



ConnectSwiss Newsletter 2021 Children's Support Centre Emurembe

2020 was a unique and challenging year for the world due to COVID-19. Thanks to our donors, the Children's Support Centre was able to continue providing essential support to vulnerable children and is continuing the same services in 2021.

Children's Centre currently needs 8'500 CHF to complete its budget for running costs. In 2019, ConnectSwiss lost two major donors and it has been difficult to replace them during the pandemic situation.

Swiss account: ConnectSwiss, Morges, Switzerland

Bank: UBS SA, Geneva, Switzerland

BIC/SWIFT: UBSWCHZH80A

IBAN: CH83 0024 0240 6815 9501 C (for CHF Swiss Franc donations)

IBAN: CH40 0024 0240 6815 9560R (for USD dollar donations)

Medical treatment

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Centre closed to in-patients on 20 March 2020 and focused on out-patient care and supplying food to destitute families.

Malaria cases were extremely high in 2020 due to a prolonged rainy season. Supply of medicines to local health centres was problematic during the year and the local hospital was also repeatedly on strike. The Centre buys supplies from private pharmacies so was able to provide malaria treatment for 475 outpatients who tested positive from 670 who were tested (90% were children, 10% were parents). This included 350 children below age five who are most at risk from dying from malaria.



Statistics January to December 2020

Number of out-patients seen	2'963
Skin infections	1'535
Treated for worms	499
Treated for jiggers (sand fleas)	292
Number tested for malaria	670
Number positive for malaria & treated	475
Wounds and burns treated	194
Malnutrition cases	84
Number of HIV tests (<i>no positive results</i>)	64





Food support

In June 2020, we organized a special distribution of 40kgs of maize for 42 families. The number of children on monthly support of high protein porridge flour increased from around 60 per month in 2019 to over 80 in 2020 and this support was increased to twice monthly from June in order to respond to increased malnutrition and general hunger in the area. Four babies received milk regularly as their mothers were either deceased or unable to breastfeed sufficiently (e.g. in the case of twins).

Photo: grandmother with twins needing support for milk

Our history

The Children's Support Centre is a registered health facility and it reports to the Ministry of Health Emuhaya (Vihiga County). It specialises in rehabilitation of malnourished children, treatment for jiggers, parasites and skin problems. It also provides temporary accommodation for abandoned and abused children referred by the Children's Department. The Centre provides other social support to vulnerable children from the local area such as school uniforms, blankets and mosquito nets and also sprays houses for jiggers for children who have been admitted to

the Centre with severe jiggers infestation. It gives education on nutrition and hygiene to guardians and from time to time, gives health education to young people (for example to school groups). It has 36 beds.

In August 2020, the Centre had been open for 11 years. It has rehabilitated more than 1'500 children (in-patients), and provided more than 36'000 outpatient consultations.

