


The Guardian www.ippmedia.com
AFRICAN CHILD

Monday 3 June, 2019



20
Anniversary


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

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CIT strives to improve the lives of so many kids in Magu district



@Msamba

Positive impact of Compassion International on the disadvantaged children of Tanzania

In this latest edition of our regular African Child series, we highlight the work of Compassion International's Tanzania chapter in promoting the overall welfare of young, disadvantaged children in various parts of this vast country. We trace how the chapter's Survival and Early Childhood Intervention program has helped newborns and their mothers to survive and thrive in the critical early years of life. This has been achieved mainly through strong cooperation with over 100 Frontline Church Partners spread across the country.

The original Compassion International is a Christian humanitarian aid child sponsorship organization dedicated to the long-term development of children living in poverty around the world. Headquartered in the US state of Colorado, the organization currently functions in at least 25 countries, including eight in Africa. Tanzania is among the most prominent.

Briefly, Compassion helps out children in impoverished areas to the best of its ability. Its holistic approach to child development goes well beyond simply providing food and medical aid, but also involves providing formal education and training to prepare the youngsters for a fruitful life that will enable them to contribute positively back to the communities where they came from.

Under its Child Sponsorship Program, children are provided with regular meals and clean water, medical care, education, life-skills training, and spiritual guid-

ance through direct sponsorship. Sponsored children are selected by the sponsors and two-way communication is encouraged between the sponsored child and the sponsor. As of January 2019, the international cost to sponsor a child through Compassion was \$38 per month. There are currently over two million children worldwide in this program.

First registered under its present name in 1980, the organization is an offshoot of the Everett Swanson Evangelistic Association which was founded in 1952 to help children orphaned by the US war in South Korea. The name first changed to Compassion, Inc. in 1963, inspired by the words of Jesus Christ as quoted in the Book of Matthew, chapter 15 verse 32: "I have compassion on the multitude. I will not send them away hungry".

It became Compassionate International, Inc. in 1980, and an empirical study published in the San Francisco-based Journal of Political Economy shows that the global sponsorship of children through the organization has resulted in significantly higher rates of children completing school and greatly improved adult employment outcomes worldwide.

In Tanzania, the focus has been on providing expert support and programmatic facilitation to enable child ministry workers attached to the many Frontline Church Partners to pay individual attention to Compassion International-registered mothers and babies in their home environment.

As of March 2019, there were a total of 108 such partners in 15 regions of Tanzania mainland, with



Wallace Mauggo

Wallace Mauggo

3,070 active beneficiaries. The holistic approach includes providing guidance for health issues, knowledge gaps and other negative traditional norms that affect child care and maternal well-being. The curriculum adopts the Tanzania national and WHO guidelines on childhood development with emphasis on maternal and child health, maternal and child nutrition, home environment care, management of childhood illnesses through health education, and encouraging mothers to receive required health interventions on time. The interventions complement the efforts of the Tanzanian government to educate pregnant women to follow health guidelines for safe delivery and safe motherhood.

We also bring you several stories highlighting the positive effects of Compassion International Tanzania's on-the-ground activities in various parts of Tanzania. We wish you good reading.

CIT strives to improve the lives of so many kids in Magu district

By Neema Emmanuel, Mwanza

IT'S more than a blessing for residents of Magu district, Shinyanga region. Most of them have said goodbye to poverty, houses have been built for them, and they now have good education plus the assurance of three meals per day.

More than 1,140 residents who have been facing various life challenges like being able to afford taking their children to school, feeding them three meals per day, and so on have finally seen the light after years of darkness.

It has been almost 11 years now since all wards in the district began benefiting from regular lessons on life studies, entrepreneurship, capital management and money-generating activities; lessons that have helped families grow financially.

The director of a Compassion Centre in Magu, Irene Shirima, told The Guardian how her organization has awakened dreams which were almost extinguished among the Magu populace.

Irene said now the centre is looking after at least 225 people, aged a few months to 18 years, including pregnant girls and children living with HIV/AIDS.

She explained that in 2018, the centre started another service for reducing maternal rates, also with the aim of helping pregnant mothers who lives in difficult conditions.

The girls were given proper nutrition, treatment, entrepreneurship education and mindset training to help liberate them economically, mentally, physically, and even spiritually.

"At the beginning, they had no idea about how to go about income-generation activities. They just accepted whatever poverty conditions they had. Now they have changed completely," said Shirima.

The director of another Compassion Center situated at Nyanguge Magu, Kennedy Lobulu, said his station has 248 people from various families which have been living in difficult, poverty-stricken conditions, as well as a few orphans.

The center has managed to teach them to carry out various income generation activities like the making of batiks, carpets, furniture, catering, tailoring, shoe making, building, electricity wiring, and even computer use.

According to Lobulu, so far five families have been given proper houses to live in while others have been given land where they can build their own houses. Other necessities like food, clothes, school stationaries, fees are provided as gifts from donors.

He added that there are some families that have benefited by having children at the center, thus connecting them to services like food provision, VICOBA membership, entrepreneurship skills training and even access to capital for starting small business ventures.

"Our center has also been lucky enough to receive aid in the form of eleven modern toilets, and we also have a campaign to provide tuition for pupils of our local schools so that they can have the best education and not just any education," said Lobulu.

A social worker from a Compassion Center at Lugeye in Magu district, Evelyn Mang'ache, said the center has 267 children whose families have failed to fulfill their needs, especially daily meals, and therefore visit them on a monthly basis to check their progress.

Evelyn says that despite challenges from some uneducated parents who are not very cooperative, the center still manages to provide education on entrepreneurship skills and capital manage-

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How CIT has embedded itself in Kilimanjaro region

By Godfrey Mushi,
Kilimanjaro

If you ask Maasai breeders of Orkolili in Siha district, Kilimanjaro region how far Compassion International Tanzania (CIT) has taken them since they embraced it in 2010, they will have multiple answers.

They could tell you a very long story about how CIT partnered with PEFA church in Olkolili to register children from poor Maasai families.

Since CIT started to date, they have raised and serviced 294 youths in various areas like education, economic spiritual and health empowerment. This is what they expected after CIT decided to support poor families in that zone.

Director Lespice Kiguge from Compassion Centre TZ 0452 explains that when he decides to tap the talents of a poor child, the benefits are not only for the child but also for the whole society surrounding him or her.

He says that is the CIT calling; to help the wider society of Tanzanians by identifying and fulfilling the talents of disadvantaged children, especially orphans.

Compassion International Tanzania is a Christian international organization that serves children and youths from poor families through sponsorship. One of its centers, PEFA Olkolili Student Center TZ 0452, is located in

Siha, Kilimanjaro region and operates under the Pentecostal Evangelist Fellowship of Africa Church.

According to Kiguge, the center is headed by Rev. Petro Pendael Mbise, situated at Olkolili village 10 kilometers from the Kilimanjaro International Airport. In 2014 it was granted health education on how to protect a mother and child and registered 40 mothers and children. Today it is serving 15 mothers and children.

The mothers are taken care

“We are aiming to take these kids away from poverty and become better people spiritually and economically,” she explained.

of from pregnancy by being provided with education, entrepreneurship skills and capital so they can earn a livelihood after delivery.

The PEFA Olkolili Student Center TZ 0452 has three caregivers who are responsible for looking after the mothers and their children.

Positive gains

Kiguge says during the past nine months of CIT's partnership with PEFA church, the positive gains made have been unexpectedly numerous given

the short period.

He mentioned some of the gains as the construction of a modern office and acquisition of a wider and more spacious area for their projects.

The church in collaboration with CIT has also started an English medium school, Ekenywa Pre & Primary, with most of the pupils funded directly by CIT.

In the 2018 national Standard Seven examination results, Ekenywa school emerged tops in Siha district and 32nd overall in Kilimanjaro region in terms of number of pupils scoring A and B grades.

Other positive gains were the construction of a new modern public library costing Tshs 91.2 million and new and modern toilets, while a big poultry project being run by women from the church is also well underway.

A CIT funds injection of Tshs 32 million has helped women in the zone start poultry projects in their own homes, and there is also a fish project the proceedings of which are helping to pay school fees for the children at the center.

Kiguge says so far they have managed to send 65 students to secondary school in the short time since they started the project. He mentioned Joyce Korosoi of center TZ 045200045 as one of the lucky girls who was funded and given a house by her sponsor.

Challenges

According to Kiguge, one of the challenges they face is the large number of children under their care compared to the funds they receive. School fee, health treatments and other necessary needs are proving expensive.

Providing regular meals is also a challenge, but he says they are hatching a strategic plan to deal with it through strengthened partnerships with other donors.

Future plans

Also in the center's plans for the future is to build a secondary school where pupils who complete their primary education at Ekenywa can join directly for O-Level studies.

Kiguge says they are also considering to open a vocational studies college for youths to gain practical skills that can help them find self-employment if need be.

A word from the CIT director

Speaking during CIT's recent 20th anniversary celebrations, CIT director Agnes Hotay said they are serving children and youth from poor families for the purpose of motivate them to become financially independent.

“We are aiming to take these kids away from poverty and become better people spiritually and economically,” she explained.

CIT centers are currently established in 19 regions in Tanzania mainland; Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Kigoma, Manyara, Pwani, Morogoro, Iringa, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Singida, Shinyanga, Mwanza, Mara, Tabora, Lindi, Geita, Mtwara, Simiyu and Kagera.

Hotay said that they are working in collaboration with 450 evangelical churches around the country. CIT formally started operating in the country in 1999.





Of survival interventions early childhood development



By Mary

COMPASSION'S Survival and Early Childhood Intervention is the first phase of our integrated child and youth development model. This intervention offers a holistic approach to ensure that young children survive and thrive in the critical early years of life. The program is implemented in partnership with Frontline Church Partners by providing expert support and programmatic facilitation to enable child ministry workers at church level to pay individual attention to registered mothers and babies in their home environment.

Survival and Early Childhood Intervention in Tanzania started in 2008 as Child Survival Program. It takes a mother as a co-beneficiary within a mother-child unit (MCU). It uses a special and rich curriculum which is delivered at home. Lessons are taught to the mother in the belief that if she understands all the health issues that may affect her child, she will become a change agent to influence her family positively. The mother receives holistic programmatic lessons in physical,

spiritual, cognitive and social emotions in the home setting. Among the lessons is entrepreneurship which engages caregivers in income generation activities to raise the family income. The skills are offered as part of group activities she undergoes during her time in the program.

Becoming a beneficiary of survival intervention does not make one less valued; on the contrary it is one step towards acquiring knowledge in different livelihood skills. Among the lessons gained are adult literacy, entrepreneurship skills, nutritional knowledge, general health knowledge, environmental management and other formal education subjects that the mother is interested to pursue. Home-based programs offer opportunities for mothers to engage in practical sessions to build their confidence and self-esteem so they can eventually stand on their own feet.

Compassion's Survival and Early Childhood Intervention in Tanzania managed to entice at least 30 frontline church partners in nine years, with 1,200 primary beneficiaries in eight different regions. As of March 2019 (eleven years later), Compassion In-

20-22

vision is to partner with at least 40% of 559 frontline churches partnering with CIT in at least 18 regions of Tanzania Mainland.

ternational Tanzania (CIT) is partnering in the intervention with 108 frontline church partners in 15 regions of Tanzania mainland with 3,070 active beneficiaries. The 20-22 vision is to partner with at least 40% of 559 frontline churches partnering with CIT in at least 18 regions of Tanzania Mainland.

The modality is to deliver programmatic activities into home environments and providing guidance for health issues, knowledge gaps and other negative traditional norms that affect child care and maternal well-being. The curriculum adopts the Tanzania national and WHO guidelines on childhood development with emphasis on maternal and child health, maternal and child nutrition, home environment care, management of childhood illnesses through health education, and encouraging mothers to receive required health interventions on time. The interventions complement the efforts of the Tanzanian government in matters of maternal health and child care by educating women to follow health guidelines for safe delivery and safe motherhood.

Health screening and growth monitoring is done in partnership with skilled medical prac-

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ners to ensure all beneficiaries are healthy. y health challenge in diagnosed among the beneficiaries, medical support is sought immediately. Among other interventions, nutrition education and provision to infants and pregnant women is paramount to prevent stunting and other negative impacts that can be caused by under-nutrition.

Survival stands for mothers with special needs and ensures just-born babies and their mothers receive the best care from delivery onwards with special supplementations of nutrients. Through such involvement in the lives of new mothers, we have been able to champion important community changes towards the end.

We have been able to bring joy and happiness to the lives of thousands of families that were in distress. Among our achievements is the following:

The mother, Nipael Nathaniel Mrutu who had multiple pregnancies, delivered quadruplets at C Hospital with their father Richard Eliavayo. The babies - Eliya, Elisha, Ester and Nezer - were born tiny and spent about two weeks in the hospital under close observation. While still at the hospital, staff from the frontline church partner where Nipael was registered for survival intervention made sure she was taken care of, psychologically and physically. After discharge, the project staff made regular follow-ups on the family at their home to provide the needed support and ensure a conducive environment for the babies' healthy growth. All the babies survived because they received the best home-based care and growth monitoring. The four children are now in primary school Grade One and still under close monitoring and developmental care.'

The survival intervention aim is to ensure all children under CIT care grow to at least five years and above before they are allowed transition from home based to center-based programming. This is where children start to attend holistic programs at the frontline church partner kindergartens.

Since 2008 when we started the intervention, more than 10,000 beneficiaries have benefited through the programs, with some coming by receiving sponsorship programs and others long departed after their lives changed for the positive and they no longer needed to come with the intervention. A few were phased out for other reasons after spending some time receiving the intervention.

The intervention has a set of outcomes that are intended to be realized in every age category from 0-22 years of age. It reaches both pregnant women and young vulnerable children with the aim of helping them out in facing challenges that may happen during critical time. Educating primary caregivers through home-based and group activities saves children's lives and sets them on the path to healthy development.

We also encourage parents to create playing spaces at home as part of infant motor skills development. Implementing church partners as stimulation rooms for early child stimulation as part of programmatic activities. All this ensure the child is the focus of all programmatic activities that take place at home under intervention.



CIT strives to improve the lives of so many kids in Magu district

FROM PAGE 2

ment while making follow ups on a weekly basis to check on progress.

On his part, a facilitator at the Lamadi Compassion Center in Magu, Godwin Majenga, says they are expecting to reach a target of 400 children for two new centers to be established by end of May this year.

"We will be registering children to take care of them spiritually and instill them with good manners, good health and physical well-being, a good basic education. All these will help the child grow up well and in a good way," said Majenga.

He added that they have used various criteria to identify the children for registration, the main one being their families' levels of poverty. He said the center will not use criteria like orphanhood alone - even kids with poor parents will be given services equally and their families will benefit; for example, if the child sleeps on the floor, a mattress will be bought for him/her. If they don't have a house, it will be built for them. All this is through the child who will be getting support from donors.

Testimonies from the children Jesca John, Juma Mustapha and

Elia Deusi are some of the children who have benefited from Compassion Center Tz0241 in Magu district. They said that before joining the center, their lives and that of their families were so difficult that they almost lost all hope of ever getting a proper education, proper food, proper place to sleep, or ever coming near to fulfilling their dreams.

According to this trio, things started to change when they joined the centre and began learning various skills which enabled them to start earning honest money to support their families. They also began going to school and eating three meals per day, while before just getting that one meal a day was so rare and difficult.

"Through this centre I have acquired a skill which will be a big help for me as my expectation is to become a doctor or engineer. I have faith that my dream will come true. I have just finished building my mother a kitchen and a room for her poultry project. That is only the beginning," says John.

Neema Simoni, Twali Ernest and Usembi Constantine - another trio of kids from another compassion center - also said after enduring hard lives in the past, they are now using the opportunity afford-

ed by the centre to build better futures for themselves.

"Life was so hard, but now it has turned into happiness. I do expect to join Form Five and my dreams are going to be true through Compassion," said Simoni.

Constantine added: "For now I am in Standard Seven, but I own a plot of land and I expect to start building a house. My life now has advanced."

Parents' testimonies

Reticia Kazimili, a mother of five children of whom three are being taken care of by a Compassion Centre, says she was abandoned by her husband long ago. As she struggled as a single mother, one of her children acquired a health problem which required a lot of money for treatment in India. It was through Compassion that she

got the help she needed.

The centre gave her capital to start a business which has enabled her to buy the plot where she is living and start a process of building her own permanent house to replace the temporary shelter she resides in now.

"I have started to buy building materials, I have a vegetable garden where I can earn extra money, I also have a poultry project, I have bought solar power so that my kids can study at night... all this is because of Compassion," said Kazimili.

Anastazia Shiwa and Irene John said proper nutrition for their babies and other necessary needs are now accessible in the district, thanks to Compassion. They said they have learnt a lot through the center, including contraception use, batik making, and other important things in everyday life.

Fitta Liuku, a parent with 19 kids from Lugeye, said the challenge of upkeep so many children had made him poor; his kids used to go to school without shoes, exercise books, or food. But through Compassion, his children are now getting a good education, he has food to put on the table, and soon he will install power in his house so that his children can study during the night.

Another parent, Johari Malendeja, who deals with charcoal business, said she gained important entrepreneurship and capital management skills from Compassion, and now has a steady business.

And Katalina Kachwele, a mother who lived in a grass house with only one room, said that her life has completely changed after Compassion built her a more modern house. At first she had no dream of owning a big house but for now she can eat all the food she wants, wear decent clothes. She also thanked Compassion for the favors it has done for her and her family.

"We will be registering children to take care of them spiritually and instill them with good manners, good health and physical well-being, a good basic education. All these will help the child grow up well and in a good way," said Majenga.



Karim Mwiwula: From an orphan to a pilot

• Has never known his parents • Brought up in a missionaries center

By Valentine Oforo

“THEREFORE take no thought, saying: What shall we eat? Or what shall we drink? Or Wherewithal shall we be clothed. For after all these things do the gentiles seek, for your father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.” (Mathew 6: 31-32)

At the Dar es Salaam-based Kambarage Nyerere Civil Aviation College, there is one student who in normal circumstances wouldn't have been there. He passed through rain and thunder to fulfill his life ambition of learning how to fly.

Karim Mwiwula is a 20-year old young man who is inclined to attribute his passage through life to the will of God.

“For me, success means when one's life vision materializes, but only in the way God wants it to and not otherwise,” Karim says.

His experiences can be used as a yardstick, or beacon of encouragement for the many orphans who are wondering the streets of Tanzania begging for alms and the like in order to fill their empty stomachs.

Karim has never let the fact that he never got to know either of his parents become a barrier holding him back. Instead he has used the situation as a cata-

lyst to carve his own niche and inspire him all the way to pilot school.

Raised in the poor abode of his uncle Yahya Juma, Karim went through a very deprived early childhood which obviously shaped his mind to realize that life has nothing to offer him unless he works hard on his own in order for his goals to be fulfilled.

“No one knows that I'm an orphan... even myself today I don't consider myself in that deprived status. At college here, everybody is happy with me and most of them actually think that I'm from a well-to-do family, considering that in Tanzania there are few indigenous pilots,” he says.

Thanks to Compassion International Tanzania (CIT), at the age of five Karim was adopted by a reputable missionary service in Iringa region, a move which played a vital role in his subsequent upbringing.

As ICT Partnership facilitator (Iringa town and Ilula) Seraphine Mayila narrates:

“I remember that he wrote in his notebook ‘I WANT TO BE A PILOT’. At that time, it was hard to take him seriously, but he has proved that anything can happen in life. Since we adopted him at our center when he was just five, he



has stayed focused on his studies and surpassed other students. I believe that's how he managed to fulfill his dreams of becoming a pilot.”

As a kid at the missionary in Iringa, Karim concentrated deeply on his studies, especially science subjects, eventually recording remarkable pass marks in both his O-Level and A-level exams.

Mayila says: “In our Field Church Partner project, there were a total of 327 beneficiary children, 161 female and 166 male. We are so proud that apart from assisting all these hapless children, we managed to give light to the life of Karim, and we thank God for this.”

He explains that the missionary service includes good infrastructure and school materials such as books, computers, tailoring machines which support children to acquire useful knowledge for their future aspiration.

As for Karim, he says that after completing his college studies and attaining his ultimate ambition of flying airplanes, he intends to give back to society by using part of his income and other future benefits to help other orphans in the country.

“I will stand on the forefront to assist all orphans, especially those from my hometown of Iringa,” he asserts.

CIT a blessing in disguise for Mtwara flood victims



By Abdallah Bakari, Mtwara

IN 2014/15, Mtwara region in southern Tanzania experienced heavy rainfall which caused floods in some areas and affected residents.

Mtwara Mikindani municipality was among the most severely affected areas with floods causing havoc in Chuno, Tandika, Magomeni, Kiyanga, Chipuputa and Mbaye streets, which are all geographically located in down

streams which influences water logging.

People suffered injuries, lost their homes, houseware, livestock, farms and livelihoods, thus raising the need for an immediate plan to help them get back on their feet.

Compassion International Tanzania was among organizations that came up with support, providing Tshs 170 million to construct 17 three-room and one veranda houses for the displaced.

The project was made possible

through a joint proposal presented to Compassion by three children's care centers, namely EAGT Church Rahaleo Mtwara, FPCT Church Mtwara, and Moravian Church Mtwara.

“The victims of the 2014/15 floods in Mtwara-Mikindani included children whom we used to look after in our centers” says Mhando Kigolo, the EAGT church Rahaleo Mtwara orphanage director.

He reveal that from his center

alone, about 20 children were identified as critically vulnerable following the floods, having seen their homes demolished and become deprived of food and other basic needs.

“Our assessment found that some of the kids' houses only needed rehabilitation and others renovations, but at least nine were found to be in need of completely rebuilt houses,” Kigolo notes.

From the Tshs 170 million provided by Compassion, EAGT built nine houses, FPCT six and Moravian two.

FPCT Church Mtwara children care center director Edmund Mahene says it was a year-long project that commenced 2017 and was successfully concluded in 2018.

“All the houses belong to children who are under our care... we agreed with their parents or guardians that we support only children who are with us and not otherwise,” Mahene explains, adding:

“One of the conditions was to give ownership of each house to a child, so all of those houses are legally owned by children and not parents.”

He said the Tshs 170 million wasn't enough to build all the houses “so we also organized our own efforts to fill the gaps in funding for the successful implementation of the project.”

Nevertheless, he thanked CIT for its support, describing it as a “remarkable gesture for people who were in need.”

Moravian Church Mtwara representative Amina Saidi was also grateful to Compassion, saying at least two children from her center had benefited directly from the project.

Maisha Mussa (29), the mother of nine-year old Swadra Balozi who stays at the EAGT Rahaleo orphanage center, says she had never dreamed of living in a better house than before.

“This house belongs to my daughter Swadra, but as her mother I am living with her... we have passed through hardships, we were living in a very poor house which

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How Compassion restores hopes of vulnerable children in Dodoma region

By Guardian Correspondent,
Dodoma

AS the continent is inching towards to mark the African Child Day, on June 16, it is of prudent to think on how hundred and thousands of hapless vulnerable children are taken care by their communities in Tanzania.

Due to many reasons, Tanzania is still a home of countless children who are roving in diverse streets without roofs for their heads, neither assurance of getting even a single mill in a day.

Much have been done by the government and the private sector, but to call a spade a spade, still many children in Tanzania continues to encounter different forms of vulnerabilities.

Dodoma is among regions in the country with long background of experiencing high number of street children due to divorces, deaths of parents as well as recklessly among some parents in taking good care for their children.

However, in some cases, poverty have deprived some parents of crucial ability to give their children basic amenities, including education, health services and nutrition (recommended balanced diet).

Compassion International Tanzania

(CIT) stands at fore front of good Samaritan Organizations which has so far (and continues) to play vital role in helping vulnerable children from poor families in Dodoma region.

Not only that, but the organization, without considering religious status or gender, plays major role in fighting poverty among parents (care givers) whose children have been registered to be supported by Compassion's student support centers within the region.

"We are working closely with children and not only support them. We are sailing in the same boat with them until when they managed to fulfill their life's dreams," expressed Mr Kephass Kiula, Project Director with TAG ICC Student Center which is under Compassion International Tanzania.

According to him, since commencement of the centre which located at the heart of capital city, at least more than 500 vulnerable children from economic challenged families in Dodoma municipality have so far been supported.

"Normally, our support packages include psychological and sociological support, but furthermore, apart from taking them to school, we always make sure the children are protected and well raised spiritually," Kiula added.



Mr Kephass Kiula, a Project Director of TAG ICC

Moreover, he detailed that the organization was adopting the vulnerable children from 'very' earlier ages, and the support them till when reaching the age of 22.

"In order to support them (children) effectively, we have developed special systems which allow us to monitor their daily life, at school and home," he inform.

Mr Kiula added that, concerning education, the children are being supported as per their talents and future ambitions; "There are some that have already graduated at different local universities, some are currently outside the country while others are at vocational training colleges.

He said in order to register the children that really need support, the organization was working closely with local government authorities to visit door to door in order to identify the children that really

dwells in vulnerability and poverty.

Giving testimonies, the parents whose children are under Compassion Support Projects expressed delight on how the organization has transformed their socio-economic status.

In their roughly interview to this paper, some parents, included Nason Masaka, Doricas Charles, Happiness Mazengo and Elizabeth Isaya, said apart of being injected with monthly incentives for supporting them to procure basic needs, the organization has also assisted them with different capital loans that helped them start small businesses.

"To be honest, we're very grateful and thank God for Compassion, for instance, for my side the organization has assisted me to procure a plot and now i have even started to construct my own house," narrates Happiness Mazengo, whose child is under the support of the organization.

For his part, Nason Masanga, another parent whose child is now at 8 years of age, said the organization has assisted him purchasing at least seven goats, a project which he believe will give him lucrative profit in a near future.

For his part, Mr Aluna Mwaisongwa, Project Director of EAGT Igovu Mpwapwa Student Center, said the center has so far assisted a number of hapless children to have their dreams materializing.

"Today some are soldiers, others are studying at different colleges, we thank God for enabling us to be a result of their life's happiness," he said.

At the organization's Mvumi students support centers, most vulnerable children from poor families managed to fulfil their dreams.



Parents whose children are under the support of Compassion international Tanzania.

CIT a blessing in disguise for Mtwara flood victims

FROM PAGE 6

seeped rain water... the 2014/15 floods completely wiped it out and left us outside without shelter," recalls Maisha.

She continues: "We had nowhere to go... our neighbors hosted us for a while, and we had to accept mattresses, food and other basic needs from various corners."

In 2017 EAGT representatives introduced the idea of constructing a new house for her through Compassion International Tanzania support, so long as she allowed the house to belong to Swadra.

"I agreed with the condition, and a few days later construction began... we finally got to live in a better house. I have nothing to pay them... God will make all the payments," Maisha remarks passionately.

Her daughter Swadra by her side thanks everyone who was involved in the chain of support, insisting that they should not stop helping people in need as they did for her.

"This support has been great for me, but I also know of other children still suffering out there on the streets... let God empower CIT to support those other

children as well," she says.

Rashid Chiponda (47) is father of Zaituni Rashid (14), a beneficiary of child care at FPCT Church Mtwara. He also says he couldn't have imagined how he and his family could ever live in a better house in the darkness of poverty.

"This daughter of mine saved us from poor housing... in fact we didn't live in a house but only a filter to let in the rain when it comes. When the floods came the filter went with it and left us homeless" Chiponda says.

He adds that "me and my family are

now happy living in a better house that belongs to our child. Our appreciation goes to FPCT church and Compassion."

Asha Hamisi (40), mother of Swaam Hamisi (9), says their house support came through Moravian Church Mtwara which is taking care of Swaam.

"We had a mud hut before the floods. My daughter has brought me joy... we are free from any more flood fears," Asha remarks. On her part, little Swaamu insists that it's her family's home and not hers alone. "Without my parents I wouldn't even be here, I love them," she says.



Relief as dairy cow project bears fruits in Arumeru

By Zuwena Shame

DAIRY cow project has started bearing fruits to villagers in Arumeru District, Arusha Region, thanks to the initiatives made by Compassion International Tanzania.

So far 75 families in Nkoaranga and Kikatiti Clusters are now enjoying the benefit of the project, which also covers all wards in the district, located on the foothills of Mount Meru—the second tallest mountain in Tanzania after Kilimanjaro.

In its projects to enhance children well being for education health and Christian faith education (bible) at its centers, Compassion has also been working in improving children's lives by providing financial support to the families of the children who are living in extremely poverty like cow project where by many families have benefited.

Compassion works with local churches in the country and it provides the financial supports to the families through children who are sponsored by them.

In Silusi, Compassion works with 25 families through ELCT church in a station TZ203, in Patmosi it works with TAG church station TZ 106 with 20 families and Mulala works with SPCT station 801 and with 18 families.

Speaking with African Child Reporter, Partnership Facilitator for Usariver and Nkoranga, Michael Tolla said that cow project has been a miracle to many families in the area as it has improved many people's lives. Tolla said that most of the people didn't expect to get such benefits from the project. Compassion Tanzania has made their dreams a reality.

Citing examples, Tolla said last two weeks at Mulala ELCT Church where by four women gave testimonies where by one of them said that praying for more than 25 years to own a cow of their owns.

He said the most of the people who keeps cows are not theirs, they just maintain them to either get milk for their children or cow dung for their farms.

Tolla mentioned some of the practical impact of the cow project for Nokaranga and Usa River as improvement of people lives and status where by before compassion and owning cows, they considered as highly vulnerable according to their status for being extremely poor.

"Most of these children who are sponsored by Compassion, they live with grandmothers, guardians where by most of them are not able to work and afford daily meals for their children unless supported. But after being funded by compassion and start



the cow project, their values have been added to the communities. They now see them with high status," added Tolla.

He mentioned another impact as then improvement of children's health because they have access of three meals a day as well as drinking milk.

Tolla recalled that since the project, in three wards of Silusi, Patmos and Mulala almost 46 calves have been born therefore they milk them and get milk for their children and sell.

"This has also made their earning increase, they are now selling milk and get cash to consume other important things for their children, they also use milk to food," he added.

Citing examples, Tolla said that there is one grandmother who lives with her three grand children, who managed to install solar power to her house through selling milk and cow dung.

He also mentioned food security at household level has increase after cow project because they can either drink milk or use it in any other way like yogurt or preparing lushoro—a local food prepared from maize and fermented milk as another impact.

He said that since Compassion works with local churches, people have realized the impact of cow project, conviction of GOD and churches has increase, people see churches as a place to run to in case of any difficulties. He however, mentioned lack of enough awareness on how to take care of the cows is one of the challenges in executing the project.

Embrace good parenting skills to reduce street children quandary, parents urged

By Zuwena Shame

PARENTS and guardians have been challenged to embrace good parenting skills in their families to reduce the increasing number of street children in the society.

Among the good parenting aspects include love and affection, stress management, relationship skills, autonomy and independence, education and learning, life skills, behaviour management and health.

The advice was made by Compassion TZ217 Evangelical Church of Tanzania (ELCT), Mbulu Diocese's student Centre project coordinator, John Ammi when speaking with African Child Reporter

Compassion is an international institution dealing with children through partnership with local churches in Northern Tanzania in spiritual and social institution for nurturing and protecting them.

Ammi said that the number of street children is increasing therefore guardians and parents should take strong measures in raising their children.

He said that most of the children at Mbulu district don't have access of basic services like clean and safe water; drainage systems or open places to play and that most of the parents are unemployed and depend on farming activities.

He said: "Most of the people here live below poverty line; parents/guardians cannot afford three meals per day for their families. Not only that but also they lack enough adult protection and control, this is because their parents/guardians spend most of the time looking for money to buy food".

Ammi said Compassion in collaboration with families, local government, wards, villages where they register

children who are living in poverty and sponsor them by providing education, treatment without being biased of denomination.

"Such partnerships are vital in implementing Compassion's holistic, age-appropriate curriculum, which focuses on children's spiritual, intellectual, socio-emotional and physical development" said Ammi.

He said that Compassion is supporting children through child survival program whereby children from 3-22 years of age are being sponsored to get education from primary to higher level as well as vocational skills.

"Some did not know how to pray before, but they have learned how at the centre and now they regularly pray at home, especially before meals and at bedtime. We also put emphasis on bible studies because we believe if they know God well and have faith that's when they will have good manners which will lead them into better future if fearing God" said Ammi adding that children attend the Compassion Child Development Centre.

Compassion is working through children developments by providing regular nutritious meals and snacks, health checkups and medical care as needed, the support needed to attend school,

learning activities based on

Compassion's curriculum of holistic child development, training for older children in

such income-generating skills as tailoring, embroidery,

gardening and animal or crop husbandry,

extra tutoring and encouragement to ensure

that children stay in school and excel in their

studies as well as the opportunity for children to learn the Word of God and pray together.

He said that at the Compassion Child development centres children are in place of safety and security for registered children hence most the parents spend their time to do other economic activities like harvesting and selling in the market and that Compassion play the key role of assisting children attend health classes, tutoring sessions and Bible studies at the centre.

He added that at the child centre, they teach various vocational skills like carpentry, mechanical, entrepreneurship for

those who have completed secondary school so that they leave the centre while knowledgeable to start their own life and depend on themselves.

"By staying and studying at the centre, they also feel the love of a sponsor who cares for their daily physical needs. Thanks to caring sponsors and a program that is Christ-centered, children have the opportunity to experience God's love firsthand" said Ammi.

He said that, in 2010 Compassion started child survival program for the purpose of taking care of pregnant women and their children after birth.

Whereby after delivery, mothers are given small capitals to establish their businesses like selling vegetables, tailoring, poultry projects, goat, and pork, while there is also joint projects like VIKOBA.

He however added that at Compassion TZ217Mbulu, they have started survival restaurant and survival stationery at the church where by students get access of school stationeries like printing and other school essential materials inside the Compassion Child centre.

He mentioned one of the challenges they are facing is that most of the parents can't manage businesses due to too much boozing, and hence cause them to fail completely.

He said that also due to the above reasons, parents can't control their children especially when it comes to education where by most of the students dodge schools.

"This makes our church fellowship to make regular visits to parents for their children as well as businesses. If we don't do this then children won't attend schools and hence reach their education goals and they will not foster in economic in their future" said Ammi.