



## Newsletter

## Mukuru Promotion Centre

*Empowerment Step By Step*

Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy

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

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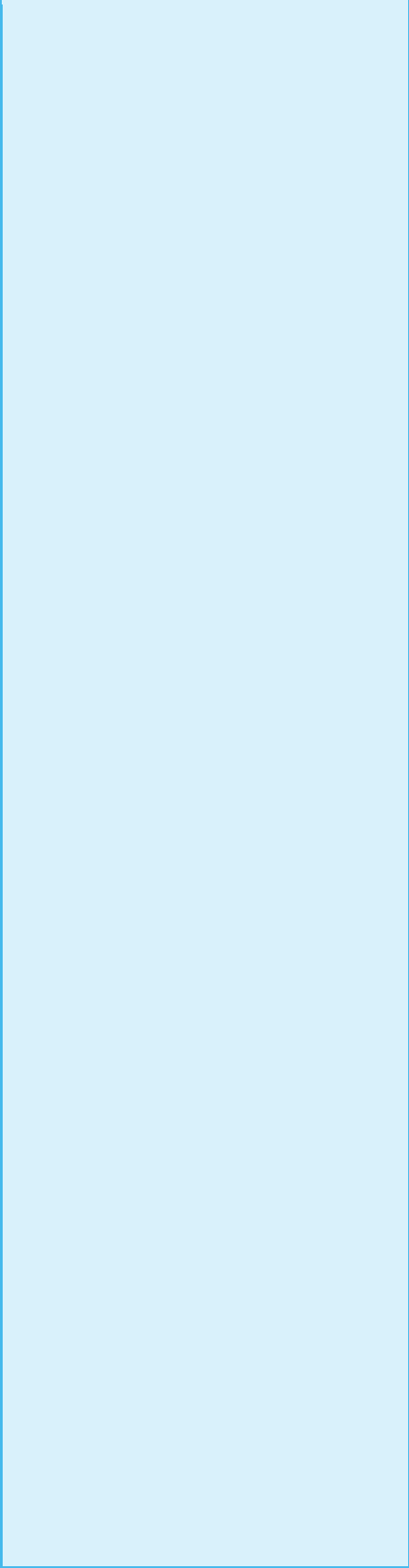
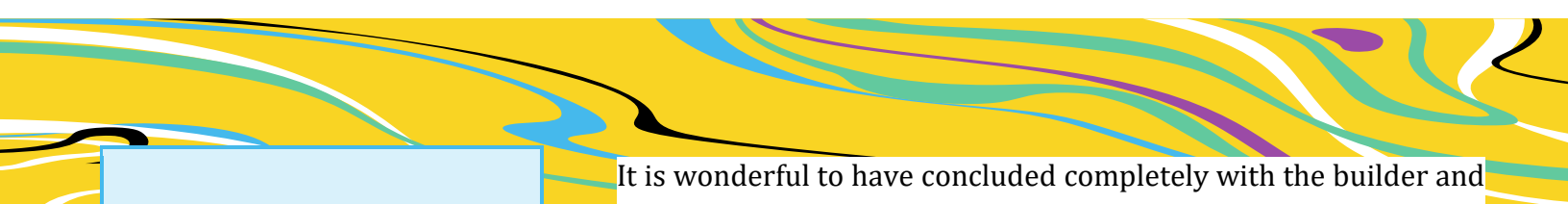
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Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends,

It is very fulfilling to see more than ten boys ready to leave the Rehabilitation Centre and either continue education from their parent's / guardian's homes or go to College or begin full time employment. When we remember how they were when they came to the Centre from the streets and how they are now, we are most grateful to all of those who contribute to their transformation, the donors, the staff and various others who assist with mentorship and counselling.

This year has been very difficult on teachers and students, making up for time lost during CoVid19 Lockdowns. It is not easy having two sets of Government examinations in one year. The Sponsorship Office and social workers have two lots of school leavers to deal with. A number of people wish to sponsor bright students. I am concerned about the very weak students leaving primary school who are often among the poorest and drop out after primary school finishes. I have asked for a list of the last ten in each of the four primary schools so that we meet with them and see what they can do rather than return to the village to poverty, early marriage or a sort of slavery.



It is wonderful to have concluded completely with the builder and architect in Songa Mbele na Masomo Children's Centre. There are still areas that need development, such as Sensory Room and further training and equipment for teachers. The Sensory Garden is taking shape and in use by students.

Our work in Mukuru could not go on successfully without the help of social and health workers. As you can see from the newsletter, they have a variety of social and health challenges to deal with. A new challenge is a greater prevalence of drugs among secondary and primary students. Drug barons are using children as suppliers or 'mules'. We were fortunate until recent years that they targeted better off areas but are now increasing their supplies to slums with resultant bullying, fights, reprisals for suppliers for not paying for supplies. This is causing us to have incidents of fighting and disputes among the students. Tests for drugs are quite expensive relative to money available. We need to improve our capacity to deal with the evolving developments.

We are presently planning how to extend classroom space for our vocational skill training courses as May will see more school leavers wanting to join. Dinah Maina, my Deputy and I will have to leave our present office, which we have been sharing, and move to separate offices upstairs in the new therapy building, which will soon be available for occupation. Enjoy the new style of newsletter for 2022. Thank you for your support without which we could not accomplish all that we have done.

Sincerely,  
Sr Mary Killeen  
*Director*

## Welfare Services Rehabilitation Centre

With the start of a new year, we hope that it will bring just as much joy and blessing as 2021. We are filled with anticipation that 2022 will provide opportunities for the boys and staff to flourish at the Centre as we appreciate the contribution that the donors make in cultivating a great developmental environment for them.

At the beginning of January, 46 boys resided at the Centre and are allocated across different classes with 12 staff members coordinating the different activities to ensure a steady operational Centre. The other boys are at boarding school or have been reconnected with their families but are still registered with the Centre.

MPC Rehabilitation Centre January 2022						
Classes	Accelerated Learning Class	St Catherine Primary	Vocational Training	Secondary	Sponsored Boarding	Totals
Year 1	14					14
Year 2	8					8
Standard 2		1				1
Standard 3						
Standard 4		1				1
Standard 5		1				1
Standard 6						
Standard 7		2				2
Standard 8		7			2	9
Grade III			12			12
Grade II						
Form 1				4		4
Form 2				5		5
Form 3						
Form 4				1		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>58</b>

With the beginning of a new year comes the many meetings with staff, boys and agencies to set targets and goals. The activity that consumes much of the social workers' time is the home tracing program. Home tracing is key to many other activities and ultimately for the boys re-integration with family and society. During February and March the recruitment will commence and the new cohort will start their rehabilitation for 2022.

This year will be the last of the staggered terms that will see the academic calendar return to the normal calendar year. The closure of learning institutions has impacted greatly on children's education. Academically, the boys are progressing well. The teachers are taking the boys through the accelerated learning to make up for the time lost while on the street.

Education involves more than just the 3 R's. A successful rehabilitation program includes other intelligences such as social, spiritual, physical and psychological dimensions. The boys receive counselling, catechism and participate in sporting competitions. We are fortunate to have the parish church {Our Lady Queen of Peace, South B} metres up the road and where the catechists can visit the Centre regularly.



*Catechism class*



*The carpentry boys in class*

The carpentry class students completed their examinations in December and are now waiting for industrial attachment. MPC has a good reputation in the Industrial Area and many local businesses have provided attachments for over 15 years.



While waiting for attachment the carpentry boys carried out repairs on the dormitory cabinets, which provides a little privacy for the boys. The boys also assisted the carpentry teacher (Charles) on other dormitory repairs such as the windows.

*Repairs on the dormitory cabinets*



*Acrobatics*

After a full day's academic activities, the boys recreated a little with a variety of sports including rugby, soccer, basketball and Yoga. Apart from these, they are also trained in acrobatics, dance and art. Later in the year we hope to showcase the boys' talents to people outside the Centre. Maybe Cirque du Soleil would be interested!



As you can imagine feeding 50+ growing boys is expensive. The Centre is very grateful to the many donors who make food provision contributions throughout the year. In January, Mr. Ng'ang'a committed to providing meat to the boys fortnightly; Mr Waweru donated fruits; Mr Singh provided milk; Ms Muigai donated vegetables, Mr Suleiman provided some bread as well as cake. To celebrate the new year Paula Cullen gifted the boys with some Pizza. Another big expenditure item is clothes. We are thankful for the generous donations of clothes, shoes and uniforms.



*Meat*



*Fruit and Vegetables*



*Pizza*

*Milk*



*Three Kings celebration*

An Austrian volunteer, Karin also helped the boys celebrate the new year by organizing a party to celebrate the feast day of the "The Three Kings".



The daughter of one of our donors, Rebecca Bor, will commence her studies overseas and as a parting gift she provided over 50 trees to the Centre. There were also other donated items like clothes and books.



*William and Onesmus receiving the donated trees*



During their recent visit, Paula Cullen and her group took note of a number of repairs that are necessary at the Centre to keep it functioning well and looking good. The Centre carried out a number of quotations for items required to complete the repairs such as the windows, cabinets, curtains, dining room and playground areas. One of the major projects is the basketball fence. The fence will stop the balls from rolling away towards the river and surrounding buildings.



*Basketball Fence construction*

After measuring and cutting the fencing tubes it was straight into the ground followed by the chain link wire. The painting will be carried out in February. We are very grateful to everyone who helped sponsor the fencing project. Thank you to Paula Cullen and her group.



The next big construction project is a purpose-built dining hall. If you are interested in contributing to the new dining hall, you can donate through the MPC website. Buy a brick for €50. The target is to raise €15,000.

## Sponsorship Office

The beginning of the year had lots of activities and objectives to achieve as well as the completion of the academic year for 2021. Confused? Yes. January marks the beginning of the final term for the 2021 academic year when the Class 8 pupils and Form 4 students sit the National Examinations being KCPE and KCSE (Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) and Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) in March.

One of the important dimensions of the Sponsorship program is to ensure that the pupils and students are aware that there's the possibility of sponsorship for the school and tuition fees. To establish awareness the Sponsorship Office conducts sessions with all the primary school Class 8 pupils and also prepares the pupils for an easier transition to secondary school. It also provides a great chance to interact with the pupils before they are interviewed for possible sponsorship to secondary. The interviews help with making informed decisions on the neediest cases. Besides providing sponsorship, the Office is there to help the students educationally, due to the levels of poverty experienced. This support is illustrated through the mentoring sessions that encourage the students to apply themselves and focus on a brighter future. All this is made possible by the donors who put a lot of effort and sacrifice into contributing to the empowerment process.



*St Bakhita Class 8 pupils*



*St Catherine Class 8 pupils*



*Sancta Maria Kayaaba Class 8 pupils*

The admission of new students, following up on school reports, payment of school fees, collection of school cheques and uploading of data were completed in January. All the sponsored students expect for 2, reported back to school. The social workers are following up on the 2 students who did not return to school. The Sponsorship Database is 'LIVE' on the MPC website for any person who sponsors a student to access at their convenience. It is great to have the database operational as it will increase the opportunity for the donors to take a closer look at their student. The term two reports and letters (October to December) have been uploaded.

Identifying new students for possible sponsorship for vocational skills training or start up kits for micro and small enterprises, was another focus for the month, especially the needy girls enrolled in different courses.

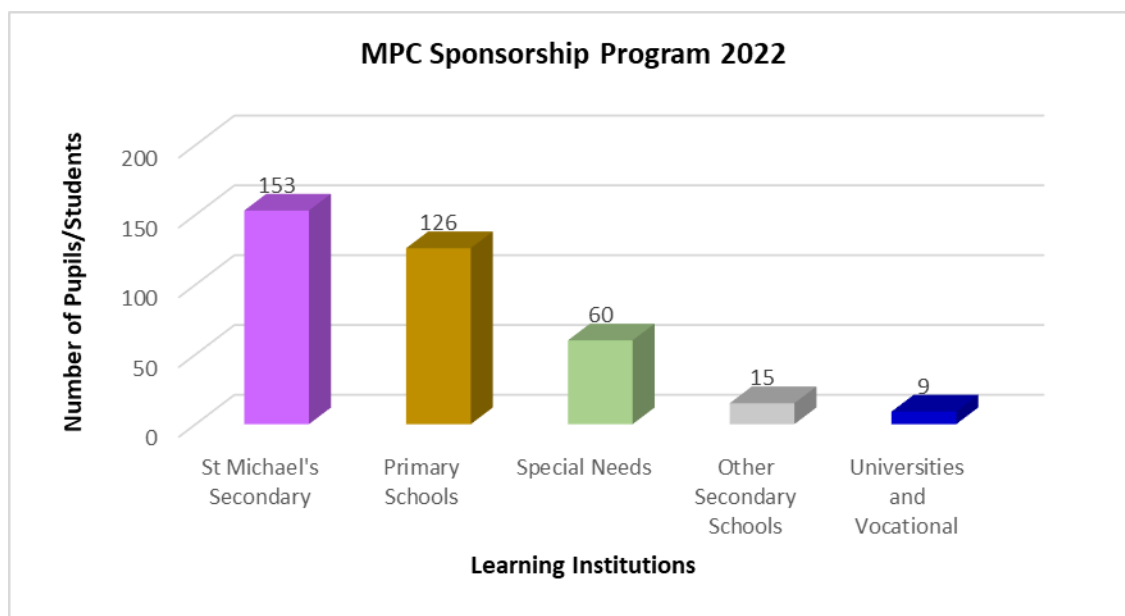


## Success Story

One very excited sponsored student is Winnie Atitwa. She was sponsored by Sylvia Taylor from St Martin's Church, West Drayton England through her university course and will graduate in March with a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry. We are grateful to Sylvia who walked with her on a long road to success. From a very humble background Winnie has been supported since March 2013 while her single mother lived in Kakamega which is over 400 kms from Nairobi. Winnie's next challenge will be securing employment in her field and we wish her every success.



*Winnie Atitwa*



Many thanks to you our donors for your kind contributions and generosity towards educating needy children and youths. In 2022 there are over 360 young people who will have access to education to ensure that their minds can be formed and skills enhanced, thanks to you.



## Songa Mbele na Masomo Children's Centre

After the Christmas break most of the children returned and the attendance has been impressive. A small number went up country with their parents for the holidays and have not returned yet as this may be due to the price hiking of the bus companies.

Learning has resumed in all classes and the level of participation has been unmistakable. It is delightful to see the children's efforts. Currently there are 41 boys and 29 girls in attendance and as the weeks progress the enrolments are expected to increase. There are over 50 children who have received several therapy sessions during January to improve their mobility, coordination and milestones.

Supporting parents has been an important element in helping children. Songa held meetings with parents from the socio-economic empowerment group which is supported by Cheshire Disability Kenya. The aim of the meetings was to discuss the progress of those already supported to conduct their own business and share ideas to those who were about to commence. These income generating activities provides a source of income for the parents and makes life a little more flexible for them to cater for their children living with disabilities.



The clinician from the MPC Clinic came to the Centre to conduct medical checks on 63 children so as to reduce any risks after the holiday break. Happy to report that there were no major medical emergencies or referrals. The other assessment that was conducted was from the National Council for Persons with Disability (NCPWD). The assessments on disabilities were carried out by the team who managed to assess 119 children from our facility, including those that were

exited to other schools and the youths at the Vocational Training Centre. From the assessments, 44 children were registered for assistive devices, some were registered for the NCPWD Card enabling them to access other government services and their parents were also registered for monthly cash transfer of 2,000khs (€15). The cash transfer will make a big difference to the parents.



Faith and spirituality is an important part in the lives of Kenyans. After consulting with the parents many requested that a little grotto be placed somewhere at the Centre. A donated statute of the Blessed Virgin Mary was fixed outside the existing

building in front of the grassed areas near the car park.



*Sr Louise at the Grotto*

# Social and Health Services

## Social Services

The outreach from the social services department is always lively but especially at the beginning of a new year. This month over 1,700 people were assisted in some form. We have noticed an increase in the Amaranth clients. Amaranth is a particular flour that contains extra proteins that boosts the immune system. Many of the clients are mothers with HIV/Aids. If the mothers are not well enough then they cannot work to support their families. The clients include adults, children suffering with HIV/ AIDS, Sick cell and other chronic diseases but over 50% were babies. Sr Barbara from the St Catherine's Social Office has been coordinating this program for over 20 years.



Parent receives nutritional parcels

Social and Health Services Statistics											
For the Month of January 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	2			4			1			7
2	Amaranth Adult Clients		71								71
3	Amaranth Babies and Child Clients		19								19
4	Behavior and Discipline Cases	7	4	5	6	3			1	3	29
5	Business Startup / Booster								9		9
6	Counseling and Guidance sessions		6	3	9	3				6	27
7	CoVid19 Hygiene Material Resources		9	36						50	95
8	Donations Received	1	6	1	1		1	1	8	14	33
9	Fire and Floods Disaster assistance		9	3	26						38
10	Food Distribution										-
11	Home Visits	7	8	50	30	2	1	3			101
12	Hospital Visits (to other Hospitals)			1				8			9
13	Malnourished Babies		45								45
14	Medical Cases (to MIC)	14	75	9	51	21	7	58	18	30	283
15	Meetings and Trainings	1			1	2		1	1	1	7
16	Mentorship Sessions	1		2	1	1	1			1	7
17	Needy Families Support (Community)	3	20				5				28
18	Needy Students/Children	120	34	83	20				48		305
19	Networking		3	2	3						8
20	New Admissions to MPC Institutions	6	28	5	1		1		2	1	44
21	New Teenage Pregnancies cases	1		3	1						5
22	Nutritional Support		17	3							20
23	Placement (job/internship experience)						9				9
24	Pregnancy Support Packages	2									2
25	Provision of Sanitary Towels		6	16		4					26
26	Referrals (except medical)		20	6	18	1	1				46
27	Safeguarding Follow Ups			1	3						4
28	School Absenteeism/Truancy	18	23	43	31	16	3			1	135
29	Schools Profiles	30	44	48	30	40	25		3		220
30	School Visits					1					1
31	Songa Mbele Therapy Sessions								9		9
32	Sponsorship Follow-ups					1			49		50
33	Uniform Aid		12	1	6	2			10	7	38
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>459</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>1,730</b>

The donations received from well-wishers was very timely as we had 38 families impacted from fire and floods in January. All the MPC primary schools had a number of families who required immediate assistance with bedding, utensils, food provisions, clothes and shoes. Over 110 vulnerable children from St Bakhita Primary who had sick parents received parcels of mixed vegetables.



*St Bakhita pupil receives shoes*



*A home visit of a St Michael's student, Samuel Wambua, his mother and siblings next to their demolished house (Mukuru Kwa Njenga)*

The home visits to the families give a sobering understanding of the many struggles that the parents / guardians face each day. The immensity and scale of suffering due to CoVid19 is everywhere in the slums and cannot be understated. MPC is fortunate to have 14 social workers who can move among the community and respond where possible to the basic needs and make medical referrals when necessary. The various social offices distributed 192 assistance packages being 35% clothing; 21% food, and 43% school supplies.

Another important dimension that emerges from the home visits is identifying children at home. In January interventions for 44 young people enabled them to be admitted to primary school (PP1, PP2, Grade 1, Grade 2, Grade 3, Class 6).

The Safeguarding Officer continued with follow-ups and attended to new cases. Young students often take on too many responsibilities and develop anxiety issues. There were a few children who were reported missing and one secondary student who made attempts on her own life. The young student and the family are receiving counselling and food provisions.

After a short break, staff were enthusiastic to begin a new year. Apart from treating patients who came to the Clinic our staff continued with their training sessions with the Ministry of Health, Starehe Subcounty. The nurses resumed their on-going training on CoVid19 vaccinations, while the clinicians went to Songa Mbele na Masomo Centre to conduct a special clinic on the children.

The Clinic was successful in its grant from SlovakAid which meant that desperately needed medical equipment could be purchased including two hospital beds, two mattresses, vital signs monitor, emergency trolley, blood pressure machine, stethoscope and thermometers.



*Clinical officer during a medical assessment at Songa Mbele.*



*Medical equipments*

## Clinic Registrations January 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	79	44	49	187	43	13	2	417
	Male	67	53	28	97	45	15	2	307
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>146</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>724</b>
Revisits	Female	107	40	17	112	49	24	3	352
	Male	97	42	35	57	41	18	7	297
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>204</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>649</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>350</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1373</b>
Percentage	<i>Female</i>	<i>53%</i>	<i>47%</i>	<i>51%</i>	<i>66%</i>	<i>52%</i>	<i>53%</i>	<i>36%</i>	<i>56%</i>
	<i>Male</i>	<i>47%</i>	<i>53%</i>	<i>49%</i>	<i>34%</i>	<i>48%</i>	<i>47%</i>	<i>64%</i>	<i>44%</i>



The presentation of the statistical information has a different slant for 2022. Rather than give individual diseases we are going to report under categories and clinics.

Summary of Treatments For January 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	120	46	20	60	34	10	3	293
Gastronintestinal	30	30	27	59	19	5	1	171
Cardiovascular	0	0	0	3	14	16	4	37
ENT	8	3	5	2	0	0	0	18
Genitourinary	0	5	0	60	12	2	1	80
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Musculoskeletal	4	16	13	14	11	12	1	71
Integumentary (Skin)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dressing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Diseases	79	63	54	205	66	21	4	492
<b>Subtotal Outpatients</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1162</b>
<b>Clinics</b>								
ANC				20	28			48
Immunizations	124							124
Nutrition								0
Comprehensive Care	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	3
Tuberculosis	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Non Medical (Mental)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Referrals to Medical Facilities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal Clinics</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>176</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1338</b>

## January 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
ANC Profile				22				22
Anti-streptolysin O test (ASOT)		1						1
Bilirubin Levels				1				1
Blood Group					1			1
Blood Sugar (R.B.S/F.B.S)		1	2	2	10	7	2	24
Brucella			1	1				2
BS for MPS (Malaria)	29	8	7	23	7	4	1	79
Calcium Levels	2							2
Full Haemogram	6	2	4	9	5	1		27
HbA1c					1			1
Helicobacter Pylori		2	8	12	5	2		29
Hemoglobin Levels	5	3	5	15	3			31
Hepatitis B (HBsAg)				3				3
High Vaginal Swab Microscopy				9	2	1		12
Pregnancy Test				14	3	2		19
Rheumatoid Factor		1		4	4	1		10
Salmonella			1	2				3
Stool Analysis	11	33	18	56	15	4	1	138
UEC's (Urea, Electrolytes and Creatinine)		1	2					3
Uric Acid				1				1
Urinalysis	1	12	8	83	22	6	2	134
VDRL/Syphilis				6	2			8
<b>Total</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>551</b>
<i>Average Tests Per Day</i>								<i>27.55</i>

## Education

### Primary Schools

The month of January normally marks the beginning of a new academic year in all learning institutions. This year, the month is unusual, as it marks the beginning of term 3 2021 academic year. The condensed term dates difference is scheduled to be completed in 2022 when the normal academic term dates will resume. The lost time and disruptions were caused by the CoVid19 pandemic. The term is short and busy with two National Assessments taking place, K.C.P.E 2021 Class 8 and the CBC Grades 4 and 5 assessments.

The schools are preparing for the written National assessment for Grades 4 and 5 pupils which will take place in February. The written assessments will carry 20% of the final assessment mark and will be completed in Grade 6. The practical assessments were conducted and are being monitored for grading by teachers concerned. One of the activities in the assessment requires Grade 3, 4, and 5 carried out an inter school football match and athletics with a neighbouring school. The photos of this activity were to be filled in the child's portfolio. The child portfolio will be an additional cost for parents who can't afford it.



*Interschool Competition*



*Government CBC Books*

The Government has already supplied schools with CBC books for Grade 6 which will be used to teach Home Science, Music, Agriculture and Art and Craft.

For the first time in history, the Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) will have two National examinations for Class 8 pupils. Firstly, the 2021 class will sit their National Exam from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 and then the current group will sit their final exam in November 2022. Head Teachers have held meetings with the Subcounty Education Officer to discuss security issues and other measures related to final exam administration in schools. The Ministry of Education has also sent Examination guidelines to be followed during examination period to all learning institutions. MPC schools have adequately prepared their candidates and Centres for the exams.



*St Catherine's Catechism Class*

Catechism lesson started in MPC schools to prepare pupils for the different sacraments. These have not taken place for the 3 years now due to challenges of the pandemic. There are 3 groups for Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. All classes will be prepared concurrently by the parish catechists. All the groups resumed classes in January.

To curb cervical cancer in women, the Government sponsored program has issued the **Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)** vaccine to all girls aged between 9-14 years of age in all schools. So far the MPC schools have administered 200 vaccines to those girls who returned their consent forms. It is hoped that more girls will return their forms to protect themselves from developing cervical cancer.



*St Bakhita pupil receives the HPV vaccine*

One of the major expenses of the primary schools is the feeding program. Each month over 122,000 daily meals are prepared for 6,166 pupils and students. For at least 2,000 of the children, it will be their only meal for the day. The World Food Program used to supply beans and maize to the schools but this was stopped by the Kenyan Government in 2017 and funds were re-directed to vocational training. MPC has been lobbying since then to have a special program for the children living in slums as their parents cannot afford to pay for the 10 KHS per meal per child. If a family has 3 or 4 children at school then 30 to 40 KHS (€0.24 – 0.32) per day per week is simply out of reach. One place in Kwa Rueben tried to charge parents 10 KHS and only managed to receive money from 200 parents for 2 days in a school population of 2,000 pupils. For a couple of years MPC has had generous donors who have provided funding or food provisions to the schools. We are grateful to Mr Manu Shah's group who stepped in for 2 years in this emergency and for Team Pankaj who is currently supporting the feeding program. The table below highlights what is required each month for the program. The cost for the feeding program is approximately €7,000 per month. Currently, MPC has invited each parent to contribute towards 300 KHS (€2.42). per term per family. Monitoring the payments is an additional cost to MPC. MPC will continue to lobby the Government for assistance. There has been an increase of vegetables delivered from 500kgs to 700kgs which is gratefully received.

MPC Learning Institutions Monthly Requirement for Feeding Program	
Food Item	Quantity Received
Porridge	750kgs
Maize Meal	6,960kgs
Maize Kernels	4,280kgs
Bamboo Beans	1,100kgs
Njahi	1,150kgs
Rice	1,800kgs
Salt	200kgs
Cooking Oil	100ltrs
Tomato Paste	99kgs
Green Vegetables	1,600kgs
Hard Vegetables	2,884kgs
Mixed Vegetables	1,273kgs
Spices	20kgs
Red Beans	1,000kgs
Onions	160kgs

MPC Learning Institutions	Number of Students
St. Elizabeth Primary	1,782
Sancta Maria Mukuru	1,500
St. Catherine's Primary	1,165
St. Bakhita Primary	1,050
St. Michael's Secondary	420
Vocational Training Centre	150
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>6,067</i>
Songa Mbele na Masomo	54
Mary Immaculate Rehabilitation Centre	46
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6,166</b>



*Food donation to schools*



*Disability Toilets at Sancta Maria and St Elizabeth Primary Schools*

The construction of the disability toilets at the primary schools has been completed. This will make it much easier for the children with disabilities in the primary schools. A big thanks goes to Cheshire Disability Kenya for the funding.

As part of the good health program and to keep children safe MPC has been dispensing deworming tablets for many years. The tablet, Albendazole has 2 out of the 3 compounds found in the Ivermectin drug. The Doherty Institute in Melbourne stated that the Ivermectin drug killed the CoVid19 virus in situ. The argument is that the deworming tablet protected the children against the pandemic. In the beginning, it was assumed that Coronavirus would run riot through the slums but thankfully this did not happen. During January over 6,000 deworming tablets were dispensed to the schools via the Clinic.

The use of Briquettes as a source of energy for cooking has been introduced to reduce the costs with firewood and to be environmentally friendly. The briquettes burn longer and thus reducing the time compared to firewood. The schools received 3.2 tonnes of Briquettes being 20 sacks per school for their cooking.

Before the national examinations can take place each school is assessed for its readiness by the County Education Director. There are strict guidelines for the schools to follow set out by KNEC and the Ministry of Education. The 4 MPC primary schools were among the first schools to be assessed and passed admirably.



## St Michael's Secondary School

St Michael's Secondary School reopened for Term 3 on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 with 312 students reporting on the first day and by the end of the month there were 437. After a short holiday of two weeks the students were happy to resume classes and excited to meet their teachers and fellow students. After the initial welcomes the students were fully occupied with completing the syllabi and preparing for examinations. The teachers were absorbed with teaching and staff meetings and busy setting targets for the new term and new year as well as catching up with parents at meetings. The term calendar had been organized and now it was time to prepare for the various activities that included the Opening, Mid-Term and End of Term examinations for all year groups. The final term for the Form 4s will conclude in March when they sit their KCSE exams.

The students, parents, staff and sponsors were the focus for the Opening Term Mass. Fr Gabriel Oduh encouraged the students to work hard but to remember to enjoy each day and not to stress too much especially the Form 4s as they prepare for their last term in high school. The mock exams results for the Form 4s indicate that the students will need to spend the next 12 weeks very wisely to improve on their grades to enable them to gain entrance to university.



*Opening Term Mass*

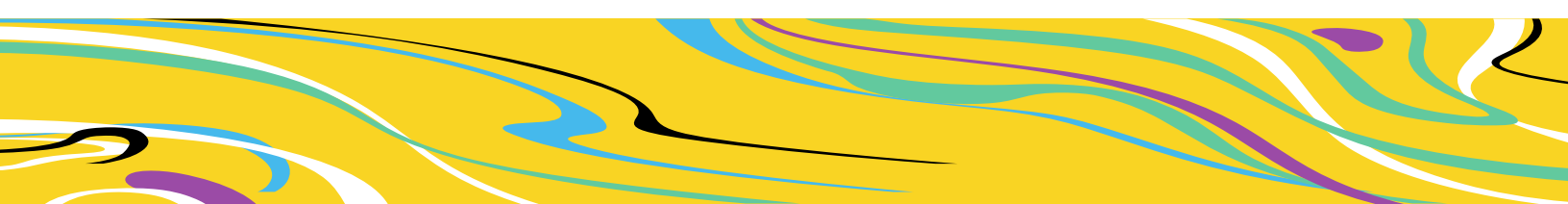
### Form 4 Mock Examination Results 2021/2022

Subject	Eng	Kisw	Math	Biol	Phys	Chem	Geo	Hist	CRE	Agric	Comp	B/Stud	Avg
Mean	4.5	5.7	2.5	4.4	3.3	3.8	5.3	7.2	5.5	4.5	4.8	3.8	4.6
Grade	C-	C	D	D+	D	D+	C-	C+	C	C-	C-	D+	C-



*Form 3 students and their parents at the meeting*

Our engagement with the parents was to prepare them for Form 4 class expectations and demands. The attendance was good and the parents were positive and appreciative of the invitation to be part of the key decisions for their children.



It was discovered that 20 students required assistance to pay for school fees and another 30 boys were selected to be mentored through the Boys to Men (B2M) program. The program is designed to support and train young boys to become more engaged with their communities. The activities are intergenerational and asset-based practices to encourage community involvement, intensive self-reflection, critical thinking, and accountability among the young boys. The B2M program is a 12-month journey in which the boys learn how to become responsible for their education, understanding the importance of a healthy self-esteem, being accountable and the importance of respecting women and faith. The program will include:

*Academic success*

*Goal setting and careers*

*Leadership*

*Peer pressure*

*Sex Education*

*Emotional intelligence*

*Self-awareness*

*Critical and creative thinking*

*Drug and substance abuse*

*Faith Formation*

*Respect for women*

*Personal Development.*

The program has had many successes elsewhere and we hope that we can obtain some funding to deliver the program. Although the initial panic and suffering of the CoVid19 pandemic has subsided it has many on-going consequences. Behaviour with young teenagers had been significant and multi-layered. The girl's mentorship program continues to go well.

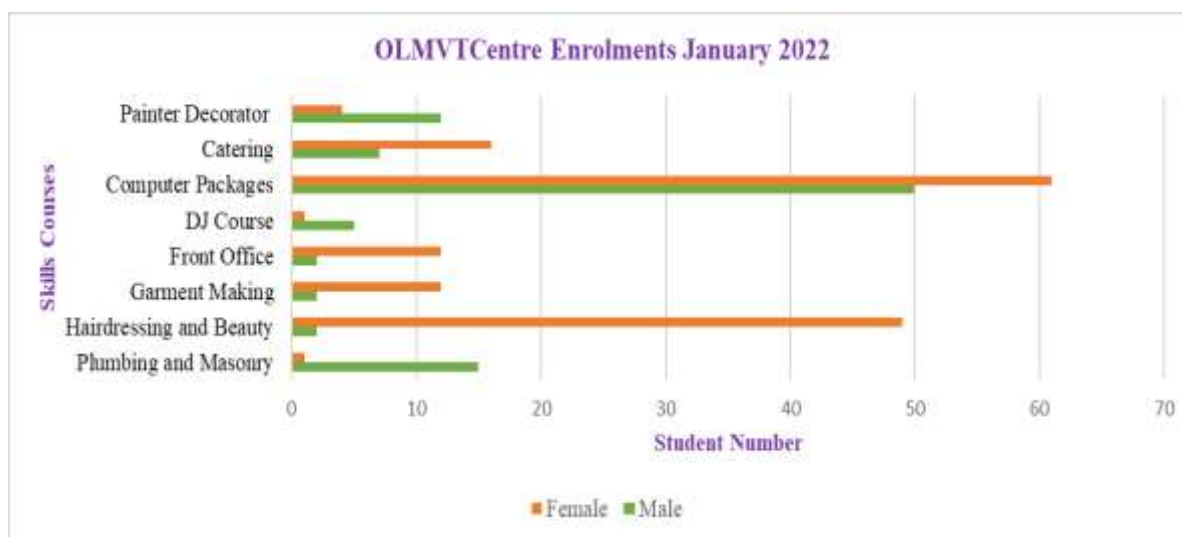
Some of issues that the students have to deal with would be considered abnormal in other societies however, in the slums it is part and parcel of life. Absenteeism is a constant issue but it seldom has to do with a sense of adventure. The average cases of absenteeism for January were 20 per day. Some students try to find some type of casual employment to help provide for their families; other complications stem from female students who are teenage mothers; others are seeking a place to live as the Government demolishes villages to develop roads. There are plenty reasons for students to be absent from school and the MPC social worker network tries to follow-up on the different cases.

There has been a rise in the number of students who have been referred to the MPC Clinic during January (24). The social worker investigated and it appears that a contributing factor is a consequence from the CoVid19 pandemic as there is a rise in malnutrition.

## Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre

January is a month full of expectations and so it was important that the necessary plans were well organized so that the implementation would be easier. Like all institutions there are the essential registrations connected to the different government agencies. The Nairobi Metropolitan Services issued the Centre with the Public Health Certificate, the Department of Health issued accreditation for the Centre to be a registered KNEC (Kenya National Examinations council) examination Centre. The KNEC registration will be a relief as it will reduce the operational costs to the Centre.

The CoVid19 pandemic definitely impacted on the enrolments of the courses at the Centre. The number for the month is at 251 which is very pleasing.



In 2021 there was much construction happening at the Centre. This year we are delighted to be moving into the new purpose-built block for the youths with disabilities. The building is bright, well ventilated and on the flat. The classes are designed to assist the youths with special needs so that they can acquire the necessary skills to become financially independent in the future. The Special Needs instructor developed a suitable art and craft curriculum for the students to improve on jewelry designs, color choice and measurements in beadwork. The students will also learn how to make mats, decorative bottles, artificial flowers, candles as well as beautify recycled materials such as cans, tyres, dolls and ceramics. The students are very excited and other programs have been developed such as Sports, Entertainment, and Life Skills. Students will be taught entrepreneurial, problem solving, decision-making and hygiene skills. They will also receive the necessary physiotherapy and occupational therapy to improve mobility and coordination.

Each student will be individually assessed and an individual education plan developed to ensure that milestones are specific to that student. It is wonderful to see the impact and effects on how the students relate and go on with their daily lives.





*Painter Decorator (Art and Craft) Instructor with the Special Needs Youth Class.*



*Completion of the Special Needs Education Centre*

We are very grateful to the major donor Manos Unidas and Salvatore Family for supporting the vision to address the learning inequalities for youths with disabilities. Also, we are thankful to our other donors: Zuzarte Families, Killeen Families and Foulkes Family for partnering with MPC to make this long overdue facility possible.







*Classroom*



*Therapy Room*



*Inside corridor*



*Disability Toilet*

*Ramp*





*Painter Decorator practical class in progress*



*Computer Class students*

Although the enrolment numbers of the Computer Packages classes started slowly by the end of the month we had reached capacity. It is always a very popular course as the skills are needed in almost all jobs today.

## 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.

- ✚ Preparations for Audit 2021 commenced
- ✚ Terrazzo works for the Therapy Building began
- ✚ Monday and Wednesday pick up for vegetables from Team Pankaj at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. The distribution of the vegetables is given across all MPC projects.