

Leaping forward and reimagining a better world for children and youth

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans!

Proverbs 16:3

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CONTRIBUTORS

Full Gospel Church- Maina Church

Lydia Oduor

EDITOR

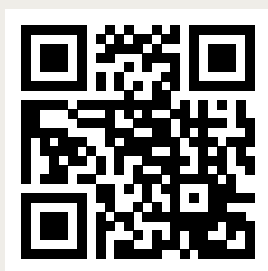
Linnet Ochieng

Layout and Design

Levanter Africa

Photography:

Kevin Ouma



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



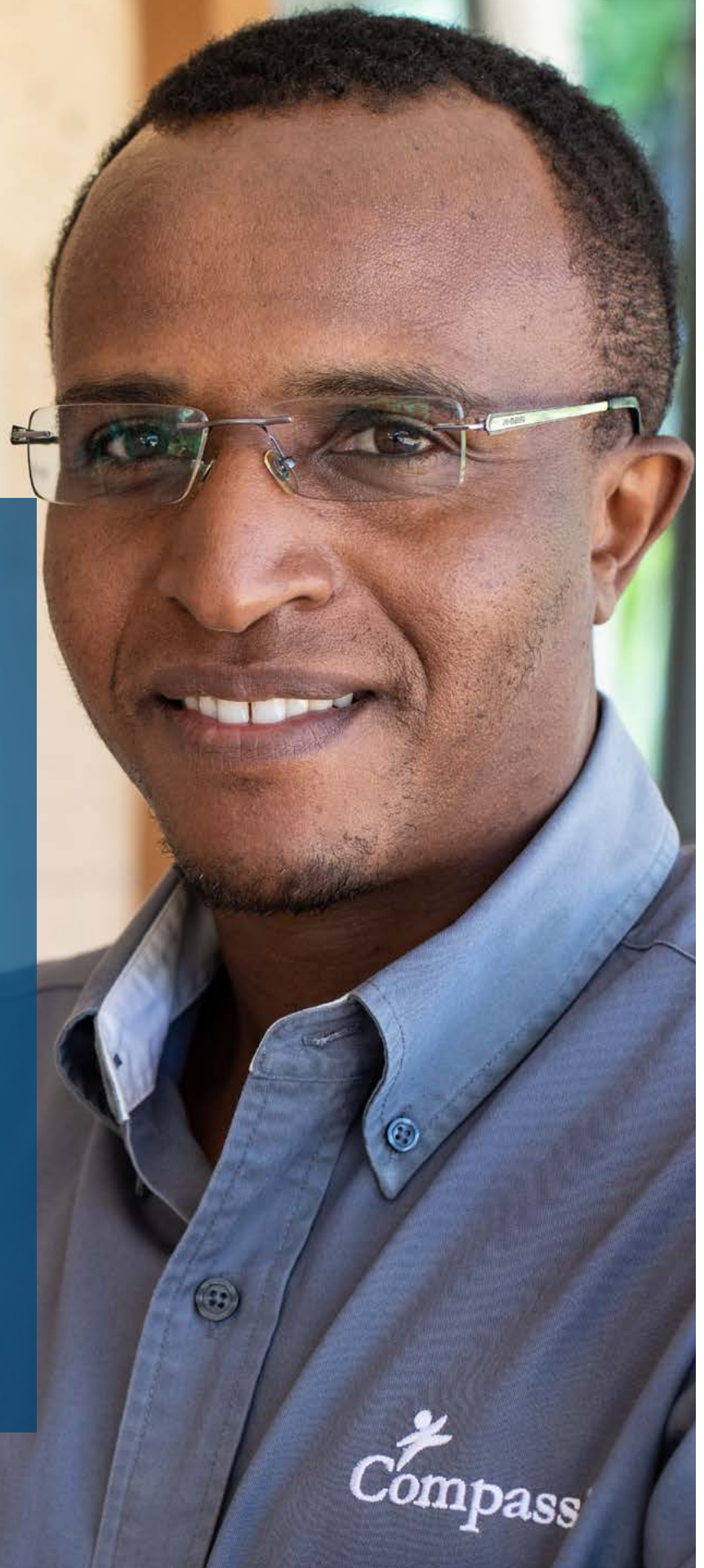
Integrity

Discernment

Dignity

Stewardship

Excellence



DYNAMICS OF LEADING

Joel Macharia,

Immediate former
National Director for Kenya

Joel Macharia has gained renown during his 10-year journey as National Director. Being successful in his role was not a straightforward matter. Joel shares a unique and relevant point of view on the dynamics of leading a country to transform the lives of children and families.



He describes his journey as fruitful.

In 2004, when I first came to Compassion, there were less than 100 church partners, and our footprint was small. Today we have grown by a multiple of four to over 450 church partners spread across 30 counties. And the number of children and youth we serve has almost doubled from 78,000 to 130,000. What has been most rewarding is witnessing the impact of so many young people graduating and thriving.

He shared his most memorable field trip.

It is difficult to pick one. There have been so many rewarding experiences. But when we launch into new counties and open new churches. Seeing the situation before we begin, working then coming back years later and seeing the impact is heartwarming. A few examples are Turkana, Laikipia, and Baringo.

If he could turn back time, this is what he would change.

There are lessons I know now that if I knew earlier, I would have implemented sooner. For a long time, the thinking was the church bears the sole responsibility for the child's transformation. Now we know that the most significant transformation starts with the family. When families thrive, so do children and youth.

As the old saying goes, charity begins at home. So regardless of what it is; positive parenting, food security, economic livelihoods, water, sanitation, and hygiene, the changes have to begin at home. A good example is our efforts in water, sanitation, and hygiene. We invested time and money in water, sanitation, and hygiene, for a long time. Despite our efforts, there was no significant change. We noticed every time we did a health screening, the number of cases associated with hygiene issues was still very high. We then consulted the University of Nairobi School of Medicine to investigate why there was no change. We quickly realized that the root cause was the households where the children and youth spent most of their time.

When we shifted our focus to the household level and introduced Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTs), we began to see the change. So as I start in a new country, I am going in with that understanding.

During his time as the National Director, Joel picked up a few skills and learnt a thing or two

1. I have learnt to understand my place in the world. The truth is the world is way bigger than me. I need to stay grounded and connect with other people even as I play my role.

2. Everyone is significant and matters. There is always room to learn from someone else. This belief has allowed me to have a beginner's mindset because my contribution to the larger body synergizes and multiplies more when I connect with others than in isolation.

Many people have a misconception about the National Director role. Joel talks more about it.

Our culture has perpetuated the big man syndrome. People expect you to act and behave in a certain way because of your position. The problem of ascribing to this is that you become entitled, making you very ineffective.

Any leader needs to have a sober view of reality. In leadership, part of your responsibility is to make people comfortable enough to tell you the truth and not what you want to hear. You cannot achieve this with the big man syndrome.

Here is what kept him grounded

1. Seeking to listen and understand others.
2. To always try to make it safe for people to tell me the truth.
3. Constantly reminding myself that this is not about me and I am here for a reason and season.
4. Strive not to have a settler mindset.
5. Being relentless about improvement.

What he will miss most about being the National Director

I am very connected with Kenya because this is my home. I always felt that everything was for my country. It's been such an honour to serve my countrymen and women. I believe my exit will be for the better, and this change will bring about growth not just for me but also for Kenya.

By Lydia Oduor



The impact of financial literacy on women in Makueni County.



It's truly amazing to witness how financial literacy combined with a positive financial attitude — and the economic independence that followed transformed communities. For women in Makueni County: **financial literacy was one of the stepping stones in their remarkable journey to economic stability.**

For many years, poultry rearing was their source of livelihood, but it never got off the ground. Their poultry businesses were not breaking even, trapping them in a vicious cycle of poverty. No matter how much they earned, financial security was elusive. Financial illiteracy was far too common. Not to mention, the drought within the area posed increasing challenges for crop and animal production.

One parent said,

“Life was difficult. My husband, the sole breadwinner of our family, died, leaving me to fend for our child. I tried to make it on my own, but it never seemed to work.”

However, their luck changed when the church intervened and enrolled them in a poultry training program to teach them how to generate more income by ensuring proper financial and flock survival management. The church also invested in an incubator, enabling the group to manage the entire poultry rearing cycle from laying to selling.

Equipped with the knowledge of how to manage risks, after attending several poultry farming training sessions, the women noticed that their flock survival rate had increased tremendously.

Anne said, *“The church was helpful. They got us a trainer who trained us in our local language. She used a great example of raising a child to help us understand how to ensure our flocks survived and thrived.”* She added, *“The knowledge along with the financial management tips was a great boost.”*

With proper financial management supported by sustainable poultry farming, the women's standard of living increased. They started seeing profits upwards of Ksh. 80,000. The financial training also helped the women plan for their sustainability during the COVID-19 pandemic. It completely transformed how young farmers like Anne approached poultry rearing. She now trains other women in the community who need that extra help allowing them to be self-reliant. Her passion and drive inspired others.

The result for these women is simple: thanks to the financial literacy training through poultry farming, their children have the chance to go to school and get skilled jobs — an opportunity they never had and improve their living conditions. Their story is a powerful illustration of the role of financial literacy.

To participate in economic activities, and to make appropriate financial decisions for themselves and their families, women and men need to be financially literate.

Virginia Finds Her Groove on the Rinks



Virginia (Not her real name) is deaf and dumb. She is eight years old. She studies at a special school that's a distance from the program centre. Because she cannot hear and speak, Virginia struggles with her academic work. Writing and comprehension are problems for her. During the school holidays, Virginia is never afraid of attending the program at the centre. She interacts well with friends and peers. During one August holiday, we introduced a one-week skating program. We did it knowing it would support her attitude and joy for games.

During her first lesson, Virginia wore the skating shoes and protective gear and went through the routines and warm-ups. The trainer found uniqueness in her. She did not fear falling. Other students dragged the skating shoes very slowly, holding each other and screaming.

Virginia moved softly along the cones around the margins in the training hall. Without supporting herself along the walls and with other children around the lines, she moved ahead of everybody. She was very excited about skating. She was not frightened by the new experience. When explaining to her friends and teachers by signs, her face was joyous. On the second day, she was even more courageous. She was the first one in the hall, ready to wear her protective gear. With all her excitement, her friends followed suit. But the trainer wanted them to start with warm-ups and some light exercise. She participated in all the exercises outside and inside the hall. We were amazed at how she interpreted the simple rules. She imitated the moves that the trainer required from the trainees.

She did everything well. She observed what her friends were doing and did the same.

Every time the exercises were complete, the children proceeded to the hall and changed into their shoes, helmets, reflectors, and other protective gear. For that one week, this became the norm for Virginia. Each day meant learning a new skill, practicing, and mastering it. By the end of the week, she knew what the game required.

Today, Virginia is a master in skating. She is confident about skating and ready to do it despite the amazement of hundreds of viewers in her presence. We hope the activity remains fresh in her mind even when she is back in school. Disability is not an inability. And no human is limited.

We all hope that Virginia will immerse herself in outdoor games and activities. Her disability does not limit her excelling amongst her peers. She does not regret being deaf and blames no one. She moves with life and has dreams to one day be a great and influential person. A big cheer to Sparks Skates Station for their support.

We are glad of the progress Virginia has made. Our efforts and prayers, and those of her parents, have not been in vain. Our joy is to see her advantaged by alternative education and training to enhance her abilities and capabilities, and we will work to help her achieve her full potential.





Hope and Addiction Recovery



We often mistakenly think that those who use drugs lack moral principles or willpower and could stop their drug use simply by choice. Drug addiction is a complex disease, and quitting takes more than good intentions or a strong will. Jemimah shares her story of addiction, its treacherous grip, and the freedom and confidence she now has after she emerged from this terrifying illness.

Jemimah is a student at the Catholic University of East Africa pursuing a degree in Development Studies in Law. She is the fourth born child in a family of six siblings. It was difficult for Jemimah's parents to meet the needs of their family, and this weighed heavily on Jemimah, driving her to depression and drugs. At the age of six, Jemimah joined the Compassion Program, and by

age sixteen, she was addicted to hard drugs.

The problem was not the lack of a moral compass but alternative ways of coping with her reality. She did not know another way to make her life feel bearable. Financial stress, peer pressure, and drug addiction contributed to a downward spiral.

She says,

“I was unable to attend school because of my addiction. I felt lost and invisible, but the people around me had started to notice my addiction.”

She was no longer in the driving seat of her life; drugs were.

When her mother noticed her daughter struggling with drug addiction, she approached the church program for help. Jemimah was grasping for understanding and hope. Jemimah gave her life to Christ, and with that, she slowly, with the help of the church, overcame her drug addiction without going to a rehabilitation centre.

Today, she has resolved to embrace her recovery, never forget how the drugs affected her — and most importantly — to keep the bonds and connections that had buoyed her through these past two years.

She is now sober and cannot imagine facing life any other way. Jemimah is always excited to attend the program through which she connected with God.

“My parents did not take us to church, and so I was very excited when the staff from the church visited us at home and encouraged us to go to church.”

Looking back, Jemimah thanks God for bringing her out of that difficult situation. Because of what she went through, she has the confidence of knowing that whatever ills befall her, she can rely on her faith and willpower to overcome them.

Her favourite verse has always been John Chapter 3:16

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that whoever believes in Him will have an everlasting life.”

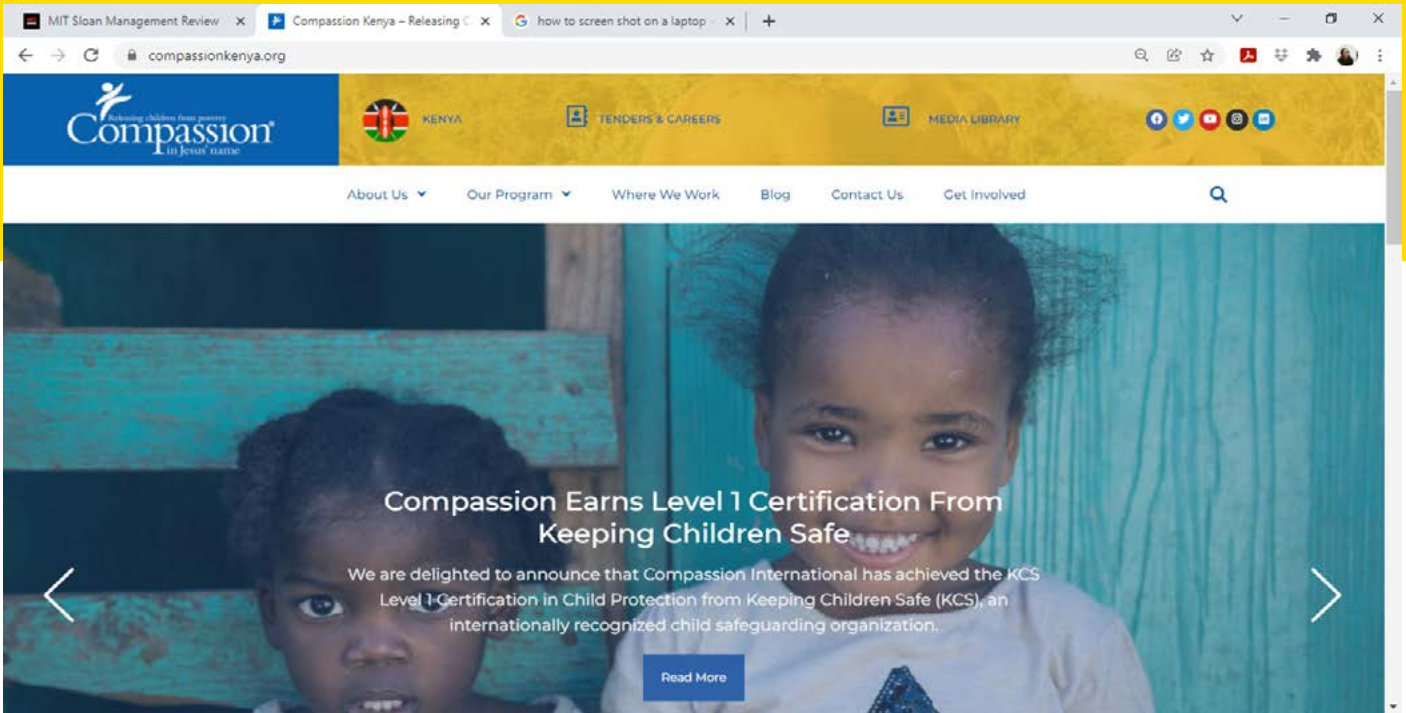
She appreciates all the letters she has received from her sponsor. Every time he writes he asks if she attends church and prays daily. “My sponsor always quotes a Bible verse in his letters. I hope I get to meet him someday.”

When available, she gives back to her local church by volunteering to teach Sunday school, attending sporting events, and visiting children’s homes. Jemimah is excited to get the opportunity to share her story, especially with people struggling with depression and drug addiction.

“Always speak to someone you can trust if you are struggling with depression and drug addiction. It is important to seek help.”
Jemimah

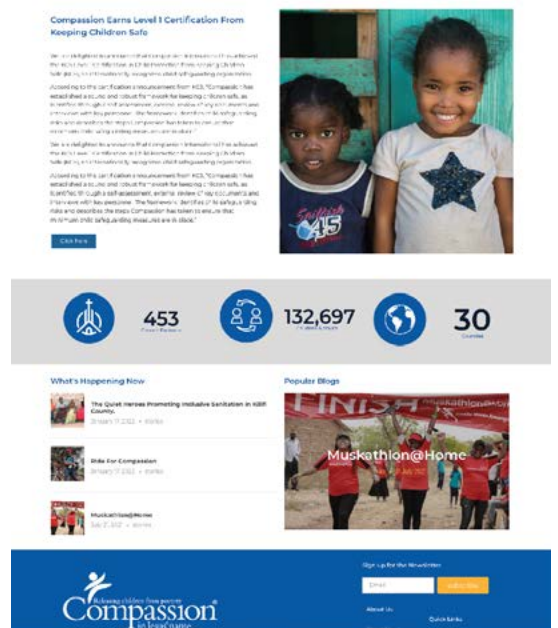
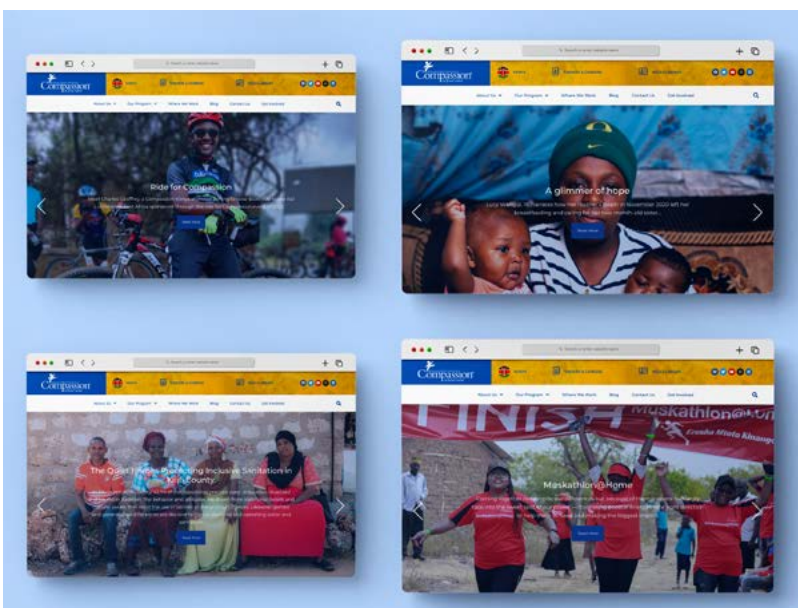
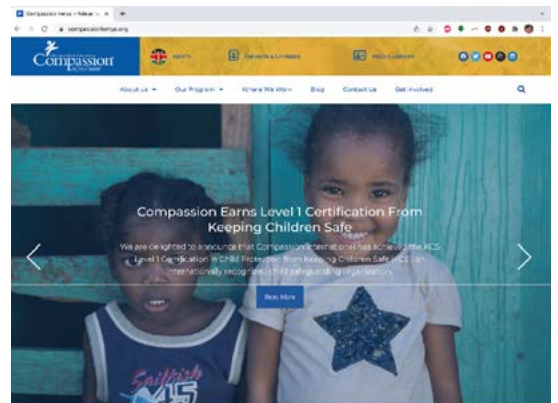


Compassion Kenya Website Launch



We are thrilled to announce that the Compassion Kenya website is now live. Kudos to all the teams and especially the Program Asset Development team that worked hard and committed to ensuring everything came together. We encourage you to visit the website and check out all the different sections and knowledge products. It's worth the scroll.

<https://compassionkenya.org/>



New Staff

Suntreen Devan Otsieno

People & Culture Partner

Welcome Suntreen Devan Otsieno, People & Culture Partner. He joins Compassion from Komarock Modern Healthcare, where he served as a Human Resource Manager for two years. Before that, he was Human Resource Manager at RFH Healthcare.

Suntreen is completing a Certified Human Resource Profession (CHRP). He has a Bachelor of Business Management from Moi University.

Suntreen is married to Suzan Moraa Munala. They have two sons, Sidney and Sizwe, who are four, and one and a half years, respectively. In his free time, he enjoys reading and travelling. He is also involved in witnessing and fellowships at his local church. Suntreen is passionate about serving God in the area of Teaching, Intercessory, and worship at God's Mercy Celebration Church on Kangudo Road, Spring Valley.

His favourite quote is

“He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose” Jim Elliot.



Faith Magadi

Senior Manager of Disaster Resilience.

Welcome Faith Magadi, Senior Manager of Disaster Resilience. She is a humanitarian and development professional with working experience in various Sub-Saharan African countries including, Kenya, Uganda, Somalia, South Sudan, and Ethiopia.

She most recently worked with the World Vision International global team. There, she oversaw an inter-agency program, providing capacity building for Resilience and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) support across partner agencies in East and Southern Africa. Previously, she has worked with other Humanitarian organizations, building capacities of humanitarian development practitioners and working with local governments to manage disaster and climate change adaptation.

Faith has an MA in Development Studies and a BA in Government and Public Administration. She has also participated in thematic training courses aligned with humanitarian and development work.

She is an enthusiastic and self-motivated individual who believes in integrity and excellence in service delivery. Faith is a born-again Christian, a wife, and a mother. Outside of work, she enjoys reading and playing lawn tennis.



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**



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: <https://compassionkenya.org/>
www.forchildren.com



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