



2024 MARY QUEEN OF PEACE HALF A YEAR REPORT JANUARY TO JUNE



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MARY QUEEN OF PEACE COMMUNITY



Mary Queen of Peace is a dedicated educational institution that prioritizes holistic development and community support across its diverse departments and programs. At its core, the institution encompasses a Nursery School providing foundational education for young learners, complemented by the Family Support Office (FSO) within the Community Services Department. The FSO serves as a crucial hub for child protection and case management, offering essential services like counseling and home visits to support vulnerable children and families in the Chilomoni area. Alongside this, the Extended School Workers (ESW) office ensures enriching extracurricular activities, enhancing the educational experience for students.

Beyond early education, Mary Queen of Peace extends its impact through St. Kizito Primary School, offering comprehensive education from grades 1 to 7, and Caro Acutis High School, providing education from forms 1 to 4. These segments emphasize both academic excellence and character development, preparing students for future academic and professional pursuits. Additionally, John Paul College offers diverse technical courses and short-term certifications in ICT, electrical installation, plumbing, design, tailoring, and early childhood education, enriching the educational landscape with practical skills essential for today's workforce.

Furthermore, Mary Queen of Peace demonstrates a commitment to accessibility by providing full scholarships to vulnerable students throughout day-care, primary, and high school levels. Approximately one-third of participants in nursery, primary, and college benefit from these scholarships, ensuring that financial constraints do not hinder educational opportunities. The institution also supports its staff and members of St. James Catholic Parish in Chilomoni with subsidized fees, fostering a supportive community environment where education is accessible to all. Through these initiatives, Mary Queen of Peace continues to uphold its mission of holistic education and community empowerment in Chilomoni and beyond.

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE ENROLMENT

Mary Queen of Peace currently enrolls a total of 1,183 students across its nursery, primary, high school, and college programs.



Mother Teresa Catholic Nursery School & Community Services
170 Children



St Kizito Catholic Primary
173 Boys
138 Girls



Carlo Acutis Catholic High School
71 Boys
74 Girls



St John Paul II Catholic College
357 Female
200 Male

Mary Queen of Peace is fully sponsoring a total of 140 children across various educational institutions: 56 children at the Mother Teresa Catholic School (their nursery), 49 children at St. Kizito Catholic School, and 35 students at Carlo Acutis High School. These fully sponsored students receive brand new school uniforms, nutritious meals three times a day, and free transportation for those who live far from their schools. This comprehensive support ensures that the children have the necessary resources to thrive academically and maintain good health, while also alleviating the burden on families by covering transportation costs. This holistic approach underscores Mary Queen of Peace's commitment to providing a supportive and accessible learning environment for all its students.



COMMUNITY SERVICES

366 Girls

200 Boys

50 Parents



FAMILY SUPPORT

184 Children

85 Parents

60 Family Visits
Average



FEEDING PROGRAM

33 boys

22 girls

OVERALL INDICATOR PERFORMANCE REFER TO (REVIEW IPPT FOR 2024)

Office	# of indicators	Targets met	Needs progress	No current data
Day care	33 (21 %)	23(70 %)	3(9 %)	7(21%)
ESW	33 (21 %)	15 (45 %)	11(33 %)	7(21 %)
FSO	56 (36 %)	21(39 %)	20(36 %)	15(27 %)
St Kizito Primary	35(22 %)	31((89%)	4(11%)	0(0)
Combined(MTCS)	157 (100 %)	90(57.3%)	38(24.2 %)	29(18.5%)

a. Overall Indicator Performance Narrative Description

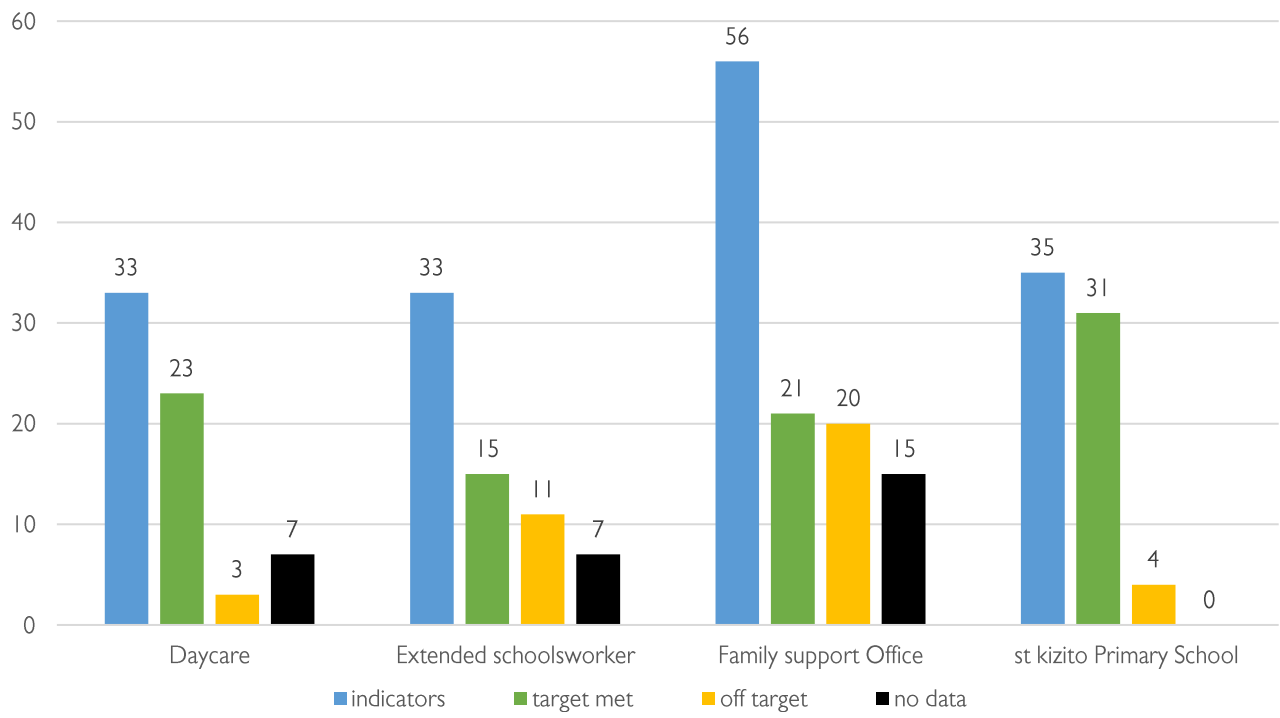
The performance of various departments within Mary Queen of Peace for the year 2024 showcases both strong achievements and areas requiring attention. St. Kizito Primary stands out with an impressive 89% of its targets met, demonstrating effective strategies and consistent progress. With no indicators lacking current data, this department sets a high standard for others to follow. Similarly, the Day Care program has shown commendable performance by meeting 70% of its targets, although 21% of its indicators still require data collection.

On the other hand, the Extended School Workers (ESW) and Family Support Officers (FSO) departments have shown moderate to low performance, with only 45% and 39% of their targets met, respectively. Both departments have a significant portion of indicators that either need progress or lack current data. Specifically, ESW has 33% of its indicators needing progress, and FSO has 36% in the same category. Additionally, 27% of FSO's indicators lack current data, highlighting the need for enhanced data collection efforts.

Overall, the combined performance across all departments (MTCS) indicates that 57.3% of targets have been met, suggesting a strong foundation. However, the remaining 24.2% of indicators needing progress and 18.5% lacking current data point to areas that require focused intervention.

To address these gaps, it is crucial to improve data collection processes, provide targeted support to underperforming departments, and leverage the successful strategies from St. Kizito Primary. Addressing the areas needing progress and improving data collection will pave the way for more comprehensive and accurate assessments in the future, ultimately leading to better outcomes for the entire organization.

INDICATOR BAR GRAPH



MARY QUEEN OF PEACE FEEDING PROGRAM



Figure 1: Students enjoy their meal during a year celebration

In 2021, Gray Rasello initiated a remarkable endeavour in Chilomoni, Malawi - a feeding program aimed at nourishing the needy children in the community. Gray Rasello's provided, the menu consisted of staples like nsima and beans or vegetables, offered thrice weekly. Little did he know that this humble beginning would blossom into a beacon of hope under the stewardship of Mary Queen of Peace, who took over the reins on March 8, 2023.

we celebrate one year since the transition, we reflect on the remarkable journey we've embarked upon, touching the lives of those once plagued by hunger and hardship. the feeding program set out to address the pressing issue of hunger among children, ensuring they received adequate nutrition to thrive. Initially, 48 students were entrusted to the care of the program, later increased to 55 under Mary Queen of Peace's compassionate guidance. Among these children, 23 boys and 22 girls now experience daily sustenance, a stark contrast to the three meals per week they previously relied upon

Before its implementation, many children were plagued by malnutrition, absenteeism, and susceptibility to diseases. However, with regular meals, attendance has improved, and health issues have diminished significantly. The impact of our program transcends mere sustenance; it's a catalyst for change in health, education, and self-esteem. Witness the remarkable turnaround of young boys and girls

CARER DAY AT ST KIZITO PRIMARY SCHOOL



St. Kizito Primary School recently hosted a vibrant Career Day, providing students a platform to showcase their dream careers through costumes and interactive presentations, supported by teachers, parents, and inspiring guest speakers. The event highlighted goal-setting & planning for the future, instilling confidence and purpose in the students. Meanwhile, extended school workers took 35 children from St. James Primary and Chilomoni Catholic to a trade fair, where they learned about product manufacturing processes at companies like Illovo and Electricity Supply of Malawi. The children enjoyed and learned a lot, winning calendars and testing various products

CONGRATUATIONS TO ST KIZITO COMMUNITY



Figure 2 ;TOP achievers

St. Kizito has shown impressive academic performance, Achieving an overall pass rate of **85%** in the recent academic period. Out of the total students, 267 passed their exams, with 147 boys and 120 girls meeting the required standards. This high pass rate highlights the effectiveness of the school's educational strategies and the supportive learning environment it provides to its students. The dedication of both the teachers and students has played a significant role in reaching this commendable outcome.

Despite the strong overall performance, it also indicates that 50 students did not meet the required standards and failed, comprising 32 boys and 18 girls. This failure rate, although relatively low, points to areas that need targeted interventions. The slight difference in the number of boys and girls passing suggests that various factors, including differences in learning styles, access to resources, and external support, may be influencing the outcomes. Identifying and addressing these factors is crucial to ensuring all students have equal opportunities to succeed.

St. Kizito's overall academic performance is commendable, there is also a room for improvement to ensure all students have the opportunity to succeed., These efforts will help create a more inclusive and effective learning environment, ensuring that every student at St. Kizito has the support they need to achieve their full potential. With continued dedication and targeted interventions, St. Kizito can strive towards even higher academic achievements and a brighter future for all its students.

STUDENT PREPAREDNESS



Figure 4: Carlo Acutis Students

On the 17th of May 2024, the Extended School Workers (ESW) program under Mary Queen of Peace organized a farewell party for 18 STD 8 learners as they prepared to sit for their Primary School Leaving Certificate of Education exams. The event was a celebratory send-off, acknowledging their hard work and dedication over the years. Each learner received a starter pack containing a pen, an instrument, and a pencil to assist them during exams. The event was further enriched by Mary Queen of Peace generously providing a delicious lunch, making the day even more memorable for the students. This initiative reflected the institution's commitment to supporting and recognizing the efforts of its students, aiming for positive outcomes in their examinations.

Recently, CARLO ACUTIS of Peace School, also under Mary Queen of Peace, held a heartfelt farewell ceremony for its 44 Form Two students ahead of their Junior Certificate Examinations. The event featured a solemn mass led by Father Nanyallo, the educational director, who offered words of encouragement and blessings, emphasizing dedication and perseverance in their academic journey. Following the mass, a celebratory luncheon created a warm, supportive atmosphere, recognizing the students' hard work and fostering camaraderie. This farewell not only honoured the students' achievements and potential but also reinforced the school's commitment to holistic education and community building.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT



Figure 3: parents receiving their donation

On April 29, the family outreach team at Mary Queen of Peace received a transformative donation from Father Chanju Banda of Chilomoni Holy Cross Anglican: seven wheelchairs valued at 1.7 million Kwacha. These wheelchairs were generously provided to benefit seven special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) clients from Khola, Zambia, and Singerege. This act of generosity not only underscores the compassion and support within the community but also represents a crucial step towards enhancing the mobility and quality of life for these children.

Among the recipients is a young girl who had previously faced challenges attending mobility sessions due to her limited movement capabilities. With the provision of a new wheelchair, her daily life is set to undergo a significant improvement. The newfound mobility will alleviate her struggles and enable her to more comfortably navigate her surroundings. Most importantly, it will facilitate her regular attendance at school, opening doors to educational opportunities that were previously hindered by mobility issues.

The impact of these wheelchairs extends beyond physical mobility; they symbolize inclusivity and empowerment within the community. By promoting accessibility to education and social activities, these children are empowered to participate more fully in society. The donation not only addresses immediate practical needs but also nurtures a sense of belonging and dignity among the beneficiaries, fostering a more inclusive and supportive environment for all.

BOOKS DISTRIBUTION



In May 2024, Mary Queen of Peace initiated a significant project by distributing storybooks and pencils to students at various primary schools. This effort aims to cultivate a love for reading, improve language skills, and enhance overall academic performance. The initiative encourages regular reading, which is essential for developing vocabulary, comprehension, creativity, and critical thinking skills. By providing these resources, Mary Queen of Peace ensures that students have the tools they need to succeed academically and personally.

At St. James Primary School, each of the 1,200 learners received a storybook and a pencil. This impactful initiative extended to other schools as well, with Chilomoni Catholic Primary receiving 427 storybooks and pencils, Lumbira Primary receiving 375, and Mulunguzi Primary receiving 1,046.

By reaching multiple schools, Mary Queen of Peace demonstrates its commitment to improving education for a broader community. This project not only supports the students' immediate educational needs but also lays a foundation for their future success, showcasing the institution's dedication to fostering a brighter future through education.



Figure 6: Story telling in guinea fowl class

At Mother Teresa Catholic Nursery School in Chilomoni, the power of stories is a cornerstone of the children's education. The children, full of excitement, gather on colorful mats, eagerly awaiting the start of story time with their beloved teachers. The teachers, with their warm smiles and gentle demeanours, hold large, vibrant books. The covers, adorned with enchanting illustrations, promise a journey into a world of wonder. As they begin to read, the room transforms into a magical place where anything is possible. The walls of the classroom are decorated with educational posters and the children's artwork, creating an environment that celebrates learning and creativity. These visual aids complement the stories, making the lessons more engaging and memorable.

As the teachers read, their voices bring the characters to life. The children are captivated, their eyes wide with wonder as they follow the adventures of a little elephant named Ellie. The teachers pause occasionally to ask questions, encouraging the children to think critically and share their ideas. This interactive approach ensures that the children are not just passive listeners but active participants in the storytelling process. Their responses reflect their understanding and imagination, showing how deeply they are engaged.

The power of stories at Mother Teresa Catholic Nursery School goes beyond entertainment. Stories are a means of teaching, inspiring, and connecting with the children. They help the children develop language skills, enhance their creativity, and build empathy. Through stories, the children learn to see the world from different perspectives and understand the importance of values like kindness and courage. As the story ends, the children are filled with joy and a sense of accomplishment. They have travelled to a magical world and returned, enriched by the experience. The room buzzes with excitement as they discuss Ellie's adventures, their imaginations sparked by the tale.

At Mother Teresa Catholic Nursery School, stories are more than just words on a page. They are powerful tools that shape young minds, foster a love for learning, and create a sense of community. Through the magic of storytelling, the children are empowered to dream big and believe in themselves.

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE ARTS COMPETITION



Figure 4: YOUNG CARES SHOWING CASING THEIR DANCING MOVES



Figure 5 ST KIZITO PRIMARY PERFORMING THEIR DRAMA

The recent ACTS (Arts, Culture, and Talent Showcase) program organized by Mary Queen of Peace was a resounding success, uniting participants from various department at mother Teresa community to celebrate their unique talents. Highlights included Carlo Acutis High School winning the poem category with a moving recital, the Young Cares Group from Family Support clinching the top spot in the dancing category with an energetic performance, and ESW captivating the audience with a drama addressing social issues.

USING THE LOCALLY AVAILABLE - ST KIZITO PRIMARY SCHOOL



Entering the classrooms at St. Kizito, visitors are greeted with a vibrant and resourceful environment. Walls are adorned with educational posters and charts crafted from recycled materials like old newspapers and magazines. This creative approach allows students to engage deeply with their studies, using everyday materials for practical learning.

The school's efforts extend beyond the classroom to foster sustainability and environmental stewardship. Students participate in projects like the school garden, where they grow vegetables. These activities teach valuable lessons about resourcefulness and sustainability, reinforcing the importance of caring for their environment.

St. Kizito Primary School's innovative use of local resources demonstrates how creativity and collaboration can transform educational experiences. By harnessing the potential of their surroundings, they have created a dynamic and engaging learning environment that prepares students for a sustainable future while instilling important values and skills.

FAMILY SUPPORT RESOURCE MAKING SESSION



The Family Support Office under Mary Queen of Peace has made significant strides in early childhood education through innovative and resourceful methods led by James Kaduka, the Nursery School Coordinator. The office's initiatives, particularly within the Community-Based Childcare (CBCC) program, have enriched the learning experiences of 44 young children by integrating practical, locally sourced materials into their education. Under the leadership of the Family Support Office, the nursery environment has been transformed into a dynamic space that emphasizes hands-on learning. By incorporating everyday materials like sticks and stones into the curriculum, the office has created interactive and accessible educational activities. This approach helps children grasp foundational concepts through tangible experiences, making learning both engaging and effective.

The Family Support Office's impact extends beyond direct classroom instruction. The office has facilitated the training of 34 teachers from 34 Community-Based Childcare Centres (CDCCs). Through these sessions, educators are introduced to innovative techniques and strategies for using local resources in their teaching practices. This training not only broadens the reach of the office's methods but also promotes a collaborative approach to resourceful teaching across the region. The work of the Family Support Office exemplifies a commitment to creativity and community engagement in education. By focusing on practical resource use and sharing expertise with fellow educators, the office has made a lasting contribution to early childhood education, enhancing the quality of learning for students and improving teaching practices within the community.

HEALTHY WELL BEING



Mary Queen of Peace, in collaboration with the Chilomoni Health Facility, recently conducted a successful growth monitoring outreach clinic at Mulunguzi. This initiative reached over 60 children, providing essential health assessments to identify any growth abnormalities, malnutrition, or other health issues that could impact their development. The clinic's thorough evaluations are crucial in ensuring the children's well-being.

In addition to the growth assessments, the outreach clinic provided parents and guardians with valuable information on nutrition, hygiene, and proper child care. Educational materials and advice were distributed, empowering families with the knowledge needed to support their children's healthy growth and development. This initiative highlights the importance of community-based health interventions in promoting overall well-being.

The event underscores the ongoing commitment of Mary Queen of Peace and the Chilomoni Health Facility to provide essential health services to the community. By bringing care directly to the local population, these organizations are ensuring that even the most vulnerable children have access to necessary health support. The outreach clinic at Mulunguzi is a testament to their dedication to fostering a healthier future for the community.

DISTRIBUTION OF PORRIDGE



The Family Support Office at Mary Queen of Peace has recently made a meaningful contribution to the health and well-being of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) by donating 5 kilograms of Likuni Phala. This nutritious porridge will be distributed during the Friday sessions, providing these children with a vital source of nourishment. Likuni Phala, renowned for its high nutritional value, is packed with essential proteins, vitamins, and minerals necessary for growth and development. This initiative aims to ensure that SEND children attending the Friday sessions receive a wholesome meal that supports their dietary needs.

The Friday sessions, organized by the Family Support Office, are dedicated to providing specialized care and activities for SEND children. By incorporating Likuni Phala into these sessions, the Family Support Office not only enhances the nutritional intake of the children but also creates an opportunity to educate caregivers about the importance of a balanced diet. This holistic approach ensures that the benefits of the donation extend beyond the immediate provision of food, promoting a deeper understanding of nutritional health within the community.

Overall, the donation of 5 kilograms of Likuni Phala is a testament to the commitment of the Family Support Office to the welfare of SEND children. By addressing their nutritional needs during the Friday sessions, this initiative contributes to their physical development and supports their participation in the program's activities. It underscores the importance of community support in fostering an inclusive and healthy environment for all children at Mary Queen of Peace.

EDUCATIONAL TRIPS



St kizito primary

On May 8, 2024, St. Kizito Catholic Primary School's entertainment committee organized an educational trip for its students to Limbe, Lirangwe, and the Blantyre Museum. The trip featured a train ride where learners explored different modes of transport and career options, engaging with the train guide. The highlight of the trip was the train ride, which allowed the learners to immerse themselves in the experience of rail travel. They were thrilled to ask questions to the train guide, who provided insightful answers and piqued their curiosity about the mechanics and operations of trains. This experience was not only educational but also an inspiration for many who showed interest in careers related to transportation and engineering

At the Blantyre Museum, students were fascinated by historical artifacts, enhancing their understanding of history and heritage. The school management ensured inclusivity by covering the transportation and participation costs for students on bursaries, allowing everyone to join the trip.

The journey was smooth and safe, providing students with an enriching and memorable experience. The success of the trip was due to the dedicated efforts of the management, staff, and marketing team of St. Kizito Catholic Primary School, whose support ensured a valuable and enjoyable experience for all learners

EDUCATIONAL VISIT TO THE TRADEFAIR



In a bid to broaden their horizons and provide practical learning experiences, 30 students from the Extended School Workers (ESW) program under Mary Queen of Peace recently participated in educational trips to the Malawi Trade Fair. This enriching experience allowed the students to explore various industries and understand the processes behind the products and services that drive the nation's economy.

During the trip, the students visited several key companies and industries. They learned about the operations of the Electricity Supply Corporation of Malawi (ESCOM), gaining insights into how electricity is generated and distributed across the country. The tour also included a visit to a water purification facility, where students observed the intricate processes involved in making water safe for consumption. The students also explored agriculture product manufacturing, witnessing how raw agricultural materials are transformed into finished goods.

In addition to these technical industries, the students visited the Malawi Broadcasting Station to understand how frequencies are transmitted and media content is broadcasted nationwide. They also had the opportunity to learn about the Malawi Revenue Authority's role in tax collection and revenue management. These visits provided the students with a comprehensive understanding of the diverse economic activities in Malawi, enriching their educational experience and inspiring future career aspirations.

ENHACEMENTS OF SPORTS



Figure 6: YOUNG CARES VS ST KIZITO PRIMARY



Figure 7: ESW VS CARLO ACUTIS



Figure 8: BIKE CLUB COMPETITION



figure 9: ESW TABLE TENNIS VS NYASA ACADEMY

Mary Queen of Peace is passionately committed to fostering comprehensive student development through dynamic sports programs, boasting an impressive 95% participation rate even with constrained resources. Currently, the school offers netball, football, cricket, and table tennis, ensuring these activities are accessible to students from day-care to college age. This emphasis on sports cultivates physical fitness, teamwork, and discipline. Looking ahead, Mary Queen of Peace plans to expand its offerings to include badminton, hockey, basketball, and volleyball, further enhancing the range of opportunities for students to engage in physical activities and develop essential life skills.

A recent highlight for Mary Queen of Peace was the table tennis match between their ESW group and Nyasa Academy, where 14 out of 15 participants competed and 8 emerged victorious. This achievement showcases the dedication and competitive spirit nurtured within the school. The positive outcomes of such events underscore the transformative impact of sports programs on students' growth and development. more students will benefit from the comprehensive development that sports activities provide, ultimately preparing them for future

KELVIN THE TABLE TENNIS PLAYER FROM MANASE BLANTYRE



Seventeen-year-old Kelvin from Namiwawa community day Secondary School is passionately determined to become a Malawian table tennis champion. Despite living in Nancholi, far from Chilomoni where Mary Queen of Peace hosts table tennis training, Kelvin walks the long distance daily to attend sessions. His dedication, despite reaching home late and enduring exhausting journeys, sets him apart and showcases his commitment.

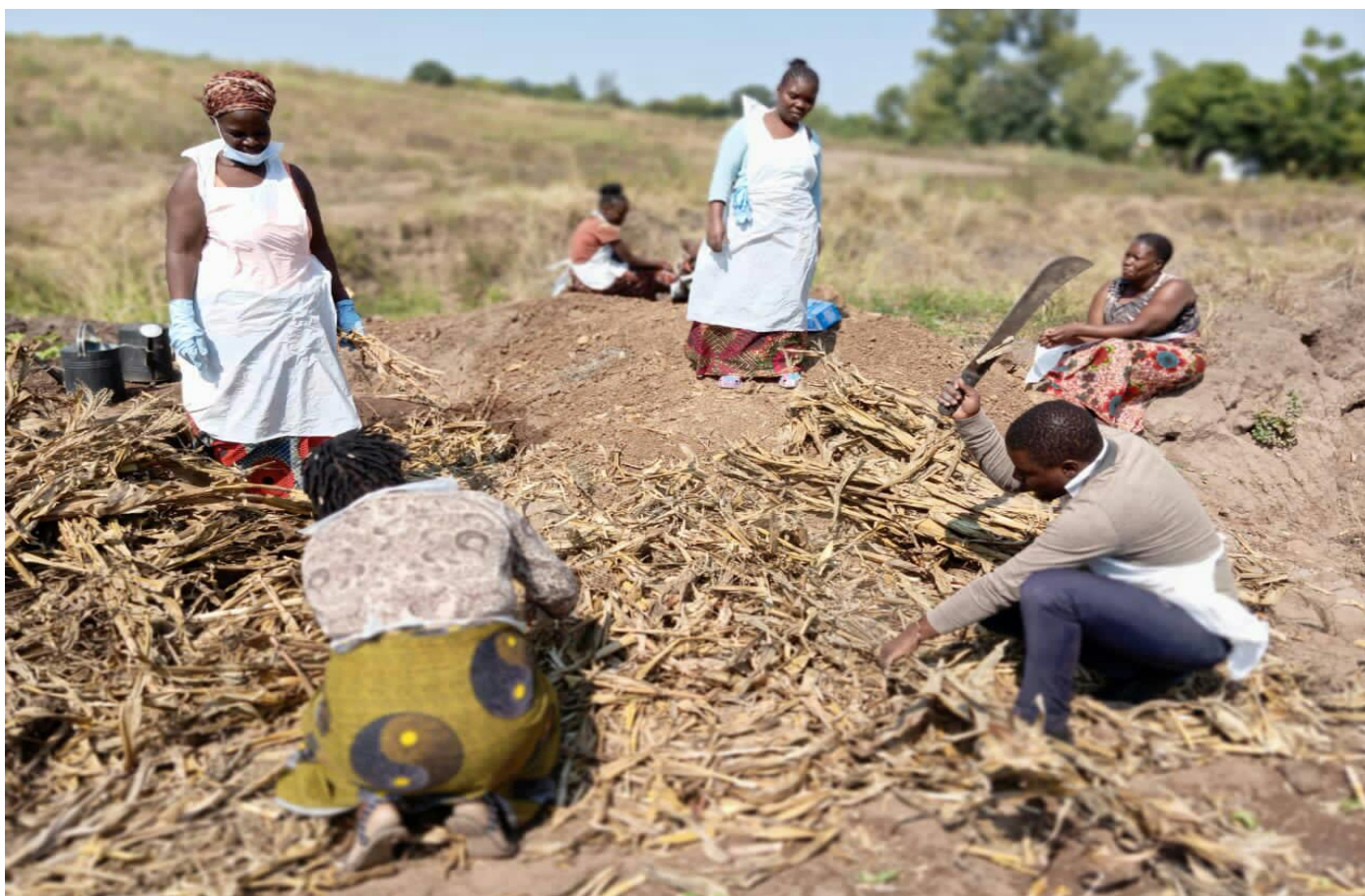
On July 20, 2024, Kelvin's hard work culminated in success at a major tournament held at the Beehive Centre, where he emerged as the runner-up. His impressive performance, amidst fierce competition, was celebrated by all and highlighted the potential of young athletes. During the event, Mary Queen of Peace received a donation of 100 balls and a pair of rackets, further supporting the development of table tennis in the community.

Kelvin's achievement inspired students from various schools to advocate for their own table tennis tables. They believe having equipment at their schools would reduce travel burdens and allow them to train more effectively while fostering a sports culture. Kelvin's journey not only marked a personal milestone but also ignited a movement among young athletes to push for better sports facilities, nurturing future champions.

FAMILY EMPOWEMENT

Mulunguzi group which are doing community sustainable crop production have started selling their crops. by June they have made up to mk30,000.





Mary Queen of Peace, renowned for its extensive educational and community support programs, has recently embarked on a significant initiative aimed at empowering women and fostering sustainable gardening practices in the communities of Likhubula and Mulunguzi. Sponsored by the AMECA Trust, this project involves 33 clients from the Likhubula site and local community members from Mulunguzi. The initiative provides participants with the necessary tools, resources, and knowledge to cultivate their own gardens, promoting self-sufficiency and sustainable agriculture.

A pivotal aspect of the project is the distribution of Mbeya fertilizer, essential for ensuring the health and productivity of the gardens. This provision not only improves soil quality but also demonstrates the benefits of utilizing sustainable agricultural inputs. By equipping participants with such resources, the project lays a solid foundation for ongoing agricultural success. Gardening activities are systematically organized into two groups, allowing for focused and manageable sessions that facilitate effective knowledge transfer and peer support.

The Family Support Officers play a central role in the project's execution. Their responsibilities extend beyond mere supervision; they actively mentor and guide participants through various stages of gardening. This hands-on approach ensures that participants gain practical skills and confidence in their gardening abilities. One of the project's core objectives is the empowerment of women. By focusing on backyard gardening, the initiative provides women with a means to contribute economically to their households and communities, fostering independence and self-reliance.

The project aligns with broader environmental sustainability goals by promoting backyard gardening, encouraging the use of available land for productive purposes, and contributing to food security and environmental conservation. The cultivation of gardens in backyards enhances urban green spaces, contributing to ecological balance and biodiversity. The AMECA Trust project at Mary Queen of Peace is more than just a gardening initiative; it is a holistic approach to community development.

TESTER SESSION



On June 26 and 28, 2024, Mary Queen of Peace hosted a transformative series of tester sessions aimed at empowering local communities through practical skills training. The sessions, held at Beehive on June 26 and at Likhubula and Chigwanja on June 28, brought together a diverse group of 68 parents, including 10 young mothers, for a hands-on workshop focused on baking biscuits.

These workshops were designed not only to teach the art of biscuit-making but also to inspire entrepreneurial spirit and self-sufficiency among participants. The training covered essential techniques, from mixing ingredients to baking and packaging, providing attendees with the knowledge needed to start their own individual or group businesses.

The impact of these sessions has been profound. For many of the parents, particularly the young mothers, this new skill represents more than just a hobby—it's a potential pathway to financial independence and a means to contribute economically to their families. The biscuit-making skills they acquired can be utilized to create small businesses, either individually or collaboratively, fostering economic growth within their communities.

The program's success is reflected in the positive feedback from participants, who expressed excitement and gratitude for the opportunity. Many left the sessions with newfound confidence and enthusiasm about their ability to turn this training into a viable business venture. In addition to the practical skills gained, the sessions also created a sense of community among the participants.

GRADUATION CEREMONY



six exceptional young women have achieved a remarkable milestone. Graduating from the Dare Dreams program for Adolescent Girls and Young Women (AGYW) at St. John Paul II Catholic College, they have mastered Tailoring Fashion and Design despite their hearing impairments. This accomplishment is part of the Ana Patsogolo Activity, a five-year project funded by USAID and PEPFAR, aimed at empowering talented young women.

Their journey began with a powerful belief in their potential, supported by the Dare Dreams program, which provided them with the opportunity to pursue their aspirations. For these young women, learning tailoring was more than acquiring a new skill; it was a transformative experience that enabled them to overcome significant challenges. Communication barriers posed by their hearing impairments required innovative teaching methods and a patient, supportive learning environment. Day by day, stitch by stitch, these students honed their craft, learning to create beautiful garments with intricate designs. Their hands became instruments of creativity, turning fabric into wearable art. Their determination and resilience shone through as they mastered techniques ranging from basic sewing to complex fashion design, each piece reflecting their dedication and hard work.

Beyond technical training, the Ana Patsogolo Activity provided a holistic support system that addressed their emotional, social, and educational needs. This comprehensive approach helped them thrive, offering encouragement and celebrating every milestone. The community at St. John Paul II Catholic College became a second family, providing the support and confidence they needed to succeed.

As they graduate, these six young women are equipped with the skills and confidence to enter the fashion industry. Their journey is a testament to what can be achieved with determination, support, and belief in one's potential. They are now ready to explore the limitless possibilities that lie ahead, with the world of

fashion and design. Their story is not only about their personal achievements but also serves as an inspiration for other young women facing similar challenges. It demonstrates the transformative power of education and support

CONSERVING MICHIRU MOUNTAIN



In a remarkable demonstration of community spirit and environmental stewardship, 200 community members came together to conserve Michiru Mountain, a vital green space threatened by deforestation. This collaborative effort took place over several weeks and involved critical tasks such as weeding, pruning, and creating fire breaks to safeguard the mountain's trees.

Michiru Mountain, now the only remaining forested mountain in the area, faces significant challenges due to the high number of individuals involved in illegal charcoal production. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the Family Support team, Zuka Chilomoni, and local community members rallied together to protect this precious resource.

The conservation activities were extensive and essential. Volunteers worked tirelessly to clear invasive weeds that could choke the growth of native trees, prune overgrown branches to ensure the health of the trees, and establish fire breaks to prevent the spread of wildfires. These efforts have already begun to show positive results, with the trees on Michiru Mountain now thriving and growing more robustly. The role of Limbani Njerwa, the Community Services Manager, has been instrumental in this success. Committed to protecting the mountain, Njerwa has been actively involved in reporting and capturing individuals involved in illegal activities, ensuring that efforts to conserve Michiru Mountain are not undermined.

This collective action not only highlights the resilience and dedication of the community but also serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of environmental conservation. By coming together to address the threats facing Michiru Mountain, the community has taken a significant step towards preserving their natural heritage and fostering a sustainable future.

Mary Queen of Peace is proud to support such impactful initiatives and remains dedicated to working with local partners to promote environmental conservation and community engagement.

STAFF TRAINING



On April 15th and 16th, 2024, staff from Mother Teresa Catholic Nursery School participated in a transformative training session conducted by Montfort Special Educational College. This training focused on understanding and supporting children with various impairments and learning difficulties, including visual and hearing impairments, physical disabilities, learning disabilities, autism spectrum disorder (ASD), and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Educators gained valuable insights into the specific needs of these students and effective practices for addressing them.

The training emphasized creating an inclusive learning environment where all students feel valued and supported. Teachers learned practical approaches such as using large print books, braille materials, and audio resources for students with visual impairments, incorporating sign language and visual aids for those with hearing impairments, and adapting classroom layouts and equipment for students with physical disabilities. These strategies ensure that every child can fully participate in classroom activities, regardless of their individual challenges.

In addition to physical and sensory impairments, the training covered strategies for supporting students with learning disabilities, ASD, and ADHD. Educators were taught to use multi-sensory teaching methods, break tasks into smaller steps, and offer extra time for assignments. For students with ASD, structured routines and visual schedules were highlighted, while for those with ADHD, engaging activities, regular breaks, and positive reinforcement were emphasized. This training has profoundly enhanced the teachers' skills, enabling them to foster a more inclusive, supportive, and effective educational environment at Mother Teresa Catholic Nursery School.

ADDRESSING CHALLENGES AT MARY QUEEN OF PEACE

Over the past two years, Mary Queen of Peace has faced several persistent challenges that have impacted the health, safety, and overall well-being of their students. These issues span from health concerns and parental support to resource constraints, highlighting the need for comprehensive strategies to ensure a conducive learning environment.

Health and Safety Concerns

One of the most pressing issues at Mary Queen of Peace has been the health and safety of its students. In March 2024, a significant health crisis emerged when many learners, particularly at St. Kizito, were infected with pink eye and coughs. The school promptly implemented isolation measures and informed parents and guardians to seek medical attention for their children before allowing them to return to classes. This swift action helped contain the spread of infections, but it underscored the vulnerability of the student population to contagious diseases. The situation remained challenging in June 2024, with continued health issues among the students. Many fell ill, suffered injuries from rough play, and experienced recurring eye infections.

The trend of health-related absenteeism continued into June 2024, particularly in the day-care, where sickness and other school closures led to high rates of absence. These health concerns have highlighted the need for robust health policies and better health education for students and their families to prevent and manage illnesses effectively.

Parental and Resource Support Issues

Another significant challenge has been the lack of adequate support from parents and guardians. In February 2024, it was reported that many parents did not take proper care of the school resources provided to their children, such as uniforms and shoes. Additionally, some students came to school without essential supplies like pencils, pens, and exercise books.

The Family Support Office (FSO) also faced difficulties in April 2024, particularly with transportation. Issues arose with the driver over-speeding in order to pick up children from St. Kizito Primary School, raising safety concerns.

A low turnout of clients in FSO sessions, except for Chigwaja parents who cited the lack of snacks and drinks as a reason for their non-participation.

Resource Constraints

The scarcity of sports resources, particularly balls, has been a general problem affecting the children's physical education and recreation. Sports play a crucial role in the holistic development of students, and the lack of adequate resources has restricted their ability to participate in these beneficial activities fully.

CONCLUSION

Mary Queen of Peace has made remarkable strides and achieved significant milestones during the first half of 2024. The institution, serving 1,183 students across its nursery, primary, high school, and college programs, continues to make a profound impact on both educational and community fronts.

In terms of academic excellence, St. Kizito Primary School stands out with an impressive overall pass rate of 85%, with 267 students successfully completing their exams. This achievement highlights the effectiveness of the school's educational strategies and its supportive learning environment. Additionally, Mary Queen of Peace has demonstrated its commitment to student support through organized farewell events for those preparing for their Primary School Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate Examinations, celebrating their achievements and preparing them for future challenges.

The sports and extracurricular programs have also seen notable progress. The table tennis program, in particular, has gained significant momentum, with students like Amos Siliya making impressive strides. The program not only nurtures athletic talent but also motivates students to advocate for better sports facilities, thereby enhancing their overall experience and engagement.

In community empowerment, Mary Queen of Peace has made substantial contributions through various initiatives. The gardening project in Likhubula and Mulunguzi, sponsored by the AMECA Trust, has empowered local women and promoted sustainable agriculture. By providing essential resources and practical skills, this initiative fosters economic independence and contributes to community development. Similarly, baking workshops held in June have equipped parents, especially young mothers, with valuable skills to start their own businesses, thereby promoting financial independence and community growth.

The institution's commitment to holistic support is evident through its full sponsorship of 140 children across various educational levels, ensuring they receive necessary resources such as uniforms, meals, and transportation. This comprehensive approach underscores Mary Queen of Peace's dedication to providing a nurturing and accessible learning environment for all students. Environmental conservation efforts have also been a focal point, with nearly 200 participants actively engaging in conservation activities at Michiru Mountain. This collective effort reflects the community's commitment to environmental preservation and sustainable practices.

In conclusion, Mary Queen of Peace has made notable progress in its educational and community initiatives, reflecting its commitment to holistic education and community empowerment. While there are areas requiring improvement, the institution's comprehensive approach and dedication to its mission position it well for continued success and a positive impact on the community.