Africa Annual Report 2026



Releasing children from poverty
Compassion®
in Jesus' name



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Foreword

It is my great pleasure to present the Compassion Africa Region Annual Report for fiscal year 2026, a year that has been marked by significant progress, strategic reflection and renewed commitment to serving children, families and communities across Africa.

As we look back on the year, we do so with gratitude for the faithfulness of God, the dedication of our church partners, the generosity of our supporters, and the resilience of the children and families we serve. Together, we have continued to advance our shared mission of releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name by addressing their holistic development – spiritually, economically, socially and physically.

FY26 was a year of both achievement and transformation. Across the region, our partnerships strengthened local churches' capacity to serve vulnerable children and youth, expand access to critical services, and create opportunities that empower families and communities to thrive. The stories and results captured in this report testify to the power of local leadership, community engagement and Christ-centered development.

A defining milestone of the year was the launch of the **Africa Region Strategy 2025–2035** during the Africa Program Management Team Meeting, held in Kenya in June 2026. This landmark strategy represents a bold and forward-looking vision for the next decade. Developed through extensive consultation and collaboration across the region, the strategy reaffirms our commitment to child and youth development while positioning Compassion Africa to respond effectively to emerging opportunities and challenges.

The Africa Strategy 2025–2035 provides a clear road-map for deepening our impact through strengthened partnerships, enhanced program quality, greater innovation and sustainable community transformation. It reflects our belief that Africa is not only a region of immense need but also one of extraordinary potential. By investing in children today, we are helping to build a generation of leaders, entrepreneurs, professionals and change-makers who will shape the future of the continent.

This year also demonstrated the remarkable impact that can be achieved when communities, churches, governments and development partners work together. Across our countries, we witnessed lives transformed through improved access to education, health services, clean water and sanitation, protection initiatives, livelihood opportunities and discipleship programs. These collective efforts continue to create environments where children are protected, nurtured and empowered to reach their God-given potential.





While significant challenges remain across many parts of the continent – including economic pressures, environmental related shocks and social vulnerabilities – we remain encouraged by the resilience and determination of the communities we serve.

As you read this report, I invite you to celebrate the achievements of FY26 and the countless lives touched through our collective efforts. More importantly, I invite you to look ahead with confidence and anticipation as we embark on the journey outlined in the Africa Strategy 2025–2035. Together, we have an extraordinary opportunity to deepen our impact and create lasting change for generations of African children and youth.

On behalf of the Africa Regional Leadership Team, I extend my sincere appreciation to our church partners, sponsors, donors, volunteers, staff, governments and all stakeholders whose commitment continues to make this mission possible.

May we continue to work together to bring hope, opportunity and transformation to children across Africa.



Palamanga Ouali
Regional Vice President, Africa Region

Who We Are

Compassion is a Christ-centered, child-focused, church-driven ministry that connects compassionate people, churches and organizations with children who live in poverty.

Our Mission

Releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name.

Core Strategy

To join God in the holistic development of children and youth in poverty by serving our stakeholders' callings to unleash their connected potential to transform lives.

Core Values

Integrity

Discernment

Dignity

Stewardship

Excellence



Africa at a Glance

Data as of June 30, 2026

1,056,717
Total Registered Participants

4,304
Total Frontline Church Partners

21,655
Survival Registered Participants

1,771
Survival Frontline Church Partners

10
Program Countries

89%
Of participant households live on less than $3.20 per day

What We Do

Compassion is a global leader in holistic child and youth development, serving more than 2.4 million children and youth living in multidimensional poverty across 29 countries. Ten of these countries are in Africa.

For nearly 75 years, Compassion has walked alongside local partners to mobilize churches, build capacity and engage programmatic resources that positively impact the lives of children living in poverty. Our work is far from finished – estimates point to more than 170 million children living in poverty in areas feasible for Compassion to reach through our program operations in 29 countries.

Our Approach

We believe children in poverty need holistic care to reach their God-given potential. That's why we seek to know, love, protect and connect them with a network of caring people – in our local program communities and around the world – who enable their positive development.

The Whole Person: Compassion program participants receive spiritual, physical, cognitive and socio-emotional care to help them grow into healthy adults. Our development model follows the life cycle of a child, recognizing that all stages and areas of holistic development are crucial for growth.

In Context: Frontline churches seek to meet localized needs of participants, as identified by participant data collection and informed by community stakeholder input.

Early and Long-Term: Age-appropriate interventions and steady support equip Compassion and our frontline churches to start early and finish well in caring for children and youth. Our high-impact programming is designed to prepare young people for future success by keeping them learning, engaged and on track to meet concrete developmental benchmarks.

The School of Husbands: Engaging Fathers and Strengthening Families in Burkina Faso

In many communities across Burkina Faso, fatherhood has traditionally been associated with authority and financial responsibility. Today, however, a quiet but meaningful transformation is taking place in villages and urban neighborhoods of the Centre-West region through the School of Husbands initiative.

This innovative approach is helping men rediscover fatherhood not only as a duty, but also as a calling to provide care, protection, leadership and active support for the well-being of their families and communities.

What began as a community-based effort to strengthen family relationships has grown into a powerful movement influencing child development, women's empowerment, household stability, and community resilience. Families of participating husbands are increasingly viewed as "role model families," inspiring others to embrace positive change.

The Genesis of the School of Husbands

The initiative was founded on a simple but important realization: sustainable child and community development requires the meaningful engagement of men.

For many years, development programs focused primarily on women and children, recognizing their vital role in family welfare. While these efforts achieved significant results, experience showed that excluding men from discussions about health, education, parenting and child protection often limited long-term impact.

In early 2024, Compassion Burkina Faso, in partership with Mwangaza Action, a non-governmental organization, launched 16 Schools of Husbands across several communities,





reaching 300 men. Guided by trained facilitators and community leaders, each group brings together an average of 19 participants for six months of weekly two-hour sessions, regardless of religious affiliation.

The curriculum covers responsible fatherhood, positive masculinity, maternal and child health, education, prevention of violence, family communication, conflict resolution, economic responsibility, household planning, child protection, and positive discipline.

Since January 2024, the initiative has expanded considerably. A total of **38 Schools of Husbands** have been launched, serving **698 participants**, with **526 husbands from 29 schools** successfully completing the program.

“Rather than imposing change from the outside, the model encourages peer learning and behavioral transformation from within the community itself,” said Laurent Bazie, pastor of a Compassion church partner in the region. “Men learn from other men, challenge harmful norms collectively, and become champions of change in their own homes.”

Transforming Fathers into Active Caregivers

One of the most visible outcomes of the initiative is the transformation of fathers’ attitudes toward parenting and family involvement.

Many participants admit that before joining the School of Husbands, they considered childcare, emotional support and household responsibilities to be exclusively women’s roles. Through the program, they have come to understand that a father’s presence, affection and involvement are essential to a child’s overall development.

According to facilitator Romain Bassole, many fathers now accompany their wives to health centers, participate in their children’s education, contribute to household responsibilities, spend more time mentoring their children, support peaceful family dialogue, and advocate for girls’ education and child protection.

“Before joining the School of Husbands, my children were afraid to come close to me,” said School of Husbands participant Innocent Baki. “This initiative helped rebuild our relationship.”

Such changes have profound implications for children and young people. When fathers are emotionally available and supportive, children develop greater confidence, emotional stability, and hope for the future. They are also more likely to remain in school, avoid risky behaviors and contribute positively to society.

Advancing Child and Youth Development

The long-term benefits for children and young people are particularly significant. Children thrive when caregivers work together to provide guidance, support, and positive role models. Through the School of Husbands, fathers become more intentional about supporting their children’s educational, social, spiritual and emotional growth.

Communities have observed improved school attendance, increased parental engagement in education, stronger protection from neglect and abuse,



more constructive parent-child communication, greater investment in girls' education, and enhanced moral and spiritual guidance for young people.

Boys benefit from healthier models of masculinity that emphasize respect, kindness, responsibility, and self-control. At the same time, girls growing up in supportive households gain greater confidence and opportunities to pursue education and leadership aspirations.

This ripple effect demonstrates an important reality: when men engage positively in family life, communities become more stable, protective and resilient.

Looking Ahead: Building a Generation of Hope

As more communities embrace the School of Husbands model, its broader significance continues to grow. The initiative is not simply about engaging men; it is about strengthening families, protecting and empowering children, and creating communities where dignity, responsibility and compassion can flourish.

At a time when many societies face increasing social fragmentation, the School of Husbands offers a practical and hopeful model rooted in local leadership and collective responsibility.

To sustain and expand its impact, Compassion Burkina Faso plans to establish community-based Husbands Clubs. These groups will mobilize more men, support the creation of additional Schools of Husbands, strengthen economic resilience and promote long-term community engagement for sustainable child and youth development.

From Market Sheds to Classrooms: A Community's Educational Transformation in Ghana

Sankpala, a 4,000-person rural community in Ghana's Savannah region, has existed without a permanent school for more than five decades. Most families depend on subsistence farming and have faced limited access to essential services, including electricity, safe drinking water and quality educational facilities.

For generations, access to education was one of Sankpala's greatest challenges. Some families had the means to enroll their children in schools in neighboring communities, but this required them to travel between 15 and 20 kilometers each day. For many households, the financial and physical demands of such journeys made schooling inaccessible.

The only alternative was a government school operating in sheds within a nearby market. Learning took place in an environment marked by constant noise, frequent interruptions and inadequate facilities. During the rainy season, classes were often suspended because the structures offered little protection from the weather. On market days, lessons ended early to accommodate trading activities, significantly reducing teaching time and affecting learning outcomes.

"When I was in the market school, we did not even have chairs to sit on," said Mariwat, a Compassion participant.

In 2022, when Compassion International Ghana began its partnership with Sankpala's Church of Pentecost, the lack of educational infrastructure quickly emerged as one of the community's most pressing development needs.

"We observed that very few people in the community had received formal education," project director Isaac Owusu explained. "Many children spent their days roaming around because they had no access to schooling."

Recognizing education as a critical pathway out of poverty, the Church of Pentecost developed a proposal in 2023 to construct a fully equipped six-classroom school block. More than 70 percent of the prospective pupils were already enrolled in the Compassion program, making the investment both timely and strategic. The announcement generated widespread excitement throughout the community.







“When the church and Compassion announced they were going to build a school for us, I, together with the other residents, was very happy,” said Zakia, a caregiver. “We now have hope that our children will have a brighter future.”

Construction was completed in November 2025 at a total cost of U.S. $45,000.

Today, the facility bears little resemblance to the makeshift market shelter where children once studied. The new school includes six fully furnished classrooms, a library, an ICT laboratory, a staff common room and modern sanitation facilities – all creating a safe and conducive environment for teaching and learning.

The impact has been immediate and widely appreciated. “I am very excited because we can already see significant improvements,” said one community member. “This intervention has brought great relief to our community. We now know our children are in safe hands. They have a conducive environment where they can sit comfortably and learn.”

For learners, the transformation has been equally significant.

“Since we moved into the new school, we have desks and chairs, which help us write comfortably,” Mariwat said.“ When it rains, we no longer have to stop learning because we are protected inside the classrooms.”

The new school is transforming educational opportunities in Sankpala. More than 200 children have already enrolled, beginning at the nursery level to establish a strong foundation for lifelong learning. Parents no longer worry about their children travelling up to 20 kilometers – or walking for 30 minutes to an hour each day – to access basic education. Instead, children now learn in secure, weather-resistant classrooms that promote regular attendance, improved concentration and better learning outcomes.

Beyond providing infrastructure, the investment represents renewed hope for the community. By bringing quality education closer to families, Compassion Ghana and the Church of Pentecost are laying the foundation for stronger human capital development and creating opportunities that will benefit generations of children in Sankpala.





An Urgent Gap: Serving Children with Disabilities in Kenya

In many underserved areas across Kenya, childhood disabilities often go undetected during the crucial early years. For thousands of families, this diagnostic delay can mean the difference between manageable conditions and those that lead to lifelong complications.

That's why Compassion Kenya is partnering with BethanyKids – a nonprofit that provides specialized medical and rehabilitative care to children with disabilities and complex conditions across Africa – to deliver early screening and medical services directly to the communities in greatest need.

A Strategic Response to a Deep Need

Launched in July 2025, this community-based intervention spanned nine counties, many of which are classified as arid and semi-arid lands. These areas face persistent barriers to healthcare access, including long travel distances, limited specialized services and low awareness of developmental conditions. The initiative focused on children under 5, a critical stage for identifying developmental delays and congenital conditions. Through mobile screening camps and community outreach, healthcare teams met families, bridging a gap that traditional facility-based systems often struggle to close.

Scale and Reach: Turning Numbers into Lives Changed

Since its launch, the program has screened 4,235 children in the targeted communities, a significant milestone in expanding access to early diagnosis. Of these, 91 children were referred for specialized surgical care, and 767 were directed to nearby health facilities for treatment of common illnesses. More than 55 children have been enrolled in ongoing care through BethanyKids clinics, ensuring continuity of treatment beyond initial diagnosis, and 56 successful surgeries have been completed.

Beyond Treatment: Addressing Complex Medical Needs

The conditions identified through screening span a wide spectrum of pediatric health challenges. These include congenital, developmental and orthopedic conditions such as:

- Clubfoot, a condition in which a baby's foot is twisted inward
- Spina bifida, a condition in which the spine does not fully develop
- Hydrocephalus, a buildup of fluid in the brain

- Hernias, when an organ pushes through a weak spot in muscle
- Knock knees, where the knees touch while standing straight
- Complications from untreated burns.

Interventions are tailored to each child's needs. Surgical procedures, ranging from hernia repairs to neurosurgical management, are complemented by rehabilitation and follow-up care. This integrated approach ensures that treatment does not end at diagnosis but continues through recovery and reintegration into daily life.

Supporting the Caregiver: A Holistic Model

Recognizing that a child's well-being is closely tied to a caregiver's capacity from as early as the prenatal period, the program places strong emphasis on psychosocial and emotional support. To date, 357 caregivers have participated in structured mental health sessions, helping them process the emotional and practical challenges of raising a child with a disability. An additional 24 caregivers have been referred for ongoing therapy, underscoring a commitment to sustained mental health support. In parallel, the initiative incorporates spiritual care, with 12 caregivers reporting faith commitments and receiving continued support from local church communities.

This work is grounded in Compassion's holistic child development model, which extends beyond medical intervention to nurture the whole child. It focuses on strengthening well-being across physical, mental, self-identity and relational dimensions, while also supporting spiritual growth through discipleship. The approach equips local churches to create safe, participatory environments for children and youth and addresses the effects of poverty through context-specific programming. The model ensures that impact extends beyond immediate care to lasting transformation for children and their communities.

Shifting Community Perceptions

In many of the targeted regions, stigma surrounding disability remains a significant barrier. Misconceptions can lead to isolation, delayed care





seeking, and limited inclusion for affected children. Through community engagement and visibility into successful outcomes, the initiative challenged these narratives. As children receive treatment and regain mobility or function, communities witness firsthand the potential for change. This, in turn, fosters greater acceptance and encourages earlier engagement with healthcare services.

The Role of Investment

The intervention is supported by a comprehensive approach that addresses a range of needs that may arise for Compassion's participants, with a total budget of KES 6,468,600 (approximately U.S. $49,759). This funding underpins every stage of the process from screening and referral to surgery, rehabilitation and caregiver support. In a context where specialized pediatric care is often financially out of reach, this investment plays a critical role in expanding access. It demonstrates how targeted funding, when paired with strong partnerships and community-based delivery models, can yield measurable and meaningful impact.

Looking Ahead

As the initiative continues to expand its reach, its long-term vision is clear: to ensure that no child's future is limited because of preventable or treatable conditions. Scaling this model will require sustained investment, strengthened partnerships, and ongoing community engagement. Across nine counties in Kenya, thousands of children have been given a chance at healthier, more dignified lives, demonstrating that with the right approach, even the most complex challenges can be met with practical, life-changing solutions.



Chasing Dreams, Not Water: The Power of WASH Interventions in Uganda

A personal perspective from James Tebyasa, Program Graduate and Senior Program Design Specialist at Compassion:

Like many African children, I often walked long distances to a spring well, along lonely paths that filled me with fear and uncertainty. At times, I endured ridicule from others, experiences that affected me deeply as a child. Yet what I feared most was not what I could see. The water I carried home looked clean, but it was not. Only years later did I understand that many of the typhoid infections, intestinal illnesses, and skin rashes that affected our family were linked to the very water we struggled to access.

Those experiences shaped my passion for **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)** and continue to inspire my commitment to ensuring that children today have opportunities that many of us lacked. As I often say, “Every child deserves to spend their childhood chasing dreams, not chasing water.”

Today, I serve as a Senior Program Design Specialist with Compassion, supporting water access, sanitation and hygiene programming across 28 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Through this role, I have witnessed the transformative power of safe water and improved sanitation in the lives of children and their families, including restoring dignity and creating opportunities for children to thrive.

Investing in WASH is not simply about infrastructure; it is about protecting childhood, unlocking potential



and securing a brighter future for generations to come. WASH is not just a need; it is one of the fastest ways to unlock impact at scale.

Current Snapshot: WASH in Uganda

Compassion International Uganda serves 161,742 children and youth in partnership with 487 Church Partners across 125 of 146 districts in all regions of Uganda as of May 2026. Compassion International Uganda's growth strategy targets the poorest of the poor, who are mostly in the rural communities, which experience greater challenges in accessing WASH services.

- According to the WASH National Adaptation Plan for Uganda (2026-2030), Uganda's clean water coverage stands at 63%, which is worth celebrating. However, a lot of work remains, especially for rural communities – where access remains much lower at 56.6%.
- In 2024, only 47.1% of households reported having a handwashing facility next to a toilet.
- Furthermore, 60% in rural areas still lack improved sanitation facilities compared to 60% in urban centers.

The Power of Intervention

Over the last five-year period, Compassion International Uganda invested more than UGX 6.5 billion (U.S. $1.6 million) in WASH programming, reflecting a continued commitment to improving access to WASH services in the underserved communities. The interventions have included gravity flow schemes, solar-powered water systems, boreholes, protected wells, rainwater harvesting facilities, sanitation infrastructure improvements and hygiene promotion initiatives. The investment in WASH has expanded access to safe and reliable water for approximately 237,995 people.

As a result of the water interventions, children are able to travel less than 500 meters and spend less than 30 minutes queuing for water, and as a result, spend more time in school. Hygiene improvement is enabled by abundant access to clean water. Furthermore, clean and safe water has immensely reduced incidences of waterborne diseases. Additionally, women and girls are protected from exposure to the risk of sexual harassment and other forms of abuse that come with fetching water from distant sources late in the evening.

The Importance of Local Solutions

Working in partnership with churches within the communities where the children and their households live ensures that there is local ownership, which strengthens operation and maintenance . Church leaders sit on water user committees of

the various water systems and serve as long-term advocates for behavioral change and hygiene practices.

Compassion International Uganda is committed to further strengthen its efforts in supporting access to safe water, improved sanitation, and hygiene practices among children, families, and communities through its recently launched WASH Strategy 2026–2030.

The vision for WASH programming at Compassion International Uganda is to see every young person in our program experiencing the dignity of safe water, adequate sanitation and lifelong hygiene through sustainable, community-owned, and spiritually integrated WASH solutions. Compassion International Uganda envisions a future where WASH services are not only widespread but resilient, inclusive and tailored to local realities.

“Every child deserves to spend their childhood chasing dreams, not chasing water.”

- James Tebyasa

Compassion graduate and senior program design specialist for WASH



A Banner Year: Building Skills, Creating Opportunities in Ethiopia

FY26 was a year of resilience and renewal for Compassion Ethiopia. Through partnerships with more than 614 churches across the country, children and youth received holistic support that strengthened their physical, social, emotional and spiritual well-being while creating pathways to sustainable development.

Transforming Youth Employment Through Skills Development

Many young people in Ethiopia who do not progress to university face limited opportunities to acquire the skills required in today's labor market. Financial barriers often make technical and vocational training inaccessible, forcing many into low-skilled work and limiting their future job prospects.

To address this challenge, Compassion Ethiopia, in partnership with frontline churches, implemented the Technical and Vocational Education Training **(TVET) Top-Up Support Model.** The initiative provides tuition, transportation, training materials, living expenses, mentorship and guidance, enabling students to focus on developing marketable skills and preparing for self-reliance.







Over the past three years, the program has equipped 653 young people across 102 FCPs with skills in nine technical disciplines. The initiative achieved a 100% retention rate, with no participants dropping out due to financial constraints. Graduates have earned Levels I–IV certifications, and several FCPs have recorded 100% employment outcomes.

The impact is reflected in graduates such as Abraham, who secured employment as an auto mechanic after completing his training, and Meskerem, who established a successful business in the fashion industry. Their stories demonstrate how targeted support, mentorship and skills training can unlock opportunities and create sustainable livelihoods.

Advancing Partner Sustainability

Another major milestone in FY26 was the transition of Ketena Hulet Mulu Wongel Amagnoch Church to a fully self-funded model of child development after 30 years of partnership with Compassion Ethiopia.

During the partnership, the church served 715 children through holistic child development programs and supported more than 400 graduates who have gone on to become doctors, engineers, university lecturers, spiritual leaders, and entrepreneurs.

The church's transition to self-sufficiency is being sustained through its independently managed "Love in Action" initiative.

Funded through the church's own resources and supported by contributions from congregation members, the program ensures that children living in poverty continue to receive holistic care and support. While the initiative initially served 90 children from the most vulnerable households, it has since expanded to support the holistic development of 167 children.

This milestone represents a remarkable example of local ownership and sustainability, demonstrating that churches and community institutions can effectively continue long-term poverty alleviation efforts through their own leadership and resources.

"Seeing a partner transition to full ownership is the greatest reward for Compassion Ethiopia," said Dr. Tsehaywota Taddesse, national director of Compassion Ethiopia. "We honor and acknowledge the leadership of Ketena Hulet Mulu Wongel Amagnoch Church for their bold vision and unwavering commitment to the children of Ethiopia."



The successful transition of Ketena Hulet Mulu Wongel Amagnoch Church highlights the power of sustainable partnerships and serves as an inspiring model for locally-led development across Africa.

Empowering Caregivers Through the CHEE Model

The Caregivers Holistic Engagement and Empowerment (CHEE) model, also known as the Immanuel Model, is built on the principle that a child's well-being is closely connected to the well-being of their caregiver.

Local churches work alongside families to strengthen relationships, build resilience and promote long-term transformation. Grounded in the belief that lasting change is achieved through holistic care and meaningful relationships, the model treats caregivers as partners in development, recognizes the family as the primary environment for child growth, and addresses the emotional, spiritual, social and physical dimensions of well-being.

By equipping caregivers with knowledge, skills and support, the model enables them to create stable and nurturing home environments that foster children's physical well-being, healthy relationships and positive self-identity. Families progress through a structured journey of relationship building, personal growth, empowerment and sustainable transformation, helping children thrive and reach their full potential.

Results from the implementation of the CHEE model across 21 FCPs demonstrate that strengthening caregivers has a direct and positive impact on the well-being of entire households. To date, the program has empowered 3,614 caregivers, representing a participation rate of more than 90 percent among targeted families. This high level of engagement reflects strong community ownership and commitment to the model.

The program has also contributed significantly to household economic resilience. Through community savings groups and small-scale livelihood initiatives, participating families have collectively mobilized and circulated 77,321,887 Ethiopian Birr (over U.S. $480,000) while continuing to build their own household assets and savings. Increased financial stability has enabled many families to expand small businesses, invest in essential household assets, and, in some cases, transition from insecure living conditions to home ownership.

These positive changes have created a more nurturing environment for children and contributed to improved child well-being. Communities have observed higher levels of school attendance and participation, alongside declining dropout rates. At the same time, families are making fewer emergency visits to health facilities, reflecting improvements in preventive healthcare practices, nutrition, and household hygiene.

These early results demonstrate that the CHEE Model is helping to build resilient families and supportive caregiving environments where children can flourish.

Education Innovation: Expanding Pathways to Higher Learning in Togo



As part of its mission to release children from poverty, Compassion Togo has made education a key pillar of its child and youth development strategy. Beyond the traditional support provided to children and young people enrolled in the program, the national office has intentionally expanded opportunities for higher education through an innovative initiative known as Nehemiah Education.

Launched in 2023, the Nehemiah Education program seeks to help young participants who have completed secondary education pursue their career aspirations by connecting them to quality training and higher education opportunities in fields with strong employment potential.

In Togo, one of the major challenges facing the education sector – particularly higher education – is the mismatch between academic training and labor market needs. This gap contributes significantly to youth unemployment, as many graduates struggle to find employment opportunities aligned with their qualifications.

The Nehemiah Education program addresses this challenge by equipping young people with relevant knowledge and skills that respond to labor market demands, while also preparing them to create their own enterprises and employment opportunities upon completing their studies.

Building Partnerships with High-Quality Training Institutions

The first pillar of Nehemiah Education is the development of partnerships with reputable training institutions.

For many young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, access to quality higher education remains limited due to high tuition costs. Recognizing this barrier, Compassion Togo has spent the past three years identifying institutions that share its vision for youth development and are





committed to expanding educational opportunities for vulnerable young people.

Through formal partnership agreements lasting three to five years, participating institutions welcome students to pursue studies in their desired fields at significantly reduced costs.

Most partner institutions offer tuition discounts ranging from 25-50% for Compassion participants, making quality education more accessible and affordable.

To date, 26 universities and higher education institutions have partnered with Compassion Togo under this initiative. As a result, more than 200 young people are currently pursuing, or have already completed, their training and earned academic qualifications that position them for future success.

Expanding Access Through Student Loans

The second pillar of the Nehemiah Education program is a student loan initiative launched in 2023 and designed specifically for eligible graduates within the Compassion program.

Built on the **“Blessed to Bless”** model, the loan program prioritizes studies in scientific, technical, technological and information technology-related fields. The objective is to prepare young people for sectors with strong growth potential while equipping them with skills that are in demand in the labor market.

The program provides annual student loans ranging from U.S. $1,200-2,000, enabling participants to cover tuition fees, purchase required learning and computer equipment, and meet essential living expenses throughout the three-year period covered by the loan.

Since its launch, more than 500 young people have benefited from the initiative. The first cohort of students is expected to complete bachelor’s degrees in 2026, with early results already showing promising outcomes.

The program has also received strong support from the government of Togo. During the launch of the second cohort, the minister of technical education personally presided over the event, demonstrating national recognition of the initiative’s contribution to youth development and workforce readiness.

Unleashing New Opportunity Through Education

Through these innovative educational initiatives, Compassion Togo is helping young people access quality higher education, gain market-relevant skills and pursue careers aligned with their aspirations.

By addressing barriers to education and strengthening pathways to employment and entrepreneurship, the Nehemiah Education program is equipping a new generation of young adults to become responsible leaders, productive citizens and positive contributors to the development of their communities and nation.



Growing Food and Faith: Caregivers' Homes Provide Nourishment in Malawi

In Thyolo, southern Malawi, hunger once stood in the way of Ketrina's faith. Trying to learn about God while she knew her family was going to bed hungry made no sense to her.

"I would ask myself, 'Why am I going to church when there is no food at home for my children?'" Ketrina said. "It was painful to worship while worrying about what they would eat."

A mother of five, Ketrina struggled to provide. In a matriarchal culture where women anchor the family, the burden rested on her to meet her household's needs. The challenge was often overwhelming.

But her son Madalitso's registration at the Thyolo Assemblies of God Compassion Center lifted that burden. Through the Survival and Early Childhood (SEC) program, local churches are stepping in to support children like Madalitso in this critical window of development. Trained church staff visit homes regularly, equipping caregivers through group and individual practical lessons in hygiene, nutrition, positive parenting and Christ-centered family life.

Through nutrition lessons provided by the local church, Ketrina learned how to start a kitchen garden to improve her family's food security.

"We were taught that we do not need to buy everything from the market. We can plant our own vegetables," says Ketrina.

To Ketrina, this knowledge was priceless.



"The church gave us mustard and pumpkin seeds as a startup because we didn't have money to buy seeds ourselves," she says. "I started small, with just a few vegetables behind the house. This provided a sustainable source of vitamins for my children."

Slowly, passersby began to stop and admire her vegetables; some asked what they could buy.

"I would make $5 USD, enough to buy maize meal and other food items for my children when they are going to school."

Today, Ketrina uses this income to buy other food items, such as fish, eggs and cooking oil, to create balanced meals. Her children are healthier, and her trust in God's good grace and provision is growing.

"Faith must work through my hands. The church taught me that," says Ketrina. "I started a kitchen garden, and what God showed me, I planted. Now my children eat from it."

From mustard and pumpkin seeds originally, her small garden has now turned into a permagarden, growing tomatoes, gourds, cucumbers, peppers, eggplants, beans and mustard.

Today, she goes to church with joy, confident her children will eat.

"If it were possible to see through my heart, you would see the joy I have," says Ketrina. "It is not just the child who has benefited from the program, but all of us."

Throughout Compassion's church partners in Malawi, the pattern is clear: When the local church enters homes with both the gospel and practical knowledge, families are rebuilt from the inside out. Fathers return. Mothers rise. Children grow healthier. Homes find peace.



Keeping Girls in School: A Better Approach to Menstrual Hygiene in Tanzania

For thousands of adolescent girls living in the pastoral communities of Northern Tanzania, menstruation has long been a major obstacle to education. Limited access to affordable sanitary products frequently forces girls to miss several days of school each month, exposing them to embarrassment, stigma and diminished participation in learning and extracurricular activities. Over time, these challenges can negatively affect academic performance, lower self-confidence and increase the risk of school dropout and early marriage.

To address this challenge, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Monduli, in partnership with Compassion Tanzania, launched the Sidai Reusable Sanitary Pads Initiative. The project combines menstrual health and hygiene education with practical vocational skills training, enabling girls and young women to manufacture safe, reusable sanitary pads from locally available materials. The initiative provides a sustainable and affordable menstrual hygiene solution while empowering young women with valuable skills and restoring their confidence.

The reusable sanitary pads are designed to be comfortable, environmentally friendly and cost-effective. Each pad can last up to 12 months and, with proper care, often remains usable for one to two years. This significantly reduces the financial burden on families while ensuring that girls have reliable protection throughout the school year.

From Constant Interruption to Focused Confidence

Since its introduction, the initiative has produced and distributed reusable sanitary pads to more than 3,200 girls across communities. According to Winnie Naftali, the

project coordinator, many girls who previously missed school during their menstrual periods are now attending classes consistently without interruption.

The positive impact is evident in schools across the region. Maria Mao, a teacher at Iriksongo Secondary School, reports a significant improvement in attendance and participation among girls benefiting from the program.

“Since girls began using the reusable sanitary pads provided through this project, we have witnessed a significant improvement in school attendance,” Mao said. “Girls who previously missed lessons during menstruation now attend all classes with confidence. They participate more actively in learning and school activities.”

The initiative has also transformed individual lives. Nosim, a Compassion participant from Orkeswa Village and a recent high school graduate, recalls the difficulties she experienced before receiving support from the program.

Prior to joining the initiative, she relied on pieces of cloth during menstruation, which often caused discomfort and anxiety. As a result, she frequently missed school and avoided sports and other activities. These interruptions had a direct impact on her academic performance and overall school experience.

Through the project, Nosim received menstrual health education and access to reusable sanitary pads, enabling her to attend school regularly and participate fully in school life.

“Now I attend school regularly, my academic performance has improved, and I no longer experience the discomfort I used to have,” ‘Nosim said. “My parents also save money because these reusable pads can last for one to two years. Most importantly, I have gained confidence to participate fully in school life, including basketball, football and athletics. I was even selected as the best football player.”

Today, Nosim is among the young women helping produce reusable sanitary pads that benefit girls throughout Monduli, Longido and Ngorongoro districts. She believes the initiative is making a lasting difference by helping girls remain in school and pursue their aspirations.

Beyond direct beneficiaries, the project has generated wider community awareness about menstrual hygiene management. Knowledge and acceptance of reusable sanitary pads have spread throughout Maasai communities, reaching girls in primary schools, secondary schools and colleges. This growing awareness is helping challenge stigma surrounding menstruation and ensuring that more girls can continue their education without disruption.





Community-wide Support

The initiative has also attracted recognition from government leaders. During a familiarization visit to Compassion-supported projects in Arusha, Emmanuel Robert Mandawe Kihampa, registrar of civil society organizations, commended the program for its innovative use of locally available materials to address a pressing community need. He noted that the quality of the products could eventually support broader market opportunities while creating additional income-generating prospects for young people involved in production.

For Compassion Tanzania, the initiative demonstrates the important role local churches can play in addressing barriers that prevent children from reaching their full potential. According to Mary Lema, national director of Tanzania, sustainable transformation is achieved through collaboration among churches, donors, supporters and communities.

"Compassion is merely a bridge," Lema said. "The real actors are the selfless people – the church partners, the donors and supporters who dedicate their time and resources to ensure that these children live better lives."

Lema also emphasized that ensuring girls remain in school is a shared responsibility requiring active community participation and investment in children's well-being.

WASH Highlights in Tanzania

The Sidai Reusable Sanitary Pads Initiative forms part of Compassion Tanzania's broader Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) program, which seeks to create healthy environments where preventable health challenges do not hinder children's development and education.

During FY26, the WASH program achieved several notable results:

- 7,485 households gained access to clean and safe water through interventions implemented across 38 church partners nationwide.
- 66,491 children and youth and 40,706 caregivers received hygiene education, promoting improved sanitation and health practices.
- 45 households and three church partners were supported to construct improved sanitation facilities, including modern toilets, benefiting 1,185 children, youth and caregivers.

These achievements reflect Compassion's holistic approach to child development, recognizing that access to clean water, sanitation, menstrual hygiene management and health education are foundational to children's dignity, education, protection and opportunity.



Sebastian Before Surgery

From Fighting for Breath to Flourishing: A Turning Point for Healthcare in Zambia

At just 3 years old, Sebastian's future looked uncertain. Born with a congenital heart defect, he entered the world with two holes in his heart, a condition that required urgent open-heart surgery. For his teenage mother and grandmother, the diagnosis was devastating. The surgery offered hope, but its cost, approximately K196,000 (U.S. $10,889), was far beyond what the family could ever afford.

Across Zambia, many children born with congenital heart conditions face similar challenges. While life-saving treatment is available, the high cost of specialized cardiac care often places it beyond the reach of vulnerable families. The University Teaching Hospital (UTH), the public facility providing cardiac surgery at a subsidized cost, has long waiting lists, with some children waiting more than one year from diagnosis before accessing surgery. Without timely intervention, children remain at risk of poor growth, recurrent illness, developmental delays and death.

Sebastian's family faced this same reality. As the months passed, his condition continued to worsen while he remained on the waiting list for surgery at UTH, leaving the family uncertain about when he would receive the life-saving treatment he urgently needed.

Determined to help Sebastian, the FCP coordinated further medical assessments and secured a referral to the National Heart Hospital, a specialized fee-paying hospital in Lusaka. Following a thorough examination, specialists confirmed that Sebastian was eligible for life-saving open-heart surgery, provided funding could be secured.

Knowing that time was critical, Compassion Zambia approved a major medical intervention request, removing the financial barrier that had kept Sebastian waiting for treatment. Beyond financial support, the FCP worked closely with the family to coordinate logistics and provide continuous follow-up throughout Sebastian's treatment journey.

"When we first met Sebastian, we knew he couldn't wait any longer," said Mafo, a social worker at the FCP. "His condition was serious. We were determined to do everything we could to help him access the treatment he needed."

The surgery was successfully performed in December 2025, marking a significant turning point in Sebastian's life.

For the first time since birth, Sebastian could live without the constant burden of a failing heart. His recovery marked the beginning of a remarkable transformation. His health steadily improved, his strength returned and the frequent hospital visits that had become part of his daily life gradually came to an end.

Today, Sebastian is a happy, healthy child and enjoying the simple joys of childhood. His family no longer lives in constant fear of losing him. Instead, they celebrate each milestone as he grows stronger with every passing day.

"Seeing Sebastian healthy and living a normal life after his surgery fills my heart with gratitude," said Eunice, Sebastian's mother. "What once seemed impossible has become a testimony of hope and healing. It can only be God."

Compassion Zambia Health Services Program Outcome in FY26

Sebastian's story is one of many examples demonstrating how timely access to healthcare can change the course of a child's life. By identifying affected children early, facilitating specialist referrals, and providing financial support for critical treatment, many FCPs are helping children overcome barriers that would otherwise prevent them from reaching their full God-given potential.

- Number of children who received routine health screenings: **13,490**
- Number of children referred to and supported with specialized medical care: **446**
- Number of life-saving surgeries/treatment supported: **3**
- Number of children supported with general medical care: **4,468**

Although many vulnerable children continue to face barriers in accessing specialized medical care, partnerships between communities, healthcare providers and child-focused programs are helping bridge these gaps. Continued investment in early screening, timely referrals and financial support for complex medical conditions will ensure that more children like Sebastian receive the care they urgently need.



Sebastian After Surgery



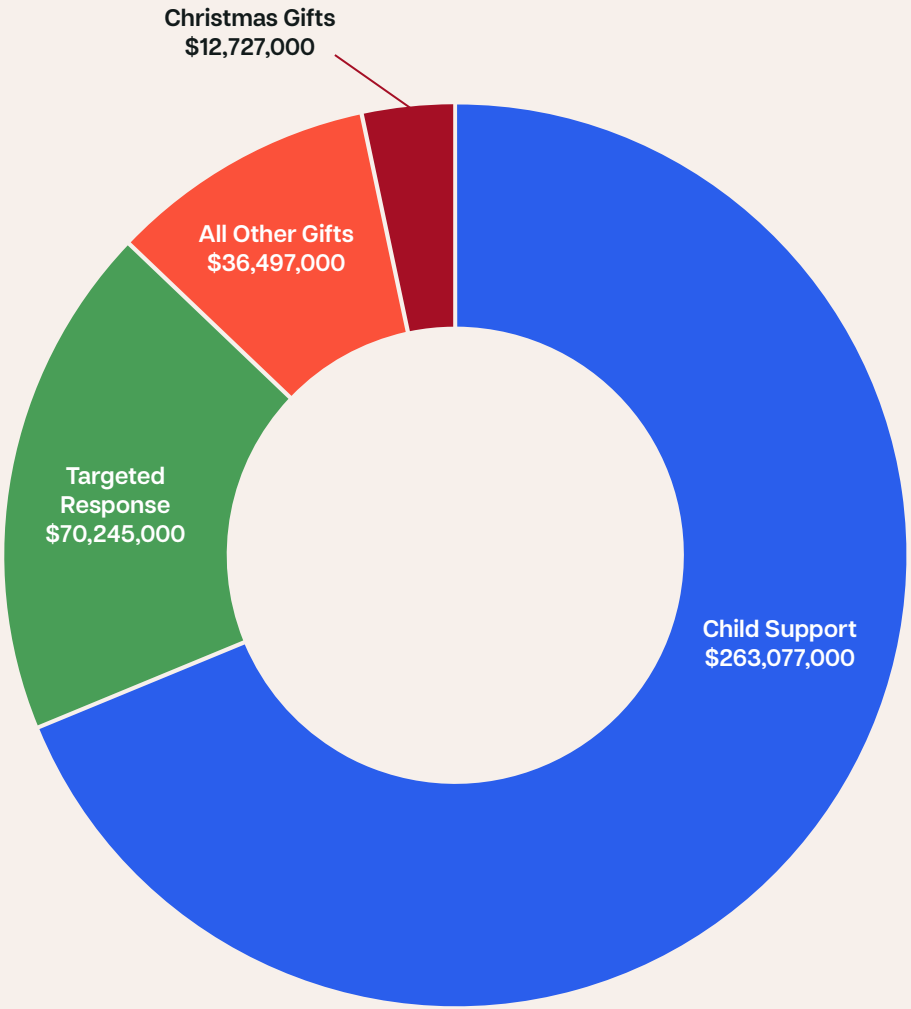
FY26 Financial Snapshot

*All amounts are in U.S. dollars

Grant Fund	YTD Actual
Child Sponsorship	$220,387,000
Unsponsored	$42,690,000
Child Support	**$263,077,000**
Christmas Gifts	**$12,727,000**
All Other Gifts	**$36,497,000**
Child Survival Program	$10,864,000
Complimentary Interventions (Ongoing + Individual)	$56,456,000
Other Funds	$2,925,000
Targeted Response	**$70,245,000**
Total Grant	**$382,546,000**
Operating Expense	**$43,010,000**

FY26 Grant Expense

**All amounts are in U.S. dollars*







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