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**ABOUT THE COVER:** The medical care and support Mulu and her 2-year-old daughter, Ikram, receive through Compassion's Child Survival Program are keeping them healthy.

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IDARE YOU TO READ  
IT AGAIN\*

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SUMMER 2011 | [compassion.com](http://compassion.com)  
VOL. 5, NO. 2

# compassion

MAGAZINE

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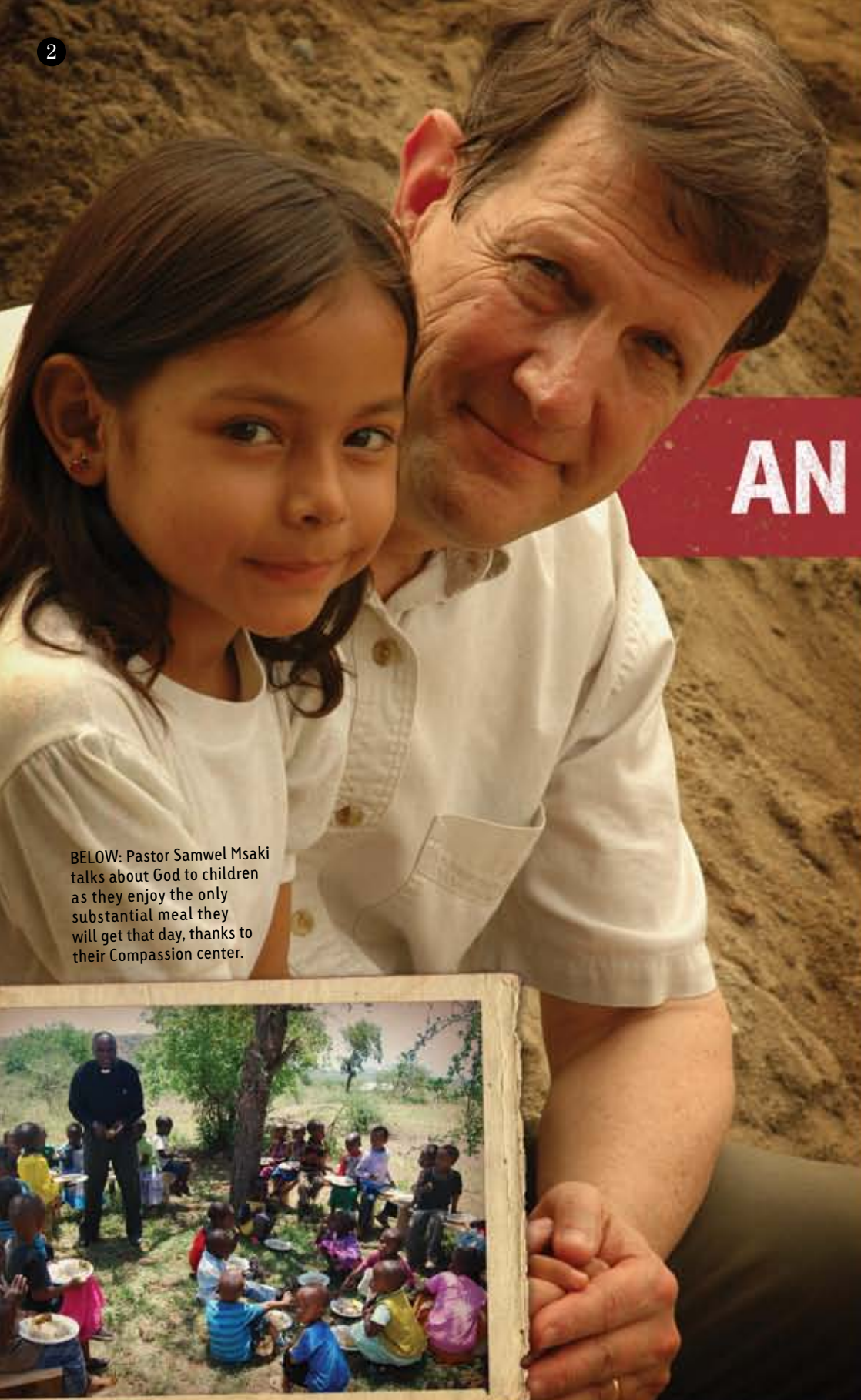
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## A REASON TO LIVE

A Story of Loss, Devastation  
and Help for a Girl Abducted  
Into Marriage

Releasing children from poverty  
**Compassion**  
in Jesus' name





BELOW: Pastor Samwel Msaki talks about God to children as they enjoy the only substantial meal they will get that day, thanks to their Compassion center.

## FROM THE HEART OF THE PRESIDENT WESS STAFFORD

# AN EARLY MORNING WAKE-UP CALL

For Pastor Samwel Msaki, God's voice came in 2009 from a small and unnerving source — and it altered the direction of his church forever.

Samwel had arrived at his church early for morning devotions, the sun warming the rocky Tanzanian landscape after a cold night. As he prayed in the quiet of his office, Samwel thought he heard a voice, one he describes as “the cry of a kitten.”

“It made me attentive,” Samwel says, “and I decided to go around the church, looking for the voice and where it was coming from.”

Scouring the rooms of the church, he found nothing and went back to his office to continue praying. Again, he says, “The voice started crying, this time even louder than the time before.” Now Samwel walked hesitantly outside the small church building, led by the kitten-like sounds he heard.

“Hardly had I gone halfway around the church when I saw on the ground, next to a cement pillar, a cardboard box used to ship liter bottles of drinking water.

“The small box started twisting. The voice was certainly coming from inside.

“My body became numb. I felt like there was no more breath in me. But I gathered my strength and decided to come closer to the box to see what was inside it.

*How does God speak to get our attention? Whose voice does He use? I am constantly in awe of how God leads pastors in the poorest of communities toward Compassion's mission.*

“I could not believe my eyes. Before me was a small newborn baby boy put into the box without even a cloth to cover him.

“In my shock I lifted the box closely and saw that the baby was not attended when he was born, nor was his umbilical cord cut and dressed. He was crying not only because of the cold, but his new, bloodstained body had attracted ants, which were all over him.”

Samwel rushed the boy to the local police station in anticipation of getting him to a hospital over 30 miles away.

“The name of the child and his father, please?” the officer asked.

Samwel stood silently. He did not know the father. Did not know the mother. There had been no nurse. No care. Just a pastor who followed a frail sound. Samwel sensed the direction of the Spirit.

“Wait for a moment and I will answer your question,” Samwel said, and he rushed out of the station to a small store down the road. He bought a bottle of water.

Arriving back at the station, the strong, loving hands of Samwel lifted the baby out of the box. As he cradled him, he tenderly poured water on the little one's forehead.

“Daniel, I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

Samwel looked at the officer. “The child was found at the pillar of the church. The Church is his father. He will be taken care of and raised by the church. Write that his name is Daniel — Daniel the Church.”

And so the officer took his pen and wrote in Swahili the name with which Samwel had christened the baby — Daniel Kanisa — Daniel the Church.

Samwel then transported Daniel 31 miles to the large Christian hospital in Moshi. It comforted him to see the nurses wash Daniel and care for his umbilical cord. They determined that Daniel was premature, so they placed him in the warmth of an incubator.

And Daniel received the love of Pastor Samwel. Every day for three weeks Samwel drove the 62-mile round trip for one simple reason. “I had fallen in love with Daniel.”

That's why the phone call from the hospital devastated him.

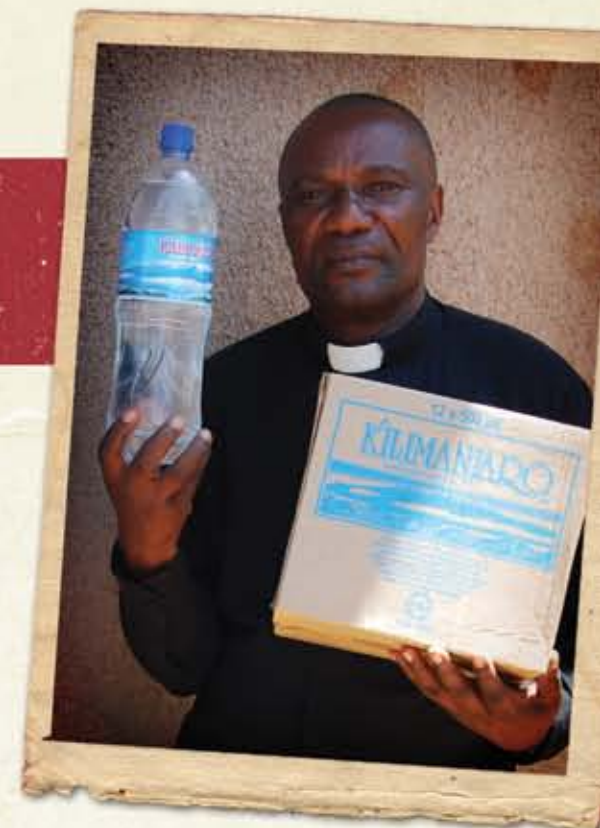
“Pastor, we are sorry to inform you that Daniel lost the battle. He passed away today at 10 a.m.”

The child found at the church and cared for by the church would now be buried by the church.

.....  
**THAT WAS THE DAY PASTOR SAMWEL MSAKI DECIDED HIS CONGREGATION WOULD DO MORE FOR THE CHILDREN IN HIS COMMUNITY, CALLED NJIA PANDA.**

Located at the crossroads of four major highways, Njia Panda is a destination for truckers who blow into town and use the local women and girls for an inexpensive night's entertainment, leaving them pregnant with babies they will bear alone. Pastor Samwel is sure Daniel was one of their victims.

Samwel sought out the Compassion office in Tanzania. Within months, the Evangelical Lutheran Church Njia Panda Student Center was born.




Pastor Samwel Msaki found a newborn in a box like this one used for bottled drinking water. “The horrible and painful experience I encountered,” he says, “made me restless until I could see something done for the children.”

Today it cares for 260 children under Samwel's watchful eye. Children who were once sorely in need of physical, spiritual and emotional health are now taking what they learn at the center home to their parents, brothers and sisters.

“As I remembered the cry of Daniel that fateful morning, it dawned on me that Daniel was just a voice awakening us to the plight of children.

“His cry was a prayer to God that He should send rescue to children who are being abandoned, thrown away, and victims of decisions that adults make.”

And that is the inspiration behind just one of the 5,600-plus churches with whom Compassion partners to minister through our holistic child development program.

I think you understand why they are my heroes. 

### WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS AND COMMENTS!

Please e-mail [compassionmagazine@us.ci.org](mailto:compassionmagazine@us.ci.org) or write to Editor, *Compassion Magazine*, Compassion International, 12290 Voyager Parkway, Colorado Springs, CO 80921-3668.

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*"The day I knew I was pregnant again, I wanted to end my life. I didn't want to go through the pain of burying my baby."*



MULU & IKRAM



IKRAM – MY GIFT

*A young woman abducted into marriage experiences loss and devastation — then finally ...*

# A REASON TO LIVE

*By Brandy Campbell with Tigist Gizachew in Ethiopia*

**It began innocently enough.** Eighteen-year-old Mulu sat at the bus stop, waiting to board the crowded bus home. She must have been exhausted after spending the day cleaning homes in the city. Her back must have ached — an ache that would only intensify on the jarring ride to her parents' home in a remote village.

So when a man told her he was going to her village and offered her a ride, of course she accepted. It would be so nice in that comfortable car. The trip home would go so much faster. She must have thanked him as she crawled into the front seat next to him.

But the words of thanks died on her lips when she realized he wasn't taking her home.

It's a common occurrence in the rural villages of Ethiopia: An older man kidnaps a teenage girl, often as young as 12. He takes her home and rapes her. And then, that man brazenly marches to his victim's home. He presents the "damaged goods" to her family. A father cannot find a suitable husband for his daughter who is no longer a virgin. She is a source of shame to her mother.

And in a bizarre moment of irony, the victim is forced to marry her attacker.

"All my dreams and hopes were darkened the day I was abducted," says Mulu, who was forced to move in with her abductor and live as his wife.





ZENE



LEFT: "I was startled to hear Mulu's story while I was taking her history," Zene, a health specialist with Compassion's Child Survival Program, says. "I immediately arranged for her to go to the health center the next day and start her antenatal care."

ABOVE: Mothers in Compassion's Child Survival Program regularly meet at the church for health training, fellowship and support.

"I tried to make the best out of the situation I was in. I started working as a daily laborer and took care of the house to the best of my ability. I just wanted to make my parents proud of me."

But it didn't take long for Mulu to see that her husband was not well — physically or mentally. His increased addiction to alcohol and *chat*, a common drug in Ethiopia, made him unstable. Most days he stayed home and slept. He lost his appetite and grew thin and weak. Mulu began to sell sweet potatoes in the market so they wouldn't be evicted from their home.

**IT WASN'T THE IDEAL LIFE TO BRING A CHILD INTO.** But Mulu was happy when she found out that she was pregnant. When the time came for her to give birth, Mulu did so in her home with the help of her neighbors. But her son, her firstborn, lived only a week.

"My whole world went dark with the death of my baby. Some said he had pneumonia and some said it was an evil spirit," says Mulu. "I never knew the exact reason because I wasn't able to take him to the health center."

A few months later, another pregnancy. This time, Mulu saved

up the money to deliver her child at the hospital. This time, a baby girl.

"I counted the days, and when she became 1 week old, I celebrated," says Mulu. "Then the second week passed and I was sure everything would be OK. But the third week she started to get ill, and I lost my baby when she was 1 month old."

Mulu was heartbroken. She had no idea why her children were dying. But when she found out she was pregnant for the third time, she wanted to die too.

"The day I knew I was pregnant again, I wanted to end my life. I didn't want to go through the pain of burying my baby."

One morning, when Mulu was six months pregnant, she was having coffee with her neighbors. When she first heard them talking about an organization that registers babies and their mothers, she tuned out the conversation. She had no living children. And she had no hope that this little one growing inside her would live.

But she perked up when one of the women mentioned that this organization also accepted pregnant mothers. That afternoon she went to the church compound

where they were registering mothers into Compassion's Child Survival Program. When workers heard her story, they didn't hesitate to complete her registration. The Child Survival Program was made for mothers like Mulu.

Zene, the coordinator of the Child Survival Program, was particularly taken with Mulu. She wanted to help this young woman have a healthy pregnancy and child. But she also suspected a reason for the death of Mulu's babies — a suspicion that was confirmed when Mulu tested positive for HIV.

Mulu thought her diagnosis was a death sentence for both her and her unborn child, but Zene reassured her that much could be done for them.

"I hung on to every single word Zene was saying about how I can get through this," says Mulu. "But when she told me that I can give birth to a healthy baby, I jumped up with joy. All my grief disappeared in that moment."

Mulu immediately began antiretroviral therapy, and several times each month she walked 45 minutes to the clinic for her prenatal care. Three months after she joined the Child Survival Program, she gave birth to a

daughter, whom she named Ikram — which translates to "my gift."

"I cried tears of joy when they handed me my baby girl," says Mulu. "She tested negative for the virus and I praised God for His gift. Had it not been for the care of the staff my baby would have been dead like the first two."

**TODAY, MULU IS A CONFIDENT, HAPPY MOTHER OF AN ACTIVE TODDLER.** Mulu has attended income-generation classes at the church, and she has started a business selling corn and other vegetables. Each month, she and the other mothers gather for Bible studies, and she looks forward to her visits from Zene, who often visits Mulu in her home to check on the progress of both mother and child.

And this once-traumatized teenager and grieving mother says that she finally has her life back.

"The joy I feel when I see my girl is indescribable," she says. "I am here today because of the Child Survival Program, and my baby is alive because of them. I have so much hope for the future and I rest assured that the [program] is there for me as well as my baby, no matter what." ✨



**1.4 million** pregnant women in low- and middle-income countries have HIV.

More than **1,000** children are infected every day with HIV through transmission from the mother.

An estimated **50%** of HIV-positive infants die before their second birthday due to lack of treatment.

Antiretroviral drugs combined with avoidance of breast-feeding reduce transmission to under **2%.**

The World

Only **16%** of pregnant mothers in Ethiopia are tested for HIV.

**66,000** pregnant women are living with HIV.

Less than **5,000** are receiving medicine to prevent the spread of the virus to their unborn children.

Ethiopia



# AS IT TURNS OUT, EXTREME POVERTY HAS A **FINISH LINE**.

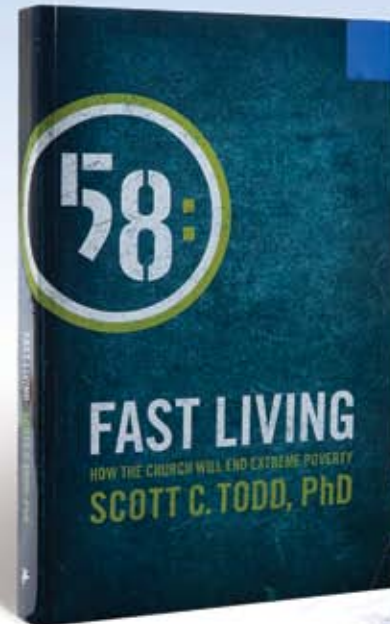
In the last two decades, the percentage of people living in extreme poverty has been cut in half. Today we have the resources to fast forward to the end. *Fast Living* casts a vision for the Church to rise up and free all those living in extreme poverty during our generation. Poverty is on its way out. Hope is on its way in. Available in e-book and paperback editions at online and local bookstores.



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Dr. Scott Todd is the Senior Ministry Advisor of Compassion International and one of the chief architects of 58: Fast forward. The end of poverty. He is a champion for the poor, encourager of the Church, and a voice to those eager to make a difference.



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17 countries

497 centers

22,913 mothers and children

# COMPASSION'S CHILD SURVIVAL PROGRAM

Each year, more than 5 million children don't celebrate their first birthday. These children die because they were malnourished or dehydrated. They die because of poverty and disease and hunger. These 5 million children are the reason Compassion's Child Survival Program exists.

Compassion launched the Child Survival Program to rescue babies and equip caregivers.

The health of both mothers and children are monitored by a Survival Specialist at the church.

Run by partner churches in the developing world, this home-based, church-driven program takes a unique, hands-on approach to child survival.

## 3,055

Babies, toddlers and caregivers are ministered to in India, the largest Child Survival Program.

## A SOLUTION FOR CHILDREN'S FIGHT TO SURVIVE

# 104

# 24

# 3

**ETHIOPIA:** 104 children out of every 1,000 under the age of 5 die without the Child Survival Program.

**ECUADOR:** 24 children out of every 1,000 under the age of 5 die without the Child Survival Program.

**ECUADOR AND ETHIOPIA:** Only three out of 1,000 die before the age of 5 in the Child Survival Program.

Periodically, caregivers come to the church for group trainings.

Survival Specialists show mothers how to provide nutritious meals for their children.

Caregivers and children who are registered in the program get regular home visits from a trained Survival Specialist who monitors their health.

## \$100

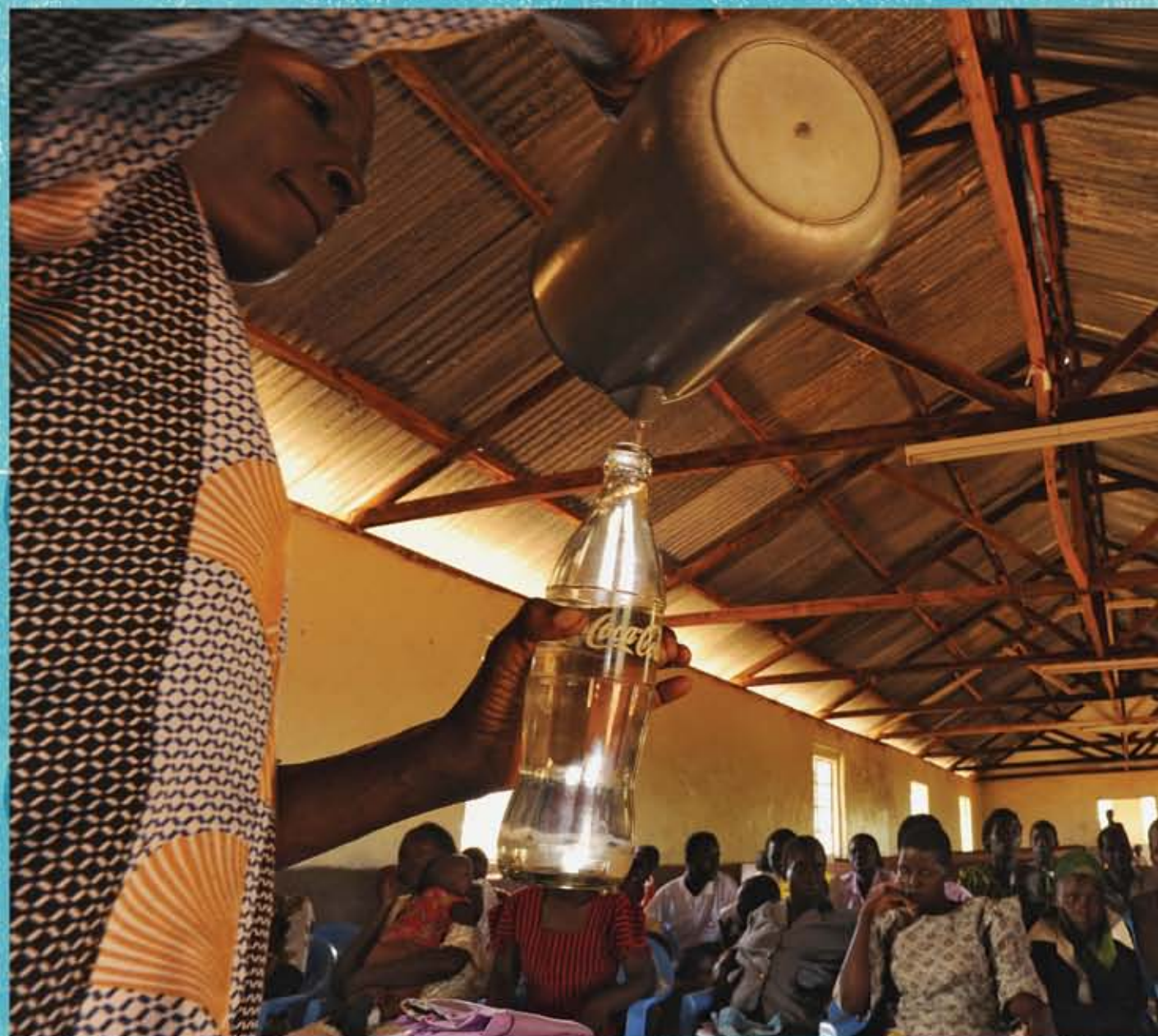
— cost to deliver a baby with a midwife present or medical care available in the developing world in the Child Survival Program

## \$3,000

— typical cost for a birth in the U.S. after insurance







Gertrude Ooro, a mother in Compassion's Child Survival Program, shows other mothers in the program how to mix a simple but effective drink to combat their children's dehydration and malnutrition.



By Sean Sheridan | Photos by Chuck Bigger

# CONDUIT OF LIFE

FOR 33 MOTHERS AND 35 CHILDREN IN COMPASSION'S CHILD SURVIVAL PROGRAM IN KISUMU, KENYA, A SIMPLE SOLUTION OF SALTS AND SUGARS CONTAINS THE KEY TO TRANSFORMATION.

*It's just an old Coke bottle, top worn and label faded. The soda pop inside is long gone, sucked down by a thirsty soul in dusty Kisumu, Kenya. But the bottle, capable of holding 500 milliliters (15 ounces) inside its familiar beveled glass, is not empty — it is filled with the promise of something far more sustaining. Life.*

*"Some areas in Kenya are experiencing severe drought," says Victor Ogada, Director of PAG Buoye Child Survival Program (CSP). "And that means that people die from malnutrition."*

*One key to stopping malnutrition before it starts — and saving millions of lives around the world — is a simple solution taught in Compassion's CSP centers called oral rehydration therapy, or ORT. The 33 CSP mothers in Kisumu, all selected from among those in the direst need in the community, have gathered at the center to learn how this works.*

The information is timely. Recent news suggests that the region is already on the verge of another food crisis like the one that hit them and the world in 2008. Coupled with malaria and AIDS, this triple threat has resulted in child mortality rates of 206 per 1,000 births in the Kisumu area, much higher than the Kenya-wide stat of 52 per 1,000. When a food crisis hits, the numbers would be driven higher, making what Compassion shares in this Child Survival Program and others around Kenya even more critical for helping families prevent dehydration, malnutrition and other diseases for their children.

Standing before a flip chart that lists the causes of dehydration — diarrhea chief among them — a Survival Specialist explains that ORT starts with the Coke bottle. It conveniently holds the exact amount of boiled water that, when combined with one packet of oral rehydration mix, one-half teaspoon of salt, and six teaspoons of sugar, makes the lifesaving elixir.

"Be careful when mixing this," the specialist says as she pours in the sugar. "Too much sugar can make diarrhea worse. Too much salt can be harmful and cause an electrolyte imbalance." She goes on to explain that children with dry mouths, who have

rapid breathing or heartbeats, or whose skin is shrunken or lacks elasticity are the ones who need ORT quickly. In other words, the children who are already malnourished. The mothers, nodding their heads, fully understand the urgency.

One of the mothers, HIV-positive Gertrude Ooro — who herself lost two children to the virus — now smiles as she listens. "Before I entered the Child Survival Program I was just thinking of death," she says later from inside the home that this Compassion church partner helped her build. She tells us that had she known about the Child Survival Program earlier she





**ABOVE:** After using a flip chart to walk mothers through the dangers of dehydration, a Compassion Survival Specialist gives the recipe for mixing the lifesaving oral rehydration therapy.

**RIGHT:** Two mothers make an oral rehydration drink to give to their children. The drink has many of the same benefits of commercially produced sports drinks but is a fraction of the cost.




believes those two children would still be alive. But armed with what she is learning about ORT and other ways to properly nourish the three children whom Compassion has helped her safely deliver and care for during her time in the Child Survival Program, her life has changed. But the transformation was not easy.

“Gertrude was like a pariah, an outcast,” Ogada says. “But now she is a role model. That transformation to a person who is so very radiant and can reach out to other people, to opportunity — that gives me a lot of pleasure.”

It is this transformation that keeps the CSP workers motivated, keeps them trudging along dusty trails

and over hills each week to visit the mothers, pray with them, and encourage them to take on the mantle of healthy change in the community.

On the day we visit Gertrude’s center, we see her embody this leadership: After watching the ORT lesson, Gertrude walks to the front of the room and, taking the Coke bottle in her hands, proceeds to repeat verbatim the lifesaving procedure that the group has learned from the Survival Specialist. She has clearly become — despite the stigma of HIV — the role model Ogada says she is, a conduit of hope like the Coke bottle. Looking around the room, the workers are smiling, clearly pleased with their protégé. 



## IF YOU COULD SAVE A BABY'S LIFE ... WOULD YOU?

**WE KNEW YOU WOULD.**

Every three seconds, a child under age 5 dies. Babies and toddlers in developing countries are dying from things we can *easily* prevent — like malnutrition and diarrhea. **You can help change these numbers!** Join the Pujols Family Foundation in partnering with Compassion to ensure that every three seconds a baby has the opportunity to *live*.

Learn how *you* can help save lives at [rescuebabiesnow.org](http://rescuebabiesnow.org).



Deidre, wife of Albert Pujols of the St. Louis Cardinals, comforts an infant with hydroencephalitis in the Dominican Republic.

**\*[VOLUNTEER  
WITH COMPASSION  
AT A FESTIVAL THIS SUMMER!]**



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Ichthus • 6/15-6/18 • Wilmore, KY  
Rock the Park • 6/18 • Charlotte, NC  
Come Together Fest • 6/24 • San Diego, CA  
Fishfest • 6/25 • Irvine, CA

RiseFest • 6/25 • Orange City, IA  
Creation Northeast • 6/29-7/2 • Mt. Union, PA  
Cornerstone • 6/30-7/3 • Bushnell, IL  
Lifest • 7/6-7/10 • Oshkosh, WI  
Spirit Song • 7/7-7/9 • King's Island, OH  
KingsFest • 7/7-7/9 • Doswell, VA  
Sonshine Festival • 7/13-7/16 • Willmar, MN  
HeartFest • 7/16 • Kansas City, MO

Creation Northwest • 7/20-7/23 • Enumclaw, WA  
Ignite • 7/29-7/31 • Chicago, IL  
Heaven Fest • 7/30 • Longmont, CO  
Kingdom Bound • 7/31-8/3 • Darien Lake, NY  
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Unity Festival • 8/11-8/13 • Muskegon, MI

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DC Fest • 8/20 • Fairfax, VA  
Rock the Light • 9/2-9/4 • Kansas City, MO  
Wildfire Men's Conf. • 9/9-9/10 • Lynchburg, VA  
PointFest • 9/17 • Sandusky, OH  
Resurgence • 9/22-9/24 • Orlando, FL  
Red Letter Rock Fest • 12/1 • Snyder, TX



# GIVING BIRTH

## IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD



TWO MOTHERS. ANJU AND RIJU. EACH MARRIED AND SIX MONTHS PREGNANT. THEIR PATHS DIVERGE. ANJU REGISTERS FOR COMPASSION'S CHILD SURVIVAL PROGRAM. RIJU DOESN'T. COME ALONG ON THEIR JOURNEYS.

STORIES ARE BASED ON INTERVIEWS AND FIRSTHAND ACCOUNTS FROM WOMEN IN INDIAN COMMUNITIES WHERE COMPASSION WORKS.



47 million  
mothers  
give birth without a doctor



7.7 million  
children  
under age 5 die each year



a child born in poverty is  
**8 times**  
more likely to die in infancy

### ANJU {with} COMPASSION'S CHILD SURVIVAL PROGRAM

Days after registering with the Child Survival Program, Anju has her first prenatal checkup. She doesn't have to pay for the visit, the prenatal vitamins, or the iron pill that will battle her anemia, caused by malnutrition.

Each week Anju visits the church, where she attends literacy workshops, studies God's Word and learns to sew and bake. Soon she begins selling her baked goods, proudly bringing home money each week to help support her family.

Anju looks forward to the visits from Ratna, the Survival Specialist who comes to her home twice a month. Ratna teaches Anju how to keep her house clean, what foods are best for her children, and basic first aid skills.

A change is happening in Anju's home. Her mother-in-law has been watching Anju closely. Her respect for Anju is growing as she sees the woman's health improve, as well as the health of Anju's older children.

Anju's husband shows more interest in his family. He sees that Ratna is an important visitor, and he sees his mother showing more respect to his wife. He plays with his children and stays home most evenings after work.

### RIJU {without} COMPASSION'S CHILD SURVIVAL PROGRAM

Riju is afraid for her unborn child. She wonders if she can make it through the rest of the pregnancy. Food is scarce. She's frightened to see that her hair has turned brown and brittle — just like her neighbor who has had miscarriage after miscarriage.

Riju tries to find work, but there are few jobs. She finally finds a job cleaning houses, but her husband and mother-in-law scoff at the pennies she makes. Each day she arrives home aching and humiliated.

The only visitors who come to Riju's door are bill collectors and the occasional neighbor. She rarely lets anybody inside the home, embarrassed by the dirty floors and swarms of flies. She can't ever seem to balance cleaning and caring for her children, and everything suffers.

Things grow increasingly worse between Riju and her mother-in-law. Altercations often grow violent, and her children scatter from the house at the sound of their grandmother's shouts. Riju quietly takes this abuse, knowing she has no authority in the home.

Riju's husband has grown tired of her fear and depression. He comes home late, if at all. When he is home, he roughly shoves his children away, and Riju says nothing. She has no voice in her own home.

Three months after joining the Child Survival Program, Anju goes into labor. Her daughter is born at a nearby clinic, healthy and beautiful. Anju names the child Priya — a name that translates to “*beloved*.”

At eight months, Riju goes into labor. Her mother-in-law is at her side, a far from comforting figure. When her son is finally born, Riju can't help but notice how thin he is and how quietly he cries. She decides to wait to name him — *just in case*.





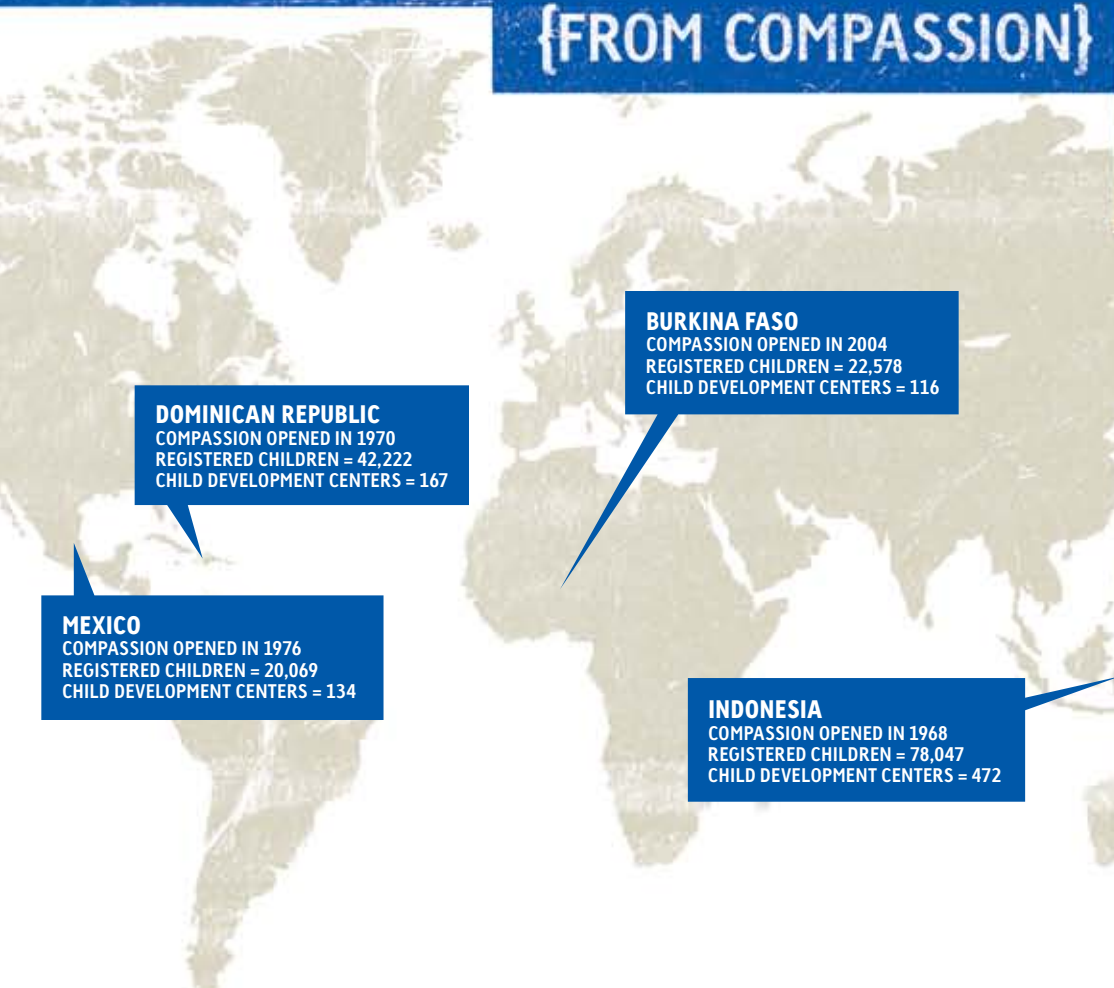


14,700 CASES OF MENINGITIS  
IN WEST AFRICA

1,650 DEATHS IN WEST AFRICA  
FROM MENINGITIS

# NEWS AND VIEWS

{FROM COMPASSION}



## Meningitis Threatens the Young in Burkina Faso

Every year, more than 3,500 Burkinabe are affected by meningitis, an infection that inflames the tissue surrounding the brain and spinal cord.

Although the government of Burkina Faso has provided some vaccines, the Ministry of Health in that country is limited in its resources. In addition, vaccines provided by the government are not as effective and protect against only the most common strain of the disease.

The disease wreaks havoc on the poorest, most vulnerable populations, who also often suffer from malnourishment and HIV or AIDS. From January through April of last year, there were 14,700 cases of meningitis across West Africa and 1,650 deaths.

To protect the more than 22,000 children Compassion serves in Burkina Faso, Compassion is immunizing all Compassion-assisted children with a powerful vaccine that protects against multiple strains of meningitis.



## Drug Cartels See Youth as Disposable in Mexico

According to news reports, convicts are getting younger in Mexico as drug cartels turn to youth in poverty, whom they see as disposable, to do their dirty work. The "jobs" given to these kids include trafficking, kidnapping and killing.

Mexico's judicial system has no process by which a child can be tried as an adult for murder or other heinous crimes.

Since President Felipe Calderón began his war against drugs in 2006, the number of youths arrested for drug-related crimes has increased, according to statistics from the Mexican attorney general's office.

Compassion works in many of the same neighborhoods where these children are being lured into a life of crime, and church partners are showing the children they can have a better future through Christ.

\*Some information for this story was taken from the *Dallas Morning News*.

245 MILLION PEOPLE LIVE  
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ILLNESSES IN THE WORLD

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Half HAVE ACCESS TO CLEAN  
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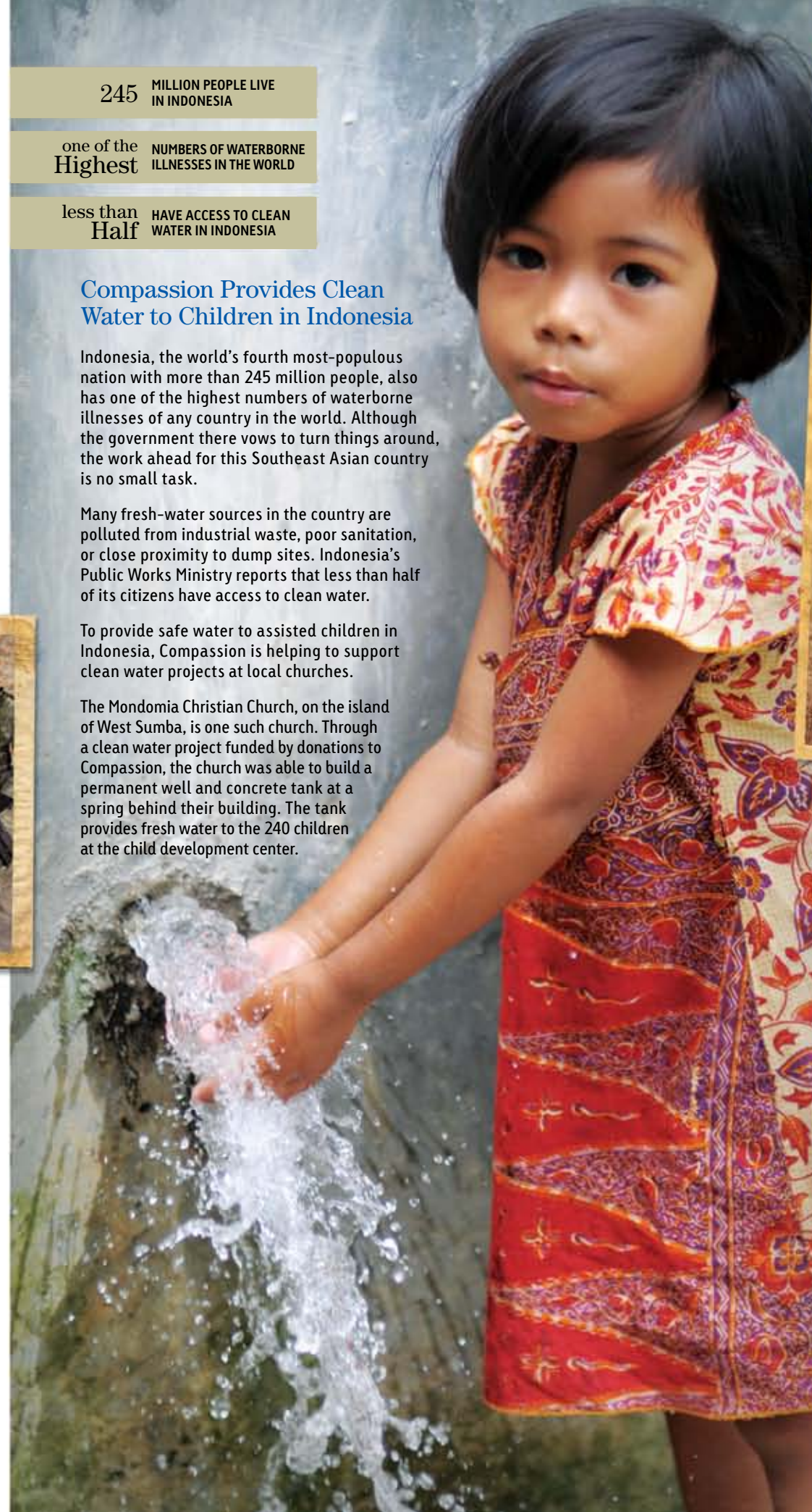
## Compassion Provides Clean Water to Children in Indonesia

Indonesia, the world's fourth most-populous nation with more than 245 million people, also has one of the highest numbers of waterborne illnesses of any country in the world. Although the government there vows to turn things around, the work ahead for this Southeast Asian country is no small task.

Many fresh-water sources in the country are polluted from industrial waste, poor sanitation, or close proximity to dump sites. Indonesia's Public Works Ministry reports that less than half of its citizens have access to clean water.

To provide safe water to assisted children in Indonesia, Compassion is helping to support clean water projects at local churches.

The Mondomia Christian Church, on the island of West Sumba, is one such church. Through a clean water project funded by donations to Compassion, the church was able to build a permanent well and concrete tank at a spring behind their building. The tank provides fresh water to the 240 children at the child development center.



## Baseball Camp Teaches Dominicans More Than a Sport

When Compassion teamed up with Dominican-born Albert Pujols, first baseman for the St. Louis Cardinals, to start a baseball camp for 140 Compassion-assisted boys at Batey Aleman in southeastern Dominican Republic, it wasn't just to hone the boys' skills. It was to develop them into responsible young men.

Before the baseball camp could begin, however, the boys needed equipment. For the boys living in the community that had formed in and around the *batey*, a defunct sugar plantation, baseball bats and gloves are a luxury.

To play baseball, the sport of their country, boys living here improvise using sticks for bats and milk cartons for gloves. So when new uniforms and equipment arrived on July 25 of last year — Father's Day in the Dominican Republic — the line of boys waiting for their new gear was long.

Never having owned anything new before, the boys now had new Nike® undershirts, sliding shorts, batting gloves, belts, socks, pants, jerseys, hats, cups — every piece of equipment they could possibly want — and it was theirs to keep. The boys also had a new field to play on, a once-disheveled field that was carefully manicured by the boys' own parents.