

# disability

# matters

Issue 22 November 2011

latest news on the projects you support

## Catching sight of a better life

**For young adults like Mwajuma, your support for CBM helps break the link between disability and poverty.**

When Mwajuma went blind, her friends laughed. "They would call me names," she painfully remembers. "They would call after me, 'Blind girl, blind girl, there goes the blind girl!' It made me cry many times." As cruel as it was, this wasn't the worst of the worries Mwajuma and her family faced when she lost her sight to bilateral cataracts over three years ago. Her father Hosseni says, "I am a farmer, but I haven't been able to do the work I want to. When she could see, Mwajuma would go to school and play with her friends. But now our time is spent looking after her."

Loss of sight for Mwajuma was the start of the cycle from which her whole family couldn't escape. "When I had to go to work, she would stay home with her mother," her father recalls. "And when she had to go to work, I would come home. We were losing money. I ask myself, what can I do for Mwajuma? I can't even pay to take her to a doctor. So how could I afford a big hospital?" Mwajuma dropped out of school and sank into depression. "I haven't been to school for three years. I miss my friends and what I used to do. When I can't see I just stay at home with my brothers



The gift of sight restored her whole family's hopes for the future.

and sisters. I am very, very sad and feel unhappy that this is my life." Gone were the days when she could fetch water for her mum or help her father with the goats. "And it was too dangerous to have her near the cooking fire," her mother says.

Representatives from CBM partner organization KCMC (Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre) travel throughout Tanzania looking for people who are needlessly blind. The fact that it took them three years to find Mwajuma and offer sight-restoring surgery dramatically demonstrates how important your support for CBM really is.

Around the world, as many as 18 million people like Mwajuma and her family are still in need. As for Mwajuma, a whole new life has opened up before her.

**"I am so happy! I am on a bus going home and I can see! And no more teasing. I will be able to see the ones who used to tease me!"**

## Gaining momentum

by Dr Bill McAllister,  
National Director of CBM

**Your kind support has been absolutely crucial to helping CBM establish a worldwide reputation for supporting people with disabilities not just to survive – but to thrive at everything they do and enjoy a brighter future than was possible before.** In this issue, I think you'll be impressed by the determination people show to get treatment for their child, to start a business, succeed in school and eliminate the stigma that still clings to people with disabilities in many countries and communities.

You probably already know that in disaster situations like the one we've recently seen in the Horn of Africa, people with disabilities and those with a Christian faith can often be excluded from emergency programmes. But your gifts towards CBM's work are not only helping treat and rehabilitate people who have disabilities, you are also helping ensure that every member of every society can expect to be treated equally. Thank you again for your absolutely essential support.



**Dr Bill McAllister,**  
National Director  
of CBM

# One billion face barriers

CBM responds to a global report on the obstacles to living with disabilities.

**Collaborating with the World Bank, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has recently published the first ever *World Report on Disability*, which estimates that more than one billion people with disabilities face substantial barriers in their daily lives.** CBM participation was central to the report which included consultations around the world and involvement from 380 experts, including people with disabilities. The report emphasises the need for the voices of people with disabilities to be heard, and strongly endorses the need for, and value of, the work of organisations like CBM.

CBM contributed many case studies to the report, drawing on our global network of more than 700 local partner organisations. The report concluded that people with disabilities are more than twice as likely to receive inadequate health care and more than three times as likely to be denied health care altogether. Children with disabilities are less likely to start school than



## Pakistan floods fundraising update

Many supporters and readers of this newsletter gave generously towards our Pakistan Floods Emergency appeal in 2010, and we'd like to express our heartfelt thanks. Through your kind response, CBM UK has raised over £230,000 in the last 12 months, enabling us to provide clean water, health care, disability screening and care, as well as better livelihoods to families devastated by the floods. **Your gifts reached many people with disabilities, or who are now affected by a disability, as a result of the disaster.**



“**People with disabilities are more than three times as likely to be denied health care altogether.**”

their non-disabled peers and have lower rates of educational attainment.

Although 150 countries have now signed the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), research has found that few countries have adequate resources in place to respond to the needs of people with disabilities, leaving them to face needless barriers like stigma, discrimination, lack of rehabilitation and health care, and a lack of access to information, buildings and public transport.

The deplorable result is that people with disabilities are more likely to live in poverty and experience lower standards of health, educational attainment and livelihoods. As CBM continues to work against this trend through community based rehabilitation – and other direct, empowering programmes for people with disabilities, we continue to rely on your generous help.



A new report by the World Health Organisation highlights the importance of your support for CBM.

Photo: CCBRT/Dieter Telemans

## Everyone can do more

**“I used to crawl through the dirt,” remembers Kamlash whose legs were paralysed by polio when he was in primary school.** “My hands bled and it was painful when the ground was hot. But when CBM came to visit, I learned that I could walk and I was given new hope.” Now moving around easily, with callipers provided by CBM partner Blind Persons Association (BPA), Kamlash runs a barber shop in Ahmedabad, India and holds a seat on the town council, where he represents the needs of people with disabilities

across his community.

“I think everyone can do more, especially people with disabilities,” says Kamlash. “We can be a resource to others, an advocate.” BPA provided Kamlash with business training and mobility aids, and CBM’s support for them is made possible through the financial gifts of supporters like you. It’s another reason why we’re so grateful for your support. Kamlash expresses his thanks with poetic words. “Now I have wings, I can fly.”



At only 30 years old, Kamlash now sits on the town council.



# A harvest of learning

Through the RAPID (Rehabilitation and Prevention Initiative against Disability) project in Adama, Ethiopia, the future is growing brighter for teens with disabilities.

Rigat, who has a spinal disability, harvests vegetables from her school's vegetable garden.

"I was scared," says Rigat Adomer, 14, who remembers the day she started school. "The children near my home would laugh at me, use bad words and even punch me. I didn't want this to happen at school." Rigat was born with a spinal problem that has left her body twisted and small. But because the school she attends has an inclusive programme for children with disabilities, she's delighted to be attending this centre of excellence and benchmark for other schools in the region.

Rigat's father is impressed, and took a day off work to help in the school garden.

"Today, I enjoy learning and would like to stay in school," Rigat says. She enjoys the produce from the school vegetable garden she tends with the help of 11 other students with disabilities, including those who are blind, experience mobility problems or have cerebral palsy. "I feel safe here and enjoy it." But she knows she can't stay forever. "I know that I have to leave, I want to be a teacher," she says.



## Follow us on social media

### Do you use Twitter or Facebook?

Follow CBM on either or both and be the first to hear news that makes a difference to you, and hear our words of appreciation for our Christian supporters who are working hard and taking on challenges to raise vital funds to help people with disabilities around the world.



[twitter.com/cbmuk](https://twitter.com/cbmuk)



[facebook.com/CBMUK.ORG](https://facebook.com/CBMUK.ORG)

## Virtual Gifts for Christmas

Visit our Online Shop to see the virtual gifts that can really make a difference to the people we help.

[www.cbmuk.org.uk/gift-shop](http://www.cbmuk.org.uk/gift-shop)



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Please provide your email address and/or telephone number if you are happy for us to contact you in this way:

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By providing your email address, you agree for CBM UK to use it to contact you periodically.

*giftaid it*

**Tick here to make your gift go even further**

### Please complete the declaration below.

Please treat all donations I have made in the last 4 years and all future donations until notified otherwise, as donations under Gift Aid. I will pay an amount of UK Income or Capital Gains Tax at least equal to the tax that CBM reclaims on my donation, in any tax year.

Unfortunately we cannot claim Gift Aid on group donations.

**Please note: The TAX PAYER should sign the cheque**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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# Can you donate medical supplies?

**CBM gladly accepts gifts of medical equipment or medical furniture from people when we are advised of vital medical equipment and supplies that are being replaced or going spare.**

After the Royal London Hospital sent shoes specially made to correct clubfoot, Elias Darius from our partner organisation in Papua New Guinea, wrote, "Thank you for the donation of shoes that you have made through your contacts. They have helped a lot of children with clubfoot!"

Another extremely rewarding way to help is to cover the costs of a shipment of equipment to one of our projects. Costs usually average around £3500-£6000.

CBM received gifts in kind valued at more than £1.1 million in the past financial year. If you or someone you know can donate medical equipment or medical furniture, please contact Clare Rice on 01223 484700 or [gifts@cbmuk.org.uk](mailto:gifts@cbmuk.org.uk) if you'd rather send an email.

*They may look tiny to you, but each little boot can begin to cure a child of clubfoot.*

“Thank you for the donation of shoes that you have made through your contacts. They have helped a lot of children with clubfoot!”



## Look how much a legacy can do

Many people are surprised to hear that even a small legacy can have a huge impact on the lives of people with disabilities around the world.

If you are considering writing your Will or haven't written one yet, there are many benefits to ensuring your wishes are carried out to help the family members you love and causes that are

important to you.

A residuary legacy, which is a percentage of what remains after all other legacies are paid, can often be the most valuable to the causes you care about, like CBM. To discuss your legacy options or writing a Will, contact Legacy Officer David Rootham at [davidr@cbmuk.org.uk](mailto:davidr@cbmuk.org.uk) or on 01223 484700.

*A single legacy helped rebuild a vital eye care centre.*



## I'll give the gift of sight, help and hope

**Yes, I'd like to help CBM provide treatment and rehabilitation for people living with a disability. Use my gift in areas of conflict and wherever it is needed most.**

- £15** provides a six-months' supply of sight-saving Vitamin A to 50 children
- £20** can cover the cost of a surgery to remove a blinding cataract
- £30** can help repair clubfoot for one child, with no need for surgery

£ \_\_\_\_\_ to use wherever the need is greatest

- Please send me more information about giving by Direct Debit.
- Please send me a legacy brochure.
- Please send me a legacy DVD.

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**To make a donation online please visit [www.cbmuk.org.uk/donate](http://www.cbmuk.org.uk/donate) or by phone please call 01223 484700.**

*Please complete this form and send it along with your donation to:*

CBM UK, Vision House,  
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Dry Drayton Road,  
Cambridge, CB24 3DQ

**Registered Charity no:**  
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SC041101 (Scotland)



# Help and hope for a young survivor

Juned Alam is only four years old, but his legs showed signs of clubfoot at birth. His mother Reshraf remembers the devastating diagnosis. "The doctor told me it would cost £15,600 for Juned's feet to be fixed." But that wasn't all. Juned's doctor said the only alternative was amputation.

Once threatened with amputation, Juned is now able to play sports with his friends.

**Situations like these highlight the need for your support not only to provide essential surgery for people with disabilities free of charge, but to empower them with an alternative to inflated health care charges.**

"Juned wouldn't walk around because he said it hurts," Reshraf remembers with emotion in her voice. "He was very sad, and only wanted to wear shoes. He would see other children wearing shoes and say, 'Why can't I?'" The sad news is that regular shoes aren't made to fit a child with clubfoot. Field worker Ema Kashfi, who works for CBM partner Mobility India, says, "Many people still believe that children like Juned are cursed, and so mothers won't let their children play with them."

The amazing thing is that modern non-invasive techniques for correcting clubfoot don't require surgery. With

a special brace fitted to Juned's leg, his flexible bones are now slowly recovering from clubfoot, causing him no pain and allowing him to play with other children for the first time in his life.

And how did his mother Reshraf access the care her son needed? Through a self-help group started by mothers like her. "I remember the day well," she recalls. "I was afraid, and didn't believe the group would be able to help us, but they all visited me in my home." More important, they ensured Juned got the cure and care he needed through their contacts with CBM partner Mobility India.

"God bless you for helping me," Reshraf beams today. "And for helping Juned to walk and smile again. I pray that you will continue giving so that more can be done."

## Are your church doors open... to people with disabilities?

**It's an important question to ask, not only because people with disabilities in your community need easy access to your building and services, but because people with disabilities around the world are facing obstacles that we can all help break down.**

To hear more, please let one of our Country Managers know that you would like a presentation about CBM. Please respond enthusiastically to the work we do because it is central to the message and promises of the Gospels.

### Your contacts for church and group presentations:

#### England

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