



# News Update Spring 2022

## 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 2021 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 ensure that all project spending is fully accounted for with receipts and pictures, and we aim to visit all partners every 3-years. We seek 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 Faith Primary School in Busia, rural Uganda, to replace 2 classrooms, which had stick and mud walls and earth floors (top picture), with two new fully equipped brick classrooms (left and middle pictures) with doors and windows to keep out wind and rain, and safe storage for books and learning materials. Most of our schools do not have mains electricity. 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

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evening. This upfront capital investment provides low-carbon and low-cost energy for schools.



**Covid pandemic** - The full or partial school closure programme in Kenya and Uganda began in March 2020 and schools only reopened in Uganda in Jan 2022. In 2022 East Africa has also experienced a cost-of-living crisis as food and energy prices have soared. With no additional government support this has caused serious financial problems for many families and 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 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. To help with school re-opening we have provided additional support for learning materials and locally made school uniforms.

**School Attendance and Street Children** – The evidence is clear that better nutrition improves educational outcomes for deprived children ([World Bank, 2016](#)). Our five school garden lunch projects aim to keep poor children in school, and to raise nutritional levels and educational attainment. Schools hire local tractors to plough school land and projects are supported by parents and the local community who plant seeds and tend the crops. School meals are produced in simple school kitchens using the garden produce. This one meal a day is essential to support educational development and is often vital for many families.



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 and £125 for secondary (inc. fees) each year. This can be a challenge for many families. As schools re-opened we supported them to re-stock their learning materials. We also assisted 500 deprived children providing simple school uniforms. New clothes are rare, and uniforms engender pride and increased school attachment. Uniforms are made locally by women and cost around £3 each (see pictures pages 1,3).



In East Africa universal state education finishes at the end of primary school when children are around age 13. Each year a large number of children are unable to take-up hard won places at selective secondary schools due to family poverty. This year EACP supported 6 academically able children, who did well in exams, to take up places at secondary school by paying for shoes, school uniforms, fees and core textbooks during their 4-year courses. EACP also

supports young girls during menstruation to keep them in school, school programmes that empower women and discourage gender abuse, and enables physically disabled children to attend school.

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**High School and College** – A generous bequest has enabled us to support 6 young people who had been orphaned as toddlers and under the care of Joy Centre from age 3, to progress to year 2 at university or college after successfully completing their first year courses. Their degree and diploma courses include aeronautical, electrical, and civil engineering, accounting, management, and education (teacher training).

### Climate Change, Solar lighting, and Water

**Water:** To enable schools to access more reliable sources of clean water we invested in two new school water boreholes (below) to reduce community reliance of unsafe sources (right). 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](#)). In late 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 at home and in the school compound. In 2022 we are looking to set up 2 school solar light libraries, following successful examples in the region ([Solar Aid](#)).



### 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 last 2-quarters EACP provided over 900 nets to partner schools for deprived children living in high-risk areas.



**Sanitation: School toilet blocks** – Joy Primary School (Nairobi) has around 300 children using a single limited toilet block. With our support they are building an additional 10-unit block connected into mains sewerage to improve sanitation and hygiene. Bulogo school (Uganda), which is twinned with a school in London, is constructing a new 10-cubicle eco-brick toilet using discarded plastic bottles from surrounding villages, which is helping to improve the local environment.

**Training and Enterprise:** Bulogo Women’s Group in Uganda run courses in garment making. Many of the women on these courses are young teenage mothers who were forced to leave school, and

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who are now seeking additional skills to support their young families. These women are now making school uniforms for some of the schools we support.

### Looking Ahead

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

**Learning materials** – we plan to replace stocks of learning materials (books, pens etc) that have suffered during the 2-year school closure in parts of East Africa.

**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 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. (top picture)

**School toilet blocks** - Bugondha and Kimenyulo primary schools in eastern Uganda have extremely limited toilets used by around 1,000 children (right). We plan to build an additional 7-cubicle block for each school to improve sanitation and hygiene.

**Women's enterprise** - We are currently discussing a women's garment making project with our partner Bulogo Women's Group to train around 100 women on a 6-month State certificated training course in garment making, which will include investing in 20 new foot peddle sewing machines.

## FINANCIALS

### Annual Accounts 2020-2021

The latest [EACP annual trustee report and accounts \(2020/21\)](#) are available on our website and from the [UK Charity Commission](#). A snapshot of our income and current expenditure last year was 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 2021/22 annual report this summer.

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

Pieter Lagaay (Chair) and EACP Trustees

