

JIRANI

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Releasing children from poverty
Compassion
in Jesus' name

International Day for Eradication of Poverty: *Moving Forward Together*

“And above all these, put on
love, which binds everything
together in perfect harmony.”

Colossians 3:14



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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

A brief look back at Child Protection In 2021



“*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

The Covid-19 pandemic that gripped the world during the past year has resulted in reversing decades of progress in the fight against poverty and extreme poverty. The pandemic and its response have caused an immediate and downward spiral of deepening poverty which compounds with children being out of school, increases in mental health issues, violence, and child neglect. Life for tens of millions of Africa’s youngest remains difficult, dangerous and, all too often, tragically short. 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.

There is need to accelerate efforts to address child protection issues and find ways to ensure every child’s rights are observed.

As I reflect on the year that has been, look back at the work that we have done and the crucial significance of our continued fight to ensure children, youth and their families thrive, I note progress worth highlighting.

As a practitioner working in child protection, I see the responsibility placed upon us as child advocates to make good decisions. To develop frameworks and approaches that ensure success. And continue to seek out opportunities to invest in children and youth to allow them to reach their full potential.

One key approach that we have adopted to achieve this, is paying attention, and listening to the voices of those with lived experience.





Children must be part of the solution. This positively influences their self-esteem and encourage them to appreciate their own inherent value. However, in many cases when a child reports a case of abuse, they are usually isolated from the family! The solution to this is to train the community including its local leaders to handle children carefully. When children know that there are people within the community working on their behalf, people who will take their case seriously, they (children) have a greater sense of confidence that if they report a concern, something will change.

Parents are taught the value of children and given practical ways of doing parenting. As they gain knowledge, things change. We are noticing community awareness on violence and abuse of children, they are aware of how to keep children safe and how to report abuse.

That said, here are keys steps that are crucial to ensure an inclusive community led approach:

- Community decides the child protection issue(s) that they want to address
- The community decides how to address that particular issue
- They decide what local resources they will use.
- They design the action that they will take.
- The community implements the action

I must admit that we've not always been successful in our bids to create a more inclusive and community-driven approach that values and listens to those with lived experience. Some doors have had stiffer hinges than others, but we have and must keep knocking. Because for us, the outcomes are about releasing children from poverty and enriching their lives. And that is worth fighting for.

All our church partners have a child protection strategy that they are implementing. It would be good to see each church rallying the community to address the high-risk issues affecting children and youths. This is because, involving the community brings ownership. Allowing the community to select the high-risk issue that they will prioritize, reflects vision, values, concerns, and judgement of the community members.

Jael Kamakil

Child Protection Specialist

“Children must be part of the solution. This positively influences their self-esteem and encourage them to appreciate their own inherent value.”

Alumni: *Ride For Compassion*



It is so much more special and fulfilling to do something good for other people, expecting nothing in return other than the knowledge that you did what you could to help.

Meet **Charles Geoffrey**, a Compassion Kenya alumnus aiming to raise **AUS.600,000** to see 150 children in East Africa sponsored through the ride for Compassion event in 2022.

Ride for Compassion is an annual event in which cyclists and support crew—with a desire to help children living in poverty—raise money for Compassion Australia. All the funds raised support and help children living in poverty. The month-long ride will be across Australia from coast to coast.

Charles will ride for 4,000 km from Perth to Newcastle in September through to October, along the beautiful beaches of Western Australia, across the rugged Nullarbor, to the bustling east coast city of Newcastle.

Each cyclist undertakes extensive training before the event, pays for their on-road costs, and raises funds for Compassion's work.

How can you help?

You can plugin and help by donating to help Charles reach his goal and meet the urgent needs of Compassion children and youth facing unthinkable hardships. Your donation would support children and youth whose families have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, abandoned by their parents, orphans, exposed to exploitation and children with special needs.



Ufanisi and Waridi caregivers



A growing body of evidence postulates that empowering people leads to economic benefits for themselves, their households, and communities. There is increasing recognition that economically empowering people is essential to realize and achieve broader development goals such as economic growth, poverty reduction, better outcomes in health, education, and welfare. A community that is economically empowered contributes more to their family, society, and national economic growth. To succeed and advance economically, people need the skills and resources to compete in markets. The Ebenezer East African Pentecostal Church program has fully put that into practice.

The Ebenezer East African Pentecostal Church community lives in one of the driest areas mentioned in Kenya; drought and famine are the order of the day, therefore depending on it as the only source of living is a disaster. Three years ago, the primary source of income for our caregivers was day labour jobs which included working on people's farms to earn a living. Today the story is different.

Our church program has three amongst many flourishing caregiver groups engaged in tailoring, hairdressing and beauty therapy, and baking. In 2021 a total of sixty caregivers perfected tailoring, baking, and hairdressing skills. Early this year, out of the total number, eighteen caregivers sat for Grade 3 national exams with the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), passing with flying colours. All our caregivers earn a minimum of Ksh.2000 a month on average using the acquired skills.



In hairdressing and beauty therapy, we have five caregivers in salons at Matanomanne Shopping Center; fifteen are working from their homes, the rest are continuing their beauty coursework. Twelve of the caregivers in this class did their NITA exams and passed. Our caregivers are now well marketed, and they get tenders for bridal team settings and many more, all thanks to the skill acquired. This year we have enrolled twenty more caregivers.

Tailoring has fifteen well-skilled caregivers who earn not less than Ksh.500 a week through sales and repairs. Six caregivers passed grade 3 NITA administered exams with flying colours. This year we are targeting twenty more caregivers to register for NITA exams. The caregivers have registered their group as Ufanisi Ebenezer tailors' group, and they have a certificate. They have begun applying for tenders in schools and weddings; last year, they did beneficiary game skits.

In baking, we have fifteen caregivers and have registered their group as Waridi Bakers under social services. They supply queen cakes to most of the shops in Matanomanne, and some of the schools in the surrounding area. We have two caregivers who are now teachers in the baking class, and we no longer need external tutors.

Our caregivers are also making wedding and birthday cakes within our region. On average, our caregivers earn a minimum of Ksh.2500 per month. We celebrate the excellent work done so far, and are on our way to achieving economic empowerment for our community.

It is through these skills that our caregivers can now shine. Families are empowered, and we still strive to nurture other skills. The number of malnutrition cases and poor parenting issues have been reduced in extraordinary measures. The impact realized by empowering our caregivers is so significant that it has given us more energy to work on total caregiver empowerment.



By, Ebenezer East African Pentecostal Church.

Improving development through strategic partnerships with the (Kwale County)

Redeemed Gospel Church Chigutu program seeks to empower caregivers so that they can be self-supporting. To achieve the above, the Chigutu program centre began offering skills to caregivers, 80% of whom had no chance to access education at whatever level. The skills offered are hairdressing and tailoring.

Towards the middle of this year, we had a stakeholder meeting with the **Kwale** county government officials at the Church to discuss ways we could partner to help these caregivers be self-supporting. We had nine machines at the Church, yet the enrollment to tailoring was ballooning to almost thirty-five caregivers, a number which our machines and single teacher could not support. This pushed the discussion on how to support caregivers to have training in the nearby well-equipped polytechnic.

The first meeting yielded fruit since five caregivers got a full scholarship from the county government to study at the polytechnic. Out of these, three caregivers can now make clothes for their children and neighbours and earn an income to cater to their daily needs. They are currently still pursuing the training, hopefully, to sit for their Grade 3 exams in April 2022.

We held a second meeting with our Ward Administrators and two village administrators to discuss adding another group of caregivers, excited with the progress made by their fellow caregivers. This meeting saw us agree to cost-share the required fee - the church Ksh.3000, caregiver Ksh.1000, and Ksh.6000 from the county government through bursaries. We were able to pay for nineteen caregivers.

In total, we have twenty-four caregivers, five pursuing hairdressing and the other nineteen pursuing tailoring. We look forward to having a team of thirty of our caregivers running their clothes making company that sees them get tenders in the nearby schools and government parastatals. It will enable them to get a livelihood for their families. In total, we have 24 caregivers, five caregivers pursuing Hairdressing and the rest Tailoring. This will take us a long way in empowering caregivers to be self-supporting.

We look forward to having a team of thirty caregivers running their Clothes making company that sees them get tenders in the nearby schools and government parastatals. This will take them a long way in getting a livelihood for their families.

Yes, it is possible to change lives through skills.

By,

Redeemed Gospel Church
Chigutu



Breast Cancer Awareness Month



According to the World Health Organization, Breast cancer is currently the most common type of cancer worldwide; 2.26 million cases were recorded in 2020. The cancer burden is rising globally, exerting significant strain on populations and health systems at all income levels. In Kenya, cancer is the third leading cause of death after infectious and cardiovascular diseases.

In a global effort to raise awareness on breast cancer, October has been designated as the Pink Month, with efforts to educate those concerned about the disease, including early identification and associated signs and symptoms. Strong, healthy women are the foundation of families of our country, and today in Kenya, their health is threatened by a disease that we must catch early.

Many women are being diagnosed with breast cancer too late and are dying needlessly when treatments are available that give them a chance to fight this disease,” said First Lady Margaret Kenyatta.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The month aims to spread more information and awareness about breast cancer that affects women primarily. It can be very overwhelming after a breast cancer diagnosis, when everything a woman looked forward to, hoped for and planned for doesn't happen or is ripped away.



Breast cancer diagnosis and treatment affect everyone differently but offering your loved one, friend, or colleague emotional help during their breast cancer journey can be very powerful. Simply taking the time to check in with them and ask how they are getting on can be rewarding for both of you and help them find moments of peace and joy again.

The breast cancer network offers some great tips on how to care and buddy up and support those with breast cancer:

1. **Be available to listen. Let your friend know that you're open to coming over when needed. Cry, laugh, and listen to her. Sometimes there is no need for words.**
2. **Just be yourself. You don't need to worry about not knowing what to say.**
3. **Let them know you care. Many people find it difficult to ask for help.**
4. **Visit, but phone first to check it's okay. Don't visit with sick or noisy children, or if you're sick yourself.**

5. **Do not burden them with your fears and worries.**
6. **Please encourage them to join a support group.**
7. **Check in with the person who helps with their daily care (caregiver) to see what else they might need.**
8. **Make short, regular visits rather than long, infrequent ones. Understand that they might not want to talk, but they may not like being alone either.**

It is also important to note that breast cancer is not a static event but rather a journey of physical and emotional changes. There is no "one size fits all" approach to supporting women and families impacted by this disease.

Knowing how best to support breast cancer survivors is an ongoing process of changing expectations and needs.

Testimony of Khamisi



“When the time is right, I, the Lord, will make it happen.”

Isaiah 60:22.

A testimony of Khamisi

Khamisi is seven years of age and attends the Vuma GRC Church programme in Kilifi County. Khamisi is the second child in a family of four. Khamisi, now in grade one at Vuma Primary School, was born with a medical condition. A follow-up was made with the parents regarding the disease. The mother sadly explained that she had sought medical care for Khamisi several times. It got to a point she was told the condition was not treatable in Kenya. With all this disappointment and knowing they could not pursue better medical attention because of financial needs, the mother only hoped for the best. For six years, Khamisi had struggled with this health condition; he was often unable to play like most of his peers. During all this, he still worked hard in school, did not miss coming to the church program and freely interacted with his peers as a delightful child. During health screening, recommendations for his medical attention were made, and eventually, the parents gave in to the need to seek further medical intervention.

Throughout the whole process, we received support from our health specialist Eunice Mwariri and our Partnership Facilitator, Jane Mukua. In such an instance, you cannot explain what happened, and you are just left acknowledging the goodness and greatness of God. It is a story of transformation in his life, his family, others, and our faith in God made much stronger. The journey has been tremendous, and Khamisi's smile blesses us all.

Khamisi is now back to school and is very playful. He also dreams of being a policeman when he grows up. This miracle has transformed the mindset of other caregivers and on the need to provide medical attention to children. It has also been testimony in the community, and beyond that, we truly serve a living God who makes things happen at the right time, as He says in Isaiah 60:22.

*By Dometria Kache
Program Director*

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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