



## February Newsletter

Vol 7 Issue No. 2  
2022

## Mukuru Promotion Centre

*Empowerment Step By Step*

Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy

[www.mercymukuru.co.ke](http://www.mercymukuru.co.ke)

Nairobi KENYA

Email: [info@mercymukuru.co.ke](mailto:info@mercymukuru.co.ke)

Tel: +254 722 505 904 +254 733 588 068

### Inside

#### Welfare Services

Home Tracing .....	3
Dining Hall Appeal .....	5
Airtel Team Visit .....	6 and 22

#### Social and Health Services

Outreach Activities.....	11
Supports.....	12
Medical Statistics.....	14

#### Education Services

CBC Assessments .....	17
Environmental Activities.....	19
Form 3 Results.....	21
Skills Exhibits.....	23

#### Announcements

MPC 2021 Audit .....	26
Therapy Block Completion .....	26

Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends,

All of our times are still mixed up in schools due to making up time lost during CoVid19 school closures. It means that those boys who are over eighteen and those whose families have responsible members can now leave rehabilitation and go on with the next step of their lives as the new school year for 2022 begins in May. It is a hard time emotionally for the staff and those who have journeyed with the boys for a few years. Before boys exit the centre, their homes and relatives have been traced and assessed for accountability and suitability for the boys. This is an expensive exercise as boys on the streets of Nairobi can come from any part of Kenya. A social worker has to visit the home and assess the possibility of the boy returning to the family. The social worker may travel far only to find that the family has moved on. Some families are thrilled to find their lost son and long to welcome him back. Others do not want to see the boy due to past history or not the boy's biological parent. Others have addiction problems and are unable to care responsibly for the boy so he will have to stay in rehabilitation centre until he is eighteen. It is a great suffering for boys who are rejected by the family. We are grateful to all those people, local and overseas who assist the boys.

As you can see from the newsletter, we are all trying to do our part to improve the climate by planting trees. We are still considering how best to improve the present dining room. The repairs and maintenance is ongoing at the Rehabilitation Centre. The boys are very happy to participate in Rugby competitions.

It is wonderful to see vaccinations against CoVid19 are now available in Kenya. For a long time, due to the scarcity, only those who were old or sick, could access these vaccines. The Ministry of Health staff actually visited our centres and vaccinated those of us among the targeted group, that is, over fifteen. I got my booster dose.



We are very grateful to those sponsoring and assisting students. The income of most parents in the slums cannot cater for many school needs, especially secondary and college fees. Without your help many students would drop out of school. The economy has still not recovered from CoVid19 closures, income of the poor has not gone up, while prices of all of their needs have jumped. Poverty is increasing which is very hard to bear. In the early 2000s we could see poverty reduce.

We are grateful to donors who assist the children living with disabilities attending our day centre at Songa Mbele na Masomo and to the training opportunities given by the Association of Sisterhoods of Kenya and others. We pray that the children be enabled to reach their full potential.

As the poverty increases so does the social work needs and requests from those who cannot manage their shelter and food needs. We are thankful to the Irish Embassy and to other donors for assisting poor households increase their income through small businesses.

The school year ended as the primary and secondary final year students prepared for their exams. Thanks to all of those who assist the students with food and other needs during exams. The primary school leavers are all concerned whether they will be able to continue to secondary school.

We are happy with the improvement in our vocational training. We now have to expand to serve the growing needs of students. It makes a huge difference if secondary leavers have training as they get employment opportunities.

It has been a full month with many activities, donations and visits. Enjoy reading about the interactions for February.

With deep appreciation

Sr Mary Killeen  
*Director*

## Welfare Services Rehabilitation Centre

February has been a month of challenges and blessings. The number of boys residing at the Centre this month was 46.

Strathmore University sent 5 students for internship at the Centre. This will enable the boys to receive extra attention in learning and social reintegration.



For the Form 4 boys it will be the last few weeks of secondary school before they sit the national KCSE in March. Providing extra support, the HOD visited the boys at boarding school to wish them luck and good preparation for the exams.

*James Mwangi receives a visit from HOD William.*

As part of the residential program the social and welfare officers work try and identify the boys background with the view of having them reconnected with the families if possible. The Home tracing was successfully completed and a total number of ten (10) children will be reintegrated back to their families and/or loved ones. Armed with some details the social workers begin to piece parts of their stories together to locate the families. Some of the families were so happy to see their sons again and at times they assume that their sons were thought to be dead. It was a very emotional time for both the families and boys.



*Alex reunites with his Father*

We are very fortunate to have a number of well-wishers during the month who provided wholesome foods for the boys. From flour, vegetables, bread, rice, meat and fruit tree seedlings,





*Mr Harry*



*Mrs Mary Syombua*



*Mr Suleiman*



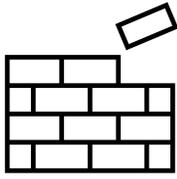
*Ms Rachel*

Climate Change is on everyone’s mind and at the Centre the boys are very aware of their environment. We are grateful to visitors who come to the Centre and see how we can improve our surroundings. Over the last 12 months there have been significant improvements at the Centre. The vegetable garden is tendered well by the boys. One of the strategic goals for MPC is improving the environment and has committed to plant many trees along the river and other spaces over the next 5 years. One donor who has helped is Rebecca Bor, who donated a number of tree seedlings and fruit trees.



*Rebecca and her team coordinating the tree planting program*





Last month we mentioned about the Dining Hall Project. The Director and her team visited the Thermoteq Company to enquire about a prefabricated structure for the new dining hall. The design has been completed and we are now sourcing for contractors. If you would like to donate by buying a €50 brick please use the website donate button. The target is €15,000.



As the saying goes, after the sound of glass breaking or wood cracking, 'boys will be boys'. The windows in the dormitory have now been repaired. The other little project to spruce up the dormitory is to repair the curtains. We are grateful to Paula Cullen and her group who will cover the costs of the new materials, manufacturing and delivery.

*The dormitory windows that had broken were replaced.*

Like many places around the world vaccinations against Covid-19 have gathered pace. The Ministry of Health has now obtained vaccines to inoculate huge numbers of people. Nine boys at the centre who were aged over 15 were vaccinated along with the staff.

Look out Rugby World Cup 2023 scouts. The boys participated in the rugby competition at the Impala grounds, Ngong Road during the month and gave an outstanding performance. They won all their games in both categories – under 13s and under 16s.



*Under 16 boys celebrate their victory*



*Under 13 boys are ready*



## Sponsorship Office

Through the generosity of sponsors we have successfully impacted the lives of over 300 students in the past 2021 academic year that concluded in February 2022. It was a privilege to welcome the Airtel team, who visited us and donated examination materials for use by the Class 8 and Form 4 candidates. Airtel team have journeyed with MPC sponsoring 21 St Michael's Secondary students each year since 2014.



*Airtel Team with their beneficiaries.*

During February 40 girls from Mukuru slums were interviewed for possible sponsorship at Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre. Among the group are teenage mothers. The courses available to them are hairdressing, catering, garment making, carpentry, painter decorator, plumbing and masonry and mechanics. Sadly, the girls tend to suffer more with the poverty in the Mukuru slums, due to gender inequality and exploitation that leads many becoming pregnant as early as 14 years.



*Interview session with girls at the Vocational Training Centre*

Successfully completing their courses opens new doors for them to become financially independent and creates a better life and a brighter future with their children. A large percentage of the girls had tuition fee arrears which prohibits them even further in employment as employers require proof of the person's education.



If you are a child in Mukuru slum then you have a greater risk of dropping out of school after 8 years of primary education. Our own internal statistics tell us that out of the 700 children who complete Class 8 each year, only 25% will go on to complete secondary even though, the last few years, the Government has declared a 100% transition to secondary school but the infrastructure is simply not there.

Thanks to our sponsors over 100 Class 8 students will receive the opportunity to attend secondary school. Before the end of the academic year every Class 8 group is visited and informed on the criteria for sponsorship. Interviews are held with pupils from each of the 4 MPC primary schools. MPC is aware that not all pupils are academically gifted so it is important to provide other options such as vocational training.



*Interviews with Class 8 pupils and their parents*

As the National examinations draw nearer, we were delighted to receive materials by Airtel team. The kits included items such as clip boards, pens, pencils, mathematical sets, sanitary kits for girls, executive note books and pens for teachers. These donations were gladly received by 150 very needy students from across the MPC schools including the Rehabilitation Centre boys.



*Class 8 candidates receive the examination kits from Airtel*



Grade 4 pupil, Isaac Lorenzo was excited to get admission into St Bakhita. His former make shift school in the Rueben slums was demolished. Thanks to an anonymous donor and her friends who provided sponsorship, he was thrilled to receive his new school uniform, track suit and study material.



MPC secured a small grant through the Irish Embassy for capacity building. The grant will enable many parents like Phyllis Igoki, one of our needy parents living with a disability and of short stature was offered a boost to her small kiosk business. She is a roadside vendor, sells candies, sodas, water, biscuits among other snacks. She gladly received her business kit to help her earn an income to sustain her family, as she is the sole bread winner.



*Phyllis receives her business kit*



We are grateful to all our donors for the wonderful support and to our new donors the Kenya Pipeline Company and Rick Holtz, we thank you for taking interest in supporting us.



## Songa Mbele na Masomo Children's Centre

February's focus has been on promoting a good learning environment for the children. We have a wonderful facility that enables really good interactions for the children. Last month we had visits from the Persons with Disabilities Council who assessed the children and we await their reports to develop the individual education plans for the children. Many of the children showed improvement in their learning and skills development. There were 4 new admissions in February with disabilities such as hydrocephalus, cerebral palsy, autism, and downs syndrome.

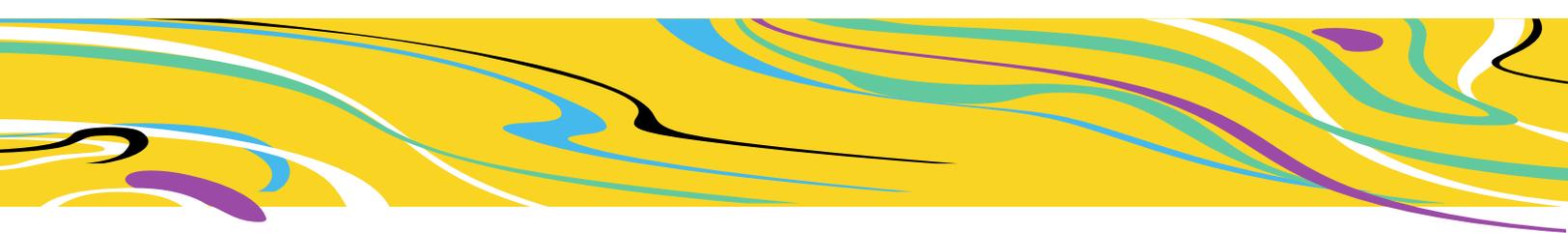
The therapy sessions involved passive stretches to increase joint range, massage to improve blood circulation, weight bearing exercises to strengthen postures as well as eye hand coordination.

During the month the Centre received donations in kind such as clothing and hygiene materials from Millicent Akinyi, Bortida, Owota and Liberty Christian Academy. The Centre also welcomed a number of volunteers from different Colleges and Universities which help to give the children more attention when conducting their daily activities.

To ensure that the Centre is providing the best possible supports for the children, keeping up to date and well versed in the latest methodologies is a priority. Having the staff attend the specific training sessions available for children living with disabilities improves the outcomes all round. The Kenyan Association of the Sisterhood (AOSK) under Catholic Care for the Children in Kenya facilitated training sessions in the area of care, child protection and promoting family and community-based care for holistic child development. Some interesting facts delivered at the training from the Government was only 20.5% of children with disabilities live with their mothers, while 2.4% live with their fathers and 9.5% live outside of parental care living in institutions, centres or streets. Currently there are over 250,000 children with disabilities who are enrolled in educational institutions in Kenya but there are many more who are not enrolled. There is also the alternative family and community base care options for disabled children who live independently. The training also highlighted about the context of family and society, different types of disabilities and their effects and how to manage traditional beliefs around children with disabilities. The AOSK has created a database to support different institutions on managing the specific data required by the Ministry each month.

A longtime supporter, Bertilla D'Costa and her team donated clothing, hygiene materials and food provisions.





The Liberty Christian Academy also donated some very needy items in February.

*Donation from Liberty Christian Academy*

The other exciting news for the children focused on which swing to go on. Sr Louise managed to organize some old metal frames from the old building and organized a fundi (handyman / welder) to make the multiple swings. The children will have more swinging fun time during the breaks and less arguments.



*New multi-swing equipment*



The other exercise of ingenuity from Sr Louise was supervising the foundation slab for the rainwater tank. There are several areas of rainwater from the roof that has been harvested for cleaning and gardening purposes.



# Social and Health Services

## Social Services

The fall out and consequences of the CoVid19 pandemic have permeated through all aspects of life in Mukuru Slums. Even though there is not much interest reported in the national newspapers MPC's social offices continue to outreach to thousands of people each month. It is the first time that MPC has accounted for more than 2,000 clients in one month. Noted in the statistics for February are the increases in CoVid19 materials, medical cases, needy students and families, home visits and absenteeism. There was an approximate 20% increase in the above needs and an overall 30% increase in clients compared to January.

Social and Health Services Statistics											
For the Month of February 2022											
No.	Case type / Activities	Education						Health	Welfare		Total
		St Bakhita	St Catherine	St Elizabeth	Sancta Maria Kayaaba	St Michael's Secondary	Vocational Training Centre SKILLS	MPC Clinic	Songa Mbele na Masomo	MPC Rehabilitation Centre	
1	Abuse Cases	1			1		2				4
2	Amaranth Adult Clients		63								63
3	Amaranth Babies and Child Clients		8								8
4	Behavior and Discipline Cases	1	3	8	7	8	3		1	2	33
5	Business Startup / Booster	1	1		3		2				7
6	Counseling and Guidance sessions	1	6	6	4	3	4		2	2	28
7	CoVid19 Hygiene Material Resources	5	7	10		5				490	517
8	Donations Received		6	1	1	2	3		16	25	54
9	Fire and Floods Disaster assistance			1					1		2
10	Food Distribution		52				36				88
11	Home Visits	25	18	13	16	3	5		7	18	105
12	Hospital Visits (to other Hospitals)			1		1		6	1		9
13	Malnourished Babies		16								16
14	Medical Cases (to MIC)	21	71	3	28	34	5	45	8	24	239
15	Meetings and Trainings	1				3			5	1	10
16	Mentorship Sessions	3		1	2	2	4		2		14
17	Mobilization of Resources										-
18	Needy Families Support (Community)	1	16		2				1		20
19	Needy Students/Children	7	17	6	16	63	36		129	11	285
20	Networking		4	1	3	1		1		1	11
21	New Admissions to MPC Institutions					1	4		5	1	11
22	New Teenage Pregnancies cases			3	1	1					5
23	Nutritional Support	1	18								19
24	Placement (job/internship experience)										-
25	Pregnancy Support Packages	2									2
26	Provision of Sanitary Towels	10	6	20		250		1	6		293
27	Referrals (except medical)	6		2	3	11	5	7	4		38
28	Safeguarding Follow Ups				2	3					5
29	School Absenteeism/Truancy	48	17	15	27	33	6		49		195
30	Schools Profiles	44	32	67	14	70	40		3		270
31	School Visits							3			3
32	Songa Mbele Therapy Sessions								36		36
33	Sponsorship Follow-ups		5	20	22	4	35		3	1	90
34	Uniform Aid	3		3	2					2	10
	Totals	181	366	181	154	498	190	63	279	578	2,490

The outreach can only happen through the generosity of our partners, supporters and friends. The work of the social workers in each of the social offices is critical when identifying the neediest of cases. If there were more social workers then the number of clients reached would also increase.



*St Michael's student receives clothing support*



*Home Visit*



*St Bakhita Pupil with her new uniform*



*Nutritional support*



*Deworming Program Continues*



*Sanitary towels to St Michael's*



Empowering parents with business start-up kit is one way to assist families with an income. This parent goes to the Gikomba Market to sell secondhand clothes. She carries her clothes daily to sell from the roadside which is quite a distance to walk.





*St Catherine's pupils taking porridge*



*St Elizabeth Pupils taking lunch*



*Needy Family Provisions*



*St Elizabeth family home destroyed by fire*

A teenage mother, Precious Akinyi, was discharged from Pumwani Maternity Hospital with her son. Precious has received a package to help her with the initial costs of a newborn.



*A few of the Rehab boys very happy to receive some men's toiletries.*



Toddler, Esther Awino goes to Shree Swaminarayan Hospital for a chest x-ray as she has trouble breathing.



The numbers at the Clinic are steady in comparison to January and without any major increases in specific diseases. The staff continue to provide treatments while upskilling in the various trainings facilitated by the Ministry of Health. The training this month was for immunization, child welfare and microplanning. Over the last 12 months the immunization numbers at the Clinic have increased markedly thanks to support from the Ministry of Health.

The deworming program was mentioned last month and February saw the continuation to St Michael's students, St Bakhita and St Catherine's pupils. Next month the pupils at Sancta Maria Primary and St Elizabeth's will receive their tablets. We know that the program has multiple benefits for the children preventing diseases caused by worm infestation. Team Pankaj is sponsoring the deworming program for 2022.

This month we welcomed a couple of volunteers. One student from Strathmore University is helping out with the Clinic's social office, one student from University of Nairobi, and one from the Sub-County TB Office to assist with contract tracing TB clients and delivery of samples to the Government laboratory. Over 1,300 patients were treated at the Clinic with two thirds being young children and just under half being new patients.

### February Registrations 2022

Category	Gender	0-5 Yrs	6-12 Yrs	13-17 Yrs	18-35 Yrs	36-49 Yrs	50-64 Yrs	Above 64 Yrs	Total
New cases	Female	119	50	38	167	45	14	4	437
	Male	61	30	16	70	38	12	8	235
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>180</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>672</b>
Revisits	Female	141	26	24	114	62	28	7	402
	Male	107	27	34	66	41	20	9	304
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>248</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>706</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>428</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1378</b>
Percentage	<i>Female</i>	<i>61%</i>	<i>57%</i>	<i>55%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>58%</i>	<i>57%</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>61%</i>
	<i>Male</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>45%</i>	<i>33%</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>61%</i>	<i>39%</i>

The largest group of patients were treated for respiratory issues and the bulk of them being children under 5 years. The children's immunization program continues to achieve high numbers each month.

### Summary of Treatments For February 2022

Diseases	0-5 Yrs	6-12 Yrs	13-17 Yrs	18-35 Yrs	36-49 Yrs	50-64 Yrs	Above 64 Yrs	Total
	<b>Outpatients</b>							
Respiratory	146	24	23	55	35	17	2	302
Gastronintestinal	79	32	28	70	26	8	1	244
Cardiovascular	26	11	15	52	27	24	12	167
ENT	9	14	3	11	3	1	0	41
Genitourinary	8	10	8	99	18	6	1	150
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	0	0	0	4	2	1	0	7
Musculoskeletal	4	11	11	28	30	7	4	95
Integumentary (Skin)	23	10	8	15	6	0	2	64
Dressing		1		5	2	1		9
Other Diseases	28	5	4	29	15	3	1	85
<b>Subtotal Outpatients</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1,164</b>
<b>Clinics</b>								
ANC	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	25
Immunizations	125	0	0	0	0	0	0	125
Nutrition	54	0	0	14	0	0	0	68
Comprehensive Care	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Tuberculosis	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Non Medical (Mental)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
Referrals to Medical Facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
<b>Subtotal Clinics</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>220</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>407</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1,384</b>



*St. Michael's*



*St Bakhita  
receive deworming tablets.*



*St Catherine's pupils*



Diabetes is common in Nairobi. The glucometer helps with the screening of diabetes.

*Alvan Butichi, Chemoquip donates a glucometer*

The laboratory tests increased by 27% in February compared to January which resulted in an extra 8 tests per day during the month. The extra capability of tests reduces the number of referrals to other health facilities that makes life a little easier for the patients.

### February 2022 Laboratory Tests

Laboratory Tests	0 - 5 Yrs	6-12 Yrs	13-17 Yrs	18-35 Yrs	36-49 Yrs	50-64 Yrs	> 64 Yrs	Total
Stool Analysis	26	33	23	63	18	5	1	169
Urinalysis	9	12	9	79	25	13	3	150
BS for MPS (Malaria)	45	10	6	23	12	3	2	101
Hemoglobin Levels	17	3	3	11	2	1	1	38
Helicobacter Pylori	0	9	18	37	11	4	3	82
Full Haemogram	7	5	7	13	5	3	1	41
Blood Sugar (R.B.S/F.B.S)				2	2	5	3	12
ANC Profile			0	15	5			20
Pregnancy Test				14	1	1		16
High Vaginal Swab Microscopy				11	3			14
Rheumatoid Factor		1	1	2	10	5	3	22
VDRL/Syphilis				2	3	1		6
Salmonella		2	3	7	1	1		14
Hepatitis B (HBsAg)	1			1				2
UEC's (Urea, Electrolytes and Creatinine)		1						1
Calcium Levels	1							1
Brucella			1	4	3			8
Blood Group								
HbA1c								
Anti-streptolysin O test (ASOT)		1		2	1	1		5
Bilirubin Levels		1						1
Urine Culture				1				1
Urine multdrug test				2				2
Liver Function Test	1	3						4
Uric Acid					1			1
<b>Total</b>								<b>711</b>
<i>Average Tests Per Day</i>								<i>35.55</i>

# Education

## Primary Schools

February marked the last month of 2021 academic year. Many activities took place as schools prepared to close for 2021 year. There were also preparations for National Exam (KCPE) taking place and the CBC activities as well. The condensed term dates posed a challenge to the teachers who had to cover the syllabus. The pupils on the other hand had to cope with the marathon speed from their teachers.

Every school in the country must be evaluated prior to the KCPE examinations to assess their ability to meet the guidelines for national examinations. During the month KNEC and TSC officials were making rounds to schools to ensure that exam guidelines are put in place and that schools are ready to host candidates for exams. Head teachers attended several meetings and briefings on national examination sensitization and handling in schools. The meetings were called by Sub-County Director of Education Makadara.

The pupils in Grades 3, 4 and 5 were engaged in the 5 day National Assessments administered by KNEC at the beginning of the month. KNEC uploaded the assessment results portal for head teachers to download. Grade 3s were assessed in Mathematics and English activities only since they were already assessed in the integrated areas between October to December 2021. Grade 3s assessment is the first one pupils will undertake at the national level under the competency based curriculum. The assessments were administered in a normal classroom set up according to KNEC guidelines.

The CBC posed challenges as the children were expected to carry out more practical activities which many parents are not able to afford and the Government has not provided. For example, for a home science practical activity the pupil was expected to demonstrate cooking 3 different food groups using three different cooking methods. Teachers are forced to use part of their free time like Saturdays to cover the practical work.



Some parents are growing their own vegetables so their children can participate in the assessments.

Teachers are expected to assess the work digitally and then upload the marks into the KNEC database. A large percentage of schools in the slums have no internet connection or computers to complete the task so they have to locate a cybercafé.



One of the components of CBC is to ensure that language development is given serious attention to avoid teachers just relying on local dialect. In a move to develop language further, basic French classes have been introduced in Grade 1 pupils at St. Bakhita Primary School once per fortnight. Apart from learning another language the pupils will have the opportunity to interact with other French speaking pupils.



At the conclusion of the 2021 academic year the successful Class 8 pupils will be very busy completing applications for sponsorship to secondary school. The pupils are informed about MPC's sponsorship program prior to the KCPE exams and encouraged to apply. The neediest pupils are interviewed as there are only 150 placements at St Michael's and around 760 pupils who complete primary school each year at the MPC primary schools. The Sponsorship Officer and the Education Coordinator at MPC conducted 76 interviews and 34 pupils received sponsorship for the 2022 academic year which will begin in late April. There certainly is strong demand for another day secondary school in Mukuru.

To support the lower ability pupils each primary school was asked to provide details of 10 poor pupils who would benefit from vocational training.



Pupil and Parent Interviews for Sponsorship

The next Class 8 cohort will commence the new academic year in late April and the entrance marks ranged from 226 to 256. These averages will need to improve in the coming year.

Primary School		Total No. of Pupils	Mean
1	St Bakhita	160	250
2	St Catherine's	178	256
3	St. Elizabeth Primary	225	226
4	Sancta Maria Kayaaba Mukuru	237	231
<b>Totals</b>		<b>800</b>	<b>241 Average</b>

Faith Formation is part of all MPC institutions. St Catherine's and St Bakhita held their Masses with a particular focus on the KCPE candidates. Parents were invited as a way of showing their children support. The national exams are scheduled for 4<sup>th</sup> of March.





*St. Catherine and Bakhita Primary Schools celebrating Mass*

We are fortunate to have individuals and groups who provide some support in kind. St Catherine and St Bakhita primary schools received 50 assorted fruit seedlings and a canter of red soil from Kenya Forestry courtesy of Rebecca Bor. The fruits seedlings will be planted at the school compound for use by the pupils when they are ready. The Airtel team also visited and donated clipboards, geometrical set, biro pens and sanitary towels to 150 candidates both in St. Michael Secondary and St Bakhita Primary Schools.



The Safi group donated 15 seedlings to Mukuru Primary School as they had only limited space. Paula Cullen and Friends also donated sports kits.



*Donated fruit seedlings being planted at St Bakhita*

St. Catherine's Primary School received visitors from NTSA who donated 100 reflector bags to pupils, 1 reflector jacket and a lollipop for use when children are crossing the road. Esquire Wholesalers also visited and donated exercise books, pens and biscuits for the pupils.



Challenges continue with the primary schools. The Government funding to operate them has been delayed which makes life very difficult for the Head Teachers. The economic hardships due to the pandemic have created further problems for parents which means that they cannot afford to pay for the firewood fees (200khs = €1.50) and other non-tuition fees. The teacher transfers have not been implemented which will result in higher teacher/pupil ratio with some classes without teachers.

The Kenyan Government rolled out the CoVid19 vaccination program targeting the group that has never received the vaccination. This campaign also targeted youths 15 years and above. The Ministry of Education sent circulars to all County Directors of Schools directing them to ensure that all school going children who are 15 years and over be vaccinated. The MPC primary schools had 75 pupils given the first dose (Pfizer) and the second dose will be administered in March.

Understanding the importance of primary education, Emma Kiilu from the Women in Boards Kenya, visited the schools with a number of items for the pupils.

The deworming program continues across all MPC primary schools. St Bakhita was visited by the Clinic staff during the month.



*Emma Kiilu*



*St Bakhita Deworming Program*

## St Michael's Secondary School

St Michael's has an enrolment of 437 students with 123 Form 4s preparing for the KCSE national examinations. February has seen quite a bit of movement as the Form 4s complete their secondary education and the new Form 1 cohort to enter the school. The term consisted of mid-term and end of term exams for Form 1s to Form 3s and Mock exams for Form 4s. Normally there would be a week's break in between examinations but due to the changes in the academic calendar the break was reduced.

### Form 3 Exam Results - Term Two

Subject	English	Kiswahili	Maths	Biology	Physics	Chemistry	History	CRE	Agriculture	Computer Studies	Business Studies	Average
Mean	4.2	5.6	3.3	4.7	4.5	2.2	5.7	6.2	4.7	8.0	4.4	4.7
Grade	D+	C	D	C-	C-	D-	C	C	C-	B-	D+	C-

The examination results have identified areas where the teachers and students need to work on before the KCSE at the end of the year. Students who obtain a C+ will gain entrance into university. The others who obtain a D to C will have the opportunity for vocational training courses.

The Ministry of Health sent a Team to St Michael's to vaccinate the eligible students with parental consent to receive their first dose of the CoVid19 inoculation. Before the receiving the jabs the Team advised the students on possible side effects.



*MOH advised the students on CoVid19 vaccine.*

The Airtel Team visited St Michael's to support the Form 4 candidates with exam materials such as geometrical sets and clipboards as well as sanitary towels for the girls and lunch packs.



*Students receive lunch packs*



*Vote of thanks*

The outgoing Council President, Joy Nyambura, gave the vote of thanks to Airtel on behalf of the student cohort.



*Candidates receiving Items from Airtel Kenya Team*



*Invigilators at St Michael's*



The Form 4s also met with the supervisor and invigilators for the KCSE examination who advised the students on the best practices for the upcoming examination.



## Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre

There was remarkable improvement in syllabus coverage and delivery of service to students during February. The Technical and Vocational Training Authority (TVETA) had made some recommendations which we carried out. Strathmore university students conducted their community service at Skills which was appreciated by the students.

Guidance and counselling are important empowerment tools which can be beneficial to the youth in terms of creating self-awareness, promoting good relationship and improving self-esteem. The growing number of social issues affecting the lives of Mukuru youth have been a great concern among educators. Our students have sessions every Tuesday and topics such as self-esteem, self-awareness, conflict management, decision making and etiquette. The next topics to be taught in March will revolve around CV writing, saving and job application. The three topics will help students face the world before they complete their program in April.



*Guidance and Counselling sessions in progress*



The Garment Making students covered the following topics: seams, sleeves, pockets, darts, pleats, cuffs, waistband, facing, collars and fastening. The students can draft different patterns with the help of their trainer. The students have also learnt how to use commercial pattern papers that were donated by British Airways Crew. When using the commercial patterns, each student is required to pick a design, trace it out, cut onto a fabric and finally join the pieces by stitching them together. All the students are currently scoring between 70% and 78% for each task. The sleeves and tucks appear to be two tasks that need extra effort before they sit for their Grade test examinations.

To provide further incentive, the instructor organized an exhibition for the students, to showcase their class work. The samples ranged from home interior decorations, table mats, table runners, napkins and throw pillows as well as different outfits from casual, official and children's clothing.



*Exhibits*





*Students interact with customers on the day of exhibition*



*More exhibits*



*Garment Making students*



The Computer Class received a donation of 5 computers from Combined Third World Services. The high-end HP PRODESK Core i3 will be a big boost to the computer class as the new computers have replaced the old ones making it possible to teach the students using the latest Windows Operating Systems that can run the latest Microsoft Office 2019 packages.



*Computer Instructor and class*

The Catering and other courses have also been on their toes to complete their syllabus.



*The catering instructor demonstrates how to cut cornish pastry*

Pastry is one of the more difficult culinary tasks. The catering students have also been trained on how to make different snacks which proved very popular.



# Announcements

There are many activities that continue throughout the month that are not reported but are very necessary to maintain the outreach services of MPC.

- ✚ The audit 2021 started and ended after 2 weeks with an exit meeting in February 2022.
- ✚ British Airways crewmembers brought some beautiful donations for our vulnerable babies and hair dressing students.
- ✚ The disabled friendly toilets were completed and Cheshire Disability Kenya.



- ✚ Terrazzo flooring completed at the Vocational Training Centre.



- ✚ MPC hopes to have the official blessing and opening ceremonies for the two new facilities, Songa and Vocational Training, with the donors in attendance later in the year. The donors will come from Ireland, USA and Spain.
- ✚ Out of the Box Team meeting with the Goetz Foundation

