

## E-NEWSLETTER

## In this issue

1. Strategic Plan Launch
2. Team building in Tigoni
3. Fighting child hunger in Africa
4. Kenya CSO report to ACERWC
5. Enhanced partnerships to end FGM
6. Marsabit policy consultative forums
7. Training journalists on FGM
8. CAO raises concerns on BIA
9. Development and submission of UPR report
10. GAWE 2019 commemoration
11. Meeting Education CS
12. Data review on quality assurance
13. Analysing APBET policy & guidelines
14. Mapping out schools in Mathare
15. Community forum in Homa Bay
16. Adoption of Abidjan Principles
17. TdH on board
18. Training Uganda CSOs
19. IHRDA's training on litigation

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## Strategic Plan Launch

EACHRights **launched** its 5-year Strategic Plan (2019-2022) on February 15, 2019. The launch was graced by Senator, Makueni County, hon. Mutula Kilonzo Junior, the vice-chairman of Kenya National Commission for Human Rights, Commissioner George Morara, our development partners, implementing partners, stakeholders advocating for Economic Social and Cultural Rights, members of the Board of Directors, members of the Board of Trustees, friends of EACHRights and staff.

In his remarks, Commissioner George Morara noted that the achievements of EACHRights over the last nine years highlight the significant role that civil society continues to play not only in promoting and protecting human rights but also in enhancing accountability across various sectors of our society.

Further, Senator Kilonzo drew the attention of attendees to Article 28 of the Constitution which states that: "Every person has inherent dignity and the right to have that dignity respected and protected".

Key highlights of the Strategic Plan include an analysis of the context we are operating in, interventions and different approaches of implementing it, among others. It is available for download [here](#).



Senator Mutula Kilonzo Junior (left) receiving a gift from EACHRights founder, Mr Gilbert Onyango during the Strategic Plan launch.

## Team building in Tigoni

EACHRights held a staff team building in Tigoni - Thayu Farm Hotel early this year to increase the organisation's team spirit. Staff not only got their adrenaline flowing in the field and applied strategies such teamwork and creativity to solve some games but also reflected on the organisation's journey, the highs and lows of the previous year and planned the year ahead.

One of the strategic areas of focus for EACHRights is Institutional Development; an inward-looking component that involves the organisation enhancing its sustainability, effectiveness and relevance, staff care, among others.

## Collective Action to Fight Child Hunger in Africa at International Policy Conference

EACHRights was represented at the 8th International Policy Conference on the African Child by CEO, Dr Judith Oloo and staff. The biennial Pan-African conference hosted by the African Child Policy Forum (ACPF) provides a platform for policy dialogue on issues affecting children in Africa, and this year's focus was on child hunger. Since our work focuses on policy advancement of children's issues, this was our chance to not only network but also improve knowledge of the magnitude and repercussions of child hunger in Africa.

In her opening remarks, President Sahle-Work Zewde of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia said "as a human being, no child should go hungry, and as a mother, no parent should bury her child because of hunger."

During the closing of the conference, Mrs Graça Machel, humanitarian, women and children's rights advocate reaffirmed delegates that "this (the conference) is an important space and we will nurture it because it has to be Africans themselves to shape the narrative."



EACR Rights CEO, Dr Judith Oloo presenting the Call to Action during the last day of the conference.



Delegates visit the EACR Rights and EACRN booth and learn more about the organisations during a conference break.

In addition, the CEO made a **presentation** on Harmonization of Education Laws in Africa in September at ACPF's technical symposium themed Catalysing Action for Harmonisation of Laws on Children in Africa.

## Final touches on Kenya CSO report to ACERWC

We held a consultative workshop to finalise the Kenya CSO report to the ACERWC in collaboration with Eastern African Child Rights Network (EACRN) and PLAN International Kenya On Monday, October 14 to 15, 2019. The forum brought participants from over 40 organisations working on child rights who contributed to the development and refinement of recommendations that shall be incorporated in the report. A validation workshop is set to happen on Monday, 28 October 2019 before the report is submitted to the Committee. Read more [here](#).



A participant presents group recommendations to the whole team.



Participants deliberate on issues during group tasks at the consultative workshop.

## Ending FGM and harmful cultural practices in pastoralist counties

Our end FGM (female genital mutilation) and harmful cultural practices project, Watoto Wetu, seeks to advance policies relating to children in pastoralist counties of Marsabit, Garissa and Kajiado. The project is in its second phase and here are the activities so far:

## Enhanced partnerships with local partners at county level

Our partnership with local stakeholders under the following umbrella bodies and networks have helped in influencing change in areas of eradicating FGM and harmful cultural practices among pastoralist communities:

- MIO-NET partnering with EACR Rights in facilitating child protection policy consultative forums held in Saku, Laisamis, Kalacha, Sololo, Moyale, Sagante Jaldesa, Loglogo, and Maikona.
- Kajiado County Children Stakeholders Network (KACCSNET) partnered with EACR Rights in facilitating review of the Kajiado County policy for eradication of FGM.
- Capacity building training on child rights and protection for Religious leaders in Garissa under the umbrella of the Supreme Council of Kenyan Muslims (SUPKEM).
- Sensitization forum for Kajiado County Assembly Gender Committee on draft Eradication of FGM policy held in November 2018. The forum was facilitated by EACR Rights in partnership with Yes I Do Alliance and Respect for Change.

## Marsabit County Policy Consultative Forums

In the first week of July, Watoto Wetu Project team was in Marsabit County engaging with community decision-makers and citizens in Moyale and Saku Sub-Counties. Our intention for this activity is to ensure citizen participation in the formation of **Marsabit County integrated and all-inclusive child protection policy**; a process that resulted in us collecting views and recommendations from community members. Further, we conducted other forums in Loglogo and Maikona sub-counties from **September 18 to 20, 2019** facilitated by Simeon Ogao of Department of Children's Services (DCS) Marsabit. Our next and last forum is scheduled from November 4-9, 2019 to collect children's views from the ages of 12 to 18 years.



Community members participate in group discussions and form recommendations about issues affecting children in Loglogo sub-county.



## Training Journalists and CSOs on FGM reporting



A photo of journalists and CSOs at Silver Springs hotel after the training.

EACHRights partnered with Amref Health Africa in Kenya, Equality Now and Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) to train journalists and CSOs on Tuesday, October 22, 2019, regarding coverage of FGM related stories. Participants were drawn from mainstream media houses in Nairobi, as well as their offices in regions with high FGM prevalence rates like Northern Kenya and Kisii.

The training came two days before the hearing of Petition 244 of 2019 formerly Petition 8 of 2017 where Dr Tatu Kamau (The Petitioner) appeared before a 3-judge bench and challenged the constitutionality of the Prohibition of FGM Act (2011). The hearing happened from October 24-25 at the Milimani Law Courts where the Petitioner championed for the practice to be legalised. The High Court of Kenya directed that the case proceedings resume on December 5 and 17, 2019.



10th Interested Party, John Arap Kiplagat submits his statement in support of the petitioner on October 24, 2019, at Milimani Law Courts. PHOTO: Equality Now.



Dr Tatu Kamau presents her case before the 3-judge bench challenging the FGM Act. PHOTO: Equality Now.

## Education Support Programme (ESP)

ESP's long-term goal is to ensure the State fulfils its obligation to provide free and quality basic primary education in line with its obligations to international and regional treaties and the national law. Our activities in the year are as follows:

### Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO) raises "substantial concerns" regarding Bridge International Academies (BIA)

Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO), World Bank's independent accountability mechanism published a [report](#) on October 24, 2019, raising "substantial concerns" regarding Bridge International Academies (BIA) and announced their intention to conduct a compliance investigation into International Finance Corporation's (IFC) investment in the company.

The CAO arrived at this decision after a comprehensive appraisal of a [complaint](#) filed by 10 Kenyan citizens, former and current teachers and parents at BIA, with support from EACHRights on April 16, 2018. The complaint outlined alleged violations of IFC performance standards and abuses of human rights law as committed by IFC's client, BIA. We published a [press release](#) regarding this development and stages the complaint has undergone.

Further, EACHRights CEO, Dr Judith Oloo made an [address](#) on October 25, 2019, on the same.

We, together with the complainants look forward to a rigorous and thorough investigation and call on investors to take action immediately so as to avoid further harm to thousands of children, parents and teachers who are daily affected by these violations.

## EACHRights led the development and submission of UPR Report

EACHRights led the development and submission of a UPR report for the Kenyan 3rd cycle on the status of the realization of the right to education in Kenya. This submission covered the period from 2015, when Kenya underwent its 2nd periodic review, to 2019.

In the previous cycle, the government was urged to continue strengthening its successful educational policies for primary, secondary and higher education in order to provide greatest welfare and quality of life to its people. The report highlighted, progress made by the state as well as challenges that still exist and are a barrier towards realization of the right to education for all children of Kenya.

In addition, EACHRights submitted an individual report that highlighted growth of privatisation of Education in Kenya and its negative impact on the realization of the right to free, inclusive and quality education for all children in Kenya.

## EACHRights led the development and submission of UPR Report

The Global Action Week for Education (GAWE) 2019 themed "Making the right to an inclusive, equitable, quality, free public education a reality" through a slogan dubbed "My Education; My Right (s)" was commemorated from April 23rd to May 1st 2019. Through a coalition of CSOs led by Elimu Yetu Coalition, a series of activities were agreed upon to create awareness on the right to education and to advance the "My Right; My Education" campaign.

The Kenyan Campaign aimed at raising awareness on importance of education to achieve sustainable development and commitments made by all to reach the global education agenda. It focused on advocacy around the following areas:

- Education financing–Budget allocation
- Teacher-student ratio
- Implementation of the competency-based curriculum
- Access to information
- Privatization of education – sponsored schools, APBET etc.

- Participation of CSOs in policy processes
- Challenges arising as a result of the 100% transition policy
- School Re-entry of teenage mothers
- Funding and transition of the School feeding program
- Education for children in the juvenile justice system.

Among the activities EACHRights spearheaded include:

1. The Children's competition on April 18, 2019, at Moi Avenue Primary School, Nairobi which attracted 11 schools from both public and Alternative Provision of Basic Education and Training (APBET) institutions. The competition had children from class 6 and 7 participate in activities such as drawing, essay writing, poetry and speech composition.
2. In partnership with Haki Jamii and APHRC, we held a Community Dialogue at Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) on the status of APBET schools with teachers and parents of students attending APBET schools particularly those in informal settlements of Kangemi, Kibra, Mathare, Viwandani, Mukuru and Korogocho. The meeting resulted to a highlight of the need to Conduct sensitization of APBET Policy and Guidelines; Hold a dialogue forum with policymakers that will give community members a platform to raise their concerns, and advocate for and support registration of the schools in Nairobi.
3. Further, we facilitated a policy dialogue in Homa Bay County where the Homa Bay County Education Network and partnering CSOs engaged with the Homa Bay County Education Board on status of the realisation of the right to education in Homa Bay County. The output was a strategy on how CSOs can better engage with the county Education Board to enhance school management systems like the Board of Management and the Parents Associations to be more effective in delivering their mandate.



Children actively participate in the competition that acted as a build-up activity to the Global Action Week for Education 2019.

## Meeting Education Cabinet Secretary, Prof. George Magoha

EACHRights ESP staff and partners met the Education CS, Prof. George Magoha to explore how CSOs can work with the Cabinet Secretary's office to realize the Right to Quality Education for all children in Kenya. The CS expressed his interest in working with CSOs particularly on parental engagement and enhancing accountability in the quest to realize the right to education for all children in Kenya.



CSOs pose for a photo with the education Cabinet Secretary.

## Secondary data review on quality assurance processes

Literature review on education Quality Assurance processes has been finalized and is set for dissemination. The review will inform our next steps in primary research data which began in April 2019 and ends as soon as Nairobi has been completed.

## Analyzing status of implementation of the APBET policy and guidelines

EACHRights in partnership with the Complementary Schools Association engaged 147 low-fee private school owners across all Nairobi sub-counties in 2018 in a survey on status of implementation of the APBET policy and guidelines.

Both this and data collected from education officials are ready for dissemination and will inform the development of a concept note on education in informal settlements with other partners. Key findings will also be used in discussions with the Ministry in order to enhance regulation of low-cost private actors.

## Mapping out schools in Mathare constituency

EACHRights has mapped and surveyed low-cost private schools in Mathare and a part of Mathare North Constituency. While 125 schools were identified and geo-located, 96 low-fee private schools were surveyed. The report shall inform development of a Strategic Litigation case, as well as count as the first step towards building a set of indicators with which low-fee Kenyan private schools can be tracked. EACHRights also entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Map Kibera, who shall host our geo-data on their open data platform after verification.

## Community Engagement on education in Homa Bay County

In collaboration with the Homa Bay County Education Network (HOCEN), EACHRights held a series of community engagement activities from February 4 to 8 2019, in Suba and Homa Bay Sub-counties.

The activities consisted of validation of the school needs assessment report with education officials, follow up meetings with stakeholders on the thematic areas on accountability in education within Homa Bay County, a 1-day training on advocacy for education stakeholders and lastly public engagement (Community Barazas) on the right to education.

Additionally, from October 2 to 19, EACHRights partnered with Homa Bay Sub-County education office to conduct quality assurance assessments of 21 public primary and secondary schools in Homa Bay sub-county. Also supported was the training of newly inaugurated Boards of Management from 71 schools. The teams are set to undertake the same in Ndhiwa, Suba and Rangwe sub-counties in the new year.

## Adoption of Abidjan Principles

**Abidjan Principles** on the Right to Education were adopted on February 12, 2019, by Experts from around the world in Abidjan Cote' D'Ivoire. The Principles were published for the first time in Nairobi on March 21, 2019. The principles present existing obligations of States under international human rights law to provide quality public education and to regulate private actors in the provision of education.

The Principles were adopted following four years of work by education stakeholders, community consultations in Kenya and a regional consultation that took place at the Heron Portico Hotel, Nairobi in September 2016. The Principles provide a basis for policy work and serve as a concrete tool that states and other stakeholders can use to advocate for the provision of public education and regulation of private actors in education.



A picture of participants during the launch of Abidjan Principles on the Right to Education.

## Crossing Borders to Enhance Children's Rights

We are glad to have a new Development Partner, Terre des Hommes (TdH Netherlands), on board in the Girls Advocacy Alliance (GAA) Africa Regional Programme. GAA's main focus is Child Trafficking and Migration (CTM) and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in the African regions of Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia. The project, currently in its final year seeks to:

- Improve monitoring and accountability mechanisms and practices by regional and sub-regional bodies such as East Africa Community (EAC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) on CTM and CSEC of girls and young women by 2019.
- Engage the Africa Union (AU) and EAC Regional and sub-regional policies on (e.g. Kampala declaration, Trafficking of person's bill (2009), IGAD Migration Protocol on cross border issues of CTM and CSEC mainstream girls and women rights by 2019).
- Engage with regional and sub-regional CSOs to effectively connect and build capacity of their counterparts in influencing national and regional policies by end of 2019.

## Training Uganda child rights organizations on engaging with treaty bodies

Under the GAA project, EACHRights in partnership with Eastern Africa Child Rights Network (EACRN) conducted a capacity building training of more than 15 child rights organisations in Uganda from 12-14 June 2019. The training, which essentially focused on how they can engage with treaty bodies and improve their advocacy work brought about 35 participants from different organizations working on CTM and CSEC in the country. TdH, the East Africa Community, IGAD and our host, Dwelling places, are some of the organizations that facilitated sessions. Most organisations work in silos and our hope is to see Uganda child rights organisations working in networks so they can have a collective strong voice at the regional level.



A wide shot of an ongoing session on training Uganda CSOs.

## IHRDA's Training on Litigation and Developing a Communication

The Institute for Human Rights and Development (IHRDA) held a workshop on Children's Rights Litigation for Civil Society Organizations in East and Horn of Africa from 10 to 12 September 2019. EACHRights provided technical assistance in planning the workshop together with **EACRN**.

Delegates learnt how to conduct successful strategic litigation cases and coming up with good Communications (Complaints) when writing report(s) to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC).