



End Child Poverty

Together We Can End Child Poverty Worldwide Campaign

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2019



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Arigatou International — Nairobi
End Child Poverty

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INTRODUCTION



The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP) is a global day of awareness, advocacy and action against poverty; marked every 17 October. In 2019, IDEP took the theme: *Acting Together to Empower Children, their Families and Communities to End Poverty*. The theme was anchored on commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which recognizes the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development.

At Arigatou International – End Child Poverty, IDEP often presents us an opportunity to engage a global campaign with a rallying call to come together to End Child Poverty. The campaign is dubbed: **Together We Can End Child Poverty Worldwide**. Perturbed by the current statistics, putting children as the most affected by poverty,

we are therefore motivated to take part in IDEP, as well as mobilize others to mark it as a way to lift children out of poverty, thus change this sorry state of affairs. IDEP provides us a valiant opportunity to rally concerted and intensified efforts towards ending child poverty.

Together with our partners, we took part in IDEP in 2019 by:

1. Creating spaces to Listen to Children - by mobilizing communities to facilitate spaces for children to interact and share their views on issues affecting them.
2. Running the 3rd IDEP Photo Contest – through showing how children are empowered to end poverty.
3. Encouraging our partners to share their stories on the work they are doing to End Child Poverty.
4. Engaging in a robust online campaign.

TOGETHER WE CAN END CHILD POVERTY WORLDWIDE 2019 CAMPAIGN AT A GLANCE

IDEP was commemorated by our partners in **22 countries** from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and Middle East.



Our partners including GNRC members from these countries organized **41 activities** in commemorating IDEP.



These collective actions of our partners reached to up to **28424** people, including **27588 children**.



The 3rd End Child Poverty photo contest, as part of commemorating IDEP, had **26 photo entries** with final winners coming from Kenya (editor's choice) and India (people's choice).



Our online communication campaign reached to up to **20000** online subscribers.

ISSUES ADDRESSED/ACTIONS TAKEN DURING THE CAMPAIGN



Over the years, our partners especially the GNRC members have always put great effort while observing IDEP, as an opportunity to address and act on crucial issues affecting the child, with the

goal to end child poverty. During this campaign in 2019, our partners addressed various of such issues and took actions including:

LISTENING TO CHILDREN

Listening to children provides safe spaces for children to share their views and ideas on issues affecting them and their communities. Through this process, the views of children have a high likelihood to be incorporated in decision making programmes and guidelines, thus responding to issues of the children directly. Listening to children also responds to article 12 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) which guarantees children freedom to form their opinions or views in matters affecting them. This is also envisioned in the 10 Panama commitments on ending violence against children, which bestows on us to listen to children with empathy and welcome their concerns on issues affecting them.

To this end, our partners from various countries had listening to children sessions including:

Lebanon: Annas Linas, a member of the GNRC organized a 'listening to children' session with 21 children from Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian decent. The children were given an opportunity, in commemoration of IDEP, to speak about the various forms of poverty they face and how to overcome it. Listening to them were religious leaders and caregivers present at the session.

The children were mainly concerned about closure of some educational facilities in Lebanon rendering them receive none or insufficient education. They

also decried the economic situation in the region saying that it had led to most of their parents and caregivers lack incapable of providing some basic necessities to them such as food, clothing and educational requirements including school fees.

India: Shanti Ashram had several sessions with over 20000 children in various schools during the campaign period. These children had an opportunity to speak about child poverty as well as give their views and contribution on how they would help solve the challenge.

"Whenever I take pledge I repeat the same thing the teacher said. But this time when I participated in IDEP, the coordinator of the program explained each and every line of the pledge. These lines of the pledge really made me realize that how much I am blessed with what I am today and also I understand my own responsibility to eradicate child poverty."

– Mohammed Arfath

Pakistan: GNRC Pakistan had 2 listening to children sessions with over 100 children. They enlightened the children on the need to always feel free to talk about what affects them to their parents, teachers, religious leaders. In the meeting was also representatives from local media, who were encouraged to also listen to children and cover children views, concerns on issues.

Tanzania: GNRC Tanzania youth had a school outreach session with 210 children. In the session, the youth provided children with safe spaces where they would converse about some critical issues affecting children, thus pushing them to live

in poverty. The children cited; hunger, frequent illnesses and violence as some of the common effects of poverty in their community.



South Africa: Our GNRC partner organized a listening to children session with 75 children from Kwazulu, South Africa. The children, accompanied by 14 caregivers; were given a safe space to speak about the challenge of poverty and define various forms of poverty. This was done through conversations, art and playing. The children were also enlightened about IDEP and encouraged to be commemorating the day by taking simple steps towards eradication of poverty affecting them.

Malaysia: Our partner, I Can Malaysia organized a listening to children session with 50 children, in commemoration of IDEP. Present in the session were mainly Rohingya children, who according to our partner were often not given a listening ear by care givers and even policy makers in matters concerning poverty and violence affecting them.

"We found this interaction with children as an acknowledgement to the children's voice which may pave the way for active advocacy and influence on local policies."

– One of the volunteers from I Can Malaysia

Democratic Republic of Congo: Our partner, BIFERRD organized focus group discussions reaching up to 600 poor families in the Eastern part of the country. The discussions revealed that children are the most affected by poverty in the country. They cited various forms of poverty such as poor housing and inadequate educational facilities and services. The families decried the poverty in their community saying that they

needed more empowerment opportunities to lift them out of poverty. During the IDEP period, BIFERRD also had discussions with 1,000 vulnerable children in the community. The children lamented about poverty in the country, blaming it on poor governance. They called for support from the government and other stakeholders (such as educational support) to be able to live out of poverty.

RAISING AWARENESS ON IDEP

At End Child Poverty, our campaign, *Together we can end child poverty worldwide* also serves as an opportunity to raise awareness about IDEP and its significance towards ending child poverty. In the 2019 campaign, some of our partners, among other actions raised awareness about IDEP and its effectiveness:

Bosnia and Herzegovina: UZ Mozaik, our partner and member of the GNRC in Bosnia & Herzegovina organized a fine arts and literary works contest with 80 children to raise awareness on ending child poverty. The contest, which was dubbed; *My contribution to poverty reduction* sought to have children showcase how they would reduce poverty through aesthetic artistic works.

The children were also taught (by religious leaders present) to always extent values of empathy especially towards those living in poverty by sharing food, stationery, clothes and other material belongings with them.

Burundi: In commemorating IDEP, our partner, Apedej Turashoboye, a member of the GNRC organized a roundtable discussion with 60 children; enlightening them on some of the things they would do to eradicate poverty affecting them. The event, brought together children from underprivileged backgrounds and also orphans. The children were encouraged to fully use their

talents so that they could earn some revenue from them, thereby lifting themselves and their families out of poverty.

Colombia: GNRC members from Colombia organized a right to food activity, with 100 children and adults. The activity sought to raise awareness on the importance of preparing a healthy and safe food. GNRC Colombia believes that as a way to end child poverty, children deserve not only food but safe and healthy food.

Cuba: The GNRC committee of Cuba organized an awareness activity with 30 children on simple ways that contribute to the eradication of poverty. This awareness activity was done through art, playing, music and conversational sessions with members of the GNRC. At the end, the children learnt that they would contribute in their own way to eradicating poverty affecting children.



Serbia: Sombor Education center, in Serbia held art classes for about 20 children on the topic; getting out of violence. The children were taught about various forms of violence and how such violence could push them to poverty. The children, together with volunteers from the center thereafter held a mass awareness action on the surrounding street. This was ostensibly to raise awareness about IDEP and the need to promote initiatives and programmes aimed at ending child poverty and violence against children in the country.

Rwanda: GNRC Rwanda gathered 150 youths who were sensitized about IDEP and how best they can contribute to eradication of poverty. The youth got to understand IDEP and its significance,



especially the campaign – *Together we can end child poverty worldwide*. At the end, the youth acquired skills and knowledge on matters poverty eradication and development.

MATERIAL DONATIONS

Most children living in poverty are deprived from one or some material essential requirements for their survival. Such material essentials could be: food, stationery, clothing and even toys. When children are sufficiently provided with these material needs, they are to a great extent removed from living in poverty. In marking IDEP 2019, some of our partners provided such material needs to poor children in their communities:

Montenegro: Our partner, Djeca Crne, in collaboration with 10 children from a partner elementary school organized and gathered 38 boxes of foodstuffs and 5 boxes of clothing to vulnerable children in poor families in their community. The children were also allowed to play together as a sign of unity and empathy they should emulate among themselves as a way to address child poverty.

India: Through our partner Shanti Ashram, under the program; India Poverty Solutions, in marking IDEP, youth volunteers from 18 institutions in Coimbatore, India collected food grains for a food bank which was utilized by vulnerable children in 115 poor families. Collected food included rice, sugar, wheat and barley.

Cuba: A GNRC coordinator from Western Cuba organized a stationery donations drive for 77 children. The children, most of whom live with disabilities were donated with packets of pens, pencils, notebooks, rubbers, color markers, compasses and sharpeners.



Uganda: One of our youth from the Regional Peace Program, together with our partner YOLRED (Youth Leaders for Restoration and Development) in Uganda, joined 50 children; mostly visually impaired in Gulu primary school in commemorating IDEP. They donated braille papers and white canes to the children after encouraging them to put more efforts and emphasis on education as it will drive them out of poverty. They also encouraged the children not to feel inferior or disabled given that most of them were visually impaired.



Democratic Republic of Congo: Youth from the African Children and Youth Network for Human Rights/ *Réseau des Enfants et Jeunes Africains pour les Droits Humains* (REJADH) visited vulnerable school children in a school in the South Kivu region of the country. The youth donated some stationery for the children to aid them in

learning. Apart from the stationery donation, the youth sensitized the learners on Gender Based Violence, as a driver of child poverty. They therefore asked the children, teachers and caregivers to be custodians of ending Gender Based Violence as a way to end poverty.

CREATING AWARENESS ON THE CRC

Argentina: Within the month of October, GNRC Argentina disseminated the CRC recommendations on child poverty to the Argentinian State. GNRC Argentina had been monitoring the implementation of the CRC recommendations since they were published in the last concluding observations of the CRC Committee.

Sri Lanka: The End Child Poverty Knowledge Centre, in collaboration with GNRC Sri Lanka and the Sarvodaya movement held a training workshop for over 20 child facilitators on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The workshop aimed at creating awareness of the CRC among children as well as training them to become facilitators of the CRC. Key areas of focus of the CRC during the workshop was violence against children, listening to children and survival and development of the child; all of which are enshrined in the CRC. This workshop was part of the larger commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the CRC.





Pakistan: Our partner search for justice organized a national dialogue on the status of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in Pakistan. The dialogue brought together government officials, legislators and child rights experts. Among the issues they discussed included: strengthening of inter-

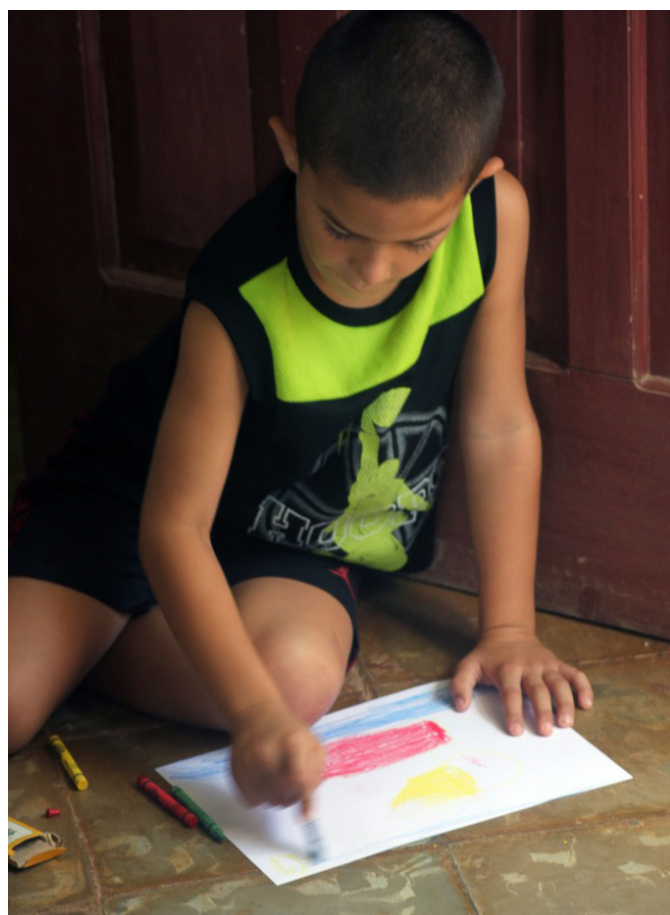
ministerial/departmental coordination on the CRC, adequate resource allocation on implementation of the CRC and comprehensive action plan to implement concluding observations issued by UN Committee on Child Rights. This dialogue was organized in line with commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the CRC.

Panama: The GNRC committee in Panama held a workshop with 12 children on the effects of poverty on children. This workshop was conducted at the backdrop of a recently launched report by UNICEF on the situation of children and adolescents in Panama. This workshop also provided an opportunity to discuss and come up with some recommendations to the CRC about child poverty, in view of the commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the CRC.

ONLINE CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Undeniably, online child sexual exploitation is an emerging and most practiced form of violence against children. The FBI reports that at any time, 750,000 individuals are looking to connect with children across the globe for sexual purposes. At Arigatou International, we are committed to not only raising awareness about this unfortunate form of violence but also taking actions, together with our partners to end the scourge. Hence, some of our partners commemorated IDEP by either raising awareness or taking actions against online child sexual exploitation.

Nepal: During the IDEP period, Peace Service Centre also took part in the campaign on ending online child sexual exploitation by organizing training sessions for online child safety advocates. They trained over 30 advocates, on top of pre-existing advocates trained earlier. They asserted that online child sexual exploitation sometimes results into child poverty or is caused by child poverty, at least for the case of Nepal.



CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT TOWARDS ENDING POVERTY OF THE HEART AND MIND

At End Child Poverty, we believe that alleviating poverty affecting children goes beyond the conventional economic methods. In this regard, we also inculcate character and values in children, ostensibly to eliminate poverty in their hearts and minds. Through this, we achieve our vision of ending poverty in the human heart by addressing greed, ignorance, fear and hatred.

Kenya: In collaboration with our partner, Stepping Up Global, we organized a session with 54 children, parents and teachers on eradicating poverty of the heart and mind. The session shed light on the need to not only focus on traditional economic methods of ending poverty but also provision of wellness and wealth in their hearts and mind.

"To eradicate poverty of the heart and mind for children, we should give them a; moral start, safe start, health start and a faith start to life."

– One of the parents

"I feel like an eagle destined to fly high, but not alone, with my fellow children who are also mentored purposely to eradicate poverty in their hearts and minds."

– Participating child, Susan Wangare, 14



PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

Being an interfaith initiative, prayer plays an integral part of our interventions towards eradication of poverty. To this end, some of our partners held prayer sessions for vulnerable children in the commemoration of IDEP.

Ethiopia: GNRC Ethiopia organized a prayer session for 40 children on at the Evangelical Church, Mekane, Addis Ababa. The prayer session sought divine intervention for children living in poverty as well as create awareness on IDEP.

Cameroon: GNRC Cameroon in collaboration with various religious communities including Christian and Islam, organized various prayer sessions for vulnerable children within the month of October, 2019. These prayer sessions involved 160 children from both Christian and Islam backgrounds. The prayers also followed awareness on IDEP and the need to help those living in poverty.

RAISING AWARENESS ON SDGs

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an imperative framework towards creating a world free of child poverty. SDG 1 envisions an end to poverty in all its forms by 2030, with clear targets on achieving the same. Therefore, aligning our work within the SDGs and their targets not only places us in the global discourse about development and eradication of poverty but also enables our work to be systematic and targeted with regards to ending poverty.

IDEP provides an opportunity to awareness on the SDGs especially SDG 1 and what we can do to achieve it. Some of our partners aligned their campaign activities within the SDGs.

Comoros: Our partner, CAP NGO organized and Sustainable Development Goals awareness activity with 300 people including 180 children and other stakeholders such as teachers, government officials and other NGO representatives; in Ngazidja Island, Comoros. They were sensitized on the crucial ambition of all the SDGs and how they are significant to children, including ending child poverty. The activity made reference to SDG 1 on ending all forms of poverty, saying that IDEP was meant to take actions to see this SDG a reality, among other SDGs.

Tanzania: GNRC Tanzania held a consultative meeting which brought together religious leaders, SDG champions from Tanzania and children. The meeting aimed at discussing the IDEP 2019 theme and how the stakeholders can come together and address child poverty in the context of the theme. In the meeting, they raised awareness and discussed about SDG 1 as a crucial instrument towards ensuring children do not live in poverty. They also referred to Panama commitment 6 on how families can develop empathy and provide ethical knowledge to children, to foster resilience in socio-economic matters such as child poverty. This, in line with the IDEP theme.





AWARENESS THROUGH THE MEDIA

At End Child Poverty, we view the media; both mainstream and social media as being vital to our work. Through the media, we are able to achieve a wider reach of our work, create new partnerships, globalize some of the grassroots efforts of our partners and above all achieve greater impact.

Some of our partners engaged the media in their campaign activities including:

Sri Lanka: The End Child Poverty Knowledge Center in Sri Lanka produced 8 short videos on child poverty. The videos highlighted the global situation of child poverty, the need to take urgent collective actions together to end the scourge. The videos emphasized on listening to children as a way towards taking actions to end poverty. Some of the videos highlighted voices of children on poverty. The children acknowledged that child poverty was rife in their society and needed the society at large to come together to eradicate poverty. Chathurika Sandamali, one of the children featured in the videos said that they (children) had established a fund for poor children in their school to help them buy food, clothing and school material. In that way, she encouraged other children and schools to follow suit as a way to eradicate poverty.

Pakistan: GNRC Pakistan held a session with children and members of a local media house, sensitizing them on the campaign – Together we can end child poverty worldwide. They encouraged the media to take part and amplify efforts being taken to eradicate poverty in the region.

THE END CHILD POVERTY PHOTO CONTEST

In our quest to create a world free of child poverty, we go beyond conventional social and economic approaches. Through our photo contest, we go a notch higher where we visually show efforts being made by various people out there to end child poverty. The photo contest enables us involve as many people as possible in our campaign – Together we can end child poverty worldwide. This is because the contest is often open to the public and anybody gets a chance to showcase what they are doing (through photos) to alleviate child poverty.

The 2019 photo contest in line with the IDEP theme: *Acting Together to Empower Children, their Families and Communities to End Poverty* sought to interact with the public by asking them to show what actions they were taking to help address the various forms of poverty in their communities that are affecting children in particular. The contest ran from 17th October 2019 (the IDEP day) to 10th December 2019 (the International Human rights day), when the winners were announced.



Out of the 26 entries submitted, 2 winners emerged after public voting and scrutiny by the editors administering the contest. The editor's choice winner was Goodwill Ngigi from Kenya and the People's choice winner was Dharansri from India.

"Photographic contest was a nice experience and wonderful opportunity for me to explore my thoughts through photography to this world. I am really blessed and honored to receive the People choice Award from End Child Poverty."

– Winner of the 2019 Photo Contest, Dharansri



ACHIEVEMENTS OF IDEP 2019

1

Listening to children was our overall rallying call towards our campaign – Together we can end child poverty worldwide. This falls in line with CRC's article 12 on children's views and opinions as well as Panama commitment number 1 on listening to children. Emerging that most of our partners anchored their activities on listening to children is an achievement of the campaign. At least 15 out of the 35 grassroots actions had a listening to children session.

2

IDEP 2019 saw an exponential increase in the number of grassroots actions from our partners. Out of the 21 partners from 18 countries, we had a total of 35 grassroots actions in marking IDEP. This is compared to 32 actions from 30 partners the previous year.

3

Diverse issues/actions were raised/taken in this year's campaign. In the past, issues have predominantly been around material donations, raising awareness on IDEP and prayers, including media awareness. This year saw listening to children, awareness on the CRC, online child sexual exploitation and awareness on the SDGs added to the basket.

4

The campaign saw a relative increase in the social media activity and awareness, especially from our youth constituency. Compared to the previous year, WhatsApp was effectively used to create awareness about the campaign. Traction on our website, twitter, Facebook and Instagram also increased significantly. (see annexed analytics).

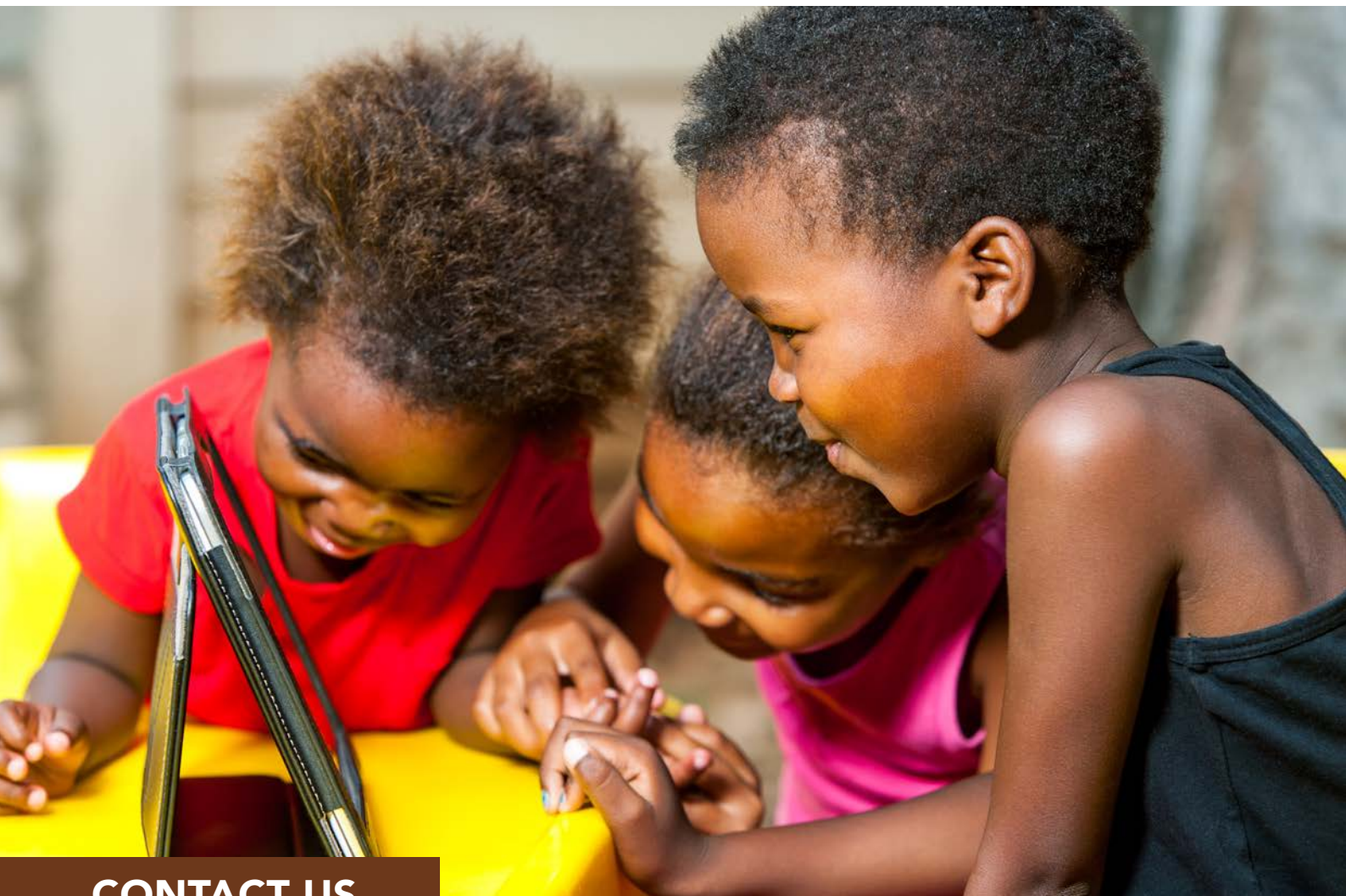
CONCLUSION

The campaign; *Together we can end child poverty worldwide* remains a key opportunity not only to raise awareness, advocate and take action against poverty but also to increase the understanding of the drivers of child poverty and what can be done to alleviate it.

We continue to bring together efforts to broaden the campaign, enrich it and make one of the known global annual campaigns on eradication of child poverty.







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**"Together We Can End
Child Poverty Worldwide."**

— *End Child Poverty*

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