



# CCBRT

# NEWSLETTER

Issue 04 Oct-Dec 2008

CHANGING LIVES, CHANGING COMMUNITIES

## Welcome to CCBRT

CCBRT is the largest indigenous provider of disability and rehabilitative services in Tanzania.

Through its disability hospital, community programmes and outreach schemes in Dar es Salaam and the surrounding regions and via its programme in Kilimanjaro, more than 120,000 people directly benefit from CCBRT's services each year.

Website: [www.ccbtr.or.tz](http://www.ccbtr.or.tz)

## Quarterly Highlights

- International Day of Persons with Disabilities observed
- New Disability Bill due before Parliament
- Free eye screenings for hundreds on World Sight Day
- First official joint Partner meeting takes place
- CCBRT wins PEPFAR funding for Disability and HIV/AIDS project
- Building plans for new maternity hospital progressing

## Disability Event Reaches Thousands

Whilst CCBRT serves the needs of hundreds of people with disabilities each and every day through consultations, surgeries and rehabilitation sessions, an increasingly important aspect of our work is to raise awareness about disability issues throughout Tanzania and put disability issues on the government agenda. The global observance of International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3<sup>rd</sup> December was an opportunity to do this. CCBRT was more involved in planning activities in Tanzania to mark the



Members of the crowd with one of the posters produced.

day than ever before by supporting The Tanzania Federation of Disabled People's Organisations (SHIVYAWATA) which coordinated the events. Prior to a march and conference on 3<sup>rd</sup> December, CCBRT hosted a workshop during which participants urged the government to press forward on ratifying the UN Convention on Disability Rights and to take decisive legal action against those responsible for the albino killings in the country (see story page 2).

We also assisted in raising sponsorship and producing

2,200 advocacy materials for the main event on 3<sup>rd</sup> December which was attended by around 1,000 people. During the meeting, the Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Hon. Professor David Homeli Mwakwusa said that the government was committed to ratifying the UN Convention on Disability Rights and affirmed that Tanzania's Disability Act would be finalised for implementation in the near future (see below). Throughout the event, an area was screened off for privacy and CCBRT offered free Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) for HIV and AIDS. 40 people came for VCT, 50% of whom were people with disabilities. Marking the day provided a useful networking opportunity between the Ministry and civil society groups while tens of thousands of people in Tanzania were made more aware of the talents of people with disabilities and the life challenges they face through awareness raising materials and media coverage.



A march through Dar es Salaam to mark International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

## New Disability Bill Heading For Parliament

A few days after International Day of Persons with Disabilities, it was confirmed in the newspapers that Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda is soon to bring a new bill before Parliament which will better acknowledge and recognise the rights of people with disabilities in the country. It will be the first time rights and provisions for persons with disabilities are con-

tained in one comprehensive Act.

We have also been lobbying the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training regarding accessibility of school buildings to people with disabilities. As a result of these advocacy efforts, CCBRT has been asked to give recommendations on modifications to construction guidelines in

order to make all new school buildings accessible to people with disabilities in line with international standards. During this quarter, we joined stakeholders from the government, civil society and the private sector in the Joint Annual Health Sector Review. The aim of the three day workshop was to agree on milestones and the Health Sector Strategic Plan.



Participants from Light for the World undergoing training at CCBRT.

## First Joint Partner Meeting Takes Place

All of CCBRT's main partners were invited to our first joint Partner Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November during which successes and challenges to date as well as future plans were discussed. CCBRT management highlighted the difficulties of meeting each individual partner's reporting requirements; each year having to produce over 100 separate reports in a costly and time consuming process. It was requested that, going forward, partners consider funding against CCBRT's Vision 2008-2012 plan and accept one comprehensive feedback report annually. All in all, it was a very useful meeting for us and view-points from partners will enable us to improve our performance

further. A full report can be found on our website ([www.ccbt.or.tz](http://www.ccbt.or.tz)).

Shortly after the meeting (at which CCBRT finances were also reviewed), CCBRT was awarded with a Certificate of Merit from the Tanzania Revenue Authority for good tax compliance in the Medium Taxpayers Category. Congratulations to the Finance Department on this achievement.

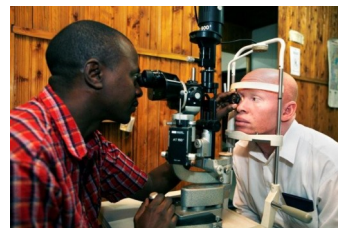
Training was another topic under discussion during the Partner Meeting and this quarter saw the conclusions of a number of international training programmes at CCBRT. 11 participants from Light for the

World attended a course at CCBRT during which they learned about areas such as breaking barriers to rehabilitation services along with HIV/Aids and disability. They went on several visits to the field to experience our work first hand. 16 managers and coordinators from Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, Malawi, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Rwanda and Tanzania came to CCBRT for four weeks' Mobility and Orientation training in October. The course was designed to provide them with skills and knowledge to teach orientation and mobility to blind adults and to use their new experiences to train other CBR workers back in their respective countries.

## Broadening Awareness About Albinism

Throughout the year, the horrific killings of people with albinism in Tanzania have made news around the world. Over 35 albinos have been brutally killed for their body parts. Some witch doctors say they can use albino body parts in a potion to make people rich while others are attacking people with albinism in the belief that it is the result of a curse being placed on the family. Many of the registered 8,000 albinos in Tanzania are living in fear for their lives. In order to raise awareness and edu-

cate children and adults about the condition both in Tanzania



Most people with albinism have problems with vision. CCBRT's low vision department sees many clients with albinism.

and abroad, CCBRT linked up the Tanzania Albino Society with a Belgian photojournalist. It is hoped that this tie-up could lead to a mobile exhibition on people with albinism and result in a book about the condition to be distributed in schools throughout Tanzania. Many people with albinism attended the International Day of Persons with Disabilities and heard the Minister of Health and Social Welfare promise that the perpetrators of the crimes would be brought to justice.



20 out of the 40 clients who came for voluntary HIV/AIDS tests during International Day of Persons with Disabilities had impairments.

## CCBRT/cbm Project Wins PEPFAR Funding

In October, we received some very good news in that PEPFAR (The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief) has agreed US\$3.3 million in funding for a joint cbm US/CCBRT disability and HIV/AIDS project.

People with disabilities are often excluded from HIV/AIDS messages. For instance, the blind cannot read the awareness raising materials, the deaf can-

not hear radio announcements and yet people with disabilities are amongst the most vulnerable to HIV/AIDS. CCBRT, in collaboration with cbm US and local partners in Tanzania (including the Tanzania Commission for Aids —TACAIDS) will set up a project which aims to give people with disabilities and their caregivers better access to appropriate HIV/AIDS interventions. It will do this by

equipping HIV/AIDS and disability organisations with the right tools to make HIV/AIDS services more accessible. Prior to the project's implementation, a GTZ funded study looking into HIV/Aids amongst people disabilities will be undertaken in the country. CCBRT will coordinate this on behalf of TACAIDS. The inception report has been prepared and data collection will start shortly.



As part of World Sight Day, CCBRT ran free eye screening sessions and surgeries in Dar es Salaam and Kilwa.

#### IN MEMORIAM

*We regret to report the death of Brigadier General (retired) Alexander Gwebenyirenda on 20th December 2008. He was a longstanding and respected member of CCBRT's General Assembly. We offer our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends.*



Anna with one of her orthopaedic patients and his mother.

## Free Eye Screenings For 770 People On World Sight Day

World Sight Day, held this year on 9th October, is observed to concentrate global attention on vision impairment and blindness. With 80% of people living with blindness aged over 50, this year's focus was on the ageing eye and vision impairment in older people. Along with the world's ageing population the number of people with blindness from chronic conditions is also rising. Here in Tanzania, CCBRT played an active role

in supporting World Sight Day. Leading up to the 9th we ran eye screening sessions in four centres within Dar es Salaam and these were conducted in collaboration with Lions Clubs of Dar es Salaam. A total of 770 people came for free eye checks. We also teamed up with the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare on eye screenings and surgeries in Kilwa area (East coast region). 36 surgeries, per-

formed by one of our eye surgeons, took place there.

Also in this quarter, the mobile outreach team, led by Dr Tim Lavy, Paediatric Ophthalmologist, worked extremely efficiently during a visit to Mwanza in November. Working together with local partner, Kilimanjaro for Community Centre of Ophthalmology, the team carried out 80 eye surgeries on children in just one week.

## Building Plans For New Hospital Advancing

Plans for CCBRT's new mother and child care hospital are developing apace. Throughout this quarter we had a number of useful meetings with stakeholders and potential partners for the future development of mother and child care services in Tanzania and for financing the building of the new maternity hospital at the current CCBRT disability hospital site. The review of the floor plan for new hospital is now finalised. We were assisted in the review

by an international architect. Now we are in the process of identifying an architect to take the plans to the next stage—a full architectural design and a detailed costing.

A new fundraising website for the hospital has also been in development over the last few months and a promotional trailer will go into production early in 2009.

Future collaborations with new partners over the running of the rehabilitation/orthopaedic department were also discussed with various parties and some delegations are due to visit CCBRT in early 2009 to explore the possibilities further. In October, two Directors visited Ethiopia's Fistula Hospital on a fact finding mission and to ascertain how CCBRT can contribute further to the number of fistula surgeries undertaken in the region.

## Meet The Team : Anna Magingo

From a very young age, Anna Magingo knew that she wanted to be a nurse. Now qualified for 17 years, she has been working at CCBRT for the last six of those. She is a senior staff nurse on the orthopaedic ward where she loves working with the children in particular. Anna applied for a job at CCBRT because, "it is a very clean and organised place, not like other hospitals in our country." The training prospects also attracted her. Anna is in the first year of a three year social worker course.

Her studies are subsidised by CCBRT and, once qualified, she is looking forward to sharing her new skills with her colleagues and with her patients and their caregivers. "Many of our patients are from rural areas and have never seen a place like CCBRT. They are often very afraid. We take time to show them around and reassure them that they and their children will be well looked after. On my course I am learning how to communicate better with people and how to anticipate problems." One of the daily chal-

lenges faced by Anna and her team is keeping the ward tidy and sterile. "I wanted to ask the parents to wear hospital uniforms so that we could prevent infection entering the wards from outside but at the moment the funds are not available. Also, I wish there was more locker space for the patient's belongings. Many arrive with such big bags as they often stay for long periods. I would like more locker space to help store these things away and keep the ward free from infection."