



JIRANI

Nurturing Life, Strengthening Communities.



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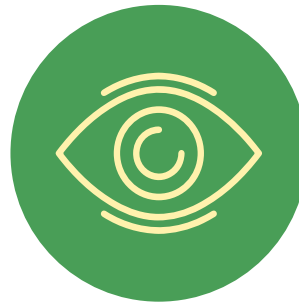
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Mission

Releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name.



Our Vision

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



Core Values

Dignity
Excellence
Integrity
Stewardship
Discernment

County Highlight



Churches Leading Lasting Transformation in Turkana



Children during devotion

Turkana, in Kenya's remote northwest, faces a dry climate, food shortages, and limited access to services. Despite these hurdles, communities there are experiencing a comprehensive transformation through partnerships with **14 frontline churches** supported by Compassion International. These collaborations provide children, caregivers, and church leaders with resources to build resilience and foster growth in one of Kenya's most underserved regions.

Compassion's efforts have a significant impact, reaching over **2,860 children and families** across Turkana Central, North, South, West, and Loima sub-counties. The program also supports **15 infants** under 1 year old and their mothers by providing essential health and nutrition services. "We view every number as a story of hope. Every sponsored child, caregiver trained, and facility built signifies a brighter future for Turkana," said a Partnership Facilitator of the area.

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In Turkana, 14 church partners are leading ongoing efforts to transform the region. These churches are strategically positioned to assist highly vulnerable groups. For example, Elim Pentecostal Church in Kakuma serves **255 participants**, including families in the survival program, while Parklands Baptist Church Kaatongun supports over **200 children**. The African Inland Church in Nakurio is supporting **179 children**. Initiatives such as the Pentecostal Assemblies of God in Lokwatubwa and Lokirama also have strong sponsorship.



Children in front of newly built classrooms in Turkana

County Highlight



“We view every number as a story of hope. Every sponsored child, caregiver trained, and facility built signifies a brighter future for Turkana,”
said a Partnership Facilitator of the area.



As one church leader stated,
“Turkana can triumph through education, health, empowerment, and the love of Christ.”



Turkana family during new participant registration



Newly built washrooms

Together, these church partners create a movement of hope and transformation, integrating education, health, and spiritual growth into a comprehensive approach to care. The outcomes of these programs are evident and measurable. In education, children aged three to nine receive early support in literacy and numeracy, while maternal education helps caregivers reinforce learning at home. In health and nutrition, growth monitoring and immunization efforts protect children from preventable diseases, and targeted malnutrition programs are saving lives in areas affected by chronic hunger.

The Kakuma survival initiative, which supports **15 mothers and infants**, offers vital aid during the most critical stages of development. Infrastructure upgrades are improving daily life by adding 8-door latrines and bathrooms in Kanamkemer and Lokore, thereby boosting sanitation and dignity in schools and communities. These facilities are essential for girls, whose school attendance and safety often depend on access to private, hygienic sanitation.

Empowering caregivers remains a central focus, giving mothers vital knowledge on parenting, hygiene, and child development, while household economic programs aim to reduce dependency and build resilience. These programs also support talent development among children and youth by spotting and nurturing emerging leaders, athletes, and musicians who might otherwise be overlooked.

Churches and project staff are receiving leadership and advocacy training to strengthen local capacity to sustain and expand these efforts. Spiritual growth is integrated into all activities to help children and families deepen their understanding of Christ and live out His love daily. Looking ahead, the situation in Turkana remains optimistic and ambitious. Priorities include improving early education and literacy, expanding maternal and caregiver training, and increasing efforts to treat and prevent malnutrition.



Turkana community during participant registration

Churches aim to strengthen economic empowerment for caregivers and enhance resource mobilization through collaborative networks. As one church leader stated, “Turkana can triumph through education, health, empowerment, and the love of Christ.”

Experience the Impact in Turkana here: <https://bit.ly/4mSTFVx>

Contributor: Shadrack Nakua, Partnership Facilitator, Compassion Kenya.

Family Empowerment



Transforming Lives Through Water and Livelihood Empowerment in Kitui County



Governor of Kitui County, Dr. Julius Malombe at the Launch with Compassion Participant

At Church Of God (COG) Kamayagi Child and Family Project in Mumoni, Kitui County, two transformative initiatives—the Water Project and the Honey Processing and Value Addition Project—have been completed, bringing renewed hope and economic empowerment to more than **250 participating families** and the surrounding community. These projects aim to strengthen family resilience, improve livelihoods, and promote community well-being in an area often affected by water scarcity and climate-related challenges.

The official launch of the project was attended by the Governor of Kitui County, Dr. Julius Malombe, who highlighted the significance of the initiatives and showcased the impact of Compassion-supported programs in improving the lives of children, caregivers, and communities. The Water Project, funded with about **KES 6 million (roughly USD 46,000)**, has greatly improved access to safe and reliable drinking water for registered participants, their caregivers, and the wider Kamayagi community.

The project involved building a sand dam along River Ciri, creating a sump well, installing water-pumping and piping systems for the Frontline Church Partner (FCP), and promoting hygiene and sanitation practices. Community members were also trained to operate and maintain the water system, and a water management committee was formed to ensure the resource's sustainability and proper use.



Honey Processing

Family Empowerment



Besides providing safe water, the project has improved health and sanitation outcomes, reduced the burden of collecting water over long distances, and enhanced the learning and program environment at the project center. The initiative has also encouraged strong community ownership, making sure that families actively participate in managing and protecting this vital resource. Complementing the water intervention is the Honey Processing and Value Addition Project, funded with approximately **KES 1.5 million (about USD 11,500)**.

The project aims to improve income stability for beekeepers in Tharaka Ward, an Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) region where beekeeping is a highly viable livelihood. Before the project, farmers relied on traditional harvesting and storage methods, which often caused them to sell honey at low prices during peak harvest seasons. Without proper processing and storage facilities, many farmers were vulnerable to exploitation by go-betweens and unable to supply honey during periods of high demand. By introducing modern honey processing and value addition, the project now helps farmers enhance honey quality, safely store their produce, and access better market opportunities.

The honey also received certification from the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), which boosts its market credibility and competitiveness. As a result, farmers can sell honey more strategically throughout the year, creating stable and sustainable income streams for their households. Together, these two initiatives mark a significant step toward family economic empowerment and building long-term community resilience.

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KEBS Honey



Governor of Kitui County, Dr. Julius Malombe at the launch

For the families of Mumoni in Kitui County, these projects are more than just development efforts—they act as catalysts for transformation, ensuring children grow up in healthier environments. At the same time, their caregivers gain the economic stability needed to support their education, well-being, and future goals.

Contributor: Phyllis Gathoni; Partnership Facilitator, Compassion Kenya.



Water Project

Family Empowerment



Stitching Hope: How Women in Ganze Are Weaving a New Future



Members of the Ufanisi Ebenezer Tailors Women Group pose for a photograph with completed school uniforms, which they produce and sell as a source of income.

As a powerful story of resilience and transformation continues to unfold in Ganze, it reflects the true spirit of empowering women and creating lasting change in a community. In 2020, a group of determined women from vulnerable communities in Ganze, Kilifi County came together with a shared dream: to transform their lives through tailoring. They formed the Ufanisi Ebenezer Tailors Women Group, a name that would soon become synonymous with courage, growth, and possibility. Most of these women had never set foot in a classroom, yet their lack of formal education did not define them. Instead, they carried resilience, passion, and an unshakable desire for a better future.

With support from the local church, the women began learning basic tailoring and dressmaking skills. Each day brought new lessons not only in cutting fabric and stitching garments but also in building confidence and rediscovering their worth. Their commitment paid off when they sat for their Grade 3 National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) exams and excelled. This achievement marked a turning point, a powerful affirmation that it is never too late to learn, grow, and succeed.

Their journey did not stop there. In 2025, the group boldly stepped into new territory, venturing into tracksuit and T-shirt production. With determination and teamwork, they secured and successfully delivered their first tender, valued at **KES 279,000 (USD 2,150)**.



Ufanisi Ebenezer Tailors Women Group members sewing school uniforms at a community workshop, applying NITA tailoring skills acquired to generate income.



Finished school uniforms are laid out on the table as the group members inspect and organize them in readiness for sale.

Their excellence opened even greater doors, leading to a second tender worth **KES 477,000 (USD 3,670)**, which they also completed with outstanding results. Today, they are confidently working on their third tender, valued at **KES 153,450 (USD 1,180)**, a clear sign of their growing capacity and reputation.

What began as a small initiative has now blossomed into a thriving enterprise. The Ufanisi Ebenezer Tailors Women Group is not only generating income but also restoring dignity and hope among its members. These women, once facing limited opportunities, are now providers, entrepreneurs, and role models in their community. Their story beautifully echoes the message of International Women's Day, which holds that when women are equipped with skills and given opportunities, they rise and, in doing so, lift entire communities.

As the group continues to expand its production and explore new markets, one thing is certain: they are stitching more than garments; they are weaving a future filled with hope, confidence, and endless possibilities. Stitch by stitch, dream by dream, they are rewriting their story.

Contributed By Elizabeth Elavuna,
Project Director - EAPC Ebenezer Matanomanne

Edited By Carolyn Nyakoyo

Child Protection



Alternative Rite of Passage Promotes Safety and Dignity for Girls in Laikipia County

The PCEA Kimanjo Child Development Centre in Laikipia County recently organized a powerful anti-FGM campaign through an Alternative Rite of Passage (ARP) program aimed at protecting girls from Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) while preserving positive cultural values. The initiative brought together government officials, community leaders, development partners, caregivers, and young girls to promote safe and dignified transitions into adulthood without harmful practices. The event attracted key stakeholders, including the CEO of the Anti-FGM Board of Kenya, representatives from the Member of Parliament's office, the County Commissioner, the Assistant County Commissioner, local chiefs, and partners such as Action for Children Kenya and Mukogodo Amazing Girls. Their presence showed a united commitment by government and community actors to end FGM and protect girls' rights.

As part of the program, **300 girls** aged nine and above participated in a three-day mentorship and training at PCEA Kimanjo. The sessions provided the girls with knowledge and life skills to help them transition into adulthood safely and confidently. Facilitators guided them through topics such as adolescent growth and development, menstrual health and hygiene, personal hygiene and sanitation, healthy relationships, and the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS.

The training also created an open platform for discussing the risks of FGM. Participants learned about the serious physical and emotional effects of the practice, including heavy bleeding, infections, complications during childbirth, and long-term trauma. Facilitators emphasized that FGM is harmful, illegal, and not required by any religion, encouraging families to choose safer cultural alternatives that celebrate girls without causing harm.



Participants at the Alternative Rites of Passage Event



Participants at the Alternative Rites of Passage Ceremony



Participants at the Alternative Rites of Passage Ceremony



Participants at the Alternative Rites of Passage Ceremony

Parents and caregivers were also involved during the graduation ceremony, where they were made aware of the importance of protecting girls and supporting alternatives to FGM. Community leaders highlighted the need to keep girls in school and strengthen partnerships that support reporting on and prevention of harmful practices.

Parents, caregivers, and local leaders openly supported a zero-tolerance approach to the practice and suggested conducting the Alternative Rite of Passage twice a year to reach more girls. Participants also agreed to establish community committees to collaborate with local authorities in preventing FGM, early marriage, and other harmful practices. The Alternative Rite of Passage showed that cultural traditions can change in ways that protect the dignity, health, and future of girls.

Through mentorship, education, and community dialogue, the program enhanced collaboration among the church, government agencies, partners, and the broader community. It fostered renewed hope for a future in which girls in Laikipia County grow up safe, educated, and empowered to pursue their dreams without fear of harmful practices.

Contributor: Martin Matimu, Partnership Facilitator, Compassion Kenya

Child Protection



Celebrating a Journey of Growth: Participants Complete Their Program

A major milestone was recently celebrated at the Kongowea Methodist Church Kenya in Kongowea, Mombasa County, as a group of young adults marked the completion of their long journey in the program. The event brought together families, church leaders, staff, and community members to honor participants who have grown through the program and are now stepping confidently into adulthood.

For many of these young people, the journey began years ago, when they joined the project at age 12 after being transferred from another center following a project closure. Over time, the program supported them through different stages of life, nurturing their spiritual, emotional, educational, and social development. Now, at age 21 and older, they are ready to begin the next chapter of their lives. The celebration honored not only the achievements of the graduates but also the dedication of families, the church, the community, and program staff who supported them throughout their journey.



Celebration with our Patron



Participants and Family at the graduation



The Patron commissioning the Graduands



Cake Cutting at the Ceremony

The program emphasized that this moment means much more than completing activities – it symbolizes years of mentorship, discipline, encouragement, and shared responsibility in shaping the lives of these young adults. Iscah who completed training in Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy and now owns her own salon. Emmanuel who is currently studying Mass Communication in university, while Stephen is earning a degree in Information Technology. Peter, another program graduate, who has finished his studies and is now working as an Electrical Engineer. Their accomplishments show the value of long-term investment in nurturing children and equipping them with skills for the future.

During the ceremony, the graduates were recognized and commissioned as they prepared to take on new responsibilities in society. The event was filled with joy, prayers, and encouragement, reminding the young people that they leave the program knowing they are known, loved, seen, protected, and prayed for. As the graduates step into adulthood, they carry with them the values, knowledge, and confidence built through years of mentorship and support. Their journey is a testament to what can be achieved when families, the church, and community partners collaborate to invest in the lives of young people.

Contributor: Evelyn, Kongowea Methodist Church, Mombasa County.

Digital Empowerment



Inspiring the Next Generation Through STEM Pathways in Homabay



Kids Codelab STEM Career Symposium

STEM career pathways are opening up exciting opportunities for learners within the Competency-Based Curriculum, equipping them with practical skills for the future. In Homabay County, this vision was realized during the half-term school break through a lively STEM Symposium at Rawinji Resource Center in Oyugis, Homa Bay County. The event was organized in partnership with KidsCode Lab, Compassion's main coding training partner.

The symposium gathered high school and junior secondary students interested in STEM, creating an energetic environment for learning, exploration, and inspiration. Through engaging plenary sessions and interactive small-group discussions, participants connected with young IT professionals who are actively shaping the industry.

The plenary session featured a town hall-style discussion where professionals shared their personal journeys—highlighting the challenges of developing digital skills, the wide range of career and income opportunities in tech, and emerging fields with untapped potential.



Participant making a presentation

Digital Empowerment



These candid conversations offered learners encouragement and a realistic view of the STEM landscape. In breakout sessions, participants gained practical insights into key areas such as full-stack web development (frontend and backend), Web 3.0 and blockchain technologies, the Internet of Robotic Things, and even space science. These sessions fostered deeper engagement and mentorship, sparking curiosity and confidence among the learners.

A major highlight of the symposium was the project presentations by Compassion-Sponsored participants from various Frontline Church Partners (FCPs) that are implementing coding classes. These innovations showcased the transformative power of STEM at the grassroots level.

- **Isaac presented a digital voting system aimed at decreasing paperwork and improving transparency.**
- **Victor developed a functional FCP website that simplifies participant data management while enhancing the church's online presence.**
- **Susan introduced an AI-powered diagnostic tool that offers users basic insights into their health conditions before they visit a medical facility.**

These projects offer just a glimpse of the many innovative, problem-solving solutions being created within the program initiatives that could transform communities.



Kids Codelab STEM Career Symposium



Kids Codelab STEM Career Symposium

The event wrapped up with an awards ceremony celebrating creativity and excellence. Participants received cash prizes, robotics and programming kits, and coding guidebooks—further fueling their passion for technology. Beyond the awards, the symposium's true impact was reflected in a renewed sense of purpose among learners, increased resilience among current participants, and growing interest in STEM among new learners.

Contributors: *Rose Flevian and Naomi Achieng, Compassion Sponsored Participants*

Sustainable Communities



Shelter Restoration: Compassion Participants Rebuild a Home for Fellow Participant at AIC Majengo

In a village where tradition blends with resilience, Compassion participants from the AIC Majengo, a Frontline Church Partner, came together to support one of their own—Dzame, a fellow participant whose family lost their home to strong winds. After the incident, Dzame's family had to move into their brother's small house, resulting in overcrowded living conditions for the large household. The situation was tough for the family and affected Dzame's confidence, leading to discomfort and withdrawal from friends.

Recognizing the need to restore dignity and stability for their fellow participants, the youth from the project took the initiative. With guidance from community members and locally available materials such as mud and sticks (fitos), they worked together to build a two-room house for Dzame's family. What began as a simple act of support quickly grew into a powerful display of compassion, teamwork, and community solidarity.

The newly constructed house provides Dzame's family with a safe, weather-resistant home, giving them a renewed sense of security and hope. Besides offering shelter, the project served as a learning experience for the Compassion participants, equipping them with practical building skills, teamwork, and a deeper sense of responsibility to help others in their community.



Youths filling the mud



Work in Progress



Group Photo of the youths and 2 part time teachers after community Service



Dzame and her fellow youths during the activity



Part of the youths participants Preparing the Mud for house renovation

The initiative has also inspired neighbors and community members, showing that even with limited resources, communities can make a meaningful difference when they unite for a common purpose. Thanks to the dedication of the youth from AIC Majengo CDC, the project became more than just building a house; it became a powerful reminder that compassion, unity, and determination can transform lives.

Contributor: Aileen Munga, Partnership Facilitator, Compassion Kenya.

Growth in Christ



From Darkness to Light: Ngati Ndegwa's Story of Transformation

"For nothing will be impossible with God." —Luke 1:37

Ngati Ndegwa's life is a powerful story of redemption, healing, and hope, a reminder that with God, nothing is impossible (Luke 1:37). Born into a family deeply rooted in witchcraft traditions, Ngati grew up in an environment where alcohol brewing and spiritual bondage shaped daily life. Hope seemed distant until Ngati encountered Jesus Christ through the a frontline Church Partner.

Through Ngati's newfound faith, light began to shine within his family. His transformation inspired his mother and siblings to accept Christ, bringing healing and a renewed sense of purpose into their home. However, the most significant turning point came when his grandmother, sought help from hospitals and traditional healers, but neither treatment provided relief. Her condition worsened, and hope seemed to fade.

During a door-to-door outreach organized by youth from Miguneni Baptist, a Compassion frontline Church partner in Kilifi County, Ngati visited his grandmother and prayed by her bedside. At that moment, she surrendered her life to Jesus Christ. Soon after accepting Christ, her health began to improve. Watching this transformation moved Ngati's uncle to accept Jesus as well, demonstrating the powerful impact of faith on the family.



Bible study sessions with fellow participants



Ndegwa during door-to-door outreach



Ngati awarded a certificate in evangelism.

Today, Ngati has become a force for positive change in the community. He faithfully serves at his church as an usher, praise and worship leader, and youth leader, and also supports spiritual activities within the project. He has completed a Certificate in Church Planting and Evangelism and is currently pursuing a diploma in the same field. Through his testimony and dedication to ministry, Ngati continues to inspire many young people. His journey from darkness to light now helps other youths hear the Gospel and choose a new path of faith, purpose, and transformation.

Contributor: Florence, Miguneni Baptist, Kilifi County.

Good Health and Well-Being



Inclusion in Every Mile: Kiambu County Community Unites for Children Living with Disabilities



Compassion team with some of the children in the community

AIC Nderu Frontline Church Partner in Ndeiya, Kiambu County, recently hosted a vibrant celebration for the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, bringing together children, caregivers, church leaders, partners, and community members under the global theme "Inclusion in Every Mile." The event featured a county-level marathon, community-wide medical screenings, and a special recognition of the progress made by children enrolled in the church's Special Needs Education (SNE) Class, established in June 2024.

The day began with an energetic marathon whose purpose went far beyond the finish line. Community members ran to promote disability inclusion, raise awareness, and gather resources to strengthen support systems for children with special needs in Kiambu County. Funds raised will help create a sensory room, expand therapy services, improve access to assistive devices, and enhance training for teachers and caregivers within the program.

The Special Needs Class at AIC Nderu continues to change the lives of nine children with different disabilities. Children with learning challenges are now reading, writing, and doing basic math; those with ADHD and behavioral issues are adjusting better in class; and children with Autism, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, and other developmental conditions are showing impressive progress in mobility, communication, social skills, and emotional control.

These achievements show the positive effects of regular therapy, caregiver support, and an inclusive learning environment. Caregivers are also gaining strength through home visits, discipleship, hygiene support, and entrepreneurship training with start-up funds.



Some of the runners at the start line

Good Health and Well-Being



Child during a screening

A major highlight of the celebration was the free disability and medical screening conducted by Bethany Kids International. Children and adults were assessed for mobility challenges, neurological concerns, and developmental delays, with on-site care provided to those who needed immediate support. Individuals needing advanced intervention were referred to specialized facilities, and Bethany Kids will continue mentoring AIC Nderu as the sensory room is developed and teachers receive ongoing training.

Compassion Kenya's National Director, Samuel Wambugu, praised the unity and dedication shown by the Kiambu community

“Today, we saw what inclusion looks like when a community chooses to walk every mile together.”



Special needs center for children with disabilities



Compassion team with church County Leaders

Across Kenya, Compassion International supports **529 children** with disabilities, highlighting the urgent need for early diagnosis, stigma reduction, and the building of inclusive community structures. AIC Nderu's model exemplifies how coordinated church-led support can make a significant impact in Kiambu County and beyond.

Compassion Kenya's National Director, Samuel Wambugu, praised the unity and dedication shown by the Kiambu community: “Today, we saw what inclusion looks like when a community chooses to walk every mile together.”

These children remind us that disability is not inability; what they need is opportunity, support, and a loving environment to flourish. AIC Nderu has shown us what is possible when the church becomes a place of belonging for every child.”

As the event concluded, one message was loud and clear: inclusion is a shared responsibility. Through strong partnerships, empowered caregivers, and community-led initiatives, Kiambu County continues to lead the way for a Kenya where every child regardless of ability, can grow, learn, and thrive.

Contributor: Chukulisa Roba, Partnership Facilitator, Compassion Kenya



National Director flagging off the race

Creative Economy



PIECES OF HOPE: Children Use Chess to Rewrite Their Future in Migori County



In blue, Frank, the gold medalist in the Under-10 category

In Migori County, chess has become much more than just a game. What started as a simple activity has developed into a powerful tool for education, healing, and hope. Through organized training, children are gaining skills that go well beyond the chessboard. Chess promotes critical thinking, discipline, patience, and problem-solving abilities that improve both academic success and personal growth. In communities facing social and economic challenges, the game also provides a safe and constructive space where children can focus, heal emotionally, and build confidence as they uncover their potential.

Ten young players from the community recently took part in the 2nd edition of the Victoria East Africa Chess Tournament. The tournament drew over 300 players from three chess federations: Kenya, Uganda, and South Sudan. Peter Chesire, one of the trained arbiters and a mentor in the program, explains the deeper lessons the game offers. "Each move on the chessboard represents a choice in life," he says. "When children learn to think ahead, plan their moves, and follow rules, they begin to understand that peace, discipline, and strategy lead to success—not violence or harmful behaviors."

One of the standout participants in this year's tournament was Sylvia, who won the Gold Medal in the Under-12 Elite category. Her victory has become a powerful symbol of what girls can achieve when given the opportunity and support to succeed. Through the PEFA Church Kurutiyange Chess Club, deliberate efforts are being made to involve more girls in chess as a way of protecting them from harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and early marriage.

As one mentor shared, "When girls play chess, they are not only learning strategy—they are also building confidence. They become ambassadors of change, showing their peers that education and skill are the true marks of honour."



Sylvia as she stepped forward to receive her gold medal in the Under-12 category



Participant Playing Chess



Participant Playing Chess



Opening Ceremony, Under 21 Victorian East African tournament 2025

Chess also helps bring boys from different clans and communities together. Young players like Frank, who won the Gold Medal in the Under-10 category, and Haron Seronga, who earned the Silver Medal in the Under-18 category, are forming friendships across once-divided communities. Tournaments now unite children from various clans, creating chances for teamwork, respect, and shared experiences that foster peace. Besides the medals, three participants completed National Arbiter training, positioning the club as an emerging chess hub capable of hosting and supporting more youth chess programs in Migori County.

Additionally, three young players were chosen to attend a nine-day residential chess camp, where they received advanced coaching and mentorship. Each participant received a daily allowance of **KES 1,000 (approximately USD 7.75)**, totaling **KES 27,000 (about USD 210)** for the entire camp. This opportunity provided valuable exposure, fostered talent development, and connected young players to national sports development networks. Moving forward, the initiative plans to expand its reach and impact by growing the chess movement to inspire the community to invest in the minds and futures of its children.

Contributor: Peter Chesire; Club Chairperson and Project Accountant

Creative Economy



Elia's Chess Story

One of the most inspiring stories from the program is that of Elia Matiko, a young player from PEFA Community Church Kegonga. Elia has made history as the first chess player from Kuria to represent Kenya at a prestigious international chess tournament. His achievement sparked great pride within the community, which gathered to celebrate his success and motivate other children to pursue their talents with determination.

Elia is a fourth-grade student at Omome Academy in Kuria East Sub-County. His chess journey started in 2023, when PEFA Church Kegonga introduced chess as part of its talent development efforts to engage children in the church and the surrounding community positively. What initially appeared to be a recreational activity soon revealed Elia's exceptional skill, discipline, and passion for the game. Growing up in Kuria, a region affected by ongoing conflict and insecurity, Elia faced many challenges. His father works as a sand harvester, a demanding job with limited pay, and the family previously lived in a conflict-prone area, relying on others for shelter. Yet through chess, Elia found focus, healing, and purpose.

With consistent mentorship and practice, he developed strong chess skills, as well as resilience, confidence, and determination. His dedication eventually earned him the chance to represent Kenya at the African Youth Chess Championship in Zimbabwe, competing in the Under-12 category. Against tough competitors from across the continent, he performed admirably, scoring 4 points from 9 rounds and proudly putting Migori County on the international chess map. Beyond the tournament itself, the experience brought meaningful change to his family. With allowances received during the championship, Elia was able to support his household with **KES 71,000 (usd 560)**, helping them buy a piece of land. For a family that previously relied on others for shelter, this was a significant step toward stability, dignity, and a hopeful future as they plan to build their own home.



Elia Matiko with the Kenyan Under-12 Chess Team upon arrival in Zimbabwe for the African Youth Chess Championship.



Elia Matiko emerging from the crowd to receive his Gold Medal as Best Under-12 player at the Victoria East African Under-21 Chess Championship.



Elia Matiko and his family at church, thanking God for a safe journey and the successful return from Zimbabwe.



Elia Matiko at the tournament venue in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The journey also broadened Elia's dreams. Traveling by airplane for the first time while representing Kenya opened his eyes to new opportunities. Inspired by this experience, he is now determined to work even harder in school and dreams of becoming a pilot someday. Elia's story acts as a strong reminder of how talent development can transform lives. In Migori County, chess continues to promote education, restore hope, and support healing among children and youth. Through the game, young people not only learn to think strategically but also to dream big, lift their families, and pursue a future full of potential.

Contributors: Peter Chesire, Project Accountant, and Maati Mogeni, Social Worker.



Elia Matiko reviews and analyzes his game with Chess Kenya Coach after Round 5

Creative Economy



Fredrick Odhiambo: From Manyatta to Professional Football

Fredrick Odhiambo, a compassion-sponsored participant, is an emerging talent in Kenyan football whose journey from humble beginnings to the threshold of professional play reflects resilience, discipline, and leadership.

Born as the second of three boys, Fredrick traces his roots to Yimbo in Siaya County. However, his family has lived in the Manyatta informal settlement in Kisumu City since 2002. Life has not been easy for them. In 2017, Fredrick lost his father, leaving his mother as the sole provider for the household. Despite the hardships, she has remained steadfast in supporting her children. Working as a cook at a private primary school and supplementing the family income by selling charcoal, an initiative supported by the Key to Life Child and Youth Development Centre, a Compassion Frontline Church partner (CYDC), she has worked tirelessly to sustain the family and nurture Fredrick's dreams.

Fredrick joined the Key to Life Child and Youth Development Centre on September 1, 2012. It was here that his soccer talent began to develop. From an early stage, he demonstrated strong discipline, leadership, and commitment, which influenced his growth both on and off the field. Under the mentorship of professional football trainer Coach Harrison, brought in by the project, Fredrick improved his tactical awareness and defensive skills, earning recognition as a dependable defender. His leadership also earned him the captaincy of the Key to Life CYDC senior boys' soccer team.

Fredrick later attended Kisumu Boys High School, where his football journey continued to grow. In Form Two, he was chosen as team captain and successfully led the school team to regional competitions for two consecutive years. During this time, he also trained with Kisumu Soccer Plus, a local football club, where he improved his skills, work ethic, and team spirit. His consistent effort and determination opened doors to professional opportunities. Academically, Fredrick finished his secondary education in 2025 with a KCSE grade of C-.

Ulinzi Stars FC also shared their excitement about his promotion:

'Ulinzi Stars FC is pleased to confirm the promotion of defender Fredrick Odhiambo from the Ulinzi Youth system to the senior team. Odhiambo has been a standout performer, demonstrating strong defensive awareness, discipline, and promising leadership qualities that align with the club's football philosophy and long-term development plan.'

Shortly afterward, his football career reached an important milestone when he signed with Ulinzi Stars Football Club as a defender, marking the start of his professional journey. Ulinzi Stars F.C. is a professional football club based in Nairobi that competes in the Kenyan Premier League, the top level of football in Kenya. Founded in 1995 and owned by the Kenya Defense Forces, the club's name, "Ulinzi," which means "defense" in Swahili, reflects its military roots and focus on discipline and teamwork.



Fredrick Odhiambo

Ulinzi Stars is one of Kenya's most successful teams, having won the league title four times, and is also known for developing young football talent through its youth academy, with many players moving up to the senior team and representing Kenya in regional and continental competitions.

Beyond his football accomplishments, Fredrick is recognized for his strong values of faith, dedication, respect, and community commitment. These qualities have made him not only a role model for younger players but also a source of pride for his family, mentors, and the wider community. As Fredrick begins this new chapter with Ulinzi Stars, he stays committed to developing both as an athlete and as a person while continuing to support and inspire those around him.

Ulinzi Stars FC also shared their excitement about his promotion: 'Ulinzi Stars FC is pleased to confirm the promotion of defender Fredrick Odhiambo from the Ulinzi Youth system to the senior team. Odhiambo has been a standout performer, demonstrating strong defensive awareness, discipline, and promising leadership qualities that align with the club's football philosophy and long-term development plan. His move to the first team reflects the club's ongoing commitment to nurturing talent from within our youth ranks and providing opportunities for young players to develop into professional footballers. We congratulate Fredrick and look forward to supporting his next chapter in senior football.'

Contributor: June Bosire, Partnership Facilitator, Compassion Kenya.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)



From thirst to thriving: How clean water is transforming Karare Ward in Marsabit County



Participants wash their hands at a handwashing point in Karare following the installation of the community water project, which aims to improve access to clean water.

Water scarcity has long been a defining feature of Karare ward in Marsabit County. Families walked long distances, often more than five kilometers, to reach unreliable and unsafe water sources. Preventable diseases such as typhoid and diarrhea were a constant threat, and children often missed school to help their caregivers fetch water. In Karare, water is not just a need; it is a daily struggle. Today, a journey that began in January 2024 has culminated in the establishment of a solar-powered borehole system under the professional supervision of Beta Geo Consultants Limited, changing the story in the Karare community. With **72 solar panels** now fully installed and operational, the system provides a reliable, sustainable source of clean water. It is safe to say that the success of this project goes beyond infrastructure. It lies in the people who now own and sustain it.

Through a two-day capacity-building training facilitated by Water for the World, **24 community members**, comprising church leaders, caregivers, and local representatives, were equipped with essential skills in governance, financial management, and system maintenance. The team formed the Water Management Committee after training, which now oversees daily operations, ensuring accountability and the borehole's sustainability.

“Before this project, our children used to miss school just to fetch water. Now, they can go to class every morning because clean water is nearby.”

Sanabo Lotokule, a caregiver and community member, narrates.



At the center of the community's water access is a newly constructed water kiosk equipped with a prepaid meter system. The kiosk not only provides convenient, fair access to water but has also become a source of income for the church. In just three months, the initiative has generated significant savings, with **KES 90,490 (USD 700)** in July, **KES 76,167 (USD 590)** in August, and **KES 110,261 (USD 850)** in September. Funds have been securely banked and earmarked for maintenance and other community projects. With a target of building a reserve fund of one million Kenyan shillings, the model is proving both practical and sustainable.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)



Steve Kikumu, a community member, shares how this has transformed his life.

“For the first time, I have grown spinach and Sukuma wiki (Kale) in my backyard. I sell some to my neighbors and earn a little income. This would never have been possible without this



“Before this project, our children used to miss school just to fetch water. Now, they can go to class every morning because clean water is nearby,” Sanabo Lotokule, a caregiver and community member, narrates. Sanabo is one of the **3300 beneficiaries** personally impacted by the project. The time once spent searching for water is now invested in education, livelihoods, and family life because water is readily available.

Others have embraced new opportunities made possible by this access. Small kitchen gardens have begun to flourish, providing both nutrition and income. Steve Kikumu, a community member, shares how this has transformed his life. “For the first time, I have grown spinach and Sukuma wiki (Kale) in my backyard. I sell some to my neighbors and earn a little income. This would never have been possible without this borehole.”

Access to clean water has also brought about notable improvements in health and hygiene. With the construction of four strategically placed handwashing stations and the introduction of hygiene training sessions, families are now more aware of proper sanitation practices. As a result, cases of waterborne diseases have declined significantly, improving the community's overall well-being.

Additionally, this project has strengthened the relationship between the church and the wider community. Today, by integrating existing community pipeline systems, water is pumped to community storage tanks in Nasigakwe, Loruko, Nasirai, and Nogorio, villages located within Karare Ward in Marsabit County, Northern Kenya.

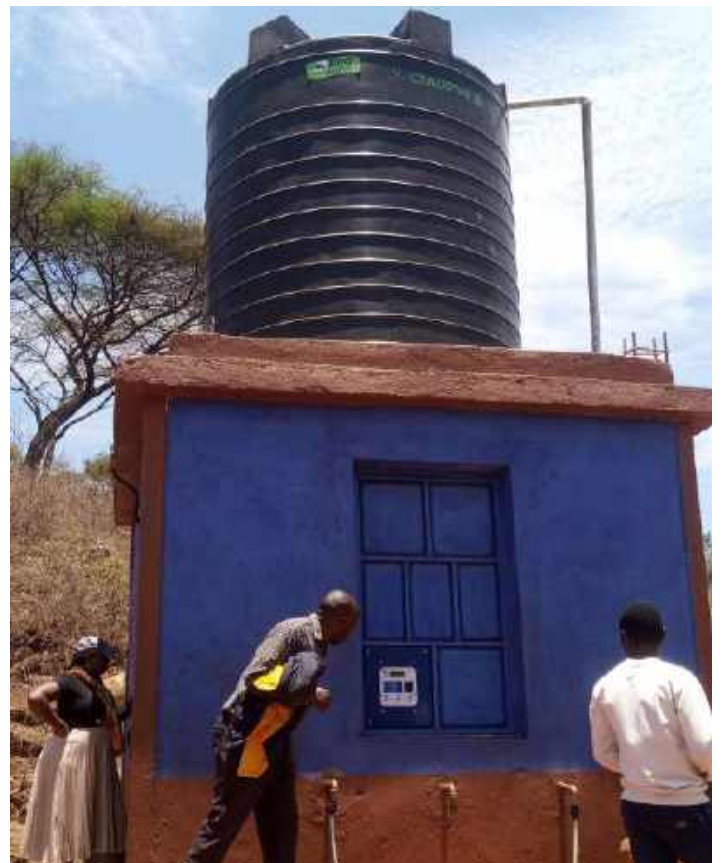
This has resulted in over **400 households** having reliable access to safe water. Through local contributions such as fencing the borehole site and renovating the community storage tanks, residents have demonstrated a strong sense of ownership. This shared responsibility has fostered unity and reinforced the initiative's sustainability.



Animals gather to drink water at the Karare water point, where the project has improved access in the dry region for both residents and livestock.



Green- leafy vegetables grow in a kitchen garden in Karare, where improved access to water through the borehole project has supported local food production.



The newly constructed water kiosk is fitted with a prepaid meter system. The kiosk not only provides convenient and fair access to water but has also become a source of income for the church.

While challenges such as increasing demand and the need for regular maintenance remain, the progress made in Karare is undeniable. **The KES 1,895,640 (USD 14,666)** project now stands as a powerful example of sustainable, community-driven transformation. In Karare, clean water is no longer a distant hope. It is a daily reality, and with it come renewed opportunity, restored dignity, and a future filled with promise.

Contribution by John Bosco Andolo- Program Support Specialist- Compassion Kenya

Edited By Carolyn Nyakoyo

Events



Compassion International Crowned NGO of the Year at the 2025 NGO Awards



Compassion International received the prestigious NGO of the Year Award at the 2025 NGO Awards, marking a major milestone that honors decades of collaboration, service, and unwavering dedication to children and youth across Kenya.

Awarded at a lively gala in Nairobi, the honor recognizes organizations that excel in impact, innovation, accountability, and community partnerships. For Compassion, this achievement means more than just a trophy – it's a tribute to the thousands of children, caregivers, church partners, and staff whose efforts make our mission possible.

A key highlight of this achievement is the collective effort involved. The voting process united voices from the Compassion family, including the Workforce Frontline Church Partners (FCPs), project staff, volunteers, sponsors, caregivers, youth, and community champions—everyone rallying around a common goal: honoring the transformative work in over 480 local churches nationwide.

Many partners organized mobilization campaigns, and staff and supporters promoted voting through social media, WhatsApp groups, and face-to-face gatherings. This teamwork underscores why Compassion Kenya is so impactful—we do not act alone.

Our strength lies in our partnerships, and this award symbolizes the unity and passion that characterize our movement. Receiving the NGO of the Year Award is a testament to:

- Our child-focused, church-driven approach
- Decades of consistent impact on holistic child development
- Strong financial accountability and organizational integrity
- Deep partnerships with local churches and communities
- The resilience and courage of the children we serve



Events



During the ceremony, Compassion Kenya emphasized that the award belongs not only to the organization but also to every partner and supporter who believes in the mission to help children out of poverty in Jesus' name. The award ceremony brought together key leaders from civil society, government, and the development community.

Compassion Kenya's Senior Manager of Partnership, Newton Midamba, accepted the award on behalf of the organization, expressing gratitude for the trust Kenyans continue to place in Compassion and its partner churches. Media outlets extensively covered the moment, with several highlighting Compassion's milestone achievement.

Capital FM News

<https://www.capitalfm.co.ke/news/2025/11/compassion-international-ngo-of-the-year-emily-koech-ceo-award/>

The Online Kenyan

<https://www.theonlinekenyan.com/read/story597618>

TUKO News

<https://www.tuko.co.ke/business-economy/economy/609817-kra-ngo-pay-ksh-53b-taxes-eric-omondi-win-ngo-awards/>

Citizen TV

<https://youtu.be/D9wU6-4QCnY?si=prthK2rrnzW5nBqC>

As we celebrate this achievement, Compassion remains dedicated to strengthening its programs, deepening church partnerships, and creating more opportunities for children across Kenya. The award serves as both encouragement and a reminder that our work continues. Together with our Frontline Church Partners, caregivers, local leaders, and supporters, we will keep working toward a world where every child is released from Poverty in Jesus' Name.



Events



Survival Launches

Survival intervention experienced significant growth, with **25 new programs** launched across several counties within Compassion Kenya's operational areas. These counties include Baringo, Marakwet, Homa Bay, Kiambu, Murang'a, Kilifi, Kisumu, Kitui, Kwale, Makueni, Marsabit, Meru, Tharaka, Migori, Narok, Nakuru, Kajiado, Samburu, Isiolo, Taita-Taveta, Turkana, Vihiga, and Nandi. This expansion reaffirms the commitment to improving maternal and child health outcomes among participating families.

The newly launched programs are actively providing vital services, including access to antenatal and post-natal care, proper nutrition, immunization, and skilled birth attendance. Currently, these programs support **375 survival participants**, comprising 250 pregnant women and **125 infants**, with numbers expected to increase as new participants join following the transition of one-year-old children into the home-based sponsorship program.



Events



Events



Stronger Together: Compassion at the 2026 World NGO Week in Turkana

Stronger Together: Compassion at the 2026 World NGO Week in Turkana. In the heart of Turkana County, where resilience meets reality, Compassion International Kenya joined fellow development partners, government leaders, and civil society actors for the 2026 World NGO Week Celebrations in Lodwar, Trukana County. Organized by the Public Benefit Organizations Regulatory Authority (PBORA) in partnership with the Danish Refugee Council, the event was guided by a powerful theme: “Stronger Together: Protect, Safeguard and Strengthen Livelihoods.” The choice of Turkana as the host region was intentional and meaningful. As one of Kenya’s most vulnerable counties, facing prolonged drought, food insecurity, and limited livelihood options, the area reflects the very challenges that NGOs seek to address.

In this context, the celebration became more than just an event; it was a call to action. It united diverse stakeholders with a shared vision: to enhance collaboration and increase impact where it is most needed. Compassion International’s presence featured a lively exhibition booth that drew the attention of participants and stakeholders alike. Through engaging conversations, visual displays, and informational materials, the team shared the organization’s holistic child development model, which is rooted in partnerships with local churches.

Visitors explored key aspects of Compassion’s work, including education support, health and nutrition, spiritual nurture, child protection and safeguarding, and family and community empowerment. Many were especially inspired by the church-driven approach, seen as both sustainable and deeply embedded within communities. Throughout the event, key conversations focused on the need for stronger partnerships among NGOs, government agencies, and communities to achieve sustainable development. There was also a strong emphasis on protecting vulnerable populations, especially children, and improving livelihoods to build resilience against climate and economic challenges. The event further confirmed the vital role NGOs play in supporting government efforts across sectors like education, health, humanitarian aid, and community development.

For Compassion Kenya, participation in the celebrations was both strategic and impactful. It strengthened relationships with key stakeholders, increased visibility within the development sector, and provided a platform to showcase its church partnership model while reaffirming its commitment to protecting vulnerable children.



For programs in Turkana, the engagement reaffirmed Compassion’s dedication to serving children and families in marginalized and arid environments supporting resilience, strengthening communities, and promoting sustainable, child-focused development.

Contributor: Shadrack Nakua, Partnership Facilitator, Compassion Kenya.



Compassion team and church partners representatives at the exhibition



Compassion team and church partners representatives at the exhibition



Compassion team and church partners representatives at the exhibition

Events



Strengthening Child Protection at the Community Level



Marsabit Child Protection Training

Child protection remains a core priority for Compassion, and we are committed to ensuring that every child is known, loved, and protected. Through capacity-building efforts, including the training and commissioning of Community Child Protection Volunteers, Compassion is strengthening local systems to safeguard children at the grassroots level. These initiatives in Marsabit County equip communities with the knowledge and skills to prevent, identify, and respond to child protection risks, fostering safer environments where children can grow and thrive with dignity.



Marsabit Child Protection Training



Marsabit Child Protection Training



Marsabit Child Protection Training

People And Culture



New Staff



Anthony Mwaniki Mburu

Anthony has joined Compassion International as the Senior Change Management Specialist after serving as the Chief Operating Officer at The Maa Trust, a grassroots development organization in the Maasai Mara, from January 2024 to December 2025. He has over 25 years of experience working with various organizations, including World Vision Kenya as a Business Development Manager, the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF-Kenya) as Organization Development Manager, and as a consultant to multiple organizations on strategy, organization development, and change management in Kenya and across Africa.

He holds a Doctorate in Organization Development and Transformation from Cebu Doctors' University in the Philippines, a Master of Arts in Leadership with a specialization in Business and Entrepreneurship from Pan Africa Christian University in Nairobi, Kenya, and a Bachelor of Commerce from Daystar University in Nairobi. He also holds professional certifications in PRINCE2 project management and PROSCI change management and is a certified Lean Six Sigma Green Belt. Additionally, he is a member of the Organization Development Network. Anthony is a member of The Nairobi Baptist Church, where he serves in the music ministry and evangelism.

His favorite verse in the Bible is **Proverbs 3:5–6 (NKJV)**- **“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.**



Evelyn Otieno

Evelyn Otieno has joined Compassion as a People & Culture Partner I. Before this, she worked as an HR Assistant at USAID and previously served as an Operations Officer at Global Programs for Research & Training. Evelyn earned a Bachelor of Business Administration & Management (HR Option) from St. Paul's University, Limuru, a Higher Diploma in Management of Information Systems, and a Diploma in Customer Service. In her free time, Evelyn enjoys traveling, reading, attending leadership forums, and actively participating in community development programs. She is passionate about serving God through ushering, protocol, and worship at CITAM Woodley Church.

Her favourite Bible verse is **Proverbs 3:5–6**: **“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”**

People And Culture



New Staff



Ann Wanjiku Githige.

Before joining Compassion International, Ann worked as a Technical Officer supporting PMTCT and RMNCAH programs at LVCT Health and the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation consortium in Kiambu County. Before this, she held various technical and project management roles supporting PMTCT, PrEP, adolescent, and youth programs in Murang'a, Nyeri, Nyandarua, and Laikipia counties with Centre for Health Solutions (CHS Kenya).

Ann's education includes a Diploma in Nursing, a BA in Counseling Psychology, an MA in Clinical Psychology, and a Diploma in Career Guidance & Development. She is also a Certified Project Management Professional (PMP®). In her free time, she enjoys reading, quiet reflection, traveling, learning new things, and spending quality time with family. When she is not working, she likes conversations about personal growth, purpose, and service. Ann is passionate about serving God and continues to grow in her faith journey through fellowship and worship at PCEA Ridges Parish Church, where she also serves on the Health Board and participates in the church's youth ministry, with a focus on mental health.

One of her favorite Bible verses is **Proverbs 16:3** – **“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans.”**



Antony Waigi Wangeci

Before joining Compassion as a Program Support Specialist, Antony served as a Youth Development Project Coordinator at St. Martin Catholic Social Apostolate (CSA), where he worked on child rights, youth empowerment, and livelihoods. His educational background includes a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness Management from the University of Embu.

He is also a certified Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB) Trainer of Trainers with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and a Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET) Trainer of Trainers with TVET-CDACC. In his free time, he enjoys hiking, biking, and spending quiet moments in nature. He is passionate about serving God through Youth Ministry, Media Ministry, and Worship at PCEA Marmanet Church.

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

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)



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FEEDBACK OR
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