



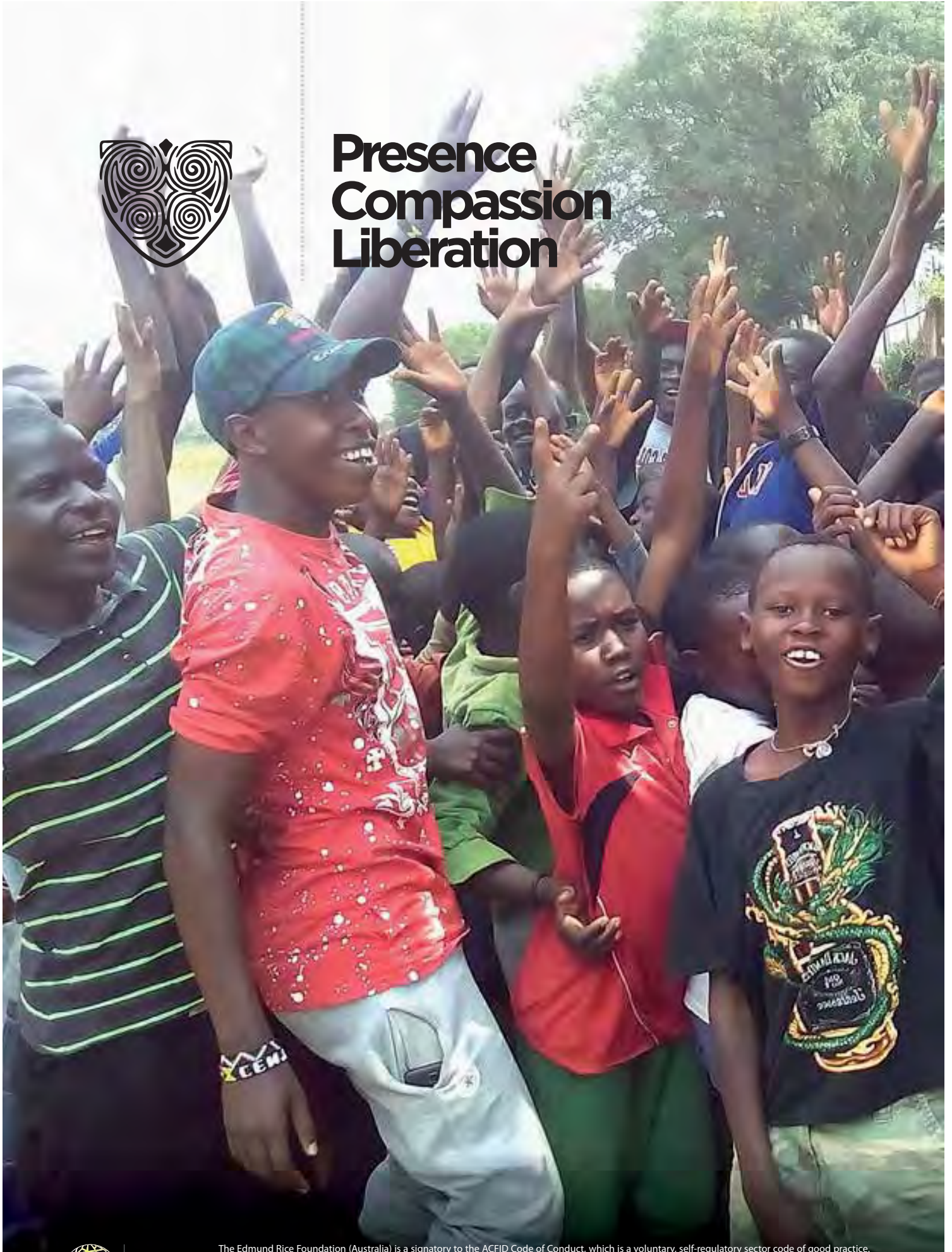
Edmund Rice
FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA

Annual Report
2016

**Liberating
Lives**



Presence Compassion Liberation



ACFID
MEMBER

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Chair's Report

Our journey of *Liberating Lives* is an ongoing one that will *never end*, but with each ripple we create in the pond, the *flow on effect is enormous*.



2016 has been a roller coaster for ERFA, tumultuous at times, but still extremely rewarding in many ways. As an emerging international, Not for Profit, there are substantial challenges that we continually face in order to stay relevant and to be able to fund the projects we support.

If ERFA was a commercial, profit focussed business and assessed solely on financial performance, you would say we underperformed in 2016 against budget and the financial expectations we set for ourselves. However to assess ERFA purely through a commercial lens substantially undervalues the benefits, both tangible and intangible, that emanate from the programs we support across the globe. We are helping to deliver so much more than financial outcomes, the direct impact on those who participate in the programs is enormous and helps us move towards Liberating Lives and for them to move towards being able to live independently and in a self-sufficient manner. Like all Not for Profits, we struggle to develop a consistent revenue stream and achieving this will be a key focus of the Board and our new CEO in the years ahead. Without a constant, certain revenue stream, we are unable to support the programs to the level desired.

The number of individuals seeking to participate in the life changing "Gone Fishing" experience is growing. It inspires those who participate to actively give back, by whatever means they can, to the less fortunate of the world. Our challenge is to actively engage with these stakeholders and use their skills and experience to an even better level than we currently do.

The work of the state based chapters is critical to the success of ERFA. The Victorian, Queensland and Western Australia Chapters are all leaders in the work and events you deliver on behalf of ERFA. The establishment of clearer lines of communication and engagement with the State Chapters and their members is one of our strategic goals going forward.

The efforts of ERFA staff to attain DFAT accreditation were exceptional and the work of Emily Faller and Brother Robert Stone needs to be publicly acknowledged because of the herculean effort they put in to get us so close to achieving accreditation. As you all would be aware, Anthony Ryan, our CEO, resigned and left in November. It is fair to say that ERFA would not be in the position it is today without the efforts of Anthony. We will miss his charismatic leadership and innovative solutions to issues. We wish him all the best for his new role and commit to continuing to build ERFA from the foundations he has established.

To grow ERFA from a structural perspective we will need to spend wisely and this has continued in 2016. It is imperative that ERFA, as an organisation, is in a sound financial position to cope with the growing demands placed on it. We, the Board, remain cognisant of eradicating unnecessary expenditure and maintain a close eye on our operating expenditure yet are also committed to incurring costs that will grow ERFA.

To each of my fellow Board members, thank you for your dedication and support. At times it has not been easy, but as Chair to have such a supportive Board that offers sound counsel and a willingness to conduct robust discussion means we are well placed for the future.

To our supporters, both pro bono and financial, thank you sincerely. It is only through your generosity and support that our projects can grow and deliver health and education programs to the most needy of the world. Our journey of Liberating Lives is an ongoing one that will never end, but with each ripple we create in the pond, the flow on effect is enormous. We are excited by the new possibilities ahead of us in the coming year and look forward to a year of enhanced growth, fundraising and positive engagement with all stakeholders.

Peter Murphy

CEO's Report

It is with great sadness that this is my last CEO report for the Edmund Rice Foundation Australia. For the past six years I have had the privilege to lead the Foundation from its inception in September 2011 to September 2016. During this time the Foundation has transformed from an entity that was primarily focused upon fundraising to one that had true development outcomes as the key goal for all operations. This has become an extraordinary achievement of the Edmund Rice Foundation and the Board, led by Peter Murphy, is determined to continue to fine tune the development focus as the necessary ingredient to the future sustainability of the Foundation. If the attention on development has been the cornerstone of the past six years there is no doubt in my mind that the genuine partnerships and friendships formed during this time have been at the very heart of our operations. It is this dual approach that has drawn people from all walks of life to be supporters of our work. In essence the Board and Management have found that our sustainable future was inexplicably tied to providing our supporters, donors and partners with a pathway to realise the depth of their own humanity as well as the confidence that they were providing liberation to the many communities we partner in Australia and overseas.

It is my hope that my time as leader of the Edmund Rice Foundation is not defined by the amount that I was able to fundraise but rather on the alumni of supporters throughout Australia who believed that they had more to offer our work than money. Foundations such as Edmund Rice have a responsibility to transform all people to a different way of thinking and acting. We believe wholeheartedly that this cannot be done overnight but rather it is a transformation that has presence as the catalyst to change. By walking 'with' people we all learn how to move forward.

I leave Edmund Rice Foundation with confidence knowing that our supporters find this relational approach refreshing and innovative and more importantly it honours the various ways in which they can change the world.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our extraordinary Board. I have felt honoured to work with such a professional and supportive group who genuinely believe our focus should centre on liberation and presence. Finally I would like to thank the staff of the Edmund Rice Foundation. Together we have helped form an operation that inspires confidence and respect. We have had a lot of fun along the way and our partners in Australia, Kenya, Tanzania, South Sudan, Uganda, South Africa, Zambia, Timor Leste, The Philippines and Papua New Guinea are very fortunate to have you as their greatest form of support.

I sign off with the same words that I expressed in my maiden speech as the CEO of the Edmund Rice Foundation. 'the future growth of this Foundation is bound in our resolute determination to pursue true development however this pursuit will only be successful if we are patient and focused on building processes that invite our future partners to walk alongside us. They will only walk with us if they sense that our emphasis is upon mutual transformation; that our own liberation is bound with their liberation. It is this approach that will differentiate Edmund Rice Foundation Australia in the crowded not for profit space.'

Carpe Diem
Anthony Ryan

They will only walk with us if they sense that our emphasis is upon *mutual transformation*; that our own liberation is *bound with their liberation*.





About ERFA

Our development practices and philosophy

Purpose

Edmund Rice Foundation (Australia) is an international development organisation that works with the impoverished and disenfranchised to liberate lives. ERFA supports sustainable health, education and capacity building community programs in developing countries as well as programs for disadvantaged youth and adults within Australia.

Vision

ERFA's vision is for a just and peaceful world where the dignity and rights of all are respected and in which all have control over their lives with access to resources and the opportunity to achieve their potential.

Aim

ERFA is active in planning, monitoring and evaluating the programs it supports. These programs:

- work collaboratively with local communities
- are grounded in the expressed needs of those communities
- promote continuous improvement and wellbeing of those communities
- deliver a fair distribution of the benefits that result from them

Our guiding principles

In its development work ERFA is committed to:

- A partnership approach to development characterised by integrity and transparency
- Seeking to understand and respect the perspectives of those we are in partnership with
- Giving priority to projects which engage with the most marginalised and exploited
- Developing resilient, sustainable communities that over time will result in local management and autonomy
- Being inclusive and offering support in a spirit of human solidarity regardless of race, gender, religious or political beliefs
- Promoting and advocating children's and women's rights
- Promoting and advocating sustainable living and prudent use of earth's resources

ERFA's program monitoring and evaluation

ERFA is committed to walking with local communities to identify, plan, deliver, monitor and evaluate development programs that are inclusive and empowering. Through best development practice and prudent use of donor funds, the aim of programs is to build resilient, sustainable communities which, over time, result in local management and autonomy.

To facilitate these aims, ERFA undertook a major revision of its project management cycle policies, procedures and systems in 2016. As a result, training and workshops on revised systems were delivered to all Program Leaders in July 2016.

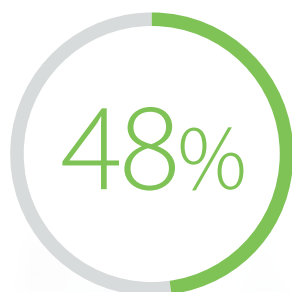
Prior to this, in October 2015, ERFA established a Monitoring and Evaluation Working Group to broaden and improve assessment of program quarterly reports and annual acquittals and to provide improved feedback to Program Leaders.

ERFA is committed to undertaking regular field monitoring of international programs to understand their impact and to assist in capacity building. In 2016, representatives visited programs in Kenya and the Philippines.

*ERFA is committed to walking with local communities to identify, plan, deliver, monitor and evaluate development programs that are **inclusive and empowering**.*

BUILD THE BRIDGE VOLUNTEERS AUSTRALIA

Program Co-ordinator: Ms Melody Bendindang



PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS ERFA
CONTRIBUTED TO OVERALL BUDGET

ERFA Funding 2016: \$25,000

Build the Bridge Volunteers (BTB), located in Adelaide, is a joint initiative of the Christian Brothers Oceania Province and Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA). The core focus is personal and leadership development for young adults, empowering them to lead the delivery of a range of challenging 'on the edge' community outreach projects and social justice/advocacy initiatives that engage with people on the margins. Outreach projects facilitated in 2016 included, The Friday Hangout, Fred's Soup Van, Welcome Picnics and Harmony Weekends.

The Friday Hangout provides a safe, enjoyable and meaningful space for young Australians and newly arrived young people, mainly asylum seekers, to connect through activities, English conversation, and the sharing of a meal as a means of welcoming and supporting transition into Australian culture. One of the Friday Hangout's greatest successes has been the friendships, connections and genuine sense of community that has formed between the volunteers and the participants. The routine nature of the Hangout has also provided some much needed consistency for the asylum seekers, which has been important given their ever-changing visa situations.

As part of their formation, BTB volunteers undertake placements with various NGO and charity work organisations such as Fred's Van, a St Vincent de Paul Society food service for people who are experiencing homelessness or are at risk of homelessness and marginalisation in Adelaide.

During the June quarter, in partnership with Edmund Rice Camps South Australia and the Welcome to Australia organisation, BTB conducted a first very successful Harmony Weekend. This interfaith family camp saw participants of all ages from different backgrounds come together to learn, share and build relationships in a safe and inclusive environment. Participants included families from Afghanistan, Australia, Iran, Sudan and Vietnam. This celebration of diversity featured a multicultural dinner, talent night and a panel of Buddhist, Christian and Muslim leaders. Also in partnership with Welcome to Australia BTB has conducted Welcome Picnics, which bring together Australian and newly arrived families from diverse cultures for conversation, activities and friendship.

In the September quarter BTB held its first Catalyst Camp for BTB's volunteers. Catalyst is a peer empowerment program to enhance advocacy knowledge and skills to enable development of projects for engagement with local justice issues and disadvantaged groups.



EDMUND RICE CENTRE AMBERLEY FOOD VAN

Program Co-ordinator: Ms Kate Bradley

2016 ERFA Funding: \$30,000

“People just want and need to be acknowledged that they are alive, that they exist.” Fr Bob Maguire

Edmund Rice Centre, Amberley, has been working in partnership with the Father Bob Maguire Foundation and Emerald Hill Mission for 8 years, co-ordinating the Amberley Food Van on 2 nights per week throughout the year in the inner Melbourne suburb of St Kilda. The van is staffed by young adult volunteers from the Edmund Rice Network within Victoria and senior students from both Edmund Rice and other Catholic schools. The Food Van program engages with the homeless community of St Kilda and provides an important service in addressing food insecurity as well as promoting social inclusion.

The volunteers prepare and distribute food options to approximately 80 visitors per night. The Amberley Food Van Facebook page contains over 250 registered volunteers of whom 40 volunteer on a regular basis. Whilst providing a vital response to the issue of food insecurity, this continuity enables Edmund Rice Network members who volunteer on a regular basis to build relationships with the community that gathers around the van.

The homeless community is extremely marginalized from the rest of society. The Van aims to break down the barriers that exist between homeless communities and mainstream society through sharing a meal and conversation.

The outreach of the St Kilda Food Van was extended during 2016 through negotiations with the Father Bob Maguire Foundation, which enabled the establishment and operation of a second Food Van in South Melbourne. The South Melbourne initiative takes the form of a sit down community meal in the undercroft of the Housing Commission flats in Dorcas Street. Around 40 to 50 people, many from the Housing Commission flats, gather for the community meal every Wednesday evening. The impact for the residents has been striking, breaking down isolation, getting people out and connected and building a real sense of community, as one resident commented, “It’s like having an extended family.”



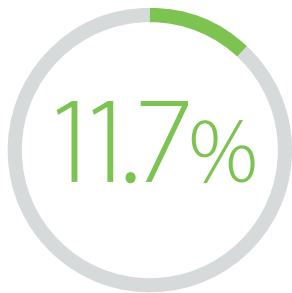
PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS ERFA
CONTRIBUTED TO OVERALL BUDGET



Program Report Australia

EDMUND RICE CAMPS

2016 ERFA Funding: \$212,000



PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS ERFA
CONTRIBUTED TO OVERALL BUDGET

Edmund Rice Camps (ERC) provide recreational programs for children and young people who would not otherwise have the opportunity. ERC offers mentoring programs which aim to boost participants' independence and resilience through an increased sense of self-worth, inner and outer-confidence and a much-needed break from often difficult circumstances.

There are a variety of issues facing young people today but ERC aims to alleviate some of the pressures by offering opportunities to have fun in a safe, supportive and welcoming environment, offering participants a chance to be themselves supported by a vibrant and engaging young adult volunteer community.

ERC receives thousands of referrals each year from agencies throughout Australia looking for opportunities for their young people. Agencies continue to express the view that ERC is an integral part of their service delivery and a much-needed support to children and families who experience disadvantage or injustice.

Young people and families are referred to ERC for a variety of reasons such as

economic difficulties, health and disability, difficulty fitting into school, challenging home environments and young people who may be excluded from mainstream programs.

Throughout 2016, a total of 160 programs were held across NSW, VIC, SA, TAS, WA and QLD. These programs consisted of 54 week-long camps and 106 day and overnight programs. Nationally, 2,488 volunteers were engaged to run programs benefitting more than 3,300 participants. In 2016 ERC was able to expand its partnerships with senior schools especially in Brisbane with the expansion of the Head 2 Heart program. Further to mainstream programs ERC was able to offer programs to fire affected families in Dunally, Tasmania and the Shire of Harvey, Western Australia.

ERC is able to reach so many due to not only the support from the Edmund Rice Foundation Australia and others but also with the support of the young adult volunteers who challenge ERC to grow and adapt to meet the needs of the changing communities they work in.

Programs aim to boost *independence and resilience* through an increased sense of *self-worth* and *confidence*



EDMUND RICE CENTRE MIRRABOOKA

Director: Mr Stephen Bowman

2016 ERFA Funding: \$36,000

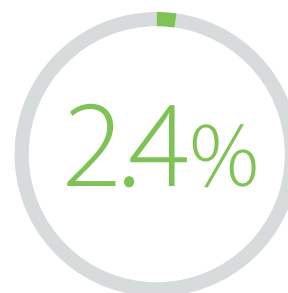
Edmund Rice Centre Mirrabooka (ERCM) delivers programs for culturally and linguistically diverse and indigenous communities in a low socio economic region of the northern suburbs of Perth. ERCM's programs include classes in English language, computing, food and nutrition, life-skills and driver education. The Women Together program provides opportunities for recently arrived women from refugee and migrant backgrounds to meet and socialise with established Australian women. Housing assistance and youth sports and leadership programs are also conducted. The Centre utilises family camps and social activities to encourage integration and community harmony.

The Aboriginal Children's Project provides cultural workshops to foster identity and connectedness to traditional indigenous heritage, development of social skills and promotion of a healthy lifestyle. The Youth Programs are based on a strong belief in community service and aim to provide young people with pathways to self-development through sport and leadership training.

The Local Parks Multi-Sport program for older children and youth offers multiple sports programs, which include partnerships with peak sporting bodies that provide young people with training and educational opportunities. These partnerships are the key in connecting the grassroots to elite level sports. The program includes an Aboriginal soccer team, Banksia United, which works to address negative stereotypes and perceptions of cultural difference. The unique feature of this program is that it engages young African coaches and volunteers with extensive experience in soccer coaching. In this program ERCM works in partnership with a number of state and local government sport and recreation departments, schools, sporting clubs and community agencies.

Training modules in the Youth Leadership Program include coaching, first aid, IT, media, events management and program planning and implementation. Extension experiences in 2016 included a week sailing on the Leeuwin Ocean Adventure, Inspired to Discover Sports Science Research Program, Police – Youth Soccer Tournament, Female AFL Academy Camp, Roots TV Media & Television Program, Beach Surf Awareness Program, Nature Academy and assistance at local community events.

Program Report Australia



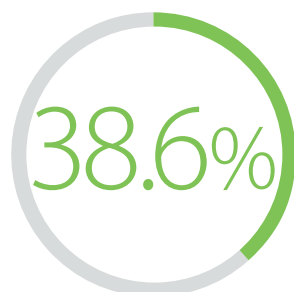
PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS ERFA
CONTRIBUTED TO OVERALL BUDGET



Program Report Australia

EDMUND RICE COMMUNITY AND REFUGEE SERVICES

Director: Br Jim D'Arcy



PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS ERFA
CONTRIBUTED TO OVERALL BUDGET

2016 ERFA Funding: \$60,000

Edmund Rice Community & Refugee Services (ERCRS) operates in the Brimbank City region in the western suburbs of Melbourne. The program provides free learning support and opportunities for social and recreational participation for students from refugee or disadvantaged backgrounds, many of whom currently are of African descent. Many students, for whom English is a second or third language, require extra tutoring and study support to enable them to remain engaged in school and to have access to further education and employment opportunities. Regular attendance at programs is high and feedback from parents and schools is positive.

ERCRS' Homework Club for primary students, which operates in St Albans, conducts two after-school learning support sessions per week during school term. Average attendance ranges from mid-20s to mid-30s, 90% of whom are from refugee backgrounds. Through a partnership with the Sunshine Harvester Primary School, ERCRS provides after-school literacy support for recently arrived refugee students in Grades 3 to 6. ERCRS also conducts a Tutoring Program for secondary and tertiary students. Social and recreational opportunities include two annual camps, one of which is a family camp, run in conjunction with Edmund Rice Camps Victoria.

Excursion and activity days for primary students include an introduction to the Australian bush, Melbourne Zoo, Science Works and the Melbourne Sports & Aquatic Centre.

ERCRS' tutoring programs are conducted by volunteers drawn from schools and the general community. Around 200 senior secondary students from about a dozen Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) and other Catholic secondary schools are rostered throughout the year. Around 70 adult tutors, comprised of retired school teachers and university students and other appropriately qualified adults give of their time. ERCRS' learning support programs benefit both students and tutors alike. Tutors experience the satisfaction of contributing directly to positive human change and development.

A feature of 2016 was the Brighter Tomorrow Boys Mentoring Program to assist boys in Year 8 at risk of disengaging from school by helping them with cultural identity and development of responsible decision making skills. The program featured guest speakers who had experienced the challenges of transitioning to Australian culture and focused on high energy activities such as sports, gym, martial arts, camping and canoeing. Melbourne Victory Soccer Club provided a coach for a weekly Soccer clinic.



EDMUND RICE CENTRE FOR JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Director: Mr Phil Glendenning

Program Report
Australia

2016 ERFA Indigenous Support Program Funding: \$30,000

Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education (ERCJCE), located in Sydney, exists to challenge popular beliefs and dominant cultural values, to look at life from the standpoint of the minority, the victim, the outcast and the stranger. ERCJCE works to enable people to change the world through education that begins with awareness raising and ultimately inspires advocacy and social action. Edmund Rice Foundation funding in 2016 contributed to ERCJCE's delivery of its indigenous programs.

ERCJCE's indigenous programs are based in the establishment of right relationships, cultural identity, indigenous decision making and leadership and skills for dialogue and reconciliation. These programs include immersions in indigenous communities; facilitation of reconciliation seminars in school, university and community groups; involvement in advocacy activities and funding assistance for indigenous facilitators in their work.

ERCJCE's "Let's Talk" cross-cultural immersion programs within indigenous communities in rural NSW are based on a philosophy of experiential learning and critical social analysis. Through grass roots experience, groups build relationships and are energised to take an active, creative role in shaping a peaceful and cohesive society.

Let's Talk Local makes connections across the urban-rural divide between indigenous and non-indigenous youth and adults in Australia. Let's Talk Local also runs a program where students from the Sydney area are hosted by Aboriginal communities in far north-west NSW.

ERCJCE's indigenous programs are indigenous designed, focussing on education, employment and development of capacity building in indigenous communities. The programs aim to enable remote indigenous communities to share and deepen their sense of culture and identity. ERCJCE's indigenous programs are based in the principles of development where indigenous people are the subject of the process not the object of others' expertise.

Community consultation has been central in the designing of ERCJCE's indigenous programs and has involved the northern NSW indigenous communities in Goodooga, Walgett, Moree, Brewarrina, Lightning Ridge and Dubbo.

ERCJCE's partnership with the Lingiari Foundation has been established to create a voice and space to address indigenous disadvantage through raising awareness and understanding of the causes of indigenous marginalisation.



PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS ERFA CONTRIBUTED TO INDIGENOUS SUPPORT PROGRAM

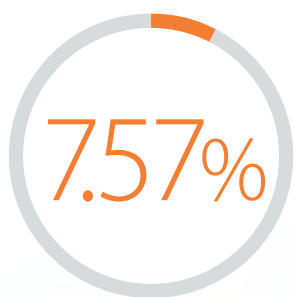


Indigenous programs establishing right relationships, ***cultural identity***, indigenous decision making and ***leadership*** and skills for dialogue and ***reconciliation***

Program Report Oceania

CALLAN SERVICES PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Project Leader: Br Kevin Ryan



PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS ERFA
CONTRIBUTED TO OVERALL BUDGET

2016 ERFA Funding: \$150,000

Callan Services National Unit (CSNU) is a major provider of health and community based rehabilitation services for people living with disability and inclusive education for children with a disability, through 19 Callan Special Education Resource Centres (SERCs) across PNG. CSNU's activities encompass:

- awareness raising of disability issues and preventative education
- screening & testing for early identification of disability, especially in remote locations
- referrals for medical treatment and provision of sight, hearing and mobility aids
- assistance with integration into mainstream schooling and access to vocational training and employment
- integration training for teachers in mainstream schools
- enabling SERC personnel to obtain tertiary qualifications in Special Education
- research into emerging needs
- building sustainability through establishment of effective governance and leadership

The breadth of CSNU's undertakings was in evidence at the 2016 Annual Conference of The Network of Callan Services with participants from 18 Callan SERCs, Callan Studies National Institute (which conducts workshops and courses in special education), Callan Optical Services and CSNU personnel.

A particular focus of the Conference was a first attempt at involving all member organisations in monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of CSNU's 2015 - 2020 Strategic Plan. This enabled participants to gain a shared understanding of progress with implementation of planned actions, emerging needs, uniform methods of data collection and analysis and engagement with relevant PNG government departments.

Refresher Child Protection Training for CSNU personnel was ongoing throughout 2016 and foundational training for new staff was conducted at the Morobe and Madang SERCs. The sharing of scenarios from current and past workplace experience ensured that the learning was practical and related to professional situations. Review and refresher training was also conducted for the designated Child Protection Advisory Officers in each organisation within the Callan Services network, where a particular focus was the revised PNG Child Welfare Act and review of the protocols and processes for response to child protection notifications.

In 2016 the Development Officer at CSNU's national office was enabled to complete a Masters in Leadership Development, with a focus on research into the local implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This will enhance CSNU's engagement in disability advocacy and implementation of PNG's National Disability Policy.



COMUNIDADE EDMUND RICE TIMOR LESTE

Project Leader: Br Frank Hennessy

2016 ERFA Funding: \$155,770
Plus funding of new motor vehicle

Comunidade Edmund Rice (CER) supports health, education and development projects in partnership with 5 village communities in the Ermera District in the remote hill country behind Dili. CER leadership meets regularly with village community leaders (xefes) to facilitate CER's collaboration with local communities and to inform its engagement with local needs.

CER manages 10 pre-school centres (TEKA) and supports 3 government primary schools with approximately 250 and 338 children respectively in 2016.

CER is working with Indooroopilly Montessori Children's House, Brisbane, to introduce best practice Montessori methodology in the pre-schools it supports. CER is a member of TaLiHa (put hands together) the peak body for non-government groups involved in pre-school education. CER sponsors teachers to undertake certificate training in pre-school education and assists with teacher training.

CER employs 4 instructors who deliver a program in basic computer skills, which is open to students and adults. The program enhances employment opportunities. There are courses and certificates in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

During 2016 approximately 40 young people from the villages were assisted through the Br Dan Courtney scholarship program to attend various local tertiary institutions. There were 7 sponsored students who graduated from university in 2016.

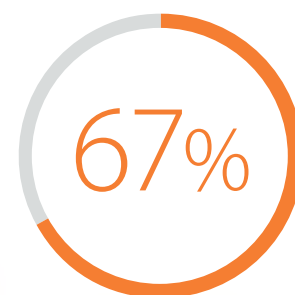
A vanilla growing project is in its second year and the two field workers are assisting 21 farmers to grow and learn more about this crop.

CER's health team of 3 (a nurse, mid-wife and ambulance driver) has continued to provide health services and to work in conjunction with the local government health team. Approximately 1,200 patients are treated per quarter.

The long established livelihood project involving the making of decorative greeting cards has continued, employing 64 village women producing around 150 cards per day. The project is sponsored by the Terrace Timor Network (TTN), Brisbane, who market the cards in Australia. As many materials for the card production as possible are purchased in Timor Leste.

Building projects involving facilities for education, and community services in the villages have continued to be a very important aspect of CER's work. Such projects provide opportunities for local tradespeople to develop skills and knowledge alongside Australian volunteers. 2016 projects included a new pre-school building in Poerema, a library in Delesco and a workshop in Taraco to provide trade skills training for village youth. CER is indebted to the HELP group from Brisbane with construction and training.

Program Report **Oceania**



PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS ERFA
CONTRIBUTED TO OVERALL BUDGET



Building projects provide *opportunities for local tradespeople* to develop skills and knowledge alongside Australian volunteers.

Program Report **Oceania**

EDMUND RICE MINISTRIES KABANKALAN, PHILIPPINES

Project Manager: Br Rod Ellyard



PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS ERFA
CONTRIBUTED TO OVERALL BUDGET

2016 ERFA Funding: \$156,523

Edmund Rice Ministries (ERM) Kabankalan is engaged with the poorest families in and beyond Kabankalan City. In general, families have many children and have little access to education and health services.

During 2016 good progress was made in integrating ERS' four main programs: Community Development (CDP); Uplifting Families through Education; Informal Education; and Health Support. The programs are run under the principles of community development, whereby program participants are trained, mentored and empowered to take more active, responsible and productive roles in their lives and in the lives of their communities.

In 2016, 31 communities participated in the **Community Development Program**, which is enabling collaborative development of livelihood projects by the communities. Incrementally, they are lifting themselves out of poverty.

The CDP process involves immersion of ERS staff into target communities, detailed situational analysis, participation of target communities in the process, provision of community formation opportunities and ongoing program evaluation. The CDP has a community development fund which provides interest free loans to finance the community projects. Loans are repaid as income is generated.

The main focus of the community projects to date has been the selling of rice. Communities are able to withdraw dividends to pay for such as food and school supplies. ERS' education and health programs augment this development process.

ERS' Uplifting Families through Education Program works to improve school attendance. Critical elements are the establishment of good relationships with school heads, teachers, parents and children, home visits and parent workshops in child care. Approximately 280 families have benefitted in 2016.

The **Informal Education Program** provides basic literacy and numeracy for children and youth who have never been to school or whose basic education is incomplete. Adult Education for communities participating in the CDP is growing in importance as a means of enhancing capacities to develop and participate in livelihood projects.

In the **Health Support Program**, screening for eye, ear and general health problems has continued. An area of development has been the training of Community Health Leaders in health education and access to existing health services. Community Health Leaders in more than 20 communities were trained during 2016.

Community development programs *mentor and empower participants* to take active, responsible roles in their lives and communities

EDMUND RICE MINISTRIES MAASIN, PHILIPPINES

Project Manager: Mr Kristoper Rex Oraiz

Program Report **Oceania**

2016 ERFA Funding: \$195,000

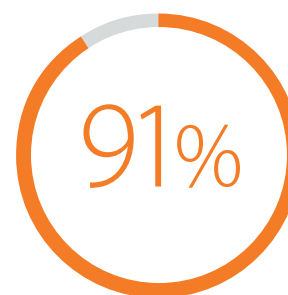
Edmund Rice Ministries (ERM) Maasin's 3 programs: Child Assistance and Livelihood Promotion; Community Based Rehabilitation; and Youth Development Animation, target the poorest families, children and youth in Maasin City and region. 2016 saw the expansion of ERS' programs into some of the poorest villages in the rural hill country outside Maasin City. This has been achieved through the formation of village community development teams, comprised of ERS personnel and local village membership operating under the authority of local village leadership, which facilitates local promotion and ownership.

The **Childhood Assistance and Livelihood Promotion Program** assists children and youth to access and maintain attendance at school. An obvious priority for parents is to be able to generate income in order to alleviate family poverty and enable their children to attend school. Hence, Livelihood Promotion involves working with families and village communities to identify what kinds of livelihood skills training would be most beneficial and providing opportunities to access relevant training. In 2016 livelihood training was provided in food processing, the production of household items from coconut fibre, hairdressing and manicure.

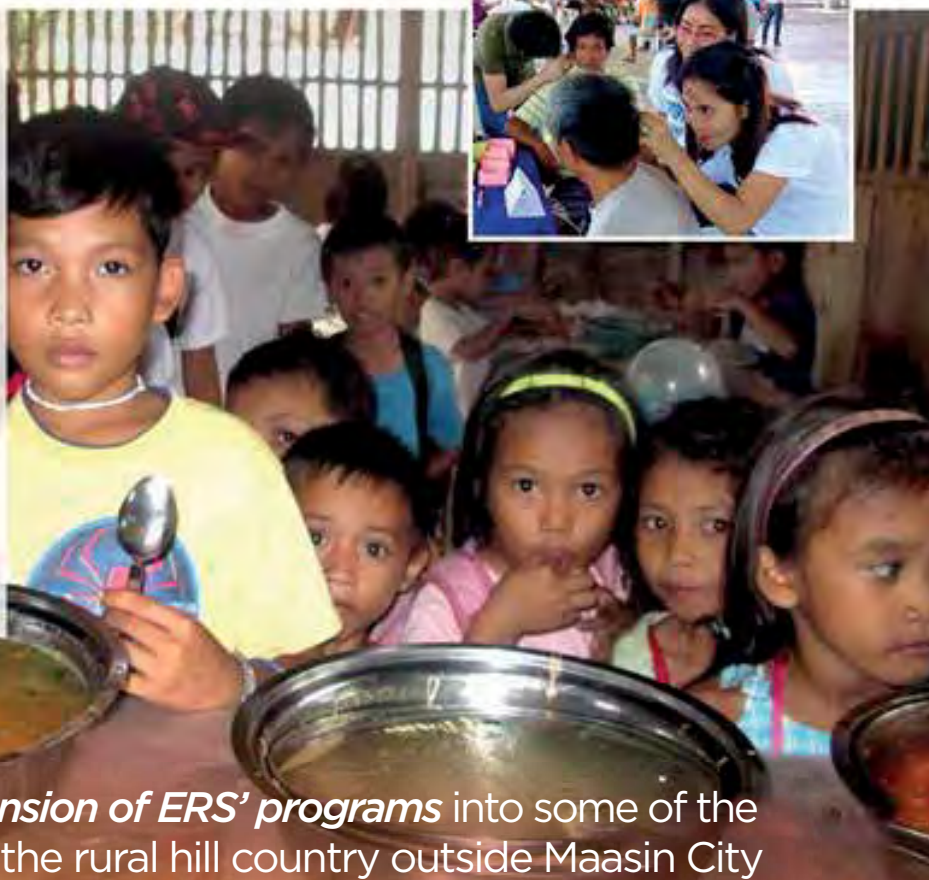
The **Community Based Rehabilitation Program** works to eliminate vision and hearing disability in children and communities through screening for identification and early intervention. Workshops promote primary eye and ear health practices among teachers, children and youth.

Seminars for youth provide information with respect to good physical and emotional health care and responsibility for avoidance of addictive behaviours. Student teachers are assisted to gain knowledge of the philosophy and dynamics underpinning the integration into mainstream schooling of students living with disabilities.

The **Youth Development Animation Program** targets youth at a range of high school grade levels, promoting the development of positive relationships and optimum personal and social growth. The program aims to enable students to develop their social consciousness and understanding of and response to poverty in their local community. Through the development of water and sanitation facilities in their schools and involvement in the planting and nurturance of native trees, the program endeavours to develop environmental awareness and commitment.



PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS ERFA
CONTRIBUTED TO OVERALL BUDGET



2016 saw the *expansion of ERS' programs* into some of the poorest villages in the rural hill country outside Maasin City

Program Report **Africa**

BR BEAUSANG CATHOLIC EDUCATION CENTRE, EMBULBUL, KENYA

Principal: Mr Peter Shanahan



PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS ERFA
CONTRIBUTED TO OVERALL BUDGET

2016 ERFA Funding: \$280,000
Trade Centre: \$40,000

Over 3000 young people have attended Br Beausang Catholic Education Centre (BBCEC) since it began as an informal primary school in 2000 for needy children in Embulbul, a shanty town about 25km from central Nairobi. In 2016 around 770 students were enrolled from pre-school to Year 12 with a teaching staff of 35 and support staff of 30.

BBCEC provides a quality and affordable education for youth in the Embulbul and surrounding areas that aims to be inclusive and empowering. In 2016 BBCEC registered a record 140 students for the KCSE Exam (Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education). BBCEC's highest performing student in the KCPE (Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education) achieved a result in the top 100 students in the country; an outstanding and best ever result for BBCEC.

An important challenge remains enabling teachers to maintain their accreditation. BBCEC is working closely with Catholic and Tangaza Universities to enable teachers to upgrade their qualifications and 7 teachers benefitted from this co-operation in 2016.

During March groups of parents from the local community, including BBCEC parents, took part in the Positive Parenting Program, which is designed to provide parenting and family support and education in parenting strategies. The program was made possible through the support of Edmund Rice Foundation Australia and was facilitated by Dr Divna Haslam from the University of Queensland.

Other significant features of BBCEC school life in 2016 included:

- Increased use of technology in learning
- Home visits to Grade 7 families to promote better pastoral care and enhance home contact
- Mentorship training for girls
- Conflict resolution workshops
- 'Boys Talk' workshops for Grades 7 & 8 boys to identify and address common challenges for boys
- Participation in the Annual Day of the African Child promoting children's rights

A particular highlight of 2016 was the completion of the school's new trade building. The new facility will provide opportunities for students and the wider community to acquire trade skills. The initial focus will be on carpentry with metal work to follow. The development of community courses for introduction in 2017 is underway.

Welcoming students of *all tribes, cultures and religions*, especially those who might not otherwise be able to access education

EDMUND RICE ADVOCACY NETWORK NAIROBI, KENYA

Project Leader: Mr Joash Diemu Sigu

Program Report
Africa

2016 ERFA Funding: \$22,000

Edmund Rice Advocacy Network (ERAN), based in Nairobi, was established by the Christian Brothers East Africa leadership to proactively integrate advocacy into its projects in the region. This initiative acknowledges that addressing poverty is to a large extent dependent on challenging and transforming the unjust systems that impoverish people.

ERAN provides training and workshops for parents, teachers, care givers, children and youth with respect to children's rights, psychosocial support, peace building and environmental conservation initiatives. ERAN undertakes research for purposes of promoting and protecting human and children's rights and actively participates in the Universal Periodic Review process of the United Nations.

In the January quarter 2016 Life Skills Programs were conducted for several local primary schools, Br Beausang Catholic Education Centre and Ruben Centre Vocational Training Unit. Subsequent impacts reported for participants included positive behaviour change, increased self-esteem and improved capacity to manage stress and resolve conflict. Workshops were conducted for teachers and youth in children's rights, human rights and peace building to promote greater awareness of these rights, the role of conflict resolution in building peace in communities and increased appreciation of a range of faith traditions and the need for interreligious dialogue. Several ERAN team members attended a conference on the impact of armed conflict and terrorism on children.

Positive outcomes included awareness of approaches to combatting youth radicalisation and improved networking with other organisations working in the field of children's rights.

Similar programs and workshops were conducted throughout the year with a range of schools and local community groups. In some instances, existing conflicts between participants surfaced in the course of the workshops, whereupon, facilitators were able to engage the disputing parties in real-life conflict resolution. In one case a family had grabbed land from a widow. Through mediation, agreement was reached for the return of the land. In another instance, riots had resulted from a road accident in which some workshop participants had been involved. As a result of their workshop participation, these participants were subsequently able to broker peace among their peers and prevent further planned demonstrations. The impact of the ERAN Team in local communities is evident in that people are acquiring skills to resolve conflict and avoid unnecessary escalation with potential for injury and property damage.

Other outreach has included camps for children and youth, not only to provide recreational opportunities but empowerment through life skills development and education on their rights and responsibilities. Children's Rights and Environmental Clubs for children and youth have been set up in several schools and the Street Library Program facilitated the return to school of around 50 children.



PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS ERFA
CONTRIBUTED TO OVERALL BUDGET

*Promoting
and protecting
human and
children's rights*





Program Report **Africa**

EDMUND RICE KARIBU GROUP NAIROBI, KENYA

Project Leader: Br Peter Cole



PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS ERFA
CONTRIBUTED TO OVERALL BUDGET

2016 ERFA Funding: \$12,500

The Edmund Rice Karibu Group conducts full day and half day camps for children living in Nairobi's giant Kibera slum. The children come mainly from 8 informal primary schools in Kibera. The programs are conducted by young adults also mainly from Kibera. Around 3 full day and 3 half day programs are run per quarter. In all, around 1,000 children participate across the year with some attending multiple programs.

Through games, recreational and artistic activities and group work the camp programs aim to provide enjoyment, enhance self-esteem and self-confidence, develop creativity and new skills and improve communication and build relationships for children from impoverished circumstances. The leaders provide positive role models that otherwise might be absent in the children's lives.


For the leaders, the camps provide opportunities to develop responsibility, communication and leadership skills to deepen their commitment to justice and compassion making a difference in their communities. Leader formation training is provided to develop leadership skills, knowledge of child protection policies and procedures, quality service and care, and program planning skills.

The programs are monitored and evaluated by the Karibu Group Executive who also plan and set directions for the future. Leaders are invited to meet every six weeks to evaluate, plan and reflect on programs.

The young adult leaders also conduct community outreach into the Kibera schools attended by the children who participate in the camps. This outreach involves engaging with teachers and children with topics including life-skills, self-assertiveness, self-esteem, communication skills and children's rights.

Some of the program impacts observed during 2016 were:

- growth in confidence in the children
- improved relationships of children with family and teachers
- improved motivation, school attendance and grades
- less aggressive behaviour in school
- the obvious engagement and enjoyment of participants and leaders in the programs
- growth in confidence and expertise of leaders and creativity in working with and communicating with the children
- enhanced post camp leader reflection and evaluation
- favourable feedback from teachers and parents regarding the programs.



Through games and recreational activities provide enjoyment, *develop creativity*, improve communication and *build relationships*.

PROGRAMS IN ELDORET, KENYA

**Project Leaders: Ms Angeline Obutu – Education for Life
Br Paul Mutuku – Eldoret Camps | Women's Poultry Program**

Program Report
Africa

**EFL Funding: A\$85,000
Eldoret Camps & Women's Poultry
Program Funding: A\$20,500**

The **Education for Life (EFL)** program works with people infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS in the Langas slum area of Eldoret, about 270km north west of Nairobi.

EFL conducts workshops which focus on prevention. Counseling services are available and in-home support is provided. Around 650 orphans and vulnerable children (whose parents are infected) are supported to enable them to continue in primary and secondary school. Infected / affected families are assisted to initiate income generating activities through the Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) scheme. SILC, a development of the microfinance concept, has been designed by Catholic Relief Services specifically for the poorest of the poor in rural communities. EFL's workshops promote human dignity, positive lifestyle through behaviour change, provision of psychosocial support and advocacy that aims at reducing HIV/AIDS and stigma in society.

A healthy diet is essential to facilitate the effectiveness of the antiretroviral (ARV) medication used to suppress the HIV virus. 2016 saw an improved uptake of ARV's as a result of the EFL food supplement program. In addition to the improved general health of program participants, better health has enabled increased participation in the income generating activities of the SILC scheme.

One particularly vulnerable group are widows and displaced women.

In 2016 the **Eldoret Poultry Program** enabled income generation through the breeding and raising of chickens for sale.

The women take full responsibility for the running of the project. 300 chicks were donated by the local county government under its Inua Mama na Kuku initiative (literally, Lift a Mother with a Chicken).

This is a practical instance of achieving sustainable development through local community engagement in income generating sustainable agricultural projects and empowering women.

2016 saw a pleasing improvement in the grades of children in the EFL school support program. Two supported students who took the KCPE exam (Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education) obtained Wings to Fly Scholarships for academically gifted but economically disadvantaged students in Kenya. One supported student who completed secondary school obtained A Grade results, which will enable entry to university.

The **Edmund Rice Camps** Eldoret program for children and youth from the Langas slum continued to flourish in 2016. These camps are inclusive across religious and ethnic groups and provide opportunities for engagement in recreational activities, to develop skills, positive attitudes, social relationships and a sense of belonging. The program provides young adult leaders, usually local tertiary students, with opportunities to develop leadership skills. An annual family camp for children and parents was introduced in 2016.



PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS ERFA
CONTRIBUTED TO OVERALL BUDGET



Program Report **Africa**

MARY RICE CENTRE NAIROBI, KENYA

Project Leader: Br Gerald Mgalula



PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS ERFA
CONTRIBUTED TO OVERALL BUDGET

2016 ERFA Funding: \$80,000

The Mary Rice Centre (MRC) is a transitional centre providing services for children with special needs and their families from Nairobi's Kibera slum, through opportunities for education, training, social integration and rehabilitative care. Approximately 50 children and 40 adults benefitted from MRC's programs in 2016 (26 girls, 23 boys, 37 women and 4 men).

Children are assisted to achieve independence with personal care and to acquire basic literacy, numeracy and communication skills, all being prerequisites for transition into mainstream school, which is the goal for as many as possible. Therapeutic services include physiotherapy to improve fine and gross motor skills and enhance movement. MRC networks with other organisations such as the Educational Assessment Centre, Nairobi, which assists with individual assessments, that inform the development of individualised programs.

For the parents and guardians of children living with disability in an environment such as the Kibera slum, the challenges are enormous. MRC conducts workshops to assist parents to acquire the skills needed to care of children with special needs. Workshop topics in 2016 included types and causes

of disability, identification for early intervention, understanding epilepsy and basic first aid. Training is also provided to enable parents to acquire income generating skills, which in 2016 included knitting and crocheting. Workshop participation facilitates networking and mutual support amongst parents and monthly meetings enable them to contribute to program development and directions. In the June Quarter parents were invited to join members of MRC Advisory Board and staff and representatives from local community and Christian Brothers East Africa leadership in strategic planning for 2017–2021.

After a period of five years being hosted at the St. Charles Lwanga Primary School, a most significant event was the relocation of MRC on October 28 back to its original location, where it had commenced in 2007 on property owned by the Holy Cross Congregation. The original relocation had been forced by a threatened compulsory land acquisition. The second relocation was necessitated by lack of success in negotiating a long term tenancy agreement. In fact, this relocation will provide stability and enable expansion of services. The relocation was facilitated by the portable nature of MRC's buildings and was very much a community undertaking involving staff and parents.



RUBEN CENTRE NAIROBI, KENYA

Project Director: Br Frank O'Shea

2016 ERFA Funding: \$290,000

Ruben Centre is a registered community based organisation at the heart of the Mukuru slum. It provides multifaceted programs in education, health, socio economic development and advocacy that are accessible and responsive to local community needs. Approximately 3000 people per day accessed Ruben's services in 2016, 70% being women and children.

Approximately 2500 attended Ruben Primary School with a 95% retention rate, while 29 children accessed the Special Needs Program, which promotes equal access to education for children living with disability. 199 students benefitted from the Human Development & Skills Training Program, which saw the introduction of a Transition to Work Program and new weaving curriculum. Ongoing curriculum developments included dressmaking, tailoring, Business English, design & marketing and showroom layout. New courses were developed in small urban farming, small animal husbandry, freelance business development and childcare. In addition, 60 teenagers attended business management training. The products of the sewing and weaving courses are sold through Ruben showroom and at markets across Nairobi.

75,947 outpatient services and 2789 dental services were delivered at Ruben Clinic, while 1850 antenatal services were

provided and 11,462 services for children below 5 years of age. A further 3645 reproductive health services were conducted and 8085 HIV tests were performed. Outcomes have included: improved access to outpatient services, reduced mortality, improved oral health, reduced infant mortality, improved pre and post maternal health, reduced rate of mother to baby HIV infection and improved nutrition of infants and young children.

On account of the extreme poverty, child labour is rampant in Mukuru. Through the Social and Economic Empowerment Program around 372 children were rescued from child labour and enabled to attend school. Forums were held to sensitise the Mukuru community collectively to participate in eradicating child labour. Around 468 caregivers of these children benefitted through short term work opportunities at Ruben. The microfinance scheme provides training in business start-up, management and financial literacy. Loans are available only to groups who must co-guarantee each other, have a bank account and be registered with the Ministry of Social Services.

A highlight was the launching on November 19 of the Ruben Community FM Radio Station, which is now a key community advocacy tool and vehicle for informative and entertaining programs. A committee identifies advocacy issues and develops strategies for airing.

Program Report **Africa**



PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS ERFA
CONTRIBUTED TO OVERALL BUDGET

Providing programs in *education, health, and advocacy* that are accessible and responsive to local community needs.



Program Report Africa

EDMUND RICE JUSTICE DESK CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

Project Leader: Ms Jessica Dewhurst



PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS ERFA
CONTRIBUTED TO OVERALL BUDGET

2016 ERFA Funding: \$34,500

The Edmund Rice Justice Desk (ERJD) is the official office for Edmund Rice International's (ERI) justice and human rights work in South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. ERI, based in Geneva, is part of a coalition of faith-based NGOs with consultative status with the United Nations, which act collaboratively for poverty eradication, social justice and care of the earth.

In 2016 SA Justice Desk won the South African Lead SA Award for their work, received a medal from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, addressed the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates, and was named one of the 20 most inspiring organisations in Africa by Youth Village.

ERJD conducts several grassroots projects including:

- A volunteer project focused on the rights of adults living with intellectual and physical disability
- Skills training for vulnerable youth – conducted in partnership with other NGOs
- Financial, psychosocial and mentorship support to enable vulnerable youth to complete advanced training courses
- Mentoring of ERI Youth Ambassadors in campaign design and management

ERJD also conducts human rights training to empower vulnerable communities with the knowledge and skills to undertake their own advocacy.

ERJD conducts human rights training for personnel in Edmund Rice development projects and in Edmund Rice Schools in South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

ERJD partners other NGOs in delivering human rights training for students and staff in South African government schools and for staff in business and civil society organisations and government departments, such as the Department of Agriculture. ERJD was invited to make a presentation to the United Nations Association of South Africa. Campaigns organised by ERJD in 2016 included the 30 Rights in 30 Days Campaign, Sustainable Development Goals Online, Anti-Human Trafficking Month, Month of the Child Campaign and Eco Justice Month.

Work that commenced in 2016 and which will continue in 2017 is the production of submissions to the United Nations Human Rights Council through Edmund Rice International. In 2017 ERJD will be working to strengthen its lobbying work with a specific focus on South Africa and human rights violations. A new team has been put together to focus specifically on lobbying within South Africa against human rights violations.

In 2017 ERJD will be working to expand its scope through the development of specialized human rights training appropriate for different age groups, for those who are differently abled, for varied levels of education and for specific geographical and cultural contexts.



STAR SUPPORT GROUP YAMBIO, SOUTH SUDAN

Project Leader: Br Fredrick Otieno

2016 ERFA Funding: \$90,000

In 2016 Star Support Group worked with close to 2000 people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS in Yambio and district. This comprised approximately 880 women, 500 men and 620 orphan children. Enabling program beneficiaries to live positive, dignified lives through educative, awareness raising workshops and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle to reduce infection rates, have remained important elements of the STAR program. Star operates as a community based organisation with the endorsement of the South Sudan Ministries of Health and Social Development. Star has good working relationships with other NGOs including WHO, UNHCR and CAFOD. Beneficiaries requiring medical treatment are transported to the Comboni Sisters Hospital at nearby Nzara, with which Star maintains an excellent relationship.

A major challenge, which is ongoing, is the instability and insecurity on account of the intermittent civil war which has afflicted South Sudan in recent years, and which has left basic services in a parlous state. The sound of gunfire has been a regular occurrence. An estimated 300,000 people have been internally displaced including a number of Star program participants. Sadly, these circumstances are conducive to increasing the prevalence of HIV/AIDS.

Star has established a good relationship with UNMISS (United Nations Mission in South Sudan) and this has enabled Star to continue to operate.

Star conducts regular awareness raising workshops which provide information about the causes of HIV and the transmission of the virus. This increases the capacity of participants to live more positively with the virus and to be aware of preventative measures. These workshops promote a healthy lifestyle through the provision of nutritional advice. The Star market gardening scheme is a practical sustainability strategy through which the promotion of healthy living becomes a reality, while enabling beneficiaries to work towards becoming self-sufficient. Tailoring has been introduced as an income generating project and 25 program participants undertook training in 2016. The introduction of a microfinance scheme is planned to complement the tailoring project. Star program also provides home based care for the house-bound. In addition to basic items such as rice, beans, sugar, salt and soap, home visitations provide essential psychosocial support. Outcomes have been that the causes of infection are better understood, persons affected are reconnected with their families, they are accepted more positively in the wider community and their general health is improved.

Program Report **Africa**



PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS ERFA
CONTRIBUTED TO OVERALL BUDGET

Enabling to live
*positive, dignified
lives through*
educative, awareness
raising workshops
and the promotion
of a healthy lifestyle

