



It has been a year of recovery and one that has brought much uncertainty. How wonderful to know we serve the God who is the same yesterday, today and forever.

We would love to take this opportunity to wish you an encouraging Christmas, focusing on the only One who can restore our hope. Thank you for all your support over the past year, and we hope you have been as encouraged as we have to read of the incredible ways God is changing the world through His people.



or You formed my inward parts;
You covered me in my mother's womb.
I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Marvellous are Your works,
And that my soul knows very well.
Ps. 139: 13-14

As a medical doctor I have frequently found myself in situations where I have seen how true and profound these words are: from my first days as a medical student discovering the anatomy of the human body to witnessing the birth of a newborn baby. God knows everything about me, and He created me.

And yet in my work with Vision for China and on medical mission in several African countries I have often seen the devastating effect of disability particularly in these countries where resources

are so limited.

God creates us each individually and has made every human with a purpose: no one is an accident or a mistake. This psalm tells us God has a plan for everyone's life and He knew it before we were created. He makes each one special with a unique purpose.

You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body; You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit,

how I was sculpted from nothing into something.

Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth; all the stages of my life were spread out before you, The days of my life all prepared before I'd even lived one day. Ps. 139:15-16 I have been blessed to know many incredibly special disabled children and young people who have enriched my life so much, but for them life is often very tough, and it can be hard for them to fully embrace the truths in these words.

Have you ever looked in the mirror and wished you were different? When God created us, He made us exactly the way He planned. When He designed us, before we were even in our mother's womb, He planned everything about us!

We tend to look at those with disabilities negatively with phrases like "lacking, needing assistance, brokenness, weakness, disadvantaged", but I believe that those with disabilities have so much to teach us.

In the Kingdom of God the weak are declared strong, the intellectually challenged are wise, the broken are whole. The outcasts are given seats of honour in His Kingdom, and the last become first. God created us all —those with disabilities and those who are typically abled. Each of us is a unique creation of His, filled with wonder and awe.

Joni Eareckson Tada, herself a quadriplegic, once observed: "Our Saviour chose to flash His credentials as Messiah through ministry to disabled people...A disability magnifies God's grace...We in our wheelchairs get to prove how great and how trustworthy God is."

P R A Y E R Thank you, Lord, for making me just as I am. Thank you for the special plan that you have for my life. Thank you that I am indeed fearfully and wonderfully made. Amen

> Written by Christine Sansom, MMN Trustee





ne of MMN's partners is Accomplish Children's Trust and together we try to shine Christ's light into the lives of children with disabilities in rural regions of Africa who are without doubt some of the poorest and most ignored children on the planet.

One of our projects is the Heart of Mercy project, based in Zomba, Malawi, reaching surrounding villages which are extremely poor. Families usually live in tiny, clay brick homes with earthen floors; windows and doors are covered with sacking. Possessions are few and clothing

minimal. In addition, these families have to cope with the crushing burden of the social stigma attached to having a child with a disability and the isolation caused by the rejection of their child who is thought to be cursed. Often these children are locked away. It is always assumed they are worthless and useless. The project started in 2019 by enrolling 20 children who are visited every month by one of the team. In 2020 this was increased to 30, but a survey in the villages already being visited found over 50 more children with severe disabilities whose families wanted to bring their children out of hiding and join the project. This shows the trust which has been built up by the team. Early in 2021, 30 more families were enrolled and the visiting capacity of the team increased, but there are obviously many more families who need support.

Sadly, in recent months three of the children in the project have died. The project works like an extended family in African cultural style, so families who would have felt isolated in their grief now have the care of the Heart of Mercy family to support them. This very visible support will have an impact on the wider village as do the monthly visits. In addition, collective monthly meetings of parents/guardians were set up in 2019, financed by Accomplish. These have been extremely beneficial and well attended by nearly all parents and guardians of the project's children, as well as the Heart of Mercy team. A therapist from Zomba hospital also attends and his input is vital in teaching exercises and basic healthcare. These meetings, always beginning with prayer, provide much needed mutual support and reduces the sense of isolation, which bringing up a child with a disability in an often-hostile atmosphere inevitably creates. Parents/

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guardians repeatedly send their heartfelt thanks for the opportunity to meet with others in the same situation. They discover they are not alone.

Accomplish also provides practical help including mattresses and soap. We have set up the making of support chairs and frames by two of the project's parents. These enable children who cannot sit up unaided, to breathe more easily and digest their food better. We are investigating the possibility of sign language training for the team, deaf children and their families. The team have received training child in protection and safeguarding. The provision of wheelchairs suitable for the rough village terrain and type of disability is ongoing. Yacinta cannot sit up, like many children in the project. She spends her days lying on the ground. If she has to be left, her grandmother scoops out a hollow in the ground so Yacinta does not roll away. Recently Accomplish was able to provide her with a wheelchair. This one piece of equipment has transformed her life. Her grandmother is overjoyed too.



P A N D Ε M I C COVID-19 has had an impact. Schools have closed. Numbers gathering together have been limited and facemasks required. Restrictions have not been as stringent as in the UK but, thankfully, there have been relatively few cases and deaths due to the pandemic. A vaccination programme is in place. Accomplish has provided the visiting team with hand sanitiser and disposable gloves and every family with locally made, washable facemasks so they can attend the socially distanced monthly meetings. The gift of soap, given to each child every month, has been doubly appreciated. It is very difficult to keep an incontinent child clean with just a communal village tap as a water supply, hardly any clothes and no soap. The additional hygiene needed to combat COVID-19 makes this gift even more essential.

Despite the pandemic, 2021 has been an exciting year in the life of this project. It started with the increase in the number of children within the Heart of Mercy family to 60. In some villages the monthly meetings of parents/guardians have stimulated local weekly meetings. Ideas about how to care for their children with disabilities are beginning to flow and be shared. Education is one area which is gradually being looked into by the Heart of Mercy team. A few of our children have started going to school but there is much more to be done to develop awareness in local schools of the needs of a child with a disability. Getting children to school is a challenge as many of them cannot walk and have to be carried. However, promising links between local schools and the Heart of Mercy team are developing.

Our hope for 2022 is for the project to expand and reach more families; that more children will

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receive wheelchairs, support chairs and frames; and that sign language training will start. Income generating projects are also needed. A successful goat project was well established in 2019, which now helps over 30 children. This is well run and encourages Accomplish to support other sustainable ideas. The Heart of Mercy project has built a firm foundation since 2019 and is now ready to soar.

Please could you pray for: The Heart of Mercy team (Nina, Memory, Keith and Gladys), they support 60 children and their families in the care. Pray for local village schools around Zomba and changing practises as they consider the needs of educating children with disabilities. This is such a huge hurdle that mountains will need to be moved. In addition, pray for the growth of the Heart of Mercy project during 2022 bringing care and support to more children with disabilities and their families. Please also pray for the partnership between MMN and Accomplish children's Trust, that together we may help those in greatest need.

www.accomplishtrust.org.uk





a child with a disability not through a surprise diagnosis, but through an arduous, complicated, and much prayed-over decision to adopt a child with Down Syndrome. We have worked in the field of disability for a long time, and both had family members with disabilities, so we felt that we were more prepared than most for the undertaking. We had done our research and training, and we spent a year and a half going through the process of adopting our daughter, Nikolina, from Belgrade, Serbia, as US citizens, living in Thailand. It was a very complicated process with many ups and downs, and at the end we thought we were finally to

e became parents of the easy part. How naïve we were!

Adding Nikolina to our family has been one of the very best decisions we have ever made, but it has also been one of the most challenging experiences of our lives. Despite all our experience and training, nothing really prepared us for this journey. Our first year at home was full of challenges. After two and a half years in an institution, Nikolina was often terrified by everyday occurrences, was overly anxious around food, and had catching up to do, developmentally. Access to education was almost impossible, as we experienced the heartache of having schools refuse to accept her and struggling to find the necessary therapies and

interventions for her in our city. We also dealt with an added layer of doing all of this in our host country of Thailand, far from our family and support systems. Buddhist culture views disability as a punishment for past sins, and a visible sign of the *karmic* repercussions from the individual in a past life, or the parents themselves. Although we knew in our hearts that Nikolina was a beautiful creation in the image of a loving God, this belief system we lived in was difficult as we fought to give her all she deserved.

And yet, Nikolina has brought more joy, laughter, growth, and understanding of the heart of God



than we could ever have anticipated. She loves with a fierceness that is humbling. She is incredibly smart and after years of prayer and work she is part of an amazing international school community where she receives inclusion, therapy and love! She is a loving sister, dedicated friend, and a daughter who has taught me more than I could possibly convey in one short article. She has taught me most of all that hard does not equal bad, that some of the best things in our life are also the hardest. That even when there seems to be no hope, God is still at work. As her parent I must constantly trust God, let go of my own pride or capabilities, and trust that He is at work in her life, and mine. And through that process I have learned more from Nikolina than I could ever possibly hope to teach her. One of the greatest lessons she has taught me is that I can trust in God's purpose. I may love her with all my heart, but He loves her even more than Lever could. And as much as I want to protect her, sometimes I need to let her grow and be herself.

I spend a lot of life running interference on Nikolina. Saving babies from her too tight squeezes, saving strangers from her food

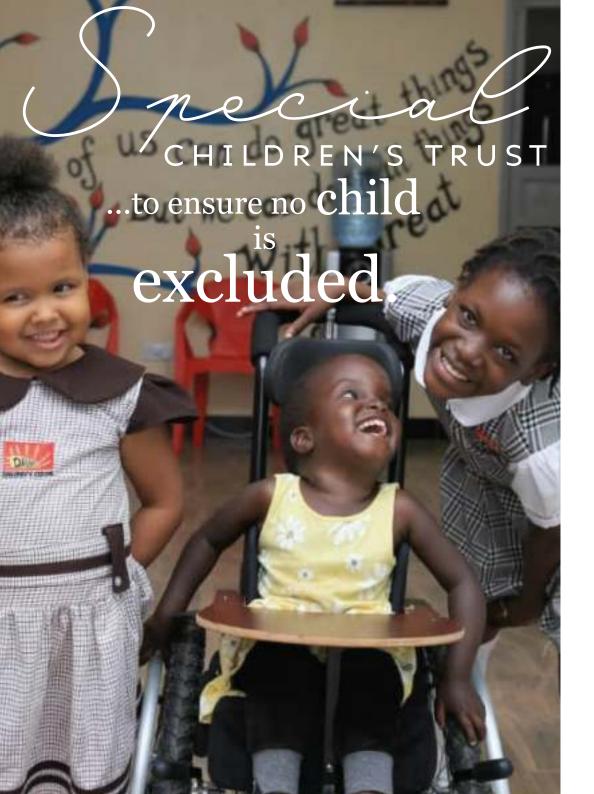


stealing, saving sisters from her destructive ambling. But when I stop trying to save people from her and let her be herself, I see just how much I need saving. A perfect reminder of this happened at one of our Family Retreats that we host for families affected by disabilities in Thailand. It was our opening night and Nikolina would not leave this young man alone. At every turn she ran to him, ignoring his wheelchair and the jerky motions caused by his cerebral palsy, escaping me so she could get close to him. I was sure he must hate her petting his face, leaning on to his lap, and constant squeals in his face. But then I noticed him using every

ounce of concentration to use his clenched hand to turn on his watch, making it light up, to Nikolina's delight. He wanted to engage her, he wanted her there. And what I saw as a nuisance and perhaps culturally inappropriate, delighted him! Without verbal communication he spoke clearly, we all want to be wanted, we all want to be accepted.

Raising our daughters is not easy, but it's the best part of our life. We all can learn so much from Nikolina - not just my husband and I as her parents, but her sisters, her community, her school, her church, and more. And to anyone wanting to know how to work with Nikolina, I say befriend someone with a disability, that's the best advice I can give. Don't focus on the diagnosis, don't try to put them in a box of some clinical description. Try to know the individual, ask them how they would describe themselves, ask their family what they love about them. Because a diagnosis is just a small part of the person I love, my Nikolina.

Please be praying for the Tell family who work with RICD in Thailand.



(SCT), a registered NGO and social enterprise, works to serve children with disabilities and their families in Uganda. The trust provides holistic and comprehensive quality services that are highly subsidised or free of charge to ensure that no child is excluded. The overall aim of SCT is to 'Build a Better and Safer for children Uganda disabilities.'

SCT provides services directly to children, and families through Mukisa Foundation in Lungujja, Dawn Children's Centre in Bukoto, Berakhah Medical Centre and Mobility hub in Wakiso, and outreaches in Luwero, Bussi, Gulu and Karamoja. These include Health, Education, and Family Empowerment programmes. SCT also works with communities, government and other likeminded organisations and individuals through capacity building, and advocacy and awareness programmes, to influence policy and change of mindsets towards disability.

With a staff team of 70 professionals several volunteers. SCT unique child-centred uses

he Special Children's Trust model which focuses on all aspects of the child that usually present as barriers to child's social inclusion participation they SO reach their greatest potential. SCT is at the forefront of building a support network of organisations and individuals called 'The Special Children's Forum' where over 60-member organisations meet regularly to share best practices, grow together, and create a unified voice for change. Together with its partners, SCT has a nationwide reach of over 5,000 children with disabilities and hopes to reach at least 20,000 by 2030.

> BERAKH MEDICAL CENTRE During the last 15 of our existence, we noted with concern, that many children have a disability in Uganda due to preventable causes.

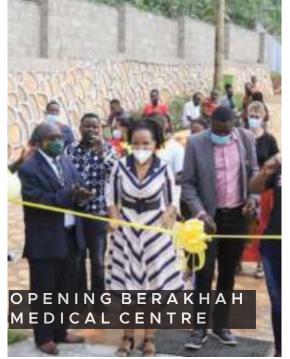
These include:

- 1. Poor access to quality health care services
- 2. Lack of skills, information, and negligence by health care
- 3. Late detection of disease and, as a result, delayed intervention.

A C T I O N
As an organisation, we have recently established a model health facility in Wakiso Town Council, with the aim of promoting child and maternal health to prevent disabilities, as well as provide holistic health care for the people in Wakiso Town Council.

Berakhah Medical Centre is currently offering out-patient care, ante and postnatal services, diagnostic services, rehabilitation, and assistive devices. With a specialised team of doctors, nurses, midwives, therapists, laboratory technicians and orthopaedic technologists, we can offer the best quality of care using the best equipment possible.





N E X T S T E P S The trust plans to build a new double storied wing that will provide: a safe place for women to deliver healthy babies, an early screening and detection centre for those born with disabilities, as well as main and minor theatres for medical emergencies. The wing will also allow for quality in-patient care rooms.

The trust also runs a mobility hub, which is an assistive device and positioning equipment centre, where equipment for people with disabilities is either sub-assembled or manufactured and tailored to suit the needs of the individual person, especially regarding children.

The current challenge is scarcity of paediatric wheelchairs and other positioning devices for children, with little or no trunk control (inability to keep upright by themselves). We would like to procure chairs and other positioning devices, including standers and mats for 200 children in 2022

Berakhah Medical Centre aims to provide quality services to everyone regardless of economic status. The main goal is to ensure that those who come from low or no income homes, who usually are unable to receive any medical care, are now able to receive quality care. Their bills will be subsidised from clients who can afford to pay, grants and donations from partners and well-wishers Any contributions towards running





costs and medical consumables will ensure that people from low income families will be able to access these services at little or no cost.

SCT models God's family in action by providing for those who have no hope or may have been abandoned by their own family, and give them a sense of security and purpose.

Please pray for wisdom, grace, and provision as we endeavour to meet the many needs of the people we serve. We would value prayer for God to guide us as we prioritise the needs and follow His lead in all we do for His glory alone.



elping Hands is a ministry in Mozambique that partners with the local church to reach out to people living with disability. We desire to see the love of God in the gospel made known in word and deed to those living with disability and their families.

Regina is from the local church and has demonstrated a clear desire to serve people with disabilities and their families. She has accepted a short internship with Helping Hands in which she has the opportunity to gain some practical skills the assessment. She is unable to

in assessment and prescription of wheelchairs as well as benefit from a discipleship opportunity. She is also able to pass on her cultural knowledge and skills to Heather Phillips (UK) which has been of great help and we are thankful for this partnership in the ministry.

MEETING A M Y One of the children Regina and Heather visited was 12-year-old Amy\*. Amy was a quiet and shy child but at the same time she seemed to enjoy being the centre of attention and engaged well with

walk and has limited movement in her left arm but she is able to get around amazingly well by crawling on all fours. As she is getting bigger it is difficult for her mother to take her places by putting her on the back, so Amy spends a lot of time at home. It was sad to learn that she had never been to school.

When Amy received her wheelchair for the first time, her smile was from ear to ear! Her mother and siblings were also delighted. However, her sibling's initial enthusiasm did not match their wheelchair skills as demonstrated by nearly tipping Amy out of her chair! Thankfully Amy was not dissuaded and once they all completed their crash course in wheelchair skills everyone was much safer!

OPPORTUNITIES Amy's mother thanked God for this gift and allowed us the opportunity to open the Bible and explain who Jesus is and what He has done for us. Amy's mother was keen to learn more and asked about attending church the following Sunday. Unfortunately, the very next Sunday churches were closed by the government due to increasing COVID numbers. While disappointing, we know that this will not hinder the Lord's work and we pray that gospel seeds that were sown would bear fruit to the glory of God.

Please pray for the Helping Hands team and impact they are having in their local communities. MMN have been raising money for this project as part of our 'Bringing the Focus on Children' campaign, please visit our website to find out more information.

\*name changed





pproximately 83 million disabled people, or one fifth of the world total, live in China; each year over 1.2 million are born with birth defects, with the number still rising; possibly caused by widespread water pollution. Hosting the Paralympics brought some improvement in public perception, and in the quality of life and treatment for the disabled, but for the majority, life is still very hard, especially for those among the millions in orphanages and state socialwelfare centres, who are very open to abuse and oppression. Those

discrimination and restriction in their lives, often experiencing great difficulty in obtaining good medical care and appropriate education.

In response to this huge need, some projects have been started by Chinese believers who have been supported by MMN: Warriors House, the Disabled People's Service Centre, Elim and Well of Love, have all now been registered with the government as NPOs (not-for-profit organisations). These projects have been wonderful testimonies to how the love of God can give a hope and a cared for by their family still face future to disabled young people.

WARRIORS HOUSE Warriors House (WH) began in 2012 in a northern city, providing residential special needs education and vocational training to 11 young adults, aged over 14. All had mild to moderate physical and/or mental special needs. In spite of many challenges, WH has gone from strength to strength, ably led by Bella and a supportive team, and its achievements are now appreciated by the local authority. A number of 'warriors' have graduated into appropriate employment, and a new project has been established called Light and Salt where these graduates can have sheltered accommodation and support with their employment. WH has a good reputation in its local community which has become used to seeing these young people shopping or using public transport for outings. Some of the young people come from a local welfare centre, others from local families.

WELLOF LOVE In contrast, Well of Love, in a southern province, provides support to families with disabled children in the community, with a wide-ranging programme of rehabilitation, treatment and special needs education; some are

able to attend the centre while others are visited in their homes. This centre has faced many major challenges over years, but is increasingly respected; the leader, Julie, has been made Director of the National Cerebral Palsy Network.

Another way of helping those with disabilities is for a project to run actually within a state social welfare centre, which typically caters for those from 14 to old age, with a vast range of both physical and mental disabilities, and with a minimum of care and treatment. Grace Home began in May 2021 in one such centre, in the same city as Warriors House. Currently it has nine staff who are believers, but are mostly unqualified. They care for 24 adults, with an range from 18 79, and a wide range of disabilities, including cerebral palsy, blindness, speech problems, and mental illness. There is obviously a great need for prayer for this new project, for spiritual equipping, training and team-building.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT Hope Haven worked for 20 years within another welfare centre, caring for abandoned children up to the age of six, many with

17 18



the disabilities: however, as being of babies number abandoned reduced, the leader. Hadassah. and her team were asked to begin a community project for older disabled children. Green Olive Home opened this summer and currently cares for 12 disabled teenagers, seven from the same welfare centre and five from the local community. To have this response already from the community is a tribute to their earlier reputation in childcare, as the work among disabled teenagers is a pioneering project.

Several of the more established

projects are also involved with raising awareness of the needs of the disabled and their families. For example, volunteers with Well of Love have taken children to enable to social cinemas integration and in December 2020, they began barrier-free integration advocacy social activities by taking children to zoos. Local media were contacted and community interest was aroused. Similarly, Warriors House staff have been in discussion with the authorities about making their city more open and enabling for people with additional needs.

It can be seen from this that there are increasing and encouraging opportunities for Christian projects working with young people and adults with special needs; however, these are matched by great challenges. They have all endured extreme conditions under the pandemic, where the government imposed a very tight lockdown. This cut off all contact with volunteers/trainers, both from the community and overseas. Wonderfully, no staff or children suffered with the virus and they were delighted to resume a more normal life eventually. Now, restrictions however, are

re-imposed being in manv places where there has been a recurrence of the virus. All these projects are run by small groups of committed believers, with no powerful financial backers, and they are working in a society where the government is becoming evermore aggressively anti-Christian. All practise a Christian ethos in their work, displaying God's grace and love towards every individual, whatever their needs. This is contrary to the prevailing philosophy, so they are always working in an oppressive and unbelieving atmosphere, which takes its toll. Each team makes time to pray and worship together at least once a day, knowing that this is crucial to maintain God's blessing on the work. They maintain standards of honesty and integrity

that would not be found elsewhere. They deeply appreciate the prayers of believers overseas, that they would be strengthened in their faithfulness to the Lord, whatever the pressures, and bear a clear witness to Him in all they are doing. They long for those in their care to develop both spiritually, mentally and physically and, above all, to come to know the love of God as their Father.

For those who would like to pray regularly for some of the projects mentioned, Vision for China produces a news and prayer update every two months, giving background information and up-to-date prayer requests.

To receive this please contact maryscudamore 2015@gmail.com





rom January to October 2021, Wukwashi Wa Nzambi (WWN) has carried out several activities which includes; running of support groups for children and their parents/guardians, medical support, equipment mobilisation, education support, trainings, awareness raising and so on. Over 800 children have since been supported through these main activities and other interventions in this period.

SUPPORT GROUPS WWN has been running 16 support groups which included 14 old ones and 2 new groups. During the support groups, parents/guardians came together at least once a week for around four spiritual guidance that helped

hours, during which time children were assessed for individual needs, some received physiotherapy, playtherapy, use of mobility equipment, some basic education, feeding, sharing God's Word and praying together. Some children were then referred from these support groups to specialised hospitals.

Support groups also provided a good opportunity for parents/ guardians to interact with each other, share ideas, learn from each other and appreciate the fact that they are not the only ones with children with disabilities as they come into contact with other children. They also benefitted from counselling sessions and

transform the lives of some. and helping the Christian commu-

MEDICAL SUPPORT While children came to support groups, some were identified as having the need for medical attention, which included need for anti-epileptic medication, some needed corrective surgery and others needed orthotics and prosthetics. The health centres did not have adequate medicines for epileptic patients, so some children were helped by having the medicines bought for them.

Others were helped with transport costs to and from the hospitals where they accessed free corrective surgeries.

91 children have been supported with education and these included 21 at Mambilima special school, 40 at Wukwashi School and 30 in various schools including local Mainstream schools and other special schools/units. These were helped with school requisites, fees and or transport. The support ranged from Preschool to senior Secondary School.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS As a way of sharing knowledge

nity realise their role in caring for people living with disabilities, accepting them and involving them in the life of the church, WWN conducted trainings with church leaders. A course Transform Disability was given to 32 churches in Mpika, Chililabombwe, Mansa and Mwense and 105 church leaders received the training. This helped in changing attitudes and bringing more children with disabilities out of isolation. Volunteers and parents also went through some training to help them understand more about disability issues, and have the knowledge and skills to work with children with disabilities.

RAISING AWARENESS Stigma and negative attitudes towards children with disabilities still prevails in most communities of Zambia, this is why WWN continues to raise awareness and sensitise people whenever there is an opportunity. There was a talk at a Copperbelt Province Women's conference with about 1,600 attendees. The WWN Team did a presentation and that resulted in having more than 17 children coming out of isolation and more churches willing to take the

ministry at their congregations.

EOUIPMENT Having identified children who need mobility equipment, WWN continued to source wheelchairs and walking frames by buying some and distributing some which were donated. The WWN team also continued to produce standing frames and special chairs using appropriate paper technology and distributed them to children in need.

MENTORSHIP Volunteers also took some time to visit children and their families in their homes. During such visits, they had time to interact with children and the parents/ guardians, learn the home environment and understand its influence to individual children's development. Parents/guardians were encouraged and able to share their worries and concerns.

Besides visiting children, volunteers also made phonecalls to talk to children and their parents/guardians at least twice a month to find out how they were doing, discover for WWN to have some acany challenges, give guidance on the activities that need to be done creased while children were at home, give ties has affected the budget. encouragement and pray together.

R Through the activities done, we have seen God working and many lives of children improve in many ways and we give the Lord all the praise. In as much as volunteers are trying to reach out to children and work for progress, some parents/ guardians and families do not help their children in areas of physi-

There is a shortage of orthotics and prosthetics materials in Zambia, which makes it difficult for children to access artificial limbs.

otherapy etc, due to a lack of ac-

ceptance and negative attitudes.

Some children live long distances away and it was difficult for volunteers to reach them, please pray for God's provision as they need bicycles, raincoats, etc.

Some children are still waiting to access medical services as the Hospitals such as UTH, Beit Cure Hospital, and so on couldn't take a large numbers due to COVID-19.

made it difficult COVID-19 tivities implemented and incosts of commodi-



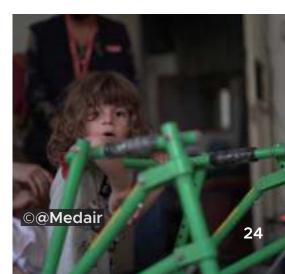
#### MEDAIR

## What do you do?

provides emergency Medair healthcare services in some of the world's most devastated places. We save lives in humanitarian crises, and we then stay to help communities recover with dignity, working alongside them to bring hope for a better future.

In Syria, the prevalence of disability in the country is nearly double the global average at 15%. More than one in four individuals (28%) aged two and above have disabilities and one in five persons would report some sort of mobility impairment. Over ten years since the start of the crisis in Syria, around 47% of healthcare centres are non-functional. Medair repairs damaged primary healthcare clinics, especially in areas of high or extreme need and in areas with a

high number of displaced people. When repairing a facility, Medair considers the specific needs of people with a disability. Through our programme, we specifically support people living with mobility impairments by distributing assistive devices. We also refer patients in need of physiotherapy to health partners able to offer this type of service.



## How do you do it?

Medair personalises assistance to meet individual needs, and our response is prioritised based on the needs of the most vulnerable.

To support people living with impaired mobility, Medair provides upgrades and improvements to shelters, for example installing ramps and handrails. Medair modifies health centres to accommodate the needs of people with mobility impairments, especially those in wheelchairs. Medair also provides assistive devices such as walkers and wheelchairs to people living with mobility impairments to improve their quality of life.

### What impact have you had?

Medair is supporting children like cially when they go out, since it's 16-year-old Omar. He was diagnosed with hypoxia when he was four months old, which affects his ability to walk and communicate. We provided Omar with a wheelchair and a rollator. Our physiotherapist in Deir-ez-Zor, Marwa, worked with Omar to help him use the rollator. At first, he used to get scared, but now he can walk on his own, take steadier and more confident steps. His mother found the wheelchair a huge help, espe-

As part of our comprehensive approach, we also support those who care for people living with limited mobility, showing them different ways/methods to help their loved ones stay strong and ensure they have an active lifestyle and social

Medair provides training and support to health clinic staff to improve the quality of care offered to patients. We train physiotherapy specialists, working with them to ensure they understand the holistic needs of each patient instead of only focusing on the physical dis-

hard for him to use the rollator in bumpy streets.

We reflect the love of God through our work. This love moves us to take action and faithfully respond to the needs of those in crisis. We show each individual that we really care about them and that their lives matter. We provide aid to everyone who is in need. Our first and last considerations are the needs of the people we serve.

# What are some of your biggest challenges?

Humanitarian needs inside the country remain very high, and support is urgently needed to serve families affected by the crisis. The value of the Syrian pound continues to decrease, and inflation increases are making it very hard for people to live and provide for their families.

As in other parts of the world, COVID-19 has severely affected the economy of the country, especially with its toll on the people's health. The rising effects on younger people with new variants, and with the vaccination process being slow (just 1-2% of the population have been vaccinated),



the base of any healthy economy, which is its young workforce, is under constant threat.

We are working to decrease COV-ID-19 transmission, morbidity, and mortality in health facilities, through various projects, such as improvement of infection prevention and control modalities, and enhance management of COV-ID-19 patients in two public hospitals in an over-crowded Damascus City.

# How can we be praying?



Pray that Medair will offer assistance and hope to people living with a disability in newly accessible and hard-to-reach areas. Pray that Medair's work will leave a lasting impact, seeing lives restored for the better.

medair.org

hildren who live with a disability in Africa often lack the opportunity to access the healthcare and support they need to help them, which in turn means they are isolated and miss out on education and learning simple life skills. The end result is that they feel worthless and their families do not know what to do, so keep them hidden.

MMN are partnering with three projects (Helping Hands in Mozambique, Special Children's Trust in Uganda and Wukwashi wa Nzambi in Zambia) who support children living with disability. They offer this help, so these children can flourish and be valued members of their communities, and come to know Jesus – the One who can give real hope.

We are seeking to raise awareness of what an impact these projects are having on these children and provide additional funding so that they can give hope and help to more families.



If you are able to join us in supporting these projects then please send in your donation in the usual way that you do and mark it with the reference 'Children living with disability'.

Any funds that are raised will be used to:

- 1. Enable children to receive medical care to improve their mobility including artificial limbs.
- 2. Provide wheelchairs and mobility aids one all-terrain wheelchair costs £300.
- 3. Enable the family support groups/workshops to run to help and give hope to children and their families.

Grev Parmenter, Director



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