

Improving livelihoods through personal and community development

Each of you should use whatever gifts you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10

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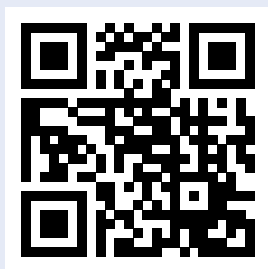
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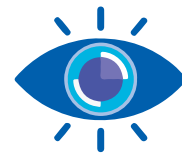
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Our Mission



Our Vision



All children in poverty thriving toward their God-given potential.



Enhancing household food security and incomes through irrigation farming.

Olepolos Mennonite Program Centre is in Narok County and serves a total of 454 children from the Community. There is frequent drought in Olepolos area due to unreliable rainfall.

The caregivers face a recurrence of rainfall and crop failure leading to a frequent lack of food and water for consumption, agriculture, and livestock. The weak watershed management has also contributed to the underutilization of the river for irrigation. The caregiver groups have limited organizational and managerial capacity for community activities.

The project aims to organize the project caregivers into groups, with each farmer growing vegetable in individual farms for income generation and mobilization of savings. The savings will be used by the caregivers for farm inputs and maintenance of irrigation equipment.

This will ensure sustainability of the project and reduce the overdependence of caregivers on the church.

Olepolos, located in Narok County, experiences little rainfall throughout the year. It leaves the community vulnerable to a frequent lack of food and water for their families and livestock.

Compassion International Kenya introduced a Kshs. 4 million horticulture irrigation project to support farming among the caregivers. The irrigation project entailed incorporating solar-powered drip irrigation technology and smart farming techniques like Zai pits, sunken beds, and double dug beds to maximize the yield.

The project established collaborative networking linkages with the Narok County Agriculture Department and the Kenya Agricultural & Livestock Research Organization (KALRO) to access and leverage opportunities available for the caregiver groups.

KALRO provided technical support on soil sampling, topographic surveys, and the design of the irrigation project. Other partners included Davis & Shirliff, who installed the solar water pumps and drip irrigation system, and Post-Modern Farms, using the drip irrigation system. The linkage with the Narok County Agriculture Department enabled caregivers to access inputs and training on the running and maintenance of horticulture irrigation farms.



Beatrice Ruiru, PF Narok cluster and Julius Wairoma, FSL Specialist with the Olepolos team at the farm.



A bird's eye view of the Olepolos horticulture farm.

As a result of this project, caregivers have grown different vegetables like kale, spinach, cabbage, tomatoes, capsicums, onions, amaranths, spider weed, and black nightshade.

This farming project has given families more control over their food products as they are no longer wholly dependent on rainfall to farm. Besides food stability, caregivers increase their earnings by selling surplus vegetables at the market. Caregivers have started an economic group with the extra money, where they save and lend money amongst themselves. They are also using the group to purchase inputs for their farm. The farming group has generated Kshs.653,900 over the last six months. Below is a summary of the impact of the farming project on the 126 caregivers in Olepolos.



Leah Bett, the Manager of Partnership at Compassion buys capsicum from Mr. Sadera at the farm.

1. Access to balanced diets means the families of caregivers are healthier. The caregivers participating in the project can now get sufficient vegetables from the farm and purchase additional food required to put a balanced diet on the table.
2. There is a reduction in child abuse cases as caregivers can comfortably provide for their beneficiaries. Previously, child neglect cases were prevalent in households where the children could only get one meal in a day.
3. School drop-out cases have reduced as caregivers pay fees and purchase school uniforms for their children. Economic instability previously hindered caregivers from supporting their children through school. The income generated from the sale of vegetables enables caregivers to keep their children in school.
4. The horticulture irrigation project complements livestock rearing, the mainstay of the community. Large numbers of livestock die during prolonged droughts. It not only results in huge financial losses but also compounds poverty. Through the farming project, caregivers have a year-round food supply.
5. The caregivers have improved irrigation facilities for horticulture farming and will complement livestock rearing which is adversely affected by death of the livestock during prolonged periods of drought.

By Julius Waroma, Food Security & Livelihood Specialist

Driving conservation through community engagement

Prolonged drought has been a challenge for the community in Kwale cluster. The unpredictable weather patterns have affected food security and precipitated the loss of livestock. The 15 churches in the Kwale cluster came together to spearhead the planting of 500,000 drought-resistant trees and fruit trees within the church compounds, homesteads, and public facilities across the sub-county by 2023.



Invited guests ready to plant trees at Maweu PEFA Church.

The Church Partners have also committed to putting up tree nurseries in their respective churches to enable them to produce seedlings for planting and distribution within the community.

The launch is dubbed Project Genesis 2:15 and reflects our God-given mandate to conserve our environment. The exercise will also support sustainable farming and improve livelihoods.

By May 2022, the 15 Church Partners had planted over 29,435 trees. Speaking at the launch event, our National Director, Samwel Wambugu reflected on the role of environmental conservation in addressing hostile climatic conditions.

Government and spiritual leaders who attended the event pledged to support the tree planting initiative and encouraged the entire community to join in the noble exercise. In support of this project, the Coast Development Agency donated over 9,345 tree seedlings.

In attendance was our managers of partnerships, the Governor's office, spiritual leaders from the region, regional government administrators, local school headteachers, caregivers, program participants, and over 300 community members.



The chief guests cutting a cake to commemorate the launch of the environmental conservation project.

Empowering the youth through digital skills



For many years, literacy has meant the ability to read and write. As technological innovations have come to play a more prominent role in our lives, literacy has evolved to define a person's ability to understand and utilize digital technologies. In this era, digital literacy skills have become an essential and standard skill. Bearing this in mind, 20 young people participated in The GearBox Academy Embedded System Program. The students, selected from 12 Church Partners in the Nairobi County enrolled in a hands-on technical course to develop their digital skills.



Graduation.

The six-month course enabled them to learn the basics of electrical engineering, programming microcontrollers, and digital design and fabrication. The skills gained through the training will position the participants as problem solvers in their communities.



Workshop.

Compassion International Kenya's support through the Targeted Response Fund covered their tuition fees and the purchase of a laptop for each of them. All 20 students successfully graduated, with some of the students exhibiting their innovations at the graduation ceremony. Here is a video of one of the innovators: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=exeweqvy2LQ>

At the graduation ceremony, invited guests were given a demonstration of some of the different gearbox innovations. Gearbox Academy will market these innovations to its partners.

By Douglas Museti, Program Support Specialist

Unlocking influence through talent



A recent exhibition event provided an opportunity for children and youth in the Kilifi County to showcase their talents. Some of the skills exhibited during the event included tailoring, baking, hairdressing, mat making, shoemaking, and art and design. Participants also received inspirational messages from some of the guests.

The event began with a devotion service led by Bishop Kaite, which inspired the participants to use their talent to serve God and humanity. Danny Gift, who is a young and renowned gospel minister, reflected on his music journey and how God can use a person's talent to make them excel in life. Alumni and program participants gave testimonials about how their skills are helping them to access opportunities.

Below is an overview of some of their experiences.

1. Mike Gole, an alumnus of the project, is now an entrepreneur using his web design and development skills to earn an income.
2. Chengo Benjamin, a youth member of the program, uses his charisma and public speaking to perform as a master of ceremonies for events. He is also a radio presenter and sings wedding songs.
3. Hans Peter, a youth in the program, has set up a YouTube channel to share funny videos and perform standup comedy.

By Pendo Faustinah, Project Director



Children performing a play at the exhibition event.

Highlights

Career mentorship and guidance



The Africa Inland Church (AIC) Kanzinwa program and Strathmore University have partnered to mentor youth about to join secondary school. The partnership, which began in 2018, offers children and youth intensive career mentorship and guidance. In the same year, the university granted a scholarship to one program participant to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce. Last month, ten youth joined the program participants for an engaging discussion on career choices.

Securing the future through financial planning

AIC Kanzinwa hosted children, youth, and caregivers for an educational session on financial literacy, planning, and management. The training session, delivered by a team from Equity Bank Mwingi, discussed financial opportunities caregivers could leverage to grow their income.



Pictorial



We received 4,200 single solar lamps as a donation from Schneider Electric to be distributed to program participants.

New Staff:

John Mwaura Mbugua



We wish to welcome **John Mwaura Mbugua** to the Compassion family as a **Program Support Specialist**. Before Compassion, John served as a Senior Program Officer, Adolescents and Youth Programs at LVCT Health. He has also been a Program Officer at Hope Worldwide Kenya and a Clinician at AIC Kijabe Hospital. His educational background includes Clinical Medicine and Surgery from Kenya Medical Training College (KMTTC) and a Bachelor's Degree in Counselling Psychology from St. Paul's University.

John is married to Miriam Mwaura; the couple has two children – Abigail Mwaura (aged 7) and Angela Mwaura (aged 4). John enjoys listening to music, crafting, and reading. He also farms, hikes, and participates in charity activities. John is passionate about serving God and youth ministry.

He worships at Nairobi Chapel-Ngong Hills Church. His favourite verse in the bible is **Colossians 3:23** ***"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."***

Yvonne Nkirote Kinoti



We also welcome Yvonne Nkirote Kinoti, our new Supporter Donor Support Associate (SDSA) in the Compassion Supporter Engagement Function, effective June 2, 2022. Yvonne, a born-again Christian, is honoured to join Compassion International, where she looks forward to learning and growing as she serves God.

Yvonne graduated from Kenyatta University with a Bachelor's degree in Education. From 2020 to 2022, she served as a Contractor in the Supporter Engagement function and at Sky Train Logistics Company as an Administration Assistant. In 2019, she completed her internship at Compassion Kenya in the training function. Yvonne graduated from Kenyatta University with a Bachelor's Degree in Education. Yvonne believes that service to humanity is service to God.

This belief motivates her to volunteer in charitable institutions such as Sero Foundation, where she distributed food packs and hygiene kits to vulnerable persons in Kibera impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. She also volunteered with Tamara Charitable Initiative, a youth-led initiative, coordinating activities in children's homes and prisons, and running the Sacco arm, which supports young people with loans for business start-ups. She also enjoys designing outfits.

She fellowships at City Gate Community Church, Kikuyu, where she serves in the children's ministry and supports welfare matters and is motivated by the bible verse: **Colossians 3:23** ***"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."***

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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