

— The First Issue of 2024 —

# EACRN NEWSLETTER

*For the Best Interest of The Child*



**INSIDE, WE  
ALSO  
TALK ABOUT:**

Our Coalitions

ED Remarks

A Win For Africa

New EAC SG

Mid-Year report



**Celebrating Ten Years of  
Promoting Children's  
Rights in Eastern Africa**

# Our National Coalitions



# Quick Links

[Child Rights Coalition - South Sudan](#)

[Child Rights Forum Network Sudan](#)

[Umwana Ku Isonga Rwanda](#)

[Somaliland Child Rights Forum](#)

[Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children's Rights](#)

[Uganda Child Rights NGO Network](#)

[Burundi Child Rights Coalition](#)

[Madagascar Coalitions for Child Rights](#)

[Tanzania Child Rights Forum](#)

[Burundi Child Rights Forum](#)

# Executive Directors' Remarks



We share some of the key global, continental and regional events that we were involved in during this half of the year, which include the UN CSO Summit of the Future held in Nairobi, the 24th CSO Forum and the 43rd African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) Ordinary Session held in Maseru, the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Day of the African Child (DAC 2024), held in Uganda, and the 2nd East African Civil Society Organizations Forum, held in Arusha, Tanzania.

Additionally, we have highlighted some key activities with our national coalitions and partners, such as the Annual Children's Advocacy Camp in Uganda, Capacity building of the regional Child Led Initiative and our partnerships with the Children's Voice Today (CVT) from Rwanda towards a well coordinated regional Child Led Initiative in Eastern Africa.

We appreciate our main partners, Save the Children International - RPU and Plan International, as well as collaborations with some of our partners like Data for Governance Alliance, the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, the Child Rights Network of Southern Africa (CRNSA), Africa Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC), the East African Civil Society Organizations Forum (EACSO), Brave Movement, African Early Childhood Network (AFECN), Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA) Defend Defenders Mtoto News and Arigatou, in making this half year events a reality for the Best Interest of the Child.

We hope you will find this edition informative and relevant to your work. We kindly invite you to share your valuable feedback, which is necessary for our improvement.

I wish you a delightful read

**Benedict Omillo**  
Executive Director

*"We appreciate our members and partners for making this half year events a reality for the Best Interest of the Child."*



## Mission

**To enhance the capacities of national coalitions and promote evidence-based advocacy on child rights within the East African region.**



## Vision

**An Eastern African region where children enjoy their rights to survival, development, protection and participation**



## Goal

**To improve child rights governance in Eastern Africa through strengthened national child right coalitions**

# A WIN FOR AFRICA

It is with great joy that we want to announce that an EACRN board member, Mr. Timothy Ekesa, has successfully been elected as a member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child. The election happened on May 23, 2024, in New York, USA.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) is a body of 18 independent experts that monitors the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by its state parties. It also monitors the implementation of the Optional Protocols to the Convention, on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography.

As the Executive Director of Kenya Alliance for Advancement of Children and a leading Child Rights Activist with over 29 years' experience of advocating for children's rights at national, regional and global levels, Tim believes that he will contribute meaningfully to the work of the CRC Committee. Tim joins with vast experience on state party CRC periodic and CSO supplementary reporting having participated in three (3) Committee on the Rights of the Child sessions in Geneva, Switzerland.

The election of Hon. Commissioner Tim Ekesa will be a big milestone to Africa, especially the African Child. With his over 29 years of experience in advocating and advancing the rights and welfare of the child, we know that Mr. Ekesa will be a big asset and an addition to the UN committee on the Rights of the Child.



**HON. Commissioner Timothy Ekesa**

**Executive Director - KAARC**

**Board Member- EACRN**



**KENYA**

## Other Elected Members

- 1 **Rinchen CHOPHEL**  **BHUTAN**
- 2 **Mariana IANACHEVICI**  **MOLDOVA**
- 3 **Sopio KILADZE**  **GEORGIA**
- 4 **Cephas LUMINA**  **ZAMBIA**
- 5 **Juliana SCERRI FERRANTE**  **MALTA**
- 6 **Zeinebou Taleb MOUSSA**  **MAURITANIA**
- 7 **Benoit VAN KEIRSBILCK**  **BELGIUM**
- 8 **Benyam Dawit MEZMUR**  **ETHIOPIA**



# MID-YEAR REPORT

January - June

## EACRN

The Eastern Africa Child Rights Network



## NEW EACRN LOGO

EACRN is marking 10 years since its inception in its efforts to advocate for and advance the rights of children in the Eastern Africa Region. To mark the anniversary in style, The Network redesigned their logo to fit the work that they do in the region. The official launch of the logo is scheduled to take place in November during the 10th Annual General Meeting in Kigali, Rwanda

## THE 24TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CSO FORUM

### children's right to education.

The 24th Ordinary Session of the CSO Forum, held from April 13–14, 2024, in Maseru, Lesotho, focused on the vital theme of children's right to education.



### Key Take away

Key outcomes included the formulation of strategic action plans and collaborative efforts aimed at enhancing educational opportunities and advocating for stronger policies to protect and promote children's educational rights. The session underscored the collective responsibility to ensure every child can achieve their full potential through education.

This gathering brought together civil society organizations, policymakers, educators, and advocates from across the region to address the barriers and challenges that hinder children's access to quality education.

Discussions emphasized the importance of creating inclusive, equitable, and safe learning environments for all children, regardless of their socioeconomic background



SCAN ME!

# CSO FORUM ALBUM

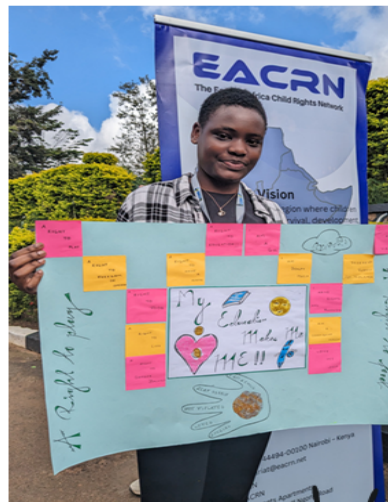




## About the Advocacy Camp 2024

The 2nd annual advocacy camp took place in Mukono District, Uganda, from May 5-9, 2024. With over 100 children attending from various parts of Uganda, the camp had the following objectives:

- Enhance children's ability to advocate for change on issues that impact them, such as climate change, sexual and reproductive health, children's rights and responsibilities, and reporting abuse.
- Enable children to exchange experiences and knowledge on children's rights, child safeguarding, and preventing violence against children.
- Give children the opportunity to address their concerns to important stakeholders like Members of Parliament and representatives from various ministries.
- To provide an opportunity for the children to meet, play, share and care for each other.





# 2024 UNITED NATIONS CIVIL SOCIETY CONFERENCE

MAY 9 - 10 | NAIROBI, KENYA



## NO PACT FOR THE FUTURE, WITHOUT THE FUTURE

The Eastern Africa Child Rights Network, with collaboration with Mtoto News International and Ariagtou, convened a side event for children from different background to discuss about the summit of the future at the 2024 United Nation Civil Society Conference in Nairobi, Kenya. The children had their own session where they collaborated with each other and shared their thoughts on meaningful participation and the future that they desired.

There can be no pact for the future, without the future. And we are the present and the future. We want children to have meaningful participation in meetings like the UN Civil society conference. If children can share their challenges and be part of the discussions of coming up with solutions, we will have a better world



## SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE

As civil society organizations (CSOs), we recognized that the Summit of the Future that will be held in September 2024 is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to enhance cooperation on critical challenges and address gaps in global governance, reaffirm existing commitments, including to the Sustainable Development Goals and the United Nations Charter, and move towards a reinvigorated multilateral system that is better positioned to positively impact people's lives.



[CHILDREN STATEMENT](#) →

[Read More](#)

[FAITH'S IMPACT](#) →

[Read More](#)



# DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD

16TH JUNE  
2024

DID YOU  
KNOW?

The June 16 annual event honours the memories of students who were massacred in Soweto, South Africa, in 1976 for protesting against education injustice and inequality in the apartheid regime.

The theme for this year's Day of the African Child was 'Education for all children in Africa: the time is now'. The continental event for DAC was held in Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement in the Republic of Uganda.



With the support from the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and Save the Children the CSO Forum and EACRN was able to mobilize children from the five region of Africa.

## Recommendations!

Below are some of the key recommendation to Member States by children during the DAC 2024 celebrations

- 1 To allocate sufficient budget for education
- 2 Increase quality of education by training teachers
- 3 Ensure that education is free and compulsory
- 4 Improve school infrastructure e.g. classrooms
- 5 Embrace technology in Education sectors



# DAC ALBUM



# The 2nd Annual EAC CSOs Summit



## *Child Rights Advocacy in the EAC*

Our Executive Director, Ben Omillo, moderated the first child rights advocacy session at the 2nd EAC CSOs Summit in Arusha, Tanzania, focusing on investing in children for EAC integration. Panelists included partners like the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, the African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), and the Data for Governance Alliance (D4GA) from the University of Nairobi.



## *Theme of EAC CSO Summit*

The 2024 East African Citizens Summit theme was "Harnessing Citizens' Potential in Regional Integration Processes: Utilizing Technological Advancement to Resolve Climate Change Challenges and Ensure Food Security in the Region."



## *Participation*

The Network was well represented at the 2nd Annual EAC CSOs Summit in Mt. Meru in Arusha, Tanzania. The event had great representation of participants from the East African Community.



# EAC CSO ALBUM

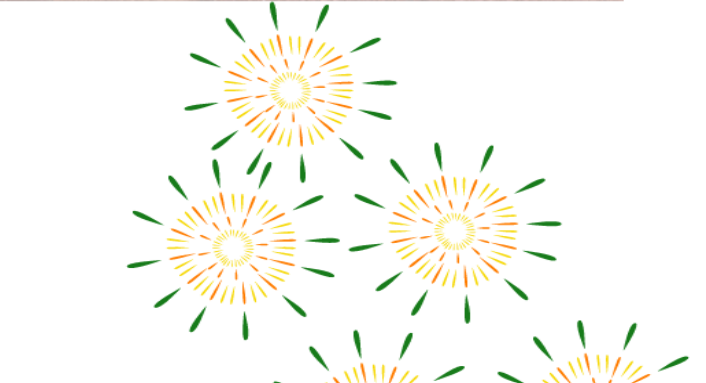




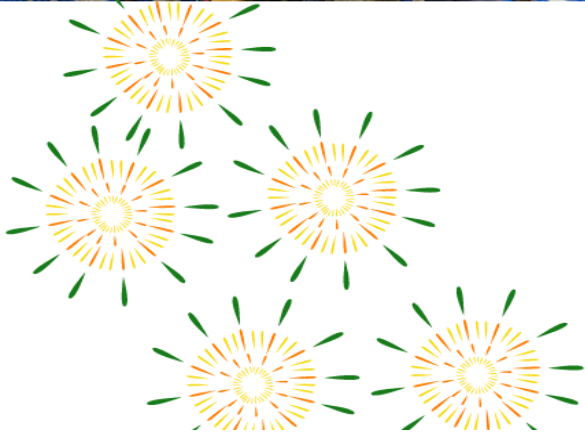
## ADD-ONS



*We were present at the close out and dissemination event of the African Governance Architecture Support Project (AGA-SP). The project has enabled us to enhance the capacities of our national coalitions to advance and advocate for the rights of children in the region*



“  
*EACRN secretariat took part in a 3 day digital security workshop in Nairobi, Kenya. The Workshop was facilitated and supported by Defend Defenders.*





# ADD-ONS



*Our Communications Officer, Dennis Wangai, attended the Advanced Human Rights Course on Children's Rights in Africa in Pretoria, South Africa.*



*“Our Executive Director, Ben Omillo and Finance Manager, James Kayila, participated in the annual project review of the Pan Africa State Accountability Project (PASAP) held in Kampala, Uganda.*



# PARTNERS



**ACERWC**  
African Committee of Experts on  
the Rights and Welfare of the Child



CSO Forum



Save the Children

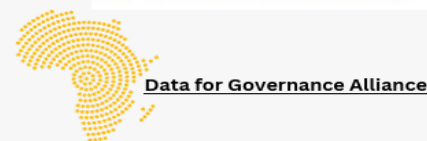


African Population and  
Health Research Center

**brave  
movement™**  
End Childhood Sexual Violence



CENTER *for*  
REPRODUCTIVE  
RIGHTS



Global Coalition to **Protect  
Education from Attack**

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