

JUNE 2021

THE ASSOCIATION OF SISTERHOODS OF KENYA

The monthly newsletter of the Association of Sisterhoods of Kenya



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Pope's June prayer intention: 'The beauty of Marriage'

Written by Victor Emoja-AOSK communications

"Is it true, what some people say—that young people don't want to get married, especially during these difficult times?"

Pope Francis opens a video accompanying his prayer intention for the month of June with that question.

He goes on to admit that marriage is a "demanding journey" which can be complicated at times. But he adds that "getting married and sharing one's life is something beautiful."

"And on this life-long journey, the husband and wife aren't alone," says the Pope. "Jesus accompanies them."



Catholic Care for Children in Kenya (AOSK-CCCK)



“

"Thirty years after the adoption of the charter: Accelerate the implementation of the agenda 2040 for an Africa fit for children."

Day of the African Child

Since 1991, the Day of the African Child has been celebrated on June 16 to commemorate those killed during the Soweto Uprising in South Africa, and to recognize the courage of the students who marched for their right to an education.

AOSK-CCCK a program funded by GHR organized the 2021 Day of the African Child to be celebrated at AOSK Chemchemi ya Uzima institute. 5 CCIs with a total number of 130 children and their care givers were in attendance. The theme of the day was “30 years after the adoption of the Charter: accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2040 for an Africa fit for children”.



AOSK-CCCK Celebration of the day of the African Child at St Mary's Rehabilitation Center for physically and mentally challenged

The Day of the African Child celebrations created an opportunity for AOSK-CCCK project to raise awareness for the ongoing need to ensure vulnerable children in the CCIs are safeguarded as well as to reintegrate them back to their families and the community this being the ultimate goal of AOSK-CCCK project.

To mark the celebrations of the day of the African Child, the children presented poems, songs, dances and plays on children rights, parental care, child safeguarding among others.



Celebration of the day of the African Child at the Nyahururu AOSK UNIT, Courtesy of AOSK-CCCK



AOSK-CCCK celebration of the day of the African child at AOSK-Chemchemi Ya Uzima Institute



Center for Justice and Peace (AOSK-JPC)

REFRESHER TRAINING ON SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE SGBV

The number of people prone to sex and gender based violence keep escalating basing on the current data both from government and private sector. Impacts of Covid 19 have spiraled cases of Sexual and Gender Based Violence unfolding new dynamics. Women and children remain the most affected and there is need to address this new trends.

Due to the change in dynamics on their previous trainings AOSK-JPC a program that is funded by Trocaire, Misereor and Agiamondo organized a two-day refresher workshop for her target group (Sisters, Women Peacemakers and Human Rights Teachers) that was held at Dimesse Sisters Karen between June 3-6, 2021 to have a conversation and way forward on the knowledge they had received on SGBV.



Sisters, women peacemakers and Human right teachers during a refresher workshop training at Dimesse Sisters in Karen.

The objective was to strengthen their knowledge and skills on women, child rights and responsibilities and legal aspects to enable them sensitize the intermediate targeted community members at the grassroots level on their rights, sexual and gender-based violence and human trafficking as well as refresh them on narrative and financial reporting.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD 2021

To celebrate the day of the African child AOSK Justice and peace organized two forums in Mombasa Kilifi and Nairobi Kibera respectively. The objective was to strengthen and enhance children rights awareness as well as promoting their welfare issues among themselves and community members.

In Kibera the children got the opportunity to learn and share about the background history on the celebration of the African child, Principles of child protection, child duties and responsibilities and history of rights in Kenya. Later the celebration was climaxed with fun day activities that included dancing, coloring and sharing a meal together



*International day of the African child in Kibera,
Courtesy of AOSK-JPC*

WOMEN SOCIO-ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT PROJECT KIBERA INFORMAL SELLEMENTS

During the month of June 2021 the women beneficiaries under the Socio Economic empowerment project in Kibera went through Artisan skills trainings on beadwork for beaded handbags and crocheting for door mats. Through sale of this products they serve as supplements to their already existing businesses.

Out of 172 women beneficiaries 53 women received seed money to boost their businesses which were hardly hit by the impacts of the Corona pandemic. On June 23, 2021 the AOSK JPC team held a monitoring and evaluation meeting with the Trocaire team to evaluate the project. The meeting concluded with site visits of women beneficiaries' businesses in Kibera.



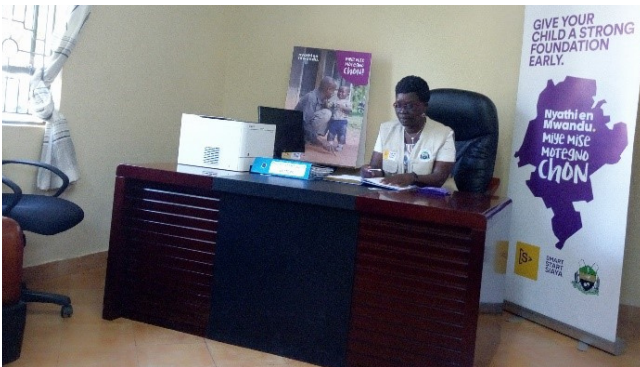
*Women of Kibera during a socio-economic empowerment forum,
Courtesy of AOSK-JPC*

AOSK-SCORE ECD

AOSK SCORE ECD project has started to engage in internal evaluation for the project; during the month of June AOSK and CRS carried out joined activities in the areas of;

Documentation

This was done in Siaya and Kisumu Counties where two congregations namely; Franciscan sisters of St. Anna and Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph. The Siaya County Technical Advisor for Smart Start initiative Dr. Elizabeth Omondi was also interviewed. The aim of the documentation was to capture on best practises accomplished by the congregations within the 4 years of project implementation and hear the partner's voice on networking, advocacy and sustainability. The respondents included the master trainers, community health workers, neighbour women, male champions. A lot of progress has been achieved and the intervention has influenced behaviour change in the households and the community.



Elizabeth Omondi Siaya Smart Start initiative technical advisor being interviewed during the documentation

HOCAL ASSESSMENT

HOCAL scoring meeting for Association of sisterhoods of Kenya and three congregations (Franciscan sisters of St. Joseph, Daughters of Jesus the Good shepherd and Little Sisters of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus) was done during the month. The activity took place at Mazanti House in Karen and 12 participants from the three congregations and AOSK staff participated.

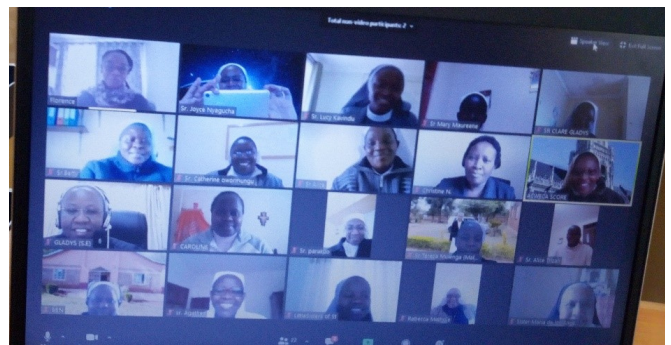


Congregations and AOSK teams reviewing their HOCAL tool during the assessment (Photo by: Sr. Joyce Nyagucha, ASE)

HOCAL scoring assessment was geared at helping the Association and 3 Congregations to look back on what has been achieved so far in filling their organizational gaps what is still pending and how to continue strengthening their organizational systems and capacities.

Communication and advocacy strategy training

During the month ACWECA organised for a virtual training on the use of the communication strategy which will be rolled out to the congregations within various associations. The training brought together participants from two associations implementing SCORE ECD project namely; AWRIM - Malawi and AOSK- Kenya. The training was done on 24th and 25th June 2021. 23 sisters attended the training from the two countries. Adaptation of the strategy will be applied according to the context of each congregation. The development of the communication strategy will be a milestone towards strengthening the organizational systems of the associations and congregations. AOSK-SCORE ECD in Partnership with CRS are funded by the Hilton Foundation.



Participants following on line during the communication and advocacy training

Sisters Led youth Empowerment Initiative (AOSK-SLYI)

AOSK-SLYI works to expand the provision of quality services to disadvantaged and vulnerable youth, through sisters-led technical and vocational training institutions and the neighbouring parishes across the country. The project is funded by Conrad Hilton foundation and is implemented in 11 AUs across the country namely Nairobi, Kajiado, Mombasa, Kakamega, Kisumu, Eldoret, Embu, Meru, Murang'a, Kitui and Machakos. The main modalities employed in implementing the project include capacity building, psychosocial support and economic empowerment. This is done through youth forums, entrepreneurship training and seed capital.

Cases of teenage pregnancy, drugs and substance abuse, sexual relationships, sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), low self-esteem and lack self-awareness among junior youth as they transit through adolescents to adulthood are on the rise. Driven by the need to address these issues, AOSK SLYI in June 2021 organised a training to 21 human rights teachers from 13 primary schools across the country. The teachers were taken through adolescent development and transition, and thereafter were expected to mentor adolescents in their various institutions. Reports that have been received already show the good work being done by the mentors.



Human rights teachers being trained on adolescent and Transition at AOSK-Tumaini center, Courtesy of AOSK-SLYI

Elsewhere, through youth forums, AOSK-SLYI has been journeying with both senior and junior youth from neighbouring parishes of the 21 target technical and vocational training institutions. In June 2021, two youth forums were held in Nairobi for advocacy and networking among the youth.

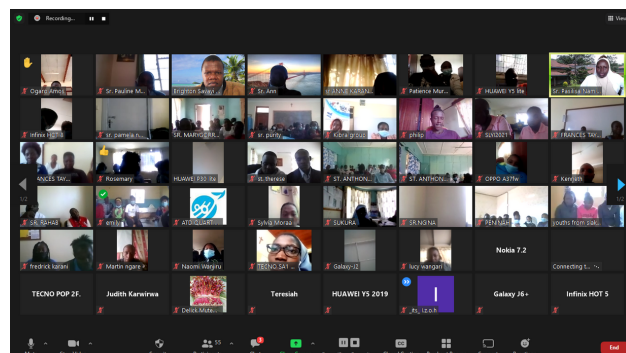
These forums brought together 511 youth from neighbouring parishes of 5 sisters- led technical and vocational training institutions including Marengoni community vocational centre (Ongata Rongai), St. Charles Lwanga vocational training college (Kibera), Savelberg vocational training college (Karen), St. Therese Vocational Training Centre (Karen) and Daughters of Mary Help of Christians College (Dagoretti).



Youth during an empowerment forum at Guadalupe. Courtesy of AOSK-SLYI

The youth were taken through youth-parent relationship, effects of technology and character formation. From the post evaluation interviews, the youth reported to have acquired more knowledge and skills that would enable them lead a befitting life while exercising social responsibility.

Lastly, in the AOSK-SLYI commitment to journey with disadvantaged and vulnerable youth, various business ideas were presented by the youth groups and are being implemented. The office brought together the youth groups from the 21 target vocational training institutions across the country to share on their progress, learn from each other and be mentored on how effective they would run their businesses. This was done through a virtual zoom meeting. From the feedback, received the youth learnt a lot from their peers, who presented on their various businesses including product promotion, customer service, creativity and innovation in service delivery among other business skills. The facilitator also highlighted on the requisite entrepreneurial skills for sustaining small business enterprises.



Participants sharing during AOSK-SLYI online youth meeting

Formation Testimonies



Sr Maria Essien, HHCJ

My beautiful experiences in formation programme in Chemchemi ya Uzima (the spring of the living water) Institute. I have undergone personal growth here and at the same time empowerment and capacity building for the ministry of formation in my Congregation. My journey here has been inspiring, formative and transformative. Through my formation programme, I can use my awareness of self and emotions to stay flexible and direct my behaviours positively. I have grown and I am able to understand myself and others better. I have developed my personal capacities and experienced new things and together with my aptitudes will enhance the work which I will be entrusted to.

Following this programme and with Covid-19 pandemic interruption has been very challenging but with God's grace and determination I was able to complete my studies successfully. Covid-19 pandemic has changed education dramatically with the distinctive use of e-learning whereby teaching is undertaken remotely and on digital platforms. Thanks to the administration of this great citadel of studies that put the covid-19 preventive measures and also introduced the e-learning (online classes) which helped us to continue our programme and also to acquire new skills/techniques through the use of virtual learning which has also updated our method of learning.

I have achieved a lot from this great Institute. I encourage religious Congregations to train their formators here. Formation of formators is essential and as we know formation work has been an essential ministry of the Congregation from its inception. To continue forming our members well, each Congregation must train formators who can prepare the future of the Congregation.

A Latin proverb says 'Nemo dat quod non habet' meaning 'you cannot give what you do not have'. To have good future religious depend on the formation of the formator. Formation is so important and decisive means for personal and community renewal. So, I encourage each Congregation to show a special concern to provide the best possible preparation for its future formators by sending them here for training.

My sincere gratitude to Chemchemi Institute for helping me to acquire the necessary attitudes, knowledge and tools in human, intellectual, spiritual and apostolic field to enable me to carry out the specific mission in my Congregation at the service of the Church.

Sr Maria Essien, HHCJ
Formation Class 2020/2021

AOSK UNIT

In the month of June 2021, The AOSK unit department held one activity. The activity was conducted at AOSK-Chemchemi ya Uzima Institute with the aim of ensuring that catholic sisters are increasing the Covid-19 awareness and Improving the psychospiritual support to the communities towards the reduction of sexual and gender based violence. This activity took place under objective two of the Covid-19 response project which is funded by the Hilton foundation.



Sisters following a training on age-based fertility awareness at ChemChemi ya Uzima Institute

In this Training, The nurse sisters were empowered on three major issues which entailed, Age based fertility awareness, Adolescence Transitioning, Sexual & gender based violence together with Child trafficking. At the end of the training, the sisters felt more empowered and they were all looking forward to put into practice what they had gained from the training once back at their Health facilities.



Nurse Sisters following a training on adolescent transitioning by Catherine Kisasa



Dr. Wahome training the sisters on age-based fertility awareness on 11th&12 June 2021

AOSK-ChemChemi ya Uzima

Sabbatical program August Intake



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**AOSK is grateful for your continued support of our mission. Together we are
making a difference!**



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