



Climate Change Adaptation Workshop as part of the CEBU project in the Philippines

### Welcome to the first Edmund Rice Newsletter of 2021.

ERD has had an exciting 2021 so far. In addition to our ongoing programme work, we have taken over governance of the Capacity Development project and appointed Fiona Dowling as Chief Executive. Many in the Edmund Rice Network will know Fiona, as she is no stranger to ERD. Previously, Fiona served as Development Manager in ERD before taking a secondment in 2017 to lead the Capacity Development project on behalf of the Congregation Leadership Team (CLT). We know that capacity building is integral to the core work of ERD, which made the transfer of the project to ERD a logical choice. We thank the CLT and the Mission Capacity Support Team for entrusting ERD to continue this critical work under our leadership. The CLT and our Board will continue to work in close collaboration and make every effort to support Edmund Rice Mission Development Projects across the globe in a planned and coordinated manner.

We have now spent more than a year adapting to the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the availability of vaccines has given rise to hope, the COVID-19 pandemic is still a reality throughout the world. Our projects continue to provide essential items to beneficiaries, ensuring that basic needs continue to be met during this time. We are hoping the ERD offices can reopen safely in 2021, but until then, we will continue to work together remotely. Once again sincere thanks for your ongoing support in Edmund Rice Mission.

John Cooley  
Chair, ERD Board

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## COVID Response in 2021

While some parts of the world return to some semblance of normality with the uptake of vaccines, many of our projects are still dealing with the extreme realities of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to Misesa Cara and private donors, the Fe y Alegría project in Lima, Peru and the Ruben Centre in Nairobi, Kenya have been able to adapt to meet the urgent needs of their beneficiaries.

### COVID Response in Peru

In Lima, Peru, many of the beneficiaries of the Fe y Alegría project are still struggling with the social and economic impacts of the pandemic.

While the Fe y Alegría project continues to provide its psycho-social support to students and families remotely, it also has provided material support in the forms of food items, cleaning supplies and technological donations and assistance. This response has met a crucial need and allowed families and pupils to continue their education in such an uncertain time.



The delivery and distribution of food supplies to needy families at the Fe y Alegría project

### Beneficiary Testimonies

‘When the virtual classes began due to the pandemic, we did not have any equipment so that my children could receive their online classes. Thanks to the intervention of the project, I was able to obtain a cell phone. That was a great help so that my children could continue with their distant education. Thanks to private donations, the project has also helped me with food supplies and cleaning materials. This has helped me cope with the pandemic crisis. I don't know what would have happened to my children and my family without the Fe y Alegría project's support. I have received constant support when I felt fear and despair from the pandemic. Talking to the psychologists every day made me feel more relieved; it was a way to alleviate my concerns about my family's situation.’ -Abelina, parent of pupils



The delivery and distribution of food supplies to needy families at the Fe y Alegría project

‘I am also grateful for all the support the project offered us in times of the pandemic. I have received food baskets, a cell phone for my children to access their online classes, cell phone recharges, and cleaning materials from the project. I have also received constant phone calls from the project to help manage the fear and stress caused by the fear of COVID-19.

I am incredibly grateful to the Fe y Alegría project, for all the support it gave us in difficult times. I feel that I have grown as a person and as a mother, now I can better guide my children and support my family.’

—Jeannette, parent of pupils



## The Ruben Centre continues its COVID response in Mukuru



Ruben Primary Pupil at the Hand Washing station at the Ruben Centre

Informal settlements, like the Mukuru area of Nairobi, Kenya, are at particularly high risk of COVID-19 transmission. They are densely populated with small informal dwellings, comprised of multi-generational households. Sanitation facilities are often shared, and there is a lack of access to clean water. There are high levels of social mixing, and transient residents. The Ruben Centre is the only health services provider in Mukuru kwa Ruben area, making it a very critical health care provider for Mukuru residents. The facility serves over 350 patients on a daily basis and it also serves as an emergency response point for residents including being an emergency point for COVID-19 area.

Over the past year, the Ruben Centre has adapted and facilitated several interventions to mitigate the spread of COVID and to promote accurate information on the pandemic. Some of the interventions the Ruben Centre has enacted have been:

- Providing protective gear for health frontline workers and community health volunteers
- Establishing Infection prevention and control measures to prevent in-facility infections
- Providing hand sanitizers and hand wash in all health service points
- Setting up and staffing triage points to reduce crowds and expedite health service delivery
- Screening all clients accessing COVID-19 health services in line with government guidelines
- Upscaling counseling services to provide psychosocial support for staff and Mukuru residents

A major issue facing the community is the propagation of misinformation around COVID and the vaccine roll-out. The centre has seen a concerning rise in the number of people who are either anti-vaccine or vaccine hesitant, and rumours have spread that the vaccine campaign and government restrictions are simply a way to control and track the population. Large numbers of people have no confidence in the vaccine and do not intend to inoculate themselves once it becomes available. The Ruben Centre has created awareness campaigns to sensitise the community on COVID-19, including how to prevent its transmission and the importance of vaccines. In addition to posters and flyers in the centre, Ruben FM, the Ruben Centre's radio station, has played a crucial role in disseminating information to the wider Mukuru community.

We thank Misesan Cara, Tomar Trust and private donors for their support of the Ruben Centre, which has supported the safe delivery of essential services throughout the pandemic.

# Edmund Rice Mission Capacity Development Project

## 2020 Highlights and Achievements



### STRATEGIC OUTCOME 1:

Increased Effectiveness of Edmund Rice Mission Development Offices (MDOs) and Development projects

#### RESULTS-BASED MANAGEMENT

**33**

participants in **3 online courses** in Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and Managing for Results and Accountability



**1**

in-country training session held in Zambia in November

#### Governance Capacity Building

Phase 1: Action Research

**24 interviews** were conducted with

**29**

stakeholders to increase understanding of governance capacity in Edmund Rice Mission

**GLOBAL TRAINING PROGRAMME** developed for delivering in 2021

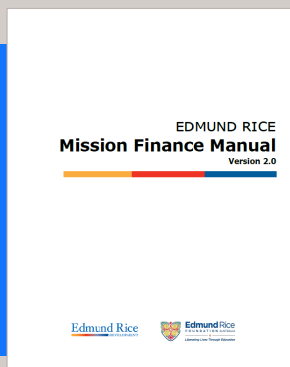


#### AFRICA PROVINCE MISSION OFFICE

Africa Province Strategic Plan developed through consultative process with 25 stakeholders from July – Sept 2020.

**Strategy on a Page (SOAP)** developed

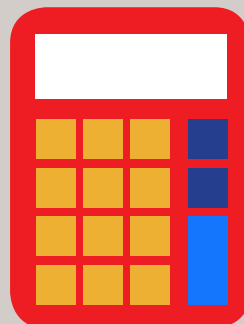
### STRATEGIC OUTCOME 2: Human and financial resources available and effectively managed



#### EDMUND RICE MISSION FINANCE MANUAL

Mission Finance Manual 2016 reviewed, revised and redesigned to produce updated manual

#### FINANCE TRAINING



Finance mentorship delivered to the **Latin America Region Mission Development Office**

**18**

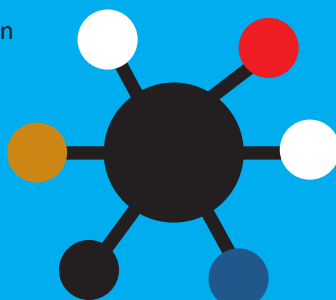
training modules delivered online for more than **30 participants** in 9 countries in Africa.

**4 Participants** trained in-country at Edmund Rice International in Geneva.

### STRATEGIC OUTCOME 3: Improved learning and sharing across Edmund Rice Mission globally

#### COLLABORATION among the Mission Capacity Support Team (MCST):

- Regular peer-group meetings
- Two MCST online meetings held in August and December
- MCST discussion paper produced and submitted to the Congregation Leadership Team



**2**

**MCST Newsletters** produced and distributed in April and December



## New Home for the Capacity Development Project

The Congregation Leadership Team of the Christian Brothers (CLT) and the Board of Directors of Edmund Rice Development (ERD) made a joint decision to transfer the governance of the Capacity Development Project to ERD as of January 1, 2021.

The Capacity Development Project was originally mandated for three years from 2018-2020 and was delivered by the Mission Capacity Support Team (MCST). During this period all parties recognised the need for ongoing Capacity Development for Governors, Mission Coordinators, Programme Managers and Staff of Development Projects across the global Edmund Rice network. The incorporation of governance under ERD ensures continuity of this critical work. This year, ERD will carry out a Strategic Planning process, which will involve all stakeholders and partners in developing an integrated approach to the dual tasks of resourcing development programmes and building capacity of development projects to achieve impact.

The CLT is grateful to those who have been a part of the MCST during the past three years. Strong bonds have developed across the world as the commitment to improvement has grown. The partnership approach that characterised the MCST will continue to be the most critical element of any future progress, where each partner is clear of their own role as well as committed to working in a coordinated manner to ensure the greatest impact in transforming lives.

## What's happening for 2021?

### GOVERNANCE TRAINING

The greatest priority for 2021 identified by the MCST was the need to build capacity in governance. The initial plan for governance training to begin in 2020 was delayed due to the COVID pandemic. In March, we held our first planning meeting with stakeholders in the Edmund Rice Network. The creation of a Steering Group was agreed to lead the process comprising members of the Africa, Latin America and India Governing Bodies. Regional Governance Gatherings with Governing Bodies and Mission Offices will take place in May and June, with trainings on specific topics based on identified needs beginning later this year.

### TRAINING IN RESULTS BASED MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

In April, financial consultant Louise O'Rourke held training for project personnel in the Latin American Mission Area. The training built on 2020 in-country training, in line with the revised Mission Finance Manual. The approach also included sessions where projects met one-on-one with Louise to receive guidance on practical issues in their own work, including budget monitoring and forecasting.



The Online Results Based Planning RBM1 course began in April and will run for ten weeks. Results Based Monitoring and Evaluation RBM2 and Managing for Results and Accountability RBM3 are scheduled for the autumn. In-country Training in Africa will be delivered later in 2021, if possible.



## Project Spotlight: CEBU Families Program: Compassionate Education for Building and Uplifting Families

Edmund Rice Ministries Foundation, Philippines Inc. (ERMFPI) has started a new project in Cebu City, Philippines. The project focuses on two communities, one living inside the Chinese Cemetery compound and the other in makeshift shelters in street sidewalks. These communities face persistent inequality in accessing health, education and livelihoods opportunities. The planning for this project began in July 2019 during a workshop with the community and local partners. The plan utilised the findings from a Listening Survey of the two Barangays (villages), Tinago and Carreta. Youth representatives, community members and Edmund Rice Mission staff and partners met to discuss and validate strategic responses to key issues affecting the two communities.

The project is designed to provide beneficiaries with basic needs, while working collaboratively with other stakeholders to ensure no duplication of work. ERMFPI and partner agencies have planned two complementary priority objectives:

- 1. Education:** Youth to gain access to education through improved awareness of their rights, through advocacy. A key feature of the program is a missionary approach of personal accompaniment by project employees and volunteers. Gender inequity will be addressed by ensuring access to education with 60% of those finding work being women and girls.
- 2. Health and life-skills:** Families access birth registration for their children, and improve their health and nutrition. With partners and government services, ERMFPI will lead this multi-agency collaboration with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the Don Bosco Technical College and other similar institutions so that beneficiaries can attend and complete skills training courses. The project facilitates young women and men to enrol and complete training skills for employment and obtain a decent livelihood. Life-skills and values formation will ensure beneficiaries are supported when they find employment.

ERMFPI advocates for the human rights of marginalised youth by working closely with institutions to develop and adopt flexible standards for poor people to be able to enrol in technical and vocational education and trainings. Any gaps where participants are not able to reach the standard will be bridged by arranged focused short courses conducted by ERMFPI. The project and partners will collaboratively provide start-up capital for small businesses with post-training support.

These marginalised families need continual support so they can access skills training courses, complete them and find work decent employment. ERMFPI has a long term commitment to personal accompaniment. The project also provides meals for children on days each week when the relevant partner agency does not provide them. Thanks to funding from Misesan Cara, this project began in 2020, and will be implemented over three years ending in 2022. We look forward to seeing the impact of this intervention in the target communities in Cebu City.



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## From Grassroots to Global: Edmund Rice International Advocacy at the UN



Defensoría Edmundo Rice Project Manager Paola Miranda delivers an ERI statement via video at the UN Human Rights Council

Advocacy for social justice and human rights is a priority area across Edmund Rice Mission. By being granted ECOSOC status at the UN in 2012, the Edmund Rice International (ERI) project based in both Geneva and New York is able to work in partnership with development projects throughout the world to feed into the United Nations mechanisms so that change can be driven at an international level.

During the 46th Human Rights Council session, ERI delivered a number of statements. With proceedings taking place virtually, NGOs were asked to raise their concerns via recorded video statements. This provided an opportunity for members of the Edmund Rice network to address the Council directly.

ERI's interventions, often joint statements with Edmund Rice Mission partners, included statements as part of the discussions on the following topics:

- the Rights of Children and the SDGs (statement read by Constantine D'Abreu of ERI);
- the Special Rapporteur on the Sale of Children (statement read by Priya from PRATYek, India);
- the Special Rapporteur on Persons with Disabilities (statement read by Cyprian Omoding, Edmund Rice Advocacy Network, Kenya);
- the Special Rapporteur on Sustainable Development (statement read by Steve Rocha, PRATYek, India);
- the Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence Against Children (statement read by Paola Miranda, Defensoría Edmundo Rice, South America)

Statements were also delivered during the General Debates on:

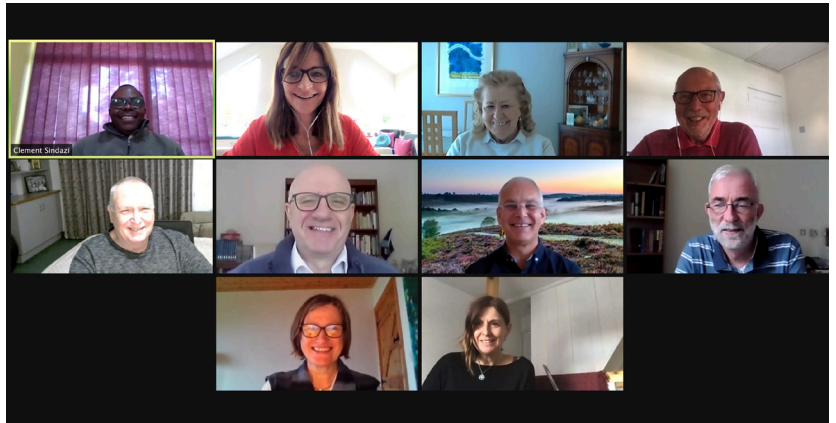
- Gender-based Violence in South Africa (statement delivered by Jessica Dewhurst of The Justice Desk)
- the Right to Education in South Africa (statement delivered by Ignatius France of The Justice Desk)
- Violence Against Children (statement delivered by Ram from NineisMine India)
- A statement was also read by Brian Bond on behalf of 107 local NGOs in Myanmar following the recent military coup. The NGOs feared reprisals if they were to be identified by speaking publicly.
- Finally a statement on the outcome of the UPR of the United States was read by Kevin Cawley of ERI.

The videos of these sessions are available on ERI's Facebook page, and also linked at ERI's website: [www.edmundricedevelopment.org](http://www.edmundricedevelopment.org). We thank Misesan Cara for supporting ERI and many of their partners so that they can continue amplifying and championing local advocacy voices on an international stage.

## ERD Update

### Board Changes and Activities

We had a number of changes to the board of ERD over the last year. Br. Alfred Banda and Br. Chris Glavey both retired from the Board after the May 2021 AGM. Alfred and Chris both served on the Development Subcommittee and contributed their invaluable expertise to development, safeguarding and governance matters throughout the years. Alfred and Chris will continue to be in the Edmund Rice Network. Alfred was recently appointed Africa Province Leader and Chris will continue his work for the European Province and his role as coordinator for the Edmund Rice Camps in Ireland. We thank Brs Alfred and Chris for their invaluable contribution to ERD over the last number of years and look forward to continued collaboration in their new roles.



During the year, we also welcomed three new Board members. Áine De Baroid, Clement Sindazi and Joe Tynan have joined the Board of Edmund Rice Development. We are delighted to have their expertise and support. Pictured above are the ERD Board members and Fiona Dowling, participating in board development sessions facilitated by Caplor Horizons.

### Welcome Back, Fiona Dowling!



Fiona Dowling has been appointed Chief Executive of ERD. Fiona (pictured with pupils from the Ruben Centre, Kenya) began her time in ERD as Development Manager in 2013. In 2017, she was seconded to lead the Edmund Rice Mission Capacity Development project. Even though Fiona was no longer in the ERD offices every day, she continued to be an integral member of the Edmund Rice Network, and collaborated with the ERD Staff and Board to ensure a multidimensional approach to capacity building.

Fiona began as ERD Chief Executive in January 2021. Fiona brings to the role almost 20 years' experience in senior management and leadership roles in the non-profit sector in Ireland and overseas. A passionate advocate for the rights of marginalised individuals and groups, Fiona has particular expertise and track record in governance, strategic organisational development and fundraising. We are delighted to welcome Fiona back to ERD.

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