

May Newsletter Vol 9 Issue No. 5 2024

Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends

Most of the demolitions had stopped by the end of May, bringing us great relief. However, about 20% of our students and clients were forcibly migrated, severely affecting our schools and centres. It was heartbreaking to see the businesses of vulnerable parents being demolished, predominantly since these businesses had been funded by grants from the Irish Embassy, Cheshire Disabilities Kenya, and others. Through these businesses, parents had improved their ability to earn a living and take care of their children, whether in school, at Songa Mbele na Masomo, or by bringing their son home from the Rehabilitation Centre, where he had been rescued from the streets due to inadequate food and care at home. Fortunately, thanks to various interventions, our Rehabilitation Centre and the building in Songa Mbele were not affected. We are still working to assist those who lost their homes and businesses, as they cannot move forward without a place to live or conduct business.

Finding an affordable place further away has been challenging for them, requiring deposits for rent, bonds, and the first month's rent. While donors have helped with household items and food, it has been difficult to convey the urgent need for emergency rent assistance so families can relocate to another location. This has presented a challenging decision for our management and social workers. Those still living in makeshift shelters made of cardboard and plastic need relocation assistance as the cold season has increased the number of pneumonia and bronchitis cases. Additionally, there has been a rise in water-borne diseases following the floods. Vulnerable adults and children need clean and secure shelter.

After the demolitions, there has been a rise in anger and violence. The demolition squads bulldozed the sides of buildings but left the owners to complete the demolition on their own. Now, gangs of youth are scavenging for electrical and other valuables in the partially demolished houses.

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Some of them have started breaking in and robbing the homes that are still standing in revenge for the demolition of their own homes. The insecurity is much higher than it was before the floods. Some cartels have built new recycling businesses where people's houses stood before, making people more angry that tycoons are enriching themselves. The people had moved peacefully as they were informed that it was necessary to avoid future floods. When the people see a new business on the river banks and overflowing into the river, they feel duped.

The school enrollment figures are unreliable because students are staying home to look after their belongings while their families try to relocate. Some are also settling into new homes. If the distance is too far to walk, it will take time to arrange transportation and money to pay for bus fares or motorbike transport, especially for the disabled. We are concerned about the growing anger of people due to the brutality and apparent unfairness of demolitions, as well as the plans for increased taxation of the ordinary worker. Government spending seems to be unchecked, while ordinary Kenyans bear the burden of paying. Despite our troubles, it is comforting to see normal activities continuing in our schools and centres. It is wonderful to hear the sounds of music from the Rehabilitation Centre and singing and dancing from the schools and centres. How uplifting that has been for me!

Team Pankaj, Whistle Foundation, Manos Unidas, and Pablo Hortsman Foundation, among others, have further strengthened and encouraged us through their visits, assistance at different centres, donations, and treats for children. They may never realize the impact their visits and help had on us during this time. We want to express our gratitude to all of you who support our daily work through your prayers, donations, and grants. We also thank those who assisted us during this difficult time. Our staff have worked diligently, some despite personal hardships and loss. We greatly appreciate their sacrifices and efforts.

May God bless all of you as we work together with the most vulnerable people.
Best wishes

Sr Mary Killeen
Director

Ongoing Demolitions Along the Ngong River

The Irish Ambassador to Kenya, Her Excellency Catherine Ingoldsby and her delegation visited Songa Mbele na Masomo to assess the situation due to the threat to bulldoze the new facility, the only one of its kind in the slum, for children living with disabilities. They also had a look at the dumping site that sits across from the MPC Head Office. The demolitions so far have impacted 29 parents whose children attend the Centre for children living with disabilities. All of them are struggling to find suitable accommodation. The structures should never have been constructed on riparian land. However, various permissions were granted to the people. Removing the buildings behind Songa Mbele's perimeter wall is necessary as it has caused other issues for the Centre.



Irish Ambassador and her delegation visit Songa Mbele



Songa Mbele Wall – destruction of houses on riparian land

The Rehabilitation Centre was in danger of losing its library, kitchen, greenhouses, boys' toilets, and part of the basketball court due to the Government's directive to demolish buildings within 30 meters of the Ngong River. Thankfully, the buildings were spared when the authorities measured from the middle of the river instead of from the edge of the riparian land.

However, the demolitions are causing chaos for many businesses and families.



The queues of hungry and desperate people at the Head Office continue to grow. We thank local and international donors who helped us organize food parcels.



E_{ducation}

P_{primary Schools}

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

Schools across Kenya re-opened two weeks after the holiday break on 13th May, due to the devastating floods as thousands of affected schools had to be repaired. One of the MPC sponsored schools, St. Elizabeth, was severely affected. The first day of opening was condensed in all MPC schools due to the ongoing demolition of slum houses. In contrast, other houses were swept away by floods. A few parents have relocated to safer parts of the slum, others have packed up and returned to their ancestral lands, and others have gone to other slum villages. An incredible story of endurance, resilience and desperation for thousands of people.

The demolition of houses continued in May, which has enormously impacted the stability of children's education. It was another crushing blow for parents who were not sure where to move to as they watched Nairobi County bulldozers destroy their homes. The children's books and other learning materials were damaged or stolen while trying to salvage items from the bulldozers. Needless to say, with such turmoil, the school enrolments have fluctuated.



People salvage household items after the demolitions as Massai Village

MPC Sponsored Primary School Enrolments as at 31st May 2024				
Primary School	Boys	Girls	Total	Change in Enrolments from February 2024
St. Catherine	716	687	1,403	+58
St. Bakhita	520	549	1,069	-36
St. Elizabeth	1098	1119	2,217	+123
Sancta Maria	701	707	1,408	-241
Total	3,035	3,062	6,097	-96

The crisis involving Junior School teachers has worsened, as they are demanding complete absorption by the Teachers Service Commission (TSC) due to being initially hired on a contract basis. The original agreement was for teachers to be on a one-year contract before being fully absorbed by the TSC and either redeployed to other schools or retained in their current schools. However, the government now requests that teachers extend their contracts for another 12 months. This development has sparked a heated debate between the TSC and Junior School teachers, leading to some teachers not reporting for duty when schools reopened.

The Grade 3 KNEC assessment tests for CBC pupils are currently taking place and will be finished by September. The subjects assessed include arts and crafts, music, agriculture, science and technology, social studies, physical and health education, and home science. Grades 4, 5, and 6 students take school-based assessments, which make up 40% of their overall evaluation. Additionally, Junior Secondary School (JSS) students must plant a vegetable patch and share the produce with the rest of the school. They are also tasked with creating a clean and healthy environment to contribute to a better world. However, this task has become more challenging due to the schools' limited ground space after the floods.



St Bakhita JSS Agriculture project work themed "Food security for self-sufficiency and Prosperity"

The Dishu Na County Feeding Program initiative continues to provide meals for over 200,000 children in public schools in Nairobi County at a subsidized cost of 5 shillings per meal per child, totaling 5 million KHS per week (€35,930). The Dishu Na County group visited MPC to enroll the children in the program. Parents would have to contribute 152,425 KHS each week (€1,100). However, this was not well received by parents, who explained that they could not contribute due to the floods and demolitions as they had lost their homes, household items, shoes, clothing and bedding. MPC's consistent feeding program by Team Pankaj has significantly improved school attendance, retention, and academic performance. The previous County-sponsored program needed to improve its efficiency and delivery. Thankfully, with donor support, MPC can now focus on children's learning rather than the economic aspects of the program.

The impact of the floods and the demolition of people's homes has been devastating, and we continue to hear many heartbreaking stories. The Ministry of Health donated sanitary towels to all schools within the city. Through one of its anonymous donors, MPC donated stationery, pencils, clay, erasers, and exercise books to primary schools and early childhood centres, as the schools lost their resources due to the floods. Another MPC donor donated tracksuits to all primary schools, which were presented to the social workers.



Primary and ECDE children received stationery items



Donated Tracksuits

MPC prioritizes students' well-being by ensuring comprehensive learning. Mary Immaculate Clinic recently organized a deworming program for all MPC-sponsored primary schools and ECDE Centres students.



Deworming exercise at St Elizabeth Primary School



St Bakhita Aflatuon Club learning more about social inclusion

The Aflatuon club met in May to discuss relevant topics, such as disabilities and the benefits of having an inclusive school at St. Bakhita. The discussion emphasized that everyone has unique gifts, and we all benefit from understanding and experiencing each person's gifts and talents.

The saying "if its flooded, forget" is so true. Hundreds of school students lost their shoes in the floods. Thanks to Taawun and Angel from the Welfare Education Trust, children from Sancta Maria Kayaaba received a new pair of school shoes.



Welfare Education Trust donated school shoes for children at Sancta Maria Kayaaba

St Michael's Secondary School

St. Michael's students returned to school after the government rescheduled the start of the term due to the devastating floods. However, not all students managed to return. The social worker is currently following up on the absent students.



While learning continued as usual, most of May focused on supporting the students who had the added stress of losing their homes due to demolition. Many local individuals and businesses have been mindful of others less fortunate by donating various materials and educational equipment. Munzer Kenya Ltd donated laboratory equipment to help students conduct the necessary science practicals.

Mr Birdi promised that the partnership with MPC would continue in to the future.

Eight new students from Form Two joined the Macheo Program, bringing the total number of St Michael's students to 22. The Strathmore University Macheo Program Committee selects students in



New Macheo Program Students

Form Two. They accompany them until Form Four and provide extra support for students. The students must commit to attending Saturday sessions throughout the year. All the previous beneficiaries have done well under the program. The new program coordinator, Rochelle Atanda, visited the students. Strathmore University has committed to helping the school by donating laboratory equipment necessary for physics and chemistry students to learn better through the practicals.

Following both floods and demolitions, the students have been significantly affected. St. Michael's has arranged for trained mentors to hold multiple sessions with the students to help them manage their stress levels caused by the ongoing trauma. Some students live in community halls, while others have moved in with relatives and friends. Unfortunately, many students had nowhere to go and have been sleeping outside since then. To provide further assistance, the school has grouped the students for better support from teachers and social workers.



United States International University (USIU) volunteer counsellor, Lydia Kemunto talks to the Form 2 students at St Michael's on 'Stress and Anxiety'.



St Michael's participants at the finish line

The Mater Misericordiae Hospital Heart Run is an annual event held in May to raise funds for children with heart diseases who cannot afford medical treatment. This year, the event took place at Ulinzi Sports Complex in Langata. St. Michael's School sent 20 students from each year group and 4 staff members to participate. There was a wonderful sense of support for others who are less fortunate, which is incredible given the students' own circumstances. Sr. Mary Kanyi from the Mercy Education Office provided lunch for the students.

The soccer team held a friendly with Zinduwa Football Club. The game gave St Michael's an opportunity to see how well the team is progressing. Both teams showed strong defensive skills, making it difficult for each other to score. Just before halftime, Zinduwa scored, and after halftime, both teams scored, making the result 2 – 1, with Zinduwa winning. St Michael's looks forward to a rematch in the future.



St Michael's Soccer Team



Form Two Parents and teachers meeting

In May, several meetings were held for both staff and parents. The Dean's meeting, which involved all schools in the Makadara sub-county, focused on the upcoming mock examinations and symposiums scheduled for July. The parents representatives of Form 2 students were chosen for the Parents Committee. The chosen representatives were Jedidah Mbithe, Florence Matinga, and Susan Musanga. They discussed various issues concerning the students, including academic performance, career choices, flood concerns, and the environmental program.

Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre

After the break, fewer students returned to school due to the floods and demolition at the Mukuru slums. The number of students has slowly increased but is still below the enrollment of 271 students. The floods resulted in widespread damage to homes and property, leading the government to order the demolition of structures within 30 meters of the Ngong River. Despite these challenges, the Mukuru community received significant support from various organizations, including Kenya Wines Agency Limited (KWAL) and Tamarind Hotel, to help the affected families.

KWAL, through the MPC social office, organized a major food drive. This initiative provided essential food provisions to 346 families, including 62 students from OLMVTC. Tamarind Hotel donated mattresses, blankets, and assorted goods. These contributions addressed the immediate need for shelter and warmth, emphasizing the importance of solidarity and community resilience during times of crisis.



OLMVTC students together with KWAL representative led by Sharon Okoth during Food drive day



Joseph Gacheru (Operation Director Tamarind Hotel) addresses the beneficiaries who were affected by the floods.



MPC beneficiaries being adressed

Team Tamarind Hotel handing over the donations to the beneficiaries who were affected by the floods.



OLMVTC sent 15 participants to the Mater Misericordiae Hospital Heart Run to support the fundraising efforts for poor children with heart diseases.



OLMVTC representatives who took part in Mater Heart Run



Sr Dorcas from MPC's Child Protection Office conducts a session with the Skills students.

May has been very disruptive for the students, who have essential needs to worry about. Their biggest issue now is their living situation. Social workers collaborate with other groups in the slums to identify various forms of support for them. Mentoring is one way we can engage the students.



Transformations

Songa Mbele na Masomo Children's Centre

The Centre has seen the unintended consequences of the floods and demolitions, as the number of children attending the programs has reduced by 25 due to families relocating to other areas. This has affected families' access to the Centre because of the distances, such as Jogoo Road, a few kilometers away. A few kilometres don't seem like much if you have private transport. Still, it may as well be 100 kilometres away for the Centre's families. The cost of buses to and from the Centre is prohibitive. Staff spent the month conducting follow-ups to reach those who had not been reported since the demolitions crisis started. Between the Red Cross and MPC 94 families received food parcels. The Centre's work continues to help children living with disabilities through special education and behaviour modification via physiotherapy, speech therapy, and occupational therapy.

Despite the reduced numbers, the children at the Centre continue to do their best in their activities. The teachers have observed improved writing skills, and the consistent therapy activities have shown improvements in balancing, walking, and speaking for the children. The children enjoy recreational activities, including singing, dancing, and playing games."

The Centre hosted the Whistle Foundation Team in May. The group has been visiting Songa for many years, taking the children on excursions. Since the new facility was built, the Whistle Foundation Team has organized Fun Days at the Center for the children. The children enjoy bouncy castles, finger painting, balloons, soft drinks, and cake during these events. These activities have helped boost their self-esteem, social skills, and emotional well-being, fostering a sense of accomplishment, inclusion, and belonging.



Whistle Foundation Team Fun Day



Bouncy Castle Time



Caroline Cullen exercises Rebecca Kidiagala



Peter, Jefferies Mbone and Brandon Onganga

Three children received new walking devices in May and have made great progress. The long corridors at Songa Mbele have significantly aided their exercises. However, in the slums, it is impossible to use the devices correctly due to the uneven and muddy pathways in the valley. Staff were assisted by 16 interns and volunteers ensuring the children's ability and capacity improved through one-on-one therapeutic exercises and personalized attention.



Esther Awino, Fabian Mutua and Rebeca Kidiagala

The social office conducted 14 home visits, offering more than just food and supplies to the families experiencing the effects of demolitions and floods. These visits provided friendship, support, and personal care to the families. The Centre also conducted staff training sessions sponsored by the Association of Persons with Disabilities Kenya (APDK) and presented by Wycliffe Wartanda. The training focused on managing children with Autism and classroom approaches.



Songa staff members during the training sessions



Cheshire Disabilities Services Kenya (CDSK) sponsored the financial and business training session for the 13 caregivers that focused on 'Charity from a Positive Outlook on Disability'. Parents also attended a training on 'Savings and Lending' session aimed at empowering them in managing their household incomes better.



Parent Support Group Training

For over 10 years, Songa has offered sign language training to children, siblings, parents, and the community. The training was held again in May, this time for three days and two hours, and it was open to anyone who would like to learn.

The networking within MPC allows children and parents to access services that are typically out of their reach. When it comes to health care, staff at the MPC institutions can take comfort in knowing that referrals can be made to the Clinic. In May, 6 children were able to receive some medical attention due to their circumstances and the consequences of the floods and demolitions.

MPC Rehabilitation Centre

May was a month of mixed fortunes. At first, the month promised to be filled with fun activities. However, the Centre had to deal with challenges such as torrential rains and demolition threats. On the brighter side, the Centre welcomed visits from Manos Unidas, AOSK, who organized a kids' fun day, and Team Whistle Foundation, who helped with repairs, maintenance, and fun activities. The boys also participated in the Mater Misericordiae Hospital Heart Run, completing the 10 km run.



Asmaa intern Teaching year 2 class under supervision of the class teachers

The academic program is a critical component of the boys' rehabilitation. The staff is committed to teaching the boys based on a Competency-Based Curriculum to help them improve in their weaker subjects. Special classes were held for the 3 carpentry boys who had never been to school and didn't know how to read or speak English. They have shown remarkable improvement in their reading and communication skills in English.

The other components of the boy's rehabilitation involve the psycho-social dimensions, where the boys receive counselling both individually and in groups. Much time was taken by the counsellors to prepare the boys for home tracing and to deal with possible post-home-tracing trauma.

The co-curricular activities provide many outlets for the boys to develop their unique characters through interactions with each other in team sports, environmental programs, looking after the chickens and rabbits as well as the general housekeeping tasks around the Centre.



Rugby team learning tactics from team whistle rugby player

The boys' appreciation of rugby is growing stronger as their understanding increases. Greystones Rugby Club player, Luke Murray visited the Centre with the Whistle Foundation Team and spent time giving the boys extra training drills and helping them identify tactics by analyzing a Leinster vs. Ulster match on television. The boys were not able to play any matches in May due to the floods, but they hope that the fixtures will be released soon.



Boys watch a Leinster rugby match

The rugby program at the Centre is made possible by Paula Cullen and her Team who support the salaries for both coaches, Deniche Ndinya rugby coach and Benta Auma Odero soccer coach. All the players of both codes continue to train and sharpen their skills.

Coach Kennedy has enrolled Samson Rioba, one of the boys, in the Silver Eagles Academy, increasing the number of talented footballers from the Rehabilitation Centre attending the academy to 3.



MIRC soccer team prior to the match



Trophy presentation to the winning team.



Meshack and Samuel entertain students at MIRC kids fun day

The music lessons and practices at the Reuben Centre were placed on hold because of safety concerns caused by the demolitions. The time saved in transporting the boys to Rueben meant they could spend time practicing with an audience at the Centre.

The art classes are very therapeutic for the boys. They can express their feelings by drawing, making bracelets and candles, crocheting mats, and using lots of color and symbolism. Sometimes, the pictures can help the counsellors see unexplained emotions and help the boys talk things out.



Art class



Charles and the carpentry boys fencing the MIRC gardens

The garden is doing great with its vegetables. However, the St. Catherine sheep occasionally destroy our crops. Teresa Heeran donated funds to build a semi-permanent fence around the gardens to keep the sheep out and enhance their visual appeal. The carpentry boys, under the supervision of their instructor, Mr. Charles, played a pivotal role in constructing the fence.

The Aflatoune agricultural club managed to harvest arrowroots and planted kales, spinach, onions, carrots in the garden. The chicken project is thriving and the hens keep laying eggs. The rabbit population continues to grow steadily with more bunnies on the way.

The Whistle Foundation Team visited the Centre in May, and between excursions, pizza nights and the repairs and maintenance program, everyone was kept very busy. The boys' excursion was at Stedmark Park, where they had a great time playing games, enjoying lunch, and swimming in the heated pool. The Team also donated and installed two energy-saving cookers to replace the very worn-out ones at the Centre. Energy-efficient cookers use sawdust, reducing the need for big pieces of wood. The kitchen also received a face-lift with a new coat of paint and new tiles.



Stedmark Park Slide



Pizza Time



Before the repairs



After the repairs



Before the repairs



After the repairs



St Catherine's Social Office receives donations from Whistle Foundation for the flood and demolition victims.



Caroline from Whistle Foundation teaches the boys how to mix paint as they renovated the kitchen



Maurice from Team Whistle teaches the carpentry boys how to tile floors and server



Whistle organized a sports day for pupils at Joy Slum School and invited the boys



Whistle Foundation Team and the Rehab Boys

One of the major donors for Hekima House, Spain's Manos Unidas, visited the Centre. The Manos Unidas delegation spent time preparing a video on the use of the facilities and interviewing the beneficiaries. The video will be aired in the Spanish summer.



Sr Mary and MIRC Management and Manos Unidas Team

The home tracing program typically takes place a few months after the boys have settled into the Centre, as it gives the staff time to identify stories and places. Most of the visits took place in May and were successful. This dramatically helps re-integrate the boys with their families after they graduate from the residential program. The families have expressed gratitude to MPC for the good work and for restoring hope in their lives.



Collins Kololi and his family in Bungoma

Home tracing in Kisumu and Western Counties



Andrew Bariu and his family in Isebania (near the Tanzania border)



Austin Odida and his parents in Kisumu

Rita, a member of the Whistle Foundation Team, stayed a little longer after her group returned to Ireland and spent time teaching the boys about good hygiene in their rooms. Rita also donated appropriate cleaning supplies and repaired a few holes and cracks in the dormitory floor and walls. The boys assisted with thoroughly cleaning the walls and repainted sections, including the bathroom doors.



Rita and some the Rehab boys

The boys participated in the Mater Misericordiae Hospital Heart Run held at the Ulinzi Sports Complex.



The Centre is grateful to Team Pankaj, Missionaries of Africa Brothers, Tribe of Light and Kristina Nwazota for the donations of fresh provisions.



Food Provisions



The Austrian intern, Katja donated goods and provided rents to families whose homes were destroyed by the demolitions.

The Centre was fortunate enough to be chosen by the Association of Sisterhoods Kenya (AOSK) to host a Kids' Fun Day for the children of Mukuru. Over 360 children from MPC primary schools and the community attended the event. The day was marked by activities such as a talk from the Child Protection Officer and the Catechist, who emphasized the role of children in families. They also taught the children about their rights and responsibilities. Additionally, the children participated in football, singing, and dancing competitions. Those who emerged victorious were rewarded with trophies and medals.



AOSK Presentation and Fun Day

Sponsorship Office

The aftermath of the floods and home demolitions remained in the headlines throughout May. These challenges had a significant impact on many of our beneficiaries causing widespread damage to infrastructure and displaced many families within the slums. Still, the support from our benefactors enabled MPC to quickly adjust our plans and minimize disruptions to learning. The expressions of gratitude and joy from parents and students are a powerful testament to the invaluable impact of the assistance they receive. Among the supported students, 173 enrolled in primary schools, 229 in secondary schools, 41 in vocational training, 41 at university, and 29 were special needs children, with a close parity of 52:48 ratio of males to females.

The Ex-Convicts empowerment program has led to remarkable transformations within the community. By providing counseling and input sessions, business support, and vocational training, the program has improved the ex-convicts' economic independence, reducing the probability of reoffending.



Program participants



Rosa serves a customer

Rose Otara, an Ex-convict was delighted to receive a business boost for her grocery kiosk.

The impact of donors' generosity has been clear, as shown by a significant increase in university sponsorships this year. Thanks to the continued support of our donors, a record number of students can now pursue higher education. This year, the number of university students sponsored rose remarkably from 16 to 41.



Mukuru Kayaaba

Several sponsored students missed school due to the chaos that unfolded, which forced them to relocate to temporary shelters. Social workers noted that children who witnessed their homes being destroyed experienced trauma, leading to poor concentration in class due to anxiety and fear. MPC has social workers at each of the learning institutions who will keep a close eye on those who are impacted severely.



Social & Health Services

Social Services

The Social & Health Services Department conducted over 3,300 interventions in response to floods and demolitions, leading to a domino effect that affected many community members. The largest number of interventions at any time in the 39 year history of MPC. The start of the second term was delayed by 2 weeks to ensure the safety of children nationwide. The floods caused significant damage, leaving families near the river traumatized as they witnessed the destruction of their homes and the loss of lives while trying to salvage their belongings.

Mukuru slum was heavily affected by the Nairobi River, which flows through the area. The demolitions have resulted in many families being displaced and left homeless. It has been difficult for them to relocate without any savings. Some families were compelled to move to rural areas, while others managed to find housing in other areas. However, many families could not move due to financial constraints and had their homes demolished. Consequently, these families were forced to sleep outside in the cold, with some still residing in empty structures. The ongoing demolitions have had a profoundly negative impact on the lives of these families, as many are struggling to recover and rebuild their lives after losing everything.



Hundreds of homes destroyed by the demolition in Mukuru Kayaaba

Thanks to the generous support from donors and well-wishers, MPC social services played a crucial role in providing relief aid to affected families. These families received food packages, hygiene items, bedding, and household items. Some of them also received assistance with house rent. The families expressed deep gratitude for the aid. Social workers in each school collaborated with the administration to ensure that students affected by the demolitions were able to return to school. They received the necessary support to help them settle back in. Unfortunately, the demolitions are still ongoing, which will lead to more families becoming homeless and destitute.



Needy families affected by demolition sleep at the abandoned railway hall

The heavy rains from March to May and then demolitions caused displacement for the residents of Mukuru, leaving them in urgent need of necessities such as food, shelter, and clothing. Thankfully, Team Pankaj, KWAL, and the Tamarind group were able to provide aid to the residents and students in Mukuru through MPC.



Mukuru residents receive mattresses and beddings from Team Pankaj



Other families received food parcels from KWAL

The Tamarind Hotel group, in a show of solidarity, visited MPC along with a group of journalists. These journalists were eager to shed light on the harsh reality faced by the Mukuru residents due to the demolitions. They pointed out the government's lack of compensation, a crucial issue that needs immediate attention.



Tamarind Hotel Team donate bedding and clothes to the flood victims



Hundreds of people from the community come to the MPC Head Office for some essential food parcels.



Sr Mary is interviewed by the local media on the impact of the demolitions

Since early 2024, DKA Austria consultant Mercy Chege has been scheduled to hold a training session for social workers at the Head Office. The training, which focused on Case Management and Basic Counselling skills, was a resounding success. Despite the Centre being in the middle of a crisis with demolitions all around and the social workers handling a massive number of interventions, the training played a pivotal role in improving the Department's efficiency and effectiveness, a testament to their collective efforts.



Mercy Chege from DKA training session



Parents affected with floods and demolitions receive food parcels courtesy of Kenya Wine Agencies Limited (KWAL)



Parents receive bedding, food parcels and household items at St. Catherine Social Office

The Health Minister, Hon. Nakhumicha S. Wafula (EGH), announced the conclusion of the nationwide doctors' strike after 56 days of intense negotiations. The end of the strike means that government healthcare facilities can once again offer complete services to the public. With the resumption of doctors, MIC expects that the number of new patients will slightly decrease, as people can now also access health services from government hospitals.

In May, MIC experienced a high influx of patients impacted by the ongoing demolition of houses constructed near rivers and on riparian lands. The number of patients treated in May were over 1,883 with 26% of patients in the under 5 category and 845 laboratory tests carried out. These demolitions were part of a government program to manage and minimize the impact of floods and prevent future disasters. The displacement caused by the demolitions led to numerous health problems among the affected residents as they are living “outside without shelter”, including respiratory issues, injuries from the demolition process, and an increase in waterborne diseases due to disrupted sanitation facilities.

The Clinic has noted a significant increase in pneumonia cases, from 88 to 181, representing a 105.7% increase. There was also a 4.5% rise in respiratory issues, with cases increasing from 490 to 512. Gastrointestinal cases grew substantially from 205 to 329, marking a 60.5% increase. The Clinic conducted deworming exercises at St Bakhita, St Michael's, OLMVTC, and St Elizabeth to promote children's health and well-being. These exercises were essential in preventing parasitic infections, which can significantly impact children's growth and development.

A Ministry of Health delegation visited the Clinic to discuss and follow up on the Ministry's programs, particularly those targeting children under five. The discussions focused on enhancing healthcare services for this vulnerable age group, emphasizing preventive measures and early intervention. The clinic staff provided insights and feedback on implementing these programs, ensuring that they were tailored to meet the community's specific needs.

The Clinic's unwavering response to the health impacts of the ongoing demolitions and its proactive deworming exercises in schools clearly demonstrate its commitment to addressing immediate and preventive healthcare needs. The visit from the Ministry of Health further underscores the Clinic's collaborative efforts to enhance healthcare services for young children, as well as its steadfast and unwavering commitment to improving their overall health and well-being.



Two representatives from the Pablo Hostman Foundation, originally from Spain, visited the Clinic and the Rehabilitation Centre to assess how they could partner with MPC.

Dr Ana Senagorta, President of Pablo Hostman Foundation and Mercedes Hernado with Clinic staff and Sr Mary.



Announcements

Activities outside the Departments

- ✚ Deputy Director of Unanima International and UN Representative, Liana Almony visited MPC and discussed homelessness in Mukuru catchment area.



Mary, Liana and Dinah

MPC will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2025. While there are several planned events throughout the year, the major event will be held on **Wednesday 21st May 2025** at **Sancta Maria Kayaaba Primary School**. **Keep the date!**

