

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Women's Stories 2017

Sharing From Project
Grants Partners in
2017





AFRICA

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

CHIGODI WOMEN

Blantyre, MALAWI (Church of Central Africa Presbyterian)

The project helped improve the full participation and effectiveness of women and girls by providing them with necessary knowledge and skills training towards advocacy against forces that hamper their well-being, and to be able to stand up for their dignity.

Participants learned differentiating between cultural practices and gender-based violence. They freely explained their experiences, discussed and learned that every human being is capable of doing any job regardless of gender. Now they see men as their co-workers in the changing church and society. FLC was introduced to women's work departments in all the 18 Presbyteries covering the whole Blantyre Synod. They participate in the FLC by further promoting it.



ANGAZA WOMEN CENTER

Moshi, TANZANIA (Lutheran)

ISABIS

At a young age she was raped and got pregnant. As an orphan of parents who died of HIV there was no one to turn to. Then the Angaza Women Centre took her in. Isabis learned to read and write with her baby taken care of by the center's nursery when she is in school. The center cared to help her demand that her rapist acknowledge her child and give support. She learned baking bread, a kind of work she loves doing. Now she is out of the center, and having her small bakery in the community, while taking care of her child.



School girls at graduation. Angaza Women Center, Moshi, Tanzania, the same center that welcomed Isabis.

PROJECT WOMEN LEADERSHIP CAPACITY BUILDING

Ethiopia, Adis Ababa (Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus)

The EECMY – Department of Women’s Ministry conducted training of trainers for building the leadership capacity of women, with 70 participants coming from 28 synods and 3 area works who are women’s ministry Coordinators, on October 4-6, 2017.

All participants came from grassroots level. The FLC was promoted to participants.



CAPACITY BUILDING

Women and Family Department of the Baptist Church in Central Africa (CBCA)

Capacity building for leaders and vulnerable people through vocational crafts and support to women affected by gender-based violence

Ninety-eight (98) participated in the Seminar on gender-based violence and positive masculinity, 45 (30 men, 15 women). Seven (7) women leaders were trained in English (3 Department staff, 4 from Goma, Beni, Katwa and Bukavu church districts). Ninety-two (92) men (39) and women (53) in sugar cane and cassava planting.



Dressmaking Training



Support to Income-Generating Activities

Ending Child Marriage

(United Methodist Church Zim)

Training a girl-child through awareness raising, with religious leaders playing their role to positively motivate the girl-child to choose well, and accessibility to high quality education - these will help combat child marriage. It helped me as a girl-child to a greater extent.

It was pleasing to note how the facilitators "brought" themselves down to the children's level by assuming a "new" age i.e one that was closer to the children in attendance. Through role play and testimonies, the facilitators were able to put their message through. Although some were only eager to get t-shirts, questions asked and responses given by most children in attendance indicated that learning had taken place.



Sithole



Teach your sons not to rape

Ending Child Marriage

(United Methodist Church Zim)

My name is Eunice Kadiki and I am a Communicator of the United Methodist Church. I attended a session of the Ending Child Marriage programme in Murewa and I was impressed with the interaction that occurred between the facilitators and the children aged between 9-21 years. It was pleasing to note how the facilitators "brought" themselves down to the children's level by assuming a "new" age i.e one that was closer to the children in attendance. The facilitators also asked the children to address them by their first names and not by their titles, (something which is not practised in the Shona culture). From then on the children relaxed and actively participated in the programme. Through role play and testimonies, the facilitators were able to put their message through. Although some were only eager to get t-shirts, questions asked and responses given by most children in attendance indicated that learning had taken place. Also that some children are affected directly or indirectly by early marriages in their families and communities. Some pastors of the UMC were in attendance and children were advised to seek counselling from their pastors if needed.



Eunice Kadiki

Come and Grow with Us

St. Peter's Kanjeru Orthodox Church, KENYA

The program offered opportunities to 195 and 300 Orthodox women and children for spiritual and moral growth, and trainings on the forms of abuse and exploitation and how to safeguard themselves. Using seminars, camps, music and drama festivals, young girls were given information on legal documents, children offices and officers and hotlines to refer to in case of abuse or exploitation. Also, opportunities to learn the Word of God, share their experiences and pains as a result of abuse and child exploitation.

The FGM Awareness Program has benefited women by enlightening them on the dangers of Female Genital Mutilation, ways to protect girls, and on protection guidelines.



Mothers Union and Girl Child Protection Program photo with statement printed at the back. "Child Safe Guarding and Well Being. We are spiritually nourished, uplifted, and enriched."



Training on Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Prevention Lesotho, in Southern Africa

Women organized different programs and projects like Baking-Bakery project and Caravan of women for peace 10th Anniversary, localized banner passed around all twelve (12) Presbyteries sensitizing communities about gender based violence (GBV), and for peace in the country.

After twelve (12) months of relay activism, a synod level gathering for peace was held.

Leadership and Gender-Based Violence Workshop was also held for Mothers' Guild Presbytery Leaders leaning pattern drafting prior to cutting so that back home they can transfer knowledge to groups in their respective parishes.





EUROPE

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Reformation and the Role of Women

Aimed at strengthening women's leadership for Church and Society, and to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation in 2017, by the Ecumenical Humanitarian Organization (EHO), in Serbia.



Evening workshop: making souvenirs from stones

Andante: Confronting 'Modern Slavery'

The Conference on May 3-8, 2017, raised awareness about modern forms of slavery by sharing information and expertise, and networking with other organizations advocating to end human trafficking. Participants committed to support preventive work and measures in their countries and campaign to improve legislation. Andante will use its position as an International NGO in the Council of Europe.

European Society of Women

in Theological Research (ESWTR) - Austria

Bursaries for women theologians from southern Europe to enable them to participate at the conference and contribute to the debate on borderline situations in biblical, ethical and interreligious terrain, taking into account especially the migration in Europe.

The FLC grant enabled us to grant 4 bursaries to women from southern Europe, out of which were three from countries with Christian Orthodoxy; one bursary was granted to a muslim student from Marokko and one to a protestant theologian from Israel.

The view and the voice of women from the south of Europe and beyond, especially from Orthodox women theologians, was present at the conference. The interreligious perspective of the conference was strengthened by the Muslim participant.



The FLC Lunch table with all the FLC scholarship holders: Athanasopoulou-Kypriou (Greece), Martina Heinrichs (European Representative FLC), Sabine Dievenkorn (Israel), Maria Tsakmaka (Greece), Gertraud Ladner (administrator FLC, secretary ESWTR and chairperson ESWTR Austria), Symela Konstantinidou (Greece), Meriem El Haitami (Marokko), Celeste Gracia Mena (Spain).

Translation – Transgression – Transformation

17th International Conference of ESWTR Vienna



The conference with 135 participants from various European countries and beyond (Israel, Morocco, Chile, Mexico, USA, Canada) was very successful. More than 20 participants were from Central and Eastern European countries (Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Lithuania, Russia), 20 participants came from Southern European countries (Greece, Spain, Portugal, Italy).

An important result of the conference was the getting-to-know of women from different social contexts within and outside of Europe as well as of women from different religions and denominations. The participants got into contact with each other and entered into a lively and fruitful exchange about their worlds of life and fields of work in theology and religious studies, and about the current developments and transformations in these fields. Especially for participants from Southern and Eastern European countries, the translation of lectures and discussions is an indispensable prerequisite for the exchange.

The topic of the conference addressed the issue of borders and crossing borders with a special focus on women in Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Voluntary and involuntary transgressions have various effects on the lives and the religiosity of women. "Crossing borders" from one time and one culture into another means broadening the horizons and offering undreamt-of potential for hope. But "crossing borders" is also risky: border regions can become both the place of the experience of God and the place of the experience of God's Night.

Training on Health Education, Counseling and Strengthening Women and Girls Foundation “Care for Albania”, ALBANIA

I am Merinita, from Albania in Europe. Bible stories and reflections, body awareness and women’s sexual health care, good nutrition, caring for babies, personal hygiene, knowing what is HIV and sexually transmitted diseases and what to do... sharing of life stories ... praying together, imagining what if Jesus visits one’s home today and how to respond, knowing more about the World Day of Prayer and the Fellowship of the Least Coin... sharing life stories to other women... These are what we talked about in our trainings.

Talking about our bodies is not openly discussed in our culture. To some it was the first time to go out of their homes, meet other women and talk to them, as husbands or mothers in-law usually do not allow them to socialize. I met new women friends with whom I was able to openly share joys and sorrows. I received a hygiene kit and food package. I am happy!





ASIA

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Strengthening the Capacity for Healing and Hope

Nagaland Development Outreach, India

Strengthening the Capacity for Healing and Hope among Indigenous Naga Christian Women in the Context of Unabated Taxation and Protracted Armed conflict in the State of Nagaland, INDIA. 2 days workshop for 32 participants on healing and peacebuilding.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Initiating and opening up a space for personal healing, Trust building among women from different tribal background, Learning how to share personal stories as a political act and as part of spiritual healing, Commitment to pray for a wider global community every Friday and to contribute by taking the FLC box individually, The joy of learning a unique approach to problem analysis, Using the participatory method web of intersectionality, Developing the art of meditation by reflection and sharing stories of faith journey during worship service which the participants have never experienced in local Baptist worship services, Revisiting one's faith journey by using art form in colors and papers, and Learning about the history of FLC as a global prayer movement.



Training on Women's Empowerment Through Counseling (ACWC Nepal)

ACWC Nepal facilitated a Training on “Women’s Empowerment Through Counseling” on 29 May to 2 June, 2017, held in the program hall of NMBS, Bagdole. Twenty-five (25) women and girls (19 were below 30) from 12 different districts from different backgrounds, mostly students with a few housewives participated.

The participants learned about the basics of counseling, how to counsel people in trauma, techniques and steps to be remembered while counseling others.

They also learned how to help friends and family through counseling, got to know experts (resource persons) and the areas they involved in, established a good relationship with them. Further, participants interacted with each other and gained increased confidence in public speaking.

This training acted as an eye-opener and encouraged participants to share their learning to other women and girls. They have learned to work in a group, and committed to share their learning in their family and communities.



Ecumenical Women's Conference (NACW Sri Lanka)

The National Association of Church Women held an Ecumenical Women's Conference, Subodhi Institute of Integral Education, Weliwita Lane, Wewala, Piliyandala, 9th to the 11th of June 2017.

Theme: *"Moving forward in Unity" Psalm 133:3*

A hundred and twenty (120) women from around Sri Lanka the Anglican, Methodist, Baptist, Church of American Ceylon Mission, Church of South India, Christian Reformed Church, Presbytery Church, Salvation Army churches, YWCA Sri Lanka, the Ceylon Bible Society and the World Day of Prayer Workshops on Environment and Abuse—Women and Children, Challenges for modern women and the Girl Child of today, were conducted with participants having eh time to raise questions. Practical workshops were held like Sanitary Towel making, Purse making, Looking after yourself, Decorations and Cookery.

On the last day the ACWC Executive Committee attended the Sunday Service and joined the conference for lunch. The President of ACWC, Dorothy Castro, ICFLC Executive Secretary Cora Tabing-Reyes and ACWC General Secretary, Rev. Moon Sook brought greetings from their respective organizations.





MIDDLE EAST

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

AID RELIEF
EFFORTS TOWARDS
THE CHILDREN OF
SYRIAN REFUGEES
IN OUR SABRA
CENTER.

Supervised studies
& reinforcement
school programs
to the children with
snacks & meals
provided within the
Center (photos with
Dr. Caracache) →



AIDE ET SECOURS
AUX ENFANTS DES
REFUGIÉS SYRIENS
FU CENTRE DE
SABRA

Études surveillées
et cours de
rattrapage scolaire
aux enfants des
réfugiés syriens
ainsi que repas
et pointers
assurés au Centre.
(Dans les deux
photos du haut
avec Dr. Caracache)



AID RELIEF
EFFORTS
TOWARDS
SYRIAN
REFUGEES

In these photos
one can see
our social
worker Mrs
Rita Atme'
distributing
food portions
to the families
of refugees

LES SECOURS
EN FAVEUR
DES REFUGIÉS
SYRIENS

Dans ces photos
on peut voir
notre assistante
sociale Mme
Rita Atme'
distribuant des
échantillons de
lots
alimentaires
aux familles
des réfugiés



- AID RELIEF
EFFORTS
TOWARDS
CHILDREN OF
REFUGEES
IN SABRA
CENTER



- AIDE AUX
ENFANTS DES
REFUGIÉS
AU CENTRE
DE SABRA

Organisation
d'une
compétition
de dessins.
Les bénéficiaires
exhibent
avec fierté
le fruit de
leur travail.



Beneficiaries
exhibiting
with pride the
fruit & result
of their drawing
contest.



Dr R. Caracache
with some →
beneficiaries



Tsovig, an Armenian refugee in Lebanon, with her friends.



AMERICA

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

Hyannis: Supporting Our Youth Enhanced Summer Enrichment Program Hyannis, MA 02601 USA



The project provided socio-economically disadvantaged youth with summer programming during the summers of 2017 and 2018, with the goal to give children similar access to summer and in-school experiences to increase their self-confidence. These children benefited from shared experiences during the summer with their peers from other village schools which they merge into a single school in the 4th grade. Thirty-four (34) children were benefited. Twenty-one (21) participated in the Bright Star Theatre Camp, 4 in "Mad Scientists", 4 in swimming lessons, 2 in "Science Explorers", and 2 in gymnastics. Mothers were asked to select a summer sport, art, music or dance program for their children which they otherwise would not have been able to afford, equipping them to provide a stimulating summer for their children.



WOMEN HOMELESS PROJECT

Puerto Rico



Originally the project was conceived for 150 homeless women, to fill up handbags with first-need products. After hurricane María (Sept. 20, 2017), a change of order was requested to fill up necessities related to the devastation suffered in the Island. We kept the original project for the homeless community but it was reduced to 85 women. The remaining amount of money was distributed between Coordinadora Paz para la Mujer, an NGO that gives services to women who suffer gender violence and to women in churches members of the Pastoral distributing first need products.

