



ARIGATOU | End
INTERNATIONAL | Child Poverty
All for Children



Step Forward

2015 | 2016 Year Book





**Year Book
2015-2016**

EDITORIAL

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PHOTO

End Child Poverty and her partners
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**PRODUCTION,
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Cause Communications
Mekatilili Institute, Nairobi

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Step Forward

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Moving Forward...



First do what is necessary, then do what is possible and thirdly, do what is impossible”

Rev. Fred Nyabera

Walking is a fairly complicated affair! Hardly does one ever consider how complex taking one step is until one watches a child take her first steps. As it turns out, the art of walking, taking more than one step while remaining upright requires that one foot is forever implanted on the ground, keeping us grounded in the familiar, while the other takes a leap, into the unknown, all the while maintaining balance to keep upright! For End Child Poverty, this last year presents precisely such endeavor, taking accelerated steps, pushing our boundaries and comfort zones while making sure to remain grounded and focused on our founding objective to end child poverty.

Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development presented a clear opportunity to, on the one hand, make the connection between faith, poverty and children and, on the other, draw attention to this at the various levels that the dialogues on sustainable development were taking place. This journey took us to 3 side events at the United Nations General Assembly in New York and one Inter-faith side event at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa. We also teamed up with the World Bank/UN Joint Task Force facilitated - “Faith-Based Action Framework to End Extreme Poverty and Realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”. Here we took part in 2 working groups, endorsed the joint advocacy statement “Towards the End of Child Poverty” and joined The Global Coalition to End Child Poverty.

This year, our IDEP (International Day for the Eradication of Poverty) campaign involved 40 grassroots actors across 25

countries organizing more than 80 activities and with about 2500 participants, more than 50% of whom were children and youth. We celebrate in earnest these individuals, their organizations and communities for taking up the challenge to organize against child poverty

Another plank on this journey is our work with sustainable and replicable grassroots flagship projects that show promise to end child poverty. While keeping to our strategy to enhance quality education and retention of poor and vulnerable children in school, transform violent conflicts that exacerbate poverty, and promote income generating activities for low income care-givers and families we worked with the Global Network of Religions for Children, GNRC members and other partners in a total of 30 countries. We also grew support for our Scholarship Program by 30%, strengthened our Youth Entrepreneurship skills training programme and assisted income-generating activities for women care-givers affected by poverty.

As a key endeavour we work to transform conflicts that aggravate poverty. Especially gratifying for us was the launch of the Child Peace Ambassadors and the distinctive voice they bring to the peace table. In addition in partnership with UNICEF and Search for Common Ground, we facilitated 3 training workshops for religious leaders in South Sudan on conflict transformation. We also jointly facilitated 3 community dialogue forums on countering violent extremism (CVE) in Kenya. In addition, 2015 saw growth in our September 21 Peace Day Campaign. Our online peace campaign reached an estimated 23,000 people, we launched a peace advocacy video “Blood of Your Child” and had Jeremy Gilley, Peace One Day founder joining our campaign.

This past year, we made great strides in our efforts to mitigate the effects of child poverty through theological reflection and action. We have made progress in the development of a multi-faith resource guide on ending child poverty. As part of this we held a pilot workshop in Bosnia and Herzegovina that brought together 7 countries from the Balkan countries.

Even as we celebrate these efforts, the assurance of evidence that communities are not helpless against the structural and deeply running causes of child poverty, that faith is a great resource and motivation for action and that every little thing that we can do together counts, there is still a long road ahead. There are practically hundreds of millions of children languishing in extreme and dehumanizing poverty because of violent conflicts, violent extremism, inequalities, poor governance, corruption, ignorance and greed.

As we go forward, we have reason to be hopeful and to expect greater impact. We look forward to sharpening our engagement on the implementation of the 2030 Vision for Sustainable Development, in particular to leverage the moral imperative to eradicate poverty. We look forward to deepening our engagements on peace and conflict transformation, violence against children and the multiple connections between child poverty and violence. We look forward to intensifying our partnerships to build a genuine and broad based coalition of actors at all levels driven by faith and the power of their conviction to eradicate child poverty. The Interfaith Resource Guide on Child Poverty will provide a critical resource in this effort, but so too will our clear and distinct voice and presence in many fora. We invite you to journey with us.

“ 11 children under age 5 die every minute ”



Mitigating Child Poverty Through Theological Reflection and Action

In order to be effective, End Child Poverty has to go beyond conventional economic approaches to addressing poverty to consider systemic as well as moral issues, the condition of the human heart and its attendant vices such as greed, ignorance, hatred and fear. End Child Poverty therefore encourages faith communities to employ spiritual tools and take up sound theological reflection, prayer and action to arrest human and spiritual causes of child poverty.

The Multi-faith Guide Book

As an interfaith initiative on child poverty we draw inspiration from the various faith communities on their understanding of children and the basis for their work to overcome child poverty. What is the real nature of child poverty and what are the sacred teachings in relation to child poverty? What can we learn from how different faith communities approach child poverty?

Some time in 2014, End Child Poverty identified a critical gap in interfaith efforts to combat child poverty- the absence of common interfaith reference point on child poverty.

Since then, End Child Poverty has undertaken to produce a comprehensive Inter-faith guide that brings together into a single resource the various faith traditions thinking and approaches to child poverty. The resource is further enriched by blending with contemporary human rights-based aspirations on children and child poverty.

The development of the guide has been an interactive and consultative process drawing from expert sources of various faith communities, the practical insights and rich experience of various practitioners, religious leaders and representatives as well as academics.

The guidebook is intended to serve as a model for faith communities to engage in year-round child poverty spiritual reflection, advocacy and action. It is intended to be easy-to-use guide that includes resources



The Making of the ECP Multifaith Guide

from Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islam, Jewish, and other faith traditions to use in worship services or prayers, education programs, direct service activities, and social justice initiatives. The resources can be used with one's own faith community or in multi-faith events.

This year has been a critical one for this effort. During this time, we have sought and received all the material from various contributors and are preparing it for publication.

We have held various feedback and validation sessions with contributors and select audiences from Africa, Balkan Countries (Moldova, Montenegro, Croatia, Romania, Serbia, Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina), South Asia and Latin America. The multifaith guide was also presented to the Interim Steering Committee of End Child poverty during their meeting in Sarajevo, on 3rd June 2015.

The guide is an invaluable resource for Spiritual reflection, advocacy and action for faith communities and other actors working to eliminate child poverty.

The draft guide is undergoing field testing. The complete guide should be available in 2017.





Interfaith Advocacy and Lobbying



End Child Poverty deploys advocacy and lobbying to change deeply rooted causes of child poverty. These causes include unequal distribution of resources, poor governance, war and violence.

Activities under this strategic pillar have included advocacy related to the post 2015 sustainable development goals, a public dialogue event in Sarajevo which affirmed the place of faith in ending child poverty, supporting the South Sudan's Children Ambassadors Project; marking the Day of the African Child, the International Day of Peace and IDEP.

A Place for Faith

Affirming the Place of Faith in Ending Child Poverty

“Poverty is not a tragedy, nor is it an inevitable consequence of society, it is a scandal.” These were the words of Dr. Katherine Marshall at the opening address of the colloquium on the role of faith in ending child poverty, May 2015, Sarajevo. One would be forgiven for assuming that faith inspired organizations do not need a reminder on the central role that faith plays in responding to child poverty! This cannot be further from reality in today’s development landscape, and in a world where faith is increasingly coming to question.

The role that faith must play in ending child poverty therefore provided the subject of this informative colloquium organized by End Child Poverty and hosted jointly with the the GNRC Bosnia and Herzegovina and The Association for Women in Interreligious Dialogue for Family and Society (MOZAIK).

The meeting drew participants from the Islamic, Christian, Buddhist, Jewish and Hindu religious traditions. Participating countries included Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Moldova, Serbia, Macedonia,



Montenegro, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, USA, France and Kenya. The mix of faith traditions and countries helped the meeting to benefit from rich and diverse perspectives on the relationship between faith and child poverty.

Participants represented faith inspired organisations, religious leaders, teachers, social workers, government, civil society, development organizations, youth groups, media, the GNRC members and Arigatou International.

As participants discovered, faith is perhaps the greatest resource in local and global responses to child poverty. In the current efforts to eradicate poverty in this lifetime, faith must lead the way.

Discussants noted the alleviated standing of faith inspired organizations in efforts to eradicate child poverty in the light of realities of conflict and post conflict, radicalisation and violent extremism, and deeply rooted poverty on a global scale. In the words of Katherine Marshal, “We should see the goal of ending child poverty as a leading global priority, but also a personal mission for us all. It is a moral imperative of our time to end child poverty”

Participants at the forum observed that resolving conflicts and building peace deserves the highest attention if children are to grow up with hope. Moreover children are not and should not be viewed merely as helpless victims of poverty or violence. To the contrary, they have a voice, agency and insight. Even though they may not cause it, they ought to be active participants in efforts to end child poverty.

Participants also voiced their concerns that gender inequalities are inextricably linked to core issues of child poverty, for girls and boys. Arising from practical gender realities, immediate welfare outcomes for children make mothers a central focal point when responding to child poverty. For lasting and structural change it will be necessary to redress strategic gender issues, especially the involvement of fathers.

Participants noted the potential role of religious communities in shaping culture so as to secure the best outcomes for children and the most vulnerable in societies and communities.



Participants also noted the deciding role that inequalities between the rich and the poor and among communities play in condemning children to poverty. Eradicating inequality is a prior action and will have a huge decided for the wellbeing of millions of children.

In his remarks, Hon. Senad Šepić Member of Parliament and the Chairman of Bosnia and Herzegovina Delegation to the Council of Europe, articulated his vision for Bosnia and Herzegovina” a country where children are free from poverty” and where the mantra ‘All for Children’ rings true.



The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda Getting priorities right at the sunset of the MDGs



Estimated global
child population

2.2

Of whom 1 billion
live in poverty!

The lead to the new Sustainable Development Goals adopted at the 70th UN General Assembly provided excellent opportunity to get child poverty on the local, continental and global development agenda.

End Child Poverty continued with its focus on this agenda by joining and providing leadership to the African Faith Initiative on the Post 2015 Development Agenda. Through this strategy, End Child Poverty took part in continental and global discussions geared towards the identification and adoption of the new Sustainable Development Goals. Further End Child Poverty has been able to leverage on the resulting partnerships to join and engage conversations and work with global actors.

Poverty is an important motivating factor to join armed forces and groups.

African Faith Leaders Initiative

Financing for Development (FFD)

ECP is a lead agency in the African Faith Leaders Initiative on the Post 2015 Development Agenda. As part of its work to bring its moral voice to shape development outcomes, The Africa Interfaith Initiative on the post 2015 Development Agenda mobilized Africa's Faith leaders to participate in the Financing for Development (FFD) process, with the objective of addressing the challenges and opportunities of financing sustainable development in the continent.

End Child Poverty – Arigatou International provided key leadership role in organising the key meetings held in Nairobi, Kenya and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. 41 participants from the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Kenya, South Africa, South Sudan and Zimbabwe, attended the Nairobi meeting.

The culmination of these activities was our engagements at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD3), held in Addis Ababa from 13th - 16th July 2015.

This UN-led conference brought together high level government delegates, senior religious leaders, faith-inspired organizations and faith-based organizations, as well as members of civil society and numerous stakeholders, to negotiate a framework agreement on the financing and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The African Faith Leaders Statement on Financing for Development, issued during this meeting voiced interfaith concerns and recommendations on taxation, capital flows, domestic resource mobilization, and sovereign borrowing and debt.

1 in 7 children

270 Million

have no access to health services

1.4 Million

die every year due to lack of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation

Through engaging in the FFD process, End Child Poverty enabled the participating faith leaders to bring a moral voice on Africa's wealth in relation to the children's needs and development needs of Africa. This participation also heightened appreciation, collaboration and synergies between African faith leaders and development agencies in relation to child poverty eradication.

UN Sustainable Development Summit

As part of our work through the African Faith Leaders, End Child Poverty took part in several events at the UN Sustainable Development Summit, September 2015, New York. The process to arrive at consensus on the agenda for sustainable development prevented unrivaled opportunity for us to bring a sharp focus on child poverty and its eradication as a prior consideration to other agenda in development.

In addition to other work on Sustainable Development and taking advantage of our leadership roles, we co-organised and participated in numerous side events at the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly and the UN summit on Sustainable Development, New York September 2015.

Our efforts and presence helped bring attention to the potential of religious communities to play a significant role in Sustainable Development.

“

Ending extreme poverty will require a comprehensive approach that tackles its underlying causes—including preventable illness, a lack of access to quality education, joblessness, corruption, violent conflicts, and discrimination against women, ethnic minorities and other groups. It will also necessitate a change in the habits that cause poverty—greed and waste, numbness to the pain of others, and exploitation of people and the natural world. It calls for a holistic and sustainable approach that transforms cultures and institutions, and hearts as well as minds...”

[“Ending Extreme Poverty: A Moral and Spiritual Imperative”.]

”

End Child Poverty at the 7th Alternative Mining Indaba, Durban, South Africa

February 2016

The Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) was developed as an advocacy process to push for economic and social justice and is organized in juxtaposition to the business sector Investing in African Mining Indaba

Organized under the mantra “Making Natural Resources Work for the People: Leave No One Behind”, AMI 2016 provided an international platform for faith-based and other civil society organisations to share experiences, mobilize, and as well as motivate mining communities to strengthen their work on advocacy and the development of strategic tools that empower them.

With attendance of three hundred and fifty, 350, leaders drawn from civil society organizations, faith-based organizations, pan-African network and organizations, UN agencies, International partners, labour movements and community based organizations representing affected communities across Africa, AMI 2016 provided a platform for communities affected by the extractives industries, to reclaim their rights, through the formulation of inclusive

alternatives. Community representatives called for transparent, equitable and just extractives practices in the management, governance and distribution of national resources through policy and legislative reform.

End Child Poverty sought AMI 2016 as a platform to address the unheard voices of children, recognizing that children in communities affected by extractive industries have had a peripheral position in the conversation, despite the many challenges they face.

This Cape Town AMI 2016 was convened by the Economic Justice Network of the Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa (EJN of FOCCISA), in collaboration with Publish What You Pay, Norwegian Church Aid, Zimbabwe Environmental Lawyers Association, South African Council of Churches, Zimbabwe Council of Churches, Diakonia, Oxfam and Bench Marks Foundation.

Day of Prayer and Action

20 November 2015

End Child Poverty, in concert with the Arigatou fraternity led by Prayer and Action for Children, commemorates November 20th, the UN's Universal Children's Day, as a universal day of prayer and action for children.

As part of the activities for this year, End Child Poverty took part in an interactive forum on religious ideals and responsibility of leadership to end violence against children hosted by Arigatou's Prayer and Action for Children in New York. The forum aimed to foster a platform for collaboration among religious and civil society partners in their efforts to end child violence.

Of particular concern for End Child Poverty are the numerous linkages between violence against children, child poverty and the lure of religious extremism.

In Kenya, End Child Poverty supported its partner organization, The Cry of a Young One, to gather over 250 youth in a street cultural event that sought to draw the attention to poverty as a form of violence against children.

The Cry of a Young One also facilitated prayers for the children living in poverty, in Mathare and its greater environs within Nairobi. The event was well received by both parents and children.



Collaborating on a Faith Based Action Framework to End Extreme Poverty

To further work on Sustainable Development Goals, and their particular relevance to eliminating child poverty, End Child Poverty joined the Collaborative Working Group on a Faith Based Action Framework to End Extreme Poverty. The framework is facilitated by the World Bank Group in collaboration with the United Nations Inter-agency Task Force on Religion and Development and other organizations.

As part of this framework, Arigatou International endorsed the "Ending Extreme Poverty: A Moral and Spiritual Imperative".

A World Safe for Children

Advocating for Peace and Conflict Transformation

I am proud to be South Sudanese, but inside me, my heart is broken because of the war in our country.

”
- Child Ambassador, Western Equatoria



5 days until
International Peace Day

 ARIGATOU INTERNATIONAL | End Child Poverty
All for Children

“Peace, like a hearty soup that warms the soul, requires many different ingredients, from many different partners. At Arigatou International, we strive to add ingredients that are especially nourishing for children—ingredients of peace-making like interfaith cooperation, ethics education, stopping violence, and ending poverty. We are convinced that working with and for children across every kind of difference in this diverse world is an essential path to peace. May every day find every one of us continually embraced in growing peace!”

Keishi Miyamoto, Sept 21, 2015

Who will YOU Make peace With?

Interview with Jeremy Gilley, Founder - Peace One Day. @JeremyGilley

Who will YOU Make peace With? This deceptively simple question has become the rallying point for millions of people, after one man – Jeremy Gilley - got inspired about a global day of ceasefire and non-violence – Peace Day, 21 September.

Jeremy Gilley, actor turned film-maker and founder of the non-profit, Peace One Day, began the journey to build a movement for peace, in the late 90's. Through his efforts, the International Peace Day was established and unanimously adopted by every UN Member State. The Peace Day has now grown to a world-wide platform of awareness, with over 1 billion people exposed to Peace Day messages in 2014 alone. It has become, as Peace One Day describes it “An annual day of global unity, a day of intercultural cooperation on a scale that humanity has never known”.

End Child Poverty, caught up with Jeremy and in a few questions got him to espouse on his *raison d'être*.

End Child Poverty: Why is peace day important for children?

Jeremy Gilley: Peace Day is important for children because it is a starting point for their action towards a more peaceful world. We see this happening at thousands of schools across the world where teachers have used the free Peace One Day materials from our (Peace Day) website to inspire their students to be the driving force behind the vision of a united and sustainable world. With education at the

heart of Peace Day, this is a key foundation of all our activities.

End Child Poverty: How can children be part of building peace?

Jeremy Gilley: First and foremost, by observing Peace Day. By taking part in this global action we are all peace makers and working together is key to the survival of humanity. Peace Day - 21 September - provides a platform for (children) to do that, particularly through faith, art, music and sport.

End Child Poverty: What keeps you going – what motivates you to work for peace?

Jeremy Gilley: What keeps me going is how the day keeps on growing. More and more people participate in Peace Day every year and those actions are transforming lives. Whatever they are doing, wherever they are, they are raising awareness of Peace Day and that awareness encourages action, and that action saves lives. People all over the world are inspired and empowered by the day so it is exciting and incredible honour for me to contribute to that.

End Child Poverty: If you could talk to all the children of the world for a few minutes, what would you tell them?

Jeremy Gilley: I would ask the children of the world: Who will you make peace with on Peace Day? Who will you bring together on Peace day? How will you express what peace looks and feels like to you on 21 September? I would tell the children of the world that it doesn't matter how big or small your action is, the fact that you are observing Peace Day has a tremendous impact as every individual action builds peace in some way. If the (children) and youth of the world can stand together and do this as one, then together we will contribute to establishing sustainable peace in our homes, schools and communities.

The International Day of Peace

21 Sept 2015

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.

Of interest to End Child Poverty is the recognition of the potential for faith groups to mobilize around peace day, the potential use education to inspire young people to get involved in promoting peace, and making the connection between peace and eradicating child poverty on a global scale.

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

Ending All Conflicts in Africa: No Peace, No Development

As part of our engagement on peace building and transforming conflict, End Child Poverty took part in the event “Ending All Conflicts in Africa: No Peace, No Development” convened by the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) and the Baha’i International Community Addis Ababa Office (BICAAO).

The event called attention to the African Union’s Agenda 2063 goal to eliminate all conflicts in Africa by 2020 .

Participants discussed the connections between sustainable development, peace, stability, and security. End Child Poverty emphasized the situation of children and child soldiers in the various conflict regions in Africa. Especially saddening is the fact that Africa has the highest growth rate in the use of children in conflict, and that the age of those enlisted is also declining.

A more inclusive meeting on peace, security and development targeting faith communities and the African Union is due in Addis Ababa.

1 in 5 children
(400) Million

lack access to safe water

Peace and Stability in Kenya

The Role of Religious Actors, 4th August 2015



End Child Poverty was engaged in several activities focusing on peace in Kenya, where it is headquartered. Kenya has recently experienced widespread violence bordering civil war after a contested election in 2007. Almost a decade and an incidence free election in between, Kenya is confronted yet again with the prospect of a contested election.

Various faith-inspired actors and institutions in Kenya work to foster peace and prevent

violence across the country.

Violent extremism in Kenya and the region has, however, unsettled inter-religious relations, exacerbating long-standing ethnic, political, and socio-economic divisions.

End Child Poverty facilitated the workshop on Intra-faith Dialogue for Peace in August 2015, at Hekima Institute for Peace Studies and International Relations in Nairobi. The workshop was organised by the World Faiths

Development Dialogue (WFDD).

This workshop gathered 60 faith-inspired and secular actors and organizations working for stability and social cohesion in Kenya. Participants explored the complexities of working with multiple religious traditions toward common goals, drawing both on Kenyan and international experience.

End Child Poverty was also engaged in a related peace and cohesion building effort organized by the National Cohesion Integration Commission (NCIC) and the Evangelical Alliance of Kenya (EAK).

This second event explored the now critical question: "In the wake of identity-based violence, what can the church do to help rediscover a sense of living together in Kenya?" At this event, End Child Poverty highlighted the competency faith communities bring to the process of conflict transformation, how faith communities could play key roles in promoting peace and social cohesion, and the lessons learnt in faith-based peace-building. Participants at the event formed a working group to sustain engagement.



Endemic conflict presents one of the most confounding challenges to the wellbeing of children and is a primary driver of child poverty where it occurs.

End Child Poverty recognizes that war and violent conflicts cause and intensify poverty. We work, therefore, to engage children and actors in conflict societies to mitigate the effect of the conflict on children as well as secure a permanent cessation to the conflict in favour of peace.

During this time, End Child Poverty has held several actions with children and actors in South Sudan and Kenya.

South Sudan Children's Peace Ambassadors Project

On 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 (currently residing in Kenya) as Peace Ambassadors.

The Children's Peace Ambassadors Project works 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.

Most notably, the event included messages by each of the children Peace Ambassadors, challenging the leaders of South Sudan, their fellow countrymen and the world at large, to work towards restoring peace in South Sudan.

60

million

the number of displaced persons and refugees, globally. 50% of whom are children

As part of our engagement on South Sudan, End Child Poverty also sponsored the screening of "Blood of Your Child." as part of the festivities for the International Day of Peace, 21st September 2015.

"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 Associations in Kenya (USSWAK).

Religious Leaders Peacebuilding Workshops

As part of our engagement with South Sudan, End Child Poverty also facilitated peacebuilding workshops for religious leaders August/September 2015. The workshops aimed to promote social cohesion and the peaceful resolution of conflicts while building resilience amongst individuals and communities in South Sudan.

The two events form part of the project partnership "Communicating for Peace in South Sudan: A Social and Behaviour Change Communication Initiative" between Search for Common Ground South Sudan (SFCG) and UNICEF.

This is the second time End Child Poverty was engaged in this effort having facilitated a similar workshop in March 2015, in Juba, South Sudan.

"Child poverty is one of the push factors that lure children and youth to join extreme organizations such as Al-Shabaab."

Dr Mustafa Ali

A safer world for children

The prospects for a Global Partnership to end violence against children.

End Child Poverty took part in this path breaking discussion on the potential role of the Global Partnership and associated Fund to end violence against children to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The new framework for Sustainable Development Goals commits the UN and global community to end all forms of violence against children and other violence related SDG targets. The goal thus presented both an opportunity and challenge to put together a formidable partnership and resources to achieve it.

Participants at the event, largely high ranking leadership from governments and other stakeholders committed to champion concrete actions on national and global level to this cause.

The meeting identified the need for data in order to implement effective actions, stronger legislation to protect children from different forms of violence, and a learning platform within the partnership such that participants can gain from each other's experience, and foster concrete and measurable results,

The meeting also identified the need for evidence to support national plans of actions, and for global advocacy, raising awareness, and collaboration to end violence against children. The meeting further noted the imperative to accord privilege to children with disabilities in efforts to end violence and the obligation to include all children in the efforts to prevent and respond to violence.



Children a Gift from God, Treasure of Society

Celebrating the Day of the African Child, 16th June 2015
Nairobi, Kenya

End Child Poverty joined partners and friends in Nairobi to celebrate the Day of the African Child June 16th 2015. The event, convened by the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), built upon the African Union theme, “25 Years after the Adoption of the African Children’s Charter: Accelerating our Collective Efforts to End Child Marriage in Africa” .

Africa is home to 15 out of 20 countries with the highest rates of child marriage. An estimated 142 million girls will marry before adulthood within this decade globally.

In addition to drawing attention to the plight of child marriage, the commemoration highlighted the importance of inclusion of children with disability.

Participants pledged to building partnerships that would ensure the protection of children and advocacy for the rights and dignity of all children.

IDEP 2015

We Can End Extreme Poverty!



1 in 3 children
(640) Million
live without adequate shelter

“When I participate in the activities of The End Child Poverty, I want to tell the world that there are children who need our help because they do not have good living conditions and upbringing, and it is not their fault...” Trako Melika Bosnia and Herzegovina

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, IDEP, is a global observance commemorated every year on October 17. It is a day of reflection and a call to action against poverty around the world. IDEP has been observed since 1993.

IDEP provides End Child Poverty, GNRC and other child rights actors with an opportunity to join the global development community in the fight against poverty, with a special focus on children.

End Child Poverty has a unique role to mobilize partnerships and action on behalf of children while rallying people of faith, civil society, child welfare organizations and governments to intensify efforts to fight against child poverty. Our commemoration of IDEP is intended to lead to year-round advocacy, action and prayer, weaving together the efforts of faith-inspired and non-governmental organizations with those of governments around the world.

#EndChildPoverty

“ Building Partnerships to End Child Poverty.”

International Day
for the Eradication
of Poverty
17th October 2015



“As the international community moves forward with its efforts to eradicate poverty, I would like to take this opportunity to call upon all religious people from all faith traditions to fulfill the special role you have to play in keeping the world’s moral focus on protecting children. Let us make ending child poverty the top priority that it already is in our holy books, scriptures, teachings and traditions. Let us keep it constantly before our communities, help our people to develop compassionate, engaged hearts, and devote all the resources we have available to achieving that wonderful first goal of the Agenda for Sustainable Development. What a celebration it will be when we have achieved it!”

Rev. Keishi Miyamoto, President ,Arigatou International

These are exciting times! At the end of 2015, the global community committed to “end poverty in all its forms”. This bold ambition seems within reach. Over 1 billion people avoided poverty in the last two decades.

For End Child Poverty, such an unprecedented attention to eradicate all forms of poverty is just what the doctor ordered! We estimate that half of the world’s two billion poor are children. We also reckon that the most efficient way to eradicate all forms of poverty, the work that will have the best returns, the one that should be attempted first, is the effort to end child poverty! We hold that the truths are self-evident, that child poverty is the most grave and debilitating form of poverty, that it causes the most harm for individuals, communities and societies, and that it has the most obvious linkage to generational and chronic poverty as children born and raised in poverty in their turn visit it on their children.

To use the words of Rev. Keishi Miyamoto, President of Arigatou International “practically speaking, the shortest path to eradicating poverty in the long term is by starting with today’s children—building structures and empowering families to ensure that they escape the vicious cycle of intergenerational poverty... I find it difficult to believe that harm would be done by thinking first of the children in all of our efforts against poverty. I think this child-first orientation will help guide us all to address not just economic and systemic causes of poverty, but the root causes of poverty that lie in the human heart.”

It is therefore with some measure of optimism that we mobilized GNRC members and partners to mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty this past year under the theme ‘Together We Can End Child Poverty Worldwide’.

24 countries from South and Central America, Africa, Asia, Europe, and an estimated 30,000 participants took part in the associated events.



We Can End Extreme Poverty

Rev. Adam Russell Taylor,
Lead Faith Based Initiative- World Bank Group

“There are an estimated one billion children living in poverty today, that is one out of every two children. Think of it as if it were a single family - one child is well-fed, well-dressed, immunized, healthy with regular medical checkups, and has a good school to go to; the other child is malnourished and wasting away, shoeless and sick from easily preventable diseases, with no access to a doctor, and has to work instead of go to school. What an absurd family that would be! We would question the very sanity of the parents! Yet this is the very picture of children in our world, and we - all of us - are the “parents.”

Rev. Keishi Miyamoto, President ,Arigatou International

As a proud father of a five and three-year-old sons, the recently endorsed Sustainable Development Goals take on an even deeper meaning and urgency. My sons will be coming of age just as the promise of these new goals will either be realized or broken. For the first time in human history, we no longer have to dream of a world free of poverty, we can actually achieve it within my sons’ generation. Sadly, poverty often comes across as an abstraction or

an overwhelming challenge for far too many people. In religious terms, I often refer to poverty as a modern day Goliath. Because just as the Biblical Goliath seemed invincible to the Israelites, poverty can also seem insurmountable, breeding a combination of resignation, cynicism and a sense of inevitability. The good news is that the world possesses the tools, the resources and the knowledge to end extreme poverty within fifteen years. And we can learn from over 50 years of development experience, both from our successes as well as our failures.

One of the most under reported success stories is that the world has managed to lift 1 billion people out of extreme poverty over the past 20 years. Part of the reason ending poverty is now achievable is because of this extraordinary progress. Despite this progress, there are still roughly 700 million men, women and children who are living in the dehumanizing and degrading conditions of extreme poverty. To end extreme poverty by 2030, the Bank estimates that an average of 1 million people need to escape extreme poverty every week.

We know that extreme poverty has many faces, including the heart wrenching faces of far too many children. Extreme poverty is 800 million people going hungry each night, 1.4 billion people

living in the dark due to lack of access to electricity and 2.5 billion people without access to financial services. Extreme poverty denies human dignity and destroys human potential.

My personal commitment to ending extreme poverty has been inspired and framed by what I consider part of the unfinished business of the American civil rights struggle. Dr. King and so many other leaders fought not just for civil rights in the U.S. but for human dignity and economic opportunity across the world. When Dr. King accepted the Nobel peace prize in 1963 he said “I have the audacity to believe that people’s everywhere can have three meals a day for their bodies, education and culture for their minds, and dignity, equality and freedom for their spirits. I believe that what self-centered men have torn down, other-centered men can build up”.

This past April the World Bank supported a diverse cross-section of faith-based and religious leaders who drafted and launched a shared statement entitled “Ending Extreme Poverty: A Moral and Spiritual Imperative”. On the eve of Pope Francis’ historic address to the United Nations General Assembly, over 100 of these FBO and religious leaders co-organized and participated in an event with the World Bank and United Nations to celebrate the contribution of religious actors to the MDGs and to launch an Action Framework to strengthen the contribution of religious organizations in realizing the SDGs.

Moving forward, the World Bank Group will be working with the United Nations and other partners like Arigatou International’s End Child Poverty Initiative to make every October 17th a milestone and signature day to assess and celebrate progress in our shared quest to end extreme poverty. Together we can make End Poverty Day a day in which we redouble our efforts and raise our level of audacity to meet the aspirations of the world’s most marginalized and vulnerable people, a disproportionate number of whom are children.

Rev. Adam Russell Taylor,
Lead Faith Based Initiative - World Bank Group



What can you do for IDEP October 17th?

– Here are some great ideas.

1. Spiritual observance - encourage your faith community gatherings to pray with and for children living in poverty, raise awareness and preach about child poverty within your community.
2. Hold “call to action” concerts and cultural events - speak through songs, art exhibits, theatre pieces, and dance performances.
3. Raise Awareness and advocate through Media, be it print, broadcast, web, or social media. Let your audience know that IDEP is coming.
4. Engage in symbolic and practical Poverty Eradication Actions that call attention to the need to fight child poverty.
5. Petition the Duty Bearers -organize petitions to call on your country leaders and governments to make the fight against child poverty a central part of national policy.
6. Mobilize others to join you - talk local partners into action, encourage their participation, ask for their support.
7. Issue an Advocacy Statement within your community and wider society. You can read it during a gathering, have it printed in your local newspaper, distribute it during your community worship service or share on social media and email

For more ideas visit <https://endingchildpoverty.org> and share with us your planned IDEP actions



IDEP Actions in various countries



Afghanistan

Help The Afghan Child (HTAC), through their ongoing education programs in Kabul, Jawzjan, Faryab and Sare Pul Provinces, lay emphasis on the need to end child poverty. In total, their innovative Computer Education, Peace Education and Environmental Education programs in community-based schools have a combined reach of 17,025 students.



Argentina

GNRC Argentina celebrated IDEP by carrying out a communications campaign, “Bridges to Eradicating Child Poverty”, with posters, prayer sessions, website and social media messages sensitizing and inviting the entire community to get involved in eradicating child poverty.



Brazil

The Pastoral Da Crianca, a member of the GNRC, conducted a campaign to end child poverty across 1,400 radio stations in Brazil. Noting that poverty results in the loss of dignity and opportunity to live a worthy life, the campaign emphasized the need for engagement and dialogue and the role of religion and faith communities in making it happen. The campaign underlined much needed social and policy change such as a change in power relations, investments in education and training, as well as the elimination of greed and selfishness.



Burundi

In the teeth of the escalating violence and growing insecurity in the country, The Children’s Club for a Peaceful World, part of GNRC

Burundi, gathered youth representatives from various schools in Bujumbura for solidarity. The youth held prayers for children affected by the violence as well as those deceased a result of conflict. The children participated in sports, games and held counselling conversations as a means of providing psychosocial peer support and to signify unity and solidarity. The youth made commitments to avoid violent behavior under the banner, “Tubeho Neza” meaning “Let us Live Well”. The youth also called upon the government and community leaders to speedily restore peace in the country.



Bosnia & Herzegovina

Sixth Sense NGO conducted several workshops for youth in Doboj. Additionally, Sixth Sense led a humanitarian action through a donation drive of food, clothes, and toys.

Other activities included an income generating activity “From Creativity to Profit”, a sports event for children with special needs, ‘Games without borders’ and a one-day volunteering activity to serve children.

MOZAIK, Visoko held several events including workshops in six elementary schools, a roundtable with religious leaders (Catholic, Orthodox and Muslim), and food distribution to impoverished families.



Comoros

Conseil De la Paix celebrated IDEP by donating school kits and clothes to families and children and by organizing a family event at Caritas Health Centre in Moroni, Comoros.



Croatia

GNRC Croatia conducted a workshop on child poverty with 300 university student participants.



Cuba

The GNRC Cuba mobilised volunteers to visit and serve children without parental protection, including orphans, at the provincial centre in Matanzas, as well as a school serving children with hearing and speech impairment.



Democratic Republic of Congo

Laissez L'Afrique Vivre (LAV) organized an event to sensitize youth, parents and leaders on their role in fighting child poverty. LAV also held meditation and prayers for children who die every minute because of poverty. The children prepared and presented drama sketches, music and dances.



Dominican Republic

GNRC Dominican Republic prepared a prayer for children living in poverty, *Oracion por la erradicación de la pobreza infantil* and shared it widely with its networks and partners. The prayer included several invocations, including, "Teach us to love, unconditionally, all children and youth in the world" and "Help us to overcome spiritual causes of poverty such as arrogance, fear, hatred and ignorance".



Ecuador

GNRC Ecuador organized a multi religious roundtable and a cultural event that included a musical and arts festival.



India

Shanti Ashram, along with GNRC partners in India, reached out to 26 institutions with 15,867 children. A highlight of the event was covering the day with child reporters.



Indonesia

The focus of activity was awareness creation and creation of a hub of children's voice to end child poverty. The activities included a workshop on child poverty, children prayer and reflection and basic material support to children in Wera village.



Kenya

CAP YEI, mobilized students from 6 of their training centres to visit and serve children and donate food stuffs and clothing.

Amani Village of Hope, visited a neglected family of four children and a single mother that had gone hungry for days and were badly



“You may not change the whole world,
but you can change the whole world for
one child at a time”

Rev.Fred Nyabera

infected with jiggers. Amani Village of hope rescued the family and provided them basic but urgent medical attention including deworming, removing the jiggers and short-term accommodation.

Childs-Life International led a team of volunteers to organize a children’s day that included debate sessions, poetry presentations, essay writing, drama.

Bare Care organized an awareness campaign to rally for absolute immunization of all children and also enhancing access to education for all children, followed by lunch for 60 children at Kabarnet Children’s Home.

FECCLAHA: Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA) in Goma (DRC), arranged an Exchange Sharing and Learning Forum for 60 young women and men supported by the Organization for Young Christians for Development (OJCD). The forum served as a follow-up process aimed at strengthening small scale businesses which the youth begun, after the 2014 IDEP campaign. Some of these income generating activities aimed at combating poverty include fish farming, duck rearing, running an internet café and selling handbags.

LOVE Inc. Kenya: A group of churches and individual Christians who seek to fill the gap by churches in addressing the needs of the vulnerable members of society, used digital communication to disseminate messages related to the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, to the wider Love Inc global community, including churches and church leaders in Kenya.

INTERNATIONAL YOUNG CATHOLIC STUDENTS- AFRICA (IYCS) and INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT OF CATHOLIC STUDENTS (IYMS), both Catholic movements working with and through the youth in seeking to address social justice issues affecting the less privileged in society, led several activities including celebrating Mass and offering prayers for children, especially those affected by poverty. The movements also mobilised students to take part in donation drives as an act of love and charity to promote their motto “preferential option for the poor”. They also organised roundtable discussions in their various national and pan-African universities.



Lebanon

Through their long-term project, “cash for work”, Annas Linnas contributed towards the social stabilization of the Lebanese host communities and improving the living conditions of the vulnerable Lebanese and Syrian refugees in Mount Lebanon region. The project is working to promote social cohesion and increase the income of the Syrian refugees and of the vulnerable Lebanese and their families.




Nepal

SHANTI SEWA ASHRAM and PEACE SERVICE CENTRE organized multiple activities including setting up a library at the Shanti Sewa Ashram, conducting a positive parenting and basic skills training for mothers, a workshop in the largest slum, Kalimati, targeting young women offered training on birth spacing, family planning and

income-generating activities. They also organized a special session at the Children’s Peace Home for children and youth to write poems related to poverty eradication. Teachers received training on how to communicate with children about morals and how to encourage children on social accountability and their role in eradicating poverty. Twenty- five children in a traditional Gurukul school received clothing and stationery as donations.

 Pakistan

GNRC Pakistan celebrated IDEP by organizing a free dental clinic for children. GNRC Pakistan also endorsed, translated, and disseminated the English and Urdu Version of the IDEP core message by Rev. Fred Nyabera (Director, End Child Poverty- Arigatou International) and the IDEP Message by Rev. Keishi Miyamoto (President, Arigatou International). GNRC Pakistan together with Evangelical Church Taxila organized a roundtable for 20 religious leaders and youth to deliberate on how to eradicate child poverty.

 Panama

GNRC Panama carried out 2 consecutive visits to two local communities which experience constant flooding which in turn affects their main source of livelihood, fish farming. GNRC Panama also organized a donation drive which benefitted 60 children and 20 adults affected by recent floods while 12 families received cooking stoves. During these visits, GNRC used the 'Learning to Live Together', a model developed by Ethics and Education Program- Arigatou International as a tool to teach children how to share and help each other.


 Rwanda

Umbrella for Vulnerable Children led a spiritual observance/ prayer day in the capital Kigali attracted 100 participants including 80 children.


 South Africa

GRNC South Africa organised a workshop for children at the Mavela Ikhaya Project (MIP) in Ndwedwe, KwaZulu-Natal which attracted 30 child participants. The children's workshop incorporated the use of the Learning to Live Together Manual, group discussions, art work/poster

making and games, with a focus on studying for their forthcoming school exams. The workshop centred on the relationship between education and ending child poverty.

 South Sudan

Hands of Grace, a Christian ministry committed to serving the most vulnerable children celebrated IDEP in Gudele One, Juba, South Sudan.

 Sri Lanka

Sarvodaya organised a round table on tackling poverty in relation to the social issues in Moratuwa Town, Sri Lanka. The roundtable was also intended as a strategic action towards the strengthening of the Knowledge Centre.





Serbia

Through the Somborski Edukativni Centar (Sombor Educational Centre), GNRC Serbia, organised a series of activities including an exhibition of art work, which had been developed by children trained at the centre. The exhibition focused on education as a tool to eradicate child poverty. Additionally, SEC led a donation drive for school supplies for impoverished children in the city of Sombor

SEC trained 15 youth, in partnership with Somborski Youth Boom, on entrepreneurship and employment-readiness as a means to curb youth poverty.



Tanzania

The GNRC Tanzania conducted sensitization and IDEP awareness raising during the GNRC youth and peace club meetings.



Uganda

Restoring and Empowering Communities (REC) visited 820 children in 2 schools and a Centre, including Kalamu schools.

Supporting Grassroots Initiatives that End Child Poverty

Arigatou International undertakes and directly supports effective projects at grassroots level that address and alleviate child poverty. Prospective projects have to be sustainable, exhibit a high potential to reduce child poverty, and can be efficiently modelled, adapted scaled up across various situations. Promising projects would normally aim to enhance quality education and retention of impoverished and vulnerable children in school, transform violent conflicts that exacerbate poverty, and to promote income generating activities for low income caregivers and families.

End Child Poverty, working together with its partners provides modest education scholarships in South Sudan, and Kenya and with a likelihood for South Africa, Pakistan and Lebanon . Pupils benefit from this partnership by receiving uniform, books, school fees contribution, among other material items.

880

million

Children living in extreme or multidimensional poverty





Empowering Youth & Children for Sustainable Livelihoods Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship Program, CAP YEI, Kenya

The GNRC Colombia continued with the implementation of the End Child Poverty project in Soacha (Cundinamarca Province). The project supports approximately 40 women of the Mennonite Church who live in extreme poverty. The project includes an economic and social empowerment component, which is done through vocational training and the establishment of a textile microenterprise of women to help families move out of extreme poverty.

End Child Poverty is collaborating with the GNRC to support the youth employment and entrepreneurship program of CAP Youth Empowerment Institute (CAP YEI) in Kenya. The program aims at equipping young people and in particular, out-of-school youth from economically disadvantaged and poor communities, with vocational training. Thus far it has successfully trained over 6,000 youth in jobs such as: carpentry, tailoring, serving as security guards, making cosmetics and hygiene products with locally available products, cater-

ing and hotel industry hospitality, car mechanics, electrical repairs and metal work, among other tasks.

CAP YEI applies its Basic Employability Skills Training (BEST) model which is a dynamic, demand driven, model designed to offer youth short term skills training and support that leads them to securing entry level employment opportunities or start small businesses. Through this approach, CAP YEI scans the respective markets for the goods and services attracting high demand, and then trains youth as entrepreneurs and ready workers in these fields. It makes use of a rapid response strategy by offering short-term training course (an average of 3 months) and offering immediate assistance in employment placement. CAP-YEI goes a step further in providing mentoring to the trainees as follow-up and part of the equipping.

Empowering Youth & Children for Sustainable Livelihoods India Poverty Solutions

India Poverty Solutions-an initiative of End Child Poverty's partner, Shanti Ashram- unites children and youth to work together and find solutions to Child Poverty. The initiative aims to mobilize 1,000,000 volunteers from major faith traditions to find simple and effective solutions that will end child poverty. Notably, on November 1 2015, End Child Poverty supported India Poverty Solutions in the launch of a successful marathon aimed at creating awareness about the impact of child poverty and the need for social change. The event attracted remarkable participation of 4000 volunteers including children and youth.

One of the strategies that End Child Poverty intends to apply towards mobilizing faith inspired resources to end child poverty is the documentation and dissemination of initiatives by the GNRC members and faith communities, which promote best practices towards combating child poverty.



Ms. Kalaivani is a 19-year old student benefitting from the scholarship from India Poverty Solutions. She is in her final year of study at the Sri Krishna Arts and Science College.

"I joined college and found that my family couldn't make both ends meet", says the Bachelor of Commerce student. "I saw my parents work harder so that (I) and my sister didn't feel the burden of poverty. They wanted me to learn and excel".

"When I was in my 2nd semester, I got to know of Shanti Ashram and the Akkam Revolving Fund from my relatives. I (received) an initial revolving fund assistance of Rs. 15,000 and (to) date I have been a beneficiary of the scholarship and all other capacity building activities of the Ashram".

"Today, I have (a job) , I have been placed in a multinational company and I am expecting my call letter very soon ... I know that I am amongst the lucky few to get such a wonderful family and empowering assistance from a committed organization like Shanti Ashram. I will spread the importance of education to all and one day I will don the role of supporting girls to get educated and live a life of respect and dignity."

Excerpts from Ms Kalaivani interview with Shanti Ashram in March 2016.



Empowering Women Care Givers for Sustainable Livelihoods

End Child Poverty supports initiatives that empower women caregivers of children living in poverty in Eastleigh, Pangani, Pumwani and Mathare North low-income areas of Nairobi, through partnership with The Cry of a Young One and Peaceful Innovation Organisation (PIO), both community based development organisations in Nairobi, Kenya.

Similarly, End Child Poverty plans to strengthen its collaboration with Hands of Grace in Juba, South Sudan.

In Soacha, the GNRC Colombia continues to support women care-givers through its “Growing Together” project hosted by the Mennonite Church. The project incorporated lessons from the Learning To Live Together Program of Ethics Education for Children — Arigatou International, and a small-scale business led by the women.

Grassroots Peace Building & Conflict Transformation Community Dialogue on Peace and Social Cohesion, Garissa and Mombasa , Kenya

End Child Poverty, co-facilitated the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) sponsored workshop, “Community Dialogue on Peace and Social Cohesion” in Garissa, March 2016. The workshop elicited participation of Muslim and Christian religious leaders from North Eastern Kenya with the aim of strengthening community responses addressing radicalisation towards violent extremism.

End Child Poverty in collaboration with Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement aims to make the Child Poverty Eradication Knowledge Center in Moratuwa, Sri Lanka an innovative hub on child poverty resources. During this period, the knowledge Centre appointed a new staff member, Ms. Mangala Priyangani.



Grassroots Peace Building & Conflict Transformation

Misereor DPS Workshop Nairobi, March 2016

End Child Poverty, facilitated another event, “Towards Understanding Radicalisation and Violent Extremism amongst the Youth of Kenya”, for the MISEREOR Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector. MISEREOR is the German Catholic Bishops’ Organisation for Development Cooperation.

The event aimed to equip the participating teachers and managers of the TVET centers with skills to engage in activities that prevent and mitigate radicalisation of youth in their institutions, and improve the level of tolerance, mutual respect, coexistence and harmonious relations.

Nineteen participants from six MISEREOR partner organisations in Nairobi participated in the training. Participants requested for similar spaces for interfaith dialogue and interaction to be availed.

Accompanying and Supporting the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) members and other partners India Poverty Solutions, Shanti Ashram. India Shanti Ashram, India organised its Third Sarvodaya Leadership Summit in January 2016, where it dedicated the Phase – IV of its poverty eradication programme, India Poverty Solutions.

India Poverty Solutions is an on-going countrywide initiative, which unites children and youth to work together and find solutions to child poverty. Arigatou International, through End Child Poverty, co-sponsors this innovative programme alongside other partners. Shanti Ashram first launched India Poverty Solutions in Coimbatore and has now expanded it to four other areas; Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Kerala, with plans underway to replicate the model with children and youth in Pondichery.

The curriculum for this workshop included: The Context of Violent Extremism and Interfaith Relations in Kenya; Understanding Conflict, Peace and Violence; Understanding Radicalisation, Extremism and Violent Extremism; Narratives and Counter-Narratives Approaches; Interfaith Co – existence - Connectors and Dividers; Biases, Stereotypes and Prejudices; Faith, Violence, Peace and the Role of the Religious Leaders in Countering Violent Extremism.

A similar interfaith dialogue forum was held in Mombasa County, March 2016. Muslim, Christian and Miji Kenda Kaya elders and religious leaders participated in the forum. This programme aimed to promote the essence of peace and co-existence; an understanding of the context of violent extremism; popularise the Building Resilience Against Violence Extremism (BRAVE) program; share ideas and experiences; foster peaceful co-existence amongst the different religions; create networking opportunities; and identify solutions to radicalization and violent extremism.

End Child Poverty recognizes poverty as a critical push factor driving young people — children and youth – as well as adults, into violent extremism and is courting opportunity and collaboration to address this issue.

Youth Peace Clubs

Nairobi, Kenya

The Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA) supports fourteen (14) Youth Peace Clubs (YPCs) with 469 members (205 male and 264 female) in Mukuru, an informal settlement in Nairobi, Kenya.

Through co-funding from End Child Poverty and the GNRC in Nairobi, FECCLAHA organised capacity enhancement training on Voluntary Savings and Loans / Groups Savings and Loans (VSL/GSL) entrepreneurship and financial literacy for some YPCs members, in April and October 2015. This training aimed to spur the youth towards social and economic self-reliance, as well as sustainable peace and livelihoods. Its objective was to create opportunities for the youth to address their vulnerabilities, which place them at higher risk of negative manipulation, involvement in crime, drug abuse, dropping out of school, early pregnancy, violence and other social challenges.

As a result, several Youth Peace Clubs (YPCs) launched small-scale businesses to generate income for themselves, their families, and their peace club and to develop the Mukuru community, with support from FECCLAHA.

FECCLAHA also launched a pilot initiative on Business Mentorship and Livelihoods, in February 2016. Subsequently, (4) of the Youth Peace Clubs (YPCs) received a capital boost through End Child Poverty.

One of the YPCs, Sinai Reli Youth Peace Club provides garbage collection services using handcarts and wheelbarrows. The capital boost will enable them to purchase their own tools, thus reducing their operating costs of business, while providing additional income through providing these new tools for hire.



Support for GNRC Members &
Other Grassroots Partners

World Day of Social Justice

The World Day of Social Justice is observed to “support efforts of the international community in poverty eradication, the promotion of full employment and decent work, gender equity and access to social well-being and justice for all”. It is marked with recognition that social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful, prosperous coexistence and sustainable development.

THE CRY OF A YOUNG ONE, a partner of Arigatou International - Nairobi through End Child Poverty and the GNRC, held a Social Justice Day event on 20th February 2016. Children, youth, community representatives, local leaders and representatives from various grassroots organisations participated in the celebration.

The themed celebrations helped participants reflect on and commit to:

1. Creating non-violent spaces and a sense of community where persons become their “brother’s keeper”
2. Preventing and ending gender based violence
3. Reducing the incidences of drug use/abuse and drug addiction among young persons
4. Eliminate sexual harassment and violence against children in the community
5. Promoting education for all children in the community
6. Empowerment of all caregivers in the community

End Child Poverty intends to partner with and accompany *The Cry of Young One* in this work, in it’s efforts to promote the wellbeing of children and ending poverty.



In Argentina, the GNRC members supported Instituto Movilizador de Jóvenes - IMJ, a local NGO, to establish a youth community centre to cater to the needs of vulnerable young persons. This process has so far entailed construction of a shelter that would act as public safe space for learning and interaction.

Through the “Growing Together” Project of the Mennonite Church in Soacha, a poor neighborhood on the outskirts of Bogota, the GNRC-Colombia has continued with it’s work with women-care givers. About 40 women participated in a textile micro-enterprise that was set up with support from Arigatou International. This activity also promotes personal growth through cultivating self-esteem, human rights, ethical values and social skills.

Soacha is home to millions of low-income Colombians, many of whom were displaced by the internal armed conflict and are currently facing poverty, economic insecurity, and a lack of educational opportunity.

Other GNRC members’ activities were held in Brazil, El Salvador and India.

Access to Quality Education

End Child Poverty Scholarship Program

End Child Poverty continued to work together with its partners to provide modest education scholarships in Kenya and South Sudan. Pupils benefit from this partnership by receiving uniform, books, school fees contribution, stationery and other school materials, transport or fare provision, meals and students' monthly up-keep among other material items. Sponsorship is on a continuous basis, with students receiving a scholarship for the entire duration of their schooling. Funds for the program are provided by Arigatou International — Nairobi and other partners.



Now in its third year of operation, the End Child Poverty Scholarship programme has received enthusiastic support from target beneficiaries. These are primarily students from Hands of Grace, Juba, South Sudan and Amani Village of Hope, Siaya, Kenya. We are presently seeking to grow our partnerships in order to grow the fund base, increase the number of students being supported, and the number of grassroots organisations and countries participating. In response to need, we are also reviewing possibility of working with partners to support children from Pakistan, Lebanon, Tanzania and South Africa.



So I hate poverty

I see poverty around me.
Wake up with poverty
Go to bed with poverty
So I hate poverty

My eyes see poverty
Ears hear poverty
Nose smell poverty
So I hate poverty

My books express poverty
My toys are made of poverty
My dress shows poverty
So I hate poverty

But still my heart is pure, no poverty
My dreams are strong, no poverty
My culture is rich, no poverty
My country is great, no poverty



Srijana

Khana

Peace

Peace

Class-8

Strengthening the Initiative



Third Interim Steering Committee Meeting, 2 June 2015, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

End Child Poverty held its third Interim Steering Committee (ISC) Meeting on 2 June 2015, in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The committee discussed among other issues, the Terms of Reference for its successor advisory council and the 2015 – 2016 Pro-

gramme Plans. The committee also reviewed progress of the End Child Poverty Multi faith Guide. Previous ISC meetings were held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 19th and 20th August 2013, and Moratuwa, Sri Lanka on 15 October 2014.

Programme Development, Networking and Other Strategic Engagement(s)

During this period, we have continued to draw plans on future plans of End Child Poverty especially with regard to how best to deploy the limited resources available to our core aspirations. These plans focus on the three program pillars of End Child Poverty – Theological Reflection, Prayer and Action; Advocacy and Lobbying; and Grassroots Projects to alleviate child poverty. In addition, we continue to seek and engage actions to strengthen our communications, partnership and resource mobilization.

We have continued to take our place at the table of the Arigatou family. In particular, we contributed to ECOSOC report of Arigatou International, and are engaged with the planning for the 5th Forum of the GNRC. The first planning meeting of this forum in New York, 25th -26th January 2016 presented an opportunity to deliberate on urgent challenges facing children, especially violence against children in all its manifestations.

Directors of the Arigatou International Initiatives met in Tokyo, Japan, 28th February -1st March 2016. Plans for the year 2016 – 2017 were discussed, among other issues.



African Council of Religious Leaders—Religions for Peace (ACRL—RfP), The Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA) and the NCA office.

Partnership with the Family Group Foundation, Kenya

The Family Foundation Group (TFGF) has continued its sponsorship for the education of high school students through End Child Poverty. In addition, TFGF is seeking ways to expand its programme on youth entrepreneurship and mentorship, peace education and women's empowerment. End Child Poverty is exploring these interests with a view to expanding support to its programme to end child poverty.

Meriada Book Club, Kenya

Meriada Book Club has partnered with End Child Poverty to provide education scholarships for deserving students from the Amani Village of Hope, Siaya, Kenya. The students receive school fees for the duration of their entire secondary school education, in addition to mentorship visits.

Engagement with Norwegian Church Aid- End Child Poverty has entered a mutually beneficial partnership with the Norwegian Church Aid Africa Office. Through the nested partnership hosted by the NCA, End Child Poverty will co-resource and jointly implement activities in the Regional Peace Programme (RPP) and the Thematic Programme on Reduction of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Conflict and Post-conflict settings.

The RPP project aims to increase knowledge and understanding of radicalisation towards violent extremism in the Eastern Africa and Horn of Africa region as well as minimize religious radicalisation towards violent extremism through intra-faith and joint inter-faith initiatives.

Through the programme to reduce Gender Based Violence in Conflict and Post conflict situations, End Child Poverty is targeting moving preventing and ending violence against boys and girls a top priority agenda in target countries, equip children, faith actors and responsibility-holders to take action and respond to violence against girls and boys.

The nested partnership brings together five (5) organisations: Arigatou International—Nairobi, All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), The

950 million

more children at risk of falling into poverty

Communication and Program Planning

We continue to grow our capacity and reach in communications. This past year, we have invested considerably to grow the www.endchildpoverty.org and our social media platforms.

Wherever possible, we have taken to launching and conducting campaign activities through the online resources. As a result there is now a growing body of content on the site. There has also been steady growth in the number of users on the website and social media platforms. In addition, the website is now available in Spanish,

During the year, we also issued our very first year book- *Leaving No child Behind*. The year book captured the stories and impact of End Child Poverty's work in collaboration with its partners. It especially highlighted the grassroots project by the GNRC members and other partners.

The yearbook was issued in a limited English language print edition accompanied with an online version.



Arigatou International is an international faith-based non-governmental organization committed to promoting children rights and fostering their well-being. It seeks to maximize the potential of interfaith cooperation, and strives to empower and involve children and youth in all its activities. With offices in Nairobi, New York, Geneva and headquarters in Tokyo, Arigatou International holds Special Consultative status with ECOSOC and with UNICEF.

The organization works with other strategic partners, through its four initiatives, namely:

- **Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC):** A global network for interreligious cooperation for children and youth dedicated to securing the rights and well being of children.
- **Ethics Education:** This is an intercultural and interfaith program that promotes values-based and quality education for children and young people within the framework of the child's right to education, as stated in the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child
- **Prayer and Action for Children :** This is a movement that mobilizes people from diverse religious traditions to improve children's lives through prayer and practical acts of service. It is celebrated each year on November 20, which is also the Universal Children's Day.
- **End Child Poverty:** This is a multi-faith, global initiative that seeks to mobilize faith-inspired resources to end child poverty.

About Us

The Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty (End Child Poverty) is a multi-faith, child centred, global initiative that works to mobilise faith-inspired resources to eradicate child poverty.

Our vision is a world free of child poverty and we work to enable this by mobilizing faith inspired resources to address root causes of child poverty such as greed, ignorance, hatred and fear, as well as structural causes of poverty such as unequal distribution of resources, war and violence, poor governance and corruption.

We locate and place the child at the center of our work, integrate positive religious values, promote multi-faith and faith based approaches and collaborate with like minded actors.

Our work lays emphasis on:

1. Raising awareness and the consciousness of our communities on the plight of child poverty.
2. Engaging in theological reflection, prayer and action to mitigate the causes of poverty as necessary steps towards establishing lasting solutions to address child poverty.

3. Engaging in interfaith advocacy and lobbying against structural causes of poverty such as the unequal distribution of resources, corruption, bad governance and violent conflicts.

4. Accompanying selected sustainable and replicable grassroots flagship projects by the GNRC members and other local faith actors that aim to enhance quality education and retention of poor and vulnerable children in school, transform violent conflicts that exacerbate poverty, and promote income generating activities for low income care-givers and families.

5. Building our strengths and capacities through among others forging concrete partnerships at all levels of our work.

End Child Poverty is an initiative of Arigatou International and works in collaboration with members of the Global Network of Religions for Children (the GNRC), faith-inspired groups, development organisations, civil society organisations, governments, United Nations agencies, media, educators, multilateral organisations and other like-minded organisations and individuals to build a better world for children.

Steering Committee & Staff



Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe Torres, Secretary General, Interfaith Council for Ethics Education and Director, Arigatou International – Geneva. Ms. Uribe Torres has served as Coordinator and Deputy Coordinator for Education and Fragility for the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE), based at UNHCR in Geneva, Switzerland. Maria Lucia provides strategic leadership, coordinates and manages the Ethics Education for Children – a global initiative of Arigatou International. In addition she develops partnerships and international engagement with UN agencies and other child-rights focused organisations.

Dr. Kezevino Aram, Director of Shanti Ashram, India, an internationally reputed Gandhian organization, engaged in integrated rural development. She is a Child Health Practitioner and a graduate of the PSG Institute of Medical Sciences and the Harvard School of Public Health. In the past 15 years, Vinu, as she is fondly called, has sought many creative ways of advancing the cause of children, through health care and community development initiatives.



Dr. Katherine Marshall, senior fellow at Georgetown's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs and Visiting Professor in the School of Foreign Service. Dr. Marshall was involved in the founding of the World Faiths Development Dialogue and is its Executive Director. She has served on two international prize committees, the Opus Prize Foundation and the Niwano Peace Prize Foundation, and chairs the board of the World Bank Community Connections Fund. She was a core group member of a World Economic Forum initiative to advance understanding between the Islamic World and the West. Marshall worked for 35 years at the World Bank.

Mr. Shozo Fujita, Secretary General, Arigatou International, Tokyo, Japan

Mr. Fujita has extensive experience in interfaith work and organizations. He previously worked with the Human Rights and Public Relations Committees of Religions for Peace Japan and also served as the vice-chairperson of the Myochikai Youth Division.



Rev. Dr. Hans Ucko is co-chair of Arigatou International's initiative, Prayer and Action for Children and a board member of Arigatou International, New York. He is the President of the newly established Nordic Gülen Institute. Dr Ucko has previously served in leadership in the Office of Interreligious Relations and Dialogue of the World Council of Churches in Geneva, Switzerland; as the President of Religions for Peace Europe; and as the Executive Secretary of the Church of Sweden for Jewish-Christian Relations, interreligious dialogue and East Asian Relations.

Mr. Kul Chandra Gautam, a distinguished international civil servant, development professional, public policy expert, and human rights activist. Former Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF and Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations. Mr Gautam has extensive experience in international diplomacy, development cooperation and humanitarian assistance



Dr.Vinya Ariyaratne, General Secretary, Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement the largest non-governmental grassroots development organization in Sri Lanka. Dr.Vinya is also a lecturer in Community Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka and a practicing medical doctor specialised in public health. He is also the Chairman of Deshodaya Development Finance Company (DDFC), the Microfinance and Enterprise Development arm of Sarvodaya.



Ms. Rebeca Rios-Kohn is the Director of Prayer and Action for Children and Director of Arigatou International – New York, USA.

Dr. Ali, Secretary General, Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) and Director, Arigatou International - Nairobi. Previously Secretary General of the African Council of Religious Leaders and Africa Representative of Religions for Peace International from 2007 to 2013.



Dr. Ali is a recipient of the 2012 Coexist International Peace Prize, in honor of his work and leadership in interfaith relations, dialogue and conflict transformation in Africa.



Rev. Fred Nyabera, Director, Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty, Arigatou International – Nairobi, Kenya. Previously, Rev. Nyabera served as pastor at the Nairobi Baptist Church and Karen Community Church. He also served as the Executive Director of the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA). Rev. Nyabera has worked passionately to improve the wellbeing of communities in Eastern Africa by promoting accountable governance, peace and security for development, especially with respect to marginalised and vulnerable groups.



Mr Lokaale Kobarach Yasin, Accountant and Finance Assistant, Arigatou International, Nairobi



Ms. Nyambura Gichuki
Programme Officer, End Child Poverty Nairobi



Ms. Florence Omtokoh, Executive Secretary, Arigatou International – Nairobi



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