

**Comprehensive community based rehabilitation in Tanzania**



**Geography and scale:** Dar es Salaam, Tanzania **Type of disability:** All types

- Involved actors:**
- Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT)
  - Ministry of Health, Community development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Tanzania
  - Kupona Foundation



**Best practice description**

CCBRT is the largest health care provider of disability and rehabilitation services in Tanzania. It aims to empower people with disabilities, improve their quality of life and ensure affordable and high quality access to specialized health care. Through an income adjusted fee scheme, services are provided through their four main health facilities: a disability hospital, two private clinics, and one rural rehabilitation centre. Some core services include ophthalmology, physical rehabilitation, orthotics and prosthetics, plastics and reconstruction. In addition, the organization has a Disability Advocacy Unit, an academy, a dedicated Maternal Newborn Wing with an associated capacity building program, and a disability inclusive sexual and reproductive health centre that encourages early diagnostics of birth defects. CCBRT is also the largest provider of fistula surgical care in Tanzania, and a FIGO accredited training site, with over 600 surgeries a year on average. All clinical areas provide specialized surgery and paediatric care, as well as clinical and social support for persons with disabilities and their families/caregivers.

**Origin / impetus for best practice**

- According to the World Health Organization, there are 10 million people in Tanzania experiencing conditions that could benefit from rehabilitation.
- The country has a shortage of skilled health workers, with only 7 health professionals per 10,000 inhabitants and a third of health facilities are resourced to perform basic service provision.
- CCBRT started providing community based rehabilitation services for children and adults with blindness in 1994 and quickly realized the extended need for comprehensive disability care.
- In addition, CCBRT aims to fill gaps in Dar es Salaam’s health system, which was built for a capacity of 750,000 patients, and in the context of a rapidly growing population of 6 million and an estimated disability prevalence of 9%.

**Impact / results of implementing best practice**

- In 2019, the Orthopaedics and Physical Rehabilitation department of the disability hospital conducted 28,855 consultations (assistive devices, prostheses, orthotics, physical and/or occupational therapy). The rural rehabilitation centre assisted 4,022 patients and provided 580 wheelchairs and assistive devices.

**Critical success factors for best practice**

- Long-standing experience in specialized care.
- Sustainable approach; the organization is transitioning towards a financially sustainable social enterprise.
- Strategic partnerships with academic institutions, philanthropists, sponsors and health care providers for financial and technical support.

**Impact statement**

- ...
- ...
- ...

**Lessons learned**

- ...
- ...
- ...

- Sources**
- [CCBRT official webpage](#)
  - [2018-2022 CCBRT Strategy](#)
  - [CCBRT Annual Report 2019](#)

- Further links & information**
- [World Health Organization Rehabilitation Need Estimator - Tanzania](#)
  - 
  -