



# NEWSLETTER

## Letter from the Executive Director Summer Newsletter - August 2025

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we enjoy the warmth and energy of summer, I'm pleased to share with you some inspiring updates from both **Canadian Peacemakers International (CPI)** and our valued partners from the Sub-Saharan Region of Africa, in **Kenya, DR Congo, Rwanda and Tanzania.**

This season reminds us that growth takes time, dedication, and synergistic collaboration. Over the past months, we welcomed several outstanding individuals to our Board of Directors at CPI. As we grow and deepen our impact in education, peacemaking, and community development across the globe, the members bring a wealth of experience, fresh perspectives, and a shared commitment to our global mission. In particular, the members' diverse backgrounds range from computer technology expertise, international education and policy to community engagement, finance, and nonprofit leadership. These giftings strengthen our strategic direction and ensuring better service to communities in Sub-Sahara Africa (SSA).

Still, our partnership teams...spanning SSA...have continued sowing transformative seeds of better access to education, peacemaking, practical conflict resolution, innovative community development and resilience building, favoring the most vulnerable communities in tangible ways.

In East and Central Africa, our partnerships [with **APMI Centre, Kenya Mennonite Church (KMC), CAL Congo and CHLM Rwanda**] have launched the establishment of seven (7) Digital Education Community Hubs [DECH]. These wholistic learning Hubs (Schools) have to date yielded very impressive outcomes.



PJ Obonde - Director of Africa Region Program

## OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

**News Hubs** - Tanzania Peace-Building Initiative and more .... [\[Read More on page 6-7\]](#)



Picture 1 - CPI Leadership Team of diverse experience, professional knowldge and skills from across the Globe.

To date, we have enabled more than 1500 vulnerable learners to access education and graduate with various employable skills and trades. CPI facilitated practical grassroots peacemaking interventions among communities in **Lwendo of Migori and Madiany of Siaya Counties.** Working with partners we built bridges where conflicts and divisions once prevailed. Through workshops on leadership, trauma healing, dialogue circles, and youth empowerment initiatives, our Grassroot partners have become trusted voices for education, peace and development. Their work with local leaders, elders, and educators continues to strengthen the social fabric across regions long impacted by poverty and violence.

Our **CAL Education Program**, and **Innovative Community Development** initiatives have gained momentum. Leveraging your generous support, we've also launched **solar lighting, entrepreneurial beekeeping** initiatives and expanded access to learning tools for rural students and communities in the four countries.

### APMI - KENYA [By Dan Ochieng]

Empowering vulnerable youth and women through education, skills training, peacebuilding and entrepreneurship development has since,

- Sponsored more than 1000 graduates
- Is currently sponsoring and enrolled more than 300 students in its CAL programs

[\[Read More on page 2\]](#)  
<https://apmicentre.org/>

### CAL CONGO [By Gloria M. Fumana]

Creating CAL opportunities for elementary and high school students while providing vocational training to vulnerable youth and women. In enrollment are:-

- 75 CAL academic classes
- 50 Vocational Skills courses

[\[Read More on Page 3\]](#)

We continue to support training in **non-violence peacemaking, conflict resolution and restorative practices** to religious workers, teachers, public administrators, and community leaders.

What makes this work truly remarkable is the partnership. The relationship between CPI and partners in SSA is not just one of charity, but of mutual respect and shared vision.

Together, we are fostering sustainable, community-led change that will last beyond our projects and funding cycles.

As we look to the remainder of Year 2025, we invite you to stay connected, share our stories, and kindly consider supporting our ongoing work. Every gift, every dialogue, and every moment of solidarity helps us move closer to a more just and peaceful Africa. Thank you for standing with us.

With deep gratitude and hope,

*Dave E. Hubert* - Executive Director  
Canadian Peacemakers International  
[www.canadianpeacemakers.org](http://www.canadianpeacemakers.org)

### HCLM-RWANDA [Eric Muhire]

Transforming lives of orphans and widows. Currently has enrolled

- 30 plus orphaned children in program.
- 60 single mothers and widows

[\[Read More on page 4\]](#)

### MENNONITE CHURCH-Kenya

In its Migori and Lwendo CAL (DECH) Schools KMC has since sponsored and enrolled:

- 76 Graduates in various CAL TVETs
- 80 Students currently in session for various levels [\[Read More on Page 5\]](#)

[\[By Peter J. Okoth / and Phinias Achoko\]](#)

## APMI CENTRE -KENYA [By Dan Ochieng]

*Building Bridges of wholistic Education, Nonviolence Peace, and Innovative Community Development Across Sub-Sahara Africa*

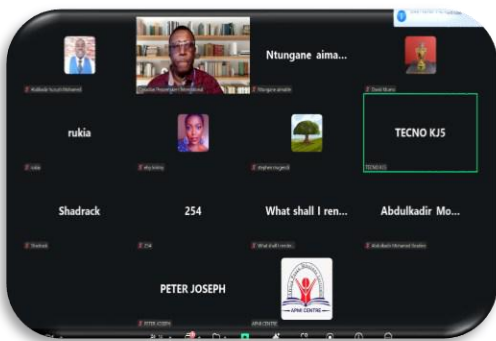
### Focused Engagement

In alignment with its commitment to grassroots-driven education, peacemaking, and sustainable development, CPI supported transformative projects in partnership with APMI, focusing on increased access to appropriate CAL education, missional peace-leadership and economic empowerment in rural and underserved communities

### Education Impact Stories

APMI continues to provide bold leadership in CAL Education by equipping more vulnerable children, youth, women and other second-chance adults in Kenya. In this period, APMI facilitated: -

- 92 Students graduating from Central and CIDC JuaKali Hubs.
- Enrolled and sponsored 102 students
- The launch of TVET based skills training at its new DECH at Madiany.
- Startup course for Missional peace-leadership and Management Course

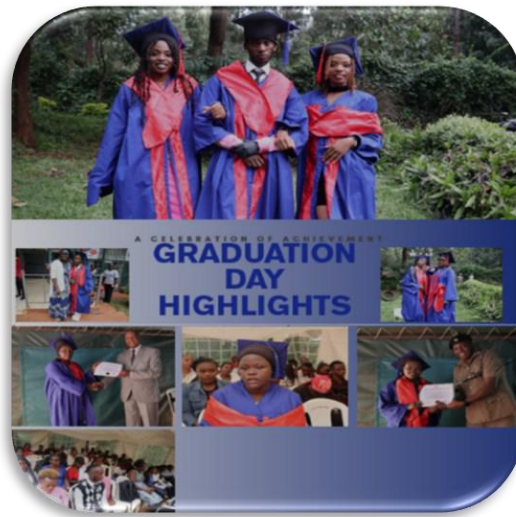


Through intensive, faith-rooted training modules, the APMI Leadership Institute is nurturing a new generation of peacemaker leaders who will multiply CAL Education opportunities within their communities and beyond.

### Support for Innovative Community Development

APMI initiated two cornerstone projects of Beekeeping, and community Solar Lighting. Beekeeping project was launched in June 2025. The program is equipping local youth and women’s groups with skills, tools, and market access to generate sustainable incomes through apiculture. With CPI’s seed funding and APMI’s on-the-ground facilitation, over 50 households (represented via enrolled CAL students) within Madiany Subcounty are receiving modern beehives, training in hive management, and basic agribusiness. The initiative is already yielding early success indicators as it instigates: -

- Increase in honey production for local consumption and small-scale commercial sales.
- Empowerment of female-led cooperatives, fostering gender equity in economic participation.
- Integration of environmental education to encourage pollinator conservation and ecosystem health.
- Next phase scale up and integration of value-addition processes like honey packaging and wax product development.



Assorted graduation narratives and pictures. @ Central Hub -Ngong.

*These moments capture the joy and spirit of the day...smiles bright with hope, heartfelt embraces, and tearful goodbyes. From the processional march to the awarding of certificates, every scene tells a story of personal growth, empowerment, and triumph. Whether in computer studies, catering, tailoring, barbering, or nail technology, each graduate stood tall, equipped with practical skills and reviewed confidence to impact their communities.*

*The leaders will transform conflict zones into platforms for hospitality, dialogue, witnessing, reconciliation and development. APMI hosted interfaith circle conversations for peace, bringing together Christian, Muslim, and community leaders to address rising ethnic inspired tensions between communities.*



**Pictures of Kobi’s thriving Salon business.** At APMI, we celebrate the inspiring journeys of individuals who have excelled in turning their dreams into reality. In fulfillment APMI’s goal for learners to soar from *learning through Serving to Earning...* Wivine Kobi is one such talented and determined. Her dream and deep passion for hairstyling have become a reality after enrolling at APMI and graduating with a focus to relaunch and expand her “BEAUTYPOINT SALON.” Wivine started with a small space but a big vision. She has since worked tirelessly to grow her loyal clientele base. Wivine has demonstrated that CAL Education is quite transformative



*Beekeeping Startup: Enhancing Livelihoods and Environmental Stewardship*

### Solar-Powered Lighting for DECH - CAL Schools

We launched an initiative to use Solar-Power for our DECH - CAL Schools. In areas with unreliable grid electricity, access to digital learning resources has been a challenge. The CPI-APMI partnership is changing that narrative. With the installation of solar power systems in three pilot hubs across western Kenya, hundreds of learners—from primary students to young adults TVET participants - can now study, access the CAL education and other e-learning platforms, and attend evening classes in safe, well-lit, and energy-independent spaces. Several key outcomes are so far evident. These include: -

- ✓ Extended Hub operating hours for learning centers, boosting academic engagement
- ✓ Reliable internet access for e-learning, coding, and online research by peace leaders registered at *The Leadership School for Theological Education and Peace Studies*
- ✓ Community ownership models promoting sustainability and local management.
- ✓ This solar lighting model is designed for replication, with community engagement and renewable energy partners already expressing interest in expanding the hub network to benefit the Madiany Community

## CAL CONGO

### Courage and Hope in the Midst of a Crisis

In the face of ongoing insecurity and conflicts in DRC, CAL Congo remains a beacon of hope. In this period the team is happy to highlight that: -

- **CAL motorcycle repair Centre:** Has been welcomed joyfully by the community. The 25 students we have are so enthused and engaged. Despite the room only being able to accommodate 15. The program is thriving. We hope to continue this partnership.
- **Women's studies:** We are mid-way through the curriculum. The students are consistent with their attendance, despite the lack of childcare. However, we have personally collected 15 mattresses that the children can use to nap or play with, in an effort to lessen the said burden.
- **Exams -** We have 15 grade 6 students that are sitting for diplomas in July. This is an improvement from last year's 10 students. Keep them in your prayers.
- **Enrollment rates:** 1. Cal Academy 75 students 2. CAL vocational (Sewing and motorcycle programs) 50 students

### Looking Ahead

CPI remains deeply committed to co-creating innovative, locally-led solutions that foster resilience, education, and economic opportunity. The partnership with CAL Congo exemplifies the power of collaboration in unlocking the potential of marginalized communities. Together, we are not only building livelihoods and digital futures we are lighting the way forward.



**“Thank you, CALCONGO.”** In this picture, **Papa Louis** expresses his deep gratitude to CAL CONGO. Thanks to the job he landed, he was able to provide for his family. And today, he is proud to see his daughter graduate. A dream come true, made possible by hard work and restored dignity. *“Thank you, CAL CONGO, for changing a life and building a future.”*

### Thank you message from KASAYI KITIRI Berthe\*

My name is Kasayi Kitiri Berthe. After my parents passed away, my future looked bleak. I had lost all hope of continuing my studies and building a stable life.

But one day, I heard about CALCONGO COUTURE. I seized this opportunity without hesitation. Since then, my life has changed, I've regained self-confidence, acquired new skills, and, above all, a new light has dawned on my future.

I would like to warmly thank CALCONGO and its partners for their invaluable support. Thanks to you, I can dream again.

Kasayi Kitiri Berthe



- Theo and Gloria attended the MWC in Germany- Lots of enthusiasm was generated as Gloria was given the opportunity to present. She chose to highlight the works of CAL Congo. Reports will be sent later on.
- Visiting the Coaldale Church with Dave in the fall



### Thanks from Francis Mbala

My name is Francis Mbala.

I am the youngest of five children. At a very young age, my father left us for another woman, and my mother, a simple housekeeper, struggled greatly to raise us. One day, during a Bible seminar, my older sister heard an announcement from CALCONGO ACADEMY, which was enrolling primary school students whose education was sponsored by its partners. She quickly contacted CALCONGO to reserve a spot for me in fourth grade, fearing I might miss this opportunity. I soon joined this digital school and started classes with other children who have now become like brothers and sisters to me. Honestly, words fail to express the joy that fills my heart. I still worry about my secondary education, but may the Lord bless a hundredfold all those who thought of us, the children of Africa — especially here in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Thank you so much for this unmerited grace you have granted us!

May the Lord bless you and your children!

## CHLM-RWANDA

### Children Heritage of The Lord Ministry OPRHANS TRANSFERRED TO OTHER SCHOOLS

The GoR - NESA's decision to close Agasaro School among many others caused CHLM to rent new office premises to help keep the program work going. CHLM therefore relocated all the Children in its program to other schools where we continue to visit and assist them by paying school fees, supplying school learning materials, and school meals [i.e. porridge].



Eric visited and met with Orphaned Children at their new school

### GIVING HOPE TO WOMEN VICTIMS OF WAR

CHLM continued with the skills training of widows and single mothers. In this period, we also facilitated regular meetings for empowering the mothers with missional leadership abilities. During these sessions we focused on *counselling, trauma healing, resilience building, prayers, and sharing the Word of God* to strengthen their faith formation.

The program also encouraged the women to use the vocational skills learnt from the program to initiate income generating ventures and to better provide for their children.

Evaluation and improvement of craft and enterprise works (i.e. sewing and making handbags)

### THE WAR IN EASTERN DRC HAS AFFECTED CHLM PROGRAMS

The crisis in DRC continues to inflict negative impact on CHLM community and its beneficiaries. CHLM is a constant victim of the war as it receives *widows, orphans and refugees running away from the violence*. Communities of Eastern DRC and Rwanda are related and interdependent. So, whatever happens on any one side of the borders automatically affects the entire region. Other than the DRC war, Rwanda and Burundi have no peaceful relations. Yet fish consumed in Rwanda comes from Lake Tanganyika through Burundi. The price of fish and other foods have since doubled in Bugesera. Since most women in our programs are victims of the wars they can't afford the high prices of renting houses, transport and food.



### NEW EDUCATION CENTRE

Construction of the proposed Centre has stalled due to delays in the issuance of a government permit. The project, which aims to provide critical learning facilities for underserved communities, was started earlier this year but remains on hold pending regulatory approvals. CHLM has initiated high-level engagement with relevant authorities to expedite the permitting process. Still, we are working closely with local stakeholders to continue making bricks.

We have adjusted the project timeline to accommodate the delay. Contingency planning is also underway to prevent budget overruns and maintain partner confidence while the issue is being resolved.



Meeting with single mothers at CHLM Office



Facilitating Circle Sessions



Visiting Single Mothers and their children



Facilitating handcrafts and enterprise business

## KENYA MENNONITE CHURCH

### NEW LWENDO CENTRE.

By Peter J. Okoth & Phinias Achoko

In partnership with CPI, on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025 KMC-Lwendo Mennonite Church launched a new DECH in Suna West Region. The Hub styled as Centre for Peace and Development is dedicated to empower the vulnerable community through computer assisted learning (CAL) education. The program which offers 4-in-1 school levels is designed to facilitate access to academics, appropriate employable skills, peacemaking, and community development. Since its launch the Hub has: -

- Enrolled a full class of 35 students
- Installed Solar Power supply for the school.
- Secured funding from other donors, drilled a borehole and availed clean water-supply for the school and community.
- Collaborating with local schools, GoK administration, NGO agencies and other key stakeholders to expand the program as an integrated education and community development program

**KMC – Migori East DECH Hub:** This is KMC’s pioneer CAL Education Centre. In this period the program enrolled 120 students including 20 who were enrolled in TVET Skills. More than 60% of those enrolled graduated in June 2025 after a successful completion of their academic and vocational courses.



Photo: Newly built Lab with installed Solar Power System enabling The Hub to have a constant power supply and enhance security.



Suna West Member of Parliament Dr. Peter Masara with County Commissioner with the Mennonite Church Bishops led by Moderator Rev. Samson Omondi launching the Lwendo DECH Centre



Students who were part of the launch and The Community members at the launch



Solar powered borehole water-system being installed at the DECH Hub

**A success story**

## KMC-CAL DIGITAL HUB

From Student to Entrepreneur:

*Veronica Malath*

### THE INSPIRING JOURNEY OF VERONICA

Veronica Malath journey is a testament to perseverance, passion, and determination. Just a Year ago, she was a dedicated student pursuing a certificate in Computer packages at KMC-CAL digital hub. Today, she is the proud owner of **New Era Computer Services**, a thriving computer services business that caters to individuals and businesses alike.

Her journey from a student to a successful entrepreneur is a powerful reminder that with dedication and resilience, dreams can become reality at KMC-CAL HUB.

**Turning Knowledge into Business**

After completing her studies, Veronica struggled to secure employment in the competitive job market. Instead of giving up, she decided to use her skills to start her own business. With savings from her part-time jobs and a small loan from a local entrepreneurship program, she launched **NEW ERA COMPUTER SERVICES**. Her business offers a wide range of services, including typesetting, photocopying, laminations, printing and cyber services.

Veronica's success story is an inspiration to many young women pursuing careers in technology. She frequently speaks at seminars, encouraging others to embrace technology and entrepreneurship. Her vision is to grow **new era computer services** into a leading IT firm in the country.

Words of Encouragement From.....  
.....believes that determination and continuous learning are key to success. She advises aspiring entrepreneurs: "Don't wait for opportunities; create them. Challenges will always be there, but your passion and hard work will pave the way to success."

**OTHER NEWS and EV** [By PJ Obonde]

**Tanzania Peace Building Initiative, TARIME.**

We have held a series of leaders' circle meetings with leaders from KMT. The meetings which included leadership training workshops have resulted in CPI signing an MOU with **Tanzania Peace Building Initiative** to launch CAL Education in Tanzania. In this period Obonde travelled to Tarime, Musoma and Dodoma to seek support for the initiative from leaders of a couple of Tanzania founded foundations. Plans are currently underway to establish a CAL Education DECH by start of October 2025 in Tarime, TZ.



Photos: - The designated Digital Edn. Community Hub @ Tarime -TZ. Presented partnership Agreement for Launch of CAL in Tanzania to Bsp Amos Muhagachi of Tanzania Mennonite Church

**Christian-Muslim Peace Centre Rongai – NBI**

**Work In Progress** - Establishing a Christian-Muslim Education Peace Centre in Nairobi. This Centre will promote interfaith harmony while offering computer-assisted learning. By bridging religious divides and enhancing educational opportunities for the vulnerable Muslim refugees, the Hub will empower youth and women with a second chance opportunity to access education and acquire employable skills for the future, foster mutual respect, and contribute to peaceful community relations and development in digitally connected world.



Photos: - Consultative meeting with Muslim Elders and Team from Somali - and Kakuma, Daadab & Nairobi. Also, virtual dialogue with Sheikh Dr. Mussa Hussein of MCA-Somalia on plan to establish a Christian-Muslim Peace & CAL Education Centre in Rongai.

**APMI Leadership Institute [Centre of Transformation], MADIANY.**

The establishment of the **APMI - CAL Leadership Institute** as a wholistic international education centre is vital for nurturing transformative leaders in Sub-Saharan Africa. Envisioned as a hub of excellence, the Institute will integrate quality CAL education, peacemaking, and sustainable community development. By offering digitized primary, secondary, and TVET programs alongside accredited university partnerships, it will provide flexible, hybrid and in-person learning opportunities. This inclusive model addresses educational gaps, promotes social cohesion, and equips youth with vocational and leadership skills necessary for the 21st century. The Centre will also serve as a conferencing space for innovation, dialogue, and strategic collaboration for CPI CAL Education partners and leaders from across sub-Saharan Africa.



Photo: - The Hubs highlighting the accessible 4-in-1 CAL Education School Levels @ APMI - COT -The buildings foundational work in progress



Photo: - Architectural Image of The Innovation Block under construction @ The Centre of Transformation

## **MOVING FORWARD – Other news and events.** The road to peace is long, but through collaboration,

education, and dialogue, change is possible. The wholistic program for SSA means there is so much to report.

### **Expansion of CAL Access for Primary and Secondary Students**

We successfully unlocked CAL access for primary and secondary school students across all DECHs, enabling CAL enrollment at various levels and offering free remedial learning aligned with Kenya's Competency-Based Curriculum (CBC). During this period, **29 students** (25 male, 4 female) enrolled in the Tuition and Remedial program, providing vital academic support and bridging educational gaps. See pictorials below: *(Primary and Secondary CAL Students in Session @ JuaKali CIDC Hub)*



### **KMC – BANDE, Lakesite Diocese**

We successfully conducted mobilization meetings with the KMC-Lakesite Diocese Bishop Nyangore and his Team. The Team has already constructed a computer lab and thus confirmed their readiness to launch the CAL education program. We conducted Leadership trainings and a proposal was submitted and approved by our management team, pending availability of funds. The local team is currently engaged, motivated, and aligned with the initiative's goals. We look forward to next steps in funding the Bande Hub.



### **School of Music**

APMI received a donation of Musical Instruments from CPI and as part of its goal started **The Martha School of Music**. This startup is more than just adding another course to TVET. The addition is about nurturing well-rounded, emotionally intelligent, culturally aware, and creatively empowered leaders. Music is not a departure from leadership... it's a deeper path into its essence.



### **Join US and Donate**

Our work in Sub-Saharan Africa is a testament to the power of education, and we are inspired every day by the courageous individuals leading the way in their communities. Thank you for believing in our community-driven progress. Your generosity is planting seeds of hope, one Hub at a time. Together, we are planting seeds of hope, justice and peace. Help us continue this work by donating directly to Canadian Peacemakers International through:

**Canada Helps** or sending a donation to our bank account or by sending a check to: **Canadiana Peacemakers International, P. O. Box 42123 RPO Milbourne, Edmonton, AB, Canada, T6K 0Z3**. All donations over \$10 will be charitably received. OUR CRA Charity # is 8680663090RR0001

**With gratitude!**