



Empowering Children – Reducing Poverty

News Update Winter 2020

Our Purpose



At EACP we 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 Work

Founded in 2009, EACP supports small, manageable projects in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. We believe that working together with 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 are evidence-based and believe in consistently improving. Through ongoing monitoring and long-term evaluation, we aim to maximise the impact of our work.

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. From our experience, we are confident that this holistic approach produces sustained long-term benefits. Since our last newsletter we have been completing projects and beginning several important new ones.

Schools and Education



Orphan Accommodation - The new dormitory block with new bunk beds for 60 young girls aged 4-13 living at Joy Children's Centre (Nairobi-Kenya) is now almost complete. Joy is a community-funded primary school for 300 deprived children, and also home to around 80-90 orphaned, abandoned, or abused children. In the new dorm girls are much happier, and their learning and school attainment has improved. More importantly, these girls are safe and not at risk of abuse, domestic violence or living on the streets. Over the summer the new girl's washroom block, linked to the new dorm, was also completed. This comprises 6 functional shower-toilet cubicles, and a clothes washing area.

Joy has been an EACP partner since 2010 and EACP Trustees regularly inspect the Centre. On our last visit in June 2019 we were again highly impressed with the provision, and the care and support provided to children living there, despite very limited resources. The School produces excellent teaching and learning

outcomes. A high proportion of children living at Joy do very well in their exams and obtain competitive places both at secondary school, and later at college.

In East Africa universal state education finishes at the end of primary school, when children are aged around 13. EACP with local community support, assist Joy's academically able orphans to continue their education. In summer 2019 we met Ruth who started at Joy aged 5 as an abandoned orphan, progressed through school and high school while still living at Joy, and is now working as an administrative officer for an insurance company in Nairobi. Sarah and Jimnah, who manage the School, are enormously proud of all the children.



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. This can be a real challenge for very deprived families who are often unable to afford to send their children to primary school or a hard won place at secondary school or college. In January 2021 we will be assisting 9 more orphaned and deprived children to attend secondary school in Musoma, Northern Tanzania by purchasing school uniforms and textbooks including maths, English, and science. These children have been monitored and mentored from a very early age by HRCO, our community development partner since 2013.



Bulogo School Lunch Club – This project aims to keep all the 650 children in school, improve their access to quality education and increase their completion rates, by providing a healthy lunch each day using corn, beans and vegetables grown by the new school garden project which we supported. This project relied on parents and the local community to be fully involved, along with a tractor, in clearing fields, planting, weeding, harvesting, milling and packaging. Since the introduction of the school lunch program, the school reports that attendance and student concentration levels have increased, and there is more active classroom participation. Since our involvement with Bulogo school from 2017, combined with the appointment of a new dynamic head, Ruth Naigaga, school student performance in the national primary-7 examinations has risen from a pass rate of just 25% in 2017 to 72% in 2020. Bulogo Primary School has become a highly ranked primary school in the area.



Covid-19 Response - The 10 month school closure programme in Kenya and Uganda from March, with no additional government support, has caused serious cash flow problems for all schools. It has been particularly challenging for three of the four primary schools we support as they are also home for around 150 abandoned orphans or children in care, who have suffered abuse. During the crisis, as an extraordinary temporary measure, we have been supporting our schools to provide food and support for these children with one nutritious meal of maize, rice, and beans each day grown by local farmers. £9 will keep a child in food for a whole month. Since March, the pandemic has taken up a significant share of EACP monthly expenditure. The good news is that schools in the region have started to re-open and primary schools in Kenya will be fully open from the new year, easing financial pressures.

Community Development

Training and Enterprise – HRCO provides training schemes for deprived and unemployed young people. In 2018 we supported the establishment of a garment making training programme which continues today. Many of the young women on these courses were young teenage mothers who were forced to leave school, and who are now seeking additional skills to support their young families.



During the Covid pandemic EACP also funded a sanitizer and chicken rearing project both run by HRCO. The projects involve employment, training, and skills development of young deprived unemployed young people. The projected surpluses fund a Covid feeding programme for orphans and vulnerable children in the community, and orphan education. When we visited HRCO in June 2019 we were impressed by the breadth and quality of the provision. HRCO has both local and national accreditation as a community development organisation.

Looking Ahead

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

Mains sewerage and sanitation – We are connecting the Joy Centre and the new girls washroom block to mains sewerage. This project, supported by a grant awarded by a large UK Foundation, will significantly improve hygiene for the children and also save money on waste disposal.



New 4-classroom school block - With our long-term partner Faith Primary School in Busia, rural Uganda, we hope to support a major renovation of a 4-classroom block to improve children's learning and their future. This new block represents a major improvement on their current poorly built rooms with earth floors, often infested with dust mites and infectious 'jigger' fleas, and no doors or window protection to keep out wind and rain.

Eco-brick toilet – A London school is supporting Bulogo, its twinned partner school in rural Uganda, to build a new eco-brick toilet block. Eco-bricks are made from recycled local plastic waste, including bottles. This process helps deal with plastic waste in villages while providing essential new toilets and improved washing facilities.



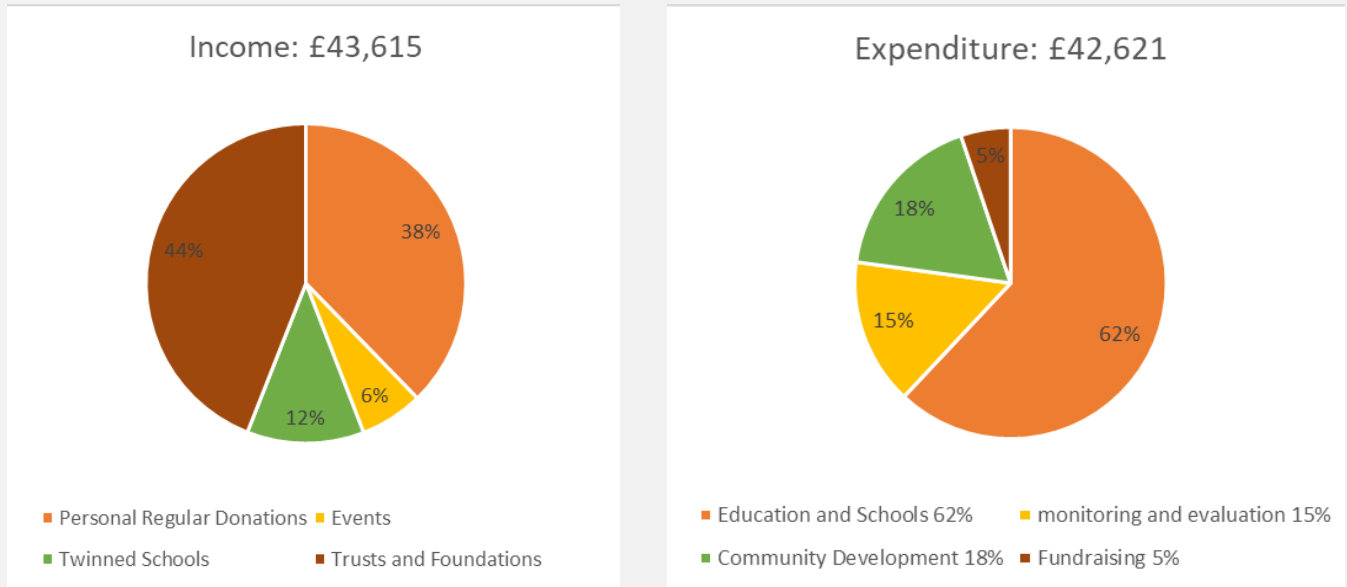
School food projects - We are looking at a number of proposals from our partner schools to expand school breakfast and lunch provision using school food growing programmes which are integrated into the school curriculum. The evidence is clear that better nutrition improves educational outcomes for deprived children (World Bank, 2012).

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) – Poor water quality, hygiene and sanitation causes illness and death among many families in East Africa. One fifth of all deaths of children under 5 years could be prevented with adequate WASH (WHO, 2019). In 2019 EACP, with HRCO, delivered a household hygiene education and training programme in northern Tanzania to around 600 households (3,000 adults and children) in their local communities, improving household hygiene and reducing illness and disease from contaminated water. We hope to deliver this programme again in 2021 in deprived rural communities who would most benefit from this work.

FINANCIALS

Annual Accounts 2019-2020

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 expenditure last year is shown below.



Other News

Safeguarding Policy - EACP has recently updated its [Child Safeguarding Policies](#) which all our partner organisations sign up to as a condition of working with us. These include staff conduct, recognising and responding to abuse, managing and sharing information, child behaviour code, image sharing, and recruitment.

Personnel – EACP has three new volunteer advisors. Barry Harper is an economist and has considerable UK university teaching and senior management experience. Barry advises on project management, fund raising and quality assurance. Colin Anderson has a background in large scale civil engineering projects both in the UK and Africa. Colin is interested in the development of small scale local sustainable projects within deprived communities and advises on construction and related works. Rob Eyre-Brook advises on school policy and performance. Rob was previously head of a large primary school, and now acts as a school improvement advisor working with the leadership teams of 6-7 primary schools in South-West London.

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

Pieter Lagaay (Chair) and Trustees

EACP is a Registered Charity in England and Wales (No. 1136340)

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