What is this document?

- Compassion Games is in the Beneficiary feedback phase of an OpenIDEO BridgeBuilder Challenge. We are consolidating feedback and have about 90 comments to learn from.
- We selected about 20 comments and created this document with them.
- These are not just positive comments. We are in a learning mode and are eager to learn what needs to change, and what it needs to change to.
- Comments are from people all over the world. From people who have played the Compassion Games and those that haven’t.
- If you haven’t given your feedback, we’d welcome it. Go here.
How might we address urgent global challenges at the intersections of peace, prosperity, and planet in radically new ways?

Leslie Meehan

I'm a long-time player, mentor, and supporter of the Compassion Games. I'm amazed and moved by my experience with how rewarding and effective this "friendly coopetition" platform is to create both personal and group transformation in any culture. The Games appeals to anyone at any social scale: kids doing random acts of kindness, prisons practicing nonviolence, cities and corporations providing community services. It's a brilliant blend of head, heart, and hands! It calls to the heart to move people and organizations to kind action in many different team leagues (schools, indigenous, women & girls, etc) and then uses a state-of-the-art map feedback system which showcases stories and gathers metrics. It's a tested tool to build bridges across business, government, nonprofits, and citizens in communities by promoting projects that are already happening and catalyzing new ones. The Games has extensive network partners and is at a tipping point for rapid growth with new strategies like relays and expanding leagues. It's a crucial time in the world to be building together with compassion across our differences. Thanks for the inspiration and support, openideo!
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David

The Compassion Games exemplifies what it takes to create a more compassionate world. Rather than talk the talk, the games challenges individuals/groups to walk the walk with its messages of suggested acts of kindness, contemplating compassion, and living compassionately. The Compassion Report Map shows the positive taking place where other media outlets usually choose to report stories and images of hatred, anger, opposition, violence, and bloodshed. Participating in the Compassion Games helped me reflect on the little things that can be done toward the larger collective consciousness of peace and love. It has helped millions of people who are hungry, thirsty, in need of food/shelter, or a peaceful mind. It creates the opportunity for people to come together for the good, alleviating suffering worldwide. It amplifies love, unites humanity, and promotes life. Indeed, the Compassion Games is a blessing.
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What a wonderful concept in this time of uncertainty!! Please figure out a way to explain it more simply and in fewer words!!! So more people will support and join in!
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Bibusa Washington Wissemann

As an African Social Entrepreneur passionate about Africa of course. My focus is mainly on empowering the youth but also has been working on a cool solar project electrifying the most rural areas in Mali. Getting to know about the games of compassion makes me excited if only more Africans get to know and can play the game! We all know what the world thinks of us (Africa) but I know there’s so much love to shown and shared, I believe within ourselves and playing such games can only review our true selves that can contribute to our communities. Give for example street kids who have not experienced love at all and turn to dealing and staying on the streets because that’s the love they understand. If this game can be played, I know for sure the amount of positive impact would be mind blowing! Thank you Brioné. Well done and keep holding the light up!
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Amy

This is the real deal. I’m astounded and thrilled by The Compassion Games International’s ability to take something as often ethereal-sounding as “compassion” and turn it into a fun and empowering movement of positive action, with a structure that logs the tangible impact of its thousands of worldwide participants. Jon and Sommer are the heart and soulfire of this org, working tirelessly, humbly, with utmost integrity, on behalf of our Earth and Relatives. Giving to support them is a gift in itself, bringing joy by connection with such loving, compassionate people.
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Yan Golding

I must first confess that I have never played or organised a Compassion Game! But now, after getting a deeper impression of the evolution and scope of Compassion Games and the Compassionate Cities Movement, the inspiring network of changemakers you are bringing together, and the spectacular feedback that have read in the comments here, I feel deeply inspired to both experience a game AND to explore how I and the United Earth community and network can help bring Compassion Games to the global scale.

Like you say, compassion is the bridge that connects and unifies humanity. United Earth is rapidly becoming a global platform that is committed to serving, supporting, synthesizing and showcasing the most innovative models, practices, experiments and solutions for a peaceful, just and healthy planet.

The Compassion Games seem to usher in our evolutionary leap into a culture of peace, compassion and cooperation in truly playful, accessible and practical ways. The world needs this now more than ever.

Jon and Team, I am really excited to see how I and our teams can support and possibly co-create with the Compassion Games community in future events.

I look forward to learning and experiencing more from your field.

I am / We are at (y)our service.

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Fe Love

Compassion Games is a wonderful and engaging experience. I have had the fortunate opportunity to participate in the last 2 years and organized several events, inviting a variety of people to play. We introduced audiences from various diverse and socio-economic backgrounds. The Zorthian family located in Altadena, for the environmental restoration project at Zorthian Ranch to the Compassionate Conversations about "Redefining Public Safety" in Watts and the Youth Summit in LA with Black Lives, Migrant Youth and LAPD, and all across the board, everyone was so excited to know that they contributing to a higher collective consciousness. This is exactly why the Compassion Games are so important right now, it connects to a higher collective consciousness of compassion, and as result is changing the planetary vibration! One thing that would make this experience more accessible, is if there was an integration or an app, that allowed you to post from Facebook, to the Compassion Map, Twitter, Instagram... and so on. Another thing that would be beneficial is if the Compassion Games were included in the curriculum at our schools and universities. I would love to see Facebook partner with the Compassion Games or other social media, so during Earth week and International Peace week, etc... more people would know and can participate.
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Lisa Berkley

I love this idea! Having spent more than 20 years in international mediation and peace making, Compassion Games strikes me as a tool to help end conflict--why compete to build arms and weapons when most people on the ground want to live peacefully? Coopetitions just might be a significant player in shifting consciousness from fear and heart to care and compassion.
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Marilyn Turkovich

The Compassion Games have flipped the reason for playing games upside down. Think about games where you make up the rules, declare that your opponent is your partner and at the end everyone is a winner in the service of the other.

The Charter for Compassion’s Compassionate cities movement, now present in 52 countries and in over 400 international communities, from small villages in Botswana and hamlets in Scotland, townships in the upper peninsula of Michigan to mega-cities of Karachi and New York, have relied on the Games to introduce the power of collaboration and bring about monumental change to righting the wrongs of society.

For nearly a decade the Games have been breaking new ground for individuals and teams to respond to big problems from infighting among those who are incarcerated, packing meals for the hungry, cleaning up water ways and being exemplar models of kindness. The Games are all about how we treat each other and how we care for each other. While collecting donations to help with a local cause may be present in some games, they are not paramount to the bottom line—getting to know and serve others—to experience that even the smallest acts form the structure for the possibility for a peace-filled coexistence.
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Tom Williams

This work is a great compliment to the Compassionate Cities movement. Cities like to compete. Creating a co-opetition to help cities compete around love and compassion is a brilliant "hack" of everyday competition. It is solving our issues on a different level of thinking. Co-host, Compassionate Louisville.
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Charles Barker

Compassionate DFW is a grassroots organization that promotes compassion and compassionate action by encouraging individuals and community organizations from all sectors (arts, business, education, environment, healthcare, interfaith/religion/and spiritual, peace, restorative justice, science and technology, social justice, social service, and women and girls) to affirm the Charter for Compassion and commit to intentional compassionate action using the Golden Rule as guiding principle. The various annual Compassion Games provide practical, tangible, intentional ways to express this core value, bringing people of all ethnic, cultural, and religious traditions together for common community purposes, fostering respective, responsible, cooperative, and engaging relationships, which are enduring. The games truly provide themes and avenues for action making the "noun" compassion into a "verb." GAME ON!! :)

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Arch Magar

As being part of Compassion Games survival of the kindness, we are grateful and this has been given us opportunity to connect with other clubs from our own county which wasn’t possible without Compassion Games and its initiatives. We are very encouraged and happy to organise events with the help of Play for Peace global Community and Compassion Games. On behalf of Indian club I would like to thank CG team and special thanks to Jon and Sommer for all your hard work and immediate actions, responses and updates of all upcoming events. It’s all feel lively!

We had an opportunities to connect and work with the groups who are mostly neglected from society. With this initiatives we could reach to them and it’s a great pleasure to work with these bunch of enthusiastic young people. Definitely all credit goes to Compassion Games and Play for Peace for creating such a wonderful and meaningful events where everybody can paricipate and find meanings in lives. Thanks for you constant support! 🙏🏻🙏🏻🙏🏻🙏🏻
This is so innovative and the first of its kind I have heard of. Compassion encompasses all that is desired for a peaceful prosperous world and is needed now more than ever. Compassion for the planet and all other living beings can be universally understood.

I would agree on the need to involve schools either through clubs or in their curriculum as this ensures a wider cover for students. Students are key as perceptions, behaviors and habits are formed early in life. For adults that like to game or can be inspired to do so, some rural areas have minimal internet access. Setting up of off line gaming methods like community computer labs that require little power usage with provision of SD cards could help.

In Kenya, the government is in stages providing free laptops to all primary school children. Collaboration with this kind of programme would ensure installation of the game APP into the laptops that will be used both at school and at home to increase outreach.

This is something that can be adopted even by the disabled to eliminate social isolation and build their confidence. All the best! I would love to play.
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Pearl Gottschalk

Dear Compassion Games, these games are definitely the most impactful way to impact peace, prosperity and the planet in a radical new way. It combines service, technology, compassion and inspiration to reach millions in a new simple way. It is the best idea I have seen on the planet thus far and has the potential to grow to affect billions. My contribution in terms of suggestions to increase the impact of this idea would be the following:

1. For those wanting to play in countries that lack access to technology, wifi, electricity and computers, what options are available for them? Often, this segment gets 'left behind' in the new technologically accessible world. What ideas could be sparked to include them more and thus increase the numbers by millions.

2. Target the department heads, bosses, principles of schools etc so that all teachers in Sarah’s school would be playing instead of just Sarah. This would increase the impact a thousandfold and make it more locally relevant and fun. This could include encouraging Sarah to take it to her organization to have all classes play or sending the information out via email to all principles of all schools across North America.

3. Target businesses and maybe have an information packet or email sent to many large businesses to encourage their departments to play “against” one another. Distill it into a simple form that businesses can do in one day of compassionate action per year to and commit to that day every year. Businesses would love this if it was simple. Have a staff member available to mentor them through the process the first year as they set it into their corporate culture.

4. Make the reporting more than online. Make relationships with local press and encourage the organizers to report it to press and other media to increase the awareness and inspiration. Perhaps provide simple tools like a press release template or ideas on how to spread this via their social media/marketing channels.

Good luck on continuing to spread this message far and wide and changing our world to a planet that thrives on coopetition!
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The Compassion Games is truly unique and extremely positive. Performing and capturing all types of compassionate activities is one of the most all inclusive and unique ways I can think of to help drive global peace and prosperity. Compassionate acts cross all boundaries such as heritage, race, religion, economic standing, or any other identifier you could choose. Compassionate acts don’t need be in any categorical grouping. Literally any act of kindness or support can be included whether it involves individuals or groups, places or peoples. Whether they address natural ecosystems or communities within heavily populated areas of our world, compassionate behaviors can only have positive effects. The uniqueness of The Compassion Games concept is that it utilizes fun, team building, coopetitions, and challenges, without boundaries, to engage people across the globe and capture their compassion towards our world.
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Scott Malis

I truly feel this project is simply brilliant! How does it get any better than this? Rather than competing for personal gain, fame and fortune...the compassion games competes to see who can do the most positive change either locally or globally. I run an organization called the Cooperativist Movement and we teach that competition is akin to survival and cooperation is akin to thriving. Nothing illustrates this more than the compassion games as they coined the term Co-opertation. Compassion games truly is something special and hopefully in time will be on the level of major sporting events like the Olympics and World Cup.

In terms of feedback, I would like to see more categories including individuals, religious organizations, cities (of multiple sizes), corporations, and maybe even countries going head to head. I could also see awards handed out to the winners picked by the public or honorary judges. Hopefully all the charities out there will love to compete with other charities and hopefully step up their team and even better have a way to inspire their organization to reach new heights of charity.

The real goal/challenge of the Compassion games is to able to scale it into a true global event and all that entails. Game on Compassion Games!
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Brioné LaThrop

The Compassion Games, Survival of the Kindest have become global change agents to inspire and engage millions of people globally to promote peace through play and giving. It's an incredible concept and we have been honoured to foster this coopetition in the most compassionate country on planet earth, the United Arab Emirates.
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Sande Hart

Thanks to the Compassion Games, our community building organization was finally able to reach a segment of our county to engage in an expression of interfaith understanding and reconciliation we otherwise were not reaching with dialogue and other assorted events for nearly 10 years. Through community service we were able to melt barriers and bring people across different faith traditions together in the same room (or park/beach) to find their common value of compassion and altruism. Through the added dynamic of "cooperation" they had a great time challenging one another in a new and productive way that ultimately engaged more volunteers, more hours spent serving, more dollars raised, and more people served. It was that creative tension that created a way to play together, which replaced fear and distrust. By reporting and reflecting to the Compassion Map, we could then see the depth of the impact we were having.
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Patricia

This made me think of the Olympic Games. The global community rallies around the Olympics every 4 years so why not rally around the Compassion Games every year?