

TUMAINI

News letter



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

Be inspired and informed.

INSIDE...

3

Strategic Plan Review

5

**Digital Literacy
Empowerment in Embu**

6

**From Vision to Reality:
Expanding Opportunities for
Early Learners in Embu.**

7

**PDO Monitoring
Visit in Dar es Salaam**

9

ACTEC Project in Gisenyi

10

Farm Progress

TUMAINI

NEWS LETTER

TUMAINI

NEWS LETTER

Strategic Plan Review



The Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in East Africa (FMA–AFE) recently held a Mid-Term Review Workshop for its 2023–2028 Strategic Plan from 2–4 December 2025 in Makuyu, Kenya. The workshop brought together Salesian Sisters and lay collaborators from Kenya, Tanzania, and Rwanda to assess the progress made so far, reflect on implementation challenges, and strengthen the mission’s direction for the remaining years of the strategic plan.



A session with the Provincial Administrator

The Strategic Plan focuses on four key priority areas: Institutional Strengthening, Evangelization and Formation, Quality Education, and Livelihood and Health. Through these focus areas, the Institute seeks to respond to the needs of young people and vulnerable communities by promoting holistic development that integrates education, faith formation, social support, and empowerment initiatives.

During the review workshop, participants examined the progress made under each strategic objective and reflected on the effectiveness of the ongoing programs. The discussions highlighted important achievements in expanding educational opportunities, strengthening pastoral formation, and supporting communities through health and livelihood initiatives. These efforts continue to play a significant role in improving the well-being of young people, especially those facing social and economic challenges.



A group photo at the end of the workshop

The workshop also provided an opportunity to identify challenges affecting implementation, including resource limitations, growing community needs, and the importance of strengthening coordination and monitoring systems across missions. Participants emphasized the need for improved programme management, stronger collaboration with partners and stakeholders, and more structured monitoring and evaluation processes to ensure that programs achieve sustainable impact.



Interactive sessions with the facilitator

A key outcome of the workshop was the refinement of strategic priorities and implementation approaches for the remaining years of the plan. Participants reviewed the implementation matrix, clarified responsibilities, and agreed on practical measures to enhance efficiency, accountability, and results-based management.



Ongoing Session and group work



The Mid-Term Review reaffirmed the Institute's commitment to the Salesian mission of educating and empowering young people, particularly the most vulnerable. By reflecting on achievements and learning from ongoing experiences, the workshop strengthened the Institute's strategic direction and renewed its dedication to serving communities across East Africa with greater effectiveness and impact.

Digital Literacy Empowerment in Embu



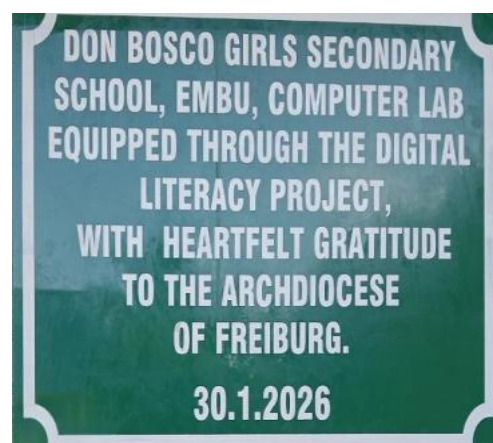
The new look of the computer lab

Digital literacy has become a global priority aimed at empowering learners with the skills needed to navigate an ever-evolving digital world. Through the Digital Literacy Project, whose implementation has now begun, the Embu Mission is benefiting from this initiative courtesy of the Archdiocese of Freiburg. With this support, the Provincial Development Office has purchased 20 desktop computers to facilitate computer skills lessons for the learners.

This intervention addresses a critical and long-standing gap in digital learning, particularly in many Kenyan schools where there are limited fully functioning computers and a shortage of IT tutors to guide learners through practical computer sessions. With the availability of computers and the presence of a tutor at Don Bosco Girls Secondary School, learners are now able to participate effectively in computer studies.



Students receiving additional desktop computers



The Embu Mission has also demonstrated strong local ownership by contributing to the renovation and security of the computer laboratory and equipping it with furniture. This has created a safe and learner-friendly environment conducive to effective digital learning. The learners at Don Bosco Girls Secondary School are delighted to have a well-equipped computer lab where they not only attend computer classes but also conduct academic research.

As a result of this project, students' motivation and renewed interest in computer studies continue to grow. Their computer skills are steadily improving, and as the project progresses, we anticipate even greater development among the learners.

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NEWS LETTER

From Vision to Reality: Expanding Opportunities for Early Learners in Embu.



Students actively participating in a classroom lesson at Don Bosco Nursery School following the renovation of learning spaces.

The Mother Mazzarello Youth Centre officially opened the DHMC Don Bosco Pre-Primary School to expand access to quality early childhood education for children in the surrounding communities. Through the support of the Provincial Bursar and Mission Possible (UK), facilitated by the PDO and other local donors, initial renovations and procurement of essential learning materials were undertaken to launch the School.

This initiative responded to a need identified during a PDO Needs Assessment conducted in late 2024. Many families had limited access to affordable and safe early learning spaces. With only a few schools within a 7-kilometre radius, many children previously faced long travel distances and overcrowded classrooms.

The Pre-Primary school now provides a safe, nurturing, and value-based environment for children aged 3–6 to begin their educational journey, inspired by the Salesian charism. The Embu mission warmly embraced the initiative, and 87 pupils have already enrolled, reflecting the strong demand for accessible early childhood education in the area.

Furthermore, the Mission is looking forward to renovating the play park area so that children can utilize it for play and leisure activities. This commitment demonstrates the Mission's commitment to promoting, protecting, and fulfilling the rights of children while making learning more engaging and supportive.



Nursery school play area



Renovated wash facilities

In addition, wash facilities were upgraded to improve hygiene and sanitation for the children, while the kitchen area was refurbished to support the safe and organized preparation of meals for the pupils.

Building on these achievements, the Salesian Sisters remain committed to continuing the development of the school so that it can fully serve the community. Through this initiative, they continue to provide young learners with opportunities for education, growth, and hope for a brighter future.

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—PDO Monitoring Visit in Dar es Salaam—



PDO Team and other Collaborators in Tanzania



The Provincial Development Office (PDO) team conducted a monitoring visit in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, from February 1st to 6th, 2026. The visit focused on the MMG Project, an inclusive WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) initiative aimed at improving sanitation infrastructure, promoting hygiene behavior, and strengthen inclusive education, particularly for learners with disabilities, graciously funded by MISEAN CARA. The visit assessed the progress of project activities against the approved work plan, evaluated the relevance and impact of interventions at school and community levels, reviewed safeguarding compliance and governance mechanisms, and examined financial accountability and operational systems. It also aimed to identify potential risks and challenges, determine areas requiring strategic adjustments, and strengthen coordination between PDO and key stakeholders. The visit confirmed that the project is being implemented effectively and in alignment with the approved proposal.

During the monitoring exercise, the team observed several key achievements. The project has also strengthened sanitation and community health outcomes. At Sandali Primary Special Needs Unit, a sanitation facility consisting of toilets and showers was constructed to serve 66 pupils, providing accessible and hygienic facilities for learners with disabilities and improving time management due to its proximity to classrooms. The PDO team were impressed by Ms. Subira; the special needs teacher who did sensitization and encouraged households with children with disability to involve them in daily household activities especially on weekends. As a result, stigmatization toward children with disabilities has steadily declined as communities observe the positive outcome of the project.



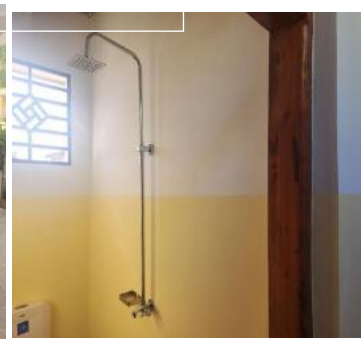
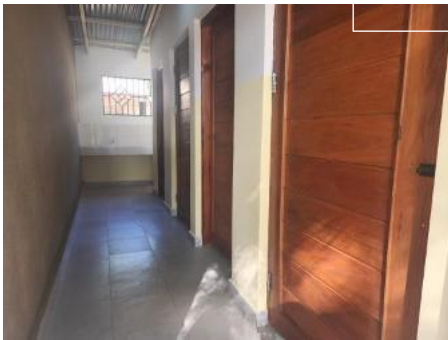
PDO staff and Sandali Special Need Unit pupils and their teacher.



The installation of hand-washing facilities in our partner schools (Temeke Secondary School, Sandali Primary School and Veterinary Primary School) has significantly improved students' health and reduced illness, improved time management, as students no longer spend long periods queuing to fetch water and wash their hands. The school has also established a WASH Club that plays an important role in awareness creation, peer learning, cleanliness monitoring, and maintenance of WASH facilities thus creating a strong hygiene culture among the students. In addition, Sandali school has integrated environmental conservation into the WASH program through a kitchen garden project and tree planting activities within the school compound, further promoting environmental responsibility among students.



New washroom for Sandali Primary Special Need Unit



The team also engaged with a Government Health Officer and three Community Health Volunteers who supported door-to-door sensitization on good WASH practices, which has contributed to a reported reduction in water-borne diseases within the community. In addition, discussions with PETpro, an organization specializing in environmental protection, waste management, and recycling initiatives, highlighted opportunities for collaboration in waste segregation, safe disposal, and environmental education. The visit concluded with a capacity-building and reflection session, where the team consolidated observations and key lessons learned from the monitoring process.



PDO team while having monitoring sessions

The visit confirmed that the project is being implemented effectively and in alignment with the approved proposal.

ACTEC PROJECT: Nurturing 1000 Skills and Talents - Strengthening Practical Learning at SMD Technical School



Students having their tailoring practical session.

The *Nurturing 1000 Skills and Talents* project, implemented at St. Mary Dominique Mazzarello (SMD) Technical School in Gisenyi Rwanda, from 2022 to 2026, continues to transform student learning through the development of practical skills. This initiative is supported by a Belgian development organization; ACTEC.

Through ACTEC's support, the school has acquired industrial sewing machines and a range of musical instruments. These resources are significantly improving students' learning experiences by helping them develop both the technical and creative abilities needed for future careers.

These industrial sewing machines play a key role in training students in tailoring and fashion design. With these modern and high-speed machines, students are learning how to operate professional equipment, practice garment production such as dresses, shirts, trousers, and school uniform, and improve their sewing techniques to produce high-quality clothing. This hands-on training prepares students for internships and employment in tailoring shops and the wider fashion industry, while also helping the school meet national training standards.



Students enjoying playing guitars and piano

In addition, ACTEC has supported the school with musical instruments, including guitars, keyboards, drums, microphones, and a sound system. Inspired by the teaching of John Bosco, who said that *"a house without music is like a body without a soul,"* the school is promoting music and performing arts as part of a holistic education approach.

A student able to use the drum set thus making music more interesting and exciting



Through these instruments, students are learning to play music, practice singing, perform in groups, and participate in school celebrations, church services, and community events. The program is also fostering creativity, discipline, and teamwork among learners.

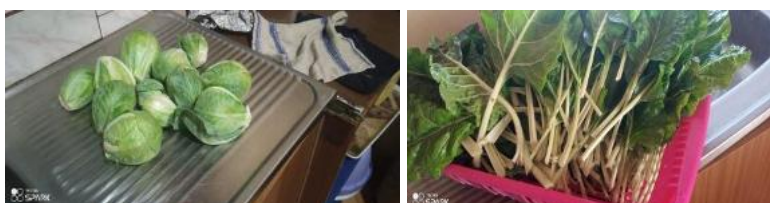
School leaders say the project is not only nurturing talents but also enhancing the institution's reputation and attracting more students interested in technical and creative education. The *Nurturing 1000 Skills and Talents* Project stands as a strong example of how partnerships can empower young people with practical skills for the future.

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Farm Progress





North Horr Mission



Mutuini Mission



Siakago Mission



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 Possibile (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**



Provincial Development Office,
Daughters of Mary Help of Christians
(Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco)
Our Lady of Hope Province, Africa East (AFE)
+254707592944 | +254706046917
www.dmhcafe.org | pdo@dmhcafe.org
Hurlingham / Woodlands Road/
P.O. Box 57712 - 00200, Nairobi, Kenya

