

Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy

Kenyan Province

Trustees/Provincial Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 2022.

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Statement of Provincial Teams Responsibilities

The Provincial Leader and the Provincial Leadership team are required to prepare for each Financial Year financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Province and of the incoming resources and application of resources for that year. In preparing those financial statements, they are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that this basis applies

The Provincial leader and the Provincial Leadership Team are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Province and to enable them to ensure that the Financial Statements comply with statutory requirements. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and protection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved on behalf the Provincial Leadership team:

Signed and dated by Provincial and at least one other Team member

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Name of Charity: Sisters of Mercy
Kenyan Province

Charity trust number No: Not applicable

Address of Principal Office: Villa Maria
P.O Box 14188 – 00800
Waiyaki Way, Westlands,
Nairobi, Kenya

Provincial Leadership Team: Sr. Mary Wairimu Gitau
Sr. Mary Ngui
Sr. Theresia Njeri Waraga
Sr. Joyce Akeyo Oluoch

Provincial Treasurer: Sr. Pauline Nyambura Kingori

Independent Auditors: Code Associates

Principal Bankers: NCBA Bank
Westland’s Branch
Masaba Road
P.O. Box 44599 – 00100
Nairobi, Kenya

Investment Managers: Not yet appointed.

Financial Advisors: Code Associates

Solicitors: Chiuri Kirui & Rugo Advocate
P.O. Box 41499 – 00100
Nairobi
Njeri Wamithi & Co. Advocates
P.O Box 506 – 20300
Nyahururu

INTRODUCTION

Our History

The Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy is an international Roman Catholic Religious Congregation. The Sisters of Mercy owe their origin to Catherine McAuley who was born into an 18th Century Dublin (Ireland) where there was a great divide between a privileged minority who held power and influence and the vast majority who lived in very poor conditions. Catherine, influenced by her Christian faith used her inheritance to set up a Centre in Baggot Street, Dublin, Ireland from which she and her early companions responded to the needs of people who were suffering disadvantage. From the beginning they saw the necessity of providing basic education as a way of enabling people to improve their lot. They also responded to the need to improve healthcare in the city. In the years that followed their founding, the Sisters of Mercy focused on providing education and healthcare and consequently established and ran schools and hospitals.

History of the Sisters of Mercy in the Kenyan Province

The Sisters of Mercy came to Kenya in 1956 at the invitation of the then Archbishop of Nairobi, Dr. J.J. McCarthy, CSSP. The first sisters came from Dublin, Ireland. The invitation extended was to set up a hospital for Kenyans and for the education of the girl child. These set up ministries in Nairobi and started schools such as Huruma girls, Shauri Moyo school, Our Lady of Mercy primary school. They also started Mater Misericordia hospital.

This was before independence and these two areas needed the greatest focus then. These ministries - health and education – have remained a key focus since then and form a big part of the ministries of the Sisters of Mercy here in Kenya.

In the subsequent years, other sisters from other dioceses in Ireland came and founded ministries in Kenya. All these were from different independent Mercy units in Ireland.

- In 1964, Sisters from Elphin arrived and set up a hospital in Mutomo, Kitui diocese.
- In 1964, Sisters from Cork set up a school and a hospital in Eldama Ravine, Nakuru diocese.
- In 1973, Sisters from Kildare and Leighlin Mombasa in 1973.
- In 1977, sisters from Clonfert started a mission in Mutune in Machakos Diocese.
- In 1980, sisters from Killaloe set up a college in Nuu in Kitui Diocese.
- In 1983, sisters from Kerry started a school in Kipkelion, Kericho Diocese.
- In 1984, sisters from Cloyne started a training college in Chepareria, Kitale diocese.

It was not until 14th July 1994, that the different independent units in Ireland, and including South Africa, came together to form one unit, the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy.

However, the coming together of the Sisters of Mercy in Kenya had begun much earlier than 1994. The first gathering of the Sisters in Kenya took place in September 1978 when they came together to celebrate the *Bicentenary of the Birth of Catherine McAuley*, their Foundress. The next meeting, organized by Sr. Augustine Gleeson, was held at St. Mary's Pastoral Centre in Nakuru, in April 1984. With the increase in the number of professed Kenyan Sisters into the Dublin congregation, many of whom were directed there by the other Mercy groups, some felt that some of the Kenyan should return to minister with the sending group. Thus at the first Mercy Kenya meeting held in September 1985, it was proposed that a separate autonomous Mercy Congregation (AMK), should be set up in Kenya for those willing to join it. However, with the advent of the Mercy Ireland initiative towards Union in Ireland in the late 1980s, the idea of AMK was abandoned.

At the first Congregational Chapter in July 1994, Kenya was constituted a Vice-Province in the new Congregation. At Congregational Gathering 2000, Kenya became a Province. Sr. Hilary Finnegan was the first Provincial Leader in the Kenyan Province. Since then, the Province has continued to grow and develop and to increase in membership of sisters from Kenya.

Our Mission Today

In recent generations and as the Province in Kenya developed and changed from being mission area to a Kenyan Vice Province and now a Province, the work of the sisters became more varied. Today the sisters are involved in the following ministries:

Health ministries – Mater Misericordiae Hospital, Makadara dispensary, Our Lady of Lourdes Mutomo hospital, and Lokori health centre.

Education – the sisters began many schools in Nairobi including Our Lady of Mercy Shauri Muoyo, Our Lady of Mercy primary school, Our Lady of Mercy girls high school, Huruma girls secondary school. All these are now owned and run by the government of Kenya. The Mercy Sisters continue to act as the sponsors of these schools and are in the boards of management.

Mercy vocational training colleges have continued to thrive and are in Nguutani and Nuu in Kitui Diocese; Miguta in Nairobi Archdiocese and Chepareria in Kitale diocese. All these have continued to serve many young women.

HIV/Aids programs have been part of the important ministries of the sisters. These are found in Lokori, Mater Misericordiae, Lodwar. These offer affordable comprehensive care for people living with HIV/Aids.

Our Present Structure

In 1994, the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy (Ireland) was formed by the union of twenty seven autonomous Mercy Congregations, formerly of Ireland and South Africa. The Congregation is currently comprised of six Provinces and one Region – four in Ireland and two others in Kenya, and South Africa and the region in the United States. The purpose of this union was to ensure greater effectiveness in the mission of mercy.

Here in the Kenyan Province, the membership has continued to grow since the first Kenyan sisters joined the congregation in 1976. Formation is a big part of the life of the Province.

Formation process takes place for all the sisters in keeping with the requirement of the Catholic Church. The process begins with a two-year programme where the young women are introduced to religious life. They live in one of the convents and are guided by one sister who is generally in charge of the programme. Part of this programme includes attendance of classes and apostolic ministry. In the year under review, there are 2 postulants living in McAuley house here in Nairobi.

After that they go to the novitiate. This is a canonical requirement and lasts for two years. This is an intensive period of formation where courses in the novitiate and with other novices take place, prayer, retreats and apostolic works are done. Once completed, the novices take first vows. In the period under review, there were three novices. In the course of the year, two of them took first vows. At the end of the year, there was one novice. This formation program takes place in Nakuru.

After that begins another period of six to nine years of further formation. During this period, the sisters are involved in active ministry. Every three months they meet for further courses, retreats, days of reflections and inputs. Academic courses are also undertaken at this time. This culminates in taking perpetual profession. at this time, there are seven sisters at this stage of formation.

After this, formation continues but with less intensity. Yearly retreats, recollections, meetings, renewal programs and courses continue throughout the life of the sisters. Academic courses are also part of the formation program and continue for different sisters at different periods in their lives. The sisters who have already taken perpetual profession are 43.

Our Mercy Mission

“The mission of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy is to bear witness to the compassionate and merciful love of God. Our administration of temporal goods must express the Gospel call to justice charity and almsgiving.... We use these goods for our common life, for the various apostolates of mercy and for the needs of the Church especially the poor and deprived”. Constitutions 104 (1995)

Object of the Charity

The object of the Charity is:

- The advancement of religion
- The alleviation of poverty and the support of those in need spiritually as well as materially

The charity aims to support the religious and other charitable works carried out in the name of the Province and to care for the members of the Province throughout their lives.

We do this through the Activities and Ministries of the Province in the following areas:

1. Congregational living – the Advancement of religion
2. Healthcare and the Compassionate care of the Sick and those in need
3. Relief of Poverty, Promotion of education, Justice and other Charitable Activities
4. Archives. (Other)

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Nature of Governing Document

The governing instrument of the Kenyan Province is the *Constitutions of the Sisters of Mercy* which was adopted by the General Chapter of the Congregation in August 1994 and approved by the *Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life* (Rome) in April 1995. The Province is one of seven Provinces in the Congregation (Ireland) and is an unincorporated association.

The governance structure of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy involves a number of interconnected units: local, provincial and congregational. The nature of the authority in each unit is described in the Constitutions. The province is a unit of the Congregation having the personnel and other resources to support its life, mission and membership.

Method adopted for appointing Trustees (Provincial Leadership Team)

The Province is governed by the Provincial Leader and the Provincial Leadership Team who are elected every six years by members of the Province. Members of the Provincial leadership Team are chosen for their expertise and skills as well as their experience and knowledge of the Congregation, its nature and mission. The Provincial leadership Team are also the legal trustees of the Province are members of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy and as such their living and personal costs are borne by the Charity. They receive no remuneration for their services as Trustees.

In the period under review, the Province has a Pontifical Commissary appointed by the Vatican and who is the Province Leader and one of the trustees. She works with a team of three Mercy Sisters – they form the Province Leadership Team.

Organizational Structure and Decision-making

The Provincial Leader and members of the Provincial leadership team are the trustees of the Province. With regard to decision-making the trustees take responsibility for the overall running of the Province. The trustees meet on a regular basis to review developments with regard to the Province and its activities.

Every six years members are involved in a long meeting – called a Chapter- a period of reflection / prayer, evaluation and planning with a focus on the development of policies and effective use of resources in an assessment of current and future needs.

Trustees attend formal training courses on the duties of trustees and seek guidance and advice as necessary from their legal, investment and property advisors on the issues which arise in carrying out their duties.

In addition, the Trustees hope to establish a number of advisory groups including finance committee. The function of these groups, whose membership includes various professional advisors, is to advise the trustees on different aspects of Stewardship and the general management of the assets of the Province.

There are systems of accountability operational throughout the Province. Each year, the members meet for a formal gathering where the Province Leader presents a formal report on the activities and life of the province. The Province Treasurer also presents a formal report on the financial status of the province.

The Provincial Treasurer is appointed by the Provincial Leader with the consent of her team. The Provincial Treasurer administers the affairs of the Charity/Province under the direction of the Provincial Leader and her team. The majority of the income of the Province comes from the Members' salaries, stipends and pensions, from one ministry that is income generating, sale of property and income from investments and donations (e.g. Mission Cara, Solidarity Fund etc.) The salary, stipend and pension income is voluntarily donated to a common fund, administered through the Provincial Stewardship Office.

Collaboration and Partnership.

It is the policy of the Congregation to work in partnership and collaboration with their ministry colleagues, statutory and voluntary bodies, other religious congregations and parish and diocesan groups in serving the local and wider community. In some instances, members are employed by these organizations whilst in other cases they work as volunteers.

The Province is affiliated to the Association of Sisterhoods of Kenya and to Association of Consecrated Women in East and Central Africa. These are a support for the Religious Congregation which aims to bring a gospel-based voice in relating to the issues of our world. An annual fee is contributed by each participating group.

Risk Management.

The Province leadership team is aware that running the Province in Kenya has its own risks. They have committed to come up with a comprehensive risk register in 2022 after doing a comprehensive risk assessment and this will be updated every year. Monitoring of the risks will be carried out twice a year. This will be done with the help of the Finance committee.

The Province Leadership Team identified the following as being the principal risks to which the province is exposed:

1. Governance and Management risks - the lack of skills training for sisters working or heading some of the projects leaves the province at risk; poor working relationships between the sisters and the staff.
2. Operational risks include - difficulties with staff and lack of a disaster recovery policy.
3. Financial risks - lack of proper understanding of financial policies in some of the projects; going beyond the budgetary allocations in some projects; poor accounting of monies received for some of the projects.
4. Laws, external regulations and environment risks – these include the court cases that the province has; exposure to lack of compliance in some of the ministries that the sisters are working in; changes in the laws of Kenya especially with regard to labor laws, taxation laws.

Risk Register Template

In line with the requirement for the Trustees/ Province Leadership Team to undertake a risk assessment and report on it in their annual report, the trustees have looked at the risks that the Province faces and have reviewed the measures already in place, or needing to be put in place to deal with them.

The Trustees believe that by ensuring existence of controls over key financial systems, by monitoring reserve levels, by taking regular professional advice, by having in place appropriate insurances, and by examining the operational and business risks faced by the Charity/Province, they have established effective systems and procedures to mitigate those risks. The systems operate at local and provincial level.

The Trustees/PLT have identified four areas where risks may occur:

- Governance and Management
- Operational
- Financial
- Laws, Regulations, External and Environment.

Governance and Management risks are named as the possibility of lack of decisive direction; and whether the skills and training of the members and staff are adequate' and whether the good use of its resources is optimum.

Operational looks at the risks inherent in the Charity's activities including the risk of any Members being engaged in inappropriate activities; possible unsuitability of buildings, poor maintenance and poor health & safety; shortcomings in the services provided; difficulties with staff; and lack of a disaster recovery policy.

Financial risks include those arising as a result of poor budgetary control, inappropriate spending, poor accounting and inappropriate investment policies.

Laws, regulations external and environment looks at the effects of government policies, the consequences of non-compliance with the laws and regulations and poor risk assessment.

Having assessed the major risks to which the Province is exposed, the Trustees believe that they have established effective systems to mitigate those risks.

Policies

List the Policies in 2016 Policy Book:

1. Dignity and Respect
2. Health and Wellbeing
3. Anti-bullying
4. Mediation
5. Ecological responsibility
6. Pastoral Ministry
7. Volunteers
8. Mercy Ministries and Projects- Leadership, Management and Succession Planning
9. Fundraising
10. Whistleblowing
11. Sisters in Congregational Posts
12. Sisters in Mission outside Province of origin
13. Team to Team handover

2017 Policy Book:

1. Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons
2. Anti-fraud/Anti-corruption Policy
3. Care and Accommodation
4. Patrimony Policy

Any other relevant Congregational Policies

Provincial policies.

The Province Leadership Team/Trustees in collaboration with the Congregational Leadership Team ensures that policies and good practice guidelines are developed, circulated and implemented and that these are regularly evaluated and updated. The Trustees/PLT have taken steps to ensure that the Province is fully compliant with all legislative requirements.

Since the mid 1990's the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy has had a Safeguarding Policy in place, it has been reviewed regularly. The policy aims to encourage adequate awareness and best practice among all members of the Congregation, and those working for them, to ensure that all children and vulnerable adults are safeguarded from abuse of any kind. The Province is committed to a culture of safeguarding and to ensuring compliance with best practice in this area. The Trustees/PLT are proactive in complying with civil and ecclesiastical requirements for safeguarding in the (State/Country). The Trustees/PLT review annually the implementation of its Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.

The province has a professional Human Resource Co-Ordinator. Her work includes the provision of information and the monitoring of compliance with employment legislation, development and updating staff handbooks, staff policies, employment of new staff, advising on staff issues, ensuring that the province is in compliance with all the labour laws of Kenya..

Property

“For the sake of our mercy mission, the congregation and each province has the right to acquire and possess, to administer and alienate property, temporal goods and revenues according to the norms of universal law and these constitutions, with due respect for civil law” **(Cons 119 1995)**

“We value the resources of the earth as gifts of God and use them in a spirit of stewardship ... In the spirit of religious poverty we seek to have a simple lifestyle and to balance concern for our future with support and compassion for poor and needy people” **(Cons 118 1995)**

We are committed to a lifestyle reflecting the fact that all our possessions are held in trust for the mission of the Congregation. As property trustees we aim to promote the mission, addressing our own needs and those of the wider community.

The relevant professional advice is taken into account in the areas of leases and agreements, protected structures, planning, health and safety legislation, acquisition, refurbishment and disposal of property and all legally binding issues and transactions.

Public Benefit

The Province Leadership Team/Trustees consider that the activities and achievements of the province illustrate that the aims of the Congregation are carried out for public benefit.

The beneficiaries are people in KENYA, in Kitui, Nairobi, Kitale, Nakuru, Lodwar Dioceses without distinction on grounds of age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, nationality, ethnic

identity, political or religious opinion. Public benefit is delivered through religious activities, financial and other aid, education and provision of health especially to the underprivileged people of Kenya.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

SECTION A: Congregational Living – Advancement of Religion

SECTION B: Health care & Compassionate Care of the Sick

SECTION C: Relief of Poverty, Promotion of Education, Justice and other Charitable Activities

SECTION D: Archives.

SECTION E: Future Plans & Objectives.

SECTION F: Finances.

Section A: Congregational Living – Advancement of Religion

- As the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, Kenyan Province is a religious Congregation the advancement of Religion is of prime importance to the Trustees.
- The Trustees continue to assess the ministries in the Province and to search for better ways of carrying out these ministries in today's world.
- The work in this area is mainly carried out through the local parishes where the Sisters reside and actively participate and interact with the Parish Faith Community. Through their living and praying the Sisters support people in their daily needs. They are committed to daily personal prayer as well as to a pattern of communal prayer suited to their local communities

Faith development.

Formation.

- The province has some young sisters in formation. These include: two postulants, two novices and seven in temporary profession. These sisters attend courses organized for their different stages. These include- theology, human development, spirituality and prayer.
- The trustees are committed to providing quality formation for all in initial formation since they understand that it is the backbone of the congregation and the church at large.
- The trustees have also invested a lot in ongoing formation of the sisters who are already in perpetual profession. These have been provided with meetings which help them to reflect on thematic topics of interest for their age (such as ageing gracefully – workshop held in September 2022); some sisters have gone for sabbatical/renewal programs such as in St. Anselm in Rome, Loreto House in Dublin, John Paul II program. All these are aimed at helping the sisters further reflect on their lives and vocation journey and renew them for ministry.

Mercy associates.

The province has an active group of Mercy Associates especially in Nuu, Mutomo and Nairobi areas. These have regular meetings facilitated by sisters of mercy, yearly recollection days where they also renew their commitment.

Membership.

Those members of the Province who earn salaries, stipends or receive pensions donate them to the Province and therefore have no independent means of support.

Many also give their services free in various ministries and continue to do so well beyond retirement age.

The work of the Province Leadership Team/Trustees includes both the upkeep and up-skilling and retraining of members of the Province so that they are able to continue in their service to the Public. The care of the sisters includes also their spiritual needs and so yearly retreats are made available to every sister in the province.

Section B: Health Care & Compassionate Care of the Sick

“Catherine McAuley generated in her Sisters a deep concern and compassionate care for the sick and the dying. This concern engages us in the compassionate care of the sick, manifesting to them Christ’s healing love”. (Constitutions Par 43)

Today over 180 years later, wellbeing activities, healthcare, care of the dying and the bereaved still engage many of the members of the Charity. Health and wellbeing is about a way of living and being that enables us to live life to the full. It is at the heart of Mercy Life and ministry.

The Sisters of Mercy Kenyan Province Ministries in Healthcare services forms one of the founding works from 1831. Its initiative is the promotion of suitable and affordable healthcare services to the people of Kenya with special emphasis to the very poor in society. They run hospitals, health Clinics, home based healthcare services and offer Comprehensive Care Clinics for HIV management. These healthcare facilities operate on annually budgeted activities which are financed by the Sisters of Mercy Kenya Province and the partnering donors. Today, the Sisters of Mercy’s committed work in society through their healthcare facilities are demonstrated in the following listed ways and areas:

1. Mater Misericordiae Hospital (Year 1962) South B, Nairobi

This Mission Hospital has since its inception continued to deliver timely and compassionate general health care services to all patients, at the highest possible standards without discrimination. It does this through the provision of qualified staff, the most appropriate equipment and staff training programs. In line with its mission to serve the underprivileged and improve the health of the community, the hospital has three charity healthcare programs: The Mater Cardiac Program, the Mater Comprehensive Care (MCCC) and the Sexual Gender Based Violence program. It has a training center under the College of Surgeons of East Central &

South Africa (COSECSA) whose innovative training for surgeons, seeks to improve access to surgery for the rural population.

Mater hospital is most known for the Mater Heart Run, an annual fund-raising event conducted in various Counties in Kenya to raise awareness and support the treatment of children with heart conditions. The hospital's fully-fledged Catherine McAuley Nursing School offers general nursing training and has endeavored to train thousands of nurses who have greatly benefitted from the health education with many of them graduating with distinctions and credits.

The year 2022 had the following significant highlights:

- Mater Hospital celebrated 60 years of track record growth in quality services and human resources since its establishment in 1962. This was celebrated during the Mercy Day Feast which marked the 195th anniversary of Catherine McAuley's legacy of compassionate care. During this very special event, there was the blessing of the following hospital projects: The Central Sterile Supply Department (CSSD), The Lourdel Pediatric ward, CT scan room and the new lift. These are all implemented projects that further attests its commitment at enhancing the smooth running and efficient service delivery in the healthcare industry.

The Catherine McAuley School of Nursing also celebrated its 50th Anniversary on Mercy Day as well as the 13th graduation ceremony of the scholars. In its 50 years, more than 3,535 nurses have graduated of these, 1,546 midwives found employment in Europe and in the USA and 131 were International students. During this 13th graduation, a total of 164 golden graduands received Higher Diplomas/diploma certificates in either Critical Care Nursing, Nephrology Nursing and Perioperative Nursing.

- The Mater Heart Run event was successfully held on 11th June 2022 in eleven (11) counties across Kenya. Through this program that began 20 years ago, over 3,000 heart procedures have been performed courtesy of the generous support from well-wishers.



His Grace Archbishop Phillip Ayolo flagging off the Mater heart Run in Nairobi, 2022.

2. Mater Comprehensive Care Clinic (Year 2006), located in South B-Nairobi

The Mater Comprehensive Care Clinic (MCCC) which was opened in response to the overwhelming burden of the HIV epidemic, continues to provide comprehensive HIV management & treatment, nutritional support and training programs to the people of the Mukuru slums and the surrounding area. 90% of this Clinic's clients are residents of the Mukuru slums. Services at this clinic are free, however there was introduction of very minimal fee charges for adults and children whose proceeds are put into a trust fund to cover laboratory costs for the clinic's clients. The Clinic has a strong community network system formed of volunteers, aimed at providing much needed services in the community.

2022 was a major transition year for this Clinic that underwent several significant changes as highlighted below.

- The completion of the 5-year PEPFAR sub-award through CHAK (1st April 2017 to 29th September 2022) and the beginning of a 5-year sub-award through Coptic Hope Centre (30th September 2022 to 29th September 2027) with a signed Memorandum of Understanding. The Coptic Hope Centre have been supportive in the transition process and were able to provide mentorship to the Clinic. With the new implementing partner, the portfolio of Linkage officers ceased to exist and they were recruited under new terms of engagement where they joined mentors on a one-year contractual basis. The tracing for the defaulters and linking clients have increased which is positive for the programme with better results yielded that is still ongoing. There is optimism that the new partnership will provide opportunities for growth for the Mater Comprehensive Care Clinic and its beneficiaries.
- The MCCC was recognised as one of the best sites nationally in the provision of paediatric and adolescent HIV care. As a result of this, a cross-learning visit was held on 19th September, 2022 by a team made up of local and international Center for Disease Control (CDC) staff in addition to representatives from regional Ministries of Health, including South Sudan, Botswana, Rwanda, Kenya and USA.
- The Hilton fund grant came to an end on 31st August 2022. This grant contributed to the provision of antenatal and postnatal care to HIV positive women and their children. A monitoring visit was carried out on 26th August, 2022 by Paul Healy (Trocaire Somalia country Director) who was the project monitor, and a project report was forwarded to the Hilton fund. The process of re-application is ongoing to secure funds for this endeavour.
- In November 2022, there was a change in Program Coordinator personnel after resignation of the former coordinator and a new coordinator took over on an Acting Capacity.
- During the world Aids day and 16 days of activism, the Clinic managed to organize an outreach to Fuata Nyayo Slums – Kanu grounds targeting Adolescents and young persons for screening and testing for HIV/Aids, TB, Prep and PEP eligibility, Gender Based Violence. There were important health talks on behavior change and importance of cervical cancer screening during a successful two days' workshop.

- The Misesan Cara and Solidarity funds that supported the Women and Youth Arise Project for livelihoods was closed out on 25th February 2022. 600 beneficiaries were trained in work readiness, entrepreneurship skills and financial literacy. All the 70 students who were sponsored in TVET institutions successfully graduated. The main TVET institutions the Clinic partnered with were Mukuru Promotional Centre, Our lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, South B and Marianist Technical Institute.
- Food insecurity and acute malnutrition was well managed during the year.
- The Embassy of Ireland project for creation and furnishing a safe space for children and adolescents was closed out in February 2022. Funds received from Heather Cronk and the International School of Kenya were used for the expansion of this space. This space has attracted more clients to just walk in to the facility, express themselves freely without feeling judged or without the thought of apprehension being in their minds. This space was constructed in consideration of the needs and interests of children and adolescents and allows for interaction with counsellors and social workers. The young people have requested this safe space be expanded to be inclusive of all services, including clinical consultation and dispensing of medication.
- A successful 9-week male empowerment program was held for gender violence prevention. A total of 30 men held meetings with facilitators and were taken through manuals. This program was a result of a focused group discussion (FGD) held with the male support group, in regard to gender violence. The emerging issues as contributors to violence among the men were frustration, difficulty processing negative emotions and self-esteem/insecurity issues.
- One of the most remarkable events at the Clinic was that the paediatric age group between 0-19years was able to achieve viral suppression of 97% considering the current WHO target is 95%. This was made possible through the youth friendly services and a Support group. There had been ongoing updates training on the new HIV guidelines that was organised by Coptic Hope Centre which also sensitized all the Clinic staff.

3. Makadara Mercy Sisters Dispensary (Year 1958), Nairobi

This dispensary continues facilitating the very poor people of Nairobi Eastland's area by providing both preventive and curative health services. The Comprehensive Care Clinic provides free outpatient HIV/AIDS care in partnership currently with COPTIC Hospital making it accessible to a majority of the patients.

The primary focus during the year 2022 was to expand the services offered. It began a process that would see it move from a level two to a level three dispensary as was recommended by the regulating medical board. Owing to space limitation, it also began projecting towards constructing a new block to decongest the existing premise that would house several additional crucial clinical services (Diabetic, Hypertension, Gynecology and Paediatric) and made an application for the necessary assessments to be carried out. Its goal is to start offering inpatient services that would meet the long-term objective which is affordable health care services to the low-income earners of Nairobi. This is also mirrored to the implementation of maternity

services under the NHIF Linda Mama Cover that will also necessitate the purchasing of an ambulance.

- In readiness for the rolling out of maternity services, an office room was extended for use as the maternity ward. The Solidarity funding facilitated the procurement of all essential maternity ward equipment and items.
- During the year 2022, the contract with Christian Health Association Kenya (CIAK) ended in October after 10 years of funding support. COPTIC Hope Centre came on board as the new donor partners in September 2022 and signed a 5 year contract. Their funding will cover staff salaries and all the activities (such as defaulter tracing, Community Health Volunteers, Sexual Gender Based Violence programs, all related HIV programs and capacity building trainings).
- This dispensary procured a fully automated bio-chemistry machine as well as an electrolyte machine for the laboratory department- both investments in quality equipment. These greatly helped on time management, increased the volumes of tests carried out and also enhanced delivery of more accurate results leading to accurate diagnosis made. They also enabled the facility have walk-in patients from neighboring facilities who do not have the same equipment. Pending is the procurement of an x-ray machine.
- A total of 42,750 patients made use of the dispensary's medical services during the year 2022.

4. Lokori Primary Health Care Program (Year 1994) in Turkana, Lodwar Diocese.

This program has been faithful to its role of Mercy in alleviating pain and suffering among the poor and sick inhabitants of Turkana East-Diocese of Lodwar. It provides integrated services to the catchment population which includes the settled, the semi-settled and the nomadic populations of the area. Healthcare services include HIV counselling and testing, maternal care, and prevention of mother to child care. It also serves the most remote villages through outreach work in its 7 stations.

In 2022, the fundamental focus was the program's continued efforts in reaching out to the materially poor and sick especially in those far to reach and remote villages of the Clinic's outreach mobile stations. In line with this, it initiated a process strategizing on increasing the outreaches from the current 7 to 14 stations. However, during the year's severe draught period, World Concern International and the Kenya Red Cross Organizations took over 2 of this program's outreach stations in order to better strengthen its existing mission until September 2023. A total of 1,861 outpatients received treatment and 87 babies were born in the maternity ward.

- During the month of December, the long-awaited National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF – Government Fund) accreditation was approved and the program is now contracted to offer services such as maternity, Edu-Afya Insurance Scheme and Out Patients and be able to access NHIF Cover packages. This public funded health scheme will ensure that pregnant women and infants have access to quality and affordable

health services. It will be accessed by all in the targeted population on the basis of need and not ability to pay. They began the ongoing process of mass registration in all villages.

- Lokori Fresh Bakery-Turkana Delight has been a very successful project integrated in the “Fight the Status Quo Initiatives” as an effort to improve household economic potential, especially for Clients on HIV Care and treatment. Its revenues greatly facilitated its operational costs, supported some clients and the Clinic for medical commodities. It has allowed the bakery’s projection towards expanding the working space, purchase a bigger oven (3 deck) and a cake mixer to increase production and expand the catchment area.

Lokori
Green
Initiative’s
Green
house



Turkana Delight
Bakery packaging

- Lokori Green Initiative was also successful in creating a better ecosystem. Over 1,000 trees were planted both within the facility and in the local community’s households. Its green farm grows local fruits and vegetables (melons, passions, guavas, papaya, pumpkins, green, red and yellow peppers, maize, millet, green grams, spinach, kales, cow peas and a variety of traditional green vegetables. These are sold locally as well as shared among beneficiaries for food.
- “Lokori Dream” brought together vulnerable children (especially those who have great potential) over the school holidays for mentorship programmes. This gave them guidance and encouragements since they were easily prone to fall into bad company and risky behaviours.
- Granny Love and the Feeding Programme was a very crucial activity during the draught spell. Its combined feeding programme guaranteed the much needed food provision (assorted food packages) to the severely and moderately malnourished children under five years of age, the generally hungry population but more specifically, the frail and elderly grannies who appeared neglected.
- The Alcoholic Anonymous Support Group– Recovery Group was an important program that continued to run weekly for individuals struggling with unhealthy alcohol consumption. Majority of them are on ART who have alcohol related ART non-adherence but it remains an open forum even for care givers and any other person interested.
- SILC – Table Bank for Savings, Loans and Borrowing.

This group increased to 8 groups of 29 members each who meet every Saturday morning for their savings and borrowing.

All these initiatives were aimed at “Fighting the Status Quo”, awakening beneficiaries and households from a state of dependency to being participants in their own liberation from poverty. A total of 308 men and women were direct beneficiaries of all the aforementioned projects.

5. Lodwar Comprehensive Care Clinic -Turkana (Year 2005)

The Lodwar Comprehensive Care Clinic provides support supervision care for clients living with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, home based care for the bedridden, prevention of mother to child care, immunization of antenatal mothers within the location and in its twelve outreach stations spread into the remote areas of Turkana. There is also a feeding and education support program to the vulnerable members and orphaned children. This healthcare project has over the years, made tremendous gains for the people of Turkana. Through its Income Generating Activity (IGA) program facilitated by the Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) initiative, many of the clients have been empowered by starting small businesses for self-sustenance.

- It launched a new **ART site** at Kokulei Dispensary. This facility is under the Missionary Community of St. Paul the Apostle and has 29 clients. It has greatly facilitated clients who previously had to trek 64 kilometres in a day to access ART services.
- A total of 151 HIV Exposed Infants (HEI) graduated at St. Patrick dispensary in Kanamkemer. This cohort was comprised of June, 2018- May, 2021. 10 babies seroconverted translating to 6.6% positivity rate. This is way above the World Health Organization threshold of below 2% and is attributed to alcoholism and poor adherence to treatment.
- The poor were well taken care of in the year; a total of 40 aged poor people benefitted from the feeding program during the year’s severest draught. There was also provision of feeding the orphaned and vulnerable children as well as settling all their tuition fees. Treatment support was also given to guardians of these orphans.
- 13 Children and Adolescents Living with HIV (CALHIV) got the nutritional support and were all successfully virally suppressed.
- During the year, visits were made to prisoners supplying them with basic commodities like bathing soap, toilet papers and milk for the babies. There were a total of 2,545 inmates visited in the year comprised of 1,895 males, 75 females and 17 children.
- Staff capacity building training was conducted for ‘care of carers’, 32 Health Testing Service (HTS) counselors and others seconded to the Diocese of Lodwar by the county government for de-briefing /support supervision during counselling sessions.
- Client capacity building was also held through the Income Generating Activity (IGA). A total of six (6) new Savings and Internal Lending Communities groups were formed; three (3) in Lokori PHC, one (1) **KMH**, one (1) in St. Monica dispensary and the last at Nakwamoru Health center. These are important psychosocial support groups where

clients join with the view of growing themselves economically and also receiving both emotional and psychological support from their peers.

6. The Mary Immaculate Clinic (Year 1991), South B, Nairobi

This Homebased Health Care Clinic is open to all residents of the Mukuru Villages. It was established in response of the rising need for a suitable programme for the many street children who wander and live on the streets of the adjacent industrial area. Services range from first-aid, clinical treatments, mother /child wellness, prenatal and antenatal, cervical cancer screening, tuberculosis therapy, HIV/AIDS, volunteer counselling tests (VCT), nutritional projects, laboratory to pharmaceutical services and it is the most affordable Clinic in the area.

- During the year 2022, the Mary Immaculate Clinic (MIC) treated a total of 17,214 patients with an increase in the number of laboratory tests conducted. There was an overall increase in the number of female patients being from 53% to 59% whilst the male patients decreased in number from 47% to 41%.
- The Clinic carried out various health promotional activities in the community and schools with the help of donors. The programs included: ‘Support for Good Health’, ‘Deworming Program’, TB sensitizations’, and ‘Medical Assessments’ for students.
- Grants received allowed the Clinic to procure additional medical equipment to enhance modern triaging and patient observations. They also enabled further professional development of staff. There were also donations of essential items for smooth delivery of services at the Clinic from a number of generous individuals and local medical companies.
- The Clinic’s laboratory was renovated to meet the new standards for registration with Kenya Medical Laboratory Technicians and Technologists Board.

7. Our Lady of Lourdes Mutomo Mission Hospital (Year 1962) Kitui County, Kitui Diocese.

This hospital has continued in 58 years to serve as a referral hospital of its own right for the district health facilities offering preventive and curative treatment. Its Comprehensive Care Clinic established in 2006 under the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) application provides management on HIV and AIDS. The catchment population served by this hospital is over 200,000.

In the year 2022, through the provision of healthcare services at the hospital, the following were reached:

Outpatients	Clients living with HIV	In Patients
37,228.00	1,156.00	2,807.00

- Launch of the CT Scan in February 2022. This enabled access to CT Scanning and reduced the number of referrals for this service.



- Our Lady of Lourdes Mutomo College of Health Sciences held its 1st graduation ceremony. This event took place in July 2022 and opened doors to many more College admissions. 35 nursing students graduated comprised of 21 with Diploma in Nursing, 9 with Certificate in Perioperative Theater Technology and 5 Certificate in Health Records and IT.



- The Association of the Sisterhoods of Kenya (AOSK) celebrated their 60th anniversary, they gave funding to this Hospital which greatly facilitated the carrying out of both hospital and outreach activities that resulted to 8,039 clients being reached. It also facilitated health education, nutritional assessments, capacity building trainings and screening for non-communicable diseases.

Section C: Relief of Poverty, Promotion of Education, Justice and other Charitable Activities

The Sisters of Mercy Kenyan Province look at education as an empowerment tool in capacity building by the enhancement of Technical and Vocational Training and Education. They have established different education institutions which are all concentrated in areas of greatest need. This has been facilitated in order to challenge the socio-economic inequalities and enable the vulnerable sections of society towards the goal of self-reliance. With the rise of unemployment amongst youth and graduates, vocational training has become a vital avenue through which young adults can acquire marketable skills that will enable them to obtain employment or start up income generating opportunities. The Sisters of Mercy have hence put a lot of efforts and emphasis on entrepreneurship skills training especially for women and girls as demonstrated below in their existing learning institutions. Mentorship talks, individual and group guidance and counseling sessions take place throughout the learning period.

Sixteen sisters are engaged in full time education ministries in Kenya spread out in different dioceses. Numbers in each category are - in pre – primary and primary education (5), secondary education (8) and tertiary education (3).

This ministry is supported by the Education Office which is run by the Province. The aim of this office to assist the school heads/principals in the realization of formation of the young people. This office organizes programmes for principals and teachers, helping to form them in the Catholic faith so that they in turn can reach out to the students. The office organizes workshops for the youth in schools and parishes.

At the same time, there are five sisters involved in full time ministry in the vocational training colleges and technical colleges. The vocational training colleges help the young people who are unable to proceed to secondary schools; they help to equip them with the necessary skills needed to become financially stable as adults. In this way, they also help to alleviate poverty. All learning institutions are registered by the relevant governing bodies and they all operate on annually prepared budgets financed by the Province and donors. Good governance has ensured annual audits are carried out to ensure accountability and transparency is maintained throughout the ministry program’s financial year on all the accounting systems in place.

Promotion of Education (teaching, lecturing) in all its forms. This is done in the following ministries:

1. Mukuru Promotion Centre – has five schools – (4 primary schools; 1 high school)
2. Mercy Technical Training College/Mercy Learning Centre-Lokori
3. Mercy Vocational Training Centre & Our Lady of Mercy College, Chepareria
4. St. Michael’s Nursery School, Chepareria
5. Sisters of Mercy Commercial College, Miguta
6. Mercy Commercial Vocational Training Centre, Nguutani
7. Nuu Vocational Training Centre

Mukuru Promotion Centre, Mukuru Slums Nairobi (Year 1985)

The Mukuru Promotion Centre (MPC) is a beacon of hope for the people of Mukuru Informal Settlement whose livelihoods depend on the support and services offered. It offers holistic and sustainable education, health, and empowerment programmes that addresses the basic needs of the most vulnerable groups in the community.

Primary and Secondary Schools

- The 4 Mukuru primary schools had a total of 5,837 enrolments in 2022 with 126 teachers and 32 support staff. There was a steady increase of children from Mukuru slums attending one of the 4 MPC Primary Schools. The overall gender enrolments were 53% girls and 47% boys. There were a total of 748 registered candidates (Class 8) who sat the final examinations; results indicated that 46% candidates were eligible to enroll in National or Extra County Secondary Schools while 54% candidates were eligible in Vocational Training Institutions. The schools had 4 pupils who had achieved 390 marks and above.

- All MPC primary schools were successful in the assessments carried out by the Ministry of Education on the infrastructural capacities to operate Junior Secondary Schools and the facilitation both the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) and Kenya Primary School Education Assessment (KPSEA) examinations.
- The school Feeding Program whose major supporter remains to be Team Pankaj, helped keep the children in school, as most of them depend on the school meals due to the ongoing challenging economic times.
- Donations of educational resources, learning materials, mentoring, motivational talks, counselling and guidance, safeguarding and child protection awareness activities were presented throughout the year, which greatly facilitated the children's smooth learning experience.

St. Michael's High School, Mukuru.

St. Michael's continues to be one of the few community secondary day school in the Mukuru slums which has endeavored to use its networks to support the students succeed at school.

- The school enrolment for the year 2022 was of a total of 468 students with a gender ratio of 54% male and 46% female. There were 4 streams instead of the normal 3 terms being a carryover from the impact of a 10-month school closure that was brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- A total of 204 candidates sat the National Examinations (KCSE). There was an outstanding achievement from a Form 1 student who submitted an essay in a Kiswahili Newspaper Composition competition and emerged 8th in the Nairobi region comprised of high- ranking private schools.

Our Lady of Mercy Vocational Training Centre (Year 1993), Mukuru.

This training Centre was established out of a need to provide a number of skill programs enabling future employment. It has a Computer laboratory, Hairdressing salon, Catering classroom, Restaurant for practicals and a Dressmaking classroom. Students continue to be supported in their quest for technical skills in different fields that can help them in their future careers and also in life.

In 2022, focus was placed on making further required developments to this training institution, as part of the Strategic Plan (2021-2027) to ensure that relevant courses were offered and to increase the overall enrolments.

- The new Therapy Block building (pictured below) was completed to assist the youths with disabilities to have their own learning area for them to grow at their own appropriate pace.



- There was also the refurbishment of the catering restaurant, computer laboratory and wheelchair accessibility.

Songa Mbele Na Masomo Children Centre (Year 1985), Mukuru.

This facility which was completed in June 2021 was officially opened in July 2022 by the Irish Ambassador, Fionnuala Quinlan with hundreds of parents and children gracing the event.



The Centre continued to provide support for parents whose children live with disabilities. The Centre has 4 units to cater for the different levels of abilities from age 3 to 16 years while the older teenagers are referred to the Vocational Training Centre Program. The principal focus for the year was to improve on the intervention strategies and assistance with suitable learning materials for every child. In 2022, The Kenya Institute of Special Education carried out various assessments on the children to assist the teachers and carers on the best methods for each child.

- The enrolments at this Centre increased in 2022 to a total of 84 with a major increase of the number of therapy sessions which improved the achievements for many of the children.
- The National Council for Persons with Disability assessed 109 children to ascertain the correct diagnoses for each child to enable parents to receive the Government's monthly allowance.
- The health checks, medical referrals and therapy sessions were a priority throughout 2022 including capacity building programs for parents to gain increase knowledge of the different disabilities.
- The facilities at the Centre have developed during the year with the biggest change being with therapeutic treatments. The therapy room carries out many fine motor skill exercises, the sensory room assist children who require other forms of stimulation, the sensory garden provides further delight for the senses and the speech room helps individual children with language pronunciation and communication.
- The number of children who can now walk independently, crawl, feed themselves and do other daily living activities are great milestone achievements largely due to the consistent number of therapy sessions as well as the exercises completed at home by the parents.

Mary Immaculate Rehabilitation Centre for Former Street Boys (Year 1995), Mukuru.

The Rehabilitation program for former Street Boys achieved favorable outcomes due to the holistic program for more than 90 boys in 2022. This was attributed to the engagement of other intelligences such as interpersonal, intrapersonal, spiritual, musical, visual, physical and psychological dimensions.

- 61 boys were admitted to the Centre and 34 boys successfully completed the residential program. At the end of the program, the boys were either reintegrated with family, received sponsorship for further education or obtained an industrial attachment.
- The Centre conducted 49 home searches and home visits to identify and confirm the boys' stories. The parents / guardians participated in 5 family days at the Centre including 2 Graduation ceremonies due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The Centre received upgrades to some of its facilities that were facilitated by the generosity of overseas supporters and donors. A new security fence adjacent to the main road was constructed to offer maximum protection to the children. The number of local supporters who provided huge amounts of fresh food provisions each week grew in 2022.
- Several overseas donors and visitors returned to continue their support for the boys and the Centre greatly attracted and impressed by the overall reputation of the Centre as a place of development, goodness and success.
- A strategic 'Business start-up' for parents was introduced in 2022 to help the parents and boys reunite. The Centre identified 10 families with entrepreneurial ability who were needy and 7 of them succeeded well.
- The Centre was committed to raise awareness about Climate Change and how the boys could actively participate in reducing emissions where possible.

Mercy Learning Centre, Lokori (Year 2003)

Mercy Learning Centre has been a very successful alternative provider for Basic Education. It has endeavored to provide informal education through literacy and numeracy to Nursery children, the shepherd boys and girls at night. Education of the local people is still very low in this region and women are the most disadvantaged amongst this pastoral community. Students through this program have successfully progressed to formal education in the local schools within the region.

- During the year 2022, a process was initiated to single out its major programs (Nursery Section, Adult Centre and Vocational Training Centre) under the institution's umbrella and hence obtain registration certificates for each; Lokori Mercy Centre, Adult Education Centre and the Vocational Training Centre. In line with this, an application was made to TVETA that would license the Vocational Centre as an examining Centre for trade tests; students had to travel to Chepareria to sit for their NITA examinations. Various stakeholders were engaged for a proactive involvement to facilitate the Centre further reach out to the illiterate community members in Lokori.

- The student population was of 212 learners comprised of 172 pupils, 28 in Adult Education and 12 Vocational trainees.
- Mary's Meals Feeding Programme was a saving grace and a life line for these tender children during the severe draught experienced during the year. They continued to receive a cup of porridge and a hearty lunch meal. These meals ensured retention in the learners during the academic year.
- Women who were enrolled in the Vocational Training program successfully tailored uniforms for 11 schools. Most upon course completion procured sewing machines and are successfully operating their businesses.
- There was the introduction of a pilot Hairdressing course program to expand the skills trainings provided. This is geared towards further strengthening the income-generating capabilities of unemployed women by enhancing their access to technical skills training, financial, life and literacy skills for improved livelihoods.

Mercy Vocational Training Centre/ Our Lady Vocational College Chepareria (Year 2000)

This was a transition year for both institutions that saw positive changes. Under the new leadership of Sr. Joyce Oluoch, segregation of duties was streamlined to polish efficacy of service delivery, internal controls of best practices were also strengthened to give proper accountability. The focal area was to ensure both institutions function better in a positive culture.

- The student population by the end of the year was 165 students including 4 who were physically disabled. Students obtained outstanding performance results for both the Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) and National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) examinations.
- Our Lady of Mercy College signed a Memorandum of Understanding with KCB Bank's Charitable Foundation for a period of five years. They are the second partners after Safaricom Foundation, as a tuition fee support system for very needy students seeking to transform their lives. A total of 24 students were selected as beneficiaries from various course programs offered in the College.
- There was a 1-week TVETA Capacity Building Training attended by the Deputy Principal and one Tutor. The training was on Internal Quality Assurance targeted on improving and sustaining quality as a priority of TVET policies.
- In order to maximize the overall efficient service delivery, there were a total of 4 newly employed staff employees.
- The institution is on record for transforming lives within and out of the County. This is the reason it initiated the alumni project for the young adults aimed at giving them a sustainable and persistent approach towards income generating projects of their choice through enhancing team work and smart business to meet the market demands.

- Both institutions have endeavored to increase the Income Generating Activities to reach a self-sustainable level. Its implementation of various activities has been an ongoing process with improvements made constantly to better address challenges. Catering and Multipurpose Hall hiring activities have remained the most crucial highest source of generating extra revenues to the institutions. This is attributed to the quality service in terms of preparing meals, facilitated by the Food and Beverage students that meet the customers' expectations.

St. Michael's Nursery School (Year 1996), Chepareria

Established 26 years ago, this nursery school offers the Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) to its learners. This school continues to be recognized in West Pokot County as one of the most well managed and organized private pre-school. It was among the first to adopt the CBC curriculum in the county earning its position of being a benchmarking center in the county.

- During the year 2022, it had 92 learners comprised of 43 girls and 49 boys with four (4) teachers and two (2) members of the support staff.
- On the 24th November 2022, the nursery school held a graduation ceremony for the 2022 cohorts. This colorful event began with Holy Mass and later Sr. Joyce Oluoch the Ministry Manager of the Mercy Vocational training Centre together with the Advisory Committee members presided over the ceremony. A total of 48 pupils were awarded their certificates of completing the ECDE level of education and prizes for this milestone achievement. They will now transition to Grade 1 at the St. Michael's Primary School.
- There are massive infrastructural developments (interior and exterior) scheduled to be undertaken in 2023 as influenced by the full day program. This will guarantee appropriate physical structures, quality equipment and materials conducive for learning.

Sisters of Mercy Commercial College, Miguta (Year 1969)

For the past 53 years, this institution has endeavored to train students in secretarial course which has remained its dominant program, and successfully empowered them. Many have found employment in key government offices and in private institutions.

- The board members embarked on a process of rebranding the College to accommodate the introduction of technical courses (such as electrical, plumbing, welding and construction) to equip trainees with life skills for work readiness. These are targeted to boost the enrolments by reaching more community members, gender inclusion.
- A student sponsorship programme was introduced to support the needy but very bright students. 5 students were beneficiaries of this initiative upon a thorough profiling selection process. Also, 17 students benefited from the County Government student bursaries. All these finance support platforms have helped alleviate the financial constraints families are faced with and guaranteed the student's course completion.

- Capacity building training-The Principal undertook a one (1) year advanced Diploma in Technical Education at KTTC.

Mercy Commercial Vocational Training Centre, Nguutani (Year 1988)

This renowned training Centre in Nguutani has continued providing students from the marginalized Kitui region with the necessary life skills training. Students exiting have always found employment both within and outside the County.

- The institution's new Principal is Mrs Fransisca Wambua who had been on an acting capacity and previously a Deputy Principal for 6 years.
- The board members have continued to be very instrumental and are working towards expanding this institution through the introduction of diploma courses.
- Within the capacity building training provision, two teachers completed a one (1) year Diploma training program at the Kenya Teachers Trainers College. They gained skills on the methods used to train learners, how to better handle weak and fast learners and also acquired experience on how to offer students Guidance and Counselling.
- In 2022, the institution started a feeding programme for the learners. This helped in retaining the students, reduced absenteeism, improved performance as a result of daily attendance and importantly, the health of the students also improved as compared to when there was no feeding programme. This program is fully supported by the Province.
- The infrastructural developments fully financed by the Province included the construction of an ablution block (with 10 bathrooms and 11 toilets with 1 being for persons living with disability). A complete renovation of the dormitory block was done which can now fully accommodate 104 students. There is also a separate dormitory block reserved only for the newly enrolled students.

Nuu Vocational Training Centre (Year 1981)

This vocational institution has for the past 41 years served the Nuu community by empowering them towards development and making the community self-reliant. The main aim of the College continues to be the provision of skills within and outside Kitui.

- Infrastructural development is a major component of this institution's strategic plan. During the year 2022, the construction and successful completion of a new one- storey dormitory block, a modern kitchen as well as repairs to some of the existing structures, all led to the institution's massive transformation. These are all geared towards enhancing and creating better learning/work environments and effective service delivery. The dormitory which has a capacity of accommodating 200 students is an important marketing tool to attract more students from the larger Kitui region.

- There was a developed approach of introducing short courses that match students to the employment needs of the ever -changing economy. This is in the strive to continue offering sustainable hands- on skills training beneficial to the community. Such courses include Community Development and Food & Beverage. A pilot program of the Food & Beverage will be introduced in 2023.



- In line with offering quality training and services, there were two new staff who were employed (holders of diploma and degree certificates); an accountant and a tutor for dressmaking and tailoring courses. The recruitment and selection was carried out by the Ministry Support Office at the Province.
In line with this, it will also introduce another examining body (KNEC) to add onto the existing body NITA. This will give students an opportunity to choose career courses.
- The institution held its first ever graduation which took place on 23rd March 2022. This event saw a total of 54 graduands consisting of students from class of 2019 to 2022.

Mercy Education Office (Year 2013)

- A transition year for this office with the new Director, Sr Mary Kanyi who began her tenure. She visited all schools, got acquainted and receiving the newly appointed Boards of Management for each primary school. The office activities which had been planned in partnership with various stakeholders were undertaken as follows:
 - Moral Formation & Dignity of Life

A total of 184 students were taken through various topics to explore their self- awareness. 53 boys from Mary Immaculate boys' Rehabilitation Centre greatly benefited from the character development program on human dignity which cemented what they learn in school yielding positive impacts. There was also a proactive Youth Workshop Seminar that saw a participation of 100 young students aged 13-24 years who were encouraged never to fear going through pain as long as it was necessary as well as building their self-awareness with its components.

- Art of Leadership and Skills training

The main objective was to meet the needs of the school student prefects as they navigated different roles of leadership in their schools'. 12 primary schools participated with a total of 70 students while the secondary school section had 5 schools with a participation of 120 students. The Archdiocese of Nairobi Catholic Education Day was celebrated on 3rd September. The theme was "Catholic Education: formation of people through participation and communication in the mission of evangelization for a synodal church". Several Mercy-associated schools, both

primary and secondary were present for the occasion and they played an active role in mass animation. They also scooped various awards in different areas of excellence.

- Faith Formation, spirituality & Mercy Charism

The Feast of Our Lady of Mercy, the Patron of the Sisters of Mercy was celebrated on 1st October 2022 to suit the various school calendars. A total of 800 participants from all the Mercy schools (made up of 50 students and 5 teachers each) attended the occasion held at St. Catherine Primary School and enjoyed the various keynote presentations and a hearty meal together.

- Child Protection/Safeguarding & Advocacy against Human Trafficking

To commemorate the Day of the African Child, this office paid a special visit to Songa Mbele Na Masomo Children Centre. They interacted with the children at different levels based on their capabilities and honored them with various gift provisions.

A successful meeting was held with the Nairobi Child Protection Team to strengthen partnerships and networking platforms of child protection professionals within the children sector. They sought to find better solutions to child abuse cases, building the capacity of members on child protection and good practices in case management.

A Child Protection and Safeguarding Workshop was held in Githunguri targeting the teachers. This was facilitated by the Kenyan Province Safeguarding/Human Resource Coordinator raising awareness of child protection within the context of preventing and responding to violence, exploitation, and abuse against children as well as what is expected of the teachers who are on the frontline to safeguard them.

- Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation/ Environment

In collaboration with Franciscan Family Association and Laudato Si Movement Africa, the Season for Creation was launched; it brings together the entire Christian community worldwide to pray and take action for the care of the environment.

The office was also in collaboration with The Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Laudato Si Movement, and JPIC Franciscans Africa for screening the Premiere of the film “**The Letter**” in Africa. More than 600 participants from different Faiths and schools in a Conference that turned out to be global due to the launching of the new Film from the Vatican the Letter. The Film became a good tool to engage the various stakeholders on issues of climate justice in Kenya and globally.

Other Activities that are hoped to support the Province.

Our Lady of Cheperur Production Unit (2022)

This Production Unit which was set up by the Sisters of Mercy officially commenced its garment making activities in mid -July 2022. It began with an initial workforce of 2 tailors, 1 knitter and 2 volunteers that grew to 50 staff members by the end of December 2022. The

recruitment process for the selection of professional staff members was facilitated and carried out by the Ministry Support Office at the Kenyan Province.

Its operating business concept seeks to establish it as a retail and wholesale unit. This unit is keen on adopting value adding processes which consider quality, time, price, viability and sustainability to achieve its objectives. It seeks to be an income generating project of Our Lady of Mercy College and Sisters of Mercy Ministries. The unit also targets on offering employment to professionals while investing in local women and youth talents and enriching their skills for improved livelihoods.

The working capital and the procurement of high -quality industrial machines were all facilitated by the Province.

Our Lady of Mercy Bakers, Miguta (Year 2016)

This income generating project has been in operation for the past 6 years. It is a whole sale business selling bakery products to food retailers and institutions, The Mater Misericordiae Hospital being one of its main client.

With a workforce of 8 qualified staff members, this bakery has continued to bake assorted baking products that include: bread, cakes, mandazi, pasties such as tea- scones, buns, doughnuts, muffins, madeira, samosas. During the year 2022, fresh bread was the largest and most-important product category of this bakery that continued to fuel its revenue growth.

Mercy Ecological Farm, Kanjai (Year 2018)

This is yet another sustainability project of the Sisters of Mercy aimed at supporting their ministries. The farming project began in 2018 on both the Kianjogu coffee farm and Kanjai farm each occupying 2 acres of terrain land and has been developed as the central food system for the Province. It has a farm manager who oversees the general running of the farming activities.

The coffee farm has 1,200 coffee trees whose coffee cherries are harvested and supplied to a local Coffee board.

Horticulture and animal husbandry have been the key activities on the Kanjai farm. Hass avocado investment was also made and the farm has 239 avocado trees which can yield 1,000 fruits per tree in a year.

The aim of these farms is to provide another income to the Province and to the ministries.

Section D: Archives.

The province has continued to maintain the archives at Villa Maria and has appointed one sister who is responsible for this.

Section E: Future Plans & Objectives:

The Provincial Leader and team will continue to give attention to their governance responsibilities as Trustees in the Province.

The Province will continue to support those projects in the province that are helping the very poor and have no ability to sustain themselves such as Lokori primary health care clinic and Mater comprehensive care unit.

The leadership team will continue to invest in the formation of the newer members as well as organize ongoing formation programs for the older members.

Section F. Financial Review.

Audit report for the Kenya Province for 2022 as well as the Programs accounts will accompany this report.