

June Newsletter

Vol 11. Issue No. 6, 2026

Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends,

June was a month of growth, partnership, change and renewed commitment to our mission of transforming lives. One of the month's greatest milestones was the successful purchase of our Volunteer House, at a total cost, including legal fees, of KES 37.33 million (approximately USD 288,300 / EUR 252,400). After launching a fundraising campaign in June, we were humbled by the generous response from our partners, enabling us to raise 65% of the purchase price within the month. To secure this strategic investment, MPC, with the approval of the Trustees, contributed the remaining KES 13.07 million (approximately USD 100,900 / EUR 88,400) from our financial reserves. This is an important investment for MPC. The house will provide a welcoming and stable home for our volunteers, whose skills and dedication continue to enrich our programs. At the same time, drawing on our reserves affects our operational flexibility. Our reserves are invested, and the interest generated provides an important financial buffer that enables us to meet essential commitments, including supporting the salaries of some staff. Consequently, until we can replenish the amount used, we will have less income from these investments available to support these ongoing commitments. We are therefore grateful for the generosity of our partners, who made it possible to secure this important asset, and we are committed to a renewed fundraising effort to rebuild and replenish our reserves. In June, we had the opportunity to strengthen our valued partnerships. We were pleased to host Astrid Lehner from Brothers and Sisters in Need, a long-standing partner of the Mary Immaculate Rehabilitation Centre. During her two-day visit, Astrid engaged deeply with our programs, staff, and children. We are truly grateful for this enduring partnership and the confidence they continue to place in our mission. One encouraging highlight was the ongoing success of our vocational training program.

Inside

Archival Corner 3

Education

Head Teacher Trainings 5
Staff Changes 5
Sports Achievements 6
Student Performance 7
Opening Term Mass 6
Macheo Program 8
Skills Updates 10
Donations 11
Gallery 12

Transformations

Memorial Mass 13
Workshops 14
Home Visits and Start-Ups 16
Success Stories 17
Rehabilitation Centre 18 & 20
Visitors 19
Day of African Child 20
Airtel MOU 21

Social and Health

Relief and Services 22
Clinic Statistics 25
Maternal Health 26
Dr Omar and Dermatology Clinic 26
Dr Xavi's Farewell 27
Medical & CME Training 28
Vicarate of Rome 28
Spanish Film Crew 29

Announcements

MPC 30



Our hospitality graduates are finding employment at top hotels, which shows that investing in quality vocational education is creating opportunities for vulnerable young people to escape poverty. As we expand our training facilities, we are excited to equip even more young individuals with the skills needed to succeed in the hospitality industry.

Education is central to the mission of the Sisters of Mercy in Mukuru. This month, I had the pleasure of meeting Ms Esther Karomo, the new headteacher of St. Catherine's Primary School. She has joined the school following the retirement of the previous headteacher. We warmly welcome her and hope her leadership will foster renewed growth and progress at the school. I also met Dr Josephine Uhuru, the new Headteacher of St. Bakhita Primary School, following the transfer of Mr Samuel Nyaga. We are thankful for Mr Nyaga's contributions to St. Bakhita, especially the significant transformation he accomplished during his two years of leadership. We wish him the best in his new assignment and warmly welcome Dr Uhuru as she takes on this important responsibility.

St. Catherine's, St. Bakhita, Sancta Maria Kayaba, and St. Elizabeth Primary Schools are strong representations of the Sisters of Mercy's dedication to providing quality education to the children of Mukuru. These schools were established to ensure that children from the Mukuru informal settlements have access to education and the opportunities needed to build a better future. As leadership changes occur, we remain committed to supporting our schools and ensuring they continue to fulfil this vital mission.

June was a month dedicated to remembering and celebrating life. I attended the Memorial Mass for John McCarrick, Trustee of the Kenyan Child Foundation, held at Songa Mbele, joining children, staff, and community members in prayer and remembrance. These moments remind us of the importance of compassion, solidarity, and supporting one another through both joy and loss.

Our commitment to the Mukuru community also encompasses the environment in which people live. I had the opportunity to meet with the Nairobi River Commission, where we advocated for the restoration of the Nairobi River and urged stronger action to combat pollution. The health and dignity of our communities are closely tied to the environment, and we will continue to advocate for a cleaner, safer, and healthier Mukuru.

In the past month, the MPC Board held its Second Quarter Meeting, during which it reaffirmed its commitment to strategic leadership, governance, and oversight. This dedication enhances our accountability and ensures that Mukuru Promotion Centre remains focused on delivering high-quality services to those who need them most. As we look to the future, we do so with gratitude and hope. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our donors, partners, volunteers, Board members, staff, and friends for believing in our mission.

Together, we continue to restore hope, create opportunities, uphold dignity, and transform lives in Mukuru and beyond.

Sr Mary Killeen
Director

Archival Corner

A Building that is Changing Hundreds of Lives

3 June 2021 – The New Songa Mbele na Masomo Children's Centre Handover

Some buildings are constructed with concrete and steel. Others are built on compassion, vision and hope. The new multi-storey Songa Mbele na Masomo Children's Centre is one such building.

For decades, children living with disabilities in the Mukuru informal settlements faced exclusion, stigma and limited opportunities to access education and therapy. Together, Sr Barbra Dooley (RIP) and Sr Mary Killeen responded to the needs of children with disabilities. Initially, a few children were sponsored by Lilian Fonds to schools outside of Mukuru, but as the number increased, something had to be done within Mukuru. Eventually, the action resulted in a Centre for children living with disabilities, Songa Mbele na Masomo, "Moving Forward with Education".

The Centre is dedicated to restoring dignity and opportunity to the children and their families. It began with a sea container donated by the Bhati Raja Family, and a few years later another sea container was added. Africa Direct, Ireland, Electric Aid, Ireland and Colette Foulkes and Liverpool Mukuru group built the temporary mabati classrooms. KLM Airline employees' charity group called 'Wings of Support' funded the dining room. A couple of years after that, Therese Strain Jones, UK and Mater Dei College, Western Australia, added a new permanent therapy block, which still remains today as the special unit.

As the number of children seeking services continued to grow, the original facility could no longer meet the demand. A bold dream emerged: to build a modern, purpose-designed Centre that would provide specialised education, rehabilitation and therapy under one roof. That concept became reality through the extraordinary generosity of The Kenyan Child Foundation, Ireland, whose sponsorship funded over KES 50 million for the construction of the new multilevel facility. Designed by architect Malinson Koech and constructed by Anshi Builders Ltd, the building was specifically designed to create an accessible, safe and stimulating learning environment for children with disabilities.

On 3 June 2021, the completed building was handed over to Mukuru Promotion Centre, marking the successful completion of one of the most significant capital projects by an Irish charity in MPC's history. Five days later, on 8 June 2021, the children and staff joyfully occupied their new home following a blessing led by Fr. Gilles, M.Afr, assisted by six seminarians. A short video was produced that showed the children's absolute delight on their first day at the new purpose-built facility; it can be viewed on the website. Due to Covid19 pandemic, the official opening was held in June 2022 with the Trustees of The Kenyan Child Foundation, John and Ciara McCarrick and Gerard and Helen Kelly, the Irish Ambassador to Kenya, Her Excellency Fionnuala Quinlan, children, parents, staff and Sisters of Mercy.

Today, the Centre has become a beacon of hope for children living with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, ADHD, Epilepsy, Dyslexia, Hydrocephalus and other developmental conditions. Beyond education, it offers physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, life skills and family

support. For parents, it provides the reassurance that their children are safe, cared for and given every opportunity to thrive while they pursue employment and other livelihood activities.

As we commemorate this important anniversary, we also remember with gratitude John McCarrick (RIP), Chairperson and Trustee of The Kenyan Child Foundation, who passed away in May 2026. John believed that disability should never determine a child's future. His leadership, generosity and unwavering commitment to vulnerable children transformed an ambitious vision into a living reality. Because of his support, hundreds of children now learn, receive therapy, play, make friends and discover their unique abilities every day.



His legacy extends far beyond the walls of the building. It lives on in every child who learns to communicate, every young person who gains confidence and independence, every parent whose burden is eased, and every smile that fills the classrooms of Songa Mbele. The Songa Mbele building stands as the only institution of its kind in the Mukuru slum, building brighter futures for children living with disabilities.



Songa Mbele na Masomo Centre gathered to remember John McCarrick

E_{ducation}

P_{primary} Schools

St Bakhita, St Catherine's, St Elizabeth and Sancta Maria Kayaba

The primary schools experienced improved academic results and a reduction in the number of non-readers. Pupils excelled in co-curricular activities, particularly in regional rugby and basketball competitions. Attendance and retention increased due to an affordable feeding program in which all children receive one good meal a day. Additionally, teacher capacity was enhanced through government-sponsored training.

June was a productive and encouraging month, marked by steady progress in academic results and overall school growth. The students enjoyed a three-day half-term break, returning refreshed and ready to continue their studies. There was notable improvement in academic performance, especially among the junior section, reflecting the commitment of both learners and teachers to high standards. Continued government support has enhanced the school's infrastructure, creating a better environment for teaching and learning. The school also concentrated on strengthening discipline, attendance, and co-curricular activities, which contribute to the holistic development of the students. Thanks to the combined efforts of the Board of Management, parents, teachers, the government, and other stakeholders, the school remains dedicated to providing quality education and fostering ongoing growth.

Over the course of the month, four members of the Board of Management (BOM) from various primary schools participated in a 4-day capacity-building workshop organised by the Kenya Education Management Institute (KEMI) at Moi Forces Academy in Nairobi. The workshop, facilitated by officials from the Ministry of Education, emphasised the essential role of BOMs in managing schools effectively and efficiently, in accordance with the Education Act and government regulations. The training equipped participants with enhanced knowledge and skills in areas such as school governance, strategic leadership, financial oversight, resource mobilisation, infrastructure development, policy implementation, and accountability. Additionally, the program focused on supporting quality teaching and learning, promoting transparency, safeguarding the welfare of learners, fostering collaboration with stakeholders, and ensuring responsible use of resources. The knowledge gained from this workshop aims to strengthen the BOM's ability to oversee school operations, support continuous improvement, and help achieve the school's academic and developmental objectives.



Regional Director of Education, Dr Marigat, giving the opening speech at the 4-day training of BOM members in Nairobi North region.



St. Bakhita Primary School recently experienced an unexpected change in leadership with the transfer of its Head Teacher. This announcement was met with disappointment from students, teachers, parents, the Board of Management, and the broader community, reflecting the strong relationships and positive leadership the Head Teacher had established. His commitment to academic excellence, effective management, and creating a supportive learning environment played a crucial role in the school's development. While this transfer marks the conclusion of a significant chapter for the school, the community extends heartfelt gratitude for his dedicated service and wishes him success in his new position. The school is committed to ensuring a smooth transition of leadership and maintaining ongoing programs, with support from the Ministry of Education, the Board of Management, staff, parents, and the community.

After the previous Head Teacher was transferred, the Ministry of Education appointed a new Head Teacher at St. Bakhita Primary School, Dr Josephine Uhuru. The school community warmly welcomed her and is eager to work collaboratively to advance the school's vision and mission. The BoM, teachers, pupils, parents, and the wider community hope she will build on her predecessor's solid foundation and provide effective leadership to sustain and improve academic performance, discipline, and development.

Co-curricular activities flourished at the regional level, highlighting pupils' talents, teamwork, and discipline across various fields. St. Bakhita Primary School successfully defended its regional championships in both basketball and rugby and is now set to represent the region at the upcoming Nairobi inter-regional competitions, where the winning teams will advance to the national championships. Meanwhile, St. Elizabeth Primary School achieved significant success by qualifying for the national level in music festivals. Both schools remain actively involved in athletics, ball games, scouts, and various clubs and societies, providing pupils with opportunities to develop their talents, enhance their leadership skills, and promote holistic growth.



St Bakhita Primary School Rugby and Basketball teams at regional tournament

St. Michael's Secondary School

The current enrollment at St. Michael's is 411 students, with an even gender ratio of 50:50. The largest group is the Form 3 students, totaling 167, followed by Form 4 with 131 students, and Grade 10, which has 113 students.

As is our tradition, each term begins with a celebration of Mass, presided over by Fr. Daniel Bin Massart from Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in South B. His message for the students this term emphasised the importance of hard work in all their endeavors, whether in study, play, or relationships. He urged them that all actions should be centered around respect, love, and care for others.



Fr Dan



There were several sporting and cultural events in June. The Makadara Sub-County Kenya Music Festival was held at Ofafa Jericho High School. St. Michael's presented candidates for various competition categories. The students performed exceptionally well, with many items advancing to the regional level, including the English Choral Verse National Authority for the Campaign Against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA) for Class 2020, advising students against such behaviour.

St Michael's Secondary School proudly present an ENGLISH Choral Verse titled "NACADA"

Four boys displayed exemplary performance in the table tennis competitions and qualified for the Regional Table Tennis Competitions, which will be held at Jamhuri High School on 8th July, 2026. The students are: Evans Onyango, Christopher Otieno, Clinton Wasike and Martin Muceeri.

We congratulate the teams and individual students for their passion and their excellent representation of the school.



Martin Muceeri participated in the Nairobi East Region competition.

Our school was proud to accept a donation of sports gear from British Airways crew members, aimed at fostering athletic talent. The collection included balls and sports kits, which will significantly help our students engage in diverse sports activities. We deeply value British Airways' generosity and kindness. Your support will motivate our students to hone their skills, foster teamwork, and cultivate a healthy sports environment in our school. Thank you for investing in the future of our students.



Sports equipment donated

The results were released this month, and several students showed outstanding academic performance, ranking among the top performers in the assessment. Their achievements reflect hard work, dedication, and a commitment to academic excellence.

The school congratulates these top-performing students and encourages all candidates to stay focused as they prepare for their national examinations. The standout performer among the students was Teresa Mene, who distinguished herself by achieving a B+ in the mock exams. Following her were five other diligent students, whose scores ranged from B+ to C+. We hope these results indicate a promising outlook for the current Form 4 cohort, suggesting they are likely to surpass the academic achievements of the 2025 group.

On June 3rd, 2026, St. Michael's Secondary School welcomed a team from Strathmore University's Macheo Program, which helps students with strong academic potential improve their skills as they prepare for the Form 4 National Examination. The program spans three years and offers bi-weekly Saturday sessions at the University. In Grade 10, all students take exams, and the top 20 are selected to join the program. Led by Dr Louis, the team conducted an engaging, interactive session with the Macheo group at the school. The visit provided valuable mentorship, guidance, and motivation, encouraging students to pursue academic excellence and their future ambitions. We sincerely appreciate Strathmore University and the Macheo Program for their ongoing commitment to empowering our students. St. Michael's has a successful partnership with Strathmore University's Macheo Program, with many of our students gaining university admission.



Macheo team with students at St Michael's.

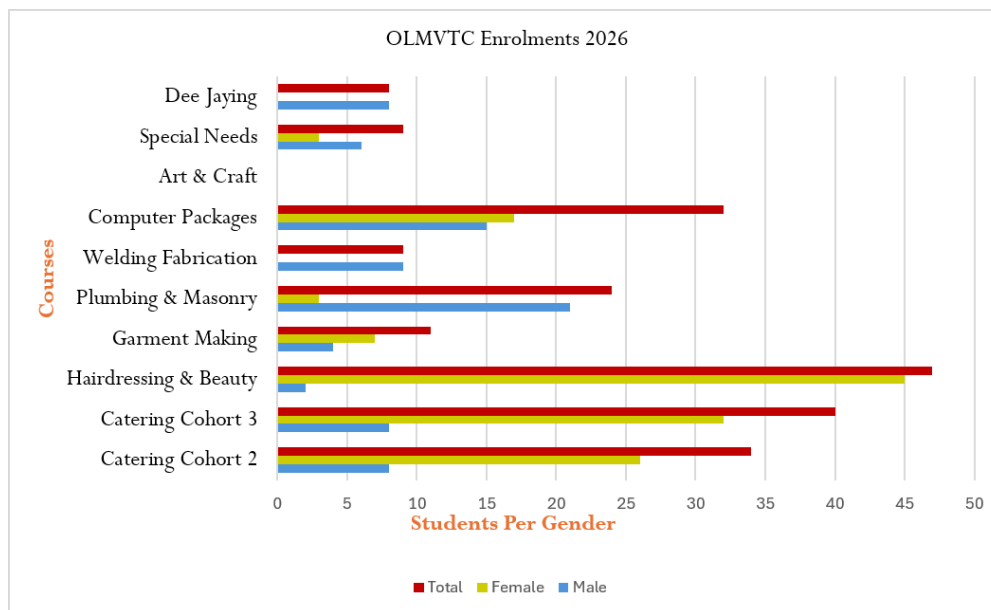
The assessment results for this month have been officially announced, revealing an impressive group of students who ranked among the top achievers. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the outstanding performers for their hard work and dedication. As we celebrate these accomplishments, we encourage every student to remain focused and committed to their studies as they prepare for the upcoming national examinations, which are just around the corner.



Macheo Director, Louis Borrollo, and Macheo teacher, Harrison, with principal, Joseph Ngari and Ingrid Hirojosc, Tallina University Exchange Program at Strathmore University.

Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre

In June, after closing enrollment at the end of May, we focused on syllabus moderation to ensure late-reporting students were up to speed with the rest. We made significant efforts to improve overall student performance across various areas, including classwork, discipline, and promoting the OLMVTC spirit. The total student population was 214, comprising 133 females and 81 males. The month's training emphasised enhancing both theoretical understanding and practical skills.



OLMVTC offers a variety of training courses, including tailoring and dressmaking, secretarial studies, food and beverage services, welding, painting and decorating, plumbing, masonry, and hairdressing and beauty therapy. In 2018, only the courses in dressmaking, plumbing, and beauty therapy were approved by TVET. Since then, there have been developments in the vocational training sector, and applications for the remaining courses were submitted again in June 2026.

During the TVET inspection, it was noted that some tutors did not possess TVET registration numbers. The inspectors advised that all tutors must have these numbers. Although engaging part-time tutors who have TVET registration was suggested, it could potentially create more problems than it resolves. Currently, MPC is assisting the tutors in registering for TVET. The Centre has met all other requirements, enabling it to serve as an examination Centre for TVET courses.

The Centre conducted a review of the INUA upskilling program, sponsored by KWAL and delivered jointly with Tamarind, Kibondeni, and St. Therese Vocational Training Centre for catering students. This program complements the catering course at OLMVTC, reflecting the Centre's ongoing commitment to creating opportunities for students across all courses. The collaboration between KWAL, Tamarind, Kibondeni, and St. Therese offers job prospects through dual training and attachments. The first cohort at Kibondeni has completed their attachment and is set to graduate on 3rd July 2026. Meanwhile, the next group will join the hospitality upskilling course at St. Therese in August.

We are always grateful to the British Airways crew members for their thoughtfulness towards our students. Their donations are invaluable, as they are used in practical sessions at the Centre. At times, these contributions also help with personal hygiene products, which are often beyond the students' reach. BA crew member Chrissie Brooks generously brought wipes, pampers, throw blankets, antiseptic healing cream, and sanitary towels. Additionally, another generous donor, Noreen Walsh from the USA, donated four manual sewing machines for the garment-making class. This contribution is especially helpful, as many people in Mukuru do not have access to electricity and it is good to have the experience of the manual machines.



Donations given to the catering students and teenage mothers



Noreen Walsh's donations of 4 manual sewing machines

Here are some photographs depicting the events that occurred throughout June at OLMVTC. It is delightful to see the pride on the students' faces as they develop their new skills.



DJ students learning beat match



Beauty practical in nail technology



Sports Day students play basketball



Barbering/dreadlock styling



Pattern drafting theory class



Wall finishing by plastering



Student doing the keying of the wall



Special Needs students weave and make kites



Catering students



Crocheting and mat making

Computer class



Transformations

Songa Mbele na Masomo Children's Centre

The Centre was deeply saddened to hear the passing of John McCarrick, Trustee of the Kenyan Child Foundation. The Centre offered a Thanksgiving Mass in memory of John McCarrick, a generous donor who faithfully supported the Centre for many years. The Centre expressed its heartfelt gratitude for his unwavering generosity, commitment, and lasting contribution to the lives of the children. Prayers were offered for the peaceful repose of his soul, and condolences were extended to his wife Ciara and family and loved ones.



Fr Daniel Bin Massart offers the Mass of Thanksgiving for John McCarrick



In June 2026, Songa Mbele na Masomo Children Centre maintained its range of services for children. The Centre currently cares for 116 children, including 44 boys and 72 girls. A parents' meeting was convened to review important issues related to the Centre and the children's welfare. Topics discussed included the Centre's programs, child welfare, communication methods, fee payments, and discipline.

A total of 12 referrals were made to MIC for treatment and medication collection. MIC provided essential services that ensured children received prompt medical care and medication, supporting better health outcomes, adherence to treatment, and ongoing care. During this period, two children were hospitalised because of respiratory problems and uncontrolled convulsions, both of which were life-threatening.

June was marked by several training workshops for the children, staff and parents. The social worker mapped health facilities within the sub-county to improve referral systems. This mapping created more efficient referral pathways, enabling children and families to access health, rehab, and social services promptly. Mary Immaculate Clinic (MIC) was designated as a referral point for disability cases. The activity involved health personnel from Starehe and Makadara sub-counties, including the Subcounty Ministry of Health officer, health information record officer, Nairobi County rehabilitation officer, medical assessment officer, disease control officer, public health officer, and the MIC department head.



MoH subcounty officers



CHAs Meeting

A Train-the-Trainers (ToT) workshop was conducted for 20 Community Health Assistants (CHAs). This training enhanced their skills in identifying, supporting, and referring children with disabilities within their communities, boosting awareness and improving access to essential services. Mr Lincoln Kabanya from the Nairobi County Health Department facilitated the session with the CHAs at Songa.

A two-day training session was held for Community Health Promoters (CHPs) and Child Protection Volunteers (CPVs), focusing on disability referral systems. It equipped participants with skills in early disability detection using a screening tool, understanding referral processes and their community roles, and knowledge of the types, causes, myths, and misconceptions related to disabilities. The training also covered community-based rehabilitation (CBR) and community-based inclusive development (CBID). Isaiah Nyabane from the Community Health Ministry facilitated the training.



Disability Training



First Aid Training

An internal First Aid training session was held for staff and interns to enhance their emergency response skills, fostering a safer environment for children and ensuring quick handling of emergencies. The Centre's therapy officers led the training.

A total of 23 staff members and 2 interns participated in training on the Child Safeguarding Policy and reporting procedures. The session was conducted by Everlyn from the International Federation of Red Cross, along with Milanoi Koiyet, a human rights lawyer specialising in women's, children's, and disability rights, also affiliated with the same federation. This training improved safeguarding practices, increased awareness of child protection responsibilities, enhanced policy implementation, and standardised procedures, thereby fostering a safe, respectful, and protective environment for all children.



Safeguarding training



Mainstreaming Session

A disability mainstreaming session was held for 17 senior health facility in-charge officers from Starehe Sub-County, facilitated by Dr Rose Thuo. During this event, the officials gained knowledge and skills to provide more inclusive, accessible, and disability-friendly services. The training's goal is to improve healthcare experiences for children with disabilities and their families.

A session on Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) was held for parents. It aimed to raise awareness of ASD, identify signs early, and discuss intervention strategies and home support approaches. Facilitated by Michael Katifaru from Special Education Professionals (SEP), the session was attended by 35 parents. Participants learned about the benefits of early detection, engaging with support services, applying positive parenting techniques, and collaborating with professionals to promote their children's development and inclusion.



Autism Awareness

During the month, learning progressed well across all 5 classes. Improvement was noted in literacy, numeracy, communication and daily living skills, aligned with their individual abilities. Some learners showed good progress in reading, writing, mathematics, money skills, communication and independent living, while others required additional support due to absenteeism, illness or limited practice at home. The Prevocational Unit also continued to develop practical and entrepreneurial skills through the class project, "Our Shop," where learners made items from locally available materials as part of their CBE curriculum.

The Centre recognised several 'Days' throughout the month with posters, songs, and dances to celebrate their abilities, promote inclusion, build confidence, and advocate for their rights. These included World Environment Day on June 5th, the Day of the African Child on June 16th, and Hydrocephalus Awareness Day on June 23rd.



Children observing the different Days in June

In June, we continued our follow-up efforts for new businesses and conducted visits to assess caregiver progress with income-generating activities. A total of 19 follow-up visits were completed. These regular check-ins were instrumental in supporting caregivers' livelihoods by identifying challenges early and providing targeted assistance. This approach not only strengthened household resilience but also ensured that children's basic and therapeutic needs were met.



Dorcas Muthethya's father tailoring



Jeffries Mmbone's mother with her business

The social workers conducted 12 home visits in total: 3 for new admissions, 2 to address absenteeism, and 7 for routine progress checks and home evaluations. These visits enhanced family engagement, helped identify issues early, improved school attendance, and enabled tailored interventions based on each child's home situation.



Purity Kisanje's with her parents



Elizabeth Moraa's mum and little brother

A parents and caregivers meeting was held for the Foundation II class to review the children's progress, therapy objectives, classroom activities, attendance, and overall development. It also offered a platform for parents to share experiences, voice concerns, and seek advice on supporting their children's learning at home. These discussions helped enhance communication and collaboration between parents and Centre staff.



HOD addresses parents and caregivers

In June, therapy sessions persisted with 311 physiotherapy sessions for 54 children, while occupational therapy and sensory integration totalled 143 sessions for 29 children. Speech and language therapy (SLT) comprised 110 sessions for 19 children. The significance of this therapy cannot be overstated given its remarkable effect on the children. Below are some stories of children who made notable progress in June.

At 12 years old, Stephen Macharia, known as "Masha," is a confident student at Songa Mbele na Masomo Children Centre. As the class prefect, he likes taking on leadership roles, playing the guitar, engaging in class activities, and recently wowed the school community with his confident catwalk during the Day of the African Child celebrations. Stephen has autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and Cerebral Palsy.

He faced delays in speech, balance, and coordination, along with limited social skills, sensory processing issues, hyperactivity, and reliance on diapers. Frequent asthma attacks also disrupted his school attendance. However, with a comprehensive program including Occupational Therapy, Sensory Integration Therapy, classroom education, and active family support, Stephen has achieved significant progress. Now, he walks unaided, has better balance and coordination, expresses his needs, is toilet independent, follows directions, actively engages in class, and interacts confidently



with peers. His improved focus and fewer sensory problems have helped him succeed both academically and socially. Stephen's mother shares, *"I never imagined my son would stop using diapers, communicate his needs and enjoy going to school. Therapy has changed not only Stephen's life but also our family's hope for the future."*

Stephen during his OT session guided by Vitalis, the OT

This month, Joshua Kambela's significant progress in Speech and Language Therapy has been noteworthy. He has successfully mastered the entire alphabet, which has greatly enhanced his confidence and communication skills. Joshua demonstrates impressive self-awareness, reflecting on his past achievements, understanding his current capabilities, and looking ahead to future growth. He shows a strong ability to recognise his surroundings and identify colours, highlighting the connection between language and perception in his development. His literacy skills have improved to the point where he can read simple sentences, such as "A cat has a mouse," and he can now retell stories he's read, showcasing his enhanced comprehension and expressive language skills. Furthermore, Joshua has become more engaged in conversations, skillfully taking turns and interacting with both peers and adults by listening carefully and responding appropriately. This progress has significantly improved his social interactions, making his communication more natural and inclusive.



Joshua during a speech session guided by Tabita Muindi, Therapist

Mary Immaculate Rehabilitation Centre

June 2026 was a busy month of activities providing growth, transformation, and community support at Mary Immaculate Rehabilitation Centre. It was marked by generous contributions in both kind and voluntary labour, enabling the Centre to improve its facilities while maintaining quality care for every child. The major infrastructure projects were the repurposing of the solar panels, the harvesting of tomatoes and the boys' involvement in celebrating the Day of the African Child. The staff's behind-the-scenes work continued while the boys attended classes, training, counselling, sports, music, family engagements and parenting initiatives.



Focus Group led by Justus Kabos

In June, the Centre received many visitors and supporters who showed their dedication to vulnerable children through generous donations and volunteering. Contributions included food, clothing, toiletries, educational supplies, and hygiene products. These donations greatly improved the children's well-being and helped lower operational costs, enabling more resources to be allocated to rehabilitation, education, and psychosocial support. We sincerely thank each donor, volunteer, and partner whose kindness continues to bring hope and positive impact to our children's lives.

The Centre continued its comprehensive child protection and rehabilitation efforts to restore children's emotional health and strengthen family ties. A total of 16 counselling sessions were held, including both individual and group formats. Preparation for reintegration progressed gradually to ensure positive outcomes for families and the boys by year-end. In June, 10 home visits and 6 home tracing exercises were completed, facilitating assessments of family readiness to receive their children. Counselling played a significant role in preparing everyone for successful reintegration. However, despite families showing commitment, factors like poverty, domestic violence, substance abuse, and lack of psychosocial support often prevent boys from returning home. The Centre's social worker made 4 visits to schools to check on the boys' academic progress and well-being. Currently, 33 boys are enrolled in Kenyan schools sponsored by generous donors. These boys came back to the Centre for the half-term break. Before returning to their schools, the boarding students participated in family interactions, mentorship, and counselling sessions at the Centre.

A parents' meeting brought together 22 parents and guardians to strengthen collaboration in supporting children's rehabilitation and education. The key discussion points covered post-reintegration roles, supporting children's education, family involvement, necessary documentation, and improving communication between families and the Centre. The session was very engaging and productive, with parents showing a better understanding of their role in promoting sustainable reintegration.

The music, sports, and cultural programs provide boys with a creative outlet. The Centre offers excellent opportunities for them to explore talents beyond academics. By promoting the development of music, arts, and creative skills, it nurtures children's abilities while fostering healing, confidence, creativity, and essential life skills. The boys attended lessons in piano, guitar, violin, and drums, which have resulted in improved concentration and memory, greater confidence during performances, enhanced teamwork, and healthy emotional expression. Many boys who joined with little or no musical experience can now confidently play simple pieces and perform before their peers.

A special treat for the boys was a visit from Collins, a former staff member who had returned from Ireland on holiday. Collins Adhiambo was sponsored by Team Paula for two years at the Centre, where he taught music to the boys and inspired many of them while nurturing their musical talents. The boys were eager to showcase their progress in their musical abilities to him.



In 2025, Team Paula sent a recording of Collins playing the violin to a friend at the Royal Irish Academy of Music (RIAM) at Trinity College, Dublin. Following this, he was invited to audition, and the academy was impressed with his talent. As a result, Collins was awarded a prestigious scholarship to study music at the Royal Irish Academy of Music. The reunion with some of the boys brought about great excitement.

Collins, teacher Charles and Ms Astrid with the music class.

Others participated in drawing, painting, and creative arts like beadwork, necklaces, mat making, bracelets and key holders, which enhanced creativity, self-expression, fine motor skills, patience and problem-solving abilities.



Tarbulance, Milton, Brian and Brivanovich.

The current group of carpentry students includes Willis Nelson, Duncan Lwangala, Keneth Sadi, William Ochieng, Ali Nassir, Walcot Mwangi, and Emmanuel Omuhango. They have recently completed their practical sessions, workshop safety training, theoretical coursework, trade mathematics, and technical drawing. At Grade 3 level, the curriculum consists of 10% theory and 90% practical work, emphasising hands-on skills. The students successfully crafted 21 wooden items, including stools, tables, and rabbit cages, and also performed fence repairs.



A significant milestone was reached with the harvest of ripe tomatoes. The boys were filled with pride when they saw what had happened to the little seeds they planted months ago. Now they see plump, red tomatoes! Each step of the process, from planting the tiny seeds to nurturing the plants along the way, culminates in a great sense of accomplishment.

Harvest tomatoes

Another sense of achievement is the rabbit project. The boys are developing practical farming skills, responsibility, teamwork, and a strong sense of care for animals. We started with 21 mature rabbits and 2 young rabbits. Unfortunately, a feral cat killed three mature rabbits. Despite this setback, the rabbit population still consists of 18 mature rabbits, 2 adolescent rabbits, and 4 newborn kits. One of the most encouraging aspects of this project is the boys' enthusiasm. Their enthusiasm for caring for the rabbits includes feeding, cleaning the hutches, monitoring their health, and ensuring their overall well-being. Through these daily responsibilities, they are learning discipline, commitment, and practical livestock management skills that will benefit them in the future.



The Centre repurposed some of the installed solar panels donated by Team Paula in 2020 to generate more consistent solar energy at the Centre. Due to technical challenges, the system could not consistently reach optimal output even though the Centre engaged experts in the field to resolve the issues. Repurposing some of the panels helped achieve reliable lighting, reduce long-term operational costs, support learning activities, and improve sustainability. The repositioning and electrical works were funded by the Vicariate of Rome. The expanded, reconfigured system now provides lighting in the dormitories, classrooms, offices, freezers, and common areas, as well as hot showers even during power blackouts.



Solar panel installation

Eleven boys proudly represented the Centre at Mahiga Primary School in Roysambu sub-county during the Day of the African Child celebrations. The event offered opportunities for learning, recreation, social interaction, cultural appreciation, and building confidence and a sense of belonging. Their participation emphasised every child's right to protection, education, and opportunities.



Duncan, teacher Terryanne, Samuel, Robert, Alex, Omar, Milton, Ronex, Elvis, Hassan and Turbulence

All the events in June were made possible by the generosity of our donors, volunteers, visitors, and partners. This month, we welcomed visitors from British Airways crew members, KOEI Africa, AOSK, and The Ascaber. We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the following individuals from those organisations for spending time with us: James Mansoor, Pirran Driver, Akifumi Watande, Sr. Lydia Malala, Sr. Hedwig, Joseph, Sr. Teresiah Njoroge, Julie Bartell, Carlea Gynn, Demi Silva, Freya, Echo Raggio, Millie Brooks, Elly Mokodir, Becky Amimo, Joshua Gire, Justus Kabos, Chrissie Brooks, Rose Snedker, and Astrid Lehnies.

Sponsorship Office

A key event this month was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Airtel Foundation and the Mukuru Promotion Centre (MPC). This agreement will provide support for 22 students each year over the next three years, helping more vulnerable children access quality education. The signing ceremony was attended by representatives from both organizations. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to promoting education and creating opportunities for students from disadvantaged backgrounds to continue their studies. For the past 10 years, Airtel has sponsored 20 students each year, and we are delighted that this partnership will extend for the next three years.



Managing Director of Airtel Networks, Mr Ashish Malhotra and Sr. Mary Killeen signing the Memorandum of Understanding.

The Sponsorship Office continued to prepare and send Term 1 student updates to donors. Significant effort was made to provide sponsors with current details about the students they support, including academic results and overall progress. Special focus was given to the newly selected Grade 10 students who recently joined the sponsorship program. Their profiles, academic reports, and appreciation letters were compiled and shared with their sponsors.

These activities will support the ongoing success of the sponsorship program and ensure that sponsored students receive the necessary assistance to continue their education.

Social & Health Services

Social Services

Your support continued to make a meaningful difference in the lives of vulnerable children and families across the Mukuru community in June. The impact of this work is reflected in our June Social and Health Services Department statistics. During the month 2,149 interventions were delivered across our education, health, rehabilitation, and community programs. Hundreds of vulnerable children received direct support, families accessed nutritional and medical assistance, and those requiring specialised services were successfully referred for further care.



Sick children and parents with food parcels

Education institutions continued to play a significant role in identifying and supporting vulnerable learners through counselling, home visits, medical referrals, nutritional support, safeguarding follow-ups, and school attendance monitoring. A total of 579 needy students and children received assistance, while 273 referrals were made to ensure that beneficiaries accessed appropriate services both within MPC and through partner institutions. The Social Services Department also strengthened child and family protection through 80 school absenteeism follow-ups, 93 home and institutional visits, 65 nutritional support interventions, and 23 pregnancy support packages. These interventions continue to strengthen family resilience and promote child wellbeing within the community.



Mentorship session at St Catherine's Middle School – Grade 9

Teenage mothers



A number of pupils from each of the 4 primary schools received new uniforms, jumpers, shoes and hygiene kits.



Some of the families lost everything when a fire went through the Hazina Estate just around the corner from MPC Head Office.



Aftermath of the Hazina fire

Healthcare and psychosocial support remained central to our mission. The Mary Immaculate Clinic (MIC) provided medical assistance to vulnerable clients, while counselling services supported dozens of individuals and families facing social and emotional challenges. Collaboration among our schools, clinic, rehabilitation centre, and social workers ensured beneficiaries received holistic, coordinated care.

One of the month's outstanding achievements was at Songa Mbele na Masomo Centre, where 509 therapy sessions were delivered to children with disabilities. This remarkable milestone reflects our ongoing commitment to helping every child reach their full potential through quality education, therapy, and family support.

The Mary Immaculate Rehabilitation Centre continued providing care and rehabilitation services to vulnerable boys, while safeguarding interventions, networking activities, and community outreach strengthened our partnerships and child protection systems. Every number presented in the accompanying statistics represents a life touched, a family supported, or a child given renewed hope.



Ken's father, uncle, Ken, and stepmother outside their house



Miguel Wambua

One of the social workers found a young boy, Miguel Wambua, living in harsh conditions on the streets and brought him to the Rehabilitation Centre. Over the coming weeks, we will learn more about his story, exploring his experiences and the journey that led him to the decision that life on the streets must be better, a pivotal moment in his life. When walking through the slums, the social workers come across some sad cases. It is very fortunate that he was discovered and accepted the invitation to go to the Rehab Centre while we try to identify him and his family.



St Michael's Ex-Convict Program Group

The St. Michael's Ex-Convicts Program group actively gathers to provide mutual support and encouragement, drawing strength from their shared experiences following incarceration. During their meetings, members openly discuss the challenges they face while reintegrating into society, offering advice, sharing personal stories, and fostering a strong sense of camaraderie. MPC serves as a vital lifeline, helping each individual navigate their journey towards rehabilitation and a brighter future.

June highlighted a crucial reality: in communities where daily uncertainty is common, reliable access to healthcare serves as one of the strongest sources of stability. Throughout the month, a total of 2,965 people, including 1,461 children, sought care at MIC. Behind each consultation was a mother prioritising her pregnancy through antenatal care, a child receiving timely treatment to prevent severe illness, adults managing chronic conditions like diabetes and hypertension, and families accessing essential outpatient and diagnostic services that facilitated timely clinical decisions. These figures represent more than just statistics; they illustrate a community that is increasingly able to seek care early, make informed health decisions, and prevent avoidable complications. As you read this report, we encourage you to look beyond the numbers and recognise the lasting value of sustained investment in community healthcare, building healthier families, strengthening resilience, and creating a future where quality care is accessible to everyone in Mukuru. Every seat in the waiting bay was taken up.



MIC Waiting Bay

June at a glance:

Service Area	June Total
👥 Total Patients Served	2,965
👶 Children Treated	1,461
🧪 Laboratory Tests Conducted	1,517
👶 Pediatric Laboratory Tests	774
👩 Antenatal Care Visits	256
💉 Pregnant Women Immunised	90
👶 Childhood Immunisations	119
👩 Ultrasound Scans	196
👩 Postnatal Care Visits	24

In June, maternal health continued to be a key focus, with 256 mothers attending antenatal clinics, 196 ultrasound scans facilitating early detection of pregnancy risks, 90 mothers receiving essential maternal vaccinations, and 24 mothers accessing postnatal care. In communities lacking specialised maternal services, timely antenatal visits and ultrasound screening offer vital reassurance and clinical support to safeguard both mother and infant.



Baby Liam at MCH



MUAC nutritional assessment.



Growth monitoring

Verah's experience from pregnancy to motherhood highlights this ongoing care. After receiving free antenatal services during her pregnancy, she now visits with her son, Liam Hemson, for routine immunisations, growth checks, and nutrition evaluations, showing how continuous access to quality healthcare promotes healthy development beyond childbirth. Their story demonstrates that safe motherhood is a continuous process that creates a foundation for healthier children, stronger families, and a resilient community.



Patients wait for laboratory services.

The laboratory services remained central to clinical decision-making. A total of 1,517 diagnostic tests were performed, of which 774 supported the care of children. Fast, accurate diagnosis enables clinicians to prescribe the right treatment, reduce unnecessary medication, and identify illnesses before they become more serious.



June marked the end of a successful dermatology campaign led by volunteer dermatologist Dr Omar Lopez from Spain. His visit helped build local clinical expertise that will benefit the community long after the campaign. The clinic team improved their skills in recognising, evaluating, and managing various scars from injuries, surgeries, burns, and chronic skin conditions. An important part of the session was discussing how visible scars can affect both children and adults emotionally, impacting confidence, social participation, and wellbeing. By involving clinicians and the social worker, patient care was addressed from both medical and psychosocial perspectives, ensuring treatment goes beyond just the physical wound. The session used practical, case-based learning with real clinical images from previous dermatology cases. This interactive approach made the lessons more applicable to everyday practice, boosting confidence and encouraging teamwork across disciplines.



Dr Omar CME presentation on scars

June also marked the end of the six-month service of our visiting pediatrician, Dr Xavi Bernabeu, whose dedication went well beyond just clinical consultations. During his time here, he became a trusted mentor, enhancing clinical practice through CMEs, emergency simulations, multidisciplinary discussions, and ongoing technical support. His willingness to share knowledge fostered an environment where nurses, clinical officers, pharmacists, laboratory staff, and other team members learned together, addressed challenges as a team, and gained confidence in handling complex pediatric cases. These daily interactions bolstered teamwork and improved the quality of care for children at the clinic. His contribution highlights the lasting impact of humanitarian volunteerism, not just by filling service gaps but by empowering health workers to provide better care consistently. To honour this exceptional journey, the clinic team held a farewell ceremony where colleagues shared reflections and a cake, generously provided by the Head Office, was offered as a token of appreciation for his dedication and leadership.



The greatest gift a volunteer specialist leaves behind is not only the patients they treat—but the professionals they inspire.

In June, MIC held 11 CME sessions to boost staff knowledge and clinical skills in key patient care areas. These sessions covered: Pediatrics: Cerebral palsy, lung ultrasound, pediatrics review, and quality improvement; Dermatology: Scar management, common newborn skin issues, pellagra, and case reviews; Emergency & Infectious Diseases: Shock simulation in dehydrated patients, Ebola, and cholera prevention and care; Mental Health & Psychosocial Care: Trauma-informed approaches and healthcare roles in supporting affected patients; Clinical Support Services: Pharmacy inventory tracking and expiry management; Chronic Disease Management: Asthma diagnosis and treatment.

These multidisciplinary trainings improved clinical skills, fostered teamwork, and underscored the clinic's dedication to safe, evidence-based, high-quality healthcare.



Staff attending CME session

Eve, CME presentation



MIC hosted a supportive supervision visit by the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Cihéb Kenya, emphasising ongoing efforts to enhance tuberculosis (TB) and respiratory healthcare. Key outcomes included plans to create a TB treatment follow-up register and to open a dedicated Asthma Clinic, aiming to improve long-term respiratory management. The team praised MIC for successfully identifying and linking 8 children with TB to treatment this year. To improve health information systems, the Centre for Health Solutions donated a desktop computer to support the electronic TB App TIBU, a digital TB case management system used in Kenya by the National Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Lung Disease Program (NTLD-P), which helps with reporting, data management, and timely submission of TB reports. Additionally, a dedicated TB screener is planned for deployment to enhance routine screening and early diagnosis.



Computer Donation from CHS

TIBU TB App



June marked a significant milestone with the installation of a solar power system, thanks to the generous support from the Vicarate of Rome. Solar power offers a reliable electricity source for the laboratory, pharmacy, vaccine cold chain, digital health records, and other critical clinic operations, guaranteeing continuous patient care. Powering all the equipment incurs a very high monthly cost. This will significantly impact the MIC's operations by improving the reliability of essential health services and ensuring patients receive safe, continuous care despite frequent power outages.



Engineers at work



Power storage backup



Installation of the solar panels

In June, a Spanish film crew from the ANTIESTÁTICO initiative, created by the Spanish ad agency TANGO, visited MIC to document life in Mukuru through the perspective of maternal and pediatric healthcare. The documentary was sponsored by the Pablo Horstmann Foundation. Instead of emphasising hardship, the film focused on a resilient community where families work to build lives, raise children, and proudly call Mukuru home despite daily struggles. It featured stories from mothers whose children recovered with prompt medical care, healthcare workers dedicated to the community,

and everyday scenes showing the resilience and dignity of Mukuru residents. This authentic portrayal highlights that donor support does more than provide medical care; it restores hope, safeguards childhood, supports motherhood, and helps communities flourish in areas of great need. The film amplified families' voices and showcased the importance of ongoing community-based healthcare to an international audience.



Susan narrates her baby's story



Filming at the village market



Beneficiary Emily's home



Voice behind maternal healthcare: ANC nurse Eve



Pediatric voice: from Claire clinician

Every consultation, lab test, healthy pregnancy, and trained healthcare worker contributes to strengthening the community health system. These achievements are interconnected and made possible through partnerships based on a shared mission and the belief that quality healthcare should be accessible to everyone. As community needs grow, so do the opportunities for meaningful impact. We are working to broaden access to essential healthcare, empower frontline health workers, and ensure that more children, mothers, and families receive the quality care they need, both now and in the future, which is only made possible by your generosity.

Announcements

The newsletter includes sections dedicated to each Department that summarise the events that occurred throughout the month. The Head Office supports these Departments in reaching their goals. Additionally, there are often other activities and events that take place that are not specifically listed under any

- MPC received a generous in-kind donation from Westlands, including clothing for various age groups, lighting lamps, household items, and toys. Such donations are vital in supporting the organisation's mission to improve beneficiaries' wellbeing by offering essential items that boost daily life and uphold dignity.



Donations received at the Head Office

- MPC welcomed Astrid Lehnies, a representative from Brothers and Sisters in Need, who visited the Head Office to conduct the annual project monitoring and evaluation exercise. Astrid visited various MPC Departments to gain a comprehensive understanding of their operations, activities, and achievements. She engaged with staff members, observed the rehabilitation Centre's program implementation, and reviewed the progress made across different projects. The visit provided an opportunity to showcase the organisation's work, discuss successes and challenges, and strengthen the partnership between MPC and Brothers and Sisters in Need through constructive feedback and shared learning.



MPC Development Officer, Mary Kanana and Ms Astrid Lehnies, Brothers and Sisters in Need

- MPC quarterly Board meeting was held.



MPC Board Meeting



Mukuru Promotion Centre

Empowerment Step by Step

Ministry of the Sisters of Mercy

Journeying over 40 Years with the Mukuru Community



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