

# NEWSLETTER

## CHRISTMAS ISSUE YR. 2024

CANADIAN PEACEMAKERS INTERNATIONAL

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### New Centre of Excellence DECHub launched, and Leadership Conference held at Madiany in KENYA.



Bishop Omondi (KMC), Dave Hubert(CPI) and Bishop Emily Onyango (Anglican Church)



Interfaith leaders attending Leadership Peace Conference @ Madiany, Kenya.



Leadership Conference KE 2024 - Part of Muslim leaders sharing Their Peacemaking Stories

Dear Friends, as we close out an incredible year of growth and impact, we are excited to share some of the highlights of our work in Sub-Saharan Africa, where we are making strides in transforming religious spaces into digital education community hubs for empowering vulnerable communities through affordable access to *formal education, peacemaking trainings, and innovative sustainable development*. Thanks to your continued support, we have made meaningful progress in our mission to create lasting change !!

#### **Computer-Assisted Learning: Bridging the Education Gap**

Education remains one of the most powerful tools for transforming lives, and in Sub-Saharan Africa, access to quality education remains a major challenge to the large number of vulnerable communities.

This year, we launched several Computer-Assisted Learning (CAL) initiatives in rural and underserved areas, bringing digital learning tools to students who have had limited access to formal education resources. In partnership with faith-based organizations and community centers in DR Congo, Kenya and Rwanda, we continued to help establish DECHubs and equip the same, providing students with access to interactive lessons, virtual classrooms, and online leadership resources. The CAL technology not only supplements traditional education but also empowers vulnerable students to develop essential skills that will help them succeed in an increasingly interconnected world of Artificial Intelligence.

## CAL CONGO – Growth and inclusion of community Service

In February 2024, 25 students graduated from the Sewing and Tailoring program. Another 24 students were enrolled in the vocational program. In June ten (10) students from the CAL academic school challenged the national Grade Six exams and all of them passed, demonstrating the effectiveness of the program.

The CAL school in Kikwit also continued its community service program by providing access to computer training for Kikwit gendarmes. This training takes place after the regular students have left for the day and gives the officers valuable new skills and provides some security for the school.



Vocational Skills Class: - Part of graduating Class 2024



Community Service: Police Officers in Class Session



Academic Class:- Part of grade Six CAL graduates



CAL AFRICA: - Agape Mission House, Madiany – Now housing the CPI Africa Secretariat Office

## RWANDA: Educational Centre Healing The wounds of Violence

Our partnership with Children Heritage of The Lord Ministry [CHLM] continues to give hope to the many *Orphaned Children, Widows and Single mothers*.

In the year the Centre enrolled sixty-three (63) pupils for Nursery 1, 2, and 3 Levels. Thirty-three (33) of this number comprised of beneficiary orphans who are being sponsored by CPI funds as ably mobilized by *Mum Elfrieda Dick, Family and Friends*. Another thirty (30) of the pupils pay CAD\$30 per school term. The school provides one meal a day for all pupils.

The Centre also enrolled forty (40) plus widows and single mothers in vocational skills training. i.e. *Tailoring and dressmaking, arts and craft – weaving baskets and making trays, among other trades*.

Many of these women who have found refuge in Rwanda bear painful testimonies of violence in the hands of militias engaged in the armed conflicts in Eastern DR Congo.



Rwanda DECHub. School in Session



Widows and Single Mothers with CHLM Leaders

## The AFRICA PEACE MISSIONS INSTITUTE (APMI CENTRE)

### Demonstrating a 3-Pillar Integrated Programming of Education, Peacemaking and Development

In Kenya the year 2023 ended December 15 with 215 students graduating from APMI Centre with various vocational and academic courses. The development of the program in Kenya kept pace with the establishment of a new CAL school in Madiany becoming fully operational with an enrollment of seventy-eight (78) students as of 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

In August Dave Hubert, the CPI Executive Director flew to Kenya to participate in a large Peace Conference in Madiany. While there he attended another nearby graduation of 169 students in Ngong, at the APMI Center.



Launching New School: Freshly admitted  
Students@ Madiany DECHub

As part of their studies, all had also taken the computerized small business training course and were thus ready to move into careers as micro-entrepreneurs. Many of these students had completed courses such as catering, sewing and tailoring, hairdressing, barbering and cosmetology.

A special feature of the graduation were the 25 children of women graduates whose training had been made possible by the availability of childcare, enabling these young mothers to study. The Childcare center at Madiany is being sponsored by **John and Dorothy Hubert of Coaldale, AB.** The Ngong Unit had been set up with a gracious donation from **World in Need (WIN).**



Accessed Education: Section of Aug. 2024 grads @ APMI DECHub in Ngong



Launching: Child Dev. & Daycare Unit @ Madiany



The WIN sponsored Daycare Unit @ Ngong

The CAL growth includes work with **Kenya Mennonite Church (KMC)** to launch CAL schools in their Church spaces. KMC-Migori CAL Education Centre became fully operational with an enrollment of forty-five (45) students at the start of January 2024. The numbers increased to 113 students enrolled with more than 80 students graduating in various academic and skills courses in the Year 2024.

The presence of CAL opportunity in Migori has attracted many learners coming from far flung rural villages. KMC has since constructed accommodation facilities for these vulnerable students who are not able to commute.



KMC-Migori CAL Centre:- Graduating First Cohort

# Peacemaking and Non-violence Conflict Resolution

==Strengthening Communities through Hospitality, Dialogue & Witnessing==

In geographies affected by conflict and tension, fostering peace and dialogue is crucial to community resilience. Our peace-leadership education and conferencing program continued to facilitate learning and dialogue sessions between community leaders, local governments, and youth groups in multifaceted conflict-prone areas across families, communities, and nations.

Through the establishment of Peace-Leadership Local Conversation Circles (LCC) at every DECHub, we are creating safe spaces for participants to discuss grievances, find common ground, and develop strategies for peaceful working relations for socio-economic growth.

By emphasizing local solutions to local problems, our programs are helping to prevent violence, build trust, promote sustainable peace and development in communities that have long been divided.

### OUR MISSIONAL GOALS

 <p><b>EDUCATION</b></p> <p>Increasing access to formal education at all levels of learning in a <b>4-in-1 School Model</b> at Digital Educational Community Hubs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary &amp; Secondary (Hard Drive)</li> <li>• Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET - Hybrid)</li> <li>• Leadership School of Theological Education and Peace Studies (STEPS)</li> <li>• University and College (LDL)</li> <li>• Establishment of Peace Library and Archives</li> </ul> <p>(Promoting Computer Assisted Learning !!)</p>	 <p><b>PEACEMAKING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing Christ-centered coming-to-the-circle leadership meetings for practical peacemaking engagements i.e.</li> <li>• Facilitating seminars and workshops for community stakeholders for Anabaptist faith-formation through hospitality, witnessing, dialogue, conflict resolution, restorative justice, non-violence and good governance initiatives</li> </ul> <p>(Christ is our peace, Shalom Mission !!)</p>	 <p><b>DEVELOPMENT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support innovative community development initiatives</li> <li>• Empowering women, youth, and children creating by safe participatory spaces</li> <li>• Agricultural and business entrepreneurship capital support for vulnerable graduates</li> <li>• Establish child development and day care units</li> <li>• Promote water, agriculture, sanitation and health initiatives</li> <li>• Environmental conservation and creation care initiatives</li> </ul> <p>(From LEARNING to SERVING to EARNING)</p>
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## Education . Peacemaking . Development



Section of Delegates @ The Interfaith Leaders Conference KE24

A large Peace Conference in August was a major event as CPI introduces its programs in Africa. Participants included leaders from 15 different countries, including twelve (12) African countries. The conference, which was hosted by **APMI Leadership [STEPS] School** at Madiany in Siaya County-Kenya was sponsored by CPI, PCCI and Kenya Mennonite Church. It included several significant events. The first remarkable event was the Interdenominational Sunday Worship Service of over 500 participants on August 4. The Service included leaders from other denominations including Anglicans, Pentecostals, Baptists, Seventh Day Adventists, African Inland Church, Independent African Churches, and Mennonite Congregations being represented from Siaya, Nairobi, Madiany, Migori and Lwendo.

Part of the celebration on August 4 was the official launch and dedication of the new CAL School in MADIANY. The Leaders also dedicated a community environmental conservation program on a 3-acre savanna ecological reserve for climate change education. Leaders and Church officials from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, Congo, Chad, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Morocco, Burkina Faso, Somalia, Canada, USA and Indonesia participated.

The popularity and need for CAL schools is demonstrated by the fact that in less than two months enrolments in Madiany stood at 78.



The second significant event was the presentation to the Conference of the CAL program, which was an eye opener to many. One Kenyan Bishop said that CAL is much more than a glorified cybercafé, which he had envisioned CAL to be.

After the presentation, representatives from seven countries that don't have CAL schools asked if it would be possible to expand to their countries. One of the representatives even stated that his country might finance the program if it were to be set up there.

*Fostering Hospitality and Dialogue with Muslim Leaders from Somalia.*



Signage Guide at The Gate.

Bishop Muhagachi offering prayers @ The Garden



Dave Hubert explaining CPI missional response to climate change and the need for environmental conservation



**ANOINTING of The Muslim Leaders**  
**From the Right: Sultan and Chief Elder**  
**(Walking stick in hand)**

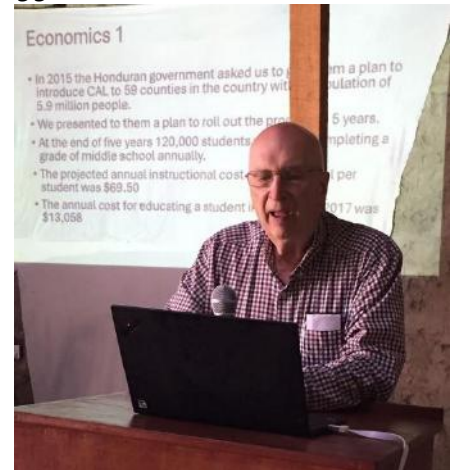
A third and major event of great significance was the participation of Muslim Leaders in the Conference. Their involvement included the anointing of their leaders at an official function which had been denied them in other venues. The conference offered a significant insight into the educational needs in SSA. For example, the Muslim delegation from both Kenya and Somalia made a strong pitch to be included in the CAL programming, and Abeyneh Anjulo, the Director of Missions for the Meserete Christos Church in Ethiopia, made an appeal to begin CAL programming in his country. Ethiopia has over 2400 Mennonite congregations and church planting stations, and a population of 132 million. Its largest ethnic groups are Amharic and Oromo. Anjulo asked if CAL could be set up in both languages and was assured that it could.



**Leaders Presented with Camel Milk for Anointing**



**Panel Sessions :- Group cycle dialogue and conversations on faith, leadership and peace.**



**Dave presenting on "CAL Education and The Honduran experience"**

## Community Development:

## Building Resilience through Innovation

Our community development programs focus on creating sustainable, community-led solutions that address the root causes of poverty, violence and underdevelopment. Thus, we aim at rendering opportunities for appropriate skills that facilitate increase in household incomes and improved livelihood standards. At the DECHubs, we commit to working with our CAL Students from learning, to graduating through rendering services for earnings.



From deploying the DECHubs to avail the latest knowledge and technologies for food security, nutrition, clean water, sanitation and health to supporting small businesses through revolving fund initiatives, CPI is committed to empowering the vulnerable communities to build a peaceful better future.

This year, CPI introduced several innovative development projects that have made a real difference in people's lives. One of the most exciting initiatives has been CPI's focus on youth business entrepreneurship and sustainable agriculture. CPI introduced graduates to demonstrative business start-ups, beekeeping, and climate-smart farming techniques to help local communities increase better yields while conserving natural resources.

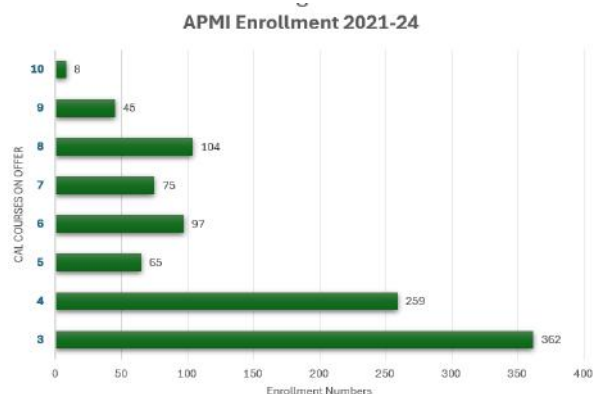


**6No – Retail Business Stalls / Canteens established at the DECH and operated by graduates, i.e. @Ngong Hub 1No., CIDC JuaKali 4No. and Madiany DECHubs. 1No.**

## Looking Ahead: A Vision for 2025

In 2024 CPI in Kenya, Congo and Rwanda has demonstrated that the transplant of the CAL program from Honduras has been successful. The program has put down strong roots and demonstrates that it can make a huge contribution to the development of SSA when CPI would mobilize the necessary resources to respond to this wide-open door to build peace through education and development. The main goal of CPI is to spread CAL education and peacemaking throughout Sub-Saharan Africa countries in ten years, with Yr. 2024 being year one. By the end of Yr. 2033, CPI plans to have launched DECHub Schools in 20 Countries (Approx 1,800 Schools) in SSA.

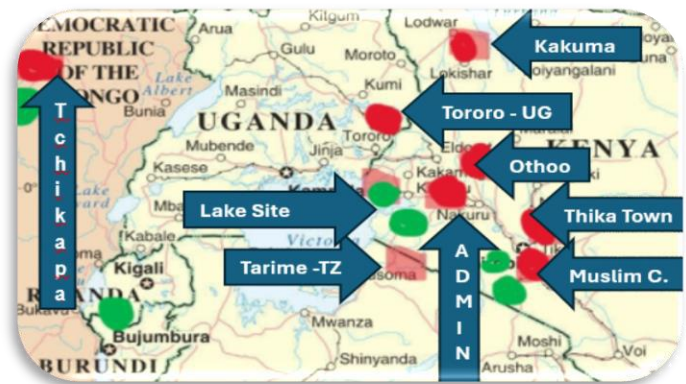
Currently there are four digital education community hubs (CAL schools) in Kenya (Cumulative enrollment stands at 1015 Students) , one in the Congo and one in Rwanda. *Deo Volente*, at the end of 2025 there will be a minimum of nine schools in SSA and the stage will be set for opening at least another nine schools in 2026 and then at least 36 schools in 2027.



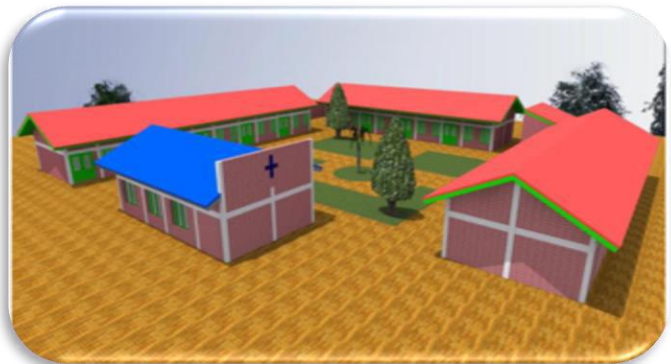
Legend Key		No
10	Leadership	8
9	Soap Making	45
8	Catering	104
7	Tailoring	75
6	Barbering	97
5	Cosmetology	65
4	Hairdressing	259
3	Computers	362

As CPI looks into the future, it's also scaling programs, reaching even more communities, and deepening our impact. The conference helped guide planning for Yr. 2025, so CPI's main objectives for the year will be as follows:-

- *Build the institutional capacity of CPI Africa's secretariat (**Centre of Excellence**) at MADIANY to prepare and equip the leadership necessary for CAL expansion.*
- *Subject to resources being available. CPI will expand CAL program to 7 additional DECHub schools in both rural and peri-urban areas in Tarime-Tanzania (1), Muslim Centre NBI/Kakuma (1), Lake Site (1), Tshikapa-DR Congo (1), Hope CC -Thika (1), Mukono-Uganda (1) and Othoo SDA (1)*
- *Host educational workshops and seminars, bringing together leaders from across SSA to share peace experiences, solutions, and strengthen relationships.*
- *Launch new community-led projects focused on enterprise, agribusiness, renewable energy and climate resilience, helping to address the challenges of climate change while creating sustainable livelihoods.*
- *Help CHLM-Rwanda to build 2No. Classrooms for Its Education Centre and CAL Start-ups.*



Red Dots – Locations of Yr2025 DECHubs  
Green Dots – Existing DECHubs.



CHLM-Rwanda – Proposed DECHub for CAL Education

## Thank You for Your Support

None of this would be possible without the support of our dedicated donors, volunteers, and partners. Your commitment to our mission is to help to change lives and build stronger, more resilient communities across Sub-Saharan Africa.

Together, we are creating a brighter future for all.

Shalom,

*Dave E Hubert*

**Dave E. Hubert**

**Executive Director**

**Canadian Peacemakers International**

<https://www.canadianpeacemakers.org/>

## DONATE NOW

Help us continue to empower communities in Sub-Saharan Africa. If you would like to help with this vision, you can do so by donating directly to CPI through:

**Canada Helps**

or **via an e-transfer**, sending a donation to our bank account or by sending a check to :-

**Canadian Peacemakers International,  
P.O. Box 42123 RPO Millbourne, Edmonton, AB,  
Canada, T6K 0Z3.**

All donations over \$10.00 will be charitably receipted.

**Our CRA charity # is 868063090RR0001**