



**ConnectSwiss**

Building a bright future in rural Kenya

27 July 2021

### CONCEPT NOTE: Grant to assist an existing child welfare centre in rural Kenya

In 2009, ConnectSwiss opened the Children's Support Centre in Vihiga district to assist families to care for their children and ensure that they attend school. Since the Children's Support Centre opened, it has treated more than 36'000 children and successfully rehabilitated over 1'500 children suffering from malnutrition or severe parasitic infestation.

Our objective is to keep children in their communities so while children can stay at the Centre for short periods, they always go home and we follow up with home visits, counseling, food donations, school uniforms, mosquito nets and blankets.

#### Why the need for a support centre?

When children are treated by government hospitals for malnutrition, the hospitals stabilize their condition and send them home where they continue to deteriorate due to lack of food or lack of suitable food. This affects children under the age of 5 in particular. The Children's Support Centre rehabilitates children with malnutrition through specialized in-patient care (from one to eight weeks as needed) and also removes sand-fleas (jiggers) from children's feet and allows them a period of recuperation - this service is unavailable anywhere else and around 300 children a year benefit from jiggers treatment. In addition, we operate a free out-patient clinic focusing on treatment for skin problems, cleaning of minor wounds, treatment for parasites and free malaria testing and treatment (475 malaria treatments in 2020 alone).

#### Our need

Currently the Centre is supported through private donations, mainly from Switzerland. CSC lacks funds for 2022 (the full annual budget is detailed overleaf). Donations will contribute to the recovery of around 120 children per year as in-patients suffering from either malnutrition, neglect, parasitic infections or recovering from more serious diseases after being discharged from hospital. It will also help cover costs for the out-patient clinic (around 2'500 children a year) and support about 70 children every month with food to prevent malnutrition.

#### Some more background

The Children Centre's concept was a result of ConnectSwiss's child health programme started in 2005, which treated over 16'000 children in the same district, for worms and fungal infections.

The Centre educates parents on health care, emotional development, nutrition and hygiene and provides a focus for child welfare in the district. The Children's Centre works in cooperation with the Ministry of Health for Emuhaya District (it is a registered health facility) and receives malnourished children who are referred to our Centre for treatment. Additionally, the Children's Department brings abandoned children to the Centre for temporary accommodation. The Centre includes temporary accommodation for up to 40 children, staff quarters, a parents' education room, a treatment room and dispensary as well as a playroom and a pre-school.

#### Where?

ConnectSwiss

54B Rue de Lausanne, 1110 Morges  
Switzerland

[www.connectswiss.com](http://www.connectswiss.com)

Vihiga County in western Kenya is the catchment area of the Children's Centre with a population of over 600'000. Most of the population survives by subsistence farming but farm sizes are very small (0.2ha on average) so up to 80% of people are living below the poverty line (\$2 a day) with devastating effects on child health and welfare. There are many AIDS orphans who live with grandparents who need assistance for their daily needs. School attendance is affected by children's poor health and drop-out rates are high due to poverty.

More information is available upon request to [info@connectswiss.com](mailto:info@connectswiss.com).

### **Annex 1: Running costs budget for the year 2022**

	<b>CHF</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>Kenyan shillings</b>	
	<b>Month</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Year</b>
Salaries	875	10 495	96 200	1 250 600
Food	655	7 855	72 000	864 000
Medical supplies	282	3 382	31 000	372 000
Sanitary supplies	68	818	7 500	90 000
Transport	59	709	6 500	78 000
Gas, water, electricity	39	469	4 300	51 600
Insurances (staff, building, vehicle)	209	2 509	23 000	276 000
Miscellaneous	155	1 855	17 000	204 000
	<b>2 341</b>	<b>28 091</b>	<b>257 500</b>	<b>3 186 200</b>

Exchange rate 1 CHF = 110 KSH

Miscellaneous includes stationery, telephone calls, medical consultations other hospitals, bank & auditing charges and building maintenance. Sanitary products include diapers, soap and washing powder.

### **About ConnectSwiss**

Association ConnectSwiss is a Swiss registered charity (CH-550-1067424-1) focusing on grassroots development projects in rural areas in East Africa. ConnectSwiss has been running projects since 2004 focusing mostly on health, education and water. It has its own secondary school offering free or subsidized quality education to rural students. More details of the various projects can be found on our website at [www.connectswiss.com](http://www.connectswiss.com). It employs around 45 Kenyans.

All administrative costs are covered by the Swiss board and membership fees, which ensures that 100% of donations are spent directly on projects.

#### **ConnectSwiss bank details:**

Account holder: ConnectSwiss, Morges, Switzerland

Bank: UBS SA, Geneva, Switzerland

BIC/SWIFT: UBSWCHZH80A

IBAN: CH83 0024 0240 6815 9501 C

## Typical Case Studies



*ABOVE: David Okwara Weight on admission: 2.5kg Age: 5 months old Refused or had difficulty breastfeeding.  
Weight after 3 weeks: 5.3 kg With his mother who stayed with to be involved with daily feeding, she also gained weight.*



*LEFT: A typical case of sandfleas in the feet (jiggers), before and after treatment.*

*Children with severe jiggers have difficulty walking and often do not attend school as a result. Local clinics and hospitals will not treat such cases as it is time consuming to remove all the eggs and larvae from the feet and follow-up is needed to prevent reoccurrence.*