



December Newsletter

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2022

Mukuru Promotion Centre

Empowerment Step By Step

Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy

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Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends,

For Mukuru Promotion Centre, December is the end of the financial year as well the end of the school year. It is also the time for many end of year reports and proposals for the coming year. December is a month when most staff are tired and just want to close up and go for Christmas holidays. It is a struggle to get some to finish reports, account for goods and services, have the premises cleaned and so on.

This year we had additional work due to the prolonged drought, the increased price of food and services and the necessity to alleviate extreme hunger. School kitchens were kept open during school holidays for those children in danger of starvation. We prepared food parcels for vulnerable parents. The secondary examination class were in session until the 23 December when the last examination was held. Normally the exams would have ended much earlier but due to the disruptions caused by the CoVid19 Pandemic it has taken 3 years to return to normal. Those who had to remain in work felt the additional strain of attending duties when they were used to be on holidays. For those of us in the Head Office our workload was much heavier than usual. Those in the vocational training centre also had exams in December. The catering students needed ingredients as each student had to cook a four course meal. The plumbing and masonry students also had to have cement, sand, stones, building blocks, pipes and the same for garment making, art and craft. We bought new furniture for the dining room. New staff were astonished at the volume of work going on in December. Most Government offices are very relaxed at this time and is very difficult to get services. The expectation that December would be a relaxed time turned out to be wrong.



The auditors for 2023 were chosen and approved by the Board and the Sisters of Mercy Trustees. The Irish Embassy invited the missionaries for a Christmas dinner on the 6 December. It is lovely to meet others working in different missions all over the country and catch up on news. It is shocking to see the numbers of Irish missionaries shrinking.

St Catherine's Primary School land case was mentioned in court and given a hearing date of 22nd May, 2023. The Irish Society also had a Christmas party which we attended and enjoyed.

The engineer, Gabriel Karigey, contracted by Mellon Educate to build St Catherine's Primary School in 2013/14, died in a car accident that was considered suspicious by police. This was very upsetting news. We organized a memorial Mass for him in our local parish Church. It was wonderful to see his former army colleagues, with family members, board members and parents of St Catherine's Primary all at Mass to pray for him. Tributes were paid to him after the Mass outside the church. The church choir did us proud.

It was with great sadness we learnt of the sudden death of Professor Vladimir Krcmery, doctor, tropical medicine and infectious disease expert, aged 62. He was instrumental at MPC's Clinic and Rehabilitation Centres.

We appreciate all of our Heads of Department who kept activities going in the various offices. We were touched by the local donors who arrived with gifts of food and cleaning materials wishing to share with the less fortunate at Christmastime. Thank you to all of you who contributed in any way to all aspects of the work.

May you enjoy the blessings of Christmas and be filled with wonder as were the shepherds and the Kings who visited Jesus.
Best wishes,

Sr Mary Killeen
Director

Welfare Services

Rehabilitation Centre

The year 2022 has been a tough year with one of the worse famine crises in the horn of Africa which has impacted greatly on the daily lives of millions. We are thankful to the donors who have provided the basic necessities for over 80 throughout the year at the Centre. Some of the boys did not stay the course of the program but over 90% did. In the general classes 35 boys completed a full year of learning. The 15 carpentry students also completed their Grade III and Grade II courses. There were 3 boys who attended secondary schools and completed Form 1 and Form 2 and 9 finished various Grades at St Catherine's Primary School. The number of boys who were reintegrated with their families numbered 27 and 17 boys were exited from the Centre. However, the remainder will be supported by sponsors through further education and vocational training. We wish all the boys and their families the best for the future.

The big event in December is always the Graduation Ceremony where parents and guardians are invited to the Centre to witness the hard work each boy accomplished in 2022. The CoVid19 pandemic has thrown a few curve balls over the last couple of years so the Centre ended up with 2 graduation ceremonies in 2022. The two ceremonies were held in March and December.

In March, 7 boys were reintegrated with their families and carried on with their secondary schooling close to their homes. In December, 20 boys graduated being 11 carpentry boys, 1 tailoring and 8 primary boys.



Graduation Ceremony December 2022



OLQP Baptism Ceremony

Throughout the year, the Centre enabled the local catechists from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, South B, to provide some faith formation and spirituality sessions. Another very important celebration for the boys was receiving the two of the Sacraments of Initiation being Baptism for 11 boys and Confirmation for 3 boys at Msongari.



Confirmation at Msongari, Ndegwa, Peter and Gordon Otieno





The ProFuturo tablets continue to assist the boys in their educational development. After the various examinations took place at the Centre the ProFuturo classes kept on keeping on. There is no limit to the advantages of the tablets and we are very grateful to Claire Chambers and the Calary Church, Wicklow for sponsoring this great initiative, as everyone needs IT skills for working.

ProFuturo Class

Even though examinations had taken place during December, other activities pressed on. The individual and group counselling sessions increased, especially with the boys who were exited and reintegrated with families. Motivational talks were also organised during the month to help the boys stay on track with their rehabilitation while enjoying the holiday.

Coach Adelaide put the boys through paces with rugby practise. The boys were preparing for a match with another school team on Ngong Road but unfortunately the match was postponed.



Coach Adelaide and the boys during practise rugby drills



Boys attended a Youth seminar at the Marist University

There are many expenses in operating a rehabilitation centre for street boys. One of the major expenditures is food provisions and clothing. We would like to acknowledge the regular donors and the once off donors as all of them help MPC to offer this crucial service that provides hope and a brighter future for the boys. Thank you to Team Pankaj, Dawoodi Bohra Community, Agatha, Stephen Ng'ang'a, John Pembe, Parliament Police, Anuarita Jumia, Style Worship group, Yaya Association, Daniela Hannelov, Nairobi Water, RTI group and Frank and Paula Cullen and Friends. Special mention is warranted for the many British Airways crewmembers who consistently transport items for MPC. In December the Centre received wheat flour, biscuits, sweets, soap, clothes, cooking oil, maize flour, juices, not forgetting the Christmas season. The boys enjoyed Christmas presents of board games, shoes, art materials, cooking lessons and sporting equipment.





BA crewmember Marie McGree



Anuarita Jumia



Yaya Mwema Association



BA crewmembers help out with cooking and art



Yaya Mwema Association



Parliament Police



Nairobi Water Team

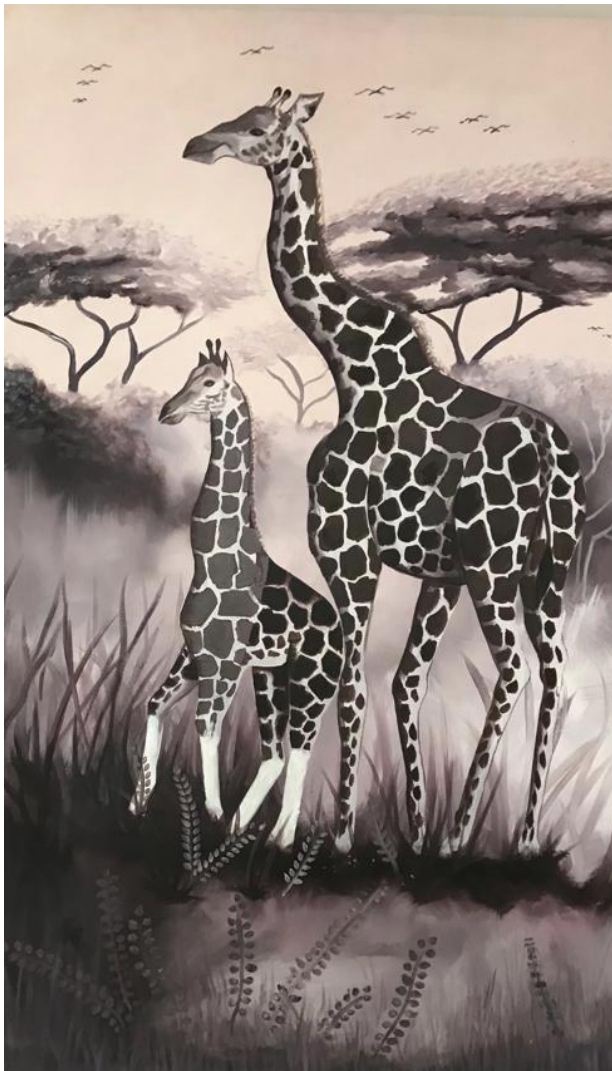


Team Pankaj

Many thanks to all donors, both local and international, who went out of their way to ensure that the Centre remained operational and beneficial to the young boys. We wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Another very healing activity at the Centre has been the art classes. The art workshop was set up approximately 5 years ago to create extra activities for the boys in the centre. It continues to thrive under the guidance of Samuel Waweru a former street boy who is also a past pupil of the Rehabilitation Centre. Samuel worked for a while as assistant art teacher at MPC's Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre before setting up art classes for the boys. In his spare time, he paints and sells in designated streets in Nairobi. Samuel has a very distinctive style which is very attractive. Paula Cullen and Friends sponsor him as the art teacher and provides art materials for the boys. The program's idea is that they sell their work to visitors and in turn create a small income that would enable them to become self-sufficient. They currently have 2 half days a week and the boys love the opportunity to be creative. Samuel not only teaches them art but also beadmaking, pottery, and papier-mâché. The boys produce Christmas cards, greeting cards and notelets at certain times of the year. Art and Crafts are a wonderful occupational therapy for the street kids and they look forward to their classes every week. Many are very talented and can progress to the vocational school before leaving Mukuru Promotion Centre.



Commissioned work

Irene helping out in the art class.



Eric making Leinster bracelets

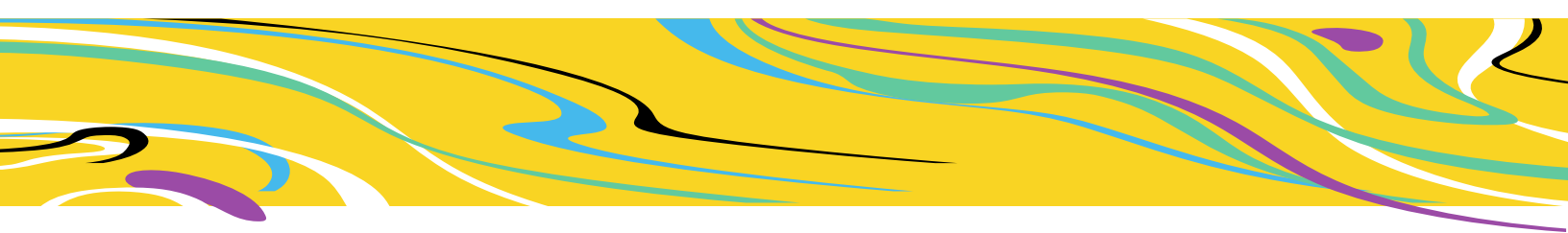


Samuel and Paula



Adrienne receives her custom designed necklace





Samuel's distinctive style



Making and performing with puppets



Art workshop in progress



The dining hall construction progressed well in December. The following photographs shows the roofing, windows, walkways,

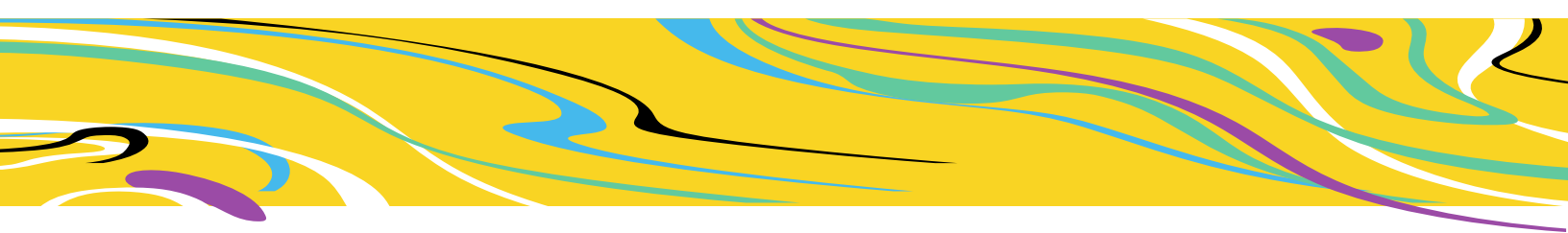


Roof frames in place



External Walls





Partial Mabati Roof



Roof completed



Interior plastering commenced



Window frames fitted





External Finishes



External preparations for the pathways, landscaping and assembly area.



The dining hall is really transforming the area. Thank you to Frank and Paula Cullen and Friends who have made the construction possible. It will not be long now until the first meals are served, in style!



Sponsorship Office

Most of December was spent preparing the donor reports. Looking back, we achieved a lot in 2022 even with some interruptions like the two previous years. After the schools closed in late November, all the academic reports were collected, scanned and uploaded onto the database for sponsors to access at their convenience.

Three of our sponsored boys at the Rehabilitation Centre were among the graduating cohort this year. The boys will be reintegrated back into their families as they transit. Two of the boys will be joining secondary school, while one completes the Garment Making course at Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Centre.



Congratulations to our Rehabilitation boys

Sponsoring vocational training to the destitute in Mukuru slums is our major aim to ensure a sustainable livelihood for them. The various courses such as catering, hairdressing, dress/garment making, art & craft are available at Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre. We hope that after successful completion of a course they will be self-reliant and provide for their own future.



Dress making graduate, Beryl Atieno, shops for her business starter kit

There have been 12 young women who have benefitted with business startup kits, together with 8 former prisoners being 3 men and 5 women.



Business startup kits provide an opportunity for people to generate their own income however, many do not have the initial funds to commence. Thanks to Elizabeth Kunzl who helped a few women received their kits to create a business depending on the vocational course they just completed ranging from catering, hairdressing, landscaping or plumbing.



Beatrice Andanje,



Rebecca Kwamboka, Ann Kanini, Virginia Wanjira,



Dorothy Achieng,



Stephen Muturi



Janet Isabwa.



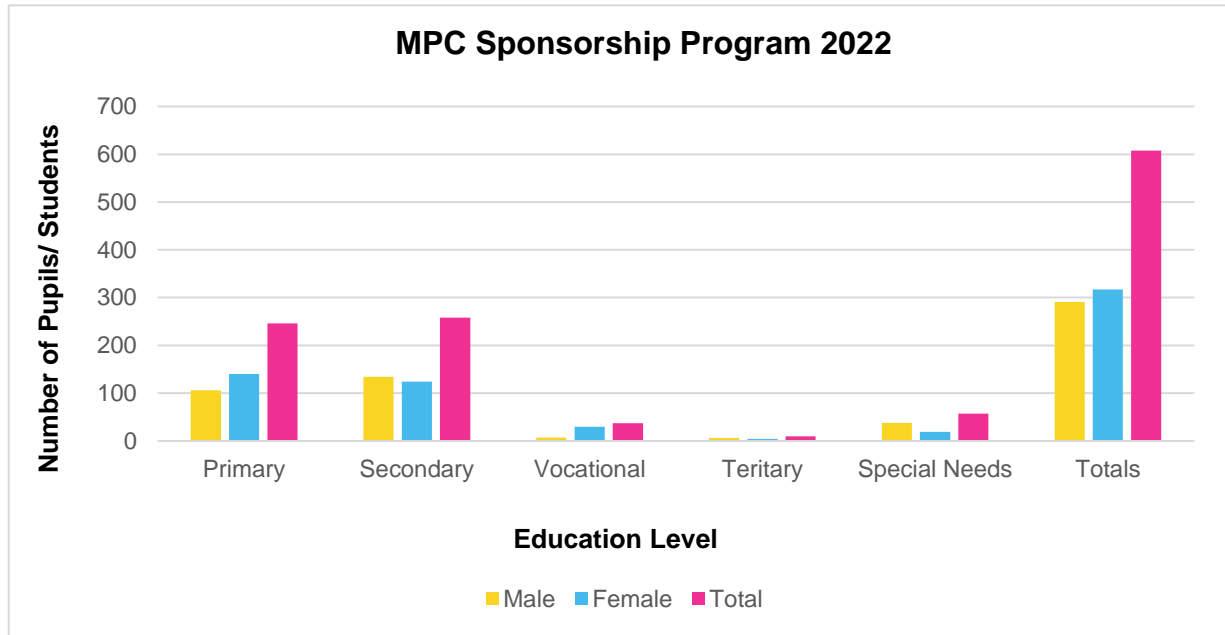
Ann Kanini



Jacinta Mbaika



In 2022 there were an extra 181 pupils who received sponsorship at Sancta Maria (51), St Bakhita (50), St Elizabeth (50) and St Catherine (30) due to a person who wishes to remain anonymous. We are grateful for your enormous contribution.



Rotary sponsored students with the sponsors during end year celebration party at St Catherine's.



Follow up on starter kit businesses.

The Sponsorship Officer, Stellah, getting a manicure at one of the clients' business premises which the office assisted in setting up as an economic empowerment project for some of the former Skills students.



Songa Mbele na Masomo Children's Centre

The attendance of the children has been constant for the month of December. The level of participation and response with the learning skills according to every individual's level of ability has been satisfying to witness.

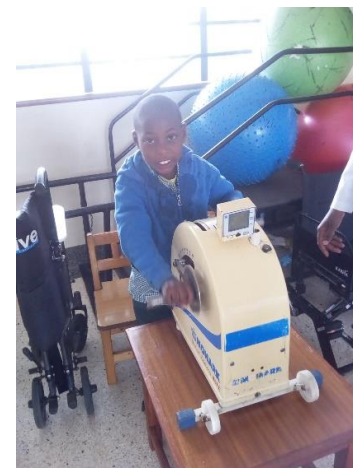
Over 60 children received therapy during the month. The standout for December was Peter Mwendwa, 9 year old from Unit with mild cerebral palsy has attend the Centre for 4 years. The main issue for Peter was weakness on the right side of his body causing poor balance, posture, speech difficulties and hand strength. After continuous muscle strengthening in his daily therapy sessions the right side of his body has greatly improved. His posture, balance and partial use of both hands and other fine motor skills have improved, even his drooling has reduced.



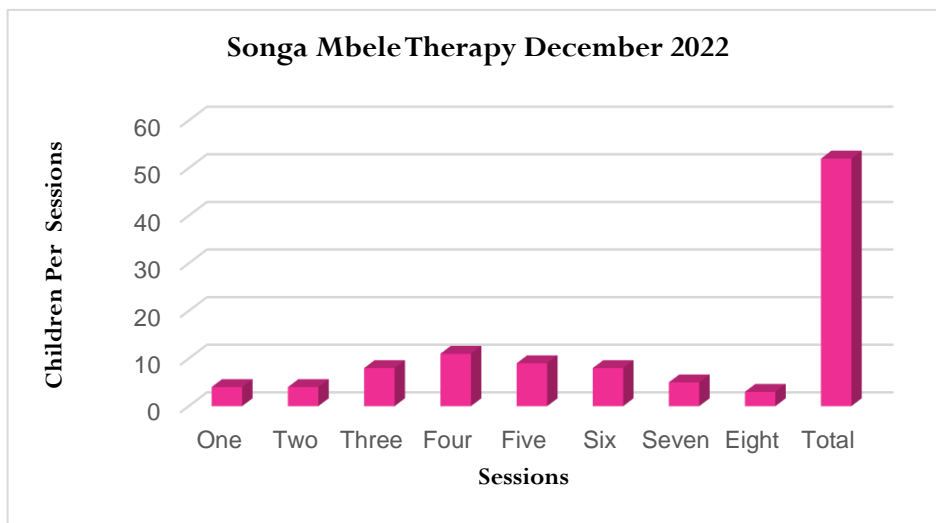
Peter walking with weights



Shape Placements



Strengthening Wheel



The graph shows the number of children who received multiple therapy sessions during December which really impacts on their physical development.

The Songa Mbele volunteers are a welcomed feature of the successful learning programs. In December we had 8 from Rafa Homecare College, 4 students from St. Michael's Secondary School, 1 community member and 4 postulants from the Sisters of Mercy. The volunteers provide extra support to ensure that the children receive the attention that they require. We really appreciate them for what they can bring to the Centre, especially the children.

As Christmas was approaching many individuals as well as corporations carried out their corporate social responsibility activities and kindness to the Centre. The donations received were teeming with generosity and very practical. We like to acknowledge: Pembe Millers, Steers and Debonair Restaurant, British Oxygen Company, Lily Nyawira, Kenneth Muyale, Nyaga Family, Michael Gichuki, Marie McGree, Tongo Fitness Club, Angelica Industries, Sauti Sacco, Friends of Fr Marino, Bertilla D'Costa, Evergreen Church courtesy of Mr Kanyana Muriuki and Mrs Muthoni and Braeburn Academy. The Centre received a host of basic essentials such as: meat, maize, bread, gas, milk, fruit, vegetables, flour, sweets, juices, , sugar, beans, rice, cooking oil, jelly, ringos, biscuits, salt, tea, margarine, sodas, wimbi porridge, corn chips and cakes for the festive season. The other donations included: clothes, shoes, sensory garden toys, toilet rolls, soap, diapers, pampers, serviettes, sanitary pads, detergent, crayons, erasers, exercise books, disinfectant, gloves, pencils, baby mattresses, beds, table tennis set, curtains, baby chairs, baby walker, mosquito nets and stationery items.



Sauti Sacco

Before the end of the year Songa Mbele hosted a number of training sessions for the staff, parents, siblings and community members.



Kenyan Sign Language



Adolescent girls Safe Space



HIV Programming Cycle



Social and Health Services

Social Services

December being the last month of the year the Department carried out a number of monthly activities as well as winding up the pending ones before the Centre closed for 2022. Support for the needy clients has been ongoing throughout the month for the Amaranth clients, malnourished babies as well as nutritional support for sick clients. These individuals have been able to receive nutritional supplements every two weeks which has considerably improved their immune system and general health. Food distribution was also carried out whereby needy clients were issued with a food package to share with their families around the Christmas period.

As a Department we are immensely grateful to all the donors who supported us throughout December. The donations were channeled towards our needy clients and students from Mukuru community where the majority were supported with food provisions and clothing aid. With the tough economic times and children on holidays, most parents are having a huge challenge to fully provide for their families hence the donations were crucial during this period.

With schools on the long holiday break, MPC only had Form Four candidates at St Michael's Secondary School attending each day as they were continuing with their national exams. The primary school pupils have been coming to their respective schools to have meals through a holiday feeding program courtesy of Team Pankaj. The social workers recorded a high number of community children who also came with our pupils for the feeding program. This is attributed to the fact that most of these children come from very needy families where affording a meal is a challenge. We are much grateful to Team Pankaj for the support they have given towards the children in our institutions throughout the year.



Holiday Feeding Program St Bakhita and St Elizabeth



St Michael's Girls



St Catherine's Social Office tended to an abandoned baby by providing some necessities, an expectant teenage girl received a support care package for her unborn child and sick clients received immunity boosting parcels.



The Clinic continued to support the sick clients from Mukuru who needed access to healthcare. These included children from our institutions as well as needy community clients who received treatment and medication through a waiver program at the social office. The social workers continued to do follow ups to the children in referral hospitals as well as give updates on their health progress to parents.

Social and Health Statistics for December 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	Child Protection	
1	Abuse Cases										1	1
2	Amaranth Adult Clients		68									68
3	Amaranth Babies & Child Clients		7									7
4	Behavior and Discipline Cases			1						2		3
5	Business Startup / Booster				1	3	15			3		22
6	Counseling and Guidance Sessions			9		3	2			12	1	27
7	CoVid19 Hygiene Material Resources											-
8	Donations Received		3		2	1	1		19	12	5	43
9	Fire and Floods Disaster assistance											-
10	Food Distribution		158				70					228
11	Home Visits			1	12	20	14		2	2		51
12	Hospital Visits (to other Hospitals)							22		1		23
13	Malnourished Babies		13									13
14	Medical Cases (to MIC)	1	12	1	6	1	4	43	9	25		102
15	Meetings and Trainings		1			1			7	1	3	13
16	Mentorship Sessions		9		1	1				2		13
17	Mobilization of Resources											-
18	Needy Families Support (Community)	6		3	307		3				11	330
19	Needy Students/Children	4	12		14	2	6		78			116
20	Networking		7		2			12			4	25
21	New Admissions to MPC Institutions											-
22	New Teenage Pregnancies Cases											-
23	Nutritional Support		29									29
24	Placements (Job/ Internship)											-
25	Pregnancy Support Packages		2				1				1	4
26	Provision of Sanitary Towels	1	70	21	4	36	18					150
27	Referrals (except medical)	1		1	3				1			6
28	Safeguarding Follow Ups			1								1
29	School Absenteeism/Truancy						2		44			46
30	Schools Profiles		22	15	17	2						56
31	School Visits											-
32	Songa Mbele Therapy Sessions											-
33	Sponsorship Follow-ups									4		4
34	Uniform Aid											-
	Totals	13	457	53	369	70	136	77	160	64	26	1,381

Closing for the Christmas break meant that there were only 15 active days for the Department to operate, which averaged 92 cases per day for the month for the 6 offices. It certainly was a very busy period.

MPC Clinic

At various times over the last 4 years, we have mentioned the research project called “Tupumue” (Let’s Breathe) conducted by the Liverpool School of Medicine (LSTM) in collaboration with Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI). The research was the first study that looked at non communicable lung disease in school growing children in two different settings, Mukuru being the slum and Buruburu being a middle class area in Nairobi. The researchers have concluded their work. Dr Hellen Meme (KEMRI) has commenced a program for the next few months presenting the findings to various medical associations and policy makers in Kenya. MPC is grateful to Dr Graham Deveraux (LSTM) who came to the Centre over 4 years ago seeking support for the research program in Mukuru. Some of the findings so far are that the levels of pollution in Mukuru is much higher resulting in higher chest symptoms that are more severe and less likely to be diagnosed. The team also found some links with various sources of pollution and early life birth measurements. The air pollution in Mukuru slums is nearly 3 times higher than the acceptable WHO levels, but the levels in the schools are much less compared to people’s homes. We are very grateful to the medical teams, field workers and the two thousand participants who really embraced the project.

This link gives more details on the processes involved in the research project. It is certainly worth looking as it provides great insight into the living conditions in Mukuru. The choir in the video is from St Michael’s Secondary School (MPC). The National Research Fund Kenya and UK Medical Research Council funded the research.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MyyxBTvlnc>

During December the medical staff paid visits to St Elizabeth and Sancta Maria Primary Schools to conduct general medical check-ups, deworming program and health and hygiene talks with the children. We are grateful to the Kenya Irish Society who sponsored the programs for 2022.



St Elizabeth Pupils



Sancta Maria Primary

In December the Clinic treated over 1,000 patients with an average of 73 patients per day. The largest group served are adults at 49% and then children at 37%, teenagers being 4%, followed by seniors at 8% of all patients. There was a major increase in the number of Septicaemia cases catering for 82% of cardiovascular diseases. The respiratory diseases continued to be a considerable and weighty disease at the Clinic.



December 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	62	13	17	132	43	11	1	279
	Male	42	17	7	65	26	14	1	172
Subtotal		104	30	24	197	69	25	2	451
Revisits	Female	129	17	14	126	59	26	5	376
	Male	103	25	16	60	36	31	2	273
Subtotal		232	42	30	186	95	57	7	649
Total		336	72	54	383	164	82	9	1,100
Percentage	<i>Female</i>	<i>57%</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>57%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>62%</i>	<i>45%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>60%</i>
	<i>Male</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>58%</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>33%</i>	<i>38%</i>	<i>55%</i>	<i>33%</i>	<i>40%</i>

Diagnosis for December 2022

Diseases	0-5 Yrs	6-12 Yrs	13-17 Yrs	18-35 Yrs	36-49 Yrs	50-64 Yrs	Above 64 Yrs	Total
Outpatients								
Respiratory	96	18	10	56	33	9	3	225
Gastronintestinal	47	18	8	41	21	9	1	145
Cardiovascular	52	11	13	104	61	47	1	289
ENT	4	7	2	12	1	0	0	26
Genitourinary	3	0	2	85	17	3	0	110
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	0	0	0	11	3	1	0	15
Musculoskeletal	1	6	3	16	12	7	2	47
Integumentary (Skin)	9	2	2	7	1	1	1	23
Dressing	3	1	0	3	1	1	0	9
Other Diseases	25	7	10	24	6	2	0	74
Subtotal Outpatients	240	70	50	359	156	80	8	963
Clinics								
ANC			5	56				61
Immunizations	118							118
Nutrition								0
Comprehensive Care								0
Tuberculosis								0
Non Medical (Mental)								0
Referrals to Medical Facilities								0
Subtotal Clinics	118		5	56	0	0	0	179
Total	358	70	55	415	156	80	8	1,142

December 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	20	1	0	0	21
Anti-streptolysin O test (ASOT)	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	3
Bilirubin Levels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blood Group	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blood Sugar (R.B.S/F.B.S)	0	0	0	4	14	16	1	35
Brucella	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BS for MPS (Malaria)	10	1	2	9	5	1	0	28
Calcium Levels	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Creatinine levels	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Du test	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Full Haemogram	30	6	2	39	16	9	0	102
HbA1c	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Helicobacter Pylori	0	3	1	12	15	6	1	38
Hemoglobin Levels	1	0	2	5	3	2	0	13
Hepatitis B (HBsAg)	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	4
High Vaginal Swab Microscopy	0	0	1	15	3	0	0	19
Lipid profile	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Liver Function Test	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pregnancy Test	0	0	0	14	1	0	0	15
Rheumatoid Factor	0	0	0	2	3	7	0	12
Salmonella	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	6
Stool Analysis	19	10	5	34	19	9	0	96
UEC's (Urea, Electrolytes and Creatinine)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uric Acid	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urinalysis	2	3	2	72	28	6	1	114
Urine Culture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urine multdrug test	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VDRL/Syphilis	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	4
Total	64	25	15	234	115	57	3	513
<i>Average Tests Per Day 32</i>								

Before the Clinic closed for the Christmas break it received donations of suture packs and a blood pressure machine from Susan Mwangi. We are grateful for her kindness.



Education

Primary Schools

The 2022 Kenya Certificate Primary Education (KCPE) and Kenya Primary School Education Assessment (KPSEA) exams were conducted and concluded well. This year's learning has been interjected by so many activities taking place in the country as well as the government trying to return to a normal calendar. The challenge for many primary schools was to facilitate the examinations for both groups in one calendar year. In the 4 MPC Primary Schools, 788 Class 8 candidates sat their KCPE exams while another 632 Grade 6 candidates sat the KPSEA assessments. The new curriculum requires the Grade 6 pupils to join Junior Secondary School. There will be major upheavals with infrastructure and personnel for most schools. Many stakeholders appreciated the Ministry's recommendations to help with some clarity:

- Grade 7, 8 and 9 to be integrated into existing primary schools.
- An additional classroom will be built in each school to cater for Grade 9.
- An additional 30,000 teachers will be employed by January 2023.
- The Ministry of Education, Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development and Teachers Service Commission will work in modalities to ensure more teachers are compliant with Competency Based Curriculum.
- The KPSEA exam will not be a placement tool for learners in Junior Secondary.

Fortunately, all the Grade 6 pupils in the 4 MPC primary schools will be able to return in January to continue with their Junior Secondary learning without having to move to another school or location.

Apart from receiving information on the next transition stage for the new education system many pupils and parents were keen to find out how they fared in the KCPE. The 2022 KCPE results were released for the 788 MPC candidates. The candidate compositions in the primary schools were: St Bakhita 153, St Elizabeth 251, St Catherine 168 and Sancta Maria Kayaaba 216. Unfortunately, 4 pupils from St Elizabeth were not able to sit their exams. Based on the KCPE 2022 figures 45% of the primary pupils will be able to join a secondary school as KCPE people going to ordinary secondary while the other 55% may attend a vocational course, find casual work or drop out completely from school. There were 34 pupils who attained the highest scores between 350 to 395. Traditionally, these pupils will receive a government scholarship to a public boarding school.

MPC Primary Schools KCPE 2022 Results

Primary School	Marks (out of 500)						Total
	399-350	349-300	299-250	249-200	199-150	149-100	
St. Bakhita	8	19	33	57	30	6	153
St. Catherine	11	23	58	42	27	7	168
St. Elizabeth	8	36	68	78	43	14	247
Sancta Maria Kayaba	7	31	55	63	37	23	216
Total	34	109	214	240	137	50	784

The subject analysis indicates that English was the best performing subject which is good to see due to the extra programs that MPC put in place over the last few years. The next best subject was Kiswahili and the least performing subject was science. Unfortunately, the 4 MPC schools registered a negative deviation compared to last year but all schools countrywide were down.

2022 KCPE Subject Analysis

Primary School	English	Kiswahili	Maths	Science	SSRE	Total Mean 2022	Total Mean 2021	Deviation
St. Bakhita	47.69	45.02	44.40	42.44	43.62	223.35	247.16	-23.81
St. Catherine	54.38	55.1	49.23	44.32	50.41	253.44	273.08	-20.36
St. Elizabeth	53.73	48.7	47.71	45.61	47.82	243.57	255.87	-12.3
Sancta Maria Kayaaba	49.26	48.83	46.30	43.74	48.38	236.51	252.20	-15.69
TOTAL	51.26	49.41	46.91	44.02	47.55	239.21	257.07	-18.04

2022 KCPE Results by Gender

Primary School		KCPE Marks						Total
		399-350	349-300	299-250	249-200	199-150	149-100	
St. Bakhita	All	8	31	33	57	30	6	153
	M	4	11	13	27	14	3	77
	F	4	8	20	30	16	3	76
St. Catherine	All	11	23	58	42	27	7	168
	M	7	13	23	19	13	2	77
	F	4	10	35	23	14	5	91
St. Elizabeth	All	8	36	68	78	43	14	247
	M	5	14	30	27	18	12	106
	F	3	22	38	51	25	2	141
Sancta Maria Kayaaba	All	7	31	55	63	37	23	216
	M	4	10	22	26	20	14	96
	F	3	21	33	36	17	10	120
TOTAL	All	34	121	214	240	137	50	784
	M	20	48	88	99	65	31	351
	F	14	73	126	141	72	19	445

The school with the highest academic achievement was St Catherine's. The number of girls who sat the exams was more compared to those of the boys. The girls who scored 250 and above marks numbered 213 compared to 156 boys while more girls scored below 250 compared to 195 boys.

During December, the school holiday month, Team Pankaj Foundation, one of the MPC donors had been feeding children 2 days a week. This move was well received by parents who were sending their children on Tuesdays and Thursdays for lunch. The turn up for the feeding was average.

The break between the end of term and the next academic year is very long and a third of the children will go without food. We are very grateful to Team Pankaj who is providing the daily lunch meals for them.



St Elizabeth pupils



St Bakhita pupils



St Catherine pupils



Health and Hygiene talks

Given the long holiday break pupils from the 4 primary schools were invited to attend the health and hygiene talks given by the MIC Clinic staff.



St Michael's Secondary School

As the school had closed for Forms 1 – 3 in November, December remained open for the Form 4s to complete their final year of secondary education with the KCSE national examinations. The school was unusually quiet as the invigilators and administration police commanded the schools. The unique dimension to the 2022 cohort is that they only had 9 months to prepare compared to previous years who had a full year before they sat for the for KCSE. The examinations were completed by 23rd December which was very late. The 2022 cohort numbered 81 candidates and hope the group will perform well given the shorter time.

The Agriculture course has a project component and the students planted kales and all went very well. It is great to have the agricultural course because at the end the students are allowed to eat their hard earned work.



Student's Agriculture Plots

The Computer course also contained a project element to it and the students were fortunate to have a computer per student to work from, thanks to the computers which had been donated earlier to St Michael's.



KCSE practical computer exam

The KCSE results will not be known until late January 2023.

Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre

Although we have been faced with the difficulties of CoVid19, harsh economic times, drought and famine, December offered a welcomed diversion as Kenyans become centred in the spirit of Christmas and family. As a country, we appreciated the gift of peace and stability after going through an election process unscathed and have a sense of unity on many fronts. Our students endured many hours of academic work, periodic assessments and life skill empowerment programs throughout the year. The donors/partners have been a driving force and a source of inspiration in our efforts to serve the Mukuru youths and empower them with skills in different areas like computer literacy, plumbing and masonry, catering, front office, art & craft, hairdressing and dressmaking/tailoring.

In its efforts to achieve gender equality and elevate the status of young women MPC has partnered with the Fidel Goetz Foundation (FGF) to ensure achievements can be made in vocational training. The two courses with particular focus are the catering and hairdressing courses. To ensure a real life experience of what is expected in the hospitality industry, the FGF has equipped the catering course and provided furniture, fixtures and fittings for the Pride Restaurant. Each hairdressing and beauty student also received 2 uniforms. The classroom has also been well equipped with appropriate furniture along with 16 computers. In the spirit of Christmas, the FGF gave the students an early Christmas present that included milk, drinking chocolate, juice, biscuits and tea. To help student remain focused on their courses and not to worry about how they are going to live, the Foundation supplied 35 needy students each month with food parcels with the basic necessities of maize flour, wheat, rice, sugar, salt, cereals, cooking oil, soap and detergents.



New restaurant furniture



Hairdressing products and uniforms





Donations and Christmas Gifts from FGF

FGF also supported MPC’s Environmental conservation goal through tree planting activities to combat climate change and beautifying the compound.



Environmental conservation – tree planting exercise supported by FGF.

The Centre also received other donations in December from Nick Shah and Marie McGree for the students including hairdressing and beauty products and equipment as well as personal hygiene products.



Special Needs Class with donations

Hairdressing equipment



A few kilometres from MPC is a shopping centre called 'Capital Centre'. MPC visitors know it well. Before Christmas the art students were invited to exhibit some of their work for a week. The students really appreciated the experience and support from the locals.



Mr Samuel Mwangi and art students display the art and craft products from their classes as well as the Special Need class.



The students received many positive responses from shoppers.



The students completed their examinations for the year by the middle of December but the results will not be known until January 2023. The Centre was host to a group of hairdressing students from Reuben Centre who were also taking NITA examinations. After the exams the Centre closed with a Mass for all students and staff in the multi-purpose hall.



Fr Dimitri celebrates end of year Mass for the Skills students and staff.

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.

- St Catherine's land case was postponed until May 2023.
- There were many visitors from British Airways Crewmembers leading up to the Christmas break. There will be 4 visiting groups between Christmas and New Year.

It was with great sadness we learnt of the death of Professor Vladimir Krcmery, doctor, tropical medicine and infectious disease expert at a young age of 62.

Professor Krcmery with some street boys at the rubbish dump.



Professor Krcmery was a brilliant human being on so many levels. It was my privilege to have met and worked with him for a number of years. I first met Professor Krcmery in 1995 /1996 when I visited Trnava with Dr Wolfgang Bohm and Mr Marian Caucik. He welcomed me with open arms. He was very interested in the health and social work among the people living in informal settlements. He asked for volunteer medics and among the first group was Dr Bucek (RIP). He organized MPC's present semi-permanent Clinic, getting involved with the design, planning and construction working with the builders until completion. I admired Professor Krcmery for his great interest and energy. He had extraordinary ability to bring on board an amazing group of talented volunteers from 1996 to this present day some 27 years on.

He was also the central person fundraising to support the work. He enabled a number of Mukuru residents to do diplomas and degrees in public health and sponsored others to become doctors. What a difference he made in the lives of the chosen beneficiaries. He was the first person to introduce anti-retro viral drugs into Kenya, causing many children of HIV mothers to be born HIV free! So many children are healthy and alive today because of him and his team of volunteers.

Mukuru was only one of the many causes he lobbied for and supported. Wherever in the world there was great need, he was there. His main work was fighting epidemics and working to find cures for those that still cause us so much sickness and death. He was full of hope that one day a cure for HIV will be found. He was active in getting a vaccine against CoVid19. He won awards for his work fighting other epidemics and his research for fighting cancer.

Besides his great work, we remember him for his great love of life, of food well cooked and presented with appropriate wine to compliment the meal as well as his humor. We also remember his deep faith and his devotion to the Holy Rosary. It was he who requested for MPC's Clinic and Rehabilitation Centre to be dedicated to Mary Immaculate, Patron of Slovakia. In the middle of his busy life and of his international travels, he was able to concentrate on dedicating humble projects to Mary Immaculate, showing the important place of Mary in his life.

Will the work of this great man continue? It is very important for us here in Mukuru that it does go on and important for his work in South Sudan and among refugees. We pray for all those who support and have supported his charities that they continue and increase the charitable work among the world's most poor.

May God rest his amazing soul in eternal Peace.

Professor Krcmery with then President of Slovakia, Andrej Kiska, during a visit to MIC Clinic and Songa Mbele (2016)



Christmas Blessings

May the Joy and Peace of the Christ Child be in your heart, and may God bless you and your loved ones with a happy and holy Christmas.

We sincerely thank you for your generosity, prayers and compassion throughout a difficult year which supported tens of thousands of children, youths and seniors in health, education, welfare and a brighter future.

On behalf of the MPC Board and Staff I wish you a very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.

With deep affection and gratitude.

Sr Mary Killeen
Director



Artwork Andrew Otieno

Mukuru Promotion Centre
Empowerment Step by Step
Sisters of Mercy
www.mercymukuru.co.ke