

# Newsletter for the Heri Association.

May 2022.

If you want to continue to support our work for the small HERI hospital in the poor northwest corner of Tanzania (close to the border with Burundi), you can renew your membership for 2022 with DKK 100, which can be deposited:

to our account in Skjern Bank Esbjerg afdeling:

Konto nr.: 7780 1257930.

If you want to support our work further with a gift, this can be deposited in our

other account in Skjern Bank Esbjerg afdeling:

Konto nr.: 7780 1409622.

In order for us to report gifts with tax deduction according to Tax Act § 8A (now up to 16.500Dkr) you must write CPR no. of the person giving the gift under "messages to recipient" **in front of the name.**

Our treasurer in the association Gertie Baungaard Gorzelak will then report your gift to Tax at the beginning of January 2022. Gertie is bank director in SparNord Esbjerg department and handles all deposits and withdrawals to/from the association.

If you want to use MobilePay, it can be done on 40596706 for Gertie. Remember to state either contingent or gift to Heri and by gift again the CPR no. (for Tax Deductions).

## A little about what has happened at the hospital since we were last there.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we did not have the opportunity to visit the hospital in 2021, so Marianne and I were therefore very excited to come to the hospital again, which is located in the northwestern corner of Tanzania a few kilometers from the border with Burundi. In Burundi, there is still civil war and many are fleeing across the border into Tanzania, after which they are placed in refugee camps not far from the hospital. This greatly affects the daily life of the hospital and at some point before we went home there were about 90 patients from Burundi alone.

We arrived in Dar-Es-Salaam on the 1st of February and reached the hospital on the 3rd and quickly found ourselves in our local "home". We knew that the new maternity ward had been completed, for which the association has managed 90% of the expenses together with the association's sponsors, the rest has been managed through contributions from the USA and locally in Tanzania.

We also knew that the construction of a new men's ward for men had been completed and it was ready for inauguration later in February. Lions in Denmark and North Sea Lions have paid for it (except for the basement, which was added at the last minute, as

the building is on a slope and the hospital also needed a storage room. The money for this was provided by the hospital from other sources).



*The new bedsection for men*

Knud Lykkegaard (in the middle of the picture on the left), who was the leader of the Lions project, was out dedicating the building while we were there and it was great to be with him and discuss various topics regarding the relief project. There was thus a completely new "view" of the hospital with two new patient buildings.

## New Dental clinic.

One of our plans this year was to set up a new dental clinic in Kigoma (approx. 65 km from Heri Hospital). We already had some used dental equipment from Denmark standing in a container at the Hospital. The premises for the clinic have been completed for some years and are located in the hospital's satellite clinic in Kigoma.



*Elmer & Debbie*

As the units we had standing were digital, we were anxious about whether we could get hold of some technicians from Tanzania who were able to handle the task. But by a miracle, Dr. Ine (the head of the hospital) got in contact with an Australian couple, the man "Elmer" a medico-technician from the Philippines and his wife/assistant Debbie Australian. They had just been ½ year in Malawi to work with technical problems at a hospital there, and were actually going on to England, but were willing to come by, and set up our dental units with compressor and suction. The association paid for the couple's travel and visa expenses, while the hospital was responsible for board and lodging. The couple worked for free for an international aid organization. He was very skilled and had extensive experience with dental clinics, as he previously had his own installation company in Australia.

Two units were set up with compressor and suction. But we had to buy a new compressor, as the one we had was 3-phase, and in Kigoma it was only possible to insert a 2-phase. But the 3 phase can be used in the hospital. Hoses and wires were laid in the floor for water, electricity, compressed air and drains. The compressor is outside and a small house was built for it and sucked. In addition, we had to buy a 5000 liter water tank, and for that we built a stand as the water tank must be high for the water pressure to be large enough. There are 3 more rooms in the building for sterilization, laboratory and office. These rooms were not finished while we were there, but commenced.



*The new dental clinic in Kigoma*

The reason it is good to have a dental clinic in Kigoma is; that Timothy, who has now completed his education in the Philippines, is coming to Heri Hospital to work in just over 1 year. He had to pass another exam in Tanzania, and then have 1 year working with an experienced dentist.

But already now the clinic can function with Heri hospital's current "Dental Assistant" Masano (which is a something between a dental nurse and a dentist with a somewhat shorter education), and we also have a clinic assistant attached.

In Kigoma, it will be possible to make a financial profit at the dental clinic, because here there are patients who can afford to pay for the repair of the teeth, and have more advanced treatments done. Despite a population of nearly 200.000, there is no dental clinic, so people who want to go to the dentist have to travel far, which is both costly and time consuming also.

We met Timothy twice while we were in Tanzania, the first time he arrived by bus from Dar to Heri while we were there, to renew his contract with the hospital and to present his diplomas to the management, the second time in Dar just before we traveled home. After returning home, we received an email from him that he has now passed the Tanzanian dental exam as well, and is now starting an internship at a large hospital in Mwanza, where there is also a dental clinic.

## The Nursing school and Students supported by the Association or Lions.

The nursing school has over 50 students who all take a 3-year education. They supplement their theoretical education with internships at the hospital. Our association supports 2 male orphaned students, a man with 10 siblings where the mother is a single parent, and a woman whose mother is also a single parent. They will all be completed in the fall of 2022. The Lions Clubs support another poor woman who will also graduate this year.

It is important that we come to Heri and see how those we support are doing. Such as. with Adam (who is an orphan), where we had paid the amount they had asked for, we were only told now that we had not paid for his diet, so therefore he had not received food from the nursing school during the last ½ year !? ! "What has he lived on then?" we thought. It turned out that his fellow students had shared their food with him so he was not starving to death. But he had sores on the corners of his mouth due to vitamin deficiency. We were somewhat upset about this, but immediately paid the extra contribution for the diet with extra vegetables and in addition new shoes, pants, sweaters and shirt.

He blossomed all the way up and gradually looked much better. By the way, he is doing really well at school. However, we received no explanation as to why they had not written and informed us that we had obviously paid too little.

We also paid for a student they were sending home when his mother, who was alone with him, had broken her femur and therefore could no longer pay his tuition.



*Adam*

There will always be some who need help with school fees, there are so many single mothers in Tanzania - the fathers have / take no responsibility. Some can pay the tuition because one of the older siblings helps, but then an accident might happen or illness comes, and then they can not pay. Many are really struggling to get an education.

## Water.

When we got to Heri, we were told that the installed pump at the first water well, for which we had once received money from the Blue Water Foundation, had burned down. The well driller Donald Reed from Texas, USA, had been contacted and he had taken the pump with him to investigate it further.

Coincidentally, at a market in Kigoma, we met a woman from the United States who recognized us and knew we were from Heri Hospital. It turned out it was Sarah Reed, married to even the same Donald Reed, who made all the water wells at Heri Hospital in 2014 and 2015.

We asked if she knew if the pump could be repaired, she promised to bring the matter on to her husband. We were also told that we were really missing the water from this well, even though well number two was still working. The first borehole supplied the upper water tanks, which, among other things, also supplied the house we lived in.

We were later told by Donald Reed that the pump had burned out and could not be repaired. He offered us a new pump, which we bought from him but it only managed to be installed immediately after we returned to Denmark.



*First drilling in front, Water tanks to the left, the house we lived in behind.*



## Poor Hospital patients.

The vast majority of the population around the hospital are small farmers with a small plot of land where they grow corn, cassava, beans, bananas and pineapples, some also grow carrots, onions, tomatoes and coffee bushes. They sell their goods in the local market but get a low price for them, especially due to the poor infrastructure. The population has little money in their hands and when a family member becomes ill, it affects the whole family who try to help each other. Patients do not come to the hospital with minor problems, often it has become serious. They are used to family members dying, we have seen several times how a family member rides away with a dead body in a coffin on his bike.

Sometimes it is impossible for the families to pay the whole hospital bill and the hospital can not just forgive them the bill, because the hospital cannot afford it either. Some patients are lucky and have health insurance, but it does not cover everything. Sometimes they have to sell some of their land, which they live on, just to be able to pay the bill. Some of the faithful nurses and doctors ask us, if we can help some of the poorest to pay because they feel sorry for them.

The Lions Clubs Association has helped some patients pay, and our association has also helped some patients. Among other things, the Lions associations helped a very poor family pay the bill for examination, treatment and dietary advice for a little girl (Evodi) who had been suffering from diabetes for approx. 5 years.



*Evodi*

This year when we were down there we saw that the hospital had many inpatients from Burundi who lived in refugee camps near the hospital. They looked miserable, some were very thin, others had large wounds and some with broken arms and legs, there were also quite a few children among the patients. But for them, the payment is no problem as UNHCR pays the hospital bill incl. costs.

## Orphaned boys we support.

With the help of a sponsor family, the association supports two orphaned boys with expenses for school fees, new clothes, shoes, school books and bus trips to their immediate family during their holidays. They go to their respective boarding schools this year, when the eldest (Baracka) last year, started at Alpha Secondary School, which is a good distance from Alpha Primary School where little brother (Krian) goes.



Krian finishes 7th grade this fall, and then he has to continue at the same school as big brother. We visited the youngest Krian, who had not yet received any textbooks. We thought he could inherit his big brother, but the government has decided that a whole new book system will be introduced and subsequent exams would be based on the new books. We ordered the new books, new school uniform and other necessary clothes.

We did not visit Baracka, but talked to the headmaster at Sec. School, he performs excellently and is at the top of the school's students. We made sure to transfer enough money to the school so he could also get new uniform, and other necessities.

Unfortunately, the boys have lost their aunt, who they usually stay with during the holidays, but they then take a bus to the aunt's son of 30 years, who lives in his mother's house in Singida, approx. 500km away from Krian's school and 300km from Baracka's school.

Baracka had a great desire to come a week in scout camp during the summer holidays, the cost of this would be approx. DKK 500. When we asked Krian if he would also like to join, he immediately said yes, thank you, so they were both allowed to participate.

## Dorkas og Sago.

For several years, the association has supported Dorcas and Sago, respectively, a one-legged young woman of 20 years and a one-legged young man of 19 years. We have supported them in boarding schools in primary school and secondary school. If they do not get an education, they will end up as beggars as they can only do a little physical work.

### So how are they doing now?



**Dorcas** is a lovely young woman but not particularly bookish. When we met her as a 10 year old she was very bad at reading, writing and arithmetic, she could not speak English at all.

She had gone to public school, where there are often 40-50 students in a class, and the parents could not afford the textbooks. After 3 years at a good boarding school, where she received extra tuition, she could read, write, count and speak English with us.

She went on to secondary school at another boarding school further afield but would not continue after 1st year. She is now training to be a tailor (2½ year education) and she is happy with it. She is approx. 1 year in the education. After the summer holidays, she is going to do an internship with a tailor in the big city of Mwanza.

The association pays for her education, which is also supported by the state. Her big wish is to get an artificial leg. She can get it either in Mwanza or in Moshe. However, the price is mlm. 13-15,000kr. She has to stay for 3 weeks very close to the place where she gets the artificial leg, as the leg has to be adjusted and she has to be further trained in walking on it.

**Sago** has completed Secondary School Form 4. He has attended several boarding schools and always done well, but to our great surprise he had done poorly for the Form 4 exam and, among other things, failed in physics.

When we wanted to talk to him face to face, he took a bus and drove 500 km to Heri Hospital. He himself was very disappointed and really sad. He could not explain why it had gone so badly, maybe he has not been diligent enough? Maybe the teacher has not been so good? Sago further explained that over half of the physics team had been dumped for the exam.

He would like to study pharmacy (equivalent to a pharmacy assistant). He is currently applying to be admitted to this program but has not yet received a response. According to the rules, he may well be admitted despite being dumped in physics as he has passed all the other subjects. We have already received a larger amount from a single donor, to also be able to give him an artificial leg, so there is not much missing to be able to cover this expense as well.

But we hope that some of our sponsors will also help us with this.



## Container.

Before we went to Heri at the end of January, we packed a 40-foot container with equipment for the hospital and had it sent via Blue Water's department in Billund "Relief". Normally such a person can reach Dar-es-Salaam while we are in the hospital, but as far as we understand, the ship has had a longer stay in Mombasa, Kenya and will not reach Dar until around mid-May. We hope it will go smoothly, with getting it inspected and passed on to Heri with the help of our agent. The cost of shipping a container has almost tripled since we last shipped one 3 years ago.

In the Container, we have packed hospital beds, mattresses and a number of bedside tables and chairs for the newly inaugurated men's ward, in addition to a little more equipment for the dental clinic and some computers.

There are also a number of solar cells with rails and other assembly equipment and associated batteries and inverters, etc., which our good friend engineer Steen Mose Hansen has purchased for the association's money, as well as a contribution that he and his family have also collected. Among other things, another of his sons (Alex) has succeeded in getting a donation of DKK 5,000 from KPMG to the association, for which we are very grateful.



*Container filled with stuff*

## The electricity supply.

The intention is partly to expand with a separate 6KW Solar Cell system which is installed on top of the Library's roof (which has the only roof that faces correctly) with approx. 15KWh battery bank primarily for supply of the Nursing School, partly to make 4-5 small facilities as a backup supply for key people who also work from home with emails, planning and purchasing etc. after alm. closing time.

Steen and Alex are planning to go to Heri in the latter part of August to install these in addition to the larger solar cell system the hospital received from Lions several years ago and which he has also installed together with André, another son. They also have several other initiatives on bedding, including automatic gates in the canal and out by the pond, to save on water reserves in the dry season, as well as other exciting initiatives.

## Current challenges.

There are several, but here you get just the most intrusive. In part, they are in the process of building a new pediatric ward for the hospital. This construction is also financed by Lions through Knud Løkkegaard.



*60 year old Isuzu*

In the midst of the preparation for this, the 60-year-old truck (also called the "kidney crusher", as all the springs have long since been broken and the shock absorbers leave a lot to be desired), which is used to pick up stones, gravel and other heavy/large building materials, has broken down. The rear axle simply broke. The association does not think it is justifiable to make any more repairs on it, but we would like to help with a contribution to the purchase of a "slightly" newer used truck.



*Some of the water channel with the collapsed wall*

In addition, they have had several different problems with the hydropower plant, mainly caused by "outside" reasons, such as broken high voltage mast, breakdown of a few meters of one water channel to the power plant, combined with "slightly" questionable efforts from the electricity department.

We want to continue to help the hospital with its acute problems so that all of you who receive this newsletter can see that your invaluable support for the hospital is still needed.

## General Assembly

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on June 22 at 7 pm in:

Gut Holz lokaler, Allégade 13, 6270 Tønder. Summons with agenda follows later by email.

**Finally, we wish you all a very good summer from the board of the association:**

Gertie Baungaard Gorzelak, Karen Boisen, samt Marianne og Morten Øster.

(As well as by Steen and his familie).