



Survival



A Compassion Priority Initiative
Spring 2018 Update





Your Gifts Are Creating Lasting Change

The first 12 months are the most critical in a child's life. Without the proper nutrition, health care and neonatal supports, they face a lifetime of obstacles that rob them of opportunity and leave them struggling to survive. Your generous support of Compassion's Survival Priority Initiative is helping remove these obstacles. Thanks to you, many thousands of babies are reaching their crucial first birthday and going on to be strong, active children who are ready to take on the world.

In this Spring 2018 Update, we are excited to share a glimpse of how your investment is making a difference in the lives of mothers and their babies.

Your gifts are providing:

- Basic nutrition, vitamins and supplemental food
- One-to-one care from a Survival specialist
- Pre- and postnatal care and skilled birth attendants
- Immunization and breast-feeding support and instruction
- Regular growth monitoring
- Income-generation training

There is still much work to be done, but we are so grateful to God for the progress that your gifts have made possible. Thank you for your heart for mothers and babies in need.

Progress During the First 18 Months

Compassion's Survival Priority Initiative has established key three-year benchmarks to be attained by June 2019. Now, halfway through the Initiative, here is our progress to date:



\$20,101,471 invested in Survival initiatives

Three-year goal: \$51 million



43,240 opportunities for prenatal care and attended births

Three-year goal: 105,000



8,026 births assisted by a skilled birth attendant

Three-year goal: 37,000



Spotlight: Africa

While great progress has been made over the last 20 years, children in sub-Saharan Africa are still 14 times more likely to die before their fifth birthday than children in developed countries. Tragically, nearly 2.2 million babies are either stillborn or die during the first month of life every year, and women in the region have a one in 16 chance of dying during pregnancy or childbirth. Just half of all births are assisted by a skilled birth attendant. Compassion is responding on the ground in sub-Saharan Africa, bringing essential care to mothers and babies every day.

Source: World Health Organization



The Power To Change

Cleou Jane believes she is living proof that anyone can change. “I started drinking and smoking when I was only 12 years old,” she says. “By the time I was 14, I was hooked on crystal meth. I dropped out of school and started hanging around with a bad crowd. Before long I stopped caring what happened to me.”

Cleou Jane’s father tried locking her in her room, but she simply climbed out the window every night and went in search of another fix. “My dad even shaved my head, hoping it would force me to stay home out of embarrassment,” Cleou Jane recalls. “But it only made me more determined to rebel. Nobody could control me.”

At 17 Cleou Jane found she was pregnant with her first child. Her boyfriend stood by her, and together they made a decision to change their ways and do their best for their baby. It was during that time that she began attending the Mactan Cathedral of Faith in Cebu, Philippines, and where she first learned about Compassion. “I joined a small prayer group for mothers, and my life began to change for the better,” Cleou Jane says. “Becoming a good mother became my first concern.”

After Cleou Jane gave birth to her second child, she was asked to join the church’s Compassion program, where she has had the opportunity to develop parenting skills, benefit from spiritual encouragement, and receive practical assistance. “I’ve learned how to breast-feed my baby, and the staff members give me so much support,” she comments. “I’m much more confident as a parent now, and I’ve even learned new skills that I can use to earn an income and help support my family. The greatest comfort is that I know my baby is healthy thanks to the regular checkups he receives at the center.”

On May 1, 2017, Cleou dedicated her son to Jesus at her local church. “It was a special day,” she recalls with a smile. “God changed my life and I want the same for my baby.”

OUR PRIORITY INITIATIVES

By supporting Compassion’s Survival Priority Initiative, you are choosing one of the most strategic ways to help lift children out of poverty. Why? Because your gifts are combined with the gifts of other generous donors like you and put to work where and when most needed. This approach gives Compassion greater flexibility to respond across the developing world.

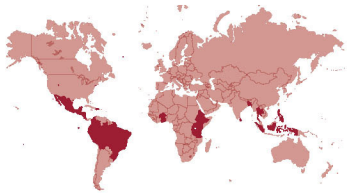


Finding Christ In Haiti

When Nathalie's mother and two brothers died in the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, she felt all alone in the world. She turned to Voodoo practices and worked as a nightclub dancer to make ends meet. "There was something weighing on my spirit. I felt like I was lost," Nathalie explains.

After she gave birth to her second child, Nathalie's friend introduced her to a Compassion Survival specialist who was visiting her home. "At first I kept my distance," recalls Nathalie, "but then the specialist read the Bible passage about Sodom and Gomorrah, and I knew I had to accept Jesus into my life."

Nathalie became involved in the Compassion program at her local church. "I learned so much from the staff members," she says. "It's thanks to them that my son was immunized and received the medical care he needed. We also get a basket of staple foods every month that helps to keep my family healthy. I've learned how to make slippers, bracelets and necklaces, so I can earn an income but still be at home to take care of my children. The Compassion program has made such a difference to our family."



Thank You!

Through Compassion's Survival Priority Initiative, you are helping thousands of babies reach their first birthday and grow into healthy, happy toddlers and children. Thank you for your partnership in this effort, and may God bless you with joy as you contemplate the thousands of young lives you are changing through your generosity.

