

Maternity Africa provides safe maternal healthcare free of charge for destitute women living in Northern Tanzania. Here are some of their stories.

Jenny



Jenny* was born 48 years ago and has three children. She was diagnosed with obstetric fistula after delivering her third child in 2015. She underwent several surgeries elsewhere for her fistula, but was not healed. Because of her condition, Jenny's husband divorced her and married another woman. He took all three children too, to live with him and their new stepmother.

Jenny is not allowed to see her children because their father doesn't want her to. This makes her feel very sad – she doesn't know the life they are now living. When she talked to Maternity Africa's social worker at Kivulini

Maternity Centre, she was advised to go to the Social Welfare Office, because she has a right at least to see her children.

Jenny came to Maternity Africa's Kivulini Maternity Centre on 2 November 2020 for fistula treatment. Her surgery was successful, and she was healed. Maternity Africa supported her further with a care pack containing some basic food and other items, because she is living such a difficult life: she doesn't have a job and was ill for a long time. She is psychologically disturbed, especially for not seeing her children and she is not sure if they are living well with their stepmother. We hope she gets some help from the Social Welfare Office. Maternity Africa's social worker will follow up with her.



Jane

Jane* is 21 years old. She was living with her parents in the nearby city of Arusha, then she decided to go to Dar es Salaam to look for work, because of her difficult life at home. She got a job in Dar es Salaam as a housemaid where she earned only TZS 40,000 (£13) each month.

Jane met a man who married her. She started living a life which she was not happy with; her husband was not supporting her with anything in terms of basic important needs. Sometimes she would have no food to eat all day, and he did not make time to speak to her.

Jane thought that her husband was eating somewhere else before coming home because he was not caring whether she ate or not. At that time she had already conceived.

(* name changed for confidentiality)

Shortly afterwards Jane discovered that her husband had previously married three wives who left him. She does not know why the other women left.



When Jane was seven months pregnant, she obtained enough money to pay for a bus fare to return to her parents in Arusha because she was feeling abdominal pain. Her mother brought her to Kivulini Maternity Centre on 28 November 2020, when Jane was experiencing labour pains. After her examination, it was discovered that Jane was anemic, she did not have sufficient iron and calcium and she was physically weak. She informed Maternity Africa that she had been unable to obtain antenatal care, because she could not get transport to the hospital.

On 29 November, Jane delivered a premature abdomen baby. It was not immediately possible to determine the sex of the baby: all intestines, kidney, and liver were outside of its small body. The baby survived only for few minutes and then died. Jane had injuries to her uterus, which Maternity Africa's medical team was able to heal.

Because of her desperate, destitute situation, Maternity Africa also provided Jane with a care pack.



For now, Jane wants to stay with her parents and is planning to look for another job.

How to help

Maternity Africa helps over 200 mothers every month to deliver their babies safely. You can help, by making a donation through [GlobalGiving](https://www.globalgiving.org).

Thank you.