



DRIVING NURSES ANNUAL REPORT 2021

"Our mission: reducing maternal and child mortality in Africa through helping with a healthy pregnancy, delivery, pre- and postnatal care".



www.drivingnurses.org

OUR VISION

Driving Nurses Foundation (DNF) endeavors a healthy future for all mothers and children in **rural Tanzania**, in which they all have access to basic healthcare so that the circle of poverty can be broken. It does this by **training local health workers and residents** in maternal and child care and health-related topics. The foundation focuses on the first **thousand days** of human life (from conception up to and including the second year of life), in which the impact of interventions is greatest. It contributes to the early detection and higher referral rate of (life-threatening) diseases and wants to reduce the number of **preventable deaths** among mothers and babies **to zero**.



1000 DAYS

DNF is a Dutch foundation, founded in 2017 (ANBI status obtained in 2018) after the chairman took care of mother and child care for five years in the area located in the south of Moshi, **Lower Moshi**. Lower Moshi is located in Northern Tanzania in the south of the City Moshi. The area is dominated by the 16,000 hectare large sugar cane plantation called TPC. About **75,000 people** live in the area around the plantation. DNF's interventions are based on proven effective actions, all centered around the **thousand days principle**. The first 1000 days in human life are crucial. These are the days from conception to delivery plus the days up to the child's 2nd birthday that enable interventions to have a **high impact**.

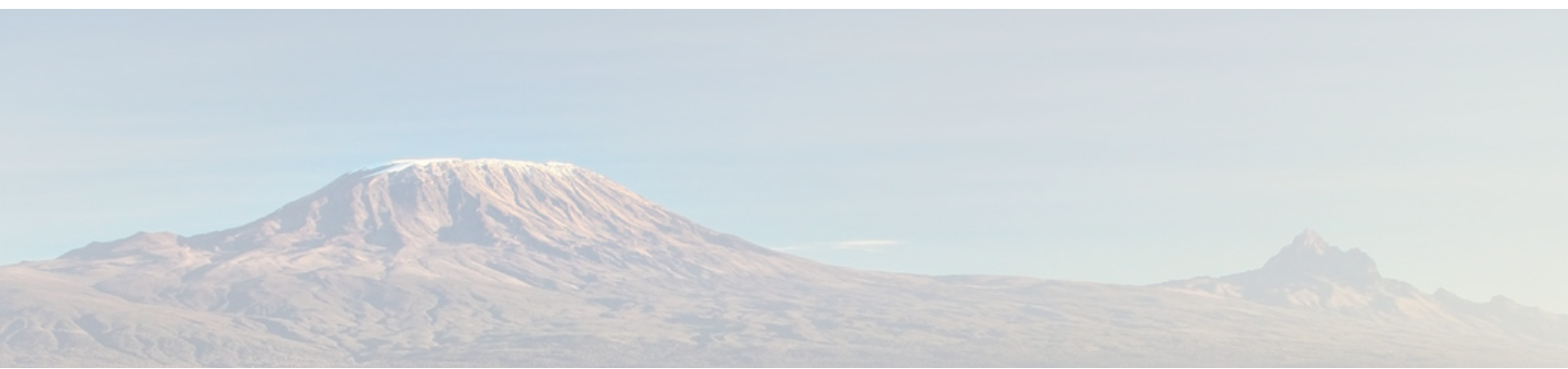
Several interventions to reduce maternal and infant mortality have been marked as proven effective by the **World Health Organization**. Different kinds of measures have the highest impact if offered in a **package**. Based on the thousand-day principle, DNF has therefore compiled a package of measures: Starting with sex education from day zero, to education programs and prenatal care for pregnant women, to delivery packages and (breast) nutrition and finally guidance for mother, newborn and toddler. We can only offer this package through close cooperation with various **(local) authorities**.



COOPERATION

In order to efficiently achieve the above-described goals, DNF has collaborated with various parties in 2021. With **FT Kilimanjaro**, cooperating partner since the very beginning, we are working together in Northern Tanzania to improve maternal and child health significantly. **TPC Hospital**, with the loan of personnel, their medical expertise and knowledge of the area, provides an indispensable link in SDN's services. Through our partnership with the **Mount Meru Foundation**, a foundation that focuses on mobile ultrasound for pregnant women, our MamaBus is also equipped with ultrasound equipment since 2020 and our nurse Veronika is qualified to perform ultrasounds. In the past year, over 200 ultrasounds have been performed on our MamaBus, a huge step forward in detecting problems in a timely manner and predicting the date of delivery accurately.

Moreover, we have started a close cooperation with the **Lutheran Hospital** with the aim of providing adequate care to 100,000 residents in the area around **Karatu** through a new Mama Bus project. Due to the outbreak of the Corona virus, we were forced to temporarily pause these plans. At the end of 2021 we were able to resume these plans with the aim of having our new Mamabus up and running in Karatu by the **end of 2022**. The Zonnekoningin Foundation has committed to fund the Mamabus for Karatu and also provides us with three years of financial support for this project. In accordance with the Mamabus in Lower Moshi, SDN will take care of the Mamabus and its furnishing and the Mount Meru Foundation is responsible for the ultrasound equipment on the bus.



COOPERATION

In 2021, first steps were also taken for a similar project in **Himo**, an area located east of Moshi. The goal is to have another Mamabus in this area that is also equipped with a mobile ultrasound. The same collaboration will take place with the Mount Meru Foundation. Contacts have also been made with the local hospital, the Himo Healthcentre, and the prospects for a good cooperation is looking positive.

In addition to our existing services, SDN started an entirely new project in 2021 aimed at reducing **childhood blindness** in Tanzania. Considering that childhood blindness in Tanzania is four times higher compared to Western countries and at least 50% of these cases are preventable with a timely intervention (including during pregnancy), there is much to be achieved. In collaboration with the **Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre** (KCMC) we have initiated the "Pediatric Eye Care Outreach". We are currently awaiting the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding. Once this is completed, we can start a pilot after which the results will be carefully analyzed. Then we can take the next steps, serving a wider area with the outreach program.



RESULTS

In 2021 we undertook various activities to achieve goals, generate ideas, raise funds and explore options for expanding our services.

- At the Mama Bus in Lower Moshi, in 2021 over **5,300 expectant mothers, newborns and young kids** have been checked and treated where necessary. This is a growth of 35% compared to 2020.
- In 2022, our nurse Veronika performed 202 ultrasounds on the Mama Bus. With this, we contribute significantly to the timely detection of issues surrounding pregnancy and the estimation of the due date.
- In addition to prenatal care, post-natal care and information, the Mama Bus in Lower Moshi also provides **the national vaccination- and deworming program**. Last year, almost 700 vaccinations have been administered on the Mama Bus.
- **HPV programs** have also been rolled out in all primary and secondary schools, so that all girls in the region are protected against HPV infection.
- The **ongoing corona perils** prevented our foundation from visiting Tanzania in 2021. The goal is to return on a mission in the second half of 2022.
- The Mamabus project in **Karatu** is progressing at a rapid pace and the goal is to have the bus up and running by the end of 2022.
- Also, the first steps have been taken for a new Mama Bus project in **Himo**.
- Due to the many ongoing projects, SDN is looking for a **general board member** to support the foundation. We hope to fill this role as soon as possible.

EEN WOORD VANUIT TANZANIA

Veronika is the nurse who performs faithful service on our Mama Bus. Her dedication is admirable. Last year she completed her trainings to be able and allowed to perform ultrasounds. By now, almost 400 ultrasounds have been performed on the bus. Below you can read how Veronika looks back at 2021 and about her experiences on the Mama Bus.

"When I look back at 2021, I am proud to see that the number of people receiving care on our bus has increased again this year. Besides providing medical care, I also derive satisfaction from broadening knowledge in our society by giving classes. On the one hand to youngsters about subjects such as family planning. But on the other hand, also providing education to traditional midwives so that they can better support women during pregnancy and childbirth. I do my work from the heart and i'm pleased to see that the women in the villages also seem to feel this. I notice that the women in the villages feel more and more comfortable with me and increasingly dare to broach more difficult subjects. An example of the strength of our Mama Bus is the case of a woman at whom we discovered an abnormality during pregnancy this year. The woman was transferred to a hospital where she eventually gave birth. Sadly, the baby had already died. The woman was struggling with severe bleeding and an infection. Hadn't our Mama Bus been there, it is highly likely that the mother would not have survived either. This confirms that the work we are doing with Driving Nurses serves a great cause."



MANY THANKS

Once again, we would like to thank everyone who has supported our foundation this year. It warms our hearts seeing that even in these difficult times, the commitment to our foundation has remained strong. We are grateful for the generous gifts we have received from our sponsors and donors. It is because of this that we are able to do our work in the best possible way and, together with our partners, deliver a sustainable improvement for mother and child in Tanzania. With all the positive developments currently going on, we are greatly looking forward to the coming year. Together with our loyal partners we will once again commit ourselves 100 percent to reducing maternal and child mortality in rural Africa.

Kind regards,

The board of the Driving Nurses Foundation

Annual report 2020



We have provided care to 4,000 pregnant women, babies and children. An unprecedented number during a pandemic. We have expanded our services with vaccinations, government programs for young children and ultrasounds. In no time, help had arrived after the outbreak of the Coronavirus by distributing educational booklets on hygiene in collaboration with a new partner. This makes me feel extremely PROUD and grateful. THANKS to our Veronica Tamiro, the nurse on the Mama Bus, our partners FTK, TPC, Mount Meru, Aisha & Friends, the loyal donors and sponsors such as the 40 of Breda. "

- Suus Theuws, Chairman



'It feels good that we are making that what is normal for us, also normal at other places in the world. "

- Ingrid van Eerd, Treasurer



"We have always had full confidence in our approach. But now that our numbers are also showing that what we do can really make a difference, makes me very proud. 4000 check-ups, 197 ultrasounds, 683 vaccinations and 11 referrals. What a numbers and what a growth compared to last year. In one word: WOW! In good spirits, I'll get busy again for DNF so that our foundation can achieve just as good numbers in the upcoming year. "

- Noortje Theuws, Secretary

