

Presence ♥ Compassion ♥ Liberation



**Edmund Rice**  
FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA

*Liberating Lives Through Education*

# REACHING OUT



## GET INVOLVED

There are many ways you can be involved and support ERFA. Please visit <https://erf.org.au/get-involved> to view our latest events and ways to support.



Use our icons to easily find articles that interest you.



DONOR PASSION



GET INVOLVED



STORIES TO INSPIRE



LIBERATING EDUCATION



# DID YOU KNOW...



## 10 Years OF ERFA

Reflection is such a valuable exercise. ERFA has recently undertaken an in-depth process of reflection to look back on how far we have come and to take stock of the achievements of our amazing projects around the world.

It is startling to think that ERFA had its inception in 2011, **meaning that this year is our 10th anniversary!**

In 2011, we contributed A\$1.3 million to partner projects. As we approach the end of 2021 we are on track to contribute a cumulative total of A\$22 million to development projects over the past 10 years. This has resulted in empowerment and advancement for hundreds of thousands of people and has been made possible through the incredible support of the wider Australian Edmund Rice community. ERFA's vision is for access to quality education and life-long learning opportunities for all, supporting empowered communities who determine their own futures ■



# THANK YOU

**Thank you to the ERFA community for your support in 2021.** We would like to wish all our supporters a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We hope that after another challenging year you are able to find some respite, spend time with family and friends and enjoy some Christmas cheer.





# Maternal & CHILD HEALTH PROJECT



In Zambia, ERFA partners in a community-based Maternal and Child Health project which empowers volunteers in Safe Motherhood Action Groups to advocate for child nutrition and antenatal health. There have been sound achievements for the project leaders in 2021.

Rural health clinics in the area have reported increased consistency in the attendance of young mothers and children to pre-natal and under-5 health clinics.

The Western Cluster Zambia (WCZ) program has forged ties with local project committees that are responsible for providing communities with information on the rights of children, child marriage and gender-based violence. These topics take direct aim at the root causes of child pregnancy and insecure child health.

WCZ has also nurtured numerous government partnerships. Once trained in child and maternal health practices by WCZ, members of the Safe Motherhood Action Groups are assigned to Rural Health Centres under the Zambian Ministry of Health. Government-facilitated Victim Support Units have been engaged, which provide trauma support and education to victims of sexual gender-based violence.

The partnerships between WCZ, communities and government create the best opportunities for ensuring that best health practices are adopted ■



## A Constant ADVOCATE

Terry Henderson has been a long-standing supporter of the Edmund Rice network. This traces back to his hard-working mother prevailing in difficult circumstances. The Christian Brothers provided support, taking Terry on at Parade College and then in the accountancy night school at St Joseph's, North Melbourne.

In 1999, Terry formed a very successful organisation in the horse racing industry. Through an industry friend, he was introduced to the work of Edmund Rice Foundation and to the 500 Supporters' Group MCG luncheons. Learning of the great work being done, Terry has become a constant supporter and, through his racing industry networks has brought racing notables as speakers to 500 Supporters' Group fundraising luncheons.

Terry understands there is immense capacity to perform acts of good in this world. In his own words:

**"What you give, you get."**



# Empowering WOMEN & GIRLS

For the third year running, ERFA hosted the *Best Foot Forward* Giving Day which raised funds to empower women and girls around the world by providing them with access to an education. This year's cause centred around quelling the rise of post-pandemic gender-based violence.

It is a well-documented and disturbing phenomenon that gender-based violence increases during crises. The upsurge in violence against women since March 2020 has been deemed the "shadow pandemic" by the United Nations.



"In my life, we don't have gender equality yet, in the future I want gender equality to happen all over the world."

Ahluma is one of 65 courageous participants in The Justice Desk's Mbokodo Club project in South Africa, which provides empowerment workshops, trauma counselling and self-defense workshops to GBV survivors.

Curbing and ultimately eliminating gender-based violence starts with education. ERFA only supports advocacy projects that involve BOTH women and men. After all, the majority of gender-based violence is violence against women, committed by boys and men. ERFA supports and empowers girls and women through: gender-inclusive primary and secondary education; GBV awareness and education that targets BOTH women and men; psychosocial support for single mothers; trauma counselling for GBV survivors; and women's microcredit cooperatives.

In just 24 hours, through the generosity of our supporters and matching donors, \$175,657 was raised in this year's campaign. An incredible show of support and one for which we are incredibly grateful ■



Scan to view video



## MEET ERFA'S *Agriculture* PROGRAM MANAGER

Lillian commenced working with ERFA's Kenya branch in September 2019. As the Agriculture Program Manager, she facilitates the strategic development and operation of agricultural and farming projects.

Each of the agricultural projects serve as a learning centre for the participating community and, as a **natural-born educator**, Lillian is instrumental in facilitating skills and knowledge transfer.

Pictured here, Lillian conducts an informal training session on tomato cultivation.

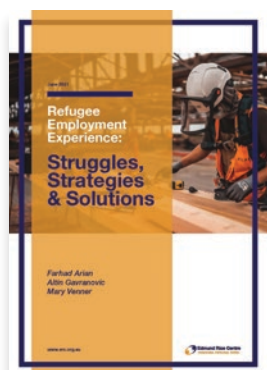






## NSW MAYOR WELCOMES 'EYE-OPENING' REPORT ON *Refugee Employment*

Mayor of Liverpool City Council, NSW, Wendy Waller welcomed the recommendations of a new research report spearheaded by the Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education. The report, titled "Refugee Employment Experiences: Struggles, Strategies and Solutions", investigates the struggles and challenges refugees face finding work in Australia. The report is intended to improve policies and service offerings for refugees so that they can achieve better employment outcomes.



Mayor Waller said the report was "eye-opening", highlighting what employment and job-seeking looks like from a refugee perspective.

"One of the key findings of the report was the Catch-22 situation many refugees say they face. For instance, many of those interviewed by the researchers consider the best way for them to learn English is in the workplace compared to formal classes but they cannot secure a job because of their limited English skills."

The report concluded that the path to employment for refugees is often a long and winding road, with many eventually succeeding in securing some form of employment after a lengthy struggle. For example, the report highlighted the example of a single mother, who came to Australia in 2018 from Syria, a university-trained accountant, who felt pressure to

pursue a more realistic employment option upon arriving. She currently practices as a hairdresser and while she has some experience in this profession, it still reflects a mismatch between her qualifications and current employment.

Scan the QR code to read the report by Edmund Rice Centre for Justice and Community Education in its entirety.



## You Can Help Support the work of Edmund Rice Foundation (Australia)

# \$50

Helps women like Aliyah receive life-changing training and funds to start a cafeteria business in South Sudan.



# \$500

Provides an entire year's worth of inclusive education for students like Geoffrey at the Kurt Fearnley Centre for Special Needs in Nairobi's Mukuru slum.



# \$5,000

Helps "Eddie on the Road" provide vital programs and services for at-risk youth in remote indigenous communities in the Pilbara, Western Australia.





The Edmund Rice network of schools has once again gone the extra mile in giving generously to support ERFA projects throughout 2021.

Whether it is by hosting walkathons or selling pink shoelaces, **the generosity of Edmund Rice schools has enabled ERFA projects to continue to support disadvantaged individuals and communities to build brighter futures.**

Throughout 2021, schools have raised funds to be used in education and advocacy initiatives in Australia and around the world. ERFA would like to acknowledge and thank all schools who were involved and donated so generously. Not only does this support enable and empower disadvantaged communities, but it also helps facilitate vital conversations about important topics like social justice, gender and equity.



This year's campaign raised awareness of issues such as gender-based violence, which has tragically increased sharply during the COVID pandemic. Schools accessed learning resources focussing on this topic and many others through ERFA's online School Resources webpage. We are grateful for the support of EREA in producing these resources.

ERFA is committed to offering new and engaging learning resources that help teachers and students to unpack the fascinating and challenging topics that emerge from the work we do. In the coming months, we will continue to build upon these teaching and learning activities with some exciting new digital resources. Watch this space!

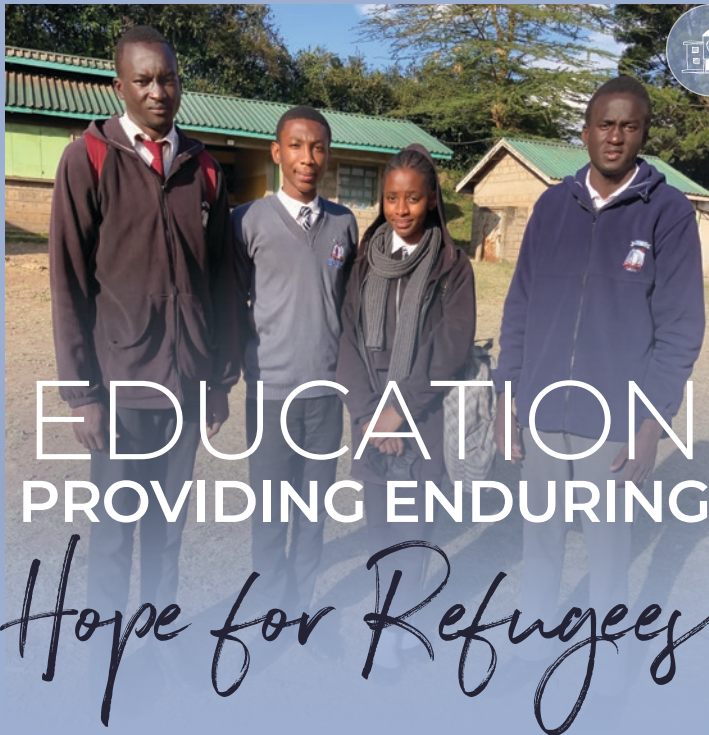


## DID YOU KNOW...



ERFA's Nairobi branch staff work on a daily basis alongside our Kenyan partner projects to **provide training and support so that funds from our generous donors will create lasting change.**





Kenya harbors refugees from a host of war-torn countries, many of whom are restricted to enduring conditions in refugee camps. Those that arrive in the capital city of Nairobi typically fall through the cracks, being outside the remit of the support services provided by international development organisations. Employment is an impossibility for many as, on top of Kenya's high unemployment rate, non-resident working visas are extremely hard to come by. Due to Kenya's rigid education system, which focuses on continuity, many schools find it difficult to absorb students outside the starting grades. Life for Kenyan-based refugees is thus a bleak one, devoid of human rights, including the right to quality education.

Approximately 9% of Edmund Rice Catholic Education Centre's school population derive from countries ravaged by conflict. Many of the students come from South Sudan, Somalia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo and were referred to ERCEC by community members who trusted the vision and mission of the school. Education provides a source of enduring hope and the prospect of improved living standards for young refugees who have been excluded from so many vital spheres of life. "Our hope has been rekindled even though our country is ravaged with war and unrest" are the words of one Sudanese-born student. Another former student, who has since obtained employment in their home country of South Sudan says,

"The school and its education have made me feel home away from home, giving me a sense of belonging in the modern world and sense of security."



## Growing STRONG PROJECT

ERFA's *Growing Strong* project at Edmund Rice Catholic Education Centre has been nurturing the growth of future farmers. The project's "4K Club" – an initiative of the Kenyan Government, designed to equip future generations of farmers with skills in agricultural management – has been teaching students to produce silage for the school's dairy cows.

Growing Strong project leaders provide the student club members with hands-on agricultural practice and classroom teachings that cover each stage of the silage production cycle, from seed bed preparation and harvesting, all the way to fodder fermentation and storage.

To view video on silage making, scan the following QR code.



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To help our environment and cut unnecessary costs, we invite you to sign up to receiving this newsletter by email at: <https://mailchi.mp/erf/reachingout2021>

**YES, I would like to support the work of  
Edmund Rice Foundation (Australia) in**

*Liberating lives through an  
empowering education.*

Please tick the region you would like your donation to go to:

☐ Overseas Programs ☐ Australian Programs

**Please accept my donation for the amount of \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

**OR become a monthly supporter**

I wish to show my support and be there for people in need every day of the year. I want to provide ongoing monthly support to Edmund Rice Foundation.

☐ \$20 per month ☐ \$100 per month ☐ \$500 per month ☐ My choice of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month

**MY PAYMENT DETAILS**

☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Amex

Credit Card Number

Expiry Date: (mm/yy)   /

Card Holder Name:

Signature:

**BANK TRANSFER**

Should you wish to make a donation by bank transfer, please contact us on 07 3621 9649 or email [info@erf.org.au](mailto:info@erf.org.au).

**PAYMENT BY CHEQUE**

**For overseas projects:** please make cheques out to Edmund Rice Overseas Aid Fund

**For Australian projects:** please make cheques out to Edmund Rice Foundation (Australia)

**GET INVOLVED**

☐ I am interested in information on immersion programs ☐ The business I work for is interested in supporting ERFA's work

**MY CONTACT DETAILS**

**If your contact details have changed please update them here:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I would like my donation to be allocated by ERFA where it is needed most
- ☐ I would like to receive information about leaving a Gift in my Will to Edmund Rice Foundation
- ☐ I have already left a Gift in my Will to Edmund Rice Foundation



Complete the form and return  
it in the **envelope provided**



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