

International Children's Trust Friars House, Manor House Drive, Coventry, CV1 2TE, UK.  
T: +44 (0)7483413616 E: [supporters@internationalchildren.org](mailto:supporters@internationalchildren.org) [www.internationalchildren.org](http://www.internationalchildren.org)  
Reg Charity No 254781 Company No 00911119

## Community interventions, and working with families in violent situations so children can have a future

### *Catch up with JUCONI Ecuador in Guayaquil.*

Throughout the year, JUCONI has continued to work with families, children, and adolescents - living in the context of acutely violent and precarious situations – within the community, utilising psychotherapeutic interventions. In Guayaquil, where JUCONI is based, there is an ongoing security crisis and JUCONI has found that their programmes and activities are needed more than ever.



When JUCONI works with **individual families**, a family intervention plan is developed, tailored to the issues presenting within the family. The general goal is to restore positive and safe emotional bonds between children and their parents. Genograms, lifelines, and artistic activities are powerful therapeutic tools that help understand the personal and family history, identify recurring negative behaviours and significant relationships within the family. Children make collages, drawings, and paintings in which they can present events from their lives that they want to relive and others that they would like to forget. This is a creative means to process emotions and explore experiences in a non-verbal way – making the technique appropriate for children.

There has also been an increase in registration and participation of boys and girls in



**community** workshops, and many mothers, too, have displayed great commitment to community prevention workshops. In these, JUCONI runs empowerment and leadership skills sessions, helping women and youth to find space for dialogue and to construct the means to prevent violence and promote non-violence. Sports are also used to promote healthy and responsible behaviour, value for community and respectful parent – child interrelations. In this way JUCONI has achieved

success in the community and within families throughout 2023.

## Creative activities at Saplings Preschool in Ratmalana.

### *News from ICT Partner, SERVE, in Sri Lanka*

It is a pleasure to bring news of the children in the Saplings Pre-School in Ratmalana who continue to love drawing and craftwork and other creative activities, which have helped to develop their self-expression, confidence and independence, hand-eye coordination, and social skills.



During the latter half of 2023, the 12 boys and 13 girls persevered with learning the alphabet and practising their handwriting.

Outdoor ball games at various points in the day, under teacher supervision, continued to be enjoyed and in August,



the children were thrilled to be involved in a local kite festival.

In September, parents of children at Saplings took part in an awareness-raising programme where they discussed the rights of children, child protection and



safeguarding. This was followed in October by a celebration at the school of 'World Children's Day 2023', under the theme of 'For Every Child, Every Right', and also in October, the children took part



in the annual Hindu festival of 'Navarathri', which is held in honour of the Goddess, Durga.

## Engagement, Learning, and Wellbeing with the Boys Town in Gummidipoondi

### *News from the Rotary Club of Madras*

The new academic term for the boys at Gummidipoondi Boys Town brought with it 43 new young charges who were all enrolled in schools in the area at various levels (6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Standard) appropriate to their age. They joined 61 boys already in the Gummidipoondi programme, making a cohort of 104 boys in the care of the Boys Town for the school year.

The boys attended school with support from the Gummidipoondi staff and volunteers and took part in a number of educative events. These included fostering citizenship and international understanding – through the Rotary Club’s Interact Installation programme, developing confidence in presentation to



audiences, assessment of education and language levels, leadership skills development, health assessment, and personal care.

### **Interact Installation Club event**

In July, 10 of the boys took part in the Rotary’s **Interact Installation** programme

event held in Bharatiya Vidya Bhaven. This reinforces the Boys Town ethos of fostering local community service and global concern among youth and assisting them to make a positive contribution to their world. We are proud to say that one of the boys was elected President of the Rotary Of Madras Boys Town Interact Club for the 2023 - 24 year.

### **Independence Day**



In August, Boys Town celebrated India’s 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day with visiting dignitaries, including Mr James Rajan, Managing Director of Wartsila (Sri Lanka (Pvt) Ltd and Director of Service Operations Wartsila India Pvt. Ltd.



The celebrations were used to give the boys in Boys Town an opportunity to present their abilities and skills in music and yoga improving their confidence by enabling them to entertain and socialise with guests.



### **Leadership skills development: Kumbakonam RYLA Camp**

In November, 5 of the older students from Gummidipoondi Boys Town attended the Kumbakonam RYLA Camp to interact with other boys, make new friends and develop their leadership skills through listening to presentations from professionals, artists, and entrepreneurs, learning about personal growth and outdoor activities including campfires, rock climbing and traditional games.

### **The Chudar Initiative and Students from**



### **Krea University**

Chudar is a Tamil word meaning sparkle of brilliance from a flame. From July to September, the boys benefitted from assessments for the extra support they might need to support the subjects they study in school and spoken English. These were held every Sunday. Students from **Krea University** conducted these assessments and gave support in oral English and personal skills to small groups of boys whose school- work improved as a result.

### **Yoga**

In August, 20 boys took part in a district level Yoga Competition at Gummidipoondi. Despite, 150 competitors taking part. Several of our boys were proud to win prizes.

### **DIWALI Celebrations**

November also heralded the Diwali Festival, which was celebrated at Boys Town in a traditional manner. The boys were able to learn the history and meaning of this festival, and how to mark it in the traditional way. All had oil baths, wore new outfits, and lit crackers. Everyone enjoyed the festivity and the delicious meals that was served.

### **Medical Camp**



Also in November, the boys attended a medical camp for general health reviews including dental and eye check-ups. As a result, it was revealed that a few students needed further checks and medical treatment. These are being followed up.

## A new start for children's education in 2024

### *SARTHI – ICT's Patna-based Partner in Bihar State, India*

In January 2024, ICT's Partner SARTHI will continue with a strengthened programme of work at the Children's Education Centre in Patna, Bihar, India.



Initially started for the children of ten identified families (2 from each family), the Centre gives 2 hours per day school support to help the children – enrolled in schools for the first time by SARTHI staff - stay in school and retain their learning. It is with SARTHI's support at the Education Centre that the children's education levels began to rise.



SARTHI staff continue to keep in regular contact with schools, and families, to

identify children who are out of school and who need support.

From January, the Centre will conduct programmes of work with Parents to help them understand their children's educational needs, and a community wide programme to spread knowledge of child



rights and the Child Right to an Education as well as encourage the Local education authorities to campaign publicly among poor communities to promote children's education.



Children attending the Centre will be involved in indoor activities and undertake educational excursions to learn about their own history and culture, as well as receive support from SARTHI staff with their schoolwork.

## Providing security for orphaned and refugee children.

### *St Josephine Bakhita Children Home - Pabbo, Amuru District, N Uganda.*

Throughout 2024, ICT will be extending its efforts to help the St. Josephine Bakhita Children's Home in Pabbo, Amuru District of Northern Uganda. The Home was the



personal initiative of Rose Moyoo, a young refugee woman from South Sudan and a graduate with a bachelor's degree in agricultural



entrepreneurship and

communication management. Her ambition has always been to give back to

her community and help orphaned and otherwise destitute children.

The Children's Home in Pabbo, set up in 2020, now provides a safe home for 16 orphaned Ugandan and South Sudanese refugee children and young adults.

Coventry-based Father Moses Pltya David, of the St Elizabeth RC Church in Coventry (Archdiocese of Birmingham), an ICT Trustee, has thus far provided much needed support in paying school fees for the children and young adults and



constructing huts for them to sleep in.

ICT has helped to build a security fence for the orphanage and is hoping to provide a



bore hole for water so that the children do not have to fetch water.

## Nursery School support and girls training in 2024

### Keoogo in Burkina Faso



ICT Partner KEOOGO in Burkina Faso was established in 2004 to address the gaps in provision for street children, in particular in the neglected areas of medical care and psychosocial support. The organisation Médecins Sans Frontière (MSF) had conducted an exploratory mission toward the end of the 1990s and had discovered these alarming gaps in services that street children really need to call upon.



After initiating and pursuing an emergency programme of work to address the medical and psychosocial

needs of children on the streets, MSF withdrew and Burkinabe workers on the project started KEOOGO – now based in Ouagadougou - and took over the work.



Today, KEOOGO's programme is multistranded and involved with many different stakeholders – work that ICT has written about many times.

KEOOGO works with children and youth and supportive agencies to prevent the



need to live on the streets, support children if on the streets, withdraw children from the streets and strengthen services available

anywhere along the cycle.



KEOOGO has in the last year established a nursery school, it got off to a flying start with 100 children enrolling, and

---

KEOOGO's Girls' Reception and Training Village, depicted in our last summer



newsletter, has been equally successful taking in 24 girls and 24 children aged 3 – 6 years.



In 2024, KEOOGO will need to ensure the schoolyard and classroom of the Nursery are improved, and the Village, which relies replacement batteries to ensure the power continues and more staff are needed to provide the right kind of psycho-therapeutic support for the girls and their children. ICT will do all it can to help KEOOGO meet these challenges.

---

### Last but not least “Thank you to all”

International Children's Trust would like to take this New Year Opportunity to thank all our donors and supporters, and the Partners themselves, who have made our work possible and who we hope will continue to make our work possible. We look forward to updating you further on our Partners in our Spring newsletter including those not featured in this winter edition, namely, CHIEDZA in Zimbabwe, Youth Alive in Ghana and JUCONI in Mexico.

**International Children's Trust** Friars House, Manor House Drive, Coventry, CV1 2TE, UK.  
T: +44 (0)7483413616 E: [supporters@internationalchildren.org](mailto:supporters@internationalchildren.org) [www.internationalchildren.org](http://www.internationalchildren.org)  
Reg Charity No 254781 Company No 00911119