



# Driving Nurses Foundation

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## Annual report 2017

Health for mothers and kids in Lower Moshi, Tanzania



Stichting Driving Nurses sees a healthy future for all mothers and children in rural Tanzania, in which they all have access to basic health care so that the circle of poverty can be broken. She does this by training local health workers and residents in the field of maternal care and health-related subjects. She focuses on the first thousand days of a human life (from conception up to and including the second year of life), in which the impact of interventions is greatest. It contributes to early detection and a higher referral rate of (life-threatening) disorders.

Foundation Driving Nurses (SDN) is a Dutch foundation, established in 2017 after the president has taken care of maternal care under the FT Kilimanjaro (FTK) flag for five years in the area south of Moshi, Lower Moshi.

Lower Moshi is the area south of the city of Moshi in northern Tanzania. The area is dominated by the 16,000 hectare TPC sugar cane plantation. Approximately 75,000 people live in the area around the plantation. She is guided in her interventions by proven effective actions, all centered around the thousand-day principle.

The first 1000 days in a human life are crucial. These are the days from conception to childbirth plus the days until the 2nd birthday of the child to be able to carry out interventions that have a high impact.

Several interventions have been identified as effectively proven to reduce mortality among mothers and children. Offered in a total package of measures they have the most impact.



A package of measures has therefore been put together on the basis of the thousand-day principle. Starting from day zero with sex education, to education programs for pregnant women, to childbirth packages and (breast) nutrition and finally the supervision of the newborn and toddler. We can only offer this package through close collaboration with various agencies.

In 2017, we undertook various activities to be able to implement the above with the founding of the foundation as the most memorable fact. With a well-informed treasurer and an enthusiastic committed student, we have put together a future-proof team to achieve our goals.

We can not do our work in Lower Moshi without the close cooperation with FTK. In 2017 we received a lot of support from Gerbert Rieks, his team and interns. We also can not work without the TPC Hospital team: they delivered a team of 3 different nurses manning the Mama Bus. In addition, TPC sugar cane plantation supported us by providing services in the area. Together with the Josephat Torner Foundation, a program has been drawn up to provide information about albinism in primary schools.

In 2017 various activities took place in order to generate ideas, raise funds and explore possibilities for expanding our services.

- We talked to a VU teacher to come to a research program, where trainees in Tanzania come up with a proposal to roll out the MamaBus across the country.

- In collaboration with the University of Shanghai and Queens University in Canada, a research proposal has been submitted for a four-year research project to improve mental health

- In 2017 we will once again be one of the two good causes of the foundation 40 of Breda. We received a huge amount of € 11,238.

- In collaboration with the Vitalis College in Breda a project has been set up in which a class has worked for us for 3 months. They came with various practical applications and relief supplies.

- Together with the Josephat Torner foundation, a partnership has been established to prevent exclusion from and aggression against people with albinism.

- In November a mission took place, in which the ties with the local staff were mentioned, the Mama Bus was evaluated and many conversations took place.

- In April we were nominated by Rotary Zevenbergen e.o. for one of the three prizes. During a festive evening, the project Mama Bus was elected number one and we received a check of no less than € 10,000.

252/5000

"The Mama Bus makes sustainable low-threshold care and education at low cost possible in the most remote areas of Tanzania"

- Dr. Karen Yeates  
Global Health Advisor NYU  
UD Queens University  
Director Pamoja  
Former director TPC Hospital

**The first steps have been taken in building up the cooperation with the Mount Meru Foundation. They have a lot of midwifery knowledge and we will work together in 2018 to make ultrasonography possible in the villages.**

- **The Medical Checks for Children Foundation held short interviews with us in the summer for more than 200 mothers. The results were analyzed and used in the evaluation of the Mama Bus.**

- **With the founding of the foundation, we will triple the Dutch employees in one go.**

- **We applied to GMA foundation for a large fund. Unfortunately, we have not been chosen for this. But we will not allow ourselves to be creased and will be better prepared the next time.**

- **In the BN de Stem and the Eindhovens Dagblad, a full-page article appeared on the background of why Driving Nurses was founded.**

- **A new secondary technical school has been found for Richardi, where he will go from 2018.**



The results of our efforts in the year 2017 are fantastic. The arrival of the Mama Bus has made the most substantial contribution. With only one mission per year, we are proud to announce that we have achieved the following issues.



#### Education programs at schools

Sex education was taught at 5 secondary schools. With this, a total of 550 children were trained in having safe, loving sex.

In 2 primary schools, a total of 95 pupils have been taught albinism.



#### The Mama Bus

The Mama Bus reached an area of 16,000 inhabitants, provided care and information. 16 mothers and children have been admitted to the hospital with critical medical problems. 44 midwives are trained.



#### Information

Driving nurses has given 80 lessons in the villages on subjects such as family planning, healthy nutrition for pregnant women and HIV. There are also workshops available, such as cooking classes, breastfeeding and the use of the delivery package by midwives.



#### Childbirth packages

A total of 275 delivery packages were provided to local midwives. This package contains everything a woman needs to guarantee a hygienic delivery, but also protection for the midwife.



#### Support for disadvantaged kids

A child is fully serviced and stays at boarding school where he enjoys primary education. Another child with HIV and serious neglect was placed in a children's home after consultation with family and village elders.

# And Further...

In 2018 a number of projects are planned:

- **First priority: Implementation of mobile echo device**  
accurate expert help in the villages

- **The Baby Box**  
a happy box with the aim to get women to check-ups,  
to give birth in the hospital and to involve the men

- **Expansion area**  
Lower Moshi is expanded to 20,000 inhabitants

- **Another Mama Bus / Boat / Baisekeli**  
To reach areas during the rainy season or to expand to  
another area

Kind regards,

Suus Theuws  
Chairman Stichting Driving Nurses

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