



## What we do in Tanzania

- We're providing healthcare for 45,670 babies and children under 5
- We're providing health, shelter & food and support for schooling to over 14,000 vulnerable children
- We're helping nearly 200 children in 60 extremely poor families stay free from hunger



Tanzania is one of the world's poorest countries. **More than one-third of the population live below the national poverty line.** One in five children aged under five are underweight. Hungry children get ill more often and are likely to die younger. Many still die from preventable and treatable diseases like malaria and cholera. And more than a million children have been orphaned by AIDS.

Many children still miss out on a good quality education. The government made a bold move and abolished school fees in 2001. This led to a big increase in the number of children enrolled in primary school, from 4.4 million in 2000 to 8 million in 2006. But many drop out before they get to secondary school. In fact, Tanzania has one of the lowest recorded rates of secondary school enrolment. So there's still much work to be done.

Children account for nearly half of Tanzania's 38 million people. They generally don't have a say in decisions that affect their lives. We're working to change this.

### Save the Children in Tanzania

We've been working in mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar for more than ten years. We're improving the quality of healthcare in some of the poorest areas and making sure that children – particularly newborns, infants and children under five – receive care when they're sick.

We're working with government, local organisations and other international agencies to reduce child malnutrition and to provide healthcare, shelter and food for vulnerable children. We're helping children and young people to protect their rights by giving them a say in things that affect them.

### **We're saving lives by improving healthcare for newborns, infants and children under five**

Despite recent reductions in infant and child mortality, there's still no reduction in the rate of newborn mortality (during a child's first 30 days). This makes up 30% of all under five deaths. Too many mothers are also still dying during childbirth. President Kikwete has recently launched a national strategy to reduce maternal, newborn and child mortality.

Following our work with nearly 18,000 under fives Lindi rural district, with the support of the Reckitt Benckiser, a leading household products company, we're expanding our services to reach a further 27,377 children in Ruangwa and Kilwa districts. We work closely with local partners such as the District Medical Officers and their health teams and the Ifakara Health Research and Development Centre. We're training clinical officers in the 55 rural dispensaries in Ruangwa and Kilwa to diagnose the difference between malaria and pneumonia, which will make a great difference to babies' survival chances.

In six hospitals we have a special programme called 'kangaroo mother care' which supports mothers to care for their newborn babies. We'll be expanding this into local health centres in the districts where we work in the coming year.

### **We're helping protect children and young people**

Recently we've been approved by the government to implement its National Plan of Action for Vulnerable Children. We're working in five districts in the north west of the country where HIV rates are among the highest. We'll be supporting local partners to provide healthcare, education, shelter and food to just over 14,000 vulnerable babies and children.

### **We're reducing child malnutrition**

More than 54% of children are malnourished, and those living in rural areas are more likely to be affected. Being malnourished prevents a child developing to his or her full potential, mentally and physically, and has a big impact on their future life chances. Frequent and severe food shortages make the situation much worse for families living in poverty.

Tanzania's President Kikwete launched our cash transfer programme in Lindi in November 2007. More than one-third of households in the district can't afford to feed their children a healthy diet. We're supplementing the income of households in three villages, benefiting 198 children in 60 families. All their families had run out of food during the December to March hungry period, when the food from the previous year's harvest was finished and this year's crops were still growing. This coincided with the start of a new school term when money was

needed for buying uniforms and books. We also run a cooking club, which is attended by 53 mothers in seven villages. The women learn how to prepare and cook a protein-rich, pre-mix porridge for their children. We'll be closely monitoring the impact of these cash transfers so that we can reach many more vulnerable children in future.

### **We're helping children and young people protect their rights**

Children generally don't have a say in decisions that affect them. We're working with adults to make sure they ask children what they think and listen to what they say. We want them to understand why and how to involve children and young people in decisions and policies.

In Zanzibar, we organised training in child protection for 120 people, including district level welfare officers, teacher trainers and women and children's officers. They will form the basis of district child support teams, to help all 550,000 children in Zanzibar.

Another of our main activities is setting up and supporting children's councils. These are groups formed and run by children from the villages who meet at ward and municipal level. They identify practical ways they can support vulnerable babies and children in their communities, and advocate with government and other agencies for children's rights. Our support for children's councils in Tanzania and Zanzibar has benefited more than 93,000 children and the numbers will continue to grow as we work in new districts.

We've produced a booklet about free and fair elections for the children's councils and we're working on more materials to help them get parliament to change the laws relating to children and address key issues affecting children.



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Registered charity England and Wales (213890) Scotland (SC039570)