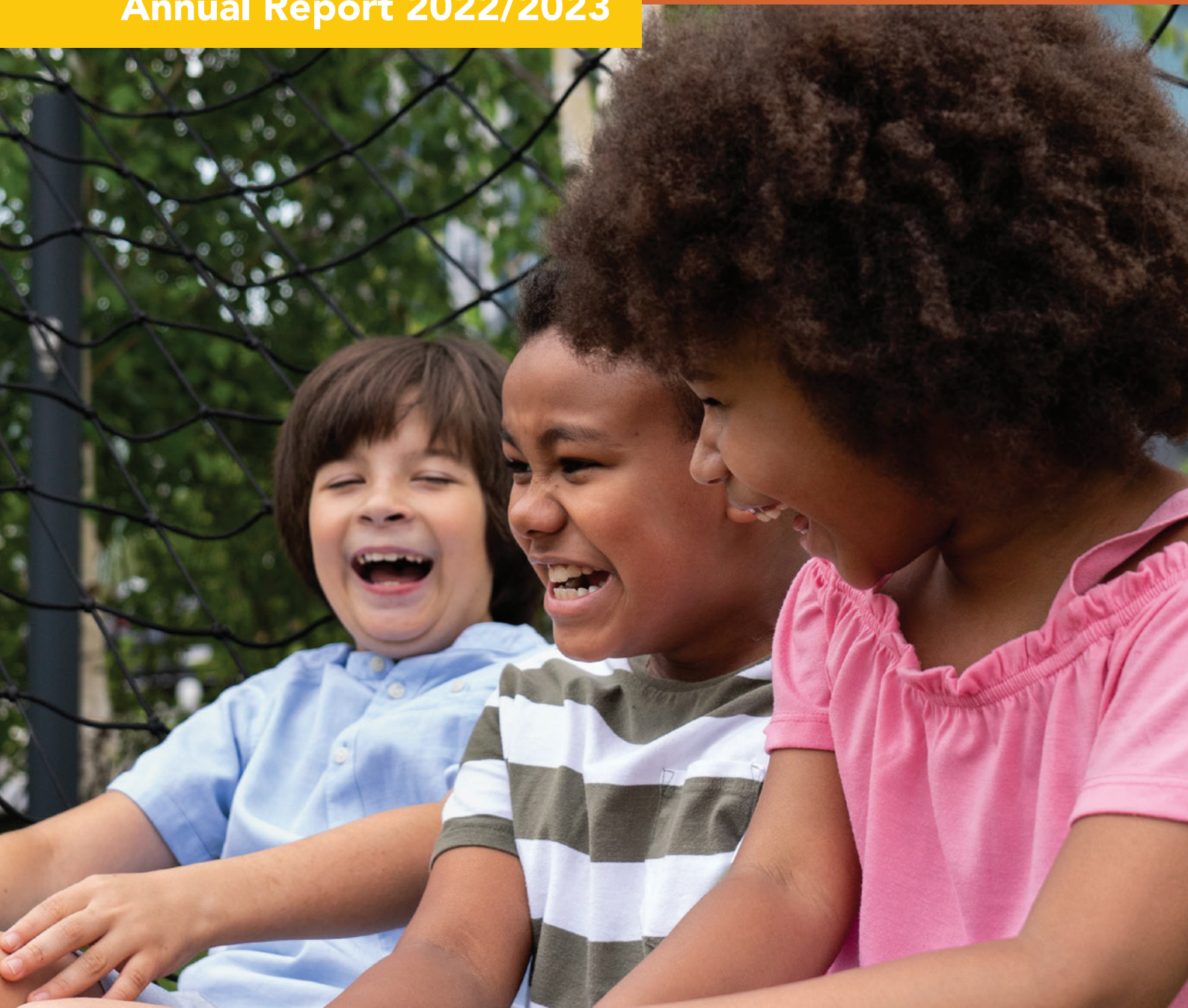


Speak Up For Children

Annual Report 2022/2023





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Dear Friends and Partners,

“SPEAK UP FOR CHILDREN” encapsulates our shared mission to combat the enduring issue of child poverty that plagues our world. As we present the ARIGATOU INTERNATIONAL—END CHILD POVERTY 2022-2023 Annual Report, I’m compelled to emphasise the profound significance of this message.

An alarming 333 million children are trapped in extreme poverty, struggling to survive on less than \$2.15 per day. Furthermore, over 800 million children exist below the poverty line of \$3.65 per day. Disturbingly, half of those enduring multidimensional poverty (MPI) are children, despite comprising only around 30 percent of the global population. Shockingly, nearly one billion children lack access to their fundamental rights and necessities in critical areas such as health, nutrition, education, water, sanitation, and housing.

In a world grappling with multiple crises, where child poverty persists with relentless determination, it’s imperative that we all acknowledge our collective responsibility. From children themselves to faith leaders, representatives from Faith-Based Organisations (FBOs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), to government authorities – each of us has a unique role to play in advocating for the rights, dignity, and wellbeing of our children.

Our ECP@10 Campaign provided a platform for these rights holders and duty bearers to “speak up” and translate words into impactful actions aimed at ending child poverty. This Annual Report stands as a testament to the resounding voices of these diverse actors who have lend their strength to our cause.

As we navigate these challenging times, let us remain unwavering in our commitment. Let us continue to work hand in hand with children, ensuring they are active contributors to the solutions and ideas that shape their futures. It is through this collaborative effort that we can envision a brighter tomorrow and realize the sustainable agenda we hold dear.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication to our mission of creating a better world for children.

With profound gratitude,

Fred Nyabera,
Director, Arigatou International – End Child Poverty

“We are committed to work with the children so that they are part of the solutions, part of the ideas that are coming; then the future is bright, and we will be able to achieve the sustainable agenda that we have in mind.”

Fred Nyabera, Director, Arigatou International – End Child Poverty

Our focus this year was the ECP@10 Campaign – commemorating 10 years of our Arigatou International Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty. The strategic actions we led and mobilised, together with the partnerships we cultivated, were encased in the prism of this campaign. From more than 100 pledges made by individuals and organisations to act towards tackling child poverty; to witnessing over 23,000+ seedling and seedballs planted as part of our “Grow Trees with Children” initiative to tackle climate change and environmental degradation; ECP@10 produced concrete results.

We laid emphasis to amplifying the achievements realised by communities, particularly at grassroots levels, which significantly contributed to alleviating child poverty since our launch in 2012. Together with members of Arigatou International’s Global Religions for Children (GNRC) and other significant partners, we told our ECP@10 story throughout the course of the year. This was in view of bolstering advocacy, alongside celebrating global progress in overcoming child poverty. We produced the seminal ECP@10 publication, “Going All Out to End Child Poverty”, coupled with several videos, news articles, social media posts and podcasts, for this very purpose. Our End Child Poverty website remains a repository for these and more enriching resources.

Furthermore, we actively sought opportunities for children to engage in dialogue and co-creation of solutions to address poverty. We are especially proud of children’s representation at parallel sessions during the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), as well as the commemoration of the October 17th International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP). We acknowledge the key role that our partners within the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty, especially the ATD Movement Fourth World, had in enabling this achievement.

The year also gave rise to innovative processes, including the establishment of the Arigatou International’s Sustainable Development Goals Academy for Children (SDGs Academy for

Children), with 2 physical spaces piloted in Kenya and Sri Lanka.

Likewise, we witnessed growth of our flagship initiatives, most notably: the Children’s Solutions Lab, a joint collaborative effort with Arigatou International’s Ethics Education for Children; the Project Nutrition+ spearheaded together with the Organisation of the African Instituted Churches (OAIC); our Better Education programme; and, the Regional Peace Programme (RPP). These enabled us to work with communities in promoting children’s right to meaningful participation, access to adequate nutrition and basic quality education, as well as advancing peace and social cohesion.

We continued to strengthen our partnerships, giving attention to our role in representing Arigatou International and children’s concerns in global and regional alliances.





2.1. Key Milestones

ECP@10 Campaign:

We mounted this signature campaign with the theme, “Looking Back, Forging Ahead”, commemorating 10 years of Arigatou International’s Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty, through a year-long process significantly launched during the Day of the African Child, June 16th.

Grow Trees With Children:

Our ECP@10 Campaign initiative, which responds to climate change and the need to protect the environment, by mobilising communities to grow trees. More than 23,000 seed balls and tree seedlings were planted over the course of the year.

Participation in parallel events at the HLPF:

Partnered with the International Movement ATD Fourth World and the Tri-lateral Partnership of Regional Faith-based Networks for the SDGs, to co-organise dialogue sessions, alongside the 2022 United Nations High Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals (HLPF), held in New York, in July.

IDEP Commemoration:

As part of our ECP@10 Campaign, we mobilised our partners towards commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP), October 17th, 2022, including through grassroots actions.

SDGs Academy for Children:

In partnership with the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement, we launched the 2nd physical space of Arigatou International’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) SDGs Academy for Children – The Model Classroom - in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on October 17th. In the same vein, through the SDGs Academy Pioneer Hub (in Limuru, Kenya) and the Model Classroom, we hosted several SDGs learning sessions and exposure visits for parents and interested partners.

Children’s Solutions Lab:

Together with Arigatou International’s Ethics Education for Children initiative, we launched and supported the implementation of the 2nd round of the Children’s Solutions Lab (CSL). It resulted in 84 proposed solutions (applications) from various children’s groups from 38 countries; and implementation of the CSL projects by 5 selected children’s groups in Armenia, Brazil, Ghana, Malawi and Niger.

Eastern Africa Regional Peace Programme (RPP):

Organised the 2nd gathering of the Regional Faith Leaders Forum (RFLF) and supported country-level peace work by Youth in Action (YIA), both being platforms we established under the RPP. Focus areas of engagement by the faith actors and the youth leaders included the nexus between peace and fostering social cohesion, Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB), preventing and countering violent extremism (P/CVE), and sustainable development.

Project Nutrition+:

Spearheaded by the Organisation of African Instituted Churches (OAIC), with support from Arigatou International—End Child Poverty, the Project Nutrition+ reached over 515 smallholder farmers in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, with training on climate-smart agriculture and family nutrition.

Better Education:

Provision of education support in partnership with key organisations, including members of Arigatou International’s Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC).





Alliances and partnerships: Throughout the year, we worked on development of new partnerships and strengthening existing collaboratives. These included our strategic participation in the Global Coalition to End Child Poverty, the Moral Imperative to End Extreme Poverty and Realise the SDGs (Moral Imperative), the Africa Interfaith/ Faith Leaders Initiative on the SDGs (AFLI), and The International Partnership on Religion and Development (PaRD). By representing Arigatou International in these spaces, we supported the amplification of children’s concerns and cast a spotlight on children’s rights and ending child poverty.

2.2. Our Global Footprint

Together with members of Arigatou International’s Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) and key strategic partners – from grassroots, national to international partners – we mobilised various actions tackling the root causes of child poverty in over 25 countries. We acknowledge this achievement is only possible because of the valuable partnerships with like-minded individuals and organisations, both rights-holders and duty-bearers, who have a shared concern for children’s wellbeing and eradicating poverty.





Our re



reach



2.3. More than Just Numbers: Together we Reached ...

We gauge our impact primarily by the depth and quality of positive change we contribute to each child we serve, in partnership with members of the community. We are also keen on appreciating the number of people we reach. More than just

numbers, they represent life and hope. Each of these numbers represent children, youth and adults - individuals and families that we have potentially helped to overcome poverty. Over the course of the year, we witnessed growth across diverse metrics.



Arigatou International’s Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty (End Child Poverty) mobilises communities and faith-inspired resources towards ending child poverty.

We envision a world in which, each child lives free of poverty. A world where every child lives in dignity, and their rights and wellbeing are protected, promoted, and upheld.

We believe that together, we can end child poverty worldwide. As such, we work with communities, both individuals and many other like-minded organisations, to make this hope a reality.

Together with the Global Network of Religions for Children, Ethics Education for Children, and Prayer and Action for Children, we comprise the 4 global initiatives of Arigatou International. We are, “All for Children”.

<p>Arigatou International</p>	<p>Arigatou International works with people from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds to promote children’s rights and well-being at all levels — from the grassroots to the global. Arigatou International has 4 global initiatives: Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC), Ethics Education for Children, Prayer and Action for Children, and End Child Poverty.</p>
<p>Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC)</p>	<p>A global-scale interfaith network of organisations and individuals specifically dedicated to securing the rights and wellbeing of children everywhere, envisioning a world where every child survives and thrives.</p>
<p>Ethics Education for Children</p>	<p>An initiative that advances values-based education for children with a transformative approach to interfaith and intercultural learning, placing children at the heart of all that we do and how we do it.</p>
<p>Prayer And Action for Children</p>	<p>An initiative bringing together diverse religious leaders and faith communities to influence and advocate for the policy, social, and behavioural changes needed to end violence against children.</p>
<p>End Child Poverty</p>	<p>An interfaith initiative that mobilises communities and faith-inspired resources to overcome poverty that affects children, for the dignity and wellbeing of every child.</p>

3.1. Our End Child Poverty Way

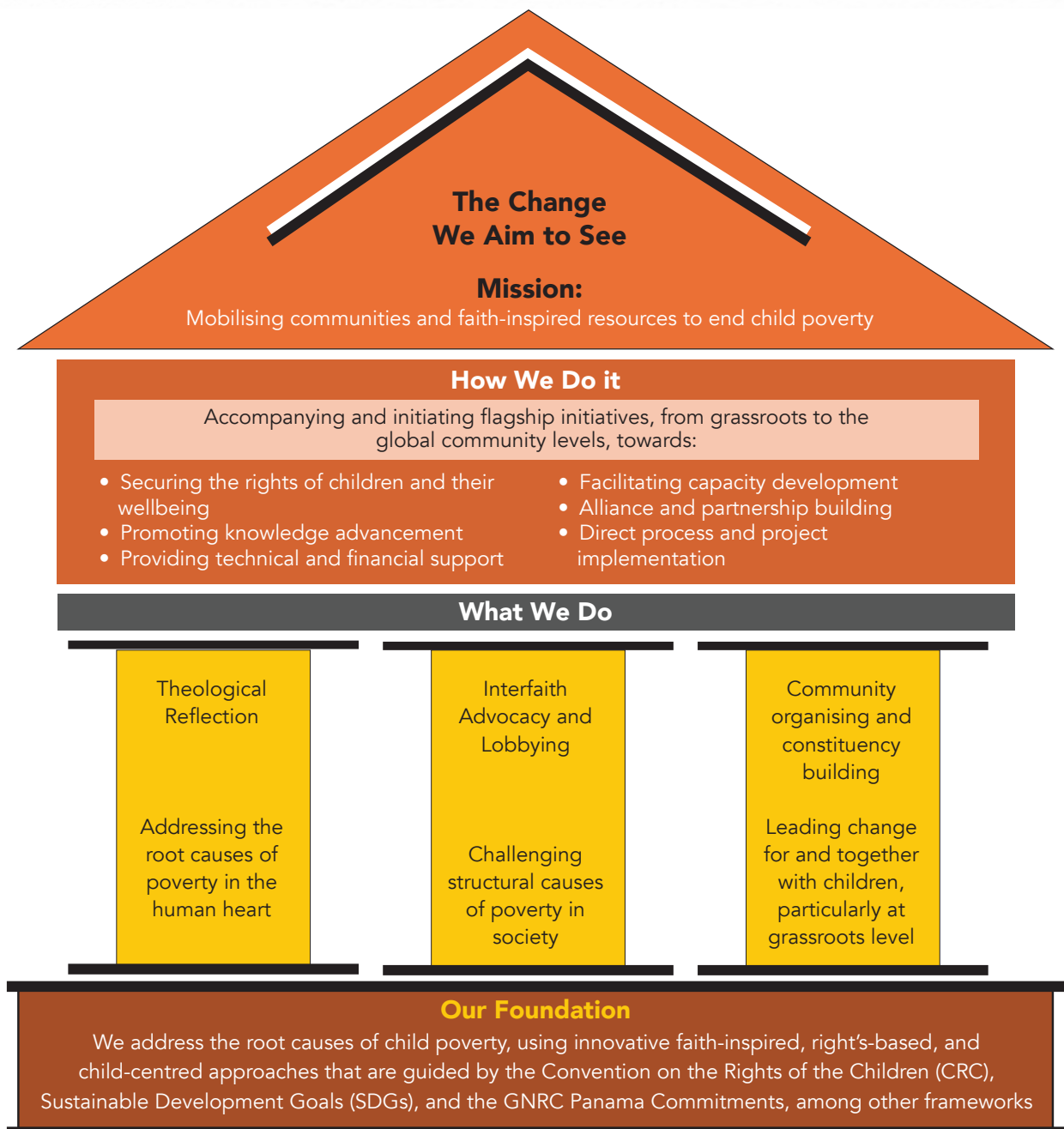
End Child Poverty addresses the root causes of poverty in the human heart, and the systemic structural causes of poverty in society. Our multi-pronged approach is faith-inspired, rights-based and it puts children at the heart of all that we do.

A faith-inspired approach

This is accomplished through mobilising communities towards theological reflection;

interfaith advocacy and lobbying; and community organising and constituency building. We develop flagship initiatives from grassroots to global levels, to actualise these processes. We further promote knowledge advancement relevant to ending child poverty. At the core of this work, are communities, particularly faith communities, and faith-inspired resources.

Our Approach



A rights-based approach

Our work is rooted in ensuring the dignity and wellbeing of every child. As such, we are guided by a rights-based approach, anchored on universal rights frameworks including the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the GNRC Panama Commitments on Ending Violence Against Children.



A child-centered approach

Arigatou International fosters and promotes meaningful children's participation and empowerment, as a fundamental right of each child, espoused in the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC). In addition, our work is oriented towards securing the wellbeing and protecting the inherent dignity of every child.



Through End Child Poverty, we have created specific avenues for children to learn, grow, and interact with one another and their wider community, and to engage in actions that lead to the eradication of child poverty. These flagship initiatives include the Children's Solutions Lab (CSL) and interaction through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Academy for Children. Furthermore, we emphasise the meaningful inclusion and participation of children in our community mobilisation, including the "Together We Can End Child Poverty Worldwide" campaign, which entails the global commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP), October 17th.

"When you hear directly from children and youth, then it makes it difficult not to act"

— Dr. Katherine Marshall, member, Arigatou International Advisory Group.

3.2. Our Key Institutions

Through End Child Poverty, Arigatou International has established the End Child Poverty Knowledge Centre and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Academy for Children. Both provide safe spaces for learning, innovation, community mobilisation and community building.

End Child Poverty Knowledge Centre

This is a regional and global hub for research, networking, resource repository, and knowledge

dissemination dedicated to addressing child poverty. The Knowledge Centre, with its physical location at the Sarvodaya Shramadana movement headquarters in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and its online presence on the End Child Poverty website, aims to enhance the capacities of organisations working to reduce child poverty worldwide. The Knowledge Centre is collaborative initiative of Arigatou International and the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement.



The SDGs Academy for Children

Arigatou International’s Sustainable Development Goals Academy for Children (SDGs Academy for Children) is a safe space and a programme to teach children sustainable development. It aims to provide children aged 4 and above, with simplified and easy to use multi-faith learning tools on the United Nations (UN) Agenda 2030 for sustainable development, and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The virtual and physical spaces of the SDGs Academy for Children are organised into 5 hubs: the Knowledge Hub; Capacity Hub; Innovations and Solutions Hub; Faith and Dialogue Hub; and



The 5 Hubs of the Spaces



Knowledge Hub

for research, storing and dissemination information.



Innovations and Solutions Hub

for working together to develop solutions tackling child poverty and realising the SDGs.



Capacity Hub

for training and building skills.



Faith and Dialogue Hub

for identifying faith resources, inspiration, theological reflection; and peer dialogue, as well as intergenerational dialogue on policies and programmes for children.



Fun and Media Hub

for learning through play, storytelling and some advocacy component as well.

the Fun and Media Hub. These hubs correspond to the 5 P's of the SDGs: People, Planet, Prosperity, Partnerships, and, Partnerships.

We have established 2 physical spaces of the SDGs Academy for Children – the Pioneer Hub in Limuru, Kenya; and the Model Classroom in Colombo, Sri Lanka, which is hosted in collaboration with the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement. The virtual space of the SDGs Academy for Children is hosted on the Arigatou International—End Child Poverty website.

The programme of the SDGs Academy comprises of: A learning course with various modules, a multi-level game, storytelling, and advocacy and intergenerational dialogue. Interaction with the SDGs Academy for Children content is categorized into 4 age groups: for children below 6 years, children aged 6 to 9, 10 to 13, and 14 to 17 years.

The SDGs Academy for Children follows the Global Development Education (GDE) approach and uses transformative pedagogy methods to deliver learning opportunities for children. This is aimed at enabling children to develop knowledge, skills, values and attitudes needed for securing a just sustainable world, in which everyone has their right to fulfill their potential.



ECP@10: COMMEMORATING 10 YEARS OF THE INTERFAITH INITIATIVE TO END CHILD POVERTY

Arigatou International launched its Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty (End Child Poverty) at the Fourth Forum of the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on 16th June 2012. End Child Poverty was a response to the growing global need to alleviate poverty that affects children, and secure children’s wellbeing, dignity, and rights. Since then, we have in collaboration with many others, carried out the mandate of mobilising communities and faith-inspired resources towards tackling the root causes of child poverty.

In view of this, we mounted the ECP@10 Campaign, honoring our 10th anniversary under the banner “Looking Back, Forging Ahead.” The ECP@10 Campaign provided us an opportunity to celebrate global progress made towards overcoming child

poverty over the last 10 years; share our collective journey and stories; appreciate End Child Poverty champions and welcome others to join us in this work; and advance knowledge relevant to ending child poverty.

“This 10th anniversary is a unique opportunity for us to put the most vulnerable children living in poverty high on the agenda of faith communities and the international community in reaffirming our collective commitment to building a world free of child poverty.”

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

Snapshot of the ECP@10 Campaign: Commemorating 10 years of the Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty

Theme: Looking Back, Forging Ahead

Objective: Celebrate champions and global progress towards ending child poverty, share our collective stories, advance relevant knowledge, and call communities to action.

Highlights:

<p>Campaign Launch: June 16th, 2022, during the Day of the African Child. Through intergenerational dialogue, we called on individuals, communities, and partners to pledge and take action</p>	<p>Grassroots commemorative actions: Partners organised over 25+ activities in 20+ countries, including marking the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP, October 17th, 2022)</p>
1	2
<p>Going All Out to End Child Poverty: Produced an ECP@10 publication highlighting our story at 10 years, in addition videos, podcasts and newsletters</p>	<p>SDGs Academy for Children Model Classroom: Established the 2nd physical space of Arigatou International’s SDGs Academy for Children, in collaboration with the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement, in Colombo, Sri Lanka</p>
4	3

4.1. Launch of the ECP@10 Campaign: Looking Back, Forging Ahead



End Child Poverty launched the ECP@10 Campaign on 16th June 2022, significantly, during the Day of the African Child. During the virtual event, we took stock of the milestones, challenges, and emerging trends on child poverty over the last 10 years; shaping the conversation through intergenerational

dialogue. Children shared their views on poverty, called on leaders and policy makers to put in more effort to respond to child poverty. Together, the children, faith leaders, and representatives from academia and civil society, pledged to act towards eradicating child poverty in their communities.

"I pledge to expose the root causes of poverty and motivate adults to gear efforts towards combating child poverty"

— Dr. Kul Gautam, Co-Chair, Arigatou International Advisory Group. —

"I invite you to join this journey not only to celebrate what we have accomplished but also to look ahead at what we can do"

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

"Here in Korogocho (Nairobi, Kenya), many kids like myself have been exposed to poverty, and we urge our leaders to reduce the levels of poverty in our country"

— Sheila, Child from Kenya. —

4.2. Every Action Counts: Grassroots Commemorations of ECP@10

Together with members of the GNRC and other strategic partners, including individuals and institutions, we mobilised and celebrated various

ECP@10 commemorative actions at the grassroots community level.

Snapshot:

The Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) – Moldova, through the Association of Professional Women from Moldova (BPW Moldova), launched a children’s play park, in commemoration of the End Child Poverty 10th – anniversary, dubbed ECP@10. The park was designed to provide a safe space for children to play, dialogue and even initiate and enable children take actions to address poverty, for example, by hosting the Children Solutions Lab sessions. GNRC Moldova has over the years been a valued partner in addressing child poverty. Most notably in May 2020, amid the height of Covid-19 pandemic, we worked together in supporting digital education for vulnerable children, by providing internet-based learning devices. It is worth noting that during that time, education in nearly all countries worldwide had shifted from physical to digital spaces. This created a socio-economic digital divide, which adversely affected children living poverty, in particular.

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty: Dignity for All in Practice

As part of our ECP@10 Campaign grassroots commemorations, we marked the global International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP) on October 17th, 2022, in collaboration with strategic partners. IDEP 2022 presented opportunity for concerted global advocacy efforts, social activism and heightened awareness regarding poverty, its root causes and practical solutions leading to its eradication

The IDEP 2022 theme, Dignity for All in Practice: The Commitments We Make Together for Social Justice, Peace and the Planet”, recognised the progress made towards ending poverty, particularly child poverty, since the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adapted. However, it also highlighted the challenges that cause and exacerbate poverty, such as climate change, the Covid-19 pandemic, violent conflicts in various regions and the global crises of hunger and children’s education.



Snapshot of Grassroots ECP@10 Campaign Actions During IDEP

End Child Poverty mobilised ECP@10 Campaign commemorative events throughout the month of October 2022 and specifically during the October 17th International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP). In collaboration with the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) and other partners, we aimed to address child poverty and encourage actions to overcome it.



We joined the **International Movement ATD Fourth World**, who led global IDEP 2022 commemorations at the United Nations (UN), New York, bringing together the voices of people with lived experiences of poverty and those working to end it. Speaking during this event, Sanara, a child from the **Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement** (member of the **GNRC Sri Lanka**) and participant of the SDGs Academy Model Classroom, stated: *“The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is most important for me because today my voice, becomes the voice of millions of children across my country and around the world as well.”* She continued to emphasise, *“Children are the most vulnerable and voiceless segment of society in the face of poverty. So, I speak for the millions of children suffering from malnutrition and starvation, with*

no access to education, facing daily domestic violence and abuse, and becoming or killed in the face of war.”

In different countries, members of the GNRC marked IDEP 2022 through diverse actions. **GNRC Romania**, for instance, launched the “We Act Together for Social Equity” project, which involved children, teachers, and school counsellors working together to improve the quality of life of young people in disadvantaged areas. The project activities included dialogue, volunteerism, and charitable actions, and over 1,000 students participated.

Similarly, **GNRC Comoros** partnered with local and national organisations to mark IDEP 2022 through training and tree-planting activities to educate children about environmental





conservation and provide them with skills to maintain the environment. They also provided scholarships to vulnerable children, especially orphans and children with disabilities. The exercise involved 70 people, including 50 children. *“For me, as a child and a member of the GNRC Comoros network, this day (IDEP) is an opportunity for our political, community and religious leaders to intensify their actions and open their hearts to help the thousands of children who live in poverty all over the world in general and in my country, the Comoros, in particular”, observed a child participant.*

GNRC Bosnia and Herzegovina marked IDEP 2022 through a series of awareness activities from October 8th to 17th to promote the ECP@10 campaign, and empower children to participate in actions to end poverty and violence against children in their local communities. The activities included children creating arts conveying relevant messages and entertaining programs about children’s rights and the need to protect their dignity, through games, dances, songs, and prayers. *“As a child in a grown-up’s world, I think it’s essential for me to find my place and*

try to make this planet better and not worse for the future generations. I think that sustainable development helps us create an environment that can benefit everyone, both nature and also humankind”, stated Adelina, a child from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Members of GNRC Bosnia also carried out targeted actions to support vulnerable families. Overall, these activities directly reached more than 1,010 individuals, including 500 children.

Other partners and GNRC members that conducted similar actions to listen to and empower children included communities in **Malaysia, Pakistan, Serbia, Sudan, South Sudan** and **Syria**, among others.

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP, October 17th) continues to provide an excellent opportunity to rally around the cause of ending child poverty, as expressed by Besty, a child from the **GNRC Cameroon**, *“The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is reminder that a lot of work is still to be done to eradicate poverty.”*

4.3. Grow Trees with Children: A Better Future for All

We initiated “Grow Trees with Children”, an ECP@10 community process to work together with children towards planting trees across various locations, as a form of positive climate action. This is in recognition that the adverse impacts of climate change are a direct threat to a child’s ability to survive, grow, and thrive. Together with our partners, especially members of the GNRC, we mobilised communities to plant over 23,000 seedballs and tree seedlings across various locations.

Spotlight:

To kick-start the “Grow Trees With Children” End Child Poverty partnered with the Kenya Scouts Movement, the Kenya Administrative Police Training Centre, and CKL Africa Ltd to plant over 10,000 seedballs and trees in various locations in Kenya. Similar tree-planting activities were led by partners and GNRC members in several countries, including **Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda**. Following its first successful run, “Grow Trees With Children” shall now become a regular process of Arigatou International—End Child Poverty.

4.4. Launch of the SDGs Academy for Children Model Classroom

Led by the End Child Poverty Knowledge Centre and in collaboration with the Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement, Arigatou International launched the second physical space of its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Academy for Children – The Model Classroom. The hybrid launch event, held significantly during the October 17th International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP), involved

intergenerational dialogue centered around education (SDG 4), climate change (SDG 13), and peace (SDG16). The event welcomed children, parents, guardians and teachers, and partners representing the GNRC Sri Lanka Committee, faith actors, academia, civil society and UN bodies in Sri Lanka. Since then, the Model Classroom has hosted numerous learning sessions for children and adults, exposure visits for interested parties, as well as led ECP@10 Campaign actions including “Grow Trees with Children.”

“Education, like what children will learn at this space will play a crucial role in promoting Sustainable Development and addressing environment-related issues and climate actions.”

*Ms. Emma Brigham, Deputy Representative,
UNICEF Sri Lanka.*

4.5. Going All Out to End Child Poverty: Our Story at 10

Throughout our ECP@10 Campaign, we aimed to capture and tell the collective stories of progress, celebrating the significant impact realised in partnership with others. Going All Out To End Child Poverty, the main ECP@10 publication, is a culmination of this effort. Similarly, we invited children, faith leaders, representatives from multi-lateral and civil society organisations, to provide their testaments through videos, blogs and social media posts.

Snapshot:

We highlight some of our rich and inspiring ECP@10 Campaign story products here. We welcome you to visit our End Child Poverty website to sample these and more resources: endingchildpoverty.org

FLAGSHIP INITIATIVES: ACCELERATING COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR CHANGE

Arigatou International—End Child Poverty develops, supports and accompanies flagship initiatives that address child poverty, particularly at the grassroots community level. Our work focuses on securing children’s rights to dignity, well-being, and a life free of poverty. These projects and processes have a high potential to reduce child poverty, by making use of locally available resources and solutions, while gleaning from global learnings and good practices. We aim to effectively model our flagship initiatives, so that they can be replicated and scaled-up across various contexts globally. Furthermore, we promote innovation and the use of technology for sustainability.

Our flagship initiatives respond to both protracted and merging concerns around child poverty, including hunger and food insecurity, limited access to quality education, violence against children, the adverse impacts of violent conflicts, the urgent climate crisis, and the need for sustainable livelihoods for families and communities. Towards this, we have developed various initiatives in the form of one-time projects, mid-term, or longer-term programs and processes.

We have implemented or are supporting several specific initiatives, including Better Education, the Children’s Solutions Lab, Poverty Solutions (including India Poverty Solutions and Nepal Poverty Solutions), Project Nutrition+, the Regional Peace Programme (RPP), various projects by the SDGs Academy for Children, and the Sudan Social Cohesion Initiative/Project (SSCI/P). Additionally, we have established constituencies to support actions relevant to ending child poverty, with the most notable being the *Réseau des Enfants et Jeunes Africains pour les Droits Humains (REJADH)/ African Children and Youth Network for Human Rights*, an advocacy platform by and for young people.

5.1. Teaching Children Sustainable Development

Through our SDGs Academy for Children, we facilitated more than 10 training and learning sessions for over 200 children, aiming to equip them with knowledge and skills for sustainable development and ending child poverty. We covered various topics related specifically to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1, 4, 5, 11, 12 and 13, including conversations on the use of drone technology and robotics for sustainable development, designing sustainable cities, and climate-smart consumption of food, energy and water. The SDGs Academy for Children delivered these actions through our Pioneer Hub in Limuru, Kenya, and the Model Classroom in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in collaboration with our partner organisations.

We went a step further and initiated the process of establishing of SDGs Clubs in schools in Nairobi, Kenya and Colombo, Sri Lanka. SDGs Clubs are safe spaces in schools for students to learn about the SDGs and take little but impactful actions within their context, just like the SDGs Academy for Children. Our long-term view is to expand the reach of the SDGs Academy for Children to benefit more young people across various communities, particularly those most affected by poverty.



Snapshot:

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) are central to accelerating achievement of United Nations Agenda 2030 and the corresponding Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Globally, technology is hailed as a cross-cutting means of implementation of the SDGs, underpinning the achievement of every goal. Based on this, we partnered with the **Kenya Flying Labs** to facilitate a 3-part learning series on Drones, Robotics and Sustainable Development, at our Pioneer Hub in Limuru, Kenya. These practical learning sessions used the Twin Science Curriculum developed by **WeRobotics**, and involved building children's basic knowledge about how to code, make and operate small hand-held robots and drones; and how drones and robots can be used in actions towards implementing the SDGs. 27 children accompanied by their parents, caregivers, and teachers, participated in these sessions.

"I have learnt that robotics is important in our lives; for example, in treating patients in hospitals"

————— Jonathan, child from Kenya. —————

"It's very important that as children we start working on the SDGs as soon as possible because they are actually meant for a better future for children. The SDGs should actually be part of our curriculum"

————— Brian, child from Kenya. —————

Overall, the SDGs Academy for Children presents a meaningful child participation space and an innovative opportunity for children to work together with the community around them, towards sustainable development and overcoming child poverty. In the coming year, Arigatou International will seek partnerships and the opportunity to

expand the reach and positive impact of the SDGs Academy for Children, at grassroots and global levels. We believe that the more children can be meaningfully engaged in learning and actions on sustainable development, the better our collective future will be.

"Being at the table enables children to contribute to the SDGs and that makes a difference. I inaugurate with tremendous joy the SDGs Academy for Children"

————— Dr. Kezevino Aram, Co-Chair, Arigatou International Advisory Group and
President, Shanti Ashram, India. —————



Which Goals?



Find us online:

Visit the virtual SDGs Academy for Children: sdgforchildren.online (Insert link an QR code, plus relevant image(s) to depict the virtual space.



Our 2022/2023 partners at the SDGs Academy for Children:

The Pioneer Hub and the Model Classroom have forged valuable partnerships with local, regional, and global organisations and institutions to deliver learning sessions on sustainable development. They include:

- Kenya Flying Labs
- Kenya SDGs Forum
- ECOBANA Limited
- Excella Biotechnology Limited
- Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement
- St. Mary's School, Msongari, Nairobi, Kenya
- UNICEF Sri Lanka
- The Sustainable Development Councils in Sri Lanka
- UNDP Sri Lanka
- Save the Children Sri Lanka
- The Asia Foundation World Vision
- University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

"This is not only a space or a learning course for children to learn about SDGs: This is something beyond that, where children could learn about their lives and change their way of living for a better world that we are dreaming of as adults. This is a place even adults could learn and contribute to a better world with children."

— Jude Preman, College tutor, Sri Lanka. —

5.2. Children's Solutions Lab



Arigatou International's Children's Solutions Lab is a meaningful space and participatory process, for children to develop ethical solutions and take action, towards overcoming child poverty in their communities.

A Snapshot of the 2022/2023 Children's Solutions Lab (CSL) Actions

Armenia

Children's Group: Home of the Sun

- Partner organisation: Home of the Sun (School)
- CSL grant: \$ 500
- Children's Solution: Provide psychosocial support to children affected by conflict and poverty

Brazil

- Children's Group: *Passaporte para a Vida I*
- Partner organisation: *Lar das Crianças da Congregação Israelita Paulista*
- CSL grant: \$ 1,600
- Children's Solution: Advocate for construction of adequate sewerage and sanitation system for selected families in an informal settlement.

Ghana

- Children's Group: My Rights My Future
- Partner organisation: Cheerful Hearts Foundation
- CSL grant: \$ 500
- Children' Solution: Lead community sensitisation and awareness outreach

events to address early and teenage pregnancies.

Malawi

- Children's Group: Inspired Children's Clubs
- Partner organisation: Sparrows Girls Foundation
- CSL grant: \$ 1,600
- Children's Solution: Provide a mobile library to serve street-connected children and establish a tree seedling nursery, with sales of seedlings aimed at supporting the mobile library.

Niger

- Children's Group: English Club of the CES/RD! High School
- Partner organisation: *Complexe d'enseignement Secondaire (CES/RD1 High School)*
- CSL grant: \$ 1,600
- Children's Solution: Advocate for and fund the construction of a toilet for girls within the school



The Children's Solutions Lab is spearheaded and supported by the End Child Poverty and Ethics Education for Children initiatives of Arigatou International. First launched in 2020, the Children Solutions Lab welcomes children from different backgrounds to work collaboratively in groups and together with adults in their community. It provides a safe space for children to think critically and dialogue about the underlying root causes of child poverty, and the ethical concerns perpetuating this poverty. Through these interactions, children identify potential ways to collectively address these challenges, and to develop relevant and

ethical solutions, using locally available community resources. With the support of local partner organisations, the children are then invited to present their proposed solutions to Arigatou International, for funding consideration and other such technical and programmatic support.

This year, **84 children's groups** from **38 countries** submitted their proposed solutions to Arigatou International. As a result, we selected the most meaningful and potentially impact solutions presented by **5 children's groups** from **Armenia, Brazil, Ghana, Malawi** and **Niger**. We then supported these groups to successfully implement their solutions, through providing micro-grants and mentorship for the duration of their short-term projects.



In Yerevan, **Armenia**, the children from the "**Home of the Sun**" group aimed to provide child-friendly activities as a form of trauma healing for children affected by the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. They achieved this through engaging in dialogues, community harvesting, and food preservation activities, such as making fruit jam and canning vegetables. This safe and interactive approach, combined with counseling, proved to be particularly beneficial for the children. Additionally, the children prepared care packages containing the harvested produce, winter gloves, and cards with encouraging



messages to give to children living in poverty. *"It was an amazing experience for us, and there was great impact. We realised that with helping other people and bringing a smile on their faces, we too would feel good about it. Children realised that anything is achievable, with teamwork, some help and with dedication. ... It will be fun to do more stuff like this, to have an opportunity to help other children as well, not only by harvesting, but through other ways",* said Arshuk, boy, 15 years, Home of the Sun.

The children's group from **Brazil**, known as "**Passaporte para a Vida I,**" focused on addressing local sanitation and hygiene concerns in their neighborhood. They initiated dialogues with local government officials to advocate for the construction of a small-scale sewerage pipeline in an informal settlement. This pipeline would resolve the problem of using an open sewer for five households affected by poverty. Furthermore, the children aimed to conduct awareness sessions to educate the neighborhood about improved sanitation practices, including the management of household waste. Arigatou International continues to support this ongoing project of the children's group, collaborating with their primary local partner organization, "*Lar das Crianças da Congregação Israelita Paulista.*"



“My Rights, My Future”, the children’s group from **Ghana**, conducted more than 20 outreach sessions addressing the challenge of early and teenage pregnancy, as part of the broader conversation on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and breaking the cycle of poverty. They had noted that early and teenage pregnancy was a problem rampant in their town, largely a fishing community with wide-spread poverty, leading to many children dropping out of school, mostly girls.

Mr. Bright Fiatsi, the adult supporter from the “Cheerful Hearts Foundation”, observed, *“I’ve been working with children since 2009 and have always shied away for allowing children to lead discussions on topics that are considered ‘too*



sensitive’. If not because the children chose this topic, I would not have thought of it. I have been wrong all this while! I have learned that children can lead such important discussions”. He continued to state, *“Yes, there has been positive impact. The children are now more confident to speak up and they better understand the issues they are talking about. The children are also more focused on what they want to achieve.”*

The children led these discussions in 7 schools in the area, as well as different localities in the town where they live. They used educative posters and teaching materials, covering such topics as the causes, effects, and prevention of early and teenage pregnancy, emphasising the importance access to quality education and retention in school for all children.

The children’s group from Malawi, the **“Inspired Children’s Club”** set up a nursery to grow tree seedlings for sale, with the aim to establish a small mobile library serving children on the streets, using the proceeds from the sale of these seedlings. Through support from the local organization **“Sparrows Girls Foundation”**, this children’s group organised reading sessions with street-connected children as part of preparation towards the mobile library. In addition, they held community dialogue with teachers, partners, community elders and other leaders, as part of their advocacy for children’s education.

In Niamey, Niger, the **“Club d’anglais du CES/RD1”** (English Club) of the school **“Complexe d’enseignement secondaire CES/RD1”** proposed the construction of a toilet for girls in the school. One of the largest and oldest public schools in the city with a student population of nearly 3,000 children, the school had no toilet for girls, and only 1 toilet for boys. As such, the girls needed to wait until they can go home or otherwise seek to use toilets in the nearby homesteads, making them suffer interrupted learning. One of the participating

children, Nadia, girl, 17 years, stated, *“It’s the first time I’m involved in this type of project, and I think it’s a great project ... When I was speaking to the leaders on behalf of the girls, I spoke my heart as I explained the situation of the girls at school – how it was really inconveniencing to go home to use the bathroom.”* The children’s group organised awareness sessions for their fellow students, on menstrual hygiene and proper use of toilets, through use of drama skits and peer conversations. Through the Children’s Solutions Lab, the children also advocated and lobbied the local government leaders to build more toilets for the entire student population.

The Children’s Solutions Lab continues to be a significant avenue through which Arigatou International listens to and empowers children. These key results demonstrate the power of children to drive positive change and address pressing challenges within their communities. Through their collaborative efforts and innovative thinking, young individuals have shown their commitment to shaping a better future for themselves and their peers. Going forward, we seek to launch subsequent rounds of the Children’s Solutions Lab process, inviting new applications for supporting proposed solutions by children, and creating linkages with other opportunities geared to empower children.



5.3. Better Education for Every Child

We seek to increase children’s access to equitable, quality education, for both girls and boys. Our focus is on empowering children affected by poverty and other vulnerabilities such as the COVID-19 pandemic, violent conflicts, forced displacement, and children who lack parental or guardian care. Through education, we also promote values and positive character in children, to mitigate poverty in the heart and mind.

Our education programme includes supporting or mobilising communities towards provision of scholarships, including through payment of tuition or school fees for children; supporting teachers and volunteers to provide quality education, including supplementing teachers’ allowances or salaries; and provision of school supplies such as books, school uniform and nutritious meals for children, through a school-based meals programme. We acknowledge such support provided through members of the GNRC and our partners in **Bhutan, Kenya, Lebanon, Pakistan, Syria** and **Sri Lanka**, including other localities.

Spotlight:

Amani Village of Hope, a children’s home and safe shelter in Kenya, has been a longstanding partner of Arigatou International—End Child Poverty, through our education programme. Together, we have provided over 20 scholarships each year to support children in need, through their primary and secondary school education, for nearly 10 years. Rev. Kenneth Wachang’a, the Director at Amani Village of Hope, has this to say, *“My vision is to see every child live well, and I strive to see every child educated and live free from poverty. That’s why I never turn a child away from Amani Village of Hope.”*

5.4. Project Nutrition+


Project Nutrition+ is a collaborative effort between the Organisation of African Instituted Churches (OAIC) and Arigatou International's End Child Poverty initiative. It aims to improve the well-being of families by integrating sustainable farming practices, nutrition education, and health outcomes at the household level. The project specifically targets vulnerable families, with a focus on children and mothers. It addresses the high rates of undernourishment in the East Africa Region, where approximately 30% of children suffer from stunted growth.

Currently active in **Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda**, Project Nutrition+ provides nutrition education, trains clergy and farmers in sustainable agricultural practices, supports seed banks, and offers assistance to families with children under 5 years old to combat malnutrition. This successful model of Project Nutrition+ can be replicated and scaled up in other regions, providing a comprehensive approach to address malnutrition and poverty.




Spotlight:


Project Nutrition+ has achieved significant milestones, including the training of nearly 300 clergy and farmers on climate-smart agriculture for smallholder farmers. Through integrated activities, Project Nutrition+ has reached 515 households; facilitated collaboration among various groups, agricultural research institutes, and local government officials; and led to the establishment of 120 demonstration farms and 18 seed banks, to promote climate-resilient crops and ensure food security. Additionally, households have been able to supplement their nutrition and generate income through small-scale kitchen or vegetable gardens.

 Nearly 300 clergy and farmers were trained.

 515 households were reached.

 120 demonstration farms were established.

 18 seed banks set up.

 Active in 3 countries: Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda

5.5. Supporting Sustainable Livelihoods

Arigatou International—End Child Poverty underscores the need for communities to develop sustainable livelihoods, as means to prevent, reduce and end child poverty. Our Livelihoods Programme seeks to support ways through which caregivers of children affected by poverty - including parents, guardians and youth-headed households – can generate income and other forms of capital required for a decent means of living. It

also involves mobilising and supporting faith actors and their communities, towards the provision of humanitarian aid relief, as and when needed.

We recognise that children do not exist in isolation. Due to their physical, psychological, emotional, and economic vulnerability, children rely on older persons to provide them the necessary care.

Women in many communities play a significant role in providing care for children, both at the family level and beyond. However, women often face discriminatory socio-economic practices that perpetuate child poverty. It is, therefore crucial to support women caregivers, including parents and guardians, in becoming economically empowered, reducing their vulnerability and subsequently protecting the wellbeing of children. In this view, we are working with grassroots partners and members of the Global Network of Religions for Children, to facilitate outreach for establishing sustainable livelihoods projects for women caregivers.



Spotlight:

In Mombasa County, **Kenya**, we are working with grassroots partners including members of the GNRC, towards supporting selected women caregivers in establishing micro-enterprises. The women, affected by poverty, will work together in small groups, receiving capacity enhancement through skills and knowledge training, and micro seed grants to establish their business ventures. We are currently seeking fundraising and resource mobilisation opportunities to enable us to grow the project. We also aim to incorporate continuous business support and mentorship to ensure long-term success and sustainability.

5.6. Community Actions for Peace

As part of the collaborative Eastern Africa Regional Peace Programme (RPP), we continued to spearhead and support community actions for peace. We accomplished this through the Youth in Action (YIA) network and Regional Faith Leaders Forum (RFLF), which we established as RPP

platforms for capacity development, networking, fostering interfaith dialogue and cooperation, as well as advancing advocacy for social and policy change.

Within the year, we convened the 2nd gathering of the Regional Faith Leaders Forum (RFLF), bringing together (more than) faith leaders from Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. We focused on training on Freedom of Religion of Belief (FoRB) and providing space for experience sharing and peer exchange and learning. We had great participation of faith actors from various countries in the 2nd RFLF gathering, which also led to strengthen our partnership with organisations such as the Zanzibar Interfaith Centre (ZANZIC), Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC), South Sudan Council of Churches (SCC), and the Inter-religious Council of Ethiopia.

Similarly, Arigatou International—End Child Poverty supported the country-level peace initiatives by Youth in Action in these countries, thereby maximising the impact of actions for social cohesion at the community level.



COLLABORATING FOR GREATER IMPACT: OUR PARTNERSHIPS

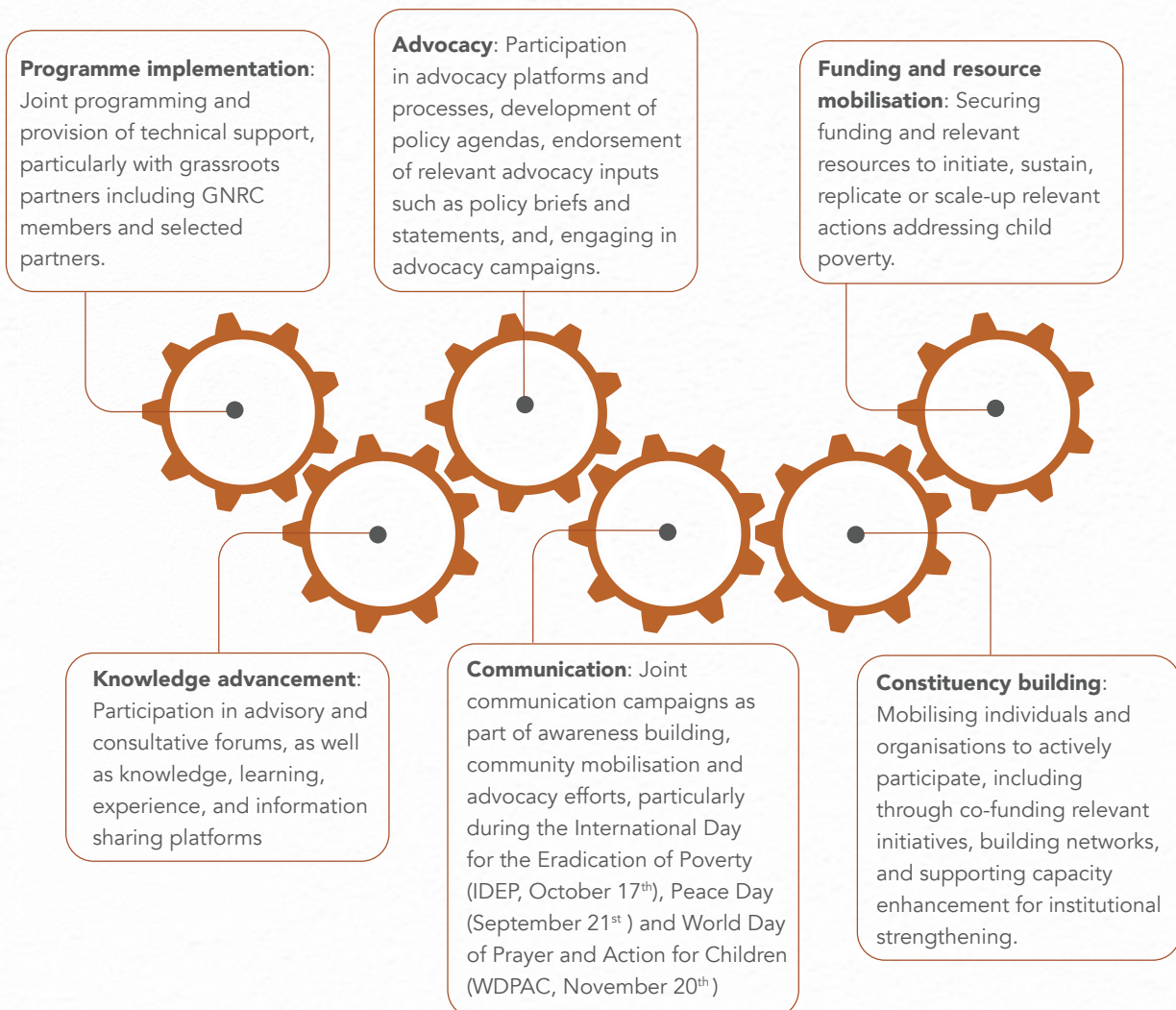
6.0

Arigatou International—End Child Poverty has established both local and global partnerships geared towards ending child poverty. Over the years, we have worked with over 110+ organisations represented in more than 50+ countries. In addition, we are a member of various alliances that act as collaborative platforms for action. Within these alliances, End Child Poverty represents Arigatou International and strives to ensure meaningful participation and amplification of the voices of children, as well as relevant advocacy actions by faith actors at the grassroots level. Together, we keep growing our service to children and realising significant impact by the day.

SNAPSHOT OF OUR PARTNERSHIPS

We seek to build strategic alliances towards the realisation of our overall Arigatou International vision – a better world for all children – and that of the Interfaith Initiative to End Child Poverty – a world free of child poverty.

We cultivate beneficial collaboration towards:





SNAPSHOT OF KEY GLOBAL ADVOCACY PLATFORMS:

Arigatou International—End Child Poverty is part of several strategic platforms, which provide opportunity for targeted advocacy. Through these, we have jointly facilitated the participation of children and faith actors in influential institutional and policy spaces. We have further organised parallel events during important sessions such as the 2023 United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) and the World Bank/International Monetary Fund (IMF) conferences. These platforms have allowed us to highlight the positive outcomes and evidence-based advocacy of faith communities at all levels, from local grassroots to global stages. Moreover, we empower children to advocate for their dignity, wellbeing, and rights in these spaces.

Africa Interfaith Initiative/ Faith Leaders on the Sustainable Development Goals (AFII):

This collaborative platform promotes the involvement of faith communities and leaders in shaping the development agenda. Arigatou International—End Child Poverty is currently hosting the Secretariat of the initiative, which is co-convened by the Organization of Africa Instituted Churches (OAIC).

Global Coalition to End Child Poverty:

Composed of over 20 organisations dedicated to raising awareness about children living in

poverty worldwide and supporting global and national efforts to alleviate child poverty. Arigatou International—End Child Poverty aims to spotlight the work of faith communities and support meaningful children's participation within the Coalition.

Moral Imperative to End Extreme Poverty and Realize the SDGs.

The Moral Imperative brings together more than 60 religious actors, faith-inspired organisations, and the World Bank Group, to advance a faith-based action framework to end extreme poverty and realize

the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Arigatou International—End Child Poverty chairs the Advocacy Working Group of the Moral Imperative, and we are also part of the Research Reference Group convened by the World Bank

The International Partnership on Religion and Development (PaRD): PaRD is a multi-lateral and multi-stakeholder platform of national, regional and global organisations across various sectors, including faith-inspired organisations, private and public sectors. Arigatou International—End Child Poverty is part of the PaRD Steering Board (Group) .

Regional Peace Programme (RPP): The RPP is both a programme and a nested partnership spearheaded by the Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) and 6 other organisations, including Arigatou International—End Child Poverty.

Through the RPP, we work towards promoting freedom of religion or belief (FoRB), fostering social cohesion, and preventing, countering, and transforming violent extremism (P/C/TVE) in 12 countries in the East, Great Lakes and Horn of Africa region.



Spotlight:

Led by the International Movement ATD Fourth World, Arigatou International—End Child Poverty, together with other partners within the **Global Coalition to End Child Poverty**, facilitated children’s participation in the parallel event, *“Ending Poverty Through Achieving Inclusive Quality Education for All”*, on 5th July 2023. Similarly, through our engagement in the Tri-lateral Partnership of Regional Faith-based Networks for the SDGs, we co-organised the parallel event, *“Evidencing Partnerships for the Global Goals: Bringing the Voices of Faith-inspired Actions on Education and Gender Equality”* on 7th July 2023. Both events were held alongside the United Nations (UN) **High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)**, thereby creating avenue to amplify advocacy by children and faith actors.

On the other hand, Arigatou International—End Child Poverty participated in **the International Partnership on Religion and Development (PaRD)** General Assembly and the Annual Forum on Religion and Sustainable Development, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 3rd October – 3rd November 2022. We also participated in the PaRD’s Leadership Meeting 2023, which was held in Friedrichsdorf, Germany from 27th – 29th March 2023. The meeting was focused on strategic discussions centered on determining the partnership’s future direction and action plan.

Within the **Moral Imperative to End Extreme Poverty and Realise the SDGs (Moral Imperative)**, Arigatou International—End Child Poverty continued to chair its Advocacy Working Group and serve in its Steering Committee. Through this, we contributed perspectives and helped shaped the agenda of key processes, including providing reflections on the World Bank’s new Evolution Roadmap Paper, and its potential for advocacy around faith and specific thematic development issues. Commenting on our collaboration Ms. Mercy Niwe, Lead, Stakeholder Engagement, World Bank Group, asserted, *“Child poverty remains a persistent challenge that we must continue to address with enduring resolve and urgency and collectively*

through the concerted actions of diverse stakeholders.”

As part of our engagement within the **Africa Faith Leaders/ Interfaith Initiative on the SDGs (AFLI)**, we similarly organised a faith leaders and youth leaders’ consultation for over 30 faith actors on development effectiveness and building global partnerships for sustainable development. The regional event, held on 28th and 29th November 2022, in Limuru, Kenya was a build-up of dialogues that we supported AFLI to organise in the previous year. In the same vein, on 27th May and 30th November 2022, we organised meetings of faith leaders and technical experts from AFLI participating organisations, in Nairobi and Limuru, Kenya, respectively. These provided space for further consultations on effective participation of African faith leaders in the Sustainable Development Summit 2023, as well as the commencement of preparation for the 2nd AFLI Summit.

In all, these engagements continue to provide platform for faith actors and communities to collaborate, build solidarity, and articulate common positions around the implementation of the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030.




TAKE ACTION: BE PART OF THE CHANGE


7.0


Our ethos, *Together We Can End Child Poverty Worldwide*, invites every person, community and organisation, to take action towards eradicating child poverty.


Every action, big or small, counts. We welcome you to consider joining us in taking individual, organisation-wide and community-based actions that contribute to alleviating child poverty.

Talk to us today about becoming part of the End Child Poverty community.


 **Communicate:** Tell us your story and other stories of change, to inspire action. Connect with us on social media and subscribe to our newsletter to stay up to date with all the latest stories.


 **Participate:** Take part in our various End Child Poverty flagship initiatives or lead similar actions in your local community.


 **Advocate:** Join our impactful advocacy campaigns throughout the year. Listen to children and empower children to speak up for their rights.


 **Network:** Join or form a network to address child poverty in your community. The Global

Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) is a great place to start. Visit the GNRC website and find out how you can [join](#) a network near you.

 **Share:** Access and contribute knowledge resources to our online End Child Poverty Knowledge Centre and the virtual SDGs Academy for Children.

 **Volunteer:** Become part of our online volunteer team. Visit our website to see which opportunities are available and best suited for you.

 **Endorse:** Tell others about End Child Poverty and the positive work that we do in partnership with others. Invite your friends, colleagues and organisation to support us too.

 **Give:** Consider donating funds and other necessary resources to support our End Child Poverty programmes and advocacy campaigns, having the greatest impact at the grassroots community level.



The basic premise of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and overall agenda on global development, is the eradication of extreme poverty, ergo, paving pathways to end child poverty.

In many ways, we have been fortunate that for the major part, over the last decade, much of the world has been aligned about responding to global, regional and local challenges to sustainable development. We were also fortunate, that for the most part, much of the world continued to experience remarkable economic growth, including exponential growth in developing countries and regions. Despite this, we were falling behind global targets on Sustainable Development compounded by the polycrises and trauma induced by the covid-19 pandemic, protracted conflicts and climate change.

Technically, we do not have to end poverty in order to eliminate childhood poverty or the risk that poverty poses for children. In the right conditions we can and should protect children and the vulnerable from poverty. It is how we appraise and allocate resources and opportunity, and how well we protect and invest in children and the vulnerable, that ensures that no one is left out of the benefits of our collective endeavours and that those that command the greatest need from our collective purse get priority. One thing that is assured is that the next decade will not be like the last one. It will be ill advised that we can continue acting as before and hope to achieve the results we set for ourselves.

For Arigatou International—End Child Poverty, this global consensus on the aims and ends of development represents a precious global asset that we intend to cash in for children. These commitments give us much hope and much work to do. The endearing challenge is how to make them happen, even in very changed circumstances and given that so little time is left to realising the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



These global challenges and opportunities have a direct bearing on our work to end child poverty, and it is our duty to work with faith actors and communities to provide leadership for the change and actions needed. Though our vision and mission remain unchanged, we are keen to that our methods reflect the enormity of the task and the ever evolving landscape of child poverty.

In the year to come, we shall re-imagine and develop a renewed Theory of Change, through a carefully crafted and participatory strategic thinking process, to guide our future work.

We will give special emphasis to empowering children, including efforts to create and expand spaces for children to meaningfully engage in sustainable development and community actions to overcome child poverty. Significant innovations

and flagship initiatives, including Arigatou International's SDGs Academy for Children and the Children's Solutions Lab, will carve a priority stake in our resourcing and programmatic focus. In like manner, we shall redouble our efforts to build purpose-driven partnerships, by fostering new connections and nurturing the existing collaboratives.

We will continue to listen to children, amplifying their voices, honouring their perspectives, and recognising the agency and resourcefulness of

children. We shall continue to raise collective concern for children, by *speaking up for children* and *speaking together with children*.

All this is with the view to intensify mobilisation of communities and their resources, accelerating the pace to realise the SDGs and moving closer to ending child poverty.

As Arigatou International—End Child Poverty we believe and we hope that you can see it too, that, Together We Can End Child Poverty Worldwide!



End Child Poverty is all about community. You make this work possible. Without you, the challenge of alleviating child poverty would be insurmountable. We appreciate each of you for your support, accompaniment, and encouragement.

Specifically, we thank all children whose ideas, actions, innovativeness, and recommendations inspired us throughout the year, to continue working to build meaningful child participatory spaces.

We thank all our partners, especially members of the Global Network of Religions for Children (GNRC) and faith communities around the world. We always welcome and cultivate partnerships for we know we cannot walk this journey alone.

We further thank our sister Arigatou International initiatives - the GNRC, Ethics Education for Children, and Prayer and Action for Children. Special thanks to our team in our headquarters in Tokyo and the Myochikai community for their tireless support.

Finally, we are grateful to the dedicated and talented staff members and volunteers working with End Child Poverty.

We treasure all of you.

Thank you!



The End Child Poverty global secretariat is based at the Arigatou International—Nairobi office. Our dedicated team includes staff, interns, and volunteers at the Nairobi office, as well as the SDGs Academy for Children - Pioneer Hub in Limuru, Kenya, and End Child Poverty Knowledge Centre in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Arigatou International—End Child Poverty Staff



Fred Nyabera, Director: “We pledge to continue working for and working with children, towards overcoming poverty... Each action, big or small, counts.”



Kefe Innocent, Communications Officer: “We cannot sit and watch children live in poverty. Every action counts towards alleviating child poverty.”



Gerald Acho, Lead, Right to Peace: “I was proud of the ECP@10 campaign - the way it was launched and received, enabling us build more partnerships.”



Michael Adikwu, Lead, Right to Sustainable Development: “The SDGs Academy for Children prides in providing a safe space for children in building a sustainably developed world for all children.”



Heshu Perera, Manager, End Child Poverty Knowledge Centre (Sri Lanka): “My highlight for the year was the launch of the SDGs Academy for Children - Model Classroom in Sri Lanka. The Academy is a platform for securing a just, sustainable world in which everyone has the right to fulfill their potential.”



Nyambura Gichuki, Programs Officer: “It’s amazing to see how far we’ve progressed and how much good we’ve accomplished in partnership with others, since End Child Poverty was launched in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, back in 2012. It reaffirms what we say as a team, that “Together We Can.”

We work in close synergy with our Arigatou International sister initiatives and their staff teams across all Arigatou International offices in New York, Geneva, and our headquarters in Tokyo.

Arigatou International is guided by an international Advisory Group comprising leaders from diverse fields and institutions.

We are grateful to each person that contributes to our work *for* and *with* children.

CSL	Children's Solutions Lab
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
FBOs	Faith Based Organisation(s)
FIOs	Faith-inspired Organisation(s)
FoRB	Freedom of Religion or Belief
GNRC	Global Network of Religions for Children
HLPF	United Nations High Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals/SDGs
IDEP	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
NCA	Norwegian Church Aid
OIAC	Organisation of African Instituted Churches
PaRD	The International Partnership on Religion and Development
P/CVE	Prevent/Preventing and Counter/ Countering Violence Extremism
REJADH	<i>Réseau des Enfants et Jeunes Africains pour les Droits Humains</i> (African Children and Youth Network for Human Rights)
RFLF	Regional Faith Leaders Forum of the Regional Peace Programme
RPP	Regional Peace Programme
SDG/s	Sustainable Development Goal/s
SSCI/P	Sudan Social Cohesion Initiative /Project
UN	United Nations
VNR/s	Voluntary National Review/s
YIA	Youth in Action





GOALKEEPER MANUEL NEUER HAS SIGNED A NEW CONTRACT
AT THE ALLIANZ ARENA UNTIL JUNE 2024

PRACTICE 2 15:45 GPO d'ITALIA TOMORROW - STAGE 16









End Child Poverty
Arigatou International — Nairobi
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