



Beneficiaries of the Mbokodo project at the Justice Desk Africa participating in self-defence classes, South Africa

Welcome to the second newsletter of 2023.

It has been great seeing so many of our partners in-person in 2023. The Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders conference in May was a wonderful opportunity to connect with school leaders and development partners from Ireland and abroad. It also allowed us to engage with the team from Edmund Rice Foundation Australia and Kenya to plan how we can better collaborate as funding partners. We were delighted to host an Open House at the ERD Offices during the week. We welcomed partners from across the world and we were finally able to return the hospitality we so frequently receive when visiting the project sites.

This year, ERD was selected to participate in the pilot stage of Misesan Cara's new grant management system. The aim of the new system is to reduce bureaucracy and give us more flexibility during the project life-cycle. The transition to the new system will be a large part of our work in 2024, as we will continue to roll-out the new systems and processes to our development partners.

As 2023 comes to an end, we acknowledge everyone we have worked with during this year. Thanks to our partners in Edmund Rice Mission all over the world. And a sincere appreciation to our generous donors for your invaluable support. 2024 promises to be another exciting year in ERD and we look forward to working with our partners and supporters as we implement our new strategic plan.

Wishing you a happy Christmas and warm wishes for 2024.

Fiona Dowling
Chief Executive

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Project Spotlights



Participants in the Education for Life Economic Empowerment Project in Eldoret, Kenya

Economic Empowerment at Education for Life in Eldoret, Kenya

It has been a busy year for the Education for Life (EFL) project. In partnership with 'Kuku Chick Company', EFL recently conducted a three-day workshop on poultry keeping with 20 beneficiaries from ten newly-formed Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) groups. The training targeted new members who had previously not attended a poultry training and had inadequate knowledge around poultry management. The content of the training introduced the participants to the locally-available chicken breeds, common poultry diseases and their treatments, types of vaccinations and their administration process and various proper record keeping relating to poultry farming. The participants realized the need to rear chicken as a business rather than as a traditional hobby of poultry keeping.

In addition to the poultry workshops, a financial literacy and basic business management skills training was held targeting 30 members from the newly-formed SILC groups. The training focused on the key aspects of business skills including the general understanding of business as a venture for income generation, business ethics, sources of business funds, financial capability, time management, customer relation and stages of wealth. The majority of the beneficiaries in attendance admitted that they had previously prioritised wants over needs, which had them with misplaced priorities in relation to the use of money; the training played a key role towards their shift of attitude around proper investment and use of money. The financial literacy training was a key eye-opener to the targeted beneficiaries towards setting their priorities through best practices for gainful small-scale business initiatives stemming from the loans from their SILC groups.

EFL empowers and provides opportunities for people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS to become self-reliant. EFL takes a holistic approach through psycho-social programming, health education and economic empowerment initiatives. We thank Misesan Cara for funding this multi-annual project.

Advocacy in Edmund Rice Mission Latin America

This October, Br. Tino D'Abreu from Edmund Rice International (ERI) visited the Latin America Mission Area. The purpose of his visit was to strengthen the collaboration between ERI and the Defensoría Edmundo Rice (DER) project, which promotes and defends human rights and social justice in the region. DER and ERI have been working together for several years to raise awareness about social justice, human rights and the rights of children, adolescents, and vulnerable populations across Latin America.

During his trip, Tino had a busy schedule full of activities and meetings with multiple groups of strategic partners, mainly schools associated with DER. Through interactive sessions full of questions and comments, Tino presented to schools in Latin America on ERI's work at the United Nations and their collaboration with many projects, schools and other organisations around the globe. Tino visited 60 teachers from the Franciscan School Santa Rosa de Barranco in Lima, followed by the Christian Brothers' School Mundo Mejor in Chimbote, where 56 teachers and administrative staff participated. Tino also visited the Alcanzando Nuevos Horizontes (Reaching for New Horizons) project, an education project in a human settlement on the outskirts of Chimbote, which is supported by ERD and Misesan Cara. Tino encouraged teachers to participate in ERI's Zoom workshops on human rights, social justice and eco-justice scheduled for 2024.



Br. Tino presenting to the Mundo Mejor School in Chimbote, Peru

Tino met with teachers, former students, Christian Brothers, and young people from the Edmundo Rice network in Peru at the Fe y Alegría 26 school in Lima. During his stay, Tino also met the Fe y Alegría project staff that works in the school. Tino traveled to Arequipa City to meet with 48 teachers from the Franciscan School Santa Rosa de Viterbo, a newly associated school with the DER project before traveling to Pucallpa, a city in the eastern jungle of Peru.

In Pucallpa, Tino and Elmer Hurtado, Mission Coordinator of the Latin America Mission Area, met with the Asociación Regional Aidesep Ucayali (ORAU), an umbrella organisation of more than 20 indigenous peoples of the Peruvian Amazon. The visit was highly significant because an ORAU leader, James Lopez, made an oral statement at the 54th Session of the Human Rights Council through ERI in September about the assassination of indigenous leaders in the Peruvian Amazon. Four of the widows of the indigenous leaders murdered in 2014 were present at the meeting and talked about their desire to find justice for their assassinated husbands. After more than three hours of talks, it was agreed that DER, with the support of ERI, will conduct workshops on human rights during 2024 for the different member communities of ORAU.



James Lopez, an Amazonian indigenous leader, delivering an oral statement at the UN Human Rights Council on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Peru.

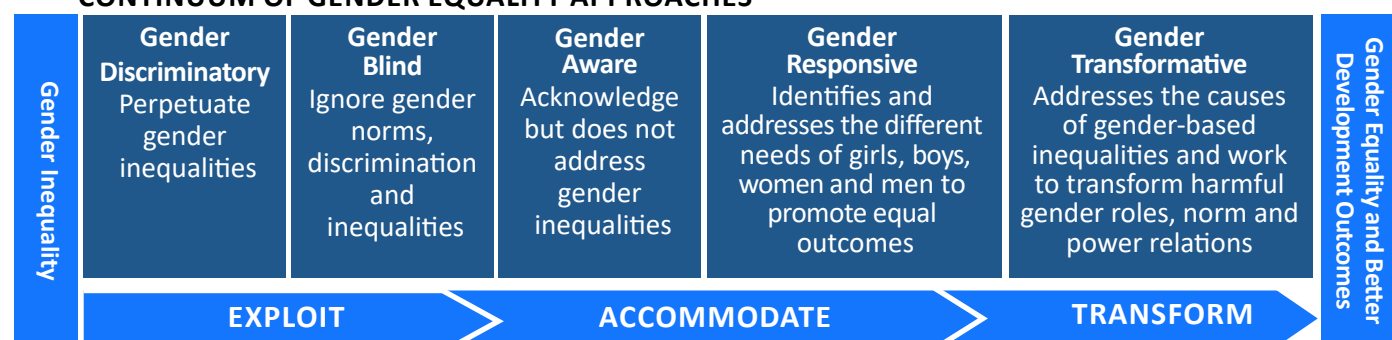
Tino also visited the Centro Hermano Manolo centre in Bolivia during his trip. He met with the staff, volunteers, and beneficiaries of the project in addition to the two Christian Brothers living in Cochabamba before returning back to Geneva. Tino's visit was very moving and strengthened the work of DER and Edmund Rice Mission in Latin America. The teachers, students, beneficiaries and members of the Edmund Rice network were very grateful for ERI's work and continued support. We hope this visit will be the first of many by ERI to Latin America!

ER Capacity Development Project

Gender Training

As part of the Capacity Development project, ERD has been implementing a gender equality project funded by Misesan Cara this year. As part of this initiative, we have been working with consultant Dr. Sumera Jabeen who met with 15 ER development projects to assess the level of gender equality in their organisations and to gauge training needs. Following this engagement, Dr. Sumera prepared an assessment report and Gender Equality framework in line with our partners Edmund Rice Foundation Australia and Misesan Cara. We held three sessions to roll-out the assessment to our ER development projects and the ERD board and team.

CONTINUUM OF GENDER EQUALITY APPROACHES



Dr. Sumera also gauged training needs and prepared a plan responding to the priority areas. Without exception, all the respondents were keen on doing more to improve the state of gender inequalities in their respective projects. They emphasized the need for a holistic approach that addresses the local culture and context.

“We could do more. We need to do it systematically. One-time talk is not enough. A constant reminder is needed. Women role models can help. We need to include everyone: teachers, parents, communities, boys and girls.” (Interview 3)

Following the roll-out, a training plan was developed with online and in-country options. Online basic and advanced training took place in November over Zoom. The basic Training aimed at enhancing knowledge of key gender concepts, issues and the evolution of approaches in the international development sector to address gender issues. Advanced Training provided an overview of the international development sector approaches to promoting gender equality, enhanced understanding of the transformative approach to gender equality and offered an introduction to a gender analysis framework.

Proposed Principles for working towards Gender Equality in ER Development Projects

- Work holistically
- Engage men
- Policy alignment/integration
- Contextual appropriateness
- Build partnerships
- Monitoring the implementers as well as implementation

In-country training is planned for Kenya in January 2024 and will focus on a training of trainers programme. This ensures that capacity and expertise is built within the ER network in a sustainable way. If you would like any further information about this project, please contact Abigail Carney, Capacity Development and Communications Manager at office@edmundricedevelopment.org.

We thank Misesan Cara and Edmund Rice Foundation Australia for supporting this capacity building initiative.

ERD Update

Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders

In May, the Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders congress took place in Dublin. Educators from all over the globe travelled to Dublin City University to participate in the congress and to share and learn with the wider Edmund Rice Network. Many members of Edmund Rice Foundation's staff from Australia (ERFA) and Kenya attended the congress as well as many of our partners from development projects, mission offices and leadership teams across Africa, Latin America and India. The ERD staff attended the congress where they learned about best practices in formal and informal education in the network, connected with current partners and met new members of the Edmund Rice family.

During the week, the ERD team and Board also had the opportunity to co-host with ERFA an Open House at the ERD offices where we welcomed personnel from projects, school leaders from Ireland and the UK and local community members. We shared how we support the work of Edmund Rice development mission, while connecting with old and new friends.

After the congress, the team from Edmund Rice International (ERI) visited the Misesan Cara offices and facilitated a training on the international mechanisms available to Misesan Cara members, and how to elevate advocacy around Human Rights and Sustainable Development issues to the United Nations level. It was a wonderful week of collaboration across the Edmund Rice Network, and we look forward to working more closely together with new and existing partners in the future!



Naidi McDonnell, ERD, Richard Patris, ERFA Kenya, Belinda Kamundi, Ruben Centre and Br. Francis Nkwabi, East Africa Mission Coordinator



Caption: Top (L-R): Theo Lutuli, The Justice Desk, Br. Terry Dowling, ERI, Jessica Dewhurst, The Justice Desk, Br. Abu Kargbo, West Africa Mission Office; Br. Alhaji Leo Kamara, St. Ambrose Academy, Br. Marvin Mzinga Phiri, St. Raphael's Secondary School, Br. Albert Gomez, Africa Province Leadership Team and Br. Noel Roche; Fiona Dowling, ERD and Bren Arkinstall, ERFA. Bottom (L-R): Dee McMahon, ERD Board, Samuel Karanja Wambui, ERFA Kenya, Belinda Kamundi, Ruben Centre, Sammy Muga, ERCN, and Clalfinn Achimba, EREEP; Br. Tino D'Abreu, Br. Brian Bond and Br. Terry Dowling from ERI with members of the ERD team and the Misesan Cara team.

ERD Update

2023 Project Visits: ERD Programme Manager Naidi McDonnell visits Justice Desk Africa:

After many years of working with the Justice Desk Africa, I finally had the opportunity to visit South Africa in November and see the project in action!



Naidi at the Early Childhood Development centres

The week began with an introduction to the Mbokodo girls and the iNtsika boys. The Mbokodo Project offers empowerment workshops, mental health care support, and self-defense programmes to girl survivors of gender-based violence (GBV) and rape. The iNtsika Project aims to end GBV by equipping a generation of positive male role models, who challenge toxic masculinity and GBV, as well as promote equal rights and justice for all. The theme for the day was 'Power'. The kids were tasked at looking at the positives and negatives that come with Power and the importance of communication when in a leadership role. The day was full of activity from sports, meditation, dance, singing and self-defence classes. Throughout the day, the social

*workers and psychologists had individual sessions with the kids to ensure they were receiving the psycho-social support they need. Later in the week, I met with more of the kids and parents from these two projects. When I asked Sethu, a boy who recently graduated from iNtsika, what the best thing about the JDA is, he said **'there is love there. We learn to love ourselves and our brothers and sisters'**. The Mbokodo girls had a similar response: **'it feels like home, I can be free and escape my problems from the township'**. Patricia, whose twin boys attend iNtsika, has also attended the parenting classes that compliment these projects. She was beaten as a child and thought that was the only way to bring up her boys. She was taught how to use positive re-enforcement instead of beating her sons. She can now sit and talk to her boys about safe sex, drug use, etc.*

*I also had the chance to attend a Youth Ambassador (YA) training session in Modderdam Secondary school. The kids were taught about the difference between charity and advocacy and how they can become everyday activists within their communities. The YA programme runs across 10 countries in Africa and follows a Justice Curriculum to equip children with the tools to stand up for their human rights. This project now runs in the Dominican School for the Deaf, together with a Social Justice Club. One of the saddest moments on the trip was finding out that most of the deaf children in the club have families that do not know sign language. As one of the girls said: **'Before I joined this school, I felt I was alone in this world'**. They told me how excluded they felt from the hearing community; basic tasks such as talking to police or accessing medical help is impossible and they worry about being able to join the workforce. We brainstormed ideas of how we could run an accessibility campaign across all the YA schools next year to highlight how the deaf community is prevented from realising many of their human rights.*

The JDA team also brought me to visit the Early Childhood Development centres. The teachers are taught about positive disciplining and not using corporal punishment. The kids are taught about their human rights and child protection issues. In past sessions, kids have come forward and told their teacher that something had happened to them after learning what abuse was from the sessions. Understanding abuse at a young age helps stop abuse happening at the earliest opportunity and provides the kids with a safe space to share their worries.

My time in South Africa was eye opening. I gained an understanding of the issues faced by those living in townships and the importance of equipping children to become everyday activists. It is with the support of projects like the Justice Desk Africa that change will happen and human rights will be realised. Thanks to everyone at the Justice Desk Africa for hosting me!



Justice Desk Africa's Theo Lutuli at the Early Childhood Development centres

Edmund Rice Leadership Programme

We were delighted to have Brothers John Paul Oluoch and Sammy Munyua from Edmund Rice Ministries in Eldoret, Kenya and the Western Cluster in Zambia respectively visit the Edmund Rice Offices while in Ireland in August. They participated in a six-week Leadership and Formation programme organised for five Christian Brothers from the Africa Province. The programme entailed attending various sessions on the history of the Blessed Edmund Rice and his mission at the Edmund Rice Heritage Center in Mount Sion, Waterford. They also spent a week visiting the Presentation Brothers and the Nano Nagle Heritage Centre in Cork. The visit in Cork was to gain an understanding of the Edmund Rice story from the Presentation Brothers' perspective, and to learn about Nano Nagle, founder of the Presentation Sisters, and her mission around Girls Education. Nano Nagle was among those who had great influence in Edmund's decision to start schools for poor boys in Waterford back in 1802. After Cork, they traveled to Wicklow to the An Tairseach Ecology Centre for sessions on Ecology, and visited Glendalough to understand the ancient monastic life in Ireland.



Br. John Paul Oluoch and Br. Sammy Munyua at the ERD Offices

They spent their last week in Dublin visiting communities and Edmund Rice institutions, including the Edmund Rice House where the ERD Offices are located. After the conclusion of their Ireland experience, they proceeded to Rome for a one-month religious conference. The programme brought together more than 45 Brothers from different countries and from 14 international religious congregations. They also had the opportunity afterwards to go to Geneva for refresher training with Edmund Rice International. This was an opportunity for them to reflect and examine their own commitment to a just society where common good thrives and how they can contribute to the mission of ERI from the grassroots level. They concluded the programme by visiting Taizé in France for an ecumenical, communal and spiritual experience. The Taizé programme brought together over 600 pilgrims from Europe, which provided great opportunity for shared diversity in terms of cultures and spirituality. We thank John Paul and Sammy for visiting ERD, and we look forward to seeing how they will integrate their learned experiences into their respective projects.

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International Safeguarding Conference

In June, ERD Programme Manager and Safeguarding Lead Naidi McDonnell attended the International Safeguarding Conference 2023 in Rome. This year's theme was Sustaining Organisational Accountability. Throughout the week, organisations learned how to be accountable to various stakeholders, including survivors, children, organisation members and the general public. The conference concluded with a Safeguarding Forum, which enabled interaction and exchange between practitioners and researchers. The week was a great opportunity to learn from other missionary organisations and Christian Charities.

Naidi is pictured with Valerie Philpott, Misesan Cara Safeguarding Adviser, Ambassador Frances Collins, Embassy of Ireland to the Holy See, Fr. Hans Zollner SJ, Director of the Institute of Anthropology, Pontifical Gregorian University and Simon Davies, Director of Professional Standards, Jesuits, Australia.



Update from the ERD Board

Board Training and Development

The ERD Board Meeting and AGM in May was a great opportunity for the Board and Company Members to meet in-person in Dublin. In addition to the regular agenda items, the meeting included a Board Development session facilitated by Ian Williams and Kemal Shaheen from Caplor Horizons.

The Board has been committed to training in 2023. Board members participated in a Risk Management training session led by CEO Fiona and ERD Board Governance Subcommittee Chair Joe Tynan. This session was an opportunity to brainstorm risks and ways to mitigate against them. Additionally, Board members attended the ER Gender Equality Assessment Report and Framework session, where they raised interesting queries on how ERD can better integrate gender into our Monitoring and Evaluation systems and how we can measure long-term impact. The Board will also be attending a Safeguarding training in December focused on the roll-out of our new policy, which now incorporates the procedures for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment.



We said farewell to Board Members Karin Bacon, who joined in 2017 and Áine De Baroid, who joined in 2020. We thank both of them for their years of service to Edmund Rice Development! Recruitment for two new Board Members will begin in early 2024.

Pictured: Top (L-R): Kemal Shaheen, Dee McMahon, Br. Dean McGlaughlin, Br. Senan D'Souza, Fiona Dowling, Br. David Ryan Silva, Ian Williams, Áine De Baroid, Joe Tynan. Bottom (L-R): Br. John Casey, Caroline McGrath, Br. Clement Sindazi, Br. Peter Clinch, Karin Bacon.



If you would like to support the work of Edmund Rice Development Mission this Christmas, you can donate Online at:
www.edmundricedevelopment.org/donate

Alternatively, you can make a donation by cheque to:
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Thank you for your support.

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