



Programme for Christian - Muslim Relations in Africa
Programme des Relations Islamo - Chrétiennes en Afrique



PROCURA / PRICA



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INTRODUCTION

The Covid-19 pandemic that ravaged the world since early 2020, brought new visibility and profile that religious leaders and organisations play an important role in keeping people together and guiding them through challenging and uncertain times. Religious leaders and Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) have been able to provide hope for those living in armed conflict areas, places where there are no basic facilities and where people continue to face different types of challenges.

Despite the fact that Covid-19 brought the world to a standstill, religious leaders, churches and mosques, amongst other organisations, mentored many and continued their work by passing on information about the pandemic, how to prevent it, and more importantly preventing stigmatization.

Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) and religious leaders play an important role in time of crisis. They provide services for the poor and vulnerable and give hope to the hopeless. In times of great anxiety, our faith can be a significant source of hope.

Despite the threat of Covid-19 pandemic and its devastating impact around the world, PROCMURA and its constituencies around Africa, committed to play a role in giving hope and mitigating the spread of the disease.

Together, we need to turn the crisis created by the pandemic into opportunities of building back. It is important for us to pull and work together.

We thank all our Partners who have equally gone through a devastating period for standing and working with us.

1. ADMINISTRATIVE AND CENTRAL OFFICE MATTERS

The year 2020 started on a positive note, as the new General Adviser; Rev. Dr. ADRAKE Komi Dzinyefa officially commenced work at the Central Office in Nairobi, Kenya. The General Adviser came in with a lot of positive energy, which motivated the morale of the staff and increased the level of team work.

Additionally, 2020 was the maiden year of the organisation's New Strategic Plan 2020-2024. All the PROCMURA constituencies, Executive Committee, field workers and Central Office staff were all looking forward to the first year of implementation of the new Strategic Plan 2020 - 2024, with a lot of enthusiasm and expectations on the outcomes and possible impacts of the projects, and implementation strategies across the continent.

Despite the fact that the planned programmes, budgets and activities of the year were affected by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, PROCMURA through the support of its Partners was able to carry out a number of programmes across its constituencies. This report covers activities implemented from January to December 2020.

The report provides highlights on general administrative matters at the Central Office, official visits from Partners at the Central Office, programmes implemented at regional and country levels, as well as challenges and lessons learnt.

1.1. European Liaison Committee (ELC) Meeting

The European Liaison Committee of PROCMURA which is composed of Partners from all over Europe meets at the beginning of each year to receive Annual Reports from the Central Office alongside other developments across PROCMURA constituents. During this time, the Committee also gets an opportunity to exchange information on current and emerging issues in Christian – Muslim relations in both contexts of Africa and Europe.

This year, the meeting was held from the 24th to the 27th of January 2020 and was hosted by Kerk in Actie in the Netherlands. Apart from the usual tradition of receiving Annual Reports and specific discussions on the End Term Evaluation and New Strategic Plan of the organisation, the Committee focused on a few other issues that were specific to the ELC.

This included but were not limited to:

- The Structure and Mandate
- The Appointment of a new Moderator/Chairperson.
- The frequency and nature of the ELC meetings among other issues.

As the issues required more time and detailed deliberations, a Committee was put in place to prepare a questionnaire and send it out to members for them to give their opinions.

The report and findings would be shared and discussed in the next ELC meeting. Church of Sweden offered to host the next meeting once the logistics were clear.

1.2. Executive committee meetings

The PROCMURA Executive Committee being the major decision making body opted to adopt the new normal of holding virtual online meetings to deliberate on emerging issues and make decisions. One of the issues that they looked into during the second quarter of the year was mapping the way forward on PROCMURA's work during Covid-19 and post Covid-19.

In the subsequent meetings that were held a number of issues and decisions were taken:

- Review of the working modalities of the staff at the Central Office.
- Strategies and modules of carrying out meetings and travels at the country level.
- Deferred a number of programmes due to the operating environment of the pandemic.
- Reviewed the Annual Budget based on availability of funds received from Partners at specific times.
- Virtual 2021 ELC meeting.
- Establishing the Islam and Christian Muslim Relations (ICMR) programme in Yaoundé, Cameroun.
- The challenge of funding and fundraising amid the effects of Covid-19.

At the programmatic level, the Executive Committee continued to look into strategies of ensuring that the Area Committee's relationship with the churches was strengthened in order that they are active and to enable them carry out programmes and activities at the local level through collaboration and partnership with their churches and other Faith Based Organisations (FBO's). There was still need to train more Area Advisers to serve the churches particularly in countries where there were no Area Advisers and to be more specific the French speaking countries who only had a handful of technical personnel.

1.3. Partners visits at the central office

A number of Partners visited the Central Office at the beginning of the year and held bilateral discussions with Central Office staff on specific emerging issues that were of particular concern to them.

- Rev. Klaus Dotzer, from Mission EineWelt, visited the Central Office on the 7th February 2020,
- Rev. Dr. Risto Jukko, from the World Council of Churches (WCC) visited on the 14th February 2020.
- Rev. Dr. Arngeir Langas, from Danmission visited on the 4th March 2020.
- Dr. Bunmi Olayisade, from the Methodist Church in Britain visited on the 4th March 2020.
- Tiemann, Middleton Imke-friedeirke, from Bread for the World visited on the 5th March 2020 and on the 6th march 2020 respectively.
- Rev. Dr. Almut Nothnagle, from EMW and Gonda de Haan from kerk in Actie shared some of their experiences with the management of PROCMURA.

All the visits from Partners were timely and provided a lot of insight to the Central Office. There were no other international visitors received at the Central Office due to Covid-19 pandemic which had led to a lock down of international travels for most countries.

1.3. Developments at the Central office

a. Staff retreat and orientation on implementation strategies of the new Strategic plan, 2020-2024.

To effectively draw a work plan and look into modalities of implementing the New Strategic Plan, 2020 – 2024, PROCMURA Management organised a staff retreat at the Fish Eagles Resort, Naivasha, Kenya, from the 11th to the 13th of March 2020.

With the help of a Consultant and team building experts, the staff developed an implementation and monitoring plan for the programmes and activities that would be held during the first year of the plan.

They also had outdoor exercises that assisted in bonding away from the usual environment. The team building exercises involved the entire office Secretariat and support staff who at the end of the retreat felt energised and ready to work.

“Teamwork is better than team-work” was the Hash Tag (#TeamworkisBetterthanTeam-work) and the rallying call during the team building sessions.

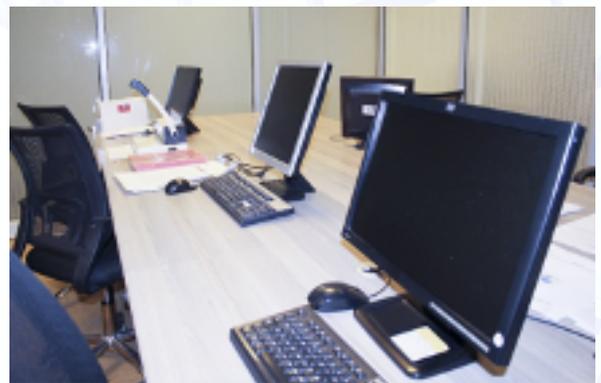


A cross section of Central Office staff in a team building activity

b. PROCMURA printing press and documentation centre

Through the support of The United Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Wuettemberg ,The Central office was able to purchase a modern printing press during the second half of the year .

This has enabled it to establish a Printing and Documentation Centre which will enable the organisation to produce and publish resource and books and promotional material to promote and enhance its work with the Churches and learning insitutions through the PROCMURA university chapters. The center will also be instrumental in empowering the youth with skills in computer designs, and printing.



PROCMURA printing press and documentation Center

2. PROGRAMME FOCUS

As mentioned at the beginning of this report, the year 2020 was affected by the COVID 19 pandemic which made it difficult to implement most of the projected programmes and activities planned for the year. Nevertheless we were able to make adjustments and implemented a number of programmes across a few countries. The following strategies which had been put in place by management at the beginning of the year enabled us to carry out the programmes and activities below:

- Continuous engagement and consultations between the Central office and Area committees to discuss emerging issues at the country level.
- Each Area committee to hold regular meetings on a monthly /quarterly basis to discuss emerging issues at the country level. This would be supported by a small kitty and budget at the Central office and through continuous fundraising including local fundraising from partners and other local organisations.
- The central office to assist in capacity building of the Area Advisers and contact persons at the local level in concept development , project proposal writing and fundraising . Including linkages with PROCMURA partners for programmes and activities.
- All Area Committees through their Chairpersons and Area Advisers were to establish strategic partnership with different churches in their countries which would enable them to collaborate and partner on different emerging issues of common concern provide a list of church membership in their countries.
- Provide a regular updates to the Central office on progress made and emerging issues These strategies enabled us to carry out the programmes as the Area Advisers and committees were able to implement most of the local programmes with regular and minimal assistance from the central office staff. Our quest is to continue developing more strategies and ensure that PROCMURA has adequate personnel at the grassroots to conduct and enhance its work .

Below are the programmes that we were able to carry out as spelled out in the new strategic plan.

2.1. Learning and skills development

This programme is structured in 3 levels:

Level 1: Strengthening capacity of churches and PROCMURA Area Committees in Islam and Christian-Muslim relations.

Level 2: Capacity building and awareness raising for deepening skills in faithful Christian witness to the Gospel in the Muslim environment

Level 3: Strengthening the capacity of Area Committees in each country.

Strengthening the capacity of Area Committees in each country

In the year under focus, PROCMURA was able to carry out activities under level 3 of the Strategic Plan in Cameroon and Central African Republic, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria.

Cameroon

Cameroon is one of the countries that form the Central African region of PROCMURA. It has an active and vibrant Area Committee under the Chairmanship of Rev. Robert Goyek, a minister in the Lutheran Church in Maroua which is the northern part of Cameroon. The Area Committee comprises of a number of churches. The Area Committee was established in Kribi in the South West of Cameroon in 2013 (16th – 17th May 2013). It has been actively in conducting programmes in the country.

Cameroon is a large country that has the Francophone region in the Far North and Anglophone region in the South and North west of the country. Cameroon as a country, has known no peace for a number of years. The instability in the country is partly as a result of the Boko Haram insurgency, which has caused mayhem and untold sufferings to the people, especially in the Northern regions of the country.

The Anglophone/ Southern Cameroon crisis is another issue affecting peace and stability in the country, especially in the two (2) English regions of Cameroon; North West and South West. PROCMURA through its Area Committee has carried out a number of interventions and initiatives in the Northern regions of the country Maroua, Garoua Goundare, mokolo and other areas in the French speaking regions.

The focus has been on conflict prevention and peace building in relation to the Boko Haram insurgency, and the impact has been phenomenal as shared in previous reports.

In the year 2020, the PROCMURA Area Committee in Cameroon in conjunction with the Central Office held consultative meetings with the leadership of the Council of Protestant Churches in Cameroon on the 28th February in Douala, Cameroon.

One of the key issues and discussions were on how PROCMURA can strengthen and renew its relationship with the Protestant Council of Churches in Cameroon as there had been a change of leadership at the Council and different church membership organisations within the council. There was therefore a need for PROCMURA to organise an orientation programme for the churches in Cameroon sooner rather than later.

The meeting also took cognisance of the fact that Cameroon was a huge country, Area Committee with a chair from the northern region, it was different for one Chairperson in the Northern Region to look into the issues of concern in the Anglophone region in the South West.

There is an urgent need to reinvigorate the Area Committee and establish one Area Committee in the Francophone Region and establish the other in the Anglophone region.

The two (2) Area Committees with their churches would work in consultation and support of one another and focus on emerging issues in their regions.

At the end of the consultation it was agreed that:

PROCMURA will continue to develop programmes to assist the churches particularly those in the northern areas that border Nigeria and Chad in preventing violent extremism.

Establish an inter-religious network that will be composed of selected Peace Ambassadors from different religions African Traditional religions, Christians and Muslims who will be tasked with peace keeping and promotion of peaceful coexistence within the communities in the north conflict areas.

Organise a programme and develop an intervention strategy for the Anglophone Crisis which has currently affected the churches in the north and south west as it calls for unity in the church and works across a divided house.

Rev. Fonki Samuel Forban, President of the Council of Protestant Churches in Cameroon, pledged to mobilise other church organisations to collaborate and partner with PROCMURA in all projects in Cameroon.

Way Forward:

The Central Office in consultation with the Stakeholders mentioned above is working on a project with a number of Partners to intervene in the northern area through its religious peace building and conflict prevention approach is planning to organise TOT trainings for the religious leaders on conflict prevention strategies and the role of religious leaders in religious peace building and enhancing peace in the community.

The Anglophone area is planning to organise a Seasonal School for church leaders from the South West and North West to address some areas of concern to the church in the Anglophone and develop a common peaceful approach of handling the crisis at the community and enhance peace. As the church should speak in one voice.

This programme will be organised in partnership with the Council of Protestant Churches in Cameroun.

a) The Central African Republic (CAR)

The Central African Republic just like Cameroun is located in the Central African region of PROCMURA. It does not have a substantive Area Committee in the country but has over the years conducted a number of programmes with the churches. It comprises Catholics and Protestants Confessions among others.

The Central African Republic is one of the countries that has attracted PROCMURA's concern since the war broke out in 2013. Many times this conflict has been linked to a religious conflict between Muslims versus Christians in other words Seleka versus anti – Balaka. This conflict has attracted both Christian, Muslim and International Peace keepers. A number of interventions and programmes have been conducted with the hope of peace.

The Churches in CAR have called on PROCMURA several times to establish an Area Committee which would help enhance peace and build good relations between Christians and Muslims. PROCMURA believes that there can be no peace in the world except when there is peace among religions. In one of the PROCMURA meetings Dr. Boris Yakoubou, the PROCMURA contact person recounted the seemingly amicable relations between Christians and Muslims despite the fact that the country had experienced several Coup's making it a conflict prone country which sometimes leads to violet clashes between Christians and Muslims.

From 1st to 4th March 2020, the newly appointed General Adviser of PROCMURA, Rev. Dr. ADRAKE Komi Dzinyefa, held consultative talks with the leadership of the churches in the Central African Republic and held preliminary discussions on the formation of a substantive Area Committee which was long overdue. The church leaders agreed to mobilise themselves under the umbrella of PROCMURA and conduct a national conference in May 2020, on the role of religious leaders in peace building. Unfortunately, due to the travel bans the conference did not come on and was deferred to a later date. During this conference one of the key issues that will be handled is official establishment of the committee.

b) Sierra Leone

The Area Committee of Sierra Leone under the leadership of its Chairperson who happens to be the only woman Chairperson amongst all PROCMURA Area Committees, The Rev. Christiana Sutton-Koroma a priest appointed and ordained into the office of the General Overseer as the first female head of church of the Congregational Evangelical Mission Sierra Leone, is a good example of women in leadership and has diligently led by example as the Chairperson of the Area Committee. She effectively engaged the church in Sierra Leone to understand in Christian-Muslim Relations issues. Rev. Koroma is also an Executive Committee representative of her religion and country of the PROCMURA Executive Committee and has worked hand in hand with her fellow church leaders and the Christian Council of Sierra Leone (CCSL) under the leadership of the outgoing General Secretary of Mrs. Ebum James Dekam.

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The Area Committee and CCSL has partnered, collaborated and effectively mobilised the churches to conduct a number of programmes under the new PROCMURA Strategic Plan, 2020 - 2024. The Area Committee also met a number of times hosted by the CCSL and conducted Church leaders' meetings, women and girl child programmes.

Keeping in close consultation with the Central Office, they were also able to meet and engage PROCMURA Partners from the UK, who were conducting a research on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) and provided comprehensive analysis and information on Sierra Leone religious context which was helpful. As a result of these, the Area Committee of Sierra Leone and a few others have been selected to be part of implementing a project on FoRB which was been approved late last year by UK AID.

The Christian Council of Sierra Leone appointed the New General Secretary, Mrs. Keziah Kargbo and PROCMURA is looking forward to the continued partnership and collaboration on various programmes.

c) Virtual orientation workshop for PROCMURA's stakeholders on the implementation of the new strategic plan, 2020 - 2024

As the rest of the world planned for a post Covid-19 response, PROCMURA was uncertain as to what the "new normal" could look like beyond the Covid-19. PROCMURA was not indifferent to the unprecedented crisis caused Covid-19, as the virus continues to spread exponentially. The pandemic had changed the way people work, live and socialise.

PROCMURA resolved not to wait until the end of the pandemic to engage its stakeholders on matters of life, work and functioning of the organisation in this present situation and in post Covid-19.

PROCMURA as an organisation had completed its New Strategic Plan, 2020 - 2024, which was to begin in the year 2020. PROCMURA therefore according to its plan, resolved to engage its stakeholder and take them through an orientation session on the implementation of the new Strategic Plan. The earlier this was done, the sooner the results, effect and impact would start being seen.

This exercise was done using a number of methods given the fact that Africa was still a big village where not all modern technology and equipment, such as the new norm of virtual and Zoom Meetings would be implemented. Some of the countries in Africa are still not averse to fast moving broadband and internet facility. Making it inaccessible while other countries experiences instability from time to time.

This being the case, the Central Office resolved to be creative and use the most available and accessible form of communication in the modern day. This was the use of mobile phones and email which were easily accessible as to date in Africa, almost each person has a mobile phone. At the preliminary stages of organising the workshop this module was only used to contact and plan for the meeting and as a model to enhance faster and speedy communication.

Having prepared a good number of our target group who are the Area Advisers and who serve as the think-tank of Christian-Muslim relations in each country by phone, PROCMURA Management resolved to conduct an orientation workshop to enable the Area Advisers discuss and provide more information and implementation strategies and put in place mechanisms of domesticating these strategies in specific contexts, as a way of preparing the ground for effective activities next year, 2021.

The Programme Officer, Rev. Dr. Salli Effungani, was commissioned by PROCMURA Management to develop a programme for the Area Adviser which was to be implemented in two (2) sessions. At least two (2) or one (1) participant from each Area Committee (Area Advisers and Chairpersons) participated in the orientation workshop.

The participants will step down the training with the rest of the Area Committee members.

The training was scheduled for two (2) days from 29th to 30th June 2020.

The first session targeted countries with substantive and active Area Committees, some of them have Area Advisers or active contact persons. These countries included: Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Tanzania, Nigeria, Senegal, Cameroon, Rwanda, Burkina Faso, Togo, Benin, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Guinea.

A number of the Area Advisers listed below were able to attend the orientation. While others did not attend due to a various challenges.

COUNTRY	AREA ADVISERS
Nigeria	West. Rev. Dr. Fola Lateju East. Rev. Ukoha Ngwobia Ukoha North. Ven. Joshua Mallam
Ghana	Dr. Margaret Makafui Tayviah
Liberia	Rev. St. John York
Tanzania	Kamenya Fr. Joseph Richard
Serial Leon	Rev. Bernadette Massaquoi
Cameroon	Rev. Robert Goyek
Senegal	Rev. Joseph Diouf
Burkina Faso	Ps. Karim Zongo
Rwanda	Rev. Bienvenue MUSABYIMANA
Togo	Pst. Onyami Apadou
Ethiopia	Rev. Guta Teshome
South Sudan	Rev. James B. Obwonyo
Benin	Rev. Ahouandjinou Paul
Guinea	Rev. Fr. Pere Francois TOUNKARA

The Area Advisers/Area Committees were to:

1. Identify at least five (5) churches/ Council of Churches/Faith Based Organisation (FBO) that can work and collaborate with the Area Committee.
2. Organise meetings with the leadership of the identified churches/institutions to discuss areas of possible collaboration at country level.
3. Provide a report on the proceedings; stating the way forward of the meeting.
4. Provide photos, names, contacts and addresses of churches/institutions and leadership for proper reportage.

Expected Outcome:

- Increase visibility of PROCMURA in church platforms and collaborative activities on an annual basis.
- Church leaders with knowledge and understanding on contextual issues in Christian-Muslim relations.
- Religious tolerance within the communities leading to reduced level of religious conflict in the community.
- Cohesion and peaceful coexistence at the community level between the two (2) religions.

d) Technical committee to support & strengthen area committees

As a follow up to some of the findings in the End Term Evaluation that was conducted in 2019, there is need to support the Area Committees to learn how to understand their country contexts and be able to increase their effectiveness. Management therefore organised a virtual meeting with PROCMURA Chairpersons to establish a technical committee to look into issues of specific concern to Area Committees across PROCMURA constituencies.

The virtual meeting which was held on 5th July 2020, was attended by a handful of Chairpersons from Cameroun, Togo, Sierra Leone, Nigeria North, Liberia, Tanzania and Ghana.

Bishop Nathan Samwini who is currently an Executive Committee member was appointed to be the chair of the committee. His nomination was based on the fact that he had served as Area Adviser for Ghana and Regional Coordinator of Anglophone West Africa for a long period of time and therefore has both the experience and expertise and would play an important role in advising on the different areas of work that Area Committees deal with from time to time. Rev Christiana Sutton-Koroma was appointed Secretary to the committee.

At the end of the meeting, the committee developed Terms of Reference for all the Area Committee and resolved that all Chairpersons who are technically the administrative wings of the committees ensure among other things that:

- Membership of the Area Committees comprises of various church denominations, and not just a particular denomination or individual. If an Area Committee lacks this description, then reinvigorations is necessary to ensure effectiveness.
- Area Committees must establish working relationships with church denominations, National Councils of Churches or Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) in their specific countries. The relationship should be mutually beneficial and can result to the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).
- Area Committee should not work in isolation, but partner with the churches in some programme implementations. The committee can tap into the platforms of the churches; such as the women and youth annual conventions or the pastors meetings, and use this platforms to do trainings. This is possible if a prior relationship has been established.
- The Area Committee should seek to understand its context and be able to fund raise locally from potential funding agencies at country and international levels.

2.2. Women and Peacebuilding

This programme also has a 2 tier approach;
 Level 1: Women leaders and women in the community,
 Level 2; Mentorship of the Girl child.

This year PROCMURA implemented activities under level 1 and 2 of the programmatic area across 3 countries; Kenya, Sierra Leone and Rwanda in a bid to mentor and empower the girl child to maximize their full potentials. The activities were conducted in collaboration with the Area Committees in the above mentioned countries.

i) Mentorship of the Girl Child

KENYA

The PROCMURA Central Office in conjunction with the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA) and the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa (CAPA), who are both Ecumenical Partners of PROCMURA, joined the rest of the world in marking the International Day of the Girl Child on 12th of October 2020 in Isiolo County, north-eastern Kenya, under the sub theme “Stop Teenage Pregnancies”. The event was preceded by a one-week public awareness campaign and advocacy through the local radios, articulating the plights of the girl and advocating for community and national support. The initiative provided a platform for the girls to tell their stories and also provided a possible solutions to some of the needs of the girls as two hundred (200) girls received health packs. The Kike Health Kits comprised of reusable sanitary towels, underwear, soaps, face masks and sanitary bags.

PROCMURA is looking forward to training the girls on how to locally make the reusable sanitary towels as a follow up of this particular project.

RWANDA

The PROCMURA Area Committee in Rwanda, in conjunction with the National Committee of Women Leaders, the Gender and Trauma Healing Department of the Presbyterian Church in Rwanda, and Religious Leaders conducted a workshop on mentoring the girl child. The workshop was held under the theme “Girls dignified lives through GBV Prevention and teenage pregnancy”. The girls were schooled on matters on sexuality and menstrual health. One hundred (100) girls were handed Hygienic Kits. The Hygienic Kits composed of sanitary towels, Soap, body oil, and underwear. During the workshop, Christian and Muslim religious leaders condemned cultural, religious, and all other practices and beliefs that relegate the girl child. They pledged their commitment to the course, and expressed wiliness to work with PROCMURA on the subject matter.

SIERRA LEONE

The PROCMURA Area Committee in Sierra Leone, was once again not left behind under this programme. They joined hands with the Ministries of Education, Social Welfare, Gender & Children's Affairs and Justice, to organise a campaign against violence meted on the girl child, with emphasis on teenage pregnancies. School girls from communities in three localities; Kenema in the Eastern province, Waterloo in Western, and Magburaka in Tonkolili district, Northern Province were brought together. The girls shared their stories and noted that, teenage pregnancy, rape, child labour, and negative cultural practices are some of the challenges and barriers to the development of the girl child. The engagement by stakeholders also mapped out possible ways for girls' empowerment and safety. The stakeholders resolved to continuously partner with the PROCMURA Area Committee in Sierra Leone to advocate for the rights of the girl child.



International Day of the Girl child in Isiolo Kenya

ii. The Role of Women leaders and women in the community

The PROCMURA Area Committee in Rwanda, organised a Christian women forum which targeted the women of the Presbyterian Church in Rwanda at community level at the community level to empower them with peace building skills. This activity falls on level 2 of the women and peace building programme. The women had a workshop on their role as peace builders and at the same time they were able to look into the emerging issue that continues to affect the community on poor parenting and lack of mentorship especially by young parents. The role the Church can play through women leadership in their churches and ensure that the society is able to mentor the youth with good parenting skills.

The women were able to establish that good parenting in the homes and communities has a huge impact on peace building in the nation. PROCMURA is looking forward to extend this Christian women denominational workshops to other church denominations in Rwanda and in other countries.



A group photo with participants



A cross section of girls in Sierra Leone

2.2 Youth and religious tolerance

This programme has two (2) main focuses,

Level 1: Religious tolerance in communities and Learning institutions.

Level 2: Youth and Skills Development.

PROCMURA was able to implement programmes under both levels with Christian and Muslim youths under level 1 and with Christian youth (girls) only under level 2.

a) Religious tolerance in communities and Learning institutions.

The growing religious intolerance among the youth in communities and learning institutions coupled with vulnerability to radicalisation and violent extremism is worrying and continues to inform PROCMURA's quest to come up with innovative and effective mechanisms of addressing the challenges that continue to affect the youth. PROCMURA organised the first Youth Camp on Religious Tolerance in Kenya from 9th to 11th December 2020.

One of the objectives of this programme is to have a society that embraces mutual religious tolerance among Christians and Muslims.

The camp brought together eighty (80) Christian and Muslim youth, where issues of mutual religious tolerance were discussed. Most importantly, the youth were able to virtually live together and tolerate one another, as they had to eat, sleep, and share the camp space for a period of three (3) days away from their comfortable homes.

Most of the participants expressed their excitement to the fact that, they can actually share food and sleeping space with the religious other peacefully. A lot of misconceptions and stereotyping of the religious other were corrected at the end of the camp, as the youth bonded with each other.



Youth camp on religious tolerance

b) Youth and skills development.

Focus on Togo

The Area Committee in Togo on October 14th 2020, carried out an empowerment activity for young girls, where vulnerable youth were trained on how to weave baskets. This activity brought a lot of excitement among the trained youth who expressed their gratitude to the PROCMURA Area Committee for giving them a skill which they will now use to empower themselves financially.

2.3 Conflict Prevention, Peace Building and Reconciliation

This programme targets Christian and Muslim religious leaders, women and youth in a bid to enhance their capacity and role in conflict prevention and peace building. This year PROCMURA under this programmatic area, implemented programmes in Nigeria, South Sudan, Liberia and Ghana.

a. Marking the International week of peace, Nigeria (21st to 25th September 2020)

Marking the International Week of Peace, with the support of grants from the Methodist Church in Britain, the PROCMURA Area Committee of Nigeria North, implemented a programme in southern Kaduna villages which continued to be seriously affected by violence. The Area Committee members under the leadership of Venerable Joshua Mallam, Area Adviser of Nigeria North and the newly appointed Bishop Reverend John Shettima, invited a cross section of religious leaders from the affected communities and together they visited different villages and camps that had known no peace and been affected by violence over the past weeks. They donated food items, bags of cement to help reinforce the temporal huts the displaced persons live in. Medical attention was given to sick persons and those traumatised by the violence. Some of the areas visited included Zonkwa the capital of Zango Kataf local government, Zikpa village, Kajuru orphanage, and a children camp at Mararaban kajuru.



Peace building and Humanitarian Aid in Nigeria; Sothern Kaduna

PROCMURA is planning to train selected Christian and Muslim religious leaders from Zonkwa, Kafanchan and Kachia communities on conflict analysis and religious peace building.

b. Marking the International week of peace, South Sudan (21st to 25th September 2020)

The PROCMURA Area Committee in South Sudan led by the Area Adviser, Reverend James Bol and Rev Mark Akec, the Chairperson of the PROCMURA Area Committee in South Sudan (PACSS) brought together religious leaders to celebrate and mark the International Day of Peace at the Internally Displaced Camps (IDP). The religious leaders conducted prayers and shared a meal with the IDP's. The community expressed their gratitude to the Area Committee for thinking about them on this special day. It was fulfilling to see that the session ended up with the two (2) rival groups in the camp of the Nuer and Dinka ethnic groups pledging to coexist and committed to live peacefully with one another in the camp alongside other ethnic groups.



A cross section of Women in one of the IDP camps, with the Area Adviser

c. Church leaders and peace building workshop in South Sudan, 3rd October 2020

The PROCMURA Area Committee in South Sudan also continued with its planned activities for the year and conducted a workshop for Christian leaders on the theme, “**The place of religion in conflict transformation and peace building**”. Christian leaders from various church denominations attended the workshop and committed to work towards peace, as they recognized the importance of peace in the development of South Sudan.

The role of religious leaders in conflict prevention can be enhanced through education which consciously provides religious literacy to enable the community to be comfortable and speak to the issues. Religious leaders promote reconciliation and forgiveness. PROCMURA has taken a positive approach to enhance peace and reconciliation and strives to build the capacity of the religious leaders at the community level with ideas and skills in conflict prevention and resolution.

This would be done through TOT training and capacity building seminars for religious leaders.

The outcome of the work shop was an action plan in which leaders seek capacity enhancement on conflict prevention strategies.



A cross section of church leaders

As a follow up of these programmes PROCMURA is looking forward to enhance the capacity of church leader in conflict analysis and religious peace building in 2021.

i. Marking the International Day of Peace, Liberia, 25th September 2020

This year, the PROCMURA Area Committee in Liberia (LAC), under the leadership of the Area Adviser, Rev. St. John York and the Chairperson Rev. Dr. Emmanuel F. Johnson continued with its quest for peace and peaceful coexistence in Liberia by marking the International Week of Peace on the 25th September 2020.

The Liberia Area Committee brought together Christians at the Three Brothers Ministry; a local Church on the Benson Street, Monrovia, conducted prayers for peace. The event was also marked by a one-day conference for religious leaders under the theme; **“the place of religion in peace building”**. The committee also carried out a peace walk in the city, and a visit to the 72nd Mosque. This event raised awareness on the important of peace and also enhanced the capacity of religious leaders on peace building initiatives.



The Liberia Area Committee

Conference for Religious Leaders on Peace Elections in Ghana, 11th November 2020

PROCMURA Area Committee and the Christian Council of Ghana held a peace conference on the “**Role of religious leaders in promoting peace before, during, and after elections**”. The conference which took place on Wednesday, 11th November, 2020, brought together religious leaders, youth, women, political actors, civil society members and faith based organizations to remind them of the critical roles that each play in making sure that the West African country remains peaceful even as they head into the polls to elect their leaders. While officially opening the conference, the General Secretary of the Christian Council of Ghana, Rev. Dr. Cyril G. K. Fayose, challenged the religious leaders and other peace actors who were part of the participants to use their platforms to spread peace building messages in their congregations, local communities, neighbourhood, churches and mosques. The religious leaders resolved to work towards peaceful elections in Ghana.



A cross section of participants

2.4. Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB)

PROCMURA plans to continue conducting regional TOT trainings for its constituencies to enable them deepen their knowledge and understanding on FoRB.

PROCMURA implemented the first regional training on FoRB. Central Africa regional Training of Trainer’s workshop on Freedom of Religion and Belief (FoRB) The training on Freedom of Religion and Belief (FoRB) brought together Christian and Muslim religious leaders, experts and consultants from the Central African countries of Cameroun, Chad, Rwanda, the Central African Republic and the West African country of Mali, in Douala Cameroon at Afrique Hotel from 24th to 27th February 2020.

At the end of the training, participants were able to identify FoRB violations in their countries, and came up with action plans to promote FoRB in their respective countries.

In the year under review, PROCMURA is looking forward to the other regional FoRB trainings and follow up of action plans developed during the Central Africa regional training in Cameroun.

Towards the end of 2020, the Central Office of PROCMURA managed to secure more funding from UK AID to enable it train more religious leaders on the NORFoRB Learning platform. The PROCMURA Constituencies that will benefit from this programme are Sierra Leone, Ghana, Malawi, Tanzania and The Gambia.



A cross section of some participants

2.5. Humanitarian Aid

The unprecedented effects of Covid-19, which had a negative impact on vulnerable communities, elicited PROCMURA’s intervention as central office, Area Committees, individual committee members in partnership with their churches. It was time for PROCMURA to practice, exercise and contribute towards humanitarian aid.

This is one of the PROCMURA’s programmes that knows “no boundaries”. Under this theme of humanitarian Aid, PROCMURA believes that it is an asset to be a Christian organisation, faith leaders/ organisations hold a lot of influence in developing communities.

PROCMURA’s hope is to improve the wellbeing of Christians and Muslims by tackling issues of common concern between the two (2) faiths, for community development.

The following Area Committees were able to conduct local fundraising which enabled them in one way or the other to reach out to vulnerable communities that had been gravely affected by Covid-19.

Liberia

COVID 19 response in Liberia on the 16th of May. The chairperson of the PROCMURA area committee Rev. Dr. Emmanuel F. Johnson, rallied members of his congregation and other members of the committee, where they donated food and sanitation items to the most vulnerable persons.



Rev. Dr. Johnson donating some items

Ghana

COVID 19 response in Ghana 24th to 26th April 2020. The Ghana Area Committee in partnership with individual committee members and church denominations provided humanitarian assistance to vulnerable families across the religious divides during the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic.



Rev. Dr. Mbillah, PROCMURA consultants rallies his congregation to support others

Sierra Leone

Covid-19 response in Sierra Leone 24th of May. The PROCMURA Area committee in Sierra Leone in conjunction with the Christian council of churches provided food items to vulnerable persons in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. They also organized radio talk shows in a bid to sensitize the population on safety measures and protocols.



The Area committee chair person; Rev. Christiana Koroma donating items and speaking on radio

Togo

Covid-19 response in Togo on the 18th of May. Members of the Togo area Committee, rallied themselves and donated food to some vulnerable persons



The chairperson, Mr Apadou Onyami distributing food items

Kenya

The Central Office in Nairobi on its account began fundraising both at the international community and local Partners level.

It reached out to various partners, churches and individuals to mobilise resources and come together to assist affected vulnerable communities.

Covid-19 response in Kenya on the 16th May 2020. PROCMURA in conjunction with the Kamukunji peace network in Kenya, donated food items, sanitation items and masks to the people in kamukunji informal area in Nairobi, Kenya.



Donation of some times by the General Adviser and Team-Leader

2.6. Literature and communication

During the year the Central office in collaboration with the Area constituencies documented the experiences and lessons learnt. We were able to cover and provide reportage of PROCMURA events across our constituencies. The content is available on our various communication platforms including our website (WWW.procmura-prica.org) and other social media platforms such as Facebook-PROCMURA- Programme for Christian -Muslim relations in Africa, Twitter -procmura _prica, You Tube – PROCMURA Prica).

Apart from the articles mentioned above. The news articles, reports, statements and communiques also captured in our electronic newsletter that is generated from our website and can be accessed through the link below. Kindly encourage your member's to subscribe to get continuous updates.

On a similar note the Central Office embarked on production of training manuals for the different PROCMURA programmes. During the period we were able to engage different consultants and experienced scholars especially in the field of Christians - Muslim relations to assist developing a training resource pool of material and personalities in this field that will be used in project implementation in relations to some of the projects in the new strategic plan, particularly in capacity building programmes (TOT).

So far the training manuals developed include: PROCMURA Training Manual on Islam and Christian- Muslim relations;

- PROCMURA Training Manual on Freedom of Religion and Belief (FoRB);
- PROCMURA Training Manual on conflict prevention and religious peace building;
- PROCMURA Training Manual on Women and peace
- PROCMURA Training Manual on youth and religious tolerance.

2.7. Networking and collaboration

From the 10th to 13th November 2020, the PROCMURA Programme Officer Rev. Dr. Salli Effungani participated at a workshop for church leaders which was organised by the Peace Diakonia and Development Department of the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC). The meeting on "Sustainable Peace for Church Peace practitioners" was held at the Desmond Tutu Centre, Nairobi, Kenya.

On the same note, the General Adviser of PROCMURA Rev. Dr. Drake, Komi Dzinyefa, participated at a consultation on Agenda 2063 and new Debt Crisis in Africa from 16th to 20th November 2020 at the Desmond Tutu Conference Centre (DTCC). The consultation brought together participants from different African countries to deliberate on Agenda 2063 and debt crisis in Africa.

The Programme Assistant, Ms. Florence Iminza also attended the launch of the 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence on November 27th 2020. The launch was organised by the Gender, Women and Youth Department of the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC).

PIECES OF INFORMATION

- a) Centre for interfaith studies and engagement in Africa (CISEA) inaugurated in Ghana

The Akrofi-Christaller Institute of Theology, Mission and Culture in Akropong, Ghana, inaugurated a Centre for Interfaith Studies & Engagement in Africa (CISEA) on September 11th 2021. The new Centre which has a prime focus on Islam and Christian-Muslim relations has Rev. Dr. Johnson Mbillah, former General Adviser and now Consultant of PROCMURA in charge of Academic

Affairs and Research and shall be offering certificated courses, post graduate diplomas, masters in PhD's in Islam and Christian-Muslim relations as a primary focus and general interfaith relations.

The Director of the Centre, Rev. Dr. Solomon Sule-Saa has written to PROCMURA and expressed excitement of the founding of the center and the leading role Dr. Mbillah will play in it. He looked forward to the Centre's cooperation and collaboration with PROCMURA, and working with like-minded academic institutions in Africa which are associated with PROCMURA.

PROCMURA is so pleased that another institution that will promote the PROCMURA course has been founded in Africa with its consultant playing a leading role in its academic and research focus.

b) ICMR programme in the Protestant University of Central Africa (PUCA) CAMEROON

As part of PROCMURA's long term objective to ensure that Islam and Christian Muslim Relations taught in the Spirit of PROCMURA becomes the norm and not the exception renewed discussion have taken place with Protestant University of Central Africa University – to explore the possibility of the subject being instituted as a Master's programme in that institution. The General Adviser, Rev. Dr. Drake Komi Dzinyefa, The Programme Officer, Rev. Dr. Salli Efungani, Dr. Jean Claude Basset and the Institutional leadership of Protestant University of Central Africa held a virtual meeting on 10th Of November 2020. The outcome of the meeting was the establishment of a curriculum committee to advise the institution on the course content. There is every indication that the programme will begin sooner rather than later. This will be an asset for the Francophone Zone of PROCMURA and in many ways the Anglophone Zone as well. It is worth mentioning that in PROCMURA's history, Yaoundé was one of the places selected to carry out the programme.

c) Appointment of Dr. Makafui Tayviah

PROCMURA area adviser for GHANA and regional coordinator for ANGLOPHONE appointed as full time lecturer at Kwame Nkrumah University of science and technology.

Dr. Makafui Tayviah the PROCMURA Area Adviser for Ghana, who was recently appointed as Regional Coordinator for Anglophone West Africa Region has been appointed full time lecturer in Islam and aspects of Christian-Muslim relations.

PROCMURA is delighted that Dr. Makafui who PROCMURA sponsored for her Masters and PhD levels on Islam and Christian-Muslim relations has been appointed as full time lecturer at the university. It is PROCMURA's hope that she will be able to make an impact on what PROCMURA is and stands for as Bishop Nathan Samwini did in the same institution.

d) Appointment of MRS. REBECCA A. TARPEH – MAJOR

Mrs. Rebecca Tarpeh has been the PROCMURA youth leader for the Liberia Committee of PROCMURA has been appointed Secretary General of the Interreligious Council of Liberia. Her appointment excites PROCMURA as the Interreligious Council recognize the value of her work over the years with PROCMURA and deem it appropriate that she is the first lady ever to lead the Interreligious Council of Liberia.

e) Appointment REV. JOHN SHETTIMA as Bishop

The Associate Area Adviser for Nigeria North Area Committee, REV. JOHN SHETTIMA was this year appointed Bishop of the methods church in Nigeria.

CHALLENGES

This year has been very challenging, heightened by the Covid-19 pandemic given that this is the first year of the new Strategic Plan, 2020 – 2024, we may have to review programmes and activities within

the Strategic Plan to enable us realise the goals of the Strategic Plan in the remaining four (4) years.

Some of the challenges among others include:

- Inability to conduct physical workshops in a number of countries due to Covid-19, plus the travel bans imposed by several countries across the globe;
- High risk of exposing communities/participants to Covid-19 during the workshop;
- Strict Government and World Health Organisations (WHO) measures put in place to enable physical meeting to take place;
- Reduced funding by a number of Partners who have also been affected by Covid-19;
- Inability of PROCMURA constituencies to adopt to the new norm for example physical trainings and meetings this highly affect the implementation matrix;
- Other than the effects of Covid-19, the world has been affected by shrinking resources and reduced funding for programmes due to priorities;
- `Most of the Activity based projects were postponed to next year 2021;
- The General council meeting was moved to a later date;
- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic which has affected everyone world over, It has become a bit difficult to implement some of the suggested projects;
- Fund raising from other partners for programmes remains the biggest remains the biggest challenge.

SUCSESSES AND LESSON LEARNT

- PROCMURA has used this difficult time to develop training manuals, that will facilitate structured trainings across PROCMURA's constituencies;
- The establishment of the PROCMURA printing press and documentation centre which will also benefit the youth from various countries is a significant development;
- Humanitarian aid donated to various countries during Covid-19, Conflict crisis in Nigeria and the girl child donation has strengthened community relationships across the religious divided. Some Muslims leaders expressed feelings of satisfaction because they were not discriminated in anyway during the distribution process;
- We have learnt that diapraxis activities are more impactful in building Christian-Muslim relations and mutual religious tolerance;
- We have learnt that outdoor activities are more appreciated and more adequate to communicate religious tolerance especially among the youth;
- We also learnt that, religious leaders have been involved in peace building for many years. However, knowledge of the "conventional peace building" methods will make the religious leaders more efficient in conflict prevention and peace building.

CONCLUSION

We have in this Annual Report presented what we have been able to do in the course of the year 2020. The report covers the period from January to December, beginning with central office matters, moving down to projects implemented. We have also highlighted the challenges as well as success stories and lessons learnt.

We acknowledge the challenges posed by COVID 19, which affected our programme implementation as well as fundraising. However, we are encouraged by the few activities we managed to implement and the impacts of those activities. We extend appreciation to all our Partners for supporting us and

providing funds to enable us conduct activities, programmes and administrative costs during the year. We also specifically thank the executive committee for the technical and managerial advice and for working closely with the central office during this difficult times posed by COVID 19. Our constituents at the grassroots level, Area advisers, and Regional coordinators who have contributed to the activities and programmes at the grassroots level. Finally, the Central Office staff that have over the last few months worked diligently even with the difficult financial situation.

Our most sincere gratitude goes to God Almighty.

Photo Gallery



FORB training in Douala Cameroon



The G. A of PROCMURA and the CEO OF FECCLAHA addressing the people on international day of the girl child in Isiolo Kenya



Protecting vulnerable children against COVID 19 in Kamukunji, Kenya



Youth camp on religious tolerance



The Digital Printing Press



Going out of the comfort zone

