

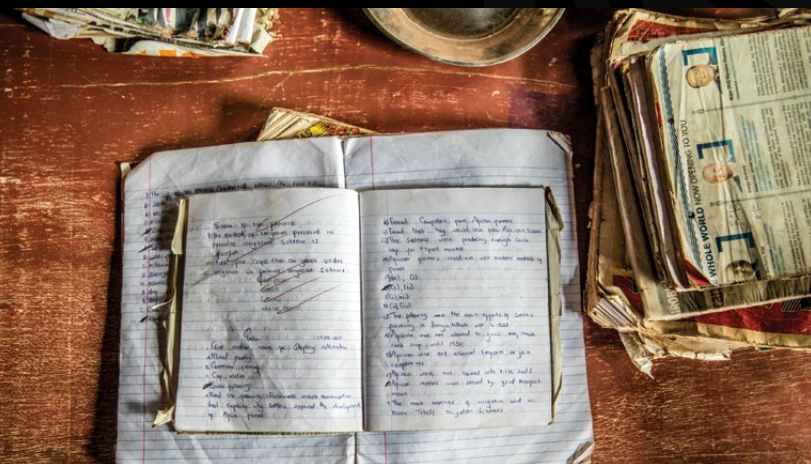


Edmund Rice
FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA

Liberating Lives Through Education

IMPACT REPORT | 20 18

LIBERATING LIVES
THROUGH EDUCATION



OUR VISION

Our vision is for access to quality education and life-long learning opportunities for all, supporting empowered communities that determine their own futures.

OUR PURPOSE

ERFA's purpose is to support the education of the most vulnerable. For ERFA, the best education represents lifelong learning where skills are imparted and applied, lessons learned and life skills mastered. ERFA's focus on education is not only in life changing education for children, but in skills such as financial literacy, farming, trades, health and human rights for adults. The link between education and empowered, self-sustaining and healthy individuals and communities is clear. The right education transforms and liberates lives, every day.

OUR VALUES

Presence, Compassion and Liberation are the values that underpin ERFA's vision for access to quality education and lifelong learning for all, supporting empowered communities to determine their own futures.

Presence

- Relationships built on integrity, mutual respect, trust, accountability and transparency
- Standing in solidarity with the disadvantaged and those living in poverty
- Belief in the equality and dignity of all persons

Compassion

- Our fundamental response is compassion which awakens us to our responsibilities and compels us to take action to eradicate extreme poverty and suffering
- Being sensitive to and informed by the culture, experiences and hopes of local people

Liberation

- Empowerment through education which promotes human development and increases the capacities of local people to break the poverty cycle and determine their own futures

In 2018 ERFA:



Directly impacted the lives of
103,084 PEOPLE
(and hundreds of thousands more indirectly)

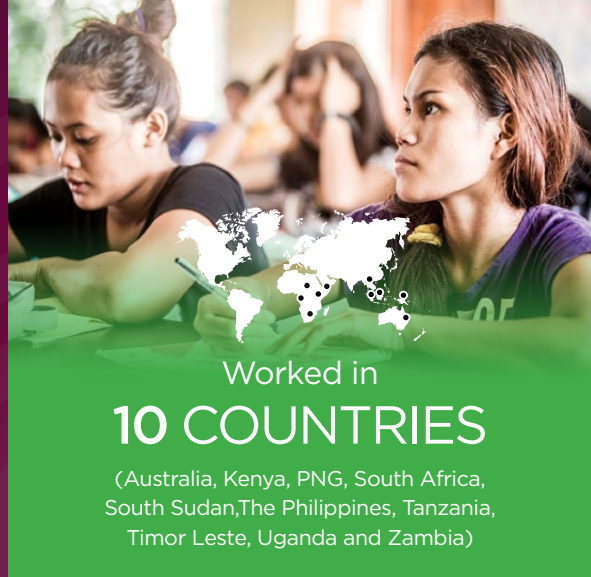


Partnered in delivering
29 PROGRAMS

Through ERFA
Partner Programs:



542 PEOPLE
with disability and living in
poverty were directly supported



Worked in
10 COUNTRIES

(Australia, Kenya, PNG, South Africa,
South Sudan, The Philippines, Tanzania,
Timor Leste, Uganda and Zambia)



Disbursed to programs
\$2,300,676 GLOBALLY



49,754 CHILDREN
received health and education services



31,154 WOMEN
were supported in economic
empowerment, health, vocational
training and mentoring



...providing an environment of **fun, acceptance, challenge, and growth.**

AUSTRALIAN STORY

Edmund Rice Camps provides marginalized and/or minority group children, youth and families with experiences they may not otherwise have access to. Supported by a 1:1 ratio of volunteer mentors to participants, Edmund Rice Camps provide an environment of fun, acceptance, challenge, care and growth.

A wonderful initiative for Edmund Rice Camps in Tasmania (ERC Tas) in 2018 was their annual overnight weekend program with new Tasmanian Police recruits. The camp participants were members of the Hobart United Football Club who are teenage males predominantly from a refugee background. ERC Tas decided that, due to recent headlines around tension between refugee youth and police in other states, they would put the new police recruits and this group of male teens together in a surprise encounter to promote understanding, friendship, learning and fun.

The police recruits were only informed the day before the event that their buddies were to be children from a refugee background.

The teenage participants first met their buddies in civilian uniform and it was only after the first day that they discovered that their buddies were police officers.

Whilst the camp was a great success all round, the real power and impact came three weeks later in a city park after midnight on New Years' Eve. As part of the training, police recruits were told that at some stage in their police career they would come face to face with groups of refugee kids congregating on the streets and that how these kids were approached by them could have a significant impact on the end result of the meeting. If approached with respect, openness and understanding, a potentially difficult meeting could have positive results. On New Years' Eve, in a park in the centre of Hobart, that is exactly what occurred with a lovely outcome; new Tasmanian police officers fresh from their Edmund Rice Refugee program, ran into a group of African boys who they had just camped with.

It was a reunion enjoyed by all!



FROM TOWNSHIP TO HARVARD

Brian attended Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre (BBCEC) in the Embulbul township for his entire 15 years of primary and secondary schooling. He was the school's top performing student in both the primary and secondary Kenyan national exams. During this time, Brian's only trip out of Kenya was a school visit to Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School in Arusha (Tanzania) in 2015.

In 2016, Brian wrote a letter to ERFA about Embulbul. In it he says "...it is where my roots anchor... it is difficult to describe but in two words I would say, 'Bulbul has complicated simplicity.'" With a population of over 12 thousand, he goes further in his letter to lament "It pains a lot to say that those in 'Bulbul who have been educated can be counted". Brian's letter concludes with the words "By the grace of God lies a glimmer of hope for the village; Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre... From the funds the school has received from well-wishers, students have been able to access education and lead better lives. Indeed it is only through education that poverty levels could be reduced in 'Bulbul and BBBCEC, which is a second home to many of us, will truly be the turning point of our lives".

In 2018, Brian's prophetic words became a reality for him and he reached his own turning point when he was awarded a full scholarship to study at Harvard University in the United States. He is certainly living out the school motto – "Carpe Diem - seize the day".




A FUTURE LEADER

Knight is 38 years old and started working as a cleaner at the St Therese Hospital in Nzara, South Sudan a few years back. Knight is a loving husband and father to his wife and six children. Through ERFA's focus on providing life-changing education for communities, Knight was able to undertake training as a nurse at the hospital and attend the Catholic Health Training Institute. Not only does this education mean that Knight can provide essential health care in the community, but he is also able to support his family and pay for education for his wife and one of his younger children, both living with HIV.

Knight is extremely committed, caring and responsible and he is showing great leadership potential which is so important for the future sustainability of the hospital. He is a fantastic team member who mentors and shares his gifts with his colleagues. Knight's enthusiasm to learn and the opportunities available to him through education have led him to say...

"You have brought alive the wisdom of my parents".



There is no substitute
for hard work...

EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE

"There is no substitute for hard work" says Gelin, 46 years old and a mother of 7 children. A graduate of Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, Gelin had her first job working as a teacher.

While working at a prestigious university in the Philippines, she met her husband and decided to leave her teaching career to focus on nurturing her family. Going back and settling in her hometown with practically nothing was pretty hard. Then came the point that her husband needed to look for a job outside their place of haven. Working as a painter, her husband sends them money regularly but it's not enough to support the family. Gelin works as a Community Service Point Officer and, on the side, offers home service laundry, massage and tutoring to school children to make ends meet.

During harvest seasons, she collects rice hay from the fields to sell to piggery owners. Day in and day out, Gelin perseveres but still they find themselves struggling. Two of Gelin's children were included in the ERM-Maasin Developmental Supplementary Feeding program which aims to prevent children dropping out of school because of hunger. Parents of these children support the program by cooking and distributing the food and they receive skills training to empower them to earn income. Gelin took part in ERM's Food Processing training and her family now earns additional income of around \$7 per day selling banana chips.

The vocational education Gelin received has enabled her to continue providing for her children's education. **"This small business has really helped out in my children's school expenses"** exclaims Gelin.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Through ongoing monitoring and evaluation of programs, ERFA and our partners ensure that we understand the effectiveness of our work, that we know to what extent the programs are achieving their objectives and that we can learn what needs to be strengthened or changed to ensure the best outcomes for the communities we work with.

Key recommendations for program management in 2018 were identified and these were addressed throughout the year. Activities included:

- Training for programs in Results Based Management
- Introduction and training on an Edmund Rice Logical Framework template (Log Frame) – a tool used for defining activities, risks/assumptions, resources, objectives and outcomes in designing, monitoring and evaluating international development projects
- Program training in monitoring and evaluation and risk management
- The establishment of a Nairobi branch office to provide capacity building support and training to programs as well as to work with programs to ensure sharing of knowledge, resources and learning

In 2018, we also established that there is a need for programs to have access to:

- Further training in financial and results based management
- Edmund Rice education resources, particularly for advocacy and microfinance/community lending schemes
- A “learnings” platform to share information between Edmund Rice programs
- Support in funding diversification strategies and approaches

...learning what needs to be **strengthened or changed to ensure the best outcomes** for the communities we work with.





**EDMUND RICE
FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA**

ERFA Office
Ph • 07 3621 9649
Fax • 07 3621 9688
Email • info@erf.org.au

Executive Office
PO Box 130
Virginia BC QLD 4014
ABN 28 153 110 055

www.erf.org.au

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**ACFID
MEMBER**

Edmund Rice Foundation (Australia) is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, which is a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice. As a signatory we are committed and fully adhere to the ACFID Code of Conduct, conducting our work with transparency, accountability and integrity. To lodge a complaint against our organisation, please email the CEO at ceo@erf.org.au. Our complaints handling policy can be found on our website. If you are not satisfied with the response and believe our organisation has breached the ACFID Code of Conduct, you can lodge a complaint with the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee at code@acfid.asn.au. Information about how to make a complaint can be found at www.acfid.asn.au.