



Compassion International
Ministry Update
2023

A community responds



“Father, may your Church be the Church. May your Church rise up and move as the Church always does when it’s working in your name. It moves to the need. It moves to the suffering, to the pain.”

*— Santiago “Jimmy” Mellado,
president of Compassion International*

The suffering occurring throughout the world confronts us every day. It’s hard to witness, even harder to experience. In these moments many look away, and the suffering continues.

But God calls us to do more. He invites us to join Him in His rescue plan.

You are receiving this report because you are part of a community — a global Church — leaning into the suffering. You have answered God’s call to join Him to help bring redemption, restoration and hope into the world. You have seen injustice and anguish and asked, *What can I do?*

Everett Swanson, Compassion’s founder, had no idea what would happen when he leaned into the suffering of Korean war orphans. He didn’t look the other way — and the Lord turned his response into a community of supporters and churches now serving over 2.3 million children.

You are part of this community. You have answered God’s call to rise up and lean into the suffering and pain that children in poverty endure. With your help, their suffering is being replaced by hope, and their pain is being replaced by relief and joy. **We are so deeply grateful to have you in this community.**



Church-driven



Child-focused



Christ-centered



What a year!

2,353,220

child and youth participants

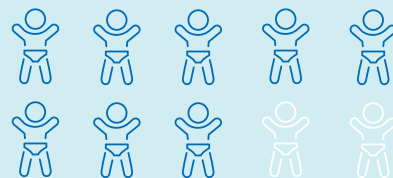
8,637

Frontline Church Partners across 27 countries

2,111

church partners offering Survival programming

Highly Vulnerable Children needs increased by \$1 million, compared to last year, and approximately **25,000 families** received support each quarter.



8 out of 10

babies in the Survival program are exclusively breastfed, compared to 5 out of 10 in the developing world. (UNICEF)

476 new Frontline Church Partners

201,972 new children joined

353 new Survival centers

368,000

medical treatments were funded among registered children and their families.

168,585

people in at-risk areas received their first **HIV** test and follow-up care.



Over 200,000 people will benefit from funded safe water and sanitation projects. This includes 103 new boreholes now being drilled on church partner properties or in their communities.

SCHOLARSHIPS

AWARDED: 23,800+

3,091

entrepreneurship courses

3,102

university programs

7,971

secondary schooling

9,680

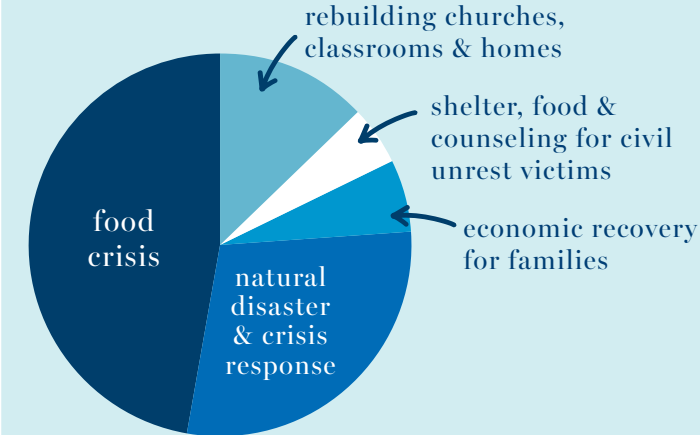
vocational/technical schooling

34,600+

families have joined new **income generation** training programs.

New **solar panels** are bringing electricity and education opportunities to over **15,000 children.**

\$47,500,000 WENT TOWARD DISASTER RELIEF



\$2.7 million

was invested in preventive health campaigns:

- dentist checkups
- eye exams
- malnutrition prevention
- meningitis and malaria prevention
- HIV education & counseling

reaching over 450,000 children and their family members!

Feeding our community

Extreme hunger has been a persistent need over the past three years. You've likely heard and answered many calls to help feed those in hunger — both in your community and throughout the world. And we have been continually amazed at how this community has not grown “weary in doing good” (Gal. 6:9, NIV).

1,700+
churches in the hardest-hit regions supported to help hungry families

2,000,000+
people provided with lifesaving relief through food packages, cash transfers and agricultural resiliency training

Through our collective persistence in meeting this need, we will continue to save lives. For as long as the global food crisis endures, our Frontline Church Partners will be where millions of children and their families find food, support and relief.



*“Those food kits saved me and my children ...”
— A parent in Togo*

The church becomes a home

A church leader in El Salvador leaned into the suffering of a family in her community — and changed the trajectory of their lives.

The realization sat heavy in Belén's heart. Her mother wasn't coming back. Things had been looking up for the past few years, but then hope vanished overnight.

Belén and her siblings used to spend their days wandering the community while their mother searched for trash to recycle. Their births had gone unregistered, so attending school was impossible.

But this changed when Catalina, leader of the local Compassion child development center, learned of their situation. She enrolled them in Compassion's program and spent months working to procure identification cards so they could begin school.

The children finally had a network of support and were set on a path out of poverty — but then their mother left. Belén did her best to stay calm and help care for her siblings, but when the food ran out and she realized they were on their own, she ran to the church for help.

At the same time, word about the children's abandonment reached local officials, who planned to separate the children between a shelter and an orphanage. The children were devastated.

"I cried a lot. I hugged my siblings because I didn't want to be separated. I told Catalina not to let them take us," says Belén.

Catalina sheltered the children at the church and began working with city officials to find a better solution. "I shared about the great risk the children would run if they were separated and taken alone to shelters. The mayor told us the



children needed a legal guardian to take responsibility," says Catalina. She pleaded her case, and after hours of debate she and the church pastor were appointed legal guardians of the six children until Maria, the eldest sister, turned 18.

With Compassion support, the pastor built a small house within the church facilities. The house,

complete with six beds and a kitchen, was now a safe place for Belén and her siblings. It wasn't long before the church felt like home and the staff felt like family.

"I am happy to be able to live at the church. The pastor and Catalina treat us well and feed us, and we can continue going to school," says Belén. Despite everything

From left: Moises, Junior, Snaider, Maria, Gardenia, Catalina and Belén stand outside the church.

they have been through, all of the children are achieving good grades.

Maria, now 16, is enrolled in a business course and will soon start managing a small store next to the church on weekends. Junior, her brother, is an apprentice in the pastor's workshop every afternoon after school. He is learning car and motorcycle mechanics so he can also help support his siblings.

As for Belén's younger brother Moises, he has plans of his own. "When I grow up, I want to be a pastor and a police officer so I can protect children who don't have a home!" he says.

A lamp for little feet

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.

Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”

—Deuteronomy 6:5-7, NIV

Every week at over 8,600 churches worldwide, the sound of children singing can be heard far outside the sanctuaries’ walls. Some days it’s “This Little Light of Mine.” Other days it’s “Jesus Loves Me.” People walking by can’t help but smile at the joy they hear in the children’s loud and excited voices.

This part of our ministry is our most important work. Every child is welcome in the program, and each is introduced to Jesus’ love through songs, Bible stories and the relationships they form at the church. With your support, more and more children living in the deepest pockets of poverty are coming to know and understand that Jesus loves them and has a plan for them.

CHILDREN IN COMPASSION’S PROGRAM ARE:

- more likely to share their faith
- more likely to study the Bible
- more likely to serve in their church

Tear or cut me out! ➔



ADRIANA
GUATEMALA

Community prayer requests

JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR ...

Church-planting efforts happening throughout Latin America and Tanzania

Mu Aye, a mother in the Survival program in Thailand, who is pregnant with her first child and preparing for a safe delivery

Program directors, tutors, health specialists, pastors and volunteers at each Compassion-partnered church, who are pouring their hearts into helping children in their communities

Cambodia, Malawi, Myanmar and Zambia — where new church partners are beginning to enroll children and minister to them through the holistic child development program

Professional athletes' efforts to raise awareness and funds to support Compassion Survival centers in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia and Togo

A church partner in Kenya that was severely damaged during local unrest — we praise God that no staff or children were hurt, and celebrate how alumni from the center are coming together to repair and restore it to normal operations

An end to social and political unrest and violence in Haiti, and for peace and stability to return to the region

Staff members along the border of Thailand and Myanmar, who are being trained in first aid to help children and families affected by conflict

Countries most impacted by the global food crisis: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Haiti, Myanmar and Sri Lanka

Staff members in Tanzania, who are fighting the rising trend of child abuse in their country

Borsha, a 14-year-old girl in Bangladesh who was diagnosed with cancer and is now undergoing treatment

Joseph in Kenya, who is working hard to end the cultural practice of female genital mutilation in his Maasai community

Hundreds of children in Nicaragua joining STEM training in the coming months — pray this will open doors to learn new skills, and build confidence in themselves and their faith in God

FCP staff in Mexico, who are helping families grieve, heal and move forward after a building collapse killed several people, including children

An effort in Ethiopia to provide aid to 4,640 people who fled conflict in the northern region of the country

Rebeca, a student in El Salvador who is applying to a competitive university and internship

*Want to join Compassion's prayer community?
Scan this QR code with your phone or visit:
www.compassion.com/prayer*



Along the banks of the Moi River, nestled between Thailand and Myanmar, a dirt trail branches off from the road. Follow it, and you'll find yourself in a village tucked deep in the forest. Many of the residents are displaced, and there is no public assistance, health clinic or school — but there is now a local church. Their efforts over the past four years are transforming an entire community.

Hope has always been hard to find in the village. Families rely on rice harvests to feed themselves, supplemented by wild vegetables and sometimes fish from the river. With no school, children only saw one path for their future: to follow in their parents' footsteps.

But standing behind the small church is a community of supporters ready to step in and help. The church was able to construct a school building for kindergarten to fourth grade and hire two teachers. When students entered the classrooms for the first time, hope could be found everywhere you looked. They started learning how to read and write, and also began setting big goals for the future.

It wasn't long before the first group of students approached the end of fourth grade and grew anxious about what they would do next. The church once again found an answer through their community.

There is a secondary school two hours away, but the boarding house

is full. So a partnership was formed, and a remote study plan was created, successfully keeping children in school and with their families.

"It was the best day of my life when I heard I can go to fifth grade," shares Nawdalerpaw, a fourth-grade student. "I love using my imagination when I read books at school. I can dream! I want to be a nurse when I grow up ... and I believe my dream will come true."

Thanks to a community of local church staff, passionate teachers and supporters around the world, these children are finding hope through their church and the classroom.

Nawdalerpaw and Nawmuenawpho plan to one day attend college together.

A classroom for every child



A new tool for local churches

In our 70 years of ministry, Compassion has become a global leader in holistic child development. We're always striving to learn what works and what doesn't when helping children survive and thrive.

And every day, our Frontline Church Partners (FCPs) work to become the experts of each individual child and community they serve. They are the ones who see firsthand the unique challenges that need addressing.

This is why the partnership between Compassion and our frontline churches is so effective. With our own areas of expertise,

together, we are positioned to know what each child needs to thrive and what resources can be used to respond effectively.

But what if frontline churches were empowered to become holistic child development experts? What if they had the expertise to take ownership in researching and planning ways to bring effective change to their specific communities? Their grassroots efforts could create a massive wave of positive change for millions of children throughout the world.

Compassion is now embarking on a journey to do just that. We are

developing a tablet-based software that will place in the hands of every FCP the ability to input data from their specific children and community, identify evidence-based projects to address needs, and monitor progress in real time.

With this tool, local leaders will be able to make better data-informed decisions. They will be able to quickly detect gradual increases in illnesses; visually map trends in education progress; and easily access guidance on effective responses to specific issues.

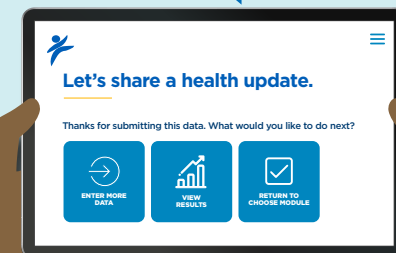
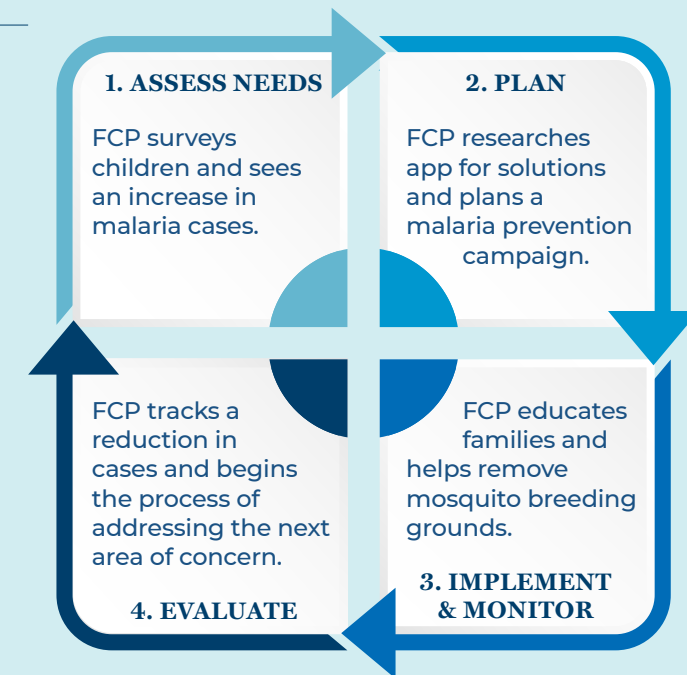
The tool was first tested in Tanzania, and churches were amazed at what it allowed them to

do. "I couldn't believe that Compassion wanted us to lead the process," shares Pastor Mbuke, a participant in the test. "I loved the idea of being church-driven. We felt a sense of freedom in doing what was fit for our children and youth."

With learnings from the Tanzania pilot, we are now rolling this tool out to more countries. The effort to fund, procure supplies and train all church partners will take time, but we pray all FCPs will benefit by 2028.

As a global Church, the effectiveness of our work is important. The faster and better we can respond to urgent needs, the quicker a child is released from poverty, and we are so excited to see how churches in the most impoverished communities use this tool to do transformative and life-changing work.

INCREASING LOCAL OWNERSHIP





Creative ministry keeps youth engaged

When church partners reported an increase in early departures from Compassion's program, we equipped them to better meet the needs of the youth they serve. This included a broad range of programs from sports teams to income-generation training. Today, we are seeing the amazing results of these efforts.

The reason some youth depart our program early varies. For many, it's the temptation to start earning income — even a meager one. For others, their child development center lacks youth-centered activities that hold their interest.

For Icad (far left), a 16-year-old in the Philippines, it was the

fracturing of his family. His father left, and his mother found herself struggling to support their family. He dropped out of school and quit the Compassion program.

He filled in his time helping his mother in her gardening job or lifting stones for road construction, and before he knew it, two years had passed. He didn't regret helping his mom, but he always wondered what would have become of his life if he had stayed in the program.

His friends and tutors still reached out to encourage him to return, but nothing caught his interest until he heard about the center's new soccer program. "I was interested, so I

came just to see my friends play," he shares.

It wasn't long before Icad was a regular on the soccer pitch, and his re-enrollment in Compassion's program soon followed. He couldn't resume studies at his old school, so staff members enrolled him in an online school. His first day of classes felt like a second chance at life.

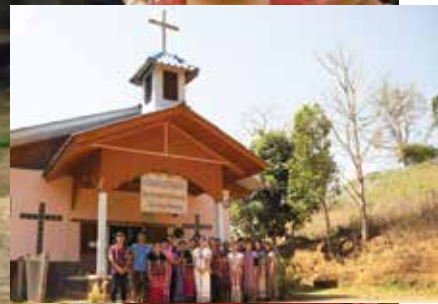
Icad is now several months into his new schedule and is thriving. "I focus on school three days a week, and on other days I help my mother with work. I'm also busy practicing football at the center," he shares. Practicing has become more than a hobby — he is now on a district

soccer team and has helped his team win several tournaments.

Icad's story is just one of thousands. Every year, more churches are equipped to find creative ways to help youth in their community stay engaged and complete their path out of poverty. They're utilizing sports teams and music lessons, and even offering university and vocational scholarships — all to help more youth graduate and reach their God-given potential.

11 years

is the average duration of school attendance for a Compassion-assisted child. Their local peers only attend an average of 7 years.



Moving to the needs

Every year, we work with churches and leaders on the frontlines to identify their top needs. This year, the resounding answers were that families are hungry, mothers and babies are dying preventable deaths, and children in nearby villages desperately need the hope of Jesus. Hearing these words breaks our heart, yet strengthens our commitment to do everything we can to respond. God has formed and blessed this community of frontline workers, Compassion staff and faithful supporters, and through Him we can meet these needs together!

Global Food Crisis

Emergency Relief: We expect to serve 150,000 hungry families by providing food relief.

Food Security: We hope to teach 900,000 families income generation skills and provide resources to promote food security.

Baby and Mom Survival

Reach More: Only 25% of our FCPs currently offer Survival programming. We are working to open these lifesaving services in 600 new communities in the next two years.

Address Infant and Maternal Mortality: Existing centers will continue to minister to the most vulnerable mothers and babies in their community.

Ministry Expansion

Reach More: We hope to launch partnerships with 600 new FCPs in the next two years, focused in areas with the highest poverty index. We pray an additional 250,000 children will join the program through new and existing centers.

New Countries: Work continues to expand into Cambodia, Malawi, Myanmar and Zambia!




Mothers in Malawi bring their children to the church for enrollment in Compassion's program.

“Hearing about poverty is one thing, but seeing it, feeling it, and witnessing it firsthand is a different experience.

On behalf of the women and children, let me thank the Church for taking an interest in serving and saving children who are living in poverty, through partnership with Compassion. It brings me joy to be part of this life-transforming ministry.”

—Josey, Compassion Malawi staff member

A photograph of a church building with a prominent steeple. The church has light blue walls and dark brown trim. In the foreground, four children are running happily towards the camera. The sky is bright and slightly overcast. A light blue text box is overlaid on the right side of the image.

*“Father may your Church be the Church.
May your Church rise up and move as the
Church always does when it’s working in
your name ...”*