



Empowering the youth through skills development

Do you see someone skilled in their work? They will serve before kings; they will not serve before officials of low rank.

Proverbs 22:29 (NIV)



IN THIS ISSUE

- 4 Technology skills training in Kongowea, Mombasa County

- 6 **Checkmate: Life lessons chess teaches our children**

- 7 Skating for transformative youth development

- 8 **Skills training for the marketplace**

- 9 Impact of biometric system on children's safety

- 10 **Health feature: World Hepatitis Day**

- 11 KCPE year 2021 top girl: A story of determination

- 13 **Living drug-free. The mental health and anti-drug abuse initiative.**

- 14 Youth virtual training with Meta Boost and WYDLE International



List of Contributors

Benjamin Kivuva

Eunica Chebii

Elisham Nyamwata

Caleb Munyoki

John Mbugua

Betty Maina

Douglas Moseti

—

Editor

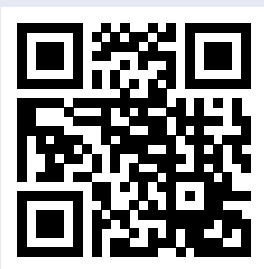
Linnet Ochieng

—

Photography

Kevin Ouma

Isaac Ogila



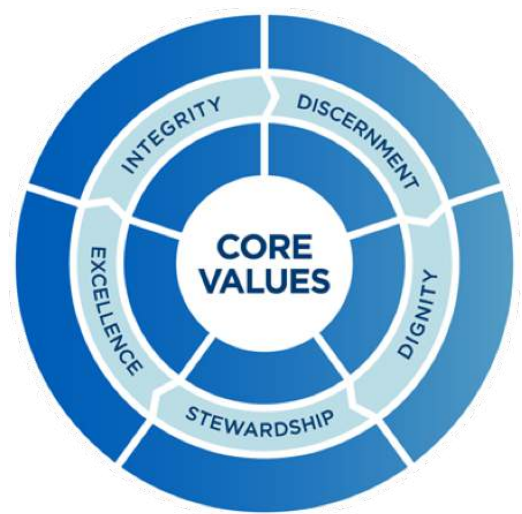
Our Mission



Our Vision

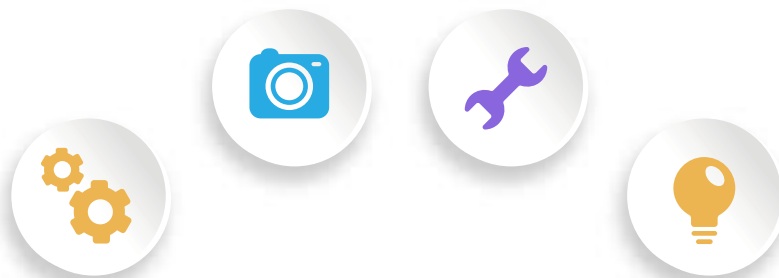


All children in poverty thriving toward their God-given potential.





The World Youth Skills Day is observed on July 15 to celebrate the necessity of equipping young people with skills for jobs and entrepreneurship.



WORLD
**YOUTH
SKILLS**
DAY



Technology skills training in Kongowea, Mombasa County



Technological or technical skills are one's ability to interact and complete tasks using computer-based technologies. The technological advancements we see each day have made it imperative to keep up and ensure no child is left behind, as they are the future of our nation - something that Kongowea Methodist Church takes seriously.

Technological or technical skills are one's ability to interact and complete tasks using computer-based technologies. The technological advancements we see each day have made it imperative to keep up and ensure no child is left behind, as they are the future of our nation - something that Kongowea Methodist Church takes seriously.

Located in Mombasa County, the Church partners with Compassion International Kenya in holistic child development.

The Program Centre has existed for the last six years, catering to 251 children and their families in the Kongowea slums. The densely populated area has high levels of poverty, low literacy levels, and high school dropout levels amongst youth and children.

Kongowea Methodist Church has partnered with Tech Kidz Africa to roll out the Tech World Club, whose purpose is to equip the children with modern technological skills, to trigger creativity and innovation, critical and analytical thinking, and the

positive use of social media. The club has inducted more than thirty participants aged between 11 to 18 years. The partnership has exposed our beneficiaries to the opportunities provided by technology.

Children learn about robotics, app development, animation and gaming, web development, and computer hardware and software troubleshooting. It stimulates their creative thinking.



Website presentation after creation by youths



“The Kongowea Methodist Church Program Centre has existed for the last six years, catering to 251 children and their families in the Kongowea slums.”

Certificate presentation after phase one of coding class in April 2022

The youth have automated work processes for garbage collection, created mathematics’ solving apps, and digitalized business advertising. Since the program’s onset, the club members have become more active in school, and some are even being sought after by their classmates for assistance. The club is developing a website for one of the centres.

Although the program has been largely successful, there have been challenges such as a lack of enough classrooms and a computer laboratory to conduct the program and insufficient tools to service the machines.

We partitioned the church with moveable boards to create more space for our weekend classes, and our beneficiaries can also access the Tech Kidz Africa labs. The program has benefited the children greatly, as they now have the skills they can use in everyday life.

Ten ex-candidates joined the program and are now seeing a better future for themselves in terms of career prospects. We hope more children in our program and in other centres get the opportunity to learn and build their skill set. We cannot wait to see what our children achieve in the future.



Ex candidate’s intensive computer hardware and software management classics installation practical in progress

Checkmate: Life lessons chess teaches our children

Miriam's story

Games are supposed to be fun, and chess is no exception. The strategy game has delighted players and fans for hundreds of years. The game is easily accessible to people of all ages and promises a lifetime of fun and continuous learning to those who dare to indulge.

Studies have shown that playing chess improves concentration, memory, and study habits and even increases self-awareness. Miriam, as she narrates, had never found any fun outside classroom work while at school until she discovered chess.

Having never left the gates of her small village of Adungosi, she enthusiastically explains how a chess tournament expanded her world experiences. Her joy is immense. Due to her following her passion for chess, she is a new person whose courage, confidence, and determination have increased. She does not look down on herself any longer.

"I had never sat next to children from rich families before, let alone interact and have fun together," She explains.



Miriam shows her certificate of participation in the chess tournament.

We had not thought taking a small team for the chess tournament was a big deal. It was not until Miriam approached her Program Director with a letter of appreciation, and explained how much the tournament meant to her, that we realized we had made an impact in her life. We were all moved. Chess has numerous life lessons for our children.

For Miriam, it taught her to be confident. Other lessons include:

1. Strategy and decisiveness - Every day, our children make decisions. By playing chess, children learn to think deeply about their decisions and how those choices might affect them or others.
2. Learning from mistakes - By playing chess, kids learn to accept defeat and learn constructively from their mistakes. Whether they lost at sports or failed a test, children who learn to manage their losses will know how to bounce back, no matter the situation.
3. Creative thinking and planning - In life, the most successful people are two steps ahead of the herd. They are organized, anticipate problems, and know how to deal with them well before they occur. By playing chess, children learn to plan and solve everyday

problems creatively.

4. Positive thinking - By building confidence, decision-making skills, and learning from mistakes, children learn the tools they need to be positive thinkers who feel free to achieve their dreams.

Our church and chess club are taking a new course in encouraging the youth in our area to practice their chess skills. Chess does not choose rich or poor. Young and old, all genders mix, interact and have fun together. It is a game that transforms and nurtures core values.

We are calling upon all stakeholders to follow our lead. Revive your chess clubs, rehearse, and periodically form your local tournaments in preparation for counties, nationals, and internationals. Maybe one day, we will even get together to play a game or two!



Miriam playing chess in a chess tournament

Skating for transformative youth development



Program Director addressing the media on the skating competitions and the impact of skating on the lives of the beneficiaries.

Contributors: *Elisham Nyamwata and Caleb Munyoki*

Skating is a recreational activity consisting of traveling on smooth surfaces like tarmac or ice using skates; special shoes fitted with small wheels. In addition to building cardiovascular fitness and developing balance and coordination, skating contributes to the social integration of children and adults.

Over the last five years, Compassion International Kenya has supported the Laikipia and Baringo Church Partners to develop the children into fulfilled and self-reliant Christian adults. Skating has been one of the activities that have marked tremendous physical and socio-emotional development of beneficiaries.

Baringo and Laikipia conducted an inter-cluster competition for both the junior and senior categories to motivate other beneficiaries to venture into skating. It was a fun experience that brought families, churches, and communities together to share and learn from each other. It was also a platform for the participants to test their skating abilities while forming camaraderie through teamwork. Baringo and Laikipia clusters dominated the junior and senior categories, respectively.

The benefits of skating for kids and adults

Skating is beneficial in a lot of ways. Some reasons why you should venture into skating include:



Caleb Munyoki Partnership Facilitator - Baringo Cluster posing with winners during the junior beneficiaries awarding ceremony.

1. It is fun - Skating is a way for families to spend quality time together, take a break from their busy schedule and have fun with the family.

2. It's fitness - Skating is a great way to improve heart health, strengthen muscles, and burn calories. It even improves flexibility and endurance. And it is a lot more fun than a gym.



Skating competition underway. The competition brought together seniors and juniors of the Laikipia and Baringo Clusters.

3. It teaches new skills - Whether you are just learning balance, trying a new trick, or incorporating skating stretches for a more effective skating workout, skating helps you master new skills.

4. Stress relief - Studies show that regular physical activity reduces stress, refocuses your mind, helps children learn more effectively, and even improves your mood.

5. Source of income - Skating can also be used as a source of income through skating competitions or coaching. Skating is beneficial at both individual and cluster levels. As the children continue to hone their skills, we pray they will get an opportunity to compete in the sport on a global platform and earn income as athletes or coaches.

Skills training for the marketplace



Global trends such as climate change, the rise in technology, urbanization, and demographic shifts are changing the nature of work and the skills required to succeed in the current labor market. Technical skills, one of the most critical skills, refer to acquired knowledge and skills necessary to perform a specific task. This includes mastery of tools, materials, and technologies. Gaining technical skills through vocational colleges has proven to equip young people with employable skills.

Kioko, a youth at Africa Inland Church Kanzinwa, has pursued Mechanical Maintenance at College in Nairobi. This course took 6 months to complete, after which the church supported him with purchasing welding and fabrication tools. He has

been progressing well with his business making an average of KES 75,000 monthly. Using these funds, he can expand his business and support his family to meet their basic needs.

Kioko would like to advise young people to

“identify their talent and gifts and seek support where necessary. You reproduce your life by reproducing your gifts and your talents. The world awaits your products. Begin to convert your time into products.”

Begin to gain mastery over your talents and gifts as Kioko did.

Below are photos of Kioko at work.



Impact of biometric system on children's safety



Child using the biometric system



Caregivers using the biometric system

A biometric system is a technological system that uses biometrics to identify a person. Biometrics are biological or physical characteristics used to identify individuals. To work effectively, they rely on specific data about unique biological traits, for example, fingerprint mapping, facial recognition, and retinal scans.

With the rising cases of insecurity and child neglect and even the upcoming elections in Kenya, the Free Pentecostal Fellowship of Kenya (FPFK) has seen the need to introduce biometrics systems in its program to ensure caregivers know the whereabouts of their children. Our biometric system at its program centre uses fingerprint mapping. It is one of the most secure authentication methods for tracking our children. Each child has a unique identifier, thus making them impossible to alter or fake. The system also authenticates staff and caregivers as well.



Children using the biometric system

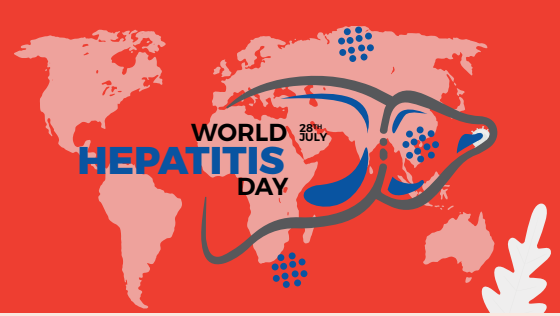
The introduction of this new system has:

- 1. Streamlined the process of recording attendance.** With the click of a button, we can get complete attendance data. It has reduced the physical hassle and paperwork associated with the attendance process. It enables our staff to track participation in the teaching and extracurricular activities, get a clear record of how many children have participated, and generate quick reports when required. Since its introduction, we have seen an increase in caregiver attendance at meetings, almost doubling from 90 to 160 participants.
- 2. Enhanced security of children.** Through the SMS App "Mobile Sasa," which comes with the biometric machine, caregivers are alerted when the child arrives and leaves the program centre. Through this SMS App, we can effectively communicate with all caregivers on matters related to their children.

The biometric system has been a great help in monitoring and evaluating programs. We believe data, complemented by ongoing dialogue, is key to ensuring program quality and protection of children.

Health Feature:

World Hepatitis Day



Each year on July 28, we celebrate World Hepatitis Day to raise awareness and promote global action on viral hepatitis. This year the theme, “Bringing hepatitis care closer to you,” was about raising awareness about simplifying and bringing hepatitis care to primary health facilities, community-based venues, and locations beyond hospital sites so care closer to communities and people wherever they are.

Key facts on hepatitis

Hepatitis refers to the inflammation of the liver. Inflammation is the body’s way of fighting against infections, injuries, and toxins.

What causes hepatitis?

It results from a viral infection, alcohol consumption, and medication; the most common cause of hepatitis is viral. Hepatitis A, B, C, D, and E, are the five main viral classifications, each caused by a different virus.

How is viral hepatitis spread?

Exposure to the Hepatitis virus is through contaminated food or water, contact with an infected person, body fluids, sharing of sharp objects, or having unprotected sex with an infected person.

What are the symptoms of Hepatitis?

1. Fatigue
2. Loss of appetite
3. Flu-like symptoms
4. Nausea and vomiting
5. Diarrhea
6. Yellowing of the eyes and skin
7. Passing dark-colored urine

How is Hepatitis treated?

Hepatitis A and E infections are short-term illnesses and may not require treatment because the infected person recovers. Hepatitis B, C, and D require antiviral drug treatment over several months or years, alongside other medications.

How can Hepatitis be prevented?

Hepatitis is prevented through vaccination and reducing exposure. There is no vaccine for Hepatitis C and E. Practicing effective hygiene is one way to avoid contracting Hepatitis A and E. Hepatitis B, C, and D are transmitted through contact with contaminated body fluids. Therefore, avoiding sharing needles or other sharp objects is an effective way of prevention. Avoiding sexual contact is also an effective method to prevent the spread of Hepatitis B and C.

What is Compassion Kenya doing?

Compassion Kenya works with church partners to advocate for vaccination against hepatitis among high-risk individuals. We also educate communities on

how the disease spreads and promote Christian values that advocate sexual abstinence. Frontline Church Partners (FCPs) are empowered to promote effective hygiene and sanitation through the various water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) initiatives. Female genital mutilation, tattooing, body piercing, and other practices that may increase exposure are discouraged. Other preventive measures include good personal hygiene (including not sharing personal hygiene items) and exercising caution while traveling to places with poor sanitation. Anyone with suspect symptoms is referred for further screening and treatment. In case of a suspected outbreak, the health team issues advisories to increase vigilance among FCPs in the affected areas.



KCPE Year 2021 Top Girl:

A story of determination



Joy and celebration filled the Methodist Church of Kenya program in Timau when they received the news that Vivian, a program participant, scored 414 marks in the 2021 KCPE, emerging the top girl among all program participants across the country! Vivian was delighted and thanked God for the victory.

Joy and celebration filled the Methodist Church of Kenya program in Timau when they received the news that Vivian, a program participant, scored 414 marks in the 2021 KCPE, emerging the top girl among all program participants across the country! Vivian was delighted and thanked God for the victory.

Vivian's parents separated when she was two years old. She was brought up by a single mother who is a casual laborer. They live in a rented single room in Timau. She purposed to work hard and end her family's poverty cycle.

Vivian was a student at Nanyuki Primary School. She used to travel to and fro by public transport until Isaiah Mbaabu, the Director of Highlands Academy, offered her a free scholarship in his school. Vivian studied at Highlands Academy under a free scholarship and sat for her KCPE exam.



Vivian on her first day at Alliance girls

Vivian indicated that her success was contributed to her trust in God, encouragement from her mum, personal studies, good time management, support from her local church, and great support from her teachers. Our Youth Development programs help young people finish well and provide customized training and educational paths according to their unique potential, God-given talents, and purpose. Vivian was excited to join Alliance Girls High School- The top National school in Kenya.



Vivian with her mother- first day at school



Highlights

Celebrating youth innovation and creativity

On July 18, 2022, in a virtual meeting attended by more than 300 youth from across the country, we launched Season 2 of the Compassion International Kenya Youth Business Challenge. The challenge is open to all youth (18 years and above) currently active in our program and aims to promote innovation and creativity in entrepreneurship among the youth in our program. It includes business training and coaching and will culminate with a formal presentation where young people will pitch their business plans and be judged based on an agreed criterion. The top 20 youth will receive cash prizes to help grow their existing businesses. Applications are open until August 12, 2022.



Girls' Football League



Girls' Football League - Kilifi County in action (dressed in light blue)

The Girl's Football league in Kilifi County is thriving. Its main objective is to empower the beneficiaries and nurture their talent through football.

The team has now registered with the Kilifi County Women's League. Eighteen participants have also registered with Football Kenya Federation, enabling them to play football freely. The football league can play at the national and international levels through dedication and discipline.

*Reported by
Grace, Project Social Worker*

Living drug-free.

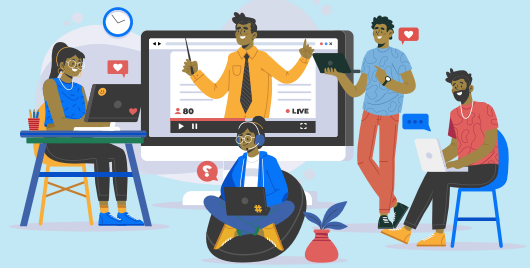
The mental health and anti-drug abuse initiative.



The youth and the communities they live in have a symbiotic relationship. The health and values of the community impact youth. Youth thrive in strong, healthy communities. As such, our ongoing mental health and anti-drug abuse initiatives seek to mobilize as many stakeholders as possible to create a movement to protect children and youth against drug abuse and mental health-related issues. Work has already started in the Nairobi cluster. We will roll out the second phase in Kilifi, Siaya-Kisumu, and Nakuru, targeting to reach an estimated 21,490 children and youth.



Youth virtual training with Meta Boost and WYDLE International



Meta Boost

Innovative Digital Transformation Solutions

Compassion international in conjunction with **WYLDE International** and Meta Inc. invite SME owners with businesses that have been running for more than a year and wish to expand and grow their businesses in the digital space using Meta's platforms of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp.

WYLDE
POWERING YOU TO WIN

f WYLDE in WYLDE International

Date: 14th July 2022
Time: 2:30pm to 4:30pm

<https://bit.ly/BOOSTKECompassionInt>



In conjunction with MetaBoost and WYLDE, Compassion International had a virtual training with 172 participants, Youth SME owners, to expand and grow their businesses in the digital space using Meta's platforms.

The course Level Session 1:

- Establish and manage your presence.
- Establish your presence on Facebook and Instagram.
- Get started with Meta Business Suite.

General comments include:

1. The training was skillful.
2. I am going to open an Instagram account to increase sales in my business.
3. It's incredible.
4. It's excellent.
5. The training is wow and very impactful.
6. Additional time.
7. The training was so helpful. I've learned something new.
8. The session was good.
9. The training was friendly, and I have really learned a lot.
10. Thank you for the opportunity.
11. The training is inspiring.
12. Everything has advanced and requires high skills in technology. Almost everything is being done online.

*Reported by
Douglas Moseki*

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



Compassion Kenya



@CompassionKE



@Compassion International Kenya



@Compassion-International-Kenya



compassioninternational_kenya

Compassion International is a Registered Trademark No. 58569 under the Trademarks Act, (Cap 506) of Kenya

The content of this newsletter does not necessarily reflect the views of the editor or the publisher.