

# ConnectSwiss

Building a brighter future  
in rural Africa



As reported in our December 2023 newsletter, in the face of soaring inflation and economic challenges, the most vulnerable members of Kenyan society are enduring severe hardships. Low-income households, already grappling with economic difficulties, have been disproportionately affected by the escalating cost of living. This impact is particularly pronounced for those who allocate over 60% of their income toward food expenses, as surging food prices further exacerbate their struggles.

In response to this urgent need, ConnectSwiss implemented a food relief programme in October and November 2023. Through this initiative, we provided essential support to families, offering four or five goro-goros (2kg tins) of maize, along with cooking fat and a 800gm bar of soap. In times of high food prices, even basic hygiene items like soap become a luxury, contributing to health problems when not readily available.

At the same time we made an appeal for a donation of just CHF 50 to buy maize seeds and fertilizer \*\* to assist a family to harvest their own maize in 2024. The appeal raised enough funds to assist 80 families (50 in Emuhaya and 30 in Teso) at the end of March. Rains have come late during the long-rain season, so people had prepared their fields waiting for the rain. They have all planted now and in two weeks will be adding top dressing to help the young seedlings achieve optimal growth.

*\*\*While ConnectSwiss does teach organic farming, for many families it is too labour intensive and a mixed solution which also applies fertilizer has the best results.*



## 2024 Seeds of Hope

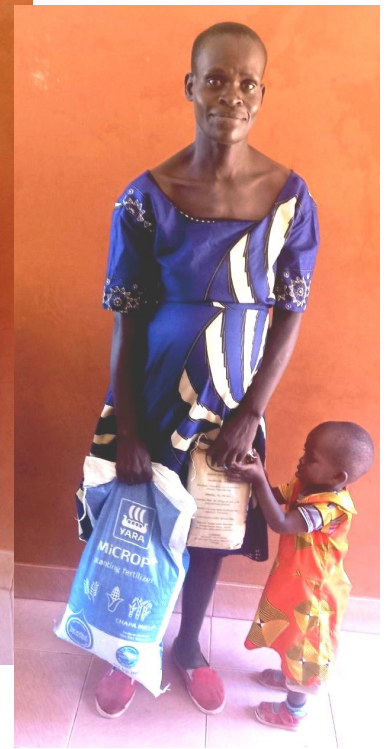
# Teso Maize Distribution



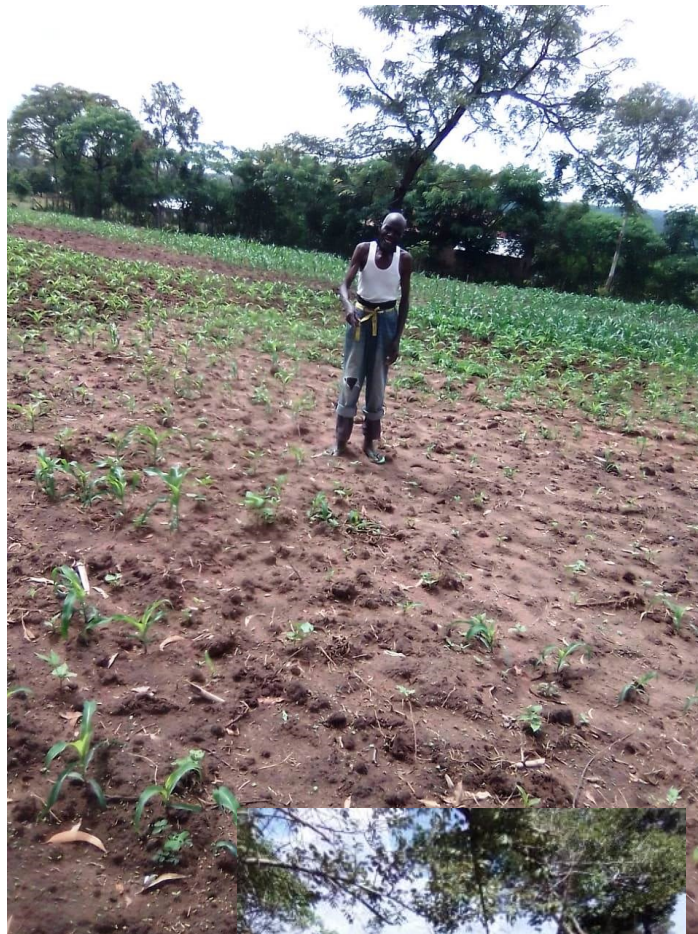
Everyone was very excited and came to fetch their 2kg bag of maize (left photo) with the planting fertilizer DAP, which serves as a source of phosphorus and nitrogen, promoting root development and early crop growth. CAN will be distributed later to give a nitrogen boost, supporting overall plant development.



# Maize distributed at the Children's Support Centre



# Planting Seeds of Hope



Sara, on the left, raised 8 daughters. Her husband, James, who lived with HIV for many years, passed away.

She now lives on her own with 3 grandchildren and her two youngest daughters, Nicole and Gloria.



Mirabel and Prince, twins, are assisting their father in planting the maize seeds. Their mother, who suffers from epilepsy, is unable to engage in strenuous labour.

They are utilising a string to ensure straight lines while planting, and employing a hand hoe to turn the soil. To ensure optimal plant growth no more than 2 seeds are planted per hole.



# Update on 2 welfare cases: Kefina and Beryl

We found Kefina living with her grandmother and we wrote: Kefina is physically handicapped and cannot use her right arm and hand. She is 7 years old but is severely malnourished. Despite her quiet demeanor, Kefina engages in conversations when prompted and does not exhibit any cognitive impairments. We secured a sponsor for Kefina to attend St. Luke's Special Needs School in 2024. She is thriving and loving her new school life.



Beryl, previously blind in one eye, underwent a successful cataract removal procedure in December 2023.

However, she requires a second procedure due to posterior capsule opacification (PCO), a condition where the eye becomes cloudy or opaque following cataract surgery.

Unfortunately, due to an ongoing doctors' strike in Kenya, she has been waiting for a month without any indication of when the situation will be resolved.

## Children's Support Centre

Over the years 1000's of children have been treated at our Children Support Centre, thank you to our donors who help toward their treatment ensuring they live a better & healthier life.



## International Village School

The School opened its doors in 2008, educating 100's of children. Special thanks to many private donors, including Friends of the International School (FOTIS in Geneva) and Tushirikiane (Spain).



## Become a ConnectSwiss Member

Anyone who shares the objectives of our organisation can become a member of ConnectSwiss and belong to a non-profit organization that alleviates poverty and provides high quality education for some of the poorest people in East Africa. Membership fees help cover administrative costs so that 100% of donations go directly to the projects.

As a member you will be able to contribute to the development of new projects with your ideas, donations and/or sponsorship. For example, members can contribute their expertise and ideas by providing network support, writing funding proposals, helping ConnectSwiss accomplish its tasks and much more.

Other benefits of being a regular member include receiving our newsletter, as well as having access to ConnectSwiss Annual Report and Accounts.

Membership costs only:

- United States: USD 50 per year
- Switzerland: CHF 50 per year
- U.K. GBP 45 per year
- Europe: EUR 50 per year
- Rest of the World: USD 50 per year



### ConnectSwiss

is a registered Swiss charity  
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If you wish to make a donation, please indicate the project for which the funds are intended, and your name and address for receipt.

#### Swiss account details:

Account holder: ConnectSwiss, Morges, Switzerland

Bank: UBS SA, Geneva, Switzerland

BIC/SWIFT: UBSWCHZH80A

IBAN: CH83 0024 0240 6815 9501 C

### Asante Sana —Thank you — Merci!

Thank you for your wonderful support in 2023.



If you wish to make a donation kindly contribute by using the QR code for a more convenient payment method or visit:

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