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About Compassion

We are a child-advocacy and development ministry with a profound mission to pair compassionate individuals with children living in extreme poverty, working tirelessly to liberate them from spiritual, economic, social, and physical hardships. At the core of our organization is an unwavering passion to translate compassion into action, empowering every child left vulnerable by the harsh grip of poverty.

Our strategy in combating poverty is deeply focused and personal, encapsulated in three simple yet powerful words: Compassion for children. For seven decades, we have been dedicated to providing children with the opportunities they need to break free from the suffering and fear inflicted by poverty.

Established in 1999, Compassion's ministry in Tanzania has flourished into one of the largest Christ-centered, church-driven, and child-focused advocacy and development organizations in the region. Our growth reflects a commitment to making a lasting impact on the lives of children in Tanzania, addressing not only their immediate needs but also fostering spiritual, social, and economic well-being.

As we celebrate 70 years of service in the world, our resolve remains steadfast, driven by the belief that compassion is a powerful force for positive change. We are dedicated to continuing our mission, partnering with individuals and communities to break the chains of poverty and offer children a pathway to a brighter future.

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Our Mission

Releasing Children from poverty in Jesus' name.

Our Core values



Integrity



Excellence



Stewardship



Discernment



Dignity



From **The Editor**

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that I introduce to you the latest issue of Rafiki Newsletter, which is filled with inspiring stories of resilience, hope, and transformation. As we navigate through the challenges of our times, it is important to remember that there are countless individuals and organizations working tirelessly to make a positive impact in the lives of others.

In this issue, we highlight the historic collaboration between Compassion International Tanzania and Compassion International Kenya, which recently facilitated a one-week youth camp aimed at fostering mutual beneficial relationships between Tanzanian and Kenyan youth. This transformative experience, themed “Courage to Stand Out,” brought together over 130 young individuals aged 17-22, who engaged in various activities aimed at promoting inter-country collaboration and youth development.

We also feature the East African Chipukizi Cup, the largest East African Youth and grassroots football tournament in Africa. This annual event, which involves over 300 teams from different countries, not only promotes sportsmanship but also serves as a platform for social cohesion and community development.

Additionally, we share the stories of two remarkable individuals, Obed and Oscar, whose lives were transformed by Compassion International. Despite facing numerous challenges, including the untimely

death of their father and financial hardships, they persevered and excelled in their studies, eventually pursuing careers in the healthcare industry. Their journey is a testament to the power of compassion and education in breaking the cycle of poverty.

We also feature the inspiring story of Nasma, a young woman born with a disability, who refused to let her condition define her. With the support of Compassion International, she pursued her dreams and is now pursuing a bachelor's degree in human resources. Her determination and positive attitude serve as an inspiration to others facing similar challenges.

Finally, we bid farewell to Rhoda Shimba, who retired after five years of dedicated

service as Senior Program Support Specialist at Compassion International Tanzania. Her contributions to the organization, particularly in improving the health of mothers and children, will be greatly missed.

As you read through these stories, I hope you are inspired by the resilience, determination, and compassion of these individuals and organizations. May their stories serve as a reminder that, even in the face of adversity, there is always hope and the potential for positive change.

Sincerely,

Melkizedeck Karol
Editor, Rafiki Bulletin

Events' Corner

Tanzania and Kenya Unite for a Historic Youth Camp



United in Purpose: Tanzanian and Kenyan youth stand together, empowered by compassion and courage, forging lasting connections at the Inter-Country Collaboration Camp in Arusha, Tanzania.

Compassion International Tanzania and Compassion International Kenya recently facilitated a one-week youth camp as part of youth empowerment. The heart of the Inter-Country Collaboration Camp aimed to foster mutually beneficial relationships between Tanzanian and Kenyan youth. More than 130 youth aged 17-22 gathered at Oldoyosambu Arusha, Tanzania, for a transformative experience themed “Courage to Stand Out.”

The camp was attended by local government leaders as well as Compassion and Church staff from both Kenya and Tanzania.

The objective was to create inter-country collaboration among youth through youth development centers in the Kajiado (Kenya) and Namanga (Tanzania) Clusters.

Cuthbert Mono, Manager of Partnership at Compassion International Tanzania, emphasized the significance of this camp. “In the history of Compassion in Kenya and Tanzania, this is the first camp, but it was a very good thing with an amazing experience,” he said. “We need it to be sustainable and done every year. Eventually, we plan to involve other East African countries. We expect them to be the trigger of change and development in the

community, which is why we bring them together to learn from each other.”

The camp also included cultural, door-to-door outreach and youth program exchanges, as well as visits to places like the Olkokola Center for people with disabilities in Mamsa village. The youth also learned about purity and character, leadership, financial management, and mental health. They also visited Tarangire National Park, to experience the tourist attraction.

Emmanuel Loibanguti Letoire, a youth participant from Kenya, expressed gratitude for the opportunity. “I appreciate this opportunity. We have learned a lot. I have realized

that anyone can be a leader, and youth leadership supports us in developing the ability to analyze our strengths and weaknesses, set personal and professional goals, and have self-esteem, confidence, and motivation.”

This camp was more than just an educational experience; it was an investment in the talents and potential of the youth. It provided a platform for them to explore their abilities, develop critical skills, and pursue their dreams. As Compassion continues to invest in the youth, it is creating an environment where they are encouraged to thrive and make a positive impact on their communities and beyond.



Enthusiastic youth from Tanzania and Kenya in team-building exercises fostering camaraderie and collaboration.

East African Chipukizi Cup



One of the proud teams, supported by Compassion, gathers for a photo ahead of the Chipukizi Cup 2023 competitions, ready to showcase their talent and determination.

The East African Chipukizi Cup stands as a beacon of hope and unity, bringing together young talents from across the region to celebrate the beautiful game of football. This annual event, which began over a decade ago, has grown exponentially, showcasing the immense talent and potential of East African youth.

In 2019, the tournament boasted an impressive 168 teams, with over 2,200 boys and girls from four African nations. Over the years, the Chipukizi Cup has evolved into more than just a football tournament; it has become a symbol of social cohesion and community development.

In 2023, the tournament was held

in Kisongo, Arusha, at the TGT fields and Braeburn International School, under the theme “Celebrate Talents.” Eight football teams supported by Compassion International Tanzania, consisting of 180 participants from the Child and Youth Ministry from Singida, Manyoni, Itigi, Mkalama, Urambo, and over 300 teams from various countries, took part in the event.

For these young athletes, the Chipukizi Cup is more than just a competition; it’s an opportunity to travel, interact with new friends, and experience international competition in a safe and fun environment. It’s also a chance to develop important life skills, such as leadership, empowerment, and a sense of responsibility.

The tournament is a testament to the power of sports as a tool for social development. It's not just about playing football; it's about using the sport to address critical issues facing youth in Arusha, Moshi, and beyond, and empowering them to become responsible members of their communities.

Sara Shilla, a Program Support Specialist, expressed her gratitude for the platform the Chipukizi Cup provides: "Each year, the East African Cup has been an amazing platform for our children and other children to live their inborn gifts (talents) and meet different people around the world. It has been an easy way for us and them to find their potentials that God has put in them."

Compassion ensures that children and youth recognize their innate gifts and provides them with a sense of purpose and fulfillment. Halima Juma, a program participant, expressed her appreciation for the holistic support provided by Compassion: "On behalf of my team, we are really grateful to Compassion for exposing us to the

best environment for us to grow not only educationally, spiritually, and socially but also for how much they are concerned about our entire life, even our talents."

The participants of the Chipukizi Cup understand the value of their talents and gifts and believe that they can lead to career advancement and success. Modekai Haruna, another program participant, shared his enthusiasm for the competition: "We thank God for the opportunity to participate in this competition. We have been able to meet new friends from different countries, and through this competition, we have realized where we are good and where we need to improve so as to win next year. We are very happy to be part of this competition."

The East African Chipukizi Cup is not just a football tournament; it's a celebration of talent, unity, and the potential of East African youth. It's a testament to the power of sports to bring people together, inspire positive change, and create a brighter future for all.



Spirited teams involving more than 180 youth and children from the Child and Youth Development Centers participated in the competition.

ECHOS OF JOY

Two shining as one



Obed (first from right) and Oscar (from left) with their mother

In the quaint village of Nkoaranga, nestled near the majestic Mount Meru in the northern part of Arusha, Tanzania, two young boys, Obed and Oscar, were raised after being born into a humble family in Tanga region. The lives of the twins took a drastic turn after the untimely death of their father, who was the primary breadwinner and a pillar of strength for the family. With their mother, a dedicated housewife, left to fend for herself and her four sons, life became an uphill battle.

However, a ray of hope emerged in the form of Compassion International. Recognizing the potential in the family, Compassion International registered Obed and Oscar into their program at the TAG Nkoaranga Child and Youth Development Center in 1999, offering them a lifeline to a brighter future. Obed recalls, "Compassion International saw the potential in our household and decided to support our journey to a brighter future. From that day forward, our lives began to change."

With the support of Compassion International, Obed and Oscar gained access to quality education, nutritious meals, and healthcare services. The organization, through its church partners, provided mentorship, guidance, and nurturing their talents and ambitions. Obed and Oscar's eyes sparkled with newfound hope as they realized that education could be their ticket out of poverty.

As they progressed through school, Obed and Oscar excelled in their studies, impressing program staff with their dedication and passion for learning. Through hard work and determination, they earned scholarships through Compassion's Leadership Development Program (LDP) and pursued their undergraduate studies at prestigious universities of Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) and the University of Dodoma (UDOM). Throughout their journey, Compassion International supported them every step of the way.

Obed and Oscar's journey was not without challenges, but they persevered, fueled by the belief that education could break the chains of poverty. Oscar reflects, "Compassion's program not only

supported us academically but also empowered us to develop life skills and a strong sense of social responsibility. We became involved in community projects, working with others to improve living conditions and healthcare services in various places in mainland Tanzania."

After years of dedication and sacrifice, Obed and Oscar graduated and found employment in the healthcare industry. The once-poor boys had transformed into beacons of hope, offering medical assistance to those in need. Obed currently works at Compassion International Tanzania National Office as a Health Specialist, serving marginalized communities in releasing them from poverty. Oscar, on the other hand, serves as an obstetrician at the Obstetrics and Gynecology department of Mwalimu Nyerere Memorial Hospital, a regional hospital.

Obed and Oscar's story spread far and wide, inspiring others to believe in the power of compassion and education. Compassion International in collaboration with church partners continue to support children like Obed and Oscar, fostering dreams and empowering them to overcome adversity.

Unstoppable girl

Disability is not inability.



Nasma (on right) and her twin sister Najma (on the left)

In the bustling city of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Nasma and Najma, twins born to loving parents, were raised by their grandmother. While Najma was born without any physical challenges, Nasma was born with a disability in her right hand, which was shorter than usual and had a small palm and fingers. Despite

her grandmother's concerns and attempts to shield her from certain tasks, Nasma was determined to live life to the fullest.

From a young age, Nasma refused to let her disability define her. She insisted on doing chores like cleaning, washing clothes, and maintaining the house, and she excelled in school, refusing to be treated differently.

At the age of six, they were registered into a child and youth development program at KKT church Pasua Moshi that provided educational and spiritual support, easing the financial burden on their grandmother. With this support, they were able to afford their education and excel in their studies, eventually pursuing university degrees.

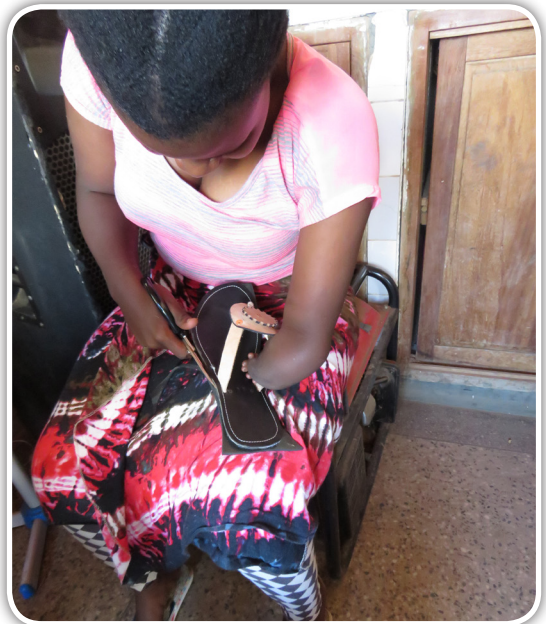
Despite her hand condition, Nasma pursued various skills through the program, including sewing, beading, and baking. She sewed her own skirt and joined her twin in sewing Sandoz, and she also excelled in baking. Nasma's determination and positive attitude were evident in her words: "I never see disability at any part of my body as other people do, what I know I'm perfectly and wonderfully made, I love myself and my hand doesn't ever stop me from doing anything, I'm still hoping to do a lot, Compassion contributes a lot to who I am, am so grateful for their support."

Currently, Nasma is pursuing a bachelor's degree in human resources at the Tanzania Institute of Accountancy (TIA) in Dar es Salaam, while her twin sister Najma is studying community development, water supply and sanitation at the Water Institute of the University of Dar es salaam. Both sisters credit Compassion's program for their success and

express deep gratitude for the organization's support.

Najma expressed her pride in Compassion, saying, "I'm so proud of Compassion, they are the core reason for where I am now, compassion is the part of my life I have learnt a lot especially knowing God and being depending and standing by myself as a girl, with grateful heart God bless compassion Tanzania and worldwide, me and my twin sister Nasma we love you a lot and appreciate for what you have been doing to us."

Nasma's story is a testament to the power of determination and the impact of support systems. Her disability did not hinder her from pursuing her dreams, and she serves as an inspiration to others who may face similar challenges.



Nasma making a shoe

Roda Shimba departs from Compassion



The Tanzania National Leadership Team in a prayer session, bidding farewell to Rhoda as she embarks on retirement journey.



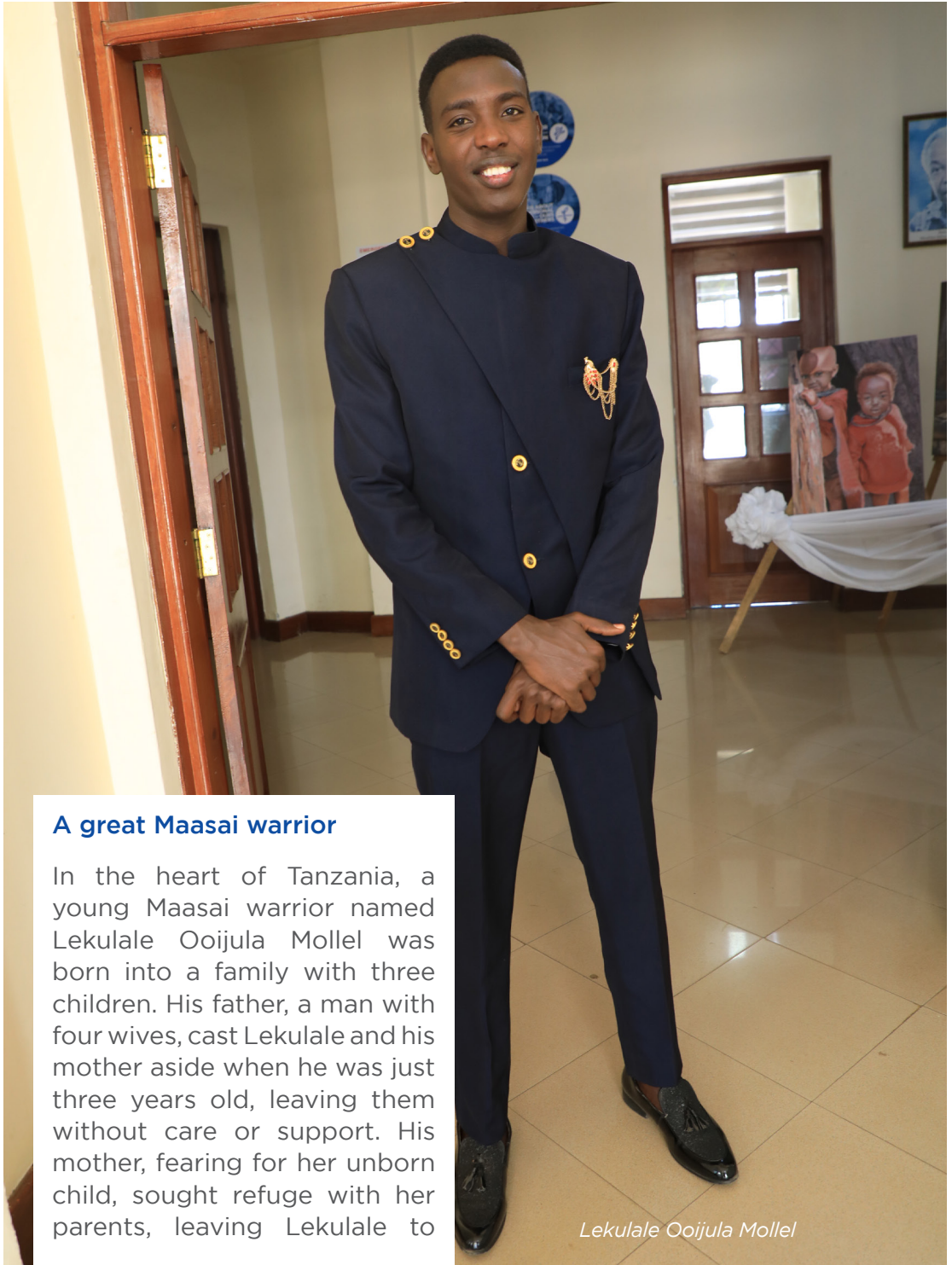
After fifteen years of dedicated service as Senior Program Support Specialist at Compassion International Tanzania (CIT), Rhoda Shimba retired in December 2023. National Director of CIT, Mary Lema, remarked that Rhoda has left an indelible mark on the organization, particularly in her efforts to improve the health of mothers and children.

“We will miss you, Sister Rhoda, for your hard work, gentleness, and humility. We wish you all the best in your retirement life,” said Dominic Nassary, speaking on behalf of the CIT staff during a short farewell ceremony.

In her response, Rhoda expressed her gratitude to the organization for the opportunity to serve. “God bless you and keep you safe as you continue to selflessly minister to the children,” she said.

OUR PEOPLE

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



A great Maasai warrior

In the heart of Tanzania, a young Maasai warrior named Lekulale Ooijula Mollel was born into a family with three children. His father, a man with four wives, cast Lekulale and his mother aside when he was just three years old, leaving them without care or support. His mother, fearing for her unborn child, sought refuge with her parents, leaving Lekulale to

Lekulale Ooijula Mollel

fend for himself in the care of his father and stepmother.

Despite the hardships, Lekulale's life took a turn for the better when he was registered into a Child and Youth Development Program at Baptist Longido. This decision, however, angered his father, who insisted that Lekulale should be tending to cattle instead of attending school. The church program intervened, promising to ensure Lekulale's education and even threatening legal action if his father continued to deny him schooling. Fearing the consequences, his father relented, allowing Lekulale to pursue his education.

But the challenges didn't end there. Lekulale often went to school on an empty stomach, scavenging for food in dumpsters to stave off hunger. Despite these hardships, he excelled in his studies until malnutrition struck, causing his stomach to swell. The church program once again stepped in, providing medical treatment and daily porridge to aid in his recovery. They also found a new family within the church to care for Lekulale, where he thrived both academically and morally.

As Lekulale grew, so did his faith in God. His faith deepened, and he continued to excel in his studies, eventually representing Tanzania in a conference in Ethiopia at the age of twelve.

With the unwavering support of

the church program, Lekulale completed his primary and secondary education. He continued to volunteer at the church program, teaching business subjects, while also gaining valuable experience as a tax officer with the Tanzania Revenue Authority during his university years.

In 2022, Lekulale graduated with a bachelor's degree in accounting and finance, dedicating a year to volunteer for the Child and Youth program that had transformed his life. He now works at Compassion International Tanzania as an Accounting Associate on an internship, expressing deep gratitude to the organization and its donors for their unwavering support.

"To the Compassion International Tanzania staff and donors, I express my deepest appreciation for your commitment and dedication to changing the lives of children like me. To our church program workers, pastor in charge, and all the staff and members, I am grateful for your unwavering support and love that contributed to my success. While we may not be able to repay you, we believe that God will reward your kindness and remember your efforts. You have made an indelible mark on our lives, standing in the gap for families and children in need. May God continue to bless your work and mission," said Lekulale.

OUR PEOPLE

New Talents



Enock Meles Arra
Partnership Facilitator

Enock holds a Bachelor's Degree in Social Protection. He possesses expertise in social risk management, human resource management, entrepreneurship, financial management, social protection financing, administration, resource mobilization, and leadership. Enock will play a vital role in fulfilling the mission of the organization, serving the Central Base in Singida region.



Lekulale Olojula Mollel
Accounting Associate

Lekulale holds a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and Finance. The former program participant completed a five-month internship with Compassion International Tanzania from July 2023 to January 2024 before officially being appointed as Accounting Associate. Lekulale is poised to bring positive contributions and add value to the team with his skills and expertise.



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