries identified in 2014, as well as new ones whose livelihoods situation had been negatively affected by the EVD crisis. The redesigning of the partners' projects took longer than expected due to lack of uncertainty of EVD outbreak, budgetary alignment and the issues of partners transitioning from EVD response to normal partners' developmental mode.

Ville Palonen



Sierra Leone



1. List of Projects and Financial Summary

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Final budget (EUR)	Costs (EUR)
11567	Women's and girls' vocational skills training in Sierra Leone	FAWE SL	MFA Partnership Agreement, Women's Bank	100,000	99,653
10649	Bonthe Island Environmental and Livelihood Project	Green Scenery (GS)	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	72,000	71,351
11463	Pis Taay Go – Peace Always	NMJD	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	80,000	80,000
11575	Integrated rural development project	PICEP	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	268,000	263,789
11574	Skills training and employment promotion	RADA	MFA Partnership Agreement, RedNoseDay-campaign	125,000	112,440
Total costs (EUR)					627,233

2. Overview of the Sierra Leone Programme

In 2015, FCA and its partners' work in Sierra Leone focused on Right to Livelihood (R2L) and Right to Education (R2E), and specifically supported the local communities' recovery from the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). In R2L, and in particular in the post-Ebola context, the emphasis of the Country Programme was on enhancing food security by improving and diversifying food production through trainings and distribution of farming inputs, and increasing the available income of rural household through cash transfers. At the same time, FCA continued supporting the development of large scale rice cultivation and semi-commercial egg production.

In R2E, FCA supported the provision of Technical and Vocational Training and Education (TVET) and small business skills training. Start-up kits and seed money were provided to the graduates from the training institutions.

FCA's work in Right to Peace (R2P) started with some planning delays due to the outbreak of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD). In 2015, FCA and its partner implemented

initiatives that aimed to increase the targeted religious and traditional leaders' knowledge and skills in human rights, and in conflict prevention and resolution. Also Community Peace and Development Committees have been formed.

While no separate advocacy work was undertaken, FCA participated actively in post-Ebola related advocacy efforts together with other INGOs and the Head Office based Senior Peace Adviser, and with the Special representative on EDV of the Foreign Ministry of Finland.

The Country Programme operating areas included, Kailahun and Kenema districts in the Easter Region, Small Bo, Moyambe, Bonthe, Bo and Pujehun districts in the Southern Region and Bombali and Koinadugu districts in the Norther Region. Projects were implemented with five local partners; Green Scenery (GS), Partners in Integrated Community Empowerment Programme (PICEP), Rehabilitation And Development Agency (RADA SL), Forum for Africa Women Educationalists, Sierra Leone Chapter (FAWE SL) and Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD).

3. Progress made in the Country Programme's set objectives and sub-objectives during 2015

a) Snapshot of Key Results in 2015

Sierra Leone Country Programme reached 5,356 direct beneficiaries: 2,827 women, 2,529 men in 2015	
Right to Livelihood (R2L)	310 beneficiaries with improved income generating activities (IGAs) Projects contributing to this result: 11575, 11554 1,359 households (HHs) with access to improved assets, including farming tools and seeds, chicken and ruminants. Projects contributing to this result: 11559, 11575, 10649
Right to Education (R2E)	218 persons (34 men, 184 women) had access to Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Projects contributing to this result: 11567, 11574
Right to Peace (R2P)	A total of 195 traditional and religious leaders (chiefs, imams and pastors) in 15 communities were trained in human and women's rights, conflict prevention, mediation and resolution skills and peace building. Projects contributing to this result: 11463

b) Key Achievements during 2015

Right to Livelihood (R2L): In 2015, three livelihood projects were implemented with local partner organisations in six different Districts. The projects contributed to poverty reduction in the targeted communities through promotion of sustainable agricultural production, empowerment of community development structures and development of income generating activities for the targeted vulnerable groups.

The 60 Village Development Committees (VDC) and 60 Community Based Disaster Management Committees with a total of 780 members, have increased their capacity to take on the lead role in mobilising local communities for community development actions, and in engaging with the relevant state actors. Together with the local chiefs, the VDCs play an important role in promoting women's rights and preventing violence against women, and have established local mechanisms to support the referral of victims of gender based violence (GBV) to the relevant services. Women's participation and leadership role in these community structures has continued to increase.

As part of the Cross Border Humanitarian project addressing the challenges of the post-Ebola period, 500 farmers received trainings in improved agricultural methods and small business management, and were provided with agricultural inputs (tools and seeds) using the voucher fair approach. The provision of unconditional cash inputs to 1,000 vulnerable households contributed to secure their income, facilitated their access to food during the lean season, and to pay for school fees and basic medical care.

The Farmer Field Schools (FFS) served as important platforms for the propagation of modern agricultural practices and contributed to improved farm practices and productivity. The FFS and the 25 farmer associations

established by the project worked with over 800 farmers who received training in improved agricultural methods and small business management skills, so as to support them also in establishing new businesses as a way of diversifying their livelihood opportunities.

The capacity of duty-bearers was strengthened as a result of their participation in trainings in leadership, project oversight, disaster preparedness and mitigation, farmer field schools (FFS) and farming activities, environmental issues and basic business skills.

Right to Education (R2E): In total 218 (184 female and 34 men) trainees were enrolled in and completed their vocational training programmes in the four targeted vocational training centres in Kabala, Makeni, Zimmi and Bo. They acquired skills and knowledge in marketable trades such as carpentry, general construction, dressmaking, weaving, textile dyeing, catering & hospitality and agriculture. Training in vocational skills was coupled with functional literacy and life skills training targeting young people with limited or no previous education. Three out of the four training programmes also included on-the-job training in local enterprises and institutions, thereby enabling trainees to gain important skills and techniques that meet the needs and requirements of the local job market and businesses. A total of 180 students in two locations (Bo and Zimmi) were given seed money after the establishment of 21 business groups, while 148 graduates from FAWE's two training centres received start-up kits.

Right to Peace (R2P): FCA provided support for the Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD) to implement training initiatives and tailor-made workshops to enhance the capacity of religious and traditional leaders and other influential actors in communities. In total 195 traditional and religious leaders (chiefs, imams and pastors)



Ulja Tarkka

in 15 communities were trained in human and women's rights, conflict prevention, mediation and resolution skills and peace building. This has led to the establishment of Community Peace and Development committees (CPDC) in three respective chiefdoms promoting collective involvement in self-help initiatives, and handling of intra and inter community conflicts. In 2015, a total of 30 Community Peace and Human Rights dialogue sessions were organised in the target communities.

4. Evaluations, Assessments and Studies

PICEP's Integrated Community Empowerment project (ICE) and Empowerment project for women (EPW), implemented 2012-2014, were evaluated in 2015. According to the evaluation report, support to diversification of farming and establishment and training of community structures – Village Development Committees (VDC) - were largely successful, while the development of backyard poultry farming by vulnerable women faced some challenges.

Key findings also indicate that the VDCs have become more responsive and are taking the lead in responding to local development needs and mobilising communities. Furthermore, as a result of the ICE-project, more women participated in VDCs in every project community than ever before. With regard enhanced livelihoods and income, the interventions brought improvements across a whole range of living conditions for the targeted households. The majority of respondents indicated enhanced access to food (85.8 %), education (74.2 %) and healthcare (64 %) as the most significant benefits they could associate with their

participation in either project. On average, households that benefited from EPW and ICE projects reported a one month increase across the various food security indicators, both in terms of quantity and quality of available food.

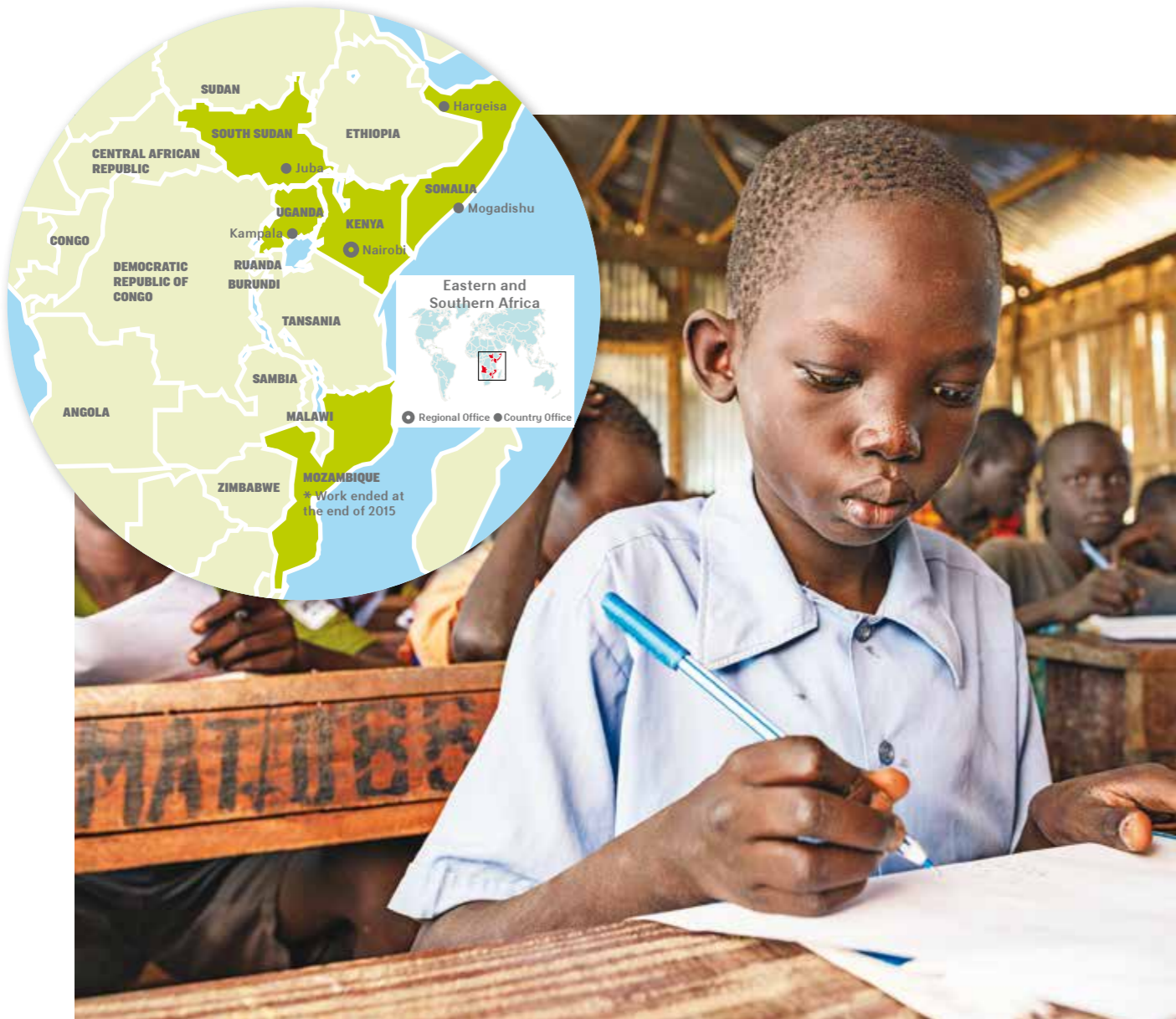
5. Capacity Building

While it was not possible to organise separate capacity trainings for partners in the post-Ebola phase, partners continued to benefit from the technical and capacity support provided by FCA programme and finance-administration staff.

6. Challenges effecting the programme and lessons learnt

The logistical, monitoring and other challenges related to support provided to the livelihood activities in the Bonthe island led FCA to reassess the relevance and effectiveness of the project. Consequently, in the end of 2015 a decision was taken to end co-operation with the Green Scenery there and to focus on target areas that allow close ongoing capacity building and monitoring of project activities.

The Cross-Border Food Security project that was started in April 2015 and lasted until March 2016 was a success. As it was an emergency project, the planning and implementation phases were fairly short, but in spite of this, the project had good results. The reasons that contributed to this included effective and transparent communication in the target communities with community leaders and members, good planning and ongoing and close co-operation with the local implementing partners.



Ville Palonen

Buom Malitti, 12, studies at a school which was built by Finn Church Aid in Mingkaman, South Sudan. It has been constructed with support from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. The name of the school, Mät, comes from the local tribal language and means unity. From the beginning, the school has been designed to allow access to both local and refugee pupils.

2.3 Eastern and Southern Africa

Partners: 18
Personnel (in FTE¹⁵): 58

In 2015, FCA's Regional Office in Nairobi, Kenya was overseeing altogether seven programme countries: Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, Eritrea, Mozambique and Angola. The newest one, Eritrea was added to the regional portfolio when FCA's education project started in early 2015, jointly with five other education projects managed under CIMO (Centre for International Mobility). In the end of 2015, FCA was forced to exit from Mozambique due to the development aid funding cuts and finalised the exit from Angola according to the exit plan.

The continued influx of refugees - into Uganda, mainly South Sudanese, Congolese and from Burundi,

and to Somalia from Yemen, and out of South Sudan to neighbouring countries - has had a major impact on FCA's programmes in the region. Drought and flash floods triggered by El Niño phenomenon were a common feature troubling the region. Politically the region remained relatively stable. However, in South Sudan the conflicts continued and new areas have been taken over by the warring parties, affecting also FCA's project activities.

Right to Education (R2E) has been a strengthening theme in the region. The Regional Education Specialist supported new education initiatives, including openings with new partners like UNICEF and UNHCR and new innovative pilots like the mobile mentoring pilot project in Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. Peace work has been another corner stone, with the USAID peace project in Kenya continuing, EU-funded projects in Somalia consolidating peace initiatives through governance and state building and new successful

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Final budget (EUR)	Costs (EUR)
10019	Humanitarian Mine Action Programme in Angola	DCA	MFA Humanitarian	416,341	369,609
11505	ESARO resource mobilisation	FCA self-implemented	Private, parishes	486,222	377,896
10741	ESARO office PMER support for the MFA frame programme	FCA self-implemented	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	473,168	622,585
Total costs (EUR)					1,370,090

initiatives on integrated peace and livelihood approach implemented with IOM in South Sudan.

Finalisation of the Angola Programme: The project site of Alto Campo funded by FCA was cleared, finalised and handed over to the Angolan Government in early 2015. Since then communities have settled there and used the cleared land. FCA's mine clearing work and Mine Risk Education (MRE) in Alto Zambezi, carried out by the Safer Communities Team contributed to the post war rehabilitation and further development of the country by helping restore 214,206m2 arable land for livelihoods benefitting around 10,000 people and contributing to peaceful recovery of the war-torn town of Caianda. It helped to open up a whole region to increased mobility, trade and access to services, enabling the land to be used for expansion of the community's infrastructure

through the building of additional dwellings, expanding the town and also increasing the available land for safe grazing and cultivation. The MRE activities conducted in 36 villages reached a total of 6,365 people including 1,520 women and 3,610 girls and boys. The MRE improved community confidence in the re-use of the cleared land through the reduction of the perceived threat of ERW, the psycho-social behaviour of the villagers and their safe access to services and a far greater level of mobility permitting to enhance their food security and income creating activities. It is also foreseen that the future opening of the Caianda airstrip and the recovery of secure mobility will increase trade across the borders and regions in Angola benefitting a larger population.

15. Full-time equivalent - Henkilötyövuosi

Eritrea



Paulina Tervo

1. List of Projects and Financial Summary

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Final budget (EUR)	Costs (EUR)
11589	Reaching Education Quality and Access in Eritrea	CA self-implemented	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	480,000	380,710
Total costs (EUR)					380,710

2. Overview of the Eritrea Programme

In 2015, FCA launched a three-year partnership with the Eritrean government and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Commission for Higher Education (NCHE) in Eritrea. The co-operation with the Government of Eritrea presents the opportunity to leverage the considerable expertise of the Finnish education system, and in doing so support the Eritrean goal to improve access to quality education, strengthen teacher education and advance the use of ICTs for better learning outcomes.

The Eritrea programme responds to the growing consensus within Eritrea that the education sector is in a state of crisis. According to UNICEF 2014 reports, repetition and drop-out rates in Eritrea remain unacceptably high; teacher shortage, poor capacity of teacher education, lack of resources, supportive education policies, and poor institutional capacity are also major problems contributing to other pressing social and development issues, such as persistent early child marriage and poor health outcomes among girls, increasing exodus of youth from Eritrea, and lack of knowledge and skills among youth to contribute to the transformation of Eritrean economy.

In 2015, FCA focused on building the institutional capacity of the two teacher education institutions: Asmara College of Education (ACCE), in Asmara city and College of Education at the Eritrean Institute of Technology (EiT), in Mai-Nefhi approximately 20 km from Asmara. As a result of the support provided by FCA Education Specialist based in Asmara and two Teachers without Borders volunteers, both institutes have reported to have improved capacity to

implement graduate level leadership programmes, integrate ICT into teaching practices, conduct research and promote critical thinking and leadership. FCA has also been able to make significant headway in advocating for a rights-based approach to development and increased engagement and dialogue with the Eritrean Government.

Supporting the design and implementation of the National Innovation Support Centre (NISC) was also part of the 2015 plans, and FCA developed a comprehensive action plan for the development of Eritrea's first national innovation hub. FCA also conducted the first national forum for innovation in Eritrea, bringing together a diverse range of stakeholders to participate in open dialogue about innovation policy and how to advance innovation in Eritrea to tackle the most humanitarian and development priorities, including poverty, food security, and youth migration. However, due to lack of focal point for innovation from the Eritrean partner side, the plans to establish the national innovation hub were postponed to 2016. Procurement of ICT material to support the teacher training institutions was also postponed to 2016; only some smaller items and books were procured in 2015.

FCA programme has greatly benefitted from the strong partnership with the NCHE to ensure coordinated approach in the Finnish-Eritrean higher education co-operation. FCA is one of the few international organisations working in Eritrea and the only one with staff based in Asmara. The presence of three FCA Education Experts has enabled holistic support to the two teacher education institutions.

3. Progress made in the Country Programme's set objectives and sub-objectives during 2015

a) Snapshot of Key Results in 2015

Eritrea Country Programme reached 390 beneficiaries: 81 women, 309 men in 2015		
Right to Education (R2E)	The capacity of 2 teacher training institutes has been improved by mentoring and coaching support Projects contributing to this result: 11589	100 teacher educators have received in-service training and 290 teacher students pre-service training Projects contributing to this result: 11589
Advocacy	Advocating for Right to Education and increased engagement and dialogue with the Eritrean Government among other international actors Projects contributing to this result: 11589	

b) Key Achievements during 2015

Right to Education: Despite the late start of the project in 2015, significant results were achieved in terms of partnership and supporting quality education. The three Education Experts supported quality teaching in the two teacher training institutions and FCA was able to gain the trust of local partners. Staff members at the partner institutes learned curriculum design and pedagogical development through coaching sessions and this has improved the institutional capacity of the institutions to promote education leadership and conduct research. One of the main results has been the improved skills for local research – the strong orientation on action research has great potential to produce locally relevant, applicable findings. FCA also provided 20 books on action research together with cameras to facilitate ongoing research. FCA also introduced a new culture of inter-departmental pedagogical discussion. Bi-monthly Pedagogical Forms were started at ACCE, and in EiT a similar concept by the name of Pedagogical Café was introduced. Through the regularity, a continuum between a variety of topics and methods was created and the meetings have fostered a clear development of pedagogical and research skills. The change is verified in the positive feedback from local partners, in the intensified conversation during and between the pedagogical meetings, and in the constantly increasing number of individual collegial consultations.

FCA also managed to bring together a diverse range of stakeholders to participate in open dialogue on innovation policy and how to advance innovation in Eritrea to tackle social problems. Even if the national innovation center plan was postponed, an action plan was created and opportunities have been identified. One of the major achievements has also been the advocacy work for increased engagement and dialogue with the Eritrean Government among other international actors. FCA's active and special role in the Eritrean context has opened doors for new partnerships, and negotiations are ongoing with actors like UNICEF.

4. Evaluations, Assessments and Studies

Due to the late start of the programme, no evaluations were conducted in 2015. For the ICT procurement, a needs assessment to be conducted by two FCA staff members was planned for early 2016.

5. Capacity Building

The Eritrea programme is centered on capacity building of two teacher-training institutes in Eritrea. In June 2015, FCA consultant facilitated a seminar on M.Ed. curriculum development at the EiT/College of Education. FCA experts also actively supported research skills development at the two institutes. Research workshops were conducted for staff in ACCE and EiT/College of Education, and research skills were also taught to students and FCA Education Expert co-supervised 15 B.Ed. theses and advised on research proposal development.

Eight staff seminars were conducted to enhance pedagogical development at institutional level, and ten staff members were individually mentored in course and curriculum design and pedagogy through joint planning and co-teaching. Faculty members also benefitted from targeted training and coaching sessions on ICT skills.

6. Challenges effecting the programme and lessons learnt

FCA's Education Expert was able to start her duties in Asmara fairly late due to challenges in obtaining visa for Eritrea, and this also delayed the start-up of project activities. The development of the National Innovation Center was also delayed, mainly due to lack of clear focal point in Eritrea to push the plans and activities forward. In early 2016, ESARO Regional Office organised a one week planning meeting with Eritrea staff to review challenges and successes encountered in 2015 and to list action plans and accelerate process. One of the main successes of the programme has been presence of three full-time education experts in the country, working side by side with local partners. FCA also hired a local consultant with good contextual knowledge and expertise, which has helped greatly in setting up the programme in a new and challenging context. The introduction of new culture of inter-departmental pedagogical discussion has also proved to be extremely successful, highlighting continuous professional development as opposed to regarding an occupation as a professional fulfilment.

Kenya



Mika Jokivuori

1. List of Projects and Financial Summary

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Final budget (EUR)	Costs (EUR)
11656	Prevention of violent extremism youth dialogue project in Kenya	FCA together with NETWS, Kenyan Red Cross, KMYA	Kaiciid	48,950	48,954
11440	REGAL-IR – Peace Building	FCA self-implemented	USAID	612,440	568,649
11278	Northern Kenya integrated development project (NOTKID)	FCA self-implemented	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	130,000	150,091
11639	Conflict assessment in Northern Kenya	FCA self-implemented	Private, parishes	25,000	15,000
11677	M-Mentoring Prototype	FCA self-implemented	DFID	8,824	8,824
Total costs (EUR)					791,518

2. Overview of the Kenya Programme

In 2015, the main focus of FCA's work in Kenya was conflict prevention and resolution. Although the economic, political and social development indicators in Kenya are relatively more positive than in other countries of the region, development challenges and vulnerability remain high in the Arid and Semi-arid Lands areas in the North of the country. In 2015, FCA was actively working on resolving natural resource based conflicts as part of the USAID funded consortium led by Adeso in counties of Turkana, Marsabit, Isiolo, Wajir and Garissa. These areas are highly vulnerable for the effects of climate change, the government services are weak despite of the decentralisation efforts, and the national and regional capacity to provide for the rights of the people is poor, making this region to lack behind in most development indicators and to experience high levels of conflict. In the consortium, Adeso was responsible for Right to Livelihood (R2L) work and FCA implemented Right to Peace (R2P) work. The conflicts in the area had become increasingly destructive and less manageable calling for innovative

ways that could contribute to a more robust conflict resolution. FCA responded to this by facilitating dialogue, offering capacity building, enhancing the work with traditional and religious leaders and thereby strongly engaging the communities, authorities and politicians to promote peaceful co-existence. With the MFA funded project, FCA was able to implement complementary activities to the USAID project – whereas the USAID project focused on the Turkana, Marsabit, Isiolo, Wajir and Garissa Counties, with MFA funding FCA was able to support peace efforts in the neighbouring counties of West Pokot and Baringo. Thereby, both worrying communities were engaged and involved in the decision making processes towards peaceful co-existence.

FCA has been very active in Kenya in building up alliances, and during 2015, the alliance of the Network of Religious and Traditional Peacemakers/FCA and KAICIID made possible the implementation of the Right to Peace project “Community Response to Countering Violent Extremism”, together with representatives from the office of the president of the Republic of Kenya, Kenya Red Cross and Ke-

nya Muslims Youth Alliance (KMYA). This project built a dialogue platform for Kenyan youth from coastal areas with the national and local politicians and authorities to prevent radicalisation. KMYA was assessed and approved as new partner for FCA in 2015.

In 2015, Kenya was host to 592,272 refugees and asylum seekers. For long the majority of them were Somali, but due to the outbreak of armed conflict in South Sudan end of 2013, Kenya received a large number of South Sudanese refugees, majority (71%) of which was under the age of 18. This influx posed significant challenges and increased the need to provide quality education, Special Needs Education and vocational training for refugee population in Kakuma Camp. In 2015, FCA won an “Innovative Ideas in Education”

contest, launched by IDEO.org and DFID, which enabled the implementation of a Right to Education pilot project “M-Mentoring Prototype” for the use of mobile technology in teachers' training and motivation uplift in Kakuma refugee camp.

FCA is an active member of the Getting Our Acts Together (GOAT) forum that counts with high level participation of the European agencies based in Nairobi among others. FCA also acted as the secretary and the moderator of ACT Kenya Forum from September 2015 to December 2015, actively pushing the preparation of ACT Forum strategy and calling for more co-operation amongst the members in order to strengthen the forum.

3. Progress made in the Country Programme's set objectives and sub-objectives during 2015

a) Snapshot of Key Results in 2015

Kenya Country Programme reached 1,086 beneficiaries: 379 women, 707 men in 2015			
Right to Education (R2E)	One mobile-mentoring pilot project implemented for refugees' teachers' training	24 teachers (12 male and 12 female) trained by mobile mentoring	24 teachers (12 male and 12 female) trained by mobile mentoring
	Projects contributing to this result: 11677	Projects contributing to this result: 11677	Projects contributing to this result: 11677
Right to Peace (R2P)	Community mediation mechanisms have reduced tensions in 16 cases	20 institutions on sub-national level support citizens in the non-violent resolution of conflict	20 institutions on sub-national level support citizens in the non-violent resolution of conflict
	Projects contributing to this result: 11278, 11440	Projects contributing to this result: 11278, 11440	Projects contributing to this result: 11278, 11440

b) Key Achievements during 2015

Right to Peace: The Kenyan government and civil society have recognised FCA as an important actor in peace work nationally and locally. FCA has managed to engage over 250 important community groups, political, religious and traditional leaders, and 20 institutions into peace work initiatives in northern Kenya. In 2015, REGAL-IR and FCA contributed to 65 local level and three county level conflict resolutions' processes and in 16 cases it was identified that FCA peace work had relieved local tensions. Peaceful co-existence was documented among the two communities of Turkana and Pokot, where the community members have confirmed that the raids and killing have reduced in the last six months' time. Communities reported that it was the first time in over 10 years that they had a peaceful Christmas celebrations. In total, 66 community peace committees and 37 peace clubs were established and trained on several peace building and mediation skills during 2015. Additionally, leaders of the institutions used other forums to advocate for peace and adopting dialogue to resolve disputes. FCA organised three national level forums attended by members of parliament and governors, and nine forums attended by community leaders, members of county assembly, where nine resolutions towards peaceful co-existence amongst the pastoralist communities were signed.

Community Response to Countering Violent Extremism project successfully contributed to increased trust between local and state authorities and community representatives and provided a mechanism to collectively address countering and preventing violent extremism. The project enabled the coastal youth to have a dialogue with the highest level of Kenyan authorities in four national and 13 sub-national level meetings, and a youth dialogue platform was created by the request of the Office of President of the Republic of Kenya.

Right to Education: A new comprehensive teacher training programme was developed in Kenya through the Refugee Teacher Working Group (RTWG), which is comprised of eight leading education actors, including FCA, IRC (International Rescue Committee), NRC (Norwegian Refugee Council), Save the Children, Teachers College-Columbia University, UNHCR, UNICEF and the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE). In 2015, as part of the RTWG collaboration, FCA implemented an innovative pilot project focused on the use of mobile phones (SMS and WhatsApp Messenger) to support teacher training through mobile mentoring (m-mentoring). The training was built on a new training pack for Primary Education Teachers in Crisis Contexts by RTWG and included post-training support to help the teachers to apply what they had learned in their



classrooms. During the m-mentoring prototype, teachers received instructional support tips and motivational quotes about classroom management. The Mobile-mentoring modality was very successful and managed to support the work and motivation of 24 teachers in Kakuma refugee camp. The training material will be launched as an open-source publication through the INEE website in 2016.

4. Evaluations, Assessments and Studies

As part of the REGAL-IR project, FCA conducted a conflict study in four Northern Kenyan counties, namely West Pokot, Baringo, Samburu and Mandera, which are adjacent to the counties of Turkana, Marsabit, Isiolo, Wajir and Garissa with ongoing peace activities.

The overall findings indicate that conflicts existing in the counties were active and severe in most cases, driven mainly by scarcity of natural resources like water and grazing land, land ownership and boundary disputes within and across the counties, cattle rustling and clan and political differences. The conflicts have resulted e.g. in human rights violations, increased poverty and insecurity, property losses and destruction, displacement, and loss of lives. At county level, potential future conflicts were identified in Baringo and Mandera Counties. In West Pokot County, there were identified past inefficient efforts in peace mediation, due to interference from various parties with personal political, ethnic and economic interests. On the other hand, there were also found encouraging experiences, where traditional leaders played roles of reconciliation and peace building, law enforcement, and creating awareness about conflict. The study recommended that FCA would work to strengthen the abilities of youth, women and religious and traditional leaders towards negotiations and mediations, create awareness in the community on their rights to peace, life and education, dangers of political incitements and the responsibilities of the communities like keeping peace agreements. It also emphasised that FCA should facilitate the creation and strengthening of existing structures to enhance inter-clan and community dialogue and implement early warning and surveillance systems in partnership with the governments.

5. Capacity Building

FCA trained REGAL-IR Consortium partners and other local organisations in “Do No Harm” approach and conflict sensitivity in five counties of northern Kenya, reaching 60 men

and 40 women, that is, a total of 100 participants. The first training took place in other five northern Kenyan counties in 2014, and up to date FCA has trained 200 people in “Do No Harm” approach and conflict sensitivity.

6. Challenges effecting the programme and lessons learnt

There is a high security risk in northern Kenya due to the ongoing conflicts and the possibility of terrorist attacks around the area. However, FCA has been able to mitigate the risks by maintaining good relations with the local authorities and communities. In 2015, FCA also identified emerging unrest of the Turkana people due to the fact that consortium was working with the neighbouring Pokot people. In order to respond to the demands, FCA complemented consortium’s efforts by redirecting funding to support the Right to Peace work in the area with the Turkana people.

The close co-operation with the communities and specially the engagement of the government officials to the intervention has helped to build trust in FCA’s work and to enhance the effectiveness and the involvement of politicians in the peace process also brought a lot of success to the peace work. The involvement of all levels of decision makers and community groups has been also crucial to the success in rights-based programming building up local ownership and empowering people for peace action.

The continuous high expectations from different stakeholders combined with significant cuts in available project funds in 2015 constituted a challenge for right to peace programming. FCA responded to this by enhancing the communication with the communities as well as with the authorities. With regards to the civil society involvement and the legitimacy of the actors, there was noted multiple peace stakeholders in the counties, including actors who were not currently active on the field. Therefore, FCA supported a key stakeholders mapping, in order to identify the known and emerging legitimate peace actors. This has made it easier to focus on key actors’ empowerment.

The consortium implementation modality has worked well for REGAL-IR project. Each of the consortium partners worked hard to fulfil the agreed obligations and in the consortium, and FCA stood out by leading the gender mainstreaming and inclusion of women in peace efforts. It has been noticed that where there are women’s peace groups involved, the peace efforts advance better compared to the areas where there are none. The FCA three steps approach model was adapted to suit Kenya context and has been successful, as well as the application of Do No Harm -principles and the training provided for the consortium partners, which made it possible to implement conflict sensitive programme in all five northern counties.

FCA identified the need for after training support for the teachers in refugee camps, and created an innovative modality of mobile-mentoring, that was very successful and drew attention of national and international actors as a new way to support the motivation and skills of the teachers in emergency contexts.

Mozambique



1. List of Projects and Financial Summary

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Final budget (EUR)	Costs (EUR)
10919/11626	Xikheleni Urban Development Project / Community Financing Using Savings and Credit in Mozambique	CEDES	MFA Partnership Agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign (CRC)	167,500	167,500
11628	Strengthening the Role of Religious Leaders in Mediation and Peace Building in Mozambique	CEDES	MFA Partnership Agreement, CRC	120,435	80,435
10046	Gaza Integrated Community Empowerment Project	LWF Mozambique	MFA Partnership Agreement, CRC	280,500	280,500
11629	MOZ office PMER support for the MFA frame programme	FCA self-implemented	MFA Partnership Agreement, CRC	104,565	140,043
Total costs (EUR)					668,478

2. Overview of the Mozambique Programme

In the beginning of 2015, FCA together with the partner organisations CEDES and LWF started to build a strong presence in Mozambique based on strategic lines of FCA especially in R2L and R2P work. FCA was positioned well in the peace platforms and there were many expectations of FCA becoming active in the educational sector. The partners were also recognising the strong accompaniment and support given by FCA to them. However, after the decision of FCA to exit from Mozambique due to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland funding cuts in the end of the year, the country team worked with the partners and supported them to enhance the sustainability of their work, as well as closing down the Country Office.

During 2015, the main focus of FCA was in R2L work. A total of 12 innovative loan and savings groups were established with CEDES in Ka Mavota and Ka Maxaquene districts. These groups were formed by adults and by young people. The SACs permitted 173 women and 27 men to cumulate important savings, and for at least 26 women and three men to apply for credits to start their own business.

LWF established eight village community banks (VICOBA) in Gaza, benefitting 527 women and 271 men to accumulate savings, contributing indirectly also to the children’s possibility to attend school. The partner organisations also addressed health issues, advocacy and overall community organisation issues through capacity building, support in advocacy initiatives and establishment and functioning of community committees.

In the last months of 2015, Southern Mozambique was hit by a drought caused by el Niño, following loss of crops affecting 175 000 families in Gaza and Inhambane provinces, displacement, and abandonment of studies by pupils. FCA, in collaboration with WFP, the Mozambican Government and in partnership with LWF started food distribution in the areas most affected by the drought in the districts of Chigubo and Guija in LWF project area, as well as in Massingir, Chicualacuala and Massangena districts in Gaza province. FCA’s partner organisation LWF also made efforts to mobilise funds to help affected communities through water distribution and constructed five wells with clean water benefitting 1389 people. Risk disaster management and wa-

ter committees were also activated to support the community level informative and sensitising work.

The general peace treaty process in Mozambique had been challenging and the situation contributed negatively to the maintenance of peace and the risk of political crises. After the peace treaty, Mozambique did not manage to elaborate a reconciliation strategy for the country. In response to the situation, FCA together with CEDES supported the creation of an inter-faith peace mediation platform “Religious Network for Reconciliation and Peace” (RRRP, Rede

Religiosa para Reconciliação e Paz). FCA supported the operationalisation of the Network led by a Task Force of six to eight active members, including female religious leaders and representatives of religious congregations. The Network has been active in the provinces highly affected by the military-political crises, especially in Sofala and Nampula. With a focus on youth, FCA also established community level Special Peace Clubs, where concrete problems were solved within communities.

3. Progress made in the Country Programme's set objectives and sub-objectives during 2015

a) Snapshot of Key Results in 2015

Mozambique Country Programme reached 13,268 beneficiaries: 7,706 women, 5,539 men, 11 boys and 12 girls in 2015		
Right to Livelihood (R2L)	240 people, of which 164 women, trained in business and entrepreneurship skills Projects contributing to this result: 11626	14 savings schemes successfully established in two districts benefitting a total of 700 women and 298 men Projects contributing to this result: 11626, 10046
Right to Peace (R2P)	Special Peace Clubs were established in Community level Projects contributing to this result: 11628	The national level Religious Network for Reconciliation and Peace (RRRP) was constituted Projects contributing to this result: 11628
Advocacy	12 SACs trained to prioritise advocacy issues and how to advocate on local level Projects contributing to this result: 11626	

b) Key Achievements during 2015

Despite the drought caused by el Niño, four successful Village Community Banks (VICOBA) were established and functioning in Gaza. A total of eight VICOBAs had been started and the additional income helped the families in buying assets and paying the costs of schooling for their children, and also to use the saved money to buy food during the drought. Savings groups have also helped to boost group members' self-esteem.

The community organisation strategies established by FCA and the partner organizations have been in general successful and the Community Development Committees (CDC) and other committees have become important actors in local decision making processes and solving local issues. According to an external evaluation, LWF Mozambique successfully introduced a combination of sustainable agricultural practices and techniques including the use of improved seeds, food processing, and community empowerment. Many water committees can already solve the problems related to their water supplies through the collected funds. Communities have also been active in advocating for their right to water. The water committees continue to raise awareness to treat water for consumption and maintain the existing water sources in a good working condition.

FCA, in collaboration with WFP, the Mozambican Government and in partnership with LWF started food distribution in the areas most affected by the drought in the districts of Chigubo and Guija in LWF project area, as well as in Massingir, Chicualacuala and Massangena districts in Gaza province. LWF supported 24 risk disaster management committees in sensitising the communities on the disadvantage of cutting and burning of trees, on the importance of planting new trees, and promotion of drought tolerant crops. The families were sensitised to build houses in safe places in case of flooding in the future. In Guija, Pandzane and Tlhocola communities, the households organised themselves to contribute cattle to pay contractors to dig wells. With this initiative, 12 wells were constructed, from which however only five have drinkable water. The wells have benefitted 1389 people. The natural resource committees were also active in campaigning to avoid uncontrolled fires and inadequate cutting of trees.

12 Savings and Credit Schemes (SACs) were established in a total of six neighbourhoods of Ka Mavota and Ka Maxakene districts. These included two young people's groups. Ten of the established SACs were successful, whereas only one adult and one young people's group failed to implement the system. Altogether, the SAC's benefitted 182



people, including 156 women and 26 men.. The total savings of the 10 SACs was 304,920.00 USD. In addition to the business and financial training, CEDES offered training on sexual and reproductive health issues to the participants. The SAC members were trained in local advocacy work. Eleven SACs were led by women and one of the youth SAC was led by a young man. At the end of the year, 80 % of the 10 fully operational SACs members were women. Three SACs managed to initiate with their loans process whilst the remaining were planning to do so in the beginning of 2016.

The emergence of the Religious Network for Reconciliation and Peace (RRRP) as a credible actor in Mozambique, grouping Christians, Muslims and Hindu representatives was an important achievement. The RRRP was able to get organised, develop a strategic plan and registration and hence gain an entry to new relations, including reaching other donors to sustain its work. The RRRP was also a focus of the Peer Learning event in Nairobi gathering religious actors from the region (Uganda, South Sudan, Somalia, Kenya). The RRRP was in the process to find its own role especially in activating the grassroots (women and youth) and complementing other more focused mediation efforts between the government and the opposition in Mozambique. The exit interrupted this process and while hopefully contacts will continue with the Network, there is a certain element of fragility – the sustainability is not secured.

4. Evaluations, Assessments and Studies

A baseline study of the socio-economic situation of the SAC members in Ka Maxaquene and Ka Mavota was conducted

in order to set bases for possible impact assessment of the improvements in the living conditions and income of the participants as result of the participation in the SACs project. The SACs manual was elaborated and validated with experts of the micro credit bank.

An exit assessment was done for the CEDES project. The assessment concluded that the partnership with FCA has strengthened CEDES as an organisation and their capacities to work on community level. However, the rushed exit risked the sustainability of the SACs and the partner's capacity to sustain the increasing demand for the community savings schemes in the project locations.

According to the LWF programme evaluation results, in the LWF operating area there have been improvements in gender equity and human rights, particularly in increased gender equity and women participation in both family and community structure power circles. Awareness raising efforts by Community Development Officers (CDO) and Community Development Committees (CDC) have contributed to behaviour change. One of the biggest achievements is the reduction of cases when young girls abandon schools to get married, and also the reduction of cases when young boys are sent to herd cattle instead of going to school, as families are more aware of the importance of sending boys and girls to school.

LWF conducted two participatory surveys for assessment of achievements of the ICEP project. The studies found that model of community structures and organisations has been functioning and responding to local community needs and being commended by local authorities who see CDCs as respectable community structures often invited to important decision making forums such as the consultative councils and school councils.

There were first attempts to assess the situation of education in Mozambique, but the assessment was not completed due to the exit of FCA from the country.

5. Capacity Building

Due to FCA exit from Mozambique, advocacy was integrated strongly in all FCA supported work and the focus of all programmes was in capacity building to community members and partner organisations. The partner organisation CEDES's all nine staff members were trained on SACs methodology and business and credit management. In addition, their skills were developed further in continuous staff group learning sessions, where the SAC concept and challenging issues were revised and discussed by the team.

Activities in R2L work were focused on organisational capacities training for development committees and savings groups, including explicit accent and activities related to advocacy and training for community empowerment. Savings and credit group members were trained on how to advocate to the local government and to understand the importance of focusing on issues of their own and community interest. They were also trained to prioritize issues of interest, apply for government development funds and to operate on the community level. Also leadership, conflict management, and business management skills of the key actors were strengthened in order to support the partners and



groups in establishing relations with different stakeholders (government officials, banks and their management, possible donors etc.). Partner staff was trained to give adequate technical support in these areas, including transversal issues such as RBA.

Strengthening the Role of Religious Leaders in Mediation & Peace Building in Mozambique was a capacity development project based on accompaniment of basic organisational development, including among other actions learning from international experiences, registration and the creation of the organisational strategy.

6. Challenges effecting the programme and lessons learnt

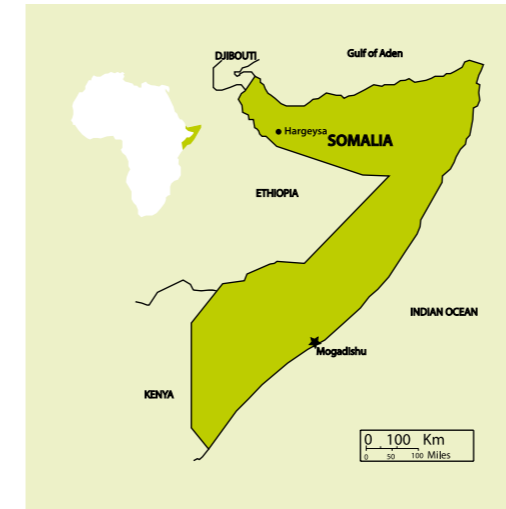
The drought caused by El Niño affected the people in Gaza Province, making the families to be involved in massive production of charcoal to get something to eat. In order to minimise the risks, LWF supported risk disaster management committees and natural resource committees, sensitised families to build houses in safe places and constructed wells. However, some VICOBA groups were weakened and four of the eight groups stopped saving during the last months due to the drought, as many families and VICOBA members were not able to make their savings as they had to use all money to buy food.

Livelihood work faced challenges in involving men into improving livelihoods. Also the price rises in the market place made it more difficult for the community members to participate. In the savings group, the reluctance of some SACs members to abide by the bylaws challenged the functioning of the group.

The government bureaucracy was more complicated than anticipated and none out of the targeted 18 CDCs were legalised. However, 14 have submitted their documents for revision, and two are waiting for final approval. Overall the constraints were part of a challenging environment. Good DRR planning, timely capacity building activities with adequate close monitoring and closer co-operation with authorities can help in mitigation some of the constraints in the future.

Mozambique exit faced challenges due to the sudden cut of funds, which made it impossible to assure the sustainability of the new area of work introduced by FCA at CEDES and the local capacities to complete the exit well.

Somalia



Hilkka Hyrkkö

1. List of Projects and Financial Summary

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Final budget (EUR)	Costs (EUR)
11596	Facilitation of voluntary return and immediate recovery support for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in their places of origin in Somaliland	Candlelight	MFA Humanitarian	593,200	529,984
11497	Facilitation of voluntary return and immediate recovery support for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in their places of origin in Somaliland	Candlelight and HACP	MFA Humanitarian	19,000	373,707
11665	Voluntary return and re-integration for Somaliland returnees from Yemen	Candlelight	UNHCR	83,379	22,164
11503	Central Regions Peace Initiative Project (CRPIP) SSF/Phase II	CRD	SSF	3,645,975	2,592,468
11434	The Peace Initiative in Bay and Bakool	CRD	EUROPEAID, MFA other	567,113	533,504
11353	Somali Peoples Peace Initiative Project (SPPI)	Haqsoor, HACP	SSF	138,837	167,194
11648	VIKES Somalia media support project	VIKES with FCA	RedNoseDay-campaign	35,000	35,000
10781	Somalia Country Programme Office	FCA self-implemented	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	475,500	455,364
Total costs (EUR)					4,709,385

2. Overview of the Somalia Programme

Somalia is on a positive trajectory with increasing political stability, improvements in socio-economic indicators and an encouraging shift in engagements with international partners. These developments have also affected FCA's programme in Somalia, moving the focus towards supporting the establishment of more accountable and inclusive local governance structures. Support from the MFA partnership programme continued to play a key role enabling FCA to consolidate peace initiatives in South-Central Somalia and create new partnerships.

However, Somalia still remains to be one of the most fragile states in the world with over 730,000 Somalis in need of urgent humanitarian food and nutrition assistance, and an additional 2.3 million people struggling to meet their

food needs every day. In 2015, FCA's humanitarian programming in Somaliland was strengthened, with focus on assistance to the people of concern such as Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), refugees and returnees. The conflict in Yemen increased the number of people in need in 2015, with more than 29,000 people seeking refuge in Somalia. Two reception centres were set up by UNHCR in Berbera, Somaliland to ensure reception and assistance for the new arrivals in Somaliland. The IDP camps in Somaliland have been overcrowded for long, and the influx of refugees made the situation worse. A new strategic collaboration with the Somalia Return Consortium and UNHCR was born from the urgent need to respond to the influx. In late 2015, FCA signed a co-operation and funding agreement with UNHCR to support the Yemeni returnees. Even if FCA's response in

Somaliland has had a humanitarian short-term nature, the training activities and cash assistance activities are aimed at addressing medium to long-term challenges and strengthening the resilience of the target population.

In terms of Right to Peace work, 2015 was a key year for FCA in Somalia. The traditional peace work evolved into a more comprehensive and outcome-oriented state building and governance programme, attracting the attention of several donors and stakeholders. The focus in 2015 was to support the efforts of the Federal Government of Somalia (FGS), in collaboration with the International Community in establishing more accountable and inclusive local governance structures, in line with the FGD's recently launched Wadajir National Framework for Local Governance. FCA's peace work managed to achieve outstanding results in 2015, especially in the Central Regions in Somalia, where FCA and partner (CRD) facilitated the formation of a Federal State (Constitution, Parliament and President) in the most

challenging area of Somalia. Such a success is due to community acceptance, strong community participation in the entire process, identification and engagement of genuine traditional and religious leaders and FCA staff capacity and commitment.

In the second half of 2015, FCA managed to get EU funding for two new projects: one to support the Interim Regional Administration through the formation of efficient, active and inclusive district authorities and the other to strengthen civil society engagement in political dialogue and state building processes. New partners were also identified: SOYDEN - The Somali Youth Development Network, IIDA - Women's Development Organisation and EISA - Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa.

The joint ACT Somalia strategy was drafted in 2015 and the overall coordination through the ACT Somalia Forum (ASF) took place and logistical arrangements were managed by the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA).

3. Progress made in the Country Programme's set objectives and sub-objectives during 2015

a) Snapshot of Key Results in 2015

Somalia Country Programme reached 3,603 direct beneficiaries: 1,680 women, 1,923 men in 2015		
Right to Livelihood (R2L)	350 households have improved their living conditions through livelihood skills trainings and grants. Projects contributing to this result: 11596, 11665	250 households have received essential household items and increased their coping capacity. Projects contributing to this result: 11497, 11596, 11665
Right to Peace (R2P)	36 district and federal state level community mediation and reconciliation processes conducted. Projects contributing to this result:	
Advocacy	The rights of returnees, IDPs and asylum seekers have been promoted in co-operation with the Somaliland local government. Projects contributing to this result: 11497, 11665, 11596	The role of civil society within the political processes like federalism, constitution and elections 2016 has been promoted. Projects contributing to this result: 11353, 11503, 11434

b) Key achievements during 2015

Right to Peace: FCA's focus on inclusive approaches, ensuring that genuine parties are involved in the social and political processes and the trust and acceptance of the communities gained through several years of working in the country were the success factors in FCA's peace work in Somalia. FCA was able to participate in important processes at regional and federal levels and have concrete impact. One of the important results in 2015 was the political dialogue initiated and successfully finalised between the political groups involved in the regional administration formation in the region. FCA supported the re-establishment of the Common Peace Committee (CPC), a regional structure in charge of conflict resolution in the region of Bay and Bakool. Through continuous mentoring and training, the CPC managed to resolve important clan conflicts in the region.

In 2015, altogether 36 peace mediation and reconciliation processes were completed at district and federal levels. FCA also trained the Technical Committee, governmental body in charge of facilitation the regional administration formation in the Central Regions. The drafting of the Constitution for the Central Regions Interim Administrations, approved by the regional parliament in one of the most democratic processes experienced in Somalia was one of the major results in 2015. The Constitution was drafted by experts locally hired by FCA and UNDP. The inclusive and transparent process of selecting members of the Regional Parliament and the President of the Regional Administration were fundamental for the stabilisation of the region.

Humanitarian assistance: In 2015, FCA also managed to successfully respond to the influx of arrivals from Yemen due to the conflict in the country. FCA was an active mem-



ber in the Return Consortium led by UNHCR and took a leading role from the very beginning of the crisis in facilitating safe and sustainable relocation and re-integration of the returned population. More than 350 households received material and financial support and 86 people were trained in livelihood and income generating skills, with support also in business idea development. The partnership created with UNHCR was also a major result for FCA – FCA Somalia is the only Country Programme currently receiving UNHCR funding, and this has opened doors for potential UNHCR co-operation also in other countries.

4. Evaluations, Assessments and Studies

The 'Central Regions Peace Initiative Project' (11503) funded by Somali Stability Fund was evaluated in 2015 and an inclusivity assessment and lessons learned workshop were also conducted. Final evaluation of the 'Somali Peoples Peace Initiative Project' (11353) was also conducted. Major recommendations from the evaluations were that women and youth need to be involved more in the project activities. This has been considered in the new EU peace projects to be implemented from 2016 onwards. The results also indicate that in peace processes, priority should be given to intra and inter-clan reconciliation prior to state building processes.

A final evaluation was also conducted for 'Facilitation of voluntary return and immediate recovery support for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in their places of origin in

Somaliland' (11497). The conclusions were that the project was relevant to the target population and in line with the recovery plan of the government. It managed to get beneficiaries out of deplorable conditions as most of them were living within the informal IDP camps. However, due to lack of basic services such as schools, health facilities and water in some of the areas where IDPs were settled, the living conditions were not improved to the extent needed. Therefore, the new projects are now concentrating on improving the living conditions of the returnees and the return community, in looking into infrastructure and water source improvement, and other community developments.

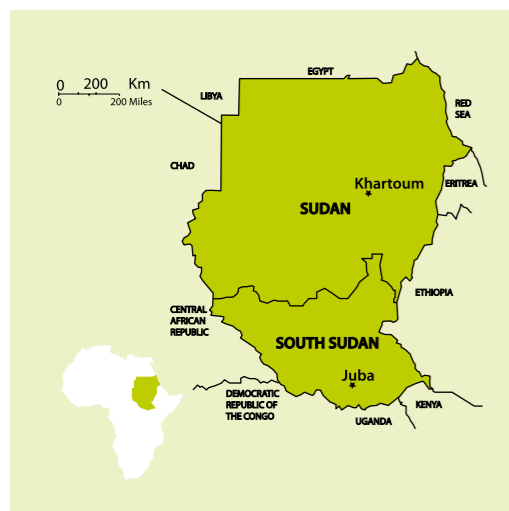
5. Capacity Building

Capacity building for FCA's main local partners – CRD in Somalia and Candlelight in Somaliland - was mainly conducted in the form of on-job training, which has proven to be more effective in the Somali context than trainings. FCA senior staff was working together with local partners on a daily basis and both partners show considerable improvement and both have become more independent actors.

6. Challenges effecting the programme and lessons learnt

Security risk are affecting the daily work of FCA and increasing the implementation costs. Despite the major challenges faced, FCA managed to develop the peace programme in Somalia into a more comprehensive and outcome oriented state-building and governance programme with a strong community drive approach. The trust and acceptance of the local communities has been the key to success, and this has taken several years of work in Somalia. Response to the refugee influx in Somaliland was also a major challenge faced by the programme, but this was efficiently managed through close co-operation with UNHCR and other actors within the Somalia Return Consortium.

South Sudan



Ville Palonen

1. List of Projects and Financial Summary

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Final budget (EUR)	Costs (EUR)
11221	Support to ACT capacity building initiatives	ACT Forum	Private, parishes	10,000	7,932
11527	Enhancing sustainable peace and inter-communal reconciliation in Jonglei	CLMI	Private, parishes	200,000	195,319
11451	Mundri Education and Youth Skill Training (MEYST) project	MRDA	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	140,000	140,939
11445	Market Oriented Farmers Training and Development (livelihoods and civic education, MOFTAD)	MRDA	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	110,000	120,688
11531	Emergency Food Assistance for IDPs in Mundri West County, West Equatoria State, South Sudan	MRDA	Canadian food grains bank, private		40,166
11379	NCA-FCA Jong Emergency & Disaster and Risk Reduction Project	NCA	MFA Humanitarian	74,531	27,889
11659	Support to local churches in South Sudan	SPC, EEC, ECSS	Other global financing	16,130	11,497
11510	ACT South Sudan Appeal – Conflict Response – SSD141	FCA self-implemented	MFA Humanitarian	355,761	324,737
11606	South Sudan Conflict Response – Emergency Food Assistance and Livelihoods Intervention to Conflict Affected Populations in Mingkaman, Lakes States	FCA self-implemented	MFA Humanitarian	400,000	242,792
11499	Education in Emergencies Response to Conflict Related Displacement in South Sudan	FCA self-implemented	MFA Humanitarian	200,000	209,354
11631	Faith-oriented peacemakers as inside mediators in South Sudan	FCA self-implemented	Private, parishes	20,000	19,938
11708	Humanitarian needs assessment in GPAA South Sudan	FCA self-implemented	Private	24,000	15,509
11694	Promoting Livelihood Alternatives and Communication Exchanges in Pibor	FCA self-implemented	IOM		9,658
10598	SSUCO office PMER support for the MFA frame programme	FCA self-implemented	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	367,431	366,724
Total costs (EUR)					1,733,142

2. Overview of the South Sudan Programme

Even if the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan was signed by the warring parties in August 2015, in the latter part of the year the conflict was spreading also to new areas, seriously affecting FCA's programme activities. The volatility of the situation and the vulnerability of the population created movement that made project planning and implementation challenging. Inside South Sudan, more than 7,5 million people are food insecure and 4,6 million are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance. In the end of October 2015, 1,6 million people were displaced inside South Sudan and more than 640,000 have sought refuge in the neighbouring countries since December 2013. This has had an impact on FCA's programme also in Uganda and Kenya.

In 2015, FCA continued to implement development projects and also provided emergency food assistance in Mundri County, Western Equatoria State. Civic educators managed to deliver lessons on human rights in secondary schools and women's groups benefitted from dairy and poultry farming, enabling them to earn income and make savings. However, in the latter part of 2015, the conflict spilled over to Mundri and partner project staff was evacuated. This affected implementation in 2015 and continues to have an impact in 2016. FCA South Sudan staff is working intensively with the partner MRDA to develop alternative plans. In 2015, FCA also conducted partnership assessments for new partners, in view of the coming ECHO and other calls; the new partners are Resource Center for Civil Leadership RECONCILE, Standard Action Liaison Focus (SALF) and Community Aid for Development (CAD).

As the situation was very volatile throughout the year, humanitarian assistance was one of the main operating modes in South Sudan. FCA implemented emergency food aid and education in emergency projects in the Lakes State, Mingkaman and also in Jonglei. Despite the insecurity and rapidly changing working environment, FCA tried to consider long-term needs also in the humanitarian actions. In the emergency food project in Mingkaman, FCA aimed to increase the resilience of the target communities by pro-

viding seeds and tools and training in modern agricultural techniques and by regrouping farmers to work on collective farms. Through Education in Emergencies activities, FCA managed to build 35 temporary learning spaces benefiting more than 1,800 school children. This helped FCA gain valuable experience in Education in Emergencies (EiE) work and later in the year to get FCA EiE plans into the South Sudan Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). FCA also managed to get funding from the UN Common Humanitarian Funding (CHF), for the first time in FCA's history.

Peace work concentrated on the Jonglei State, mainly in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area (GPAA), which is considered to be one of the most marginalised and remote areas in South Sudan and has been the scene of some of South Sudan's worst violence since independence in 2011. In the middle of the year, FCA signed a co-operation agreement with IOM for provision of livelihood opportunities for the marginalised youth in Pibor County. In this project, FCA managed to successfully integrate peace and livelihood activities, by promoting peaceful relations among age-set groups through income generation activities. Unfortunately the project area was also affected by the conflict in early 2016. FCA contracted a new type of partner for the implementation of the livelihood activities– Juba Catering Services (JCS).

Other changes to the 2015 plan were the new Support to Local Churches of South Sudan project added in the middle of the year and the re-established support to the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC). Peace work originally was planned to develop the capacity of local religious leaders through the Church Leaders Mediation Initiative (CLMI), but the focus was soon shifted towards the newly restructured SSCC.

FCA participated actively in ACT Forum meetings and contributed to the development of ACT Appeal for 2016. Coordination with other actors and active participation for example in the cluster co-operation were some of the reasons behind the successful new project initiatives and partnerships, like IOM and CHF.

3. Progress made in the Country Programme's set objectives and sub-objectives during 2015

a) Snapshot of Key Results in 2015

South Sudan Country Programme reached 37,165 direct beneficiaries: 5,777 women, 4,351 men, 14,912 girls and 12,125 boys in 2015		
Right to Livelihood (R2L)	<p>More than 28,000 IDPs and other vulnerable community members received emergency food items</p> <p>444 women and men were provided with productive assets ranging from vegetable and crop seeds, farming tools and kitchen utensils</p> <p>Projects contributing to these results: 11531, 11606, 11510, 11659, 11694</p>	<p>544 men and women benefitted from livelihood trainings ranging from training of peer trainers, on and off farms skills, food processing, bakery & pastry course and commercialisation</p> <p>300 vulnerable community members received cash for work support</p> <p>Projects contributing to these results: 11531, 11606, 11510</p>
Right to Education (R2E)	<p>Altogether 1,872 boys/girls, men/women benefitted from the education in emergency activities</p> <p>Projects contributing to this result: 11499</p>	<p>63 education actors acquired new skills through the life skills and psychosocial support trainings</p> <p>Projects contributing to this result: 11451, 11499</p>
Right to Peace (R2P)	<p>39 young men and women in Pibor County were engaged in productive activities like bakery and food processing instead of fighting</p> <p>Projects contributing to this result: 11694</p>	<p>Two regional meetings organised for peace advocacy through church leaders</p> <p>Projects contributing to this result: 11527, 11631, 11659</p>
Advocacy	<p>Collective efforts with SSCC, ACT and CARITAS to support local church leaders in peace work unified the peace advocacy efforts</p> <p>Projects contributing to this result: 11527, 11631, 11659</p>	<p>Improved capacity of FCA and/or partners to address local, district, national, regional and global level advocacy initiatives based on context specific needs and resources</p> <p>Projects contributing to this result: 11527, 11631, 11659</p>

b) Key achievements during 2015

Right to Livelihood (R2L): FCA's emergency livelihood projects did not only aim to provide physical assets to the vulnerable communities, but also tried to increase their resilience by providing agricultural and production related training like post-harvest handling and value chain development, and by regrouping farmers to work on collective farms. In 2015, more than 28,000 people benefitted from food distribution, which was accompanied by distribution of seeds and tools to enable households to grow their own food and reduce food aid dependency.

R2L & R2P: The project funded by IOM supporting peaceful relations among age-set groups in Pibor County was very effective in sustaining gains and transforming attitudes towards peace, by engaging youth in productive activities instead of fighting. This project also successfully integrated peace and livelihoods work and managed to create a new innovative type of partnership with a private sector actor. Within the project, 39 young men and women were trained in food processing, bakery and pastry skills.

Right to Peace (R2P): Partnership with South Sudan Council of Churches was re-established in close co-operation with other peace actors. This joint approach also strengthened the peace advocacy work- two regional meetings were facilitated to discuss concrete plans for church



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leaders. In the Right to Peace work, FCA's added value was in working through community based organisations and existing structures as a means of enhancing the exit strategy and ensuring sustainability. Thematic expertise in the Country Office was also a key factor in supporting the peace programming.

Right to Education (R2E): In 2015, more than 4,000 people were reached by education related awareness campaigns. Altogether 35 temporary learning spaces were constructed, benefitting more than 1,800 school children and also youth. Schools also received emergency teaching and learning supplies. 30 safe and gender segregated latrines were also constructed in order to support full enrolment and retention. 35 teachers received training in life skills and psychosocial support. Parent-teacher associations were formed and trained to continue with the management of the schools after the project end. The results of FCA's Education in Emergencies (EiE) work were visible and tangible, leading to new partnerships and funding opportunities, like the CHF and also ECHO.

4. Evaluations, Assessments and Studies

A KAP survey was conducted before the implementation of the Emergency Food Assistance and Livelihoods project in Mingkaman County and another survey will be conducted at the end of the project. The survey recommended adopting sustainable practices such as conservation farming and bio-intensive gardening and to incorporate Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) approach into the Emergency Response Plans (ERPs).

5. Capacity Building

FCA South Sudan staff contributed a lot of time and effort into building the capacity of the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC), in co-operation with other actors. FCA supported the auditing and development of financial control systems and human resource policies and installation of internet connection. FCA also supported SSCC in facilitating two regional peace advocacy meetings, organised in Addis Ababa in April and in Kigali in June 2015.

6. Challenges effecting the programme and lessons learnt

Insecurity and volatility in the country caused main challenges to the programme implementation. The cost of operation rose significantly and inflation continued to pose challenges to budget control. The conflict spilling over to new project areas affected FCA's development project activities in Mundri, where partner staff had to be evacuated and project activities are still not continued. In Pibor County, the IOM funded pilot project was also affected by the conflict and the continuation of the project is not yet known.

Using religious leaders as an entry point in influencing peace work at the community and national levels is one of the lessons learned. Linking short-term food assistance with distribution of seeds, tools and agricultural training has also proved to be more efficient in improving food security and income of the targeted households. Interlinkages between themes, like integration of livelihoods and peace in the IOM supported project has proven to bring more sustainable results.

Uganda



1. List of Projects and Financial Summary

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Final budget (EUR)	Costs (EUR)
11439	Support to ACT Uganda Forum	ACT	Private, parishes	10,000	10,000
11644	UGA ACT Appeal 2016 DRC refugees EiE response	ACT Alliance, LWF Uganda	Private	100,000	96,640
10078	Empowering Communities for Sustainable Livelihoods project (ECSL)	COU/PDR	Common Responsibility Campaign	40,000	37,386
10821	Pader Farmers Empowerment Project	LWF Uganda	MFA Partnership Agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign	120,000	120,000
11603	Katakwi DRR Project	LWF Uganda	MFA Partnership Agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign, private	100,000	100,000
10612	Kampala Slum Dwellers' Advocacy and Development Project	LWF Uganda	MFA Partnership Agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign	60,000	60,000
11438	Economic Empowerment and self-reliance for Women	UCAA	MFA Partnership Agreement, Women's Bank	110,000	110,000
11586	Emergency Special Needs Education project to South Sudanese refugees in Adjumani refugee settlement in Uganda	FCA self-implemented	MFA Humanitarian	450,000	293,911
11498	Education in Emergency Assistance to the Congolese & South Sudanese refugees in Rwamwanja & Adjumani refugee settlements, Uganda	FCA self-implemented	MFA Humanitarian	100,400	225,142
11562	Promoting skills development and employment creation for the youth (Rwamwanja BTVET)	FCA self-implemented	MFA Partnership Agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign	135,000	131,911
11649	Rwamwanja BTVET Project – Construction share	FCA self-implemented	Common Responsibility Campaign	75,000	81,698
11661	Uganda Special Needs Education –Support Costs	FCA self-implemented	Common Responsibility Campaign	16,300	18,928
11712	FCA Pilot project design workshop with FUZU, Accenture and Omnia in Uganda	FCA self-implemented	Private, parishes	10,000	9,774
10531	Women's Bank project – final evaluation in 2015	FCA self-implemented	Women's Bank	10,000	9,455
11526	UGACO office PMER support for the MFA frame programme	FCA self-implemented	MFA Partnership Agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign	260,000	262,346
Total costs (EUR)					1,567,191

2. Overview of the Uganda Programme

In difference to its neighbouring countries, Uganda has been peaceful during the past years. However, the preparation for the general elections held in February 2016 raised tensions and the risk of unrest during the pre-electoral and electoral period. FCA together with ACT Alliance members and local actors mitigated the risk by engaging influential religious and traditional leaders to act as agents of change, and by raising awareness on a peaceful transition of power and harmonious elections. FCA also participated in negotiations, election monitoring and other processes aimed at preventing potential conflicts before and after the elections, including the formulation of the National Peace Policy presented to Government of Uganda for final endorsement and publication. A new partner was also assessed and selected for future peace work: Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum.

FCA's work in Uganda focused on supporting vulnerable communities in Northern, Eastern, and Central Uganda, and in West Nile, for the communities to utilise their limited resources in order to improve their agricultural production. In 2015, FCA Uganda supported 2,691 people (2,174 women and 517 men) to improve their livelihoods by facilitating the creation and training of 89 Village Saving and Loan Associations (VSL) that made possible for them to access the financial resources and necessary skills to finance their own small businesses.

In 2015, Uganda Country Programme focused on Right to Education (R2E), on vocational training and Special Needs Education specifically. According to the African Development Bank, Uganda's youth unemployment is one of the highest in the region, estimated at 83%. Therefore, FCA in partnership with the local government and local authorities supported the establishment of a vocational school and

build 6 classrooms in the Rwamwanja refugee settlement, providing business and vocational skills to 120 unemployed youth in 2015, including young refugees and youth from the host communities. FCA also promoted linkages between vocational training institutions and potential employers in order to enable young people to access employment and submitted a successful proposal to FinnPartnership on supporting youth in business skills development and linkage with the private sector. In Adjumani refugee settlement, FCA contributed to improving the quality of education by training teachers in inclusive methods and by building four inclusive classrooms. FCA also provided capacity building for local education officials for sustained provision of education services. In June 2015, FCA entered into a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Office of the Prime Minister to provide support to refugees in areas of education and livelihoods. This facilitated the creation of new partnerships in Uganda, including UNHCR and UNICEF, which will materialise in 2016.

FCA is an active member of ACT Alliance in Uganda. In 2015, FCA in partnership with LWF implemented a joint ACT Appeal for the influx of Congolese refugees in Rwamwanja, providing Education in Emergencies and constructing four classroom blocks providing learning spaces to 1,780 pupils. In addition, FCA participated in the planning and follow-up of the Uganda ACT Forum project aimed at building the capacity of faith based organisations as well as religious leaders in Uganda.

In 2015, FCA became a member of the Human Rights Network and participated in the National Consultation as a convenor of the refugee cluster for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review process, and the submission of the NGOs' draft to the UN.

3. Progress made in the Country Programme's set objectives and sub-objectives during 2015

a) Snapshot of Key Results in 2015

Uganda Country Programme reached 37,234 beneficiaries:		
Right to Livelihood (R2L)	2,174 women and 517 men, a total of 2,691 people were trained in VSLA methodology. Projects contributing to this result: 10821, 11438, 11603	266 community based structures led by community women (73%) and men (27%) functioning and supporting the sustainable management of resources and communities' economic activity Projects contributing to this result: 10078, 11438, 10821
Right to Education (R2E)	120 young unemployed people (65 women and 55 men) received vocational education (BTVET) Projects contributing to this result: 11562	150 teachers (67 female and 83 male) received training in inclusive methods of teaching Projects contributing to this result: 11562, 11586
Advocacy	The National Peace Policy was elaborated with the participation of FCA in the process. Projects contributing to this result: 11526	



Ville Asikainen

b) Key Achievements during 2015

Right to Livelihood (R2L): In Pader district in Northern Uganda, FCA enhanced the capacity of 3,600 households to practice commercial agriculture. FCA's interventions managed to increase the access of the beneficiaries to productive assets and markets. The 877 participants from 32 VSLAs (female 587, male 290) accumulated during 2015 a total savings of EUR 55,675 and 67% of them were able to access productive markets. In addition, 176 households were able to acquire basic hold assets, 146 were able to increase the number of meals per day from 1 to 3, 132 had their sanitation and hygiene improved, and 130 households were able to pay school fees for their children. More than half of the households were able to improve the houses or construct new ones.

In West Nile region, 400 rural farming households in Yumbe and Midigo were supported to enhance food and income security. In Gulu and Oyam districts in Northern Uganda, 240 women were trained in village savings and loans methodology (VSL). As a result of the training, the women were capable of leading and implementing the VSLs and 70% of the women started small enterprises like shop keeping, poultry keeping, goat rearing and beekeeping. They also trained more VSLAs, reaching therefore 1020 additional beneficiaries.

In Kampala, Jinja and Mbale, 7,520 slum dwellers were supported by LWF to initiate sustainable livelihood businesses of which 70% were functional during 2015. Businesses included; urban farming, loaning, poultry, video library, crafts, secretarial burial, crafts and briquettes. The

programme enabled slum dwellers to regain a sense of belonging and ultimately improve their living conditions.

In Katakwi district in eastern Uganda, 1,200 households exposed to high risks like water logging and droughts were supported to design community managed disaster risk reduction strategies. In 2015, FCA together with local partners advocated successfully to reduce risk in water logged areas, resulting in 10% increase in road constructions and repairs budget, and commitment of the district to conduct regular assessments of disaster situation in the area.

Right to Education (R2E): In 2015, FCA became a member of Forum for Education Network in Uganda (FENU). FCA's interventions concentrated in promoting communities' ownership and good governance in education. FCA strengthened 32 School Management Committees and 30 Parents Teachers Associations through capacity building and awareness raising. FCA conducted several Teacher Training workshops in participatory methods. As a rights-based actor, FCA approached education in Uganda by identifying the duty-bearers responsible for guaranteeing the realisation of right to education and empowered the rights-holders to demand for better education services. FCA education strategy for Uganda was guided by the Education ACT and Uganda's Business, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (BTJET) Strategic Plan for the period 2011 – 2020.

The Education in Emergencies project in Adjumani refugee settlement trained 75 teachers in inclusive and protective teaching. The training was very appreciated by the local leaders and FCA was requested to continue with the

programme in 2016. Recent evaluation indicated that 85% of the teachers trained had adopted inclusive teaching and learning methods. The programme also increased access to good learning environment for learners. During the review period, 14 classrooms were constructed benefiting 2,060 learners in different locations. The classrooms eventually contributed to the quality of teaching and learning in the programme areas. Communities were also mobilised to ensuring quality education. As a result 30 parents decided to contribute school fees to enable children with disabilities to access education. Teachers without Borders (TWB) volunteers were also successfully mobilised in the refugee settlements and this strengthened FCAs grassroots presence.

In 2015, FCA constructed a vocational school in the Rwamwanja refugee settlement and 120 refugee and host community youth enrolled. The project also linked with four private sector companies and involved them in the training. New innovative partnerships were created with Finnish education sector actors like Omnia and these will be further developed in 2016.

The sustainability of the actions was successfully secured. The commitment to continue the activities after the external support has finished was quite strong among the community groups. FCA's objectives were aligned with government development plans and priorities, and many of the projects have created good collaboration between the communities and local government structures. Additionally, FCA and its partners have established a good collaboration with national and local level authorities in order to support sustainability.

4. Evaluations, Assessments and Studies

A Country Programme evaluation (CPE) conducted in 2015 established that Uganda Country Programme has quite successfully progressed during the years 2013-2015 towards its long-term objectives. The CPE also recommended improvements, such as to conduct a large rights-based situation analysis focusing especially on livelihood to improve planning, to enhance the CO's and its partners' RBA programming and operationalising skills, and to strengthen the M&E system for the Country Programme.

FCA conducted an external evaluation for Women's Bank project (10531). The final report stated that the project was to a large extent successful in improving the income levels of supported rights holders, their livelihoods and contributed to the reduction of gender based violence. The recommendations included supporting VSLAs to increase their savings, loan access opportunities, and access to government programmes. It also recommended the partner organisation to increase the capacity of duty-bearers and rights-holders while scaling down its own role in implementation of project interventions.

5. Capacity Building

The East and South Africa Regional Office trained the Uganda Country Office staff in resource mobilisation. As a result of the increased capacities, FCA Uganda prepared a fundraising plan and submitted three proposals to possible donors during 2015. Working with LWF, FCA Uganda intro-

duced CSOs founded by the community groups in the Kampala slum dwellers project to proposal writing in order to permit them to access local government funds. The community groups' capacities were also strengthened in order to have meetings and discussions with local authorities about their responsibilities to provide services to communities.

The Country Programme staff conducted a capacity assessment for two partner organisations and provided support during the supervision visits to ensure effective financial management and programme quality. In addition, FCA has trained partners on RBA and gender mainstreaming.

6. Challenges effecting the programme and lessons learnt

The coming elections made the political climate more unstable, and therefore FCA was actively involved in advocating for peaceful elections. Moving the Country Programme from working only through partners to partly self-implemented was also challenging, but the new partnerships created with UNHCR and UNICEF show that this move was successfully implemented.

Some of the lessons learned are:

- Need to improve on indicator settings and M&E system
- Using the existing structures and community groups such as disaster management committees and VSLAs for the project activities instead of creating new overlapping structures has been a successful strategy and strengthened the capacities of these groups.
- Facilitating the registration of community groups as CSOs permitted them to have the access to local government funds (especially in the Kampala slum dwellers –project).
- Assessments on education have supported FCA to focus its interventions especially in the refugee settlements.
- Aligning education plans with the Government of Uganda Education Strategy and the BTJET Strategic Plan/Skilling Uganda objectives and supporting the realisation of the education targets set in the district development plans has helped FCA to advance in promoting quality education in refugee contexts.
- Technical expertise and support is needed locally to support the duty-bearers to guarantee the sustainability of the results.



The women of the village of Monte Cristo in Guatemala have chosen farming of nuts as their means of livelihood as it is a profitable business.

2.4 Latin America and the Caribbean

Partners: 10

Personnel (in FTE¹⁶): 23,41

Finn Church Aid Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office (LACRO) is located in Pétionville, Haiti. FCA's programme countries in Latin America and the Caribbean region include Haiti in the Caribbean and Guatemala and Honduras in Central America. However, FCA only has staff in Haiti, as the Central America Programme is being coordinated from the FCA Head Office in Helsinki. This working modality has been maintained throughout the years due to the decision to exit from the Central American region by the end of 2016. The process was later accelerated due to the MFA funding cuts, ending all FCA projects in Central Amer-

ica in the end of 2015. The only exception is the Women's Bank funded project in Guatemala that will be implemented according to the original plans, ending in December 2016.

America and Haiti Country Programmes share the vulnerabilities as one of the world's regions most prone to disasters. As well as the fact that climate change has further challenged the coping mechanisms of the local communities in all programme countries. Therefore, Disaster Risk Reduction and climate change adaptation are important components in the Country Programmes managed by FCA LACRO. And numerous FCA partners and projects have a strong focus on climate change adaptation and community resilience, as climate-related natural disasters are recurrent and they greatly affect the local communities and livelihoods.

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Final budget (EUR)	Costs (EUR)
11251	LACRO office PMER support for the MFA frame programme	FCA self-implemented	MFA Partnership Agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign	440,000	428,790
Total costs (EUR)					428,790

16. Full-time equivalent - Henkilötyövuosi

Central America



1. List of Projects and Financial Summary

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Final budget (EUR)	Costs (EUR)
10631	Central American Advocacy Program in the European Union ¹⁷	ACT EU	Common Responsibility Campaign	15,000	12,622
11168	Strengthening Local Governance for Livelihoods Development, Apacilagua	CA	MFA Partnership Agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign	42,700	42,700
11034	Promoting Human Development through Access to Peace and Justice	CIPRODEH	MFA Partnership Agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign	50,824	51,747
10125	LAR CLAI - support to the pastoral of youth and Culture of Peace	CLAI	Common Responsibility Campaign	10,000	10,000
11456	Impact Assessment of the Banquitos Comunales Project in Peru	Diaconía	Private	10,000	9,666
11457	Life, Dignity and Justice for the Peoples of Central America ¹⁸	LWF Central America	MFA Partnership Agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign	310,000	310,000
10949	Women's socioeconomic empowerment in Alta Verapaz PROPODER	LWF Central America	Women's Bank	120,621	138,513
10841	Central American Capacity Building Programme and Specialization in Gender and Strategic Disaster Risk Reduction	LWF Central America	MFA Partnership Agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign	43,000	43,000
11540	LWF Central America Capacity building in resource mobilization	LWF Central America	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	10,000	20,000
11655	Observation in Guatemalan Elections 2015	LWF Central America	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	8,000	8,000
11388	Central America FCA support for exit	FCA self-implemented	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	546	2,859
Total costs (EUR)					649,107

17. Pooled unearmarked funds

18. Pooled unearmarked funds

2. Overview of the Central America Programme

FCA Central America programme focuses on Honduras and Guatemala, although it has a regional approach (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua) especially in advocacy work and capacity building. Since early 2014 FCA has been in the process of exiting the region and most of the projects faced significant cuts, which was a major issue affecting the Country Programme in 2015. Additionally FCA took the decision to accelerate the exit process due to the funding cuts and started in September to prepare the closing of all projects by the end of December 2015. This decision had great impact to the Country Programme and the exit process, which had a strong focus on supporting the sustainability of the project results during the original exit phase 2014 – 2016. FCA only maintained the commitment to implement as planned the Women's Bank funded project in Guatemala (10949).

FCA operating areas in Central America include the departments of Alta Verapaz, Guatemala and Petén in Guatemala, and the departments of Choluteca, Copán and Olancho in Honduras and to some extent the region more broadly (Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua), mainly in advocacy work and capacity building. No thematic developments took place in 2015 due to the ongoing exit process. For the same reason no new partnerships were initiated. There were no major changes made to the Country Programme Annual Plan (CPAP) objective and sub-objective setting and indicators. However, one project not originally part of the CPAP was implemented in 2015: Observation in Guatemalan Elections (11655). During the Guatemalan general elections in September 2015, LWF Central America organised electoral observation activities in the departments of Alta Verapaz and Petén, with the participation of trained community members. Although Guatemala has made significant progress in its three decades of democracy, it still faces many challenges during electoral processes and the ability of the state to guarantee transparent, peaceful and inclusive participation in elections is limited.

FCA has five partners in Central America: Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Central America Programme (Guatemala, Honduras and regional), Centro de Investigación y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (CIPRODEH), Centro de Desarrollo Humano (CDH), Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI) and ACT Alliance EU (Central American Working Group). FCA has no direct collaboration with ACT Forum Central America or the ACT national fora. However, most partners are ACT members and FCA has joint projects with sister organisations in the region.

3. Progress made in the Country Programme's set objectives and sub-objectives during 2015

The most relevant progress made in the set objectives and sub-objectives in the Country Programme¹⁹ was the strengthened participation and awareness of local population regarding their rights and the vulnerabilities they face as communities. Women, men and youth are organised, and the local population has improved skills for sustainable

livelihood, natural resource management and disaster risk reduction (DRR) which have contributed to the increased resilience of the communities. The analysis shows new skills and assets provided in the Country Programme have resulted in diversified production, safety in times of emergencies, as well as additional income for the families. Women and youth have improved skills and opportunities to participate in community development, and they are actively promoting their rights to participation, education, sustainable livelihood and peace, as well as advocating for more just and transparent policies at municipal level. The Country Programme has been able to successfully support local communities in linking rights-holders and duty-bearers in dialogue and common action for the local development and wellbeing of the population.

Right to Livelihood (R2L):

Local communities/rights-holders and duty-bearers work together to provide adequate and sustainable legislative and policy framework for livelihood development

- Women's Bank project in Guatemala (10949) has successfully promoted women's livelihoods and right to participation. Trainings in women's rights and support to women's organisation have been reported through various results achieved in the project. Women are more aware of their rights and are taking more active role in their communities by participation in various community level organisations. Between 2014 and 2015 altogether 67 women have assumed new responsibilities within community development committees or other committees, such as health, disaster, water, earth and women's committees, gaining a more active role in their communities. This will in the future provide the women a valid mechanism to promote their livelihoods and influence related policies, once their capacities in small scale business are further strengthened. In 2015, altogether 614 women and 29 men received skills training and assets to diversify their agricultural production and 100 home gardens have diversified production including cinnamon, pepper cloves, jocote, rambutan, coconut, cacao etc. This has resulted in more diverse diet for the families, savings in the family economies as part of the food that women used to buy in the market can be grown, as well as serve as survival mechanism during difficult times and challenging climatic conditions when corn and bean harvests fail.

In addition, 17 communities in Honduras and Guatemala implemented sustainable activities in order to adapt their livelihoods to climate change and reduce vulnerabilities, and are presenting demands regarding their situation of risk towards the local governments. And 100 families in Guatemala and 48 families in Honduras applied new skills in diversifying their production, which has improved their livelihoods, income and food collection, which is especially important during the prolonged drought that has widely affected the region in 2014 - 2015. (11457)

Local communities (women, men and youth), have strengthened their resilience and capacity to respond to hazards including natural and man-made disasters and the effects of climate change that negatively impact their livelihoods

- In Apacilagua, Honduras, the drought Early Warning System is functioning and data collection provides information on climate conditions and supports communities in making appropriate decisions regarding livelihood activities. Community members trained in 2014 collect and file information that is transferred to municipal and regional authorities. In 2015, the project continued constructing water harvesting systems used for irrigation, and was achieving the re-use of household water in family gardens producing vegetables for family consumption. Additionally families planted fruit trees highly resistant to drought, such as mango, lemon and cashew. The seed banks established in the project served as safety measures in times of production losses that in 2015 were as high as 90 per cent due to the prolonged drought in the area, and farmers have been able to lend seeds for planting and consumption. The second harvest season was better and community seed banks have been able to recover their assets. (11168)

Right to Education (R2E):

Women, men and youth in disaster affected or otherwise fragile contexts with limited educational background have access to quality vocational training/skill development.

- A total of 195 rural indigenous women in 25 communities received literacy training. Most women had not ever had the opportunity to go to school. After two years of literacy training 122 women (63 %) finished successfully the first stage of the process and can now read and learn. They now have more skills to support their children in school activities, being a positive change in their life and families. Training in literacy and basic math has been also necessary to strengthen the participation of women in economic and community activities. (10949)
- 531 women and 13 men have increased skills in basic math/accounting, family budget and business administration, as well as other skills needed in managing micro rural businesses. Women produce and sell snacks during their meetings and trainings, as well as other community activities and through this processes are putting into practice the skills and concepts learnt in trainings. This also allows them small extra income for their family economy. (10949)
- In Honduras 29 young people from 12 communities have graduated as community environmental promoters and organised trainings to other children and youth in their communities, contributing to the environmental conservation through ecological gardens in their communities and schools. (11457)

Right to Peace (R2P):

Local communities in disaster affected or fragile contexts have enhanced capability to prevent and resolve conflicts

promoting the respect of human rights with the active participation of women and youth.

- In Honduras 36 youth from six municipalities completed the leadership school in which they learn democracy skills, advocacy and participation etc. They replicated the skills training reaching 311 young people in their communities. In Guatemala altogether 476 people have been participating in human rights trainings and proposals made at community and municipal levels; one example of a successful advocacy is the approval of Municipal Youth Policy 2014 – 2020 in Villa Nueva. (11457)
- In Apacilagua, Honduras, six community level Violence Prevention Committees implemented community plans aiming at reduction of risk factors generating violence in communities. Strengthened community organisations, such as violence prevention committees, women's circles and youth groups are key actors in advocating and strategic planning of citizen security related issues. Community members have increased awareness of human rights and improved analysis and information on the situation in the communities has contributed to more systematic and prioritised activities directed to reduction of violence. (11168)
- Santa Rosa and Nueva Arcadia proceeded in the implementation of public policies on citizen security, and both municipalities held elections for to select new members of the citizen security committees. Municipal plans on citizen security were submitted to the Ministry of Security and are in the process of approval, providing an important tool for municipal citizen security policies to access public funding collected by the state security tax. The municipal reconciliation centre of Santa Rosa registered 41 conciliations in 2015, providing alternative mediation to local conflicts. In Nueva Arcadia the network of conciliators have been advocating for the reopening of the reconciliation centre, closed in the end of 2014 by the newly elected mayor. The municipal offices for women implemented their work plan and women in all municipalities (incl. Cucuyagua and San Pedro de Copán to which the project extended in 2014) are organised and advocating towards municipal authorities. In Cucuyagua, the youth network was formed and has a work plan for 2016 focusing on violence prevention and rehabilitation of public spaces. In the new municipalities, one public space has been rehabilitated in 2015 with active participation of youth, women's groups and citizen security committees. (11034)

Decision-makers are willing and equipped to bear their responsibility to promote citizen security, including peaceful resolution of conflicts and protection and promotion of the equal human rights of the members of communities, with special attention to the protection of the most vulnerable.

- FCA supported the LWF initiative on electoral observation during Guatemala's general elections in September 2015. This was implemented in co-operation with two local partners, placing into the core of the action the lo-

19. Due to the exit decision made in 2014, Central America Programme does not follow the programme objectives of 2015-2017, but the previous programme's objectives (2013-2014) were adjusted to the remaining programme.

cal communities and especially youth and women in promoting civil action and active participation, as well as transparency of the electoral process in the challenging Guatemalan context in which the elections often turn violent. Altogether 51 trained observers visited 90 polling centres in the departments of Alta Verapaz and Petén, gaining wide visibility. Some challenges were reported, mainly minor, and an official report was handed to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. The process in itself generated important knowledge and experience to those participating in the observation, as well as promoted the overall commitment and awareness of the importance of voting in communities, and thus strengthened the electoral process, democracy and public spirit. (11655)

- In Copán, Honduras, two observatories for citizen security were established, providing municipal authorities data related to the thematic in the region. Data is analysed in collaboration with citizen security committees, bringing duty-bearers and right-holders together to search for common strategies in response to the insecurity and violence. In Cucuyagua and San Pedro, activities emphasising the importance of public policy on citizen security were implemented, including training of municipal authorities and other stakeholders, awareness raising and sensitisation of community groups in violence prevention. The municipal authorities now have strengthened capacity related to citizen security. (11034)

4. Evaluations, Assessments and Studies

Final evaluation of project 10841 took place in the end of 2015, concluding that the “Central American Capacity Building Programme and Specialization in Gender and Strategic Disaster Risk Reduction” achieved its main objectives and produced significant changes in professional performance of the participants. Evaluation shows that the virtual study platform was rated user friendly, and easy to access and navigate. The gender methodologies applied were valued by the participants as highly applicable to their work. In addition it provides recommendations on how to improve the curriculum and content of the study programme.

FCA also carried out an Impact Assessment of the Women’s Bank project in Peru that was implemented between 2008 and 2012. The main findings concluded that the project had an impact on women’s life and according to the beneficiary testimonies, these included learning more responsibility, punctuality and practices of saving; gaining economic and social empowerment; increased social networks and learning from others; safety in times of crisis, capability to participate and establish additional loan groups and getting access to larger businesses. The changes were in a few cases experienced very significantly, leading to a success story. In most cases, these were considered positive contributions of the project, although they did not lead to success stories as such. Overall assessment of the impact of the project was positive, but there were significant differences between the rural and urban areas. In rural areas the economic outcomes were more modest.

5. Capacity Building

The Central America Country Programme supported the capacity building of FCA parties through different channels. The e-learning platform designed in the project 10841 serves as an important tool for capacity building of LWF Central America and their partners regionally. During 2015 it was used to provide various trainings in PMER, RBA, Do no Harm and Accountability. It also has served as a tool for improved regional coordination, and allows LWF to reach different actors and create greater synergies in diverse themes, such as climate change, migration and human rights. FCA also supported LWF Central America in capacity building in resource mobilisation during the exit process in 2014 – 2015 through project 11540. As a result a fundraising strategy was elaborated in wide regional consultation. LWF has also trained staff, both LWF and implementing partners, in concept note and proposal formulation and writing. In 2015, budget from FCA Central America support for Exit (11388) was directed to support the capacity building of Honduran partners through their participation in Training of trainers in Rights-based approach with focus on gender organised by ACT Alliance and Church of Sweden.

6. Challenges effecting the programme and lessons learnt

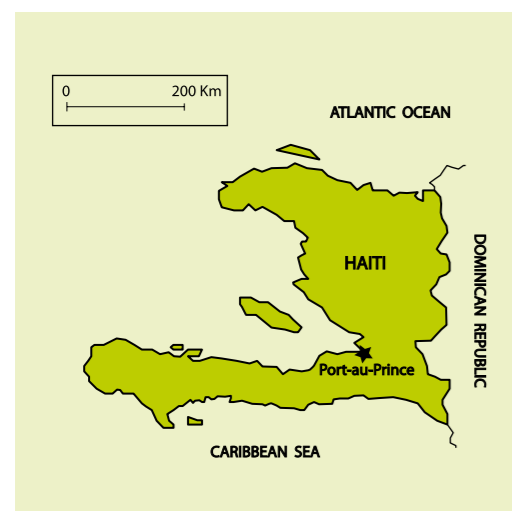
The main challenges affecting the Country Programme were caused by the insecurity manifesting very strongly in everyday life of the target communities. In some aspects the situation has worsened in 2015 and implementing partners are forced to take very restrictive measures while visiting communities. In addition, some projects have faced challenges in maintaining the level of participation of the rights-holders in the activities. This was observed and reported already towards the end of 2014 and is especially challenging project activities during important seasons of agricultural production, such as harvesting and temporary income generating opportunities outside communities. This was already taken into account in the 2015 work plan and different kind of solutions were found from postponing and modifying some activities and schedules, as well as establishing flexible working hours for the project technical staff to tackle this challenge.

Regarding project activities related to agricultural production, the main challenge is the long period of drought that has continued also in 2015. This has delayed some planned activities and challenges the livelihoods of the local population, thus limiting their possibility to participate in community development processes. Therefore activities aimed at reducing the vulnerabilities and strengthening resilience of communities gained even more weight and activities such as, rain water harvesting, reusing household water for irrigation and support to economic initiatives have been further promoted.

7. Long-term outcomes of FCA work in Central America (since late 1990's):

- Increased participation and awareness of human rights of target groups at community and municipal level. Increase in participation of women and youth has been evidenced in both Guatemala and Honduras. Women are playing more diverse roles in the public sphere and have assumed responsibilities in community level. Also youth have increased skills and interest for community level work and advocacy, and organised youth groups have been actively engaging in human rights related actions, violence prevention, as well as promotion of sustainable use of natural resources and environmental protection.
- Strengthened community level organisation and capacity to advocate for more just and transparent local development and policies. Participation of men, women and youth has generated social auditing processes towards more transparent municipal investment in livelihoods development in the communities FCA has worked with. Also community based organisations are increasingly coordinating and collaborating with each other and with public institutions, in the form of co-action, formulated demands and proposals related to livelihoods, local development, disaster risk reduction, gender equality and violence prevention and citizen security.
- Strengthened community resilience and improved livelihoods of families: Local population is more aware of the vulnerabilities present in their environment and has improved skills and knowledge to respond to these vulnerabilities and mitigate risks. In addition, families have improved skills and knowledge related to sustainable livelihood practices, both agricultural and non-agricultural, and they have are able to implement practices of sustainable management of natural resources.

Haiti



Jari Kiveliä

1. List of Projects and Financial Summary

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Final budget (EUR)	Costs (EUR)
11414	Support to quality education in Leogane and Gressier through the promotion of better school	FEPH with FCA	RedNoseDay-campaign	125,000	128,831
11543	Strengthening DRR, livelihoods and human rights in rural Haitian communities ²⁰	LWF Haiti	MFA Partnership Agreement, CRC	235,000	235,000
11548	Strengthening women's autonomy in Macaya	LWF Haiti	MFA Partnership Agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign	95,000	95,000
11556	Education for the prevention of conflicts and of gender based violence	MISSEH	MFA Partnership Agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign	50,000	48,294
11542	Strengthening resilience to climate change for improving food security ²¹	SCH	MFA Partnership Agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign	100,000	100,000
10795	Crossing the boundary: Monitoring and Education for Change	RNDDH	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	31,500	11,584
11270	RECONST: IDB school programme	FCA self-implemented	IDB	3,500,000	2,700,864
11293	RECONST: IDB school programme – FCA contribution	FCA self-implemented	Common Responsibility Campaign, other global financing, private, parishes	680,000	510,570
11017	Christian Ville/former St. Pierre school	FCA self-implemented	Parishes	476,100	450,522
11003	Reconstruction of Earthquake and Hurricane Resistant Schools UNDP	FCA self-implemented	UNDP, private, parishes	20,000	23,106
11389	Haiti Resource Mobilisation	FCA self-implemented	Private, parishes	0	17,600
11614	Haiti Programme Development	FCA self-implemented	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	25,000	7,931
11416	Capacity building of local partners	FCA self-implemented	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	5,000	5,426
11478	Capacity building of local partners	FCA self-implemented	Private, parishes	0	1,420
11570	Stronger livelihoods and improved food security in Southern Haiti through egg production by women and youth	FCA self-implemented	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	200,000	0
Total costs (EUR)					4,336,148

20. Pooled unearmarked funds

21. Pooled unearmarked funds

2. Overview of the Haiti Programme

The year 2015 in Haiti, the poorest country of the western hemisphere, was marked by the deteriorating economic situation and stagnancy in political decision-making. Parliamentary elections were held in August 2015 with a low 18% participation rate and with many allegations of fraud. Several protests, road blocks and bursts of spontaneous violence followed the announcement of the election results. Together with a clear decline in the Haitian economy and the ongoing political instability, the situation is unbearable to many.

In 2015, FCA continued working in Haiti with Right to Education (R2R) as its main priority, under which we engaged in school construction and provision of educational opportunities. Even though the focus has still been heavily on the infrastructure and provision of safe permanent learning spaces for children, the quality of education and school governance is in an increasingly important focus area through for example teacher training.

Haiti is considered one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to natural hazards such as hurricanes, earthquakes, landslides and flooding, and rural livelihoods are especially weak and highly vulnerable to disasters. FCA Haiti programme's Right to Livelihood (R2L) activities focus on strengthening of capacities of communities and individuals to improve their situation and make demands to authorities, but still maintain important components of preparation and disaster risk reduction (DRR). Concrete disaster risk mitigation activities included, training in DRR of various actors, strengthening the capacities of the local communities, and building disaster proof learning spaces and training teachers in DRR.

Regarding the Right to Peace (R2P), many of the current activities are integrated into the work on the other two themes. Most importantly there is human rights and peace/tolerance training in schools, but also community sensitisation on rights, and advocacy at the local and national level integrated in livelihoods projects. The peace and human rights activities focus on building a more democratic and functioning society.

The projects took place locally in Artibonite and in north-eastern and western Haiti but also at the national level. In 2015, FCA had five implementing partners in Haiti. LWF Haiti continues to be long-term partner specifically in livelihood projects. We also continued working with the Réseau National de Défense de Droits Humains (RNDDH), Service Chretien Haiti (SCH) and Mission Sociale des Eglises Haitiennes (MISSEH) and FEPH (Fédération des Écoles Protestantes d'Haïti). In addition, FCA continued to play an active role in the ACT Haiti forum. FCA successfully chaired the local ACT forum in 2015 and has been requested to continue in this role also in 2016. In the course of the year, the forum e.g. organised joint capacity building activities and advocated against the illegal deportation to Haiti of Haitian descendant Dominicans labelled as illegal immigrants.

The cuts in the MFA funding for 2016 resulted in closing a livelihood programme (Stronger livelihoods and improved food security in Southern Haiti through egg production by women and youth) after the preparatory phase already in 2015. FCA was also compelled to scale down the capacity building plans included in the annual plan 2015. Furthermore, the programme was affected by the electoral process of Haiti that led a partner organisation to focus on other activities than those planned with FCA.

3. Progress made in the Country Programme's set objectives and sub-objectives during 2015

a) Snapshot of Key Results in 2015

Haiti Country Programme reached 20,398 direct beneficiaries: 5,396 women, 4,547 men, 5,166 girls, 5,289 boys and in 2015		
Right to Livelihood (R2L)	FCA supported 5 community-based structures established for promotion of sustainable livelihoods with 14,567 local members. Projects contributing to this result: 11542, 11543 and 11548	
Right to Education (R2E)	FCA provided educational opportunities to 10,130 beneficiaries. Projects contributing to this result: 11414, 11293, 11270	FCA completed the construction of 16 permanent classrooms, each with capacity for 40 students. Projects contributing to this result: 11270 and 11293
Right to Peace (R2P)	FCA supported the training of 3,002 Haitian students in conflict resolution. Projects contributing to this result: 11556	
Advocacy	23 % of Mutual Solidarity Saving Groups officially recognised by the Ministry of Social Affairs Projects contributing to this result: 11543, 11548	

b) Key Achievements during 2015

Right to Livelihoods (R2L): FCA worked with five different local structures with a membership base of more than 14,000 Haitians. The activities included e.g. saving groups, community stores and income-generation activities such as goat and sheep rearing. As a result, the income-generation capacity of households involved in the activities has increased, hence strengthening their economic security.

Previous advocacy efforts supported by FCA started also to bear fruit in 2015, as an increasing number (23 %) of Mutual Solidarity Saving Groups were now officially recognised by the Ministry of Social Affairs, which enhances the possibilities of their members to negotiate for credits with institutions such as commercial banks, co-operatives or savings banks.

Right to Education (R2E): FCA provided non-formal educational opportunities to more than 10,000 beneficiaries in literacy as well as in primary and secondary education. In the course of the year, the construction of 16 new classrooms was finalised, each with capacity for 40 students. FCA also ensured that contingency plans or early warning systems were in place in 62 Haitian schools, provided schools with 61 pedagogical tool kits and supported four teacher training courses.

In terms of advocacy, FCA helped two community-based organisations to set up advocacy plans to work against corporal punishment of children, hence empowering communities to take action independently. A remarkable achievement is the active involvement of the communities in the schools that FCA worked with, as all of them were equipped with community education committees.

Advocacy: FCA's work with the Lutheran World Federation and ACT Alliance included important actions of dialogue building with local level authorities on DRR and climate change, such as reforestation, environmental protection and adaptation to Climate Change. On a national level, the ACT Alliance joint project established Haiti's first national civil society advocacy platform on Climate Change at the end of 2013 and this platform is now functional. In 2015, the platform organised two local workshops with the co-operation of all relevant national and international actors on Climate Change and Climate Justice. In addition, the platform participated in the COP 2015 meeting in France and organised a workshop to share the results of the COP 2015 to relevant stakeholders in Haiti.

Right to Peace (R2P): FCA supported the capacitation of more than 3,000 Haitian students in conflict resolution. Moreover, Haitian teachers and parents were trained on children's rights and church members and leaders were sensitised in issues related to gender-based violence. However, these activities don't directly contribute to FCA's global level indicators, but are context specific ones.

4. Evaluations, Assessments and Studies

Two project-level evaluations were carried out at the end of 2015, but their final reports were not available by the deadline of the annual reporting.

5. Capacity Building

Complaints Response Mechanism (CRM) was initially put in place at FCA Haiti office and for projects implemented by FCA. Training sessions and workshops were also organised with local partners to introduce them the principles and prepare them for the use of the system. This created very informative discussions and FCA was able to gather lessons for better integration with partners.

Two other workshops were organised on Core Humanitarian Standards. Moreover, capacity-building workshops on planning and reporting were organised on-demand for partners.

6. Challenges effecting the programme and lessons learnt

A major change affecting the programme was the decision of the Finnish government to cut its development funding (MFA funding), due to which the programme was scaled down. It is also worth noting that Haiti's eventful political life may result as changes in the original annual plans.

Taina Värrö



Football is a meaningful activity for refugee children and youth at the Zaatari refugee camp and breaks the monotony of life at the camp.

2.5 Middle East

Partners: 8
Personnel (in FTE²²): 17,27

FCA's programme in the Middle East is managed by the Regional Office located in Amman, Jordan and the country office in East Jerusalem. In 2015, FCA's work in Jordan was directly implemented, whereas the Country Programs in Lebanon and Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory relied on local and international partner organisations.

In Jordan the programme focused heavily on Right to Education (R2E) especially with a view to the Syrian refugee youth, whereas in the IOPT the focus was on Right to Peace (R2P), the Country Programme in Lebanon combining all three themes including Right to Livelihoods (R2L).

FCA commissioned a study on local peacebuilding in Syria, of which the report "Inside Syria: What Local Actors Are Doing for Peace" was published in 2015. The extensive analysis of local peacebuilders in Syria helps to understand the needs they have and the challenges they encounter as well as to promote their inclusion to future peace efforts.

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Final budget (EUR)	Costs (EUR)
10389	ACT Alliance Middle East Working Group membership fee	ACT EU	Common Responsibility Campaign	10,000	10,000
10797	Regional Partners Capacity Building	FCA to local partners	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	10,000	10,921
11627	Enhancing the Local Peacebuilding Capacities in Syria	FCA self-implemented	Private	71,000	71,000
11652	Thematic assessments in Lebanon and Jordan	FCA self-implemented	MFA Partnership Agreement, private, parishes	30,000	29,870
10780	MERO office PMER support for the MFA frame programme	FCA self-implemented	MFA Partnership Agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign, parishes	354,711	311,076
Total costs (EUR)					432,867

22. Full-time equivalent - Henkilötyövuosi

Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories (IoPT)



Nanette Forström

1. List of Projects and Financial Summary

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Final budget (EUR)	Costs (EUR)
11535	Emergency Response for Conflict Effected and Internally Displaced Persons in Gaza	DCA with FCA	MFA Humanitarian	166,710	166,430
11638	IOPT programme support	DCA	Private, parishes	48,710	44,462
11581	IoPT Livelihoods pilot 2015: Increasing rural women participation in agriculture activities	ESDC	MFA Partnership Agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign	30,000	30,000
11583	Strengthening Palestinian Women Livelihoods through Training and Marketing of Agricultural Products in the West Bank	IOCC with FCA	MFA Partnership Agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign	70,000	64,865
10831	Improving the Economic Opportunities and Livelihoods of Vulnerable Women in the West Bank	IOCC	Private		34,597
11998	Rights First	MEND	Private, parishes	5,458	5,458
10798	Youth for Peace	PCPD	MFA Partnership Agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign	70,000	66,000
11582	Rabbis for Human Rights: Human Rights and Judaism course for Israel's future soldiers	RHR	Common Responsibility Campaign	30,000	30,000
10250	Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI)	WCC	MFA Partnership Agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign	122,200	113,838
10560	Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI), Global Coordination	WCC	Parishes	45,000	45,000
12345	Practicalities of Return	Zochrot	Common Responsibility Campaign	20,000	20,000
Total costs (EUR)					620,650

2. Overview of the IOPT Programme

The conflict in IOPT continues to be a protracted one and no major changes occurred in the operational context in 2015. Consequently FCA's Country Programme focused on addressing the long-time Israeli occupation, mitigating its impact on daily lives of Palestinians and identifying solutions for the conflict. FCA carried on supporting projects under Right to Peace (R2P) and Right to Livelihood (R2L) in West Bank and Israel, developed its partner portfolio and continued to work more closely with local civil society organisations. No significant changes were made to the original annual plan, as only some indicators were fine-tuned to ensure that the objectives and indicators match.

2015 was the final year of working on livelihoods with International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), as FCA wanted to link its Country Programme more closely to local

civil society instead of supporting INGOs. Hence a new livelihood pilot in the West Bank was launched with Economic and Social Development Center (ESDC) to enhance the situation of female-headed households through agricultural activities. In Israel FCA joined forces with Rabbis for Human Rights to support its project that aims to increase human rights awareness among future Israeli soldiers.

For the time-being, 2015 was also the last year of FCA's active involvement in the ACT EU Middle East Working Group. However, FCA continued its involvement in advocacy both locally and in Helsinki e.g. by contributing to ACT Palestine Forum and taking part in the stakeholder consultation held for the strategic action plan of the Finnish Embassy in Ramallah. FCA also continued working with the EAPPI programme (see chapter 2, II for further details).

3. Progress made in the Country Programme's set objectives and sub-objectives during 2015

a) Snapshot of Key Results in 2015

IoPT Country Programme reached 1,476 direct beneficiaries: 792 women and 684 men in 2015	
Right to Livelihood (R2L)	107 female-headed households from the West Bank produced surplus of agricultural goods that they were able to sell at local markets to gain incomes. Projects contributing to this result: 11583, 11581
Right to Peace (R2P)	In the West Bank 49 youth were involved in more than 90 local and district level engagements to promote the idea of just peace. In Israel 800 students from pre-military academies were provided with a course on Judaism and human rights. Projects contributing to this result: 10798, 11582
Advocacy	FCA contributed to the stakeholder consultation of the Finnish Embassy in Ramallah.

b) Key Achievements during 2015

Right to Peace (R2P): A core group of 49 active youth were involved in more than 90 local and district level engagements to promote the idea of just peace in the West Bank. The engagements included activities such as a social media campaign, production of short documentaries, film screenings, political symposiums and lobby meetings with decision-makers. Many of these youth have become well-known in their districts as local leaders, and are invited by their communities to be part of the decision-making on the local level, a role that is not normally accessible to the Palestinian youth.

However, the peace work was not limited to the West Bank, as 800 students from Israeli pre-military academies were provided with a course on Judaism and human rights. Testimonies of students indicate that they have been exposed to issues that shape the way they view the policies of their own country and now understand how these policies affect the lives of individuals, particularly weak minorities. Several army officers have also requested course curricula on Judaism and human rights from FCA's partner; hence the

project has a multiplying effect by reaching soldiers who have not studied in pre-military academies, but who have come to know about the course work through former students or teachers. The request for human rights training from the Israeli army is a clear indicator of successful advocacy on the need for increased human rights understanding within the army.

Right to Livelihood (R2L): 107 female-headed households from the West Bank produced surplus of agricultural goods that they were able to sell at local markets to gain incomes, hence easing their difficult economic situation. Moreover, 27 female-headed households adopted economically and environmentally sustainable farming practices and gained knowledge about co-operative work.

Advocacy: FCA was invited to take part in a stakeholder consultation for the strategic action plan of the Finnish Embassy in Ramallah. In this occasion FCA highlighted its concern e.g. for the democratic development in Palestine; consequently the final version of the strategy included useful amendments and clarifications on democratic development, human rights and good governance.



Humanitarian aid: In 2015, FCA continued supporting cash assistance and psycho-social work for the population affected by the 2014 crisis in Gaza.

4. Evaluations, Assessments and Studies

Three project-level evaluations were carried out in 2015.

ESDC: The evaluation was conducted after the end of the pilot project with ESDC, and its main finding was that it has over-achieved its objectives. However, it was recommended that ESDC considers offering trainings on technical packaging and marketing to maximise the benefit from the increased production, as well as establishing units for agricultural products such as methods of pickling production, and making organic fertiliser. It was also recommended to introduce an awareness programme for men about the importance of their role in increasing productivity by helping women in collecting crops and packaging. Lastly, it was recommended more attention be given to awareness on local co-operatives and on site coaching on value chain development and small enterprise development.

PCPD: The main recommendations were pertaining to the target group selection, ways of working and collaborating with CBOs. Another recommendation was related to the trainings conducted by the organisation, and the importance of introducing new blood and exposing the youth to diverse

and fresh ideas. It was also recommended that the logframe, indicators and proposal for the new project to be reformulated to address the above recommendations, to work on the indicators to improve measurability and to prepare an advocacy plan and a financial sustainability plan.

IOCC: The recommendations were to conduct regular needs assessments, improve coordination with local working groups and local government, improve the collection of data from the field, unify the method of collection of data from the field as well as to allocate some funding for capacity building of staff on monitoring and evaluation. FCA was recommended to improve its M&E strategy with regards to oversight, management and monitoring the implemented work; FCA should also increase the gender-sensitive approach at the organisational and project levels (gender capacity building, gender training sessions, gender manuals and policies)

5. Capacity Building

FCA organised a partner meeting in November 2015 for Palestinian and Israeli partners; the meetings were held in Jerusalem for Israeli partners for one day and in Ramallah for two days for Palestinian partners. The theme of the meeting was monitoring and evaluation. FCA's Global Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator participated in the meetings and presented FCA's internal work on monitoring and evaluation and indicators as well as provided a guiding and introductory presentation to the tools. In addition to M & E, the Regional Finance and Admin Manager provided information about FCA's financial requirements and regulations.

6. Challenges effecting the programme and lessons learnt

The worsened security situation was somewhat of an obstacle for both FCA and its partners, as it had implications both in terms of mobility and rescheduling planned activities. Challenges were also encountered in terms of the capacity of some partners to deliver results and report them, which informs the further development of the partner portfolio.

Relocating the position of the IOPT Programme Coordinator was clearly a step towards enhancing the programme quality; FCA is now able to visit the partners more frequently, take part in activities and be closer to the implementation process as such. However, due to time constraints and limited human resources, monitoring and evaluation still remain as a challenging aspect of the Country Programme.

Jordan



1. List of Projects and Financial Summary

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Final budget (EUR)	Costs (EUR)
11593	Syrian refugees – MFA HA grant 2015	FCA self-implemented	MFA Humanitarian	555,015	465,174
11411	Informal Education for Syrian Refugees in Jordan (2nd ACT appeal)	FCA self-implemented	MFA Humanitarian	320,080	214,171
11650	Finding the lost generation	FCA self-implemented	Private	200,000	58,413
11635	Provision of ICT opportunities to Syrian youth in Azraq and Za'atari camps	FCA self-implemented	Other global financing	82,900	53,017
11282	Civil society capacity building for women's social entrepreneurship and employment	FCA self-implemented	MFA Partnership Agreement	0	0
Total costs (EUR)					790,775

2. Overview of the Jordan Programme

With the presence of more than 600,000 officially registered Syrian refugees, Jordan continues to be one of the most important host countries for people who have fled the ongoing conflict in the neighbouring Syria. Jordan's own resources to provide services for both the local population and the new-comers are scarce, and for example King Hussein has recently warned that the country is about to reach a critical point in terms of its capacity to deal with the refugee crisis.

The Jordan Country Programme 2015 was marked by consolidation efforts, by which FCA closed operations with local CBOs in the south of the country ("Civil society capacity building for women's social entrepreneurship and employment") and focused on its humanitarian response providing education and psychosocial support for Syrian refugee youth and vulnerable local youth. Instead of working on livelihoods in the South, Right to Livelihood (R2L) was further developed in connection with the humanitarian response. This led also to changes in the original setting of objectives, as the goals set for the livelihood development in the south were abandoned. Right to Education (R2E) objec-

tives were also fine-tuned to better illustrate the quality of education that the programme pursues.

After four consecutive years of self-implementation, in 2015 the programme successfully continued to enhance the wellbeing of Syrian refugees residing inside and outside camps as well as vulnerable Jordanians in host communities by enhancing their educational and recreational opportunities and hence also contributed to increased professional opportunities. FCA operated in the refugee camps of Za'atari, Azraq and King Abdullah Park (deciding to withdraw from the latter at the end of the year) as well as in host communities in Amman and Ruseyfa. The programme provided its target group with non-formal education in basic skills (literacy & numeracy, English, ICT) and technical skills (recycling, handicraft, agriculture), complemented by recreational activities such as sports and culture to support the mental and social well-being of the youth living in a difficult life situation. Links between Right to Education (R2E) and Right to Livelihood (R2L) were built by facilitating the income-generation activities of graduates from technical skills trainings. FCA also offered Cash for Work opportuni-

ties for Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians as trainers, teachers, security guards and cleaners.

FCA was active in the ACT Jordan Lebanon Syria (JLS) forum in 2015, as in previous years. 2015 was the first year when FCA decided not to join the joint ACT Appeal. The ACT forum has traditionally been very much geared towards discussing issues around the appeal/s but the situ-

ation is slowly shifting into more strategic discussions and finding other ways of collaborating and coordinating the work of the ACT member organisations in the region. Trainings organised by the forum have been highly appreciated. The ACT Alliance secretariat opened its Middle East and Europe regional office in Amman in August 2015.

3. Progress made in the Country Programme's set objectives and sub-objectives during 2015

a) Snapshot of Key Results in 2015

Jordan Country Programme reached 3,222 direct beneficiaries (1,383 females, 1,839 males) in 2015		
Right to Livelihood (R2L)	FCA provided technical skills training to 448 male and female beneficiaries (reported under Right to Education) and to facilitate small-scale income-generation efforts by some of the graduates.	FCA offered Cash for Work opportunities that benefitted 227 people. Projects contributing to this result: 11593, 11650
Right to Education (R2E)	FCA provided 2,995 male and female beneficiaries with non-formal education and recreational activities. Projects contributing to this result: 11593, 11650, 11635	FCA refurbished four youth centres and ensured the maintenance of its learning spaces in the refugee camps of Za'atari and King Abdullah Park. Projects contributing to this result: 11593, 11650

b) Key Achievements during 2015

Right to Education (R2E): FCA implemented three projects that provided non-formal education and recreational activities for 2,995 male and female beneficiaries. The success rate can be considered good; as many as 98 % of the participants graduated from the courses they had enrolled in. In the internal review of the programme conducted at the end of 2015, of the 143 interviewed youth 45 participants reported of the improved language and communication skill, whereas 26 participants mentioned their increased capacity to help siblings with their homework. Female participants stressed especially their improved communications skills, whereas the benefit most often mentioned by their male peers was assistance to siblings in homework. In terms of the impact of recreational activities on psycho-social well-being, the internal review revealed that of the 143 interviewed youth, more than 60 beneficiaries reported a change in their behaviour that had become more social and friendlier, hence enhancing the relationship with other people such as family members; at the same time roughly the same number of participants mentioned better self-confidence gained after having joint the activities.

R2E & R2L: Although local policies set a number of constraints for livelihood activities, FCA was able to provide technical skills training to 448 male and female beneficiaries and to facilitate small-scale income-generation efforts by some of the graduates, thus building bridges from education to livelihoods. Moreover, FCA offered Cash for Work opportunities that benefitted 227 people.

Advocacy: FCA's Peace United campaign brought high-profile Finnish footballers Laura Österberg Kalmari and Aki Riihilahti for a visit to Za'atari camp to engage with the refugee youth. This visit and a document on the circus activity

broadcast by YLE generated important media visibility for the situation of the Syrian refugee youth in Jordan.

4. Evaluations, Assessments and Studies

Two study activities were conducted in Jordan in 2015.

FCA commissioned a **thematic analysis** covering all three strategic themes in Jordan. The report offered a number of suggestions such as:

- promotion of social entrepreneurship and linking entrepreneurship to vocational training
- curriculum development of non-formal education and advocacy for certification of non-formal education
- engaging community groups such as CSOs, church and/or mosque affiliated youth groups and refugees in solving local level problems in co-operation with municipalities

FCA also conducted an **internal mid-term review of its humanitarian response** in Jordan. A number of recommendations were produced, including but not limited to:

- systematic collection and documentation of the best practices identified in community mobilisation
- improving accessibility for youth with disabilities
- increasing community ownership of the programme
- investments in the capacity-building for volunteers

FCA has started integrating the recommendations of the review in its programme implementation in 2016: improved accessibility for disabled youth is one of the key priorities of the year, and a capacity-building training for Syrian volunteer teachers was organised during the first trimester of the year with support from the Head Office.



5. Capacity Building

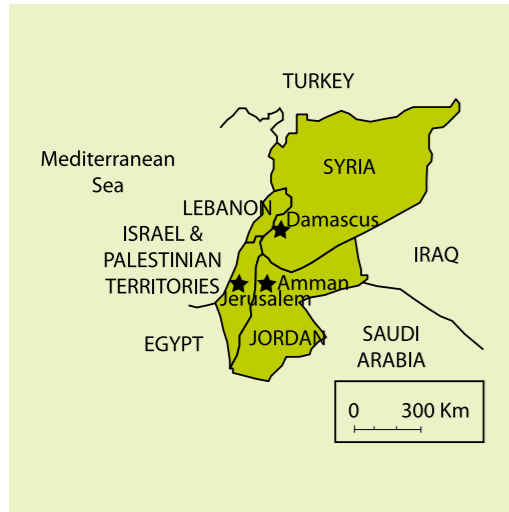
FCA in Jordan is not working with local partners as the programme is self-implemented. However, as part of the implemented projects a number of trainings have been organised for the staff in order to maintain and improve the programme quality. FCA's Monitoring & Evaluation coordinator provided the entire staff a training session on monitoring and evaluation in November. Four staff members also attended a security training organised by ACT Alliance. In addition, FCA co-operated with other INGO's in order to facilitate the access of its individual staff members and volunteers to various trainings on e.g. educational expertise and first aid.

6. Challenges effecting the programme and lessons learnt

FCA continued facing challenges with the local bureaucracy especially in terms of gaining approvals for the projects, struggling with problems related to inter-ministry coordination and gaining access permits for contractors and visiting delegations to its operational sites.

Despite these obstacles, FCA was successful in fundraising and building new and global partnerships as well as being more visible to different donors. Moreover, the decision of changing the strategy by not proceeding in the co-operation with local CBOs in the Southern Jordan and focusing more on the humanitarian aid was a success and has contributed to a more structured organisation.

Lebanon



1. List of Projects and Financial Summary

Project number	Project name	Partner	Primary Funding Source	Final budget (EUR)	Costs (EUR)
11476	Mitigation of the impact of Syrian crisis on refugee and host communities in Lebanon through empowering	MECCC-DSJ	MFA Partnership Agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign	35,000	35,000
11400	Agents of Change beyond Boundaries and Borders	SDC	MFA Partnership Agreement, Common Responsibility Campaign	50,000	50,000
11560	Diversity and Peace: UNSCR 1325 & Empowerment of Women Peace Builders in Lebanon	WAD	MFA Partnership Agreement	0	0
11651	The evaluation of IDNDR's project Artistic workshops and protection for children rights		MFA Partnership Agreement	0	0
Total costs (EUR)					85,000

2. Overview of the Lebanon Programme

Lebanon continues to live under the severe impact of the ongoing crisis in the neighbouring Syria. In Lebanon the prolonged conflict has resulted in a massive refugee presence as well as tensions between different population groups and incidents of armed violence at the border regions.

However, FCA's Country Programme in 2015 was characterised by scaling down the programme and finally exiting the country at the end of the year due to budget cuts in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (MFA) funding that had been the principle source of funding for the programme. In addition to the cuts, another major challenge affecting the implementation of the Country Programme was the resignation of the long-time programme coordinator at the beginning of 2015, after which the programme was administrated from the FCA Head Office. The remaining programme was implemented under Right to Livelihood (R2L) in Beirut and its surroundings and under Right to Peace (R2P) in 15 communities all around Lebanon.

Due to the identified gaps in the partner's capacity, FCA had to readjust its objectives under Right to Livelihood (R2L). FCA had also planned to capacitate a potential new partner for Right to Peace (R2P) work and to start working on advocacy under Right to Education (R2E), but all initiatives related to capacity-building with old and potential new partners as well as new project openings were halted by lack of human resources and the decision to close down the programme.

On a positive note, FCA's work on Right to Peace with Sustainable Democracy Center (SDC) was recognised at the national level in Lebanon in 2015, as the youth club structures created by the peace project as well as the related campaign to promote youth participation in decision-making through Participation, Legal Advocacy and the Participative Associative Model (PAM) were commended in the national report to the International Committee of the Rights of the Child (CRC) that monitors the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the state parties.

3. Progress made in the Country Programme's set objectives and sub-objectives during 2015

a) Snapshot of Key Results in 2015

Lebanon Country Programme reached 910 direct beneficiaries: 845 women and 65 men in 2015	
Right to Livelihood (R2L)	600 women living in vulnerable life situations were provided with training workshops in off-farms skills, namely catering and embroidery, to enhance their income-generation possibilities. Projects contributing to this result: 11476
Right to Education (R2E)	110 participants were provided with a variety of skills (leadership, media advocacy, peace-building etc.) by the non-formal youth programme. Projects contributing to this result: 11400
Right to Peace (R2P)	The youth involved in the peace project engaged in 15 processes either independently or in co-operation with other civil society actors and public entities. Projects contributing to this result: 11400
Advocacy	The youth groups established by the peace project as well as youth participation model promoted by the same project were commended in the national report submitted to the International Committee of the Rights of the Child. Projects contributing to this result: 11400

b) Key Achievements during 2015

Right to Livelihood (R2L): 600 women living in vulnerable life situations were provided with training workshops in off-farms skills, namely catering and embroidery, to enhance their income-generation possibilities. However, the impact of the project is difficult to assess, as the partner lacked the capacity to systematically follow-up on the participants after the workshops and hence no adequately reliable data was produced on their post-training situation.

Right to Peace (R2P): The project implemented by SDC successfully combined elements from R2E and R2P by capacitating youth throughout the year in its training programme (R2E) and supporting the same participants in R2P activities that they wanted implement in their communities. 110 youth from different communities were trained in skills needed for civic action and enabled to engage in total 15 different processes. As a consequence, local communities have now young citizens capable to address problems of the Lebanese society peacefully and constructively. For example in Barja the participants of the project took action at the occasion of the garbage crisis of the summer 2015 by organising a two-day outreach to promote recycling in co-operation with their municipality.

As a result of the R2P work, 15 Lebanese communities have now youth groups of which the members have been provided with knowledge and practical experience of peaceful civic action that can be capitalised in for example addressing social problems and tensions in the community. In a tense and fragile context, the value of such assets should not be under-estimated. It is worth acknowledging that the fourth and fifth national report on the Rights of the Child (2005- 2014) also commended these youth groups as a highly successful initiative to strengthen the role of the youth in the Lebanese society.

4. Evaluations, Assessments and Studies

In 2015, FCA commissioned a thematic assessment covering all three strategic themes in Lebanon. The report provided numerous interesting suggestions such as promoting social entrepreneurship and engaging with community groups to address local level problems in co-operation with municipalities. Since FCA exited from Lebanon, the recommendations cannot be implemented at least for the time being.

5. Capacity Building

No capacity building was possible to be organised due to the gap in FCA's human resources and the decision to close down the programme.

6. Challenges effecting the programme and lessons learnt

One of the key conclusions from 2015 was the incompatibility of FCA's old church-related partners in Lebanon with FCA's current objectives and modalities. Notably, the best results of the Country Programme were achieved together with the secular partner SDC, which works to bridge gaps between population groups in a fragmented society characterised by sectarian mentalities. This experience should be taken into consideration should the Country Programme be re-opened.

A good practice worth sharing is the participatory modality applied in SDC's project, which identified a core group of participants that not only took part in the activities, but also designed and implemented them with the SDC staff. This not only enabled active young participants to develop their leadership skills and sense of ownership and responsibility, but also ensured that the interests and needs of the target group were articulated in an authentic voice.

II. Networks and International Programmes

Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers

The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers was initiated in 2013 as a direct result of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's report titled "Strengthening the role of mediation in the peaceful settlement of disputes, conflict prevention and resolution" (UN GA Report A/66/811, 2012) and the supporting guidance titled "UN Guidance for Effective Mediation" (UN GA Resolution 65/283, 2012). The Network was launched in the stewardship of a Core Group - Religions for Peace, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Finn Church Aid - that has given direction and ensured inclusivity in the setting-up phase. The Network Core Group has been reinforced by KAICIID Dialogue Centre in 2015 and it regularly consults with the Mediation Support Unit in the UN Department of Political Affairs (MSU) and the UN Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC). Finn Church Aid has been mandated to host the Network Secretariat until the end of 2017.

The aim of the Network is to improve the effectiveness of peace focused efforts through collaboratively supporting and strengthening the positive role of religious and traditional actors in sustainable peace and peacebuilding processes. Based on the directions provided during Network Advisory Group meetings in 2015, the work of the Network has streamlined and will advance four clusters. The main activities and achievements during 2015 under each cluster were:

(1) Peace Support

The Network aims to identify and provide concrete support to grassroots to regional level religious and traditional leaders that could assist in peace mediation and peacebuilding efforts. Building on the processes in 2014, the Network continued in 2015 to support national-level peace processes in selected countries, such as Central African Republic and South Sudan, and national to regional-level processes in Asia. Furthermore the Network expanded its scope of operation to new regions, most notably to the Middle East and North Africa through its Libya process advancements.

- Building on regional consultations commenced in 2014 and 2015 engaging peace practitioners and religious actors in Asia, the Network Secretariat and members supported religious actors in effectively engaging in both the Thailand and Myanmar peace processes/national dialogues. Women and youth of faith were supported in Afghanistan, the Philippines, Thailand and Myanmar to effectively engage in community based peacebuilding and established entry points into the national level peace processes.

- The Network Secretariat – in co-operation with its partners KAICIID Dialogue Centre, Finn Church Aid, the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation – implements the Peacemaking in the Central African Republic initiative, aiming at enabling the religious communities in CAR to contribute to the conditions for sustainable peace and the reduction of violent conflict and instability in the country. In 2015, the Network Secretariat and its partners prepared for the dialogue initiative for Muslim religious, women and youth leadership through ongoing in-country consultations and shuttle diplomacy and a technical meeting held in Vienna in August 2015. Building on the advancements in 2015, the CAR Intra-Muslim Dialogue and Capacity-Building Conference where Muslim leaders reached an agreement and action plan on intra-Muslim peacemaking and co-operation convened in Vienna in February 2016. This statement will be used as an organising tool in the next phase of the process that focuses on strengthening peace and co-operation within the Muslim community and contributes to the subsequent phases that focus on inter-faith peacebuilding.
- The Network Secretariat commissioned a comprehensive baseline study to Berghof Foundation to identify what kind of support needs religious and traditional actors have when working on mediation and reconciliation of conflicts to ensure the Network adequately meets the local to regional peace mediation support needs of peacebuilders in various contexts.

(2) Inclusivity

Gender inclusion has been a focus area for the Network since its inception and is streamlined across the Network operations. The Network Gender Working Group (GWG) was formed in 2014 consisting of gender, religion and peace focused actors. The Network recognises the need to focus on inclusive engagement of both women and youth in peace building processes including those carried out in the traditional and religious frameworks. For this reason, the GWG was expanded into Inclusivity Working Group (IWG) in early 2016.

- The successful collaboration with GWG and a number of key partners continued in 2015 as the co-convening organisations convened regional summits in Asia and Europe in 2015 on Gendered responses to Violent Extremism with action plan outcomes on this topic. In 2016, the co-organisers will convene regional summits in Middle East and Africa.
- The GWG participated in the UNSCR 1325 Review Process, Anniversary and Implementation in 2015. The outcomes from the regional dialogues (Asia and Europe) were also woven into the UNSCR 1325 review process.

(3) Thematic Expertise on Preventing Violent Extremism (VE)

To respond to the growing need to understand and address factors behind radicalisation and violent extremism (VE), the Network has chosen preventing and countering violent extremism as one of its two closely inter-linked focus areas. Preventing VE is a component of various Network engagements, including but not limited to activities under Inclusivity (Gendered responses to VE) and Methods and Tools (Buddhist peace education symposium to address rise of Buddhist extremism in Asia).

- In 2015, the Network engaged in a qualitative research project on Boko Haram militants and communities of peace builders in Nigeria. The research serves as a basis for programme-planning in 2016 and 2017 focusing on intra- and inter-faith dialogue and inter-cultural tolerance and capacity building and training to religious leader to provide trauma healing and rehabilitation services to community members and former Boko Haram members. The research will be published in 2016.
- The Network supported religious and traditional actors in their efforts to prevent violent extremism in their own communities by supporting the partnership between authorities, religious communities and youth to develop community-based responses to violent extremism in Kenya and in Finland:

- **Kenya:** In May 2015 FCA East Africa Regional Office (ESARO) and (NETW) Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers organised in collaboration with Muslims for Human Rights (MUHURI) a 3-day platform in Mombasa to map issues and community perception of drivers and push factors leading into recruitment of young people in to violent extremist movements. The platform brought together religious leaders from different faith traditions, local and national authorities and young people from coastal region of Kenya. Broken relationship between the youth and national/ local authorities, and disenfranchisement of youths, were identified as key factors hindering effective policies for countering root-causes/ push factors into violent extremism (VE). Also the lack of common problem definition and framework to address the issues and local grievances fueling youth frustration and marginalisation was identified. With a request from Kenya's President's office, FCA and NETW to convene and coordinate a dialogue process with youth and national authorities from cost areas affected by VE in order for them to form a common framework and understanding for further co-operation. The NETW and ESARO together with the President's office of Kenya, Kenya Red Cross, Norwegian Church Aid, Christian Aid and local partners; Kenya Muslim Youth Alliance, and with support from KAICIID convened youth dialogues in areas most affected by al-Shabaab in Kenya. FCA/ NETW's role was also to offer thematic support for local partners and NGO's in order to build local capacity on strategies of community outreach in PVE, and facilitate co-operation links between local actors to ensure local ownership of the follow up process.

- **Finland:** FCA and the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers in a framework of co-operation with the Ministry of the Interior (MI) have assisted national and local authorities to develop outreach strategies and collaboration with religious communities, NGO's and other stakeholders to develop best practices and initiatives to prevent violent extremism in Finland. As part of the co-operation FCA and the NETW organised an excursion for national and local authorities, law-enforcement, youth representatives and religious leaders to United States to learn from the experience in USA on preventing violent extremism and inter-faith co-operation models to counter xenophobia. A vision of a common and inclusive framework for different stakeholders to engage in co-operation to prevent violent radicalisation and extremism in Finland has been further developed and enforced by different stakeholders based on the lessons learned and recommendations following the excursion. To support the development of local co-operation networks for preventing violent extremism recommendations have been disseminated via Community seminar platforms that have gathered local law-enforcement, officials, NGO's and religious communities in Helsinki and Turku. Seminars have been co-organised with FCA, Network and the Ministry of the Interior.

Following the recommendations of the excursion a model of inter-faith co-operation from USA called Shoulder-to-Shoulder was adapted in Finland. The Shoulder-to-Shoulder network has brought communities of different faiths together to confront extremism and present a unified front against racism, bigotry, and xenophobia. In USA the concept of utilising crises and confronting them with a positive message has proven very effective at turning negative experience that may otherwise have driven a wedge between communities and created mistrust, to having the opposite effect of increasing mutual respect, understanding and co-operation. In November 2015, following the second Paris terrorist attacks, faith communities requested FCA and the Network to coordinate a march for Hope to counter the xenophobia and hate speech with unity and solidarity, as a launch of developing a Shoulder-to-Shoulder co-operation in Finland. Approximate 500 people took part in the march that was organised in collaboration with local religious communities.

- In October 2015, FCA and the Network engaged in collaboration with one of the companies running reception centers (Luona Oy). Focus of this co-operation has been to engage local and religious communities from the nearby areas of the reception centers to support the asylum seekers and mitigate the host community tension and polarisation via positive interaction and engagement of local communities. The collaboration focuses on three reception centers in Vantaa and Espoo. This collaboration framework has allowed FCA to begin its programmatic work in Finland. Teachers without Borders' language training tools have been embedded as a tool for religious communities and parishes to organise activities and mobilise their volunteers to support asylum seekers.

(4) Methods and Tools

The Methods and Tools cluster evaluates and meets the training needs of religious and traditional peacemakers and the diplomatic community and enhances the exchange of methods between various actors working to support their involvement in peace and peacebuilding. The Methods and Tools cluster is divided into three main categories:

- The Network organises **trainings for religious leaders and local religious peacemakers**. As an example of trainings organised in 2015, the Network launched phased capacity-building processes in Asia; Inter-faith Peace Mediation and Peace Building Fellowship for Buddhist, Christian, Hindu and Muslim religious actors in Asia and Peace Education Symposium to develop Peace Education founded in Buddhism. These processes continue until 2016 and beyond.
- The Network organises **Trainings for international actors** based on the request from States, regional and international organisations. In 2015, two trainings for international peacebuilding actors were collaboratively organised; Religion and Mediation Course for peace practitioners and a specialised training on the inter-play between religion and conflict for UN staff with follow-up action planned for 2016 based on participants' evaluations and positive feedback. In addition, the Network has commissioned a comprehensive research project to assess course needs for track 1 diplomats in the field of religion, mediation and conflict stabilisation, and map related trainings currently offered by NGO's, government agencies and universities.
- **The Network provides Support functions to its members**. As an example of many, the Network is collaboratively advancing four complementary Action Guides for peace practitioners on religion and peacemaking that will be finalised in 2016. In addition, the Network Secretariat and members are engaged in the Alliance for Peacebuilding (AFP) project to develop M&E framework for inter-religious peacemaking.

The Network core funding comes from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland (Unit for UN and General Global Affairs) and Finn Church Aid (FCA). In order to meet the raising expectations toward the Network, the Network Secretariat has been actively seeking other prominent donors to widen its funding base. The Network Secretariat successfully signed a collaboration agreement with KAICIID International Dialogue Centre for 1/2015 – 4/2016 and a project agreement on supporting Intra-Muslim reconciliation in Central African Republic. Other donors in 2015 include the US Institute of Peace (USIP). Additionally, various organisations have been supporting Network activities through their own commitment, resources and other in-kind donations.

23. The TwB Network has been directed by a steering committee since autumn 2012 that includes: Trade Union of Education (Chair), Finnish National Board of Education (Opetushallitus, Vice Chair), Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Vice Chair), Ministry of Education and Culture (OKM), CIMO center for International Mobility, Universities of Helsinki and Oulu, Service Center for Development Co-operation (KEPA), Kehys ry, Department of teacher Education of Helsinki University (OKL), National Church Council of evangelical Lutheran Church and Finn Church Aid, which the steering committee has named the network's secretary. Teachers without Borders Network Steering committee carried on its work with some new members. The chair is Ritva Semi from The Trade Union of Education in Finland (OAJ) and The vice chair Paula Mattila from The National Board of Education.

Teachers without Borders

In Finland

Teachers without Borders (TwB) is a network²³ for teachers and educational professionals. The Network provides support for global citizenship education in Finland, an opportunity to use and develop teachers' competencies by working abroad and support the capacity of local teachers and education sector development in developing countries. By the beginning of 2015 Teachers without Borders (TwB) Network had become a recognised part of FCA's work in education sector. The main objectives for 2015 were in growing the network membership and building up the quality of the volunteer work as an organisation in recruiting, training and sending volunteers.

In 2015, TwB network together with the steering committee members took actively part in advocacy work on finalising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda2030 with demands of quality education for all, highlighting that the strong goals in education support the fulfillment of the other SDGs. 2015 included also the writing process of Finnish Development Policy and cuts in the Finnish development budgets. Both of these demanded active response from civil society networks such as TwB. We joined the campaigns and processes organised by the umbrella organizations Kepa and Kehys.

The main topic which was highlighted in the events and global citizenship education in year 2015 was chosen to be the relation between education and peace. The network supported spreading the Peace United campaign to schools. The events network organised and took part were Educa fair in January, World Village festival in May and World Teacher Day in October. At Educa fair the panel discussion network organised was part of UNESCO's 70th anniversary celebrations. Mr Edem Adubra, Head of the



Inka Hopstu

UNESCO Teacher Task Force, Mr Dennis Sinyolo from Education International, Mr Pekka Haavisto member of the parliament and Mrs Sirpa Pietikäinen member of The European Parliament discussed about the importance of education in building peace and development. The event gathered more than 700 listeners. Teachers without Borders network and Finn Church Aid also joined UNESCO Teacher Task Force as a member organisation.

Global citizenship education award winners were chosen for third time by the network. The Minister of Education, Sanni Grahn-Laasonen shared the school award for Raunistulan yhtenäiskoulu from Turku and Teacher award for the group of teachers from Seinäjoen lukio. Minister Elisabeth Rehn made the celebration speech lifting up the strong importance of educating girls and women with the long lasting impact for the livelihood of whole family.

Year 2015 was also otherwise active in global citizenship education. Network steering committee together with invited guest writers and Teachers without Borders volunteers wrote and published an article based webbook about Global Citizenship Education and experiences from TwB volunteers.

Year 2015 Europe and Finland had to face more asylum seekers than any year in near history. The network members were active in responding to the situation in Finland. University of Helsinki as one of the steering committee members developed a Finnish language teaching method, easy to use in varying situations for a group with different reading and writing skills. Method called "Finnish says welcome" (Suomen kieli sanoo tervetuloa) is based on spoken language. Network organised 10 trainings around Finland for volunteer language teachers, altogether 350 language guides were trained and most of them started volunteer teaching for asylum seekers.

TwB in the FCA's Programme Countries

During 2015, the network had 11 long term volunteers working abroad, four in Cambodia, two in Eritrea, four in Uganda and one in Liberia with the support of the project "Capacity Building through Voluntarism", funded by the MFA:

- In Cambodia the three volunteers were carrying on the Career counsellor project together with the Ministry of Education. Career counselling curricula were finalized and training scheme for teachers established and the first career counsellors were trained. One volunteer, with teacher and architect background, was doing the baseline study for model school project in Battambang region and started the planning of the next steps.
- In Eritrea the volunteers were concentrating on the capacity building of two teacher training institutes.
- In Uganda two volunteers worked together with partner organisation RACOBAL carrying out inservice training for local primary and secondary school teachers concentrating on pupils centered learning methods. The other two volunteers were working in Rwamwanja refugee settlement supporting the start of a new vocational education center.

- In Liberia the volunteer worked with partner organisation FAWE with the ladies groups. Her main task was to build up skill based curricula for them and this way support the quality and recognition of the studies provided for the ladies.

The network joined the World Teacher Programme in Kisumu, Kenya together with the Dutch organisation Edukans. Nine Finnish participants worked for two weeks in local primary and secondary schools. The main aim of the project is to train child centered and active learning methods for the local teachers and support the co-operation of the local teachers by building up network with the participating eight schools.

Lauttasaari and Tikkurila schools and parishes also committed altogether six short term volunteer teacher periods in Cambodia. Lauttasaari also had visitors from Cambodian partner schools in Finland. This vice versal co-operation was seen as very motivating and a strongly supported way to work in the future.

Women's Bank

Women's Bank is a volunteer community and a charity fund aimed at increasing women's sustainable entrepreneurship and livelihood in developing countries. Women's Bank was founded in May 2007 by FCA and a group of influential Finnish women. The goal of Women's Bank is to support women particularly in Africa and Asia by alleviating poverty.

By the end of the year 2015 Women's Bank has collected over EUR 9,1 million in total for women in developing countries. Of that EUR 1,4 million was raised in 2015 which is an all-time annual record. This is made possible by over 1,500 shareholders, 3,200 monthly donors and local fundraising by the volunteers.

In 2015, Women's Bank had 35 local groups and about 3,000 volunteers who organised over 500 events to fundraise for Women's Bank's fund. Two new local groups were launched: one in Savonlinna and another in Fuengirola, Spain. The latter is the first official group outside of the Finnish borders and run by Finnish women living in Costa del Sol.

Women's Bank highlights in 2015:

- The biggest annual fundraising event, "Walk a Profession", was organised for the sixth consecutive year in 2015. The event was again a huge success. It was simultaneously held in 35 cities, of which 11 were abroad – for the first time in the event's history. Well over 3,000 participants attended the events and the total amount of funds raised reached EUR 70,000.
- Another nationwide fundraising effort was a new initiative called "Read for a Profession". This was a book launch tour with the highly acclaimed author Sofi Oksanen and took place in a total of 10 cities in Finland in October-December. The events were well attended and the tour managed to reach new audience for WB. Some 1,000 participants attended the events and the total amount of funds raised was EUR 10,000.

- “Golf for a Profession” tour was organised for the fourth time. This fully volunteer managed initiative raised some EUR 7,000 over several different golf courses. Golf for a Profession is a great attempt to reach out to new crowds and find new supporters for WB.

In 2015, Women’s Bank took important steps towards a skills donation programme. This programme utilises the substantial expertise of the volunteer network in private and finance sector in project development and implementation. The programme also seeks new models and sources for financing project interventions. The first short-term assignments of Women’s Bank volunteers took place in Asia and West Africa in 2015.

During 2015 Women’s Bank supported projects in eight of FCA’s programme countries: Cambodia, Nepal, Myanmar, Guatemala, Uganda, Liberia, Sierra Leone and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These nine projects comprised of nearly 4,600 beneficiaries. Since its inception, Women’s Bank has been able to directly support over 28,000 people in 14 different countries.

Changemaker

Changemaker is an advocacy network for youth and young adults that strives for global justice. The three main themes of advocacy in Changemaker are peace, debt and environment. Changemaker was founded in 2004 and is a part of FCA.

In 2015, the main campaign “Rauhanradikaali” of the network was about radicalisation and prevention of violent extremism. The campaign was also presented in various events, during which a total of 2,235 thoughts about peace were collected to “the chain of peace”. At the end of November the chain was carried through Helsinki at the closing event of the campaign and used to decorate a Christmas tree set up by Changemaker. As part of the campaign also two panel discussions were organised. The campaign activities in Changemaker were both planned and executed by the volunteers in the network.

The aim of the campaign was awareness raising and peace education, which was planned to be promoted to a wider audience by Changemaker local groups. Unfortunately less local groups took part in the campaign than was expected. On the other hand, several parishes, who were encouraged to also contribute to ‘the chain of peace’-activity, collected the peace thoughts at their confirmation camps and sent them to Changemaker.

The other key issues Changemaker concentrated in 2015 were the training of its members and wider visibility. Visibility was increased especially through active use of social media where the volunteers developed better Facebook and Twitter presence. Promotion of Changemaker was done both in social media as well as in events where the network took part.

The Changemaker Weekends held in April and October were successful and attracted also new members – especially via Facebook – and in both events 50 % of the participants were attending for the first time. Volunteers of Changemaker local groups were also trained in Local Group Days organised in January and August. In addition

a new material was produced to support the work of the local groups. In the end these national level trainings had a total of 86 participants coming from all around Finland, who could then forward the knowledge also to the theme and local groups they are active in.

Changemakers own magazine, Globalisti, was published twice during the year. The theme of the first issue was radicalisation and the theme of second issue was migration. Globalisti reached an audience of thousands of youth at various events and schools, where teachers could order the magazine via SubjectAid service. As the themes of the magazine were very relevant the magazine was ordered out in few weeks after the publishing. Like the campaign and local groups, also the editorial group of Globalisti consists of volunteers of Changemaker network. See more about Globalisti magazine in chapter 2, III.

Changemaker also continued growth in 2015. A new local group was founded in Haapavesi, which increased the number of Changemaker local groups to 20. Active recruitment of new volunteers during various events gained the network 267 new members. As at the age limit for to the membership of Changemaker was set to be from 13 to 35 years, in the end of 2015 the total number of members was 1,828.

EAPPI

The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) is an ecumenical initiative that supports local and international efforts to end the Israeli occupation and bring a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, based on international law and United Nations resolutions. The programme was founded by the World Council of Churches 2002 in response to an appeal by the Heads of Churches in Jerusalem. Finn Church Aid has participated in the programme and sent Finnish Ecumenical Accompaniers (EAs) to the West Bank and East Jerusalem since 2005.

The EA volunteers offer protective presence to vulnerable communities and monitor and report human rights abuses. After their deployment period, the EAs advocate for civilian protection and policy change, affirming the respect of human rights and international humanitarian law, and urging the international community to actively promote a just peace for both Israelis and Palestinians.

In 2015, FCA sent ten EAs to Occupied Palestinian Territories with support from the MFA, and three with UNICEF funding for EAPPI’s access to education work, received via WCC. FCA also supports the coordination of the programme by direct support to WCC. Of the 21 countries that participate in the programme, Finland is one of the bigger contributors. All volunteers spent three months in the West Bank, except one who was repatriated for health reasons. The EAs participated in a four-day-training and a briefing session prior to their deployment, as well as a debriefing session after their return. Finnish EA’s worked in five placements: Bethlehem, Hebron, Yanoun, Yatta (South Hebron Hills) and Jordan Valley.

The EAs monitor access to education, to livelihood and to worship at checkpoints, schools and places of worship.

In 2015, EAs accompanied 3,800 children and 300 teachers to 26 schools across the West Bank. The number of pupils was slightly higher than in 2014 due to requests of protective presence from additional schools. The EAs also responded to calls to arrive to additional schools in cases of harassment or violence as a form of first response to a crisis. Reported attacks and incursions in school areas affected about 1,800 children.

EAPPI aims at deterring human rights violations and decreasing sense of fear among vulnerable groups. From a survey sample of 105 Palestinians crossing three major checkpoints, 80 responded they felt significantly, a lot or somewhat safer when EAs were present, the rest feeling a bit safer (19) or not at all (6). In addition, 76 thought the presence of EAs made crossing the checkpoint “somewhat” or more smoother.

In May-July, EAPPI significantly increased its presence in the village of Susiya, threatened by demolition by the Israeli army, to continuous night coverage, in coordination with other organisations. The EAs co-operated with visiting diplomatic missions and NGOs, helping the locals to draw attention to their situation. The strategic presence, combined with advocacy efforts, contributed to lifting the threat of imminent demolition.

The escalation of violence in Palestine and Israel affected the local populations severely and posed challenges to EAPPI’s work, especially in Hebron, where accompanying schoolchildren became difficult after the area where the school is was declared closed military zone by the Israeli army. Also, the EAs needed additional support and security arrangements.

EAPPI advocacy work in Finland

In 2015, the EAPPI advocacy events held by returned Finnish EAs reached at least 1,800 people. In addition, two photo exhibitions in the libraries of Kannelmäki and Järvenpää were seen by audiences that most likely number in several thousands in both venues. These photo exhibitions depicted life under occupation by photographer EAs. An EA’s photo exhibition in the HoiSie –gallery in Lappeenranta broke the record of the gallery, 300 people, and attracted attention in the local media. Most events took place in Finland, but Finnish EAs also arranged advocacy events in Switzerland and Ukraine, among others.

In early 2015, the EAs facilitated the visit of a former Palestinian minister and a former Israeli ambassador and arranged meetings between them and Finnish politicians and officials on prospects of peace, two state solution and possible Finnish recognition of Palestine. The EAs spread the word about a report on operation Protective Edge by the Israeli organisation Breaking the Silence in Finland. Before the Finnish elections, EAs submitted a question to an open voting aid application about whether Finland should recognise Palestine. The question was answered by 13873 people, with 49 % of the users and 63 % of the candidates that responded supporting the recognition, and 25 % and 22 % opposing it.

At the World Village Festival, an EA participated in a public panel discussion on the impact of advocacy work, another gave a brief information speech about the program, and others discussed with people at the stand. In May EAPPI arranged movie screenings of The Stones Cry Out in Helsinki and Turku, with the presentation of the director and, in Helsinki, a panel discussion about the situation of Palestinian Christians. Afterwards, a lively discussion ensued in a church magazine, with opinions for and against EAPPI’s work.

The EAs talked about their experiences to school, university, youth, church and other audiences. They used their experiences as examples when training e.g. reservists and journalists. They also brought attention to the situation in the West Bank in numerous press articles, blog posts and social media items written in Finnish, Swedish and English, and were interviewed by different media outlets.

A Breaking the Silence exhibition that had been planned for a long time to be the major advocacy event of the autumn was cancelled due to financial reasons, affecting the advocacy work and motivation of the volunteers.

Cultural Orientation Training for Quota Refugees

In 2015, FCA carried out cultural orientation trainings for quota refugees before their arrival to Finland, an initiative started in 2013. Working with refugees in their countries of origin complements FCA’s work with refugees in the Programme Countries. This was the last year of the project for FCA.

The three-day trainings provide refugees with practical information on Finland (education system; health care and social welfare; Finnish culture and society), Finnish language as well as the rights and responsibilities of residents in Finland. The aim is to support the resettlement process and integration to the Finnish society, and diminish the cultural shock. Practical arrangements of the trainings were made in close co-operation with the local UNHCR office, and in the case of Lebanon, IOM. The trainings are especially important to refugees with limited access to information, such as the Afghani refugees in Iran.

With training modules developed in the previous years, it was easy to arrange similar trainings in Iran, Egypt, and Lebanon (two consecutive trainings) with the total number of 534 participants during 2015. The face-to-face teaching was complemented with a web site providing all the necessary information in the refugees’ own languages.

Finnish Immigration Service, who is responsible for the resettlement of Finnish quota refugees, was the contracting authority of the project. FCA had the overall responsibility for the project including financial management and practical arrangements of the trainings. FCA’s service providers were DIAK (Diaconia University of Applied Studies), who were responsible for the content of the trainings, and Helsinki Region Interpreting Centre (Helsingin Seudun Asioimistulkikeskus). The project was funded by the European Refugee Fund (Euroopan Pakolaisrahasto).

III. Communications and Campaigns

Respected and leading communicator

The guiding principles of FCA communications are openness, fairness, swiftness and reliability. Like all work in the organisation, communication strives to have impact.

A survey, conducted in 2015 by a leading market research company Taloustutkimus, compared how journalists perceived the communications of 23 non-governmental organisations. In the overall score, FCA communications ranked highest of all, scoring 8.36 points out of 10. FCA ranked third in reliability, which was the most valued category by the journalists, and made the top 6 also in openness, speed and understandability.

The development debate, FCA and the media

Year 2015 was rather unprecedented in how much public attention humanitarian aid and development co-operation received. This was mainly due to the earthquakes in Nepal, the influx of asylum seekers to Europe and the cuts of historical magnitude in government funding for development co-operation.

FCA responded to the situation by taking an active role in debates over asylum seekers and cuts in government funding. FCA increased awareness on global justice and gave voice to the most vulnerable in the debate by sending more press releases than ever before – 88 in Finnish (73 in 2014), two in English and four in Swedish. FCA's Executive Director and many other representatives appeared regularly in Finnish television, online and print media as interviewees and as quoted stakeholders. The Paris terrorist attack in November caused another peak in the demand for FCA expertise in news media, which shows how FCA is also seen as a specialist organisation on violent extremism.

Also, a significant number of articles written by FCA communications and op-eds written by FCA staff members appeared in Finnish mainstream media. Some of FCA's work also made international news, most notably The Huffington Post covering FCA's circus school in Jordan.

Growing online presence

FCA has a bundle of web-pages. Apart from the main page (kirkonulkomaanapu.fi/) which focuses on the organisation and work of FCA there are seven different sub-web-pages:

- Alternative Gifts (toisenlainenlahja.fi, in Finnish and Swedish)
- Women's Bank (naistenpankki.fi, in Finnish, English, and Swedish)
- Changemaker (changemaker.fi, in Finnish, English, and Swedish)
- Teachers without Borders (opettajatilmanrajoja.fi, in Finnish)
- Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (eappi.fi, in Finnish)

In 2015, separate pages for Peace United (peaceunited.fi/, in Finnish, English, and Swedish) and the thematic Tekoja -campaign (tekojakampanja.fi/, in Finnish, English, and Swedish) were opened.

The updates for the main homepage were frequent with 100 Finnish news stories and 56 and 11 in English and Swedish, respectively. These were accompanied by articles - 64 in Finnish, 29 in English and three in Swedish - as well as blog posts, 51 of which were in Finnish, nine in English and one in Swedish.

On the main FCA homepage in 2015 the number of page views exceeded half a million. Homepage visits amounted to more than 230,000 and the page gathered over 160,000 unique visitors – a growth of over 60 and 70 percent, respectively. The number of subscribers for FCA's newsletter reached 12,000, up by a third from 9,000 in 2014.

As moving image continues to grow in popularity in online communications, so does the number of videos produced by FCA. In 2015, FCA came out with 85 videos, up from 51 in 2014. Some gained notable popularity, for example the Peace United music video by Nikolai Alho and Särre was viewed by over 140,000 people on Facebook.

Within online communications, the significance of social media is ever growing. In 2015, no new social media channels were opened, but the communications was carried out through three language version of Facebook, two language versions of Twitter, a Finnish Instagram, and YouTube and LinkedIn channels. In 2015, all pages grew in popularity, many in three-digit percentages. Although there is room for more growth, FCA's social media channels are developing in the right direction.

The number of followers on social media on 7 January 2016 (compared to 7 January 2015):

Facebook

Finnish 12,852 (10,627)
Swedish 410 (326)
English 1,523 (682)

Twitter

Finnish 2,468 (1,053)
English 334 (119)

LinkedIn

English 874 (379)
Instagram
Finnish 702 (30)

Many new initiatives were made to fully utilise the possibilities of online communications, for example a risk map was created in collaboration with STT, the Finnish news-wire, and FCA created or participated in a number of social



Ville Asikainen

media campaigns - for example campaigns against cuts in government funding for development (#eiköyhimmiltä) and to counter hate-speech (#mynameis).

Campaigns and petitions

The most significant petition FCA took part in was the Petition for development co-operation, that objected cuts in development co-operation planned by the new Finnish Government. The petition, which came with hashtags #eiköyhimmiltä and #mevälitämme, was signed by 41,271 individuals and was handed to the Minister for Development on 8 September as part of a demonstration, in which FCA participated as well.

Common Responsibility Campaign

For many years now, FCA has had a significant role in the Common Responsibility Campaign (CRC) by producing two short documentaries on its work. The documentaries are broadcast on the Finnish Broadcasting Company Yle television channels from February through April.

The two short documentaries shown as part of the 2015 campaign were made in Haiti in 2014, whereas the films produced in 2015 focused on the theme of youth education and employment in Uganda's Rwamwanja refugee settlement. In the case of the Uganda films, the two protagonists, filmed in autumn 2015, were Congolese refugees who will graduate from Rwamwanja vocational school, ran by FCA, with a high likelihood of finding employment.

From February to April 2016, Yle's channels showed the two four-minute documentaries numerous times attracting millions of views. The films are also available online. There have also been a number of articles on the campaign in many leading church-related publications, and FCA also prepared other materials for campaign volunteers in the parishes. The feedback received from the parishes on the campaign materials was positive. The shown documentary and the overall information on the project in Uganda were especially praised.

Tekoja Campaign

The thematic Tekoja (Actions) campaign 2015 focused on

youth and violent radicalisation, the main message being "give a reason to stay." The campaign objective was to increase understanding on the reasons driving people into joining violent extremist groups, and present practical methods for preventing violent radicalisation both in Finland and in conflict areas.

Peace United, a global football team for peace, was part of the campaign. The concept offers socio-psychological support in the form of football at refugee camps, and, in co-operation with parishes, in asylum centres around Finland. Utilising 15 famous Finnish footballers, the sub-campaign continues to grow in popularity and get more attention.

The target audiences – the general public, parishes and media – were reached through a media campaign and through footwork in various events, such as the World Village festival (Maailma kylässä), the Helsinki Cup (the largest youth football tournament in Finland), and in major religious events, like Kirkkopäivät and Herättäj juhlat. The campaign video has been viewed more than 800,000 times to date.

The timeliness of the youth radicalisation theme spurred positive feedback, especially from the professional stratum. Peace United has also received two special recognitions – the Finnish Football Federation's Respect-award, and the John Vikström award at the Finnish Sports Gala.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland gave funding for both the CRC and the Tekoja 2015 campaigns, as well as for the preparations of the 2016 Tekoja campaign which has the theme of livelihood with focus on small-scale entrepreneurship, women and the young.

Publications

Tekoja magazine

Tekoja is FCA's own Finnish-language quarterly, published and edited by the communications unit. The average print run of a Tekoja issue is 39,000, up from 36,000 from the year before, and the readership is approximately 77,000. Teachers are reached well through SubjectAid delivery service that provides Tekoja for around 8,000 teachers per

year. The magazine can be found online (www.kirkonulkomaanapu.fi/tekoja-lehti) and can also be ordered free of charge in print or electronic form.

The objective of the magazine is to increase awareness on development issues and motivate target groups, like the general public, parishes, teachers, journalists, decision-makers and FCA's supporters, to support development co-operation and humanitarian assistance. At its best, the Tekoja magazine also engages people in FCA's advocacy work, as FCA can express its ideas to decision-makers as well as to the general audience through the magazine.

Tekoja has in part helped strengthen FCA's image as a specialist organisation amid Finnish media and the general public. In 2015, some articles published in the magazine led to interview requests for our experts and quotes in editorials of national media outlets, and some stories were widely discussed on social media.

Globalisti

Globalisti is the biannual magazine of FCA's youth network Changemaker. The magazine is made by youth, for youth. The editorial group consisted of 34 volunteers from

the Changemaker network. Globalisti raises awareness of global issues among youth encouraging them to participate in advocacy as well as offering them a way to engage in development issues and the work of the Changemaker network. In 2015, the theme of the first issue was radicalisation and the second issue was dedicated to migration.

To further develop the work of the editorial group, a shift was made to produce the magazine in shorter time and more during semesters. This new cycle proved to be successful leading to better co-operation of the editorial groups as well as to better publishing schedule from the point of view of schools and also of local groups.

Each issue of the magazine has a print run of 3,500 copies. Over 60% of the copies are sent to schools through the SubjectAid delivery system while each parish of the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church receives a copy as well. Since 2015, the magazine has also been available online on Changemaker's homepage, as shareable articles and as Issuu magazine. Both Tekoja and Globalisti magazines received funding from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

3. Programme Management and Development

3.1. Organisation

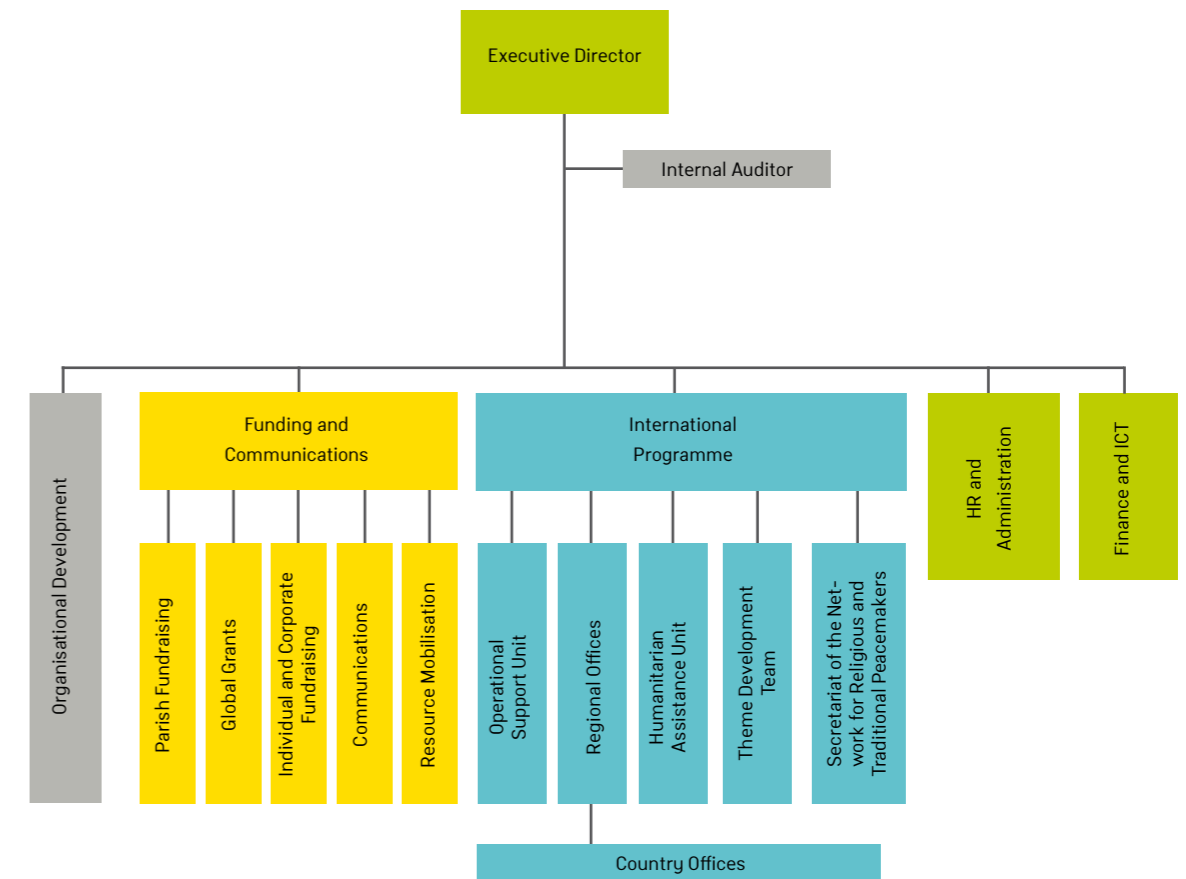
Organisational Structure

In 2015, FCA continued to fine-tune its organisational structure and adopting new ways of working in the organisation.

The Secretariat of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers remained under the administrative affiliation of FCA, but has its own identity. Its place in the organisation was changed and it now part of FCA's International Programme.

In 2015, FCA formally began operating in the United States by opening an office in Washington, DC and hired a director to oversee fundraising and external relations efforts. Since FCA Americas (FCAA) is a new humanitarian and development actor in Washington, the office has focused its attention on establishing relationships with

private and corporate foundations in the un-tapped philanthropic market of the US. Integral to FCAA's fundraising efforts also includes outreach to representatives from the US government (USAID and the US Department of State in particular) and the international community, including multilateral actors and various United Nations agencies. As part of its outreach efforts to the multilateral donor community, FCAA participated in two global forums sponsored by the World Bank Group, The Annual Meeting of the IMF/World Bank and the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Forum. In an effort to building partnerships with other North American faith-based development/humanitarian organisations, FCA Americas also participated in the ACT Alliance North American forum. Additionally, the US office hosted multiple meetings for the Secretariat of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers' Washington office.



Regional and Country Offices

By the end of 2014 FCA's Central Africa Regional Office (CARO) had only two countries under its responsibility, namely Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Central African Republic (CAR). As a result CARO was transformed into DRC Country Office. DRC and CAR started reporting to West and Central Africa Regional Office (WECARO), based in Monrovia, Liberia.

In April 2015 a massive earthquake hit Nepal. Before the earthquake FCA had one locally employed Programme Coordinator in Kathmandu. With the new humanitarian operation the office was upgraded to a Country Office and staff numbers grew rapidly with the size of the operation. At the end of 2015 Nepal Country Office had 36 staff. This included a large team of short-term humanitarian project staff, mainly consisting of construction engineers

The Regional Offices were:

- West and Central Africa Regional Office in Monrovia, Liberia – WECARO
- Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office in Nairobi, Kenya – ESARO
- Asia Regional Office in Phnom Penh, Cambodia – ARO
- Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office in Port-au-Prince, Haiti – LACRO
- Middle East Regional Office in Amman, Jordan – MERO

The Country Offices were:

- Kenya Country Office in Nairobi – KECO shares the same office space with ESARO
- South Sudan Country Office in Juba – SSUCO
- Somalia Country Office in Hargeisa, Somaliland – SOCO
- Uganda Country Office in Kampala – UGACO
- DRC Country Office in Goma – DRCCO
- Central African Republic Country Office in Bangui – CARCO
- USA office in Washington – USO
- Nepal Country Office

Other Field Presence

- FCA started a registration process in Myanmar. In 2015, the team consisted of core staff of three people (two programme staff and a finance coordinator) who report to the Regional Representative in Asia.
- In April 2015 FCA employed locally a Programme Coordinator to Jerusalem to be in charge of FCA's programme in I/OPT and who reports to the Regional Representative in Middle East. A registration process was started to have FCA registered with the Palestinian Authorities.
- FCA started operations in Eritrea in the end of 2015. One expatriate Programme Manager was recruited and based in Asmara, Eritrea. The Eritrean Government does not want FCA to register in the country, but nevertheless permits operating from within the country.

FCA is a Green Office

FCA's Head Office has been part of the WWF Green Office environmental management system for offices since 2008.

As a Green Office, FCA is committed to reduce its carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions and its ecological footprint. The main source of FCA's CO₂ emissions is air travel. FCA started compensating its CO₂ emissions from flights through a German organisation Klima-Kollekte in 2014.

Although FCA's Regional and Country Offices are not able to gain a Green Office status as such, FCA's goal is to follow the Green Office principles in all offices, taking into consideration the context and the realistic possibilities of each office. Couple of FCA's offices have already received encouraging results in reducing their ecological footprint, e.g. MERO in Amman has been able to save significantly in electricity usage and costs.

3.2. PME & Learning

FCA's programme consists of the following levels: the Global Programme level, the Country Programme level and the Project level.

The FCA Global Programme Annual Report 2015 has been compiled of the Country Programme Annual Reports and also includes Head Office and global functions. The data aggregation and analysis process at the Global Programme level was the first of its kind for the pre-set indicators within the current programme period 2015-2017. The process for aggregating the data at global level proved more time consuming and challenging than initially expected. The data collected for the indicators and their subsequent analyses reveal that within the Country Programmes the main challenges were that the FCA programme indicators were rolled out to projects that were already ongoing and had existing logframes and indicators. In these cases a lot of effort had to be put in having discussions with partners on the need for some revisions in the data to be collected. The situation was easier in projects that were initiated at the same time as the current ongoing FCA Global Programme.

The global programme annual report 2015 is the first annual report for the current programme 2015-2017. To support in Country Programme M&E and in the reporting process a Country Programme level M&E Plan format was prepared and detailed instructions on data collection, aggregation and analysis were developed. A format was also developed for aggregating and analysing global and Country Programme level data and another one for collecting project level data for FCA's programme indicators.

The Global Programme Annual Reports and Country Programme Reports were approved by FCA's Management Team.

A writeshop was organised in May 2016 to support in global programme monitoring and reporting by utilising the data received from the Country Programmes and the Head Office. Feedback from the reporting process to the Country Programmes was organised after the writeshop.

At the end of 2015 some Country Programme Annual Plans (CPAP) for 2015 were revisited and some minor revisions were made (eg. inclusion/exclusion of some sub-objectives and indicators into CPAPs, addition/exclusion of projects). These possible changes are indicated in the sections for each Country Programme.

At Country Programme level two Country Programme evaluations took place; one in Uganda and another one in

DRC. Furthermore FCA continued to conduct thematic and context as well as other assessments and studies. The findings and recommendations of these evaluations and assessments have been described under the Country Programme Annual Report sections (2.1-2.5).

At project level FCA's project level planning and monitoring guidelines and formats were revised. To further support Country Programmes in their M&E a "M&E focal group" consisting of relevant staff members was put in place. The group had two teleconferences in the latter half of 2015.

In 2015, FCA conducted 15 project level evaluations (Please see further details in Country Programme sections, 2.1-2.5).

An international programme workshop for FCA programme staff was organised in April 2015 in Uganda. The aim of the workshop was to support FCA's programme staff in taking forward FCA's new programme by ensuring that the staff had the needed knowledge on implementing and monitoring it. Hence a lot of time was spent on discussing programme indicators and data collection. The methods used were participatory with a more bottom-up approach. Sharing experiences on what has worked and what has not worked also took place. Each Country Programme made commitments on how to progress programmatic development within the Country Programme. These are followed up. The results of the workshop included eg. peer learning (eg. use of KOBO system, M&E tools), new ways of enhancing learning using technology (eg. R2P sharing platform), use of FCA's programme indicators and how data aggregation takes place, initiating the use of a teleconference system for M&E focal points, improved feedback from Head Office to the Country Programmes on lessons learnt and a strengthened "One FCA" identity within the programme staff.

The decision made in 2015 to redesign FCA's intranet is being taken forward. This new platform will also support organisational learning.

Capacity building of partners was done during 2015. The capacity building needs were assessed and the appropriate support or training was organised. This support/training can be in the form of partner workshops, individual partner training sessions, support given during monitoring visits, support provided by FCA Regional and Country Office staff on a more continuous basis (training on the job) also sometimes with support from the Head Office. The support is either integrated into the project, as a separate capacity building initiative or through a FCA Field Office direct capacity building initiative to support more than one partner. Topics in capacity building ranged from thematic support and trainings on various approaches, PME support, CHS training, financial management and procurement training. In exit countries capacity building for partners on resource mobilisation was also conducted.

Organisational level planning and reporting moved from quarterly reporting to triannual reporting (T-reporting) to better correspond to FCA's annual working cycle. The summary of different functions' T-reports, lessons learned and plans for the coming trimester were shared with the whole organisation.

3.3. Quality Assurance and Accountability

FCA has decided to adapt to the new Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) that has replaced the HAP Standard. The 2015 was a transition year from the HAP to the CHS, and some guidance documents were released by the CHS Alliance only in late fall. This also affected implementation of some of the key actions on quality and accountability management, planned for 2015:

- Quality and Accountability Framework (QAF): The QAF was developed and approved by the Management Team. When there was no guidance available yet how shifting from the HAP to the CHS will affect the QAF, launching was postponed to 2016 to avoid confusion.
- Complaints response mechanism (CRM): The CRM, based on FCA's Complaints Policy, was piloted in LACRO and SOCO. Training on complaints handling was carried out for staff in both offices, and context specific complaints systems were developed. Feedback from piloting was collected and analysed for learning before rolling out the system in other field offices in 2016. Advisory Group on Complaints Handling was steering the process. FCA lawyer and internal auditor completed the CHS Alliance investigation training on sensitive complaints.
- Guidelines on working with partners and the partnership agreement: Revision of the guidelines and developing the agreement were postponed to 2016 due to the revision of FCA's global strategy. Principles of working with partners will be outlined in connection with this strategy revision, and related guiding documents will be developed accordingly. The CHS Alliance guidance on how to apply the CHS in partnerships was still pending.
- A plan was developed and approved on how FCA will proceed with the CHS;
- Principles of the CHS were reflected in FCA's new project level planning and monitoring guidelines;
- The Organisational Development Manager at the Head Office and one field staff completed a Training of Trainers on CHS carried out by the CHS Alliance.

When FCA considered its approach with the CHS, three important benefits were identified:

- the CHS provides a holistic framework, built on widely recognised standards, codes and best practices, to develop FCA's quality, effectiveness and accountability;
- the CHS associates FCA with a global network of actors sharing the same language and understanding of quality and accountability;
- the CHS is a measurable, verifiable standard, through which FCA can communicate its commitments on quality and accountability to all stakeholders such as the communities FCA work with, partners, and donors.

FCA has decided to have an independent verification as the verification scheme on the CHS. This will provide FCA with an impartial assessment of the baseline situation and recommendations for improvements. A self-assessment preparing for the verification will be carried out in 2016, and the independent third-party verification is planned to

follow in early 2017. When working on application of the CHS, main challenges that need to be addressed seem to be related to field staff induction, training and support.

Feedback from piloting the complaints response mechanism was encouraging: beneficiaries became more aware of their rights and felt more equal, their participation was more active and their trust in FCA strengthened. Challenges were related to ways of complaining and beneficiary awareness and understanding the system. Rolling out the complaints system will continue, and four - five new field offices will start the system in 2016. Peer learning between field offices will be enhanced to find the best practices in developing the system.

3.4. Risk Management, Internal Audit and Security

The risk management system was further developed during 2015. Special emphasis was put on strengthening country level risk management systems as well as working with FCA Board on top ten organisational risks.

All FCA's Regional Offices –together with countries in those regions - use the tool regularly, meaning that risk assessment has been integrated into the triannual planning

and reporting system at FCA. FCA moved from quarterly planning and reporting to triannual cycle in 2015.

During 2015, risks were assessed on a triannual basis, first by functional level and thereafter at the Management team level. The key risks were handled at the Board level.

FCA works in fragile contexts that cause additional risks for the organisation and our programmes. Thus all below mentioned risks evolve from fragile working environment. FCA's field presence functions as a mean of risk mitigation by supporting finance and programme management, but also raises risks for staff security and other human resource issues.

The main risks remained the same (1.-4.) compared to the previous year. However, changes in the funding environment, namely the funding cuts informed by the Finnish Government (MFA funding) for 2016, added a new risk (5.). With the effective risk management, the co-operation process (yhteistoimintamennetely - YT) and closing of the DRC office as well as programmes in DRC, Central America, Lebanon and Mozambique were successfully put into practise.

Key risks and actions taken at organisational level in 2015 were:

Risks	Risk definition	Actions taken
1. Financial management and systems	Risk of fraud cases, corruption and misuse of funds.	High quality finance professionals hired Partnership, finance background assessment on prospective partners has been made. Financial support and monitoring strengthened – FCA's local finance staff regular visits to partners.
2. Programme management / quality	Risk of low programme quality due to capacity gaps of local partners / FCA staff.	Developing the programme quality and accountability (theme work, planning, implementation, reporting, evaluation and learning). Systematical and disciplined use of guidelines.
3. Staff security	Risk of social and political unrest, man-made- and natural catastrophes and criminality, which can endanger the security of FCA staff, property and programmes.	Systematical use of security plans and risk management. Ongoing training scheme in place, preparedness plans in place and clear communication & response plan in place.
4. Human resources and leadership	Difficulty to recruit staff with right competencies to challenging contexts of operation. Risk of high turnover of staff in challenging contexts.	Efficient HR policy, systems and lean procedures. A sustainable leadership development programme for Global Management Team was completed.
5. Funding cuts /Rapidly changing funding environment	Cuts in MFA Finland funding leads to forced termination of staff contracts' and closing down Country Offices/Programmes /projects. Growth of Global Grants: (Large) project portfolio with separate donors becomes difficult to manage with available resources; Sufficient co-funding shares is difficult to guarantee.	Well managed co-operation process (YT); Management Team's active in supporting all staff, especially in field; Special support toward those areas of work, where the impact of the cuts is the biggest; Effective internal and external communication. Guidance of the implementation of the grants from the Global Grant's team in co-operation with IPRO. Advocacy towards the MFA to open the EU project co-funding support instrument also for other international donors' projects.

Internal Audit

Internal audit improves operational reliability by assessing the relevance and effectiveness of organisation's governance, risk management and internal controls. Focus is on

operations prioritised on the organisational risk analysis and which are considered critical for the achievement of the organisational objectives.

Audit table 2015

1. Internal Controls	Assess the status of internal controls	Audits included: - Observations on the state and functionality of internal controls, and - Verification of appropriate performance of duties and achievement of the objectives
2. Risk Management	Assess the relevance and effectiveness of risk management. Consultations on risk management as required.	Audits included: Evaluation of risk management procedures and unidentified risk factors were addressed.
3. Good Governance	Assess the adequacy of governance practices.	Holistic evaluation of activities. Also: - Evaluation of Board meeting procedures - Advisory group for complaints handling - CHP investigation the sensitive complaints
4. Project management processes	Evaluation of the effectiveness and suitability of PME-tools.	Audits included: Evaluation of partner practices.
5. Financial expertise and systems	Evaluation of financial expertise for meeting the current and future requirements from the risk management perspective	Apart of the Head Office audits was carried out in six field offices. In addition, three procurement trainings were attended in.
6. Administrative field missions	SSUCO, SOCO, UGACO and LACRO	Audit Committee's field mission to Myanmar and Cambodia.
7. Additional items	Mogadishu compound re-evaluation and a trial concerning a misconduct in HO.	

Audit plan 2016 includes an administrative field missions to Nepal- and Sierra Leone Country Offices, West and Central Africa-, East and Southern Africa- and Middle East Regional Offices. Audit committee will conduct a field mission to Somalia Country Office.

A new reporting format was introduced at the beginning of 2016. The new format will considerably increase time efficiency, readability and usability of internal audit reports.

Security

FCA is continuously aiming at improving work practices, security measures and appropriate training, especially in contexts of medium to high security constraints. The main FCA security strategy is acceptance of our presence and work supported by our values and coherent actions and a dialogue within the communities and the authorities, supported by measures of protection within specific identified risks and in some rare cases of deterrence as in using armed guards for the office and the residence or for transport in some extreme situations. This means that we

enter communities through partners and seek close relations and the involvement of the community both through leaders and ordinary members. A key element is clear and coherent communication of our mandate and goals with the community as well as the limitations of our actions. Security is achieved when all personnel are safe, relative to an assessment of the risks to personnel and the organisation.

FCA sees its personnel as the main resource and therefore security and safety of FCA personnel is a priority. This has to translate into a strong commitment to minimising risks through continuously improved work practices, security measures, appropriate training, risk assessments in general (and for individual trips) and overall awareness. The main goal is to ensure that work can continue in the most challenging conditions without risking the personal safety and security of FCA personnel.

The primary management tool for security preparedness at the FCA mission offices is the Security Plan and general security awareness. Security Plans (Emergency Plans) were renewed during 2015 and standardising the

plans and procedures are in process in order to provide better and practical security tools for Regional Representatives, Country Managers and field personnel. In addition to the Helsinki-based Security Manager FCA recruited a Regional Security Manager Africa and Regional Security/Logistics Manager Central African Republic to assist personnel in all security related issues and training FCA personnel on the field. Regional Security Manager Africa is positioned in Nairobi and operates in FCA programme countries. Regional Security/Logistics Manager Central African Republic is positioned in Bangui. FCA continued providing travel security training for Head Office personnel and emergency first-aid training for travellers. In case of emergency, ICE, 24/7, response center continues assisting FCA personnel mission wide. In addition ICE assist FCA Crisis Management Team in significant security incidents if/when required. Personnel is the organisations most valuable asset, therefore FCA continues developing and improving security guidelines and practices.

3.5. Administration

3.5.1. Finance and IT

FCA HO finance unit has divided responsibilities and tasks on a geographic basis between three Financial Controllers. It has turned out to be an effective and efficient way to support and monitor the financial management in the programme countries. Even though the internet connection in all offices enables daily communication the aim has been to meet all new or existing finance staff members at least once a year either in the programme countries or at HO. The face-to-face meetings are essential especially when working in a multicultural context. In 2015, the staff responsible for the field finances met in Nairobi for a combined training and budget planning week which will also in the future be held annually in September.

FCA global financial management team has been a good mix of local and international staff with the emphasis to build everybody's capacity. One clear challenge has been that FCA mainly operates in very challenging environment in the programme countries which means that staff have to be changed or rotated early enough which again means pressure on recruitment and induction of new staff. FCA's global financial management team at HO and in the Regional Offices has however so far been successful in "filling the gaps". Finding capable French-speaking finance staff has also required a significant amount of work.

In 2015, new finance staff was recruited to offices in several programme countries. The improvements in part-

ner financial management have continued and despite the large amount of projects and partners the results of the capacity building are producing tangible results. However, considering the working environment the presence of skilled FCA finance available to support and monitor the work in the programme countries is of paramount importance.

FCA's IT infra went through some development also in 2015. New software for recording and monitoring staff working hours was implemented as a cloud service. In the end of the year also software for circulating purchase invoices electronically was tested and in January 2016 implemented. New intranet and document handling system was defined and will be installed in 2016. Several visits to the Field Offices were made by FCA HO's IT personnel. Those visits included computer checks, installations and updates as well as IT training and negotiations with local Internet providers and IT-support.

3.5.2. Human Resources

At the end of 2015, Finn Church Aid (FCA) had a total of 290 employees, of whom 98 worked in the Helsinki office, 42 expatriates served in the programme offices and 150 had been hired locally. Total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) stood at 269. Number of locally hired staff increased as planned, and the ratio of locally hired employees in the programme offices was 76 %.

FCA went through a process of co-operation negotiations to reduce work force during the autumn of 2015. The reason behind the process was the reduction of MFA funding to development co-operation effective as of 1 January 2016. The co-operation negotiations resulted in decreasing work force in Helsinki office by c. 10 FTE and in the field offices by 9 FTEs. The decrease was carried out by retirements, ending of employments, unpaid leaves of absences and changing full-time employment to part-time ones. The biggest individual measure was the closing of the field office in Goma, DRC. The reductions will be effective in 2016.

The modes of working have become more versatile. Remote work has increased in popularity as well in Helsinki as globally with the help of developing communication solutions. FCA put into operation Adobe Connect for on-line meetings and for sharing and storing of materials connected to the meetings. Also e-learning platform was under way and is expected to be in full use in 2016. Both new tools help interaction and participation regardless of physical location. FCA supports the staff to adopt new tools and to use them effectively

Staff situation in FCA Programme Offices at the end of 2015 (FTE):

Country	International Staff	Local Programme Staff	Local Administration Staff	Local Support Staff
Cambodia	1,16	3,00	2,00	1,59
Central African Republic	4,41	9,63	2,07	5,25
Democratic Republic of Congo	3,90	2,00	1,00	2,00
Eritrea	0,38	0,00	0,00	0,00
Haiti	3,77	10,39	4,00	5,25
Jordan	1,93	11,40	1,92	2,00
Kenya	4,41	7,97	5,33	0,00
Liberia	3,00	2,52	3,00	3,00
Myanmar	0,92	0,17	0,63	0,00
Nepal	1,40	6,90	0,38	0,61
Sierra Leone	0,00	2,32	1,00	0,00
Somalia	4,18	2,20	3,67	7,17
South Sudan	5,85	2,25	1,55	2,67
Uganda	0,59	4,69	4,09	1,00
USA	1,00	0,00	0,37	0,53
Total	36,90	65,44	31,01	31,07

Helsinki 10th June 2016.

Finn Church Aid Foundation



Jouni Hemberg
Executive Director

Finn Church Aid Foundation



Tomi Järvinen
Director of International Co-operation

4. List of Acronyms

AACC	All Africa Conference of Churches
ACCE	Asmara College of Education (Eritrea)
ACT (Alliance)	Action by Churches Together
AFELL	Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia
ALPM	Action Pour la Lutte Contre la Pauvreté et la Malnutrition (Democratic Republic of Congo)
APRODEV	Association of World Council of Churches related Development Organisations in Europe
ARO	Asia Regional Office (Finn Church Aid)
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BPRM	Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (US Government)
BTVET	Business, Technical and Vocational Education and Training
CA	Christian Aid
CAR	Central African Republic
CARO	Central Africa Regional Office (Finn Church Aid)
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CDC	Community Development Committee
CEDAW	The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (UN)
CEDES	Comité Ecumenico para Desenvolvimento Social (Mozambique)
CHF	UN Common Humanitarian Funding Core Humanitarian Standard
CIMO	Centre for International Mobility (Finland)
CIPRODEH	Centro de Investigación y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (Honduras)
CLAI	Latin America Council of Churches
CLMI	The Church Leaders Mediation Initiative (South Sudan)
CMC	Commune Mediation Committee
	Centre for Mental health and Counselling (Nepal)
CO	Country Office
CoP	Community of Practise (ACT Alliance)
CORDAID	Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid
CoU/PDR	Church of Uganda Planning, Development and Rehabilitation Department (Uganda)
CP	Country Programme
CPAP	Country Programme Annual Plan
CPC	Common Peace Committee
CPCS	Center for Peace and Conflict Studies (Myanmar)
CRC	Common Responsibility Campaign
	The International Committee of the Rights of the Child
CRD	Center for Research and Dialogue (Somalia)
CRM	Complaints Response Mechanism
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CWCC	Cambodian Women's Crisis Center (Cambodia)
DCA	Dan Church Aid
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
DFJ	Dynamique des Femmes Juristes (Democratic Republic of Congo)
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DRCCO	DRC Country Office (Finn Church Aid)
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EA	Ecumenical Accompanier, volunteer (EAPPI)
EAPPI	Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme
ECAP	Consortium in West Africa answering to Ebola outbreak
ECD	Early childhood development
ECHO	European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department
EEAS	European External Action Service
EIE	Education in Emergencies (Humanitarian Assistance)
EIT	The Eritrean Institute of Technology (Eritrea)
ERP	Emergency Response Plan
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
ESARO	East and Southern Africa Regional Office (Finn Church Aid)
ESDC	Economic and Social Development Center (IOPT)
ETN	Equipe d'Education et Encadrement des Traumatisés de Nyiragongo (Democratic Republic of Congo)
EU	European Union
EVD	Ebola Virus Disease
FAWE	Forum for African Women Educationalists (Liberia and Sierra Leone)
FBO	Faith based organisation
FCA	Finn Church Aid
FCAA	FCA Americas
FEPH	Fédération des Écoles Protestantes d'Haïti (Haiti)
FFS	Farmer Field Schools
FJDF	Femmes Juristes de Butembo (Democratic Republic of Congo)
GBV	Gender Based Violence
gEC	Global Education Cluster
GG	Global Grants (Unit, Finn Church Aid)
GOAT	Get Our ACT Together initiative
GPAA	The Greater Pibor Administrative Area
GS	Green Scenery (Sierra Leone)
HACP	Horn of Africa Center for Peace (Somalia)
HAP	Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (Humanitarian Accountability and Quality Management)
HAQS00R	Haqsoor for Peace, Human Rights and Sustainable Development (Somalia)
HH	Household
HO	Head Office
ICCO	Inter-church Organisation for Development Cooperation
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IDP	Internally Displaced Person

IGA	Income-generating activities
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INEE	Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies; minimum standards for Education in Emergencies
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisation
IOCC	International Orthodox Christian Charities (Palestine)
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IOPT	Israel and Occupied Palestinian territories
IRC	International Rescue Committee (Kenya)
IRF	The Immediate Response Facility
KAICIID	King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue
KECO	Kenya Country Office (Finn Church Aid)
KMYA	Kenya Muslims Youth Alliance (Kenya)
KYA	Khmer Youth Association (Cambodia)
LANGO	Law on Associations and NGOs (Cambodia)
LACRO	Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Office (Finn Church Aid)
LWD	Life With Dignity (Cambodia)
LWF	Lutheran World Federation
MAG	Mines Advisory Group
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MECC - DSJ	Middle East Council of Churches - Diaconia and Social Justice (Lebanon)
MEND	Middle East Nonviolence and Democracy (IOPT)
MENET	Le Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale et de l'Enseignement Technique, the Ministry of Education and Technical Training (CAR)
MEP	Member of the European Parliament
MERO	Middle East Regional Office (Finn Church Aid)
METTA	Metta Development Foundation (Myanmar)
MFA	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
MISSEH	Mission Sociale des Églises Haïtiennes (Haiti)
MoEYS	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (Cambodia)
MOFTAD	Market Oriented Farmers Training and Development and civic education project (South Sudan)
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRDA	Mundri Relief and Development Association (South Sudan)
MRE	Mine Risk Education
MYA	Myanmar
NAP	National Action Plan
NCA	Norwegian Church Aid
NCCP	National Center for Children in Poverty (Philippines)
NCHE	The National Commission for Higher Education (Eritrea)
NETWS	Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NMJD	Network Movement for Justice and Development (Sierra Leone)
NNDSWO	Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organisation (Nepal)
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
OCHA	Please see UNOCHA (below)
OECD	The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Please see UN OHCHR (below)
PANEL	Participation, accountability, non-discrimination, equality, empowerment and link to human right standards (principles of RBA)
PCPD	Palestinian Center for Peace and Democracy (IOPT)
PICEP	Partners in Integrated Community Empowerment Programs (Sierra Leone)
PKO	Puthi Komar Organization (Cambodia)
PME	Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
PMER	Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting
PNO	Project New Outlook (Liberia)
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PTA	Parent – Teacher Association
QAF	Quality and Accountability Framework
RACOBAD	Rural Action Community Based Organization (Uganda)
RADA	Rehabilitation and Development Agency (Sierra Leone)
RAFEJE	Réseau des Associations des Femmes Juristes de l'Est de la République Démocratique du Congo (Democratic Republic of Congo)
RBA	Rights-based Approach
REGAL-IR	Consortium in Kenya
RHPAP	Rural Human Rights Activist Programme (Liberia)
RHR	Rabbis for Human Rights (IOPT)
RNDDH	Réseau National de Défense des Droits Humains (Haiti)
RRRP	The Religious Network for Reconciliation and Peace (Mozambique)
RRT	Education Cluster Rapid Response Team
RTWG	Refugee Teacher Working Group (Kenya)
R2E	Right to Education, theme (Finn Church Aid)
R2L	Right to Livelihood, theme (Finn Church Aid)
R2P	Right to Peace, theme (Finn Church Aid)
SACS	Savings and Credit Scheme
SCH	Service Chrétien Haïti
SDC	Sustainable Democracy Center (Lebanon)
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SLPP	Sustainable Livelihood Promoters Programme (Liberia)
SOCO	Somalia Country Office (Finn Church Aid)
SSCC	South Sudan Council of Churches
SSF	Somalia Stability Fund
SSUCO	South Sudan Country Office (Finn Church Aid)
TLS	Temporary Learning Space

TPAP	Teacher Policy Action Plan
TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
TwB	Teachers without Borders Network
UCAA	Uganda Change Agents Association (Uganda)
UCEP	Underprivileged Children's Educational Programs (Nepal)
UGACO	Uganda Country Office (Finn Church Aid)
UN	United Nations
UNAOC	United Nations Alliance of Civilizations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDPA	United Nations Department of Political Affairs
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNHRD	United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia
UN OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UN OHCHR	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UNSOM	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UPR	United Nations Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USO	United States Office (Finn Church Aid)
UXO	Unexploded ordnance
VDC	Village Development Committee
VE	Violent extremism
VICOBA	Savings Banks in Mozambique
VIKES	Viestintä ja kehitys -säätiö
VSLA	Village Saving and Loan Association
WAC	Women's Agricultural Co-operatives
WAD	Women in Action for Development (Lebanon)
WARO	West Africa Regional Office (Finn Church Aid)
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WCC	World Council of Churches
WECARO	West and Central Africa Regional Office (Finn Church Aid)
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WHS	World Humanitarian Summit
WICAS	Women in Church and Society Department in Lutheran World Federation
WVAF	World Vision Advocacy Forum (Nepal)
YWCA	World Young Women Christian Association



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ACTION FOR HUMAN DIGNITY.

Finn Church Aid
Eteläranta 8
FI-00130 Helsinki, Finland
Tel. +358 20 787 1200
fca@kua.fi
finnchurchaid.fi

Produced with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland.