



News Update Spring 2023

Our Purpose



EACP works with very deprived communities in East Africa to empower children, including abandoned orphans, through education and community support to escape debilitating and persistent poverty. Our last news update was Autumn 2023 which is available from our [website](#).

Our Work

Founded in 2009, EACP supports small, manageable projects in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. We believe that working together with carefully selected long-term trusted partners produces the best results, drawing on their

initiative and participation, and on shared learning. Our projects are managed by local leaders working within their communities to achieve real change. EACP is run by volunteers who maintain professional standards and procedures to ensure effective operation, and 95% of funding goes direct to our projects. We also try to ensure that project spending is on locally produced goods which generates income multiplier effects in poor communities. We always seek good value for money and ensure that all project spending is fully accounted for with receipts and pictures. We aim to visit all partners every 3-years and seek to maximise the impact of our work through ongoing evidence based monitoring and long-term evaluation. On our recent EACP monitoring and review visit in June 2023 Trustees were very impressed with the work of all our partner schools, including our new partner Rossholme Primary.

To support children we also invest in families and communities. By cultivating a sense of ownership, as well as promoting accountability and responsibility, our projects seek to achieve sustained local development through training, work and health awareness. We are confident that this holistic approach produces sustained long-term benefits. Over the past 6-months we have been working on several new projects.

Schools and Education

School learning resources – Some generous Trust grants, combined with funding from our regular monthly donors, has enabled Joy Primary School, located in a slum district of Nairobi, to begin replacing two dilapidated primary classrooms with a new two storey science and IT block (see picture above), which will enable the school to begin offering access to selective lower secondary education to children who would otherwise be excluded due to family poverty.



Empowering Children – Reducing Poverty



To support educational quality, we have also been replenishing book stocks in our supported schools and investing in IT and computing which is becoming more widespread across East Africa as schools get cheap power from solar panels, or connect to mains electricity. Web access enables schools to download updated government learning materials and reach out to explore the wider world. EACP

have recently approved Rossholme Primary School (Nairobi) as a new partner school, following completion of a detailed application process. Rossholme's mission is to provide education to very deprived children, including the many children who are not in school (street children). Earlier this year we have provided Rossholme with 84 large new classroom desks (see above) which also store books and other learning materials.

Post Covid cost-of-living crisis - The full or partial school closure programme in Uganda and Kenya for up to 2 years due to covid has caused major disruption for schools. In 2022-23 East Africa has also experienced a cost-of-living crisis as food and energy prices have soared, which particularly affects poorer families. With no additional government support this has caused serious financial hardship for families and schools who were already in extreme poverty. It has been particularly challenging for some of our partner primary schools as they are also home for around 180 abandoned orphans or children in care, who have suffered abuse. As a temporary measure we have been supporting schools to provide food and support for these children with one nutritious meal each day of maize, rice, and beans grown by local farmers. In rural East Africa £9 will keep a child in food for a whole month.

School Attendance and Street Children – There is good evidence that better nutrition improves educational outcomes for deprived children ([World Bank, 2016](#)). Our school lunch programmes aim to keep poor children in school, and raise nutritional levels and educational attainment. Basic school meals are produced in simple school kitchens heated by biogas or firewood. This one meal a day encourages school attendance, promotes educational development and is vital for many families.

Primary school tuition costs are state supported in East Africa, but families still pay for additional school fees, uniforms, stationery and books. For example, it costs around £25 to equip a child for primary school. For example, a lack of school uniform leads to stigmatisation. To support school attendance, we provided simple school uniforms to around 300 deprived children attending our schools. These simple uniforms cost around £3 and are produced locally, mainly by women, which directly raises income in poor communities. Access to secondary



Empowering Children – Reducing Poverty



education typically costs at least £230 (inc. fees) each year. This discourages many families and children. In Uganda, for example, less than 10% of children attend secondary school in the poorest regions. To promote educational opportunity, we support a small number of academically able children from our supported schools to attend secondary school.

EACP also supports young girls during menstruation to keep them in school, school programmes that empower women and discourage gender abuse, and enables children with disabilities, including hearing loss, to attend school.

Climate Change, Solar lighting, and Water

Water: Water is an increasingly scarce resource in the region. To enable schools to access more reliable sources of clean water we invested in 3 boreholes in 2022 to reduce community reliance of unsafe sources. Each borehole benefits 500-600 school children, and the wider community.

Solar: Global warming disproportionately impacts poor rural communities in East Africa. Solar lighting is great for

both schools and families. Solar lights are safe, very cost effective, raise productivity and improve health compared to kerosene lamps ([BBC, 2012](#)). Many of our schools do not have mains electricity so we have invested in school solar lighting panels to permit more effective schooling during dull days, and to enable teachers to prepare teaching and learning materials during the evening. This upfront capital investment provides low-carbon and low-cost energy for schools. In Feb 2023 we provided 2 solar panels, battery, and classroom lighting benefiting the 375 children at Rossholme school. Some of the many benefits of solar lights include: increased evening study time of 1-3 hours especially in winter (see picture below); increased productivity of children and staff; health and wellbeing benefits from reduced kerosene use; and better safety and security from fire, animals, and snake bites at home and in the school compound.

Looking Ahead

We are currently working on several new project proposals which we hope to develop and complete in the coming months. These include:

Training and enterprise: EACP are currently reviewing a training programme in garment making proposed by Faith school and the Masafa Foundation in eastern Uganda for around 50 women, including young teenage mothers who were forced to leave school, who are seeking additional skills to support their young families.



Empowering Children – Reducing Poverty

School learning resources – we plan to work with Joy school (Nairobi) to develop their provision of lower secondary education which is very limited in their locality.

School attendance – we have budgeted for books, uniforms and school fees to support deprived but academically able children to attend primary and secondary school to achieve their potential and improve their life chances.

Electricity, solar lighting, and ICT – more investment in basic infrastructure is needed as it's often lacking or non-existent in poor rural schools which hampers children's learning.

School classrooms – in poor rural areas many school classrooms need upgrading as they are basic, open to the elements, and plagued by parasitic jigger fleas.

Water, sanitation and hygiene - many primary schools in Uganda and Kenya do not have access to safe water and toilet facilities are basic and extremely limited. We plan to improve access to safe water at both Faith and Joy school in the coming months.



FINANCIALS

Annual Accounts 2021-2022

The latest [EACP annual trustee report and accounts \(2021/22\)](#) are available on our website and from the [UK Charity Commission](#). A snapshot of our income (£91,896) and current expenditure (£88,579) presented in our [last newsletter](#). Part of our income is set aside to fund our longer term projects such as 4-years of secondary education. We expect to publish our 2022/23 annual report later this summer.

If you wish to find out more about our work, please do contact us.

Pieter Lagaay (Chair) and EACP Trustees