



## Kenya

Kajiado Diocese

Urban Development  
Programme, Nairobi

December 2021



CMSI Global Update

Dear Friends,

Greetings from CMSI! Here is the latest update from our partners in Kenya.

### Urban Development Programme (UDP), Nairobi

The **Tujiinue Young Mothers** recently finished the beadwork on two stoles to be presented by CMSI to Rev Adrian Dorrian, the past president of the organisation and a previous visitor to the UDP.

With support from CMSI, the **Tujisaidie Self-Help Project**, the group co-ordinating the community, was able to provide two food distributions in late October and late November. *"The food is the most important thing of all"*, was the feedback received from one elderly lady. Without the food, the community suffers at this time when they are still severely affected by Covid-19.

The **Tujisaidie Community Centre School** is continuing its work, after a brief mid-term break given by the government following several arson attacks in boarding schools in various parts of the country. Hot school lunches are served to all 300+ students and their teachers and staff on every weekday during term. Thanks to CMSI, the school has been able to buy textbooks for the classes studying the new Competence Based Curriculum, which is currently working its way upwards through the Primary School classes.

A renewal grant from CMSI helped with some school improvement work. As the school is looking so good now, (see picture above) new students have applied to join the senior classes and have been admitted.



Up to 20 girls from the senior classes recently participated in two zoom calls on Global Climate Justice with the Girls Friendly Society. These virtual learning sessions (facilitated by Tearfund Ireland and CMSI) brought the Kenyan students together with GFS girls in Ireland and Cameroon in a remarkable inter-cultural meeting. The girls were thrilled to take part and the experience generated great excitement! School Principal John Omondi helped guide the girls (pictured, below left), and Antony Njoroge set up the technology at the TAF Centre of Excellence.

We are grateful for a Church of Ireland Bishops' Appeal grant, which will bolster CMSI parish contributions to cover 50% of the funding required to create a playground for the school in a recently acquired neighbouring plot. A first phase of constructing the playground is planned for the brief Christmas / New Year's holidays.

The **Tumaini African Foundation** is building up its library towards its planned inventory of 10,000 books, and these are already being used after school by large numbers of students keen to learn. In order to compensate for the trees felled to make these books, TAF are raising funds to plant at least 1000 trees. They are also enjoying success at football matches and planting a tree for every goal scored. In addition, they continue to serve 'more-than-just-a-meal' to some 500 children every Saturday: a hot meal combined with mentoring and Christian education. On other days, they are inviting guest speakers for motivational talks, entrepreneurship and emerging leaders training.

The most recent innovation has been a chess club, inspired by TAF member Nicholas who taught himself to play on YouTube. Boards and chess pieces were obtained and a training session set up with one of Kenya's leading players. Antony commented:

*"Over the last 4 years we have been working towards bringing in new games/sports. Our primary aim is to have the young people explore other possible talents, opportunities for leisure and for 'industry'."*



## Kajiado Diocese, Kenya

Despite the severe difficulties faced in the last six months due to drought and the continuing effects of Covid, there have been a number of opportunities for clergy and people to gather together in celebration, prayer and worship. The Diocesan Synod took place at ACK Emmanuel Cathedral Church, Kajiado from 30th September to 1st October, which culminated in a special service for the making of canons and the installation of a new provost.



During the synod a number of members spoke in support of a motion of appreciation to CMSI and all supporting churches in Ireland *“for their contribution in alleviating human suffering caused by the global COVID-19 pandemic”*. The motion – forwarded to me by Bishop Lenini – formally thanked CMSI for supporting:

- ♦ The relief food distribution to more than 300 remote households that have suffered from severely reduced income due to long lockdowns and in some cases desert locusts;
- ♦ The medical and food relief contribution to the clergy and their dependents who were infected by Covid-19;
- ♦ The special contribution to assist the family and dependents of the late evangelist Isaiah who was killed by a stray elephant while trying to save Sunday school children;
- ♦ The completion of the Kajiado Drip Irrigation Project (model vegetable farm) to extend the pipes and improve access to the water tower for the sale of water. The farm is a big boost in enhancing the mission of the Church in social transformation.

Sadly however, the drought continued to bite, with famine hitting parts of the country and food prices rising everywhere. As the expected rains failed to arrive, pastoralists had to move their livestock in search of food, and then had to buy hay. It is terrible how climate change is seriously impacting weather patterns, with major effects on food production.

In a final tragic twist, rains did finally come in late November – but in such abundance that many farmers lost goats and cattle in the floods. In response, CMSI was able to send funds to assist with further relief food targeting approximately 700 households in the Imbirikani, Olgulului, Torosei and Magadi areas. The project will also provide the front office staff with PPE, plus financial support for five evangelists who have no salaries due to the closure of churches and also due to migration of livestock in search of pastures.



Another major challenge during the last 18 months has been the struggle to sustain education at Oloosuyian Girls Secondary School. In 2020 Government lockdown measures closed the school for many months, and then changes in Kenyan Education Policy severely affected enrolment still further. A directive that 100% of students should now transition from public primary to public secondary schools, together with government subsidies for school fees in public schools, meant that very few parents now registered their children for private schools like OGSS.

Due to all these challenges, the Board of Education and Training decided to rebrand the school to make it a Youth/Adult Education and Learning Centre for both male and female students who drop out from schools, due to personal difficulties. The Board of Directors are currently marketing the new school and are planning to launch it in May 2022 (for the start of the next academic year), with hopes to enrol upwards of 100 students.

With thanks and best wishes,

Roger Thompson  
Partnership Coordinator