

Arigatou International Geneva



Annual Report
2014-2015

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FOREWORD

"Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself."

- Rumi

Arigatou International has through its ethics education initiative chosen the most significant approach to change. It is easy to undertake research or give lectures, issue statements and organize events on the importance and need for change. All this may be good but more significant is the change of attitudes as expressed in the quote of Rumi above. When looking at change from the perspective of children, time is short and the need for change is imminent. Children grow fast and before we realize it they are teenagers and young adults. Nurturing children's ethical values and provide space for their innate potential for spirituality, may give them means and instruments and openness to constructive change and critical thinking.

The Vision and Mission of the ethics education initiative operates with a perspective that is wider and goes beyond the development of the educational manual Learning to Live Together, which was a first important undertaking in order to give a tangible direction and educational approach to the initiative. The full potential and influence of ethics education is still to be explored and promoted.

The Interfaith Council on Ethics Education for Children discussed the wider perspective and potential of ethics education at its meeting

in June 2014. Two new strategic directions for ethics education were confirmed. These had been suggested by those involved in the initiative in 2013 at the International Seminar and confirmed the two on Ethics Education "Towards a Second Decade of Ethics Education from an Interfaith Perspective".

Members of the Interfaith Council on Ethics Education have this year engaged in further developing these two new strategic directions, one focusing on how ethics education could be instrumental in strengthen families in their responsibilities to bring up, support and protect their children. The other new strategy focuses on how ethics education could serve as an important dimension of the Global Citizenship Education, which is currently a focus for the United Nations and the international community.

The educational approach for ethics education developed in the manual is applicable for all ages and various context and audiences, and we need to explore the focus and niche of the ethics education for children of younger age and their families. We need to look into the understanding and role of the family today, an early childhood education that includes ethics and spirituality and a family engagement that nurtures spirituality in children from an interfaith perspective.

The lives of children today are global in inescapable and intense ways. The global realities they, their families and communities live in create challenges that can only be met if nations, religions, and peoples work together in unprecedented ways. The Ethics Education Initiative has an important role to play in reflecting on what it means to be a global citizen and encouraging and working with religious communities and peoples to uphold their responsibilities and possibilities posed by global issues.

The work of the Secretariat in Geneva has this year focused on quality improvements in the areas of training, monitoring and evaluation, e-learning and online resources, communication and promotion of Arigatou International's involvement to influence positive change for the well being of children. With this annual report we account for this year's activities and events.

We thank all who, throughout the year, have been engaged and taken responsibilities in promoting and furthering the ethics education initiative; educators, teachers, parents, youth leaders and young people, religious leaders, UN agencies, Interfaith Council members, staff, interns and volunteers. We count on your continued work and support to further explore how ethics education can even better influence and contribute to a better world for children.

On behalf of the Interfaith Council on Ethics Education for Children,

Vinu Aram and Agneta Ucko

**Chair and Vice-chair of the Interfaith
Council on Ethics Education for Children**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Listening to the successful stories from children, facilitators, trainers and partners from all over the world, who have gone through our Ethics Education programs during this year, does not only motivate us to continue our work but also inspires us to improve our activities, scale up our programs and reach out to more children in places where Learning to Live Together is most needed.

This year, our ethics education programs reached children and youth in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Greece, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mauritius, Myanmar, Panama, the Philippines, Portugal, Romania, South Africa, Thailand, Uganda and the United States. More than 380 facilitators and 2,200 children from 22 countries, in four continents, benefited of our programs through our partners implementing the Learning to Live Together manual.

2014 focused on monitoring and evaluation, launching innovative ways to provide support to our facilitators and expanding the Ethics Education Initiative to new locations. None of these would have been possible without the commitment of our implementing partners who have provided us with the platform, the opportunities and the support, as well as with resources to implement the programme.

Monitoring and Evaluation

At the end of 2013 we launched a systematic implementation of the Learning to Live Together Programme in six locations for a period between six to nine months. During 2014 we initiated a monitoring and evaluation process to document the learning and impact of the programme on facilitators and ultimately on children. The process reached 1,481 children through 49 facilitators in 26 locations. The final results will be presented in 2015.



Group of Children in Romania - Learning to Live Together Programme"

Geographical expansion

In 2014 we reached five new countries: Mauritius, Myanmar, Kenya, the Philippines and Thailand, with the main aim to support the work in locations affected by conflicts fuelled by religious, ethnic or tribal grievances, as well as locations with a prevalent religious diversity. As a result we trained 110 facilitators and through our partners we reached around 600 children.



Learning to Live Together Workshop in Myanmar



Partnerships

Arigatou International Geneva signed seven Memoranda of Understanding with organizations in Bhutan, El Salvador, Indonesia, Kenya, Myanmar, the Philippines and Romania to ensure a systematic implementation of the Learning to Live Together Programme. The programs in El Salvador, Kenya and Romania were selected as part of the monitoring and evaluation process. With the commitment and leadership of these new partners, we reached 1,539 children and youth.

Online Community of Practice

Our first Online Community of Practice was launched in 2014 to provide trainers and facilitators of the Learning to Live Together Programme with additional tools, technical support, and possibilities to share and interact with one another. The platform has 199 users and since its launch we have offered two online courses for 54 participants from 16 different countries. The platform continues to grow and we are currently in the process of improving its technical capacity and making it user-friendlier.

Children's Rights

Since the beginning of 2014, Arigatou International Geneva co-convenes the Working Group on Children and Violence of Child Rights Connect, formed by more than 17 child-rights organizations. During 2014, Arigatou International led the advocacy work on behalf of the Working Group to promote the prevention, protection and action on violence against children among UN agencies and mechanisms, Permanent Missions and other international organizations. As a result, the Working Group launched a campaign titled ACT NOW – End Violence Against Children, engaged in collaboration with several Permanent Missions and strengthened the relations with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Violence Against Children, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF and the World Health Organization.



2014 was truly a year of expansion, development, new opportunities and constant learning. We are glad to see that all these efforts are bearing fruits in many locations around the world and that those are clearly impacting thousands of children and youth.

We thank you for being part of this journey and invite you to join us to continue working with us on the promotion of ethics education that can help us to learn to live together.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Maria Lucia Uribe Torres', enclosed within a dashed rectangular border.

Maria Lucia Uribe Torres

Director, Arigatou International Geneva

Secretary General, Interfaith Council on Ethics Education for Children

INTERFAITH COUNCIL ON ETHICS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

An Interfaith Council on Ethics Education for Children was established in 2004, with the aim of developing, designing and promoting the Ethics Education initiative in cooperation with all who shared this vision; to seek partnerships and alliances with religious communities, United Nations (UN) agencies, Non Government Organizations (NGOs) and others in an effort to realize the Rights of the Child, as set out in the UN Convention.

The Interfaith Council was reconstituted in 2013 with a four-year mandate. Its purpose is to support Arigatou International in its efforts to advocate the widespread implementation of education that offers children opportunities to fully develop their spirituality, that fosters respect for people of different religions and civilizations, that promotes the vital role of children as partners in building a world based on ethical values and practices, and that contributes to the safeguarding of human dignity.

The Interfaith Council is composed of 10 members coming from different parts of the world, from several religious traditions, and holding diverse expertise in ethics, education, peace building, interfaith and intercultural learning and dialogue, early childhood development and comparative religions. The Chair of the Council is Dr. Kezevino Aram, and the Vice-Chair, Ms. Agneta Ucko.

The Interfaith Council met in June 2014 in Athens, Greece to explore and further define the framework of the new foci areas of the Secretariat, related to Strengthening Family Systems and Global Citizenship Education. It also discussed the challenges of interfaith and intercultural education and strategies to move our work forward.

The next meeting of the Interfaith Council will take place in Tokyo, Japan in August 2015.

INTERFAITH COUNCIL MEMBERS



Dr. Kezevino Aram
Director, Shanti Ashram, CHAIR



Rev. Dr. Hans Ucko
DTh, Former Director of the Office
on Interreligious Relations and
Dialogue, Co-chair of the DPAC
Council



Ms. Agneta Ucko
Former Director of Arigatou
International, Vice-CHAIR



Dr. Angelos Vallianatos
School Advisor for Religion
Lesson, Ministry of Education



Dr. Heidi Hadsell
PhD, Hartford Seminary, President
and Professor of Social Ethics



Dr. Parichart Suwanbubha
Professor for Buddhist Ethics
and Vice Director of the Mahidol
University Research Center for Peace
Studies in Bangkok



Dr. Ilham Nasser
PhD, George Mason University,
Associate Professor



Bishop Eugenio Poma
Bishop of Bolivian Methodist
Church and Bolivia's Ambassador to
Denmark, Bolivia



Dr. Rashid Omar
Research Scholar of Islamic
Studies & Peacebuilding
at the Kroc Institute for
International Peace Studies,
University of Notre Dame



Ms. Jane Rechtman
Teacher at the Masters School
in Dobbs Ferry, NY and Board
member at The Centre for Spiritual
and Ethical Education



Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe Torres
Director of Arigatou
International Geneva
Secretary General

TOP 10 ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Supported the expansion of the Learning to Live Together Programme to five new countries: Mauritius, Myanmar, Kenya the Philippines and Thailand.
2. Trained and supported partners in the training of 386 new facilitators on the Learning to Live Together Programme in 16 countries.
3. Supported the systematic implementation of the Learning to Live Together Programme for a period between four to 12 months in eight locations.
4. Signed seven Memoranda of Understanding with partners to ensure proper institutional support to the implementation of the Learning to Live Together Programme.
5. Developed a partnership with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Kenya and the UNESCO East Africa Regional Office to implement the Learning to Live Together Programme in 13 schools in Tana River County in Kenya for a period of six months.
6. Designed and initiated a systematic Monitoring and Evaluation of the implementation of the Learning to Live Together Programme in six locations, in four continents for 1481 children.
7. Launched four pilot programs on Strengthening Family Systems through Ethics Education in four locations.
8. Designed, developed and launched the Online Platform on Ethics Education for Children with 199 users to connect them and provide additional technical support in their implementation work.
9. Launched two online courses for facilitators of the Learning to Live Together as part of an Advanced Training Accreditation composed of four online courses. Trained 54 participants from 16 different countries on Creating Safe Learning Environments for Children and Nurturing Spirituality in Children.
10. Won the [PeaceApp Competition for 2015](#), for Kokoro – Digital Game based on the Learning to Live Together in the category of projects under development, organized by the UN Alliance Of Civilizations and the United Nations Development Program in collaboration with Build Up.

PROFESSIONAL, CUSTOMIZED AND SUSTAINABLE ETHICS EDUCATION TRAINING PROGRAMS

To ensure and maintain the quality and sustainability of the implementation of the Learning to Live Together Programme, the Arigatou International Geneva office focused in 2014 on the improvement of the training area and on the development of training support strategies:

Guidelines for the design, preparation and development of Training Workshops

Under the strategy to support implementing partners in the development of quality training workshops, Arigatou International Geneva developed the following guidelines and documents:

- Criteria to select facilitators of Learning to Live Together Training workshops
- Participants' needs assessment forms
- Content areas for introductory, basic and advanced training workshops
- Roles and responsibilities of training coordinators
- Action plans design form
- Program and session preparation guidelines
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting guidelines.

The guidelines allow for a better planning and delivery of workshops but also ensure a proper customization and context-sensitivity. All documents are available in English, Portuguese and Spanish and were distributed to trainers and organizing committees in charge of training workshops. In 2015 a Training Manual on the Learning to Live Together will be developed and made available in 2016.

Ethics Education Framework

The Arigatou International Geneva office developed a complementary document that can support implementing partners in ensuring better delivery and quality training programs.

The document titled Ethics Education Framework provides a compilation of the key pillars of the Learning to Live Together that are critical for the training of facilitators of the programme. It comprises its key conceptual areas: Spirituality, Child Rights, Ethics Education and Interfaith and Intercultural learning; the four highlighted values: respect, empathy, responsibility and reconciliation; and for the first time, summarizes and explains its educational approach - the way the programme should be facilitated and its key elements.

The Educational Approach has been introduced in all our training workshops conducted during this period. The final document is being finalized and will soon be launched widely. An e-learning course on the educational approach will be launched in August 2015.

Communities of Practice

A Community of Practice (CoP) is a concept and a strategy that was developed to ensure follow up and sustainability of the training workshops. CoPs can be physical or virtual spaces for facilitators to share and exchange experiences implementing the programme. They act as platforms for mutual support and to deepen knowledge or develop skills in specific key areas of the educational framework. CoPs are supported by an official trainer and/or by a local coordinator.

In 2014 several CoPs were created following a Basic Training workshop in Brazil, El Salvador, Greece, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Portugal and in South East Asia.

During the fiscal year 2014, Arigatou International Geneva in collaboration with GNRC and other implementing partners conducted several training workshops for facilitators on the use of the Learning to Live Together programme:

- Four basic training workshops in formal education conducted in India, Kenya and Myanmar, and four conducted by partners in Romania.
- Eight basic training workshops in non-formal education conducted and supported in Brazil, Chile, Guatemala,



Community of Practice - GNRC El Salvador

India, Mauritius, Portugal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

- 386 new facilitators from 16 countries trained on how to use the Learning to Live Together Programme.
- 12 facilitators from El Salvador, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mauritius, Uganda, South Africa are now involved in on-job training to become official trainers.

Institutional agreements

In order to ensure sustainability and quality in our training programs and implementation, Arigatou International Geneva signed Memoranda of Understanding with partners in Bhutan, El Salvador, Kenya, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Romania.



Agreement with Teach Peace Build Peace Movement-The Philippines

GEOGRAPHICAL EXPANSION AND PARTNERSHIPS

Arigatou International Geneva looked to strengthen contacts with organizations who have been involved with the Learning to Live Together Programme over the years especially in geographic areas affected by conflict. In this regard one of the key initiatives undertaken by the office was to support the systematic implementation of the programme by partners in South-East Asia.

Arigatou International Geneva went through a consultation process with each partner to identify a potential systematic implementation to implement over a six month period and signed agreements with each of the partners in this regard.

- 30 representatives from 11 organizations in six countries: Bhutan, Indonesia, Lao, Myanmar, Philippines and Thailand were trained as facilitators of the Learning to Live Together Programme.
- 69 children and young people underwent a Learning to Live Together based Winter Youth Camp organized by the Youth Development Fund (YDF) of Bhutan.
- 30 teachers trained on Global Citizenship by the Bhutan National Commission for UNESCO, based on the Learning to Live Together programme.
- Amalina Islamic School and the SMP Pembangunan Jaya Junior High School partnered to implement a systematic Learning to Live Together Programme at each school.
- A culture of peace programme was implemented at the Maharlika Elementary School using the Learning to Live Together Programme for more than 30 children.
- 25 members of the Civil Military Operations Group of the Philippines Army trained by the Teach Peace Build Peace Movement based on the Learning to Live Together Programme.
- Phaung Daw Oo Monastic Education School implemented weekly Learning to Live Together activities for a selected group of children from the school.
- Myanmar Smile Education and Development Foundation (SEDF) implemented a Civic Engagement for Peace and Trust Building training for young people based on the Learning to Live Together Programme.



- 20 teachers from Phaung Daw Oo Monastic Education School and two from the Monastic Education Schools along with youth leaders from a local Interfaith Youth Group, trained on the Learning to Live Together Programme as facilitators by the Arigatou International Geneva office.



Learning to Live Together Pilot Programme in Kenya

Arigatou International Geneva Office in partnership with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Kenya and the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa initiated a pilot Learning to Live Together Programme targeting the conflict affected Tana River county of Kenya. The pilot programme serves as a vital experience to strengthen the integration of Ethics Education in the formal education sector and in areas affected by conflict.

- 15 representatives from Kenyan institutions including the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Kenya Institution of Curriculum Development, National Cohesion and Integration Commission, Teacher Services Commission (TSC) and Kenya Primary Schools Head Teachers Association (KEPSHA) trained as Trainers on the Learning to Live Together Programme.



- 24 Teachers from 13 schools from Tana River County trained as facilitators of the Learning to Live Together Programme. Teachers received one additional training in February 2015 to develop their to empower children in the marginalized and conflict affected reality they live in.
- A customized Teacher Activity Book with 13 lessons sensitive to local context and to be implemented on a weekly basis developed for the pilot Programme in Tana River County. This is seen as a resource that can be up-scaled for other parts of the country following the pilot programme.
- 14 Head teachers from the schools involved in the pilot programme along with the other sub-county level stake holders sensitized on the Learning to Live Together pilot Program.
- A systematic monitoring and evaluation framework implemented to capture impact and lessons learned from the pilot program.



Over the next phase of the program, children will be supported to carry out child-led school initiatives and projects based on their learning from the pilot program to further mutual understanding and respect in their schools and communities. A celebration of

the pilot program giving space for children from the different schools is expected to be held in September 2015, coinciding with the International Day of Peace and involving other stakeholders from both county and national levels.



Children of Tana River County where the Learning to Live Together Programme is implemented

With the positive experience of the pilot program, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Kenya extended an invitation to Arigatou International Geneva to present the program to Education Ministers and Officials attending the next meeting of the Inter-Country Quality Node (ICQN)

on Peace Education for Africa in October 2015. The Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) also invited Arigatou International Geneva to train the Curriculum Development Officers from the institution as part of the capacity building efforts ahead of the national curriculum revision process.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION PROCESS OF THE LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER PROGRAMME

A Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) process was developed after a series of agreements with implementing partners to carry out a systematic implementation of the Learning to Live Together Programme for a period between six to nine months. The purpose of the M&E was to measure the impact of the Programme on children, facilitators, and communities. The implementation, monitoring and evaluation involved **six countries**: Ecuador, El Salvador, Greece, India, Kenya, and Romania, with the support of contact persons who helped to run the M&E in a total of **26 different locations**.

The project goal was to measure the extent to which the programme equips children to make ethical decisions, to nurture their spirituality, and to transform their communities together. To ensure a proper M&E, Arigatou International Geneva defined a logical framework, as well as a series of indicators related to training programme, implementation, and children's processes.

With the support from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of the Republic of Kenya; Shanti Ashram in India; Sol Mentis Association in Romania; Centro San Bartolomé de las Casas in El Salvador; the

Elementary School of Intercultural Education in Faliro, Athens in Grece; and the GNRC Ecuador, the M&E process started almost simultaneously in the six countries, and reached a total of **1.481 children**.

Instruments were designed in order to monitor and assess the impact of the programme. Baselines, together with forms to collect institutional information, programme information, session information, and children's feedback were adapted for each location.



One of the facilitators of the CoP
in El Salvador

Likewise, the Most Significant Change (MSC) technique was used to measure qualitative outcomes of the programme. The systematic implementation took place in formal and non-formal educational settings, and with a well desirable balance of ages, ranging between 10 to 18 years old.



Children in India, as part of the Solution Exchange Lab of Shanti Ashram

Arigatou International Geneva provided continuous support to each implementing partner and its contact persons. Additionally, the M&E Coordinator visited El Salvador, Greece, and Romania. The purpose of the visits was to have the opportunity to interact with beneficiaries of the programme, as well as with implementing partners, and facilitators who have been involved in the process.

The scope of the M&E process would not have been possible without the commitment and voluntary work of 49 facilitators and teachers who implemented the Programme with children, and who collaborated with the collection of data. Most of the facilitators attended a basic training workshop that was held in each of the countries before the implementation started.

Significant findings suggest that the flexibility of the programme allowed a good adaptation of the contents in each of the contexts. Teachers, facilitators, and children have reported a high satisfaction rate in relation to the results of the implementation and the impact on processes, children and implementation settings.

A complete analysis of findings and reports for each location are being developed and will be available in August 2015.

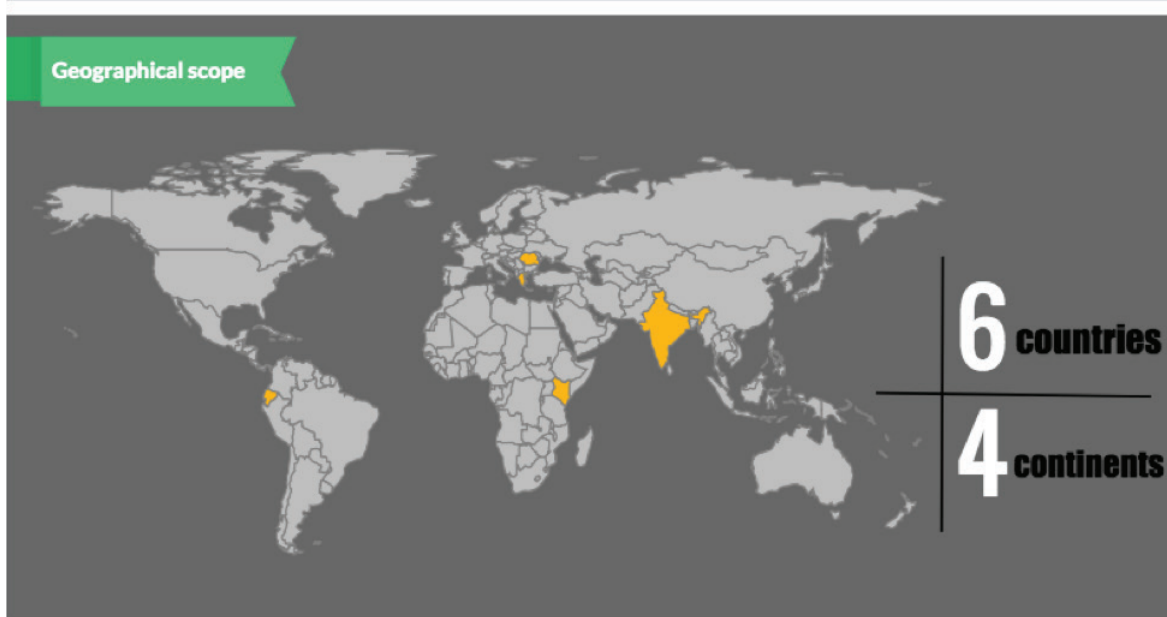


Children in Greece as part of a M&E session

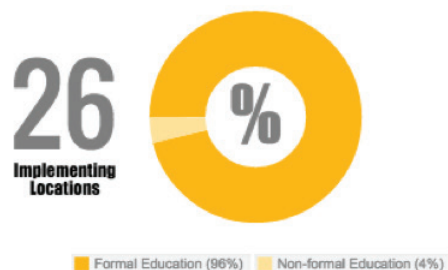
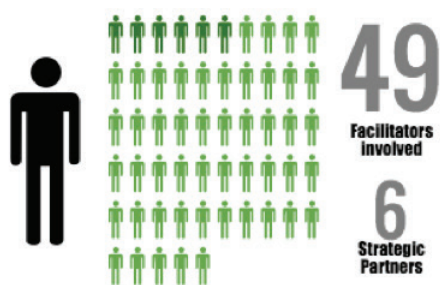
LTLT programme

Impact Assessment

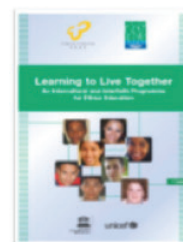
Geographical scope



Implementation



1.481 children reached



STRENGTHENING FAMILY SYSTEMS

Arigatou International Geneva is currently developing an Ethics Education Programme for families. Its main goal is to contribute to the creation of safe, healthy, loving and respectful environments in the family for children to grow, develop their spirituality and thrive with others in plural societies

During this year the work has focused on developing a framework for the programme and gathering inputs from the field.

Members of the Interfaith Council are analysing several aspects that the programme interacts with such as socio-economic realities and structures of families, the relations within and between families, ethics and families,

spirituality and its role in strengthening family systems, interfaith and intercultural relations, and the role of children in the family and of the family in the development of the child.

Five pilot projects were developed in collaboration with GNRC Ecuador, Shanti Ashram in India, GNRC Portugal and the Catholic Charities of Idaho in the United States of America, for a period between six to nine months. The purpose of the pilot projects was to understand how the ethics education framework and in particular the methodological approach of the Learning to Live Together can be used in the work with families.



Strengthening Families Group in Chennai, India



Strengthening Families Group in Coimbatore, India – Shanti Ashram Program

During the process, Arigatou International Geneva in collaboration with partners adapted the Learning to Live Together to working with families and collected inputs regarding the challenges families experience in diverse contexts, the type of skills and resources needed to strengthen families through ethics education.

All projects started in the second semester of 2014 and were finalized in the first trimester of 2015, with the exception of India that will

be finalized in May 2015. Approximately 116 parents and caregivers participated in the pilot projects.

Each process was followed up, monitored and evaluated. Results and feedback from each location are being collected and analysed.

The framework and the lessons learned from the field will be presented and discussed in the upcoming Interfaith Council meeting to be held in Tokyo in August 2015.

E-LEARNING PLATFORM AND ONLINE COURSES

E-learning Platform

Arigatou International Geneva developed an e-learning platform that serves as a virtual Community of Practice for facilitators implementing the Learning to Live Together Programme.

The Platform currently has 199 users who have been trained on the use of the programme. The online platform includes the following features:

- Implementation map that provides an overview of the locations where the LTLT is being used.
- Possibility for members to upload information about their projects and latest updates.
- Space to create groups according to country or other specific requirements.
- Technical support through upcoming tools.
- Inspiration Wall where members can upload videos, poems, quotes, etc.
- Forums for members to engage in discussions and share experiences.
- Badges to reward participation.
- Meet the Trainers Section.
- Courses for those who apply to gain new knowledge on ethics education.

In addition to these features, video training series are available to provide explanations on how to use the platform.

Whilst all these features are currently available, substantive work needs to be done to continue improving them and making them more user-friendly. Most importantly, constant administration of the site is required to encourage members' participation and interactivity.

Since its launch in September 2014, the platform has mainly been used for the delivery of online courses and most interaction documented from users relate to their participation in the courses.

The platform is available in English. Main menus and descriptions are available in Spanish.

Arigatou International Geneva is working closely with Zuno – Website Provider – to make the platform faster, align it to the new Arigatou International branding guidelines and provide a better user experience in 2015.

Online Courses

During this period, Arigatou International Geneva launched two online courses for facilitators of the Learning to Live Together as part of an Advanced Training Accreditation composed of four online courses. The first course – Creating Safe Learning Environments

for Children included 29 participants from 16 different countries. The second course Nurturing Spirituality in Children had 33 participants from 12 different countries.

Arigatou International staff in collaboration with formal trainers of the Learning to Live Together Programme facilitated both courses. Interfaith Council members provided support either in facilitation or through Webinars or videos to provide specific expertise.

In terms of content, evaluations from both courses showed an average satisfaction from participants of 8.8 points out of 10. The retention rate of the courses is an average of 75%, which is considerably high in relation to what research on online learning shows – which is below 50%.

Participants expressed appreciation for the content, materials provided, possibility to interact with people from different parts of the world, speak with experts, and deepen their knowledge.

The technical platform was rated in an average of 7.5 points out of 10. Participants recommended easier access to links and to make the platform faster.

Some of the learning outcomes from the participants are expressed in the following quotes:

"I got a much better understanding about Safe learning environments to cover all dimensions that must be considered in learning - physical, emotional, spiritual and cognitive developments. I also learned techniques to create trust, genuine dialogue, critical thinking and reflection."

"I learned that it is more difficult to teach children about spirituality, than I initially thought, because we always have to be aware how we teach in such ways that we form critical thinking that will help them discover themselves."

Two new online courses to complement the Advance Level Accreditation will be offered in 2015. The Arigatou International Geneva office will also offer an online course for a wider audience on Ethics Education and Peace building at the end of 2015.

Kokoro – Game and digital platform for children

Kokoro is a digital game and online platform that is being conceptualized by Arigatou International Geneva. It aims to uphold the vision and principles of the Learning to Live Together Programme.

Kokoro will provide opportunities for children and youth to develop as global citizens and take collective actions on topics that affect them. The Kokoro digital game and platform aims to promote collaborative learning and problem solving among children and youth across countries and cultures; as well as respect, responsibility, empathy and reconciliation. Kokoro will support nurturing children's capacity to contribute to a culture of peace.

Arigatou International Geneva was invited to participate in the MIT Media Lab conference held in New York from 5 to 6 April 2014. The Build Peace Conference brought together practitioners, activists and technologists from around the world to share experience and ideas on using technology for peacebuilding

and conflict transformation. Arigatou International gave a talk to present Kokoro.

In December 2014, Arigatou International Geneva won the [PeaceApp Competition for 2015](#), for Kokoro – Digital Game in the category of projects under development, organized by the United Nations Alliance Of Civilizations and the United Nations Development Program in collaboration with Build Up. The award includes mentoring support for two months from [Games For Change](#) and [Buildup](#) to finalize the conceptual development of Kokoro.

Arigatou International was invited to attend the International conference and PEACEapp Award Ceremony that will take place in Nicosia, Cyprus, from 25 to 26 April 2015. Please check the conference program [here](#).

As there are no allocated resources to continue with the development of Kokoro,



at the moment all efforts are put into having a clear conceptual framework and an initial design that can lead to the development of a prototype that can help raising funds for this promising initiative.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS AND REPRESENTATION

Potential Partners

During this period, the Director of Arigatou International Geneva conducted several meetings with organizations to introduce the Ethics Education Initiative or herself as new Director.

Meetings were held with Games for Change, Globethics, Latin American Council of

Churches, Peace Islands Institute, Minister of Education, Science and Technology of Kenya, Tanenbaum Center for Combating Religious Prejudice, Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies - TAL Education Fund in Israel, United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, UNICEF and World Council of Churches.

Discussions on concrete collaboration agreements are underway with several of these organizations. Some partnerships are expected to be initiated in 2015.

Conferences

The Director of Arigatou International Geneva was invited during this period to present the Ethics Education Initiative in the following events:

UNESCO - Veolia Sustainable Development meeting held in Romania from 12 - 15 June 2014. Participants included UNESCO representatives, ambassadors, social workers, teachers and students from the UNESCO Associated Schools in Europe coming from more than 15 countries.

World Vision Colombia - VI National Summit of the Peace Builders Movement held in October 2014. Arigatou International was invited to organize a one-day introductory workshop for 37 members of the Peace Builders Movement, formed by adolescents and youth leaders from vulnerable communities of 12 cities in Colombia. The Arigatou International Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator represented the organization with the support of members of the GNRC.

Dialogue Beyond Dialogue – KAICIID held in Vienna in November 2014. The meeting aimed to broaden understandings about the growing Interreligious dialogue field. Ms. Maria Lucia Uribe, Director of Arigatou International Geneva, participated in a plenary presentation on Future Prospects in Interreligious Dialogue Research, presenting findings from the fieldwork of Arigatou

International through the use of its Learning to Live Together programme. An interview of Ms. Uribe can be seen [here](#).

International Peace Education Conference held in Frankfurt on 5 March 2015. The Director of Arigatou International Geneva made a presentation about [Violence Extremism, Educational Prevention and Interventions](#). To see the video, please click [here](#).

Conference organized by Arigatou International Geneva



Arigatou International Geneva in collaboration with Hartford Seminary held on 17 November 2014 in New York City a seminar on *Ethics Education: The Missing Piece in Interfaith Learning and Peace Building efforts*.

The seminar included a panel with four members (Ms. Agneta Ucko, Dr. Heidi Hadsell, Dr. Ilham Nasser and Dr. Jane Rechtman) of the Interfaith Council on Ethics Education and an introduction to the Learning to Live Together Programme. The seminar was enriching with discussions about the challenges, opportunities, possibilities and complexities of this work, particularly in the United States context; as well as ways forward.

UNITED NATIONS AND CHILD RIGHTS REPRESENTATION

The office of Arigatou International in Geneva represents the organization in international affairs, serves as United Nations (UN) liaison office and works with other Child Rights organizations represented in Geneva. As part of this work, Arigatou International is a member of several child rights and education related Working Groups of NGOs that meet periodically to develop advocacy messages and work on the promotion of the topics.

During 2014, Arigatou International Geneva focused its efforts to convene the Working Group on Children and Violence of Child Rights Connect and represent Arigatou International in the Human Rights Council sessions.

Working Group on Children and Violence

The activities of the Working Group focused on advocacy related to the prevention, protection and action to end violence against children as a key priority in the Post-2015 Global Sustainable Development Agenda, both as a stand-alone concern and as a crosscutting priority.

To this extend, the Working Group was involved in the preparations of a High Level Panel held during the 27th Session of the Human Rights Council related to violence against children. As a result, the Working Group developed a video and campaign titled [Act Now – End Violence Against Children](#), launched in December 2014, with

the participation of the Permanent Missions in Geneva, UNICEF and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as the support of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on



Ambassador Permanent Mission of Norway to the UN in Geneva with the Director of Arigatou International Geneva

Violence Against Children (SRSG/VAC). The event was co-sponsored by the Mission of Algeria.

As a follow up of to the launch, the Working Group organized in March 2015 a panel discussion on *Investing in Prevention to End Violence Against Children: An Imperative for Post-2015 Sustainable Development*, on the occasion of the 28th session of the UN Human Rights Council. The panel was organized in collaboration with the office of the SRSG/VAC, World Health Organization, and the sponsorship of the Permanent Missions of Algeria and Luxembourg. More than 50 participants attended the panel, including 14 Permanent Missions, UN agencies and NGO representatives.



Panelists of the Side Event Investing in Prevention to End Violence Against Children: An Imperative for Post-2015 Sustainable Development

As of February 2015 World Vision International co-convenes the Working Group on Children and Violence.

During the Human Rights Council sessions held in September 2014 and March 2015, meetings were conducted with the mandate holders, Ms. Marta Santos Pais, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Violence Against Children, and Ms. Leila Zerrougui, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflicts.

Human Rights Council Participation

Arigatou International actively participated in the 27th and 28th Human Rights Council sessions (HRC), attending a number of

meetings and side events organized both by Permanent Missions and civil society organizations.

On 23 September 2014 Arigatou International Geneva hosted, in collaboration with the Global Initiative to End all Corporal Punishment of Children, a side event titled *Ending All Violence Against Children in the Family – Working Together to Accelerate Progress*, to discuss and identify concrete steps towards the acceleration of progress to end all violence against children in the family. During the 27th session of the Human Rights Council, the Geneva office also co-signed a joint NGO oral statement on *The Third Phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education and the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training*.



Representatives Working Group on Children and Violence together with Mrs. Marta Santos Pais, SRSG on Violence Against Children

An oral statement was prepared in collaboration with Ending Child Poverty Initiative and delivered during the 28th Session of the HRC, on the occasion of the Annual Day on the Rights of the Child with the theme *Towards Better Investment in the Rights of the Child*, to support the inclusion of the issue of Violence Against Children and its related targets in the Post-2015 Global Sustainable Development Agenda.

Arigatou International actively participates in the activities of Child Rights Connect, provides inputs to documents related to child rights and serves as the main focal point on issues related to violence against children, on behalf of NGOs in Geneva.

NEWSLETTERS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Ethics Education Newsletters

During the last year, the Ethics Education Newsletter was released five times, including a special edition on Family, Religion and Values. From January 2015, the newsletters have a new layout, which makes them more user-friendly and easy to read.

The purpose of the Special Edition on Family, Religion and Values was to join the celebrations on the 20th Anniversary of the International Year of the Family, raise awareness about the importance of the family for the development of children, and the role of parents and caregivers in the creation of safe spaces for them to grow and develop their identities fully.

The newsletter featured several articles on the role of the family in the development of values in children from different religious and philosophical perspectives, as well as from experts on child development and family relations. Some authors shared their views on the importance of the community, and not only the family, to raise children and develop safe environments for them to grow and thrive. A few articles also highlighted how

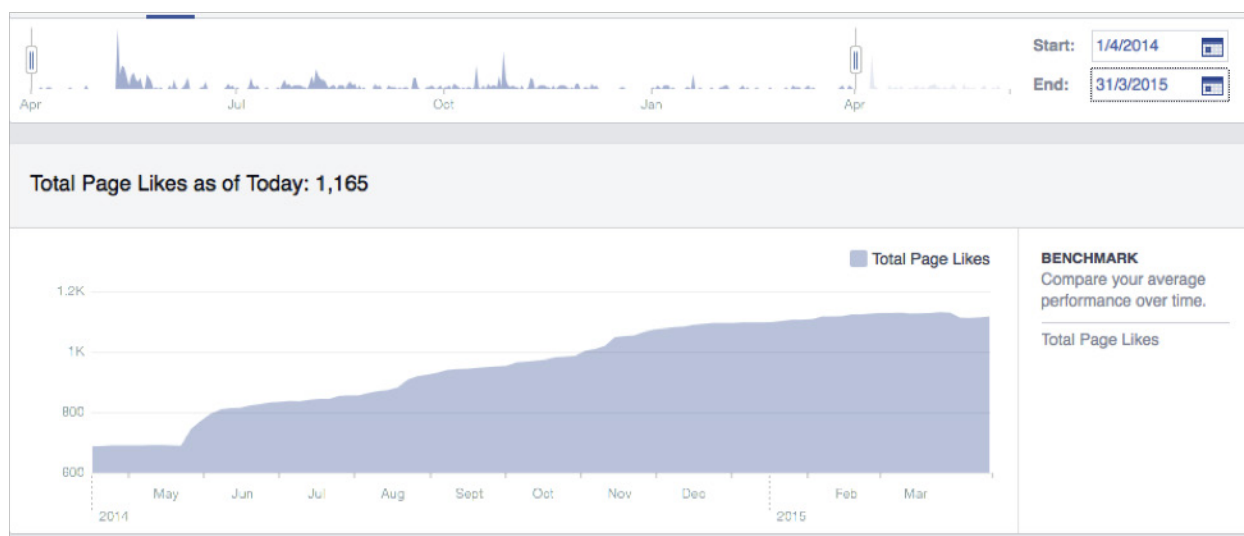
families are perceived and understood from different religious perspectives and their roles and responsibilities.

All the newsletters can be found at:
<https://ethicseducationforchildren.org/en/news/newsletters>

Social Media

The Facebook page of the Ethics Education for Children constantly progressed during the past year. As shown in the graphs below, the number of “likes” has increased in almost a 50%, as well as the number of visitors. The information posted on the page has also garnered more interest.

Thanks to the regular publication of articles and pictures about the current and upcoming activities, new partnerships, stories of successful implementation of the Learning to Live Together programme, Arigatou International Geneva was able to reach a broader audience. Our future goal is to keep our followers interested in our work and to increase the page attractiveness to captivate a larger group of followers.



Print Screen of the insights of the Ethics Education for Children initiative Facebook page. It shows the progress in the number of likes from April 2014 to March 2015.

In the graphic above, we can observe the gradual and constant progression of the number of likes on the Facebook page. The number of likes increased from 600 to 1,161.

The reach and engagement of the Facebook fans varies from 20 to 1,800 depending on the particular posts. Information about new projects, activities and resources create more interest and manage to reach out to wider audiences.

The @ArigatouGeneva Twitter account has been used with more constancy during the last year, mainly on the occasion of the Human Rights Council sessions and other relevant initiatives, as for example the launch of the video *Act Now! End Violence Against Children*. The Twitter account is a tool for the office's advocacy activities in child rights and mainly for its work as co-convenor of the Working Group on Children and Violence of Child Rights Connect.

White board video on the Learning to Live Together manual

Arigatou International engaged in the development of a new video of the Learning to Live Together Programme using the white board method. The video highlights the goals and objectives of the Learning to Live Together programme, its methodologies, approach and use. It serves as a promotional material to invite organizations and individuals to learn more about it, partner with Arigatou International and get trained on its use. The video was launched in July 2014 and is available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS

Distribution of Learning to Live Together Publications

From April 2014 to March 2015 Arigatou International Geneva disseminated 363 *Learning to Live Together Manuals* in 17 countries; most of them in English, Portuguese and Spanish. Around 40 CDs of the LTLT were also distributed in several occasions, particularly during conferences and seminars.

131 Executive Summaries of the *Learning to Live Together Programme*, 90 in English, 36

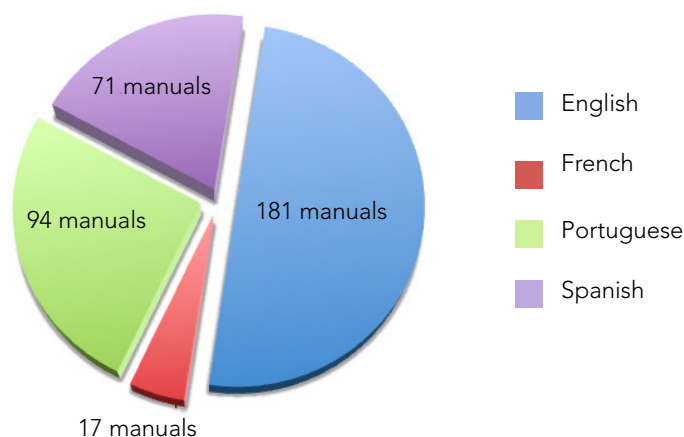
in Spanish and 5 in French, were distributed during meetings and conferences.

131 copies of the *Learning to Play Together Good Practice* booklet were distributed in 12 countries.

74 copies of the *Massa- Massar Good Practice* booklet were distributed six countries.

New 300 copies of the *Learning to Live Together* in English and 300 copies in Spanish were printed in 2014.

Distribution of LTLT Manuals





Distribution of Learning to Live Together Publications in 2014

Language	Country	Quantity of Books
English	Austria	3
	India	40
	Israel	5
	Mauritius	22
	Myanmar	25
	Pakistan	1
	Thailand	32
	United States	11
French	Israel	1
	Mauritius	15
	Switzerland	1
Portuguese	Brazil	45
	Portugal	26
Spanish	Chile	40
	Cuba	30
	El Salvador	4
	Guatemala	20

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Last but not least we thank our colleagues at other Arigatou International offices in Tokyo, New York and Nairobi for their collaboration, and in particular to Myochikai for their full support to our activities and financial contributions to the work we do.