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PHOTO

End Child Poverty and her partners Arigatou International, Nairobi - Kenya

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About Us

End Child Poverty is a multi-faith, child centered, global initiative of Arigatou International that mobilises faith-inspired resources to end child poverty.

End Child Poverty believes in a world where every child lives free of poverty. We aim to achieve this by addressing the spiritual root causes of poverty and by challenging the structural root causes of poverty.

In our child-centered work and service we seek to integrate positive religious values; we promote faith-inspired initiatives; and we cooperate with like-minded organisations to work together for a world free of child poverty.

Our approach puts into action three main strategies:

- Mitigating the human and spiritual causes of poverty through theological reflection, prayer and action
- Combating structural causes of poverty through interfaith advocacy and lobbying
- Undertaking replicable and sustainable grassroots projects that alle viate poverty

End Child Poverty was launched by Arigatou International at the Fourth Forum of the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) in 2012, in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Our Vision - A World Free of Child Poverty

At End Child Poverty we envision a World Free of Child Poverty. Every day, together with many others, we aim for and work hard to make this hope a reality.

Our Mission – Mobilizing Faith Inspired Resources to End Child Poverty

Religious communities and faith-inspired organisations have unique resources, including their spiritual value, their social capital and their moral assets. We maximize on these comparative strengths to end child poverty.

Our Guiding Principles

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

- Child-centered Initiatives
- Integration of positive religious values in our work
- Promotion of faith-inspired initiatives
- Cooperation with like-minded stakeholders

Our Value Statement: All For Children

We value each child, their families, care-givers and their communities. In that way, as End Child Poverty, we say that we are "All for Children": In all our work, all that we do, we do for the benefit of children.

- All our service is focused on the protection and promotion of the dignity of children, their inborn value, their rights, their full human potential and the enhancement of their overall wellbeing.
- We value each and every child and we give our all and best efforts to build a world free of child poverty.
- We value partnerships and cooperation and we therefore invite all faith-inspired communities and all people of good will, to take action and end child poverty.
- In common purpose with all initiatives of Arigatou International, we work together to care for children and to create a better world for children.

How we work

We work primarily through members of the Global Network of Religions for Children (The GNRC). We also seek to establish partnerships with other faith-inspired groups, development organisations, civil society organisations, governments, United Nations agencies, media educators, multilateral organisations and like-minded individuals who work towards a world free of child poverty.

What We Do

Awareness Creation: Raising the consciousness of our communities on the plight of child poverty.

Addressing the Spiritual Causes of Poverty: Engaging in theological reflection, prayer and action, to mitigate the human and spiritual causes of poverty including greed, hatred, fear and ignorance.

Addressing Structural Causes of Poverty: Engage in interfaith advocacy and lobbying against structural causes of poverty such as the unequal distribution of resources, corruption, bad governance and violent conflicts, by:

- Developing faith-based advocacy tools geared towards eradication of child poverty.
- Facilitating the creation of platforms to communicate and advocate for sustainable and wholistic child poverty eradication.

Flagship Grass Root Initiatives: Accompanying selected sustainable and replicable grass root flagship projects by the The GNRC members and other FIOs 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.

Partnerships: Forge concrete partnerships, both intra-faith and multi-religious, and with other sectors of society, at all levels - global, continental, national and local - to advocate for concrete measures that will address child poverty.



Introspect

In the annual report last year, we stated our resolve to work to end child poverty by finding unique and enterprising ways to inspire faith based action, by walking together with children in violent situations and accompanying the work of our partners at the Global Network of Religions for Children and elsewhere.

We were also very excited with the work and promise of Shanti Ashram's India Poverty Solutions and the African Interfaith Initiative on the Post 2015 Development Agenda. Just as exciting were the opportunities for local and global action offered by the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children.

Our partners run numerous grassroots activities and programmes to respond to child poverty. We expressed interest to accompany those that support child education and protection of children in situations of violent conflict.

This year book is in many ways a narrative of our work and that of our partners in the pursuit of these endeavours. We are happy to report on these efforts and the many gallant organizations and people that conceive and make them possible.

As the year progressed it also became clear to us that a number of conditions were lining up to force a crisis situation on the status of children globally and in several regions where we work. Among these is the increasing radicalization of children and young people that in many cases leads to violent extremism. The unabated civil wars in many parts of the word including Ukraine, Syria Iraq, South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo have untold consequences on the welfare of children.

Increasingly we are also confronted by a demand for evidence. As faith communities, our work on child poverty is driven by compassion and a sense of calling. This spiritual orientation calls us to be good stewards and accountable for the resources placed at our command. The very nature of our work- to call to attention and advocate for an end to child poverty - require a certain evidence on the status of child poverty and the evidence about what works and what does not.

While the nature of our work requires considerable resources, as can be expected, we are faced with limited resources. We often have to make painful adjustments to meet priority and emerging needs.

As an initiative we also face a challenge to communicate better, to make ourselves and our work known and understood at the many levels and places that we seek a presence.

Lastly and very importantly, during this last year, we lost a dear patron and friend to all the world's children Rev. Takeyasu Miyamoto, a truly compassionate and spiritual leader who inspired many with his example of caring for others, especially children. For long the leader of Myochikai, Rev. Miyamoto's pioneering and passionate work for the cause of children led directly to the founding of Arigatou International and it's initiatives, including End Child Poverty. Though his work lives on, he will be dearly missed.

Rev. Fred Nyabera Director, End Child Poverty

"As people of faith, we see the Divine Presence in every person and consider it our obligation to encourage each person to realize the highest potential of the human heart."

Rev. Takeyasu Miyamoto

I am proud to partner with End Child Poverty in reducing child poverty in our community of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and I hope that we will soon have a wider network of activists on this issue.

Ismeta Begić: President, Association for Inter-religious Dialogue in family and Society-MOZAIK. Bosnia and Hersogovina

The children that you have supported for the two years are 15 and they are performing well. Since we started paying the school fees none of the children we support has failed. The children we help are 150 but we selected the most vulnerable to be supported by Arigatou International and we are praying that God will continue to support these vulnerable children.

Personally, I have appreciated your willing support to the vulnerable children in South Sudan. You have removed the shame that may cause these children to join their colleagues in the streets of Juba.

Bishop Martin Mogga: Director Hands of Grace, South Sudan



All for Children



Arigatou International is a non-profit organization which works to bring people from all walks of life together to build a better world for children.

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

Arigatou International develops and sustains unique multi-stakeholder initiatives designed to ensure that all children are treated with dignity, all children's rights are respected, and all children have the opportunity to freely pursue their full human potential. Involving diverse partners, these initiatives emphasize both grassroots action and international advocacy.

Arigatou International has great faith in children, who actively help shape its work. Young people are deeply respected, active partners in every Arigatou International initiative.

In the year 2000, Arigatou International inaugurated the Global Network of Religions for Children (The GNRC), which continues to grow today as a platform for interfaith cooperation on children's issues. In 2004, it began promoting Ethics Education for Children, and later published, with UNICEF and UNESCO, Learning to Live Together: An Intercultural and Interfaith Programme for Ethics Education.

In 2008, Arigatou International launched a global movement of Prayer and Action for Children, and in 2012, the Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty.

In 2012, Arigatou International launched End Child Poverty, the multi-faith child-centered initiative which mobilizes faith inspired resources to end child poverty.

From religious leaders, to international organizations, to grass-roots child rights workers, people on every continent have enthusiastically welcomed these initiatives, and they continue to grow rapidly in reach, diversity, and impact.

"We (rededicate) our commitment to mobilize faith-based resources to end child poverty, to challenge the unequal distribution of resources, war and violence, poor governance and corruption, and to utilize interfaith advocacy and grassroots action to overcome poverty."

Rev. Keishi Miyamoto, President of Arigatou International

Mitigating Spiritual and Human Root Causes of 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 and spiritual 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?

To answer these questions, End Child Poverty has been working on a Multi-faith Guide on Child Poverty. The guide has been developed through a participatory and consultative process that has included expert sources of various faith communities.

The guide shall provide 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 early 2016.



Combating Child Poverty through Interfaith Advocacy and Lobbying

Millions of Children are held in bondage to poverty by a combination of deeply running and pervasive influences. These influences include negative base economic conditions, unequal distribution of resources, war and violence, poor governance and corruption. At the heart of these influences are failed social, economic, cultural and spiritual institutions.

In majority of instances these systemic failures have themselves become established as part of the structure and value these institutions. As such they have been normalized and accepted as part of the natural order of things, to devastating effect on the wellbeing of children.

It is therefore imperative that a genuine effort to promote the wellbeing of children has to contend first and foremost with this systemic usurpation of institutions by evil and injustice.

"It is unlikely that governments alone, even while acting through bilateral and multilateral arrangements, can match the mission of the broad-based effort that is required to eradicate poverty. Any effort to stamp out poverty must result in a broad coalition between governments, multilateral organizations, civil society and faith-inspired organizations."

Prof. Abdulghafur El-Busaidy, the Chairperson of Arigatou International – Nairobi

End Child Poverty has incorporated a strategy to deploy advocacy campaigns to end child poverty around three annual global events – The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty October 17th (IDEP), the International Day for Children (November 20th) and the International Day for Peace (21st September). End Child Poverty is also using the Day of the African Child for an advocacy strategy for Africa. These annual events provide a major platform on which to rally communities and mount local campaigns and activities to draw attention to child poverty.

End Child Poverty has also made a strategic decision to use the opportunity provided by the global effort to proclaim a successor to the Millennium Development Goals – the Post 2015 Development Goals to draw attention to the urgent need to eliminate child poverty.

End Child Poverty mobilizes the The GNRC members and other partners to mount campaign activities around the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP). IDEP is marked on 17th October every year and is sponsored by the United Nations as a platform to, "promote awareness of the need to eradicate poverty and destitution in all countries".

This year End Child Poverty accompanied over twenty five different advocacy and action oriented campaigns Campaigns were held in Bosnia & Herzegovina ,Brazil, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, India, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, among others

Under the banner of *Leave no Child Behind*, the key message of the 2014 campaign was to draw attention that children ought to be at the center of local, national and global efforts to eradicate poverty. This message borrowed and complemented the UN's overarching universal theme, "Leave no one behind: think, decide and act together against extreme poverty".





Leave No Child Behind- IDEP 2014

Key campaign activities by selected countries:

Bosnia and Herzegovina

With our support, the Association for Women for Inter-religious Dialogue in Family and Society -MOZAIK from Visoko held two consultations with policymakers, children, youth and religious leaders

The events aimed to raise awareness and collaboration between institutions and the public about the situation of child poverty in the region, to involve children in thinking about possible ways of reducing poverty, and to allow religious organizations to spread the message of unity and action to achieve positive results. The meetings focused on themes such as "Child Poverty situation in Visoko" and 'How can faith help to reduce child poverty'.

The events also involved a competition for elementary school students, on the theme: "Let's Bring a Smile to

Children of the World - We Can Do It". About 450 participants, including 300 children drawn from six elementary schools took part. The competition was put together with the assistance of the Municipality of Visoko, Visoko Social Work Center, and the Catholic, Orthodox and Islamic religious communities in Visoko.

In Sarajevo, the The GNRC youth organised a workshop on the eradication of poverty and creating better life for children in Veliko Čajno. Workshop participants included primary school students, children living in poverty and marginalized children from the Roma community.

In the City of Doboj, young people from "Sixth sense" visited refugees and displaced persons housed at the Chamber of Pensioners in Doboj and delivered clothes, shoes, toys, and food previously collected through a solidarity humanitarian campaign.

Under the leadership of Admira Mahmutovic and Violeta Sunaric Rozsa and other young volunteers from Sixth Sense, nearly 30 refugees and other displaced persons from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia benefited from this campaign.

The refugees, along with 22 children, youth and adults of the community, participated in an art workshop with the objective of producing decorative items for sale as a way of raising money to help other communities in need.

According to Ms. Mahmutovic the main aim of these activities was "to teach our children to be in solidarity with others and to empathize with those who need help".

Brazil

In Brazil, the Pastoral da Criança (the Pastoral Care for Children) of the Catholic Church issued an article that highlighted the structural causes of poverty -corruption, bad governance, war, violence, unequal distribution of resources- and invited all people and communities to work together in search of sustainable solutions to address these challenges.

Colombia

The End Child Poverty celebrated the IDEP in Soacha (Cundinamarca Province) with women of the Growing Up Together project, by organising an event for 50 women care-givers and several children. The event, themed, "Supporting Each Other, We Can Make a Difference", aimed at promoting generosity and sharing



as a means to reduce poverty in the community. The team used theological reflection, film and recreational activities, such as painting and games for children, to communicate the theme.

The event was also an opportunity for the women care-givers working in the textile micro enterprise (of the 'Growing Up Together' project) to sell their handmade products.

In addition, the women care-givers participating in this project received a donation of an Industrial sewing machine, provided by End Child Poverty and the Global Network for Religions Children.

Colombia, a country in Latin America, is experiencing an internal armed conflict between government forces, guerrillas, paramilitaries and drug traffickers, gangs and criminals. Soacha is the recipient of the largest amount of population affected by the conflict: displaced population from all regions of the country.

The armed conflict, along with drug trafficking and the availability of small arms in Colombia constitute a huge threat to the right of children to be safe from all forms of violence and to receive appropriate and quality education.

Although Colombia adopted a code of childhood and adolescence in 2006, many of the fundamental rights of children are still violated.

Democratic Republic of Congo

In Bukavu, South Kivu, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Laissez L'Afrique Vivre (LAV) organised a 2-day event with the local theme "Tuamuwe Sote Na Kutenda Ili Tupiganishe Umaskini Katika Jamaa Zetu na kwa Congo yetu Nzima.", Swahili for "Let Us Decide and Act Together to Fight Poverty In Our Community and the Entire Democratic Republic of Congo".

The event included a community discussion, an art exhibition, experience-sharing, theater performances, as well as traditional and modern dances by youth in vocational training at LAV. It also included awareness and advocacy through I local radio and I television station. 88 people took part in the event, including 20 children and 35 youth, who were victims of sexual violence and conflict.

Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic has made considerable progress in its political, economic and social policies. However, poverty and inequalities are pervasive and the reach of this progress is not reflected in the lives of children and adolescents, especially those living in marginal urban areas and poor rural and border areas. It is necessary to translate these advances into opportunities for human advancement, particularly for children and adolescents.

One of the defining features of child and adolescence poverty in the Dominican Republic is the lack of birth registration which is a requirement to access secondary school and basic services. End Child Poverty supported activities to promote birth registration of children in San Francisco de Las Palmas de Herrera, a poor neighbourhood in the West of Santo Domingo.

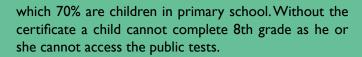
On the 17th of October, the results of a Community Survey were presented to community leaders, local authorities, religious leaders, and directors of schools in the neighbourhood, representatives of community-based organizations, the Central Electoral Board and other governmental institutions in charge of birth registration.

The survey collected information from 300 families (1277 people) living in the neighbourhood, randomly selected by the The GNRC. 42% of the families reported that one or more members of the families do not have birth certificates. 50% of the population without birth certificate was below the age of 18, of











About 46% of the Kenyan population lives in poverty. About 50% of the Kenyan population is below the age of 20. Children therefore constitute the vast majority of Kenya's poor.

ChildsLife International- Kenya organised a children's event themed, "Education is the Weapon to End Child Poverty". The event activities included inter-faith prayers and presentations by children on self-defense, cultural songs, dances and poems about child poverty eradication. The event was held in Kibera, the largest informal





settlement in the country and in which the absolute majority of individuals and families live in poverty.

Another partner, Bare Care Centre, commemorated the IDEP by holding a community meeting. The community gathering provided a platform to discuss the various ways to promote sustainable livelihoods for persons living in extreme poverty with a focus on children living with disabilities. Bare Care also made plans to provide wheelchairs to children living with physical disability, to conduct further advocacy and to organise a polio vaccination drive.

Bare Care Centre is a local community-based organization founded in 2002 with the aim of addressing the interests of the poor and marginalized communities in semi-arid and pastoral Baringo County through advocacy and promotion of action development programs.

"As a faith movement we have a moral obligation to protect children and young people. Our commitment and persuasion to correct this state of affairs must be clear. We must complement positive action by our governments and other non-Governmental organizations where we operate. The challenges we face are weighty and require that we look outwards and develop creative linkages with each other."

Rev. Nicta Lubaale, General Secretary, Organization of African Instituted Churches and chairperson on the African Interfaith Initiative on Post 2015 Development Agenda.

The organization has been a champion of the rights of minority and marginalized communities particularly women, persons with disability and youth.

Also in Kenya, FECCLAHA (The Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of African) organized a 2-day youth training for "Training of Trainers on Voluntary Loans and Savings" (VLS) and Introduction to the "Learning To Live Together" (LTLT) program of Arigatou International- Ethics Education

Youth in Kenya have been associated with playing major roles in fueling violence and conflict. They are viewed as easily manipulated by those in power into becoming perpetrators of violence. Some of the root causes of this manipulation of young people is their weak socio economic status in the society, poverty caused by lack of opportunities for education and employment, exclusion and marginalization from decision making as well as drug and substance abuse.

The activities took place in Mukuru slum, in Nairo-





bi and involved 33 youth leaders from the FECCLA-HA Youth Peace Building Programme. The goal of the event was to enable the youth leaders to mobilize and manage financial resources as a means for their empowerment. The youth leaders would also, in turn, reach and train their peers across the 14 peace clubs which currently have 411 youth members.

The Youth Peace Building Programme in Mukuru slum, Nairobi, aims at facilitating behavioral change among young people, male and female, so that they are transformed to become ambassadors of peace and responsible citizens. Peace clubs provide space and opportunities to young people not only to play a role in peace work but also to address issues that affect them.

India

"Join together to end child poverty" -Shanti Ashram, End Child Poverty partner in the city of Coimbatore, organized the celebration of the International Day of Eradication of Poverty. The activity took place through

the collaboration of 30 different institutional partners including the Indian Government's Gandhigram Rural University.

One of the activities entailed challenging children to make a pledge to end child poverty.

As part if this activity children were challengd to place a mark of thier palm on canvas and take a pledge to end child poverty. Over 17,000 children from thirty two organizations took the pledge. Another 26,500 children and youth from various institutions throughout India participated.

Additionally, Shanti Ashram mobilized children from their Bala Shanti program to donate 350kgs of rice to give to families living in poverty. They also organised an on line photo contest and produced an on line advocacy video on poverty called, 'Our Responsibility'.

Mauritius

Junior Chamber International (Port Louis) organised and held an educational workshop for the vulnerable young people of the Bois Marchand suburb.

Approximately 20 youth and 30 children participated in this activity. The team aimed to inculcate and affirm positive values of citizenship and active participation, among the children and youth, as tools for the eradication of poverty.

Romania

Sol Mentis organised a training workshop for volunteers, on the use of expressive sand-work, as a method for providing psychological support to children from disadvantaged communities. Sol Mentis also used the event to highlight the consequences of poverty on children and to promote the rights of children from poor and disadvantaged communities to enjoy holistic development; that is, physical, cognitive, emotional and spiritual development.

Rwanda

In Rwanda Imams sensitized the Jamaat (congregation) on the importance of providing Zakat for alleviating childhood poverty, across several mosques in Kigali. This was facilitated through mobilization and partnership with the Islamic Foundation.

South Africa

Religions for Peace South Africa together with the Kwa-Zulu Natal Inter-Religious Youth Council (KZN IRYC) and the Mavela Ikhaya Project, organised a workshop in the Mavela Youth Centre, Ndwedwe region.

35 people, including children and youth, participated in the workshop and group discussions, on how to care for oneself and others in the community — as a means to address child poverty. The children specifically expressed their desire to become members of the youth center, and in this way, develop a mentoring relationship with the coordinators and adult volunteers, as well as find a means to serve their community in turn.

South Sudan

Hands of Grace, a children's home and faith-organization based in Juba, South Sudan, hosted a children's celebration, cultural and advocacy event in Juba. The one-day event was facilitated by religious leaders and included the participation of parents, community leaders, teachers and local government officials.

Approximately 250 children, 50 parents and 35 additional guests were present at the event in which Bible teachings, traditional songs, dances and drama presentations by the children were the main fare.

The children from Hands of Grace and Gudele Primary School shared personal stories of transformation and appreciation.

Hands of Grace also organised a training for women care-givers, aimed at equipping and enhancing their skills in positive parenting, managing their finances and working toward reducing child poverty. This training involved women from 30 different church organizations.



I hope that with my writing I will be able to draw attention of the world to the poor children in World. I'm happy because I am involved in the fight against child poverty, because every child has the right to a better life.

Fatma Krehić, Bosnia and Herzogovina



Sri Lanka

End Child Poverty Knowledge Centre was launched, 17th October 2014, at the Sarvodaya Headquarters in Moratuwa, Sri Lanka (see main feature).

The Knowledge Centre is designed as a global hub for research, resource gathering, networking, experience sharing and knowledge dissemination.

The launch event was attended by children, local religious leaders from Moratuwa and

Colombo, and representatives of various organizations taking part in the End Child Poverty Round-table. The launch received considerable positive reception in the local on line media.

Sarvodaya also organised a cultural-dance procession led by children; an awareness-raising public event attended by students, teachers and international guests; and a session of inter-faith prayers led by members from different religions including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism and Islam. The founder of Sarvodaya, Dr. A. T Ariyaratne, led participants of the public event in taking a pledge to end child poverty.

The IDEP Global Essay Contest

End Child Poverty launched an on line essay contest inviting submissions by children and youth from all over the world. End Child Poverty and the The GNRC used online social media and their respective websites to promote the contest.

Prospective contestants were challenged to present creative solutions to address and alleviate child poverty in their communities. The challenge was divided into a category each for children and youth with a cash prize for each winning entry.

The Global Call to End Child Poverty

Rev. Fred Nyabera, Director End Child Poverty led 18 international, regional and national organizations to organize a global call to action on the eradication of child poverty. The statement of the call was read during the Launch of the End Child Poverty Knowledge Centre in Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, and shared widely through the End Child Poverty's website and other digital media platforms.

The call emphasized the urgency of the task of eradicating child poverty, as well as the role of faith communities in meeting this challenge. It also highlighted the significance of the post 2015 sustainable development goals for ending childhood poverty.

Maximizing on Faith Inspired Resources to End Child Poverty Beyond 2015

End Child Poverty convened and facilitated an inter-faith roundtable in Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, with the theme 'Maximizing on the Comparative Advantages of Faith-Inspired Resources to Build Partnerships to End Child Poverty Beyond 2015'. The round-table was hosted at South Asia's largest Non-Governmental Organisation, Sarvodaya, on 16th -17th October 2014.

The participants from diverse religions, child-focused NGOs, the Arigatou, International initiatives, UN agencies, the World Bank and development partners, committed themselves to dialogue and action, drawing on the intrinsic strength of faith-inspired resources. They also resolved to build partnerships and prioritize the agenda of ending child poverty in global development beyond 2015.



I thank India Poverty Solution ambassadors who have saved money in the piggy banks and made a way for us to know about our health condition.

I was detected for anemia in our school by the help of Shanti Ashram for the past two years. Last year my count was 11 and it has been improved to 12.2 and become normal with the awareness they gave us and the iron supplementation also.

Thank you so much to Shanti Ashram

Dhaniya, 7th Std, Panchayat Union Middle School, Arivoli Nagar I am S.Kaleshwari doing my 5th Standard in Panchayat Union Middle School, Ettimadai. The team of Shanti Ashram members came to our school for the Anaemia Screening program for the girl children. Before beginning the program they explained about the India Poverty Solutions initiative and they also explained us about the way in which the children saved money for us.

I am totally impressed by the small children who have saved money and helped for our health. My HB count was 9.9 and I was found with hypo chromatic Anemia and the team also gave me Iron syrup and deworming tablets. The team met my parents and gave awareness about iron rich foods.

S.Kaleshwari Panchayat Union Middle School, Ettimadai.





The African Interfaith Initiative on the Post 2015 Development Goals

With the Millennium Development Goals in their sunset, African faith communities came together commencing 2013 to chart an own agenda, participate and contribute to the emerging discourse and decision making on a set of new sustainable development goals. End Child Poverty has played a prominent role in enabling this interfaith effort.

The African Interfaith Initiative on the Post 2015 Development Goals had an excellent though challenging year. As part of this work, End Child Poverty was engaged in drafting the African Faith Leaders' Position on the Post 2014 Development Agenda as well as the preparation and co-hosting of the Pan African Faith Leaders' Summit on the Post 2015 Development Agenda. End Child Poverty also provided leadership in preparing for and moderating a consultative event on the sidelines of the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

African Faith Leaders' Summit on the Post 2015 Development Agenda Kampala Uganda

This meeting brought together the leadership of the major faith communities in Africa- the Catholics, Anglicans, Protestants, Muslim, Bahai, African Instituted Churches and the Hindu — and special interest groups -women, youth, children, persons with disabilities and people living with HIV and AIDS - from all over Africa

Participants at the meeting called on the UN and world leaders to "place the life, dignity, rights and well-being of each person firmly at the centre of all endeavour for development" and work for the "realization of a world in which all human beings are equal in the eyes of God, have equal opportunities to live a fulfilling life in a society free from violence

and fear and in which wealth and income disparities within and between persons, countries and societies are at a minimum."

The meeting called for a new global development framework that "aim(s) to leave no one behind by (adopting) a minimum threshold for wellbeing against which the social status of each one person is evaluated."

Noting that "people live in poverty because social, political or economic processes and institutions are unjust and impair (peoples) own agency", the leaders called for a "new agenda to secure the accountability of these processes and institutions to all citizens, especially those who are the intended beneficiaries of post-2015 development."

The meeting was addressed by President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda who paid growing tribute to the role of faith and religion in fighting poverty and exhorted the faith leadership to provide unique local solutions to the problems facing Africa.

The meeting was also addressed via video by, H.E Ellen Johnson Sirleaf President of Liberia, co-chair of the UN High Level Panel on the Post 2015 Development Agenda and whose country was under the throes of a devastating Ebola epidemic.

The outcome of the Summit was an African Faith Communities' Position Paper on the Post-2015 Development Framework, and a summit statement and an action plan for the African Faith Leaders engagement with the discourse and decision process on sustainable development.

The summit was preceded by a Pre-Summit Conference for Children, Women, Youth, Persons with Disability and Persons Living with HIV/AIDS on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, held of 30th June 2014.

The participation of End Child Poverty, including some of the GNRC members from Africa, helped to focus attention on child poverty and the place of children in the African sustainable goals initiative. The Post 2015 process has also provided opportunities to build partnerships, networks and collaboratives with governments and national, continental and global organizations.



Side Event at the 69th UN Session

The culmination of our engagement on the African Faith Leaders Initiative on the Post 2015 Development Agenda was a Special Side Event on September 2014 at the 69th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

The event, moderated by Rev. Fred Nyabera, the Director End Child Poverty, was co-hosted by the African Interfaith Initiative on Post-2015, Religious for Peace International (RfP), the United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC) and the Government of Liberia and attracted 46 participants from the UN agencies, Governments, World Bank, Policy Experts and Advocates, and Religious Leaders from Africa, Europe, Asia and Americas.

Participants acknowledged the efforts by the Faith Leaders to shape the Post-2015 Development debate and acknowledged the Position Paper on the Post-2015 Development Agenda as a unique, comprehensive and

timely document promoting a human centered position, human dignity and moral values needed in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Participants also recognized the strong comparative advantage and convening power of the Faith Communities on social and cultural aspects, as well as the relevance of the faith leaders position to the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Participants pledged their support to the faith leaders' initiative calling on the African Faith Leaders to translate the commitments in the Position Paper into actionable strategy and actions.

While in New York, End Child Poverty together with the convening team, organized a bilateral meeting with the World Bank representative and took opportunity to attend other side events and consultations organized by UNMC, Microsoft, Africa Union and the Government of Nigeria.



Conflict Transformation and Peace building in South Sudan

The young country of South Sudan has become a focal point for our work since End Child Poverty was founded. Southern Sudan was the scene of Africa's longest running civil war, in which at least 1.5 million people died and 4 million forced from their homes.

In July 2011 South Sudan became independent from Sudan. In December 2013, the country broke out into civil war leading to the death of thousands and forcing a million people, the vast majority of whom are children, to flee their homes. More than half of these are internally displaced. The children and their families were already struggling with basic needs following decades of civil war.

Though tempered by the intervention and mediation of IGAD (a regional inter-governmental body of which South Sudan is a member) and the African Union, the conflict has not abated. Millions have lost any means of livelihoods. Thousands of children have been orphaned or separated from their families.





End Child Poverty has responded to the crisis in South Sudan through several interrelated actions: Campaigning for Peace through the South Sudan Support Group – Nairobi; Creating Awareness of the Humanitarian Situation; Accompanying the Religious Leaders of South Sudan in their response to the civil war; Engaging local actors and children in the Advocacy for Peace; and Providing Scholarships and Relief to Children in Juba.

South Sudan Support Group – Nairobi (SSSG-N)

End Child Poverty has continued to campaign for peace in South Sudan. One way we have sought to do this is through participation at the South Sudan Support Group — Nairobi, SSSG-N. SSSG-N, is a platform that brings together organizations committed to supporting a peaceful, just, prosperous and democratic South Sudan. SSSG-N works together with Faith Based Organizations, diplomats, peace actors, government officials

and other Civil Society organizations.

Participants in the SSSG-N have included representatives of the former South Sudan detainees, South Sudan members of Parliament, the Ecumenical Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan and the representatives of diplomatic community in Nairobi.

Participants have been particularly active on the Agreement to Resolve the Crisis and follow up on various initiatives for advocacy, peace, reconciliation and humanitarian support in South Sudan. As part of this, Arigatou International Nairobi was requested to lead the production of the peace advocacy video on the plight of children affected by current crisis.

Awareness creation and advocacy at the Sudan and South Sudan conference in Germany

Rev. Fred Nyabera, Director End Child Poverty was one of the speakers and resource persons at the

at the Annual Sudan and South Sudan Conference in Germany/Hermannsburg from June 3-5, 2014. The Conference met under the theme "Genuine National Dialogue -The only way to lasting peace for the people of Sudan and South Sudan?"

The Hermannsburg conference brought together about 100 participants from various countries representing different faiths, politicians, civil society, universities, NGOs and the German Government. In his presentation, Rev. Nyabera highlighted the ingredients of a sustainable peace and reconciliation.

"Blood of Your Child" -Peace Advocacy Video Through the Eyes of Children

Children are often the silent and helpless victims of violent conflict and civil war. Hardly have the realities of children been the primary driver of the peace effort and children themselves are rarely viewed as advocates of the peace. Supposing the children would speak? And how would this powerful voice reach the tables and corridors of those fanning the conflict or debating the peace?

The answer to these challenges came via an advocacy video "Blood of your Child - Seeing the South Sudan Conflict Through the Eyes of Children" produced by End Child Poverty. The video highlights the plight of South Sudan children and draws attention to the effect of the ongoing conflict on the most vulnerable segment of South Sudan population.

The primary target of the video is the South Sudan leadership that is either involved in the fighting or seeking a peaceful resolution to the conflict. A secondary target is the representatives of regional and international community and individuals of goodwill working to secure a peaceful settlement to the conflict. Also important are those working towards the protection and care of children and young generation affected by conflict.

"Blood of your Child" was produced in collaboration with the Umbrella of South Sudan Women's Organization in Kenya (USSWAK), Christian Aid- South Sudan, Finn Church Aid-South Sudan, South Sudan Council of Churches and UNICEF-South Sudan.

Protection and Reintegration of War Affected Children in South Sudan

Since 2011, the GNRC in partnership with Goldin Institute has been engaged in efforts to help improve the situation of children who were victims of civil war in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region. Specific focus has been on Uganda, South Sudan and the Democratic Re-



public of Congo (DRC). In 2013, this work resulted in the establishment of a multi-sector National Platform for Child Soldiers Prevention and Reintegration in Uganda.

From the lessons learned in Uganda, End Child Poverty has sought to expand the work of supporting war affected children of South Sudan.

To help the process of establishing this programme, End Child Poverty commissioned a desk review on the state of child soldiers in South Sudan.

The report was subsequently subjected to a validation process at a meeting attended by representatives from local and international NGO's operating in South Sudan, UNICEF, faith communities and the Government of South Sudan (GOSS). Participants identified the need to intensify support for livelihoods, research on child perspectives on the war and poverty, gender mainstreaming in the programmes especially support for girls and women, and a clearer focus on young people in peace building.

The review report has been completed and will be issued under the title "Protection and Reintegration of War Affected Children in South Sudan: Opportunities for Engagement and Synergy".

The report has given End Child Poverty the confidence to accompany processes in South Sudan to help mitigate the effects of war on children, with the ultimate goal of reducing their poverty levels.

Over the last many months of work in South Sudan, Rev. Fred Nyabera, Director of End Child Poverty secured the goodwill of the UNICEF, Norwegian Church Aid, Finn Church Aid, South Sudan Council of Churches and Hands of Grace, in support of the End Child Poverty activities.

When I participate in the activities of 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 Herzogovina





India Poverty Solutions - Shanti Ashram

End Child Poverty has partnered with Shanti Ashram's India Poverty Solutions to empower boys, girls, families and religious communities in their fight against poverty and child marriage.

India Poverty solutions holds lots of promise for the work of End Child Poverty not only in its bold approach to child poverty but its potential for replication. India Poverty Solutions has thus far been launched in the cities of Coimbatore, Keralala, Bangole and Mumbai reaching more than 20,000. children The vision of this initiative is to mobilize 1,000,000 children and volunteers belonging to the major faith traditions of India.

Under the initiative children are encouraged to set up savings account using a variety of devices such as a home savings box. Through this Children's Banking Initiative over 1250 accounts have been opened and each child issued with a passbook.

The initiative also incorporates a "Children-led Reversing Child Poverty Action-Plan' where children utilize their savings to address poverty issues among themselves, family and the community in equal proportion. Children pick from several actions that seek to promote solutions to poverty. The initiative also benefits and embraces local actions to alleviate child poverty including:

- Right to Education –Scholarship to be provided ed to the students in SSLC from 30 Government and aided schools.
- Right to Protection 100% immunization completed of children living with HIV and advocacy amongst adolescents registered in the State Registry.

- 3. Right to Health General Health check-up for 500 hundred adolescent girls including annemia screening program and iron Supplementation from government schools
- 4. Right to Food Expanding the Children-led food bank and bringing nutritional literacy to 10,000 children.

The process of initiating India Poverty Solutions is divided into four phases. Phase One of the process took place in 2013.

Phase Two of India Poverty Solutions - Coimbatore commenced and was dedicated on 28th June 2014 at Sri Krishna Arts and Science College. 582 Children and youth from 32 institutions participated in the event. Phase Three of this activity was launched later, July 2014.

The visits to mark the launch of these phases provided End Child Poverty staff with opportunity to learn and participate first hand in the work of Shanti Ashram.

During the second event, July 24th, Rev. Fred Nyabera participated at the Coimbatore Peace Festival 2014. The Peace Festival entitled "Deepen Understanding—Engage Youth -Impact Child Poverty- Build Peace" brought together over 1,458 children and youth from 81 institutions.

The event also included interfaith prayers and audio-visuals remembering Hiroshima as well as the impact of poverty on children, an interactive session on the theme of the day, themed cultural presentations and the launch of children resource Centre. In addition the Rev. Nyabera visited several child poverty eradication initiatives in Shanti Ashram.







Empowering Women Care Givers

Ecuador: Community Compañía de Jesús

End Child Poverty is supporting a pilot income generating project for the reduction of child poverty in Otavalo, Ecuador. The majority of the population of the region is indigenous and moderately or extremely poor. The small-scale project aims at supporting 10 indigenous families of the Community Compañía de Jesús by training 10 women to raise guinea pigs (a common food source of the indigenous communities in Ecuador).

In addition to improving food security, the project aims to create jobs in the community and improve the quality of life of children. It also aims to foster a sense of community solidarity as it makes use of "minga", which is the local term for collective work done by all members of the community.

Colombia: Growing Up Together

Through the The GNRC-Colombia, End Child Poverty supported the "Growing Up Together" project of the Mennonite Church, with the aim of helping 20 low-income families to improve their livelihood and alleviate child poverty. This project



was implemented in the Rincón del Lago neighbourhood and it included youth and women's economic and social empowerment; through vocational training and the establishment of a textile micro-enterprise.

Kenya: Bare Care Centre

End Child Poverty accompanied the work of the Bare Care Centre in Bondeni slum, Kabarnet Town, Kenya. The activities consisted of environmental rehabilitation for ensuring the children of the residents will, in the future, have clean water for use. This was done through mobilizing members of the Bondeni community and sensitizing them on environmental conservation; planting 500 indigenous seedlings in the water-catchment area; and fencing off the catchment area using a chain link fence and wooden poles.

Bare Care Centre also helped 5 households to establish vegetable kitchen gardens. Participating households were selected based on criteria that lay emphasis on the incidence of extreme poverty, including widow-headed households and families with children living with disabilities.

An initial number of 7 adult care-givers and 12 children immediately benefited from the project activities. The kitchen gardens provide alternative sources of income while improving the diets and health of family ad residents. Participants benefited from on site help from agricultural extension officers on the best practices of kitchen gardening and other income generating activities suitable in the area such as poultry keeping and hatchery.

End Child Poverty Knowledge Centre-Sri Lanka

Together with Sarvodaya, End Child Poverty launched the Knowledge Centre at the Sarvodaya Headquarters in Moratuwa, Sri Lanka, on 17th October 2014 as one of the activities around the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

End Child Poverty Knowledge Center is a global faith inspired hub for research, resource gathering, networking, experience sharing and knowledge dissemination. The Knowledge Centre also serves to build the capacities of organizations working to reduce child poverty in Asia and other regions of the world. It draws upon traditional and modern tools of development, as well as faith-inspired resources and infrastructure.

The Knowledge Centre will have a virtual and physical presence. The Knowledge Centre will also boast a unique collection of resources that include published and unpublished materials, many of which are from developing countries and are not readily available elsewhere in one collection.

The Knowledge Centre will provide resources to help with work on the primary areas of interest and work of End Child Poverty. It will also provide a platform to forge concrete partnerships towards ending child poverty at various levels - global, continental, national.

Further, the knowledge center will provide resources on various functional areas such as:

- Policy Briefing papers, working papers and reports (Reports, Publications, Journals Articles and Working Papers);
- Curriculum, tools and guidelines (Training Manuals and Religious Books);
- Opinion (Content blogs, Newsletters, Case Studies, Essays, Meetings and Workshop information, Questionnaires, Research/Charts and Tables, representation).

The Centre will also contain shared audio visual material such as Videos, Documentaries, Video conferencing and online Forum discussion.

The Knowledge Centre contains an elaborate Online Platform to facilitate knowledge exchange on a variety of topics, policies, programmes and practices among stakeholders, practitioners, academics and policy-makers. The online resource features innovative and evidence-based practices that have a positive impact on children and their care givers.

Customized Trainings and Research on the plight of Children: The knowledge Centre is also in-



tended as a platform for organizing various trainings where practitioners from the various organizations share knowledge and experience on their work and showcase expertise in relation to improving children's wellbeing.

Global Mapping on Child Poverty Index: A Search Engine is incorporated in the online portal to enable dissemination of accurate and latest statistics or concepts that relate to the content.

Other anticipated activities around the Knowledge Hub include annual round tables, a book fair, Child poverty index, Exchange programs, Information Symposium, Global Mapping on religious organizations that deal with Child poverty eradication and evaluation of the state of the world children in partnership with the existing stakeholders.

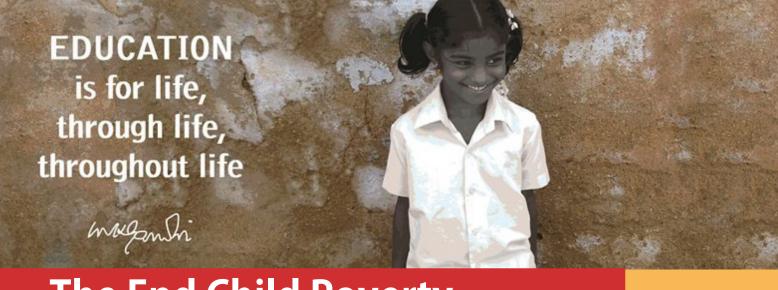
"Not all that counts can be counted; we have never captured the smiles which the children give us. There are things including our spirituality that count, but don't get counted. I hope that the knowledge center will inform and capture the things that count."

Dr. Mustafa Ali, Secretary General, Global Network of Religions for Children









The End Child Poverty Scholarship Programme

One of the objects of End Child Poverty is to advance actions that enable children to enroll for and complete formal education. End Child Poverty views education as the primary vehicle by which poor children can get out of poverty, better understand and improve their health, create sustainable paths to economic wellbeing as well as obtain the means by which to engage more fully in society and community.

We also believe that education is cardinally important to the positive transformation of society and that access to quality education should be free and universal.

Unfortunately there are millions of children out of school, who may never receive any formal education and who are therefore on a pathway to perpetuate their own poverty, that of their children and their communities.

The End Child Poverty scholarship programme has the singular objective to ensure that orphaned and vulnerable children and children affected by war and violent conflicts are afforded the opportunity to get an education.

End Child Poverty enters partnership arrangements with interested and eligible organizations for the purposes of implementing the scholarships programme. To be eligible an organization has to share in the

vision of alleviating child poverty through education, demonstrate capacity to achieve desired transformation and bear actual responsibility and commitment for child outcomes. Besides 'owning' the local programme, the organization is also expected to demonstrate visionary leadership, a clear governance, decision making and management structure.

Implementing partners are expected to incorporate positive religious values in their mentoring and nurturing programmes. Parents/ guardians and the implementing communities are expected to contribute what they can to ensure the child stays in school and that they perform well.

At the present time End Child Poverty has entered into partnership with the Amani Child Development Programme (Western Kenya), and Hands of Grace (Juba South Sudan). We are also offering scholarship opportunities through the GNRC in South Africa, Pakistan and Tanzania. A profile of Hands of Grace is provided below.

Hands of Grace

Hands of Grace is an organization that helps orphans and widows in Juba, South Sudan. A key player in the activities of Hands of Grace organization is the African Inland Church, whose core focus is building of new schools, running self-help activities for widowed women and improving healthcare.

The Republic of South Sudan has among the highest infant-mortality rates and the lowest education indicators in the world. Children who were forced to serve as child soldiers and children orphaned by the war have severe emotional and psycho-social needs. Repeated knock backs to the infrastructure and institutions such as schools and health centres have severely limited provision of basic and necessary services.

Although the government has made efforts to guarantee free primary education to South Sudanese children, over 1.3 million children of primary school age are still out of school. Many of these children engage in labor activities mostly in subsistence farming. Because of widespread poverty, families often depend on the additional income their children generate.

The worsening food situation has also led to deteriorating family situations further eroding any environment conducive for children's wellbeing. In any day, half of the families in South Sudan are not sure of their next meal.. For children, the food shortage is particularly dangerous and their care givers are unable to provide the need food.

School attendance rates in South Sudan are among the lowest globally, especially among girls. Education levels in the South Sudan are extraordinarily low, and poverty rates correlate highly with education. The World Bank research shows that three out of four household heads have not completed formal education.

Poverty rates are highest for those living in households whose head has no education or only some primary education and they are much lower for households where the head has more education.

To ameliorate this situation, End Child Poverty Initiative has embarked on a group child sponsorship programme in South Sudan to ensure that children affected by war and violent conflicts from poor households are afforded the opportunity to get an education.

We believe that our humble efforts will give hildren leverage out of poverty. Educated girls can eventually give their own families a good start in life. Educated boys can escape a family cycle of hard labor. This will ripple to their families and community.

Mauritius: Junior Chamber International

With support from the End Child Poverty, and the GNCRJunior Chamber International (Port Louis), took 55 children of the Bois Marchand suburb on a fun-day outing, Saturday, 29th of November.

Taking the children for an outing was very important as their families lack the means to visit landmark tourist attractions on the island. This event aimed at restoring self-esteem among these children.

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Initiative Strengthening

Leveraging through the GNRC and other Faith Inspired Initiatives

Much of what we are able to achieve is because we can rely on the able offices, support and resourcefulness of our partner networks at the GNRC, other Arigatou Initiatives, as well as other faith inspired communities.

The global reach of Arigatou International's strategic initiatives provides an invaluable platform for our work. To zeize the opportunity, we work to mainstream child poverty eradication into all of Arigatou International's initiatives. As part of this effort, End Child Poverty took part in the GNRC South and South East Asia Meeting, 13-15 October 2014, in Moratuwa, Sri Lanka and the GNRC Latin America and Caribbean Meeting, 27-29 October 2014, in Ayagualo, El Salvador. Both meetings brought together more than 60 participants from 30 different countries and four religious traditions.

The consultations provided an opportunity for End Child Poverty to share the vision, mission and the strategy of the initiative; to develop synergies and partnership with relevant stakeholders and members of the GNRC at regional level; and to strengthen the participants' capacity to contribute towards eradicating child poverty. Most

of the participants committed themselves to use the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP) to mobilize faith communities and other actors to engage in focused and concerted advocacy to end child poverty.

Governance

The second End Child Poverty Interim Steering Committee (ISC) meeting was held at the Sarvodaya Head-quarters in Moratuwa, Sri Lanka on 15th October 2014.

The meeting's agenda constituted largely of a review of End Child Poverty's work for the preceding period and programme for the subsequent year, strategic and operational matters and how to strengthen the relationships between End Child Poverty and other Arigatou International Strategic Initiatives.

Also on the cards was the End Poverty Round-table and launch of the End Child Poverty Knowledge Hub.

Communications

You can now visit the End Child Poverty website at www.endingchildpoverty.org. The Year Book presents a bold new platform to take in all that we can learn and share from our work. We also hope that you have noticed our brand new look and feel as we seek to mature an identity that best portrays our commitment to work for the end of child poverty.

Partnerships/Collaboratives/Networking

For effective mitigation of child poverty, End Child Poverty has to cooperate with other like-minded stake-holders.

During this period, we held consultative and networking meetings with numerous children focused organizations, UN agencies, faith inspired organizations and other development partners. Of note are organizations and entities such as Plan International, World Vision, Islamic Relief, Hindu Council of Africa, Baha'i Community in Africa, Christian Aid, Finn Church Aid, Save the Children, World Faiths Development Dialogue, the Mennonite Central Committee E.A, UNICEF, UNDP, UNMC, World Bank, Africa Union Commission, the Governments of Liberia and Uganda.

End Child Poverty is also promoting productive relationships with other agencies including the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM), the National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK), the Sikh representative in Kenya, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General (SRSG) on Violence against Children.

Operations

During the year, Shillah Memusi, Programmes Officer left the organization to pursue personal interests. She will be missed.

We were also glad to welcome Ms Nyambura Gichuki as the new Programmes Officer. Nyambura has valuable expertise and experience working with children and young people in interfaith contexts in Africa.



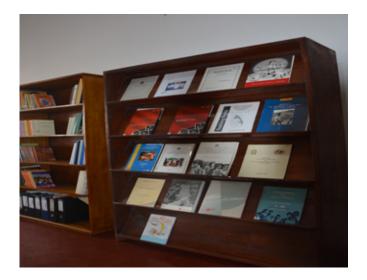
My name is Adriana María Cepeda Forero, I am 22 years old and have 2 children, a girl of 8 years and a boy of 2 years. I live with my husband, the father of my children.

I knew nothing about sewing or sewing machines. One day I saw the call for participation that Growing Together published through notice boards and I got interested.

It doesn't matter the race, gender or age, to learn, and acquire skills, to be able to help my husband and share the household expenses in order to have a better quality of life, and for my personal growth.

I would like to thank End Child Poverty and the GNRC for donating the sewing machines. As well, to thank Martha García, Project coordinator, and the person that is always with us every week teaching us different activities.

Adriana María Cepeda, Colombia



Since we stated our collaboration with Arigatou International, life at Amani Village of Hope has really changed. The children can now concentrate in their studies and perform well without being sent home, for school fees is paid on time. We thank God for Arigatou International and look forward even a closer partnership with you in the coming days.

Rev. Kenneth Wachianga: Director Amani Village of Hope, Kenya.

Thank you

It is hardly imaginable that, as is evident in Leaving No Child Behind, so much can be done with so little. That this is so is testimony to an African adage to the effect that many hands make light work. As can be expected, these hands may be too many to thank individually in so limited a medium. We wish therefore to say a very hearty thank you to all those who made tireless effort to make the activities and thoughts reported here possible.

End Child Poverty is an expression of the will of our founders - Arigatou International, partners and many well wishers. It is an expression of their love for children and in particular their desire and passion for a world free of child poverty. As we go through yet another year, it is our hope that this bond, the vision and the commitment to action shall grow and together we shall keep getting closer to that goal.

Steering Committee & Staff



Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe Torres, Secretary General, Interfaith Council for Ethics Education and Director, Arigatou International – Geneva. Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe Torres, Secretary General, Interfaith Council for Ethics Education and the 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. 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.



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.



Mr. Shozo Fujita, Secretary General, Arigatou International, Tokyo, Japan. Mr Shozo 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. Meg Gardinier, Director, World Day of Prayer and Action for Children, Arigatou International – New York. Previously Managing Director, US Fund for UNICEF.



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.



Ms. Nyambura Gichuki Programmes Officer, End Child Poverty, Arigatou International, Nairobi



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



Mr Lokaale Kabarach Yasin, Accountant and Finance Assistant, Arigatou Internatonal, Nairobi







