




ACT

“Together We Can End Child Poverty Worldwide”

End Child Poverty Update, January 2019

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP)



Together we can end
child poverty worldwide

I. What is the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP)?

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is a global event marked every year on **17th October**. It is a day for awareness, advocacy and action against poverty. Arigatou International—End Child Poverty uses this opportunity to organise a global International Day for Eradication of Poverty campaign with the universal message, *Together We Can End Child Poverty Worldwide*.

II. Our 2018 International Day for Eradication of Poverty Campaign

Our overarching message, *Together We Can End Child Poverty Worldwide*, was anchored upon the United Nations International Day for Eradication of Poverty 2018 global theme, “Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity”.

Together with our partners, we focused on:

1. Including children in the global development agenda by encouraging communities to listen to children and work side-by-side with children to address child poverty and its drivers.

2. Addressing child poverty and the drivers of child poverty (including violence against children), as part of the building blocks towards advancing fundamental human rights and dignity.
3. Amplifying the Sustainable Development Goal One (SDG 1), which aims to end all forms of poverty everywhere, including child poverty.
4. Mobilising faith communities to engage in these and other areas relevant to ending child poverty.

III. Do We Take Part in observing International Day for Eradication of Poverty?

An estimated 1 billion children live in poverty globally – that is 1 out of every 2 children in the whole world. By taking part in marking the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and mobilising others to do the same, we join the global community addressing this important issue. The International Day for Eradication of Poverty provides opportunity to rally concerted and intensified effort towards ending child poverty.

Ending Child Poverty: Enabling and Listening to the Voices of Children

“Every child has the right to a life free of poverty.”



In his statement to inaugurate our International Day for Eradication of Poverty 2018 campaign, Fred Nyabera, **Director End Child Poverty – Arigatou International asserted that** as the world commemorates the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty under the theme “Coming Together With Those Furthest Behind To Build An *Inclusive* World Of Universal Respect For *Human Rights* And Dignity,” it is imperative to remember that, despite the significant progress that has been made in reducing extreme poverty, an estimated 1 billion children still live in poverty globally – that is 1 out of every 2 children in the whole world. He noted that as we join in the commemorations, it is important that we pause and consider the questions: what does it mean to come together for these children? how do we ensure their inclusion in development? and how do we secure their right to human dignity, while they are still children?

He highlighted the importance to listen to children in our efforts to eradicate child poverty. He pointed out that listening to children means we have recognized that children have a right to active, free and meaningful participation in efforts to secure their own well-being. According to Fred Nyabera, it is not enough that we (as parents, family, faith communities, states or governments) have the best intentions for the child, or that we are committed to find the resources and programmes needed to achieve such intentions, rather we are obligated to make sure that children participate, contribute and are part of this journey.

He concluded that, “*Childhood adversity, especially violence against children and child poverty imposes an unbearable cost on the lives of children*”.

About 32 countries participated in our International Day for Eradication of Poverty (IDEP) 2018 campaign.

We had;

* **32** countries take part in IDEP 2018



* **38** IDEP grassroots activities worldwide

* **1,686** reached/participated through IDEP 2018 grassroots activities



* **25** submissions for the 2nd global IDEP photo contest

* **17,708** sessions on the website



* **11,597** people reached through Facebook



* **113,200** impressions on twitter



Highlights from Asia

India

With relentless commitment to ending child poverty, Shanti Ashram during the International Day for Eradication of Poverty; 17th October 2018 organized hundreds of children from 10 institutions to collect food grains for fellow children who live in poverty in the region. This is part of Shanti Ashram’s children volunteer programs for the well-being of children living in extreme poverty. Here a capacity building program for 40 young volunteers from 10 institutions was held as part of India Poverty Solutions.



The International Day for Eradication of Poverty gave Shanti Ashram an opportunity for reflections, awareness and action towards ending poverty and at the same time initiate the children-led ‘reversing child poverty action-plan 2018. India Poverty Solutions initiative was established by Shanti Ashram in collaboration with Arigatou International – End Child Poverty as a follow up to the Global Network of Religions for Children 4th forum commitments. Such efforts from Shanti Ashram comes against the backdrop of the reality that India is home to over 30% of almost 385 million children living in extreme poverty, the highest in South Asia according to a report by World Bank Group and UNICEF.

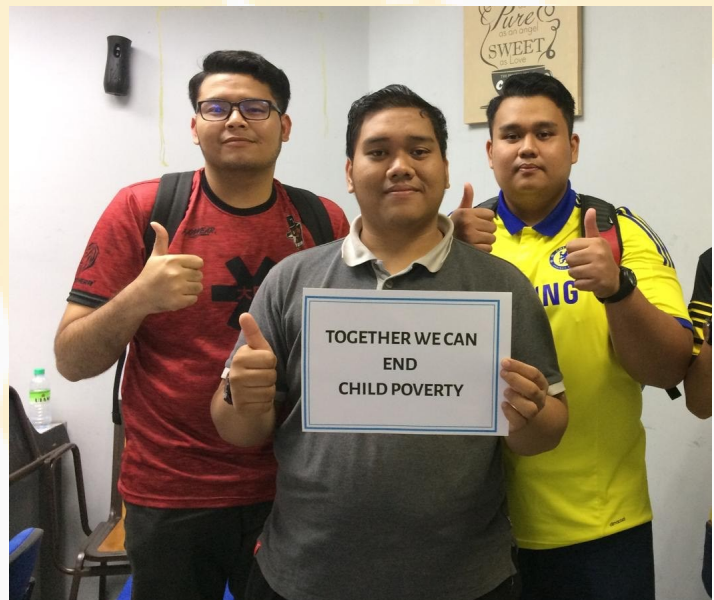
Malaysia

I CAN Malaysia a member of the Global Network of Religions for Children, in collaboration with students from the International Islamic University Malaysia, developed a short advocacy video on the causes of child poverty and how best child poverty can be ended in the world. The video presented statistics on children leaving in poverty, and covered the causes of poverty. Children presented child poverty as a societal problem that can be associated with bad governance. At the same time, developing countries are the most affected, as majority of their citizens live in poverty and children are hardly given the opportunity to meet

their goals.



As such, governments must put policies in place that curb economic exploitation and regulate inequalities. Providing children with quality education is the first step towards ending child poverty. We encourage such initiatives and we encourage our partners to speak up against child poverty.



Nepal

Supporting end child poverty goals, Shikhar Pre-School Imadol, Mahalaxmi Nagarpalika, Patan, Nepal launched “The Piggy Bank Project”. The idea behind the project is that children in the school are given piggy-banks which they have coloured themselves. The rationale is to collect some amount voluntarily every month and put in it. The amount could be as little as a rupee a month as long as it reminds them that this act of theirs is doing something for others less privileged than them. The piggy-bank will be with them till Chaitra 15 (March 15th—April 13th), 2075 after which we will collect them back. The sum gathered and some additional amount added by school shall be given to an entity or an individual, who is earnestly working for those much less privileged than us. An effort to contribute as much, how so ever little to help make a better world. It starts from here.



Pakistan

In an effort to commemorate the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Search for Justice, a member of the Global Network of Religions for Children in Pakistan organized a media briefing. In the media briefing, Search For Justice stated that social protection is a basic human right for children, as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC Articles 26 and 27). Based on the Convention, children have the right to social security and an adequate standard of living, both of which can be guaranteed for children and families who live in poverty through publicly-funded social protection.

Search for Justice also participated in a media interview as well as a dialogue on the role of the media in addressing violence against children. Both the media engagements emphasized on the need to end violence against children as means to ending child poverty. The media interview discussed strategies towards ending violence against children as well as ending child poverty with regards to sustainable policies, allocation of resources, initiation of social protection schemes and engagement of all key stakeholders in protection of children.

Panelists during the dialogue on the other hand urged the media to play its effective role on informing and educating masses on incidences of violence against children, child abuse; both of which contribute to child poverty.



Sri Lanka

Aimed at providing a platform to ‘Listen to Children,’ Arigatou International – End Child Poverty Knowledge Centre in collaboration with the Sarvodaya movement in Sri – Lanka provided a platform for creative performances by children related to the challenges they face in their community such as child labour and corporal punishment. The performances included dancing, poetry and music.

These creative performances took place during training programs for preschool teachers on 13th and 17th October 2018, respectively in commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The training program, which took place on 13th and 17th October 2018 brought together sixty (60) preschool teachers, who were mainly trained on Early Child Development and child protection; with an overarching message of ‘Listening to Children.’ Keeping in mind that a child’s early experiences and environment are formative for life, hence the need to train the teachers in early childhood development.



Having ‘*Listened to Children*,’ Arigatou International – End Child Poverty, Knowledge Centre and the Sarvodaya movement took part in taking forward the national campaign to end corporal punishment for children in schools in Sri-Lanka by 2020. The efforts made by the Arigatou International – End Child Poverty, Knowledge Centre and the Sarvodaya movement are part of the global efforts that Arigatou International – End Child Poverty together with its partners are taking to end child poverty. Together, with such small but impactful actions, we can end poverty in more than one (1) million children living in poverty worldwide.

and children in poor rural areas as well as in urban areas. Around 50 children participated in the activity, as well as their parents and the staff of the religious school. Such actions and initiatives are encouraged by Arigatou International – End Child Poverty because the intension of the organizers which is ending child poverty which is in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 1 which is “end poverty in all its forms everywhere”.

Highlights from Africa

Burundi

The Global Network of Religions for Children in Burundi celebrated the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2018 by organizing an event to provide information for girls who left their families and are working in the cities as house servants on the impact of poverty on children rights.



Democratic Republic of Congo



The discussions revolved around understanding the relationship between poverty and child abuse or the violation of children’s rights. Participants were able to understand that the fight against poverty is the main pillar to end the violence against children. Participants also shared their experiences especially the challenges they face daily working as servants.

Three hundred (300) people including; children, parents, youth, professionals and religious leaders gathered for consultative meetings and a focus group discussion in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of Congo on 17th October 2018.

The consultative meetings and the discussion served to share experiences and suggest possible solutions towards ending poverty in the community. The meetings were organised by the Global Network of Religions for Children in the Democratic Republic of Congo and BIFERRD organization in commemoration of the International Day for Eradication of Poverty 2018.

Participants expressed lack of peace, due to ongoing armed conflicts as one of the major causes of poverty in the region. They complained that the conflicts have had drastic impacts on the economy and development of the country. “We cannot have access to our lands for cultivation because of the active armed groups,” complained one of the parents.

Comoros

Conseil De La Paix-Cap started an initiative from 15th September 2018, which was directed towards donating school materials to children from a religious school located in the North of Ngazidja Island. This activity continued in other localities of the island during the month of October where we commemorate the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

The group selected localities where parents do not have enough resources to buy school materials for their children. The group aims to also conduct a nutrition campaign to pregnant parents



Violence, more so to women and children, has also affected learning in institutions to the extent that children can no longer go to schools or even seek proper healthcare, factors that are vital in a child’s upbringing and if absent, cause a child to live in poverty.

When children were given an opportunity to share their experiences of poverty, their sentiments got everyone’s attention. They said due to lack of peace they become more vulnerable to violence, abandonment, without basic needs and sometimes trafficking; factors which leave them in poverty.

As a step towards self-sustainability, the community shared their efforts on mitigating poverty including starting a microfinance system, Village Savings and Loans; which aims to help individuals increase their incomes and capital, and expand their local businesses. The Village Savings and Loans however called onto organizations to partner with them in realizing their goals. Through lobbying, grassroots actions, advocacy and policy making, Arigatou International believes that we can collectively address child poverty at the same time and address issues related to Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 5 (No Poverty and Gender Equality respectively).

The Global Network of Religions for Children in the Democratic Republic of Congo in partnership with Laissez L’Afrique Vivre “LAV” commemorated the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2018 through the donation of food stuffs and paying school fees for disadvantaged children. The dangerous fires that destroyed many homes in Bukavu on 17th August 2018 left some 2012 children homeless and their parents unable to pay for their school. The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty presented an opportunity for Laissez L’Afrique Vivre a non governmental organization and the Global Network of Religions for Children to assist these children with food and school fees.

Ethiopia

Youths from the Global Network of Religions for Children in Ethiopia provided assistance to children in need in 2018 by feeding street children, orphans, and the under-privileged in society. This exercise was a way of creating awareness on the plight of child poverty of children.



It was aimed at bringing people from the neighborhoods together to provide donations for the vulnerable children in their communities. It is this kind of gestures that Arigatou International – End Child Poverty encourages because creating awareness is the first step to getting many people to talk about the challenges facing children.

Kenya

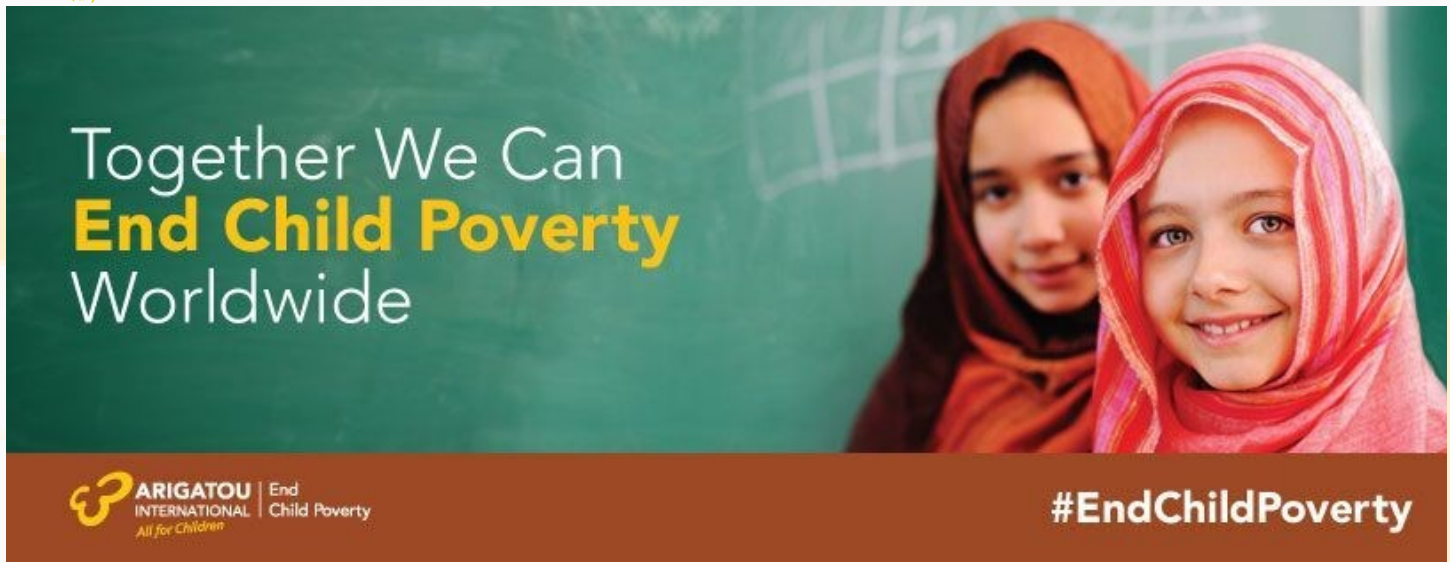
Arigatou International – End Child Poverty participated in the children scouts open day on 13 October 2018 held in Makadara, Nairobi Kenya. The event was organized by Makadara Local Scouts Association. The event brought together about 400 children of between 4–17 years from various schools within the Constituency – Makadara. Children were taught, encouraged, and enlightened on the significance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and the need to promote peace as a way to eradicate poverty and violence against children.



This was mainly done through games and outdoor activities including: skipping rope, balloon bursting, musical chairs, sack race and sweet collection. The children also showcased their talent in dancing and fashion.

The event gave an opportunity to the children to know about the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and why it matters in regards to child poverty. Recognising that child poverty highly exists and it affects them in one way or the other, the children and their teachers, parents and caregivers present promised to honor the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (17th October 2018) and take action towards ending child poverty.

At the same time, youths from the Regional Peace Program in Kenya also undertook different activities to commemorate the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2018. Miss. Aurelia Adhiambo interacted with children from Gaza, Palestine in an online discussion to share ideas and peace messages. Another youth Mr. Badi Buddy engaged with students from the Likoni Salvation Army School for the Blind to interrogate them on their understanding of poverty and what better ways to address it.



Tanzania

Rwanda

The youth in the Global Network of Religions for Children in Tanzania and Zanzibar organised awareness activities in Upendo Centre Pugu in Dar es Salaam Tanzania and in Unguja, Zanzibar in commemoration of the International Day for Eradication of Poverty 17th October 2018. Both events raised awareness on child rights as required in the Convention for the Rights of the Child. This was through playing, storytelling, reading from the library and writing messages of poverty. The events, which were attended by more than 15 children further took steps to advocate against child poverty.

Through the brilliant advocacy and awareness raising of the youth, issues related to child poverty and the rights of every child were raised making the community more alert of these violations against children in Tanzania and Zanzibar.



Youths from the Regional Peace Program in Tanzania also visited Upendo Day Care and Nursery school at Pugu Dar es Salaam, in #KipajiNaMtoto program to celebrate the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2018. The objective of the visit was to listen to children and encourage them to continue pushing on despite the challenges.

Umbrella for the Vulnerable, a member of the Global Network of Religions for Children in Rwanda commemorated the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2018 by gathering 100 children in the Kigabiro sector, district of Rwamagana, Eastern province of Rwanda where different activities took place such as: prayer for children; listening to children; and discussion on child poverty.

Different clerics from different faiths and some experts on children matters were invited to conduct and follow the activities. Among others, the 100 children benefited from the Insurance Health Scheme where they will get access to health facilities all over the country for the period of one year which is 2018-2019. We encourage such initiatives as they positively affect the lives of children.



Uganda

Youths from the Regional Peace Program in Uganda in partnership with AFFCAD, the Embassy of Ireland, Kafeero Foundation, Mindset, Women in Technology Uganda, and Enabel commemorated the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2018 in the informal settlements of Bwaise.

Children from these informal settlements were taught how to code and basic computer literacy which they need to thrive in the 21st century work force and also help them become key actors in Africa's economic development in future. The event had 500 participants including 250 children. AFFCAD staff prayed for the children, read stories, played games, and made donation.



Highlights from Europe

Bosnia and Herzegovina

In commemorating the International Day for Eradication of Poverty, Arigatou International – End Child Poverty in collaboration with *Už Mozaik*, a member of the Global Network of Religions for Children conducted workshops between 17th and 29th October 2018.

The workshops were mainly attended by children and religious leaders under the theme; *Together We Can End Child Poverty Worldwide*. Through the workshop, children got a platform to be heard as well as take part in suggesting solutions towards ending child poverty. The workshop later ended with a visit to the poor communities in Visoko on 18th October 2018.

Už Mozaik further organized a round table discussion with key stakeholders, focusing on the global theme of this year's the International Day for Eradication of Poverty; *Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity*. The round table discussion involved representatives from different religions as well as the Global Network of Religions for Children Coordinator, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Discussions held enabled the community to come together, share and present their perception of poverty, according to their faith. The discussion instilled a sense of moral responsibility, understanding and compassion, with potential to drive individual and group charitable efforts to alleviate the physical, psychological, and spiritual suffering which flow from poverty and racial disparities. Through interfaith engagement, *Už Mozaik* hopes to transform the broader social and economic context that traps many individuals into poverty from when they are children.

Arigatou International – End Child Poverty welcomes such efforts and collaborations from *Už Mozaik* to Ending Child Poverty. Through *Už Mozaik*, it is without doubt that children's wellbeing occupies a central place in all faith communities. Religious groups extend considerable resources and capital to promote the wellbeing of children, the young and poor.

Croatia

The Global Network of Religions for Children organized an intercultural cross border cooperation of educational institutions in Croatia and Serbia. The event took place in Subortica, Serbia between 12th–14th October 2018. The objective was to bring together teachers of primary and high school from the two countries to share their experiences. The activities were organized in partnership with the Nansen Dialogue Centre Osijek, Ministry of Science and Education Serbia, and Ministry of Science and Education Croatia geared towards the commemoration of the international day for the eradication of poverty.

The choice for this activity was influenced by the fact that teachers are great multipliers in their communities. Part of the seminar was dedicated to teach participants how to work on social inequality, poverty and other issues concerning discrimination and intercultural competencies. The Teachers were from 4 schools in 2 countries and work with more than 1,200 pupils.



Moldova

Commemorating the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2018, the Global Network of Religions for Children Moldova in partnership with the Association of Professional and Business Women from Chisinau, Moldova organized an event under the theme: *The life of each child is a priority.*



The activities of the day included: donations and a roundtable discussion with teachers, parents, social workers, and school directors. The event brought together 400 children from disadvantaged background with the goal of assisting them and at the same time creating awareness to their challenges.

Montenegro

Preparing to commemorate the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Djeca Crne Gore, a member of the Global Network of Religions for Children organized a workshop between 14th and 15th October. The workshop brought together some 30 secondary school students in Montenegro to deliberate and share their experiences on child poverty. The workshop was guided by the question: What would I do to fight poverty in my community?



The students raised awareness on Child Poverty in the region and what could possibly be the solution. Their efforts and time spent during the workshop would not go in vain as the students; through the help of Djeca Crne Gore gathered food for 35 local families during the International Day for Eradication of Poverty. They also donated clothes to the families. Most importantly, they learnt empathy as a virtue towards eradicating poverty. Such simple but impactful actions from the students, through Djeca Crne Gore are what goes a long way in achieving a world free of child poverty.

Romania

The Global Network of Religion for Children Romania commemorated the International Day for Eradication of Poverty 2018 with a series of events. On the 12th October 2018 – the team had a meeting with teachers with the aim of promoting their project for teachers from their community with focus on sharing best practices of youth initiatives on eradication of child poverty.

Between 17th—25th October 2018, the team conducted 12 workshops in schools from Bucharest, Reghin, Bistrita Nasaud county, Dambovita county, Bacau county, and Brasov county. And on the 20th October 2018 the team understood a charitable initiative (donations campaigns in their schools, volunteering, humanitarian activities: trips for poor children). The aims and objectives of the initiatives was to educate new teachers on the importance of eradicating child poverty in the country, listen to children’s voic-

es, considering their opinions on poverty and their solution to eradicate poverty, empower teachers and children to involve themselves in the project and develop children social responsibility and their abilities to design and implement social projects.



Serbia

Commemorating the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, Global Network of Religions for Children Serbia and Croatia started an initiative an art newspaper “Step out of violence” which is in progress. On 17th October 2018, the Global Network of Religions for Children Serbia together with students in the “Brotherhood Unity” created art work depicting violence against children and the effects on the society.

Later in the afternoon of that same day the Global Network of Religions for Children members together with the children conducted street action in the main street in Sombor which provided free programs for children and young people to reduce poverty and violence against children. Such actions are praised by Arigatou International End Child Poverty because we believe that creating awareness is the first step towards address child poverty and violence against children.



Highlights from Middle East

Lebanon

Annas Linnas, a member of the Global Network of Religions for Children in Lebanon, continues to empower children from disadvantaged backgrounds especially those that have been affected by the conflict in Syria. The group has continued to empower children through teaching them English language to give them the appropriate tools necessary for a better future. Some 32 children were trained in the English language as a way of preparing them for possible employment opportunities that may come their way thus helping them and their families curb poverty.



Arigatou International – End Child Poverty aspires to rally resources from likeminded partners to continue mentoring young people worldwide and in the process creating a better world free of child poverty.

Highlights from South America

Argentina

The continues increase in poverty in Argentina triggered and formed a large part of the deliberations during the International Day for Eradication of Poverty, 2018 commemorations in Argentina.

On 27th October 2018, the Global Network of Religions for Children in Argentina organized an advocacy event in promotion of the rights of children as well as to mark the day of Non-Violence. More than 300 children and youth attended the event at the central square of Pilar, at the outskirts of Buenos Aires, Argentina. The children and youth present showed their understanding of poverty as well as demanded for their rights as enshrined in the Convention for the Rights of the Child, through posters and banners.

Encouraging the children and youth, Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, a Nobel peace prize winner said: "It is said that childhood is the future of humanity. This is only relatively true. I believe that children, adolescents and young people are the present, and that the future will be the direct consequence of the present. What today we have the courage to sow, we will reap its fruits tomorrow”.

The advocacy efforts to end child poverty by the Global Network of Religions for Children in Argentina culminated in an advocacy event held on 29th October 2018, in the National Senate of Argentina. More than 80 young people from different parts of Argentina participated in the event. During the event, one of the children stated that “We face child abuse, rapes, exploitation and trafficking.



The lack of access to education, decent housing, the lack of health coverage, poor nutrition and lack of opportunities condemn us to a life we have not decided to live. We face hunger. We are criminalized on the basis our social origin and condition, we are excluded”. The children and youth unanimously advocated for state policies and solutions that would protect them from abuse, violence and poverty. If such bold voices and actions from Argentina would be replicated by children, youth, religious leaders and organizations across the world, then together we can indeed end child poverty.

Cuba

In commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2018, different Global Network of Religions for Children teams in South America organized different activities to create awareness on the pandemic of child poverty. In Cuba, the event took place at Santiago de Cuba between the 20th and 23rd October. The celebrations brought together some 62 children from different religious backgrounds. These children were then involved in charitable activities like donation of clothes, baby bottles, educational materials to institutions working with marginalized and disadvantaged children.

Global Network of Religions for Children Cuba also organized cultural and artistic activities for disadvantaged children at the psychopedagogical centre “América Labadi”, where children spent

an afternoon of joy and fun with clowns and street artists. The "Steel Child" project that brings together children between 7–13 years of age and which is sponsored by Casa del Caribe, also participated in the event.



Finally, Global Network of Religions for Children Cuba visited the Catholic Cultural Centre “La Trinidad”, run by the Claretian Congregation in Santiago de Cuba, and particularly the programme “Casitas de la Paz” (homes of peace) that targets marginalized children of Santiago de Cuba. Global Network of Religions for Children members discussed how to continue working in Santiago de Cuba during 2019, to support marginalized children and contribute to ending child poverty.

Dominican Republic

In the Dominican Republic, Global Network of Religions for Children members celebrated the International Day for Eradication of Poverty through a moment of reflection and prayer in each faith community for the many children who live in poverty and extreme poverty on the island. Members decided to use the “interfaith prayer for the eradication of child poverty”, which was developed by Global Network of Religions for Children – Dominican Republic a few years ago. Additionally, one of the members of the network (Fundación La Merced) organized an initiative with a private school of Santo Domingo to collect food that was then distributed to children of Batey Bienvenido, a very poor slum in Santo Domingo.

Ecuador

Global Network of Religions for Children Ecuador celebrated the International Day for Eradication of Poverty by reflecting on what Arigatou International’s “End Child Poverty Initiative”, has achieved until now, and to select a new project to be implemented by Global Network of Religions for Children - Ecuador to contribute to this initiative and to eradicating child poverty in the country.



The Evangelical Indigenous Church of Imbabura "Love of Jehovah" presented to the group the achievements of the project "Corazon de Imbabura", the guinea pigs breeding project targeting 10 indigenous families, who donated land to set up the ideal place for breeding guinea pigs.

The children identified three levels of actions that can be carried out to contribute to the eradication of child poverty: In the short term, sensitize children about their human rights as citizens and human beings;

Through the sale of these animals, the families were able to support the children of the community "La Compañía de Jesús" in Otavalo, on the shores of Lake San Pablo, with food, school supplies, and other basic needs. Segundo Otavalo, elder of this indigenous community and religious leader, thanked Arigatou International and the Global Network of Religions for Children for having supported this project and highlighted that they are now planning to scale up the project to create a community association for responsible tourism. Finally, Pastor Ramiro Balseca of the United Methodist Church of Quito presented to the Global Network of Religions for Children Committee a new project proposal. The project aims at creating a shelter and cafeteria for vulnerable refugee and migrant children in Quito.

In the medium term: carry out peer-to-peer activities, through which children can raise awareness with their friends and peers (at school or in their faith communities) on the human rights that contribute to eliminate child poverty, especially the right to education.

Finally, in the longer term, strengthen their capacities and academic knowledge so that they can carry out advocacy actions to claim for their rights and hold State Institutions accountable for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and effective public policies that can eradicate child poverty.



Panama

Our Advocacy with the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty and the Moral Imperative, 2018

Global Network of Religions for Children Panama celebrated the International Day for Eradication of Poverty 2018 by focusing the overarching message for this year's "Listening to Children", one of the 10 Commitments made at the Global Network of Religions for Children 5th Forum in Panama in May 2017. Global Network of Religions for Children Panama organized a workshop with a group of 17 children aged 12—18 (9 girls and 8 boys) aimed at strengthening their capacities as agents of change and responsible young citizens through promoting their participation and reflecting on how they can increase their choices and opportunities to live a dignified life, free from discrimination and poverty.

One of the ways we address interfaith advocacy is through commemoration of the International Day for Eradication of Poverty together with our global partners. During the International Day for Eradication of Poverty 2018, we shared social media advocacy messages among our global partners – the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty and the Moral Imperative.

The messages were shared on our organization social media platforms as well as individual partners platforms. Through this sharing of advocacy messages, our International Day for Eradication of Poverty campaign reached a large global online audience. For example, we had 113,200 impressions on twitter while 11,597 people were reached through Facebook.



Significantly, we shared some child poverty statistics as was provided by the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty and further shared the policy brief on “Poor Children in Rich Countries: Why we Need Policy Action,” that was launched by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development on 17th October 2018, during the International Day for Eradication of Poverty. Apart from the messages and the paper, we also shared infographics, photos from the Global Coalition. Similarly, we shared our photos and infographics to the coalition members and the Moral Imperative.

By engaging in global advocacy together with other organizations, we increase the potential of yielding desired results, that is ending child poverty. This also offers us a wider reach of our work.

International Day for Eradication of Poverty Photo Contest/Success Stories

End Child Poverty believes children hold the power to change the world. Our 2018 Photography Contest is one of the success stories of our International Day for Eradication of Poverty campaign, as it showcased what our partners and friends are doing in their communities to help address child poverty. Poverty throughout the world has many different forms, and our partners showed us what actions they have taken to help address the forms of poverty in their communities that are affecting children in particular. For this year 2018 Sophie Safi Mambo from the Democratic Republic of Congo was the winner with Isaac Makinya from Kenya as the runner up.



“I am a draftsman of smiles, as Mother Theresa has said people are more in lack of love than in lack of bread. Poverty for me is a life without reasons to smile. I have dedicated my life to this end, if it is necessary to dance in the rain so that the children find the smile I do it without hesitation. At the place where I am from, you see that violence and war have taken precious things from some children such as parents, family, home etc. So I use my time to restore their hopes, I bring to them the warmth that is in my heart to prove to them that they can be loved and that smile is something that life cannot take away from them, it is more than just a right” Sophie Safi Mambo.

The 1st Runner Up



“This photo was taken during a training camp for young scouts in Machakos County. The camp was attended by boy scouts and girls scouts from different institutions. The objective of the training was to impart useful skills and educate the young people to become responsible citizens who will be useful to their local, national and international communities. It was also to build them physically, emotionally, intellectually, spiritually and socially and thus contribute to good character.

Among the areas of focus were entrepreneurial skills, leadership skills, environmental conservation, health education and self development. The scouts were also guided on how to come up with project ideas and use the locally available materials to implement them. Imparting skills and knowledge to these young people helps them to become self reliant and also be able to deal with situations in their societies. I am a volunteer scout leader and I organise such trainings in different schools in Nairobi and this has taken place for 4 years now and from this we have been able to get young men and women who have been able to stand by themselves and have brought solutions to their communities,” says Isaac Makinya.

The International Day for Eradication of Poverty 2018 can be considered a success as our partners all over the world took part in the celebrations as highlighted above. The International Day for Eradication of Poverty remains a very important celebration for Arigatou International End Child Poverty as it helps us in creating awareness and advocating for equality in society. In 2019 we will continue with the campaign with the hope that we will reach more people through our partners and create awareness to end child poverty.

How Can You Take Part in Observing the International Day for Eradication of Poverty?

You can take part in observing the International Day for Eradication of Poverty through:

1. Promoting **awareness** on child poverty, through online messaging, public forums and other such events.
2. Promoting **advocacy**, calling decision makers and policy influencers to task, so that child poverty can be addressed as a priority concern at a community, national and global level.
3. Accompanying and supporting **grassroots actions** towards ending child poverty.

Since 2013, Arigatou International—End Child Poverty has marked the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty through various ways, most notably:

1. Public Awareness Event and [Relaunch](#) of the Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty (End Child Poverty), Nairobi, Kenya, 17th October 2013.
2. Launch of the End Child Poverty [Knowledge Centre](#) in collaboration with Sarvodaya, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 17th October 2014.
3. The first online End Child Poverty International Day for Eradication of Poverty [Photo Contest](#), with the challenge “Defining a World Free of Child Poverty through Photography”, from 17th October 2017 to November 20th 2017.
4. Mobilising and supporting more than 135 [grassroots actions](#) in over 25 countries, through our partners and members of Arigatou International’s Global Network of Religions for Children.

Join us this year on the 17th of October 2019 to celebrate the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.



Take Action

Thank you. We value and appreciate your partnership and we welcome you to be part of the global movement to end child poverty and build a better world for all children.



We have provided these and additional action ideas through our End Child Poverty resource guide, ‘Inspire. Act. Change: An interfaith Guide to End Child Poverty’.

You can connect with us through our End Child Poverty website and social media, for this and more resources. Together we can end child poverty worldwide.

End Child Poverty
Arigatou International – Nairobi
Crawford Business Park, State House Road.
P.O. Box 43546 – 00100, Nairobi, Kenya

CONTACT US

+254 20 2573920/1 | +254 705 320 970 | +254 733 945 971

endingchildpoverty.org | arigatouinternational.org

endchildpoverty@arigatouinternational.org

End Child Poverty |

@IIECP

endchildpoverty_arigatou