

MPC



Monthly Newsletter

September 2020

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Mukuru Promotion Centre **NEWSLETTER**

Empowerment Step by Step

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From the Director

Dear Friends, Partners and Supporters,

During September it seemed as if the CoVid19 positive cases were decreasing. The whole economy was opened including bars and the night curfew was put back to 11pm. The majority of Kenyans seemed to feel the threat was gone and reporting on the media reduced.

It was wonderful to see students back in school. Many of them looked badly due to inadequate nourishment while the schools were closed. We see again how important a daily meal is and are very grateful for those who help to provide this. Thank you to all the sponsors who enable children of Mukuru attend secondary school. The only way of running a private school for children of the slums is through sponsorship of the students. We have around a third of the students at St Michael's sponsored currently. Many parents have lost their means of livelihood that they just do not have the means of paying for their children. This would be a huge humiliation for any parent.

We continued to raise awareness of those among us living with disabilities and had a sign language training for community and staff. Continuous training is taking place for members of the Mukuru community in CoVid19 awareness and prevention. Through co-operation with Cities Rise, community health workers were given kits to enable them do their work in the community. All of our staff have now been trained on the ways to protect themselves and the students from contagion. There are prominent water points on all sites for hand washing. We are incredibly grateful to those who have donated masks and sanitizers. Maltesers International, a new partner, helped in this area. Local donors assisted to provide food and other essential goods to the rehabilitation centre and to Songa Mbele. Without all of your help we could not continue to give the services. The vocational training continues to integrate youth with disabilities in various trainings including the growing of mushrooms. It is wonderful to see the thriving vegetable garden at the rehabilitation centre thanks to Paula Cullen group and Team Pankaj. We have seen the new garden gurus develop.

It is astonishing to see the transformation of the Songa Mbele site through the growing new facility for children living with disabilities. This new building will increase our capacity to give many children more opportunity to increase their skills and develop their talents. Congratulations to The Kenyan Child Foundation for their great work in raising the funds for this building and thanks, especially to the staff and children who help to raise funds as well as to the corporate donors. The new facility is at 35% completed. We hope the new facility will be opened in 2021 at the start of the new academic year.

Sr Kathy returned from Australia carrying 11 iPads and 5 laptops, which our heads of department use for their work. We appreciate this gift from Sisters of Mercy, Australia and Papua New Guinea.

The past few months have been a time of hardship and great uncertainty, with commencement dates of schools repeatedly changing, harsh economic conditions and various restrictions due to CoVid19.

Thanks to all of you who have supported us through these times.

Best wishes, Mary Killeen

Mary Killeen

During the month of September MPC primary schools conducted tuition for slow learners that was managed by MPC employed teachers. The focus of this training was on literacy. The plan was for each teacher to handle ten learners but the number of learners who turned up was overwhelming. The team had to come up with a plan to engage first learners who are able to read. The tuition also focused on oral communication and understanding of English as a language of instruction. The tuition further addressed basic mathematics, motor skills for young learners, talent nurturing, health, safety and CoVid19.

All levels of learners were managed from Pre-school to Class Eight. Eighteen teachers were available for the exercise. The total number of learners who attended the exercise was overwhelming and we had to send some home with assignments since the teachers were not able to safely handle everyone. About 600 learners turned up, some with their parents. We had to quickly assess those who had challenges for face-to-face instruction while those who already had some skills were given assignments to carry home and bring back the following day for marking. This exercise was continuous throughout the period.

There was a lot of storytelling to improve listening and oral skills. Learners were able to retell the stories to class. The teachers used pictures from the stories to enable learners retell the stories thus improving their oral capability. New words were also identified to help in building vocabulary for learners. Teachers also gave dictation to enable correct spellings. Further, there was a lot of singing, poetry reciting, debating and public speaking based on simple topics and group work. There was a lot of energy and spirit of positive competition.

A lot was achieved during the coaching sessions and by the end, the learners were aware of and able to practice CoVid19 safety methods like washing hands, wearing masks, avoid contact and handshake as well as keep distance. There were CoVid19 ambassadors selected from among learners who kept reminding their class on observing the safety measures. The ones in the higher classes were able to come up with poems about CoVid19 and others were able to tell news about the pandemic.



Learners being taught hygiene & social distancing



Some of the class sessions in progress



Class sessions were very practical & interactive



The sessions were active with singing, poetry reciting & dancing



Thanks to Sr. Barbara for providing porridge to learners





Child Protection Officer provided support to learners

All teachers across the country reported back to their respective stations on 28th September, 2020 to prepare for school re-opening. Teachers were directed to ensure that the schools were CoVid19 ready through cleaning, hygiene measures, arrangement of classrooms with the correct distancing in place, support, curriculum implementation and delivery, guidelines and protocols. Each of our schools formed a CoVid19 committee comprising of 2 teachers, parents, teachers' association chair and pupils.

The teachers were given a deadline to accomplish the preparations for school reopening before 19th October, 2020.

Sponsorship

School resumed for Form Four students at St. Michael's Secondary. The students were engaged throughout the period with lots of activities such as outdoor games among schoolwork. Having the students at school is a good way to keep them safe from the harsh conditions they live in. Being at school keeps them focused on their studies rather than idling and loitering in the slums which might easily have them join criminal gangs and prostitution.



St. Michael's students practicing outdoor games.



Frida receives her starter kit

One of our graduates from Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre in 2019, received a starter kit to advance her dress making career. Frida is an orphan and managed to face her challenges extremely well. We at MPC are very proud how she applied herself to her studies. Her small business is well set up and custom is slowly picking up. She is thankful to the donor, Mrs Kunzel, who supported her generously. The starter kit will ensure Frida a sustainable livelihood and a dignified life.



Ann receives a camera

A graduate in journalism, Ann Kanini, is a beneficiary of a camera that will enable her to advance her career by capturing the picture that tells the story of a thousand words. Ann wants to develop her skills in photography and videography. She is glad to have received the camera as it will enable her do documentaries with much ease. She is the bread winner in the family, and they depend entirely on her. Ann is very grateful for the support received from Sr Mary.

MPC is in the process of providing an easier option for our sponsors. Soon sponsors will be able to log on to our website and see the latest information about their student. We have over 280 sponsored students in many different schools. It takes time to compile the reports, update profiles, thank you letters, photographs, academic reports, receipts, conduct follow ups and success stories. The database will detect and send alerts on any duplications and provide prompts on records that have not been accessed. Consequently, the information of beneficiaries for the sponsor will be readily available at a time that is convenient to the sponsor.

September was a busy month for the Form Four candidates and Form Threes and the sponsored students in Form Two and Form One. The timetable was made in a way to engage 11 teachers per period. Skills were imparted to them and some academic work. At the beginning of the month, the attendance was a bit low (45%) but as time went by, the population increased to around (60%). This was necessitated by the campaign we did to bring every candidate back to school. We also introduced academic work and a lot of computer classes which seemed enjoyable to them.

In the course of the month, we held a Talent Show which was very successful. The students were able to show case their talents which included acting, dancing, singing, rapping and spoken word. It was enjoyable for them. We will strive to have an on-going program to give the non-academic students a place to shine and also break the class monotony for them.





To manage the number of students we again rearranged the classes as per the guidelines given by the Ministry to Health and Ministry of Education to accommodate enough learners in one classroom. We had over 100 students and we worked out 5 classes for them for the possible return the following month.

The 'pandemic timetable' enabled teachers to interact with students outside their area of expertise. They enjoyed instructing the students in something new.

We were optimistic that the Government would open the schools to avoid losing our learners to crime, prostitution, early pregnancies and child labour. Unfortunately, the dates coming from the Ministry of Education keep changing. We hope that all students will return on 5th October to compliment the ones already present.



**Social and Health
Services**

The Social and Health Services Department continued to follow up on the many cases during September. There was an increase in the number of medical cases as well as two missing children.

The missing children were from St. Catherine's Primary, class 6 and 8 pupils. The girls were selling watermelons on the streets to bring some money home before they disappeared. Both girls were later found and reunited with their families. The case is ongoing with further investigation and the girls have received some counselling. The case has been reported to the Child Protection Office MPC for further follow up. One way MPC tries to keep in contact with girls and check their progress is to distribute sanitary towels to the needy families. Each girl receives two packs. Among the 395 girls who received sanitary towels 60 women also benefited. With the increase of medical cases the social workers have been assisting parents / guardians to register for the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) that will provide some funds to cover surgeries.

September Activities

Case Type (Activity)	No. of Clients	Case Type (Activity)	No. of Clients
Abuse Cases	3	MPC Rehab Centre Admission	8
Amaranth Client (Nutritional Supplements HIIV/AIDS)	80	Moral / Mentor Formation Talks	180
Blanket Distribution to Fire Victims	42	Nutritional Support	496
Counselling and Guidance	5	Masks and Sanitizers Distribution	148
Death of Child	1	Needy Family Assistance	84
Disabilities Assistance	30	Profiling – Needy Secondary Students	10
Home visits	30	Sanitary Towles	395
Hospital Visits	5	St Michael's Student Upkeep	4
Medical Cases	57	Teenage Birth	1
Malnourished Babies	14	Secondary Students Upkeep	4
Mentoring by Rotary	181	Therapy sessions at Songa	32
Missing Child	2		
Total Clients Served			1,812

To register for the NHIF certain documents are required. Just like the registering for school, birth certificates are essential. However, for people from the slums this is an enormous issue as we have mentioned in previous newsletters. In September we had a mother who did not have the birth certificate / notification of her son since he was delivered at home. In order to prove that she is the mother she needs to have his antenatal and postnatal books which she does not have making it even harder to register for the Government's NHIF. NHIF does provide certain cover for medical treatment in hospitals but you must be registered. The boy requires orchiopexy surgery that corrects a descended testicle. The cost of the surgery is around 80,000 khs to 110,000khs (US\$740 - \$1,000). The actual surgery has a 100% success rate but should be corrected sooner rather than later. The social workers will continue to follow up for the mother. This is just another example of how much harder life is for people in the slums.

Home visits were conducted by the social workers to check up on some of the medical cases from last month. Some of the cases are waiting for further medical treatment at different hospitals.



The disabilities program at Skills continues. Some of the mushroom have been transferred from the incubation room (iron sheets) to the fruiting room (the mud house). This process has taken 28 days since they were planted. Happily growing it in the dark!



The donations we received during the month were distributed to the different needy families. We are grateful to Malteser International for the masks and sanitizers; the maize, beans and cooking oil from Raja Trust; Major Nkaduda from Langata Barracks for food, Truphena Japheth and Samuel Mwangi, Students from Kenya Mass Communications Ltd, Rhoda Osiemo and Linnet Akinyi, for clothes, the sanitary towels from Winnie and the Chief's office at Hazina for masks for Songa.

The schedule of meetings and trainings were maintained throughout the month. After a delay in the Kenya Sign Language we managed to conduct the trainings at the MPC Multipurpose Hall. Cheshire Disability provided further training for staff on disability awareness and Community Based Rehabilitation training; Light for the World conducted further meetings on the Mushroom Project for our Vocational Training students; and our social workers participated in the Child Protection and Safeguarding session on Case Management presented by Tangaza University.

The scope of social work is ever widening. MPC networks with many other government and non-government agencies to improve the quality of service to people. We engage with Community Health Volunteers to assist where possible in reaching out to the community. We welcome other organizations who wish to help people at any level. The Eseriani organisation helped with mentorship sessions to St Catherine's pupils.

The Association for the Physically Disabled Kenya (APDK) and St Benedict's Parish acknowledge the importance of 'identification documents'. They plan to organise for the mass registration of national council cards for persons living with disabilities in October. We sincerely hope that this happens as it would make a terrific difference to the estimated 4.4m person with disabilities in Kenya. The social workers will be extremely busy next month identifying the hundreds if not thousands who reside in Mukuru Slums.



The Rehab new boys go for CoVid19 testing



Malteser International donations of sanitizers and masks



Sign language training at the main hall



Needy and sick parents receiving a package of food



Mentorship class at St. Catherine



Happy girls receiving sanitary towels

The Clinic staff continued to serve the medical needs of the residents of Mukuru. Apart from the ordinary consultants and treatments we also received Ministry of Health officials to discuss the progress of our Antenatal, Mother Child Wellness, Comprehensive Care and Tuberculosis programs. We received positive feedback on all our programs. They informed us that the CoVid19 cases in the area were incredibly low and were curious on how we have managed to have very few cases of CoVid19. It was suggested that it was an answer to prayer.



Support supervision by the Ministry Of Health.

As mentioned earlier we received 8 new admissions to the Rehabilitation Centre. The procedure at the Rehab for all boys is to undergo a full medical check-up upon admission. The 8 new boys received their full medical while the other 38 boys had their review. We also gave them the de-worming tablets for preventative reasons. It certainly has been recorded that the albendazole medications kills the CoVid19 in the laboratory. All health checks were to ensure compliance with the Ministry of Health as well as the Childrens' Services Office.

The Sub-County Wash Coordination team continued to offer their support by fumigating the Clinic during the month.



The Malteser International donated masks and hand sanitizers that were distributed to mothers in the Mother Child Wellness program as well as outpatients.

We also received 2 hot and cold water dispensers with 1,200 disposable cups by Africa Direct. As the weather is warming up this makes it possible for more patients to hydrate when they arrive at the Clinic.



Patients using the new dispensers.

Some of our staff attended a session at the Rhodes Chest Clinic Centre on the new regime of drugs for tuberculosis patients and procedures for contact tracing for those patients.

Patients Treated in September

Category	Gender	Under 5	6-13yrs	Above 13	Total
New Cases	Male	131	17	244	392
	Female	79	16	221	316
		210	33	465	708
Revisits	Male	56	13	89	158
	Female	51	13	135	199
		107	26	224	357
Total September		227	59	689	1,065

Most Common Treated Diseases in September

Disease	Females	Males	No. of Cases
Acute Upper Respiratory Tract Infection	195	150	345
Urinary Tract Infection	134	204	338
Acute Gastroenteritis	190	136	326
Abdominal pregnancy	93	0	93
Hypertension / Diabetes	33	30	63
Fever	41	31	72
Gastritis / PUD	28	46	78
Neuralgia and Neuritis unspecified	102	35	137
Soft Tissue Injuries	15	19	34
Tuberculosis	22	9	31
Skin Infections	15	14	29
Allergies (Unspecified)	16	3	19
Cut Wounds	15	4	29
Headaches	20	47	67
Other Diseases	162	126	259
Total	1,081	854	1,920

**some patients present with more than one ailment.*

Programs:

We treated 13 tuberculosis patients with 5 new cases during the month. Most of them have been placed on supplementary foods. The Antenatal mothers' number 78 and 132 children were immunized. Antenatal mothers were 78 while immunized children were 132. At the comprehensive care centre we received 10 clients who are all responding well to treatment.

The Laboratory Tests For September

	Type	No. of Tests
1	Urinalysis	112
2	Full haemogram	104
3	Stool for ova/ cyst	83
4	Malaria tests	29
5	Antenatal Profile tests	29
6	Rheumatoid Factor	22
7	Random blood sugar test	22
8	Other Laboratory Tests	16
9	Pregnancy test	15
10	H.pylori	15
11	High Vaginal swabs test	15
	Total	462

Average 22 tests per day

**Songa Mbele na
Masomo**

The movements in and out from the centre were frequent as children continued attending their allocated therapy sessions and life skills activities. The construction of the new multi-level education facility was on-going. Between the children coming and the construction workers the security staff were kept extremely busy.



The daycare, coaching and special coaching class teachers have the children coming on a rotational basis to the centre so they don't regress. It also provides the opportunity for the teachers to teach about the CoVid19 prevention measures and hygiene in general. Over forty children attended from 14th September and hope that the number will increase next month.

Songa received donations of food for the needy families from Langata Barrack, Weetabix East Africa and Starkids Initiative. We are very grateful for their generosity.



Food donation and therapy sessions

September Activities at Songa Mbele na Masomo

Case Type (Activity)	No. of Clients	Activity	No. of Clients
Food Distribution	112	Abuse Case	1
Masks	48	Assistance Devices Forms	30
Home Visits	2	Therapy sessions at Songa	54
Medical Cases	7	Training Sessions	3
Total Clients Served			

The children were organised into groups so that a maximum of 10 pupils could attend class each day depending on their ability. The Special Day Care class had recorded the most regression. Some had mastered the potty while other did not. Some were able to self-feed very slowly and others needed assistance, it kept the staff fully occupied.

For the coaching class students the teachers focused on general knowledge, values, CoVid19 measures and skills while they wait for the Government to officially open all schools. For many children receiving a good meal each day is an added incentive. The other incentive is to play on the new playground equipment. There's always a queue for the swings.

There are many children at the Centre with cerebral palsy and we want to network with the Cerebral Palsy Services Kenya to see how we can better help them.

The Kenyan Sign Language Activity occurs during the school holiday period. This year it was not held in April. We managed to move the venue to the MPC multipurpose hall so that we could manage the numbers and keep the social distancing rules. Over thirty participants attended the different sessions.



Kenya Sign Language Training



Disability Awareness Training

Day care class in session



Beatrice has cerebral palsy and was malnourished and needed immediate hospitalisation. She was upcountry and there were roadblocks. Through Songa we managed to get her back to Nairobi for treatment with the help of the Chief and Industrial Area police station. She was admitted to hospital for 2 weeks and later discharged. Through the help of the immunity booster parcels program provided by Mary Immaculate Clinic, Beatrice is well and back at the Centre.

The Kenyan Child Foundation has generously partnered with MPC to construct the new education facility. This multi-level facility will increase the capacity at the Centre from 80 to over 250 children. The facility will possess classrooms, therapy rooms, sensory room, sensory garden, dining room, offices and a roof-top play area. The project commenced in February and hopefully will conclude prior to the commencement of the academic year 2021.



The building status at the beginning of September



Songa Mbele na Masomo is on the edge of Mukuru slums where the children come from each day to receive their therapy sessions and lessons. There is no room to play. The playground area is a great space for them to receive some enjoyment during the day.



Middle September



End of September – Second Floor Slab concrete pouring and Ramp completed



Steel works and Electrical conduits in place before the concrete pour.

MPC Rehab Centre

After August holidays the classes resumed at the beginning of the month. The boys are now re-energized and focused on the next term. The CoVid19 measures are in place and the boys' efforts on hygiene has been maintained well at the Centre.



Profuturo class in progress

The Class 8 candidates have greatly improved and we look forward to their final examination. The other students are progressing well. The Profuturo classes have been on-going each week. Currently we have materials in mathematics, science, technology, language, healthy living and citizenship. We are still sourcing for more materials that are compatible with the new competency based curriculum.

The carpentry boys have been busy finishing up their cooking sticks, a project for team Pankaj and some trays for the staff at Kenya Wine Agencies. They are now able to interpret drawings in orthographic and axonometric projections. This is a good sign of their readiness for the NITA exams later in the year.

The extra-curricular activities have been numerous, from catechesis, yoga, arts and craft to sporting competitions. The parish catechist, Sr Magdaline was transferred which mean the staff stepped in to ensure that the boys were receiving some spiritual formation. The teachers have been teaching boys prayers in Kiswahili and English. We hope to have another catechist assigned from the parish soon.

In the art workshop the boys continue to display their talents in drawing, painting and beadwork. The sporting activities such as football, talent show and gymnastics are also going on and learners show great interest in them.



Sonia has tirelessly involved the boys with her weekly yoga sessions. The yoga has really increased the boys' flexibility, improved energies and positive thinking.

Yoga sessions with Sonia



The social worker liaised with different "bases" to recruit more boys. The Childrens' Desk at Kamukunji Police Station was able to assist and we admitted 8 new street boys. We managed to isolate new boys from the others and the following morning they were taken for CoVid19 testing at Nairobi South Health Centre. Thankfully, they all tested negative.

The counsellor encouraged the boys to settle down, mingle and engage with the rest of the boys to avoid loneliness; and trying to keep their minds away from thoughts of returning to the streets. The lack of hope is a common issue with boys as soon as they come to the Centre.



New boys on arrival



The Child Protection Officer, Rebecca visited the Centre where she had talks with the staff and boys. She helped identify areas where they can improve.

Child Protection Officer addressing MIRC family

So far three houses have managed to plant seedlings on their portions of land. We are already enjoying the farm produce from two houses, who deliver their produce to the kitchen with great pride. The boys have adapted to watering the veggies every morning and evening. Mr Pankaj has continued to check on the progress and has been impressed by the efforts of the boys. Lake Victoria planted their seedlings the second week of September.



LakeVictoria planting



Lake Turkana harvesting





Lake Naivasha veggies



Mr Pankaj has also been very generous to us. He promised the boys 100 loaves of bread every week. The bread is delivered on Mondays and Thursdays every week. He also donated a trampoline which is now a favourite sport especially for the small boys.



Our well-wishers have continued blessing us with donations of different kinds. Mr Stephen Nganga has continued donating meat twice a month. This month he extended his generosity by donating shoes and inner wears.



Donations of shoes, boxers and socks from Mr Stephen Nganga

We received food donations from Patronics Services Ltd from Industrial Area.



Esther Kamaara and team have been giving us foodstuffs so often.



Action in Focus also donated veggies twice this month. The eating habits of 45 boys will make short work on these vegetables. Its great that they are receiving nourishing meals.



The basketball court is finally completed. We are grateful to Paula Cullen and her group for providing an outlet for the boys to expend all that extra energy that they have.

The competitions will be in full swing next month!

Vocational Training Centre

Key activities this month included catering services to various groups, mushroom farming, and plumbing works inside and outside the Vocational Centre. We also had a few admissions in the computer course and these students consisted of young high school girls and boys who were tired of staying idle at home due to prolonged closure of schools in Kenya. The Art instructors continued to engage young talented artists from Mukuru slum and some of our special need students.



Guests being served by our catering students



Lunch ready to be served

Some of our young artists in a drawing session



On 30th September 2020 the Government issued new directives on the phased reopening of tertiary institutions giving clearance for resumption of in person learning hence students are expected to report back on 5th October Monday. The Ministry in conjunction with their public health counterparts are expected to conduct routine monitoring to ensure compliance. We are happy about this directive and we will continue to work hard to meet the set guidelines in order to avoid closure due to non-compliance.

Subsequently, the National Industrial Training Authority, the body responsible for assessing vocational training courses has scheduled the postponed April and August 2020 trade testing from 23rd November to 11th December 2020. Our four Grade II students will now put closure to this matter after waiting for six months due to cancellation of these exams in April.



Plumbing works in preparation for school reopening



Plumbing Students work on our water system to ensure adequate supply to the washrooms

With clubs opening up all over, the demand for deejays especially in Nairobi is on the rise. The demand has led to the emergence of DeeJay schools to train DeeJays. Our Lady of Mercy Vocational training Centre has made a name in this industry by using music as a tool to curb crime and unemployment in Mukuru Informal Settlement. The course was introduced last year in June and over fifty (50) students have gone through the training with most of them becoming successful deejays. Classes run from Monday to Friday, 2 hour class session every day for five months. The fee for the course is five thousand Kenya shillings and upon completion graduates are awarded with certificates.

The department has undergone tremendous improvement in terms of syllabus coverage and personal growth. Their sessions differ from one student to another depending on the number of hours covered by individual student, (some being ahead of others). We hope this group will work hard to be the best in a society where mediocrity is not appreciated.



Boaz Keango (instructor) teaching Deejaying skills to a student



“M”ceeing is a must teach in the Deejay course

After much anticipation and work on the demo mushroom project for the ‘Employ-able’ youths with disability, our mushrooms are now on the pinning and cropping stage and in four days we will start harvesting. The initial pins are extremely small but can be seen. These pins will continue to expand and grow and ultimately enlarge to a mushroom. The growth room requires fresh air, adequate water supply and stable temperature (15-30 degrees). This is what our youths have been grappling with, trying to ensure a conducive environment for the growth of the demo mushroom. The team also worked hard to ensure good hygiene hence gloves were provided for them and no one was allowed to use any perfume as this would affect the quality

of the crop. The month of September has been relatively hot and this has slowed down the pinning process. The growth room required a lot of water and this was a tricky activity as water dried very fast leading to low humidity. We also struggled with pest infestation but this was controlled immediately by using cultural practices. We sealed all openings in the mushroom house and used the traditional rat trap. As the saying goes “hard work pays” we can truly say we have indeed seen the fruits of hard work.



Some of the bags that have started pinning

Happenings...



We received a visit from the Malteser International Group who provided MPC with masks and hand sanitizers that were distributed around the different departments.



We are grateful to the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea for donating several iPads to our Heads of Department. No excuses for reporting now!



**This Time
in History**

The Sisters of Mercy Institute developed Songa Mbele na Masomo because of the need in Mukuru slums for children living with disabilities after Goal Ireland, had donated the plot of land where the centre is currently located, along Aoko Road, opposite Riverbank Estate. The centre is simply a haven for parents who have children with physical and intellectual disabilities as well as school drop-outs because of poverty.

As a way to engage the youth, in September 2012 Songa Mbele na Masomo and “**Jitegemee Kenya Pamoja Initiative**” signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop a farming program.

The initiative was to run a briquette production and farming project (*12 beds for urban farming, 2 nursery beds for vegetable seedlings and 1 nursery bed for tree seedlings*). The program promoted a Young Farmers Club from the beneficiaries within the project to run lessons on farming for all pupils in Songa Mbele.

Jitegemee Kenya Pamoja Initiative (JKP) is a community based Self Help Group Project registered with the office of the (DGSDO) Makadara District on 10th May 2010. The Youth Group was designed to identify possible income generating activities among the young people that will enable them to avoid high crime areas and teach them vocational skills, do research on-line and develop projects that will sustain their day to day livelihoods. The project concluded in 2013.

Mukuru Promotion Centre

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