



## The Life Transformation Platform in Tanzania: Desks Make a Difference

Eleven-year-old Lita lives with her parents and four brothers in the bustling village of Katoro, Tanzania, not far from the shores of Lake Victoria. The community has experienced significant growth in recent years as its gold mines and fishing boats have attracted families seeking opportunities. But sadly, with the village's recent growth, the community's educational infrastructure has struggled to keep up, leading to overcrowded schools and limited resources for Lita and other children in the community.

Lita's mornings often begin with a rushed walk to reach her school early enough to secure a seat at one of the few available desks in her packed classroom. The statistics in the community's schools are alarming – classrooms built for 45 students accommodate an average of 239 students. For many students, this often means sitting on the floor, balancing books on their laps and struggling to concentrate.

**“When I don’t get a desk, I try to find a spot near the wall so I can lean against it,” Lita shares. “I place my school bag on my lap and use it as a desk, but it’s hard to focus because I can’t always see the board clearly or hear the teacher.”**

After days of competing for a spot in the classroom, Saturday mornings are a bright spot in Lita's week. Each Saturday, she and other registered children gather at the church-based Compassion center to share devotions, learn new skills and play games. There, Lita finds reprieve and joy, and her family benefits from essential support like food, hygiene items and medical checkups.

The center has always been an important source of assistance for registered children like Lita, but now the implementation of the Life Transformation Platform has allowed the center to broaden its reach to meet the needs of even more children throughout the community.



Through the Life Transformation Platform, the center has been able to collaborate with three other local church-based Compassion centers, leveraging technology and data to identify the community's most pressing needs and create a unified plan to address them.

The initial findings through the Life Transformation Platform were concerning: overcrowded schools, a critical shortage of desks and insufficient teaching materials were impeding the children of the community in their ability to get a good education that could lead to a path out of poverty. But armed with this knowledge, the Life Transformation Platform empowered the four centers to develop a unified plan to transform the educational landscape of Katoro for the benefit of all the community's children.

Collaborating with district authorities, parents and local organizations, the centers initiated a campaign to provide desks to the schools in Katoro. Slowly but surely, these efforts began to bear fruit. Desks were delivered, and classrooms that once echoed with the frustration of overcrowded conditions now buzzed with newfound enthusiasm.

"I'm enjoying school now that I don't have to worry about where I will sit," Lita says, her smile radiating hope. These

days, she wakes up early, not out of desperation, but out of excitement for her national exams. With a desk to call her own, her confidence has soared, and her dreams feel within reach.

Staff at Lita's center are also filled with hope and look forward to leveraging the Life Transformation Platform to meet even more needs in the community in the future. Lita's story is one of transformation – not just for her but for an entire community. A staff member at Lita's center says, "Our impact was only felt by the children directly in our care before. But now, through the Life Transformation Platform, we are changing how we address needs for more children."

The **Life Transformation Platform** helps our Frontline Church Partners to identify priority needs for each child and build the best possible strategies to achieve life outcomes in every facet of their development. **To learn more about the Life Transformation Platform, scan this QR code.**

