



**Making Waves**

# Bringing Faith to Bear on Child Poverty

[endingchildpoverty.org](http://endingchildpoverty.org)

 **ARIGATOU** | End  
INTERNATIONAL | Child Poverty  
*All for Children*





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End Child Poverty and partners  
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**EDITORIAL**

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# CONTENTS

<b>FORWARD BY FRED NYABERA</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ABOUT US</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>THE BIG PICTURE</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>HOW WE MEASURE IMPACT</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>OUR IMPACT</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>FOOTPRINTS AND IMPRINTS</b>	
The Interfaith Guide	19
Voices for Children-Global Partnerships and Coalitions	21
Voices for Children-Community Organizing and Advocacy	24
Growing Peace-Making the World Safer for Children	25
Crystalizing Grassroots Initiatives	28
<b>BUILDING OUR COMPETENCY</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>LOOKING AHEAD</b>	<b>33</b>



1.4 million



children die annually due to lack of access to safe  
**drinking water** and adequate **sanitation**

## FOREWORD BY FRED NYABERA

### THE JOURNEY THUS FAR

At the Fourth Forum of the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) in Dar es Salaam, June 2012, we pledged ourselves to fight against child poverty, however challenging the task!

Not long after this meeting, the Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty (End Child Poverty), the strategic and operational response was launched in Nairobi, Kenya. Right at birth, we were cautious that child poverty presented a complex phenomena and that the battle ahead would not be easily won. We recognized however that this cause must be won if our children and humanity are to be genuinely free.

This report seeks to provide an account of the work that has been undertaken

by End Child Poverty in pursuit of the commitment to fight to end child poverty. We have conceived of this as an outlier account of our key results thus far, a measure of the footprint that we have established in the short time since our launch. We have also

**“While we, of the GNRC, have pledged ourselves to the fight against child poverty, we recognize that this is an enormously complex battle. However, unless we resolve this problem, we will never be able to realize an eradication of child poverty.”**

—Rev. Keishi Miyamoto, President of Arigatou International, Dar El Salaam, Tanzania 17<sup>th</sup> June 2012

sought to determine the strength of the impression made by this footprint, the imprint we have made and that provide the critical building blocks in our efforts to rise to these promises.

We are heartened to see the progress we have made thus far. In particular, I believe that End Child Poverty is gaining ground, that our presence and voice is being felt and heard, and that our passion, experience and inputs towards local, regional and global efforts to eradicate child poverty have been very much welcome by those with whom we have sought partnerships. Most hearteningly, even in this very short period, through our programming and activities, we are building an imprint capable of the task we set for ourselves.

In this account you will find a rendering of our work in two broad measures — the footprint we had developed, and the imprint we have seeded. Ultimately, bending the curve of poverty in favour of children is



a daunting task. We believe in order for this change to happen, this real work must be done by parents and their communities, governments, regional bodies and actors in the global commons working together.

While we are out there looking for indicators that the curve is bending, we realize that this is not a simple task. We perceive of our role as that of catalyzing and nudging efforts needed to enable this symphony. Our real effort, or real impact therefore lies in how effectively we can influence this bending so that it does happen, that it does so sooner than later, that children are active participants in the process and that it does so with finality. That will be our legacy.

In this report we demonstrate how we are trying to catalyse action among faith communities and global actors, and what we have achieved by way of intermediate results in these efforts. Hopefully, as we consider other reports later, the long term impact of our work will become clearer.

Most notably, our vision for a world free of child poverty requires us to mobilise resources of faith actors and communities and through awareness and consciousness raising, endear them to this cause. It also requires us to address root causes of poverty by speaking to the issues at local, national, regional and global levels. It also requires of us to respond catalytically, to members of our grassroots communities that demonstrate innovation and promise in their work to fight child poverty.

As our reporting will show, we have made good progress in all these efforts. In the past three and a half years, we have produced a key resource — an Interfaith Guide to End Child Poverty; joined several advocacy coalitions and workgroups on child poverty, established a research and documentation centre dedicated entirely to ending child poverty, joined a global coalition of faith-based grassroots organisations and actors who commit significant time and effort to campaigning against child poverty, and lasting programming to

end violence against children and other causes of child poverty. Acting jointly with partners and collaborators we have influenced the global development agenda in favour of eradicating child poverty as well as prepared a path breaking tool that enables national governments and actors at various levels to follow a critical path towards eradicating child poverty.



However, despite these achievements, we still face many challenges. Some of these are ontological in nature, such as: given the enormity of the challenge, how big a footprint should we build?



Should we simply go as far as the challenge will take us? What is the real scope of our limitations in this endeavor? Another challenge has to do with deepening our imprint — how to make sure that our key results such as building of coalitions, organisations, platforms, etc are able to deliver on their task. For it is in this delivery that we get our impact.

We are also confronted with a challenge of evidence, the informational basis needed for us to pass judgment on our work. How do we know that the curve is

bending or the back of child poverty is breaking so to speak? How do we know that local and global efforts to end child poverty are bearing fruit?

Secondly, what is the evidence of the impact of our own practice, how do we value our work and contribution to ending child poverty? How do we know that we are positively and sustainably influencing the behaviours and conduct of the numerous actors and institutions whose duty it is to prioritize plans, programmes and resources to end child poverty?

Hopefully, finding answers to these and other challenges will help us move away from commitments and anecdotes to hard evidence, to a realization of what works and what does not, and to demonstrating real impact on the actual fortunes of real children at micro, macro and global levels. I do look forward to overcoming these challenges on this journey to end child poverty.

We would like to thank all who have made this journey thus far possible, to the hundreds of thousands who have

taken to our call for grassroots organising against child poverty, to our many partners at local, regional and global levels and to individuals from across the world who continue to make ending child poverty a priority call on their time and resources. We look forward to working with all of you on the next steps of our journey.

To the hundreds of millions of children who wake up to and are maimed every day by poverty, you continue to be our inspiration. Your pain is our cause.



A stylized, handwritten signature of Fred Nyabera in black ink.

**Fred Nyabera**  
Director, End Child Poverty  
Arigatou International







## ABOUT US



The Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty (End Child Poverty) is the multi-faith, child-centred, global initiative of Arigatou International that mobilises faith-inspired resources to eradicate poverty affecting children.

We aim to create a world free of child poverty, by addressing the root causes of poverty in the human heart and the structural causes of poverty in society.

Arigatou International is a faith-based, non-profit organisation, committed to building a better world for children. As an initiator and sustainer of partnership-based initiatives to secure child rights and foster children's well-being, Arigatou International seeks to maximize the potential of interfaith cooperation, and always strives to empower and involve children and youth.

Arigatou International is "All for Children," and draws on universal principles of common good to offer compelling new ways for people of diverse religious and cultural backgrounds to come together to address children's issues.

### **OUR MISSION** **Mobilising Faith-Inspired Resources to End Child Poverty**

We believe in a world where every child lives free of poverty. Every day, together with many others we aim for and work hard to make this hope a reality.

### **OUR VISION** **A World Free of Child Poverty**

We mobilise, connect, work with and work through faith communities as valuable partners to overcome child poverty. Faith communities and faith-inspired organisations have unique resources to overcome child poverty, including their spiritual value, their social capital and

their moral assets. As End Child Poverty, we maximize on these comparative strengths towards ending child poverty at grassroots and global levels.

### **OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

As End Child Poverty, we are guided by these four simple and powerful principles:

- Building child-centred initiatives.
- Integration of positive religious values in our work.
- Promotion of faith-inspired initiatives.
- Cooperation with like-minded stakeholders.

**300 million**  
children go to bed hungry  
**every day**





# THE BIG PICTURE

## THE CHARGE

“The UNICEF estimates that 22,000 children are dying each day due to a host of deprivations because of poverty. Many die quietly in some of the remotest and poorest villages on earth, far removed from the scrutiny and of the watchful eye and the conscience of the world. So many children losing their lives to... preventable (causes).

I am sure every responsible and well-meaning person should be concerned with the well-being of our children and young people. (We must) assist families of the children to become prosperous so that their children will live in a poverty-free environment. Since it may take time before poor families can become prosperous, children should not be left to wait for so long.

Humanity must therefore directly assist children from poor families to get the

necessities of life they are deprived of because of being born and living in poor families. This is the responsibility of every one of us. We need to make children a priority in our plans and programmes to reduce and eradicate poverty.”

—H.E Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the Republic of Tanzania , Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania 17<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

“Today we launch a third global initiative that will emphasize spiritual awakening to address the root causes of poverty and challenge the unequal distribution of resources, war and violence, poor governance and corruption. It will utilize interfaith advocacy and grassroots action to overcome poverty.

(We) envision a world where no child will live in poverty, (and) will actively engage children as full participants and actors as we advocate and act at every level to shape and promote policies that address injustice against children.

In doing so, we will reaffirm human dignity and seek to influence the global development agenda beyond 2015.”

—Ending Poverty, Enriching Children: Inspire. Act. Change. Dar es Salaam Declaration, GNRC, Dar es Salaam Tanzania, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2012.



## CHILD POVERTY BY THE NUMBERS

### OUR RESPONSE

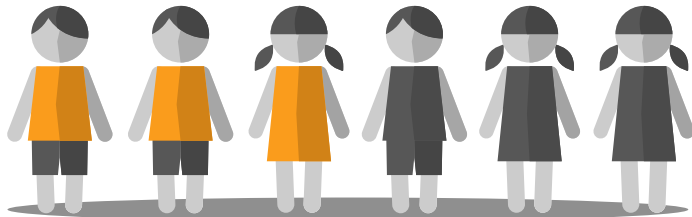
“With grave and heartfelt concern, we - people from all the world’s great religions and so many of its nations — commit to you, in solidarity, that we... will strengthen our efforts to eradicate poverty, the root cause of the deteriorating environment that children face, giving attention not only to external causes, but also to those that stem from the human heart, thus realizing fundamental solutions... we shall devote ourselves to bringing about, through prayer and practice, this global, “silent spiritual revolution” for the future of children.”

—Rev. Takeyasu Miyamoto, Founder, Arigatou International May 10, 2002,  
UN General Assembly



**Rev. Takeyasu Miyamoto**  
Founder, Arigatou International

There are 2.2 billion children of whom  
**1 billion** live in poverty



Child poverty has been described as “deprivation of the material, spiritual and emotional resources needed (for children) to survive, develop and thrive, leaving them unable to enjoy their rights, achieve their full potential or participate as full and equal members of society.”



## HOW WE DO IT: MOBILISING FAITH-INSPIRED RESOURCES

Faith has an enduring, constitutive and immeasurable value. Faith communities have a lasting commitment to developing the human person. Faith communities bring significant and unmatched competences to local, national and global efforts to end child poverty. Faith communities have a unique constitutive role as conveners, amplifiers, participants and informed experts on matters of well-being and development. At the local level, faith communities are a dependable presence in community with an unparalleled convening capacity and infrastructure.

The work of faith actors, their institutions and communities is self-sustaining as it is founded on conviction and personal calling, a collective responsibility

and the trust that others have in them. This conviction and sense of community provide faith actors with a sense of endeavor, commitment and longevity.

**“ As people of faith, we see the Divine Presence in every person, and thus (make it) our obligation to encourage each person, with patience and compassion, to realize the highest potential of the human heart. It is this Divine Presence - and this great potential - which are the eternal wellspring of the dignity of every child - indeed, of every one of us.”**

—Rev. Takeyasu Miyamoto at the UN General Assembly in May 2010

Faith actors are closely embedded and committed to local communities, work across and promote links among communities as well as across cultural and national boundaries and spur people to consider ethics including and above

all, the inherent and irreducible dignity of each human being.

Faith communities have a long history of action on development and often deliver a multiplicity of services to individual and communities blighted by poverty, conflict, humanitarian and natural disaster.

These qualities make faith communities a natural location for work to eradicate child poverty. It is our cardinal role as End Child Poverty to mobilise this resourcefulness of faith actors and their communities to end child poverty.

## OUR KEY RESULT AREAS

### Theological Reflection and Action

To rout out poverty, we have to go beyond conventional social, economic and political language to address its root causes in the human heart and especially greed, ignorance, hatred and fear.



### Interfaith Advocacy and Lobbying

We support and engage in interfaith advocacy and lobbying to change deeply rooted causes of child poverty. These causes include; inequitable distribution of resources, corruption, poor governance, violent conflicts and violence against children.

### Promoting Flagship and Grassroots Initiatives

We initiate and accompany grassroots initiatives to end child poverty. Prospective projects have to be sustainable, exhibit a high potential to reduce child poverty, and would normally aim to enhance quality education and retention of vulnerable children in school, transform violent conflicts that exacerbate poverty and promote income generating activities for low income caregivers and families.

### Advancing the Knowledge and Evidence Base for Ending Child Poverty

We recognize the overriding strategic need to assemble a knowledge and evidence base against child poverty. For these reasons we helped set up the End Child Poverty Knowledge Centre, where we initiate research, gather and disseminate relevant knowledge, and

enhance the capacity of individuals and organisations to address child poverty.

### Building Partnerships

We recognize the promise and value of effective networking, collaboratives and partnerships. We need this in order to be effective and work at the various levels of impact. In deed much of our work is only possible within structured relationships with numerous other agencies and actors at these levels. We are therefore working to motivate and





An infographic featuring a stylized house with a grey roof and yellow and orange walls. To the right of the house are three stylized children: a boy in an orange shirt and black shorts, a girl in an orange dress, and a boy in a black shirt and black shorts. Above the house is a large orange circle containing the text '1 in 3'.

1 in 3

**640 million**  
children live without  
**adequate shelter**

mobilise a powerful worldwide movement of care and concern for every child. Our ethos, *Together We Can End Child Poverty Worldwide*, invites every person and organisation to join up and take action to end child poverty.

### **Building Our Core Competencies**

Leveraging through the GNRC and other Faith-Inspired Initiatives. Much of what we are able to achieve is because we can rely on the able offices, support and resourcefulness of our partner network at the GNRC members, other Arigatou Initiatives namely

— Prayer and Action for Children and Ethics Education for Children, as well as other faith-inspired communities.

The global reach of Arigatou International's strategic initiatives provides an invaluable platform for our work. To seize the opportunity, we work to mainstream child poverty eradication into all of Arigatou International's initiatives.



## **Vision**

A world free of child poverty

## **Mission**

Mobilizing faith-inspired resources to end child poverty

### **Addressing root causes of poverty in the human heart**

(greed, fear, hatred  
and ignorance)

Through theological  
reflection and action

### **Challenging structural causes of poverty**

(unequal distribution of  
resources, poor governance,  
corruption, war and violence)

Through interfaith  
advocacy and lobbying

### **Accompanying or initiating grass root activities**

Through replicable  
flagship projects

### **Strategies Used**

technical and financial facilitation; capacity enhancement;  
alliance and partnership building and direct implementation

## HOW WE MEASURE OUR IMPACT

End Child Poverty seeks to achieve impact through four key strategic actions: Mitigating Human Root Causes of Poverty through Theological Reflection, Prayer and Action; Combatting Structural Causes of Poverty through Interfaith Advocacy and Lobbying; Supporting Grassroots Projects with promising outcomes for child poverty and building our internal capacity to deliver on mission.



The pursuit of these strategic actions provides us with the spheres from which to determine key results and outcomes. It was determined early that given our limited resources and reach, End Child Poverty would best pursue these strategic objectives by working as a catalyst through utilizing the GNRC membership, through building, joining or influencing alliances or networks of like-spirited organisations, and through partnerships that promise us work at scale and depth in international and local contexts. As such, the creation of these networks, coalitions and partnerships, are a key intermediate result, a key indicator for potential impact.

We consider that our impact can be traced and captured from two inter-related vantage points, the first, our footprint and the second, our imprint. The footprint can be traced and captured by the reach of our activities in distance, in time and in the sheer

number and scale. Of necessity, our imprint is superimposed on the footprint. However we trace our imprint not by the number of activities undertaken, but by the depth and quality of positive change that we can attribute to them. As an example, while we may engage numerous activities to help establish a coalition of inter-faith leaders in a region, it is the existence of the network itself and the reach of its influence that counts for impact.

In looking for impact, we therefore first trace our footprint at the local, regional and global levels. We also seek to evaluate the imprint that we achieve through this reach for its effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and the concrete results as evidenced by reducing child poverty. Since we work globally, regionally, at country and local levels, we trace the footprint, imprint and their outcomes at these levels. So, can we find networks of organisations or



groups of individuals that have formed to end child poverty as a result of our work? What is the likely impact of the activities of these networks and groups in relation to child poverty?



How much of the results we can find be attributed to the work of End Child Poverty? Can we attribute certain behavior, or change in behavior, or activity of a partner to the efforts of End Child Poverty? How sustainable are these networks, groups, resulting behaviours or activities? What is the real likelihood of eradicating child poverty through these efforts and where would be the global and local evidence for it?

We also recognize that the real goal to end child poverty represents an intractable and deeply embedded challenge. The conditions from which child poverty spring are deeply entrenched and require extensive and profound societal change. As such, the results and impacts we seek are of themselves intermediate in nature. The evidence for real outcomes will take time to build up and gather.

We are also acutely aware that the outcomes that we claim are also the result of a co-mingling of numerous other influences from the independent work of other agencies and actors.

To recap, what this means is that following our theory of how change happens, we first establish a vision — ending child poverty everywhere, to which we supply strategic and programmatic actions from a vantage point of mobilising faith resources and from which we can follow our unique footprint and its imprint. Hopefully, much later we can extract outcomes — a lasting legacy for children.

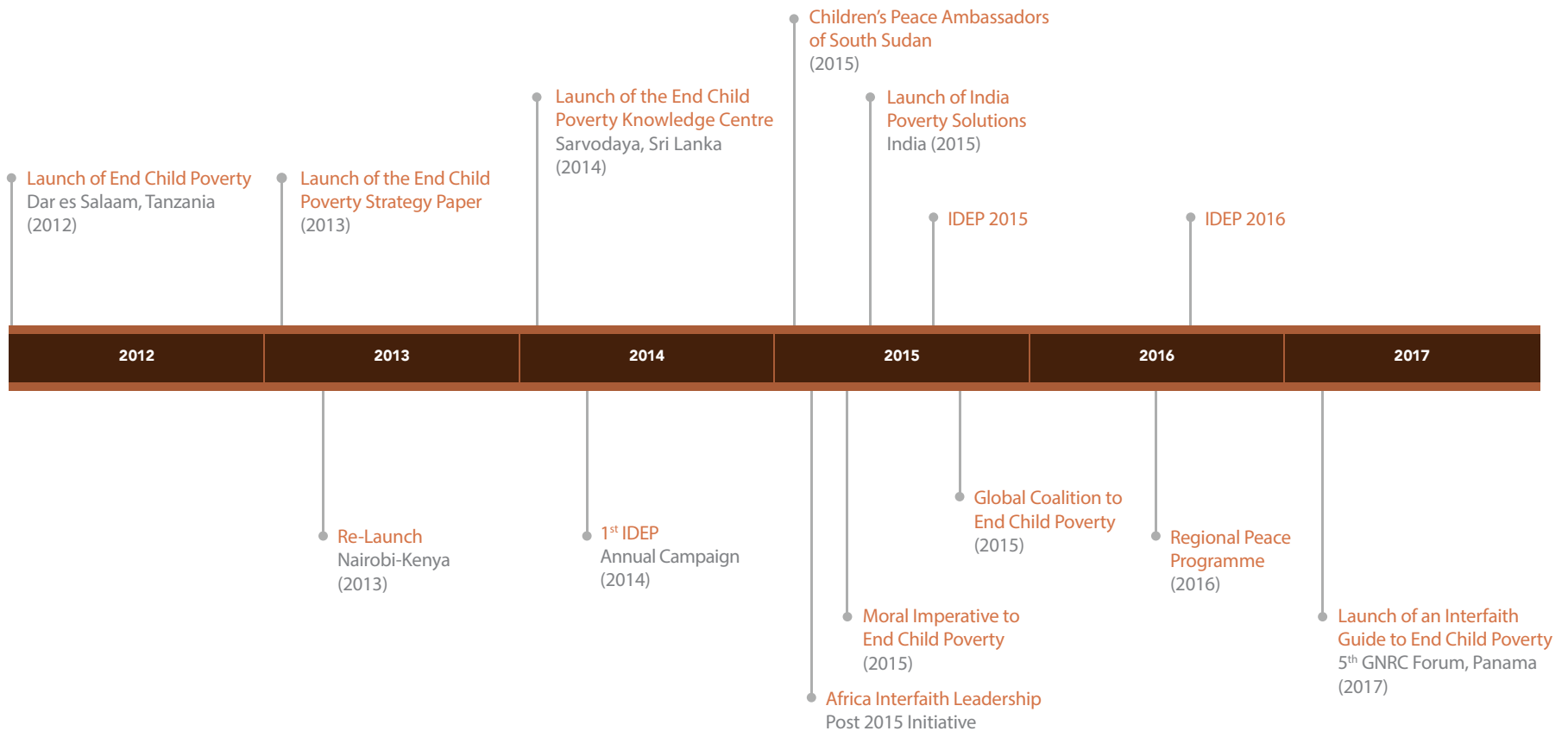


## OUR IMPACT: FOOTPRINTS AND IMPRINTS

In slightly more than three years, we have reached 37 Countries, through the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) and other partnering organisations.

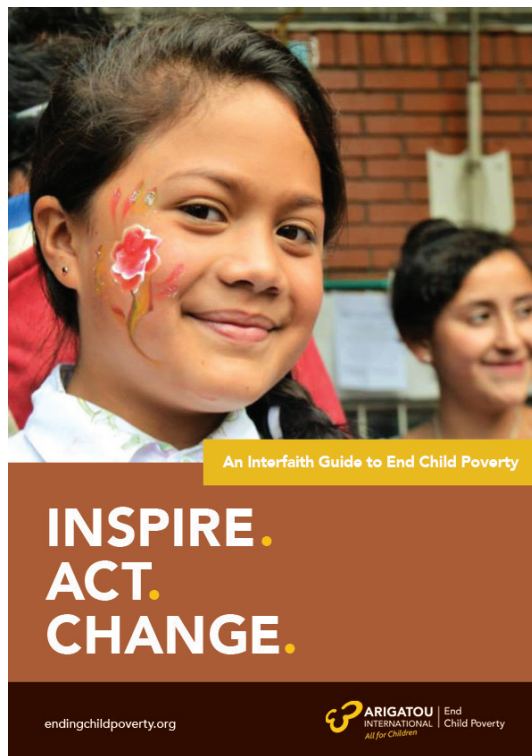


## A GROWING AND DEEPENING IMPRINT





# MAINSTREAMING CHILD POVERTY ERADICTION WITHIN FAITH COMMUNITIES



**INSPIRE. ACT. CHANGE.**  
An Interfaith Guide to  
End Child Poverty

Faith Communities have incredible scope, capacity, tenacity and longevity. We have, however, identified critical gaps in interfaith efforts to combat child poverty; these include a knowledge gap on poverty, a lack of clear focus on child poverty and the absence of common interfaith tools to fight child poverty.

In response, we have produced a comprehensive interfaith guide that brings together into a single resource the various faith traditions' thinking and approaches to child poverty. The resource brings together theoretical and practical tools to explain child poverty. The resource is further enriched by blending with

contemporary human rights-based aspirations on children and child poverty.

The guide will enable the GNRC members and other faith communities to engage in year-round advocacy and action on child poverty.

The guidebook is intended to serve as a model for them to engage in year-round child poverty spiritual reflection, advocacy and action. It is intended to be an easy-to-use resource that includes resources to use in worship services, prayers, education programmes, direct service activities and social justice initiatives. The resources can be used with one's own faith community or multi-faith events.

**"Religious people have often failed to put into practice the deepest insights of their own religious traditions into the dignity of the child."**

—Rev. Takeyasu Miyamoto at the UN General Assembly in May 10, 2002

In order to produce the resource, End Child Poverty engaged in an extensive Interfaith network and collaborated in an interactive process that involved numerous actors and expert sources. The process has taken us to numerous communities spread in 25 countries in Africa, the Balkans, Asia and Latin America. Soon to be presented within the framework of the GNRC and other partnering institutions, we expect to grow this footprint both in scope and in depth as these broad communities deploy it to end child poverty.

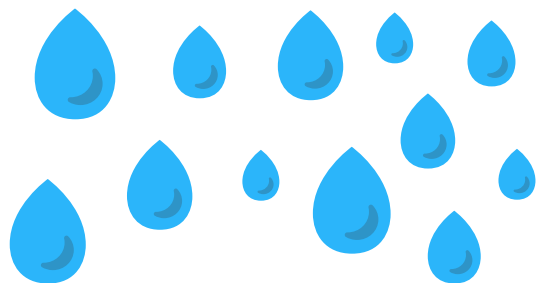
We expect that this imprint will concretize into long standing local and national actions within the faith communities seeking to address child poverty and integration of child poverty related issues into the preaching, teachings and activities of faith communities.

In the immediate term, we expect a heightened understanding of the impact of poverty on children and the need for faith communities to re-appraise their role in efforts to end child poverty. From this we expect

concrete changes in attitude and behaviour as may be witnessed in local and national programmes.

In the longer term, we expect an outpouring of support for strategic local, national and regional efforts to combat child poverty, as well as more numerous and stronger networks and collaboratives between faith communities and other stakeholders in addressing child poverty.

**400 million**  
children lack access to  
**safe water**



# VOICES FOR CHILDREN: GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS AND COALITIONS ON CHILD POVERTY

## MAINSTREAMING CHILD POVERTY WITHIN THE PROCESS AND OUTCOMES OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

As the period for the Millennium Development Goals came to an end in 2015, the global community was engaged in long and impactful consultations on a successor mechanism and the priorities for poverty eradication in the coming era. End Child Poverty saw in this an opportunity to mobilise around child poverty within the context and language of global efforts to end poverty.

Of special importance for us are:

- **Goal 1** – End all forms of poverty everywhere.
- **Goal 4** – Promoting quality education.
- **Goal 5** – Gender Equality - including an end to child marriage.
- **Goal 8** – Decent Jobs - including an end to child labour.

- **Goal 16** – Building Peaceful Societies - including an end to violence against children.

To realise the opportunities we helped initiate or joined three key advocacy platforms:

- The African Interfaith Initiative on the post 2015 Development Agenda.
- The Faith-Based Framework to Realize the Sustainable Development Goals/ Moral Imperative Initiative.
- The Global Coalition to End Child Poverty; Mainstreaming Child Poverty in the Global multi-lateral development community.

In nearly all instances cited, one key role for End Child Poverty has been to empower, sharpen then help amplify the voice of faith communities and

partners in advocating for an end to child poverty. While much of this has been achieved by helping form concrete foundations, we have also sought to lend ourselves to initiatives that hold much promise for our work.

Our experience is that even for organisations with an exclusive mandate for children, child poverty is not always the priority agenda. We have also found that many well-meaning and child-centered organisations lack the conceptual and methodological clarity on what child poverty is and how to overcome it.



## THE GLOBAL COALITION TO END CHILD POVERTY: A JOINT DIVISION TO END CHILD POVERTY

In 2015, End Child Poverty joined The Global Coalition to End Child Poverty, an initiative that describes itself as “a network of like-minded organisations deeply concerned with the devastating effects of poverty in childhood on children and societies across the world, and dedicated to raising awareness and supporting global and national action to alleviate it.” (please visit their site [www.endchildhoodpoverty.org](http://www.endchildhoodpoverty.org)).

An important output for this Coalition is, A World Free from Child Poverty: A Guide to the tasks to achieve the vision. The guide contains ideas, practical wisdom and steps that governments, state and non-state actors can deploy to achieve a world free of child poverty. By laying emphasis on national level actions, the guide provides a practical vision for individual national pathways to end child poverty.

Coalition members include: The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank Group, Save the Children, OECD, BRAC, OPHI, Child Fund Alliance, PEP, ATD Fourth World, ODI, Young Lives, SOS Children’s Villages International, FXB Center for Health and Human Rights, Harvard University, Eurochild, UN Major Group for Children and Youth, Equity for Children, African Child Policy Forum, IDS and World Vision International.

## THE MORAL IMPERATIVE INITIATIVE

First convened in 2015, the Moral Imperative to End Extreme Poverty is facilitated by the World Bank Group and brings together religious and faith-based organisations. This forum has adopted a faith-based framework to end child poverty organised on three pillars: Evidence, Advocacy and Collaboration and Corresponding Working Groups. End Child Poverty is active in two working groups, Advocacy and Collaboration.

A critical outcome of this forum was the 2015 joint position by faith and development communities — Ending Extreme Poverty: A Spiritual and Moral Imperative. This forum has enabled us to participate in several critical events the latest of which was the World Bank Group Dialogue Session with East African Civil Society Organisations, June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016, Nairobi.



**A World Free of Child Poverty**  
*A Guide to tasks to achieve the vision*

## AFRICA INTERFAITH INITIATIVE ON THE POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

The African Interfaith Initiative on the Post 2015 Development Agenda is an advocacy platform comprising of pan-African, regional and national Religious Coordinating Bodies (RCBs), interfaith organisations, Faith-Inspired Organisations (FIOs) and religious leaders. The initiative was formed as a response to the growing need for African faith communities and their leaders to speak into the post 2015 development agenda and influence its discourse and outcomes.

To get there, the African Interfaith Initiative organised the first African Faith Leaders' Summit on Sustainable Development Goals and the Post 2015 Development Agenda co-hosted by the Government of Uganda and the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRCUC). Participants at the summit included senior religious leaders, women of faith and youth of faith leaders,

representatives from the African Union, East African Community, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC), and the World Bank. Notable participants included H.E. Yoweri Museveni, President of Uganda, and H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia.

Through this platform, End Child Poverty together with other actors was able to mobilise African faith communities to bring their moral voice to shape development outcomes of the new Sustainable Development Goals adopted at the 70<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly. End Child Poverty has also been able to leverage on the resulting partnerships to join and engage conversations and work with about 50 global actors including the UN agencies, the World Bank, faith-inspired organisations governments and other CSOs.

We continue to participate in this regional advocacy platform because of the clear connections between sustainable development and the eradication of child poverty.



**African Faith Leaders Statement on Financing for Development**  
*African Inter-Faith Initiative on the Post 2015 Development Agenda*

## VOICES FOR CHILDREN: COMMUNITY ORGANIZING AND ADVOCACY ON CHILD POVERTY

### GROUND BREAKING CAMPAIGN PLATFORMS

Transforming IDEP — The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty — into an international grassroots platform for advocacy and organising against child poverty.

Far and away, one of the most enduring imprints of our work has been the transformation of the IDEP — the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty — into a global platform focusing on the imperative to end child poverty.

Commemorated every October 17<sup>th</sup> around the world, IDEP has enabled us to scale up our work and reach and win numerous friends and partners. Over the last three years, we have mounted 3 Global Campaigns during this day, involving more than 40 organisations

in more than 25 countries. In majority of instances, campaign activities have been local, involving grassroots organisations and have engaged children as principal actors. Often times the over 200 campaigns have sought and secured the participation of local municipal and other governmental officials.

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP), has proved the most successful community mobilisation platform for End Child Poverty. To support the campaign, we have developed and shared a simple IDEP toolkit. We also mount an online campaign on social media and our website.

Each years' activities are organised around a common theme. The theme for 2016 was, **"Moving from Humiliation and Exclusion to Participation: End All Forms of Poverty."** We estimate that

over 150,000 people including children and their parents or caregivers, faith leaders, community leaders and organisers, local officials and teachers have participated in these campaigns.





## GROWING PEACE: MAKING THE WORLD SAFE FOR CHILDREN

Perhaps the worst form of child poverty must be that brought about by violence.

Violence against children and poverty are interlinked, it is not possible to end one vice without confronting the other. Children who have been severely abused or neglected often stagnate in their development, experience learning difficulties and perform poorly at school. They may have low self-esteem and suffer from depression, which can lead, at worst, to risky behaviours and self-harm.

In addition, children who grow up in a violent household or community tend to internalize that behaviour as a way of resolving disputes, repeating the pattern of violence and abuse against their own spouses and children.

Around the world, communities continue to experience widespread conflict, violence and human rights violations that result in the massive displacement of people, within and outside their countries. Multiple conflicts have taken place in Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine. Poverty can be an important motivating factor to join armed forces and groups. Our work in this area has grown almost organically starting with strife-torn South Sudan and encompassing Kenya, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and recently Syria.

**"May every day find every one of us continually embraced in growing peace."**

—Rev. Keishi Miyamoto, President of Arigatou International, September 21, 2015



**Rev. Keishi Miyamoto**  
President, Arigatou International

## THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

The International Day of Peace is marked on 21 September, every year, as a global day dedicated to consolidating the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples. End Child Poverty, has recognized the potential for faith groups to mobilise around peace day and use education to inspire young people to get involved in promoting peace, and make the connection between peace and eradicating child poverty on a global scale.

End Child Poverty has therefore chosen this day to amplify the voice of children affected by conflict and remind the world that violent conflicts affect children in the most and worst way.

On this day we mount grassroots and social media campaigns on peace as well as join partners' and friends' events. One such very impactful partnership has been with the social innovator Jeremy Gilley, Founder — Peace One Day.

The theme for the 2016 campaign was "The Sustainable Development Goals: Building Blocks for Peace."

## THE SOUTH SUDAN CHILDREN'S PEACE AMBASSADORS

In South Sudan, End Child Poverty partnered with The Umbrella of South Sudan Women Association in Kenya (USSWAK), to commission 42 children from each of the 10 states of South Sudan as Peace Ambassadors.

The Children's Peace Ambassadors work by equipping children as agents and coworkers in transforming the violent conflict in South Sudan. The programme also seeks to inculcate positive values of citizenship, faith and culture, in the children through the mentorship of parents, guardians and other supportive adults.

### Blood of Your Child

"Blood of Your Child" is a three minute video that depicts the South Sudan conflict through the eyes of children. It

was produced by Arigatou International with the help of Finn Church Aid, South Sudan, Christian Aid South Sudan, the South Sudan Council of Churches and the Umbrella of South Sudan Women Association in Kenya (USSWAK).

## GREAT LAKES AND HORN OF AFRICA REGIONAL PEACE PROGRAMME

Through the Regional Peace Programme, End Child Poverty is working to promote peace in 12 countries in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa.

The programme is a collaborative initiated by the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and for regional partners Arigatou International — Nairobi (AI—N).

The programme is intended to enhance collaborative relations, sustainable peace, peaceful and harmonious co-existence, among communities and social groups as well as good governance in the respective countries.

Key outcomes for the programme include: Increased participation of

women in peace-building processes; Improved inter-group and intra-group relations for religious and ethnic groups; and regional actors contributing to improve the status of laws, agreements, policies, budgets or institutions addressing key driving factors of conflict.



Through this programme we facilitate development of relevant research and studies; enhance youth capacity and youth-led peace engagements; facilitate opportunities for at-risk-youth to gain life skills and livelihoods empowerment; facilitate the development and socialization of counter and alternative narratives and frameworks to prevent

and counter violent extremism and strengthen or develop platforms to prevent and counter radicalization towards violent extremism.

## REDUCING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

End Child Poverty is addressing Gender-Based Violence and its negative impacts on children with a focus on 5 countries: Burundi, Rwanda, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia and South Sudan.

Our approach lays emphasis on gender-based violence as a root driver of child poverty and includes sexual violence towards children, and violence against girls and boys.

Intermediate outcomes for this work include:

- Increased participation by children (young champions) in advocating for the prevention and end of violence against girls and boys, and GBV as it affects children;
- Increased collaboration between faith actors and children, in advocating for the rights of children with regard to GBV prevention and elimination;
- Increased conscientisation on the negative impacts of violence against boys and girls, and GBV and its impacts on children, among targeted communities;
- Reduced instances of violence against boys and girls in the targeted communities;
- Higher percentage of government delivery of local services, in relation to preventing and responding to violence against girls and boys, and GBV as it pertains to children; and
- Improved communication synergies and knowledge sharing between children and youth workers and organisations, related to addressing violence against boys and girls, and the negative impacts of GBV on children.

## CRYSTALIZING GRASSROOTS



At the outset, and partly in response to unending demand, we identified the need to walk with partners on the frontlines providing critical services to poor children. We work with selected flagship projects that must have a clear, replicable and scalable scope. These projects should aim to enhance quality education and retention of poor and vulnerable children in school, transform violent conflicts that exacerbate poverty or promote income generating activities for low income women care givers and families. In addition, we also work with

the GNRC members in their grass roots activities with a focus on year-round child poverty advocacy and the participation of children and youth in actions to mitigate the effects of child poverty.

### ENHANCING QUALITY EDUCATION AND RETENTION OF POOR CHILDREN IN SCHOOL

End Child Poverty, working together with its partners, has partnered with local agencies to provide education scholarships in South Sudan, Kenya, Pakistan and among the Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Pupils benefit from this partnership by receiving uniforms, books, school fees contribution, among other material items. Through this effort we are also gradually building a pool of support organisations.

More than 100 children have so far benefited from this programme with

more than 16 joining the University. An enduring quality of these partnerships is developmental impact on these participating children and the agencies. In all the situations, we have found that the assurance of an education transforms the child and the agencies to be aspirational, to look and plan into the future and thus acquire a real handle via which to overcome their current situation.

### ENABLING LIVELIHOODS FOR ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED YOUTH & CHILDREN

In Kenya, together with the GNRC we have provided support to CAP Youth Empowerment Institute (CAPYEI). CAPYEI has equipped over 6,000 young people to graduate with critical life skills, crafts and knowledge in entrepreneurship. The out-of-school youth from economically disadvantaged and poor communities are trained in crafts and



trades such as carpentry, tailoring, security guarding, making cosmetics and hygiene products using locally available materials, catering and hospitality, car mechanics, electrical repairs and metal work, all of which are useful in the local economy.

## INDIA POVERTY SOLUTIONS, SHANTI ASHRAM, INDIA

Launched in 2012 in partnership with End Child Poverty, India Poverty Solutions is a children and youth-led initiative of Shanti Ashram, a Gandhian organisation based in India. It unites children and youth to work together and find simple and effective solutions to child poverty. The initiative aims to mobilise at least 1,000,000 children and youth volunteers belonging to the major faith traditions of India, as 'Poverty Solutions Ambassadors.'

The core appeal of India Poverty Solutions rests upon it being led by children, for children. Children and youth set up their own savings mechanism, using a variety of devices such

as "anundiyaalor hundi" — a traditional home savings box (piggybank). After a given period, the young people collectively gather their savings and allocate the funds equitably to the child or youth for her or his own uses, supporting their respective families; and towards the larger society and meeting community development needs. This system of collective social responsibility for family and community development has led to a growing sense of confidence among the children and youth, as they have become more aware of their capability to affect their world, with the resources they have at hand.

Additionally, the children and the youth are encouraged to identify priority needs that they wish to address using the funds raised through India Poverty Solutions. Since inception, the children and youth have chosen to focus on supporting child health, child protection, education for all children and provision of food to families affected by poverty.

India Poverty Solutions was first launched in Coimbatore and has now

expanded to four other places: Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Kerala, with plans underway to replicate the model with children and youth in Pondicherry. Over 100 institutions have partnered with Shanti Ashram to implement India Poverty Solutions. Shanti Ashram is now working with these and other partners in order to make India Poverty Solutions a pan-India movement that will benefit millions of children across the country. Shanti Ashram is also seeking avenues to provide this model globally, as a means to address child poverty worldwide.

## EMPOWERED WOMEN CARE GIVERS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

In Colombia, End Child Poverty through the GNRC Colombia has worked with the Mennonite Church to support economic and social empowerment of extremely poor women. Similarly in Juba, South Sudan in partnership with Hands of Grace, we have provided economic and social skills development training to women caregivers.







## BUILDING OUR COMPETENCY

### THE END CHILD POVERTY KNOWLEDGE CENTRE

Sarvodaya, Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

Launched on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, on 17 October 2014, the End Child Poverty Knowledge Centre is a global faith-inspired hub for research, resource gathering, networking, experience sharing and knowledge dissemination.

The Knowledge Centre also serves to build the capacities of organisations working to reduce child poverty in Asia and other regions of the world. It draws upon indigenous and progressive tools of development, as well as faith-inspired resources and infrastructure.

The Knowledge Centre has a physical hub based in Colombo, Sri Lanka, at the Sarvodaya Headquarters. The physical hub is resourced and open for use by

individuals and organisations from the region and all other countries, globally.

Its online platform, currently under development, is geared to facilitate knowledge exchange on a variety of topics, policies, programmes and practices among stakeholders, practitioners, academicians and policymakers. The online platform will feature innovative and evidence-based practices that have a positive impact on children and their caregivers.

The Centre is designed to provide a platform for forging concrete partnerships towards ending child poverty at various levels — global, continental and national.

The Knowledge Centre is designed to respond to the need for critical resources such as; policy briefing papers, working papers, reports and journal articles; and curriculum, tools and

guidelines and their expression such as training manuals and religious books.

The Knowledge Centre is also equipped to provide training where practitioners from the various organisations share knowledge and experience on their work and showcase expertise in relation to improving children's well-being.

Other anticipated activities of the Knowledge Centre include: a global mapping of poverty indices, annual round tables, a book fair, exchange programs, information symposiums, global mapping on religious organisations that deal with child poverty eradication and evaluation of the State of the World's Children, in partnership with the existing stakeholders.

## DISCERNING THE ENERGY FOR CHANGE

Right from the start, End Child Poverty was conceived as an initiative that sits in between other formations. We are a strategic operational initiative of Arigatou International with a specific charge to catalyse faith resources and actions to eradicate child poverty. As a stand-alone initiative with operational autonomy, one aspect of our core capital is the relationships that we can build and in turn the goodwill we can engender among our partners including the GNRC. A key footprint therefore is these relationships, their quality and the goodwill they engender for the mobilisation of faith-based resources to fight child poverty.

Over time, we have taken advantage of the GNRC as a key resource and as an opportunity to mobilise a global and grassroots effort to end child poverty. The result, the footprint, a concerted effort to address child poverty is evident in virtually all the members and

partners of the GNRC. This footprint extends far and wide through the numerous presences of GNRC members in local, national and international fora.

Another key imprint crucial for our work is a vibrant communications effort. With limited resources, we have launched a multi-media communications initiative with a credible online presence and numerous print publications to support our work. This communications effort has not only helped us get known and cultivate relationships, it has also enabled us to remain accountable and keep our voice in a busy marketplace.

Incredibly, we have organised, helped organise or been part of, nearly 150 notable events since our launch. This is in addition to all the house keeping. As a nerve centre for a large multi-faith effort to end child poverty, we have to come to terms with our own spirituality, the need to work from our strengths and remain hopeful.





## LOOKING AHEAD

At the end of the day, the real impact of our work is out there. We appreciate that it will take great effort and time to build the evidence. We are actively looking for ways to develop and/or join a learning platform, yet another partnership that helps us stay the course.

Meanwhile, it is clear that much remains to be done. The evidence on the situation of child poverty points to a worsening of base conditions. That this is so can be discerned from the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, North Africa, Syria, South Sudan, Somalia and the Great Lakes region. These developments have spawned the largest refugee, internal displacement and migration crisis since the second world war.

Other developments feeding this base condition include violent extremism and organised crime, gang violence, sexual exploitation and the reality of negative change in climate that is

threatening the livelihoods of the most vulnerable societies.

Will the curve turn in favour of children in poverty? Are we committing sufficient strategy and resources to end child poverty or is it too little too late for a great number of children? How should we respond?

We view progress as a series of interactive steps. Each step takes us higher up the rung on the curve to end child poverty. The higher we go, the more we can be sure the curve is bending.





## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT US

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A group of young children, mostly of African descent, are gathered behind a rough, light-colored brick wall. They are all smiling and waving their hands. The child in the center foreground is a young girl with a wide smile, wearing a green jacket over a pink shirt. Other children's faces and hands are visible behind her and to the sides, creating a sense of a large, joyful group. The background is a solid brown color.

Together we can end child  
poverty worldwide.

**"May every day find every  
one of us continually  
embraced in growing peace."**

*—Rev. Keishi Miyamoto, President of Arigatou  
International, September 21, 2015*

**End Child Poverty**

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