



## News Update Autumn 2021

### Our Purpose



EACP work 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 Spring 2021 which is available from our [website](#).

### Our Work

Founded in 2009, EACP support 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 ensure that all project spending is fully accounted for with receipts and pictures, and we visit all partners every 3-years. We aim to maximise the impact of our work through evidence based ongoing monitoring and long-term evaluation.



We support children and 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 classrooms** - A generous Trust grant has enabled Joy Primary School (Nairobi) to relocate its pre-school nursery provision from corrugated iron sheds to a new purpose built development (above). We added a second floor to the existing block to provide 3 additional classrooms accommodating children from age 3-6. Joy has 300 children enrolled and is also home to 80 orphaned and abandoned children who live at the school. Also, with our partner Faith Primary School in Busia, rural Uganda, we are replacing 2 classrooms with stick and mud walls and earth floors with two new fully equipped brick classrooms. This investment is part of a wider integrated plan which includes funding for mains electricity connection, class materials, school uniforms for the most deprived, and school garden lunch projects all aimed at keeping deprived children in school and to raise educational attainment.



## Empowering Children – Reducing Poverty



**Covid pandemic** - The full or partial school closure programme in Kenya and Uganda began in March 2020. With no additional government support, closure has caused serious cash flow problems for all schools in the region. It has been particularly challenging for three of the seven primary schools we support as they are also home for around 180 abandoned orphans or children in care, who have suffered abuse. During the crisis, as a temporary measure, we have been supporting our 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. The negative impacts of the pandemic on

orphan children have taken up a significant share of EACP monthly expenditure. Once Covid in the region is under control then schools can start to fully re-open, easing financial pressures. To help with home schooling and school re-opening we have provided support for home-learning packs, sanitiser and temperature guns.

**Learning resources** – Fixing dilapidated classrooms (right) and improving the quality of education is a key element of our work. EACP seeks to ensure that our partner schools, who are all located in deprived districts, deliver good or excellent teaching and learning . Primary classes can have up to 120 children per teacher, so many children get left behind. Our partner schools typically have classes of around 30, although keeping to this target can sometimes be a challenge. EACP regularly supports schools with textbooks and teaching materials. IT is also becoming increasingly important in East Africa as mobile phone technology becomes affordable for many. Governments often provide new learning materials online for schools, and the web offers children, teachers, and the community access to global information which supports local empowerment. Over the past year EACP has invested in school computers and Wi-Fi to support modern approaches to learning.



**School Attendance and Street Children** – School tuition costs are state supported in East Africa, but families still have to pay for additional school fees, uniforms, stationery and books. For example, it costs around £25 to equip a child for primary school and £125 for secondary (inc. fees) each year. This can be a real challenge for very deprived families. In November 2021 we assisted 98 orphan children with uniforms to attend primary school. In East Africa universal state education finishes at the end of primary school when children are aged around 13. Each year a good number of our children obtain hard won places at selective secondary schools but only some get community

assistance. This year EACP supported 6 academically able orphan children, who did well in exams, to take up places at secondary school by purchasing shoes, school uniforms and textbooks including for maths, English, and science for each year of their 4-year course. EACP also support young girls during menstruation to keep them in school, and school programmes that empower women and discourage gender abuse.

## Empowering Children – Reducing Poverty



**High School and College** – This year a generous bequest enabled us to support 7 young people who had been orphaned as toddlers and under the care of Joy Centre from age 3, to take up college places after successfully completing their A-level equivalent courses. Their degree and diploma courses include aeronautical, electrical, and civil engineering, management, and education (teacher training). Ruth Wangari (left) is studying a Dip. Public Accounting while David Mokaya (right) is studying a degree in Public Health at Kisii University. We are very proud of all their achievements.



### Climate Change, Solar lighting, and Water



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](#)). In 2021 we invested in solar lighting and energy at two of our rural partner schools that are off the main grid and without electricity. Some of the many benefits include: increased evening study time of 1-3 hours especially in winter; 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 in the school compound. To enable schools to access more reliable

sources of clean water we invested in two new school water boreholes and developed food security through school garden projects to provide a nutritious lunch for children. The evidence is clear that better nutrition improves educational outcomes for deprived children ([World Bank, 2016](#)). We are looking at several new proposals with our partner schools to expand school breakfast and lunch provision using school food growing programmes which are integrated into the school curriculum.

### Health and Community Development

**Mosquito nets** - Malaria kills around 400,000 people a year and around two thirds of these are children under 5 ([WHO, 2021](#)), who are often deprived. Sick children miss school, mothers stay at home to care, losing valuable income, which exacerbates poverty. Malaria nets typically last around 3 years. Over the year EACP provided around 300 nets to partners for orphans living in high-risk areas at our partner schools.



**Training and Enterprise** – HRCO provides training schemes for deprived and unemployed young people. In 2016 we supported the establishment of shoe and garment making training programmes which continue today. Many of the young women on these courses are young teenage mothers who were forced to leave school, and who are now seeking additional skills to support their young families.

### Looking Ahead

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

## Empowering Children – Reducing Poverty

**School toilet blocks** – Joy Primary School (Nairobi) has around 300 children using a single limited toilet block. We plan to build an additional 10 unit block connected into mains sewerage to improve sanitation and hygiene.

**School attendance** – We plan to pay 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 IT** – More investment in basic infrastructure is needed as it's often lacking or non-existent in poor rural schools which hampers children's learning

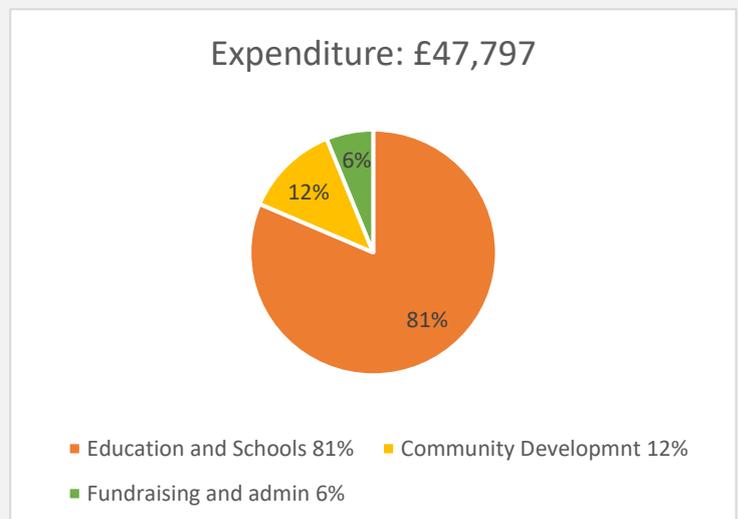
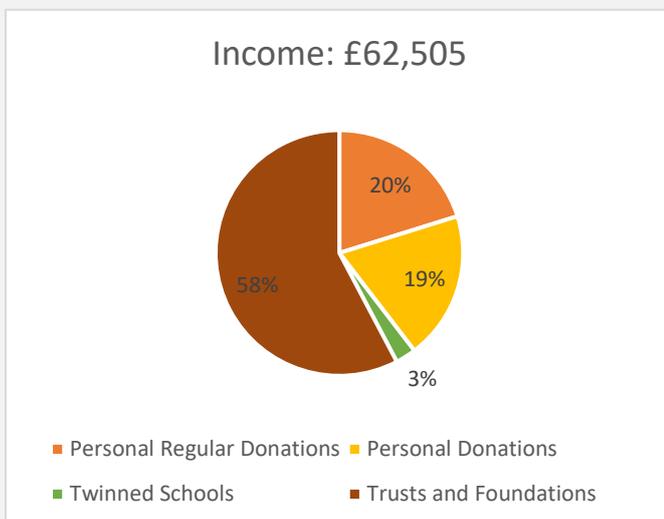


**Women's enterprise** - We are currently discussing a women's enterprise, training and mentoring project with our partner Bulogo Women's Group to train around 100 women on a 6-month weekend course covering small family business start-ups and business finance.

## FINANCIALS

### Annual Accounts 2020-2021

The latest [EACP annual trustee report and accounts](#) are available on our website and from the UK Charity Commission. A snapshot of our income and current expenditure last year is shown below. Some of our income is put aside to fund our longer term projects such as 4-years of secondary education.



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

Pieter Lagaay (Chair) and EACP Trustees