

TUMAINI

NEWS LETTER

Steps of Hope - One Story at a Time

7th Edition APRIL 2026



**EMPOWERING EVERY CHILD:
PDO AND PARTNERS CHAMPION
DISABILITY INCLUSION AT
NAIROBI CONFERENCE**

The Provincial Development Office of the Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco (Daughters of Mary Help of Christians) shares with you the Seventh edition of TUMAINI; A monthly newsletter full of stories of HOPE.

Be inspired and informed.

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COMMUNITIES LEARNING TO FARM, EARN, AND GROW TOGETHER THROUGH AGRICULTURE PROJECT.

Between 7th and 17th April 2026, the Provincial Development Office (PDO) conducted a series of practical training sessions on agricultural entrepreneurship and livestock production across project locations in the Marsabit, Makuyu, Embu, and Nairobi zones. Over the two (2) weeks, the PDO team reached 396 farmers, bringing together men, women, and youth from eight (8) different communities around a shared goal: helping them move beyond subsistence farming and begin viewing agriculture as a pathway to long-term self-reliance.

The training came at a critical moment in the life of the Agriculture Project. Over the past year, farmers have been actively engaged in crop production, kitchen gardening, poultry keeping, and small livestock management. However, one of the key questions that consistently emerged from the communities was how to sustain these gains beyond the period of donor support.

These sessions, therefore, focused not only on production but also on helping farmers understand agriculture as an enterprise—one that requires planning, record-keeping, market awareness, and collective action.

Across the four zones, the PDO staff strengthened beneficiaries' skills and knowledge on how to establish and manage Saving Internal Lending Communities (SILC).



Farmers from Dagoretti and Mutuini pose for a group photo with the PDO team after a successful training at Mother Ersilia Catholic School, Nairobi



Farmers in Makuyu engaging in lively group discussions during a practical teamwork activity



Dagoretti Farm Progress 2



Farmers in the drylands of North Horr practically demonstrate how SILC groups operate and conduct their meetings, as fellow participants follow keenly and learn from the hands-on session



Farmers at Embu Mission actively participating in an ongoing training session focused on strengthening agricultural skills and building sustainable livelihoods

This approach promotes group-based savings and access to small loans to support farm needs such as purchasing seedlings, fertilizers, and pesticides. Farmers were encouraged to embrace savings as a means of sustaining their farming practices even after the project ends. Through SILC groups, they can also foster teamwork, share ideas, reflect on opportunities, and collectively address emerging challenges in their farming activities, while improving their financial stability.

The training also explored potential agricultural enterprises that can sustain farming activities, generate income, and provide balanced diets for families. Among these, kitchen gardening emerged as the most encouraged income-generating activity due to its accessibility and immediate benefits to households.

What stood out most during the training period was the energy and determination of the farmers themselves. From the dry lands of Marsabit to the more productive zones of Embu and Makuyu, participants were highly engaged, asked practical questions, and shared experiences from their own farms. In Nairobi, farmers reflected on how even small spaces can be transformed into productive areas through kitchen gardening and organized group initiatives.

As the PDO looks ahead to the completion of this project, these trainings mark an important step in preparing communities for sustainability. The goal is not only to support farmers in increasing production, but also to empower them to work collaboratively, think entrepreneurially, and build livelihoods that can stand on their own. The knowledge gained through these trainings goes beyond agriculture—it plants seeds of confidence, cooperation, and long-term resilience.



Harvest from the desert.



Water melon in the desert

“Agriculture is the greatest and fundamentally the most important of our industries. The cities are but the branches of the tree of national life, the roots of which go deeply into the land. We all flourish or decline with the farmer.”
~Bernard~

EMERGENCY PROJECT

IMPLEMENTATION IN MARSABIT COUNTY



Food Distribution in North Horr



Food distribution in Karare

The Provincial Development Office (PDO) is implementing an emergency project **“Upholding the Right to Health, Safe Water, and Nutrition through Emergency Drought Relief in Marsabit County”**, a short-term program in Marsabit County, aimed at supporting the neediest children, women, and men, especially those most affected by drought.

The project, which focuses on the distribution of safe drinking water and food, has restored hope among underprivileged communities in Marsabit County, particularly in Karare and North Horr. On 9th and 10th April 2026, the PDO, through the North Horr and Karare Missions, brought together project beneficiaries in their respective missions to receive safeguarding training and food support packages intended to sustain them for some time.

The program began with a safeguarding session, for which the PDO is grateful to Sr. Jane Ngai and Sr. Eusebia Munene, the missions safeguarding liaison officers who facilitated the training. Their sessions covered key topics, including understanding

child safeguarding, forms of child abuse, prevention measures, reporting procedures for safeguarding concerns, the roles of parents and community members in child protection, and the importance of creating safe environments for children. These sessions equipped participants with practical knowledge and strengthened their capacity to protect children from harm.

Following the training, beneficiaries received packages of essential food supplies, providing short-term relief and addressing the immediate nutritional needs of their households. The recipients expressed great joy and appreciation upon receiving the support.

The distribution process was well-organized, fair, and efficiently conducted, ensuring that all targeted beneficiaries were reached. The PDO extends its sincere gratitude to the Sisters in charge of the project, Sr. Jackline and Sr. Eusebia, for their effective coordination with community leaders, social workers, and volunteers, which ensured a smooth and successful training and food distribution process.

PARTNERSHIP: SAFEGUARDING IN THE AI ERA:

Protecting Human Dignity in an Age of Intelligent Systems"

On 28th April 2026, the Jesuit Centre for Safeguarding in Africa (JCSA) organized another online webinar on safeguarding, bringing together participants from diverse backgrounds to reflect on emerging challenges in today's rapidly evolving digital world.

The program featured distinguished panelists, including Rev. Dr. Daka Lawrence, SJ, Sr. Dr. Mary Nzilani, and Dr. Elias Mokua, who shared their expertise on the intersection of artificial intelligence, ethics, and human dignity. The discussions explored how AI technologies can both enhance and threaten safeguarding efforts, particularly for vulnerable populations. Emphasis was placed on the need for ethical frameworks, responsible innovation, and the protection of human rights in digital spaces. Participants were encouraged to adopt proactive safeguarding measures to protect children from any harm that may be fuelled or arise from AI, and to promote a culture of protection within their respective communities and institutions.

The webinar also provided insights on how to prevent mental health challenges that may emerge from AI. In addition, it highlighted the role of faith-based and social organizations in advocating for a national policy

on the ethical use of AI, which is more effective nationwide. Through shared experiences and reflections, attendees gained a deeper understanding of the risks and opportunities presented by AI. The webinar successfully fostered meaningful conversations and reinforced the importance of protecting human dignity in this advancing world.

FREE WEBINAR

SAFEGUARDING IN THE AI ERA PROTECTING HUMAN DIGNITY IN AN AGE OF INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS

PANELISTS



Dr. Elias Mokua, SJ
Executive Director
Loyola Center for Media and
Communications (LCMC)



Sr. Dr. Mary Nzilani, SMMG
Pastoral Theologian,
Lecturer at Hekima University College



Rev. Dr. Daka Lawrence, SJ
Chair/Moderator



Tue, 28 April 2026
3:00PM – 5:00PM (EAT)

**SCAN TO
REGISTER**



Language Interpretation:

- Sign Language
- French Language
- Portuguese



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Promoting a Consistent Culture of Protection



EMPOWERING EVERY CHILD: PDO AND PARTNERS CHAMPION DISABILITY INCLUSION AT NAIROBI CONFERENCE

Nairobi, Kenya — On Tuesday, April 14th, 2026, **Misean Cara** hosted a milestone conference titled *'Children with Disabilities: A Holistic Approach towards Care, Inclusion and Empowerment'* in Nairobi. The event gathered members, researchers, and key stakeholders to share critical learning, experiences, and outcomes from its three-year Children with Disabilities (CWD) Programme.

Representing the **Provincial Development Office (PDO)** at this vital forum were Director **Sr. Patricia** and **Dr. Alice** from the **Institute of Youth Studies (IYS) at Tangaza University**. Their participation underscores a deep, ongoing commitment to putting the rights and dignity of differently-abled children at the center of development work.

"The conference provided a vital space to reflect on what has been learned, explore practical approaches to disability inclusion, and discuss how these insights can inform future work across Africa."

A Network of Shared Learning

Supported by the **GHR Foundation**, the three-year CWD initiative brought together project teams from Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, and South Africa. The Nairobi conference welcomed insights from prominent organizations, including the GHR Foundation, Catholic Care for Children International, Irish Aid, the Kenya National Council for Persons with Disabilities (NCPWD), and the Association of the Physically Disabled of Kenya (APDK). Through presentations and panel discussions from nine participating projects, attendees mapped out effective models of community-based support and advocacy.

PDO's Footprint in Inclusive Development

For the PDO, the conference was both a reflection on past achievements and a catalyst for current

projects. The insights shared directly mirror the office's strategic focus:

Nurturing Inclusive Education: In the previous year, PDO partnered closely with IYS Tangaza to implement a targeted project supporting children facing learning difficulties, ensuring they were not left behind in the classroom.

Accessible Infrastructure: Currently, the PDO is actively implementing an **Inclusive WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) Project** in **Temeke, Dar es Salaam**. This initiative intentionally targets and designs facilities for children who are abled differently, ensuring safe, dignified access to clean water and sanitation.

Both of these impactful interventions have been made possible through the generous funding and partnership of **Misean Cara**.

As the conference concluded, the message was clear: true community development is impossible without complete inclusion. By collaborating with academic institutions like IYS and international partners like Misean Cara, the PDO continues to turn the vision of holistic care, inclusion, and empowerment into a daily reality for children across East Africa.



VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE:

Discovering the True Mission of Love

By Klára and Anna, Volunteers



"Our volunteering journey began with a simple desire to serve. Upon arriving in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, we spent time interacting with the community, playing with children, and experiencing the welcoming spirit of the Salesian family. What initially seemed like a short mission soon became a life-changing experience that transformed our understanding of service and love.

After six weeks, we travelled to Karare, Kenya, where we participated in both the Oratory Camp and the Youth Camp. During the Oratory Camp, we organized creative activities that allowed children to express themselves through painting and art. Watching them proudly display their work reminded us of the joy and confidence creativity can inspire. The Youth Camp also gave us a deeper understanding of young people's lives and aspirations. Despite cultural and social differences, we realized that young people everywhere share similar dreams, struggles, and hopes.

When we returned to Dar es Salaam, the sisters involved us more deeply in school activities. We assisted in both the Primary and Nursery schools and continued supporting Matumaini Technical

School. Klára helped with computer lessons, while Anna joined the tailoring workshop, learning and working alongside the girls.

At first, we felt challenged, especially when we noticed that the children were used to strict discipline methods that we did not want to apply. Over time, however, we came to understand that our mission was not simply to fill a role or enforce rules, but to share unconditional love with every child. By approaching the children with patience, kindness, and the spirit of Jesus, we slowly built relationships based on trust and respect rather than fear. What once seemed like disorder gradually became, in our eyes, a beautiful expression of joy and life.

One of our most cherished experiences became the Sunday Oratory gatherings, where we spent time with many children through games, conversations, and shared moments of love and happiness. In these simple encounters, we discovered the true fulfillment of our mission.

The theme of Tumaini, meaning "Hope," perfectly reflects what we witnessed throughout the Salesian mission. We saw hope alive in the dedication of the sisters, teachers, priests, volunteers, and all those working quietly behind the scenes. Inspired by the vision of Don Bosco, we came to understand that true education is a matter of the heart and that lasting change is built through small acts of love.

We are deeply grateful to the sisters for welcoming us, guiding us, and allowing us to experience a world that has become so dear to our hearts. We remain thankful for every encounter, every lesson, and every opportunity to be part of this meaningful mission of love and hope".



FARM PROGRESS



Dagoretti Farm Progress



Embu



MMV



Farm progress LV 1.



Farm progress LV 2.



Farm progress LV



Farm Progress MMV1.



Farm progress siakago 1.



Farm progress Mutuini.



Farm progress Embu.



Farm progress Siakago.



Dagoretti Farm



The ultimate goal of
farming is not the
growing of crops, but the
cultivation and perfection
of human beings.

Masanobu Fukuoka

Thank You Note

Our sincere appreciation goes to the PDO team, the Provincial Leadership, the Salesian Sisters' local communities, as well as our mission partners and collaborators for their tireless dedication and commitment in making this significant impact possible.

To our dear partners and donors — Misesan Cara, GHR Foundation, Hilton Fund for Sisters, Begeca, the Italian Government, Erzdiocese Freiburg, Mission Possibe (UK) and Vides Internazionale — we are truly grateful for your unwavering support towards sowing seeds of hope in East Africa. May God richly reward you.

**Thank You
May God Bless
You**