

# JIRANI

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Releasing children from poverty  
**Compassion**  
in Jesus' name

## *Sharing Responsibility For Sustainable Development*

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

Colossians 3:23 - 24





# Contents



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Known, Loved, Protected

**Child Protection:  
Our Highest Priority**

**Report cases of abuse and neglect to 116.  
#SeeItReportIt #YouHaveThePower**

Child Protection Campaign 2021

## Our Mission



Releasing Children  
from poverty in Jesus'  
name

## Our Vision



All children in poverty  
thriving toward their  
God-given potential

## Core Values



Integrity  
Discernment  
Dignity  
Stewardship  
Excellence

# Breastfeeding:

## *Our Shared Responsibility*



*We are told that breastfeeding will be easy, blissful, and intoxicating. After all, it's natural, right? But lactating mothers face many challenges. Maternal protection enables breastfeeding and empowers parents for a successful implementation of recommended breastfeeding practices.*

**Rose Wambu-Ng'ethe,**

Maternal Infant and Young Child Feeding (MIYCN) Program Manager, Division of Nutrition in the Kenya Ministry of Health,

### **1. What are the main challenges faced by breastfeeding mothers?**

It is important to note that most of the challenges experienced by breast feeding mothers are not unique to Kenya. The common challenges are:

- a. **Lack of information on proper breastfeeding.** Most mothers do not get counselling on proper latching and positioning; this prevents them from breastfeeding as required.
- b. **Competition from breastmilk substitutes (formulas).** The manufacturers and marketers of breastmilk substitutes undermine mothers' ability to breastfeed. Most marketers package these formulas to entice the mothers, ignoring the myriad of issues and problems that comes with it.
- c. **Cultural practices that influence breastfeeding practices.** Cultural practices such as withholding breastmilk until the naming of the infant by the mother-in-law or until their hair is cut hinders breastfeeding immediately after childbirth; a time that is vital and **recommended by health experts**. In addition, you find some cultures in the East African region preserve one breast for the husband, neglecting the baby's needs.
- d. **Stigma.** Though this has reduced over the years, we still find mothers, especially those of higher social class ashamed of breastfeeding their children in public. We also have cultures in northern Kenya that consider breastfeeding in public a taboo.
- e. **Capacity in hospitals and clinics is also a challenge.** Due to the devolution of health, most healthcare workers are now under the authority of the counties. They are constantly being transferred between facilities, causing inconsistency and a skills gap.

## 2. *How does neglect come to play in breastfeeding?*

- There very many societal issues that bring this out. One great example is when the mother is facing psychological trauma. In such a case, you find that the mother may ignore and not want to see or hold their child and neglect them in the process. It is a challenge because there are not enough lactation counsellors who can provide the care and guidance needed.
- **Cultural influences.** In some cultures, the woman has to preserve one breast for the man.

## 3. *Does implementation and enforcement of policies need to be improved?*

Article 53, Part 3 of the Constitution on Kenya needs emphasis. It states that all children should get quality food: Children (0 -2) must eat what is appropriate; breastmilk.

Additionally, a proposed bill (Breastfeeding Mothers Bill) seeks to operationalize Article 72 of the Health Act 2017, which protects the mother and the baby from cultural and social influences that affect breastfeeding. This bill poses penalties to anyone found to be contravening Articles 71 and 72. If passed, it will enhance the Health Law.

## 4. *How do we protect expectant and nursing mothers in the workforce?*

Workplace guidelines should protect and allow nursing mothers the time and space to breastfeed by arranging flexible hours with their employers or supervisor. This is in line with the labour laws on maternity health.

## 5. *What strategies is the department focusing on to address these challenges?*

In line with the theme for this year, *Breastfeeding is a shared responsibility*; we have been carrying out sensitization in other departments. One area of focus is cultural and social protection. In this, mothers get 'Linda Mama Insurance' where they get all the care and resources they need. It also empathizes baby friendly hospital activities.

We have community health care workers and volunteers who follow up with the mother to ensure they can breastfeed and counsel them on the appropriate ways to feed after the first 6 months. To ensure breastfeeding gets the seriousness it deserves, we offer training to hospitals and communities. We also have training in mid-level colleges and encourage healthcare workers to take the WHO (World Health Organization) course on breastfeeding.

Through the media, we use representatives to sensitize the public on the need and importance of exclusive breastfeeding and on our website we have educational materials that the public can use on breastfeeding.

## 6. *How can mother and child-focused organizations plugin?*

We have systems and processes in place that allow partners in this space to connect. We have nutrition technical forums every quarter where all actors meet to give updates to the ministry.

Technical working groups from different organizations meet monthly to discuss issues that occur where they implement. In this forum, they agree or prioritize activities depending on the data collected. We also have task forces that propel and plan activities to promote and protect breastfeeding in maternity constitutions.

These groups provide an opportunity for all players in this space to give their input and be part of the implementation process. We encourage all partners to come on board as breastfeeding is a shared responsibility.



**Stigma:**  
*Though this has reduced over the years, we still find mothers, especially those of higher social class ashamed of breastfeeding their children in public. We also have cultures in northern Kenya that consider breastfeeding in public a taboo*



# Access to Clean Water, Hygiene and Sanitation



*Lack of access to water is a public health crisis and problem facing Mwingi County in Eastern Kenya. In this area, the water sources are seasonal springs very far from households that are neither reliable nor sustainable for long periods. In many cases, they also do not meet sanitary health standards. Water scarcity has become a threat to the population's survival in the area.*

**AIC Mwarangeni**, which supports hundreds of children in the community, was not immune from this menace and threat. Due to water scarcity, most of the agricultural projects stalled.

Through the joint effort of the caregivers, youth, and the church, we were able to mobilize local resources to construct a shallow well. We then use a solar-powered water pump to fill the well. The community now has clean, accessible and affordable water.

Because of the water point at the church, the community has access to affordable and clean water.

**Kshs. 1,505,350**

The total project cost and was funded purely from local resources from the caregivers through "Harambee."

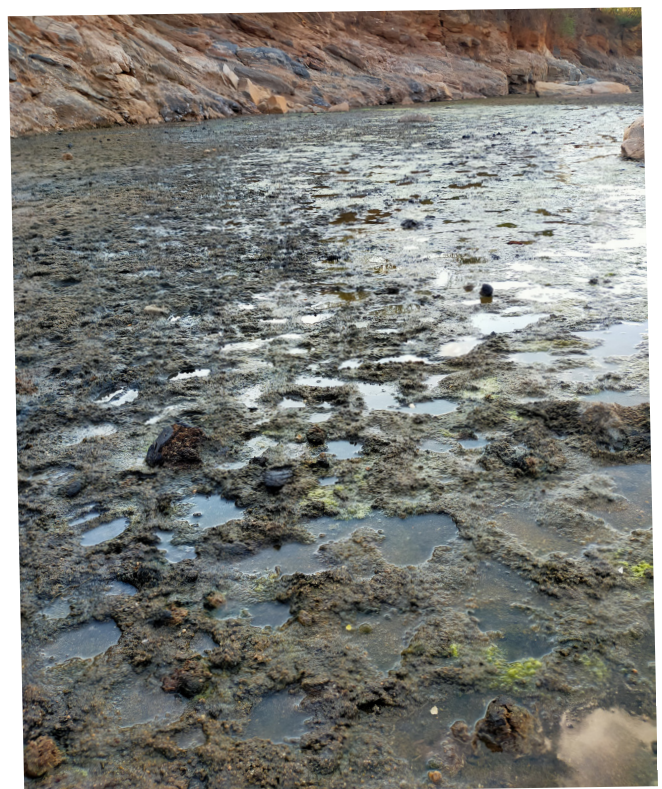
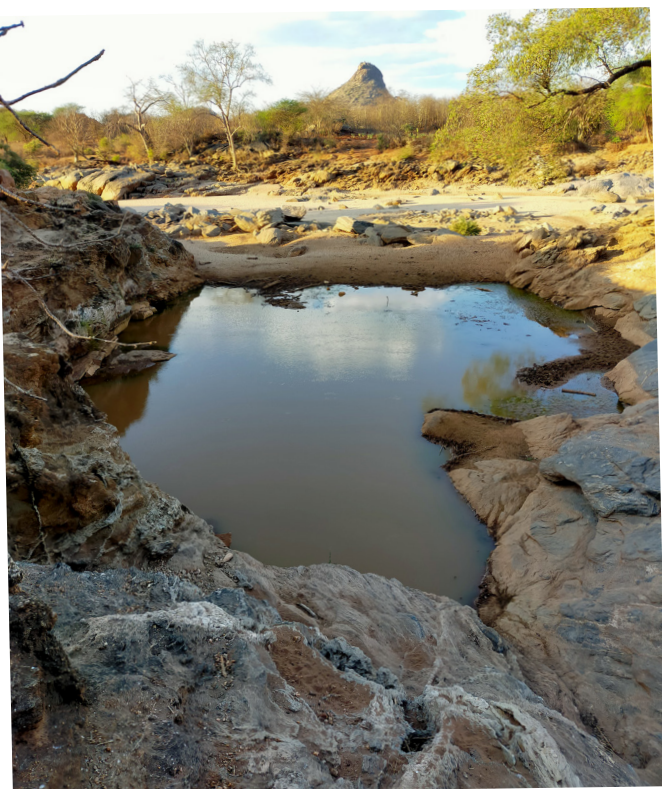


This activity involved the construction of a 50M underground shallow well, the purchase of a water pump, installation of solar panels for energy provision, installation of a Sunvarter for conversion of solar energy to direct current and overhead water tanks at the church;. The total project cost **Kshs. 1,505,350** which was funded purely from local resources from the caregivers through.

This project has seen numerous benefits both to the community and the children and youth: Water vending in the neighbouring areas and market centres, the baking and sale of local construction bricks, employment opportunities for the youth such as the Church Partners groundsman, reduced water-borne diseases like ringworms amongst the children and youth, reduced time and labour for fetching water from distant seasonal rivers, and planting of 1,650 indigenous trees and flowers within the church compound.

This dedication to solving the water shortage menace in our area by our church in partnership with Compassion Kenya has made water shortage and scarcity at AIC Mwarangeni a thing of the past. Glory to God!

*“Through the join effort of the caregivers, youth, and the church, we were able to mobilize local resources to construct a shallow well. We then use a solar-powered water pump to fill the well. The community now has clean, accessible and affordable water.*





# Reversing Climate Change Through Tree Planting



***Climate change, if unchecked, is an urgent threat to health, food supplies, biodiversity, and livelihoods across the globe. We cannot burn our way to the future.***

**W**e cannot pretend the danger does not exist or dismiss it because it affects someone else. The cost of our success is the exhaustion of natural resources, leading to energy crises, climate change, pollution, and the destruction of our habitat. If we exhaust natural resources, there will be nothing left for our future generations. If we continue in the same direction, humankind is headed for some frightful ordeals, if not extinction.

The church is about 751 meters above sea level. The ground landscape is undulating with gentle hills.

The climate is semi-arid with dry and wet seasons. The area rainfall is about 500 millimetres annually distributed in short and long rains of September to December and March to May; respectively. Temperatures range from 16 degrees centigrade to highs of about 35 degrees centigrade. Due to the limited rainfall, surface water sources are very scarce. The harsh environment makes this area prone to poverty among children and women.

Compassion International is at the forefront in releasing over 6,800 children and youths in Kitui County from poverty in Jesus name.





*“The climate of the project area is arid and semi-arid type in character with dry and wet seasons. The harsh environment makes this area prone to poverty among children and women.”*

In November 2008, A.I.C Kanzinwa signed a partnership agreement with Compassion International. In March 2014, with the support of the Compassion International Kenya, we started planting fruit-bearing trees; mangoes, pawpaw, banana and oranges since this area is rich in acidic soils; the best for fruit growing!

In June 2014, the Mwingi Branch of the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) donated 145 Neem or *Azadirachta indica* tree seedlings. In June 2020, we received 6,000 tree seedlings from the Kenya Electricity Generating Company, which we distributed among 30 church partners in three different counties. In mid-December of the same year, Equity Bank Mwingi Branch donated 1,000 seedlings of different tree species to our church partners after we networked with them for planting.

This year in June, our church was recognized as having planted the most fruit-bearing trees nationally. We had planted 48,326 tree seedlings as part of the one-million tree planting campaign to mark forty years of the existence of Compassion International Kenya.

During the mango harvesting season, we engaged registered youths to collect mango seeds. We then plant the seeds in nursery beds within the church compound. We later issue two tree seedlings to every caregiver

for their respective home gardens. It has created a conducive micro-climate in the area, supporting food security, better health outcomes, environmental beautification and enhancing livelihoods through the commercial sale of fruits. We are targeting to plant at least 750,000 trees by 2024.



at least **750,000**

Trees to be planted by 2024



# Soft Talent Development



Comedian Sambells at Big Lenses studio recording sessions

*Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to stop the soft talent competition. This led ACK St Marys Munjiti to approach Big Afrique Studio and Big Lenses Studio Eldoret to help in soft talents development. There, youths can join a DJ Academy, Music School, Dance School, or Band to learn the skills necessary to flourish in the entertainment industry.*

**D**ue to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to stop the soft talent competition.. It led ACK St Marys Munjiti to approach Big Afrique Studio and Big Lenses Studio Eldoret to help in soft talents development. There, youths can join a DJ Academy, Music School, Dance School, or Band to learn the skills necessary to flourish in the entertainment industry.

Mark enrolled for guitar and piano classes, Andyblevis Akhaukwa enrolled for DJ School, and Samwel Omondi a.k.a. **Sambells** enrolled for the recording of his stand-up comedy and spoken word. The boys felt uplifted and are excited to use their talent in the entertainment industry. Here is what they had to say:

## Mark guitarist /Pianist

*I am so grateful for what the church has done for me. When I felt low and discouraged, the church and Compassion International were there to uplift me and showed me that all was not lost. I am a student at Big Afrique Studio Eldoret Rupas Mall. The college is great and well equipped. I enrolled in guitar and piano classes. I am learning skills that will fulfil my passion of joining a band for income generation. The college has also identified my exemplary skills and promised to give me a chance to mentor other youths in playing guitar and piano. Thanks to the almighty for giving me a chance to be a Compassion International beneficiary.*



Andyblevis showcasing his DJ skills during college visitation at Big Afrique Studio Rupas Mall Eldoret by Mr Victor Otundo, the church partner part-time teacher.

### Andyblevis upcoming DJ

A graduate of Ekambuli Secondary School; with a passion for music. In 2020, after completing his Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education exams, he requested to join a DJ School. We have enrolled him at *Big Afrique DJ Academy*, where he is doing pretty well. We wish the youth well.

*I had a dream of becoming one of the prominent DJs in the country, and I used to tell the project director Bornventure to help me build my talent. With the support of my parents, this has become true. I enrolled at the DJ Academy in Big Afrique Studio Eldoret Rupas Mall, owned by DJ MO, where I met DJ MO and my other instructors. For any youth hoping to develop talent and skill for fulfilment and a livelihood, this is the place to be. Thanks to the efforts of Compassion and the church for supporting me here. I hope to graduate soon and use my skills. God bless.*

## Snapshots

### Kiambu Governor visits

Joyce Wanjiku Ngugi, Deputy Governor, Kiambu County alongside Compassion staff representatives visited KAG Kamea and PCEA Ngecha church in Kiambu County.



The Deputy Governor, [Joyce Ngugi](#) (center) with Compassion staff: Left-Right( [Eugene Situma](#), [Samuel Wambugu](#), [Jael Kamakil](#), [Catherine Wamiti](#) and [Fredrick Otieno](#)



The Deputy Governor was received by caregivers at KAG Kamea



The Deputy Governor addressed the church. She discussed the challenges facing the youth in Kiambu County and how the church and the county govt can work together to combat these issues.



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  
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