**Organizational Background**

St Joseph the Worker Catholic Parish was established in 1985 by the Jesuit Fathers of the Eastern Africa Province. The parish is situated within Kangemi slum, an informal urban settlement on the outskirts of Nairobi. Kangemi Slums is home to an estimated 300,000 people congested on a small valley with steep slopes rolling down into the Nairobi River.

St. Joseph the Worker Parish has over the years engaged in developmental projects that seek the empowerment and liberation of the most vulnerable victims of injustice and structural violence within the parish and its environs. Apart from preaching the word of God alone, the Jesuits observed the need to respond to the socio-economic challenges faced by the most vulnerable people living in the community by initiating social development projects. It was through this initiative that St. Joseph Development Programmes was formed in 1987. Informed by the vision of change and adopting pedagogy of social justice and social transformation with particular attention to the people at the margins, St. Joseph Development Programmes in collaboration with the community, have sought interventions of empowering the most vulnerable from extreme poverty, disease, illiteracy and social injustices. The initiatives have always been steered by vision and mission of:

1. Vision: Creating a society free from discrimination, where everyone has fair access to adequate human capabilities and the opportunity to actualize their potential.
2. Mission: Empowering people and communities within Kangemi in situations of poverty, illiteracy, disease and social injustice through education and socio-economic programs enabling them to realize their own potentials and thereby contribute to their own development.

Our Interventions therefore include:

1. **St. Joseph Technical Secondary School** which empowers the youth from vulnerable families with quality secondary education and appropriate vocational skills training.
2. **Upendo Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) Education** **Program** offering educational support for orphans and vulnerable children from poor families.
3. **Uzima Women Empowerment Programme** which delivers support and care to people living with HIV/AIDS and those experiencing social marginalization.
4. **St. Joseph Carpentry Workshop** is currently dormant but has in the past served as a men’s group project to assist in poverty alleviation. There are ongoing plans to rehabilitate the existing structure and construct an additional floor so as to create more workshop and classroom space to offer more courses as well as cater for the rising student numbers of students.
5. **St. Joseph the Worker Health Centre** which provides affordable and quality medical care to the community.