



**MPC**  
**July Newsletter**  
 Vol 7 Issue No. 7  
 2022

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**Mukuru Promotion Centre**

*Empowerment Step By Step*

Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy

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Nairobi **KENYA**

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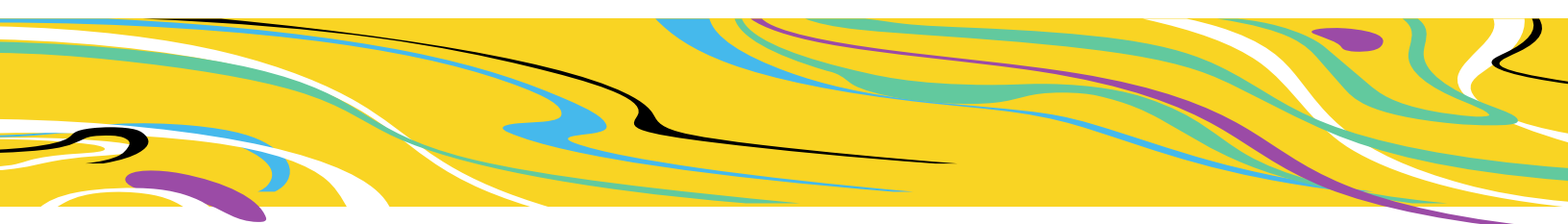
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Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends,

What a great pleasure it was for me to see the Official Opening of the new facility at Songa Mbele na Masomo Children's Centre on the 20<sup>th</sup> July. This endeavour for the children living with disabilities had so many challenges, hardships and difficulties and at times, I feared it would not survive. Thanks be to God, the Sisters of Mercy Kenya, Board members, the donors, GOAL Ireland who donated the plot of land, Sr. Barbara Dooley of the Institute of Our Lady of Mercy, England, at last we witnessed this great day.

The Irish Ambassador to Kenya, Her Excellency Fionnuala Quinlan, graciously agreed to be the Chief Guest. The Directors of The Kenyan Child Foundation Ireland, travelled to Kenya especially for the occasion which we appreciated very much. We had a wonderful day as you will see from the photographs. Most of all the parents and children enjoyed the day. Many said it was the best day of their lives so far. The catering students from MPC's Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre did the catering and produced snacks for the 300 guests. These students performed extremely well with such numbers.

Our local donors attended the function and congratulated us all on the progress made. Now, the next big challenge we have is to improve on the caring and teaching skills of our staff so children develop their potential as much as possible. We have tried without much success so far to get assistance with expertise for those children we suspect have hearing impairments. I hope I will be able to report success on this matter in time.



As reported over the last few years, Kenya introduced a new education system and now that system has reached Standard 6, the last year of primary education. The pupils will sit their tests in November and then graduate to Junior Secondary School. The pupils really enjoy the more practical approach to learning but the teachers find it quite taxing. The numbers per class which can be over fifty make it very difficult for teachers to reach each child and then send the results of tests to the Ministry of Education. While they are engaged on these tasks valuable teaching time is lost. Parents complain about the amount of materials requested by some teachers and the additional costs.

We are very grateful to DKA Austria who have for years assisted with teachers and support staff in Primary Schools. Recently the Nairobi County began to recruit and pay early Childhood Education Teachers. We hope that DKA Austria will fund more social workers for the schools as they provide a tremendous service to the community.

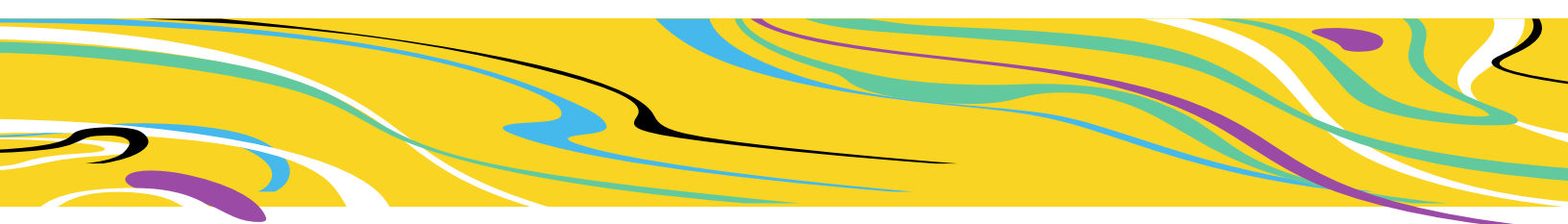
As the cost of food and transport go up there is more and more risk of the poorest children dropping from school. Social intervention and support is more necessary than before.

We are most grateful to the groups who have interacted with the boys at the Rehabilitation Centre and helped them to defend themselves in a good way when in situations of conflict and to reflect and meditate. Other local groups donated food which helps to reduce the ongoing costs for MPC.

The farm project supported by Brothers and Sisters in Need is doing well. Thanks to Trocaire for giving support to some parents in order to increase their ability to cater for their children, so that they do not go on the streets begging. Heartfelt appreciation to all our sponsors who enable children to remain in school and avoid street life. Many would drop out due to the unemployment of parents.

I was happy to see parents and community leaders such as chiefs, police, community health workers, village chairmen and women, trained in child safeguarding. Hopefully this will





help reduce the amount of abuse suffered by the most vulnerable children and assist the community to act and be a voice when widespread abuse occurs.

Our Clinic provides healthcare to our 7,000 students and vulnerable slum dwellers through the help of Spanish friends and Slovak Aid. Without these services some of our clients would die as they lack funds to go elsewhere. Some have to be hospitalized, due to their illness or condition. In Kenya at present without money the poor cannot be treated. This is different to ten years ago when Government hospitals could treat those with little or no treatment free of charge. Now they are sent away untreated because they cannot pay the fees.

We are delighted that our graduates from the Vocational Training Centre get jobs or become self-employed.

The phrase the 'whole is greater than the sum of its parts' rings true at MPC. Many overseas and local people avail the 'parts' to ensure the 'whole' that has become MPC. In this newsletter, we hold much gratitude to all of you who support students by sponsorship, to the crew members of British Airways who supply much of the needed materials for art, craft, hairdressing, beauty, early childhood training materials and sports gear. Thanks to the British Airway's 'New Beginnings' program who supply clothes and other needs for fire victims.

Together we make a huge difference in the lives of people in difficult circumstances. May we continue to alleviate the poverty we find.

Best wishes and prayers

Sr Mary Killeen  
*Director*

# Welfare Services

## Songa Mbele na Masomo Children's Centre

The everyday activities continued throughout July at the Centre but the biggest event was the Official Opening of the new facility. Her Excellency, Fionnuala Quinlan, Ireland's Ambassador to Kenya, officiated at the ceremony in the presence of John and Ciara McCarrick, Gerard and Helen Kelly representatives of the Kenyan Child Foundation. The event accommodated over 300 guests from overseas and within Nairobi. There were many busy hands at the Centre prior to the actual event which ensured a very pleasant and successful day. Invited guests were seated well before official proceedings got underway. As they walked into the Centre a display board greeted them with a pictorial history on the various stages of Songa Mbele na Masomo Children's Centre. The building itself was adorned in Irish and Kenya colours. The Irish Ambassador toured the new facility, met with some children, their parents and received some refreshments.



Before the formalities of speeches, unveiling of the plaque and cutting of the cake, everyone was treated to an array of wonderfully rich entertainment items from other MPC students but the best was the performance of the Songa Mbele children.



*Songa Mbele Children*



*St Catherine's Primary*



*St Michael's Secondary*



*H.E. Quinlan, John McCarrick with Cecilia Mwenda*



*Songa Children with Staff*



*Catering Students*





*Ambassador cuts the ribbon with John and Ciara McCarrick and Sr Mary*



*Ambassador unveils the plaque*



*Ambassador cuts the cake*



*MPC Board Members and Kenyan Child Foundation Representatives*

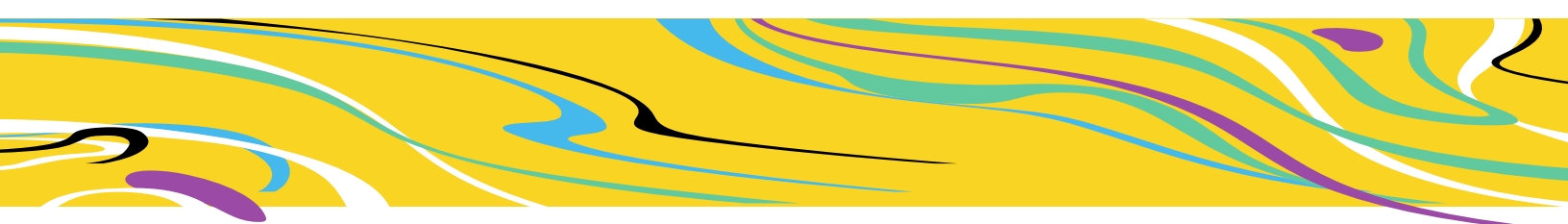
One of the standouts in the new facility is the Sensory Room designed to help children reduce any anxiety. The Kenyan Child Foundation brought with them specific resources for the room - mats, mirrors, mood lights, textured tiles, music etc.

MPC is extremely grateful to the Kenyan Child Foundation for partnering with us to support children living with disabilities in Mukuru slums.



*Sensory Room*





*Mr Vinod (Anshi Builders) and Mr Malinson Koech (Project Architect)*



*Songa Mbele Children*



*Guests*

*Roof Top View*





*New Facility*

After the celebrations life returned to normal with all the learning and daily activities. Staff and parents received further training on safeguarding and child protection from Mr Kefa from the Association for Persons with Disability Kenya (APDK) and the MPC Office.

In April the Social Office attended a 'train the trainer workshops' on sexual reproductive health sponsored by CDSK with the view to enable more social workers to conduct trainings at the various departments at MPC. The Social Office conducted several training sessions for 20 girls from the 4 primary schools including Songa Mbele students on creating safe spaces for adolescence, ranging from abstinence and life skills to understand their roles in their families and how to manage their relationships in life.

Donations in kind were received from British Oxygen Company (BOC) for Songa Mbele.

*Dinah, Stephen Nganga, Elsie and Brian*



## Rehabilitation Centre

At the Centre currently there are 64 boys inclusive of 58 residents and 6 day students.

### Rehabilitation Centre Composition July

Classes	Accelerated Learning	St Catherine Primary	Vocational Training /Carpentry	Secondary	Sponsored Boarding	Total
<i>Year 1</i>	19					19
<i>Year 2</i>	12					12
<i>Standard 2</i>						
<i>Standard 3</i>		5				5
<i>Standard 4</i>						
<i>Standard 5</i>		1				1
<i>Standard 6</i>		1				1
<i>Standard 7</i>		3				3
<i>Standard 8</i>		4				4
<i>Grade III</i>			2			2
<i>Grade II</i>			13			13
<i>Computer Tailoring</i>			1			1
<b>Form 1</b>				1	1	2
<i>Form 2</i>				1		1
<i>Form 3</i>						
<i>Form 4</i>						
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>64</b>

The Grade 3 students participated in practical assessments, constructing musical instruments such as shakers, flutes and hats using locally available materials which are in line with CBC requirements. Some of the boys who were unable to read have also shown some improvement. The NITA exams were open for registrations and 11 carpentry boys booked their places for December 2022.

The Pro Futuro program continues to be employed well. The teachers were trained on student motivation and classroom strategies. They then conducted some lessons with the boys and were able to download content from different learning areas. The variety of methods keeps the boys engaged and motivated.

The boys are very active and talented in the extra curricular activities that include art, beadwork, drawing, rugby, acrobatics and reading. They also receive catechetical formation every Wednesday and Friday for spiritual growth. Every now and again the boys are surprised with a cultural treat from donors. In July they attended a play, "Child Online Safety" at the Kenya National Theatre organised by Watoto (Watch Network). The Transcendental Meditation (TM) group visited the Centre and conducted a series of sessions on stress management and meditation techniques for the boys and staff to reduce any built-up tension or anxiety.



Médecins Sans Frontiers (MSF) has 2 County offices in Kenya, one in Homabay and the other in Nairobi with a focus on marginalized groups. In Homabay they offer HIV services, while in Nairobi they conduct ambulance services and gender based violence sensitizations sessions. MSF visited the Centre in July. They conducted sessions on protective behaviours with the boys and concluded with light entertainment for them as well. Sensitization sessions on gender based violence are of immense value as many of the boys have had some experience of violence.



*MSF addresses the boys*



*St James Jumuia SCC*

The Centre receives a number of groups and individuals during each month who spend the day with the boys or donate some food provisions. In July, the Merlik group, St James Jumuia Small Christian Community (SCC) from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Pembe Company, Amy Simek, Christ Embassy SCC, Action in Focus, and Sonia Birdi.



*Cow peas harvest*



The ‘Brothers and Sisters in Need’ funded various developmental projects at the Centre such as the farming project. The first harvested batch of cow peas have been consumed. The second batch of vegetables (kale) is doing very well and will be ready for consumption in August. Another program is the planting of eucalyptus tree seedlings is progressing very well. This is a longer term program that will assist the carpentry classes by providing timber.

The leftovers from the tree harvest will be utilized as firewood for cooking purposes. The slow transplanting has begun and will be ready for planting by late September.

The rehabilitation of former street boys comprises of multiple layers of support. There are distinct reasons why the boys find themselves on the streets but one common denominator is poverty.



Trocaire has provided funds for the 'Economic Empowerment' program designed for the benefit of the boys' parents. The program encourages parents to develop small enterprises that will improve their ability to economically sustain a living for when the boys are re-integrated with the families after the completion of the rehabilitation program. The most desirable situation is to ensure a steady income for the family as financial constraints will cause breakdowns in the re-integration phase. There are 10 parents registered for the program who have received training and 7 out of the 10 have received their start up kits.

MPC's Social Office has been instrumental assisting parents in establishing their enterprises.



*Charles Munyua – Shoes Sorting*



*Eunice Wanjiku – Groceries*



*Mary Wangui – Shoes Retail*



*Adam Onyango – Sales - Charcoal and Eggs*

## Sponsorship Office

The schools closed for a week's holiday break after a successful completion of 2022 academic year, Term 1. The students' academic reports were collected and are uploaded to the database for our donors' convenience to view at a time of their choosing. The updated students' files have been completed for easy retrieval on students' information.

As many people would agree the best way out of poverty is through education. The Raja Trust Foundation kindly agreed to sponsor more secondary students at St Michael's. Thanks to all our donors who help to educate the needy students from Mukuru slums.

Although the school holiday break was a short one, the community service program went well. Sponsored students participated in the different activities to 'give back' to MPC as a way of showing their gratitude. They worked in different departments of MPC, where they assisted in general cleaning, dusting of surfaces, arranging firewood, cleaning the compound and slashing grass and watering of trees and flowers.



*Community Services Activities*

In the middle of the month students returned to school and many were assisted by the Sponsorship Office especially those in boarding schools with learning materials, uniforms and personal items. An 'at risk' Form 2 student was rescued by the Child Protection Office. Angela was on the verge of dropping out of school when the social workers learnt of her situation. Angela is now enrolled at St Michael's and is receiving support. Thank you to Hilary Stone and her group in England.



*Angela Mmbone*

# Social and Health Services

## Social Services

July has been a successful month with a number of activities being conducted with provision of nutritional aid being one of the main highlights. Over 2,000 activities kept the department focused and engaged with the community. MPC through the various social offices across its institutions has been able to support the needy clients from Mukuru slums.

*Month of July 2022*

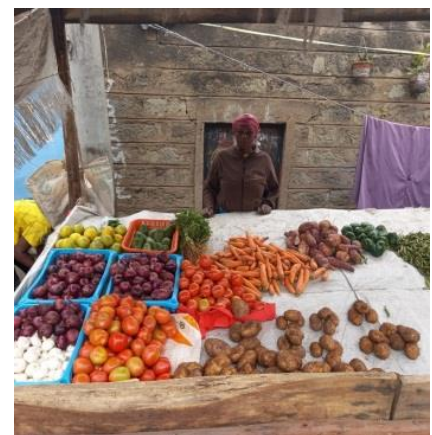
No.	Case type / Activities	Education					Health	Welfare		Total	
		St Bakhita	St Catherine	St Elizabeth	Sancta Maria Kayaaba	St Michael's Secondary	Vocational Training Centre SKILLS	MPC Clinic	Songa Mbele na Masomo		MPC Rehabilitation Centre
1	Abuse Cases			3						3	
2	Amaranth Adult Clients		66							66	
3	Amaranth Babies & Child Clients		10							10	
4	Behavior and Discipline Cases	5	7	2	12	3	2		5	36	
5	Business Startup / Booster	3			3	3	3		5	17	
6	Counseling and Guidance sessions		10	6	9	3	3		24	55	
7	CoVid19 Hygiene Material Resources							185		185	
8	Donations Received	1	6	2	1	2	1	6	20	39	
9	Fire and Floods Disaster assistance									-	
10	Food Distribution	73	132	10						215	
11	Home Visits	10	2	30	22	4	3	4		75	
12	Hospital Visits (to other Hospitals)							13		13	
13	Malnourished Babies		16							16	
14	Medical Cases (to MIC)							197		197	
15	Meetings and Trainings	1	2	2	1	2	2	4	6	22	
16	Mentorship Sessions	7	5	3	5		5		1	26	
17	Mobilization of Resources									-	
18	Needy Families Support (Community)	2	26		3			70		101	
19	Needy Students/Children	29	10	5	16	0	2			62	
20	Networking		4	3	4			8	2	22	
21	New Admissions to MPC Institutions			10		6	7	2	2	27	
22	New Teenage Pregnancies cases									-	
23	Nutritional Support		10							10	
24	Placement (job/internship experience)					1	9			10	
25	Pregnancy Support Packages	1								1	
26	Provision of Sanitary Towels	3		20		39				62	
27	Referrals (except medical)	1		3	1	2	1	1		9	
28	Safeguarding Follow Ups			2		3				5	
29	School Absenteeism/Tuancy	22	11	25	26	7	11	64	1	167	
30	Schools Profiles	18	28	28	43	24	8			149	
31	School Visits		0							-	
32	Songa Mbele Therapy Sessions		0					315		315	
33	Sponsorship Follow-ups		30			17	3			50	
34	Uniform Aid		10		4	1			45	60	
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>2,025</b>

The current hike in food prices has caused enormous impact on the slum dwellers as most of them depend on menial jobs which pay them little that they can barely afford a day's meal in these demanding times. The famine in the north of the country is compounding the problem along with the war in Ukraine. Most of the children in our schools come from families of not less than five people hence feeding is a big problem. During the month, the social offices have been able to refer their needy and ailing clients to St. Catherine Social office for the Amaranth program as well as nutritional aid. Through donations made by Team Pankaj, a number of needy students were able to receive vegetables. The Social Services department is sincerely grateful to all the other donors who supported us with various donations that assisted the needy children and people who seek aid from our Centres.

With schools being on their break for the first two weeks of the month, there has been an increased number of cases in absenteeism as well as behavior cases. Many students do not have parental supervision during the holidays as parents go out to look for jobs. This explains the increased number of behavior and discipline cases. However, the students have been able to receive guidance and counseling as well as mentorship sessions to help them get back on track. Ten of our skills students have also been able to get placement in various organizations where they are doing their industrial attachment.



*Grade 6 pupil taking care of her younger siblings discovered as a result of her absenteeism from school.*



*A Rehabilitation Centre parent, Eunice Wanjiku, at her grocery business sponsored by the Irish Embassy.*



*Needy pupils and families receive food parcels from Team Pankaj.*



Continued training sessions on Safeguarding, Life Skills and Mentoring at MPC schools were conducted during July. The local authorities also attended the sessions.



*Safeguarding Sessions*

## MPC Clinic

July is the coldest month in the year and we normally have an increase in cold and flu patients however, this year the numbers reduced considerably from the previous month. Over 1,400 people received treatment at the Clinic which was 680 fewer than June. The immunization figures also decreased in July and this may be an effect from the upcoming National elections. However, the Gastrointestinal and Cardiovascular statistics increased to 18% and 21% compared to the previous month. The levels of poverty could be impacting on the overall health of the people as regular meals are becoming a problem for many families in the slums. The Clinic plays an extremely critical role in ensuring the children in the community get access to free health care.

Thanks to the Slovak Aid grant 32 families from the Fuata Nyayo village in Mukuru slums received food packages of wheat flour, maize flour, green grams for nutritional purposes. The group of 32 also received informative community health sessions.

Nutramigen Baby formula cans were donated to parents of 5 month old Liam who has moderate malnutrition and suspected congenital heart disease. He is a child of needy parents from Mukuru slums and will need lots of medical attention from a pediatric cardiologist. The medical social worker at the Clinic will follow up on his progress.



*Mum and Baby Liam*

The World Vision Kenya visited the Clinic and held discussions with the staff on the 'Prevention of mother to child transmission.' The two coordinators, Lilian Chebon and Maureen Kurui, spoke with staff on the actual treatment and care support. Through World Vision Kenya the Clinic will receive feedback on their findings and hopefully receive some facilitation for the community health volunteers to raise awareness on the subject for mothers in the slums.



*Pulse Oximeters*

Mission For Essential Drugs (MEDS) which was set up decades ago by the Bishops of Kenya to support affordable pharmaceutical drugs for various institutions in Kenya donated 3 pulse oximeters from their DIFAEM Projects. The equipment measures oxygen saturation in blood and patient pulse rate.

### July 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	92	43	20	126	44	14	2	341
	Male	47	47	20	79	21	17	4	235
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>139</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>576</b>
Revisits	Female	153	35	27	153	43	19	2	432
	Male	108	30	28	57	40	29	4	296
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>261</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>728</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>400</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1304</b>
Percentage	<i>Female</i>	<i>61%</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>49%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>59%</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>33%</i>	<i>59%</i>
	<i>Male</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>51%</i>	<i>33%</i>	<i>41%</i>	<i>58%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>41%</i>

### July 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	0	0	0	12	2	0	0	14
Anti-streptolysin O test (ASOT)	0	0	1	0	4	1	0	6
Bilirubin Levels	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Blood Group	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blood Sugar (R.B.S/F.B.S)	0	0	3	6	7	8	4	28
Brucella	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BS for MPS (Malaria)	39	5	3	22	7	5	1	82
Calcium Levels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Creatinine levels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Du test	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Full Haemogram	6	2	0	15	4	0	1	28
HbA1c	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Helicobacter Pylori	0	8	1	21	8	5	2	45
Hemoglobin Levels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hepatitis B (HBsAg)	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	4
High Vaginal Swab Microscopy	0	0	0	24	5	0	0	29
Lipid profile	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liver Function Test	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pregnancy Test	0	0	1	11	3	0	0	15
Rheumatoid Factor	0	1	1	2	1	2	0	7
Salmonella	0	1	3	1	2	1	0	8
Stool Analysis	13	25	8	33	10	6	1	96
UEC's (Urea, Electrolytes and Creatinine)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Uric Acid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urinalysis	6	10	8	67	24	15	1	131
Urine Culture	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Urine multudrug test	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VDRL/Syphilis	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>500</b>
<i>Average Tests Per Day 24</i>								



### Summary Treatments For July 2022

Diseases	0-5 Yrs	6-12 Yrs	13-17 Yrs	18-35 Yrs	36-49 Yrs	50-64 Yrs	Above	Total
							64 Yrs	
<b>Outpatients</b>								
Respiratory	153	25	25	75	38	12	1	329
Gastrointestinal	58	43	19	70	17	10	0	217
Cardiovascular	49	27	20	67	28	27	10	228
ENT	8	15	5	8	2	1	0	39
Genitourinary	6	3	4	86	16	13	0	128
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	0	1	1	4	8	3	0	17
Musculoskeletal	1	13	11	38	29	8	2	102
Integumentary (Skin)	24	21	7	20	3	2	1	78
Dressing	4	2	0	7	4	0	1	18
Other Diseases	19	14	5	24	7	2	0	71
<i>Subtotal Outpatients</i>	<b>322</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1227</b>

#### Clinics

ANC				54	0			54
Immunizations	120							120
Nutrition								0
Comprehensive Care	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Tuberculosis	0	0	2	6	0	1	0	9
Non-Medical (Mental)	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Referrals to Medical Facilities	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
<i>Subtotal Clinics</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>186</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>442</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1413</b>

# Education

## Primary Schools

There was a one week break in July (1-8) that marked the distinction between the first and second terms of the 2022 academic year. This year will be the last of the unusual dates due to the CoVid19 pandemic. Absenteeism in the MPC primary schools has been reported despite the rigorous campaigns by all education stakeholders. Parents have been urged to keep an eye on their children, especially during the lead up to the National Elections (Presidential, Parliamentary and Local) as many could be either kidnapped or injured unknowingly.

The teacher-shortage issue nationally has become the major strain in many schools across Kenya. The National Government has on several occasions promised to deploy more teachers in schools, but that promise has not been fulfilled. The children will more keenly feel the impact. St. Catherine's and St. Bakhita will be hit hardest by the shortage, resulting in merged classes, just to stabilize the teaching. The lower grades are affected, with Grade 1, 2 and 3 being merged into one. Teachers in these classes are managing more than 80 pupils per class which is untenable and places at risk the CBC activities. Head teachers are beseeching the Government for more teachers as well as urging the MPC Director to add more teachers with any availability of funds.

The Nairobi City County Education Board has continued to deploy County ECDE teachers to the 4 MPC primary schools and to all public primary and pre-primary schools within the county. Three MPC (ECDE) teachers were interviewed and given appointment letters by the County but are yet to be issued with posting letters that will indicate the actual school placement. It is our hope that they will be retained at their current teaching school. The Centre Managers at the Early Childhood Centres attached to the MPC primary schools were all transferred and replacements were installed immediately.

Given the above the pupil enrolments continued to increase slightly in July.

Primary School	Boys	Girls	Total
St. Bakhita	459	624	1,083
St. Catherine	633	652	1,285
St. Elizabeth	854	949	1,803
Sancta Maria Mukuru Kayaaba	817	849	1,666
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,763</b>	<b>3,074</b>	<b>5,837</b>

The CBC project assessments from KNEC commenced with Grade 6 pupils expected to rear a small animal such as a rabbit, guinea pig or chicken. The activity is to be conducted in groups of 4-6 pupils and who are expected to use textbooks, magazines, digital devices, guided internet, resource persons, guardians or parents to make notes on how to rear the small animal. The pupils are to use the notes made for the class presentation that will be video recorded and an electronic portfolio maintained that will demonstrate the progress and achievements. The Grade 4 pupils are to plant legumes and follow the same procedure as the Grade 6s. All these activities should be awarded marks by the teacher, who will later send them to KNEC (Kenya National Examination Council).



*Grade 4 pupils preparing legume containers*



*Grade 6 pupils*



*Chicken shed*

The KNEC undertook sensitization training for all Headteachers with Grade 6 pupils on their registration process. KNEC will finalize arrangements for the Assessment and the Headteachers will need to verify all the candidates in their schools.

St Bakhita Primary School hosted the Makadara Sub-County Headteachers termly meeting with the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) Sub-County Director, Mrs Jane Ndegwa. The most important point on under staffing was raised with the TSC Sub-County Director who promised to take the matter into consideration once the new recruitment phase takes place in August 2022. The progression of the new education system will see the commencement of junior secondary classes in 2023.

When Kenya holds its National Elections there is always a fear that violence may erupt. The mid-term exams in the primary schools started at the end of the month and were suddenly stopped after the Education Minister announced that all basic learning institutions should be closed immediately in preparation for the National Election. This ministerial directive made children carry home their small animals they had brought to school for their KNEC assessments as there would be no one to feed them at school. It is hoped that the closure will not impact the children's assessments too much.

The country is experiencing tough economic times which have resulted in price hikes of essential food items such as cooking oil, maize meal and acute supply of maize kernels in the country. We are delighted once again as the Team Pankaj Foundation has continued to support the schools through the feeding program and managing to feed over 6,000 primary and secondary students each day. With the recent supply of food provisions, the schools can provide, for many children, their only meal for the day. The table below gives a sample of the quantities involved in feeding thousands of children each day.



*St Bakhita*

Food Provisions	Quantity	Food Provisions	Quantity
Maize Kernels	3,000 kgs	White Peas	1,700 kgs
Wairimu Beans	3,000 kgs	Maize Meal	4,320 kgs
Njahi	3,000 kgs	Wheat	2,000 kgs
Rice	5,000 kgs	Tomato Paste	59 kgs
Special Green Grams	3,000 kgs	Salt	400 kgs
		Cooking Oil	440 Litres



*Sancta Maria Mukuru Kayabaa*



*St Elizabeth*



*Maize Kernels*



*Rice*



*Salt and Porridge*



*Cooking oil*



In a move to promote creativity and imagination with pupils the Lions Eye Hospital and other donors based in Dubai, donated assorted story books and a shelf to all MPC schools. The story books will help to improve on the reading culture as well as boost the English language for the pupils.



*Pupils receiving books in their different schools*

A few other activities took place in July. A number of pupils participated in the Songa Mbele na Masomo official opening by presenting entertainment items such as singing and dancing. The Student Council representatives went to the Marist International College, 10 from each school as part of the leadership development training sponsored by the Mercy Education Office. The St Bakhita Scouts group visited the Baden Powell Centre in Nyeri. A donation of soccer outfits from British Airway crewmember, Rose Snedker.



*St Bakhita Scouts at Nyeri*



*Student Councils at MIC*



*St Elizabeth Soccer team*

All MPC primary schools celebrated Mass towards the end of the month to thank God for the many blessings during the term. The catechism lessons resumed thanks to Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, South B.



## St Michael's Secondary School

The current enrolments at St Michael's are 463 students being 216 girls and 247 boys. The term was a busy one with mid-term exams and parent meetings. The unusual and short term required the teachers to have the exams in the morning and evening while the teaching took place during the day to cover the syllabus. Not ideal but necessary to complete the terms and return to a normal academic year from January 2023.



Apart from exams the other major event during the month was the official opening of the new facility at Songa Mbele na Masomo. The scouts and school choir were invited to raise the flag and entertain guests. The scouts mounted a guard of honour that was inspected by the Irish Ambassador to Kenya H.E Fionnuala Quinlan. The school choir had an opportunity to sing two gospel songs: 'Jesus our Hope' and 'Mother Mary's Song'.

*Her Excellency Fionnuala Quinlan with Scout Leader Julius Njogu.*



*Choir*



*Guard of Honour*



*Members of St Michael's Choir*

Representatives from the Lions Eye Hospital visited St Michael's with donations of books for the school. The books will help the students improve in their language both spoken and written.



*Lion Eye Hospital*



The road to normal school activities continues with the resumption of inter-schools' competitions since the pandemic. The students had their first opportunity to compete at the Sub-County level in both leg ball and soccer. Despite the many challenges they faced, the boys team sailed through to semi-finals after winning one match, drawing one and losing one match. The Girls lost all their matches.



*Boys Soccer team with coach Kelvin Mwanza*



*Girls Leg Ball team with Huruma Girls High*

The students' mentorship program executed in July, where each teacher has five Form Four students to mentor. They meet monthly after lunch for thirty minutes.

As part of the wholistic education program at St Michael's, the students are also guided in actively participating in social responsibility and maintaining important levels of hygiene standards. To ensure a clean and healthy school the students mop, sweep, slash and pick up rubbish in assigned areas .

## Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre

After four years of service the Catering instructor, Evalyne, left for a promotional position. Most of the production students who have gone through her are doing well career-wise in Kenya and overseas. In the just released 2021 Production results, three of her students managed to attain First Class Honours in the National Examinations and none of her students failed. We thank Evalyne for her dedicated service to students and staff of MPC and wish her well in her future endeavours.

The April 2022 examination results for all courses are especially pleasing. This is the first time the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) is introducing First Class Honours in their grading system following the revision and introduction of a new curriculum to all trade Test Centres. It is hoped that the students will translate their satisfactory performance to flourishing careers later on.

In her first week the new Catering instructor, Lily Chepkmoi, faced the mighty task of coordinating her students to prepare and serve the refreshments for over 300 special guests at the official opening at Songa Mbele. The guests had travelled from far and wide to witness the opening of the new building on the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022.



*Catering Students*



The Plumbing and Masonry students have been learning building and construction particularly stone dressing, drawing and interpretation, setting, measurement, excavation and foundation of a building. In the plumbing section of the course the students have covered threading and joining of pipes, installation of single and double kitchen sinks, fixing of washing hand basins and shower and water closets. The job prospects for plumbers like everywhere are in high demand. The students also received practical experience with changing and fixing the water line at the Centre. They also managed to lay a fix a non-return valve, gate valves and finally the construction of a water pump chamber.

Teachers and students spent the last week of July supervising, marking and completing end term internal examinations for term one. The exams comprised both practical and theory. The Computer Packages students completed their three months course and will be joining different universities in September.



*Student Examinations*





Often MPC receives local and international volunteers ranging from a few weeks to a few months; their assistance is always invaluable and a good interaction with the students and staff. Recently the Centre welcomed De la Sale Br Jacob for his internship. We are grateful to the Brothers for showing interest in the vision and mission of Mukuru Promotion Centre.

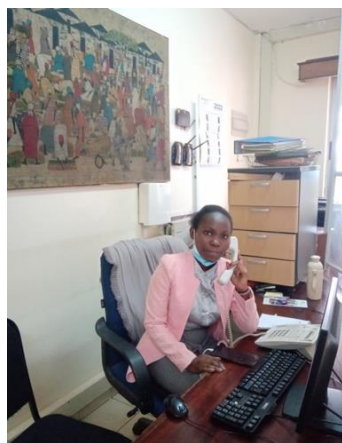
MPC appreciates the many volunteers and visitors who support us the Centre with their donations and presence. We thank all the friends and donors of Mukuru Promotion Centre for their continued support.



*Donations of Hair products*



*British Airways crew in the Art Gallery*



*Lilian, Skills student on placement at APDK as a receptionist*



*Gregory and Michelle both catering students at the skills are Botanica Hotel in West lands.*

# Announcements

## Head Office

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

- ❖ Gernot and his son Stephen visited MPC. Gernot was the film director who produced a number of documentaries for DKA on MPC.
- ❖ Staff training on Safeguarding policies and procedures
- ❖ The Association of Sisters of Kenya (AOSK) held a workshop for the St Bakhita Partnership for Education school administrators at Chemi Chemi ya Uzima in Karen, to develop a consensus on project goals and strategies. The Association of Catholic Sisters will advocate for 100 per cent retention, improved access, and quality education for girls in Kenya, Uganda and Zambia Schools.



*Reinhard, Gernot, Stephen and Dinah*



*Workshop*



*ASOK Participants*