In 2002, about 100 senior Religious Leaders convened in Nairobi, and called for an establishment of a pan-African interfaith organization. African Council of Religious Leaders — Religions for Peace (ACRL—RfP) was conceived. It was inaugurated a year later in Abuja, Nigeria on the occasion of its first General Assembly. H.E. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, then President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria alongside the Religious Leaders gathered to inaugurate the new body, the ACRL—RfP.
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Message from the Co-Chairs: Together We Can

In December 2008, on the occasion of the ACRL—RfP 2nd General Assembly in Tripoli, Libya, one hundred and eighty senior religious leaders and partners from over 40 countries pledged to confront violence, advance shared security and sustainable development. This was a solemn pledge that was made during a landmark event in the history of multi-religious dialogue and cooperation in Africa. During the Assembly, we all affirmed our roles in preventing and transforming conflicts in Africa, and pledging to cooperate and work closer with our governments, intergovernmental organizations and partners. We collectively made the urgent call to prevent, end and transform violent conflicts in Africa. We collectively made an appeal to eliminate all forms of poverty, and a pledge to contribute to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) efforts. We promised to strengthen our vast networks of faith-based organizations in Africa and the interfaith networks that have been formed, and establish new ones where none existed.

From the pledges and commitment made during the Tripoli Assembly, ACRL—RfP embarked on a mission to ensure that they are implemented. Consequently, a lot of activities were undertaken in 2009 towards this direction as captured in this report. We are indeed delighted that in 2009, the ACRL—RfP, its networks and partners scaled up efforts in focused interventions to contribute towards ending violence in Somalia, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Guinea. Some of these interventions are extremely delicate and calls for utmost creativity, ingenuity and courage. They are ongoing.
We are delighted to share with you that the efforts made to engage the African Union Commission (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) are now coming to fruition, and substantive joint actions are likely. We will convene the first ever African Union – Religious Leaders Dialogue Forum in June 2010. We will do so with our partners in Nigeria, through the Nigeria Inter-Religious Council (NIREC). The African Union Commission will play a leading role in this Forum.

We are pleased to share with you that ACRL—R/P network has grown from strength to strength, and now has 28 Councils and platforms, including 23 National Inter-Religious Councils (NIRCs) and four Sub-Regional Inter-Religious Coordinating Bodies (SIRCBs). These bodies are key to responding to national and sub-regional based conflicts and to promote sustainable development.

At NIREC, we continue to work with partners to respond to the challenges of development and diseases. More crucially, we have put in place mechanisms that enable religious leaders to collectively respond to sectarian conflicts in the country especially in Jos, Bauchi and Plateau States. In Uganda, the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU) has scaled up its intervention in the areas of sustainable development, and now reaching out to over 7,000 People Living with HIV and Aids every day. IRCU is mobilizing over 30 Million US Dollars annually to do this work. It is also responding to the conflicts in Northern Uganda—a conflict whose protracted nature has sucked in other neighboring countries including Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Such works are replicated in about 23 NIRCS in 23 countries across Africa.

To succeed in bringing all religions, religious leaders and their communities around one table and to muster these achievements calls for application of basic principles. ACRL—R/P core values and guiding principles to advance solid multi-religious dialogue and cooperation include respecting religious differences; acting on deeply held and widely shared moral concerns and values; preserving the identity of each religious community; honoring the different ways religious communities are organized in Africa; and supporting locally led multi-religious structures on the continent. These principles have enabled us to achieve our objectives of transforming conflict and advancing shared security, promoting peaceful co-existence and respect of religious diversity and facilitating and promoting mediation and conflict resolution within and outside faith communities.

Please join us in celebrating what we have achieved in 2009 as we plan for more engagements in 2010 and beyond.

His Grace Archbishop Dr. John Onaiyekan Co-Chair ACRL—R/P Catholic Archbishop of Abuja

His Eminence Sheikh Shaban Mubaje Co-Chair ACRL—R/P Grand Mufti of Uganda
At the end of the ACRL—RfP 2nd General Assembly in December 2008, the former President of the Republic of Mozambique, His Excellency Joachim Alberto Chissano, stated that ‘the Assembly has closed, but the Work has just begun’. One hundred and eighty senior religious leaders, who convened in Tripoli, made solemn promises. With one voice, you all pledged to strengthen the approaches to multi-religious collaboration and interfaith dialogue in common action. You all promised to work to end violence, transform conflicts and advance a common understanding and practice of the notion of shared security.

The Assembly called for a deeper and principled cooperation and collaboration between religious leaders and their communities, the governments, the intergovernmental agencies and partners. The call by the Assembly focused on searching for peace where violence reigned; advance sustainable development where poverty prevailed; prevent misuse of religion where extremism held sway and to mobilize our collective deeply held and widely shared moral values at all times.

In 2009, we translated these promises to action. Delicate processes in Somalia started first by facilitating religious leaders from the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes regions to first understand the nature of the conflicts and where they could positively contribute to the search for peace. Together with other partners, we increased our efforts in building an impartial platform under the Religious Leaders Peace Initiative in the Horn of Africa (RL PIHA). Several meetings with the religious leaders in the Horn of Africa were held in which the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA), the East Africa Muslim Leaders Forum (EAMLF), The Great Lakes Muslim Leaders Forum (GLMLF), the Union of Muslim Councils for Eastern, Southern and Central Africa (UMC), the
Association Members of Episcopal Conference for Eastern Africa (AMECEA) and other national bodies were held.

In Burundi, we continued with our support to the religious leaders in overcoming barriers to peace building and reconciliation. Religious leaders in Guinea, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Ghana and Sierra Leone were equipped to respond to the conflicts in West Africa. Three National Inter-Religious Councils (NIRCs) joined the efforts of the ACRL—RfP in advancing multi-religious collaboration and interfaith dialogue. Mauritius, Benin and Seychelles were happy to join the Religions for Peace movement, and formally affiliated with the Religions for Peace International and ACRL—RfP. The Interfaith Network of the Indian Ocean Island Countries (INIOIC) was also established.

Sustainable development work in Tanzania and Ethiopia was intensified. So did the work among the women and youth religious leaders in Africa. We further strengthened the Council, the NIRCs and streamlined the SIRCBs to better position ourselves to effectively respond to the challenges ahead of us.

Please join me, the leadership of the ACRL—RfP and the dedicated staff team based in Nairobi and Monrovia in sharing and celebrating our achievements in 2009.

Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali
Secretary General, ACRL—RfP

When you run alone, you run fast.
When you run together, you run far

African Proverb
From Promise to Action

DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE AFRICAN UNION (AU) TO ADVANCE PEACE, JUSTICE, SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

The ACRL—RfP was asked to convene a steering committee to prepare for an interfaith conference of senior religious leaders in Africa by the African Union and religious leaders. At a preparatory meeting held in Abuja on 5th and 6th November 2009, the AU and the participants identified major areas that will be addressed by an Interfaith Dialogue Forum planned for June 2010.

Key areas of intervention identified by the meeting included; conflict prevention, conflict transformation, conflict management, conflict resolution and peace-building; advocacy through promotion of human rights, human dignity, ethics, accountability, good governance, social welfare and democracy; promotion of common understanding of interfaith dialogue and the reconciliation and development agenda of the African continent; environmental issues and protection of “mother earth”; strengthening intra-faith dialogue as a support system for inter-faith dialogue within the wider process of promoting peace-education; humanitarian Action including support for refugees and internally displaced persons.

ACRL—RfP Co-Chair Archbishop Dr. John Onaiyekan, the Catholic Archbishop of Abuja, ACRL—RfP Treasurer Muljibhai Pindolia, Secretary General Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali and Madam Cecile Lepire Tshibanda (Governing Board Member) were at the preparatory meeting. Joining the ACRL—RfP team were the IRCU Secretary General Mr. Joshua Kitakule and other partners. The African Union Commission (AUC) Civil Society and Diaspora (CIDO) Director Dr. Jinmi Adisa and Officer Mr. Filipe Alimo Furuma, among others, represented the AU in this meeting.

INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS

Advancing Multi-religious Cooperation and Dialogue in Support of National Cohesion in Mauritius

The Council of Religions of Mauritius (COR) formally affiliated with Religions for Peace International and the
African Council of Religious Leaders—Religions for Peace. Discussions on the affiliation of COR Mauritius took place on the 2nd June 2009 in Port Louis, Mauritius, led by its President Reverend Phillipe Goupille, Vice President H.E. Somduth Dulthumun, the Secretary General Majeed Korumtollee, Project Coordinator for the Council Homa Mungapen, H.E. Diyal and other religious leaders. The affiliation agreement was signed in a short ceremony witnessed by COR Mauritius Board on the same day.

Meeting with the President of Mauritius

The ACRL—RfP Secretary General Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali and the COR Mauritius Board met with the President of Republic of Mauritius Sir Anerood Jugnauth at State House in Reduit. During this meeting, the COR Mauritius was formally presented to the President of the Republic. The government was welcome to join the COR Mauritius in the National Cohesion and Interreligious Dialogue in Mauritius project.

A meeting convened by the COR Mauritius and ACRL—RfP inviting senior religious leaders from Mauritius and Rodrigues Island was held on 2nd June 2009. The Chairman of the Council of Anglican Provinces (CAPA) who is also a Governing Board member of ACRL—RfP, the Most Rev. Juan Earnest, joined in this meeting. The religious leaders were briefed about the steps taken by COR Mauritius, ACRL—RfP and Religions for Peace International towards the formation of an interreligious platform for the Indian Ocean Island countries.

Collaboration with the University of Mauritius

COR Mauritius held a meeting at the University of Mauritius with the Chancellor, Acting Vice Chancellor and the Dean School of Social Sciences to discuss the proposed establishment of Center for Interfaith and Inter Religious Studies — a joint venture between the University and COR Mauritius. The University of Mauritius and COR Mauritius requested Religions for Peace to provide it with the resources on interfaith/inter-religious dialogue/relations it had developed in the past. COR Mauritius also sought the assistance of Religions for Peace in assisting it to identify the best practices in the field of interfaith research.

Interfaith Network of the Indian Ocean Countries Formed

Religious leaders from the Indian Ocean Countries of the Islamic Republic of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Re-Union and Seychelles, met in Mauritius in October 2009 to begin consultations on the formation of an interfaith platform for the Indian Ocean Countries. Religious leaders from the five countries and territory agreed in principle to form the Interfaith Network of
the Indian Ocean Island Countries (INIOIC) comprising of senior religious leaders from these countries. The formation and launch of Interfaith Network of the Indian Ocean Island Countries (INIOIC) brings to four the total number of Sub-Regional Inter-Religious Coordinating Bodies (SIRCBs) in Africa.

AFRICAN REGIONAL MEETING FOCUSES ON HIV AND CHILDREN

Strengthening the African NIRCs working in the areas of HIV and AIDS was a goal of the annual coordination meeting held from 16th to 17th December 2009 in Maputo, Mozambique. Twenty participants from the Inter-Religious Councils of Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia joined together for information sharing regarding best practices and technical expertise. In addition, participants discussed how to build new partnerships with donors and coordinating common strategic focus areas, especially relating to HIV and AIDS, orphans, and vulnerable children.

The former president of Mozambique, H.E. Joachim Alberto Chissano, attended the meeting. Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali, Secretary General and Ms. Florence Omtokoh, Executive Secretary in the Office of the Secretary General of the ACRL—RfP and Ms. Deepika Singh, Director of Program Coordination at Religions for Peace International, supported the participants.

NEW NIRCs IN AFRICA

In 2009, three new NIRCs signed affiliation with the Religions for Peace International and the ACRL—RfP. Council of Religions of Mauritius (COR), Inter-Religious Platform of Seychelles and the Inter-Religious Council of Benin formally affiliated to the Religions for Peace International. These new additions brought to 28 the number of NIRCs in Africa.

If you want to make peace, you don’t talk to your friends, you talk to your enemies

Mother Theresa of Calcutta
PROGRAM AREAS

CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION AND PEACE BUILDING PROGRAM

Religious Leaders Peace Initiative in the Horn of Africa (RL-PIHA): This continues to provide a multi-religious platform to ensure religious leaders effectively cooperate for peace in the Horn of Africa region. In 2009, the initiative undertook several actions, which realized participation of various religious organizations, institutions and leaders through the established Working Group chaired by ACRL—RfP. Some of the activities carried out include:

Understanding Somalia’s Conflicts: Two consultative meetings/seminars were held in Nairobi, Kenya in the months of March and May 2009. The May session was a collaborative effort between the African Council of Religious Leaders (ACRL—RfP), Life and Peace Institute (LPI), and Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA). These meetings were called to help religious leaders, academicians, scholars and practitioners to understand the dynamics of Somalia’s Conflict and differentiate conflict causalities. These brought together senior regional religious leaders and scholars from the region including the University of Mogadishu, Somalia. Key achievements were commitments by participants to effectively engage Somali’s religious leaders and elders as promoters of peace and harmony in their country.

Peace Campaigns by the Ulamaa: The Somali Ulamaa Council for Correction and Reconciliation organized successful dialogue forums among and between protagonists in Somalia to build common grounds for peaceful resolution of conflicts. Among the groups involved were Al-Shabaab, Alliance for Re-Liberation of Somalia (ARS), former Islamic Courts, Hisbul Islam, Ahlu-Sunna Waljamaa and the Government. Additionally, the Ulamaa composed of religious scholars from the different groups successfully managed to conduct peace campaigns in the South/Central Somalia region. These religious leaders remain committed to undertake and participate in all efforts towards reduction and eventually ending some of the protracted conflicts and tensions in the country and region.

Solidarity Missions to Somalia and Rwanda: the missions aimed at building collaborative efforts between different stakeholders in peace and conflict in the two countries including the governments. The regional religious leaders...
therefore engaged, in Somalia, the Somali Religious Leaders, the Transitional Federal Government and the Clan elders in Mogadishu. Additionally, during the year under review, solidarity mission for the Somali Religious leaders was carried by ACRL—RfP to Rwanda where they were exposed to different skills for peaceful management of conflicts, engaged in confidence building and built solidarity with other regional religious leaders. This culminated in strengthening of regional religious leaders’ advocacy network for peace in Somalia.

The two missions consolidated the resolve of Somalia religious leaders to apply and promote the principles of peace, forgiveness and reconciliation in Somalia — first by building solidarity with other religious leaders in the region and secondly by learning from the way Rwandese have dealt with their challenging past.

RL-PIHA Working Group: Member organizations to this working group include Muslim and Christian representatives from: the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCCLAHA), the East Africa Muslim Leaders Forum (EAMLF), the Union of Muslim Councils for Eastern, Southern and Central Africa (UMC), the Association Members of Episcopal Conference for Eastern Africa (AMECEA), the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM), and the National Muslim Leaders Forum (NAMLEF).

WEST AFRICA

The West Africa Inter-Religious Councils Coordinating Committee (WA IRCCC)

From Promise to Action

The leadership of WA IRCCC made solidarity visits to Guinea and Cote d’Ivoire during crises situations in 2009. In both Countries, key religious leaders met with stakeholders in the respective countries with the aim of influencing transformation of the conflict context.

From 1st to 3rd December 2009, the Inter-Religious Council of Liberia (IRC-L) hosted the WA IRCCC regional consultation in Monrovia for close to 20 persons. During this regional consultation, presentation of country reports and sharing experiences on best practices were done and the WA IRCCC regional action plans reviewed and modified. Additionally, the session also realized training on Conflict Response Team (CRT) and advanced conflict transformation and peace building skills. The Secretary General of the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in West Africa (FECCIWA), Rev. Dr. Tolbert Jallah and the Finnish Church Aid (FCA) Liberia Country Representative were among other local and international guests who attended the program.

SIERRA LEONE

The Inter-Religious Council of Sierra Leone (IRC-SL) implemented the program “Conflict Transformation and Peace Building Through Capacity Building, Sensitization, and Strengthening of Democratic Structures” by facilitating consultations and orientation for religious leaders, youth and women of faith in four districts in the country. The leadership of IRC-SL was mandated and equipped to enhance collaboration with traditional
leaders for community-based reconciliation. During the same year, the IRC-SL also held its General Assembly in which the Executive Committee Members, National Officers, the Secretariat and District level functionaries as well as the Women and Youth Desk Coordinators were elected into office.

COTE D'IVOIRE

The leadership of the Forum of Religious Confessions of Cote d'Ivoire (NFR-CI) maintained constructive engagement with the representatives of the Government, opposition parties, traditional leaders and civil society, especially after the postponement of the November 27, 2009 national elections. These have influenced changes and contribution at various levels by local and international partners in Abidjan and Bouake. Further, the NFR-CI has been involved in monitoring voter registration, mediation and dialogue for community-based reconciliation amongst various ethnic groups, civil society, opposition leaders and the government; advocacy for peace and justice; and promotion of post-election peaceful transitions for national peace and regional stability. This is important since Cote d'Ivoire is now part of the Mano River Union (MRU) Countries. In the same year of 2009, NFR-CI hosted a WA IRCCC solidarity visit carried out in January with participant consultations in Abidjan and Bouake.

LIBERIA

The Inter-Religious Council of Liberia (IRC-L) women and youth networks jointly collaborated for implementation of the peace building project, "Women and Youth Conflict Transformation and Reconciliation", in Bomi County, Liberia. A total of 80 participants (religious leaders, women of faith, religious youth, civil authority, and persons living with disabilities) benefited. The project fulfilled its objective of: creating awareness and sensitizing beneficiaries on reconciliation and social healing needs for peaceful co-existence, in Bomi County.

GUINEA CONAKRY

“We note that the West Africa sub-region is highly volatile. The neighboring countries including, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Cote d'Ivoire, are just coming out of severe and debilitating violent conflict, and therefore the need to sustain the fragile peace. Any conflict in Guinea will invariably affect all other countries in the sub-region and thus cause great suffering for the people” ACRL—RfP statement on Guinea
An outreach program was carried out in Guinea Conakry spearheaded by the national Religious Leaders in Guinea including Anglican Bishop Albert D. Gomez, Alhaji Mohammed Conte, Catholic Archbishop Coulibaly, and H.E. Hadja Mariama Sow. These efforts were supported by the ACRL—R/P Governing Board Members His Grace Dr. John Onaiyekan and H.E. Sheikh Shaban Mubaje, (Co-Chairs), Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali, (Secretary General) and Rev. William Tolbert, ACRL—R/P West Africa sub-regional Coordinator as well as the Inter-Religious Council of Guinea (IRCG) officials.

The religious leaders and women of faith in Guinea continue maintain collaborative peace building efforts involving the military junta, members of parliament, as well as opposition and trade union leaders to positively transform the situation in that country.

GHANA

Bawku, a region northwest of the country, has experienced historic tensions between the Kusasi and Mamprusi ethnic groups. Recent escalation of these tensions funneled the joint interventions of the Ghana Council of Religious Leaders (GCRP) and National Peace Council (NPC) to positively transform the situation. This collaborative effort with the NPC, the government and other stakeholders was a major step towards building regional stability.

NIGERIA

Consultative discussions, including a country visit by the ACRL-R/P West Africa Coordinator to Nigeria, were held with the intent of fostering closer collaboration and strategic involvement of Nigerian Religious Leadership on matters of Regional Peace concerns.

AFRICAN WOMEN OF FAITH NETWORK (AWFN) PROGRAM

AWFN was launched in January 2003 as the first regional sub-network of the Global Network of Religious Women's Organizations of Religions for Peace and brings together over 700 organizations of women of faith in over 23 countries in the continent. Faith traditions represented in this network include the Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, Hinduism, Indigenous, Bahai'i, and Buddhism. The network focuses on creating linkages with religious women's organizations to ensure that they are actively engaged in transforming conflict and building peace and are positioned to access resources required for advancing sustainable development while guided by ethos of equality and dignity of person ingrained in the African spirituality and values.

AWFN Speaks: Voice for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC’s)

In March 2009, delegates from the Christian, Muslim and Baha’i faith communities in Ethiopia were trained on contemporary issues and challenges associated with OVC care and HIV and AIDS challenges on women. This was also a platform for sharing and exchanging
experiences and enabled them to create visibility of their work through media.

The major outcome was increased level of understanding, among them, on issues of HIV and AIDS and how they can use religious values to address challenges that accompany the disease. As follow up strategies, they developed joint and respective work plans with the intention of meeting the country’s needs in regard to the OVC and HIV/AIDS challenges.

Women of Faith: Agents of Conflict Transformation

AWFN organized, co-hosted and facilitated the June 2009 Peace training sessions in Sierra Leone and Burundi that aimed at promoting cross-community interaction and developing the participants into agents of conflict transformation and reconciliation. Participants in these training sessions included religious and government leaders, and women of faith and religious youth from different religious communities. Additionally, these trainings served as platforms for capacity building in leadership skills and paved the way for ‘birthing’ religious tolerance.

AWFN was part of a research initiative undertaken between September and December 2009 covering Kenya, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Somalia whose focus was ‘engaging new voices in dialogue about religious issues.’ One of the outputs of the research was the development of an inventory of existing methodologies, practices, and tools by and for women of faith to promote interreligious dialogue. The research also makes concrete recommendations and proposals that could help design specific projects to enhance the role of women of faith in interreligious dialogue.

Gender Based Violence (GBV): The Assault on Human Dignity

In 2009, the Women of Faith, in conjunction with Religions for Peace, launched a multi-year initiative, “Restoring Dignity-End Violence Against Women” as part of intense campaigns against GBV and its subsequent challenges. The initiative has so far managed to solicit signatures for the interfaith pledge, which shall be presented to the UN Secretary General in 2010.

Also on the same agenda, AWFN engaged various groups of professionals, Women of Faith and key religious leaders in training on the Para-legal matters concerning GBV. During this process, participants were educated on relevant basic laws, legal framework and procedures, regarding GBV matters as well as receiving awareness on human and women's rights. More specifically, they were equipped with skills to mitigate gender based violence and abuse of women's rights. Similar training forums were organized by AWFN in Tanzania and Uganda, in collaboration with respective national women of faith and religious youth networks and the World Justice Program (WJP).

Launch of Women, Faith and Development Alliance in Monrovia, Liberia

ACRL—RfP steered the launch of The Women, Faith and Development Alliance (WFDA) on 8th March 2009 during the International Colloquium in Monrovia, Liberia. During the launch, the WFDA torch was officially handed over to Ms Esther Newberry, the Interim Coordinator of WFDA and Rev. William Tolbert III of ACRL—RfP West Africa. The torch was later presented to the WFDA members of steering committee during the evaluation meeting on 11th March 2009.

AFWN in Burundi

In September 25, 2009, The Women of Faith Network – Burundi was formally launched. Prior to this, a 6-member Interim Committee convened by the Interreligious Council and the Women of Faith in Burundi met in June, to lay the groundwork for the establishment of this network and all its related work. Two days before the launch (22-24 September), training workshops on GBV, promotion of inter-faith dialogue and peaceful co-existence were carried out.

AWFN continues to work closely with the Inter-Religious Council of Burundi (CICB) to bring together Religious leaders, women of faith (representing different religions
existing in Burundi) and members of the National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB), to participate in these forums. Through their interaction, they were able to underscore the role of the women of faith in the search for and the consolidation of peace in Burundi, in addition to creating public awareness on girl’s and women’s rights in Burundi.

Capacity Building in Uganda

Under the auspices of the Breaking Barriers (BB) project, the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRC-U) organized a Training workshop for community-based caregivers in parenting skills in the districts where BB project is implemented. The objectives of these trainings were to enhance caregivers’ ways of parenting children in difficult circumstances using Biblical and Quranic teachings and to document successful methods of parenting based on participants’ experiences and knowledge. A total of 945 trainees were equipped with necessary skills in good/effective parenting and communication. Furthermore, 40 religious leaders from Tororo district received refresher training in Psycho-Social Support (PSS) and Stigma, Denial and Discrimination (SDD). These skills equip them to better provide support and counseling to people affected and infected by HIV and AIDS.

YOUTH MOBILIZATION PROGRAM

The African Religious Youth Network (ARYN) of the African Council of Religious Leaders—Religions for Peace (ACRL—RfP) was launched in 2006 in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania as a platform that connects religious youth from different countries in Africa. ARYN is a part of Global Youth Network in the larger Religions for Peace family and its continental expression.

Since inception and in order to meet its mandate of mobilizing religious youth to the realization of conflict-free continent and achievement of the overall vision of ACRL—RfP, several national youth interfaith networks have been built and partnerships established. These include Kenya Interfaith Network (KIFYN), Youth Interfaith Network of Uganda (YINU), and Tanzania Youth Interfaith Network (TYIN).

During the year under review, National Religious Youth Network of Sierra Leone (NRYN-SL) was founded and officially launched with an aim of harnessing religious youth efforts toward rebuilding the country. Additionally, in the same year, the ARYN initiated continental face of the “Arms Down Campaign” which is part of the Global Campaign focusing on petitioning Governments across the world to cut down military expenditure by 10% and re-direct these funds towards supporting sustainable development. The ARYN is committed to ensure that many religious youth in the continent take part in this and other efforts that would ensure that the continent realizes sustainable peace and security.
From Promise to Action

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

New Partners Initiative (NPI)

The three-year New Partners Initiative (NPI) Project, “Scaling Up Faith-based Responses to HIV and AIDS through Multi-religious Collaboration”, was awarded to the World Conference of Religions for Peace (now Religions for Peace International). The project is being implemented in Ethiopia, through the Ethiopia Inter-faith Forum for Development, Dialogue and Action (EIFDDA) and Tanzania through the Inter-Religious Council for Peace, Tanzania (IRCP-T). The goal of the project is to increase the scale and sustainability of faith-based organizations (FBOs) to provide prevention, care and support services to those most affected by HIV and AIDS.

Countries’ Actions

Ethiopia: the project aims to enhance faith-based response to Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) as well as provide Home-Based Care to people living with HIV/AIDS within four administrative regions of the country (Amhara Region, Tigray Region, Oromia Region and SNNP Region). The activities are carried out with and through nine member organizations that serve as sub-recipients under EIFDDA. The nine organizations include two Muslim, one Catholic, two Orthodox and four Evangelical organizations committed to working together for human development and particularly alleviation of suffering due to HIV and AIDS.

Tanzania: Inter-Religious Council for Peace Tanzania (IRCP-T) is implementing the project through the Tanzania Women Interfaith Network (TWIN) to scale up the religious bodies’ response to HIV/AIDS prevention, as well as care and support for OVCs and PLWHA. care
and technical capacity, and creating linkages and networking with other stakeholders in respective countries.

The NPI project has so far trained 712 people, including religious leaders and peer educators on areas of skills and knowledge to work in their communities with and for families affected by HIV and AIDS. Additionally, 407 people directly affected by the disease participated in income-generation activities, while 2,000 Orphans and Vulnerable Children received material and educational support. Also, the message of prevention reached over 3,000 youth during the same period. In the same year, 17 local organizations were strengthened to scale up their faith-based responses to HIV and AIDS.

In Ethiopia, 448 people living with HIV and AIDS have received care and support from trained community members and 1,500 Orphans and Vulnerable Children have received material and educational support. Eighty-nine religious leaders were trained in psycho-social support and have provided spiritual counseling to more than 500 children in the last six months. In Tanzania, more than 200 religious and women of faith leaders have received training in prevention and stigma reduction and have reached more than 2,600 members of their congregations with the messages. In addition, youth have been mobilized to become prevention teachers.

Small grants were awarded to 112 participants to launch small businesses. The project is managed by Mr. Bekele Ababeye in Ethiopia, and by Dr. Frank Eetaama in Tanzania and are supported by Ms. Deepika Singh, Director of Program Coordination, and Ms. Janet Phillips, NPI Project Coordinator at Religions for Peace International in New York and Mr. Joel Oloo, NPI Project Officer in Nairobi.
Photo Gallery
## Financial Statements

### Statement of Financial Position as at 31st December 2009

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<td><strong>-------------- ---------------</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>3,986,265</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Current (Liabilities)/assets</strong></td>
<td>20,110,698</td>
<td>(16,036,310)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net (Liability)/assets</strong></td>
<td>21,774,923</td>
<td>(13,775,717)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Finance By:-</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and Equipment Fund</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1,664,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated Fund</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>20,110,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>-------------- ---------------</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>21,774,923</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These financial statements were approved by the board on 09-04-2010 and signed on its behalf by

Director                   Director
## Income and Expenditure Account

For the year ended 31st December 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant from WCRP International</td>
<td>75,168,907</td>
<td>56,481,254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant from Norwegian Church Aid</td>
<td>2,372,587</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant from Finn Church Aid 2009</td>
<td>5,566,780</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trocaire E.A.</td>
<td>2,619,142</td>
<td>3,796,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Islamic Call Society</td>
<td>14,989,125</td>
<td>16,615,251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steering Committee on the Horn</td>
<td>584,364</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Bar Association (WJP)</td>
<td>3,176,125</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust Africa</td>
<td>1,982,500</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WCRP – South Africa</td>
<td>1,473,343</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assembly Ticket Refunds</td>
<td>812,435</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refund from CRS – Burundi</td>
<td>379,852</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>328,629</td>
<td>328,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>-------------- --------------</strong></td>
<td><strong>109,453,789</strong></td>
<td><strong>76,892,775</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note**: Kshs (Kenyan Shillings)
## Income and Expenditure Account

For the year ended 31st December 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>2009 Kshs</th>
<th>2008 Kshs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>African Religious Youth Network</td>
<td>314,706</td>
<td>2,309,522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Depreciation</td>
<td>1,184,694</td>
<td>1,023,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women’s Mobilization Program</td>
<td>2,838,805</td>
<td>6,005,586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General Assembly Activities</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>44,480,688</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Inter Religious Council Development</td>
<td>1,732,647</td>
<td>3,655,759</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conflict Transformation</td>
<td>22,495,559</td>
<td>3,297,309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acrl Collaborative Projects</td>
<td>1,338,982</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advocacy And Action On Children</td>
<td>6,562,386</td>
<td>6,410,681</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Staff Costs</td>
<td>21,430,995</td>
<td>17,227,701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Administration Costs – Core</td>
<td>7,871,367</td>
<td>8,986,485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trocaire E.a.</td>
<td>380,087</td>
<td>11,912</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Finn Church Aid 2009</td>
<td>412,378</td>
<td>82,084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Norwegian Church Aid (Nca)</td>
<td>809,565</td>
<td>93,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trust Africa</td>
<td>675,384</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NMFA</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>95,520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>American Bar Association (Wjp)</td>
<td>286,766</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conflict Transformation In Horn Of Africa – fca 2008</td>
<td>3,892,161</td>
<td>27,679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NMFA</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>657,917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NCA</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>295,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FCA 2009</td>
<td>1,155,233</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trocaire E.A.</td>
<td>521,434</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>73,903,149</td>
<td>94,661,260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>35,550,640</td>
<td>(17,768,485)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Deficit)/Surplus for the Year
Members of the Governing Board

I. Christians

i) Symposium of the Episcopal Conferences for Africa and Madagascar (SECAM)
   
   His Eminence Cardinal Polycarp Pengo
   President, SECAM
   
   His Grace Archbishop Dr. John Onaiyekan
   Archbishop of Abuja
   
   Bishop Francisco Silota Joab
   Vice President, SECAM
   
   Mrs. Elizabeth Twissa
   President, Africa Catholic Women Associations

ii) All Africa Conference of Churches
   
   Archbishop Valentine Mokiwa
   President, All Africa Conference of Churches
   
   Dr. Agnes Abuom
   Ecumenical Accompanier Horn of Africa
   East Africa
   
   Most Rev. Ian Ernest
   The Chairman, Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa (CAPA)

iii) Organisation of Africa Instituted Churches
   
   Rev. Dr. Daniel Okoh
   International Chairman, OAIC

II. Muslims

   His Eminence Sheikh Shaban Mubaje
   Grand Mufti of Uganda
   
   H.E. Alhaji Muhammad Sa’ad Abubakar
   President General, Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs
   
   Prof. Abdulghafoor El Busaidy
   Chairman, Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims
   
   Sheikh Mansour Sy
   President, Muslim Association of Senegal
   Dakar, Senegal
   
   Dr. Mohammed Ahmed al Sherrif
   Secretary General, World Islamic Call Society
   
   Sheikh Habimana Saleh
   Mufti of Rwanda and Chairperson, Union of Muslim Councils for East, Central and Southern Africa
   
   Hadja Mariama Sow
   President, Muslim Women of Guinea
   
   Hadja Katumi Mahama
   Trustee, Federation of Muslim Women’s League

III. Hindu

   Mr. Muljibhai Pindolia
   President, Hindu Council of Africa
IV. African Traditional Religions

His Highness Hounque Towakon Guedehounque II

V. African Women of Faith Network

Ms. Cecile Tshibanda
Co-Coordinator, African Women of Faith Network

Dr. Rabiatu Ammah
Co-Coordinator, African Women of Faith Network

VI. African Religious Youth Network

Ms. Zubeda Mukamudenge
Co-Convenor ARYN, Kigali, Rwanda

Ms. Stellamaris Mulaeh
Co-Convenor ARYN, Nairobi, Kenya

VII. Secretary General, African Council of Religious Leaders – Religions for Peace

Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali
Secretary General, ACRL—RfP

VIII Secretary General, Religions for Peace International (ex officio)

Dr. William F. Vendley
Secretary General, WCRP

Executive Committee

Co-Chairs
His Grace Archbishop Dr. John Onaiyekan
His Eminence Sheikh Shaban Mubaje

Treasurer
Mr. Muljibhai Pindolia

Secretary General
Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali

One Member from the Religions for Peace Africa Women’s Co-ordinating Committee

One Member from the Religions for Peace Africa Religious Youth Co-ordinating Committee

Secretary General, Religions for Peace, International (ex officio)
Dr. William F. Vendley

Finance Committee

Mr. Muljibhai Pindolia
Dr. Agnes Abuom
Prof. Abdulghafoor El Busaidy
Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali
Truly great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave, and impossible to forget.
Obituaries

Moulana Faisel Khan

It is with deep regret that we learned of the passing of Moulana Faisel Khan, Vice President of the Sunni Jumiat of South Africa and of Religions for Peace, South Africa. Moulana Khan will be specially remembered by the inter-faith community for his commitment to reaching out to promote justice, peace, and understanding locally, nationally and internationally. His respect for all his colleagues and friends in the inter-religious community was a tribute to his stature. He was one of the first Moulanas to commit to working in prevention of HIV and AIDS, eradicating the stigma against the afflicted, and supporting children orphaned by the disease. He supported the launching of the Kwa Zulu-Natal Inter-religious Council (IRC-KZN). His humility, warmth, kindness, and sense of humor contributed to the love and respect that was accorded him in so many communities. His wisdom and guidance in Religions for Peace will be greatly missed.

Ahmad Muhyedeen Rufai

The African Council of Religious Leaders — Religions for Peace (ACRL—R/P) regrets to announce the passing on of Ahmad Muhyedeen Rufai, one time Vice-Chairman of Ghana Council of Religions for Peace (GCRP) which occurred on December 21, 2008. Mr. Ahmad Muhyedeen Rufai, apart from contributing to the development of peace agenda within ACRL—R/P was also a strong advocate for, and indeed promoted, the establishments of several community-based Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Ghana through which he enhanced inclusive approach to national peace. At the regional and continental levels, the late Ahmad was an active participant in the West Africa Inter-Religious Councils Coordinating Committee (WA IRCCC) regional initiatives playing key roles in planning its activities as well as hosting some of its functions such as the December 1-3, 2008 Consultation. He was a delegate to the Religions for Peace International World Assembly in June 2006, Kyoto, Japan and also attended the ACRL—R/P 2nd General Assembly in Tripoli, Libya. Those who interacted with Mr. Ahmad will confirm that he was a man with unreserved commitment to the course of peace through inter-religious engagement and a person of his words. The ACRL—R/P and its networks will greatly miss the late Mr. Ahmad and only pray that those in leadership of GCRP will emulate him and promote ideals he stood for. Mr. Ahmad is survived by two wives, seven children and numerous other extended family. Let us all keep them in prayers.

2010: At a Glance

In March 2010, the meeting of the Steering Committee chaired by the ACRL—R/P and facilitated by the African Union (AU) finalized details and logistics for holding the African Union – Interfaith Dialogue Forum.

A follow-up mission to Nigeria by the ACRL—R/P and the AU representatives met with the Co-Chairs of NIREC, H. E. Al Hajj Saad Abubakar, the Sultan of Sokoto, also serving in the ACRL—R/P Governing Board, and His Grace Archbishop Dr. John Onaiyekan, the Catholic Archbishop of Abuja to further agree on the finer details of the Forum that will take place from 15 – 17 June 2010 in Abuja, Nigeria. Other NIREC officials also attended the meeting.
Partners Supporting the Work of ACRL—RfP:

All Africa Conference of Churches
The British High Commission, Nairobi
CARE International, Inc
Constella Group
Finnish Church Aid
Republic of Finland, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
The Ford Foundation
The Diane Goldin Institute
Royal Government of the Netherlands
Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation (NORAD)
Norwegian Church Aid
Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
PLAN International
Rissho Kosei-kai
Trocaire Eastern Africa Regional Office
Trust Africa
UN Millennium Campaign
UNDP
UNESCO
UNFPA
UNICEF
UNIFEM
USAID
United States Government Health Resources and Services Administration
WCRP South Africa
World Justice Forum
World Islamic Call Society.

ACRL—RfP Staff:

**Nairobi Secretariat**

Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali, Secretary General
Bernard Okok Obuoga, Director of Programs Coordination and Communication
Joel Oloo, NPI Project Officer
Geoffrey Angira, Finance and Administration Manager
Emma Kangethe, Director Women’s Program

Mohamed Noor, Program Officer, Conflict Transformation
Florence Omtokoh, Executive Secretary in the Office of the Secretary General
Mercy Karimi, Finance and Accounts Assistant
Hellen Kibowen, Administrative Assistant
Martha Mukulu, Intern, Conflict Transformation
Nyambura Gichuki, Youth Coordinator

Christine Chacha, Office Assistant
Antony Mulele, Office Gardener

West Africa Regional Office (WARO), Monrovia, Liberia

Rev. William Tolbert III, Coordinator
Ms. Adama Aba Jawandoh, Finance & Admin Officer
Melvin Davies, Office Assistant

**West Africa Regional Office (WARO), Monrovia, Liberia**

Rev. William Tolbert III, Coordinator
Ms. Adama Aba Jawandoh, Finance & Admin Officer
Melvin Davies, Office Assistant

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Email: secretariat@acrl-rfp.org • Website: www.acrl-rfp.org