

## The 2nd year in review

We can look back on a successful year. Thanks to all of you, we have managed to transfer 1000.– to CBR every month. In the first few months it was still a nail-biter whether we would really have enough money in the account every month. Thanks to a large donation, the situation has calmed down for us and we very much hope that we will be able to continue at least this we will be able to continue at least at this level next year. The need for support is great and practically every week new children arrive with their needs. In addition, most of the children who have already been admitted continue to need support. I, Barbara, am always very happy to hear from children I met 8 years ago. To see that thanks to the support they can make a way towards more independence and social recognition makes me confident that something is also moving in Tanzanian society.

In the last review we mentioned that CBR has to become an NGO because the government wants to make the social services of the churches independent. The registration has been completed. The document has to be collected in person in the capital Dodoma. In this context, CBR Lweru had to change its name to MDREO (Muleba disability relief and empowerment organisation). We decided to keep the old name for Switzerland, simply because the new one is too complicated for us.

The cooperation with Peredius (coordinator) is going well. We receive the requested information promptly and he regularly lets us participate in the work in Muleba.

We received the following figures from Peredius:

- 56 children with epilepsies received regular medication. Their parents are always reminded of the importance of taking the medication regularly. 3 children have died and 2 have moved away.
- 30 children with various impairments who live far away from a school were able to attend a boarding school thanks to CBR, 25 primary school and 5 secondary school.
- 2 children received a wheelchair and 2 a tricycle. Repairs are also regularly made to wheelchairs and tricycles that have been handed in.

12 adapted wooden chairs give the children a new perspective. In addition, children received walking aids made by a local carpenter.

- 9 children with club feet were registered during home visits in mostly remote villages and
- villages and sent to the hospital for treatment. Afterwards, the parents were visited regularly to ensure the success of the complex therapy.
- Clinic days are held weekly in 3 locations. Parents come there to get the medication and money for special food. New parents come again and again with their children. They are advised on nutrition, health and education. The CBR staff play with the children and show the parents which body positions they can put the children in to gain new perspectives.
- CBR exchanges information with other organisations for people with disabilities in Tanzania. Peredius will undergo further training in a larger institution in Moshi in 2022.

### Insight

Peredius sent us the following stories. The text has only been slightly shortened and shows what is important in Tanzania.

#### Neema Bruno

Neema is a girl aged 11 and was born in the village of Magata. Neema likes sports and games, she likes playing with other children and eating bananas and rice with meat and fish. She lives in Kasharunga village with her mother (Aneth Salvatory, 33 years old) and stepfather. Neema was born with hemiplegia affecting the left side. Epilepsy was added later. Before she got the medication, she could not go to school because the challenge from the epilepsy was too great.



The father neglected the girl because of the congenital disability. Therefore, her mother decided to marry another man. Neema's mother is a farmer and grows food for the family, such as maize, beans, bananas and sweet potatoes. Due to the economic Neema's mother cannot afford to pay for some necessities for Neema, such as medication for epilepsy, physiotherapy treatments, school supplies like uniforms, bags, exercise books, pencils and other school items.

During a home visit of another child, a CBR worker met Neema's mother. She told him about the family challenges. As a result, Neema was admitted to the CBR programme. CBR was able to ensure that Neema was allowed to go back to school. The family and Neema's school received regular counselling. She was also supported with physiotherapy treatments, medication for epilepsy and school supplies.

The mother appreciates the support very much. Her mental problems improved and she was able to concentrate on her daily activities again.

A teacher said, "Before the counselling and dispensing of medication by the CBR staff, Neema's problems posed a challenge to our school. Falling down due to an epilepsy seizure has greatly improved and so has her learning. With these words, I would like to express my gratitude to CBR and its supporters."

Enock Rweyongeza

Enock, a boy of 14, was born with a physical disability. Enock lives with his mother and siblings. His father died a few years ago. His mother grows beans, maize, bananas, cassava and sweet potatoes to feed the family. Enock is a good boy, he likes to play with his siblings and other children from the neighbourhood. When he was visited at home by CBR staff three years ago, he did not go to school because his parents and neighbours did not know that a child with disabilities could go to school and learn well.

Enock wanted to go to school, but no one could take him. It was also not possible for him to crawl to school. CBR Lweru started supporting Enock with aids so that he could go to school.

He was happy to go to school with his siblings and neighbours. Now he attends third grade where he can read, write and do math well. Enock is also able to explain himself well; he understands and thinks better than before because he comes into contact with other children and community members. They became aware that children with disabilities can learn just as well as those without disabilities.



On 14 October 2021 Enock expressed his feelings during a visit: "I was truly hurt that my brothers, sisters and neighbour's children went to school and left me alone at home. All my efforts with my parents to get me to school were unsuccessful as I was told that I could not be enrolled in any school with my disability. Surprisingly, the explanations were quite different when we were visited by CBR staff. I was then taken to school and successfully enrolled. Now I enjoy life with other children and my siblings at school and in the community. I can read, write and calculate well. Thank you very much to the CBR staff".

Halifa Sultan

In last year's review we mentioned Halifa in one example. The 2-year-old boy had severe health problems, ate very poorly and developed differently from his siblings.

different from his siblings. CBR diagnosed Down's syndrome and advised

and supported the parents financially. The

parents became aware of what kind of disability

their child had and started to implement the

health recommendations. The mother

mentioned during a clinic visit: "I am very happy

today because I understood my son's growth

problem.

I have understood my son's growth problem. I

went to different health facilities but they could

not explain my son's problems to me. Also, I went

to different doctors and used many family resources to treat my son, to no avail! But today,



thanks to CBR training, I am aware of the problem. Knowing the problem is a way to solve it."

## Outlook

From Tanzania came the desire to create a website. After some clarifications on site, we decided that the website should be created in Switzerland. Unfortunately, the Tanzanian examples could not convince us. We found someone from our circle of acquaintances who enjoys this work and supports us with a lot of voluntary work. It will still take a while until it will be available. We will keep you informed.

We would like to support the work of CBR for children with disabilities also in the next year. We were able to send more than 99% of the donations to Tanzania.

We will be very happy if you continue to support this work.

With heartfelt thanks

Barbara, Däni and Margrit

Translated with [www.DeepL.com/Translator](http://www.DeepL.com/Translator) (free version)

***Spendenkonto***

*Postfinance*

*CH3409000000154115268*

*CBR Lweru, 6036 Dierikon*