



Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance

2014 Program and Activities Report

2014 Financial Report

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Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance Program Overview

Background

The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA) was founded in 2000 to facilitate and coordinate the advocacy efforts of churches and Christian organizations on selected focus issues. From its founding until 2008, the EAA operated under the legal framework of the World Council of Churches. In 2009, the EAA became a separate legal entity.

From 2001 to 2008, the EAA's focus issues were global trade, and HIV and AIDS. From 2009, the focus issues have been food, and HIV and AIDS.

EAA's advocacy work is based on the experience and capacities of members, and is primarily carried out through their actions at local, national, regional and international levels. Collaboration and sharing best practices among EAA members strengthens their capacities and the effectiveness of their advocacy efforts. The quality and impact of EAA's work has created a high level of recognition and credibility among key UN, governmental, civil society and interfaith partners.

By the end of 2014, there were 84 member churches and organizations. EAA members represent a wide diversity of church families (Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant and Evangelical), organizational structures (including churches, national and regional councils of churches, church-based humanitarian relief and development organizations, church-based advocacy NGOs, educational and theological training institutions, religious orders and other groups) and geographic locations.

Following a serious financial challenge at the end of 2013, the EAA's Board of Directors and staff undertook urgent action to address an immediate funding shortfall. While successful, steps were taken in 2014 to ensure that the EAA has a more sustainable structure in order to maintain its effective work in bringing this broad and diverse constituency together for common action on issues of global concern. This included negotiations with the World Council of Churches on the integration of the EAA as an ecumenical initiative into the WCC, effective in 2015.

The Board and staff of the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance continue to be inspired by, and extremely grateful for, the tangible support, commitment, engagement and witness of our members and partners, especially in these challenging economic times. The results of our efforts together reaffirm our faith that calls us to speak and act boldly in witness to God's love for all. We look forward to carrying that witness into the future, together.

Purposes

The 2013 EAA General Assembly mandated continued focus on **Food** and on **HIV and AIDS** as campaign issues for the period 2014-2017.

The agreed mandate for the HIV and AIDS Campaign is for members to "continue to work together on HIV and AIDS, seeking to eliminate stigma and make a significant contribution to the vision of 'getting to zero' – zero new infections, zero discrimination, and zero AIDS-related deaths."

For the Food Campaign, the Assembly mandated that EAA members "should continue to work together on eradicating hunger, promoting adequate nutrition, and striving towards just and sustainable food systems, with a particular emphasis on sustainable agricultural practices and the situation of smallholder producers and their access to and control over natural resources such as land, water and seeds."

The Assembly also decided that "EAA campaigns should be based on faith values and human rights principles, and take into account gender, intergenerational and justice issues. They should also take account of relevant developments and advocacy opportunities in the context of the post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goal processes."



Major Achievements

EAA activities during 2014 continued to achieve significant progress towards its mandated campaign goals, while working through the significant financial and structural challenges.

On Coordination and Management

- An interactive online assembly was held using conference calls, web forum, and multiple voting means so that members understood the significant decisions before them. The large majority voting, and voting to support reorganization under WCC, was a strong sign of the active engagement and commitment of EAA members to the value of the network and its campaign approach.
- Despite facing a year of major transition, and following two years of financial challenges, the EAA ended the year in good financial standing, and with pledges for 2015 that secured strong continued operations.
- Following the Assembly mandate to develop a new resource mobilization scheme, including a new membership fee model, a unique approach of calculating “fair contributions” by EAA members to ensure the coverage of EAA core costs was developed, and consultations held with a number of EAA members. Further development of the system may be considered pending EAA’s new structural form under WCC.

On HIV and AIDS

- The EAA coordinated a successful Interfaith Pre-Conference, Global Village Networking Zone and Prayer Room and Chaplains Program at AIDS 2014 in Melbourne, Australia. This was the 6th international AIDS conference in which EAA has facilitated significant faith-based participation.
- Progress in addressing human rights and faith in the context of HIV was marked by a colloquium in October. The colloquium presented and discussed draft articles that tackle the sensitive and conflictual issues raised in debates on human rights and religious faith. A publication is being planned for 2015.
- The licensing agreement announced by the Medicines Patent Pool and AbbVie on 1 December marked a major breakthrough in access to ARVs for almost 99% of children living with HIV. The agreement comes after long-term dialogue with pharmaceutical groups and action to promote access to essential HIV medicines by the EAA and civil society groups.

On Food Justice and Sustainable Agriculture

- As member of the Liaison Group and Steering Group, EAA helped to establish a civil society mechanism to ensure the effective participation of non-state actors in the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) preparatory process, during the ICN2 and in the follow-up. This mechanism was essential to unite civil society actors working on nutrition from both the health and agriculture sectors and to guarantee that our collective efforts would galvanize the necessary momentum for meaningful international commitments on nutrition.
- As one of the two civil society focal points for the WHO for ICN2, the EAA was actively engaged in the pre-meetings with Member States - the Joint-Working Group and the Open-ended Working Group for ICN2 - and ensured that relevant information was received by all stakeholders in a timely manner. Appreciating the diverse working methods of the two organizing agencies of the United Nations - the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) – the Liaison Group maintained the necessary line of communication to mobilize the political will and resources to eliminate malnutrition in all its forms.
- EAA convened a group of more than 50 civil society organizations (CSO) working on entry points for engagement with/within the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture. In recognition of this work, two official invitations were sent by Ban Ki-moon to EAA to participate in the Climate Summit (New York, September 2014). EAA also facilitated the



creation of the CSO statement, which was read in the plenary and included in the official documents from the event, and led the nomination process for selecting two suitable CSO representatives to present the Statement at the closed-door ministerial meeting and again in plenary.

Further information

Detailed reports for activities within these programs, together with additional resource materials, are available upon request.

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Coordination and Management

Background

Light but effective and inclusive coordination, management and governance systems have always been at the core of the EAA's structure in order to ensure flexible and fast campaign action, accountability in decision making; support for networking and multiple communication channels; development and dissemination of resource materials and information; documentation and sharing of best practices; financial management and fundraising; and planning, monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

The Board of Directors, appointed at the 2013 General Assembly, serves as the governing body of the EAA between the face-to-face General Assemblies. The Board is composed of nine members elected by the General Assembly, plus one member appointed from each of the two Strategy Groups. A place on the board is also provided to a representative of the World Council of Churches. The EAA Executive Director serves *ex officio* with voice but without vote. The composition of the Board of Directors represents a broad spectrum of the diversity of the EAA's global membership. See Annex 1 for a list of the board members.

A strategy group for each campaign was appointed by the Board of Directors in December 2013 to guide the strategy and actions of each campaign through the new campaign period.

The EAA Assembly in 2013 mandated the development of a resource mobilization strategy (including a new membership fee model), and highlighted the need for deeper collaboration and coordination with ecumenical partner organizations (especially World Council of Churches and ACT Alliance). Indeed, the Assembly called for exploration of possible structural integration in the WCC. The proposal to set up EAA as an ecumenical initiative within the World Council of Churches was approved in the 2014 Special General Assembly.

Staffing and work methods

The small staff team works closely together to implement program and activities and ensure the efficient management of the secretariat. Staff and consultants were allocated across the two campaigns and the coordination and management areas.

In 2014 there were significant staff transitions and reductions:

Executive Director Peter Prove was appointed WCC's Director of the Commission of Churches on International Affairs and began this appointment as of 1 February 2014. By arrangement with WCC and thanks to their support, he divided his time evenly between the WCC and the EAA until the end of April.

Sara Speicher, who has worked on EAA communications since 2004, was appointed Interim Executive Director on a consultancy basis effective 1 May.

Ruth Foley stepped down as HIV and AIDS Campaign Coordinator at the beginning of March to take a position with The Lutheran World Federation.

The HIV campaign coordinator's areas of responsibility were in the short term divided among three people: Anne-Laure Jan, who had previously served as Advocacy Assistant, was appointed as the Interim HIV and AIDS Campaign Coordinator with particular responsibility for the Framework for Dialogue process. She left on maternity leave at the end of October. Becky Johnson



coordinated faith-based efforts at the International AIDS Conference in Melbourne. Sara Speicher took on the activities on HIV, human rights and theology, as well as the overall HIV campaign work towards the end of the year.

Johnny Camaddo stepped down as Finance and Reporting Officer. Yueh Cho was appointed Finance and Administration Manager.

Lara Epiney Takache, Membership Officer and Administration Assistant, ended her service in 2014.

Kassandra Lenters, Webmaster and Graphic Design/Communications Assistant ended her internship at the end of July. Ben Barrett-Forrest joined EAA part-time in this position from 1 October to 31 December 2014.

Christine Campeau continued as Food Campaign Coordinator throughout 2014.

The EAA Board has expressed deep appreciation for the quality of work and commitment of all EAA staff through these stressful organizational transitions.

Coordination and Management Activities

Specific objectives

Governance and management practices ensure strong, focused campaign activities with a balanced budget. Leadership ensures a sustainable structure into the future in collaboration with ecumenical partners.

Implementation of plans

Despite facing a year of staff transitions, careful financial management and structural discussions, the Coordinating Office with the oversight of the EAA Board and Strategy Groups, developed new draft strategic campaign frameworks and implemented action plans related to the two focus issues to the extent made possible by the support of members.

The EAA has continued to use a broad array of effective and cost-efficient means of communication, awareness-raising, campaigning, and collaboration with its members and partners. EAA utilizes the web, email, voice over internet tools, conference calls, and project management tools for these purposes.

The EAA website remains a key point of access for members and partners to resources and current information on the work of the EAA. Websites for specific initiatives in collaboration with organizations and networks outside of the EAA are also maintained, including for the International AIDS Conference, the personal commitment on HIV for religious leaders, and the Framework for Dialogue between Religious Leaders and People Living with HIV. Increasingly, social media – particularly Facebook and Twitter – have been used effectively to inform, debate and share information on campaign issues and actions.

The resolution of the 2013 financial situation and commitment to find a sustainable structure for EAA in the future required intensive efforts by both staff and board. The Board of Directors held one face-to-face meeting in February 2014 and 17 conference calls over the year.

Following the mandate given to the EAA in its 2013 General Assembly in August, the Board of Directors began discussions with the World Council of Churches and ACT Alliance regarding possible forms of integration, synergy and/or collaboration, that would enable the alliance to continue its important



collaborative advocacy. The EAA Executive Director explored with the ACT Alliance Executive Committee whether there might be an opportunity for the EAA's food campaign, with its broad ecumenical network, to be continued under ACT Alliance's auspices. The ACT Alliance Executive Committee declined to engage in further exploration of this possibility as ACT Alliance's current membership criteria would exclude the full participation of a significant number of EAA's members, and since the financial commitments for the food campaign were not yet fully secured. Nevertheless, the EAA and ACT Alliance have continued their strong collaboration on the related focus issues of climate change and food/agriculture, and in contributing to discussions on the post-2015 development agenda and advocacy approaches.

The Executive Committee, comprising Chair Rev. Dr Richard Fee (Presbyterian Church in Canada), Vice-Chair Dr Henk Jochemsen (Prisma) and Treasurer Msgr Robert Vitillo (Caritas Internationalis) was delegated by the Board to conduct discussions on future structural options with the WCC. In agreement with WCC leadership, the Board presented a resolution at the 2014 Special General Assembly in May that the EAA be reorganized as an ecumenical initiative under the WCC with the current two focus issues. Following the approval of this resolution, the WCC Executive Committee subsequently affirmed the direction in July, pending the EAA's good financial standing at the close of 2014 and a mutually approved 2015 plan and budget. The EAA Executive Committee and staff worked together to ensure the conditions could be met so that the advocacy and network of the alliance could be maintained. As it was clear that EAA as a separate legal association in Switzerland would not be sustainable, the EAA was run in 2014 on a liquidation basis, with a clear resolution for the dissolution of the EAA as an association under Swiss law to be put before the Special General Assembly in February 2015.

The leadership, support and strong oversight of the EAA Board and the EAA Executive Committee has been deeply appreciated by the EAA staff.

The EAA held its annual online Assembly 12-23 May 2014, with 69% of members participating. Three online discussions were held on the proposed reorganization of the EAA. Among many in-kind contributions received by EAA, World Vision International has hosted virtually all of the EAA Board conference calls and Assembly discussions through its WebEx facility.

In addition to overseeing 2014 income generation, the Board also pursued a new resource mobilization strategy as mandated by the 2013 General Assembly. A sub-committee explored approaches to revising the membership fee system, and with the expertise of the EAA's Finance and Administration Manager developed a "fair contribution" approach. The scheme took into account type of organization and weighted a number of internal and external data that would then calculate contributions based on the approved core budget. A number of consultations were held with EAA members on the approach, with mixed reactions. Continued efforts at strategic resource mobilization and a fair membership fee system will need to continue to be addressed for the future.

Although the strategy groups could not incur costs, both guided the development of new campaign strategic frameworks and provided advice and support to the campaign coordinators. The HIV strategy group was able to meet twice in 2014 through the financial support of its members. The food strategy group operated by conference call and email.

The Executive Director and the Interim Executive Director continued to



Achievements and follow-up

profile faith-based leadership and efforts in advocacy, and were particularly engaged in resource mobilization both for 2014 and in new consortium applications for 2015 and beyond.

The EAA had 84 members as of the end of 2014, with the withdrawal of Evangelische Mission in Solidarität.

- An interactive online assembly was held using conference calls, web forum, and multiple voting means so that members understood the significant decisions before them. The large majority voting, and voting to support reorganization within the WCC, was a strong sign of the active engagement and commitment of EAA members to the value of the network and its campaign approach.
- Despite facing a year of major transition, and following two years of financial challenges, the EAA ended the financial year in good financial standing, and with pledges for 2015 that secured strong continued operations.
- Following the Assembly mandate to develop a new resource mobilization scheme, including a new membership fee model, a unique approach of calculating “fair contributions” by EAA members to ensure the coverage of EAA core costs was developed, and consultations held with a number of EAA members. Further development of the system may be considered for EAA in its new structural form under WCC.

The following are areas needing attention and follow up in 2015:

- Implementing a successful transition of the EAA’s advocacy work and network into a new ecumenical initiative within the WCC.
- Pursuing a concerted resource mobilization strategy, in collaboration with WCC’s Income, Monitoring and Development, for longer-term sustainable funding.
- Supporting strengthened engagement by the diversity of EAA’s network in the implementation of the campaigns on HIV and AIDS and food justice and sustainable agriculture.

Monitoring & evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation is integrated in all EAA activities. The Coordinating Office staff review progress of activities, problems and appropriate interventions during regular staff meetings. Coordinating Office actions related to campaigns are reviewed during Strategy Group and Board meetings. EAA management and finances have been monitored closely by the EAA Executive Committee and Board.

List of resource materials

Website: www.e-alliance.ch

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ecumenicaladvocacy>

Twitter: @e_alliance

2014 Audited Financial Statement available on request

2014 Program plans and financial information, including the Fair Contribution Table (in development) can be found at <http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/about-us/finances/>

Press Release: [Christian alliance set for leadership transition](#)

[Link Bulletin](#) for members.



“Live the Promise” HIV and AIDS Campaign

Background

Those who have been involved in responding to the AIDS pandemic for over three decades have highlighted that we are entering a new phase in response to AIDS, and it is one of hope. New HIV infections have fallen by 38% since 2001, and new HIV infections in children have declined by 58% since 2001. A growing number, now about 38% of all adults living with HIV, are receiving antiretroviral therapy.

Seeing the progress that has been made, we have hope that we can achieve the end of this epidemic, which has been inconceivable for so long. But to realize this hope takes intensive efforts now – strategic investment to scale up treatment, tackle stigma and discrimination, and provide the holistic care and support that faith-based organizations in particular hold as an essential commitment and witness.

The agreed mandate for the HIV and AIDS Campaign for 2014-2017 is for members to *continue to work together, seeking to eliminate stigma and make a significant contribution to the vision of ‘getting to zero’ – zero new infections, zero discrimination, and zero AIDS-related deaths.*

As a result of its work over the past 13 years, EAA is now recognized as a significant leader in the faith-based response to HIV and, particularly due to its unique constituency, a significant player in the HIV response in general. Relying on many of its member organizations that provide faith-inspired services to people living with and affected by HIV - representing an unrivalled breadth and depth of engagement – EAA has a distinctive perspective and voice to highlight issues relating to HIV.

Notably, EAA has developed a unique set of relationships with UN agencies, governments, pharmaceutical companies and networks of people living with HIV. This has given EAA the platform to demonstrate faith groups’ in-depth experience of community needs and service delivery related to HIV. In addition, EAA has worked to build relationships with key populations most affected by and vulnerable to HIV, always recognizing our common humanity. For example, the EAA is the sole voice of faith in the civil society network of networks called the “Free Space Process” which recognizes our ability to collaborate with and learn from each other.

In 2014, the HIV strategy group drafted a strategic plan for the campaign period 2014 following the Assembly mandate. The four goals and related objectives are:

Goal 1: HIV is maintained as a global focus

There continues to be a global coordinated effort to achieve the three zeros, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Objectives:

1. Advocate for specific and measurable financial targets for the international response, including faith-based responses.
2. Advocate for faith-based agencies to commit time, talent and treasure to HIV
3. EAA members and other religious leaders make/renew their own specific commitments to HIV related work and advocacy

Goal 2: All can access treatment for life

There are zero AIDS-related deaths because every adult and child who needs treatment receives the best treatment for life and every child is born free from HIV

Objectives:

1. Advocate three key pharmaceutical companies – Abbvie, J&J, Merck – to join the Medicines Patent Pool
2. Advocate for increased percentage of access to diagnosis of children living with HIV by the age of two months and the same treatment coverage for children as adults, with child friendly ART formulations.



3. Advocate to hold governments to account for:
 - Improving the coverage of existing PCR (dried blood spot) testing
 - The introduction of points of care of early diagnosis
 - Strengthening integration of HIV services with newborn child health systems (*Double Dividend Campaign*)
4. Advocate for increased involvement of faith communities in national policy development and delivery of HIV services.

Goal 3: Stigma and discrimination are eliminated and human dignity and rights are upheld

There is zero discrimination because stigma is eliminated and human rights are upheld.

Objectives:

1. Increase number of religious leaders/communities actively engaged in
 - eliminating stigma and discrimination
 - ending gender-based violence
 - improving sexual and reproductive health
 - addressing the vulnerability of key populations
2. Amplify the voices and actions of religious leaders/communities advocating for elimination of stigma and discrimination
3. Equip a geographically and religiously diverse network of religious leaders to advocate at local and global levels on stigma and discrimination including criminalization, gender based violence and vulnerabilities of key populations.
4. Engage and nurture collaborations across sectors for common action against stigma and discrimination.

Goal 4: Root causes of vulnerability to HIV transmission are eliminated.

There are zero new infections because we challenge the social, political, economic and religious systems and inequalities that make women, youth and other groups of people vulnerable to contracting HIV.

Objectives:

1. Advocate for governments and civil society to address the causes and effects of poverty that hamper education, treatment and care.
2. Facilitate and highlight members speaking out about the factors and myths that put people at risk of infection and working to promote comprehensive evidence-based prevention.
3. Facilitate the sharing of best practices in prevention.

Important progress towards meeting these objectives, and making the ultimate goals more possible, have been made, but in the global response, we are far from the end.

Staffing and work methods

The EAA HIV Campaign was supported by a full-time Campaign Coordinator from January to February, and a 60% Interim HIV Campaign Coordinator from March through October. Two part-time consultants led the efforts around the International AIDS Conference and Human Rights and Faith in the Context of HIV. The Interim Executive Director took on campaign coordination in November and December, specifically for the Framework for Dialogue process. Strategic guidance was provided by the HIV Strategy Group in identifying and analyzing issues and contributing to action plans.

A portion of the time of other EAA staff (Executive Director, Advocacy Assistant, Communications Consultant, Webmaster and Graphic Designer/Communications Assistant, Finance and Administration Manager) also contributed to the success of the campaign.



“Live the Promise” campaign activities

Goal: HIV is maintained as a global focus

Activity: Strengthening the faith-based response to HIV

Specific objectives	<p>Equip and inspire faith communities to engage in the response to HIV;</p> <p>Advocate for sustained and sufficient funding and support for the response to HIV;</p> <p>Strengthen relationships and joint efforts between faith-based organizations and civil society organizations in HIV advocacy for greater impact.</p>
Implementation of plans	<p>Awareness-raising and advocacy on the continuing salience of the HIV pandemic and its impacts on human health, community and dignity remain a key priority. Concerted action is needed to challenge the waning commitment of many governments and other institutions who are shifting resources to other areas. There is clear evidence that reducing investment now will not only halt the progress to be made, but cost far more in the future, both in lives and in funds.</p> <p>Within the faith community as well, education and mobilization are vital to ensure that churches and related organizations maintain their commitment, and address the fundamental injustices that continue to fuel the HIV pandemic.</p> <p><i>Raising awareness, including World AIDS Day</i></p> <p>EAA shares information and resources through its website, action alerts, bulletins, press releases and, increasingly social media.</p> <p>World AIDS Day, December 1, remains an important occasion for raising awareness of HIV - both challenges and opportunities - among people of faith and the wider community. The proximity of World AIDS Day to the beginning of Advent within the Christian liturgical calendar provides an opportunity to encourage theological reflection on HIV. In 2014, EAA developed a liturgy focusing on “Getting to Zero” and making sure no one is left behind. The liturgy was translated into German and Afrikaans by EAA members.</p> <p>The EAA also promotes awareness among religious leaders of all faiths to be committed to overcoming stigma and discrimination through the personal commitment developed at the 2010 Summit of High Level Religious Leaders on the Response to HIV (www.hivcommitment.net). Over 500 religious leaders have signed the commitment. A report on the second review of how the personal commitment is being fulfilled was presented as a poster at AIDS 2014 in Melbourne, Australia.</p> <p><i>Post-2015 sustainable development goals</i></p> <p>The EAA monitors development of the post-2015 sustainable development goals notably through the Civil Society Working Group on AIDS in the Post-2015 development process (post2015 CSWG) led by ICASO.</p> <p>Having had a prominent place in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), HIV has had a much-decreased prominence in the post-2015 development agenda that is being finalized. Advocacy over the overarching</p>



health goal seems to have succeeded as far as broadening its scope beyond a biomedical focus. However, with HIV only a sub target under the larger goal, many are concerned that the push for further progress on HIV will suffer.

The EAA's HIV Campaign Coordinator, Ruth Foley, served as the faith-based representative on the Post-2015 civil society working group developing a common response and action plan to ensure that the HIV response continues as a global priority. Following Ruth's departure, Rebecca Duerst, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has served as the EAA representative on the CSWG.

EAA raised awareness of the process and advocacy opportunities through several conference calls, a bulletin article, and workshop at the Interfaith pre-conference at the International AIDS Conference as well as providing input into UN processes.

Support for faith-based service delivery in the global response

The EAA co-sponsored a UNAIDS-Caritas Internationalis Consultation on the Expansion of Anti-Retroviral Treatment held in Rome, Italy, February 25-26, 2014. More than 100 representatives of diverse Christian faith traditions, UNAIDS, WHO Stop-TB and HIV/AIDS Departments, UNITAID, the Global Fund, Vatican offices, governments, the medical and scientific community, and the diplomatic corps accredited to the Holy See were involved. The aim was to identify opportunities and challenges in expanding access to HIV treatment globally and strengthening the role of faith-based organizations (FBOs) in the provision of such services.

Participants recognized that churches and other FBOs are the largest single group providing health care services for HIV, contributing up to 50% of facility-based and community care in some countries, particularly serving marginalized and vulnerable people in resource limited settings.

The following "Road Map" was developed by the co-organizers and participants of the Consultation:

- **Drugs, dignity and decentralization:** Faith-based service providers will promote a holistic approach to health care, by prioritizing access to services and provision of care to the most marginalized, remote and vulnerable populations, protecting service delivery, confidentiality, client and staff safety in situations of conflict and difficulty.
- **Data, document and disseminate:** UNAIDS will partner with FBOs to gather accurate data, through more systematic methods, document and disseminate and showcase good practice to support applications for funding .
- **Coordinate, collaborate and communicate:** UNAIDS will convene meetings at national and regional level between UNAIDS staff, Church and other counterparts to discuss concrete areas for collaboration
- **Community of practice:** Further ecumenical consultations at national levels will be held to facilitate a broad partnership base for national Governments in the HIV response. UNAIDS will send quarterly updates/or hold webinars with FBO technical partners on key technical issues.

Partnering for greater impact

The EAA is the faith-based representative in the "Free Space Process", the

**Achievements,
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follow-up**

network of international HIV civil society organizations. (<http://icssupport.org/what-we-do/free-space-process>). This has included joint planning for actions during the International AIDS Conference, including the messaging “AIDS will only end if...”, participation in the community march, and a joint meeting with Dr Deborah Birx, US Global AIDS Coordinator, on obstacles still faced by key populations in service delivery.

On 18 December, the Free Space partners issued a joint press release applauding the selection of Amsterdam as the host city for the 22nd International AIDS Conference, whose lack of travel restrictions for people living with HIV, sex workers and people who use drugs will make the meaningful participation of members of communities most impacted by HIV more feasible. <http://www.icaso.org/announcements/global-hiv-civil-society-networks-applaud-selection-of-amsterdam-as-host-city-for-22nd-international-aids-conference>

EAA also works very closely with UNAIDS on global HIV targets and engagement of faith-based organizations in the response. EAA members participate at the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board meetings, and other global platforms.

The 14 members of the HIV strategy group come from EAA member organizations in Africa, Asia, Eastern and Western Europe, Canada and the United States. Advisors to the strategy group include Sally Smith, Partnership Advisor, UNAIDS; Suzette Moses-Burton, Executive Director, Global Network of People Living with HIV; and David Deakin, Head of HIV at Tearfund and chair of the Access to Treatment Working Group. Through the financial support of the group members themselves, the strategy group held two face to face meetings, in April and October. In the October meeting, strategic sessions were held with Christoph Benn, External Relations Director, The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; Chris Collins, Chief, Community Mobilization Division, UNAIDS; Esteban Burrone, Head of Policy, Medicines Patent Pool; Megan Warren, Programme Sessions Manager, International AIDS Society; and Isabel Phiri, Associate General Secretary, World Council of Churches.

Broader recognition of the need to engage and support faith-based organizations in the response to HIV

The leadership of international organizations, such as UNAIDS, increasingly recognize the role of faith-based organizations in service delivery on the ground as well as in advocacy efforts at international and national levels. The acceptance of faith representatives among many civil society organizations and key populations, and willingness to engage in dialogue on conflicting issues, is a testimony to long-term and joint efforts by churches, church-based organizations and others to demonstrate concern, leadership and solidarity in the response, as well as to efforts to address stigma and discrimination within faith communities and in the wider society. But this in no way lessens the continued need for faith communities to address justice issues and the barriers that remain for a comprehensive response.

Inclusion of social and community barriers to health in the draft post-2015 sustainable development goals.

The broad health goal in the current UN proposal supports the vital efforts to address the societal barriers to health that the HIV pandemic has made so



apparent. The advocacy challenge remains to ensure that HIV is specifically identified, and not lost, as the goals and their targets are finalized in 2015. This must be part of the ongoing advocacy to ensure sufficient and sustained resources are provided for the HIV response to capitalize on the progress so far.

Joint funding initiative with Free Space Partners

A funding opportunity for partners engaged in the “Free Space Process” was identified in a call for strategic partnerships with the Dutch government. The inclusive planning and development of the comprehensive application, and the use of the Framework for Dialogue as one of the case studies, marked the trust and recognition of EAA’s faith-based advocacy among civil society and key population networks that have been very critical and distrustful of religious representatives and faith-based organizations.

List of resource materials

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Livethepromise>

World AIDS Day web page and liturgy (in English, German and Afrikaans): <http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/hivaids/world-aids-day/>

Bulletin article: [Post-2015 goals framework taking shape](#)

Bulletin article: [Social protection to be discussed at the upcoming UNAIDS board meeting.](#)

Bulletin article: [Meeting of the New HIV Strategy Group](#)

Press release: [Drugs and dignity key to end AIDS](#)

Goal: All can access treatment for life

Activity: Advocacy and dialogue with pharmaceutical companies

Specific objectives

An increased number of pharmaceutical companies reach agreement with the Medicines Patent Pool

An increased number of children have access to appropriate testing and treatment for HIV.

Implementation of plans

Building on face-to-face meetings held with key pharmaceutical companies at International AIDS Conferences, the EAA’s Access to Treatment Working Group engages in dialogue, and, where appropriate, in more direct campaigning, with pharmaceutical companies to propose ways for improving access to testing and treatment. Such work focuses on improving treatment and testing for children (treatment coverage for children lags significantly behind that of adults) and supporting initiatives to reduce the prices of medicines, specifically the collective generic licensing instrument of the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP).

In 2014, EAA welcomed three new agreements between the Medicines Patent Pool and pharmaceutical companies, particularly the December 1 announcement with AbbVie for the drugs lopinavir (LPV) and ritonavir (r), top World Health Organization-recommended medicines for children. The agreement will allow access to generic formulations of the drugs in countries

**Achievements,
challenges and
follow-up**

accounting for almost 99% of children living with HIV. AbbVie has also been one of the companies the EAA has long encouraged to negotiate with the Medicines Patent Pool, and it is hoped that the agreement will further encourage J&J and Merck to negotiate.

Throughout the year, the working group monitored emerging issues and contributed analysis through email and strategy group meetings to raise awareness and engage faith-based actors in advocacy activities.

Plans have also been developed to engage religious leaders in a treatment advocacy campaign, training leaders in treatment issues and advocacy, and supporting them in speaking out about the need for increased access to medicines and articulate support for drug companies to join the MPP. Implementation will depend on funding.

Key pharmaceutical company, AbbVie, joins Gilead, ViiV Healthcare, Roche, and Bristol Myers Squibb, in concluding agreements with the Medicines Patent Pool.

EAA is recognized by the MPP as an important moral voice adding pressure to pharmaceutical companies to ensure affordable access to HIV treatment in low and middle-income countries. MPP have reached out to EAA and the Access to Treatment working group to keep us informed of ongoing negotiations. As one of the MPP staff said in April, “Thank you for the continued support and the great statement this week. We are very excited about this deal but are also much aware that anything we have achieved is thanks to the help and support of many, and the EAA has always been such a key supporter.”

The MPP has now also implemented a number of agreements with generic manufacturers, showing that this is a viable and effective methodology for patent holders and for people needing treatment.

While almost 14 million people living with HIV have access to treatment, Continued dialogue and pressure on pharmaceutical companies is needed to increase access to treatment so that the

New infections in children are decreasing, but children still lag far behind adults in access to appropriate diagnostics and health.

The latest statistics provided by UNAIDS demonstrate that increased attention and resources towards preventing mother to child transmission have resulted in a 58% decline in new HIV infections in children since 2001. However, just 24% of all children living with HIV receive treatment, compared to 38% of all adults – and for both, far more need to be on treatment. EAA and its members have been in the forefront of campaigning for appropriate and accessible diagnostics and treatment for children, especially in resource-poor areas. The progress that has been made is to be celebrated – but we need to ensure that all the estimated 3.5 million children living with HIV receive life-saving treatment.

**List of Resource
Material**

Press release: [Patent agreement important step in HIV treatment access](#)

Press release: [New drug license step forward in meeting HIV treatment needs](#)

Action Alert: [Contribute to Global Target Setting](#)



Press release: [New license agreement brings hope to HIV positive children.](#)

Goal: Stigma and discrimination are eliminated and human dignity and rights are upheld

Activity: Dialogue between Religious Leaders and People Living with HIV

Specific objective

Strengthened country-level responses from faith communities and religious leaders that meet the needs of people living with HIV through dialogue and use of evidence.

Implementation of plans

A. Global-level coordination

Since 2011, EAA has worked together with GNP+, INERELA+ and UNAIDS to develop the Framework for Dialogue between Religious Leaders and People Living with HIV (www.frameworkfordialogue.org) as a methodology for country-level use to initiate and/or strengthen dialogue between positive networks and religious leaders. The starting point for implementation of the Framework for Dialogue at national level is establishment of a multi-stakeholder working group to plan and implement the Framework for Dialogue, building on empirical evidence of stigma and discrimination experienced by people living with HIV (from results of the Stigma Index: www.stigmaindex.org). The goal is the development of a joint action plan, and maintaining dialogue and joint action in a systematic and long-term approach.

The Framework for Dialogue is overseen by the four international partners (EAA, GNP+, INERELA+ and UNAIDS), with EAA serving a coordination role. The international steering committee conducts its work via conference call and email.

After the first pilot dialogues were held in 2012 and 2013 (Malawi, Myanmar and Ethiopia), the methodology for the Framework for Dialogue was finalized. In 2014, the Framework for dialogue manual was translated and designed in English, French and Spanish.

The international steering group developed a roll-out strategy which included identifying key countries which meet the criteria for establishing the dialogue (primarily the completion of the *People Living with HIV Stigma Index*) to approach directly about initiating the process. In addition, EAA, on behalf of the steering committee, responds to enquiries regarding the process.

The Dialogue manual is shared with groups confirmed by the international steering committee as meeting the criteria for dialogue. Because experience in developing the framework has shown that there are certain prerequisites that must be met and principles that should be followed to ensure a full and equal process and the most positive outcomes possible, the steering committee also developed a “Principles” document to be signed by the working group undertaking the process. The document commits the working group to strive for the following elements in the dialogue process:

1. Country-owned



2. Evidence-based
3. People-centered
4. “Do no harm”
5. Equal and meaningful participation
6. Innovation
7. Action-oriented
8. Safe space

The sharing of plans and reporting of outcomes also helps inform and inspire other country processes.

Through facilitation by the EAA, the steering committee monitors country processes and updates the website www.frameworkfordialogue.org with country reports

At AIDS 2014, a poster presentation was accepted and delivered on Tuesday, 22 July, on the background and principles of the dialogue and achievements in three of the country dialogues.

The international steering committee, with the help of a consultant, has developed a monitoring and evaluation framework in consultation with country partners. The aim of the M&E framework is to collect comparable data that not only helps national partners learn from and strengthen their actions but allows the steering committee to evaluate the dialogue process across countries and regions.

In 2014, the Framework for Dialogue was primarily supported through the Norwegian agency for development cooperation, Norad.

B. Country-level processes

In 2014, continued monitoring and support was provided to Malawi and Ethiopia, with EAA member ICCO particularly accompanying the dialogue process in Uganda. New dialogue processes were begun in Kenya and Nigeria.

Malawi

One of the outcomes of Malawi’s 2012 dialogue process was the agreement to come up with a standard HIV and AIDS workplace policy for faith-based organizations, which religious institutions could adapt to better meet their own situation. The policy was developed and now some of the religious institutions have adapted the policy and use it as a guiding tool for their HIV and AIDS work. This has involved a workshop with about 20 religious leaders, both Christian and Muslim, to promote and orient the tool. Over 100 copies of the policy have been printed and widely disseminated.

The national steering committee has also facilitated regional orientation meetings on understanding the concepts of Stigma, Shame, Denial, Inaction and Misaction (SSDIM) as they relate to stigma and discrimination towards PLHIV and how this negatively effects the HIV and AIDS national response. The meetings also included orientation on the SAVE approach and a session on the UNAIDS acceptable language.

The national steering committee for the dialogue process meets quarterly for updates and planning. The Malawi Network of people living with HIV (MANET+), Malawi Network of Religious Leaders living with or personally affected by HIV (MANERELA+), Malawi Interfaith AIDS Association



(MIAA), Norwegian Church Aid in Malawi and the UNAIDS Country Office formed the working group that organized the first face-to-face dialogue meeting. In the follow-up phase, the Steering Committee membership was expanded to include: ACT Alliance; National AIDS Commission; Malawi Council of Churches; Quadria Muslim Association of Malawi; Anglican Council of Malawi; Pentecostal and Charismatic Representative; Episcopal Conference of Malawi.

Current planning includes a Third Face to Face Dialogue meeting between Religious Leaders and PLHIV focusing on the needs of young people living with HIV (YPLHIV), strengthened platform meetings between religious leaders and PLHIV, follow up on the adoption and implementation of the HIV workplace policy and advocacy for the SAVE approach into national HIV instruments such as the National Strategic Plan, HIV prevention strategy, among others.

“We appreciate this initiative that MANERELA+, MANET+ and others have brought to us. Because of this initiative, we are now able to see things in a different way and we believe the way we relate to our sisters and brothers living with HIV will improve. We pray and hope that this initiative continues because the objective is much way beneficial than what it looks like on the face value.” Comment by one of the leaders of Quadria Muslim Association.

Ethiopia

The first face-to-face dialogue meeting took place in April 2013, with one of the major achievements being the development of a sermon guide by a consultant from the theological school that was validated by the General Assembly of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahdo Church. The guide addresses gender-based violence, prevention of mother to child transmission, and stigma. One thousand copies of the sermon guide were printed, and 900 distributed in 20 regions.

A consultation for national faith-based organizations and religious leaders was held in July in which religious leaders called for a prominent place for HIV in the post-2015 agenda. The communiqué of the meeting, signed by His Holiness Abune Matias I, Patriarch of the Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church, Honorable Sheikh Kiyar Mohammed, President of the Ethiopian Islamic Affairs Supreme Council, His Grace Archbishop Berhaneyesus Souraphiel, C.M., President of Catholic Bishops of Ethiopia and Honorable Reverend Waqseyum Idossa, President of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus recognizes that the HIV pandemic “disproportionately affects women and key populations such as sex workers, discordant couples, development scheme workers and season/farm workers as well as other vulnerable populations.” The leaders stated, “As we collectively strive to overcome the stigma and discrimination and violence against women, all communities need to affirm the inherent dignity and rights of all human beings, including their undeniable right to equity, justice and access to quality health services.”

Capacity building and awareness raising among preachers and religious leaders on stigma and discrimination, and prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT), and two regional level dialogues between religious leaders and PLHIV are planned for end of February and first week of March.

Membership of the group currently includes: Network of Networks of HIV Positives in Ethiopia (NEP+); Ethiopian Interfaith Forum for Development



Dialogue and Action (EIFFDA); Ethiopian Network of Religious Leaders living with or personally affected by HIV (ETNERELA+); UNAIDS Ethiopia.

Uganda

The Framework for Dialogue Process was initiated in Uganda in Sept. 2013; and the first face-to-face multi-stakeholder dialogue meeting took place on 10th and 11th Dec. 2013. The meeting was attended by 30 participants including the Bishop of the National fellowship of Born-Again Pentecostal Churches. During the meeting seven areas were identified as priorities for dialogue and joint action.

A second dialogue meeting was held on November 5, 2014 in Kampala with the participation of senior religious leaders, networks of people living with HIV and development partners. Following presentations and group discussion, a communiqué with joint action points was developed that addressed the areas of

- Breaking the silence about HIV/AIDS stigma
- Facilitating dialogue at different levels within churches and mosques
- Spearheading advocacy efforts for safer and healthier living, and
- Changing how religious leaders and people living with HIV relate

The following organizations constitute the current national working group: Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU); National Forum of PLHIV Networks in Uganda (NAFOPHANU); National Community of Women Living with HIV (NACWOLA); Friends of Canon Gideon Foundation (FOCAGIFO); Uganda AIDS Commission (UAC); Uganda Network of Religious Leaders living with or personally affected with HIV/AIDS (UNERELA+); Uganda Christian AIDS Network (UCAN) – Lead Agency; UNAIDS; ICCO Cooperation; DanChurchAID.

Kenya

Interest and agreement to begin the Framework for Dialogue process in the country began in November 2013, with the report on the national implementation of the stigma index available in late summer 2014. Three regional pilot dialogues were held in October and November involving over 110 religious leaders and 50 people living with HIV.

The planning meeting for the national dialogue was held in December, with the dialogue meeting itself planned for February 2015. Participants in the planning meeting included representatives of KENERELA+, NEPHAK, and KENWA, as well as religious leaders, representatives of faith-based organizations including the National Council of Churches of Kenya, AIDS Health Foundation (AHF) and government (NACC).

Nigeria

A working group was constituted in the summer made up of NINERELA+, NEPWHAN, National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), UNAIDS, Society of Women Against AIDS in Nigeria (SWAAN) and a youth-based organization. Their work in 2014 has been to make connections with relevant organizations and follow the development of the federal anti-stigma and discrimination bill. The Stigma Index report was due to be complete in December, and the working group aims to hold the dialogue meeting early in 2015.

**Achievements,
challenges and
follow-up**

Important progress has been made in reaching the Framework for Dialogue outcomes on a national level:

- Strengthened and sustainable collaboration and mutual understanding between religious leaders, and people living with HIV
- Strengthened and improved quality of access to faith institutions and places of worship by PLHIV
- Strengthened responses by networks of people living with HIV to the faith-related needs and experiences of their constituencies
- Improved access to HIV-related services for people living with and vulnerable to HIV, for example sexual and reproductive health services and legal services.
- Improved quality of life for PLHIV through faith-based responses that better address the experiences of people living with HIV

National processes have reported the following achievements:

In Malawi:

1. The project created a formal linkage between religious leaders and people living with HIV which had not been there before in the country. There has been a platform initiated where PLHIV call for meetings with religious leaders and there has been a change in the language among religious leaders towards PLHIV. Some religious institutions have taken on HIV interventions in their institutions and some have started establishing support groups within their churches and mosques in Balaka, Blantyre and Mangochi Districts.

2. The project initiated debate on sensitive issues such as issues affecting key populations (men who have sex with men, sex workers) among religious leaders which had not been there before. Through the project some key religious leaders have been identified later to act as role models on fighting homophobia against MSM.

3. The project managed to create obligations on the religious leaders to start handling issues affecting PLHIV in their respective institutions.

In Uganda:

1. Having a national dialogue with religious leaders and people living with HIV with the full commitment of the Uganda AIDS Commission and others.

2. A joint statement that will have strong commitments to join hands instead of caring 'for' people living with HIV.

3. International exposure due to the successes of the Framework with involvement in UN training and meetings.

In Kenya:

The project has opened a forum for PLHIV to be understood especially by religious leaders leading to non-judgmental support

A common challenge identified in all the country dialogues is maintaining momentum for dialogue and action, which requires regular attention by the working group.

The finalization of the monitoring and evaluation framework based on the outcomes listed above will help in 2015 to draw out further evidence of



List of resource materials	<p>progress and areas that can be addressed at national and international level.</p> <p>The international steering committee is identifying countries for future national dialogue processes particularly in Latin America and Asia. A country-to-country sharing meeting is also planned for 2015.</p> <p>Website: www.frameworkfordialogue.org</p> <p>Bulletin article: Framework for Dialogue Update</p> <p><i>Framework for Dialogue between religious leaders and networks of people living with HIV: A tool for dialogue and joint action at national level</i> (methodology manual available in English, French and Spanish from the EAA Secretariat)</p> <p>AIDS 2014 Poster Presentation</p>
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Activity: Human rights and faith in the context of HIV

Specific objective	Develop and advance a framework for publication on human rights, faith and HIV that models a moderate discourse on these conflictual issues.
Implementation of plans	<p>The EAA has been promoting and facilitating dialogue between theologians and ethicists, human rights practitioners, and HIV experts to explore the intersections between theology and human rights in the context of HIV, to develop a mutual understanding of the common values underlying human rights, and to articulate practical consequences for further and deeper collaboration in the struggle against HIV. Following two consultations held under Chatham House Rules in 2011 and 2013, it was decided to develop a publication as a resource for wider dialogue on the key issues, supported by a Norad (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation) grant.</p> <p>An editorial committee was formed in 2014 and developed a framework for the publication. The aim is to publish a range of articles/perspectives on human rights and faith in the context of HIV to promote further reflection on the issues in a wider variety of settings, particularly in national dialogue settings between religious leaders and people living with HIV. The articles should equip religious leaders (both lay and ordained), as well as activists and people responding to HIV on the ground who find themselves in contentious debate to understand historical linkages between human rights and religion, personal realities, and the potential for transformative justice in combining religious faith and human rights approaches.</p> <p>The planned publication will bring in evidence from the People Living with HIV Stigma Index, personal testimonies and case studies, in addition to theological perspectives and examples of faith communities addressing human rights in the context of HIV.</p> <p>The editorial committee approached possible contributors to present draft articles at a Colloquium, 15-17 October. Over 30 participants, including theologians, people living with HIV, representatives of key populations, UNAIDS staff, researchers, and advocates working in HIV participated. From the presentations and discussions, a revised framework has been developed and the publication is planned to be completed in 2015.</p>

**Achievements, challenges and follow-up**

The value and need for the publication have been reaffirmed, and the work is far advanced.

All discussions with potential contributors, target audience members, Colloquium participants, and UN and civil society representatives have expressed great enthusiasm for the publication and the need it addresses as a resource and model for moderate discourse on the intersection of human rights, faith and HIV. Important progress has been made in the outline and content of the publication, and steps established to complete the publication in 2015.

List of resource materials

Terms of Reference for the Editorial Committee, Concept Note, Colloquium report and Colloquium presentations, and draft revised framework available from the EAA Secretariat.

Goal: Root causes of vulnerability to HIV transmission are eliminated

Activity: International AIDS Conference**Specific objectives**

Increased involvement, recognition and support of faith-based organizations in the response to HIV.

Strengthened faith-based responses through networking and sharing best practice.

Implementation of plans

The 20th International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2014) was held in Melbourne, Australia from 20-25 July 2014. For the sixth consecutive conference, EAA was instrumental in coordinating faith-based involvement in the conference. Activities in 2014 included an Interfaith Pre-Conference, Global Village Faith Networking Zone, Interfaith Prayer Room and Chaplains Program, two poster presentations, an interfaith prayer service, and an ecumenical media team.

A. Conference Coordinating and Interfaith Planning Committees

EAA's participation in AIDS 2014 was coordinated by HIV Campaign Coordinator, Ruth Foley, from the conclusion of AIDS 2012 until her departure from the EAA in March 2014. From March 2014 until the AIDS 2014 conference in July, a consultant, Becky Johnson, was contracted to finalize faith-based activities for the conference.

Following an international call for applications and nominations, an 18-member Global Reference Group was appointed by the EAA's HIV Strategy Group. While the Global Reference Group was overwhelmingly Christian, membership included a Hindu, a Buddhist, and two representatives of interfaith organizations. The Global Reference Group met for regular conference calls, held every 2-4 weeks, and communicated via e-mail through a listserv.

An 8-member Local Host Committee was also recruited with the mandate of assisting with the coordination of local logistics for faith-based activities around AIDS 2014. The Local Host Committee was comprised entirely of Christian members, although attempts were made to include members of non-



Christian faiths in the planning process. The Local Host Committee communicated primarily through e-mail exchange and also held several face-to-face meetings, Skyping in participants who were not able to attend in person.

Marg Hayes from Catholic Care's Catholic HIV/AIDS Ministry in Melbourne served as the liaison between the Global Reference Group and Local Host Committee. She also coordinated many of the local logistics for EAA's activities in Melbourne, including securing the venue, contract and catering for the Interfaith Pre-Conference; coordinating printing; and serving as the liaison to the planning group for the Interfaith Prayer Service.

B. Interfaith Pre-Conference

'Stepping Up in Faith: The Interfaith Pre-Conference on HIV' was held 18-19 July at the Catholic Leadership Centre in Melbourne. Registration for the conference opened in mid-April 2014. The pre-conference was marketed via EAA newsletters and action alerts, through the website iacfaith.org, as an official affiliated event of AIDS 2014, and in the AIDS 2014 Australian Cultural Programme. One-on-one outreach was also made to the Asian Interfaith Network on HIV and AIDS, INERELA+, American Jewish World Service, the Interfaith Council of Victoria, and *Religions for Peace* to increase the participation of a diverse range of faith traditions.

Ninety-five participants registered for the Interfaith Pre-Conference. Participation in the pre-conference was overwhelmingly Christian with 88 participants; 5 Hindus, 1 Jew, and 1 Muslim. An additional Buddhist representative was present on Friday, 18 July, to volunteer with pre-conference registration.

The Catholic Leadership Centre in Melbourne was chosen as the venue for the 1.5 day pre-conference to coincide with the Catholic Pre-Conference being held there. This offered opportunities for a joint plenary session and networking between the participants of the two pre-conferences.

Plenary themes and speakers were determined through lengthy conversations amongst the Global Reference Group and additional dialogue among plenary sub-committee members. A call for workshop proposals was issued in late April 2014. Thirteen workshop proposals were received and 12 accepted.

The conference started with listening to and learning from people of faith openly living with HIV and representatives from key affected populations. Drawing from their personal experiences, panelists addressed where the faith-based response to HIV has come from and where it is now. In a joint plenary session with participants from the Catholic Pre-Conference on HIV, panelists, including US AIDS Ambassador Deborah Birx, UNAIDS Deputy Director Luis Loures and American Jewish World Service President Ruth Messinger, explored the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for the faith community in achieving the goals of zero new HIV infections, zero AIDS-related deaths and zero stigma and discrimination. The closing plenary featured a panel of people under the age of 30, who raised issues and skills needed for continued advocacy and action in the years ahead.

The 12 workshops focused on topics such as the role of faith communities in reaching zero stigma and discrimination, good practices in the faith-based response to HIV, scripture and sexuality, advocacy on scaling up access to treatment, and the post 2015 agenda.



The full program of the Interfaith Pre-Conference may be found at:

<http://iac.ecumenicaladvocacy.org/preconference>

C. Global Village Faith Networking Zone

The EAA coordinated the Faith Networking Zone in the Global Village during AIDS 2014. The Faith Networking Zone served as a space for the EAA and its partners to gather and as a place for conference participants and the general public visiting the Global Village to gather information on the faith-based response to HIV. A schedule of organized events for the Faith Networking Zone were publicized and delivered. Additional impromptu events utilizing the Faith Networking Zone space were also organized in Melbourne, including several sessions organized by the World YWCA. Attendance at events ranged from 2 to 30 participants. An evening faith-based debriefing session held at the Faith Zone was well attended, and offered an opportunity for faith-based delegates to share in daily devotions, reflect on their participation in the day's activities, and offer strategies for faith-based engagement on HIV.

A team of three volunteers nominated by members of the Global Reference Group primarily staffed the Faith Networking Zone throughout the duration of the conference. Additional volunteer shifts were covered by the EAA's AIDS 2014 Consultant and youth from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

D. Interfaith Prayer Room and Interfaith Chaplains Program

The EAA initiated hosting an interfaith prayer room at the International AIDS Conference in 2004, and has been coordinating the prayer room and an interfaith chaplains program at every IAC since then. The prayer room, provided by the conference, offers a quiet place for reflection and scheduled times for prayer and worship; in Melbourne, scheduled times for Muslim prayers, Buddhist and Hindu meditations, and Protestant devotions and Catholic Mass were held.

The chaplains program makes religious representatives available for listening and spiritual counseling. The EAA utilized the skills of Dr Christoph Mann, a retired ecumenical program manager from Germany to coordinate the prayer room and chaplains program. Dr Mann had previously served as chaplains coordinator at AIDS 2010 in Vienna and as a chaplain at two other International AIDS Conferences.

Following an international call for Interfaith Chaplains, 10 chaplains were chosen to participate in the official program. The chaplains included 5 Christians, 2 Muslims, 1 Buddhist, and 2 representatives from an Interfaith Centre. Two chaplains were openly living with HIV. Some of the chaplains had not previously been engaged in work specifically around HIV and AIDS. Thus, in addition to the chaplains offering a service of spiritual support to conference participants, the chaplains program offered an opportunity for local religious leaders to be exposed to work around HIV and AIDS.

E. Poster Presentations

Following abstract submissions for oral presentations in Melbourne, the EAA was granted the opportunity for two poster presentations in the conference exhibition space on Tuesday, 22 July 2014. Color posters were prepared for (1) "Acting on their promises? An assessment of how religious leaders have fulfilled their personal commitment for action on HIV and what more they still need to do"; and (2) "A framework for dialogue and joint action between



religious leaders and people living with HIV: successes and challenges of using this new tool in Malawi, Myanmar, Ethiopia and Uganda.” Poster presentations are then include in the conference documentation.

F. Interfaith Prayer Service

The Interfaith Prayer Service for AIDS 2014 was primarily coordinated by the Local Host Committee in collaboration with the Melbourne Interfaith Centre and the dean of St. Paul’s Cathedral Melbourne. The prayer service was held on Tuesday, 22 July at St. Paul’s Cathedral, and scheduled to occur immediately following the AIDS 2014 Candlelight Memorial Vigil, which took place across the street at Federation Square.

Approximately 200 people attended. The program consisted of Buddhist meditation, Hindu and Jewish prayers, Christian scripture readings and hymns, and intercessory prayers. Attempts to include Muslim participation were unsuccessful, partially due to Ramadan. Rev. Phumzile Mabizela, Executive Director of INERELA+, gave the sermon.

G. Ecumenical Media Team

The Ecumenical Media Team primarily consisted of Sara Speicher, who had the dual role of Interim Executive Director of the EAA at AIDS 2014, and Paul Jeffrey, who provided writing, photography and videography of the pre-conference and main conference. John Ryan Mendoza of Outrage Magazine in the Philippines provided additional coverage of the Interfaith Pre-Conference. The team linked to a webmaster based in Geneva for additional support.

The team’s output was largely covered through articles published on iacfaith.org, social media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter, photographs published on Flickr, videos on YouTube and press releases sent via email.

H. Collaboration with the International AIDS Society

In addition to offering space for the Interfaith Prayer Room and Interfaith Chaplains Program, the International AIDS Society (IAS) invited the EAA to create a Faith-Based Roadmap of AIDS 2014, which was featured on the AIDS 2014 website and mobile app. The Faith-Based Roadmap highlighted oral abstract sessions, skills building workshops, satellite sessions, symposia, and Global Village sessions that featured the faith-based response to HIV, and served as an easy-to-use, interactive platform for interested individuals to locate faith-based sessions among the 1,000+ sessions offered throughout the conference.

The Interfaith Pre-Conference was featured as an Affiliated Event of AIDS 2014, and both the Interfaith Pre-Conference and Interfaith Prayer Service were featured in the official Australian Cultural Program for AIDS 2014. Additionally, the faith-based response was highlighted in the opening pages of the official AIDS 2014 Conference Program. The IAS also requested, and published, a blog from the EAA in advance of the conference.

Achievements, challenges and follow-up

EAA members and partners engaged in the critical issues identified in the response to HIV.

Human rights and the need to “leave no one behind” was the key sub-theme of the conference, and several EAA member organizations led sessions as part of the AIDS 2014 program that directly addressed critical areas in perceptions of faith and the response to HIV, e.g “Faith and Its Role in Deconstructing



Sexual Taboos” (Symposia Session) and “Let’s Talk Sexuality – How Sacred Texts Help Us” (Community Skills Development Workshop).

However, many EAA member organizations felt they could not sign the Melbourne Declaration because of some of the language used which seemed to cut off the possibilities for dialogue and collaboration with organizations or groups (many of which are faith-based) whose cultural or religious principles have been identified by others as significant barriers in the response. This highlights the continued challenge for dialogue at national and international levels for greater understanding of the needs for an effective response and how to meet these needs while respecting cultural and faith values. It also highlights the need for faith-based representatives to be part of such drafting processes to raise the implications of language used and seek consensus on wording that will enable all to be fully part of a rights-based, effective response to HIV.

Access and partnerships demonstrate recognition of EAA and faith-based responses.

Since the EAA began coordinating many of the faith-based efforts at International AIDS Conferences in 2004, ensuring dialogue and engagement with key populations, pharmaceutical companies and multilateral organizations, the recognition and respect for faith-based organizations involved in the response has grown dramatically. This was demonstrated at AIDS 2014 in the ready inclusion of EAA in civil society advocacy planning, in meetings of the “Free Space Process” partners, in the invitation to dialogue with Michel Sidibe, UNAIDS Executive Director along with other civil society partners, in the room and facilities space provided free of charge for EAA in the Media Centre, etc.

However, AIDS 2014 was also notable for the lack of mention of faith-based organizations or efforts – positively or negatively – in any of the plenary speeches. With human rights one of the key rallying points of many speakers, the lack of identifying faith groups – so central in communities in many of the most affected regions – as either potential partners or even as obstacles to engage with seemed a glaring omission.

The EAA HIV Strategy Group has identified the need to engage in renewed advocacy and visibility with partners and networks, especially in the preparations and strategy for AIDS 2016 in Durban, South Africa. Responding to EAA’s invitation, IAS’ Megan Warren met with the strategy group in October to explore opportunities for leadership in committees, submission of sessions, speakers, and other ways to more directly impact the conference program.

List of resource materials

Website: iacfaith.org

Videos:

Leaving no one behind: [Ulysses S. Burley](#)

HIV, Young Women and the Church: [LalChuanzauli \(CZ\) Ralte](#) and [Sonia Odek](#)

HIV and Gender Justice: [Musa Dube](#)

Equipping religious leadership on HIV: [Musa Dube](#)



HIV and Transformative Masculinity: [Prof. Tabona Shoko](#)

Bulletin article: [International AIDS Conference](#)

Action Alert: [AIDS 2014 – Workshop proposals now open for interfaith pre-conference](#)

Action alert: [Join people of faith at the 20th International AIDS Conference](#)

Press release: [Faith-based campaigners to step up response to HIV](#)

Press feature: [Faith-based groups leave Melbourne conference with new commitment to leave no one behind in struggle against HIV and AIDS](#)



“Food for Life” Campaign

Background

It is estimated that the world currently produces enough food to feed 9 billion people yet 805 million people – 12% of global population, or 1 in 8 – are suffering from chronic hunger. These numbers do not reflect those who experience ‘seasonal hunger’, nor do they consider the daily caloric intake required by physically demanding jobs, such as those that are regularly undertaken by the poor.

Caloric intake alone says nothing about nutritional status. While global hunger has decreased, around half the world’s population remains affected by nutritional issues. Acute malnutrition, commonly known as wasting because of the rapid and severe weight loss it involves, affects 52 million children at any given time. Not only is it responsible for 1 million child deaths a year - making it the most deadly form of malnutrition - but it hampers the ability of children to reach their full potential. Children who survive being wasted may face an increased risk of stunted growth, long-term health problems and poor educational performance.

Malnutrition is both under- and over-nutrition. Poor diets are to blame for the rise in the number of people overweight and obese, leading to a rise of non-communicable diseases, such as heart disease, intestinal cancers and type-2 diabetes. Ending malnutrition in all its forms has become a major focus of the international community and has brought together those who specialize in agriculture and food systems with the health professionals. Faith leaders, such as Pope Francis, spoke out against malnutrition in 2014, reminding us that the hungry and poor deserve dignity not charity.

Increasingly, we witness an imbalance of power in our food chains, with multi-national corporations playing a growing role in how our food is produced, processed, marketed, and distributed. This shift has led to the prioritization of industrial models of agricultural that rely heavily on external inputs such as fertilizers, water, pesticides and genetically engineered seeds. This approach to agriculture fails to address the social and environmental aspects of sustainability. Food production is estimated to account for between 17% (direct emissions) and 32% (including indirect emissions from land use changes, synthetic fertilizers, etc.) of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

According to the FAO, rearing animals for human consumption accounts for 18% of GHG emissions in CO₂ equivalent, not including the additional emissions from land-use change and deforestation. Livestock production consumes fertile land, accounting for 70% of all agricultural land and 30% of the land surface of the entire planet. When one considers the additional agricultural lands that are being used for biofuel production, it begs the question of why our governments choose to prioritize actions that deplete our natural resources in order to meet our unsustainable consumption patterns.

Inefficiency in our food systems is another reason why an estimated 30-50% of all food produced globally is wasted due to losses along the food supply chain. Losses and waste occur throughout the supply chain, from the point of production (especially due to lack of storage, processing and transportation facilities, particularly in developing countries) to the point of consumption (mainly due to consumer behaviors and quality standards, particularly in developed countries). In developed countries, consumers waste almost the



same amount of food (222 million tons) as the entire net food production of sub-Saharan Africa (230 million tons). At a policy level, we have been successful in documenting and understanding where food waste occurs; however, there are still many steps that need to be taken before any real progress can be made.

In 2015, we will transition from the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and leaders of the world will meet in Paris to sign a new agreement on climate change. Our efforts in 2014 have been building up for this unique opportunity to focus our attention on addressing hunger and malnutrition and on developing holistic and sustainable solutions, which serve the needs the planet and all of its people.

In light of these opportunities, the agreed mandate for EAA's Food for Life Campaign for 2014-2017 is for members to *work together on eradicating hunger, promoting adequate nutrition, and striving towards just and sustainable food systems, with a particular emphasis on sustainable agriculture practices and the situation of smallholder producers and their access to and control over natural resources such as land, water and seeds.*

In 2014, the Food strategy group drafted a strategic plan for the campaign period 2014-2017 following the Assembly mandate. The four goals and related objectives are:

Goal 1: Realization of the right to food for all

Objective: Political and popular processes towards the realization of the right to food are secured and strengthened, and adequate nutrition is ensured by enhancing local food economies

Goal 2: Small-scale food producers have access to and control over the productive natural resources they need to practice just and sustainable agriculture methods

Objective: Strengthening the advocacy capacity of faith communities to be effective advocates for change

Goal 3: Scaling up just and sustainable agriculture practices

Objective: Leveraging the active and visible leadership and expertise of churches, faith-based organizations and youth in faith communities for advocacy on sustainable agricultural practices

Goal 4: Food waste is reduced as a part of increasing attention to sustainable consumption

Objective: Churches and individuals make commitments to assess their own levels of consumption and waste, and make changes to their own lifestyle and eating habits to reduce their contribution to food waste and minimize post-harvest losses

Staffing and work methods

The EAA Food Campaign Coordinator was mainly responsible for the coordination of the activities. This was made possible through the guidance of the newly elected Food Strategy Group in identifying issues and action plans.

EAA members developed the liturgy and background papers for the Week of Action.

A portion of the time of the EAA staff (Executive Director, Advocacy



Assistant, Communications Consultant, Webmaster and Graphic Designer/ Communications Assistant, and Finance and Administration Manager) also contributed to the success of the campaign.

Food for Life campaign activities in 2014

Goal 1: Realization of the right to food for all

Activity: Supporting initiatives around the Right to Food

Specific objectives

Strengthen collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food among EAA members and partners, especially in the context of his country missions and advocacy for a new Special Rapporteur

Increase awareness among EAA members of the Right to Food and of the issues raised in the Right to Food and Nutrition Watch

Explore the potential for application of the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGTs) in humanitarian settings

Implementation of plans

Work with the Special Rapporteur and the human rights community for the activities carried out by faith based organizations

Since 2010, EAA has liaised closely with the office of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Mr Olivier De Schutter. EAA solicits advance notice of country missions planned by the Special Rapporteur, and endeavors to link him to the expertise of the churches and church-based organizations in those countries, in order for him to gain better access to the perspectives of grassroots communities.

In 2014, EAA has gone one step further to educate our members about the importance of this opportunity by describing how best they could contribute and explaining how their views can influence decision making and hold their governments accountable to their human rights commitments. This was also a year for electing a Special Rapporteur to succeed Mr De Schutter. Therefore, after an intense interview process with members, EAA decided to support Sofia Monsalve for nomination to the next round of selections for the position of Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. Mrs. Monsalve led a worldwide consultation process in the development of the VGGTs to ensure that the voices of all relevant stakeholders were heard. Monsalve's candidature was also verbally supported by the current Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, someone who intimately understands the challenges and opportunities that come with such a role. Therefore it was an honor for EAA to be recognized and approached for support, and the EAA agreed due to her past work. EAA continued to work with Sofia Monsalve and with the relevant allies within the Human Rights Council until the final decision was taken.

In May 2014, Ms. Hilal Elver was appointed Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food by the Human Rights Council and assumed her functions on 2 June 2014. EAA welcomed the new rapporteur and began establishing a solid relationship with her and her offices in the run up to the CFS41, the ICN2 and at COP20 in Lima.



Promote the Right to Food and related efforts and publications

The *Right to Food and Nutrition Watch* is the only international periodical that monitors the actions of states and other actors related to the realization of the right to food and nutrition. EAA has dedicated time and energy to this publication because it provides a platform for human rights experts, civil society activists, social movements, the media, and scholars to exchange information on how best to promote the realization of the universal right to food. EAA members view this publication as a powerful tool for them to use in their work to influence policymakers at the national and international level to take the human right to food and nutrition seriously into account.

Building on the contributions made by EAA members over the past four years, EAA continued its work with the consortium of 15 civil society organizations (including 3 EAA members), to highlight issues underlying hunger, malnutrition, and the denial of the human right to food.

This year's edition *Ten Years of the Right to Food Guidelines: Gains, Concerns and Struggles* analyses the advancement made since the Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Adequate Food were approved by the FAO Council in 2004. This FAO tool was created to provide practical guidance to Member States on how best to achieve the progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Food in their local context of national food security. While progress has been made, the ultimate goal will be reached when all people are able to claim their rights and hold duty-bearers accountable for their violations and abuses.

EAA members were deeply engaged in the production of the 2014 publication and devoted efforts to almost every article from the Preface to the Summary and Conclusions. In numbers, EAA members were involved in 8 of the 10 sections and provided guidance and legitimacy to 8 additional articles, including one on climate change and food security agroecology.

In addition to the massive push to release the Watch in October, dissemination efforts continue to take place at national level. For example, EAA used the occasion of World Food Day to launch the publication in Geneva and the occasion of the ACT Alliance General Assembly to launch the publication in the Dominican Republic.

Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGTs) to resolve land disputes

A complex relationship exists between conflict, population displacement, land tenure, and food (in)security. Disputes over land and other food-producing resources are often – particularly where governance of tenure of such resources is weak – a key driver of conflict. This causal relationship is expected to increase in the context of climate change and its impacts on food security. Forced displacement of local (and often food-producing) populations typically accompanies the outbreak of armed conflict, with obvious impacts on food security for those populations and for the wider society. Providing temporary refuge, as well as ultimate return/resettlement/local integration of such displaced populations, can often lead to tensions with host communities, and potentially to fresh cycles of conflict. EAA assembled a group of experts to explore how the Voluntary

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Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGTs) could be deployed in the context of temporary and durable solutions for displaced populations, and in breaking cycles of conflict.

Concluded in 2012, the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGT) promote responsible governance with respect to all forms of tenure: public, private, communal, indigenous, customary and informal. They were developed through a highly inclusive, multi-stakeholder consultation process convened by the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The VGGT now serves as a recognized benchmark, and sets out principles and internationally accepted standards for the responsible governance of tenure.

Through addressing land tenure, the VGGT aim to contribute towards the eradication of hunger and poverty, based on the principles of human rights and sustainable development, and recognizing the centrality of land to development by promoting secure tenure rights and equitable access to land, fisheries and forests.

At the request and with support from the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), EAA organized a side event on “Conflict, Population Displacement and Land Tenure” at the 64th Session of the UNHCR Executive Committee on 6 March. Case studies from World Vision International, Lutheran World Federation and UN-Habitat explored the potential for applying the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of national food security in a humanitarian setting. The purpose of this event was to explore how the VGGTs could be deployed in the context of temporary and durable solutions for displaced populations, and in breaking cycles of conflict.

Increased awareness of and engagement with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food among EAA members and partners

As the growing body of work carried out by EAA members receives greater international recognition, the credibility of faith-based organizations as key actors in this field increases. This has resulted in an increase in the number of invitations being sent to EAA for contribution and participation in events, as well as additional support being offered in return.

The direct invitation to participate in the nomination process of the new UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food was also a sign of the increasing recognition and respect for its coordinating role among faith-based advocates.

Increased awareness among EAA members of the Right to Food and of the issues raised in the Right to Food and Nutrition Watch

‘The Watch’ has quickly become the most prominent monitoring tool of the Global Right to Food and Nutrition Network. Annually, the Watch scans the political landscape to ensure that the right to food is mainstreamed in all policies dealing with food, nutrition, agriculture, energy and trade. It amasses case studies from around the world, providing examples of the progress and challenges in achieving the Right to Adequate Food.

Considering this increase in support, EAA will continue to enable participant engagement in the 2015 publication and plans to continue to serve as a



member of the Consortium and of the Editorial Board.

Encouraged UN agencies and EAA members working in humanitarian settings to consider the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security (VGGTs) to resolve land disputes

The side event organized on behalf of SDC was an opportunity to raise awareness of the VGGTs as well as demonstrate faith-based experience and expertise in a multi-partner platform. About 40 people attended, including representatives of UNHCR and FAO.

The EAA has monitored the immediate follow up to the side event, including:

- UNHCR highlighted the VGGT at the conference "Planned Relocations, Natural Disasters, and Climate Change: Consolidating Good Practices and Preparing for the Future" held in San Remo, 12-14 March 2014; convened by UNHCR, Brookings Institute and Georgetown University. During the conference, they took stock of what guidelines existed and were surprised how many people didn't know about the VGGT. UNHCR has agreed to put together a resource library, including the VGGT.
- UNHCR is considering bringing the VGGT into the IASC Sub-Committee on Land and Housing. The COP Roundtable on Solutions was mentioned as a potential opportunity to speak about solutions and draw on donors for financial, technical and political support. "HLP is ripe for that situation."
- Relevant content was included in the UNHCR Annual NGO Consultations in June 2014.
- UNHCR mentioned that it would be important to encourage FAO to include the humanitarian sector/context in its follow-up. FAO works mostly with governments, but less with humanitarian agencies. This can lead to parallel structures/processes.
- UNHCR noted a connection with the 'Peninsula Principles' on land, property and climate change. OHCHR has circulated the Peninsula Principles to all the embassies/consulates in Geneva. However there needs to be better contact with the FAO on related issues going forward.
- SDC highlighted these issues at the 2014 Annual World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty, Washington DC, 24-27 March 2014.

List of resource materials

Joint Publication: The Watch 2014 *Ten Years of the Right to Food Guidelines: Gains, Concerns and Struggles* is available in English, French and Spanish at <http://www.rfn-watch.org/>

[November Bulletin article](#) on the Right to Food and Nutrition Watch

[April Bulletin article](#) on Voluntary Guidelines side event

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/RtFNWatch>

Webpage with the material from the VGGTs event, including the presentations and final report at <http://www.e-alliance.ch/index.php?id=522> and photos from <http://www.flickr.com/photos/e-alliance/sets/72157642198973473/>



Goal 2: Small-scale food producers have access to and control over the productive natural resources they need to practice just and sustainable agriculture methods

Activity: Awareness-raising, Outreach & Mobilization

Specific objectives

Increase awareness and engagement by churches and individuals at the congregational level in support of food justice and small-scale food producers.
Strengthen advocacy capacity of faith communities to be effective advocates for change

Implementation of plans

Churches Week of Action on Food

The Churches Week of Action on Food is an opportunity for Christians all over the world to act and speak out together on food justice issues. It is a time to raise awareness about food production and distribution systems, examine our own food consumption, and call for policy changes that will ensure the right to food for everyone. Our faith calls us to feed the hungry and care for Creation – this we can do as individuals, as churches, and as global citizens.

In 2014, the theme was on resilience - ensuring that communities have: i) sustainable food production methods, such as agroecology, best suited to local contexts and our long term future; ii) marketing and distribution systems to ensure livelihoods for farmers and their communities; iii) commitments and actions to reduce food waste throughout the food chain; and iv) policies that support the above.

In 2014, the week of action was held from 12-19 October and incorporates the International Day for Rural Women (October 15), World Food Day (October 16) and the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 17).

Educational resources, worship material and activities were produced to enable our members to engage in the Week and gain a better understanding of the social, economic and environmental aspects of *resilience*. The liturgy was prepared by the Presbyterian Church USA's (PCUSA) Hunger Program with special thanks to Andrew Donaldson, World Council of Churches, and was delivered during worship at the Ecumenical Centre during the Week.

Additional resources were made available online in the form of prayers and bible studies.

To accompany the liturgy provided by PCUSA, we also offered our members worship resources that reflect the reality of resilience (or lack of) within their region. Contribution were received from:

- National Council of Churches in the Philippines: A bible study comparing Naboth's Vineyard with land grabbing
- National Council of Churches in India: A bible study examining The Sabbath Year and The Year of Jubilee and issues of returning the land and land reforms
- World Vision International: Bible study resources on Sustainable Food Systems
- Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in West Africa (FECCIWA): A reflection looking at the sacrifices that we make for food and how a scarcity of food puts people in a vulnerable position,



referencing how people were willing to become slaves for food (starting around Genesis 41:53)

Awareness raising activities were undertaken through Facebook and Twitter for the Week of Action, including a series of photos uploaded daily with key messages taken from the worship resources provided by our members. This action helped to increase EAA's already active Facebook following to more than 1,135 people. This community continues to update each other on the latest achievements and challenges in the area of food and nutrition security. Online mentions of the Week appeared on a dozen member pages.

World Food Day: Highlighting faith-based concerns to a wider community

World Food Day, 16 October, is an excellent opportunity to collaborate with partner institutions in the area of advocacy in order to effectively contribute to global efforts to eradicate hunger and improve food access for the poor and vulnerable. Partnerships make it possible to mobilize the best available knowledge and capacities and provide the most effective services in working toward common goals.

The theme of this year's World Food Day was "Feeding the world, caring for the earth" in support of the UN International Year of Family Farming (IYFF). 2014 was also declared "African Year of Agriculture and Food Security" by the African Union.

The goal of the IYFF was to reposition family farming at the center of agricultural, environmental and social policies in the national agendas by identifying opportunities to promote a shift towards a more equal and balanced development. The 2014 IYFF promoted broad discussion and cooperation at the national, regional and global levels to increase awareness and understanding of the challenges faced by smallholders and help identify efficient ways to support family farmers.

World Food Day Event with World Vision International

On 16 October, World Vision International and the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance brought together a panel of experts in Geneva to discuss how food assistance safety net programs can contribute to building resilience. Through the creation of productive assets and improvements in the natural environment, there is evidence that such programs work to improve long-term food security.

In the current environment where global food assistance resources are unable to keep up with growing and persistent needs, it is crucial for leading global organizations on food assistance like World Vision to speak with authority and evidence on how food assistance not only alleviates immediate hunger but also can be used to reduce the need for such assistance in the future.

When asked how humanitarian and development actors can best leverage existing humanitarian development programs to promote long-term sustainable food security, nutrition and livelihoods outcomes, the answer was by prioritizing female and male smallholder farmers.

In addition to delivering the opening address, EAA was also responsible for social media from the event and assisted in securing the venue and the catering for the event.

World Food Day 2014 with wider food community in Geneva

As has been the case in previous years, EAA and Geneva-based partners,



namely FAO Geneva, WFP Geneva, IFRC and World Vision, planned various activities aimed at promoting World Food Day, targeting member states and the UN community as well as the general public. In this context, the objective was to use the theme of this year's World Food Day, namely "Feeding the world, caring for the earth" - related to the 2014 International Year of Family Farming (IYFF) - to raise the profile of family farming and smallholders by focusing the Geneva's community's attention on its significant role in providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment, and achieving sustainable development, in particular in rural areas.

World Food Day 2014 in Geneva focused on:

1. Launch of the Geneva "Agri-Talks"

In order to increase the literacy on food security and agriculture in Geneva, a series of thematic discussions in 2014 and 2015 were launched on World Food Day, hosted in partnership with the Graduate Institute for International & Development Studies in Geneva. The first in the series focused on nutrition and helped to give one final political push prior to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (Rome, Nov 2014). EAA reached out to its members to propose high-level speakers to this Ted Talk type of event and promoted the event through social media.

2. "Family Farming Market" at the Palais des Nations

A family farming market was organized in cooperation with Genève Région-Terre Avenir from the State of Geneva at the Assembly room space. It brought together family farmers coming from different parts of the world, presenting their different agricultural products such as fruits, vegetables, wine, cheese, and honey, among others. These agriculture-related bio products ("produits du terroire") were offered for tasting and selling. EAA helped to nominate local representatives to participate in the event and assisted with promotional work.

Broadened participation by churches and individuals at the congregational level in support of food justice and small-scale food producers.

The annual Churches Week of Action has led to increasing attention at local and national levels on food issues, and this year, on issues facing communities and small-scale producers. Social media has proved increasingly effective in sharing messages and interacting with a broader range of individuals, groups, churches and organizations.

In preparation for the week, EAA members were encouraged to 'Join hands' with a community in another country and share their food story. EAA secretariat offered to link interested members and created the EAA Sister Community Questionnaire to help get the conversation going. We allowed for flexibility, encouraging members to decide how long they wanted the partnering to last. For example, one suggestion was to start the conversation in September, and share stories and learnings that come from the exchanges during the Churches' Week of Action itself. Unfortunately, few members expressed their interest in the sister communities action. Future efforts would need to be able to support much more facilitation of exchanges.

Strengthened advocacy connections with international organizations over

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common support for small-scale food producers.

World Food Day is a moment of global mobilization to raise awareness around the issues of hunger and malnutrition and to align our work with others with the same objective. 2014 was exciting for EAA due to the increased number of requests received to take part in joint actions both within our membership and within the Geneva community.

[Action Alert](#): Churches Week of Action on Food: Plan now for "Partnering," Worship, and Action!

[Action Alert](#): Join Hands to promote resilient farming production and livelihoods during the Churches Week of Action on Food

[June bulletin article](#) on land issues

[June bulletin article](#) on Churches Week of Action on Food

[November bulletin articles](#) on World Food Day

Facebook: www.facebook.com/foodforlifecampaign

Web resources on Churches Week of Action on Food, including the 2014 liturgy and bible studies: <http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/food/food-week-of-action/>

Goal 3: Scaling up just and sustainable agriculture practices**Activity: Faith-based engagement in key international policies and practice: Committee on World Food Security****Specific objectives**

Spearhead faith-based engagement in key policy processes on food and nutrition security, such as the **Committee on World Food Security (CFS)**, the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Build greater understanding and trust among members and resulted in closer ecumenical collaboration in international processes to ensure coherent and constructive decision-making.

Implementation of plans

Since the 2009 reform, the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) has proven its ability as the primary global reference for coordination and coherence in decision-making on food, nutrition and agricultural issues. There are few, if any, policy spaces that bring together all relevant stakeholders to debate crucial issues such as global food security, and reach agreements on issues that have life or death implications for millions of people around the world. Despite the non-binding nature of the CFS, the Voluntary Guidelines have led to the creation of legal norms in country and have set pathways for governments to follow.

The 41st session on the Committee on World Food Security (CFS41) - this key multilateral and intergovernmental policy forum on food and agriculture - tackled several issues in 2014, including the adoption of the Principles for Responsible Agriculture Investment; the achievement of consensus on the 'Decision Boxes' on i) Food losses and Waste, and ii) Sustainable Fisheries; and a thorough review of progress and challenges of implementing the

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Voluntary Guidelines on the Right to Adequate Food that were approved by the FAO Council in 2004.

Over the past four years, EAA members have dedicated the Lenten season to “Fast for Life” and reflect on global food waste. Therefore, significant collaboration was undertaken by the faith community to ensure that elements agreed in the associated CFS41 decision box adequately addressed where waste is happening and what food chains exacerbate the most waste. In addition to the formal negotiations, the CSM Working Group on Food Loss and Waste organized a side event entitled *Keeping it local: Key to unlocking the potential of reducing food waste* to showcase local alternatives addressing food waste and support systemic changes towards more sustainable food systems and global food security. A panel of experts, all of whom specialize in a different sector of the food chain, presented their best policies and practices to reduce food waste. As one of the co-organizers of the event, EAA worked in close cooperation with CIDSE and Brot für die Welt, to propose the concept, invite the speakers, design the flyers and promote the event to member states and moderate the high level session, which included Peter Bieler, Head of Global Programme Food Security, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

Civil society actors continue to engage with the CFS in its platforms at the global and regional level, and in country-led food and nutrition security actions because, as legitimate stakeholders in the process, their experience helps to provide another layer of expertise to the issues being addressed.

Greater recognition of the importance of addressing food waste and post harvest losses within the activities of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

Because of EAA’s attention and experience on food waste and post-harvest losses, EAA helped to lead civil society input into the CFS decision box and co-organized and moderated the side event. EAA also led social media efforts and increased awareness of the issues being debated through active Tweeting. EAA member participation and level of engagement in the CFS process continues to grow exponentially every year.

Building on the Fast for Life actions on food waste and losses (2010-2014), and the letters sent to leaders of the G8 and G20 in 2013 to call on them to shift to more sustainable food production and distribution systems and to prioritize the elimination of waste along the food chain, EAA will encourage its member to track the progress of member states on their commitments made under the agreed decision *Food losses and waste in the context of sustainable food systems* from the CFS41.

List of resource materials

[April bulletin article](#) on plans for 41st CSF and [November bulletin article](#) on outcomes

Flyers for three official CSM side events. See [example](#).

Joint publication: [10 Years of the Right to Food Guidelines - Progress, Obstacles and the Way Ahead. Civil Society Synthesis Paper for the 41st Session of the UN Committee on World Food Security](#)

[November bulletin article](#) on 41st session of CFS

**Activity: Faith-based engagement in key international policies and practice: Second International Conference on Nutrition****Specific objectives**

Spearhead faith-based engagement in key policy processes on food and nutrition security, such as the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the **Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)** and the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Build greater understanding and trust among members and resulted in closer ecumenical collaboration in international processes to ensure coherent and constructive decision-making.

Implementation of plans

Since 2012, EAA has been working to unpack the various issues related to nutrition both within our membership, within the Committee on World Food Security, and in preparation for the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2). As a result, members gained a better understanding of the definitions and concepts – malnutrition, food and nutrition security, dietary adequacy, food systems – and were able to understand the full dimensions of malnutrition (under nutrition, over nutrition, double burden of malnutrition) and the diverse approaches of our members to address these issues in their advocacy and programming.

Through this, EAA has identified a serious gap between what is being promoted and the solutions needed to eliminate the double burden of malnutrition. All too often, nutrition has been addressed from a medical/health perspective, through strategies using technical ‘silver bullets’, such as micronutrients and nutritional supplements. However, there is greater recognition from the international community on the importance of bringing the food security/agriculture sector into the discussions to enhance local food systems that deliver nutritious food to consumers and that support the livelihoods of food producers. The EAA Secretariat helped to raise awareness on what ‘nutrition sensitive’ and ‘nutrition specific’ approaches mean in practice and how best to ensure that short-term solutions (i.e. emergency aid) should not undermine long-term nutrition security.

The focus and work of our members highlights some of these key issues that need to be addressed to promote nutrition with a rights-based approach. The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) became an opportune moment to foster this discussion.

The ICN2 was held at FAO Headquarters, in Rome, 19-21 November 2014. The high-level intergovernmental meeting brought together the knowledge from the two organizing agencies of the United Nations – the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) - and increased global attention to address malnutrition in all its forms.

Paving the way for civil society engagement

Starting at the 40th session of the Committee on World Food Security, EAA and a handful of organizations engaged in initial discussions with ICN2 organizers about the need for meaningful participation of CSOs in the preparation of, during, and the implementation of the outcomes of the ICN2. An official follow-up letter was sent (Dec 2013) signed by 20 organizations to the Steering Committee of the ICN2.

This request was reiterated in several face-to-face meetings with UN agencies, as well as by letter to all the relevant actors, including within the FAO and



WHO, the Steering Committee of the ICN2, the Joint Working Group, and relevant member states. This style of engaging with CSOs is standard practice within the CFS and FAO but not so within the WHO, the joint-organizers of the ICN2 conference, which complicated matters.

While the two organizing UN agencies of ICN2 – FAO and WHO – were struggling to advance their preparations in parallel, a group of committed civil society organizations (CSOs) asserted themselves by forming a CSO Liaison Group for ICN2 (LG) to intensify our joint work and to facilitate the communication with FAO and WHO, as ICN2 secretariat, and with all relevant non-state actors.

With active participation in the LG, EAA helped to establish a Civil Society Mechanism (CSM)-like forum. The aim of this group was to unite civil society actors working on nutrition from both the health and agriculture sectors, and despite our differences, guarantee that our collective efforts would galvanize the necessary momentum for meaningful CSO participation in ICN2. The fact that not all actors agree on how nutrition should be addressed or what language/strategy is needed to achieve this goal was secondary. The real success of this action was that ‘not necessarily like-minded’ people came together to dialogue in a safe space and worked together towards a common goal.

Once the first draft of documents became available, EAA members contributed their comments to the documents - Zero Draft of the Political Outcome Document (Mar 2014) and the Zero Draft Framework for Action (Aug 2014) - through the online e-consultation. Through this feedback process, a platform for engagement of EAA members was established, creating a safe space for members to get a better understanding of the diversity of views within the alliance and identify areas of convergence among the ecumenical family.

Despite the willingness to participate in good faith, the LG didn't feel that the space for true CSOs participation was being adequately prepared. Therefore, in April 2014, a joint letter acknowledging the efforts of the organizers in their preparation of ICN2 was sent to the Intergovernmental Joint Working Group (JWG) but also clearly stating what CSOs would like to see from this process going forward.

The voices of CSOs were heard once again during the 67th World Health Assembly, at the event *Maximizing the potential of ICN2 from all actors and key sectors: What needs to happen?* This event, co-organized by EAA members, was the first time on the WHO/FAO Geneva side that the ICN2 was discussed with such an inclusive group of stakeholders, including CSOs. EAA members continued their fight through active participation at the non-state actors meetings (FAO, June 2014; WHO, July; WHO, Aug), voicing their concerns in person and also via the webcast and Twitter.

During the final negotiation session of the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) for ICN2, (Rome, 10-12 Oct) two main outcome documents were agreed: the Rome Declaration on Nutrition - a political commitment document - and the Framework for Action - a technical guide for implementation. Civil society groups involved in the negotiations consider the outcome document to be 'totally inadequate' to address the challenge at hand. In fact, several felt that the agreed action plan has become so watered down that it fails to bring us any further than what was agreed by member states at the first International Conference on Nutrition, which took place more than two decades ago. There



are fears that the weakness of the outcome leaves a vacuum in the governance of nutrition policy. Therefore civil society organizations released a statement pushing for nutrition issues to be taken up much more actively within the CFS.

The LG drafted a CSO vision statement pulling together the views of organizations to serve as the foundation for a CSO statement on nutrition. This statement expressed the elements of common concern regarding the conclusions of the ICN2 negotiations, and the purpose to articulate aspirations and strategies on how to address the complex challenge of malnutrition in all its forms.

Once in Rome

In a final effort to pull together the ever-growing number of CSOs wanting to engage on these issues, EAA played a leading role in organizing the two-day Civil Society Pre-Forum immediately before the ICN2, with a wide range of over 200 CSO represented. As a member of the Steering Committee for this event, EAA helped by assisting with the creation the agenda, lining up speakers, writing to Head of Organizations within the WHO and FAO to invite them to give opening addresses, compiling the participants list, finalizing logistics, designing the official logo and moderating sessions, as requested.

A one-day preparatory meeting for representatives of small-holder food producers preceded the Civil Society Pre-Forum. The “social movements meeting” was to provide social movements from the Global South with an opportunity to be fully informed about the context in which the ICN2 was taking place and the issues and challenges it would have been addressing, and to discuss the key messages that social movements wished to bring forward as representatives of those constituencies most affected by malnutrition and food insecurity.

The draft CSO vision statement based on individual submissions was complemented by the social movements present, and the outcomes of the CSO Pre-Forum, and released and read during the public session of the ICN2 and hand delivered to His Holiness Pope Francis, one of the high profile speakers at the event.

The Liaison Group maintained a steady stream of engagement during ICN2 and provided a meeting room within the FAO for the over 150 members to meet and strategize at the opening and closing of each day. This space also helped to discuss potential changes in approaches and to share intelligence about which member states shared common concerns.

To attract media attention during the ICN2, EAA joined a small group of organizations in the creation of a Malnutrition Clock. The campaign stunt was a series of photos of participants of the conference holding up signs that continued to add up the number of children that were affected by malnutrition each hour of the conference. A new photo was then uploaded from the EAA Twitter account and shared by other civil society organizations engaged in the action. This event attracted the attention of the local media and featured for 3mins on the evening news.

Due to our continued dedication, EAA was nominated to serve as one of two focal points to the WHO and feed back any relevant information (mostly from bilateral conversations) to the rest of CSO. EAA was also asked to provide regular updates to the Director of the FAO Geneva office.

**Achievements,
challenges and
follow-up**

Further work in following up the outcomes of ICN2 is listed below.

Built greater alliances to tackle malnutrition in all its forms at the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and providing direction for the (potential) Decade of Action on Nutrition and Post-2015 Development Agenda.

As member of the Liaison Group and Steering Group, EAA helped to establish a civil society mechanism to ensure the effective participation of non-state actors in the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) preparatory process, during the ICN2 and in the follow-up. This mechanism was essential to unite civil society actors working on nutrition from both the health and agriculture sectors and to guarantee that our collective efforts would galvanize the necessary momentum for meaningful international commitments on nutrition.

As one of the two civil society focal points for the WHO for ICN2, the EAA was actively engaged in the pre-meetings with Member States - the Joint-Working Group and the Open-ended Working Group for ICN2 - and ensured that relevant information was received by all stakeholders in a timely manner. Appreciating the diverse working methods of the two organizing agencies of the United Nations - the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) – the Liaison Group maintained the necessary line of communication to mobilize the political will and resources to eliminate malnutrition in all its forms.

Next steps

It is planned that in 2015, EAA participating organizations will continue to unpack the underlying structures that enable unhealthy diets, with a particular emphasis on the growing role of the private sector and public-private partnerships and the impact that marketing has on behavior change and diets. There is general acknowledgment that where such a diverse set of stakeholders comes together, even with a common goal, conflicts of interest can be expected to arise so unpacking the ‘do no harm’ approaches to malnutrition will be key.

In follow-up to the ICN2 process, CSOs will call on member states to agree that the appropriate platform for the proceedings must be the CFS, and in its context, it is important to build consistency between the ICN2 follow-up process and the CFS Global Strategic Framework.

Civil society agreed on a set of actions that they could take to ensure that nutrition remains a central part of an integrated Post-2015 agenda. The current situation is as follows: The UN Open Working Group has proposed 17 SDGs with 169 targets. Nutrition is only reflected in one goal (number 2), and in one target (target 2.2): *by 2030 end all forms of malnutrition, including by achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons.* The Liaison Group will continue to look to inspire concrete commitments and actions to translate the SDGs into tangible and lasting progress on nutrition.

Engaged participants will also be encouraged to use their influence to support the role of nutrition within an integrated SDG framework being adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2015 and to monitor closely any



developments that occur in the process for endorsement of the Decade of Action on Nutrition by the UNGA in 2015.

While the two outcome documents of ICN2 are voluntary, EAA participating organizations will continue to work closely with the UN Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN), the WHO and the FAO to track the progress made by member states on the commitments they announced from the plenary. Member states are also invited to establish nutrition targets and intermediate milestones, consistent with the timeframe for the implementation of the agreed six WHO Global Monitoring Framework for non-communicable diseases. CSOs will push that they should also request that the Human Right Council ensure that the ICN2 follow-up and related policies are coherent with the respect, protection and fulfillment of the right to adequate food and nutrition and related rights.

List of resource materials

[April bulletin article](#) on EAA members work on nutrition and planning for ICN2

Official letter was sent (Dec 2013) signed by 20 organizations to the Steering Committee of the ICN2, available upon request.

Flyers for CSO side events during the 67th World Health Assembly *Maximizing the potential of ICN2 from all actors and key sectors: What needs to happen?* designed by EAA, available upon request.

[EAA Submission to the Rome Accord E-Consultation](#)

[Press release](#) from the 67th World Health Assembly side event *Maximizing the potential of ICN2 from all actors and key sectors: What needs to happen?*

EAA Submission to the Political Declaration E-Consultation, available on request.

[Final statement](#) by civil society to the OEWG for ICN2.

The [Public Interest CSO and SM vision statement](#) on Nutrition prepared prior to the Pre-Conference event

After the CSO Forum, a [declaration](#) was prepared and agreed.

Malnutrition clock in the media:

- <https://uk.news.yahoo.com/video/rome-icn2-tackles-ebola-nutrition-095710880.html>
- http://www.liveleak.com/view?i=9c3_1416483001
- <http://www.euronews.com/2014/11/20/rome-icn2-tackles-ebola-nutrition-malnutrition-obesity/>

[June bulletin article](#) and [November bulletin article](#) on ICN2

Activity: Faith-based engagement in key international policies and practice: Agriculture, Food- and Nutrition-security and Climate Change

Specific objectives

Spearhead faith-based engagement in key policy processes on food and nutrition security, such as the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and the **United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**.

Build greater understanding and trust among members and resulted in closer



Implementation of plans

ecumenical collaboration in international processes to ensure coherent and constructive decision-making.

Food security and climate change are, more than ever, the two major global challenges facing humanity, and climate change is increasingly perceived as one of the greatest challenges for food security. EAA focuses on these issues within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and related multi-stakeholder platforms, such as the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture, to ensure that decisions taken to mitigate the impacts of climate change do not negatively impact global food security, the lives and livelihoods of smallholder food producers, or increase competition for their lands.

The mention of ‘agriculture’ within the UNFCCC can be found in the original text of the Convention, drafted in 1992. However it wasn’t until 2008 that the UNFCCC Secretariat produced a technical paper on the challenges and opportunities for mitigation in the agricultural sector for the Ad hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) – the temporary working body that aims to discuss how Parties can address climate change over the longer term. Since then, none of the Conference of the Parties (COP) have been able to establish a specific work program on agriculture under either the COP or the AWG-LCA so current debates are housed in the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). Issues that impact agriculture are being addressed in several other workstreams of the UNFCCC, such as adaptation, mitigation and Loss and Damages. However EAA continues to focus on the SBSTA process, and the emerging debates on land use, to ensure that decisions taken within the UNFCCC do not negatively impact global food security. Our efforts are also to showcase food security needs in a climate-constrained world and present viable solutions through sustainable food systems and seed diversity.

Considering the lack of progress taking place within the UNFCCC on agriculture, alliances such as the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture were launched. There are mixed views on the objective of this initiative because actions taken outside of the auspices of the UN put in question previously agreed legally binding commitments and could fail to enforce the safeguards to ‘do no harm’.

Promoting agroecological approaches

Agroecological approaches to food production seek to replace expensive and environmentally-damaging external inputs (such as fertilizers, pesticides, hybrid seeds and fossil fuel-based mechanization) with local/traditional knowledge and natural processes. While ‘green revolution’ style agriculture doubled cereal production in many parts of the world, it destabilized the natural resource base and has driven much of the loss of biodiversity.

Agroecological approaches therefore recommend themselves as an effective strategy for increasing agricultural production by smallholder producers and enhancing food security at the community level, without entailing significant increases in GHG emissions (from increased fertilizer use and mechanization of production). It thereby reduces pressure on remaining forest areas, while at the same time promotes community empowerment and the realization of the right to food.

Since 2009, EAA has highlighted the benefits of agroecology within the climate change negotiations (UNFCCC). This work has been carried out



through official submissions (Mar 2012, Mar 2013, Feb 2014, June 2014), related side events (Nov 2011, May 2012, Nov 2012, Nov 2013, May 2014, November 2014), bilateral meeting with country delegations (on-going), the production of associated publications, such as *Nourishing the World Sustainably – Scaling Up Agroecology* (Oct 2012), *Seeds for Life – Scaling Up Agro-biodiversity* (Oct 2013) and by regularly updating the media and our members through briefings and news bulletins.

The work undertaken within the UNFCCC is done under the umbrella of the Climate Action Network (CAN). EAA is an active member of the CAN Agriculture working group.

Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture

Concerned by the slow pace of the climate negotiations within the UN, a group of member states sought to establish a Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture (GACSA). In the run up to the launch of this multi-stakeholder platform, EAA convened a group of more than 50 CSOs working on entry points for engagement and shared concerns. This work also included i) regular correspondence with the Dutch Interim-Secretariat of the Alliance and with the Friends of the Alliance Group, ii) ad-hoc presentations to groups of interested CSOs to provide a general overview (such as the history, important documents, joint actions, next steps) and providing direction on how groups might consider positioning themselves towards the Alliance, iii) voicing CSO concerns during the Stakeholders Perspective session at the Partner Meeting for the Alliance on Climate-Smart Agriculture (The Hague, July 2014), including invitations to represent CSOs as a speaker on the main panel, and iv) assisting in the drafting of the CSO-Open letter and related actions.

Our greatest achievement was the convening platform that EAA provided its members, all of whom had very diverging views on the overall goal of GASCA.

In recognition of this collection of work, two official invitations were sent by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to EAA to participate in the Climate Summit in New York on 23 September 2014. EAA was also invited to assist in the drafting of the CSO Statement, which was read in the plenary and included in the official documents from this session, and to participate in the nomination of the CSO representative

Achievements, challenges and follow-up

Increased ecumenical attention and action on issues related to food security and land within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and raised awareness of bilateral initiatives such as the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture

Issues related to food security and sustainable agriculture has been increasingly recognized in climate change negotiations, and EAA's expertise in this area has strengthened ecumenical advocacy in relation to efforts within the UNFCCC process.

EAA has also been able to build a platform for faith-based organizations with different perspectives on effective approaches to public-private partnerships and become an effective liaison between civil society and the Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture.

EAA convened a group of more than 50 civil society organizations (CSO)



working on entry points for engagement with/within the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture. In recognition of this work, two official invitations were sent by Ban Ki-moon to EAA to participate in the Climate Summit (New York, September 2014). EAA also facilitated the creation of the CSO statement, which was read in the plenary and included in the official documents from the event, and led the nomination process for selecting two suitable CSO representatives to present the Statement at the closed-door ministerial meeting and again in plenary.

Next steps under the UNFCCC

As official observers of the UNFCCC process, EAA plans to submit their views on issues relating to agriculture under the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice - SBSTA (March 2015 for consideration at SBSTA 42 (June 2015) and March 2016 for consideration at SBSTA 44 (May-June 2016) and will track the outcomes of the four workshops planned over the next two years, including the associated awareness raising actions. Additional action will take place under The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action - ADP, as required.

EAA will also offer guidance to the land related discussions, especially actions involving soil carbon sequestration, to ensure that policies at all levels are designed and implemented to enable small-scale food providers and other vulnerable populations to become more resilient to climate change in broad ways, not merely in the fields but also by increasing the resilience of livelihoods.

Next steps for the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture

There are concerns around the power relations and motives that can arise when actors come together in multi-stakeholder public-private partnership platforms used in groupings such as the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture. EAA, with help from its participating organizations, plans to work to understand the diversity of views and identify areas of convergence among our participants and related actors. The first step will be for EAA to create a platform for increased dialogue among EAA organizations, building on the article published in the November 2014 Food for Life bulletin, with the aim of unpacking these issues in a constructive manner and formulating a socially and environmentally sound 'code of good practice' for all work being undertaken.

Since GACSA's foundation (secretariat and related platforms) will be established in 2015, EAA will continue to play an active role to make certain that the necessary safeguards and mechanisms are set up so that the benefits of the joint action are truly those intended. To support this work, EAA will conduct an analysis of the benefits and risks of multi-stakeholder public-private partnership models in hopes to avoid future conflicts of interest. A report and workshop will be organized to discuss the findings with members, UN agencies, government officials and the private sector.

EAA will continue to collaborate in ecumenical advocacy efforts on climate change.

List of resource materials

[Press release](#): Future Food Security Requires Climate-Resilient Solutions

[Official submission](#): UNFCCC submission on modalities and procedures for possible additional LULUCF activities under the CDM, and alternative



approaches to addressing the risk of non-permanence under the CDM

[Discussion paper](#): Comprehensive Land-Use Planning: A Rights-Based Approach for related UNFCCC discussions

[June bulletin article](#) on the latest on agriculture, food security and climate change at UNFCCC

[June bulletin article](#) and [November bulletin article](#) on Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture

GACSA website was created for CSOs to voice their admiration and concerns, available at <http://www.climatesmartagconcerns.info/>. All the open letters, rejections letter, tweets can be found here.

Goal 4: Food waste is reduced as a part of increasing attention to sustainable consumption

Activity: Reducing food waste and promoting just and sustainable consumption, as a matter of Christian stewardship

Specific objectives

Churches and individuals increasingly make commitments to assess their own levels of consumption and waste, and make changes to their own lifestyle patterns, eating habits, and review what can be done to reduce their contribution to food waste and minimize post-harvest losses

Broaden engagement by churches and church-related organizations and their members in issues of food waste in both their advocacy efforts and in the practices of their own communities

Implementation of plans

Fast for Life 2014

Since 2010, EAA has promoted an annual ‘Fast for Life’ observance on Ash Wednesday and during the Lenten period – as a time for encouraging individuals, churches and communities to learn more about the effect of unequal consumption patterns on global food security and justice, and to take steps to change how and what they consume.

Since 2011, EAA has encouraged individuals to become conscious consumers by reducing food waste and post-harvest losses. For some of us, this means addressing our own consumer habits, for others it may be working with local farmer networks or advocating with government for support to minimize harvest and storage losses.

In 2014, we invited our members to take the Zero Waste Daily Challenge. Each day, EAA posted a daily challenge on Facebook and Twitter using the hashtag #EAAzerowaste. Interested members committed to the challenge on Ash Wednesday (5 March) and joined with others around the world in collective actions over 10 days. Action ideas were suggested to inspire action and members were invited to rate their success. For example, if they managed to successfully accomplish the ten days of the challenge, they were awarded the status ‘Zero Waste Hero’. Five days earned them the title of Pro Minimizer of Waste, three days made them a Novice Food Waste Contender and so on. Members posted their results and told their food waste story



through words, pictures and actions on Facebook (foodforlifecampaign), and Twitter (@e_alliance). Thanks to this effort, the EAA has achieved an active following on Facebook of more than 1,135 people. This community continues to update each other on the latest achievements and challenges in the area of food and nutrition security. Winners were also featured in the Food for Life campaign bulletin.

Christian contributions to the "Zero Hunger Challenge"

As part of its "Food for Life" Campaign, EAA promoted how the EAA and its member organizations are helping to achieve "Zero Hunger" and the vision of the United Nation's campaign, the "Zero Hunger Challenge" (ZHC). The United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon launched the Zero Hunger Challenge at Rio+20 Sustainable Development Conference (June 2012) to give a high level push to global efforts towards food and nutrition security. It challenges governments, businesses, farmers, civil society and faith-based organizations, researchers and donors to put aside some of their differences and work together on a common vision of eliminating hunger worldwide.

The challenge of Zero Hunger means: i) Zero stunted children under 2 years, ii) 100% access to adequate food all year round, iii) All food systems are sustainable, iv) 100% increase in smallholder productivity and income, and v) Zero loss or waste of food.

The EAA was one of the first groups to react to the call for Zero Hunger Challenge and encourage individual members to do the same. EAA was invited to describe how EAA members have been working to make progress on the five elements of the ZHC during public events within the CFS and the UNFCCC. (See related infographic at http://www.un.org/en/zerohunger/pdfs/onepage/EAA-ZHC_pager.pdf)

Achievements, challenges and follow-up

Churches and individuals are increasingly aware of the issues of consumption and waste, and make changes to their own lifestyle patterns, as well as increase advocacy efforts and address practices of their own communities

Efforts such as EAA's Fast for Life and international advocacy on food waste and post-harvest losses have contributed to a significant increase in awareness of consumption and waste issues over the last three years. The interaction with EAA members and partners on the Fast for Life, and engagement of organizations in food waste advocacy is a testimony to the strengthened focus and awareness of the need for change at all levels.

This work and other efforts through the Food for Life campaign, have been marked by the access and recognition that it and the work of our members has received within the vast community of Zero Hunger Challenge members.

List of resource materials

[Action Alert: Fast for Life! – Join the Zero Waste Daily Challenge](#)

[Press Release: Christian Campaigners Take Up "Zero Hunger Challenge"](#)

[April bulletin articles](#) on Fast for Life and Zero Hunger Challenge

Mention in WCC press release: [Churches use season of Lent to raise awareness of climate change](#)

[Infographic: EAA commits to the Zero Hunger Challenge](#)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/foodforlifecampaign

[Web resources on Fast for Life](#)



2014 Financial Report

In the light of the May 2014 EAA General Assembly resolution and the subsequent schedule on our transition process, EAA Board assigned, among others, two main missions on financial terms: close our 2014 books properly with a break-even result and prepare the organization financially so that it can continue its mission on a different operational platform from 2015 onward. We are glad to report that we have delivered on both accounts.

As you will see on the closed audited 2014 financial statements, prepared on a liquidation basis, EAA has made a small operating surplus of CHF 1'211. The overall trend in 2014 was a net decrease of financial flow for EAA, with Core revenue decreasing from CHF 617'802 to CHF 436'773 and Program contribution from CHF 454'073 to CHF 351'716 while Core expense decreased from CHF 940'247 to CHF 686'562 and external Program expenditures from CHF 196'027 to CHF 149'172. While this trend itself is obviously negative in that it indicates a reduction of operating capacity, it does demonstrate, at the same time, the financial challenge that we had successfully surmounted in balancing our books.

Concretely, the EAA Board took decisive actions, early in 2014, to re-adjust the secretariat cost structure to better align it with our revenue stream. EAA income has continued to decline, due to the overall economic environment for the ecumenical sector, the sustained strength of the Swiss Franc and also, to be frank, the negative impact on the confidence and adherence of the membership as the result of our two consecutive and grave financial crisis of 2012 and 2013. The actions taken have enabled the secretariat to maintain its operations at the service of its membership and program partners, and we have balanced our book in 2014 with a modest Core operating surplus. More comments on the 2014 accounting can be found on page 9 and 10 of the audited financial statements. The 2014 booking is done on liquidation or essentially cash basis and our accounting assumptions, particularly on the revenue side, are fully substantiated.

From the perspective of financial management, three tasks that have been accomplished during 2014 are worth noting.

EAA started 2014 very much on a crisis mode. Cash-flow was very tight, with staff salaries each month and committed program disbursements in doubt. By successfully closing the 2013 statutory audit and by meeting key program donor reporting requirements, we were able to restore, at least partially, the confidence of our key stakeholders on our ability to operate reliably and effectively. As a result, new revenue began to arrive and through diligently managing our financial and cash-flow planning, we were able to carry on normal operations while averting any major cash crunch. The small ecumenical advocacy ship called EAA was stabilized by mid-year 2014.

A key element for successfully delivering on the positive year-end result is the two-tier (Core and Program) revenue system. It significantly strengthened our ability to make a full-year forecast early in the year but with reasonable assurance. EAA board and staff also made progress in developing a new fair contribution scheme through a mix of formula and voluntary pledges in view of securing a stable Core revenue base for the future EAA. This work can be further advanced to meet the needs of EAA in a new structural setting, particularly in terms of curbing the extremes of the formula and also of recognizing the different level of participation of the members.

The nature of our operating model, that is, funding through membership fees payment and donor program contributions requires certain diligence when it comes to reporting. Under the two-tier revenue system, only one statutory or institutional audited financial statement is to be produced in any given year and once approved by the general assembly, it is considered as valid across the entire membership. However, some of our stakeholders contribute to our Core funding through their "program budget". As a result, a specific funding agreement is needed each year and which may include more specific reporting requirement. To meet this special reporting need, EAA has developed a specific project audit in these few limited cases. On the Program side, there is a legitimate additional validation step, the one from the donor who financed our program. In cases in which EAA is one partner of a project consortium, the responsibility is more on how to assist the consortium lead partner



who has the overall reporting responsibility towards the donor. In the case of Norad, however, because EAA is scheduled to dissolve very soon, we will work to seek proactively a full approval from the donor itself covering the fund EAA has withdrawn so far. This will ensure EAA's financial reporting is properly closed.

Unless otherwise decided at the forthcoming general assembly, EAA will enter the liquidation procedure. All additional costs during this final transition period of EAA as an independent organization are fully provisioned in the 2014 accounts. A smooth liquidation process is expected, to be completed later in 2015 and a net liquidation asset to be transferred to the designated beneficiary.

So in principle, EAA in its current form is coming to an end. What next? We know we want to continue our advocacy work, ideally on a platform that shares the same visions and can offer some financial cushion at least in term of cash-flow. But to make our cause a sustainable one, we need to address two financial challenges, among others:

We need to secure stable, reliable unrestricted Core funding from our current network to cover the routine Core operations over the long run and for that, we must admit that our old entirely voluntary "pledge" system alone is not sufficient and we need to continue to work on a fair contribution scheme that factors in a formula-based component.

What we have negotiated so far is for a structure that will be self-financed and operate with a certain degree of autonomy on a platform provided by the new hosting organization. Without the formal governance that our current legal form confers, we need to develop a new type of oversight that is acceptable by the hosting organization while assuring good financial stewardship of the future EAA.

Further information

The 2014 audited financial reports and further information are available at <http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/about-us/finances/> or by contacting Mr Yueh Cho, below.

Contact person

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Annex I: Board of Directors members and office-bearers

The members of the Board of Directors elected by the 2013 General Assembly are:

- Rev. Dr Richard Fee
General Secretary, Presbyterian Church in Canada, Presbyterian World Service and Development
- Dr Thorsten Göbel
Head, Policy Unit, Brot für die Welt – Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst
- Rev. Christo Greyling
Director, Faith Partnership for Development, World Vision International
- Dr Henk Jochemsen
Director, Prisma
- Ms Hendrica Okondo
Global Programmes Manager, World YWCA
- Ms Isabel Richardson
Executive Secretary, Madras Christian Council of Social Services (MCCSS)
- Ms Kristiina Rintakoski
Advocacy Director, Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission
- Dr Carl Stecker
Director for Diakonia, Global Mission Unit, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Msgr Robert Vitillo
Head of Delegation to the United Nations in Geneva, Caritas Internationalis

The Board elected the following members as office-bearers, forming the Executive Committee:

- Chairperson:* Rev. Dr Richard Fee
- Vice-Chairperson:* Dr Henk Jochemsen
- Treasurer:* Msgr Robert Vitillo

In addition, the two Strategy Groups nominated the following persons as representatives to the Board of Directors, whose nominations were approved by the Board:

- Food Strategy Group representative:* Rev. Christopher Rajkumar (Executive Secretary, Commission on Justice, Peace and Creation, National Council of Churches in India)
- HIV & AIDS Strategy Group representative:* Ms Lyn van Rooyen (Director, Christian AIDS Bureau for Southern Africa)

The EAA Executive Director serves ex officio as a member of the Board with voice but without vote and participates in a similar manner in the Executive Committee meetings.

Following the 2013 General Assembly's decision to amend the EAA Statutes to provide for a representative of the World Council of Churches to serve as a member of the Board of Directors with voice but without vote, the WCC named Deputy General Secretary Georges Lemopoulos and Associate General Secretary Isabel Phiri to jointly serve, which was approved by the Board.



Annex II: List of Members

At the end of 2014 EAA had 84 member organizations:

1. All Africa Conference of Churches, *Africa*
2. Anglican Diocese of Upper Shire, *Malawi*
3. Arise Center for Health, Education & Development, *India*
4. Australian Lutheran World Service, *Australia*
5. (The) Balm in Gilead, *USA*
6. Board of Theological Education of the Senate of Serampore College, *India*
7. Brot für Alle, *Switzerland*
8. Brot für die Welt – Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst, *Germany*
9. CABSAs (Christian AIDS Bureau for Southern Africa), *Southern Africa*
10. CAFOD, *United Kingdom*
11. Canadian Foodgrains Bank, *Canada*
12. Canadian Lutheran World Relief, *Canada*
13. Caritas Internationalis, *international*
14. Catholic Relief Services, *USA*
15. Christian Aid, *United Kingdom and Ireland*
16. Christian Care, *Zimbabwe*
17. Christian Community Health Care Foundation, *West Africa*
18. Christian Conference of Asia, *Asia*
19. Christian Council of Nigeria, *Nigeria*
20. Christian World Service, *Aotearoa New Zealand*
21. Church of Christ in Thailand, *Thailand*
22. Church of Norway, *Norway*
23. Church of Scotland, *Scotland*
24. Church of Sweden, *Sweden*
25. Churches Action for Relief and Development (CARD), *Malawi*
26. Churches Health Association of Zambia, *Zambia*
27. Churches United Against HIV and AIDS (CUAHA) International, *international*
28. CIDSE (Coopération Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité), *Europe*
29. (The) Congregation of the Sisters of the Little Flower of Bethany, *international*
30. COPROMOR (Centre oécuménique pour la promotion du monde rural), *Democratic Republic of Congo*
31. Cordaid, *The Netherlands*
32. Council for World Mission, *international*
33. DanChurchAid, *Denmark*
34. DIFAEM (German Institute for Medical Mission), *Germany*
35. Economic Justice Network of FOCCISA, *South Africa*
36. Ecumenical Commission for Human Development, *Pakistan*
37. Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network, *international*
38. EMPACT Africa, *international*
39. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, *USA*
40. Evangelical Lutheran Development Service, *Malawi*
41. Evangelisches Missionswerk in Deutschland (EMW), *Germany*
42. Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in West Africa (FECCIWA), *West Africa*
43. FinnChurchAid, *Finland*
44. Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission, *Finland*
45. Franciscan Capuchins (Amala Annai), *India*
46. Franciscans International, *international*
47. HEKS/EPER (Swiss Interchurch Aid), *Switzerland*



48. ICCO and Kerk in Actie, *Netherlands*
49. INERELA+, *international*
50. International Orthodox Christian Charities, *USA*
51. Iona Community, *United Kingdom*
52. Lutheran Church in Liberia, *Liberia*
53. (The) Lutheran World Federation, *international*
54. Lutheran World Relief, *USA*
55. Madras Christian Council of Social Services, *India*
56. MAP International, *USA*
57. Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, *USA/international*
58. National Commission for Justice, Peace and Development, Catholic Bishops Conference of India, *India*
59. National Council of Churches in India, *India*
60. National Council of Churches in the Philippines, *Philippines*
61. Norwegian Church Aid, *Norway*
62. Pietermaritzburg Agency for Community Social Action (PACSA), *South Africa*
63. Presbyterian Church USA, *USA*
64. Presbyterian World Service and Development, *Canada*
65. Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, *Canada*
66. PRISMA, *Netherlands*
67. Progressio, *United Kingdom*
68. Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS), *Bangladesh*
69. Rural Missionaries of the Philippines (RMP-NMR), *Philippines*
70. Solidarité Protestante, *Belgium*
71. St. Paul's University, *Kenya*
72. Synodical Board of Social Services, Church of North India, *India*
73. Tearfund, *United Kingdom*
74. Trócaire, *Ireland*
75. United Church of Canada, *Canada*
76. United Church of Christ USA, *United States*
77. United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India, *India*
78. United Evangelical Mission (UEM), *Germany*
79. World Alliance of YMCAs, *international*
80. World Association for Christian Communication, *international*
81. World Student Christian Federation, *international*
82. World Vision International, *international*
83. World Vision Switzerland, *Switzerland*
84. World Young Women's Christian Association (World YWCA), *international*