



# INTRODUCING COMPASSION

Christ-centred | Child-focused | Church-based





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PHOTO: Rev Everett Swanson. Founder, Compassion International

## INTRODUCING COMPASSION

Compassion International started in 1952 with 35 children orphaned by the Korean War. Everett Swanson, an evangelist from Chicago, was ministering to troops when he saw children dying in the streets one morning and made a promise to do something about it. By 1977, more than 25,000 children were being supported. Compassion started in Australia in the same year.

The ministry of Compassion International grew to 250,000 children, babies and students by 1998, to 500,000 in 2003 and, eventually, one million in 2009. Today, Compassion is transforming the lives of more than 1.8 million children around the world through 12 international partner country offices. **Over 109,000 of these children are currently supported through Compassion Australia.**

Compassion's ministry is holistic child development in partnership with local churches in over 25 developing countries around the world.

Our child development programs are unique in that they are:



### Christ-centred

Every child has the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel message in a culturally relevant way.



### Child-focused

Programs engage each child, fostering their spiritual, physical, socio-emotional and economic development.



### Church-based

Programs are run exclusively in partnership with local churches.



# CHILDREN AND POVERTY

**More than 900 million people around the world still live in extreme poverty. Almost half of them—46 per cent—are aged 17 or younger.**

Poverty causes children to struggle with frequent illness, chronic malnutrition and impaired physical and mental development. It denies children access to basic health care and education, weakens their protective environment and leaves them vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

Poverty robs children of opportunities and choices. It saps them of their energy and undermines their confidence in the future. Poverty tells a child they do not matter, their story is not worth being told. It damages a child's self-worth and steals their hopes and dreams. Poverty can even destroy a child's belief in a God of love, hope and justice.

The world often overlooks children. They're too small; they can't vote; their rights are often unprotected. But God makes it clear that all children are precious to Him and should not be hindered or disregarded in any way. As Christians we have a responsibility to take up the mandate of Jesus and care for children, especially those living in poverty.

*He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."*

—Mark 10:14b-15



**663 MILLION PEOPLE**

663 million people still lack access to improved sources of drinking water.



**2.4 BILLION PEOPLE**

2.4 billion people don't use an improved sanitation facility, and more than 900 million practise open defecation.



**2x MORE LIKELY**

Children from the poorest households in the world are twice as likely to die before their fifth birthday as children from the richest households.



**438,000 DEATHS**

In 2015, malaria led to 438,000 deaths, of which more than two-thirds were children under five years of age.



**830 WOMEN DIE EACH DAY**

830 women die each day—303,000 each year—from complications in pregnancy and childbirth, 99 per cent of them in developing countries.



**17.7 MILLION CHILDREN**

In 2013, 17.7 million children worldwide lost one or both parents to AIDS. An estimated 3.2 million children under the age of 15 were living with HIV—and 190,000 children died of AIDS-related causes.



**5.9 MILLION CHILDREN**

5.9 million children under the age of five die every year, most from preventable causes. That's more than 16,000 children dying per day.

Sources: UNICEF (2014) Issue Brief: Child Poverty in the Post-2015 Agenda, WHO UNICEF (2014) Progress on Drinking Water and Sanitation 2014 Update, UNICEF (2015) Progress for Children Beyond Averages: Learning from the MDGs







## COMMITTED TO CHRIST

Jesus Christ is at the heart of Compassion's ministry. This commitment is the basis of our mission to release children from poverty—in Jesus' name. It drives the content of our child development programs, informs all of our relationships and guides our decision-making process.

Our clear and consistent Christian identity is something that we never seek to hide or compromise. It is the main reason why so many people choose to support a child with Compassion.

Compassion's ministry is holistic child development, which is taking a child through a process of growth and fulfillment in all dimensions of their life. We believe we must do more than meet the physical needs of people living in poverty. We must share the hope and grace of the gospel, so they can experience true transformation in every area of life.

Each child in Compassion's programs has the opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel in a culturally relevant way. When children are introduced to the love of Jesus Christ, they experience new hope and a sense of value.

*"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to the Father through him."*

—Colossians 3:17







## COMMITTED TO CHILDREN

Children are often the hardest hit by poverty's effects, yet they are the least able to do anything about their circumstances. We, as the Body of Christ, are called to act on behalf of children living in poverty.

It is God's heart for children that compels us. With more than 1700 passages relating to children in the Bible, children play a prevalent and pivotal role in Scripture and in God's Kingdom. The Bible recognises the vulnerability of children to neglect, abuse and injustice, and urges us to not overlook their needs, suffering and presence.

When Jesus' disciples were having a [heated] discussion about the Kingdom of God [Matthew 18:1-3; Luke 9:46], he did something entirely unexpected. He invited a small, unnamed child into their midst, confounding their theology and confronting their pride. "Unless you change and become like little children," he said, "you will not enter the kingdom of heaven" [Matthew 18:3]. And then, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me" [Matthew 18:5]. Therefore, as children are strategic in building the Kingdom of Heaven, it is vital that they are nurtured and valued in their formative years.

At Compassion, we believe one of the most effective ways to address poverty is by empowering children to become agents of transformation in their families, communities and, one day, their nations.

*"A child may be born into poverty  
—but poverty is never born into a child."*

*—Dr Wess Stafford, former Compassion International President*







## COMMITTED TO THE CHURCH

With deep roots in their communities, local churches are often one of the most reliable, stable and accessible institutions in countries where governance is weak and infrastructure is lacking. They are uniquely placed to understand the real needs of people and best able to make strategic decisions about the needs of their communities.

Compassion has chosen to work exclusively in partnership with the Church to embrace individual children, develop the value in every child, and break through the unique obstacles for each child to be released from poverty.

By partnering with local churches, Compassion can train, support and empower local workers to identify and address each child's specific circumstances. Every child can receive the opportunity to overcome their personal circumstances and hear the gospel message.

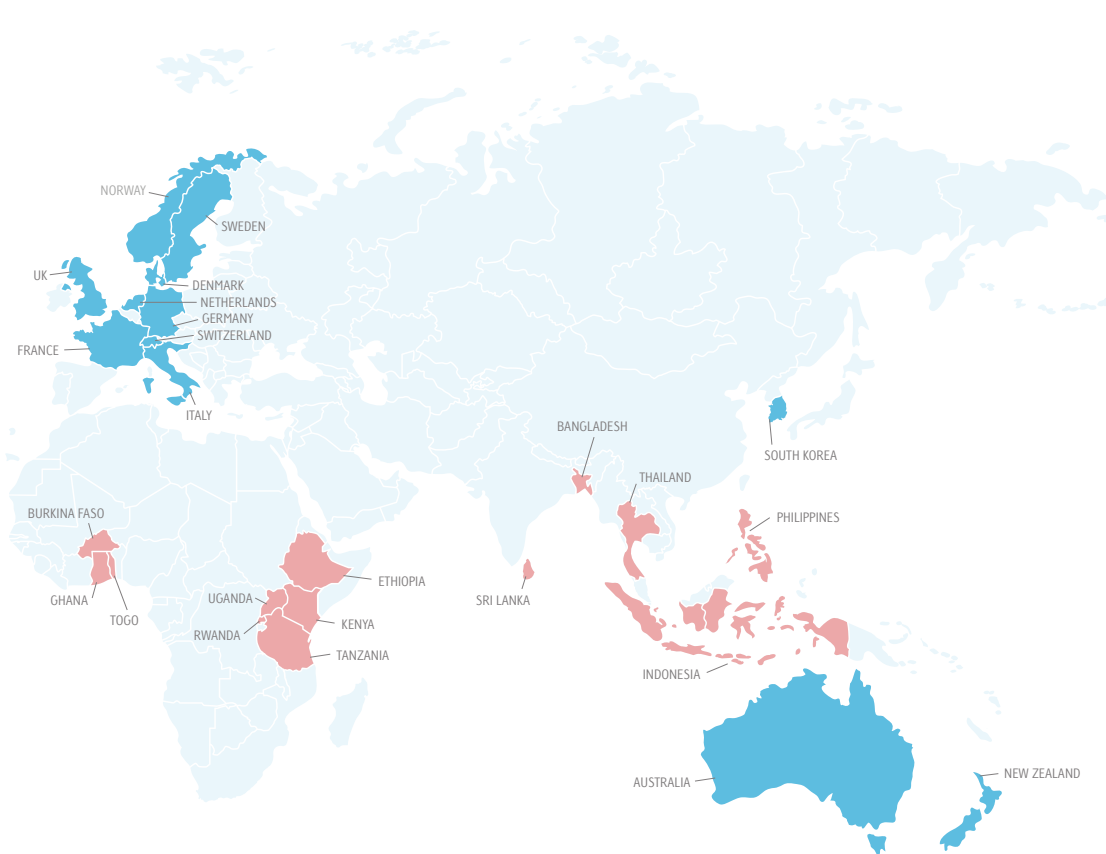
Compassion currently partners with more than 6700 local churches from over 70 denominations in the developing world that share and uphold our Statement of Faith—equipping and training them to administer child development programs in a way that benefits their specific communities.

*“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”*

—Matthew 5:16



## WHERE WE WORK



### Field Countries

Compassion field country offices oversee and administer Compassion's child development programs and develop church partner relationships and child advocacy initiatives in over 25 developing countries around the world.



### Partner Countries

Compassion partner countries provide the funds, resources and assistance with program development for the successful implementation of Compassion's programs around the world through a variety of marketing campaigns and child advocacy initiatives.







## COMPASSION'S HOLISTIC CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Holistic child development is taking a child through a process of growth and fulfilment in all dimensions of their life: spiritually, socio-emotionally, economically and physically. Poverty is complex and has a devastating impact on every area of life. Therefore the response must come in all of these four areas.

Compassion believes holistic development is a long-term approach that starts before a child is born and continues through to school age and beyond. Holistic child development means we recognise that every child is special, uniquely made by God. That's why everything we do is tailored to meet the specific needs of individual children.



**COMPASSION'S CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM** is the core of Compassion's ministry to children and gives every registered child access to life-changing opportunities to be released from poverty in Jesus' name.



**COMPASSION'S CRITICAL NEEDS** builds upon the Child Sponsorship Program to address the issues facing children, their families and their communities. Critical Needs removes obstacles to children's development and implements preventative action. This can include providing safe water, emergency medical care, infrastructure, vocational training and disaster relief—all issues that need to be addressed for a child to be released from poverty.



## WE ADDRESS THE FOUR KEY AREAS OF A CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT



## WE WORK WITH CHILDREN AT EACH STAGE OF THEIR LIFE



Funded through local and sponsorship resources 

Funded through non-sponsorship resources 

We work with children from the womb to the workforce, so they can develop their God-given potential and become healthy and fulfilled adults.

From prenatal care through to early childhood, school age, and adolescence, our programs address the individual needs of children that are unique to their stage of life.







## CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

*Developing, discipling and equipping children for life*

Core to Compassion's ministry, the Child Sponsorship Program connects one sponsor with one child living in poverty, providing not only education and health care but also the encouragement needed to be socially confident and economically self-supporting.

A sponsor has the opportunity and privilege to invest into that child's future. Through prayer, letter writing and support, a sponsor plays a vital part in their sponsored child's development and spiritual growth.

Through a child development centre run by a local church, children are given the opportunity to hear the gospel, receive education and health care and play and learn in a safe place.

In partnership with Compassion, local churches in developing countries deliver the Child Sponsorship Program and aim for a child to be:

- Physically healthy and able to make good decisions about their health
- Motivated with skills to be economically self-supporting
- Able to interact with others in a healthy and compassionate manner
- Given the opportunity to hear the gospel message



**You can sponsor a child for \$48 a month.**

To find out more visit [www.compassion.com.au/sponsor](http://www.compassion.com.au/sponsor)







## CRITICAL NEEDS

*When more help is needed*

The effects of poverty are devastating and affect every area of a child's life. For babies, children and students living in poverty, there is no safety net; they live in environments that are unstable. When crisis hits their lives, they often have little hope for recovery.

Critical Needs provides solutions to meet children's individual needs by building upon the foundation of the Child Sponsorship Program. Critical Needs addresses obstacles in a child's external environment so they can continue their development in all areas. In partnership with the local church, Compassion identifies solutions to remove these obstacles while also implementing preventative action for a child and their family.

Giving to Critical Needs provides children with what they need for healthy development such as safe water, emergency medical care, extra nutritional support, infrastructure, vocational training and disaster relief.

Every child will benefit from funding for a Critical Need during their time in Compassion's program. Your support for Critical Needs helps provide customised care for all registered children, allows for increased preventative action, and continues Compassion's ministry to release children from all forms of poverty in Jesus' name.



**You can engage with Critical Needs from \$12 a month.**

To find out more visit [www.compassion.com.au/criticalneeds](http://www.compassion.com.au/criticalneeds)





# COMPASSION AND YOUR CHURCH

Engaging your church with Compassion gives your congregation the flexibility and freedom to support children in a way that complements your church's heart for missions. Whether you choose to focus globally or within a specific developing country that's close to your church's heart, your church can invest in the lives of children living in poverty. Your support will provide them with practical care and the opportunity to hear and respond to the life-changing message of Jesus.

However you choose to connect with Compassion, your church will be involved with proven, long-running, verifiable and strategic development programs that respect and affirm churches in the developing world.

In partnership with Compassion, your church has the opportunity to transform families, communities and even nations for Christ—one child at a time.



To find out more visit [www.compassion.com.au/church](http://www.compassion.com.au/church)

*"I would absolutely encourage any pastor to consider engaging in a greater way with Compassion. It will do something significant in you as the senior leader, in your leadership team and in the heart of your church. It has been powerful to watch our church's heart for children grow as we partner with Compassion."*

—Senior Pastor Gerard Keehan, Globalheart Church





## COMPASSION PARTNERSHIPS

Many businesses and individuals think about leveraging their impact to support those living in poverty.

Through your partnership with Compassion, we aim to enable this kind of impact by connecting you and your business with programs that make a life-changing difference in the lives of children and families living in poverty.

Compassion provides your organisation with a strategic, sustainable and effective way to make a lasting impact. Connecting your business with Compassion is a rewarding way to engage staff, demonstrate your strong sense of social responsibility, and use your influence and resources to help the poor.

Together, we can assist those most affected by poverty but the least able to do anything about their circumstances. We can help release them from poverty and make a far-reaching impact on those around them, their families, their communities and ultimately their nations.



To find out more visit [www.compassion.com.au/business](http://www.compassion.com.au/business)

*“As a business we wanted to go beyond ourselves and support something that was making a difference. Compassion was a great fit for us because not only are their programs effectively releasing children from poverty around the world, but they are a credible and financially accountable organisation. In partnership with Compassion, our impact has been greater than I ever expected and it has been something our whole business can really engage with.”*

*—Trevor Williams, Principal, Price Williams Whyte*





# ADVOCACY

Become a Compassion Advocate and join a community of like-minded individuals raising awareness and support for children living in poverty.

Being a Compassion Advocate can be as simple as chatting to your friends, family and church about Compassion.

Making music or art that raises awareness of children living in poverty. Visiting your local politicians to urge them to take action. Volunteering at an event to promote Compassion's child sponsorship. How you advocate is up to you!

Whatever you choose, you'll be equipped, inspired, and empowered to make a difference for children living in poverty.



To find out more visit [www.compassion.com.au/advocacy](http://www.compassion.com.au/advocacy)

*"I really enjoy the opportunity I have to be an advocate for Compassion—it is truly an amazing feeling to be a part of releasing children from poverty in Jesus' name. It's a fun way to be God's hands and feet in the world!"*

—Amanda, NSW





# Compassion SUNDAY

Compassion Sunday is your opportunity to speak up for children living in poverty by encouraging your church family and friends to sponsor a child. When you host a Compassion Sunday event in your church, you'll join churches across Australia in being part of the solution to poverty.

What Compassion Sunday looks like at your church is completely up to you. You choose whether it should be a five or 10 minute presentation, the focus of the church service, or something that engages all the ministries in your church.

A free Resource Kit, filled with all the materials you need, makes planning and running a Compassion Sunday event simple. A chance to share and prepare with your friends makes it fun. The opportunity to make a life-changing difference for children in need makes it meaningful.

All Compassion Sunday requires is a willing heart to take action on behalf of children living in poverty.



To find out more visit [www.compassion.com.au/compassion-sunday](http://www.compassion.com.au/compassion-sunday)

*"Compassion Sunday was an easy way to talk in my church about children in poverty and what people can do to bring about change. People were inspired and wanted to sponsor a child after my presentation. I was really encouraged by the response."*

—Claudia, VIC





## GIFTS COMPASSION

The Gifts of Compassion catalogue includes a range of gift ideas for friends or family members that also help children and families living in poverty. A Gift of Compassion comes with a card for the person the gift is for, which explains that a gift has been given in their honour to children in need. Funds raised go towards supporting Compassion's Critical Needs, which addresses obstacles to development for children in our programs. This could include health and hygiene improvement through building toilets, income-generation activities through livestock or malaria prevention through mosquito nets.

Gifts of Compassion are great for any occasion—birthdays, Mothers' and Fathers' Day, Christmas and Easter. Whether given instead of a traditional gift or alongside one, a Gift of Compassion can mean so much to your friends and family, as they learn that their gift is providing life-changing support to those who really need it.



To find out more visit [www.compassion.com.au/giftsofcompassion](http://www.compassion.com.au/giftsofcompassion)

*In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*

—Acts 20:35





## INCLUDE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Including a gift to Compassion in your Will is a simple way to give hope to children living in poverty: a hope that has its roots in eternity.

Leaving a gift can provide support for sponsored children all the way to graduation, save lives by providing clean water, lay a strong foundation for future generations by building classrooms, bring hope by supporting vulnerable mothers and babies, and more.

Whatever your heart for children in need, whatever your passion for creating change, including a gift to Compassion in your Will makes a life-changing difference in the developing world.



To find out more, visit [www.compassion.com.au/donate/bequests](http://www.compassion.com.au/donate/bequests) or email [plannedgiving@compassion.com.au](mailto:plannedgiving@compassion.com.au)

*"I want to leave something for [my family] but I [also] want to leave something behind that will have a tangible effect, if you help even one child through Compassion, their family is helped, and the church or community is helped. If you [support] a project, a whole community is helped. It is far reaching. I would never be able to do all that by myself, but I can through Compassion."*

—Kasturi, QLD





## COMPASSION FIELD EXPERIENCES

Experience for yourself how Compassion child sponsorship transforms lives.

**Sponsor Visit:** You've met your sponsored child through letters and photographs; now meet them in person. Visiting your sponsored child is an incredible opportunity for them to share their life with you. You'll need to make your own travel arrangements, but our team will handle the logistics of your sponsor visit—we're excited for you to meet your sponsored child!

**Insight Trip:** An Insight Trip will give you the chance to experience Compassion's work firsthand and meet our incredible workers in the developing world. This is your opportunity to see how Compassion works and to judge for yourself if it truly does transform the lives of children living in poverty. You will be challenged, inspired and changed by your experiences and the relationships you will form.

**Adventure Trip:** Embark on the adventure of a lifetime! Compassion Adventure Trips give you the opportunity to participate in an outstanding experience in some of the world's most breathtaking locations and at the same time make a significant difference in the lives of people in communities where Compassion works.



For more information about Compassion Field Experiences and how you can get involved, go to [www.compassion.com.au/trips](http://www.compassion.com.au/trips)

*"The experience not only opened my eyes to Compassion's life-changing impact in the lives of children and their families, it bore in me a renewed sense of hope for a community and a nation. I discovered a work that goes so much deeper than relieving the pangs of hunger. I will forever be impacted by the experience." —Tim, QLD*





## COMPASSION'S PRAYER PARTNERS

Compassion's Prayer Partners Network is integral to strengthening the ministry of Compassion worldwide. It is made up of passionate Compassion supporters from all backgrounds who share a desire to partner with us in prayer. Prayer is the most important way we can speak up on behalf of those who have no voice. It allows us to minister to children in ways that are powerful and eternal.

Prayer can reach into the heart of issues that no natural force can touch. Prayer can impact the smallest child and the most powerful leader.

As a prayer partner, you will be provided with regular prayer updates to guide you in prayer for issues affecting Compassion assisted children and the countries in which they live. Prayer is strategic not only in changing the lives of individuals but also in changing communities and ultimately nations.



For more information, visit [www.compassion.com.au/prayer](http://www.compassion.com.au/prayer)

*The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.*

*—James 5:16b*

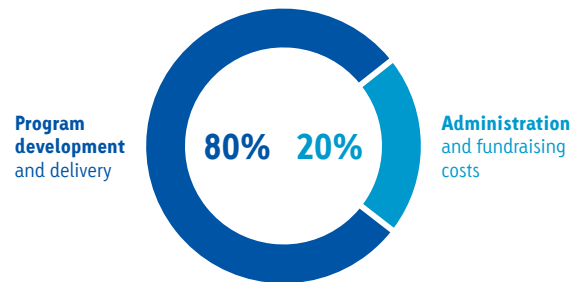
All scripture quotations are taken from the NIV





# FINANCIAL INTEGRITY

Compassion International has been recognised for excellent financial integrity by numerous independent publications and financial accountability groups. In its June 2016 assessment, Charity Navigator—the USA's largest charity evaluator—awarded Compassion International 100 marks out of 100 for accountability and transparency, as well as 84.45 for its financial score, earning us an overall three-star rating!



Approximately 80 per cent of donations to Compassion is used:

- For the development, delivery and supervision of programs
- For the purchase of goods and services for the direct benefit of the children in our programs
- To inform and update sponsors and facilitate their personal relationship with their sponsored child
- For community education in Australia

Approximately 20 per cent is allocated to cover all administration and fundraising costs in Australia.



Fully audited financial statements are available at [www.compassion.com.au/about-us/financials](http://www.compassion.com.au/about-us/financials)





**THANK YOU**  
FOR CONSIDERING COMPASSION!







**COMPASSION AUSTRALIA**

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