

# Evolution of Services



We are a dynamic organisation that not only values transforming the lives of our patients, but the transformation of our own structure and services to better respond to community needs.

## CCBRT's Beginnings



Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT) was founded in 1994 to help reduce poverty in Dar es Salaam by providing accessible and affordable rehabilitative services for people with disabilities, who are among the most vulnerable people in the country. Our initial efforts centred on community based rehabilitation (CBR) for children with disabilities and adults with blindness.

Since then, CCBRT has grown into Tanzania's largest local provider of disability and rehabilitative care, as well as a champion for the inclusion and rights of persons with disabilities.

## Prevention as Priority

After nearly a decade of treating patients at the Disability Hospital, CCBRT was approached by the Government of Tanzania, who hoped to harness CCBRT's reputation for clinical excellence in order to tackle one of the nation's most pressing challenges: maternal and newborn health.

The story of CCBRT's evolution has a central theme: prevention. While supporting patients with CBR, we recognised the need - and our ability - to prevent or reduce the long-term disabling effects of impairments. To this end, we opened the CCBRT Disability Hospital in 2001, on a plot of land in Dar es Salaam donated to CCBRT by the Government of Tanzania.

To address the range of disabilities identified in our community, we grew our services to include surgery for:



Eye conditions



Clubfoot



Cleft lip/palate



Obstetric fistula

As well as the provision of:



Physiotherapy services



Assistive devices

In 2007, CCBRT and the Government of Tanzania formed a Public-Private Partnership enabling the establishment and operation of a Maternity and Newborn Hospital to serve as a tertiary hospital providing specialist and critical care in the Dar es Salaam region. CCBRT is spearheading the construction and operational planning for the hospital, which will be equipped for emergency and high-risk obstetric cases.



**As the first phase of its expansion into the field of Maternal and Newborn Healthcare, CCBRT is supporting capacity building efforts at 22 existing public health facilities in Dar es Salaam region.**

These efforts aim to improve the facilities' quality of obstetric and gynaecological care and to strengthen the referral system to the Maternity and Newborn Hospital when operational.

These undertakings will help to prevent obstetric fistula, caused by prolonged labour, by increasing access to emergency obstetric care; they will promote the health of both mother and baby by expanding access to comprehensive antenatal care; and they will minimise long-term disability for babies born with impairments or mothers who suffer childbirth injuries by providing prompt diagnosis and immediate referral to CCBRT's Disability Hospital for treatment.

## Evolution Into Social Enterprise

While CCBRT's services were evolving to better prevent physical impairments and their disabling effects, our financial structure was evolving with an eye towards sustainability. The inception of our Private Clinic in 2004 was a first step towards reducing our financial dependency on donor funds. The Private Clinic provides the same medical services—including ophthalmological, orthopaedic, and rehabilitative care—as our Disability Hospital but at a higher price, serving patients willing and able to pay more for access to amenities like air conditioning, and private rooms for inpatient stays. Revenue from the Private Clinic is then reinvested in CCBRT to subsidise services for poorer patients at the Disability Hospital.

Recognising the opportunity to scale up this successful model and respond to the demand for high quality medical services from Tanzania's growing middle class, CCBRT opened a new, larger Private Clinic in 2018.

The expanded facility, updated infrastructure, and improved clinical model at the new Private Clinic allows CCBRT to continue delivering the high quality of care for which it is known. The new facility has extended its services to triple the number of Private Clinic patients and generate five-times the current revenue to subsidise services at the Disability Hospital. With this step, CCBRT is continuing its evolution toward an innovative social enterprise model that safeguards sustainability while optimising the accessibility and quality of CCBRT's services in disability treatment, disability prevention, and maternal and newborn health.