

2015 Programme Plan
WCC Ecumenical Initiative

Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance

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Description - Background

Description	In 2015, the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA) will be organized as a new ecumenical initiative of the World Council of Churches. The EAA is a global network of churches and related organizations collaborating in international advocacy on two collectively-defined focus issues per four-year cycle. Covering the full spectrum of major church families – Roman Catholic, historic Protestant, Evangelical and Orthodox, the EAA in 2014 had 84 member organizations (http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/about-us/members/) and over 13 years of experience engaging faith-based voices in focused action for social and economic justice.
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A history of close partnership

The WCC was instrumental in the founding of the Alliance in December 2000 as an instrument for wider ecumenical cooperation in advocacy – broader both in terms of Christian traditions and in types of organizations. It was designed as a light, flexible structure in which a common campaign strategy on two specific issues of global concern could be agreed and its wide membership participate in joint actions at international levels and apply the strategy in their own context nationally or regionally.

The WCC housed the EAA administratively and WCC staff served on the Ecumenical Advocacy Committee guiding the EAA as well as on the two campaign strategy groups – at that time on HIV and AIDS and on Global Trade.

In 2008 the participating organizations, meeting at their General Assembly, voted for the EAA to become an independent association in Switzerland. Churches and organizations then chose to become members of the association in order to continue their joint campaign issues, selected at the 2008 Assembly as HIV and AIDS and food security. While the WCC could not officially become a member, close collaboration continued, particularly through the campaign strategy groups.

Following two years of financial challenges in 2012 and 2013, and in discussion and agreement with WCC staff leadership, the EAA was mandated by its members in its May 2014 Special General Assembly to move towards a reorganization of the EAA as an ecumenical initiative within the WCC and the dissolution of its independent association. The broad network and its effective global advocacy approach on focus issues thus builds on and contributes to WCC's long history, effective program and extensive fellowship of member churches.

A broad ecumenical network on focused advocacy issues

The EAA's participating organizations, who signify their commitment to the

focused joint advocacy through an application process, agreement to the Christian principles, and financial support, represent a very broad international network of churches and church-based organizations, both in terms of tradition (Roman Catholic, historic Protestant, and Evangelical) and types of organizations (church-based humanitarian relief and development agencies, church-based advocacy NGOs, churches, national and regional councils of churches, religious orders, and other groups).

By bringing diverse Christian organizations together for focused action, the EAA has developed significant expertise and recognition by international partners for faith-based experience and response, particularly in its established advocacy on HIV and AIDS, and increasingly in the areas of food and nutrition security and sustainable agriculture.

The 2013 General Assembly of the EAA identified the following mandates for the next campaign period, 2014-2017:

- (a) EAA members should 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.
- (b) 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.

In addition, EAA members in the Assembly determined 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.

Campaigning together for strongest impact

The EAA was founded on the principle that the more we can speak and act together, the stronger our impact for justice will be.

Thus, the EAA has developed an inclusive process to develop a framework for action for each campaign, through strategy groups made up of representatives of its member¹ organizations and consultation with its members and key partners. This framework for action sets the goals and strategy over the four-year campaign. Based on this agreed framework, the EAA secretariat facilitates networking, joint development of statements and activities, campaign actions and accompanying resources, events, and information sharing.

Communication is at the heart of the EAA’s effective campaigning style,

¹ As an independent association, EAA had “member” organizations. Under the WCC, organizations would be “participants” of the EAA. This change in terminology is reflected in the further development of the 2015 plans.

through the use of multiple communication channels including web, social media, exhibits and print. Creative campaign actions have included, for instance, postcard petitions on HIV medicines for children, a global poster competition on HIV-related stigma involving 37 countries, an “Around the World with HIV” game on HIV-related travel restrictions, played first at the 2008 International AIDS Conference and then requested by UNAIDS to be played by the government representatives on their Programme Coordinating Board, “Food Waste Trackers” for individual action during the “Fast for Life” Lenten observance and the social media push ‘We Want You’ to increase participation in the Churches Week of Action on Food.

EAA seeks to strengthen the advocacy capacity of its participating organizations, as well as facilitate networking, collaboration and joint advocacy and action among its participants on the defined focus issues.

The EAA has gained a high level of respect and recognition among UN agencies and other UN bodies, multilateral organizations and processes, transnational corporations, social movements and leading civil society and interfaith organizations particularly involved in its campaign issues. It uses this high standing to raise the visibility of faith-based efforts, encourage stronger action in collaboration with like-minded partners, and promote inclusion of faith-based organizations and issues in national and international programs and decision making bodies.

HIV and AIDS: Making the hope real

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. 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 the underlying justice issues, which make those on the margins of society vulnerable to HIV, and provide the holistic care and support that faith-based organizations in particular hold as an essential commitment and witness.

EAA’s approach is mainly directed at international policy and decision making arenas to maintain the global commitment to build on progress so far in responding to HIV, to increase access to treatment particularly in low and middle-income countries through engagement with pharmaceutical companies, and to bring faith-based and civil society sectors together to dialogue and agree on common action on some of the most fundamental obstacles to a more effective response – human rights and faith, sexual and reproductive health, leadership of people living with HIV and those most affected.

Food security and sustainable agriculture: Justice for people and the planet

Almost a billion people in the world face chronic hunger and malnutrition, while well over a billion face the health consequences of obesity. Millions more experience seasonal hunger and malnourishment, and poor diets high in cheap, processed foods are leading to a rise of non-communicable diseases such as heart disease, intestinal cancers and type-3 diabetes.

These stark and tragic statistics provide glaring evidence of global inequity and the powerful interests that control our food production and distribution

systems. Efforts at eradicating hunger and ensuring adequate nutrition is, in fact, not about increasing food production – the world currently produces enough food to feed double the current population. It is, however, about the rights of the small food producers – the majority of them women – who represent 90% of all farms worldwide and who produce 70% of the world's food on less than a quarter of the world's farmland. Their access to the resources they need for their livelihood and for their community, including land, water and seeds, is essential.

In addition, 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. Civil society organizations focusing on these issues are working to ensure that decisions taken within the UNFCCC 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.

Pilgrimage of justice and peace

In a pilgrimage, joining others with a common faith and vision of justice and peace enriches each pilgrim and brings that vision closer to reality. Stations in this pilgrimage are churches and church-related organizations and the international institutions of power and decision making they seek to transform. Through bringing a wide network of churches and church-based organizations together in common action on selected issues, this initiative demonstrates a way of working across traditions – Roman Catholic, Evangelical, Protestant and Orthodox – and across structures – churches, humanitarian and development agencies, advocacy networks, religious orders, councils of churches – to reflect and act on a theology of life that affirms human dignity, rights and justice for all.

Contribution to WCC strategic objectives

Strengthening the fellowship: The Alliance brings WCC member churches and non-member churches and related organizations into a unique space for long-term, coordinated action on specific agreed issues. Efforts demonstrate that the more we speak and act together, the stronger our impact for justice and dignity.

Witnessing together: Currently over 80 participating organizations, coming from Roman Catholic, Evangelical and historic Protestant traditions at national and international levels, have committed themselves to joint advocacy through the Alliance on the issues of HIV and AIDS and food justice and sustainable agriculture.

Encouraging spirituality, reflection and formation: Underpinning the agreed joint action is worship and theological reflection on environmental and economic justice, health and life, and the sharing of resources and information that help individuals, groups and churches learn more about the issues and ground their actions in knowledge and faith.

Representing churches in building trust and understanding: Through consultation, joint planning and involvement in strategy and working groups, churches and church-based organizations build trust and understanding as the foundation for their action together.

Inspiring and innovative communication: Extensive use of a variety of communication means for campaigning and awareness raising such as social media, bulletins and action alerts via email, dedicated websites/pages for joint action and events with external partners, issue briefing papers for lobbying and other publications. Campaign communication in the past has also included games, postcards, poster competitions, questionnaires, e-pledges and

| petitions, devotional calendars and more.

Goals and outcome in 2015

Goals	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To build trust and deepen coordinated international advocacy on two focus issues by a wide network of churches and Christian organizations.2. To make a significant contribution to the vision of “getting to zero” -zero new infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths - through deepened dialogue between religious leaders, people living with HIV, and others involved in the response to HIV; increased access to treatment, particularly for children living with HIV; and increased strategic investment by governments and other donors to a comprehensive global response.3. To make progress in efforts towards eradicating hunger, promoting adequate nutrition, and striving towards just and sustainable food systems, particularly through increased recognition of, and support for, sustainable agricultural practices and the situation of smallholder producers and their access to, and control over, natural resources such as land, water and seeds.
Outcome	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. EAA campaigning makes a significant contribution in international advocacy efforts on HIV and AIDS and on food justice and sustainable agriculture.2. EAA participating organizations – both WCC member and non-member churches and related organizations – report that their advocacy efforts on HIV and AIDS and/or food justice and sustainable agriculture are strengthened through EAA’s broad ecumenical campaigns.
Outcome indicators	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Number of EAA participating organizations is maintained after structural transition.2. 75 % of EAA participating organizations are actively and visibly engaged in EAA campaign actions through a) participation in reference, strategy and working groups, b) campaign actions via social media, c) EAA events and d) reports from organizations on use of EAA materials and actions in their own contexts.3. Specific wording and clear targets related to HIV and AIDS, hunger, malnutrition and sustainable agriculture, are included in the final framework of the post-2015/Sustainable Development Goals.

Strategy to reach the planned outcome

Strategy	EAA’s advocacy approach is based on awareness raising, international policy engagement and mass mobilization. Campaign strategy groups with representatives from participating organizations and advisors from key partner organizations guide the development and implementation of collective campaign actions, usually through two meetings each year and regular emails and conference calls in between meetings.
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Campaign coordinators lead the implementation of the strategy, building relationships with participants and external partners, sharing information across the network, coordinating joint positions and representations, and developing resources.

Strategies for both campaign issues involve:

- Engagement at key international policy levels, such as the Committee on World Food Security, the United Nations Framework on Climate Change, UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board, The Global Fund Board, the post-2015/Sustainable Development process, including the civil society mechanisms involved – presenting joint statements and input, coordinating negotiations, organizing and presenting at side events, and facilitating information sharing between faith-based participants and other civil society representatives.
- Development of background information and case studies to inform decision makers and strengthen policy recommendations.
- Designing and implementing public engagement actions in support of changes in policy and practice, such as the Churches Week of Action on Food.
- Providing safe spaces for dialogue on sensitive issues between a wide spectrum of faith traditions, civil society representatives, United Nations representatives, and others, such as the Summit of High-Level Religious Leaders on the response to HIV (2010), the ongoing Framework for Dialogue process and the Second International Conference on Nutrition (2014).
- Preparing worship, reflection and study resources to underpin campaign actions with an understanding of faith and justice.

Transversal priorities

EAA and its advocacy campaigns contribute to the transversal priorities in involving member churches, NCCs and REOs (T1), enhance the leadership of youth (T2), address justice and participation of women (T3), work with partners of other faiths, particularly in HIV and AIDS (T4), and ensure witness is accompanied by a strong spiritual life (T5).

Involvement churches

Of EAA's current participating organizations, 12 are WCC member churches and 8 are Christian World Communions or regional, sub-regional and national councils of churches.

Cooperation

The EAA's participating organizations, who signify their commitment to the focused joint advocacy through an application process, agreement to the Christian principles, and financial support, represent a very broad international network of churches and church-based organizations, both in terms of tradition (Roman Catholic, historic Protestant, and Evangelical) and types of organizations (church-based humanitarian relief and development agencies, church-based advocacy NGOs, churches, national and regional councils of churches, religious orders, and other groups). EAA participants participate in the governance of the EAA and the strategic planning for the campaigns through reference and strategy groups, working groups on particular events, and active exchange of communication. The current list of organizations is available at: www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/about-us/members/.

	<p>In addition, EAA has strong relationships with civil society groups and multilateral organizations particularly related to its focus issues, such as UNAIDS, The Global Fund to Fight HIV, TB and Malaria, Global Network of People Living with HIV, the Civil Society Mechanism of the Committee on World Food Security, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Global Right to Food and Nutrition Network and members of the UN Zero Hunger Challenge.</p>
Communication	<p>EAA participating organizations, partners and others who express interest receive regular communication via quarterly campaign bulletins, action alerts and press releases. The EAA also utilizes social media, particularly Facebook pages for each campaign, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr, and manages several websites related to the Alliance as a whole and particular key events or collaborative activities:</p> <p>Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance: www.e-alliance.ch</p> <p>Faith-based involvement at International AIDS Conferences: www.iacfaith.org</p> <p>Framework for Dialogue between Religious Leaders and People Living with HIV (EAA, UNAIDS, GNP+, INERELA+): www.frameworkfordialogue.org</p> <p>Religious Leadership in Response to HIV: www.hivcommitment.net</p> <p>The EAA also produces action guides, worship and study resources, and policy briefs to support its campaigns, such as:</p> <p>Seeds for Life: Scaling up Agro-biodiversity (with the Gaia Foundation and the African Biodiversity Network): http://tinyurl.com/seedsforlife</p> <p>Whose Alliance? The G8 and the Emergence of a Global Corporate Regime for Agriculture (with CIDSE): http://tinyurl.com/englishwhosealliance</p> <p>Nourishing the World Sustainably: Scaling up Agroecology: http://tinyurl.com/Scaling-Up-Agroecology</p> <p>Food Week of Action Guide: http://tinyurl.com/englishfoodweekguide</p> <p>Introducing the Framework for Dialogue: http://frameworkfordialogue.net/participate/</p> <p>World AIDS Day (December 1) Liturgy and Advent Devotional Calendar: http://www.e-alliance.ch/en/s/hivaids/world-aids-day/</p> <p>The EAA has also developed exhibits for specific campaign actions, such as a display on children's access to HIV medicine and treatment at the United Nations headquarters in New York.</p>
Challenges and risks	<p>1. A loss of global focus on HIV and decrease in funding may jeopardize progress so far in prevention, treatment, care and support. In addition, there is a danger of increasing polarization and intolerance between human rights activists and religious communities and discourse due to high profile government actions that contribute to HIV-related stigma and discrimination</p>

and increase vulnerability to HIV.

Risk mitigation: These challenges are precisely behind the campaign strategy in maintaining HIV as a global focus, ensuring sustained and sufficient funding, and providing safe spaces and processes for those involved in the response to increase understanding and the possibility for joint action.

2. The influence of transnational corporations in international decision making forums, and the formation of non-democratic alliances that implement policies and practices at international, regional and national levels, risks the concentration of power of production, distribution and profit away from communities, promotes unsustainable methods of agriculture, and ultimately destroys the livelihoods and resilience of communities.

Risk mitigation: EAA efforts include the promotion of coherence in food, nutrition and agriculture policies across UN decision making processes, for instance, between the Committee on World Food Security, The UN Standing Committee on Nutrition and the UNFCCC, and support for decision making process that are inclusive of civil society, particularly those most affected by food and nutrition insecurity.

3. At the organizational level, changing structures inevitably contributes to some uncertainty about how previously agreed efforts will endure. Continued joint advocacy by such a wide network of Christian organizations requires confidence in the stability of the platform, its cost-effectiveness and the demonstrated opportunity to be equal participants in deciding on what and how to campaign.

Risk mitigation: The EAA reference group and staff are committed to keeping EAA participating organizations informed throughout the transition process and communicate the mutual benefits to the EAA and the WCC through this reorganization process.

List of activities

Coordination, Communication and Management

HIV and AIDS Campaign

Food for Life Campaign

Activity Coordination, Communication and Management

Contact details

The network of participating organizations and their collective campaigns require facilitation of inclusive governance and strategic planning, expertise in campaign issues, campaign communication expertise, support for sharing information and engaging in action, fundraising and reporting, and relationships. The 2015 staff structure would incorporate these roles and be confirmed in January 2015 November 2014. The staff structure of EAA as of August 2014 includes:

Initiative/Food Campaign Coordinator

HIV Campaign Coordinator

Administrative Assistant

Contribution to

The direct and active participation of organizations committed to the EAA, and

outcome	the coordination, expertise, and communication skills provided by the staff team, are key in the effective campaigning efforts of the EAA.
Primary audience	Participating organizations in the Alliance, which include WCC member churches and related organizations, as well as Roman Catholic, Evangelical and other organizations not in direct WCC relationships.
Description	<p>The reference group (former board of directors) and two campaign strategy groups provide direct participation of the participating organizations into the work and direction of the Alliance, and work by at least one face-to-face meeting each year, plus regular conference calls and emails. A member of each strategy group serves on the reference group.</p> <p>As an ecumenical initiative, the EAA is under the leadership of the WCC Associate General Secretary for Public Witness and Diakonia. The EAA coordinator, who reports to the WCC Associate General Secretary, facilitates the work of the EAA reference group, provides the staff liaison between WCC leadership and governance and the reference group, and oversees fundraising and the management of the EAA, including staff and interns, ensuring the effective and efficient use of human and financial resources.</p> <p>Campaign coordinators play the central role in implementing the campaign strategy, building relationships with participants and external partners, facilitating a wide variety of processes to carry out activities and developing resources. Campaign coordinators are widely recognized as experts in the field, and are often called to advise, provide input, and secure EAA representation in key policy forums related to the campaigns.</p> <p>Communications are of central importance to the networking, coordination and advocacy roles of the EAA secretariat and the campaigning of the Alliance. EAA include communication responsibilities in their roles, and will work with WCC Communications to ensure the quality and relevance of EAA communications (website/s, Bulletins, Action Alerts, Press Releases, social media).</p> <p>Support is also required to assist event and activity planning, financial management, participant contacts and sharing of advocacy resources.</p> <p>Specific activities in 2015 with direct costs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. One face-to-face meeting of 13-person reference group and one meeting of each campaign strategy group (14-17 persons) b. Website and communication redevelopment: A redesign of the EAA website, social media and newsletter distribution is required to comply with WCC visual identity guidelines, and WCC recommended software and communication processes. c. Financial management transition: Knowledge transfer and training in EAA's participant contribution approach and external grant management.
Output indicators	<p>One face-to-face meeting of reference group, with at least four meetings via conference call.</p> <p>One face-to-face meeting of each of the two campaign strategy groups, with at least two conference calls and further contact via email.</p> <p>At least 75% of participating organizations contributing at the minimum level set by the reference group.</p>

90% of the current (84) participating organizations maintained through the reorganization.
New EAA website and electronic distribution platforms for bulletins and action alerts developed in collaboration with WCC Communication and in line with WCC visual identity.

Activity HIV and AIDS Campaign

Contact details	HIV Campaign Coordinator Additional WCC representative to the HIV and AIDS Campaign strategy group may be appointed. EAA is also represented on the EHAIA International Reference Group.
Contribution to outcome	HIV and AIDS has been one of the two focus issues for the EAA since its founding in 2000. With over 13 years of experience and action, the EAA has built a well-recognized and highly respected coordination and facilitation role for Christian and faith-based advocacy organizations in the global response to HIV
Primary audience	The campaign involves participant organizations in the Alliance, civil society and multilateral organizations who partner with the EAA in the campaign, people living with or affected by HIV, including women, children and marginalized populations. The audience for the campaign actions includes policy and decision making forums, including UN, Global Fund, and national governments; pharmaceutical companies; religious leaders and church communities.
Description	<p>The HIV and AIDS Campaign is based on the 2013 EAA General Assembly mandate, that from 2014-2017 EAA participants “should 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.”</p> <p>In addition, participants in the EAA Assembly determined 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.</p> <p>In 2015, activities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Framework for Dialogue between Religious Leaders and People Living with HIV [see separate activity]2. Human rights and Faith in the context of HIV [see separate activity]3. HIV treatment for life for all in need <p>Exciting progress has been made in improving access to treatment and recognizing treatment as a vital element in preventing further infections. However, while almost 10 million people are receiving treatment, another 18.6 million people are eligible.</p> <p>The EAA has established an expert Working Group on Access to Treatment to</p>

lead ecumenical efforts in advocacy in this domain, including especially with pharmaceutical companies. Such work particularly focuses on improving treatment and testing for children and supporting initiatives to reduce the prices of medicines, specifically the collective generic licensing instrument of the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP).

In 2015, the working group will implement an advocacy campaign whereby selected, committed religious leaders will be trained in treatment issues and advocacy, and speak out about the need for increased access to medicines and articulate support for drug companies to join the MPP.

The working group will link with other civil society organizations to coordinate advocacy for the greatest impact, with letters and other actions particularly focused on diagnostics and treatment for children living with HIV.

Specific activity with direct costs:

3.a) Training on treatment advocacy for 16 religious leaders. [Implementation dependent on result of funding application through Interfaith Health Project – Emory University to US PEPFAR Program]

3.b) Development of campaign focused on diagnostics and treatment for children living with HIV. [Implementation dependant on proposed joint funding application anticipated with World Vision International]

4. Maintaining the Global Focus on HIV

Pressure needs to be maintained on governments, key private sector companies and international organizations to maintain the global focus on HIV to capitalize on progress made so far. The strategic investment framework, which has received wide support, calls for increased financial investment now on the key aspects of the response so that, with reduced transmission rates, wider access to treatment, and focus on root causes of vulnerability, HIV transmission can be drastically reduced and even eliminated in the future.

In this effort, recognition of and financial support for faith-based organizations responding on the ground is essential, as faith-based health and support networks often reach the most isolated and marginalized communities, and in some countries, provide up to 50% of health care services.

The EAA coordinates the involvement and input of its participating organizations on key international policy documents and processes, including the United Nations Programme Coordinating Board and the Global Fund to Fight TB, AIDS and Malaria.

For special commemorations, such as the AIDS Candlelight Memorial and World AIDS Day, the EAA facilitates the development of liturgies and resources for churches to raise awareness of the continuing urgency to address HIV, and continue to pressure national governments to make essential investment in the HIV response.

EAA monitors policy and investment processes, such as the post-2015/Sustainable Development Goals process, and keeps participants informed and issues alerts for specific actions.

Specific activity with direct costs:

4.Coordination of an expert Resource Mobilization and Accountability working

group to implement strategic faith-based advocacy in national strategic plans and resource mobilization processes, such as the Global Fund's New Funding Model.

<p>Output indicators</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In 2015, up to two more countries will begin the Framework for Dialogue process. 2. National action plans with on-going dialogues and joint actions for Kenya, Nigeria, Malawi and Ethiopia 3. Publication on <i>Reclaiming our Common Ground: Human Rights and Faith in the Context of HIV</i> distributed in three languages. 4. 16 religious leaders identified and trained in treatment advocacy. [Funding dependent] 5. Country action plans on treatment developed by the trained religious leaders [Funding dependent] 6. 2 agreements signed between the Medicines Patent Pool and pharmaceutical companies. 7. Decreasing gap in treatment coverage between children and adults. 8. Increased faith-based participation in targeted national AIDS strategic planning. 9. Three campaign bulletins issued. 10. World AIDS Day liturgy disseminated.
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Activity Food for Life Campaign

<p>Contact details</p>	<p>Food Campaign Coordinator. Other WCC staff: Nigussu Legesse, Nigussu.Legesse@wcc-coe.org, serves as WCC advisor to the Food Strategy Group</p>
<p>Contribution to outcome</p>	<p>Food security has been one of the two focus issues for the EAA since its General Assembly in 2008. The EAA is increasingly recognized for its coordination of faith-based experts on food and nutrition security and facilitation of the input of faith-based experience on the ground. The 2013 campaign mandate focuses on sustainable agriculture and the rights of small-scale food producers and their access to and control over the resources they need for food production.</p>
<p>Primary audience</p>	<p>The campaign involves participating organizations in the Alliance, with civil society and multilateral organizations as partners in the campaign, as appropriate. The audience for the campaign actions includes policy and decision making forums, including the Committee on World Food Security and the UNFCCC; government/private sector alliances (such as the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement and the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture); church communities and individual people of faith.</p>
<p>Description</p>	<p>The Food for Life Campaign is based on the 2013 EAA General Assembly mandate, that from 2014-2017 EAA participants will “work together on eradicating hunger, promoting adequate nutrition, and striving towards just and</p>

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.”

In addition, participants in the EAA Assembly determined 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.

In 2015, activities include:

1. Eradicating hunger and promoting just and sustainable food systems through international policy and practice

In its first four years of campaigning, the EAA built significant recognition of faith-based expertise and experience particularly with the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and its Civil Society Mechanism, the UN Special Representative on Food Security and Nutrition, and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. EAA has played a leading role among civil society organizations in writing key policy statements and negotiating with governments, UN agencies, multilateral organizations, and private sector representatives in the CFS, and has worked to coordinate faith-based input on sustainable agricultural practices and policies at the UNFCCC.

In 2015, the EAA aims to increase the number of participating organizations involved in the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) process, to strengthen the impact of civil society and faith-based voices. The EAA will also work to ensure that other processes addressing food and agriculture issues, such as in the UNFCCC, are coherent with the decisions of the CFS, and promote sustainable agriculture and the rights of small-scale food producers.

In UNFCCC processes, the EAA monitors food-specific negotiations, particularly in the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and advocates for climate-resilient agricultural methods, such as agroecology, and the revival of seed diversity and related knowledge so that our food systems can remain robust in the face of climate change. Working in full collaboration with WCC’s Care for Creation and Climate Justice and as a member of the ACT Alliance Advisory Group on Climate Change, the EAA will also promote the participation of faith-based experts on sustainable agriculture at the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) of the UNFCCC in December in Paris, France.

Part of this work on international policy and practice includes exposing and influencing various policy axes where market interests are affecting the realization of the right to food, such as the G8 New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition.

The Global Alliance on Climate Smart Agriculture, led by the Netherlands, South Africa, USA and Vietnam, supported by FAO and the World Bank, is another new effort. The Global Alliance seeks to establish a platform to advance collective efforts to a) sustainably increase agricultural productivity; b) enhance the resilience of food systems and rural livelihoods; and c) reduce and/or remove emissions associated with agriculture. The Alliance aims to deliver the necessary ideas, exchange and action to enable the agricultural sector to deal with the impacts and reduce its contribution to climate change. Civil society groups,

governments, academic institutions and corporations are all invited to join this voluntary multi-stakeholder, action-oriented coalition.

A subsequent Framework Document and Statement of Intent have been drafted to shape the groundwork for the vision, the outcomes, the structure and the participation of the Alliance; however, there is still much work to be done. EAA participating organizations have provided feedback both in written form and through direct communication with the Interim Secretariat on the deliverables thus far and will continue to help shape the structures of the alliance. Influential governments in this process, such as France and the EU Commission, have called for increased participation of critical CSOs, such as the EAA, to ensure that the benefits of the alliance reach the intended recipients. As a result of these efforts, EAA received an official invitation from Ban Ki Moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, to participate in the Climate Summit in September 2014. With this opportunity, EAA will also help draft the official civil society statement to be presented in the 'Agriculture' plenary and attached to the action plans from this session.

In 2014 EAA convened a group of more than 50 CSOs working on entry points for engagement with the alliance and shared concerns around climate change, agriculture and food security. EAA's work and leadership has given it unique recognition as a critical civil society voice within the Global Alliance for Climate Smart Agriculture, which we anticipate will continue in 2015.

The EAA supports the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, especially facilitating discussions with faith-based representatives during country missions.

As part of the Right to Food and Nutrition Watch Consortium, EAA is part of the Editorial Board, which establishes the annual theme and framework for the publication and ensures the review, editing, publication and promotion of the *Right to Food and Nutrition Watch*. The *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. The publication 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. The *Watch* is also a powerful tool to influence policymakers at the national and international level to take the human right to food and nutrition seriously into account.

Monitoring of the post-2015/Sustainable Development Goals and advocating lobbying and action will also be a key task.

Specific activities with direct costs:

1. a) 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 Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture and the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement (SUN). EAA, with help from its participants, will work to understand the diversity of views and identify areas of convergence among participating organizations and related actors. To carry out 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 participants, UN agencies, government officials and the private sector. [Implementation dependent on project funding]

1. b) EAA will continue to be involved in subsequent follow-up meetings of the Global Alliance (Location and dates TBC) during its inception year to help shape the work of this platform. Regular updates will be shared with EAA participants and networks through social media, press releases and bulletins. [Extent of implementation dependent on project funding]

1. c) As part of the UNFCCC process, EAA will continue to track the agriculture negotiations and submit its 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. [Extent of implementation dependent on project funding]

2. Promoting adequate nutrition through a rights-based approach and enhancing local food systems

In recent years, EAA participating organizations have been increasing their engagement in policy spaces for nutrition but at times request clarity on what ‘nutrition sensitive’ approaches mean in practice.

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 agriculture sector into the discussions to enhance local food systems that deliver nutritious food to consumers and that support the livelihoods of food producers. Diversity in farming systems results in diversity on our plates, which in turn enhances nutrition.

The international policy space, and international alliances for implementing nutritional “solutions” is becoming increasingly complex not only due to the need for coordination between multilateral organizations (such as United Nations agencies) but also for the implementation of a number of international public-private partnerships, such as the Scaling up for Nutrition (SUN) Movement. There are concerns around the power relation and motives that can arise when actors come together in multi-stakeholder public-private partnership platforms used in groupings such as the SUN. Coherence between efforts, recognition of rights-based and sustainable approaches, and inclusion of civil society and the populations most affected is a priority. EAA, with help from its participating organizations, will work to understand the diversity of views and identify areas of convergence among our participants and related actors.

EAA’s role is being seen as increasingly strategic in liaising and advocating within this complex international policy space involving multi-stakeholder public-private partnerships. EAA provides a platform in which such conflicts of interest between participating organizations and the stakeholders in public-private partnerships can be identified and discussed. And in the longer term, EAA’s unique role can assist in an analysis of the benefits and risks of such public-private partnership models in the hopes to avoid future conflicts of interest.

In 2014, EAA served as a member of civil society liaison group for the 2nd

International Conference on Nutrition held in November and specifically served as one of two focal points to the WHO and regularly provided updates to the director of the FAO Geneva office. For 2015, EAA will particularly look at the outcomes of the Second International Conference on Nutrition, being held November 2014, and assess the need and opportunity for faith-based action in response. It is expected that the outcomes of this process will contribute to the Post-2015 process Development Agenda and the specific elements related to nutrition security.

EAA also aims to increase the engagement of faith-based organizations within other processes where nutrition is addressed, such as the Civil Society Mechanism Working Group on Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security and the Standing Committee on Nutrition.

Specific activities with direct costs:

(see specific activity under 1.a) above.)

2. b) EAA will continue to engage in subsequent follow-up processes that result from the outcomes of ICN2, including the potential Decade of Action on Nutrition and related discussions that take place within the CFS. Regular updates will be shared with EAA participants and networks through social media, press releases and bulletins. [Extent of implementation dependent on project funding]

3. Mobilizing action and reflection for food justice

Through education and action events such as the Churches Week of Action on Food (held in October) and the Fast for Life (held during Lent), EAA has provided popular action, study and worship resources for Christians and others to promote food justice, address food waste and encourage individuals to examine their consumption patterns.

EAA provides guidance and text to participants' publications and assists EAA participant events, such as moderating seminars, facilitating working group discussions, and securing speaking slots in official UN side events for our network.

The campaign coordinator is also often asked to write blogs and articles on EAA campaign issues for other organizations and networks, such as the FAO World Food Day Blogs, the Zero Hunger Challenge and Greenpeace.

Specific activities with direct costs:

Design and translation of Food Campaign resources for Churches Week of Action on Food and Fast for Life, and briefing notes

Advocacy capacity building workshops to promote the wider adoption of and investment in nutrition-sensitive, diversified, sustainable and climate-resilient food systems in a target group of three priority countries so as to ensure access to nutritious and diversified diets for the most vulnerable, marginalized and food-insecure communities. [Implementation depending on project funding]

Output indicators

1. Increased participation of EAA participants in the Committee on World Food Security (compared to 2014 figures).
2. Churches Week of Action and Fast for Life resources, distributed via email

- and online (web and social media).
3. Briefing notes:
 - a) paper on sustainable agricultural practices to be used by participating organizations and partners in their lobbying.
 - b) paper on the importance for faith-based organizations to engage with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food.
 - c) paper on the ‘10 principles of nutrition’ to ensure that short-term fixes to nutrition security (i.e. emergency aid) should not undermine long-term solutions.
 4. Cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food demonstrated through assisting in two country visits.
 5. EAA contribution in the 2015 Right to Food and Nutrition Watch.
 6. Three campaign bulletins produced and distributed.
 7. Published research and workshop on public-private partnerships. [Depending on project funding]
 8. At least two advocacy capacity workshops. [depending on project funding]

Activity Advocating dialogue and action on human rights and HIV

Contact details	Sara Speicher, sspeicher@e-alliance.ch
Activity goal	Through dialogue, encounter and commitment between religious leaders and people living with HIV, awareness of human rights and solidarity through joint action will increase and address the needs and rights of people living with HIV and vulnerable key populations.
Contribution to outcome	Collaboration between faith-based representatives, people living with HIV, governments, multilateral organizations and other sectors is essential in maintaining and strengthening the response to HIV and making progress on the goal of “getting to zero”. These activities promotes joint understanding, planning and action to address the needs and rights of people living with or vulnerable to HIV.
Primary audience	Religious leaders at national level, people living with HIV, representatives of faith-based organizations working on HIV.
Description	Framework for Dialogue: Following the Summit of High Level Religious Leaders on the Response to HIV held in March 2010, EAA has worked together with the Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+), the International Network of Religious Leaders Living with or Personally Affected by HIV (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 multistakeholder working group to plan and implement 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 has been pilot-tested in three countries (Malawi, Myanmar and Ethiopia), and in 2014 was further rolled out in Uganda, Kenya and Nigeria. The International Steering Committee (comprising EAA, GNP+, INERELA+ and UNAIDS) is engaged in promoting roll-out in further countries.

Human rights and faith in the context of HIV: Related to the motivations behind the Framework for Dialogue process is the awareness that the HIV response is being increasingly articulated from a human rights perspective, highlighting the issues of stigma and discrimination that continue to present serious obstacles to a comprehensive and effective response to the pandemic. However, this is at the same time exposing sharp differences of perspective on human rights per se, including among some religious communities. The example of the polarized debates surrounding rights-based approaches to sexual and reproductive health in the context of the HIV response is a poignant example. The discourse around a few, select issues has become entrenched, particularly at international levels, and, in turn, can serve as an obstacle to broader efforts to achieve HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, including sexual and reproductive health, for all.

In order to identify a broader basis for collaborative action in response to HIV between faith communities and the human rights movement, the EAA has supported a process for more structured and frank dialogue among leaders and theologians from a range of Christian families and perspectives, human rights experts and HIV practitioners. Two international consultations (under the Chatham House Rule) were convened in Nov 2011 and Nov 2013, which confirmed strong sensitivities around issues of human rights, faith and culture in the context of HIV, but also demonstrated potential for progress in addressing these issues through further dialogue in protected ‘safe spaces’, and identified a number of specific issues and questions to be further addressed. In 2014, a range of articles on human rights and faith in the context of HIV (with a special focus on sexual and reproductive health) were commissioned and presented in a Colloquium in October, with the aim to produce a publication to raise awareness and promote action.

Addressing criminalization of HIV and key populations: The isolation and criminalization in a number of countries of marginalized populations requires greater understanding and dialogue regarding rights, dignity and justice. Sharing different responses and perspectives of religious communities, and developing statements and actions promoting the recognition of dignity and need for dialogue are essential foundations to providing effective prevention, treatment care and support for those living with, or vulnerable to, HIV.

Specific activities in this area will include:

- Framework for Dialogue between Religious Leaders and People Living with HIV: Support for current national processes, monitoring and evaluation of existing dialogue and action plans, promotion of new country dialogues, sharing lessons and good practices.
- Human rights and faith in the context of HIV: Final writing, editing and peer review management of articles, translation, graphic design, publication and dissemination.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education and advocacy related actions related to criminalisation of HIV
<i>Output indicators</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of joint action plans between religious leaders and positive people's networks in Kenya, Nigeria, Malawi, Ethiopia.• First face-to-face dialogue meetings held up to 2 new country locations. [Implementation of 2nd new country dialogue depending on result of funding application through Interfaith Health Project – Emory University to US PEPFAR Program]• Country to country dialogue sharing meeting.• Publication and distribution of resource on human rights and faith in the context of HIV• Education/advocacy resource on criminalization of HIV and related issues