



News Update Autumn 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 Spring 2022 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 learning resources - A generous Trust grant has enabled Joy Primary School, located in a slum district of Nairobi, to replace two primary classrooms which recently collapsed due to old age. 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 power from solar panels or connect to mains electricity. Web access means that schools can now download updated government learning materials and reach out to explore the wider world.

Empowering Children – Reducing Poverty



Post Covid cost-of-living crisis - The full or partial school closure programme in Kenya and Uganda for up to 2 years due to covid has caused major disruption for schools. 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. 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. 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 – The evidence is clear that better nutrition improves educational outcomes for deprived children ([World Bank, 2016](#)). Our five school lunch projects aim to keep poor children in school, and to raise nutritional levels and educational attainment. Two 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 then produced in simple school kitchens. This one meal a day is essential to support school attendance, raise 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 provided simple school uniforms to around 550 deprived children attending Faith and Bulogo schools. New clothes are rare, and uniforms engender pride and increased school attachment. Uniforms are made locally by women and cost around £3 each.

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: To enable schools to access more reliable sources of clean water we invested in three new school water 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



Empowering Children – Reducing Poverty

improve health compared to kerosene lamps ([BBC, 2012](#)). Most 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. This summer we also set up 3 school light libraries following other successful examples in the region ([Solar Aid](#)). 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.



Sanitation: School toilet blocks – Joy Primary School (Nairobi) had around 300 children using a single limited toilet block. With our support they have completed a new 10-unit block connected into mains sewerage to improve sanitation and hygiene.

Training and Enterprise: EACP are currently funding Bulogo Women's Group in Uganda to run a Government certified training course in garment making for around 120 women, including 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:

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.

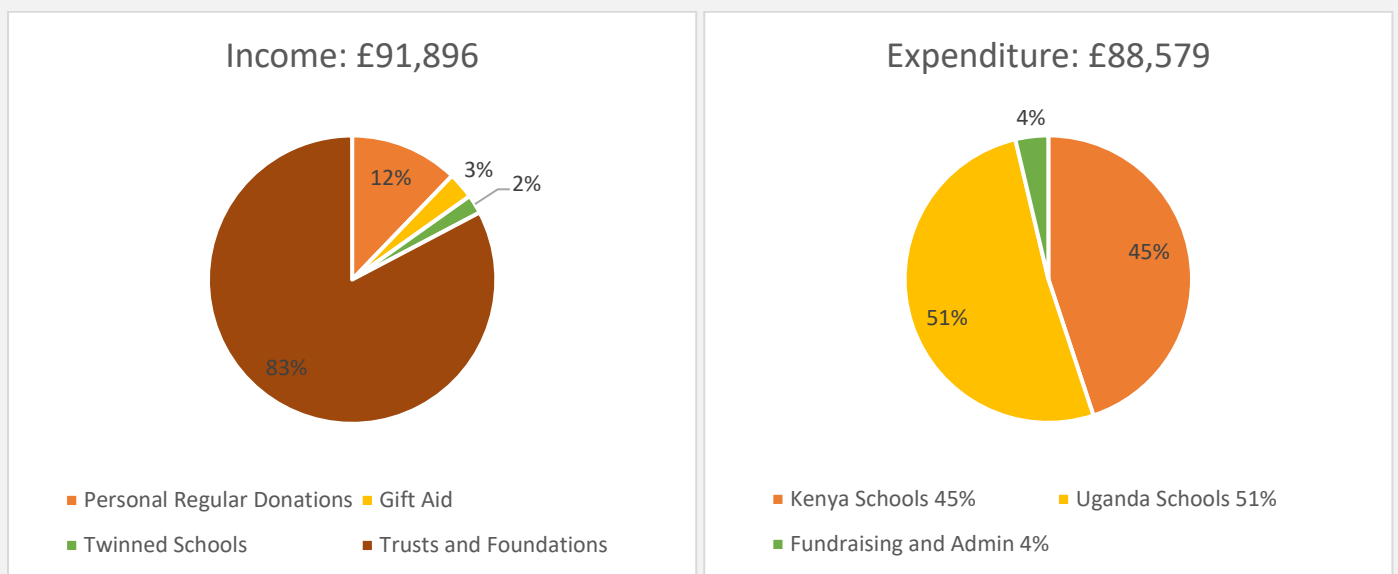


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School toilet blocks - Bugondha and Kimenyulo primary schools in eastern Uganda have extremely limited toilets used by around 1,000 children. We plan to build an additional 7-cubicle block for each school to improve sanitation and hygiene.

FINANCIALS Annual Accounts 2021-2022

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. 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