

St. Patrick's Missionary Society – Region of East Africa

Safeguarding Children Programme

REPORT – July 2023 – June 2024

This report is a summary of the Safeguarding Children Programme as implemented in the programme year 2023/2024, that marks the beginning of working towards Sustainability, under the proposal title “Sustainability of the Safeguarding Children Programme, East Africa. Kenya and S. Sudan.” The programme is currently active in 16 parishes spread across 7 Dioceses (14 parishes in Kenya and 2 in S. Sudan). St. Mary's Parish Kipkorgot is the latest additional parish to the programme. It was carved off from our Kapsoya Parish, is under the administration of Fr. Njure, a Diocesan Priest of the Eldoret Diocese who embraced the programme.

This M&E report gives a glimpse into the work put together by the Programme Staff and the volunteer teams in all parishes. The Staff carried out at least 2 monitoring and data validation visits for each of the parishes in the course of the year. The Priests working in the parishes have given invaluable support to the programme hence its impact keeps growing day by day.

Various activities have helped us achieve the objectives of the programme. They include; trainings for both the adults and children, capacity building for staff and volunteer teams, advocacy campaigns, risk assessments, outreach to other groups, use of Radio for awareness creation, use of noticeboards, Day of the African Child Celebrations, networking with other organizations and many others.

In keeping with the vision of St. Patrick's Missionary Society of going out... going to...going to share with the least, the last and the lost members of society (General Chapter 2014) and Misesan Cara's Furthest Behind First (FBF) principle, among the many areas of focus, our programme has deliberately placed on the forefront the inclusion of People with Disabilities with the aim of achieving their full inclusion in the active life of our parishes and the larger community, including provision for living their lives safe from all forms of abuse.

Climate Education has also become an additional area of focus since Climate Crises directly affect the well-being and the future of children and adults at risk of abuse.

AWARENESS TRAININGS AND SENSITIZATION SESSIONS

Awareness creation and sensitization is the backbone of the programme. It is from this aspect that the programme has continued to expand towards other areas especially responding to allegations. Our Parish Teams have as always invested a great deal in creating awareness and sensitization of populations, now not only within the parishes but also into the wider community especially those neighboring the parishes, including schools and other churches. Tabulated below is a summary of the people reached through awareness and sensitization forums:

a) Adults Trainings and Sensitization Sessions

Parish	Male	Female	Total
Bangladesh	635	1053	1688
Changamwe	653	1279	1932
Heshima	18	37	55
Kalobeyei	27	35	62
Kapsoya	160	358	518
Kiamaina	206	420	626

Kibomet	09	24	33
Kanamkemer	141	202	343
Kipkorgot	359	604	963
Kipsaina	117	222	339
Lokichoggio	212	215	427
Londiani	43	68	111
Mtopanga	26	70	96
Narus	41	36	77
Riwoto	629	262	891
Utawala	108	253	361
TOTAL	3384	5138	8522

b) Children Trainings and Sensitization Sessions

Parish	Male	Female	Total
Bangladesh	441	896	1337
Changamwe	800	834	1634
Heshima	121	153	274
Kalobeyei	200	185	385
Kapsoya	271	363	634
Kiamaina	486	596	1082
Kibomet	130	192	322
Kanamkemer	190	130	320
Kipkorgot	221	270	491
Kipsaina	330	489	819
Lokichoggio	335	310	645
Londiani	129	365	494
Mtopanga	255	545	800
Narus	700	1353	2053
Riwoto	750	1028	1778
Utawala	273	328	601
TOTAL	5632	8037	13669

Parental Consent Forms

Out-of-Parish activities can be occasions where children are exposed to a higher risk of abuse because they are no longer operating within the safe spaces of the parishes. As such, parental consent forms have been the programme's way of ensuring the safety of all children participating in all out of parish activities. They not only help in having children's information at hand but the parents are also furnished with information on the location, type of activity, adults in-charge of the group as well as the timings involved.

A total of **1943 Parental Consent forms** were signed this year across the 16 parishes.

c) Refresher Trainings for Parish Committees

The first phase of Monitoring visits done by programme staff this year were dedicated to familiarizing with the revised parish policy (Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse as a Pastoral Ministry, June 2023) as well as understanding the new Strategic Plan (St. Patrick's Missionary Society, Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk of Abuse, Region of East Africa – 2023/4 – 2028/9) - strategic objectives, activities and outcomes - since it would

guide the direction of the programme for the next five years. It was therefore important for the parish committees to be well taken through the 2 documents for a clear understanding. To keep the Parish Teams updated not only regarding The SPS parish policy but with other topics related to safeguarding and well - being of children and vulnerable adults, the programme staff has facilitated and coordinated other trainings on topics such as Online Abuse of children and Child/Human Trafficking that have not been vastly covered in the policy yet have a direct, heavy impact on the safeguarding of children. A total of 37 such trainings were carried out this year. **368 committee members** from 16 parishes were trained to handle cases of abuse based on the more detailed guidelines in the revised Policy.



Figure 1: Parish Committee Training

d) Targeted Trainings for Volunteers and Employed Staff in Parishes

As a policy requirement, all persons whether in volunteer or paid employment status, working in institutions related to SPS must undergo a mandatory safeguarding training at the point of entry and an annual refresher for continuing staff. In Parishes, particular attention is paid to especially individuals who are in direct contact with children on behalf of the church and those who hold positions of leadership in the parish. These include; Parish Pastoral Council members, Catechists, PMC and MYM Animators, Sunday School teachers and others. Each signs commitment to operating in line the safeguarding of children and adults at risk of abuse policy of the parish. These trainings are in most cases done by Safeguarding volunteer trainers in the parishes though there are some that have been done by the programme staff. From such trainings this year, a total of **510 Commitment forms were signed**. **In total, there were 99 awareness trainings done through the year.**

NOTICEBOARDS

Each year, the programme strives at increasing the number of noticeboards as a means of communicating the safeguarding message within the parishes. Currently, every parish station has a noticeboard. We are now concentrating on establishing noticeboards in the outstations. This year, **7**

new noticeboards were established in outstations of different parishes and 1 was established at Kipkorgot parish centre. In total there are now **52 noticeboards** established across 16 parishes. They are dedicated to exclusively displaying safeguarding information and material, strategically placed at points where majority of people entering the church can see them.



Figure 2: Parish Safeguarding Noticeboard

INNOVATIVE PLATFORMS

As mentioned earlier, awareness creation is one core activity of our programme. Physical gatherings were the norm in the formative years of the programme. As times change and demand to reach different groups of populations also increasing, different parishes and the central office have embraced other methods and means of meeting the unique needs of awareness creation. Among the platforms that were used to create awareness this year are; Radio, Annual Essay Competitions, Mass Announcements, Social - Media, Children Fun days, Homilies at Mass, Advocacy Forums, Poster/Slogan Drawing activities, targeted Residential Workshops, Zoom/Google Meetings, and others.

Innovative Platform	Details	Number of people reached
Radio	Live Radio talk shows, call in shows, radio adverts and presenters' mention. A weekly talk show on Radio Maria Nairobi and once in 9 other stations this year.	10 400 000
Annual Essay Competition	Parish based competitions where children are given a safeguarding topic. Aim is to encourage families to have safeguarding discussions since the essays are take home	356

	assignments. 6 parishes participated this year; Changamwe, Kiamaina, Kapsoya, Kipkorgot, Londiani and Utawala.	
Mass Announcements	Regular Mass Announcements done in Parishes on safeguarding. Especially during school holidays and festive seasons, thus keeping parishioners awake to the need of safeguarding children.	31600
Social Media Platforms	Each Parish Committee has an active WhatsApp group. There is also common WhatsApp group for all parish committee leaders. This has enabled real time communication and also enhanced sharing of information amongst the parish teams. Information shared on the WhatsApp groups is also easily propagated to other groups within the parishes since in some parishes, nearly every church group has a WhatsApp forum. Kapsoya and Kipkorgot Parishes are also actively using facebook to spread the safeguarding message.	6500
Children fun days	Fun activities like games and sports are used to attract large numbers of children. These activities usually have a safeguarding theme attached to them. Children of the parish and the community are targeted.	Numbers included in children awareness trainings.
Homilies	Our priests in the parishes have been very supportive in emphasizing safeguarding through their homilies at Mass. The Programme has prepared a resource manual that has been distributed to all parishes. Priests can use the content in the manual whenever they need to pass a message on safeguarding.	Number cannot be quantified because of the large parish populations.

<p>Advocacy Forums (Child Rights) and International Days</p>	<p>The Girl Child Education Campaign of Narus Parish, S. Sudan has become an annual activity where the Right to Education for especially girls in the Toposa Community is advocated for. This year the Campaign was also done in Riwoto Parish of S. Sudan that is still home to the Toposa Community. Our Trainer in Lodwar also largely collaborates with other organizations in advocating for the Rights of Women and against Gender Based Violence. During partners meeting and Celebrations like International womens Day, DAC.World Disability Day etc.</p>	<p>1500</p>
<p>Chiefs' Barazas</p>	<p>These are area gatherings called by the local administration. They are forums through which people living in an area raise and discuss issues affecting them e.g security with a view of finding local solutions. Bangladesh and Kipsaina Parishes in collaboration with area chiefs have used such barazas to create awareness on safeguarding of children.</p>	<p>204</p>
<p>Exclusive Children Masses</p>	<p>Our Parishes have exclusive Masses for children. During these Masses, the homilies are delivered in child friendly language and priests include safeguarding messages in their preaching. The safeguarding committee members and Animators also use these opportunities when children gather to impart some safeguarding knowledge. Some parishes like Bangladesh and Changamwe have weekly Children Masses while others</p>	<p>13669</p>

	have them during school holidays.	
IEC Materials (during DAC)	<p>Our IEC materials, developed especially around the Day of the African Child have served a great purpose in creating awareness. They usually have the Theme of the year printed on them. This year we had green t-shirts, green biro pens and black bags with green straps, relevant to our focus of creating awareness on Climate Education.</p> <p>Our regular programme posters on types of abuses have also been excellent tools of awareness creation. This year, someone from the Kenya Conference of the Catholic Bishops contacted us after having seen a set of our posters in Malindi Diocese, for permission to print and use our posters.</p>	In huge number. Hard to calculate.
Poster/Slogan drawing	We are beginning a deliberate focus on Climate Education as an integral part of the programme. Towards the Day of the African Child, we encouraged children to draw posters and come up with slogans about Climate Education. Their posters will help us create programme posters in future.	138
Residential workshop	Parish Committee representatives travelled to Nairobi for a residential training on disability and inclusion.	23
Zoom/Google Meetings	Programme Staff held 3 Zoom/Google meetings with parish committee leaders. Individual parish teams are also having virtual meetings in situations where physical meetings are not possible e.g in the evenings after work.	192
TOTAL		10 463 351

CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The programme aims at building strong committees in the Parishes. Committees that are updated with safeguarding information/education and are well equipped to create awareness and also respond appropriately to allegations of abuse that are reported to them. This year 5 volunteers from 5 parishes undertook an online Child safeguarding training offered by Hekima University College's Jesuit Centre for Safeguarding. 3 other volunteers from Bangladesh Parish enrolled into a Kenyan Sign Language College in Mombasa in order to fill the Sign language interpretation gap in the Parish.

The trainer in Lodwar benefitted from mandatory child safeguarding training organized by Catholic Relief Services working with the Catholic Diocese of Lodwar on the minimum standards for child safeguarding and world global standards for sexual abuse harassment and gender- based violence as a form of compliance. The trainer is also attending a counsellor supervision and adolescent and children counselling course offered by Turkana Psychological counselling and Health sciences college online.

Our 3 programme staff through the support of the programme have, each, attended three formal supervision and therapy sessions as a source of self-care, since the work they do, particularly during monitoring visits and responding to cases can take a heavy emotional toll on an individual.

People with Disabilities, more so, children with disabilities are a group that the programme is beginning a deliberate focus on as we continue with our previous mandate, with the aim of achieving their full inclusion in the active life of our parishes and the larger community. In this regard, this year, a one-week residential training on Disability Awareness was held for representatives of all 16 Parishes as well as the programme staff. The knowledge and skills attained at this workshop will help the parishes kick start the focus on Persons with Disabilities. 20 volunteers and 3 staff attended the training.

FORMAL CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT COURSES

Just like everything else in the modern world, the safeguarding scene keeps changing every now and then. New knowledge keeps developing too. To ensure that the programme staff keep pace with the changing needs, all are encouraged to enroll into relevant courses that develop their competence and skills in safeguarding. Other than the training on Disability awareness that all 3 staff attended, 2 of them have done a certified online course on Mental Health offered by Alison and one did an online course on Child Psychology offered by Udemey.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Our Programme Policy requires all Parishes to carry out an annual risk assessment so as to ensure that the parishes are constantly safe spaces for children. In the past 3 years, we embarked on the expansion of the programme from the parish centres to the outstations. The risk assessments have thus also expanded to include the outstations in the Parishes so that risk is minimized.

OUTREACH TO DIOCESES AND RELIGIOUS CONGREGATIONS (PRONG 2)

Prong 2 of the Safeguarding Children Programme mandates us to reach out to Dioceses and Religious Congregations. Just like in the past years, this year we worked with various institutions in promoting safeguarding awareness. Some of these institutions were hearing the safeguarding message for the first time. The table below shows the ones we worked with:

Institution	Details	Number of people reached
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Missionaries of the Poor, Chokaa	An initial workshop for the Missionaries of the Poor running and working at Good Shepherd Home. There were 8 Religious Brothers and 1 Priest, all members of the Institute, participating.	9
Society for African Missions - Nairobi	A two-day safeguarding workshop for students of Formation for Priesthood. They were from diverse nationalities, all in different years of study, ranging from Philosophy 1 to Theology 4.	48
RSCK Commission on Safeguarding of Children	A sensitization session on Safeguarding	4
SPS Theology House Students – Nairobi.	2 days safeguarding workshop for students for priesthood for St. Patrick's. a few in Philosophy and majority in Theology including 10 Deacons.	27
Catholic Lay Missionaries – Nairobi	2 days of safeguarding training for the administrators as preparation for a training in future for the larger group towards the end of this year.	7
Catholic Diocese of Kericho	A day's workshop with the Priests working in the Diocese.	55
TOTAL		150

PROGRAMME EXPANSION (PRONG 3)

Our Programme started as a basic awareness creation programme for SPS Parishes. Together with the other needs that grew along the way was the need to spread the safeguarding message wider for expansion, first to the outstations in SPS parishes, then to schools and institutions within the same parishes and later to the wider society including neighbouring parishes and other churches. Our parishes have continued to do this outreach. The numbers from the parishes have not been included here because they are large congregations. However, the office worked with the following parishes/institutions at their request:

Institution	Details	Number of people reached
Comboni Parish (Arch – Diocese of Nairobi)	2 days initial training in Safeguarding for PMC and MYM Animators. There were PPC representatives.	16 17
St. Cecilia Parish, Diocese of Ngong	2 days initial training in safeguarding for PMC and	27

	MYM Animators, Catechists and PPC representatives.	32
Missionaries of the Poor, Chokaa – Good Shepherd Home	A follow up safeguarding session for the workers of Good Shepherd Home for children with Cerebral Palsy.	33
Missionaries of Charity Priests, Rimpa – Diocese of Ngong.	A one day safeguarding workshop for volunteers who attend to children who come to the priest's establishment during weekends. The children have been previously trained.	30
Kipsaina Parish/Community Stakeholders training	A day's training that brought together village elders, chiefs, police officers working in the area, Children's Officers and the parish safeguarding team. A magistrate was one of the facilitators. (This was done in collaboration with the Diocese of Kitale)	47
Keringet Deanery, Catholic Diocese of Nakuru	Catechists from 5 Parishes in the deanery gathered at Olenguruone Parish. Had a sensitization session on safeguarding since their work in the parishes largely involves children who come for catechism instructions.	72
St. Francis Xavier Parish, Naivasha – Catholic Diocese of Nakuru	Catechists, PMC Animators and PPC representatives had 2 days of training as initial preparation of rolling out a safeguarding structure within the parish.	26
TOTAL		300

THE GIRL CHILD EDUCATION CAMPAIGN

The Girl Child Education Campaign is always held on the 25th November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which also kicks off the 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence) every year in Narus Parish of S. Sudan. This year the Girl Child Education Campaign took place in two parishes namely Narus and Riwoto, both in S. Sudan, since most of the champions (girls rescued from child marriages and enrolled in school) have been coming from Riwoto. At Narus the committee and school children from 5 parish schools visited Lolim Village which had only one girl schooling at St Bakhita Girls Primary school. About 500 people attended the celebration with a very strong message coming from the chief on the importance of taking girls to school. The programme sent Kshs. 35000 which was used to print 225 T-shirts with the message promoting girl child education and the eradication of early and Forced marriage translated into Toposa Language. The

NGOS who promised to support this event did not show up for the day. It is suspected that they were afraid of the reception from the Commissioner of Narus area who has not been supportive.

The same material was shared with Riwoto who visited Lomeyan Village and more than 1000 people attended especially elderly men and youth who were challenged by the Poems, Songs and drama performed by the pupils and students from Tim Galvin Secondary School and St Mary Magdalene Primary School. The Team in Riwoto was accompanied by the Commissioner in charge of Riwoto area, other partners working in the region, Chiefs and Village elders. A positive response was shared by elders who promised to send their children to school in the beginning of the term. This was verified by the Head teacher, Sr Mary in April that **30 children** were brought from Lomeyan for admission in February. Even though the parents did not have money to pay school fees, they brought to school goats instead so that their children can have school requirements and also stay in school. As a result of the Campaign, **11 girls from Lolim Village** also joined St. Bakhita Primary School in Narus.

This event was also discussed on the Radio in Kapoeta that has a listenership of about 200000 people. The current challenge is that the Commissioner who was a great supporter of our activities in Riwoto has now been transferred.

MENTAL HEALTH AND EMERGING TRENDS POST - COVID

Mental Health is an area that the programme has identified to be of need especially after Covid – 19. Our Strategic Plan points to the need for us to have it incorporated into our safeguarding programme since mental health of either parent/caregiver has a direct implication on the safeguarding and well-being of the child. Children also have mental health issues as witnessed by current trends.

Two years ago, the programme initiated this incorporation of Mental Health by having a volunteer from each of our parishes getting trained at a residential basic counselling workshop so that they in turn could pass the knowledge and skills received to their parish teams. The Parishes were in turn, through the Parish Pastoral Councils, encouraged to avail appropriate space where basic counselling services could be offered. This year, 9 parishes have active basic counselling centres set up and parishioners can now access free counselling services at the parish courtesy of the safeguarding programme. Other counsellors from the parishioner population have also come on board so as to meet the increasing need. The services are not restricted to the parishioners only, other members from the community who are not even Catholic are also benefitting. This year, a total of **121 people** benefitted from counselling services across 9 parishes. Sessions for some of these people are still ongoing.

The trainer in Lodwar hosted the case conference members (people who work for the interest of children in Lodwar, including the police, medical staff, department of children services and organizations such as our SPS/Diocese programmes. They have regular meetings for information sharing and for collaborative effort towards appropriate response to cases) for the month of August and the office supported in provision of refreshments and venue which is rotational. This is a vital role that provides members opportunity to ventilate issues affecting delivery of services and share the most challenging cases for support by members. A total of 12 members attended. The trainer has attended to 10 cases of children and adults presented with mental, school dropout, GBV and drug abuse complications whom she has journeyed with. Confidentiality and survivor centered approach have been the basic principles in dealing with the survivor.

RADIO

Radio has turned out to be our biggest tool in achieving Prong 3 (Reaching out to the wider society) of our programme. Around the Day of the African Child, we partnered with ten radio stations, mainly Diocesan Radio Stations in Dioceses where SPS has presence, the aim being to create awareness of Climate Education to as many people as possible. A new entrant among the Radio Stations was Radio Osotua of the Diocese of Ngong that broadcasts in Kiswahili and the local, Maa, language of the people. Ngong Diocese is majorly occupied by the Maasai Community and other communities whose culture permits and encourages Female Genital Mutilation and girl - child marriage, which are still rampant.

That which started a few years back as an occasional feature has now become part and parcel of the programme. This is the 4th year since we started an hour's weekly programme on Radio Maria - Nairobi. Through a live talk show session, we have been able to reach numbers that we might never been able to reach in the entire lifespan of the programme since its inception. Other than discussing safeguarding as presented in our policy, the live programme has helped us address other issues that are affecting the well – being of children. Through Radio Maria we have achieved to a large extent the programme's objective of focusing on post-covid issues such as teenage pregnancies, drug and substance abuse, mental health, etc. We have also facilitated interactive discussions on positive parenting, a topic that elicited a lot of participation from the listeners.

Our Programme Administrator, Violet, has been the anchor person while Nicholas, a volunteer from our Utawala Parish and a professional Counselling Psychologist has been constant on the Radio programme. He has been a great resource on safeguarding discussions, always bringing on board a psychological/counselling aspect.

The beauty of the live sessions is the interaction with the listeners because they can call in, send text/WhatsApp messages or even follow the discussion on Facebook since it is live streamed. We are able to get real time feedback. With time the listenership to this segment on safeguarding has kept increasing. This year we have had 49 radio sessions.

The table below shows the numbers of people reached this year through Radio, according to the demographics provided by the Radio Stations themselves:

Radio Station	Coverage	Listenership
Radio Maria – Nairobi (Arch – Diocese of Nairobi)	Nairobi, Kiambu and parts of Kajiado Counties.	500 000 40 000 Facebook followers
Radio Waumini (KCCB Radio) - Nairobi	Nairobi, Machakos, Kiambu, Kajiado and parts of Nakuru counties.	2 000 000
Radio Mitume (Diocese of Kitale)	Kitale, Trans-Nzoia, parts of Eldoret and parts of Kakamega County.	900 000
Radio Upendo (Diocese of Eldoret)	Eldoret, Kitale, Bungoma, Busia and	4 100 000

	parts of Kakamega County.	
Radio Tumaini (Diocese of Mombasa)	Mombasa County	100 000
Radio Amani (diocese of Nakuru)	Nakuru and parts of Kericho Counties.	700 000
Radio Akicha (Diocese of Lodwar)	Turkana County	250 000
Radio Kapoeta (South Sudan)	Eastern Equatoria State and the larger South Sudan.	200 000
Radio Osotua (Diocese of Ngong)	Narok County, Parts of Nakuru County. Broadcasting in Maa – the local language	450 000
Radio Maria – Kisumu (Arch – Diocese of Kisumu)	Kisumu, Kericho, parts of Kisii and parts of Kakamega county.	1 200 000
TOTAL		10 400 000 + 40 000 FB followers



Springing from the Radio Sessions, a number of cases have reached us via the office phone as well as via Radio Maria. The cases are not just from within Nairobi because the Radio has live coverage across several counties too. This year alone, we have received 67 Cases through Radio Maria. Details of the cases have been included in a later section on Abuse Cases received by the programme.

ABUSE CASES

One aspect that has continued to grow from the original concept of the programme is reporting of cases, propagated by awareness creation. Through training, the volunteers on parish committees have been equipped with skills and competencies relevant in helping them respond to all cases that are reported to them. Our Parish Safeguarding Policy has a detailed, clear procedure for responding to Cases in the parish. It also has appendices of documents that are important for use when responding to cases particularly the P3 Form and PRC Form at the Police Station and the Hospital Respectively. These would serve as part of the evidence if a case proceeds to court.

The Designated Persons and their Assistants are well versed with responding procedures and referral mechanisms and pathways. Our collaboration and partnerships with other players in safeguarding have also eased our responding to cases. The programme has also trained a paralegal and a basic counsellor for each parish, to improve responding to cases of abuse. As such, the paralegals could offer legal advice and even accompany cases to court while the counsellors do offer psychosocial help in journeying with victims of abuse and their families but generally to any child parishioner who would benefit from their services. As a result, some parishes have set up pro bono counselling centres in the parish. Majority of the cases that were reported to our committees were external. This could be due to the continuous awareness being created within the parishes has made people more awake to abuse hence very few abuse cases are now registered in the parishes. The awareness on the Law of Kenya and S. Sudan on Child Protection has also impacted on the low cases of abuse within the parishes. The following cases were reported this year:

Parish	Types of Abuse	Perpetrator	Action	Status
Bangladesh 10 Cases	3 – Sexual Abuse 4 – Physical Abuse 3 – Neglect/Emotional Abuse	All trusted adults, well known to the child victims.	All 3 cases of sexual abuse were reported to the police. The other 6 were handled through the church process.	Sexual Abuse court cases still in progress. The rest are on follow up process.
Kapsoya 7 Cases	2 – Sexual abuse 3 – Neglect 2 – Physical Abuse	17- year- old boy alleged in the defilement of a 6 years old girl. The rest are adults known to the children (Parents)	Cases of defilement reported to the police. The rest handled through the church process.	One perpetrator convicted. One still in court. Cases referred to relevant agencies.
Kiamaina 8 Cases	2 – Neglect 2 – Physical/Emotional Abuse 4 – Child Labour	Parents/Care givers	Church process Referral	Handled

Kipsaina 11 Cases	3 – Sexual Abuse 2 – Physical Abuse 2 – Neglect 4 – Child Labour	Known adults Parents	Reported to the police Referral to relevant agencies	1 convicted and 2 in court process Others on follow – up.
Kanamkemer 3 Cases	7 and 9 yrs. Denial to Education 16 yrs. Boy. Refugee, Abused	Father Father	Counselled Reported to DCO	Placed in school. Returned to Kakuma Refugee Camp
Changamwe 6 Cases	1 – Sexual abuse of a girl child 4 – Physical abuse of children 1 - Neglect	Adults known to the children and their families	Reported to the police Handled through the committee	Case in progress Ongoing monitoring.
Mtopanga 7 Cases	3 – Neglect 2 – Physical/Emotional Abuse 2- Child Labour	Adults well known to the children/ Parents/ Guardians	Referred to Children’s Office Handled by Committee	On follow up On follow up
Kalobeyi 3 Cases	12 yrs. Defilement 7 yrs. Neglect Adult Female. Emotional	Adult male Mother Fellow adult female	Arrested Reported to Fr Evans to intervene	Perpetrator in custody at Kakuma. Mediation Mediation
Lokichoggio 7 Cases	17 yrs. Sexual Abuse 3yrs. Neglect 17 Yrs. 4 cases of Assault and Child marriage	Student Mother Male Friend Parents	Girl went back to school after delivery Mother counselled Reported to chief Rescued	Reported to court Child reunited with mother. Team counselled the boy. Resolved

Narus 3 Cases	12 years old and 13 years. Forced marriage 17 Years old. Child marriage	Family Teacher	Safe custody Dismissed	Referred to police and in school Reported to police
Riwoto 4 Cases	4 girls minors. Child marriage	Elders\ men	Taken to safe house in Kapoeta by Fr Blessed.	2 girls returned to community
Utawala 20 Child Abuse Cases 1 Adult at risk of Abuse Case	9 – Neglect 5 – Emotional Abuse 3 – Sexual Abuse 3 – Physical Abuse	Parents/ Guardians/ Relatives People well known to the children and the adult	Sexual abuse reported to Civil authorities. Vulnerable adult committed to a home through referrals Others on the parish counselling programme. A number referred to the Children’s Office.	Court process Others settled On - going Counselling and Mediation
Lodwar Trainer’s Office 70 Cases	ALL CHILDREN. Neglect Gbv Emotional Defilement Denial of opportunities	Family, Guardians People in Authority Men \parents	Referred to DCO, POLICE Counselling and mediation by the Trainer	40 CASES 5 cases in court Counselling and mediation.
Nairobi Trainer’s Office 6 Cases	4 child cases and 1 Adult at risk of abuse case. 2 – Neglect 2 – Sexual Harassment 1-physical Abuse 1-Physical and Emotional Abuse	Parents Known adults/colleagues Close relative Spouse	Referred to civil authority Accelerated to Children’s Office Referred to counselling	Cases settled. 2 are still on follow -up.

Cases as a result of programme on Radio Maria – Nairobi and Radio Tumaini – Mombasa (67 Cases)	29 cases of adults at risk of abuse and 38 cases of child abuse ranging from sexual abuse to physical abuse. Most child abuse cases had a parenting aspect involved.	Spouses Parents/Guardians People well known to the victims, some in positions of power over the victims.	Referral to relevant agencies Counselling	6 cases still on follow – up.
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A total of 233 Cases.

DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD 2024

The Day of the African Child has spontaneously grown into the Feast Day of our Safeguarding Children Programme, for on this day, the largest numbers of children are gathered in our parishes. This year’s theme as received from the UN Committee of Experts was **“EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN IN AFRICA. THE TIME IS NOW.”** A theme that was also highlighted ten years ago (2014). This year, African nations were being called to look back and audit the progress they had made since 2014 in ensuring that all their children were accessing free, basic, quality education, including Climate Education.

As a Programme we decided to focus on Climate Education since Climate Change is real as recently witnessed by floods in Kenya and the constant drought seasons in Northern Kenya and S. Sudan. In times of climate crises such as these, the children bear the biggest brunt since their life is directly affected, whether in terms of education or safety. Indeed, it is the children of today and the children of tomorrow who will be most affected by Climate Change. It is time we give them the opportunity to speak out and do something about it so that we can hand on a beautiful, healthy world as our gift to them.

From the Theme we coined a slogan **“CLIMATE EDUCATION. THE TIME IS NOW”** which we used as our “theme” for this year’s Day of the African Child celebrations. The aim was to focus on creating awareness on the reality of Climate Change, while engaging in activities that will promote Climate awareness and care for the earth and respect for the environment as our response to Pope Francis’ Laudato Si and Laudate Deum.

As norm, we prepared IEC materials for the celebrations that clearly communicated the message on climate awareness. The materials included; green T-Shirts for both adults (Committee members) and children, green biro pens and black carry bags with green straps.

15 of our 16 Parishes held DAC celebrations with children this year. Conspicuous among the activities carried out on the day was processions around the parish communities with posters developed by the children themselves on Climate. There was also planting of trees (including instruction to the children on how to care for the seedlings once planted) and cleaning of the environment. Urban parishes in non-formal settlements also taught and involved the children in planting natural vegetables in sacks/used car tyres/ basins so that their families can always have a healthy supply of vegetables. Kibarani Outstation of Bangaldesh Parish, Mombasa has initiated a mangrove forest project in order to rehabilitate the advancing ocean line. Kibarani is located right on the shores of the Indian Ocean. Then as usual there were items such as songs, poems, drama and

dance by the children communicating the message on Climate Education. Parish groups culminated their activities with Mass where the priests' Homilies were about the theme of the day. To support the parish celebrations, the parish disbursed cash amounts of 50,000 each to 15 Parishes. 4 parishes also visited institutions of children/adults with disabilities to make them part of our celebrations. They each received 30,000 towards these visits. Utawala visited the Good Sheperd Home for children (boys) with severe Cerebral Palsy, Changamwe visited children in a Special Unit of St. Charles Lwanga Primary School within the parish that have different types of disabilities, Kipsaina visited Bob Leo Home and School for Children with Disabilities while Kapsoya celebrated with beneficiaries of the Paliative Care unit of St. Mary's Medical Centre run by the Assumption Sisters of Eldoret.

The numbers of people who participated in the Day of the African Child celebrations are as tabulated below:

Parish	Male (Chn)	Female (Chn)	Children Total	Adults (M)	Adults (F)	Adults Total	TOTAL
Bangladesh	194	300	494	13	20	33	527
Changamwe	134	278	412	34	66	100	512
Kalobeyei	102	198	300	10	15	25	325
Kapsoya	241	334	575	15	22	37	612
Kiamaina	163	197	360	5	14	19	379
Kibomet	133	229	362	4	7	11	373
Kanamkemer	100	200	300	10	16	26	326
Kipkorgot	136	284	420	6	12	18	438
Kipsaina	208	380	588	13	22	35	623
Lokichoggio	180	190	370	9	23	32	402
Londiani	80	320	400	9	21	30	430
Mtopanga	109	300	409	5	12	17	426
Narus	70	130	200	20	35	55	255
Riwoto	1785	1172	2957	65	97	162	3,119
Utawala	173	208	381	14	19	33	414
TOTAL	3808	4720	8528	232	401	633	9,161







Figure 3: Day of the African Child Celebrations

INCLUSIVITY FOR ALL

One of the areas of focus in the current phase of this Programme as per our Strategic Plan 2023/4 – 2028/9 is on Persons with Disability (*Strategic Objective 5: To create a support programme for children and adults living with disability in and around the 15 Parishes*). Even among children, those living with disability are among those furthest behind. We are making a special effort to reach out to such children through sensitization of parishioners, registration since often they are hidden away (Persons living with Disabilities Act, 2003, revised 2016), provide data base of support programs, organise respite within the community for parents/guardians, inclusive activities to integrate them so that there will be a better life for and acceptance of them. Minimise sense of shame, rejection, helplessness. Our revised safeguarding policy also has a section dedicated to children with disability including provision for living their lives safe from all forms of abuse and how they can be actively included in the life of the parishes. Misesan Cara's Inclusion Strategy places special emphasis on projects and programmes having inclusion of Persons with Disability in implementation. By fostering inclusion, our programme hopes to achieve reduced stigma, shame and rejection of children and adults with disabilities.

Our 16 Parishes have already initiated the registration of PWDs in their respective parishes. Registration will help us determine the number of people with disabilities, types of disabilities and thus assist parishes in drawing their inclusivity path. Most important, the intention of parish registration of PWDs is to link them with the National Council for Persons with Disability (NCPWD) for registration with government, which entitles them to special services and facilities. Some Parishes are even a step ahead, for instance, Kanamkemer, Kalobeyei and Lokichoggio committees have already identified children with disabilities and even created awareness on occasions whenever there was an opportunity to do so. Kanamkemer committee members attended a session on awareness creation for children with Down Syndrome on the 23rd of March this year, in Lodwar town. There were 20 children with Down Syndrome together with their caregivers. Kalobeyei parish committee identified 17 children with disabilities whom they have actively included in parish

programmes. Lokichoggio Parish is in the lead having 30 children with disability. Lodwar County celebrations of Disability Day were celebrated in Lokichoggio on 3rd of December 2023. Narus Parish has identified 10 children with disability while Riwoto Parish has 25 children identified. The total number of Persons with Disabilities as registered from across the 16 Parishes is included under “Special Groups” in this report.

Disability Awareness Workshop

As preparation to embark on focus on this sensitive aspect by awareness creation on disability, we deemed it necessary to have a structured training on Disability Awareness for volunteers from all 16 Parishes.

20 volunteers drawn from all 16 Parishes attended a week- long residential Disability Awareness workshop in Nairobi. Our 3 staff also participated in the workshop. The training adopted the slogan **“CALLED TO BE APOSTLES OF CHANGE,”** because participants were required to go back to their parishes and propagate the message received at the workshop not only to the parish committees but also to the larger populations in the parishes and wider society. The content delivered at the workshop was meant to awaken the participants to the reality of disability, stigma attached to disability and how we can enhance the inclusion of PWDs in all areas of life, particularly in the life of the parishes all through.

The 2 Facilitators of training were themselves people closely connected to PWDs. One is a PWD himself, with severe Physical Disability due to Polio and a wheelchair user, intellectually smart, been able to go through education up to the University level and now working with Kenya’s Communication giant, Safaricom where he is a team leader. He is also a Trainer and a Master of Ceremony on Wheels. A true definition of resilience, he currently has a fully able - bodied wife and 2 children. He was the epitome of inspiration for the participants. He has committed himself to be a kind of mentor to our programme around disability issues. The second facilitator is a medic with specialization in Speech Therapy and a Psychological Counsellor as well. Their personal experiences with disability and with PWDs were timely as we begin our deliberate focus on PWDs.

From the workshop, a number of Parishes have hit the ground running and have started awareness creation through different Church groups.



Figure 4: Disability Awareness Workshop

WORKING WITH SPECIAL GROUPS

The Programme endeavors to reach out to children and vulnerable people in the community. They include but not limited to the following groups of people; people with disabilities, Internally Displaced People, Refugees and children Living on the Streets. The committee members have learnt to empathize with them, accept and include them in parish programmes so that they fit in as part and parcel of the general active life of the parish, their human dignity upheld at all times. In different parishes the following number of people were reached through visits, celebrations or awareness:

a) Persons with Disabilities

All our parishes have already embarked on the registration of persons with disabilities. A number of the parishes are already actively involved with persons with disabilities at home and in institutions within and neighbouring them. For instance:

- Kanamkemer Parish reached 20 children with Down Syndrome and 10 with other disabilities.
- Kalobeyei Parish had 17 children some in school and others in the community but have been involved in PMC and children Activities.

- Lokichoggio Parish has recorded 30 children in Nanam and additional 3 who come for support at the parish. It also has 52 adults living with disabilities.
- Narus Parish has 10 children in Parish schools and 15 Adults who attend mass at the parish
- Riwoto Parish has 25 children both in school and community.
- Kipsaina Parish visited Bob Leo Home and School in East Pokot that has 64 children, all with physical impairment.
- Changamwe Parish is actively involved with the Special Unit of St. Charles Lwanga Primary School that has 55 children with different types of disabilities.
- Utawala Parish visited Good Shepherd Home that houses 62 children, all boys, living with Cerebral Palsy.
- Kibomet is working with St. Francis and Clare School for the Deaf, whose 117 children attend Mass at the Parish.
- Across all parishes, 240 persons with disabilities have been registered. The registration is still in progress.

In total the programme dealt with 730 Persons with Disability this year.

b) People living with HIV/AIDS

The programme closely worked with Londiani District Hospital's Unit for persons living with HIV/AIDS because our parish Designated Person is the one in charge of the Unit at the Hospital, and most of those on the Hospital Programme are children. We dealt with 84 persons in the Unit.

The trainer in Lodwar worked with a group of women and children who get food in the parish who are on medication and are struggling with alcoholism and occasional get a session on the child safeguarding good practice, diet, parenting and Life skills. 50 of the members are on Anti-Retroviral Drugs. A total of **134**.

c) Refugees and Internally Displaced People

The committee in Kalobeyei parish worked with 250 children from St Kizito Primary School who are Refugees while Celebrating the Day of The African Child. 30 Children from Holy Cross Parish Kakuma attended PMC meeting in Lokichoggio North Deanery in April. Lastly the trainer handled a case of a 16 - year-old boy who was on runaway from the camp but through Officer Commanding Station, Lodwar Police Station and the Department of Children Services he returned home after one week of tracing and reunification, all adding up to **281 refugees**.

She also directly worked with **240 Internally Displaced Persons** within Canaan in Kanamkemer.

d) Children Living on the Streets

The trainer in Lodwar visited 30 children living in the streets during the Judicial Service Week. She took with her milk and sweets for the children. When the Court Users Committee Members visited Nadirkonyen Catholic Centre for street Children, 20 boys from the streets of Kanamkemer joined other children in Celebrating the Day of the African child and enjoyed the sweets, sodas, breads, T shirts and they participated in dancing. Lokichoggio Parish worked with 80 street children during the December Holidays, thus the programme directly reached **130 children living in the streets**.

e) People in Prison

On the International Women's Day this year, our trainer visited Lodwar GK prison and celebrated with women prisoners by giving them a message of encouragement. She also gave a box of milk for 7 children who are living with their imprisoned mothers. There were **27** women prisoners.

f) Indigenous People

The programme's operation especially in Northern Kenya and Southern Sudan is among the Turkana and Toposa, who are indigenous people. These communities have been left behind in all ways even in matters as basic as education, health care and general development. They are communities that still have a firm grip on their culture. Some of the aspects of that culture disadvantages children and other vulnerable groups of adults for instance women and persons with disability. The programme however targeted far to reach areas that people might not have been exposed to safeguarding information yet. The trainer visited the following places;

- Kangalita and had awareness session with 200 children 10 women and 4 Men.
- Kakalel 100 children Female 20 and 6 males. Koono had 100 children and 15 Female and 10 men.
- Naotin had 70 children and 5 women and lastly Holy Trinity Canaan had 80 children.

Therefore, apart from the general population reached in Northern Kenya and S. Sudan, there were **610** more indigenous people reached through targeted outreach. adding to the general indigenous beneficiary population of 5181 children and 1800 adults reached during awareness trainings, this brings us to a total of **7,591 indigenous people reached in the course of the year.**

g) People affected by Human Trafficking

Child Trafficking is a growing activity in both Kenya and South Sudan. We are linking with Talitha Kum International – Kenya (formerly RAHT) to respond on behalf of trafficked children. They have an educational and rescue structure in place. Fr. Damian Martell, SPS has covered a lot of ground in creating awareness in our Parishes, using our safeguarding platforms, on this sensitive issue of Human Trafficking. Talitha Kum personnel have also joined us on the weekly Radio Maria programme on 2 occasions to create awareness on Child Trafficking as a safeguarding concern. We have circulated Talitha Kum International – Kenya's toll - free phone number in all our parishes through the parish safeguarding programme. Cases that arose from awareness creation in our parishes and were responded to by Talitha Kum were **13 in total (4Male and 9 Female)**

One of our trainers also attended a Human Trafficking Symposium - Phenomena of Human Trafficking: Understanding Human Trafficking and Organ Harvesting in Africa – which was held in Nairobi. The symposium was organized and facilitated by the Salesians of Don Bosco.



Figure 5: Special Groups

NETWORKING AND COLLABORATION

Working with other players in Safeguarding has proven to be a strength in creating remarkable impact in the work we do. Our offices in Nairobi and Lodwar and indeed all our Parish Committees have put great efforts towards achieving a greater sense of partnerships, networking and collaboration for Safeguarding is a collective responsibility.

Our Trainer in Lodwar worked with other members of Turkana Gender and Child Protection Network to discuss budgetary allocations for ECD and draft a policy that is currently waiting to be tabled at the County Assembly of Turkana. She also joined other members to create awareness on GBV around the villages in Lodwar during the 16 days of activism against GBV. A Radio spot on Radio

Akicha facilitated by our programme also brought on board other partners (The Diocese Child Protection Officer and the Court Administrator) to discuss GBV.

Generally, programme trainers and volunteers in the parishes worked with partners during the reporting period on Child Protection matters, in trainings and in celebrations. The Day of the African Child planning, awareness creation through the radio and celebrations were successful through partnerships.

In general, we continue to network and collaborate with the following organizations and agencies:

- The Government of Kenya – Directorate of Criminal Investigation, Children Department.
- Talitha Kum International - Kenya, formerly RAHT
- Nairobi Child Protection Team (NCPT)
- Save the Children International
- ADRA – Adventist Development and Relief Agencies
- Department of Children Services
- Haki Yetu (A sister Organization, affiliated to SPS, working at the Coastal Region of Kenya)
- SHOFCO – Shinning Hope for Communities
- Kenya Police
- County Government of Turkana, Department of Gender
- County Government of Nairobi, Department of Welfare and Social Services
- Catholic Dioceses in Kenya and South Sudan.
- International Rescue Committee
- Turkana Gender and Protection Network
- Turkana County Education Board
- AOSK – Association of Sisterhoods of Kenya
- RSCK – Religious Superiors Conference of Kenya
- KCCB – Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops
- Tangaza University
- The Pontifical Commission for Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults
- International Safeguarding Conference (Rome).
- Morgan Omusundi Law Firm and Advocates
- Embulbul Education and Counselling Centre.
- Radio Maria – Nairobi
- Radio Maria - Kisumu
- Radio Waumini – Nairobi
- Radio Osotua - Ngong
- Radio Amani – Nakuru
- Radio Tumaini – Mombasa
- Radio Mitume – Kitale
- Radio Upendo – Eldoret
- Radio Akicha – Lodwar
- Radio Kapoeta – S. sudan
- HAART - Awareness Against Human Trafficking (Kenya)
- Childline Kenya
- I Choose Life Organization
- ICSG – K - Inter - Congregational Child Safeguarding Group – Kenya
- Turkana County Court Users Committee
- National Council for Persons with Disability (NCPWD)

- Jesuit Centre for Safeguarding – Hekima University College



Figure 6: Case Conference

OUTCOMES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND SUCCESS STORIES

1. The Programme has always conducted awareness sessions and training that has seen increased number of cases being reported to our committees from areas beyond our parishes.
2. There has been supportive parish priests and parish committee members who willingly give time and Volunteer to work for the Programme.
3. The trust from the community to get help and services from the church when they share their concerns places the programme at an advantageous position for the pastoral outreach of the church.
4. The partnership and collaboration from other like-minded stakeholders make the programme real and relevant to the needs of the community who are great beneficiaries of the services.
5. The Disability Awareness Workshop for volunteers was a great way of launching the programme's focus on Persons with Disability.
6. Safeguarding Awareness is well embedded in our parishes now.
7. Kericho Diocese inviting us for the Priests' workshop based on our presence in its Londiani Parish.

CHALLENGES

1. Unpreparedness for emergency issues that would require adhoc intervention e.g the recent floods.
Natural calamities like Heat wave and sudden climatic changes that affected the school calendar affecting learning and creating unfriendly pressures to parents.
2. The trainer in Lodwar has experienced a high turnover of parish workers, Religious and Priests during this past year.
3. Child abuse still exists especially now that the economic situation of Kenya and South Sudan is worsening. There is increasing poverty. This has led to an increase in cases of child neglect, as well as school drop-out due to lack of basic needs e.g fees, food and basic school requirements.

4. Lack of support from Local administrators and partners in South Sudan who are not committed.
5. In some cases, little good will from the leadership in the Parishes. In our strategy on sustainability, we plan to meet all Parish Priests where this issue will be addressed.
6. Reluctance of committee members to use the data base to remit information to the office.
7. Expectation of allowances by local duty bearers when they are called for meetings/trainings.

LESSONS LEARNT

1. Awareness creation must be continuous. Working with children and Vulnerable Adults is very dangerous and can lead to victimization if an organization does not collaborate with other partners.
2. Commitment and persistence in creating awareness brings change however gradual it may be. A good example being Riwoto, where for a long time Fr Tim Galvin - SPS (R.I.P) continued to address children concerns and climate change by growing trees. The community now enjoys the green vegetation even after he is gone.
In addition, at Narus the Diocese has established a Caritas office to work in Schools in collaboration with our Parish Safeguarding Committee members.
3. A problem shared is a problem solved. This is the case of challenges experienced regarding means of transport and technical support in the parishes. After openly sharing with the relevant persons, it has been sorted out.

SUMMARY NUMBERS OF PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH DIFFERENT FORUMS

PLATFORM	NUMBER OF PEOPLE REACHED
Awareness trainings	22,191
Dioceses and Religious Congregations	150
Day of the African Child	9,161
Advocacy Campaigns	1,500
Essay Competitions	356
Mass Announcements	31,600
Special Groups	9,106
Residential Workshop	23
Zoom/Google Meetings	192
Social Media Platforms	6500
Programme Expansion	300
Children Masses	13669
IEC Material	<i>In huge number. Hard to calculate.</i>
TOTAL	94735
RADIO	<i>10 400 000 + 40 000 FB followers (we are considering them as indirect beneficiaries)</i>

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