

JIRANI

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Releasing children from poverty
Compassion
In Jesus' name

A Thriving Community

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Proverbs 27:17



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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In Focus

“What’s Best for the Child!”



Oscar Litoro

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Legal Empowerment for Child Advocacy requires strengthening access to legal services, educating people about their legal rights, building capacity, linking legal services to opportunities for economic empowerment and supporting partnerships that accelerate access.

We caught up with Oscar, who shared insights on the Kenyan legal system and how we could tap into different areas in the judiciary to increase access for children.

What are the trends in the legal system?

Even though Kenya is deploying video conferencing and e-filing cases online to make access more convenient, lower-income households cannot afford legal representation or are still disproportionately disadvantaged. They do not have access to such technology or are unaware it exists.

Culture is still a barrier to access to justice for children. Fueled by culture, in many communities, children’s rights are still limited. Those designated to protect them are prone to overstep their authority with some abusing their charges.

What are some of the ways the justice system has increased access?

The enactment of sections of the 2010 Constitution on child rights and welfare has seen the evolution of the legal system to consider the rights of children. There are specialized courts for children. Now the child’s rights and best interest prevail in all circumstances.

Anyone who is over the age of 18 years and is within Kenya can bring a case before the court, going a long way in allowing those who are not economically advantaged to get representation. Court fees for filling children cases are now affordable, encouraging more people to report and present their case to the court.





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In every police station, a designated officer is dealing with children protection issues. The government and the judiciary have ensured that these officers are trained on child issues and are well equipped to handle the cases. More non-governmental organizations specialize in giving child legal services on a pro-bono basis and to those who cannot afford them.

As long as they are valid, the court is not particular about how pleadings are written. It allows those who may not be well educated or cannot afford an advocate to file a court case.

How can communities increase and allow access to justice?

Ignorance is one of the main hindrances in access to justice. It is crucial to sensitize and train parents and caregivers if we are to increase access. Even as we train children on interpersonal skills, we need to empower parents to train their children on their rights and how to report violation of these rights.

One can open an account with the judiciary system which allows them to file cases, track progress and testify virtually. This makes access more convenient and enables children to also testify from the safety of their homes, making them feel more secure. If the virtual E- system is not accessible, it is possible to file a case through email, which is more efficient and affordable.

Communities can identify and partner with civil society organizations that deal with child legal issues to promote awareness amongst caregivers. They can also build relationships with the child protection officers at the local police stations and organize courtesy visits. Familiarity helps with escalating cases when they arise.

How can church partners reach you?

“Churches should reach out through the Project Director (PD). Their request will be brought to the attention of the legal department. But if they want to reach out on other cases unrelated to Compassion, they can do so directly.”

What is the general procedure when seeking justice?

The first line of response is the chief, as well as reporting to a police post. If there is complacency, the individual can contact the head office, which will take up the case and act on it.

By Oscar Litoro



Making Melodies to tackle Poverty



For many, especially the children & youth of ACK St. Andrew Church Barani, having their music studio seemed so far from reach. I mean, is that something that only the professional gurus have?

Having access to a music studio equipped with audio recording equipment and band music instruments is a game-changer for the youth. It has given them the ability to spend as much time as possible on their heart's desires. It has also provided them with the freedom and flexibility to experiment and improve their skills.

To ensure the youth get the best out of this, the church hired professional trainers - a keyboard, drums/guitar/vocals, DJ, video editor and graphic design, music producer and a computer packages trainer.

The church has also leveraged this to generate income by charging children and youth from other Church programs a small charge to use the studio.

“ Studio time is time invested in creating sober, talented, young adults who are committed to serving God with their talents. Through the studio, we have found a way to have young people at the church teach them the word of God and nurture them in ministry, talent, and entrepreneurship. The result is a rich society free of juvenile delinquents.”

John

Through the studio, I have learnt video graphics and am now a professional video editor. I am certified. Last weekend I was at a wedding where I was undertaking video coverage. I also record and edit skits and comedies. I am one of the producers of a comedy series called **“Tabu and Mashaka”**. Here is a link for one episode. I hope you will enjoy it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZxiKXXiYLzE>

Masoud

I never knew I had a good voice until they recorded me. I love singing and daily am in the studio. Other people pay heavily for such an opportunity but as for me I can practice and record for free. I am so grateful.

Esther

I never knew I had a good voice until they recorded me. I love singing and daily am in the studio.

Other people pay heavily for such an opportunity but as for me I can practice and record for free. I am so grateful.

John

I am at the University of Nairobi studying for a Bachelor of Commerce degree. I honour talent. As of now, I have a DJ certificate and am currently learning videography and graphics. With these skills and my degree, I have no limits.

Income Generation - Survival



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photo credit from Haiti

Mother's Day Tribute!

Mothers are often the central pillars of their families. They spend many hours working in their fields, walking long distances to collect water, preparing food, and caring for children. On top of this, they often run small businesses to earn extra income to ensure a brighter future for their children. Mothers are also levers of change and an untapped resource to eradicate poverty.

Focusing on mothers has the potential to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty. When women are empowered to reach their full potential and access opportunities to earn a livelihood, their families and communities benefit economically.

Success stories

Sheila

Sheila is married and has three children. Before recruitment into the survival program, the family lived in abject poverty because they did not have a source of income. She was so hopeful that the program would help her fulfil her dream, as she always dreamed of owning a beauty shop.

When she shared her vision with the Church Partner, she was provided with startup items and participated in a one-month training at the centre. After completing the short course, she borrowed some money to buy stock for her beauty business and started providing hairdressing services.

Sheila says that she can serve mothers who cannot afford to go to the market for hairdressing as her business is at an easily accessible location in the village, and her prices are fair. Some of the village women interested in beauty care have booked part-time classes with her. She trains them during her free time as a way of giving back to the community.



Sheila in a practical class during the month course.



*Sheila
being
issued
with the
business
startup
items*

Pauline

Pauline's initial excitement of sharing with her husband the good news that she was pregnant with their child was deflated when her husband reacted unhappily and abandoned her with their unborn child. She felt incapacitated to take care of herself, her unborn child, cater for house rent which was almost due and deal with the social ridicule from her family and society. She made a firm decision to terminate her pregnancy!

While thinking of how to go about it, she shared her decision with a friend who later secretly notified the chief. The chief visited St. Paul's Cathedral church office and requested them to offer basic counselling to Pauline. Pauline complied with all the advice, taking her pregnancy full term. She gave birth to a beautiful daughter she named Tecla. While doing the basic counselling, the office noted Pauline's very humble background, and the Church partners and survival program staff decided to register her into the survival program.

She shared her challenges with the survival program staff, who then enrolled her in the cash transfer program. She managed to save some funds and started a small grocery shop. After receiving Income Generating Activity Training at the program, she worked very hard and smart. God blessed the work of her hands. She moved from one glory to another.

Due to the covid-19 crisis and limited interaction at the program, the survival intervention made some savings, which they decided to support mothers with business startups. Each business required a transfer of Ksh. 5,000, including Pauline. Pauline took the opportunity with two feet.

With the startup capital and based on her experience from her now thriving grocery point, Pauline decided to open a new shop. Her business has grown. Now she is the proud owner of a grocery point, general shop and M-Pesa agent. Since they can more easily access much needed goods and services, she is a darling to her community. She is an example to other young mothers and she has become a mentor to some. Pauline is very grateful for the support she received, and she holds the survival intervention at heart, she thanks God for every blessing and for the support she has continuously received.





Health

Hygiene and Sanitation Improvement Through CLTS

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The Water and Sanitation Programme (WSP) reports that about 21 million Kenyans use unsanitary or shared latrines and a further 5.6 million defecate in the open. In the rural areas, this is primarily due to the availability of open land and because in some regions, it is not considered culturally inappropriate. As urbanisation takes place, population density increases, resources become scarcer, and the impact of unsafe disposal of human waste grows.

A WASH baseline survey carried out by CKE in 2014 revealed that almost 19.2% of the beneficiary households practised open defecation as they did not have any built latrine facilities. Another survey on latrine ownership carried out amongst beneficiary households in Kwale, Baringo, Homabay, Laikipia, Marsabit, Sultan-Hamud, Taita-Taveta, Narok-Kajiado, Kitui-Machakos, Kitui and Narok clusters, revealed that the majority did not have latrines. Notably, some beneficiary households had unused latrines because it was culturally inappropriate for family members to share. Over the years, poor hygiene and sanitation at the household level have adversely affected the health of children and the youth. In a bid to achieve total behaviour change related to hygiene and sanitation and consequently reduce the disease burden and costs associated with treating otherwise preventable diseases, we implemented the Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) campaign.

The campaign achieved:

1. A total of **11,702** registered children and youths were trained on good practices related to hygiene and sanitation and were sensitized on their roles in the Community Led Total sanitation initiative;
2. **933** Hygiene and Sanitation Champions selected among the caregivers were trained by the Public Health Officers and later carried out the hygiene and sanitation improvement campaigns in their assigned households.
3. **7,678** caregivers of the registered children and youths actively participated in the triggering sessions in their respective communities.

The campaign resulted in an increase in number of facilities improved hygiene and sanitation in the households including construction of **5,014 new latrines, 7,637 new handwashing facilities, 6,826 new dish racks, 7,215 new clothes' lines and 5,962 compost pits.**



The intervention celebrated and rewarded the most improved households in hygiene and sanitation indicators. As a result, a total of 1,348 households received water tanks holding between 500 - 1000 litres of water. Other households received detergents, sanitisers, buckets, and ingredients for homemade detergents. The celebrations were officiated by public health officers who encouraged those who had not embraced the approach to do so for the ultimate good of the community.

Planting for our Climate



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According to the International Tree Foundation, Kenya is one of the least forested countries in Africa, with only 7% tree cover. That equates to just 67 trees per person, compared to the global average of 420 trees.

Climate change is affecting every country on every continent. It is disrupting national economies and affecting lives. Weather patterns are changing, sea levels are rising, and weather events are becoming more extreme.

Planting trees is critical to our future as it helps take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere to help tackle the climate crisis. It is also Africa's single most powerful intervention at the intersection of climate and poverty for smallholder farmers.

We draw inspiration from our Frontline church partners in the Meru and Mwingi clusters, who have planted 471, 535 trees and 48, 326 fruit trees, respectively. They are at the frontline championing the million trees initiative.

Though we celebrate the progress made so far, which currently stands at 1,097,607 trees, of which 158,885 are fruit trees, climate change is not on pause. It would require tremendous commitment and determination on the part of every stakeholder to address the climate urgency. Many thanks for all your efforts towards tackling the crisis. We must keep in mind that we all must protect our environment by planting trees in the country to preserve our heritage and leave a green legacy for the next generations.

Keep going team!

Alex Shiguri

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry has kicked off a national tree planting exercise as part of a strategic campaign to increase forest cover to 10% by the year 2022. The ministry calls all Kenyans to go out and plant as many trees as possible to increase the forest cover.

In 2020, we launched a 1 million tree planting campaign to support the national government's reforestation efforts. By engaging churches, families and individuals, we are collaboratively saving the planet by combating global warming one tree at a time.



Impact of Partnership to Community in Merille



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For a long time, outdated cultural practices have kept the AIC Merille community in the dark. Initially, a few individuals led by the patron had tried to bring the word of God into this community but in vain. It all started as the pastor would preach under trees. Sometimes, a crowd would gather and mock and claim that their main intention was to overturn the cultural norms of their community. Even though they were rejected and abused, they never gave up. Through their prayers, they got good samaritans who constructed a church for them. It inspired the pastor and his team to preach and share the word.

Due to the large number of children in the community, the church wanted a Sunday school even though there were no teachers to teach them. The few youths available would only volunteer for one or two sessions which was not sustainable. So, the children had to attend the adult church sessions which was not impactful.

There was high child abuse incidences in the community, such as FGM, child marriage, neglect, and child labour.

It spurred the church to establish a school so that children would get access to education. The patron and his team decided to apply for partnership. The church mobilised some of its members, who each contributed an iron sheet and a piece of timber to set up a temporary structure. The team then decided to take a loan to construct two temporary iron sheet classrooms. More local mobilisation resulted in the construction of semi-permanent classrooms enabling more children to enroll for formal classes. This avenue enabled the spiritual, emotional, social, and psychological growth and development of more children.

They say God's time is always the best. God provided our church with workers with a vision for growth and change in the community. Slowly, the church partner started a Wednesday fellowship service for all church youths. The church acquired a keyboard and a speaker through the program. For a while, the instruments remained idle until God, the miracle worker,

provided the church with a new member who knew how to play the keyboard. He also volunteered to teach everyone willing to learn. More so, this inspired the youths to come to church not only on Wednesdays but also on other days in the afternoon for practice. God is faithful.

However, the Church Partner staff felt that the Wednesday fellowship meetings were not productive enough and thus decided to add youth-related programs. It proved to be a move that has led to the discussion and resolution of issues that the youths were previously unable to discuss. There has also been a lot of training, awareness creation and empowerment targeting caregivers. This better equipped more caregivers in the community to care for their children and youth.

More youths are participating in youth webinars, Sunday school, mentorship programs and get-togethers, which empower them to be more informed and self-reliant. We believe that all children in the community will follow suit since they will see how these experiences have benefited their peers.

As we continue with our commitment as AIC Merille, we see more children and caregivers joining the program. Our initiatives are gradually changing our community and will eventually lead to its total transformation.

By: Purity Nekesa
Social Worker

Snapshots

Muskathlon @ Home



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26th June 2021

With less than 4 weeks to go, everyone is gearing up for the Marathon. Here's a little motivation to keep you going and help you get out of the door when your legs are tired, or the weather is not conducive.

“The music of a marathon is a powerful strain, one of those tunes of glory. It asks us to forsake pleasures, to discipline the body, to find courage, to renew faith, and to become one’s own person, utterly and completely.” -George Sheehan, running author

Registration link for non-compassion staff: <https://form.jotform.com/211304436597557>

Graduants, teachers and caregivers celebrate together



Beneficiaries from Mwele PEFA celebrate after successfully existing the program. The ceremony has held in April where church representatives, caregivers and the graduands shared their experiences and lessons.

Staff Profile

The Compassion Family is excited to welcome Josiah Nyando, M&E Listening Specialist, Caroline Kimani, Senior Accounting Associate and Ben Kimathi the M&E Specialist.

Josiah



Josiah is married to Yvette Monicah Auma Orawo. They are both blessed with a baby, Jill Sophy Nyando. Josiah and Yvette fellowship at AIC Utawala- Sky Way.

Before joining Compassion, Josiah worked as a Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist at AMREF Kenya and before that as a Monitoring and Evaluation Team Lead at Abt Associates, Inc. He has a BSc. in Mathematics (Statistics) and Certificates in Monitoring and Evaluation, Ethics in Human Subjects Research, Statistical Data Analysis (Advanced MS Excel, STATA and SPSS) and Computer Proficiency. Josiah loves playing and watching football, reading, sitting with youth and interact, watching movies. His favourite meal is ugali, fish and chicken. His favourite scripture line is

"Be still and know that I am God. Psalms 46:10"

Caroline

Caroline is married to John Kimani Ngendo. Caroline and John have been blessed with Jabali Kinyua Kimani, their daughter. They fellowship together at PCEA -Juja.

Before joining Compassion, Caroline worked as an accountant at International Leadership University and Life Ministry Kenya. She has a Bachelor of Commerce (Finance Option), CPA-K and a Certificate in Banking Computer Packages.

Caroline enjoys travelling and a wide variety of delicacies like fish, chicken and cocktail juices. Her favourite colours are beige and brown. Her favourite scripture is; **"... and if My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land.**

2 Chronicles 7:14"



Ben

Ben Kimathi the new M&E Specialist. Before Joining Compassion, Ben has worked with UNICEF Burundi & UNICEF Laos Country Offices, Laboratory Sciences Division- FHI 360 KENYA, Save the Children International-Wajir County, International Medical Corps-Health and Nutrition Integrated Program- Isiolo County as a Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist. He has also been a Program Officer at AMREF Horn of Africa Drought Response & Disaster Mitigation Program.

He has a Master of Public Health (Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance) and a Bachelor's Degree in Public Health. He also has Certificates in Health Systems Strengthening and The Role of Diagnostics in the Antimicrobial Resistance Response as well.

Ben is married to Serah Njoki Mbugua and together they have been blessed with Zara Nayeli Kendi. They fellowship at Karura Community Church. He enjoys hiking and quizzes. His favorite scripture is; **..... but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits....Dan 11:32**



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**



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