

Your Impact Through Highly Vulnerable Children





Your global impact this financial year

Not all neighbourhoods are safe. Poverty can make children especially vulnerable to threats like early marriage, joining gangs, online sexual exploitation or abuse at home. It is the staff at local churches who notice something isn't right. They know children and can tell when their facial expressions or family situations change. Thanks to your support, they can step in before the worst happens or be the strong pillar children need when it does.

You didn't look away from your neighbours. You moved with compassion—and this is what changed over the years.

Please take care as you read these children's stories as you may find some content distressing.



Karunia knows she is God's gift

When Chandra and Angelina first held their newborn daughter, they cried with joy.

Then they saw her tiny hands. Instead of five separate fingers, they were fused together. There was a dip in her forehead and her eyes protruded. In an instant, the future they had imagined for their little girl seemed to disappear.

"I felt crushed and hopeless," says Chandra.

Their daughter had been born with Apert syndrome, a condition that affects the development of the skull, hands and feet.

"I just cried and wondered why God had entrusted this to me," says Angelina.

They named her Karunia, meaning "bounty" or "prize".

The early years were filled with hospital visits, painful fevers and uncertainty. As farmers with limited resources, Chandra and Angelina often felt powerless to give their daughter the specialised care she needed.

But after connecting with their local church, Karunia's condition and reminded them that their daughter's life was full of value and purpose.

"I started to feel strong. I told my husband that I love her even more than if I had a healthy child without disabilities. It is because of the strength of God," Angelina says.

As Karunia grew, she underwent surgery to improve the movement in her right hand before joining Compassion's Child Sponsorship Program.

Today, she's a teenager who loves playing with her friends, leading prayers and singing at the Compassion centre. Life isn't always easy. Some children still mock her because she looks different, but Karunia knows who she is.

"I am beautiful like my mother," Karunia says.

"When they bully you, you can say that you are God's gift," says Karunia's father.



Alice is protecting children from sexual abuse

Alice was only six years old when her life changed forever. After the Child Protection Council in her hometown in Brazil gave custody of Alice to her older sister, Maria, she did everything she could to keep her safe.

But while Maria cared for her sister, Alice experienced horrific abuse.

"I was between 6 and 7 years old," says Alice. "I don't remember the exact age he started touching me."

A faithful neighbour reported the abuse, and Maria worked to keep the man away from Alice. Through it all, the Compassion centre became a place of safety and support.

"It was complicated, but the Compassion centre was always there giving us support," Maria says.

Years later, the same centre that helped Alice through childhood became part of her future. Today, she has returned as a tutor, pouring into children the love and support she once received.

"The feeling I have is of gratitude and the desire to reciprocate all the love," she says. "When I look at the girls, I see myself as the person who is there to advise them. I try to give them that support."

Alice is determined to use her experience to help protect children from experiencing the same abuse she did.

"I think it's important to tell this story that happened to me, because many of them don't have the courage or the incentive for them to report abuse."

Now, Alice walks those same halls not only as a survivor, but as someone helping children find safety, courage and hope.



Sendama and his siblings stayed in school

In Tanzania, 93 per cent of children who are engaged in child labour do unpaid family work for long hours, limiting their time to study.

The local church saw that children like 10-year-old Sendama were missing school to work and decided to address the root cause. Parents were provided with seeds and fertiliser, education on how to improve farming techniques, and connected with groups that meant caregivers could plan the farming season and support one another with their work.

Badi, Sendama's mother, shares, "Most of us are forced to take our children out of school because we cannot afford to hire help. With our children's help, we can farm a bigger area, which may give us more food. The groups have helped us. Together, we can do more work than before, which shows in our harvest. If the church hadn't helped us, we would take our children from school, and they wouldn't reach their dreams."



Thank you

Isaiah 1:17 says, “Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow” (NIV).

Your generosity has meant the world’s most vulnerable are protected and their local churches are empowered to move in line with the Father’s heart.

Thank you for moving with compassion by giving to Highly Vulnerable Children. To learn more about the fund, visit www.compassion.com.au/donate/highly-vulnerable-children



One neighbourhood. Thousands of stories.
See them unfold at @CompassionAU



COMPASSION.COM.AU

Compassion Australia, PO Box 1, Hunter Region
MC NSW 2310 | Phone: 1300 22 44 53

Christ-centred | Church-driven | Child-focused

ABN: 67 001 692 566 | Authorised to fundraise in NSW (CFN/10658),
VIC (FR0010734), QLD (CH1569), SA (CCP2632), TAS (F1A-208) and
WA (20740). No authority required in ACT or NT.