



RUVUMA ONLUS

Newsletter November 2020

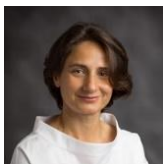
Dear Friends of Ruvuma Onlus,

When in 1993 I went to Tanzania with Father Contiero, the eccentric and visionary chaplain of the University of Bologna, I certainly did not imagine that I would be writing this letter now. In that hot summer, my parents were already putting their heart to the idea of doing something for the people of a country which I had started to know and admire, if not love, over a couple of weeks. Nothing however was hinting at the opportunity I would have had twenty-seven years later, to play on the court on which my father had been playing a wonderful game for many years.

My father's last trip to Mbweni, in December 2019, was also his last overseas trip before Italy's Covid-19 lockdown and his illness halted his unstoppable desire to do, or better said to fulfill the projects he created and believed in. During that trip, we spoke a couple of times. He sounded moved by the warm welcome he had received in Mbweni by associates, partners and press. I could feel he was very connected to the profound reasons why he had chosen to do what he had done in Tanzania, despite of the difficulties and the outcome being sometimes different from the original intentions.

When my father died, Giusepper Travaglini generously suggested that a member of our family take on the role of President of Ruvuma Onlus that Rodrigo had held very deservedly since the start of the association. In our family, we were and still are quite convinced this project deserves to continue and grow. With the support of my mother, my brothers, the members of the association and of those who have cared for Ruvuma over the years, I am committed to bringing forward what my parents began, in the same spirit of attention, respect and trust in Tanzanese people which were present when the first dispensary was founded.

Yours very truly,



Chiara Rodriguez
President, Ruvuma Onlus

The importance of prevention

Dear friends of the Ruvuma Onlus Association, in a time of health emergency like the one that the entire world population is facing, for the majority of them there are currently other priorities in their mind. It remains important, however, not to forget that in some areas of the world, such as Africa, for example, the pandemic has further worsened people's living conditions.

Since its foundation, Ruvuma Association has been committed to supporting Tanzania on a medical level. Even more important for us, it has always been the concept of prevention, little known in that continent, which we have been pursuing since 2013, and with pride, we can say that we were the first to talk about it in Africa. Preventing disease in the population is not only essential to save lives, but also to lower the health system costs.

In that country, out of a population of about 59 million people, in addition to the lack of work, access to education and the inability to have access to everything that in the West we take for granted, such as food and drugs, thousands of people continue to die of diseases due to the impossibility of having access to the necessary treatments and a total lack of prevention. Like the cancer, for example, which is the leading non-communicable disease in Tanzania. Data from last April 2020 show that there has been a consistent and significant increase in cancer in Tanzania. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) estimates that there are 42,060 new cases of cancer annually, with a high mortality rate of 28,610 deaths. The most common cancers in Tanzania include cervical, prostate and breast cancer. The only way to prevent the number from increasing is prevention.

Since last December 2019 we started with breast and prostate cancer screening for men. On the opening day of the camper, December 16th, the total number of men and women who showed up in front of the camper to be screened was 67. Five of them were sent to Muhimbili Hospital for further checks. Everything was going well, then the pandemic forced us to stop temporarily.

In the picture, the last screening made on 24 October at the Ferry Fish Market and in the Kawe Ukwaman district



**However, we are strongly intent on starting again
THE POPULATION OF TANZANIA NEEDS US.
AND WE NEED YOU, never like now.**

To start again we have to raise funds, it doesn't take much, even 10 euros, if donated by a large number of people, can really make a difference.

How to support Associazione Ruvuma Onlus

You can donate via [Paypal](#).

For donations::

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For more information on our Association: www.ruvuma.it

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