

JIRANI

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*Transforming
Lives and
Communities*

For I know the plans I have for you,
declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not
for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

(Jeremiah 29:11)



**RELEASING
CHILDREN
FROM
POVERTY**

IN JESUS' NAME



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

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List of contributors

Ann Asam
Tabitha Asweto
AIC EMPEUT
The Christ Formation Church
The Redeemed Gospel Church Chuluni

Editor

Linet Ochieng

Photo Credits

Issac Ogila
Kevin Ouma

IN FOCUS

Women In Leadership



Agnes Hotay, “Dada”
Senior Director, Regional
Program - Africa

Interview by Lydia Oduor

What we can learn from women in leadership

Women comprise over half of the population, but only a quarter make up executive and senior-level management positions. Data shows that the dream of gender equality isn't nearly as close as we hoped.

Though the underrepresentation of women in leadership roles is worrying, it has opened the door for new conversations and modern leadership styles that embrace the strengths that women in leadership naturally bring to the table.

Today there is more acceptance than ever before that the different experiences, perspectives, and skills of women make irreplaceable contributions to decisions, policies, and laws that work better for all.

We feature Agnes Hotay, Senior Director, Regional Program - Africa who discusses her experience in leadership and how organizations can create a more inclusive space for women to thrive.

Tell us about your family.

I am married. My husband is a bishop, and we have three children: two boys and one girl. I love cooking and cleaning for my family when I get time. I love taking long walks with my children for exercise and because it is also a great way to spend time with them. And my favorite colors are blue and red.

Tell us about your journey at Compassion.

I joined Compassion back in 2002. For 18 years now, I have served in different roles in Compassion. For my first five years, I worked as an SDS analyst (Sponsor and Donor Services), currently referred to as SDS associates, before being promoted to SDS supervisor. Six months later, I became Program Communications Manager. In 2014, I accepted the opportunity to serve as National Director in Tanzania, a position I held for five years before taking on my current role as Senior Director, Regional Program - Africa.

As a Senior Director of Africa Region, what does your day look like?

I work directly with National Directors on a day-to-day basis if not weekly. I support them to deliver their national office strategic and operational plans, in alignment with the overall organization strategy. Additionally, I ensure the national directors have the resources needed to accomplish their plans. I am also the liaison between the global leaders and the national directors.

Did you envision yourself as a leader?

No. I have never dreamt of being a leader. I was comfortable being led and even said no to my first managerial position. I refused because of fear. To me, leadership was challenging and very difficult. But the people around me saw my potential and encouraged me to take on leadership roles.

I prayed about it, and the holy spirit softened my heart, and I went back to the National Director and accepted the position. I remember quoting Luke 1:38. "I am the Lord's servant, may His word to me be fulfilled."

Do you think many women hold themselves back from leadership positions?

Absolutely! Because of our background, upbringing, cultural factors, and environment, we are conditioned to categorize responsibilities. A good example is the assignment of tasks and chores in our homes. Boys are assigned different roles from girls. It influences how we think about roles and responsibilities. Women lack confidence and are surrounded by a lot of responsibilities and exceptions. I remember when I joined Compassion,

I was newly married, and I had no children. A friend asked, "Ladies at Compassion are busy. Will you be able to raise a family?" To be honest, I was scared. But I was determined to stay on, and sure enough, three children later, I still work at Compassion. It has not been easy, but it is possible to have a career and family.

What keeps you energized?

1. I trust God. My life is driven by prayer and faith in God. I trust God even when everything in me tells me it is difficult and impossible. I get a sense of peace and press on.
2. My Husband: I have a very supportive husband. He has always been there for me and believes I can do anything. I share my aspirations with him, and he encourages and trusts me. Any married woman must have the support of their spouse.
3. My supervisors and bosses listened to me. All my supervisors have been supportive and encouraged me especially in times of hardship. I have been led by men who were understanding and allowed me to take on leadership positions and some have mentored me through it.
4. The Compassion mission and our impact on the lives of the people we serve. Visiting our church partners and seeing the impact and the transformation this ministry makes on children, caregivers, and their communities truly keeps me going.
5. The friendly work environment at Compassion has contributed heavily to my success. In my work, I was allowed to travel with my children. I remember traveling to Ethiopia with my son when he was only six months. I was grateful I didn't have to leave my child at home and constantly worry if he was okay. I recognize that not many organizations would allow women to do this, and for that, I am grateful.

What challenges have you faced as a woman in the workplace, and how did you navigate this?

As a Bishop's wife, mother, and professional, I wear different hats and with that, comes different expectations and responsibilities even with the extended family and the community. But by the grace of God, I can juggle these tasks. I have learned to:

1. **Prioritize:** Keep what is important at the top of the list. I have never missed school activities or a doctor's appointment for my children.

2. **Delegate responsibilities:** Despite the temptation to do everything, I have learned to empower my workers to ensure my children are protected and my home is managed when I am away at work.
3. **Say no and be ready to bear the consequences:** I say no to invitations and events that are not important. This helps me free up time and not to play God. At the same time, I know saying no comes with consequences and I prepare for it.

What influences in your personal life enabled you to get to where you are?

My mother has been very instrumental in my success. She made it possible for me to go to secondary school despite her not having a job and not attending secondary school. Through her hard work and perseverance, she taught me that anything is possible if you put effort and believe in yourself. My husband has also played a significant role in my career journey. He pushed me to go for the positions I thought I could not handle. Sometimes, he has more faith in me than I do in myself. I also love listening to and reading about other female leaders.

What boundaries did you put in place to help you succeed?

I am an introvert. As a woman, Christian, and leader, I am careful with whom I relate. I preserve my testimony and am careful how I relate with male friends and social media requests. I choose my few friends carefully. I have few loyal trustworthy friends. And I think it is important to pay attention to the people we allow in our space and lives!

What steps must be taken to create a more inclusive space for women in leadership?

A few years back, during a work trip, I was shocked when I discovered that out of 10 people, I was the only lady! This should not have come as a surprise because when you look at the ratio of females and males within most organizations in Africa, you will be surprised by the numbers. Women are disproportionately disadvantaged. This prompted me to write a paper on women's access to leadership positions in NGOs, focusing on Tanzania for my Master's project, which I recently completed.

I think one of the ways that organizations can begin to bring change is by formulating gender-balanced policies for women to flourish and advance that cover development, training, networking, peer learning, and mentorship. Another way is by allowing women to access information and education.

This will empower them and position them for success to break the "invisible ceiling" created by gender roles, demographic factors, and family responsibilities. We also need to invite men as allies to encourage women because this is a male-dominated world. I am thankful to the male leaders at Compassion that I worked for who supported me.

How do you engage and empower women?

First and foremost, I think people learn by observing not necessarily by what you're telling them. I try as much as possible when I stand in front of people to be as confident as I can. I also have different forums where I speak and coach women on leadership. This led to a few of them applying for various leadership positions, of which, some of them were successful.

I encourage women to dress appropriately and be sensitive to the different cultures and the occasion. During my time as the National Director, I worked with HR to create a forum where women could share and network, and learn from each other, but this did not materialize as I got my current position as Senior Director.

What would you advise future female leaders?

1. Fearing God will help you build your character. More companies are looking for character and not necessarily skills. There is a famous quote that says, "Do not say things. What you are stands over you the while and thunders so that I cannot hear what you say to the contrary." Ralph Waldo Emerson.
2. Be diligent and hard working. Do not be satisfied with just being average. When assigned a task, give it the best of your effort and with your whole heart. God is the one who sees, and He will reward you.
3. Develop yourself in your current role. Do not settle in your comfort zone but put effort into growth and development.
4. Overcome your shadow. Tell yourself that you can do it and overcome fear and the belief that you cannot step into "No women's land".
5. Be ready to pay the price. As the first female National Director in Tanzania, I was stepping into a male-dominated environment. I had to be prepared to handle criticism.



Agnes having fun time with her youngest son (Caleb)



Health

Fighting Malaria one net at a time



Families in Baringo receive mosquito nets

Malaria is a life-threatening disease caused by parasites transmitted to people through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes. It is, however, preventable and curable. According to the latest world malaria report (2020), there were 229 million malaria cases in 2019 compared to 228 million in 2018, and the estimated number of malaria deaths stood at 409,000.

In Kenya, malaria is a cause of morbidity and mortality, with more than 70 percent of the population at risk of the disease. There are an estimated 3.5 million new clinical cases and 10,700 deaths each year. Continuous monitoring of this disease has shown that each month, approximately 200 children and youth are treated for malaria, and one child dies. Vector control is the main way to prevent and reduce malaria transmission.

One of the most effective malaria vector control measures is insecticide-treated mosquito nets. According to the Kenya National Malaria Strategy (2009-2017), the current ITN ownership of 0.8 nets per household in Kenya is still far from universal access (defined as two nets per household).

Compassion International Kenya is supporting malaria prevention through education, donation of ITNs and appropriate malaria treatment to families.

Recently, the organization supported 77 Frontline Church Partners (FCPs) in distributing Insecticidal Treated Mosquito Nets (ITNs). FCPs in Baringo, Homabay, Kilifi-Ganze, Laikipia, Marsabit, Migori, and Taita-Taveta clusters received 33,921 mosquito nets. They are in endemic and seasonal transmission malaria zones and carry the heaviest malarial prevalence in the country.

Compassion International Kenya

The campaign also saw their caregivers receive comprehensive education on malaria prevention. The selected FCP were new and/or with young children who are most at risk. The Baringo cluster received 7,064 nets. It had also been affected by flooding and is home to other vector-borne illnesses like yellow fever, also transmitted by mosquitoes. Due to clashes, this cluster has internally displaced families.

This initiative will help safeguard the lives of children from malaria and other diseases transmitted by the mosquito. An additional benefit is the comfort of uninterrupted sleep, as was reported by one of the caregivers in Baringo. The beneficiary households have now met the recommended two nets per family. The hope is to avert the alarming one-child-per-month deaths from malaria amongst the registered children and youth.

By Leah Bett

3.5 million New Malaria clinical cases

10,700 Deaths Each Year



Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): The vaccine game changer

COVID-19 infections have been resurgent in the world and our country. The Ministry of Health (MOH) has confirmed a **“third wave”** of the pandemic. The number of cases has been rising steadily with an increased positivity rate (today’s positivity rate is 18%). The number of deaths is also high. The increasing number of patients in need of critical care has also stretched the health care system, and access to ICUs or ventilators is becoming a challenge. The signs and symptoms now include respiratory tract infections. Vaccines are a critical new tool in the battle against COVID-19, and it is hugely encouraging to see so many vaccines proving successful and going into development.

Working as quickly as they can, scientists from across the world are collaborating and innovating to bring us tests, treatments, and vaccines that will collectively save lives and end this pandemic. This month Kenya received COVID-19 vaccines and launched a landmark national campaign.

We are thankful for the receipt of the COVID-19 vaccine, as it is made available by our government and rolled out all over the country. Kenya’s Ministry of Health has already launched its campaign and kicked off its deployment plan for the vaccines prioritizing frontline health workers and essential staff including security personnel. Vulnerable populations in all countries are the highest priority for vaccination. The receipt of the vaccine is purely voluntary and only administered through local government agencies. The government is negotiating with WHO to allow private hospitals to import the vaccine and reach a larger population to build herd immunity.

This global initiative is working with governments and manufacturers to ensure COVID-19 vaccines are available worldwide to high and low-income countries. However, while these vaccines are being rolled out, please let us continue the public health measures

such as wearing facemasks in public, social distancing, and avoiding congested gatherings and settings. Let us not drop our guard as regards the containment measures – hand washing, social distancing, use of face masks. In February 2021, we shared the revised FCP Program Resumption Guide. Please refer to it as you also look out for the MOH guidelines.

[What are the benefits of getting vaccinated?](#)

The COVID-19 vaccines protect against the disease by enabling the recipient to develop an immune response to the SARS-Cov-2 virus. Developing immunity through vaccination means there is a reduced risk of developing the illness and its consequences. This immunity helps you fight the virus if exposed. Getting vaccinated also protects the people around you. If you are protected from getting infected, you are less likely to infect someone else. It is particularly important to protect people at increased risk of getting COVID-19, such as healthcare providers, older or elderly adults, and people with other medical conditions.

We must also remember that the more people get vaccinated and build up their immunity against the virus, the less likelihood of the virus replicating, growing, increasing, and spreading from person to person, reducing the chances of more mutations and variants. (<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/covid-19-vaccines>).





Education

Youth realizing their dreams through ICT



In 2019, the Christ Formation Church began introducing ICT in their youth program. Then the program had only six computers that were not internet-enabled. Due to the scale at the time, learners were given access to the computers at the program office. Some of the areas of coverage were computer basics such as Microsoft office. When the Covid-19 pandemic invaded our country, we felt stranded because we had to close our Centre programs.

We networked with Safaricom, who enhanced Wi-Fi connectivity at our facility. Our partnership with Compassion, and the support of our Partnership Facilitator, enabled our church to purchase sixteen desktops and convert a room into a fully equipped cyber. We also bought twenty micro-computer tablets for our youth. The Church Program has continued to integrate ICT into our youth program and so far, 195 youth have directly benefitted from the ICT facility.

Youth in the program do 3-inter-cluster exchanges online via zoom successfully. They have been able to follow events online. Many of our youth have participated in several mentorships and youth development sessions. We had thirteen Form 4 youth participating in a virtual mathematics contest where we had a platform that analyzed results and graded the learners.

“Youth of age 12-14 years have expressed a lot of interest in online skills training.”





SUCCESS



Form 1, 2, and 3 students visit the Centre to take tutorials set by their tutors and receive their results after completing each exercise.



University and college youth spend most of their college breaks engaged at the program doing online research and submitting assignments.

20 Youths

Have been issued with tablets to aid them in higher learning in school.

We also have **8** Children engaged in learning school content.

Form 1, 2, and 3 students visit the Centre to take tutorials set by their tutors and receive their results after completing each exercise. University and college youth spend most of their college breaks engaged at the program doing online research and submitting assignments. We have issued twenty youth with tablets to aid them in higher learning in school. We also have eighty children engaged in learning school content.

Youth of age 12-14 years have expressed a lot of interest in online skills training.

Tapestry and cookery are some of the skills that we have been imparting via ICT. Youth practicing entrepreneurship send their data via excel for analysis. We have so far assisted over fifty youth, some of whom, when on holiday do evidence-based business reporting.

We thank God for taking us this far. Sincere thanks to our partners for supporting us with the ICT infrastructure that will also help children and youth revise over the holidays. We are grateful to Technothrone solutions and other networks entirely supporting our skills programs.

“ We had thirteen Form 4 youth participating in a virtual mathematics contest where we had a platform that analyzed results and graded the learners.

In 2020, church partners across the country invested in 5,833 gadgets (including laptops, smartphones, tablets, and desktops) which they gave to youth in schools, colleges, and universities across the country, for study and home and center-based programming. It enabled youth to do their learning and submit their results through google platforms. Youth in colleges and secondary schools could now access educational materials through these gadgets, anytime, anywhere.

They also got support from some adults through video-recorded lessons shared through YouTube. The youth living far from the program centre were supported with internet bundles, enabling them to thrive in their studies and curriculum. 180 youth access the curriculum from any location and easily submit their assignments for teachers to mark and give feedback.





Income Generation

Brick Making throws Kitui women a lifeline



In July 2020, the Redeemed Gospel Church Chuluni conceived the idea to start a pavement block (cabro) project. Interaction with contractors made us realize that most contractors were purchasing cabro from Kitengela and Mlolongo towns which would be very costly to transport to the different construction sites within our county. Our caregivers get their income through daily casual labor-intensive work in the agricultural sector, which dry up especially during droughts. The idea came at a time we were refocusing on our program because of Covid 19.

Since we were not paying school fees at the time, it was easier for us to think through plans to empower our caregivers at a time when Covid-19 had resulted in many families losing their main source of income due to layoffs. During this time the Ministry of Education, Youth, and ICT realized so many youth were jobless, and there was a need to focus on training youth on new skills. Armed with this information, we organized groups for youth and women and wrote a partnership proposal to the county government. Our request was well received.

We then sent a team of women and youth to be trained as TOTs. In August 2020, the county government catered for the training expenses of 10 women and 10 youth. The trained team then trained others on making cabro. Today we have 67 youth and 213 women skilled in the production of quality cabro. After training, in consultation with the church program staff, we mobilized local resources to finance the purchase of a multipurpose vibrator and molds for the production of cabro. The total cost for equipment was Ksh.450,000.

The program is currently being run by different groups of youth and caregivers (mothers). By the grace of God, our products have been accepted and trusted by different institutions. Our main challenge now is raising more capital to buy more production equipment because we got surprised by the huge orders we received from Kitui East NG-CDF and Mutulu Secondary School. We pray that God will enable us to receive more orders and grow into a big cabro production company.



These market-driven investments and local resources link our caregivers directly to new sources of income. Our caregivers and youth do a daily production target, where each one of them currently earns a minimum of Ksh.400 per day. We have linked the groups to various institutions for support. The response so far has been very positive. The story was published in the Nation Business Daily on Friday, March 19, 2021.





Partnerships for Empowerment



The AIC EMPEUT Program is teaching caregivers skills on income generation and savings. It is enabling the caregivers to increase their level of self-dependency, in turn, positively impact their families and beneficiaries. In 2019, five caregiver saving groups were started, with the program director providing oversight in partnership with Plan International staff.

The program is partnering with Plan International to support the Caregivers Savings Groups initiative. Every quarter, the program receives contributions from the caregivers' savings as IGAs. Savings last month stood at Ksh. 1,659,435. The caregiver saving groups use the savings to purchase livestock. Each group has four steers. Beadwork is another skills initiative of the program which distributed beads to more than 100 caregivers.

Each caregiver is given beads worth Ksh.1,200 and given two months to sell their products. Beads that are worth Ksh 1,200 are used to produce a variety of bead products. After they make their sales, they refund back the initial amount and take the profit which ranges between Ksh.4,000 - 5,000 shillings. AIC Empeut is targeting to train more than 250 caregivers on beadwork skills as a way to empower them economically.

Kshs **1,200**

Worth of beads each caregiver is given and have 2 months to sell the products

Kshs **1,659,435.**

Last month's Caregivers Savings Groups initiative

Ksh. **4,000 - 5,000**

Amount in profit that each care giver is left with after refunding the initial amount which is 1200

My Baking Journey

Ann Asam



My name is Ann Asami. I am a sponsored student at the Ebusiralo program and a first year at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Education. In high school, I was not very active in skills or extracurricular activities. I did not think it was a big deal, but after going through your one degree, I discovered that I also had other abilities if I put hard work into it. Out of curiosity, I joined baking, and now I have come to love it.

Through the program, I have learned to bake vanilla, lemon, cinnamon, red velvet, and carrot cakes. I have also learned how to decorate with whipping cream, buttercream, and fondant icing. I now bake for the children in the program during birthday celebrations and earn an income.

“Through the program, I have learned to bake vanilla, lemon, cinnamon, red velvet, and carrot cakes. I have also learned how to decorate with whipping cream, buttercream, and fondant icing.



Anne baking a vanilla cake

Knitting through cash transfers



Training of caregivers

Above is a training class of some of the seven caregivers that began in June 2020. The church partner thought that the sale of knitted products could financially empower local families, negatively affected by the pandemic. The caregivers came in shifts of 3 and 4 twice a week. The program bought 2 knitting machines and the raw materials for knitting products such as sweaters and muffins for sale. It also paid for their trainer. The training took 6 months, ending in early December 2020. The unconditional direct cash transfer provided each caregiver with Ksh. 3,000 as seed capital. This took place at the end of December 2020, keeping in mind schools were reopening in January 2021, creating a market for their knitted products.

All 7 seven caregivers were able to knit sweaters for their children going back to school. Two caregivers went the extra mile and sold 15 and 10 school sweaters, respectively, at Ksh. 450 per sweater; by the end of January 2021. Each dozen of thread costs Ksh 500 and can knit 2 sweaters, resulting in a profit of Ksh 400. Most of the profit the caregivers made was used to pay school fees and meet their children's school supply needs.

Marketing

In February 2021, the caregivers formed a group which they are using to source a market for their sweaters. Individual marketing is mainly how each caregiver informs her friends of the availability of sweaters that her group has made. Through referrals from one of the caregivers, they have also been selling their products during market days. They have been contracted by the church school to make sweaters for the children joining PP1. A local private school has also contracted them to knit sweaters for their pupils.

Since February 2021, the group has started a saving plan for all their members, where they each contribute a portion of their profits towards the purchase of their knitting machine. They will also use some of their savings to purchase more threads to meet larger orders. The group also plans to start offering loans to its members.

Caregivers holding some of finished products and threads they buy after making sales

Vision

1. By the end of 2 years, each member to own her knitting machine.
2. To have a registered group that will source for orders within the area and around the county.
3. To have a training class for the community.
4. To have a savings plan which the group can use to lend money to its members.



Agape Lifting Livelihoods



Tabitha Asweto is a fish vendor plying her trade in Nakuru, Pangani area, to meet her basic needs, cater for her son's education, and save some money for a rainy day. She had a small stall where she fried fish and sold it to individual customers. She would purchase fish from the market, prepare them and fry them. It helped in reducing the expenses that she would incur if someone prepared them for her. Her daily stock was Ksh.5,000 since it was what she could afford and avoided having fish left over.

Depending on their size, she sold her fish from as low as Ksh.30 to as much as Ksh.200. Her weekly profits ranged from between Ksh.1,300 to 1,500. Her profit margin was not that high but she counted on volumes because, on a given day, she would attend to 20 or more customers. The normal tilapias go for anything between Ksh.20 and Ksh.150, earning Tabitha a profit of between Ksh.30 and Ksh.50 per fish depending on their size. Unfortunately, during the Covid pandemic, her business hit a plateau then plummeted.

She decided to reinvent her business in the hope of reaching the wider unserved populous. Initially, she sold fried fish as a takeaway outlet. She opened at 3 pm when her customers were shopping for supper. She realized that if she could find a way to open up earlier, her turnover would increase, and her profit would improve.

The Agape Sanctuary Ministry program sent her some money for a business start-up. Topping it up with a small loan, Tabitha bought building materials and converted her small stall into a restaurant. She adjusted her menu to include ugali, kales with omena [sardines], or fish.

She began preparing ready food from as early as 11 am to serve the workers from nearby areas. Her customer base has since increased from 20 to 50 people. Her profit margin has also increased significantly. She now makes a weekly profit of Ksh.2,500 up from Ksh.1,500. She is now able to save Ksh.1,500 per week. The restaurant has also brought with it benefits.

She is now able to save the money she used to buy food because she gets lunch for her son and herself from the restaurant. She would spend Ksh.100 for lunch and in a week; she can save Ksh.700 by knocking off food expenses.

The increase in her customer base has allowed Tabitha to employ someone, she pays Ksh.200 per day. The expansion has brought with it a challenge. She is not able to fit all her clients in her restaurant. They come in phases, but some get tired of waiting and go elsewhere. She hopes to save and borrow Ksh.30,000 to expand her eatery so that she can serve more clients and even offer employment to someone else. The introduction of Savings Groups by the church program to the caregivers coincided with her ambitions.

She joined one savings group and is now saving Ksh.500 per meeting. She is also in other saving groups where she can save daily. The program also partially covers her son's school fees allowing her to channel her profits into other development ventures. As a result of this improvement, she can now pay the balance of her son's school fees, pay her bills on time which posed a challenge initially, clothe her family and eat more nutritious food. Tabitha is also saving more than she did before and plans to have a fully-fledged fish hotel in the future. Tabitha now believes her future is bright and is assured of her son's future too.

A breakthrough to behold

Survival for the fittest goes the saying. After considering the situation of the seven caregivers at the Essunza Church of God program, I say, 'In this world, fitness is the ultimate exploration of a given opportunity. A belief that one could ultimately do what they can do if they have the will, direction, and purpose to do it.'

Our Frontline Church Partners (FCPs) singled out a team of physically challenged caregivers, who passed their days on the peripheries of their homes, waiting for well-wishers and relatives to support them economically. Such was their lives, that their children's welfare was adversely affected in all spheres - jigger infestations, malnutrition, and pathetic living conditions in general. The moment they enrolled in a knitting and tapestry class at the FCP, that changed.

They learned how to knit sweaters, wool baby wears, marvins, and tapestry mats. It became an economically viable activity for them after they were paid to fulfill a tender to knit children's school sweaters.

After being taught on entrepreneurship, they invested part of the proceeds made from the sweaters into making marvins since the Program had talked to one of the suppliers to procure and sell the marvins, gaining them some income.

Covid 19 did not squash their urge to succeed. The program has opened doors for them and encouraged them to continue knitting and to take their items to Mwichio, Esibuye, Luanda, and Kilingili markets during market days. After selling their products, they would split some of the proceeds amongst themselves, reinvesting the balance in their business.

They opened a joint bank account through which they are running and saving their cash as a group. The church program staff is currently out, knocking at schools' doors for tenders targeting the Form One July intake. In preparation, the seven caregivers are knitting as many sweaters as they possibly can. This team no longer has to seek favors from well-wishers to survive.



The team in their workshop at the program



Part of the team selling the sweaters at Mwichio market



Child Protection Strategy



Compassion's Privacy and Protection (Sponsors and Children) Project are happy to report significant progress has been made toward protecting the privacy of Compassion's children and sponsors. This project, whose primary aim is protecting privacy in an increasingly digital age, has focused on removing either the first or last name of children and sponsors, making it 95% more difficult for people to trace and track individuals online. As a reminder, the program is committed to three major activities:

1. Modifying the full names of all children in public view on all Compassion-owned communication platforms;
2. Modifying the full names of all children in all sponsors' view on all Compassion-owned communication platforms; and
3. Allowing children to only receive sponsors' preferred names.

The Kenya child protection strategy prioritizes prevention. Children and caregiver education are key blocks of this approach. Other components include multi-stakeholder forums for each cluster, a designated child protection point person for each Church program, and capacity building for all persons that interact with children/youth, including the wider community.

This points to a great need for continued awareness and messaging on the prioritization of child protection as an integral part of programming for children and youth.

Nelson Mandela once said, "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children."

We appreciate all our stakeholders who are working hard to ensure children are known, loved and protected!



“There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children.”

Nelson Mandela



Snapshots

Media Tour

We facilitated a media tour to the Redeemed Gospel Church Chuluni, Kitui, with six journalists from different leading media outlets in Kenya to develop trust and build relations. The represented media houses were from the Nation Media Group, The Standard, The Star, People Daily, and Capital Business. The objective of the tour was to help the journalists understand the work of Compassion, how we partner with the church, and the impact of our work on children, youth, and caregivers.

The journalists interacted with the program director, church leadership, children, and caregivers. The impact of the Church program inspired the journalists to publish stories about the program. The Standard Newspaper published a pictorial from the tour. Business Daily published an article on how the program is helping women in the program become economically empowered. We look forward to the additional features we will receive from the other media houses.



Journalists from the Standard, Nation Media Capital FM and the Star tour the church program.

Muskathlon Governor visit



The Muskathlon Flexi team represented by Susan Rupia, Raphael Jalang'o, Caleb Munyoki, Lauryne Ayoti, Aileen Munga, and Lydia Oduor met with Hon. Salim Mvurya, Governor, Kwale County on Friday, March 12, 2021 during their preliminary visit ahead of the Muskathlon in June 2021. They discussed the Muskathlon and its potential impact on children and youth in the county.

Bata

Bata donation



On Tuesday, March 16, 2021, Bata representatives led by Francis Oduor, donated 1500 pairs of footwear. The donation, which was received by Beatrice Ruiru (Partnership) and Irene Jabanda (Business Support) will be distributed to children and youth in our program.

New Staff

We are delighted to welcome Lydia to the Compassion Family



Lydia Oduor joined Compassion in October 1, 2020 as a Public Relations Consultant from Levanter Africa Ltd: A strategic PR and Communications firm. Levanter Africa are a leading communications firm with a wealth of experience in PR strategy, digital communication, brand architecture, crisis communication and media relations. They are Part of PROI worldwide, the world's largest network of communication agencies.

Lydia has worked as a Communications lead for 3 years managing clients across corporate and social impact sectors, commercial businesses and public listed companies. She has previously worked at

The International Committee of The Red Cross (ICRC) in the communications function.

Lydia has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication, Majoring in Public Relations from Daystar University and is a member of PRSK and PROI. She brings strong expertise in which we will leverage as an organization.

Lydia comes from a family of seven. She has 4 sisters and together they worship at All Saints Cathedral Church. In her social time, Lydia enjoys traveling (but is terrified of flying) and loves spending time with her family over a nice meal and a good laugh. We wish her loads of success in serving our neighbors!

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord,
plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.
(Jeremiah 29:11)



**FOR ANY
FEEDBACK OR
COMMENTS PLEASE
CONNECT WITH US**



COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL KENYA

208 Kerarapon Road Off Ngong Road - Karen
P.O Box 1945 - 00502, Karen, Nairobi Kenya

Email: CIKenya@ke.ci.org

Phone: +254 709 961 000

+254 724 255 679

+254 733 686 885

Website: www.forchildren.com



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@CompassionKE



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