

- participation that contributes to overcome poverty and inequalities in public services delivery
- ✓ Stimulate active citizenship through motivation and mobilization of local communities and churches
- ✓ Campaign against corruption and the culture of impunity
- ✓ Build and promote principles of moral integrity in schools and churches
- ✓ Build citizens' consciousness on Human Rights, Rule of Law and Governance
- ✓ Tracking the performance of governments' compliance towards progress to good governance, social and economic advancement in the MRU Basin Countries

OUR STRATEGIES

- Mobilization and promotion of the initiative for churches and church institutions to work together to fight social Injustice and Poverty for Transformation of Society & Institution formation building in Monrovia
- Facilitate dialogue between policy makers and the civil society on social justice and poverty challenges in the Mano River Basin Countries
- Raise Citizens' consciousness on gender inequalities and promote meaningful change for women in the MRU Basin using Goal 5 of the SDGs through theological reflection and bible studies

PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES

- Setting up of Prison, Court Room Monitors and Parliamentary Audit Committees from the participating member churches/Organizations
- Build citizens' consciousness for social participations - facilitate round table dialogues with church leaders on Global Development Agenda 2030, with emphasis on Goals 1, 2 & 5 in consultations and symposium
- Advocacy Week for churches - Mobilize the annual churches' Human Rights Week with activities taking place in participating member churches in July each year
- Setting up anti corruption free school campaign clubs in at least 8 schools in Monrovia. Create anti corruption hand books, code of conduct and manual for teachers, parents and students, signing of the code of conduct and agreeing not to engage in corrupt practices of selling grades for sex and cheating during examinations
- Mobilization and promotion of initiatives for church and church institutions to engage on working Together to fight social Injustice and Poverty for Transformation of Society
- Facilitate dialogue between policy makers and the civil society on social justice and poverty challenges in the Mano River Basin Countries
- Raise awareness on gender inequalities and promote meaningful change for women in the Mano River Basin Countries in West Africa.
- Annual Advocacy Week

INDICATORS

✓ (PAS) 4 Parliamentary Audit & Scrutiny: publication and documentation of 4 (quarterly) citizens' report cards annually along with 3-5 community scorecards to disseminate quantitative

information about public services and policy outcomes and accountability of parliamentary representations of national parliaments in the MRU Basin
 ✓ (PTM) Policy Tracking Monitoring: Promotion and enhancement of sustainable socio-economic development by tracking and documenting governments' compliance to instruments of social and economic advancement with specific focus on SDGs goal 1 on ending poverty, goal 2 on ending hunger and the Maputo Declaration Commitment on 10% annual budget allocation towards agricultural and rural development in the 4 MRU Countries

✓ (CfC) Campaign for Change: Promote principles of moral integrity and stimulate active citizenship in 25 schools/universities, and SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls in four MRU Countries over a period of three years to fight inequality, violence against women, corruption and the culture of impunity.

MOTTO: Moving away from advocacy on behalf of citizens, and creating systems and institutions for citizens to challenge policy failure of national governments, extreme poverty and injustice in the MRU Basin.

We affirm that church members are part of citizenry, and therefore have tremendous roles to play in promoting the consciousness of citizens' involvement towards stable democracies for just peace society.

FJN accepts funds and donations from national Christian Councils, member churches, church related institutions and friends. FJN is primarily run by a team highly competence volunteers in a wide range of activities

NETWORKING

In its efforts to change policies, F&JN co-operates with:
 The Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in West Africa (FECCIWA)
 Pan African Climate Justice Alliance
 Africa Faith Justice Network
 Europe, Africa Faith Justice Network

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Address

C/o Council's House Building
 The Liberian Council of Churches
 P. O. Box 10-2191
 15th Street, Sinkor, Monrovia, Liberia
 Telephone: +231886528207/+23177528207
 E-mail Address: secretariat@fjnetwork.org
 Website: fjnetworking.org



The Faith & Justice Network of the Mano River Basin Fostering A Just Peace Society

Churches and Church Related Institutions Working Together for
 Societal Transformation and Just Peace Society

Welcome Message

The Mano River Union Countries of Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Ivory Coast suffered long-standing civil wars, Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and refugee crisis. Inequalities persist and widely spread; extreme poverty, underdevelopment and humanitarian crises were the aftermath. Failure to address the inequalities, social injustice and promote better living conditions for all people, the region remains elusive, and vulnerable to social, political and economic upheaval. Ignoring inequalities in pursuit of development is perilous in the MRU Basin even today. The issues of fair distribution of income and wealth, as well as inequalities in health, education and opportunities for social and political participation must be addressed. Governments in the region must help citizens, move communities from the situations of fragility, reduce poverty among state parties, promote economic growth, and protect citizens. This means to build, or rebuild on a democratic foundations with the involvement and participation of all to eradicate extreme poverty and achieve sustained development.

The Faith & Justice Network is an advocacy network of churches and church related institutions in the Mano River Basin Countries that engages faith communities to eliminate social and economic injustices. It operates through church networks as participating organizations, training and empowering church leaders in areas of lobby and advocacy strategies to build lasting and sustainable change.

The FJN fosters stronger social action and advocacy initiatives through local churches in engaging the MRU Head Secretariat in Freetown, the Mano River Union Women Secretariat, the Mano River Union Youth Parliament, the ECOWAS Commission, the African Union and other continental bodies on the speedily implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in eliminating poverty, hunger and inequalities in the four MRU Countries through economic and social advancement.

FJN conducts parliamentary audit & scrutiny through publication and documentation of citizens' report cards annually along with community scorecards to disseminate quantitative information about public services, policy outcomes and accountability of parliamentary representations of national parliaments in the MRU Basin. This process

will give the ability to participate as citizens to have a say in the framing of policies, to dissent without fear and to speak up against what one perceives to be wrong. This will ensure the accountability of officials and public institutions, reveal what people need, value, and call attention to significant deprivations.

FJN engages in policy tracking/ monitoring processes in documenting government's compliance to instruments of social and economic advancement with focus on SDGs goal 1 on ending poverty, goal 2 on ending hunger and the Maputo Declaration Commitment on 10% annual budget allocation towards agricultural and rural development in the 4 MRU Countries

FJN campaigns and advocates for Change through promoting principles of moral integrity and stimulates active citizenship within schools/universities. FJN places at the heart of its campaign for change the full implementation of SDG 5: Achieve gender equality, Stop violence against women, curb corruption and stop the culture of impunity and empower women and girls in the MRU Countries to realize their full potentials.

Please help the churches and religious leaders in responding to growing demands of addressing chronic poverty and structural exclusions in making the region a peaceful and safer place for all.

Peace - Salam - Shalom,
His Grace,
Archbishop, Dr. Jonathan B. B. Hart
President, Board of Directors

GET TO KNOW F&JN

The primary cause of civil war, poverty, under development and humanitarian crises in the Mano River Union is member states' failure to uphold the tenets of democracy. This led these states into fragilities and violence conflicts. Thus, to move these states from the situations of fragilities, reduce poverty among state parties, promote economic growth, and protect citizens, these states must be built, or rebuilt on democratic foundations with the involvement and participation of all.

The MRU Basin has experienced critical economic, social, political, and cultural environment that is not conducive to active involvement of its civil society. Participation of citizens in political decision making is a core ingredient of any functioning democracies. Since the early 1990, it has become clear that a functioning participatory democracy is a prerequisite for sustainable development. And the involvement and participation of a vibrant civil society working closely with religious leaders is considered as precondition to the achievement of long lasting attitudinal change that can overcome resistance perpetrated by undemocratic leaders. Active citizenry participation and civic engagement serve as critical space to check on accountability of governments towards their citizens, strengthen public policy decisions that increase the effectiveness of development agenda.

Since mid 2014, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire economies have seen flat or negative income growth, pushing people deeper into poverty. In 2014, the growth rate in Guinea collapsed to 0.5%, down from 4.5% prior to onset of the Ebola crisis. In Liberia, growth fell to 2.2% compared to 5.9% projected before the crisis. Sierra Leone's growth rate fell by more than half, to 4% from a projected high of 11.3%. Out of the 4, Cote d'Ivoire seems to be progressing well, as the economic recovery that began in 2012 was confirmed in 2014 by an estimated 8.3% growth rate and growth is expected to remain robust in 2015 and 2016.

These countries have suffered long-standing civil wars, Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) and refugee crisis. Inequalities persist and widely spread. Due to failure to address the inequalities, social injustice and better living conditions for all people, the region remains elusive, and vulnerable to social, political and economic upheaval. Ignoring inequalities in pursuit of development is perilous. The issues must be addressed; distribution of income and wealth, as well as inequalities in health, education and opportunities for social and political participation for all.

OUR HISTORY

The civil wars in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire and Guinea had devastating consequences, and it reversed the developmental stages and generated extreme poverty and social injustice. These wars in the individual countries have reflected not just a problem of development, but a failure of sustainable of development, with huge levels of corruption, the culture of impunity, lack of parliamentary scrutiny by citizens.

Based on these realities, on February 15, 2015, few church leaders gathered for a Theological Reflection Summit at the Muhlengburg Lutheran Church to find out ways on how churches can collaborate with civil society organizations to foster a just peace society. Thereafter, series of consultative meetings were held with church leaders in Liberia and they finally agreed to establish the "Faith & Justice Network (FJN)" to give support to the churches in the Mano River Basin Countries to be the prophetic voice of the voiceless. Similar dialogue meetings were held with the churches in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire to join the initiatives. This was at the backdrop that some churches and the Christian Councils in the MRU Basin are actually weak at the moment in the areas of social and economic justice advocacy campaigns. The FJN is to ensure and foster transparent and inclusivity as core value as a not for profit organization that is truly independent from states and international government organizations to mobilize churches and church related institutions towards visible social change.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To be an advocacy institution against social and economic injustice and extreme poverty for a just peace society through churches and church related institutions in the MRU Basin Countries. And to empower citizens and societies to address systemic socioeconomic inequalities, to help themselves, their families and their communities to build a more equitable, sustainable and prosperous future for all in the Mano River Basin.

OUR GOAL

To promote ecumenical social justice advocacy strategies for citizens'

participation in public policies formulations and implementation through churches to overcome poverty and inequalities.

OUR VISION

To foster just peace society for prosperity and human dignity for all irrespective of religion, culture, creed, etc. in the region

OUR OBJECTIVES

- wTo build competences and skills for church leaders and church institutions for lobby and advocacy initiatives that shape social and public policies in the MRU Basin Countries.
- wTo build ecumenical alliances with Civil Society in the MRU Basin Countries to campaign against social injustice, foster ethical development and just peace society.
- wTrack the performance of governments' compliance to instruments of good governance, social and economic advancement in the MRU Basin Countries.
- wTo mobilize and create awareness of citizens' consciousness to foster moral integrity in schools/ universities on human rights, rule of law and good governance.

OUR CORE VALUES

Respect for Human Dignity
Gender Equity and Equality
Fairness Transparency and accountability
High Moral Integrity and Ethical Standards
Inclusivity

OUR CAMPAIGN TARGETS

Producing campaign materials, fact sheets, advocacy letters, newsletters, providing policy recommendations for churches and church institutions to be sent to the respective national governments within the region and beyond, i.e., to the ECOWAS Commission, ECOWAS Parliament, Mano River Union Parliament, African Union, European Union, the US Congress, etc.
Newsletters
Our Work (Conferences/Workshops/Capacity Building/ Networking Internship Program
Press Statements/Communiqués
Publications

FOCUS AREAS OF WORK

1. Livelihoods (Food Security & Climate Justice)
2. Social Protection & Human Dignity
3. Ecological Justice
4. Human Rights & Rule of Law
5. Peace & Human Security
6. Accountability & Anti-Corruption
7. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

WHAT WE DO?

vCreate space for citizens' engagement to influence social