



Impact Report / Summer 2022

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# You Make A Difference

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# Addressing Child Separation with Increased Access to Care

For 110 years, CMMB has worked to meet the needs of the world's most vulnerable communities. What began with mission trips and the delivery of medicines and medical supplies, grew to include a network of trained medical professionals, committed to delivering sustainable care to those most in need around the world. In the true spirit of our mission, CMMB's programs have continued to grow and improve, ensuring that every action we take is meaningful and in collaboration with those we serve.

In Zambia, there is a high incidence of children separated from their families. Some leave in search of safety and security that they cannot find at home while others have become orphaned. Unfortunately, many of these children end up on the streets putting them at greater risk. Witnessing the need for strengthened child protection services, CMMB Zambia is working to reintegrate these children back into homes. Through the GHR Foundation-funded Kusamala Project, we provide children and their families with counseling, access to food

and education, and health support. Looking towards the future of these families, we are placing parents in community finance groups so they can save, borrow, and pay back money with agreed-upon interest. In doing so, these families work together to bring themselves out of a state of vulnerability and into one of opportunity.

Since 2018, 1,791 women have enrolled in 107 finance groups, growing their savings from approximately \$3,540 to \$156,007. It brings me great hope for the future knowing that mothers have the power to make decisions about the health and wellbeing of their families—and that their children will have the opportunity to go to school and break the cycle of poverty.

Even with these great successes, challenges in child protection remain. After HIV/AIDS left countless children orphaned, we now face another pandemic—COVID-19—that has taken parents away from their children. We must now begin to assess the social impact in our communities.



The need for us to keep children safe, protected, and at home is a concerted effort that requires an array of interventions to address the diverse causes of child separation—and working tirelessly on the frontlines of them all are community health workers.

Across the Children and Mothers Partnership Program (CHAMPS), the U.S. Government-funded Empowered Children and Adolescents Program I (ECAP I), the European Union-funded Prevention of Sexual and Gender Based Violence Project, and, indeed, the Kusamala Project, community health workers travel great distances daily to deliver services right to the doorsteps of vulnerable families. They are trained to treat common childhood illnesses like malaria and diarrhea, ensure children are vaccinated against killer diseases and pregnant women receive quality care at health facilities, support survivors of gender-based violence, and identify and connect children living with HIV to essential health resources.

Community health workers are essential to our success and, on a daily basis, answer a call to mission.

No child should grow up without the love and care of their parents. Let us continue striving to keep families together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Batuke'.

**Batuke Walusiku-Mwewa**  
CMMB Country Director, Zambia



# Your Generosity Travels Far

At CMMB, we strive to reach as many women and children with quality healthcare as possible. To better quantify our success, our Monitoring and Evaluation team has refined their collection and reporting methods so that data-supported decision-making helps maximize the impact of our work.

**Your love and generosity made an incredible difference from October 2021 through March 2022. Because of you:**



**175,752**

People reached with improved access to safe water through CHAMPS and P&G partnership



**50,505**

Households visited by Community Health Workers



**49,523**

People received HIV testing



**18,643**

Pregnant women received support services



**17,082**

Children under 1 year old were fully immunized

# Keeping Families Together through Partnership, Support, and Empowerment

*In March 2022, CMMB and the GHR Foundation successfully completed Kusamala II, the second phase of a locally integrated child protection project.*

Children remain among the most vulnerable populations in Zambia. It is estimated that 40% of children, mostly from rural and impoverished communities, live without three or more basic needs. It is common for a child to live without adequate nutrition, water, sanitation, healthcare, or housing. Other contributing factors to child separation include unhealthy parenting and cultural practices, a lack of awareness regarding children's rights, and the death of parents or caretakers.

Without the resources and care they need at home, children end up on the streets, and rely on resource-stretched child-support facilities to survive.

Since 2014, CMMB has worked with GHR Foundation to launch phased interventions that address the underlying causes of child-family separation through the Kusamala Project—a child protection initiative that builds communities' capacity to provide stable, protective, and healthy family environments for vulnerable children in Zambia. In March 2022, CMMB marked an impactful milestone and brought the project's second phase, Kusamala II, to completion.

In collaboration with local partners, including social services and government institutions, CMMB and GHR approached this three-year phase with prevention measures led by community members to identify children at risk of separation;



economic empowerment interventions to help parents attain livable and sustainable financial capacity; and awareness sessions in schools and homes that touch on children's rights and positive parenting skills.

Additionally, the project managed interventions to reunite children with their families in safe, positive

environments and to build the capacity of government-managed community development and social protection systems. Phase three of the project, which is now in its early stages, will continue reintegration efforts using the power of strategic and trusted collaborations with local government and a consortium of other local resources.

**2,732 children and adolescents were identified as at risk of separation and received support. 3,430 were reached by peer educators, and 117 previously separated children and adolescents were reunited with their families; that is 117 children given a second chance in life.**

# Kusamala II Supports a Bright Future for Nancy

**Child and youth care workers (CYCWs) like Edah, are critical resources for keeping children with their families. Through the Kusamala II Project, they were responsible for closing over 2,500 cases involving children at considerable risk for separation.**

The underlying causes of child separation in rural communities of Zambia are vast and complicated. Some children flee unhealthy relationships in their home, others leave seeking basic needs like food and education. Orphans and children living with HIV and disabilities remain at the highest risk of separation.

When CYCW Edah identified Nancy as a child at risk, she was living at home and had already passed her grade nine exams. At 16 years old, Nancy was ready to start the next chapter of her education. Grade ten could bring new learnings, friendships, and hope for a brighter future.

Unfortunately, Nancy's family did not have the resources to continue her education. Learning more about the family's situation, Edah connected her with educational support.

Because of this intervention, Nancy was finally able to return to school and begin grade 10.

Soon after, Nancy's mom was enrolled in a Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA)—a self-managed savings and loan group facilitated by CMMB that provides participants a safe place to save money, acquire small loans, and pursue economic opportunities. With the training and resources provided by her membership in the VSLA, Nancy's mom can plan for her daughter's education and provide her with the tools she needs to be successful.

**"I really thank you for your work," said Nancy. "I am now in school and looking forward to studying hard so that I can become a nurse and help save lives."**



A Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) in Zambia is helping women access and manage the financial resources to pursue opportunities like starting their own small businesses.



## Celebrating 110 Years with a Commitment to Local Health Workers

This year marks 110 years of service and faith at CMMB. To guide us in our work throughout this special year, we have selected “A Call to Mission” as our theme. It has given us the opportunity to reflect on the diverse ways we witness people putting their faith in action—whether through prayers, service, donations, and more—in support of our programs and the people they serve.

In honor of 110 years and our dedication to following the example of Jesus, we are equipping community health workers with the essential tools they need to save lives.

In rural, impoverished regions of the world, community health workers bridge the gap between vulnerable households and access to life-saving care.

On any given day, a CMMB-supported community health worker may walk up to 12 miles through difficult terrain and in

blistering heat or rain. Their mission: to deliver life-saving support to children and mothers, who would otherwise live with extremely limited access to health guidance and services.

Despite their motivation to serve, a community health worker can only travel so far by foot. That is why we have asked all of you to join us in our Call to Mission and help us outfit community health workers with the tools they need to save more lives.

We are raising funds to purchase all-terrain bicycles produced locally so community health workers can travel further, faster, and with greater ease; mobile phones to help track patient progress and household follow-ups; and life-saving backpacks stocked with basic medicines and supplies, including those used to treat childhood illnesses like pneumonia—the leading cause of death

for children under five. Community health workers also encourage pregnant women to visit the health facility for more complete check-ups and delivery of babies there.

“Before the bicycles, we would visit five to six homes per day. But now I can do over 10 homes,” said Elizabeth. “The bicycles have made our work easier, as I can carry information materials, water purifiers, and medicines,” said Elizabeth Kamene, a community health worker in Kenya.

In the communities served by CMMB, with trained health workers equipped with bicycles and other tools, there were significant improvements in maternal and newborn health by increasing the percentage of mothers delivering in health facilities from 29.7% to 87.3% and the proportion of expecting mothers receiving at least four antenatal care visits increased by over 50%.

# Inspiration from CMMB-Supported Community Health Workers in the Field

*In honor of the incredible impact community health workers have on the lives of women and children, we asked a few who serve with us in Kenya, to share their inspirations, motivations, and hope for the people they support.*

## **Ruth Gedion | Kasaala Unit**

"I saw mothers and children in my community dying during home deliveries. This motivated me to become a community health worker and educate people so they know they can go to the hospital and deliver safely.

Even if I face challenges, I feel that it is my responsibility to continue serving the community. My hope is to see good health, increased immunization, and healthy children in the community."

## **Victor Kiema | Maini Ngauni Community Health Unit**

"There were beliefs in the community that were keeping mothers from delivering in the health facilities. Being able to come in as a community health worker and educate them on the importance of facility delivery is motivating. It is also inspiring to see the improvement I am contributing to, like the reduction of maternal deaths.

As a believer, I want to continue helping my community. Just as God helped people, I should do the same. My hope is that through continuous education, we will not have people failing to come to the facility because of negative cultural beliefs. I hope people will be educated enough to have behavioral change and good health. Because when we have good health, we will have development."

## **Antonet Jedidah | Kituvwi Ilamba Community Health Unit**

"I used to admire another community health worker. That gave me the inspiration to become one myself.

Some of the motivations that led me to continue are the things we get from CMMB, like the bicycles. I am also motivated by the training we go through.

I am grateful for when the community agrees to my advice. I always congratulate them and tell them to keep it up. It gives me a lot of motivation when I return to a home to find that someone has listened to me. It is my hope that they will continue practicing what I am teaching them, and they will live a life that is not troublesome."



Community health workers in Kenya are trained and equipped by CMMB to bring life-saving services to their communities.

# The Medical Donations Program Navigates Crisis in Ukraine to Deliver Essential Resources

**O**n February 24, 2022, the Russian invasion of Ukraine triggered the worst humanitarian crisis in Europe since World War II. In the months that followed, the people of Ukraine have faced great uncertainty, loss, and need—with no end in sight.

Health facilities and essential infrastructure are in ruins and supply chains remain stalled. As a result, the country faces critical shortages of medicines, supplies, and services. As of June 2022, the United Nations reports that over 5 million Ukrainians have fled the country. Within Ukraine, it is estimated that 7 million people have been internally displaced—with estimations that more than half of those displaced are women.

Since the start of the crisis, CMMB's Medical Donations Program has

mobilized and executed an emergency response effort, reaching civilians displaced inside the country, in addition to those who were forced to flee to neighboring countries. Through a network of trusted partners on the ground, including Project HOPE US, Caritas – Ukraine, MedGlobal, and others, CMMB has distributed over 10 tons of products identified by in-country aid recipients as high-need resources.

“Ukrainians can't just go to the corner drugstore to get the medications they depend on,” said Darnelle Bernier, vice president of CMMB's Medical Donations Program. “Pharmacy shelves are empty; hospitals and healthcare facilities are running out of medicines and supplies.”

CMMB has shipped 65 pallets of medicines and medical supplies, wound care and hygiene items, and personal

protective gear. As the war rages on, the Medical Donations Program remains in communication with partner organizations to assess the growing need, gather resources, and coordinate air delivery to bordering countries like Poland and distribution inside Ukraine via overland transport.

“We are working to meet the needs identified by healthcare workers and emergency responders on the ground—and this work will continue as long as the need exists,” said Bernier.

As we continue with our emergency response, we share our deepest gratitude for the life-saving work of our partners in Ukraine, the compassion and generosity of our donors, and the fortitude of the Ukrainian people—our thoughts are with them as we pray for peace.

**The Medical Donations Program shipped medicines and medical supplies to 47 partners across 24 countries from March 2021 to October 2022.**

## Save the Date

Join us for a Holy Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City on September 18th, 2022, to commemorate CMMB's 110 years of service. Learn more and RSVP at [cmmb.org/110th](https://cmmb.org/110th)



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