



Summary report for 2024 MDREO interventions

S/N	Thematic area	Intervention with output	Outcome
1	Health	Assistive devices were provided to 31 CWDs. These devices were wheel chairs, tri-cycles, CP chairs, hats, lotion for children with albinism, walkers and crutches.	<p>Assistive devices have enhanced general inclusion to children and youth with disabilities as they were able to easily move to; schools, churches, mosque, neighbors and around their homes.</p> <p>With CP chairs children with cerebral palsy were able to sit on chairs and they could no longer stay in a lying position. Hats and lotion protected well albinos' skins and eyes and they were able to continue with their studies smoothly and academic performance increased.</p> <p>This is gradually clearing a myth that even children with disabilities can still be part of the community.</p>
		➤ 53 Children received epileptic medicine	Distributed medicine enabled children and youngsters with epilepsy to be active and continued with normal life (example schooling, playing, going for worship). Youngsters continued with their activities such as agricultural, entrepreneurship and engagement in sports and games in their community. This has also enhanced community understanding that epilepsy can be controlled by medication.
		➤ 11 CWDs with different health problems were referred to different hospitals for treatments and surgeries.	<p>Medical and clinical interventions were done, their health improved and others (Children with hydrocephalus) continue to attend clinic on a monthly basis.</p> <p>Medical interventions have prevented or reduced permanent disabilities.</p>
		➤ 17 Malnourished children were given nutrition supplements	2 children were severely malnourished and the rest were moderately. After being supported, they were all rehabilitated. They were supported while

			nutritional education is being given to their parents, caregivers and the neighborhood.
		7 Families were supported with necessities for survival ,(soap, sugar, flour, rice, cooking oil,) the families have children and youngsters with disabilities,	Provision of necessities went hand in hand with livelihood skills. They were capacitated on social economic empowerment to diversify family earnings like keeping domestic animals and proper farming.
2	Education	➤ 34 children with different disabilities were supported with learning materials, transport fare, uniforms and school fees to enhance their studies in different schools.	Support to CWDs and youngsters reduced truants and absenteeism in schools, they were able to attend schools with all school required needs and eventually support contributed to increased academic performance.
		➤ Community sensitization and awareness	In this reporting period, MDREO sensitized the community on the rights of children with disabilities using different platforms. Ring the bell campaign was conducted Geita region with other children stakeholders. The aim was to sensitize the community on the necessity to enroll all children to schools including children with disabilities. MDREO also participated in the event of commemoration of African child day. In this event staff prepared a venue with posters and fliers featuring messages for inclusion of children with disabilities . Likewise radio and TV sessions were held to raise the community awareness on disability issues. As a results of community sensitization, there has been increased reportage to incidences of disability including increased school enrollment. -
3	Home and school visits	Every week visits are conducted by CBR staff ➤ Parents, Youth and caregivers are advised on Feeding/nutrition and hygiene, Proper storage and use of medicine, proper use of assistive devices, early treatment, child protection education, maternal health care referral and linkage.	CWDs and youngsters are receiving their entitled rights as evidenced by social inclusion, increased awareness on the use of medicine and assistive devices, Increased enrollment of CWDs in schools
4	Livelihood	➤ 3 Parents were supported with capital to strengthen income generating activities.	From being engaged in income generating activities, parents managed to afford family basic need especially for CWDs

5	Institutional development and capacity	<p>MDREO prepares and shares reports to different stakeholders and the government.</p> <p>MDREO staff attend different capacity building trainings, meetings and assessments.</p>	<p>In 2024, MDREO shared an annual report to the government and paid its annual fees to comply with the government laws. Additionally, the organization staff regularly attend meetings which are organized by the government. MDREO is an affiliate member of Tanzania early childhood development network (TECDEN) and Tanzania CBR network. Also MDREO with other 2 organizations have founded a regional CBR network for Kagera.</p> <p>Organization capacity assessment was conducted by Liliane foundation. It aimed at determining the strength and area of improvement for the organization. Overall performance was 71% and an area of improvement was on advocacy issues. After the assessment, the organization was eligible to receive fundings from Lilian Fonds for the next three years starting from 2025.</p> <p>MDREO director attended 3 trainings on program development, local resource mobilization and CBR. There trainings were organized by Beyond inclusion on behalf of Lilian fonds. They involved participants from the government and non-government organizations. It is through these trainings that organization staff improve their capacities in serving its beneficiaries.</p>

Success stories; Story 1

Vanesa Elneus a girl aged 13 years old was born in Muhutwe village in Muleba. Vanesa's father died when her mother madam Everina was at 8 month of vanesa's pregnancy. As a first born, Vanessa was a first born albinism. By then in 2012 there were regular killings of people with albinism, Albino were killed and their body parts taken as sources of wealth (that was poor beliefs) and community members were not ready to live with any person with albinism as it was very risk and they feared attacks and killings. Lonely widow mother of Vanesa after giving birth was very much stressed with the risk of living with albino. The mother with her baby shifted from Muhutwe to Makarwe village. MDREO has been assisting her and was worried about Vanessa's security due to the killings of albinos. This was due to the poor house of the family. Therefore, the organization decided to support the family to construct a safe house in collaboration with neighbors.



MDREO built this house for Vanesa from the fund, which was contributed, by friends of Vanesa and other stakeholders, a house was constructed to the level that guarantees safety for the family especially a child with albinism.

After the construction, family members including Vanessa have security for themselves and their property. They have increased confidence to participate in other development activities especially the activities that away from their home. The family is now living a happy life.

Success story 2,

Aileth Asiimwe is a girl aged 4. She was born in Kishuro village, Ngenge ward, Muleba district. She was born with bowleg. She was identified by MDREO volunteers during their family visits in 2023 and they supported her parents to take her to hospital for more check up in order to prevent her from having a permanent disability. After being referred to Kagondo hospital, she was recommended for an operation. Still MDREO supported her parents and she was operated in September 2024. She is now recovering and is undergoing physiotherapy exercise but her condition is greatly improving.

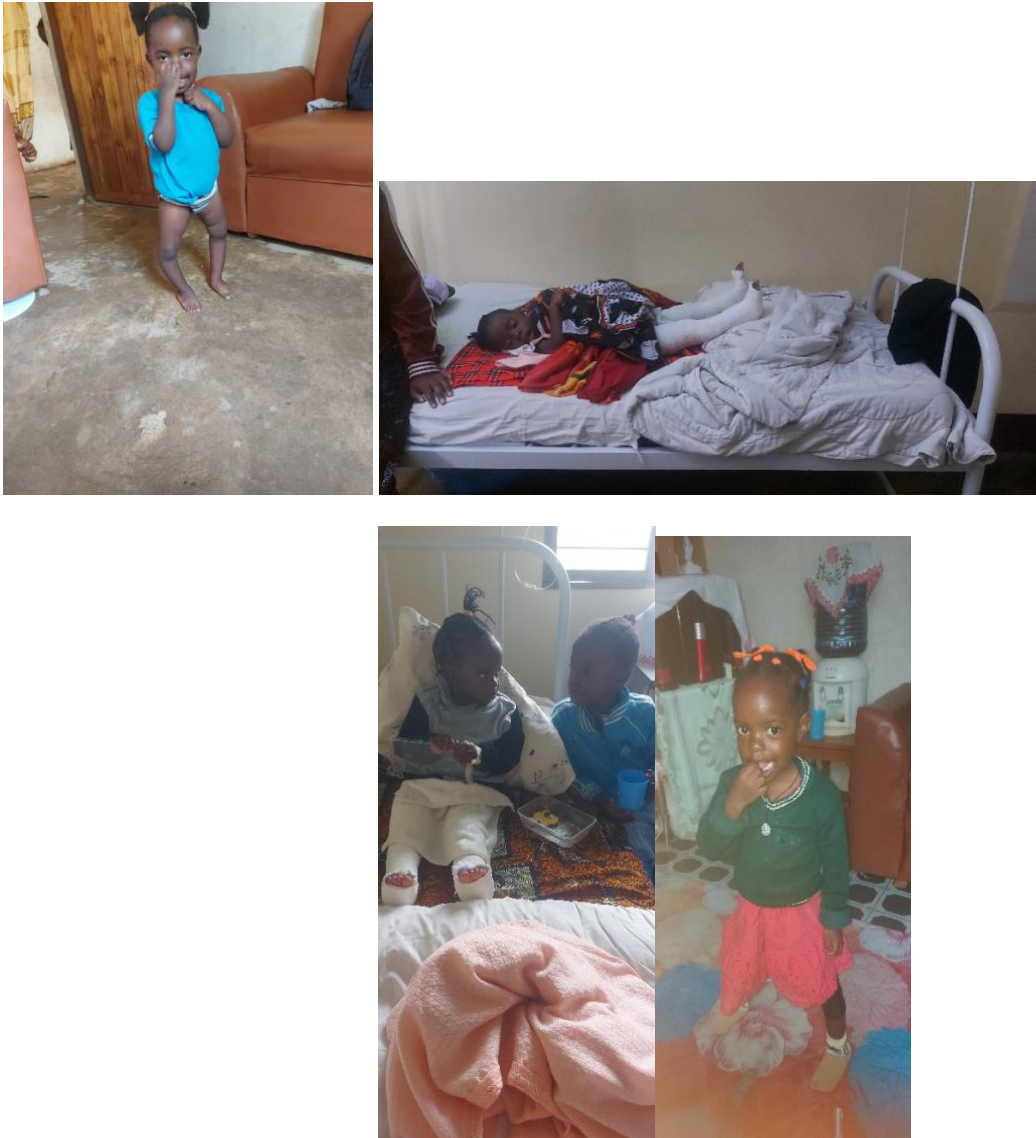


Figure 1 shows the pictures of Aileth before, during and after treatments.

A child is now happy to find herself walking properly. Her family is also happy for the restoration of the health of their baby.

Challenges

- Too much overwhelming needs for CWDs compared to available financial and human resources.
- Inadequate means of transport to reach all area
- Community stigma
- Law enforcement system is not sufficiently supportive when rights of children with disabilities are violated. For instance, An albino was killed and suspects were arrested and a case in progress at Bukoba High court but its decision is delayed even some suspects are being released.

Lesson learnt

- Involvement of multi stakeholders in services related to people with disabilities ensure the sustainability as the community is gradually taking its initiatives without relying on MDREO only.