

Introduction

The Maasai, a tribe in East Africa, offers the words “Casserian Engeri” as their traditional greeting to one another. It means, “And how are the children?”

They do not ask each other, “How are you?” or “How’s your day?” Instead, they ask about the next generation. The Maasai believe that monitoring the well-being of their children is the best way to determine the future health and prosperity of their whole society.

Every child deserves the chance to achieve their full potential.

Episcopal Relief & Development’s work in Early Childhood Development promotes nurturing care that fosters responsive caregiving, good health and nutrition and early learning and play. We also join with our partners to reduce unhealthy environmental factors like poverty, malnutrition and exposure to violence.

This toolkit, called *Joy & Wonder*, explores ways that Episcopal Relief & Development works to achieve these goals. It offers insight into our unique and effective methods and invites you and your community to join in this important and life-giving work.

The following fact sheet on integrated early childhood development highlights our flagship partnership, *Moments That Matter®* (MTM). MTM is a direct response to the nurturing care framework, particularly in rural, underserved communities, where access to information and resources are limited. It provides long-term holistic parenting empowerment and targeted wraparound support to families so that children have the start to life they need to develop to their full potential. The full report can be found [here](#).

This toolkit will help you become advocates for early childhood wellness in your own churches and communities, placing our youngest community members and those who care for them on your list of prayers and priorities.

This toolkit contains worship materials, study and outreach programs and links to resources that will help you make a difference with children’s wellness everywhere.

You are an essential member of our global village, working together for lasting change.

This entire toolkit, as well as more information about how you can engage with our work, is available on our website at www.episcopalrelief.org.