



## Promoting Spiritual Development in Children

*But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen.*

**(2 Peter 3:18)**



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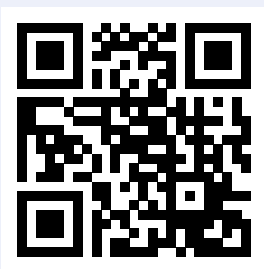
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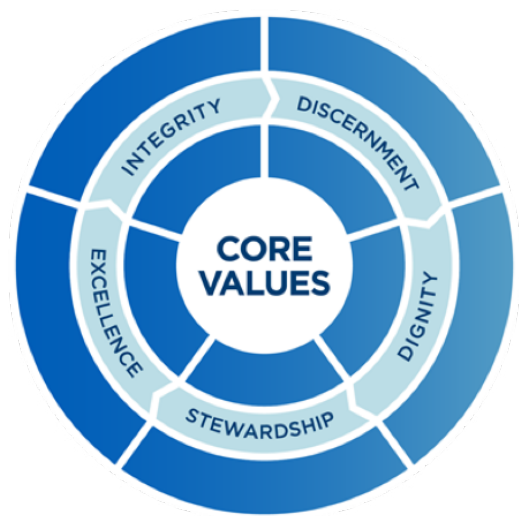
## Our Mission



## Our Vision



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



# Caregivers Improving Their Livelihoods Through Adoption of Kitchen Gardens in Samburu

*KEAPC Poro in Samburu Cluster has been promoting the establishment of kitchen gardens among caregivers at the household level. It has enhanced food availability, increased household savings on food purchases, and income generation from vegetable sales.*

**T**welve caregivers established kitchen gardens, with the Frontline Church Partner (FCP) providing support in the form of start-up inputs such as seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, and fungicides. The FCP also organized training and extension visits.

The gardens are within the homesteads, close to the house for accessibility and easier management. They grow a mixture of vegetables like kale, spinach, cabbage, and tomatoes, using varied irrigation, soil, and water conservation technologies in the kitchen gardens.

These approaches reduce rainfall reliance and ensure soils are rich in organic manure, dry organic matter, and moisture, producing robust vegetables that are less prone to attack by pests and diseases.

Most of the caregivers' household dietary requirements come from the kitchen garden, insulating the households from spending their meagre financial resources on vegetables. Before embracing kitchen gardening, each caregiver spent an average of Ksh.200 per day on vegetables for seven people. They can now use these funds to buy other household requirements such as flour, kerosene, and cooking fat and regularly contribute to their savings groups. The average weekly contribution to the savings groups from vegetable sales is Ksh.500, adding up to Ksh.2,000 per month. Caregivers borrow funds against their savings group contributions to meet school fees and other emergent needs.

The benefits reaped by the caregivers from kitchen gardening have encouraged other farmers in the village to take up the practice, improving the general well-being of the local community.

**Contributor: Julius Wairoma**



Caregivers in EAPC Poro, Samburu cluster tending their kitchen gardens.



Every year on the second of December, the world celebrates World AIDS Day. Last year, the World Health Organization (WHO) called us all to unite to end the inequalities holding back the end of AIDS under the theme “**Equalize**”.

In the last few years, we have seen the progress toward HIV goals stall and a reduction in resources, leading to more lives at risk. Furthermore, we see inequalities when treating the disease in women, young girls, and children. According to UNAIDS (United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS), new HIV infections among adolescent girls and young women are declining slower than among males of the same age in sub-Saharan Africa. Diving deeper, women and girls accounted for 49% of new HIV infections worldwide in 2021. Children accounted for 4% of all people living with HIV and 15% of all AIDS-related deaths.

According to UNAIDS, children are less likely than adults to be diagnosed with HIV, receive anti-retroviral therapy, and achieve viral suppression. Data shows that while 81% of pregnant women living with HIV and 76% of adults (aged 15 years and older) received anti-retroviral therapy in 2021, only 52% of children were accessing treatment.

Thus, we are all called to get back on track to end AIDS and address the unequal access to health services in women, young girls, and children. It will require us to double our efforts and increase our investment in HIV programs.

For this reason, the new Global Alliance to end AIDS in children seeks the participation of stakeholders, national governments, implementing agencies, regional and country-based organizations, and the community to intensify their efforts to end AIDS in children.

**Contributor: Michael Mugwe**

In response to this, UNAIDS, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), WHO, and partners have brought together a global strategic initiative to ensure that all children living with HIV access treatment and to prevent new infant HIV infections.

The Global AIDS Strategy has four pillars for collective action:

1. Early testing and optimized comprehensive, high-quality treatment and care for infants, children, and adolescents living with and children exposed to HIV.
2. Closing the treatment gap for pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV and optimizing treatment continuity to eliminate vertical transmission.
3. Preventing and detecting new HIV infections among pregnant and breastfeeding adolescents and women.
4. Addressing rights, gender equality, and the social and structural barriers that hinder access to services.

These pillars will aid in closing the gaps in the AIDS response. However, we should start by reducing the barriers for women and children to access quality HIV diagnosis, HIV treatment initiation, and retention in care, including at the preconception, antenatal and postnatal stages.

Our response is two-fold, including anti-retroviral treatment for those infected with HIV/AIDS and broad education focused on awareness of transmission methods and prevention through risk-avoidance behaviour. Efforts to reduce HIV/AIDS infection permeate every aspect of our program. For instance, in our Survival component, we support pregnant moms who are HIV+ and educate them on preventive measures they can take to avoid transmission to their babies.

Reference: [https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media\\_asset/dangerous-inequalities\\_en.pdf](https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/dangerous-inequalities_en.pdf)

# MWELE PEFA CHURCH Women's Football Team



The team taking lunch in Malindi after the game.

In September and October 2022, our team participated in the women's county league, which ran from early September to the end of October. We began the season on a low note, losing our first game to Jimba Minds by seven goals to nil. Despite losing by a large margin, the team didn't lose their morale.

For their second match, we travelled to Malindi, where we played against the well-known Kilifi Starlets. We were a bit intimidated but were up to the challenge. We lost by a much narrower margin, one goal to nil.

The third game was at home against Stopper Queens. We were victorious and won by two goals to one. This game, our first win of the season, revived our morale. In our next match, there was a communication breakdown. The girls had gone to participate in project games, which coincided with our county league match, which led to a walkover, affecting our overall performance. The next game was against Jimba Minds.

Most of us were anxious about the return match. In our previous encounter, Jimba Minds beat us thoroughly. The team played well and finished the game in a one-one tie. After that, we faced Kilifi Starlets in another return match at home. Even though it was a tough game, we proved victorious and won by one goal to nil.

Coming to the end of the season, we played our last game at Nguluwani Primary School in Mwanamwingi. The field was not of the best quality and had thorns in several areas. It posed a challenge for those of us who were playing bare feet. After a tight, captivating match, we lost by three goals to one.



The team pausing for a photo before a game

Looking back at our results, we won two matches, drew two, lost three, and had one walkover. Mwanasporti and Taifa Leo newspapers featured the girls. Several schools including Mbithini Girls Secondary School in Machakos County and Migori Academy in Migori County, that develop sports talent expressed their interest in giving some of the girls an opportunity to attend their schools. Most of our players are in class eight, meaning a majority may join these schools. In addition, some have already secured their spot after trials by the school coaches.

We pray for the girls and encourage them to nurture their talent by continuing to play football.

**Contributor: Habel**

# Bible Distribution at Full Gospel Churches of Kenya



*On November 4, 2022, we distributed 32 copies of the Good News Bibles to our program participants. We emphasized they maximize their use, especially as reference material during curriculum delivery. Due to this, we have experienced a positive change and impact from those who possess them.*

The bibles are used during morning devotions and at the church's Sunday schools. We appreciate the intervention as it promotes discipleship and spreading the gospel to the program participants. We thank you for supporting us as we work to achieve our mission and enhance the holistic development of children and youths.

**Contributor: Maina**

# Bible Distribution at Full Gospel Churches of Kenya

*Psalms 68:5 tells us, “A father of the fatherless, a defender of widows, Is God in His holy habitation.”*

*This verse shows His aim to show orphans mercy, care, and protection. Because these waiting children are essential to Him, they are to the church.*

Charles, one of our program participants, is learning at ACK Resonate School. Since he lost his mother last year, we decided to accommodate him at the school boarding section, which is entirely for the most vulnerable children. It enables us to see him every day at school and the project.

In September, we received different types of bibles for various age groups. Charles was one of the program participants who received a copy. Can you imagine the smile on his face when he received his first-ever bible from the project?



Program participants receive various versions of the Bible

Charles’s favourite bible verse is,

*“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10)*

*“Whenever I miss my mum, I read my bible. I love my bible because it has nice pictures and is easy to read,” says Charles.*

**Contributor: Emily Gonna**

Among the children under foster care staying with Charles are Joseph and Polycarp. Polycarp was joyous after receiving his first bible, a copy of the Joy Children Bible.

*“My bible is small and handy. My favorite bible verse is Psalms 119:105. I know God’s word is the lamp to my feet and the light to my path. I love my bible! Thank you, Compassion! Thank you, ACK Budokomi!”*

Joseph says that life at home is sometimes hard to bear. He is learning to read the bible with help from Polycarp and Charles. He attends daily bible studies, and it is easy to follow the storyline because his bible has pictures.

*“My bible is called My First Handy Bible, which I carry wherever I go. We discuss the pictures, and my favorite story is David and Goliath. The bible helps me be brave in my situations. It is strong and cannot tear easily. I am so happy. Compassion, thank you so much for my bible. May God bless you.” Joseph*



Charles with his first bible.

## Bible Distribution at ACK Budokomi - Busia



Program participants reading their new bibles.

Spiritual development is paramount in our program at AIC Ithumbi. We receive support from like-minded organizations and donors who donate bibles to the project. We appreciate the receipt of bibles from Biblica that have gone a long way in helping teach the word of God to participants. The Pictorial bibles make the lessons fun and the scriptures easy to understand for the young participants. Twenty-three program participants accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Project staff and Sunday school teachers mentor them. We hope that more participants outside our child centre will have an opportunity to get bibles and know the word of God more and more.



Distribution of the NIV Joy bibles to participants at AIC Ithumbi.

The program participants were joyous to receive the bibles and now read them with their families at home. They said that the bibles are attractive and easy to read and understand. Therefore, they have committed to reading and sharing the bible with their friends at the project and school. They are very grateful for the gifts.



## Shamba Letu project at Joe Ministry Adungosi



To curb the shortage of vegetables in our community, Joe Ministry Adungosi came up with an outstanding idea to feed us and generate income. However, like any other idea, the real work begins at the implementation stage. Some of the challenges we faced were the lack of seedlings, water for irrigation, fertilizer, and land near the school. By their good heart, our neighbour offered to give us a piece of land for free.

It was incredible, and we thank God. Having been given the piece of land, we bought fertilizer while the program participants brought seedlings. It was virgin, uncultivated land and thus required a lot of labour.

Our dedicated team and friends simplified the work. We thank God for the gift of strength. We cleared and tilled the land, raised the seedbeds, and watered them; in a week.

After a month, our vegetables were ready for sale, and we began to satisfy the demand for indigenous vegetables within our community. We even raised enough money to buy school items like books, pens, shoes, and uniforms for the program participants.

Thank you to our dedicated team!

**Contributor: Eunichah**



Program Participants in the farm

# Partnership with iServe Africa to Equip Youth with Soft Skills



*Over the past few decades, the centre of gravity in the Christian world has moved dramatically southward and eastward to Africa, Asia, and Latin America. However, this exponential growth, particularly in the case of Africa, does not necessarily equal spiritual growth.*

**W**e have celebrated numbers despite the compromise of the quality of Christianity. Vibrancy and warmth towards the Gospel lack solid Christian discipleship foundations. As a result, we have witnessed sporadic growth of prosperity Gospel that puts a lot of emphasis on the message of health and wealth.

The greatest asset that our Africa Society has is the young people. All program participants who did their KCSE exams will be at home from January - May 2023, and others until September 2023, when they will join their respective universities. If the youths are not gainfully engaged, most tend to lose hope and resort to social vices. Our FCP has partnered with iServe Africa, a Christian organization, to see how our youths can be engaged and trained as they wait to join universities and colleges.

On November 22, 2022, our project accountant paid a courtesy call to the iServe Africa office in Kikuyu. He met with the manager in charge of the transformed program training. Our FCP was given five out of forty slots reserved for youths who would undergo training from February - May 2023. Since 2021, we have had nine youths attend such a program, and they have transformed spiritually and are in various colleges and universities.

The program is interested in transforming the lives of 18 - 21-year-old high school leavers into Christ-centered individuals. We hope that after their experience at iServe Africa, they will be well-trained, equipped, and mentored as they move into the next stage of life.

**Contributor : Joshua Mutisya**

Our aim is :

1. To disciple young people by growing their love and passion for Christ.
2. To provide an environment where young people can explore and ask questions about their faith and themselves.
3. To provide an opportunity for young people to gain valuable experiences in cross-cultural mission trips.
4. To mentor high school leavers into responsible adults and prepare them for their next steps in life.
5. To train the program participants on crucial life skills that include work, discipline, money matters, first aid, and cooking skills.



Joshua at the iServe Africa office located in Kikuyu

# Caregivers Giving Back at AIC Kanzinwa



Caregivers cleaning



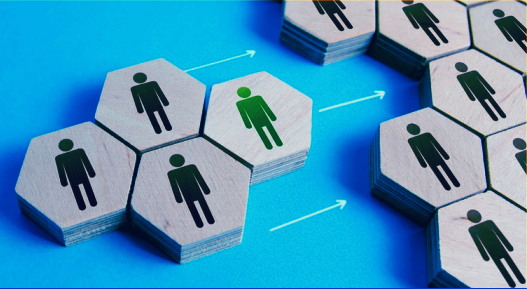
Caregivers weeding the farm.



Caregivers cleaning up the clutter.

**O**n November 15, 2022, at AIC Kanzinwa, the caregivers volunteered to maintain the church compound and farm. They arranged and put everything in order and did some weeding as well. We thank them for making time to give back to our church.

# New Team Members



Join us in welcoming Ashely Kigen as our Public Relations Specialist. Before joining Compassion, she served as a Communication Specialist at Syngenta East Africa. She holds a Master's Degree in International Communication from Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia, and a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from the United States International University in Nairobi, Kenya.

Ashley comes from a family of three girls and enjoys travelling, exploring new restaurants and places, watching movies, and reading good books in her free time. She also plans events and parties for her family and friends and MCees at some of them.

Ashley worships at Collective Worship Kenya. She is passionate about serving God during church services, especially helping to create structure and the look and feel of Sunday worship service. Additionally, she shares and disseminates key messages on different platforms.

Her favourite verse in the bible/Quote or encouragement is

**Joshua 1:9** *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”*

We also welcome Kevin Onyango Odhier, our new Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Specialist. Before joining Compassion, he served as Monitoring, Evaluation, Research, and Learning Advisor at World University Service of Canada (WUSC), at Lutheran World Federation as Program Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting Officer, and with Leonard Cheshire as Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Officer.

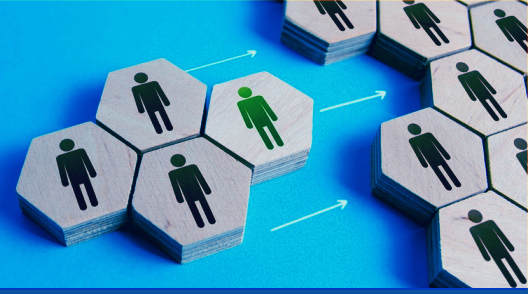
His educational background includes a Master's in Monitoring and Evaluation from Maseno University (ongoing), a Certificate in Fundamentals of Global Health Research at the University of Washington, and a Bachelor of Science in Applied Statistics with Computer Science from the University of Kabianga.

Kevin is married to Terry Lumumba, and the couple has two children – Lyon Barry (6 years) and Meerah Gweth (3 months old). He enjoys watching football, swimming with his family, and reading novels in his free time.

He is passionate about serving God in youth leadership and worships at Baptist Church – Riruta. He says,

“My favourite verse in the bible is **2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV:** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*





Let us also welcome Geoffrey Mbiu Ngui to the Compassion Family. He joins the Supporter Engagement team as a Sponsor Donor Support Associate effective as of 1st February 2023.

Before joining Compassion International Kenya, Geoffrey worked as a clerk in the Golan dairies factory in Nyandarua County, where he had recently been promoted to a supervisor role. Before then, he worked at Sinohydro Corporation in Kitui County as a support staff.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree of Science in Mathematics & Computer Science from Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology (JKUAT).

Geoffrey is single and a member of Bethel Worship Center, Kibwezi, where he is the youth leader and member of the church development committee. His favourite Bible verse is John 3:16 – for it assures him of God's love and a promise of eternal life.

He is passionate about giving back to the community through volunteering in community work and other related opportunities. His hobbies include travelling and playing both football and volleyball.

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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