Isabelle Prondzynski

Nairobi, KENYA

October 2026

CMSI Link Letter

Isabelle is a CMS Ireland Mission Associate who advises the Tujisaidie Community in Kayole, Nairobi, Kenya.

Dear Friends

Greetings from Nairobi, where the sky is partially cloudy and the sun is shining as I write. It is quite possible that this will be the last day before El Niño reaches Nairobi. Heavy rain has been forecast every day for the past week, and it has already reached several parts of the country.

The expected "super" El Niño

We have all been preparing as best we can, while knowing that our preparations are just tiny gestures in the face of God's mighty nature. As I write, roofers are attaching gutters to my house, so that the falling rain will cause less damage by being channelled away as quickly as possible. In the Tujisaidie School, we have improved the gutters and repaired the corrugated roof over the playground. We have installed an extra rainwater tank, so as to benefit from the downpours of clean water. In the Tumaini building, we have installed solar panels, as the downpours and flooding very often cause electricity blackouts. Some twenty leaders of Tumaini and Tujisaidie have just received firefighting and first aid training, which will be helpful in any emergency around the community.

There are many things that we cannot do. We cannot improve the sewerage, and must therefore expect water borne diseases. We cannot improve the system of rubbish collection, which in Kayole should be done by the City Council, but only happens about once a year at most.

We have discussed what can be done for the most vulnerable people. A number of houses are located below the road level, and most probably, floodwaters will once again pour in to one side of the house and out the other.

We have heard from previous floods, that the waters reached up to the bottom of the beds, so that mattresses and bedding were soaked, and even the beds themselves in some cases had to be replaced. The poorest members of the community, who had no beds and were sleeping on mattresses on the floor, were left stranded during the flooding and were offered refuge in the Tumaini building.

Aisling O'Malley, the Chairperson of the Kenya Irish Society and a qualified public health expert, visited us to discuss what preparations were necessary in advance of the expected El Niño. One of her recommendations was that we should establish a confidential list of all community members who are vulnerable and might need help in the event of the catastrophe turning out as bad as expected.

The meeting with her included the Principal of the Tujisaidie School, the leaders of Tumaini, and the Directors of the neighouring Bahati Secondary School, as well as the Tujisaidie Advisers (Lucy, Louise and myself).

The school leaders talked about the previous El Niño, and how so many children suffered at the time. Walking to school, they got wet from the rain. During school hours, their clothes did not dry. Walking home, they would get wet again, and if they washed their clothes in the evening, they would not dry overnight. Day after day, they might be wearing wet clothes and getting sick as a result.

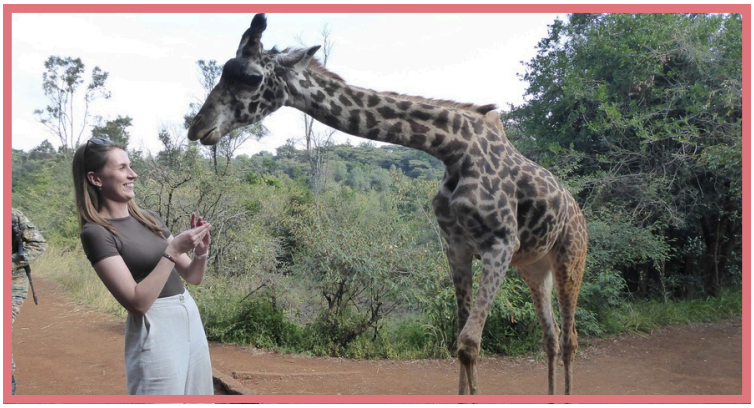
The medical funds which Tujisaidie receives every year, were used in full, helping people during that time, and we expect the same thing to happen again this year.

Giving thanks for the year

We remember with gratitude Emma Glenn's visit during July, which was such a joy to the students and the community. She had an easy gift of making friends with the children and their teachers, and also loved the parts of the wider Nairobi area (including giraffes) we were able to show her.

We are eagerly planning the school outings for next year, when we intend to take the entire school to the wonderful Karura Forest, a protected area within the city borders, where education guides can show students trees, plants, insects and small mammals living there.

We have recruited a French teacher to start teaching in the Primary School and Junior Secondary School from January. Edouige is a Burundian who recently arrived in Kenya, and her son Muko has already joined Grade 2 of the Tujisaidie School, where he has been made very welcome. Edouige has already helped us in finding and preparing the French teaching materials that are available in Nairobi.



A science laboratory is a requirement for the Junior Secondary School, and it will be a very important room in the school we are hoping to build next year with the support of CMS Ireland and Misean Cara. We are blessed to have been invited to several schools to see what their laboratories look like so we can begin to plan what will need to be built and purchased.

The school year in Kenya will finish this week, and apart from national examinations, the students will be on holiday for the entire months of November and December, before starting a new school year in early January.

We thank God for the teaching and learning of 2026, and for the joy of the students in their school. We are very grateful for the support from CMS Ireland for the invigilators at the examinations, and for the food packets that every student and teacher of the school will go home with, to help their families during this long period of no school lunches.

At this time, may we ask for prayers :

- for all members of the community to be safe during El Niño,
- for the school children and their parents to have sufficient food during the long break,
- for the Misean Cara application, that all necessary information be gathered and costed in good time and the application be supported,
- for the new school year in January, with a new Grade 8 starting, and with new classes of French language and the science laboratory,
- for the national elections in August next year, for all the preparations and rallies and demonstrations for many months before the elections and for calm afterwards.

May God bless you and your families with peace and joy over the Christmas and New Year season!

Isabelle

Church Mission Society Ireland - Company Registration Number (Ireland) - 26905; Registered Charity Number (Ireland): 20001476; Charity Reference Number (UK): XN48809.