

JIRANI

TENTH EDITION, February 2021

*Those
we serve*

”

If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

John 12:26



Appreciation

Each day, we are reminded of God's faithfulness through our staff and Frontline Church Partners who are committed to releasing children from poverty through this ministry. We appreciate all stakeholders and neighbors for their continued dedication, support and commitment to improve the lives of the children and youth we serve!



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Contributors

Jael Kamakil – Child Protection Specialist, Newton Midamba, Martin Kiriimi, Oloikarra PEFA Church, Tuzo Worship Centre Ganze, ACK St. Mary's Munjiti, PCEA Kimanjo, ACK St. Paul Cathedral Embu, PAG Buoye Church, Emmabwi Church of God, Kima Church of God, Levanter Africa

Editor

Linet Ochieng
Levanter Africa

Photo Credits

Isaac Ogila
Kevin Ouma

Layout and Design

Evolve Media Ltd



KCS Certification

We are delighted to announce that Compassion International has achieved the **KCS Level 1 Certification** in Child Protection from Keeping Children Safe (KCS), an internationally recognized child safeguarding organization.

According to the certification announcement from KCS, "Compassion has established a sound and robust framework for keeping children safe, as identified through a self-assessment, external review of key documents and interviews with key personnel. The framework identifies child safeguarding risks and describes the steps Compassion has taken to ensure that minimum child safeguarding measures are in place."

The KCS process took Compassion's child protection team 18 months to complete and included a self-audit by each of Compassion's 25 national offices. The team pored over more than 400 documents and conducted 68 individual interviews, including Compassion staff whose roles and responsibilities were not specific to child protection, to understand whether child protection was embedded across all departments and countries.

According to the KCS evaluation, Compassion exceeded certification requirements.



Keeping Children Safe certifies that

Compassion International

has a comprehensive framework in place that meets the KCS standards for protecting children from harm, and can respond appropriately to concerns should they occur

On this date:

11 January 2021

Sarah Blakemore
Chief Executive
Keeping Children Safe

www.keepingchildrensafe.global
Registered charity: 1142328

"Achieving this level of certification is an important milestone for us," said Compassion's senior child protection advisor Megan Kelly. "We are thrilled to have this validation and the opportunity to continue to implement systems and best practices to keep children safe."

The KCS standards represent the gold standard in the NGO sector, and they have been adopted by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), the United Kingdom's Charity Commission, and acknowledged by the UN.

Paul Sergio Pinheiro, the independent expert for the UN study on violence against children, said of the standards: "They offer an excellent opportunity, not only for the improvement of the quality and professionalism of those working with children, but most importantly, [they] will help to achieve a greater impact for children."

Compassion's global child protection team will continue to collaborate with regional and national leadership this year as they determine how recommendations provided by KCS will be incorporated into existing child protection strategies and implemented for the benefit of children around the world.

FGM ZERO TOLERANCE DAY

By Jael Kamakil

Taking the Lead in the Fight Against FGM

“ Together, we can eliminate female genital mutilation by 2030. Doing so will have a positive ripple effect on the health, education and economic advancement of girls and women.
UN Secretary-General António Guterres

Imagine a little girl bewildered and frightened with no one to turn to, living in constant fear and excruciating pain. This is the reality of thousands of girls who have been forced to go through Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). A harmful and discriminatory practice that will unfortunately not end until we break the silence and support efforts towards elimination of FGM.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that 30 million girls are at risk of being cut within the next decade and more than 3 million girls are at risk annually just in the African continent alone. Besides causing severe pain, this practice has immediate and long-term consequences for the health of women and girls, including complications during childbirth, which could endanger the lives of both mother and child.

Hindrances in the fight against FGM

The affected communities are rooted in their culture with major resistance experienced by Frontline Church Partners (FCPs) while dealing with the challenge.

Parents play a key role in eradicating this vice but because stigma within the community, they comply despite the dangers posed by the procedure.

On the other hand, some government officials turn a blind eye to the vice. This is seen as abetting the practice as they do nothing to apprehend those reported.

How Compassion has stepped in

Our active prevention and immediate response strategies seek to ensure that children of all ages do not undergo any form of abuse and exploitation. We are involving parents as our main influencers in child development to ensure they fulfill their parental responsibility as the main duty bearers.

We have also been intentional in supporting the work of the churches in the fight against FGM. Currently, 40 churches in Marsabit-Isiolo, Samburu-Isiolo, Baringo-Marakwet, Migori-Narok clusters received complementary intervention funds to educate parents on the dangers of Female Genital Mutilation. We seek to equip caregivers of these 40 churches with knowledge on the dangers of the practice and hence facilitate abandonment of the practice and embrace alternative rites of passage for the girls and women.

Involving parents can positively influence and change the cultural values adopted by the families and communities. For instance, girls can be influenced to value education and the community to focus on developmental values that promote entrepreneurship and economic independence. Not to mention, their active involvement will also lead to community champions who will report cases when it occurs.

The Impact

Female Genital Mutilation is so deeply ingrained in traditional culture. Due to this, we are



A Public Health Officer training caregivers on the Dangers of FGM in Laikipia

seeing communities through the efforts of the church, as they are developing models for alternative rite of passage for the girls. We are also seeing parents make a formal commitment not to take their girl child through circumcision.

One of our church partners has rescued 76 girls who were at risk of undergoing FGM. In 2015 they took 49 ladies to a rescue center at Komotobo and in December 2019, they were able to rescue 27 ladies with the help of other churches in Migori cluster and Msichana.

Through the empowerment of a local community-based organization, Rose Boke Chacha (not her real name) who is a youth in their program, escaped FGM twice, when family members wanted to forcefully circumcise her. She immediately reported the case to the program facilitators and the police. The church acted swiftly and moved her to a rescue center. She is safe and currently a student at Eldoret Training Institute taking a diploma in Social work.

When we collaborate we strengthen the efficiencies and effectiveness to tackle down the needs of our communities and generate a better impact for a better world.

Together we can Act to End FGM.

No Time for Global Inaction: Unite, Fund, and Act to End Female Genital Mutilation by 2030!

The Life of *Emily Bora*

The Highly Vulnerable Children (HVC) program can significantly impact the life of a child. Emily is the firstborn in the family of 6 siblings. Her family was struggling to ake ends meet and would sometimes go without meal. This prompted her mother to relocate together with her children to her maternal home. It was here that Emily and her sister Grace were recruited at Olontonto Pefa Child and Youth Development Center in 2012.

Due to the distance, Emily, and Grace, could not participate in the program. Luckily, they were transferred to Oloikarra Pefa Progam Center where they currently live.

Oloikarra Pefa Program Center introduced the family to HVC in 2018 to promote their quality of life. Shortly after, we were able to develop a project that gave them a sustainable livelihood through keeping livestock.

This project has been of tremendous benefits. The family is now able to generate a daily income of Ksh. 150 from the proceeds of the goat's milk. Through this, the mother was able to construct an iron sheet house.

Emily is indebted to the HVC program and believes that lives can be transformed through economic empowerment.





QAVAH BRINGS CHANGE

Qavah is a Hebrew word which means, eagerly waiting or hoping. It captures a sense of optimism and working together to bring a positive lasting change.



Qavah was introduced at the Tuzo Worship Centre Church in 2017 for the caregivers. The church fully covered the first two stages, which were celebrating our identity and what we have. We also had bible study during these Qavah meetings. To reach a wider audience, the church took Qavah to regional levels where the caregivers meet in their respective regions and take practical Qavah lessons.

What we achieved:

1. Bought a plot for the church
2. Built 4 semi-permanent classrooms-
3. Installed a water tap water installation
4. Cleared the bushes
5. Received a local donation of Ksh. 300,000/=
6. Built a modern toilet facility
7. An ongoing construction of 2 standard permanent classrooms
8. Built fence poles
9. 50 bags of cement donated by the Chief Officer, Public Works, Roads and Transport, Kilifi County
10. Completed construction of the church
11. Digging of 3 pit latrines

The third stage focused on understanding the region and the available amenities. This process involved the community, teachers, child protection volunteer etc. Led by: Rev Oscar Kalama-Pastor and Patron, Janet Fondo-Community Health Volunteer, Fatuma Suleiman-Gender Desk Officer and Edward Kahindi-Area Chief. We discovered that there were inadequate secondary schools, dispensaries, distant public primary schools, poor housing, early pregnancies, high rate of school dropout, drug abuse and poor transport system etc.

As a church, we are planning to have a meeting with our stakeholders; the community, professionals and the administration to identify which needs have the most important impact in the community and are easier to address.



Success operates in active moments not in idleness



For a long time, our caregivers at Kima Church of God were idle with no jobs or activities to keep them engaged. This led to drug abuse and an increase in illegal activities and domestic violence.

To address this, they developed a welding program that aims at economic empowerment and character building for the caregivers.

In the last one month, we have trained Survival fathers who have welded windows, doors and gates estimated at Ksh. 60,000 inclusive of profit.

From these sales, the caregivers can meet their needs. Our goal is to ensure every interested beneficiary/ caregiver owns his welding business by the end of the year.

This shall enhance poverty eradication, keep caregivers from indulging in illegal activities and enhance father`s Involvement in parenting.



Women's Economic Empowerment is Key to Poverty Eradication



The wife of a man from the company of the prophets cried out to Elisha, “Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that he revered the LORD. But now his creditor is coming to take my two boys as his slaves.”

Elisha replied to her, “How can I help you? Tell me, what do you have in your house?”

“Your servant has nothing there at all,” she said, “except a small jar of olive oil.”

2 Kings 4:1-7

Women's economic empowerment is central to realizing women's rights and gender equality. This is also crucial in ensuring women have control over other areas of their lives. Women's economic advancement has led to increased investments in children's education and health, and reduced household poverty.

Our survival program addresses caregiver economic empowerment which is key and a priority in addressing poverty.

During the COVID-19 period, the project sponsored four caregivers to take a short course in bakery and cookery at Munjiti Church Program. They each received a certificate after completion.

Through these skills acquired, they can earn a living to support their families and are currently being engaged to prepare meals for children at the program, sell to the community and train other interested caregivers and youth.

Benter's Uhai Project



Uhai' is a Swahili word that means 'life'.

Benter, who is a caregiver, is making Jiko liners together with a group of 15 women who have a new lease of life. They began by making Kenya Ceramic jiko (KCJ) firewood and later Rocket which is built in schools and institutions.

These liners are made in different sizes; standard, medium, large X - large and XX - large. They are also made in different designs for different purposes. The whole process takes one month before they are ready to sale.

Benter, has made 1,050 pcs, in different sizes which are ready for sale. These jikos are valued as follows; small - Ksh. 15, medium - Ksh. 20, large - Kshs. 30, firewood jikos - Ksh. 250. In addition to this, Benter and the team have also produced premium jikos of different sizes ranging between Ksh. 1,800 - 2,500. This gives her an income of Kshs. 20,000 monthly.

Benter who was taught by the German Corporation has also taught many others in different places including; Uganda, Tanzania, Malawi and Somali.

These Charcoal burners are also made in different types and have names, that is; Kisasa portable, Uhai medium with a stand, Uhai standard plain and Uhai medium plain.

Instead of electricity for chicks, they make jikos which use very little charcoal and can stay hot the whole night.

Through the jiko liner project, Benter's life has changed for the better. She is financially independent and able to meet all her needs and that of her family.

Currently, she has 2700 in the stock ready for sale. This is; 700 for firewood, 1500 for charcoal and 500 Uhai naked. She also has others in progress.



Radio

as a tool for change

At Emmabwi Church of God, child protection issues are shared through Radio Programming in partnership with a local FM station (Anyole FM).

The effects of Covid-19 and the restrictions enforced by the Kenyan Government caused a spike in child abuse cases. This prompted the Frontline Church Partners fraternity to explore an alternative to home-based programs to reach the wider community and address child protection issues.

In partnership with a local FM station who greatly subsidized broadcasting rates, we were able to conduct civic education and sensitization on child protection. We had a live talk show for a period of 2 months. The response was positive, and listeners were able to call in and give their contributions, ask questions and seek support.

Through the live talk show, we were able to reach and sensitize the wider community about child abuse thus strengthening networking opportunities to address child concerns. We also increased awareness of our work as child advocates.

Due to the wide radio reach within the community, we purpose to share audio live recording to caregivers, stakeholders and youths to continue reaching caregivers and youth.



Frontline Church Partner and youth doing a presentation.

Reversing the tide through Men's Self- Help Groups

The formation of self-help groups has been predominantly viewed as a women's activity.



The formation and subsequent registration of Loilepu Kimanjo Men's Self-help group, which is a male only group has caused an awakening in the Kimanjo community. The formation of self-help groups has been predominantly viewed as a women's activity.

To challenge this, seventeen male caregivers from PCEA Kimanjo Program center were determined to reverse this tide. The group has caught the attention of the community's, like-minded organizations and the National and county government. The subsequent partnerships have helped the group to attain success in both the economic, political and social spheres of life. And they have been able to attain this success in just eleven months of existence.

The group meets on a monthly basis and contribute five hundred shilling each. From their monthly income of Ksh.8,500, the group deposits KSh. 1,500 in their account. They also purchase two dobber breeding rams monthly with the remaining amount for

sale. The group currently has 26 rams valued at Ksh.117. Their bank balance currently stands at Ksh. 15,000.

The group received support of twenty heifers for sale from the church partner. The group made a local contribution of forty thousand shillings towards this project in a bid to ensure they have enough for the success of the project. The total cost of the project was KSh. 540,000. The members will make their first sale of the heifers in December 2021 at a total estimated price of Ksh. 800,000. The projected profit is Ksh. 160,000.

An addition of two Boran breeding bulls to the group has seen the breed quality improve at the household level with two of the caregiver's cows having sired calves with the Boran bulls.

The group has networked with the Laikipia Permaculture Community Trust where they received a training on Bee keeping, Tree planting and kitchen gardening. Nine of the group members have active

kitchen gardens and fruit orchards at their homes.

When the Kimanjo community experienced a series of cattle rustling incidences around November 2020, the group was vocal in spearheading peace talks to end insecurity in the area. This was through engaging key top leaders such as the laikipia county senator and Laikipia North Member of Parliament at the Church which contributed to peace prevalence in the area.

This group has influenced the registration of three more male caregiver groups. They engage in various activities such as loaning, saving, bee keeping, ram fattening and sale and kitchen gardening. They envision engaging in other activities such as brick making, plot purchase and construction of rental houses.

It is our sincere prayer that our male caregiver groups will achieve their goals and objectives and pave the way for formation of more male led self-help groups in our community.



Vituko za Anita

Victoria Karimi popularly known as Anita, joined the program at the age of 6. She was full of life and had an infectious bubbly personality. But this took a turn when she turned 12. Anita had impaired growth which took a toll on her self-esteem.

This significantly affected her performance but encouragement from the church helped her stay focused and regain her momentum. She responded positively and eventually turned her challenges to opportunity. Anita begun acting during soft talent shows and before long, she was performing not only in the cluster but also nationally.

Anita performed well in her Kenya Certificate Primary Education (KCPE) and was given priority by Wings To Fly, by Equity Bank. The church also stepped in and supported her with other necessities.

Since then, Anita has never looked back. After completing her secondary education, we connected her with the then Kenya Films Director, Robert Mwaniki popularly known as Makothé, who has been a great supporter of our program. He invited her for auditions and was extremely impressed by her performance. Since then, Anita has been

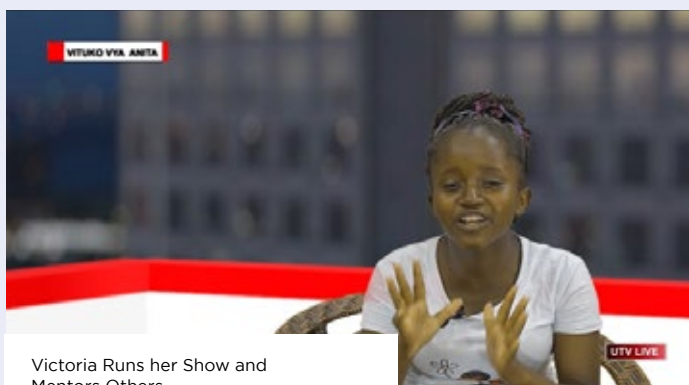
performing in different places with the team. Robert and Anita later started the show 'VITUKO ZA ANITA' which opened her up to other opportunities. Anita, now co-hosts with Makothé every Tuesday 8.00 -9.00am.

Along with this, Robert and Anita, mentor young people and are also supporting the less fortunate in different parts of the country.

Last year, Anita joined Tharaka University, a constituent of Chuka University College where she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in education. She's a source of inspiration to many students born with physical challenges and those from less fortunate families. She strongly believes that every young person can attain their God given potential.

She is working on developing her own show geared towards reaching out to other young people and encouraging them to keep on.

We wish Anita the best as she stretches her wings towards her full potential. She is always in our prayers.



Victoria Runs her Show and Mentors Others



“

*In moments of
gloom and turmoil,
what counts is our
effort, perseverance,
and grit.*

It's not how we **START** but how we **FINISH**



Martin Kirimi

In moments of gloom and turmoil, what counts is our effort, perseverance, and grit. There will be many challenges and hurdles that appear along the way. For some, these challenges are detrimental, for others these challenges teach them valuable lessons in life and make them stronger. Martin Kirimi's indomitable spirit speaks volumes to this. As the adage goes, "It's not how you start the race; it's how you finish that counts."

As a young boy growing up in Kisima, where poverty was rampant, Martin lived in a deep depth of despair. He had a front row seat to the difficulties his family went through and the sacrifice it took to put food on the table, buy decent clothing, and afford other necessities.

But at the age of 7, hope came knocking when he was taken into the program. He was young and not well learned but had a nagging desire for better. He knew he wanted to influence and use his challenging past to create a better future for his family and community. Though he did not know how he was going to achieve this, he knew he loved economics, and was going to use this to drive change.

The road wasn't easy, but he did not throw up his hands in despair and surrender. Instead, he took on the challenge and was determined to set an example. He had the strength, will, and personal constitution to carry on until he succeeded. He adamantly pursued his interest in economics with the support of the church.

Sure enough, his hard work and perseverance paid off. For almost two years now, Martin has served as an Investigations Officer, with the Competition Authority of Kenya. Through his role, he is protecting and strengthening the way competition works in Kenyan markets and industries, to improve the efficiency of the economy and increase the welfare of Kenyans.

Martin showed a lot of vulnerability and honesty in his recounting of his personal hardships, and we can learn a thing or two about advancing towards our goals with confidence, conviction, and certainty despite adversity.

It is easy to look at our difficult pasts and conclude that we will fail. It takes courage to look past our situations and remember who Jesus says we are. But as Martin says, you've got this, and God's got you!

The Heart of a Warrior

Known

Twenty-seven years ago, Newton Midamba would never have guessed that social work would have been the launching pad, for an over a decade-long career, working with children.

King, as he is commonly known, is outgoing, friendly, and an undoubtedly external processor. The kind of guy you would not miss on the corridor. For the sake of dramatic flair, think of him as the modern-day Paul ..., only introverted. Yes, he is an introvert.

In case you're struggling with this newly discovered fact, here is the gist. Despite the hype, Newton loves to be alone, so much so that his children constantly ask him who his friends are. "For the record, I feel uncomfortable in crowds and avoid places where people are." So here is a tip. Next time you think of inviting Newton to an office party, please, think again.

Newton had a desire to be an enforcer and dreamt of joining the armed forces. But the recruitment did not come through after three years of rigorous training. The only opportunity available at the time was as a social worker in an NGO. He was hesitant. But he needed money, he had no place to stay, and was determined to get married, so he jumped on it. But this felt unnatural, uncomfortable, and not his desired path. "Me, a social worker? No, that's a lady's job" he thought. He was drifting, hustling

Loved

along behind the tugboat of life, just getting by. Or so he thought. While this path was undoubtedly a winding one, his tenacity and willingness to forge into uncharted territories led him to where he is now. A career that he believes is an ideal fit. But this was not a smooth journey. It was one with frustration and disappointment and a path that cemented his love and compassion for children. His mantra is, "when a child cries for help, we respond regardless of where the cry comes from."

As he was growing into his role, his experience working with children served as an eye-opener. He felt the Lord leading him into his calling, and he was determined to do anything for the Kingdom of God. To put it simply, he developed the heart of a warrior as an advocate for children. Not to mention, his earlier experience with child ministry which started when he rescued a lost child and took them to the police station when he was just a young boy.

Now as a father of three, and having worked with children for over two decades, Newton had this to say.

"As a steward, the Lord can bless you with either biological children or non-biological children. Be faithful in your service to them. Seek the Lord, for His provision is sufficient. He will guide you in every way to be effective in bringing them up."

Connected



*God is not unjust;
he will not forget
your work and the
love you have shown
him as you have
helped his people
and continue to
help them.
Hebrew 6:10*



Newton Midamba
Senior Manager, Partnership

Pictorial



Captions

1. **Back left to right: Back Row:** Linet Ochieng - Compassion; Mary W. Muiruri - Equity bank.

Front row: Anthony Kigora & David Nyamu - Equity Bank, Joel Macharia - Compassion, National Director; Nixon Sekoh - Equity Bank

CI met with representatives of Equity Bank. They discussed possible partnership opportunities to improve the lives and livelihoods of youth and caregivers. The proposed areas of collaboration are education, agri business and financial literacy.

2. **Back left to right:** Rev Oscar Kalama, Joel Macharia and Abraham Luganje, Presidential Delivery Unit (PDU).

3. **Back left to right:** Home visit to David and his parents; Mr. Gregory Maitha Kimeu and Madam Sophia Sidi Karisa in Maekani, Matanomane.

On 18th February 2021, the church leadership, Church Program staff, National Director, Compassion staff visited the family to give thanks to our able God for what He has done to this family. Compassion staff visited the family for a thanksgiving and the National Director also presented a gift to the family.

4. Launch of classroom building project at St. Phillips Bungule.
5. National Director, Joel Macharia building relations with the Frontline church Partner and caregivers at Ushindi Baptist Church Dzikonze in February 2021.

SPEAK UP FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, FOR THE RIGHTS OF ALL WHO ARE DESTITUTE.
SPEAK UP AND JUDGE FAIRLY; DEFEND THE RIGHTS OF THE POOR AND NEEDY.
- PROVERBS 31:8-9 -



**FOR ANY
FEEDBACK OR
COMMENTS PLEASE
CONNECT WITH US**

COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL KENYA

208 Kerarapon Road Off Ngong Road - Karen
P.O Box 1945 - 00502, Karen, Nairobi Kenya

Email: CIKenya@ke.ci.org

Phone: +254 709 961 000

+254 724 255 679

+254 733 686 885

Website: www.forchildren.com



Compassion Kenya



@CompassionKE



@Compassion International Kenya



@Compassion-International-Kenya



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