



## News Update Spring 2024

### 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 education, training and relevant health 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. Projects are managed by local leaders working within their communities to achieve real change. By cultivating a sense of ownership, as well as promoting accountability and responsibility, our projects seek to achieve sustained local development through education, training, work and health awareness. We are confident that this holistic approach produces sustained long-term benefits.



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 seek to ensure, where possible, that project spending is on locally produced goods and services, 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 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.



Over the past 6-months we have been busy working on several new projects. Also, after successfully completing a detailed application process, we have approved 3 new partner schools. Bukamba Primary is located in a very deprived area in Northern Uganda with an enrolment of around 700 children; Joshome currently supports around 100 nursery and primary children in the Dandora slum district in

## Empowering Children – Reducing Poverty

Nairobi and is seeking to expand its provision, and Baba Gurston school (with around 500 children) is based in rural eastern Kenya and is proactive in supporting children living with a disability.

### Recent Projects



**School building and learning resources** – The new 2 storey science and IT block at Joy Primary School (above), located in a slum district of Nairobi, is now completed. The block replaces two dilapidated primary classrooms. The new facility will enable the school to begin offering access to selective lower secondary education to local children who would otherwise be excluded due to family poverty. Also, working with 2 other charities, we have enabled the purchase of previously rented school land by a Trust to secure a more permanent future for Rossholme Primary School (Nairobi). Rossholme’s mission is to provide education to the most deprived children living in the heart of the slum district of the city, including the many children who are not in school (street children). On our most recent monitoring and review visit in June 2023 EACP Trustees were very impressed by what they saw and considered the overall work of the school to be outstanding.

To support student learning we have been investing in ICT as schools in East Africa connect to mains electricity or get access to cheaper power from solar panels. Web access enables schools to raise the quality of educational provision through online access to government learning materials and explore the wider world. In the past 6 months we have funded 10 new laptops (above) at Rossholme Primary School and invested in new books and learning materials at 2 of our partner schools (Bukamba and Faith).

**School attendance, nutrition and attainment** – There is good evidence that better nutrition improves educational outcomes for deprived children ([World Bank, 2016](#)). However, during 2022-24 East Africa has been hit by the global cost-of-living crisis as food and energy prices have soared. This particularly affects poorer families who spend most of their income on food and energy. Our school lunch programmes for around 1000 children aim to keep poor children in school, and to raise nutrition and educational attainment. Locally grown school meals of maize, rice and beans are produced in simple school kitchens. This one meal a day encourages school attendance, promotes educational development and is vital for many families.





## Empowering Children – Reducing Poverty



Primary school tuition costs are state supported in East Africa, but families still pay for additional school fees, uniforms, stationery and books. It costs around £25 to equip a child for primary school. A lack of school uniform leads to stigmatisation. To support school attendance we provide funding for simple school uniforms, each costing around £3, which are produced locally, mainly by women, which directly raises income in poor communities.

As our partner schools continue to improve attainment in primary education, they enable an increasing proportion of children to qualify for entry to selective secondary education, conditional on them accessing funding to pay for school

books, fees, equipment etc. Access to secondary 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 ([UNICEF, 2020](#)). To promote educational opportunity, we support a small number of academically able children from our supported schools to attend secondary school. Four abandoned orphans who came to Joy School from age 2 have now completed their final year of university, including David with a degree in Health Science from Kisii University. Life transforming!



### Support for abandoned and abused children

– Two of our partner primary schools are also home for around 140 abandoned orphans or children in care who have suffered abuse. To support the 50 girls and boys who currently live at Faith school we have made excellent progress to replace two dilapidated stick and mud dormitories with more permanent brick built accommodation with doors and windows to keep out wind, rain, and wild animals. The new girls dorm has been completed (above, right), and the boys dorm is well advanced. Joy School in Nairobi (with around 350 children) is also home to around 90 orphaned, abandoned or abused children. Joy provides a caring and supportive environment for these children and we help to support the cost of a diet of maize, beans and rice. In deprived areas of East Africa £9 will keep a child in food for a whole month.

**Training and enterprise:** EACP is currently supporting a training programme in garment making (below), managed by Faith school and the Masafa



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Foundation in eastern Uganda, for around 50 women seeking additional skills to support their young families, including young teenage mothers who were forced to leave school. As the project progresses we are seeking evidence on the economic and social benefits of the intervention, as trainees find employment mainly in the local economy.

### Looking Ahead

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

**School attendance and educational attainment** – We will be continuing with our school meals programme which currently supports over 1000 children and families; investing in books, uniforms and learning resources and supporting deprived but academically able children to attend primary and secondary school to achieve their potential and improve their life chances.



**Our three new approved partner schools** (Bukamba, Joshome, Baba Gurston) have significant need which we will be assessing over the coming months, including access to clean water, sanitation, and basic school infrastructure.

**Electricity, solar lighting, and ICT** – More investment in basic infrastructure is needed as it's often lacking or non-existent in deprived schools, which hampers children's learning. Families in East Africa often spend up to a quarter of their weekly earnings on kerosene. Kerosene lamps are dangerous, expensive, and have serious adverse health and environmental effects ([WHO, 2023](#)). A small solar study lamp costing around £7 is great for a schoolchild, while a larger lamp will light a whole family room. Solar lights improve education, family productivity, reduce indoor pollution and make people feel safer after sunset.

## FINANCIALS

### Annual Accounts 2022-2023

The latest [EACP annual trustee report and accounts](#) are available on our website and from the [UK Charity Commission](#). Details of our income (£81,547) and current expenditure (£86,492) were 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 2023/24 annual report later this summer.

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

Pieter Lagaay (Chair), Barry Harper (Sec), EACP Trustees and the EACP Team.