



ARIGATOU INTERNATIONAL

**End Child Poverty**



# **Making Haste**

## **Annual Report 2013-2014**



# Making Haste

## End Child Poverty Annual Report 2013-2014

### EDITORIAL

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### PHOTO

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# About Us

The Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty (End Child Poverty) is a multi-faith, child centered global effort of Arigatou International that works to mobilize faith-inspired resources to end child poverty. It does this by addressing the spiritual roots and structural causes of poverty. Ending Child Poverty was launched at the Global Network of Religions for Children's Fourth Forum in 2012 in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.

End Child Poverty works primarily through members of the Global Network of Religions for Children and through partnerships with other faith-inspired groups, development organizations, civil society organizations, governments, United Nations agencies, media, educators, multilateral organizations and likeminded individuals towards a world free of child poverty.

## VISION

A World free of Child Poverty

## MISSION

To mobilize faith inspired resources to end child poverty

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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

## THEMATIC FOCUS AREAS

### Theological Reflection and Action:

Mitigating spiritual and human root causes of poverty through appropriate theological reflection and action

### Interfaith Advocacy and Lobbying:

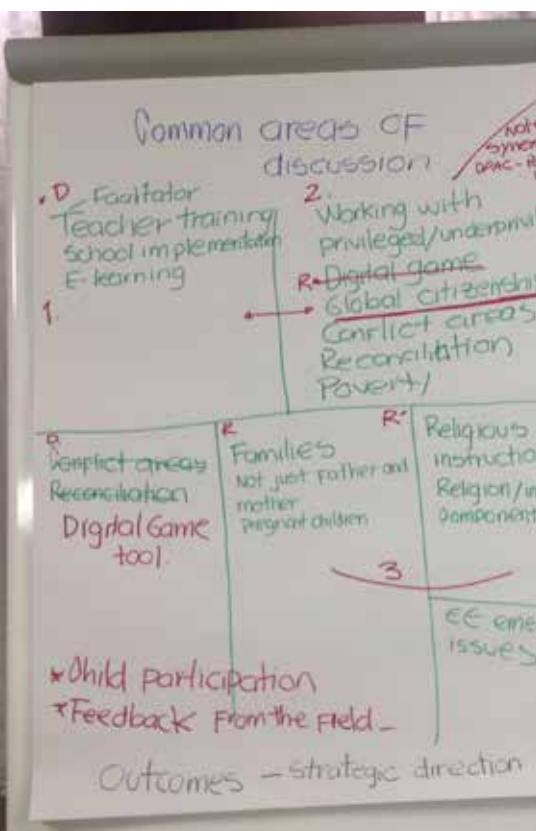
Combating Structural Causes of Poverty through Interfaith Advocacy and Lobbying.

### Replicable Grassroots Initiatives:

Accompanying promising sustainable and replicable grassroots projects that: enhance quality education and retention of poor and vulnerable children in school; transform violent conflicts that exacerbate poverty; promote income generating activities for low income care givers and families.

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# Introspect

Extreme poverty is one of the most extensive forms of human degradation. Perhaps the greatest moral scandal in the world today is that over a billion people continue to live in squalor and indignity while there is enough resources for everyone. Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty is committed to the simple dictum that that no child, and no one indeed, should live in extreme poverty.

As an organization committed to promoting children rights and fostering their well-being, we are dedicated to making the world a place where every child can be assured not only of their right to survive, but also the opportunity to thrive and make positive contributions to a world of justice, peace and dignity for all.

As children go, Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty is itself a child, having been launched 2012 by Arigatou International at the GNRC Fourth Forum as a multi-faith, child centered, global initiative that aims to mobilize faith-inspired resources to end child poverty, by addressing both the spiritual and human root causes and structural causes of poverty.

2013/2014, the reporting period, was indeed our first year in operation. As can be expected, this has not been without its challenges. As this report will show, hopefully, we have acquitted ourselves well.

During the year, we have actively sought our vision and mission through own initiative and collaboration with partners and friends who can help leverage on our work.

We call on all people of goodwill to rise to the challenge of the ethical imperative that no child should live in poverty.

Rev. Fred Nyabera  
Director  
Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty  
Arigatou International  
Nairobi, Kenya



# Highlights

## Mitigating Spiritual and Human Root Causes of Poverty through Theological Reflection and Action

- **Publication of the multi faith guide on child poverty is near completion.** The guide is an advocacy resource for faith communities and other actors in child poverty eradication.
- **World Day of Prayer and Action for Children 2013:** 159 Children underwent a health check while 118 parents got an orientation on birth registration and how to prevent early child marriage and violence against children.
- **Children's National Interfaith prayers for peace in the wake of the West Gate terror attack, Nairobi, Kenya:** The prayers aimed to provide healing and psychosocial support to children affected by the tragedy.

## Combating Structural Causes of Poverty through Interfaith Advocacy and Lobbying

- **Intervening in the crisis in South Sudan:** With the support of the Ecumenical Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan, Ending Child Poverty has continued to work with the religious leaders of South Sudan to aid their response to the civil war. This work has entailed solidarity visits to South Sudan, participation of South Sudan religious leaders in the Addis Ababa peace talks, reconciliation activities, peace-advocacy efforts and humanitarian support.



- **Faith Communities' Promise Renewed:** Ending Preventable Child Deaths, Supporting Mothers Meeting – Washington DC: Ending Child Poverty was represented at this meeting called to advance a global movement to end child mortality. Follow up is ongoing.
- **Official launch of Ending Child Poverty and Arigatou International – Nairobi:** The launch took place during the World International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP), 17th October 2013. The event provided excellent visibility for the organization and a platform for advocacy against child poverty.
- **Bosnia Child Poverty Advocacy Workshop:** End Child Poverty accompanied part in this advocacy activity in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. The aim of the workshop was to contribute to the eradication of poverty in Bosnia-Herzegovina through empowerment of children and youth. Two follow up projects from the workshop are planned for.
- **African Interfaith Initiative on Post 2015 Development Framework:** End Child Poverty is a founding partner and sits on the steering committee of this initiative where it has helped to draft the African Faith Leaders Position Paper on Post 2015 Development Agenda; organise the Technical Meeting of the Initiative and put together the Pan-African Faith Leaders Summit on Post 2015 Agenda.

The African Interfaith Initiative on Post 2015 Development Goals seeks to ensure that the successor to the soon to expire Millennium Development Goals, takes into account the realities





and aspirations of millions of faith adherents and is enriched by the ethical and moral fabric of African Faith Communities.

## Flagship Grass Root Initiatives

- **India Poverty Solutions:** End Child Poverty partnered with Shanti Ashram's India Poverty Solution to empower boys, girls, families and religious communities in their fight against poverty and child marriage. This initiative aims to mobilize 1,000,000 children and volunteers from the major faith traditions of India to fight child poverty and early marriage. A key success has been the launch of Poverty Solution in four cities of India; Coimbatore, Kerala, Bangalore and Mumbai. The launches were done in collaboration with the GNRC – India.
- **Child Poverty Eradication Knowledge Hub in Sri Lanka:** End Child Poverty in collaboration with Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement is implementing the Child Poverty Eradication Knowledge Hub in Sri Lanka. Once fully operational the centre will provide a platform for sharing and learning on child poverty eradication, help promote best experiences, practices, and tools generated from faith actors as well as help cross pollinate ideas and motivate action.

- **School Sponsorship Programme:** End Child Poverty commenced its School Sponsorship Programme in Kenya and South Sudan. In partnership with Amani Child Development Program (ACDP) and Family Foundation the initiative sponsored 12 orphaned children, largely as a result of HIV/AIDS in Western Kenya. In addition, the initiative is also partnering with Hands of Grace to support 15 war affected and orphaned children in South Sudan.
- **A Bore Hole for Orphaned and Vulnerable Children:** End Child Poverty in partnership with GNRC facilitated the construction of a water bore hole at Amani Children Home in Western Kenya. One hundred children, Amani staff, and about two hundred households from the neighbourhood are expected to benefit.
- **Field assessment and Desk Review on the State of Child Poverty in South Sudan.** South Sudan is a priority countries for End Child Poverty. End Child Poverty conducted a field assessment in South Sudan on the state of child poverty with emphasis on children affected by war and violence.





This was followed by a desk review on child soldiers in South Sudan. The assessment will assist in mitigating the effects of war on children, with the ultimate goal of reducing their poverty levels.

- **Upgrading Kitchen and Bathrooms for Children with Disability:** End Child Poverty partnered with Maisha Kara Trust (MKT) in Kenya to refurbish a bathing area and a kitchen at the Kizurini Special Unit for children with disabilities. The special unit caters for 36 children.

## Strengthening and Capacity Enhancement

- The Interim Steering Committee of Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty held its first meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. The meeting drew sixteen participants from the broader Arigatou International constituency. The committee settled on three priority thematic areas for End Child Poverty: Mitigating Spiritual Root Causes of Poverty through Theological Reflection and Action;

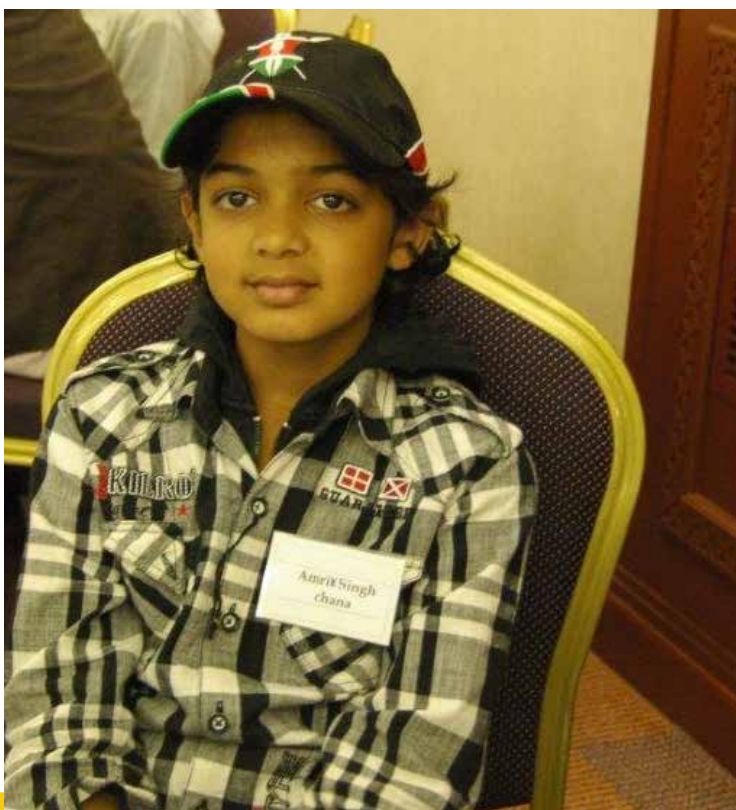


Combating Structural Causes of Poverty through Interfaith Advocacy; and Fighting Child Poverty by Modeling Replicable and Sustainable Grassroot Initiatives.

- **Strategic Planning:** End Child Poverty has developed the strategy document and concept.
- **Ending Child Poverty Website:** Another milestone has been the development of End Child Poverty website [www.iiecp.org](http://www.iiecp.org). The website shall be reviewed once the global Arigatou International's branding process is complete.

## Collaboration and networking

In order to be effective in mitigating child poverty, End Child Poverty has to cooperate with other like-minded stakeholders. This past year we held consultative and networking meetings with more than 50 children's rights and faith inspired actors. The consultations are an ever present activity that aims to initiate and sustain mutually beneficial relationships with partners.



# Mitigating Spiritual and Human Causes of Poverty through theological reflection and action

“For an initiative that addresses child poverty to be effective, it should go beyond conventional economic approaches to addressing poverty to 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 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.”

## National Inter-religious Prayer Service for Westgate Terror Victims

End Child Poverty coordinated children of different faiths, races and cultures to participate at the National Inter-religious Prayer Service that was held on 1st October, 2013 in Nairobi.

The prayers were called to commiserate with the victims of the Nairobi Westgate Mall terror attack where more than 60 people died and hundreds injured.

The interfaith prayer rally brought together Kenyans from different religious affiliations who rejected the religious rift that the terrorist anticipated to ignite and instead sought healing for the nation.

The participation of children provided healing and psychosocial support to children who were psychologically and physically affected by the tragedy.



# World Day of Prayer and Action for Children 2013

Date: 23/11/2013 Venue: Soweto Baptist Primary School, Kibera.



ChemiChemi ya Uzima



End Child Poverty, together with World Day of Prayer and Action for Children (WDPAC), Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC), Chemichemi Ya Uzima Clinic, Government Officials from the Birth Registration Department and the Center for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW) facilitated a program to promote child welfare and positive parenting at the Soweto Baptist Primary School, in the Kibera Slums of Nairobi, 23rd November, 2013.

This activity was in keeping with our strategy of integrating theological reflection on child poverty with the core of the other initiatives by Arigatou International,

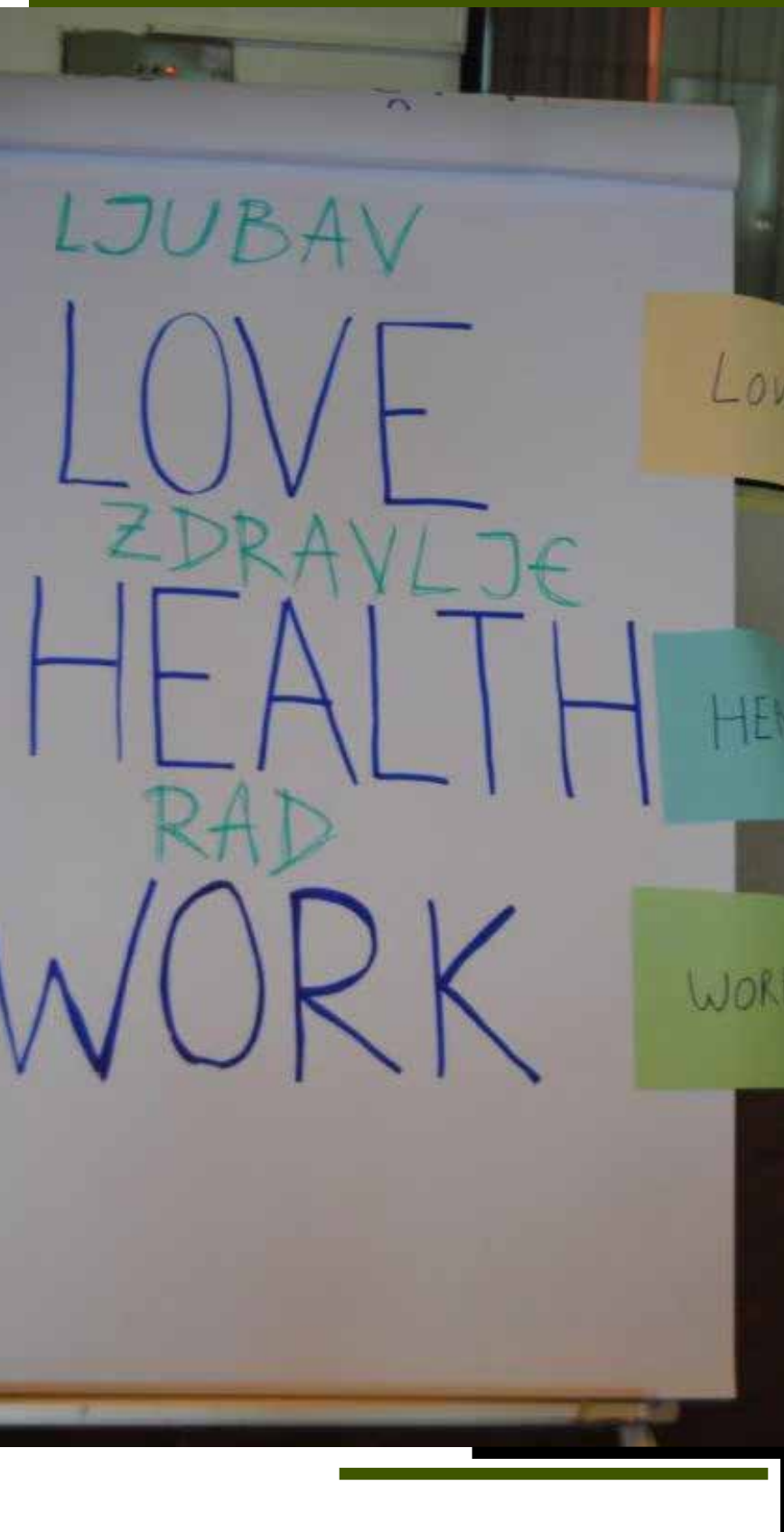
During the event, 159 Children were recieved with a health check and snacks while 118 parents got an orientation on birth registration, preventing violence against children andearly child marriage.

The event also sought to raise awareness on faith-inspired resources available to address the rights of children, including child poverty.

The event also strengthened networks between the faith communities present and other stakeholders in addressing child poverty.

Particapants developed a follow up strategy, that includes petitioning government to provide accessibility to birth registration to Kibera residents, one of the larger urban informal settlements in Afica, through a mobile birth registration facility.





## Publication of a Multi-faith Guide on Child Poverty

Over the past year, we made good progress towards the publication of a manual that is intended to serve as a guide for faith communities to engage in year-round child poverty spiritual reflection, advocacy and action.

The guide will be easy-to-use and contain resources from Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islam, Jewish, Sikh and other faith traditions for use in worship, prayer, social service activities, social justice initiatives and education programs. The resource will be used within one's own faith community or in multi-faith events.

The first draft of guide was completed in March 2014 and work on the second draft is ongoing.



# Combating Child Poverty through Interfaith Advocacy and Lobbying

End Child Poverty mobilizes GNRC members and other partners to engage in a global-scale interfaith advocacy and lobbying against structural causes of poverty such as the unequal distribution of resources, corruption, bad governance and violent conflicts.

This past year, End Child Poverty undertook the following activities under this thematic area.

## Interventions in the current conflict in South Sudan

The war that erupted in South Sudan in December 2013 has led to the death of more than twenty thousand Sudanese and displaced close to a million others. It has also led to the separation of thousands of children from their families, with many children left to their own devices in extremely remote areas. Many children have witnessed their parents being killed and their homes looted or destroyed.

In line with our strategy of mitigating violent conflicts that exacerbate child poverty, End Child Poverty has continued to work with the religious leaders of South Sudan, in their response to the this civil war. During the year, we responded to the tragedy through a solidarity and assessment visit and by participating in the South Sudan Support Group

### Solidarity and Assessment visit to South Sudan

On 30th January 2014 the End Child Poverty together Dr Agnes Abuom, the Moderator of the World Council of Churches made a solidarity and assessment visit to Juba, South Sudan.

As a result of this visit, a decision was reached to send a team of South Sudan religious leaders to Ethiopia to the 2nd phase of the Addis Ababa peace talks. The Faith Leaders' presence at the peace negotiations has not only provided chaplaincy to the process but also added a moral voice to the talks.



## Participating at the South Sudan Support Group

End Child Poverty has continued to engage in the South Sudan Nairobi Think Tank Forum.

This engagement supports faith communities and peace actors in South Sudan in their advocacy, humanitarian assistance, peace, reconciliation and healing as the work to resolve the current crisis. An outcome of this is a common framework for peace building which includes a unified peace message and a concrete action plan towards just and sustainable peace.

Arigatou International has also been requested to consider working on an advocacy documentary on the S. Sudan Crisis and its effects on children.



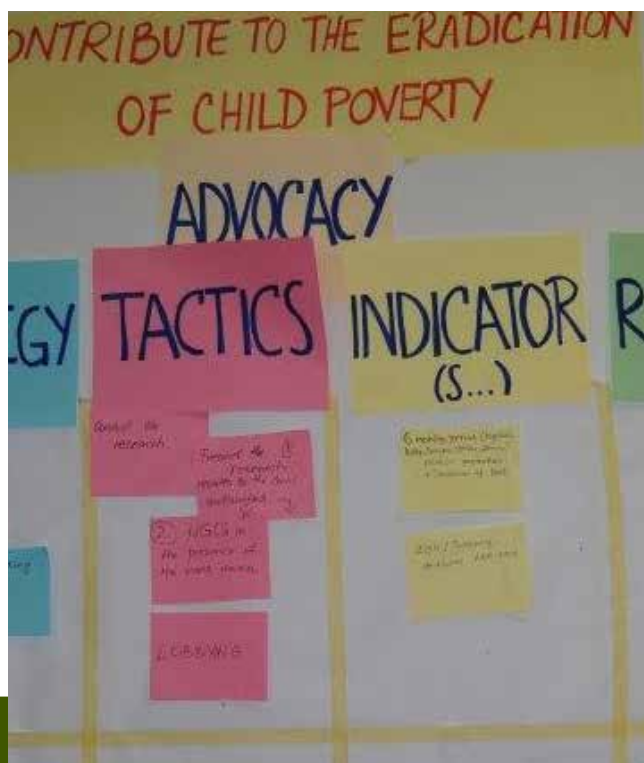
## Bosnia- Herzegovina Poverty Workshop

End Child Poverty accompanied an advocacy process in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina that started with a workshop organized by GNRC Europe on 6th-8th of July 2013.

The overall objective of the workshop was to contribute to the eradication of poverty in Bosnia-Herzegovina through empowerment of children and youth.

The workshop designed two follow up projects: One that seeks to advocate for the reduction of child beggars in the communities and ; a second that seeks to empower youth and refugee communities on the topics of child rights.

Work on of the project on poverty, a follow-up to the workshop on advocacy, is due to commence shortly After some delay owing to the ongoing reorganization of GNRC in Europe, and delayed feedback on the workshop report.



## A Promise Renewed: Supporting Mothers and Ending Preventable Child Deaths

End Child Poverty participated in the “Faith Communities Promise Renewed” meeting on October 10, 2013. The meeting held at the Georgetown University was organized by the World Faiths Development Dialogue (WFDD), Religions for Peace, USAID, UNICEF and Georgetown University, with the goal of advancing a global movement committed to reducing child mortality.

The meeting brought together 40 participants from the key constituencies of faith-inspired organizations, development practitioners, and child welfare technical experts.

“Saving Children and Mothers through the Behavior Change: the Ten Promises Approach” focuses on the impact that faith communities and institutions can have on behaviors that can save the lives of mothers and children.

The 10 Promises represent widely-endorsed behaviors that organizations can implement to save children’s and mothers’ lives. These have been endorsed by UNICEF as top priority areas for organizations working in the fields of child and maternal survival.

The meeting highlighted the diverse roles that faith-inspired actors play. The meeting also deliberated on ideas for next steps looking forward.

As a follow up End Child Poverty is working with Chemchemi ya Uzima Clinic and Life Child in Kibera to address the welfare of children and mothers using the 10 promises frame work. We are also disseminating the 10 promises concept.



## Relaunch of Ending Child Poverty and Arigatou International in Nairobi

End Child Poverty and Arigatou International – Nairobi, were officially launched during the World International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP) on 17th October 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya.

This event provided visibility for the presence and work of Arigatou International in Africa and globally.

End Child Poverty and Arigatou International-Nairobi used the event, which gathered seventy six participants from Faith Based Organizations (FBO), Civil Society Organizations, the government, the UN agencies and media, to reflect on the effect of poverty on children.

The helped bring forward the comparative advantage of the FIOs in fighting poverty. Notable advantages include FBO presence in the community, passion for good, influence, spirit of volunteerism and genuine compassion called forth by faith.

Additionally, Arigatou International – Nairobi expressed commitment to forge concrete partnerships, both intra-faith and multi-religious, and with other sectors of society, to advocate for concrete measures that will address child poverty.







## African Interfaith Initiative on Post 2015 Development Agenda

“Faith and religion play a critical role in the lives and cultures of majority of peoples in Africa. Faith based institutions have a long history of action on development and often deliver a multiplicity of services to individuals and communities blighted by poverty, conflict, humanitarian and natural disaster.

As key actors in promoting wellbeing, it is essential that they are engaged and take an active role in the development of a new successor charter to the Millennium Development Goals.”

*The African Interfaith Initiative on the Post 2015 Development Agenda*

After a promising run, the Millennium Development Goals expire next year. There is much discussion about sustainable development agenda after 2015. End Child Poverty believes that the best interests of children must be central to poverty eradication and inform the design and implementation of the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

To promote this view, End Child Poverty took up position on the Steering committee of the African Interfaith Initiative on Post 2015 Development Framework. The interfaith initiative aims to enhance African faith based communities' participation in shaping the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

The post 2015 process presents opportunities for faith communities across Africa to lend their voices and shape the final contents and character of the emerging successor framework to the MDGs. In doing this, faith leaders and their diverse communities will ensure that the outcomes of the current process fits the needs and aspirations of their faithful as well as enriching the ethical and moral fabric of the next development agenda.

As a member of the African Interfaith Initiative on Post 2015 steering committee, End Child Poverty Initiative has provided leadership in the drafting of the African Faith Leaders Position Paper on Post 2015 Development Agenda; Preparation for the Technical Meeting of the Initiative that took place on April 9- 10 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya and the preparation of the Pan-African Faith Leaders Summit on Post 2015 Agenda that took place July 1-2 2014 in Kampala Uganda.

Furthermore, End Child Poverty supported the preparation of a position statement by the African faith leaders on the Post-2015 Development Agenda which was issued at the 2013 UN General Assembly on the post-2015 Development Agenda in New York.



# Flagship Grassroot Initiatives



## India Poverty Solutions

End Child Poverty recognizes the potential that children and young people have to transform the world around them through prayer and collective action. It is for this reason that we have partnered with Shanti Ashram's India Poverty Solution to empower boys, girls, families and religious communities in their fight against poverty and child marriage.

The goal of this collaboration is to mobilize a million children and volunteers belonging to the major faith traditions of India to work hand in hand with each other to innovate effective yet simple solutions to scale back child poverty and child marriage.

During the year Poverty Solution was launched in Coimbatore, Kerala, Bangalore and Mumbai. The launches were done in collaboration with the GNRC – India.

## Establishing Child Poverty Eradication Knowledge Hub

One of the strategies that ECP intends to apply towards mobilizing faith inspired resources is to document and disseminate initiatives by the GNRC members and other faith communities that promote best practices towards combating child poverty. As part of this, Ending Child Poverty in collaboration with Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement started the implementation process of Child Poverty Eradication Knowledge Hub in Sri Lanka. This process included space planning, procurement of initial items and staff assignment.

In addition we are negotiating with the Center for Poverty Analysis (CEPA), a local think tank on poverty, to assist with the design of content and structure and strategy.

Once in full operation the centre will provide a platform for sharing and learning on child poverty eradication; dissemination of lessons learned, best practices, and tools generated from faith actors; and cross pollination of ideas and motivation action



## New Kitchen and Bathroom for Children with Disabilities

End Child Poverty partnered with Maisha Kara Trust (MKT) in Kenya to refurbish a bathing area and a kitchen at the Kizurini Special Unit for children with disabilities. The special unit caters for 36 children.

Before this upgrade, the unit used dilapidated facilities made of made of timber frames, polythene sheets and no roof, which becomes a hazard during the rainy and windy seasons. The muddy ground would get soggy after bathing with poor surface drainage providing breeding grounds for mosquitoes. The kitchen unit was also exposed to dust.





## School Sponsorship

Education is central to development. It is the primary vehicle by which economically and socially marginalized adults and children can lift themselves out of poverty, better understand and improve their health, create sustainable livelihoods and obtain the means to participate more fully in their communities .

(Ireland 2006:43)

End Child Poverty's child sponsorship programme aims to ensure that orphaned and vulnerable children as well as children affected by war and violent conflicts from poor households are afforded the opportunity to get an education.

This is in fulfillment of End Child Poverty's objective of 'advocating for the development and implementation of projects that create an environment that enables children to be enrolled and stay in school until they complete their education.'



Beginning 2014 End Child Poverty partnered with Amani Child Development Program (ACDP) and the Family Foundation to sponsor twelve children orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS in Western Kenya. In addition, the we partnered with Hands of Grace, South Sudan, to support fifteen war affected and orphaned children.

We view this project as critical to enabling children get a handle on poverty. Educated girls will eventually give their own families a better start in life. Educated boys can escape a family cycle of toil and hard labor. This will ripple to their families and community.

# Borehole for Orphans and Vulnerable Children



In February and March 2014, End Child Poverty in partnership with GNRC facilitated the construction of a water bore hole at Amani Children Home.

Amani Children Home caters for about 100 orphaned and vulnerable children in Western Kenya.

The availability of water at the centre will help children to save time away from fetching water and use it better within the home, for their studies and home work.

The borehole is also a boon to the safety of the girls who will no longer risk sexual violence by sex predators roaming the narrow footpaths to the stream.





## Field Assessment on the Status of Child Poverty in South Sudan

In November 2013, End Child Poverty conducted a field assessment in South Sudan on the state of child poverty with emphasis on children affected by war and violent conflicts.

South Sudan has experienced Africa's longest running civil war which took the lives of an estimated one and a half million people and forced about four million from their homes.

The effects of war have been made worse by natural disasters, civil war, tribal conflict and political instability.

Children who were forced to serve as soldiers and those orphaned by the war have severe emotional and psycho-social needs.

South Sudan has among the highest infant-mortality rates and lowest indicators for education in the world.

During the visit, End Child Poverty interacted with various stakeholders and potential partners from UNICEF, Child Welfare - Ministry of Social Development, Committee for National Reconciliation, South Sudan Council of Churches, Norwegian Church Aid, St. Vincent Vocational Centre (Catholic) and the Confident Children Out of Conflict program.

The outcomes of this visit were:

The participation of the Director of the South Sudan's Child Welfare - Ministry of Social Development at the ethics education, GNRC and End Child Poverty exposure meeting in Nairobi in January 2014.

Accompaniment of the "Hands of Grace Ministry" (a faith based organization focused on orphans), especially in providing scholarships to vulnerable orphans for formal and vocational training and in provision of psycho-social and spiritual support.

The possible formation of the GNRC South Sudan chapter and the strengthening of child protection networks in South Sudan.

It is envisaged that from this process Learning to Live Together and the commemoration of the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children will be incorporated into the activities of the child actors in South Sudan.

# Desktop Research

End Child Poverty Initiative in collaboration with GNRC intends to implement a project in South Sudan to help mitigate the effects of war on children, with the ultimate goal of reducing their poverty levels.

To enable this, a desk review on child soldiers in South Sudan has been conducted to

- a) understand the process of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration in South Sudan;
- b) identify actors in prevention and reintegration of war affected children;
- c) establish motivations that led children to participate in the war;
- d) identify challenges faced by ex-combatants; highlight legal instruments and mechanisms for protection of children from effects of armed conflict and;
- e) establish the extent to which Religious Leaders are involved in prevention and reintegration of child soldiers.



# Initiative Strengthening

## First Interim Steering Committee

The Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty held its first Interim Steering Committee Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya from the 19th to 20th August 2013.

The meeting brought together 16 participants from Arigatou International's staff based in Tokyo, New York, Geneva, Nairobi and other distinguished experts from India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Switzerland and USA.

The committee identifies three priority thematic areas for Ending Child Poverty:

a) Mitigating spiritual root causes of poverty such as greed, ignorance, hatred and fear through theological reflection and action;



b) Combating structural causes of poverty through interfaith advocacy; and

c) Fighting child poverty by modeling replicable and sustainable grass root initiatives.

In addition, the committee endorsed four guiding principles for the initiative as follows;

a) Supporting child-centered initiatives,

b) Integrating positive religious values

c) Promoting multi-faith/ faith inspired initiatives and

d) Cooperating with other existing programs from like-minded stakeholders.

A visit to ChemiChemi Ya Uzima ('springs of life') clinic located in Kibera informal settlement, one of the largest in Africa, gave the committee the opportunity to experience firsthand, an initiative that has similar goal as that of End Child Poverty.

The clinic offers medical services to the locals and in addition has a group sponsorship program that is currently supporting 30 children.

A common theme that emerged from the meeting was the need to maximize the comparative and competitive advantages of the faith communities, institutions and leaders while remaining child centered in our approach.



## Strategic Plan and Website

The Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty strategy document and concept were developed during the year.

Also developed was the Ending Child Poverty website [www.iiecp.org](http://www.iiecp.org).

The website shall, however be reviewed once the global Arigatou International branding process is over.

# Networking and Collaboration



To effectively mitigate child poverty, End Child Poverty has to work with other like-minded stakeholders. This past year, we held consultative and networking meetings with more than 50 children's rights and faith inspired actors. The following are some highlights of the meetings:

**Trauma healing symposium:** End Child Poverty participated at a two day regional trauma healing symposium that was jointly organized by USAID and the Coalition for Peace in Africa (COPA) in Nairobi from 13th and 14th February 2014. The overarching goal of the symposium was to increase understanding of the effective application of trauma healing as a core component of the conflict transformation approach in East, Horn and Great Lakes regions of Africa.

**Meeting with YWCA/YMCA:** End Child Poverty met with the Director of Global YWCA, Mr. Frederick Glad-Gjernes, the General Secretary of YMCA – Africa, Mr. Carlos Madjri Sanvee and the Secretary General, GNRC, Dr. Mustafa Ali on 22nd October, 2013 in Nairobi. The discussion focused on possible collaboration with YWCA in economic empowerment of women care givers of children orphaned by war in South Sudan. This possibility will be further pursued in the year.



**Christians for A just Society:** Rev. Fred Nyabera was a discussant at a symposium organized by CFJS on 5th November 2013 in Nairobi. The meeting reflected on the impact of War on Terror and its implication on interfaith cooperation. Mr. Nyabera discussed the impact of radicalization on children and the need for counter-radicalization and de-radicalization.

**Plan International: Round Table discussion on Child Protection in Africa.** This meeting which took place on 18th November in Nairobi, Kenya was called to enable participating organizations and partners to inform the development of Plan International's regional and global child protection strategy.

**Little Angels Networks:** This meeting that focused on the adoption of orphaned children took place on August 27th 2013 in Nairobi.



**Meeting with OAIC:** Rev. Nyabera met Rev. Nicta Lubaale, General Secretary of the Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC) on 5th September 2013. The discussions centered on possible collaboration regarding rural sustainable livelihoods.

**Meeting with Maisha Kara Trust's** Ms. Catherine Solomon on 12th September 2013. The meeting focused on poverty among children with special needs and the possible roles of IIECP on the same.

**Meeting Oxfam GB's Ms. Jane Gaithuma,** Regional Campaigns and Policy Manager on 13th September 2013. The meeting discussed possible collaboration efforts on The Post-2015 development framework campaigns and child poverty initiatives in South Sudan. The meeting took place at the Arigatou International – Nairobi Office.

**Mennonite Central Committee:** This meeting took place on 27th September 2013 in Nairobi. Discussions focused on sustainable community development with a focus on how to effectively adopt a school for effective child poverty alleviation.





## Priorities for 2014/2015

1. Finalize the Publication of a multi-faith guide on child poverty and trainings on the use of the guide
2. Accompany peacebuilding efforts by faith communities in South Sudan.
3. Present End Child Poverty Initiative at the GNRC Regional meetings in Europe, Asia, Latin America and Arab Countries.
4. Accompany the Phase III of India Poverty Solutions
5. Sustain child poverty advocacy through the African Interfaith Initiative on the Post 2015 Development Agenda.
6. Roll out advocacy actions through the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty activities within the GNRC/GNRC Youth network.
7. Extend the End Child Poverty school sponsorship for orphaned & vulnerable children to Pakistan and South Africa
8. Strengthen the accompaniment of the GNRC End Child Poverty activities and processes
9. Launch the End Child Poverty Knowledge Hub in Colombo.
10. Hold an End Child Poverty Round Table Meeting on Maximising on the Comparative Advantages of the Faith Inspired Organizations-Partnering in the fight against Child Poverty
11. Synergizing the End Child Poverty activities with the other initiatives of Arigatou International and other partnering organizations.

# Asante Sana - Thank you

We wish to convey our appreciation and gratitude to the Arigatou International family, all our partners and collaborators for the support accorded to us in the past year. Thank you for seeing us from inauguration to successful implementation of key projects in our three pillars: Theological reflection and action; Interfaith advocacy and Lobbying and; Flagship grassroots projects.

Your guidance, presence, participation and very valuable contributions to the development of the Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty is highly appreciated. Indeed, your great ideas and recommendations were very instrumental in informing our action and implementation strategies. We look forward to your continued support and collaboration as we seek to fulfil our mission of End Child Poverty.



## Steering Committee & Staff Pin Up

**Dr. Kezevino Aram,**  
Director of Shanti Ashram



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

**Dr. Katherine Marshall Senior,** Fellow at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, and Visiting Professor in the Government Department and the School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University, Executive Director of the World Faiths Development Dialogue



**Dr. Mustafa Y. Ali,** Secretary General, Global Network of Religions for Children and Director, Arigatou International – Nairobi

**Meg Gardinier,** Director, World Day of Prayer and Action for Children, Arigatou International – New York



**Rev. Dr. Hans Ucko,** co-chair of the Arigatou Foundation campaign with UNICEF, the World Day of Prayer and Action for Children

**Shozo Fujita,** Secretary General, Arigatou International





**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



**Dr. Vinya Ariyaratne**, General Secretary, Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement - Sri Lanka



**Fred Nyabera**, Director, Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty - Arigatou International – Nairobi, Kenya



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ARIGATOU INTERNATIONAL

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