BEYOND MEASURE



More Than a Provider

How Compassion is Helping Restore Fatherhood in Kenya

In a lakeside community in western Kenya, the wetlands near Lake Victoria are green and beautiful, but life is often fragile. Food insecurity is common, income is uncertain and parents face daily challenges in providing for their children.

Peter knows that challenge well. As a young father and husband, he wanted to build a stable home for his family, but his small spare-parts shop brought in only limited income. When his wife, Brenda, became pregnant, the family's need for support became even more urgent.

Support in a Vulnerable Season

That is when Compassion's Survival program, working in partnership with the local church, came alongside the couple. Brenda received care during pregnancy, and both Peter and Brenda gained encouragement and practical training in parenting, nutrition, health and income generation.

The support did more than help the couple survive a vulnerable season. It helped Peter grow into the kind of father who would strengthen his own family and inspire many others.

"Peter is a caring father and a loving husband. He supported me during my pregnancy. It made me feel comfortable and secure," says Brenda.

Learning a New Kind of Fatherhood

For Peter, this season became a turning point. Through the Survival program, he learned that fatherhood was not only about earning money. It was also about presence, tenderness, responsibility and love.



In Kenya, many fathers are expected to provide from a distance while mothers carry most of the daily care for children. But Peter began to show up for his family in a new way, attending meetings with Brenda, helping care for their baby and applying his new knowledge at home. Judy, the Survival specialist at the church, noticed the change immediately. "Peter would come to the meetings carrying the baby, with Brenda behind him. That is not so normal with fathers around here," says Judy.

Compassion's support helped him see that his children needed more than shelter and food. They needed encouragement, affection and a father who would play with them, guide them and remind them they were not alone.

"When I play with my children, it is something I love. It is not something I force myself to do. I want to bring them joy, encourage them and give them parental love. I don't want my children to feel there is no father," says Peter.

Hope That Reaches Other Fathers

Peter's transformation did not stop at his doorway. As he grew in confidence, he began to notice other fathers carrying the same burdens he had carried: financial stress, family tension, isolation and uncertainty.

When one father in the community died, leaving his family vulnerable, Peter gathered men together to respond. That act of compassion became the beginning of a fathers' welfare group.

Today, about 18 men meet regularly to share ideas, pray, talk honestly about their challenges and support one another. Many of their children have been connected to the Survival program, and the lessons first planted through Compassion are now spreading from one family to another.

The group also started a vegetable farm with encouragement from Survival staff. Together, the men tend the land, harvest produce and sell it in the community. The income helps families buy food and meet needs, but the deeper gift is the fellowship. Men who once struggled quietly now have a place to be heard, encouraged and strengthened.

Lasting Impact

For Brenda, Peter and their children, the Survival program brought more than practical help – it brought hope. Brenda was cared for during pregnancy, and Peter learned how to better support his family. And together, they became stronger in the midst of hardship.

Thank you for helping families like this one experience the love, care and encouragement they need to build a brighter future!

Compassion®