



Newsletter December 2020

Dear Friends of Ruvuma Onlus,

For our association, 2020 saw a new starting point, a forced halt and now a confident reflection into the future. These coming few weeks we will be considering possible steps to make the cancer prevention project for the Mbweni area financially sustainable and positively impacting for the local population. In the next newsletter, in early spring, we count on sharing with you the ideas and the journey we will have started in that direction.

Meanwhile, with this annus horribilis shutting up behind me, I steal from the web a thought imbued with Eastern wisdom and Western optimism. Here is my wish for a joyful 2021:

«Every situation in life is temporary. So, when life is good, make sure you enjoy and receive it fully. And when life is not so good, remember that it will not last forever and better days are on the way.» (Jenni Young)



Chiara Rodriguez

President Associazione Ruvuma Onlus

The story of the little Joshua

In this Newsletter, through Floriana Monti (a precious collaborator of Ruvuma Association) we want to share with you the story of one of Ruvuma volunteers, Cristiana, and her touching experience with the little Masai Joshua.

Cristiana was spending a period in Mbweni, both to see some children she had linked to on previous trips, and to take a tour, certainly not tourist in the strict sense of the word, but to visit some realities of which I had often spoken to her (missions, orphanages, hospitals) and to spend a few days in a Maasai village at my friends' house, where I have been several times and which I had spoken to her with great enthusiasm.

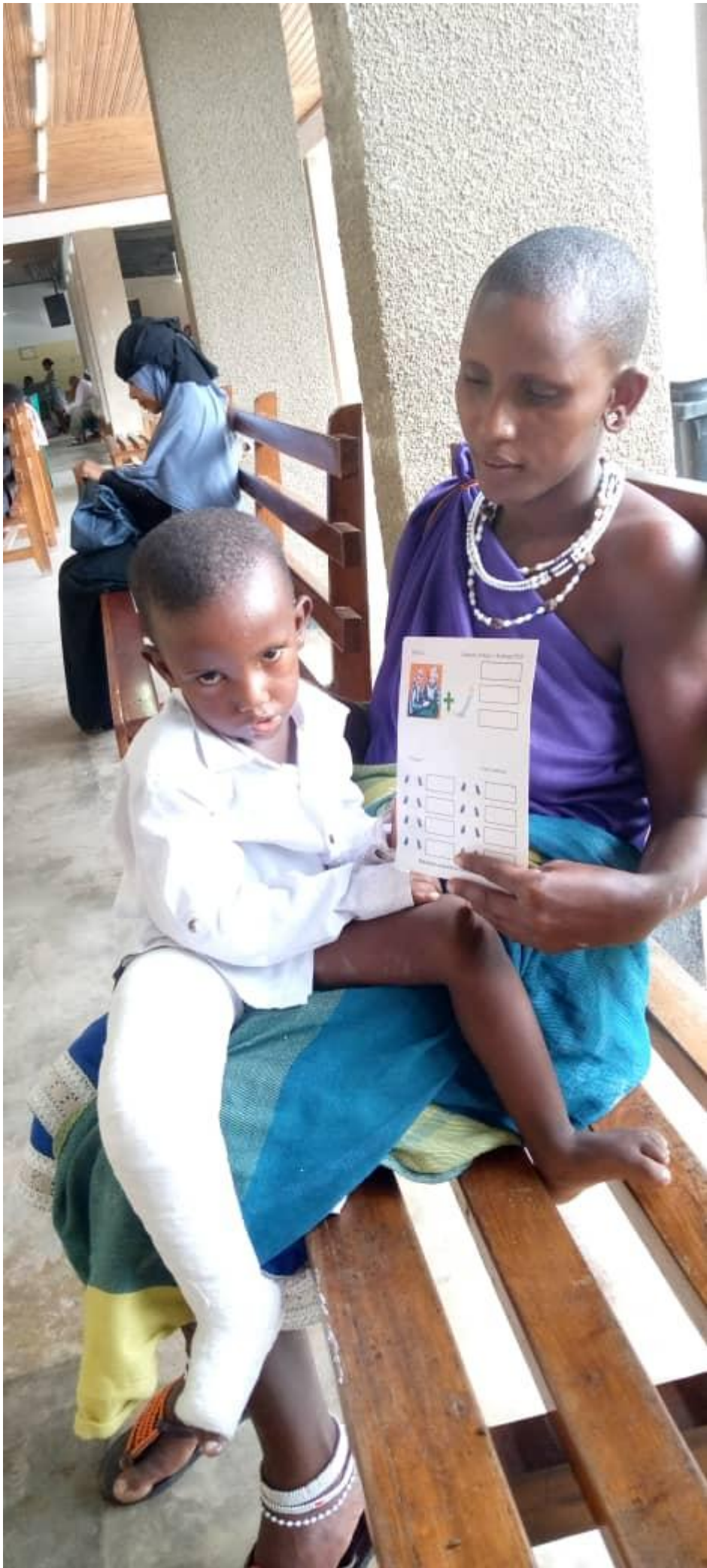
On this last occasion, she was impressed by the physical condition of a small 4-year-old Maasai, Joshua, suffering from various malformations, which he was probably ashamed of by always, being on the sidelines and not participating in games with other children: the so-called "clubfoot", a hand with two fingers welded together, a crooked head and mouth. Cristiana got caught up to the point that she promised herself to try to do everything possible to give a new dignity to the child.





We had him visited by Professor Franchella who was on site, who advised us to take him to the CCRBT Hospital in Dar es Salaam where, of course, they were able to resolve the situation.

It is difficult to describe the feeling that overwhelms you and the sense of injustice you feel in front of the dull and sad look of a sick child, so Ruvuma Association decided to take on everything that could be used to help this unfortunate little one: health insurance, expenses travel and stay in Dar and anything else needed.





Thanks to the collaboration of Happy, our contact person in Mbweni, he was taken to the hospital where the steps to take were decided. In the meantime, Happy has made herself available to go to meet Joshua and his mother at the bus station, to accompany them to visits and to assist them during the three hospitalizations he has undergone, the various interventions necessary to reduce his malformations, and between one visit and the other and before and after the interventions she hosted them in a country house attached to his farm. First Joshua underwent surgery to straighten his foot, then his hand and, finally, surgery on his mouth and throat, as he also had serious swallowing problems. For now he seems to have been fine. Joshua should now be done with the surgeries and will have to undergo periodic neurological checkups.

It's nice to see him walk almost normally and eat almost anything.
These are the satisfactions that fill your heart.

Floriana Monti

Cuba project of the Ruvuma Onlus Association

A few years ago, I introduced a friend of mine and external collaborator of our Association to Rodrigo Rodriguez, who was struck by the activity that this former train leader of the FFSS, Rodolfo Dal Pane, did for a nation rich in culture but too marginalized by the well-being of civilization western.





Rodolfo buys disused material as obsolete as PCs, revises and sends them to Cuba, where they are very useful for digitizing all the administrative activities of the Caribbean island, especially for ICAP (Cuban Institute for friendship among peoples). We were especially struck by the affinity of his project with that of our Association, also aiming, like the Cuban project, to help a poor population like that of Tanzania.

Over the years, Rodolfo's activity has expanded to include in the material he annually sends with a container to Cuba, cycling equipment, bikes and clothing for the Cuban cycling federation, which practically supplies all the necessary material, then sports clothing and non, donated by artisans and industries close to him.





This year with the COVID emergency, also present in Cuba, we have decided to offer our collaboration by purchasing for about € 2,000 of disinfection material from a company in our area, MADEL, and inserting it in the shipment of the container of this 'year, in addition to the usual insurance coverage for which we provide Rodolfo in the period he passes to Cuba, about 7/8 months a year for the distribution of the material shipped.

Giuseppe Travaglini

Vice President - Health and Science Manager

Fighting non-communicable diseases

This past November, Tanzania Prime Minister Mr Kassim Majaliwa launched a new national programme to fight non-communicable diseases (NCDs) with the World Health

Organization's support.

Next to inviting local research centres and hospitals to present their medical research at the Julius Nyerere Conference Centre, the Ministry of Health organized screenings and therapy opportunities for the local population. Ruvuma Onlus was invited to take part to the event together with public hospitals of the Dar es Salaam area, as well as the St Joseph Hospital in Mbweni, the Agha Khan Hospital, the Hindu Mandala and the TMJ Hospital.

In three days our camper assisted more than four hundred people. Among 208 men and 193 women who underwent prostate and breast cancer screening respectively, 31 were encouraged to receive further checks.

For further information please see pages 5 & 6 of the [UN Newsletter dedicated to Tanzania](#)



How to support Associazione Ruvuma Onlus

You can donate via [Paypal](#).

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