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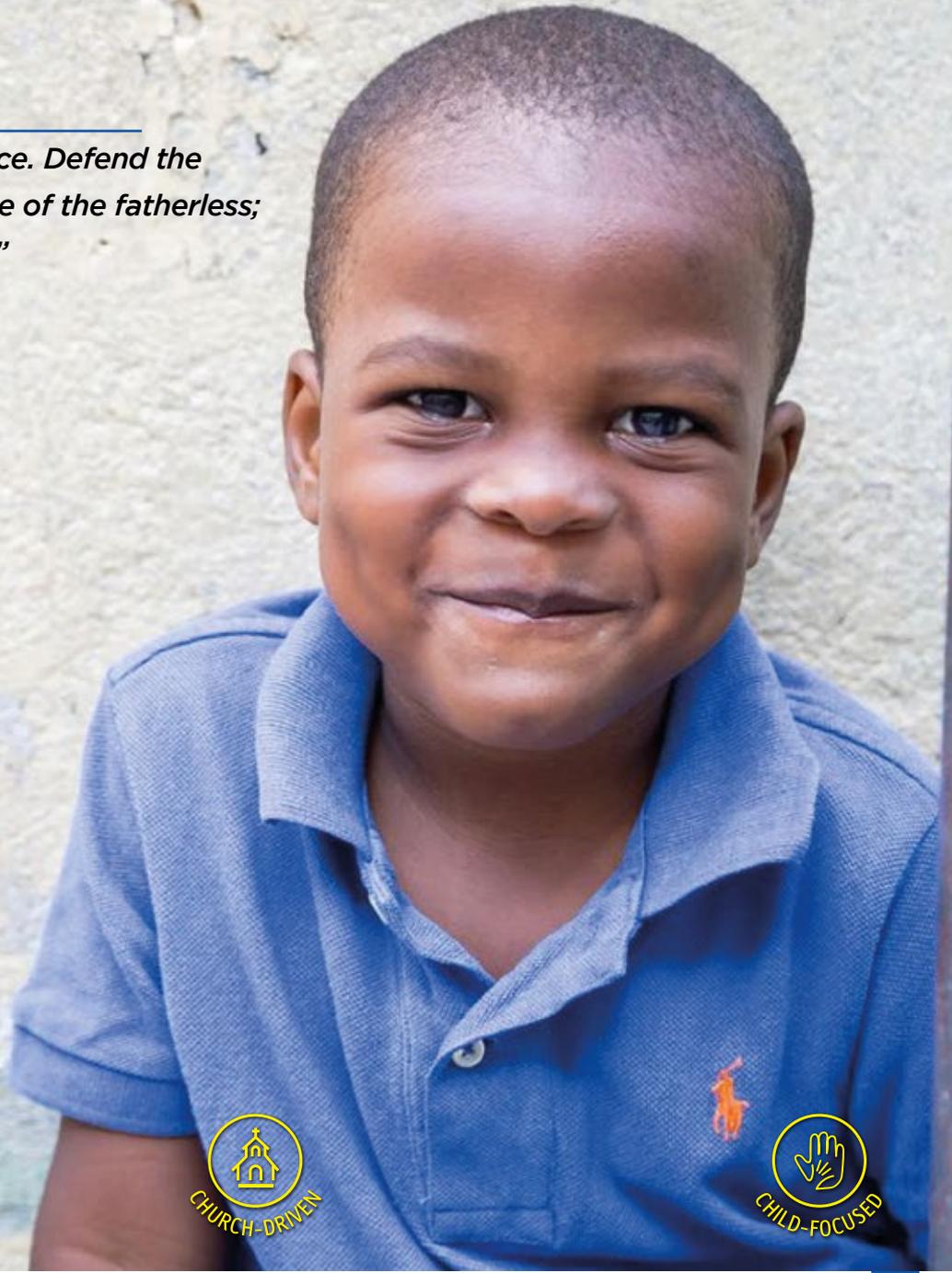
Releasing children from poverty
Compassion[®]
In Jesus' name

Creating an Environment Fit For Children:

Defending the Cause of All Children

*“Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the
oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless;
plead the case of the widow”*

Isaiah 1:17



Our Mission



Releasing Children from poverty in Jesus' name

Our Vision



As a result of our ministry to children in poverty, Compassion will be trusted by the Church worldwide as the leading authority for holistic child development and will be the global benchmark for excellence in child sponsorship.

Core Values



- Integrity
- Discernment
- Dignity
- Stewardship
- Excellence

Contents



3
Editor's Note



4
In Focus
Muskathlon@Home



7
Achieving
Child Welfare,
Protection and
Justice



9
Advocating for
an Africa fit for
children



11
Advancing water
infrastructure
to build resilience



12
Contract Farming:
Building
livelihoods and
improving welfare



13
Elijah's new
Storyline
Habitat for
Humanity



15
New Staff



15
Pictorial

List of contributors

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Susan Rupia
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Editor's Note

Looking Forward To The New Financial Year With Anticipation and Zeal



1 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; Ephesians 4:1-4.

As I sit down to write this, I recognize what a challenging year it has been. The tension in the air was palpable; from the epic disruptions, illness, and the unimaginable impact of COVID-19, on our personal lives and on those of the neighbors we serve. But God has been faithful.

The pandemic only presented an opportunity for us to expand and connect our hearts to those most in need. It also cast the spotlight on the need to improve our infrastructure, capabilities, and processes.

We could not have hoped for a better end to this financial year 2020-21. We have more than enough reason to begin FY2021-22 with optimism even as we anticipate the work ahead to fulfil our promise to our neighbors.

Our multi-year priority is to scale our ministry to advance outcomes with more children and youth more quickly;

by transforming the quality of neighbor relationships, growing the quantity of neighbor relationships, and advancing neighbor outcomes as we scale.

Of course, there's a lot of pressure to get the ball rolling. To achieve our objectives, we must equip our church partners with the resources they need to serve children and youth effectively.

While we can't know what is coming in the new year, we can find hope in God's word, live a life worthy of His calling and maintain a positive outlook that things will be better than ever in this coming financial year! *Ephesians 4:1-4.*

Let's welcome with open arms the possibility of a great FY2021-22 as we serve our neighbors.

By
Linet Ochieng





Muskathlon @Home: Ezesh Mtoto Kinango, Kwale County



Modern society teaches us to be self-reliant. But when we come together, we end up doing much more than what we could have done all alone. Coming together not despite our differences but because of them is where humanity taps into the sweet spot of our power — channeling positive energy in the right direction to help those in need and making the biggest impact.

We see the suffering that concerns real people, who have families, loved ones, friends, their own stories, dreams, and goals. And we scale up kindness and compassion.

The Kenya Muskathlon @ Home 2021 event allowed us to do just that. We showed up for our neighbors in Kinango, Kwale County. In the months before that, we went out of our way to contribute generously and managed to raise Ksh.583,060 towards building two houses for the most affected families. That alone is worth celebrating!

Our deep appreciation goes to Ms Fatuma Achani, the Deputy Governor, Kwale County, and the representatives from the county. Their presence and participation made the Muskathlon an extra special day. A huge thank you to Coca Cola for their generous donations of 40 cases of 1.5-litre bottles of water and 10 cases of 1.5-litre bottles of soda. We also thank Delight for donating 15 cases of 0.5-litre bottles of water. We want to thank our National Leadership Team (NLT) for their support in organizing such a great event.

We are so grateful to know that you were all part of the response to help our neighbours in Kinango for years to come. When we show up for those in need, we let them know we care and they are loved.

That's the greatest gift of all, being able to show love to those in need. Divided we aren't nearly as powerful as when we come together.

Thank you for the support!

*By
Susan Rupia*

*In case you missed it, here are snippet of the
Kenya Muskathlon @ Home highlights*



What went down in Netherlands.



Achieving Child Welfare, Protection and Justice



Evalyne Mboya

Chief Inspector Officer- Anti Human Trafficking and Child Protection Unit

There are many significant barriers to the development of African children. Evalyne Mboya, the Directorate of Criminal Investigation (DCI) Officer in charge of the Anti-Human Trafficking and Child Protection Unit Cyber Unit, discusses why there is a need to accelerate efforts to protect every child from violence, exploitation, neglect and abuse.

1. What are the key priorities in ensuring every child is protected against violence, exploitation, neglect and abuse?

Every child deserves to be protected from any form of abuse, violence, exploitation and neglect. For this to happen, there must be political stability, with no room for any form of violence and an efficient judicial system, where victims and survivors are guaranteed the swift delivery of justice. Access to education is also vital. Children that are aware of their rights, roles and responsibilities, are less likely to experience abuse. Lastly, an improved economic system where every household can afford their basic needs protects the child from vulnerabilities that come with poverty.

2. What progress has been made to ensure Kenya arrives at this goal?

Though Kenya still has a long way to go, we have made remarkable progress in ensuring that children are free from any form of abuse and exploitation. Kenya has established specialized units for child protection and gender-based violence such as the DCI Anti-Human Trafficking and Child Protection

Unit (AHTCPU) Cyber Unit, and POLICARE, the National Police Service (NPS) integrated response to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Kenya at Vigilance House. POLICARE is a multi-agency victim centered “ONE STOP CENTER” service provider. The service providers include the Police, Forensic investigators, Health providers, Psychologists, a representative of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), a Magistrate on call, Medical-legal, Gender experts, and Correctional personnel all under one roof. At any police station, there is a gender desk delivering quality service. In children’s cases there is also coordination between the DCI, ODPP and the Department of Children Services in the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

To safeguard whistleblowers, improved reporting mechanisms that protect the caller’s identity include # FICHUA KWA DCI, toll-free lines 112 and 116, and the DCI Twitter account @DCI_Kenya. Lastly, the availability of free and compulsory education has made education accessible to all children even through bursaries and subsidized school fees.



3. What are the challenges in achieving this?

There are very many cases that go unreported, undetected and unnoticed. It goes hand in hand with a lack of knowledge/information on children's rights and what constitutes crimes against children. Outdated cultural practices, like Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), deny the girl child access to education. This is amplified by poverty which makes children vulnerable to predators who provide them with food, toys, and financial gifts, in return for sexual and other favours.

Mushrooming slums in urban areas hinder effective policing and access to children exposed to violence and abuse. Instances of organ harvesting have led to the disappearance of children. Technological advancements have exposed children to online child trafficking and cyberbullying. Legislative gaps and limited funding makes it more difficult for law enforcers to execute their work efficiently and effectively.



4. Share with us any data that you may have (e.g. unreported cases, regions with the most rampant child protection issues).

The country has witnessed a sharp rise in the number of crimes committed against children. In general, Western Kenya and Coastal regions have high cases of child labour, defilement and early marriages. Girls in the Rift Valley are also vulnerable to FGM. Lastly, children in densely populated areas whose caregivers spend most of the day at work are susceptible to sexual exploitation and pornography.

5. What role can education play in the preventative space?

Education can play a substantive role in ensuring children are protected from any form of violence. Educating children on their rights and the different forms of abuse reduces such incidents and empowers them to report such cases when they do arise.

6. What should child focused organizations invest in to ensure children are protected?

Child-focused organizations should invest in creating awareness for the children and the public in general. Secondly, they should empower women economically to improve the livelihood of their families, protecting children from predators. Lastly, they can offer legal representation to victims of abuse and work with law enforcement agencies to ensure investigations are carried out quickly so that justice served is prompt.

ADVOCATING FOR AN AFRICA FIT FOR CHILDREN



Over 400 million children are currently living on the African continent - and the number is rising. The United Nations estimates that Africa's population will double to 2.4 billion by 2050. That's one quarter of the world's population.

Life for tens of these millions of Africa's youngest remains difficult, dangerous and, all too often, tragically short. An article by Africa Renewal states that despite modest advances for children in some African countries, children in sub-Saharan Africa are more likely to be ill, less likely to be in school and far more likely to die before the age of five than children in any other region. The statistics bear grim witness to this plight of African children.

The article adds that the pandemic and its response have also caused an immediate and downward spiral of deepening poverty which compounds with children being out of school, increases in mental health issues, violence, and sexual abuse. This calls for an acceleration of efforts to address child protection issues.

Every year since 1991, the Day of the African Child has been commemorated in memory of the young activists who were killed during the 1976 Soweto uprising in South Africa. Now on the Day of the African Child dubbed "30 years after the adoption of the Charter: accelerate implementation of agenda 2040 for an Africa fit for children" presents an opportunity to introspect/ evaluate what Africa and indeed Kenya has achieved in making the lives of Kenyan Children better in the 21st Century.

As Kofi Annan rightly put it; "There is no trust more sacred than the one the world holds with children. There is no duty more important than ensuring

that their rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, that their lives are free from fear and want and that they can grow up in peace."

The Child Protection report (2016 - 2019)² notes that while the country has an elaborate legal and policy framework to protect children from all forms of exploitation there are notable gaps. Such gaps include inadequate civil registration and a vital statistics system which leaves many children unregistered and creates barriers for children to access services, inadequacy in personnel, knowledge and limited child protection infrastructure that hamper the ability of service providers to respond to needs. The greatest challenge is in

the enforcement and/or delayed justice for the children whose rights have been abused.



"There is no trust more sacred than the one the world holds with children. There is no duty more important than ensuring that their rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, that their lives are free from fear and want and that they can grow up in peace."

Kofi Annan



Based on a national survey carried out in the month of February 2019 among Compassion Kenya's Frontline church partners in 30 counties in 'identifying high risk issues' the following top three high risk issues were identified: neglect (27%), sexual abuse (20.6%), physical abuse (13.5%). From the same survey, it was possible to deduce the major drivers of abuse in Kenya. The top three factors identified included: drunkenness/drug abuse (30.2%), poverty/unemployment (13.4%), and negative cultural & religious beliefs and practices (10.5%).

There is urgent need for sustainable interventions that address the gaps in children's and youth's rights and empowerment. Now more than ever, we must protect children and recognize the incredible potential wasted every day that a child is denied his or her right to a quality education, and a safe and independent life.

Along with this, we must continue to seek out opportunities to invest in children and youth to allow them to reach their full potential. An Africa fit for Children can only be achieved if we enhance their skills and promote the rights of our growing youth population.

By Miriam Mutuku

Child Protection Specialist



16 JUNE

International Day of the African Child

Day of the African Child

2021 Theme - "Africa Fit for children"

We hosted a virtual celebration with over 440 participants mainly our Frontline Church Partners (FCPs).

We collaborated with government agencies/departments who came in as panelists to address the questions from the beneficiaries. The following agencies were represented.

- Department of Children's Services-National Council of Children's Services
- Kilifi Sub-County Children's officer
- Department for Immigration - Civil Registration Services, Kaloleni Sub-county
- Office of Director of Public Prosecutions
- The National Police Service
- Directorate of Criminal Investigations - Anti-Human Trafficking & Child Protection Unit.

Advancing Water Infrastructure to Build Resilience

Drought has a sizable effect on poverty, consumption, and hunger in many rural areas. In Kinango, Kwale County, as natural water sources have dried up, very many people have suffered from the effects of famine.



Large economic investments like mining and agriculture have felt the impact as surface and groundwater levels diminish fall due to the cutting of trees for firewood. The most vulnerable to drought include the poorest populations, children, youth and women. Through our complementary intervention initiative, we constructed a water reserve tank at EAPC Mabesheni Church Program. This is in line with our poverty reduction strategies to strengthen coping capacities and build resilience to reduce future vulnerabilities.

The water reserve was officially opened by Ms Fatuma Achani, the Deputy Governor, Kwale County, and Joel Macharia, the National Director, Compassion Kenya, during the Muskathlon on June 26, 2021. This will go a long way to mitigate the drought situation in the affected community and enable them to build a thriving community with access to clean water

Ms Fatuma Achani, the Deputy Governor, Kwale County, officially opens the water reserve tanks with Joel Macharia, the National Director, Compassion Kenya, during the Muskathlon on June 26, 2021.



CONTRACT FARMING:

Building livelihoods and improving welfare



There is a large body of literature that argues contract farming — a preharvest agreement between farmers and buyers — facilitates smallholder market participation, improves household welfare and promotes rural development.

The contract farming model is one in which the producers, in our case the caregivers are linked with a produce marketing company to support the production and marketing of agricultural products. This model, promoted in the Food Security and Livelihoods strategy encourages individual producers (caregivers) to produce for markets, resulting in improved household incomes.

The caregivers find themselves trapped in a vicious cycle of low-intensity, subsistence-oriented farming producing low yields and insufficient profits to make beneficial investments. These factors contribute to high levels of poverty in many rural areas. Contract farming can be a tool to mitigate prevalent market failures and reduce the risks facing smallholder farmers.

The first 2 caregivers from Church of God, Mashangwa Church program, market their sweet potatoes through Yellow Flesh organization earned KES 135,200 from sale of 49 bags between them. The 2 caregivers reveal that this is the first time they are earning such amounts from growing sweet potatoes.

The participating caregivers are able to meet varied household needs with the additional income, hence an improvement in their livelihood standards.

*By
Church of God, Mashangwa*



Elijah's new Storyline

Habitat for Humanity

Elijah, a beneficiary was born in an extremely poor environment. The father who is already aged has no income and the mother has a mental health condition. His sister Marcelinah, now 17yrs old, was not able to join school because she had to be a mother to Elijah. The rental house they were living in was very small and costed Kshs. 600 per month, yet the father could not afford to pay.

After four years, the owner could not allow them to live rent free. The father was forced to relocate his family to a much smaller house that costed Kshs. 400 per month. This one was too small for the whole family and therefore, other siblings were forced to work as housekeepers in order to get shelter. Life couldn't get worse. Poverty made their lives difficult! It created a barrier to education, no employment, low income, poor housing, inadequate healthcare, malnutrition, family breaking, psychological torture, and many other miseries.

THE HAND OF GOD'S GRACE DAWNED!

On 16th February 2021 God's grace visited the family and started turning their mourning into Dancing! What seemed impossible started being possible. God in His own way started ravaging the family with love, rescuing, and restoring them passionately. He sent His own carriers of grace (Mr. Joel Macharia, PF Sarah Mwamburi, Madam Esther Ng'ang'a and Madam Linet Ochieng) who started turning the family household into a happier place. They started making the family see God alive in them.

(Psalms 30: 3, 11-12. V3 - O LORD, you have brought my life up from Sheol. You have kept me alive, so that I would not go down to the grave. Vs 11 – 12 - You have turned my mourning into dancing for me. You have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy. That my soul may sing praise to You and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever.) This is now their song!

Through the team and the whole Compassion Kenya staff, they raised over Kes.276,000 and donated household items that went into building and equipping the house for Elijah's family. Two months down the line, the family moved into their own house by the grace of God. The siblings who were living with well-wishers now had their own home and came back. Elijah got his sister Marcelinah back. His elder brother returned home after a very long time! With this much love, Elijah's father stopped drinking and started coming to church.





Compassion staff and Elijah's family

One month down the line, he accepted to commit his life to Christ together with his eldest son. Sunday of 27th June 2021, Elijah's mum attended church service together with her husband and her two sons for the first time ever!!! To our surprise, she remained silent and attentive in both services until the end! Indeed, what God can do, no man can do!! The visible tangible change in the family is so good and encouraging! May our good Lord forever bless the Compassion Kenya staff members for their contribution towards this noble act of love! May God forever bless all those who participated in ensuring that a positive change is seen. Eternity Gospel Church, Buguta, may God forever shine His face upon you.

No matter the wasted years, the poor choices made by the parents in the past, God chose to answer all their mess of life with Grace! The family now has a new face, a new storyline, they have been shaped by grace, strengthened by grace, and softened by grace! God has accepted them, cleaned them, loved them, brought joy and happiness to them, and now He is not only taking them to heaven but has also brought heaven to them! ALL GLORY TO HIM ALONE!

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!



New Staff



Please Welcome Susan Ngugi the new SDS Associate. Before Joining Compassion, she worked with Guaranty Trust Bank as a Relationship Officer. Also, she has volunteered as a Social Media Marketing, Design & IT Volunteer, Zonal Coordinator, and a board member at Love INC Kenya.

She has a Bachelor of Science in Applied Statistics with Computing from University of Eldoret, Kenya.

Susan fellowships at Deliverance Church Kahawa Sukari. She enjoys travelling, cooking, and reading practical books. Her favorite food is chapati and ginger tea. Her favorite scripture is;

*A generous soul will prosper, and he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.
Prov 11:25*

Pictorial



The National Leadership team, represented by Joel Macharia, Samuel Wambugu, and Linet Ochieng met with Rev, Joseph Ntombura, the Presiding Bishop, Methodist Church of Kenya & The President of Africa Methodist Council, to discuss ways to accelerate our efforts to support children and families in Pokot and Marakwet County.

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**



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