

CUMULATIVE REPORT

SEWING PROGRAM 2025



"The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you." – B.B. King

YVONNE MUENI - PFC SEWING PROGRAM DIRECTOR

www.partnersforcare.org



HISTORY

The program began in **2017** when Sammy Mwangi, the Executive Director of Partners for Care, visited Mobility Worldwide in Columbia, Missouri (MW MO-CO). Noticing the sewing machines in their workshop, he envisioned their potential to make a significant impact in Kenya. Gary Moreau, the Executive Director (MW MO-CO), spoke with Sammy about his interest. Upon hearing Sammy's vision for empowering Kenyan women, Gary asked how many machines he wanted. Sammy's request for **20** sewing machines marked the beginning of the first PFC sewing school, launching a powerful and ongoing collaboration.



To turn this vision into reality, Connie Cheren, PFC's Founder/President, asked Cara Canon, a US Partners for Care board member, to fund the opening of the **first** sewing school. Cara agreed, and the first school was opened at the PFC house in Nairobi. The sewing program grew quickly, and now we have **960** sewing machines and operate **82** sewing schools. PFC began to partner with religious institutions, learning institutions, prisons, community-based organizations (CBOs), refugee camps and non-governmental organizations (NGO's) to expand its reach and impact. At the beginning of each partnership, a Memorandum of Understanding is signed by both parties, and the partner receives 9 sewing machines, a serger machine and a PFC three-month curriculum. In this Memorandum of Understanding, they have to ensure that they have a qualified teacher, a secure place for the sewing machines, and that they send in monthly reports.



Sisters of Mercy first graduation

To date, there have been **9,372** graduates, with **1,526** new students who have enrolled in the first quarter of 2026. These graduates are now applying their skills in the workforce, with many finding employment or starting their own tailoring businesses—a transformative step toward self-sufficiency and family support.

This program forms a critical network of skill development, transforming lives and communities from the ground up. With a presence in **22** out of **47** counties, the program demonstrates a strategic commitment to broad geographic impact.

"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."— Henry Ford

MORE THAN A BOX

Boxes are made by Mobility Worldwide in order to safely ship the sewing machines.

In the box, are all of the necessary equipment to set up sewing, including scissors, tape measures, seam rippers, buttons, thimbles, zips, threads, needles, tracing wheels and pin cushions that have been gathered by volunteers.



We then repurpose the boxes, transforming them into beautiful storage seats.

THE SEWING MACHINES

Sewing machines are donated to Mobility Worldwide. Then **Jim Weisbrook** and **James Sandfry** repair these machines and ship them to Partners for Care.

We receive three types of machines: portable sewing machines, machines that have been removed from cabinets and specialised sewing machines. The machines that have been removed from cabinets need to be placed in boxes that we build.

Some of the machines are converted to treadle and placed on a sewing machine table, so people can learn to sew even when there is no electricity.



Cabinet sewing machine



Treadle sewing machine

Specialised sewing machine



***“Be so good at what you do that no one else in the world can do what you do.”
– Robin Sharma***

In early 2025, **60** unrepaired sewing machines were shipped to PFC. Our three technicians, Mr. John Kongo, Mr. Julius Mwangi, and Mr. Daniel Matheka, successfully repaired these machines, which set up **six** sewing schools. And since then, we have received an additional **111** unrepaired sewing machines that have been repaired and used to set up **11** more schools.



Mr Julius Mwangi & Mr John Kongo



Mr Daniel Matheka

SOME OF OUR PARTNER SCHOOLS

1. Mapato Sewing School

Mapato Sewing School is located in the Kakuma Refugee Camp. Kakuma Refugee Camp is a large settlement located in the North-western region of Kenya that was established in 1992 in Kenya's Turkana County, hosting refugees fleeing conflict and persecution from South Sudan, Somalia, the DR Congo, and other nations. As of December 2025, the camp's population was **310,755**, according to The Operational Data Portal.



Mapato Sewing School



Kakuma Refugee Camp

Through a partnership with Partners for Care, Mapato Sewing School received **20** sewing machines and has graduated **509** students. Through the sewing skills the students acquired, eleven of them pooled their talents and resources to create a thriving workshop, where they make and sell their creations.

“Do all the good you can, for all the people you can, in all the ways you can, as long as you can.”
— John Wesley

2. Prisons

Through PFC's partnership with the prisons, we have opened seven sewing schools and graduated **683** students and are currently training **153** new students in the first quarter of 2026.



Kamiti Prison



Community Transformers Sewing School

3. Community Transformers Sewing School

Opened in June 2021 at the heart of the Mathare slum, the school has since graduated **538** students. A significant number of these graduates have secured employment with The Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA), while others have become self-employed.

4. Lawy Afrik Sewing School

This school is located in Kahawa Wendani, a slum within the larger Kahawa area in Nairobi. It was opened in March 2022 and has graduated **189** students.



Lawy Afrik Sewing School

**"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."
– Henry Ford**

5. The Master Empowerment Centre



The Master Empowerment Sewing School

The Master Empowerment Centre is a community-based organization (CBO) operating in the Githurai slum. Its mission is the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, their caregivers, teenage mothers, and local youth. In partnership with PFC since March 2021, the centre has achieved a milestone of **373** graduates and maintains a functional workshop that employs a number of its former students.

BENEFICIARIES

Milkah Kathambi



"As a single mother of two, my life has been a journey of faith and hope. I faced the constant struggle to provide for my family.

My life began changing when I learned about Partners for Care Nairobi Sewing School and enrolled. There, I learned skills that shaped my future.

After losing my first job due to COVID-19, I started my own business making school uniforms on a rented sewing machine. Now, I am now a self-sufficient and thriving entrepreneur. I own four sewing machines and employ three people who are able to support their families.

"Reflecting on my journey, I realize that the skills I gained were life-changing. They gave me hope and the tools to build a better life for my children. Now, I provide for my family and help others too!"

"We all have the power to make a positive impact on the world. It starts with small acts of kindness and compassion."— Evelyn Laude

Tabitha Nyokabi

My name is Tabitha Nyokabi. Growing up, I was fascinated by my aunt's tailoring shop. Watching her create beautiful outfits sparked a dream in me to learn how to sew.

After finishing primary school, my hopes for secondary education were dashed due to my family's financial struggles. My parents are small-scale farmers, and could barely make ends meet. Still, I never let go of my dream.

In 2024, my life changed. I picked up a flier advertising the Tirus and Esther Foundation Sewing School, a Partners for Care partner school I was overjoyed. My dream was finally within reach! I visited the school and completed the training.

Today, I am employed, making uniforms and earning an income to support my family. I am hardworking, ambitious, and dream of owning my own tailoring business someday, as I save to buy my own sewing machine."



CONCLUSION

We are grateful to:

- **Mobility Worldwide MO - Columbia** for their invaluable partnership.
- **Jim Weisbrook** and **James Sandfry** for their dedication in repairing and preparing every sewing machine for shipment.
- All the **volunteers** who help with the sewing program.
- All the generous **women** who donated the sewing machines.

Together, this collective effort is empowering Kenyans with life-changing skills and forging a lasting impact.



"Doing good holds the power to transform us on the inside, and then ripple out in ever-expanding circles that positively impact the world at large."— Shari Arison

LOOKING AHEAD - 100 SEWING SCHOOLS

The program is scaling its impact with a goal to launch **100** sewing schools throughout Kenya. This expansion will provide widespread access to quality training, directly building a pipeline of skilled talent for the tailoring and fashion sectors.



DIMEWISE SEWING SCHOOL

"We rise by lifting others."— Robert Ingersoll