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Dear <Mail Salutation>

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

2 CORINTHIANS 9:15

What a special time of year this is as we celebrate God's precious gift to us—His Son, Jesus Christ! I pray the good news of Jesus' birth and the gift of His Presence will continue to fill your homes and hearts this Christmas.



As we draw near to the end of another year, I want to thank you for your generous support through prayer, letters, financial contributions and advocacy. We are greatly blessed by your partnership!

Your support for vulnerable children and their families around the world has enabled our local church partners to continue loving and caring for over 2 million children in more than 25 countries. Thank you for bringing the love and hope of Jesus to those who need it most.

This Christmas, as we gather around tables to celebrate, let's continue to pause and reflect upon those who have been deeply impacted by 2022. Conflict, extreme weather and COVID-19 have created a global food crisis that is having a devastating impact on children in poverty. **According to the United Nations, the world is moving backwards in its efforts to end hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.**

Compassion's local partners are responding to the crisis by providing both short and long-term solutions. They are meeting vulnerable families' immediate nutritional needs through the delivery of food packages as well as developing sustainable solutions to stop ongoing hunger by equipping families with seeds, fertiliser, livestock and agriculture training. ►



In Kenya's Kitui region, rainfall that was once predictable has been scarce for three consecutive years. Critical drought conditions and a major locust invasion has caused deteriorating food security for about 3.5 million people across the country.

Catherine, a mother of three, lives with her daughters and elderly mother in Kitui County. As an unemployed single mother, Catherine collects firewood to sell to provide for her children. Her eight-year-old daughter Stella is registered with Compassion's child development program.

Catherine used to farm millet, cowpeas and green grams every year. "Rain used to be predictable. It rained consistently, and I knew when to plant and harvest," she says. However, from 2021, this rhythm was no longer reliable. At a critical time, Catherine's family, and many others in affected regions, received food packages from Compassion's local church partner. The local church is also teaching families to employ sustainable food production processes for longer-term solutions to hunger.

"The food we received from the church came as a relief. I had been considering leaving my old mother with the children so I could go to look for work elsewhere."

CATHERINE

This practical support enables Catherine to continue with her firewood business to keep her daughters in school. Catherine and other parents impacted by the global food crisis continue to pray for rain and provision as they hope for better days ahead.

<Mail Salutation>, your prayers and ongoing support can make a significant difference in the lives of families who will face the harsh reality of severe food insecurity this Christmas.

You can join Catherine and others in:

- Praying for the provision of nutritious food for the children and families we serve
- Praying for protection and relief from extreme weather events
- Praying for peace and stability for those experiencing violence, unrest, war and displacement
- Praying for a globally productive growing season
- Praying for strength and wisdom for staff and local partners as they respond to the needs around them

Thank you for your commitment to seeing children released from poverty. This Christmas, we pray you will experience the great joy and peace of our Saviour.

From my home to yours,

CLARE STEELE, COMPASSION AUSTRALIA CEO