



Releasing children from poverty
Compassion[®]
in Jesus' name

COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL

2024 Ministry Update



This year, we celebrate 72 years of releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name. Thank you for so generously supporting this mission.

As you flip through these pages, you'll see that God is on the move. He is working through you and through the local church to answer the cries of hurting children.

Over the past year, more babies and children were reached, starving families were fed, child protection efforts were expanded, and more youth were equipped to succeed. On behalf of every child and church partner, we thank you for your support, your generosity and your prayers. We are so grateful to call you a partner and friend as we share Jesus' eternal hope and love with children around the world.

COMPASSION'S CURRENT REACH

2.3
million
children

8,700
frontline
churches

29
countries
served

YOU HELPED MAKE THIS POSSIBLE!

Progress in the Past Year

423

new church partners began implementing Compassion's holistic child and youth development program.



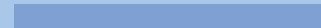
8,700+

children are now registered in our newest countries: Malawi, Zambia, Myanmar and Cambodia.



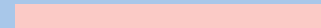
63,450+

babies and their mothers were reached through the Survival program with lifesaving care.



81,450+

families are participating in newly launched income generation and savings training programs.



119

churches broke ground to improve their infrastructure and learning environments, including building new classrooms and dining halls and installing electricity.



58,500+

youth are participating in newly launched vocational training programs, sports and music programs, leadership courses or college scholarship programs.



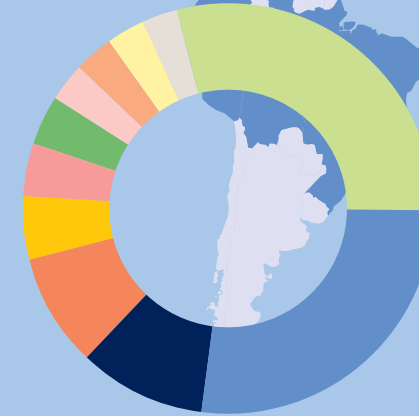
114,300+

children gained access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene training through new well, rainwater-harvesting, bathroom and water filtration projects.



383,300+

emergency medical treatments were provided to hurting children. More than 27,400 treatments were provided to their siblings and family members.



Targeted Response Funding

- Ministry Expansion & Un-sponsored Children
- Disaster Response & Resilience
- Mother & Baby Survival
- Preventive & Emergency Healthcare
- Non-formal Education
- Formal Education
- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene
- Income Generation Training
- HIV/AIDS Prevention, Testing & Treatment
- Church Planting & Infrastructure
- Child Protection & Parent Education

In the past year, you helped us increase funding for targeted interventions by 18%. These efforts are removing significant obstacles for more than 1.5 million children, helping them on their journey out of poverty.

All this progress means that ...



Ryker has safe water.

Ryker's family was one of 3,483 families in Peru who received water filters. Since this intervention, the church has reported significantly fewer illnesses among children.



Jesca received dental care.

The 216 children at Jesca's child development center in Tanzania received a dental exam, and 153 of them received follow-up care.



Elmera graduated from college.

After joining Compassion's program in the Philippines when she was 5 years old, Elmera saw her dreams come true when she was granted a scholarship. She recently graduated with a degree in elementary education.



Thushan has a safe place to sleep.

After a monsoon destroyed the homes of 19 families in Sri Lanka, including Thushan's, Compassion's local partners distributed funds to help families rebuild and repair their homes.



Tassère received heart surgery.

After a health checkup at his child development center revealed a heart murmur, Tassère was diagnosed with tetralogy of Fallot, a potentially fatal heart condition. Hospitals in Burkina Faso could not treat him, so staff connected him to a hospital in Morocco, where he successfully underwent corrective surgery.



José's mother is earning an income.

"Now my children are safer, as I can stay home with them while I take care of our chickens. We no longer beg on the street."

MINISTRY EXPANSION update

Until Every Child Is Known

Marjorie was only 7 when church staff members saw her on the street and knew she needed help. At her young age, she spent most of her time on her own, caring for her baby brother while her father left for days to work on construction sites and her mother abused drugs. She felt abandoned, unloved and invisible.

But the day she was enrolled in Compassion's program at the local church, staff started assembling a pink binder full of information related to Marjorie's life. They asked questions she'd never answered before. Are you in school? Do you have a birth certificate? Have you visited a doctor? Do you have a safe place to sleep?

Every Compassion child development center has a room full of binders. Every child in our program has one — all 2.3 million of them. These binders are full of progress

reports, health updates, family information, and notes on their future goals and dreams. Written across each page is evidence of the churches' deep commitment to knowing every single child they serve.

One of the most devastating effects of poverty is how it can erase identity. Children feel unseen, forgotten and worthless. But when children like Marjorie walk through the doors of the church, hug their tutor, and flip through their binder, they feel seen, loved and *known*.

Today, Marjorie is 16 and is at the top of her class. She is confident of her worth and has found a true home at the church. "The church is still the place where I find peace, love, joy and hope," she says. "It is where I realized that God does exist, the place that I never want to leave and the place that has become my home."



480

**new binders
were created
every day
over the past
year.**

Until Every Child Is Loved

Sitting in a group in a small church in Burkina Faso, the mothers all wonder what they'll be learning today. Every month they gather to learn something, and past meetings covered topics important to infant survival, including maintaining nutrition and spotting early signs of malaria. But today, the lesson plan seems different. The chalkboard simply says "Loving your baby."

The topic seems simple, maybe even unnecessary — of course most mothers will love their babies! But for every newborn, especially those born into a family living in poverty, an abundance of love is essential to their survival and long-term development.

In homes where poverty is present, high levels of stress can prevent bonding between a caregiver and baby and create environments that can harm a baby's growth. So one of the earliest and most important lessons mothers learn in the Survival program is how to bond with and show love to their babies — continuously and unconditionally.

When we ask mothers what valuable lessons they're learning, this very topic often comes up, as many of the mothers themselves did not experience this type of love in their own childhood. When struggling to survive, taking time to show love early and often in a baby's life can seem like a luxury.



Babies raised in loving homes experience greater brain development.¹

Burkina Faso is one country where we are rapidly expanding due to the dire need and high mortality rates. Through this expansion, we reached Dialla, pictured right. She shares, "I used to speak harshly to my children, but then I learned about their emotional needs. Now I speak to them with love and care, and I have learned to pray for them, which has grown my love for them."

Just as Dialla's son is now growing in love, so are thousands of other babies in Burkina Faso and other areas of extreme poverty throughout the world. Every year this number grows, thanks to the love and generosity of Compassion's supporters.

¹ London Journal of Primary Care, Winston, R., & Chicot, R. (2016).



"I learned that we can build up our children and even help them develop well through how we show them love every day. For example, talking with my 1-month-old baby and laughing with him makes him feel love." — Seré, pictured below with her son, Kaboré



Dive Deeper: Survival Lesson Plan

Scan the QR code or visit www.compassion.com/loved to learn more about the support mothers receive in the Survival program. You'll also find an inside glimpse of a lesson plan focused on helping mothers understand the emotional needs of their babies.

CHILD PROTECTION update

Until Every Child Is Protected

Meet Yunus, a child protection specialist in Indonesia. Yunus finds joy in making children laugh, teaching them about the Bible, and fiercely protecting their right to a happy childhood. We praise God that every year the number of child protection specialists advocating for vulnerable children grows as we expand into areas of greater poverty.



Hello, dear friends! My name is Yunus. On top of my job as a public servant, I volunteer at the Compassion child development center in my community.

My work as a child protection specialist is deeply important to me because of my own childhood. I experienced a lot of violence as a child. My father was volatile and physically abusive to me. I even endured similar abuse from adults at school. It makes me sad to think of my childhood.

I feel honored to be given a chance to make a difference through the Compassion program. I have learned a lot about child protection, and I feel grateful that I can share this knowledge with the community, parents, teachers and children.

This work is vital because children living in poverty are incredibly

vulnerable to violence. Abuse against children is often committed by those closest to them, including parents, teachers, neighbors and even friends. So I raise awareness with a child's circle of influence. A common stance of parents in our community is that they can correct their children in any way, which results in a culture of violent discipline. Changing this pattern is a challenge I currently face, and I have held meetings and awareness sessions at the school and church to help prevent abuse.

Alongside the other church staff members, I am constantly on the lookout for any behavior or signs that might indicate violence in a child's life. If I spot something, I work with the child and parents to provide protection, assistance and counseling.

The most exciting part of my role is seeing the children smile and become cheerful. It breaks my heart when I see a child feeling sad and sullen, so I joke around a lot with the children and then listen to whatever they have to tell me.

On behalf of all child protection staff throughout the world, I would like to request prayers, particularly that we are given enough strength and health to carry this heavy responsibility well. Please also pray that we can find solutions to the issues we come across.

Compassion provided emergency shelter and legal counsel to over 3,800 children over the last year.

Feeding Starving Families



1.3 million food packs distributed to over 276,100 families



206,000+ people benefiting from agricultural training and support



\$18 million invested in resiliency work to improve long-term food security

Data: July 2022 - May 2024



COLOMBIA



ETHIOPIA

From lifesaving relief ...

“We were dying from starvation and were rescued from death by the food parcels we received. I do not know who provided the food, but still they stretched out their hands to rescue us.”

— Garole, a grandparent in Ethiopia

To resilience ...

“The food helped, but receiving funds to start a small business was an even greater blessing. My family now sells sweet bread in our community and earns an income to support ourselves.”

— Lesly, a 17-year-old girl in El Salvador



HAITI



TOGO

Innovation in Togo

Releasing children from poverty in 29 countries requires many different approaches. Our National Office staff — who live in the contexts in which our Frontline Church Partners work — know best what is needed to address poverty in their countries and are responsible for forming strategic plans.

Togo is one country that has made incredible strides in the reduction of poverty over the past few decades. The infant mortality rate declined by 50%, primary schooling rates increased significantly, and access to safe drinking water in urban areas improved.

Food insecurity, however, remains a significant threat to children's health. Extreme and unpredictable weather patterns in the country have affected crop production, and youth unemployment is a growing concern. So Compassion Togo staff set out to strategically address the root causes of these issues and are making incredible leaps forward.

Innovation projects and seed funding are helping young people to become change agents in their community, and small-scale farmers are learning better growing and harvesting methods that increase their yields. Through these efforts, churches across Togo are helping build resilience and ensure long-term food security in their country.

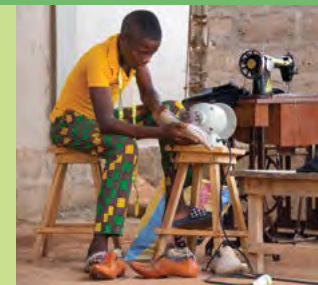


Youth Leadership Challenge

“What project could you develop and implement in your community with U.S.\$500?” Hundreds of youth throughout Togo pondered this question, formed small groups, and developed proposals to pitch their project. From 147 submissions, five agriculture-based proposals were accepted, and those groups are now working to improve agriculture and food security in their communities. We're excited to see what comes from this year's challenge!

Business Incubator

An ideation center and business incubator will soon equip thousands of youth with digital, entrepreneurial, management and soft skills for employment and business ownership. Course options include construction management, culinary arts, computer technology, cosmetology and mechanics.



Agro-Business and Ecology Promotion

New training centers will soon equip thousands of households with practical and entrepreneurial skills in farming, forestry and other agricultural industries. This will strengthen the resilience of families against the adverse effects of extreme weather. One recent training for small-scale farmers led to an 18% increase in crop production.



Renewable Energy Training Center

The lack of access to electricity has significantly hindered economic development and social well-being across Togo. Solar energy is a rapidly developing sector in the country, so work has started to launch a training center for renewable energy technologies for Compassion-assisted youth, with a goal to train 600 students by 2028.





Stepping Out in Faith

It all started with a simple prayer: “Lord, can you make yourself more known to us? We want to be bold for you ... Please open that door.”

As Jeff and Michelle reflect on the journey this prayer sparked, they can only shake their heads in disbelief. “Even now, it’s hard to comprehend,” Jeff says. “To see that prayer answered ... it’s mind-blowing, and I thank the Lord for allowing us to see him provide and to be involved in helping so many children.”

The couple’s first step with Compassion came at a concert, where they accepted an invitation to sponsor a child. A few months passed and they decided to sponsor more children, but a question kept lingering in their minds: what if? What if we could help more? What if we could help a whole group of children?

As God continued to move in their hearts and open doors, Jeff and Michelle eventually found themselves talking on the phone with Compassion about different ways to get involved, including reaching new children in Ghana. For Jeff, everything became clear in this moment. “This just seemed like an answer to our prayer, and there was no question in my mind that this was something we needed to do,” he says.

So the check was written and the work began in Ghana. But God wasn’t done moving in their lives. Smiling, Michelle shares, “One night Jeff came downstairs with a smirk on his face. I said, ‘Don’t tell me we’re going to Ghana.’ And sure enough, we were making plans to go!”

The moment the trip was booked, the couple began facing significant fears,

roadblocks and health setbacks, yet God’s hand was evident as each concern was steadily replaced with peace, healing and excitement. Jeff shares, “The thought of not just writing a check but having a relationship with the people we’re helping was an opportunity we couldn’t miss.”

The trip itself was a whirlwind. They met in-country staff and visited four different villages. Michelle vividly remembers the immense joy on the children’s faces, and Jeff loved getting to talk marketing strategies with Compassion alumni. They also passed out bags of hygiene items and handmade bracelets that their family and church helped create — bringing together their community in Idaho with the new community they’ve found in Ghana.

As far as impact goes, one thing became clear: God was using them to save lives. Walking down the road with a church

pastor, they asked what life was like before the Compassion program reached the village. The pastor said, “It’s a night and day difference, a life and death difference. The death rate was roughly 50%. But now we have over 200 children who are being fed and receiving medical care. They’re learning about Jesus. Without the program, half of these children wouldn’t be here today, and they wouldn’t know Jesus.”

Today, Jeff and Michelle’s prayers have changed. They still ask for God to move through their life, but they’ve added specific names and needs from the communities they visited. They’re also excited to see what doors God opens next — something that is regularly on Jeff’s mind. He shares, “I say to God, ‘I’m excited to see what you’re going to do about that.’”



“I thank the Lord for allowing us to see him provide and to be involved in helping so many children.”

Passing the Torch

When the day came to part ways with Compassion, staff at Iglesia Renacer felt anxious but prepared. They had spent years working to learn resource management, build relationships with local agencies, and become experts in child development and protection. They were ready to bravely move forward as a self-sufficient ministry in their community.

Much has changed since the day Compassion's program launched at the church. Children had little hope in a city deeply affected by gangs, drugs and poverty. But year after year, the church brought incremental change, ultimately reaching more than 1,300 children.

On June 27, 2024, a local church partner in Cali, Colombia, ended its partnership with Compassion after 26 years of ministry. But it was not cause for sadness — it was a celebration.

Many alumni are now finding ways to give back. Annie, a staff member, shares, “Two alumni are lawyers and give free counsel to disadvantaged people. Others are doctors and serve children with free medical checks.”

Leidy, a recent graduate, is now a social worker and volunteers at the church as a tutor. She loves getting to show children Jesus' love. “In the program, I had the opportunity to know God, and the seed that was planted is growing,” Leidy says with a smile.

A vital part of the church's path to self-sufficiency is its ability to fundraise and utilize local resources. Annie and

her team have successfully developed revenue streams through a cleaning supplies business and storefront. This income is already helping to provide sewing classes for vulnerable mothers and a music program for children. Their ambitious goals include a community kitchen and outreach events. The church's partnership with Compassion might be over, but this will not stop them from continuing to release children from poverty in Jesus' name.

With this closure, Compassion Colombia staff are working to launch programming at a new church and begin this long-term transformation journey all over again.



“Compassion is not really leaving the community, as we will continue the legacy of transformation that God left us.” — Annie, Iglesia Renacer staff member



An alliance for graduating churches is being established and will offer continued access to training, child development materials and other valuable resources.



Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

— Matthew 28: 19-20, NIV



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