



IMPACT REPORT 2023

cbm New Zealand



Cover: After receiving life-changing cataract surgery at a **cbm**-funded hospital in Zimbabwe, Mary can't stop smiling. "All I can think of is being grateful for the gift of sight. I am so happy, very happy. My life has already changed."

Above: Children at a small school in Nigeria, where a WASH Club has been set up, are so grateful to people like you for helping to provide clean water to prevent Neglected Tropical Diseases like River Blindness.

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cbm aspires to follow the teachings and example of Jesus as stated in Luke 10:27 in His command:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and love your neighbour as yourself."

A MESSAGE FROM CBM'S BOARD CHAIR

We give thanks to God for His continued blessings and protection. The inspiring ministry of **cbm** continues to attract supporters, and we are grateful for each and every one of you. Placed alongside another year of increased funding from New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), this means we once again show our highest revenue to date, and sustained high funding to international programmes.

Our programmes range from inclusive education support in Madagascar and livelihoods for people with disabilities in Laos, through to eye surgeries, blindness prevention, and rehabilitation across the world.

We have made a lot of progress toward the setting up of an office in Papua New Guinea and also responded to the 2023 drought in Kenya.

We are very grateful to our talented Board and staff, our volunteers, and our many supporters and partners. We farewelled Board member and former Chair, Susan Willis Hirst after 9 years of faithful service.

We began a two-year extension to our strategy this year, and our staff team has carried this out with conviction and skill, in service to our supporters and overseas partners.

Thank you for partnering with us as we seek to serve people with disabilities, most in need across the globe. - **Andrew Smith and Hanré Becker**

Note: In December 2023, Andrew Smith stepped down as Chair, handing over to Hanré Becker.



A MESSAGE FROM CBM'S CEO

Welcome to the **cbm** NZ Impact Report for 2023. We celebrate a year of achievement and growth not possible without big-hearted Kiwi supporters and a talented team.

Thanks be to God, our funds sent to field partners remain high. We were successful in MFAT funding applications for Papua New Guinea, Kenya, and Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. We have been blessed with a number of generous bequests which will strengthen new programmes begun in the last two years.

We expanded engagement with NZ churches, promoting awareness of disability. We installed a new database, which will increase our efficiency and supercharge our ability to understand supporter preferences, and be their channel to spread God's love and concern for people with disabilities across the world. We have strengthened capacity of our Pacific partners and organisations of people with disabilities. This has included appointing staff to a country office in Papua New Guinea to help increase delivery, monitoring and reporting, and to diversify partners.

In 2023, I saw first-hand the outstanding work of our partners working on obstetric fistula recovery, and prevention of tropical diseases in Nigeria. I was impressed with the comprehensive programmes, and I heard incredible stories of transformation.

I thank our Board, staff and our incredible partners everywhere. It's a great team. A special shout-out to my senior leadership team - about to count off five years together.

Thanks for joining with us in the service of people with disabilities, so that they can feel included and live a life they love. - **Dr Murray Sheard**



Murray with joyful mothers at the **cbm**-partnered Sustainable Family Healthcare Foundation (SFHF) in Nigeria who have had their hope and dignity restored.



Murray visited a small school in Nigeria where a WASH Club has been set up. The children learn about improving their personal sanitation and hygiene practices.



HOW THE CBM NZ FAMILY WITH CBM GLOBAL CHANGED THE WORLD IN 2023

As a valued supporter, your generosity has helped many people. Below are the total number of people impacted by the projects to which **cbm** New Zealand contributed:

2,182,137 people
to break the cycle of poverty
and disability including:

REACHING

2,121,948 people
to prevent disabilities

SUPPORTING

44,592 people
with medical and rehabilitation services

EMPOWERING

2,990 people
through development programmes

ASSISTING

25,055 people and their families
in emergency situations

YOUR SUPPORT HAS FUNDED

16 projects in **14** countries
working with **16** local partners

WHERE CBM NEW ZEALAND WORKED





OUR WORK PREVENTION

2,121,948 people reached to help prevent
Neglected Tropical Diseases

cbm's programme aimed to contribute to the elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), focusing on Onchocerciasis (River Blindness) and Lymphatic Filariasis (Elephantiasis), through the three result areas: mass drug administration (MDA), inclusive water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and Morbidity Management and Disability Prevention (MMDP).

Thanks to generous people like you, communities in Nigeria have increased awareness on the prevention of potentially blinding NTDs, and the programme is reducing transmission through the promotion of good sanitation and hygiene practices as well as with the provision of clean water.

People with more advanced stages of NTDs, that cause disabling mobility due to swelling of arms and legs, were also supported with treatment through the delivery of limb care management, hydrocele surgeries, and psychosocial support.

Murray Sheard, CEO **cbm** New Zealand, visited Nigeria in July 2023 and saw first-hand the NTD work on the outskirts of Abuja. Women pumped clean water from the community borehole instead of risking infection through a journey to the river. Men with disabilities were maintaining the bore pumps. Children joined WASH clubs to learn about hygiene and food safety.

Murray sat with communities and heard their stories. These are stories of people who now have hope, and a pathway to make sure their children will never contract an NTD and suffer unnecessarily. They can see their children thrive.

Good health and clean water go hand in hand. So having access to clean water from well-maintained boreholes in Nigeria, helps free children and adults from contracting Neglected Tropical Diseases like River Blindness.

“Isaac reopened the wells that had been dug
in the time of his father Abraham...” – Genesis 26:18



Children at a small school in Nigeria, where a WASH Club has been set up, demonstrate their new hand-washing skills using soap and 'tippy-taps'. The 'tippy-taps' are filled with fresh clean water from the refurbished community borehole, and constructed from low-cost recycled materials.

NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES IN NIGERIA

Clean water from boreholes is vital to a community, but many existing boreholes have ceased to function for various reasons. They are often found broken and in need of repair due to their age. The only place to get water is from an open well or a river where there is great risk of contamination and pollution, and a greater risk of contracting NTDs.

cbm's Water, Sanitation and Hygiene project (WASH) aims to build on the incredible progress made over many years to combat Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), such as River Blindness and Trachoma. **cbm's** WASH project focusses on clean water and good sanitation to prevent NTDs from taking hold again.

Thanks to generous people like you, new or refurbished boreholes are providing communities with a centrally located source of clean water. This means women and children no longer have to spend hours walking to gather muddied and contaminated water. The addition of wheelchair ramps make the task of gathering water safer and more accessible to people with disabilities.



Generous **cbm** supporters made it possible for clean water to be available to communities in Nigeria, and helped provide education to primary schools, including setting up WASH Clubs and installing handwashing stations.

OUR WORK

HEALTH SERVICES

44,592 people helped by medical treatment, comprising:

- 19,489** people screened for eye disease
- 7,470** people treated for eye disease
- 11,212** people screened/treated for ear and hearing care
- 5,847** people screened/treated for physical disabilities

MEDICAL SERVICES

In 2023, a total of 44,592 people were able to access medical and health services, across multiple **cbm** programmes in Papua New Guinea, Nepal, Nigeria, Bangladesh, and Zimbabwe.

With your generous support, **cbm**-funded programmes helped ensure that people with disabilities were included and had access to life-changing surgeries for eye health, ear and hearing care, obstetric fistula, cleft palate, and orthopaedic conditions such as clubfoot, unset fractures and bone infections, as well as providing rehabilitation and mental health services as required.

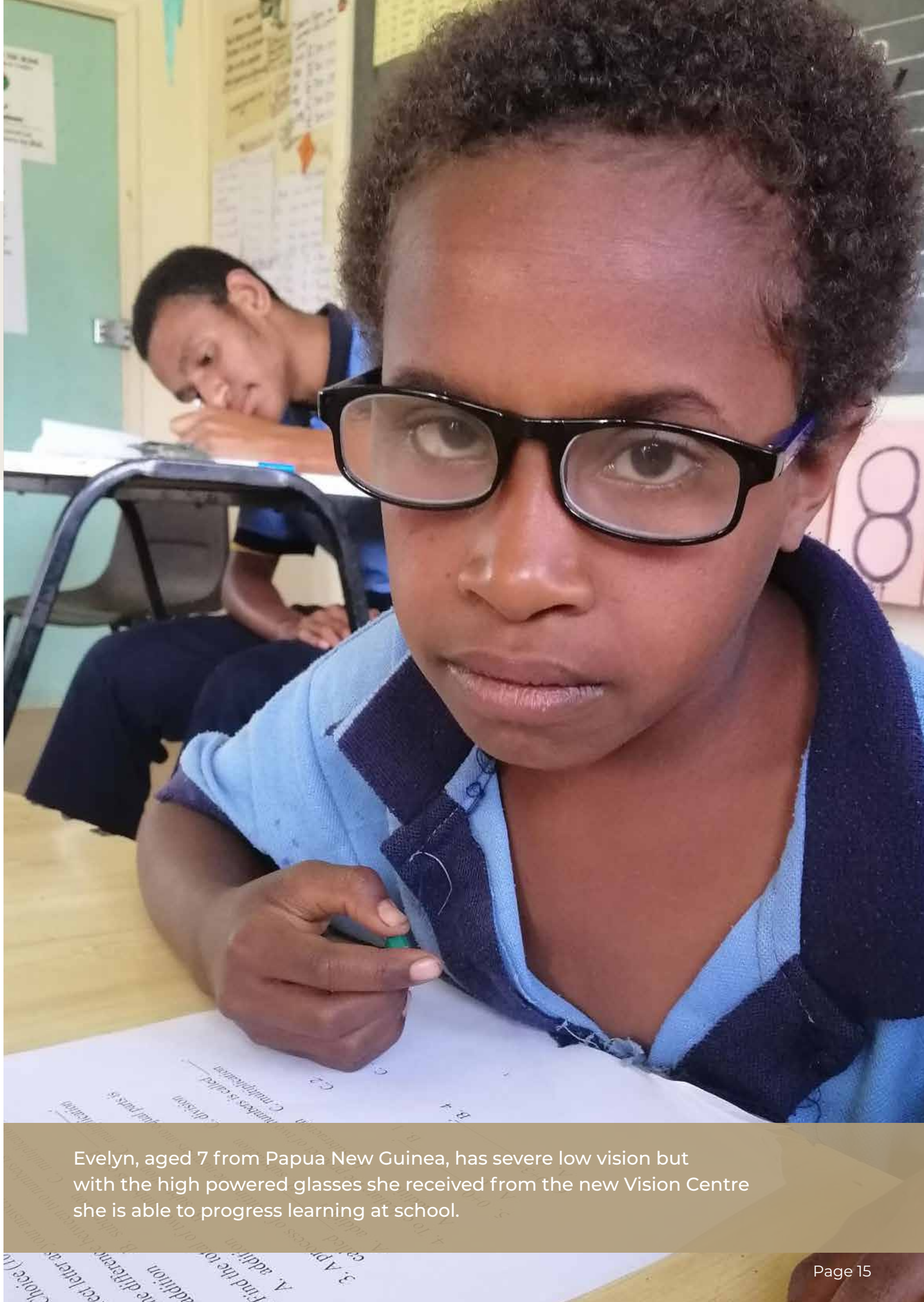
ASSISTIVE DEVICES

In 2023, a total of 2,658 assistive devices were distributed to **cbm** programmes in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Laos, Nepal, and Papua New Guinea. Assistive devices provided or dispensed, ranged from spectacles to low vision devices, hearing aids and amplification devices, crutches, wheelchairs, orthopaedic braces and prostheses.

MEDICAL TRAINING - UPSKILLING OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

In 2023, **cbm** continued to help support the training of 6,460 healthcare workers (including medical doctors, paramedical, nurses/assistants, therapists and community health workers) to provide improved services within their communities.

In Nepal, **cbm's** physical rehabilitation programme team are training healthcare workers with basic physiotherapy so they are able to provide home-based physiotherapy services to people who are unable to make the long and difficult trip to the base hospital due to various barriers including distance, geography, poverty, and physical disabilities.



Evelyn, aged 7 from Papua New Guinea, has severe low vision but with the high powered glasses she received from the new Vision Centre she is able to progress learning at school.



Staff at the new Vision Centre in Goroka, Papua New Guinea, practice using the specialist equipment needed for eye screening.

NEW VISION CENTRE IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Papua New Guinea (PNG) has the greatest prevalence of blindness in the Pacific and one of the highest rates worldwide with 5.6% of the population aged 50 years and over experiencing visual impairment.

The leading causes of blindness are cataracts and uncorrected refractive error, both preventable with appropriate services.

cbm, in partnership with our Government's Aotearoa New Zealand International Development Cooperation Programme, is working together to strengthen partners in PNG to address critical eye health challenges.

Because of generous gifts from people like you, this partnership is possible and great progress has been made establishing a new Vision Centre at the Goroka Provincial Hospital of the Eastern Highlands.

In 2023 an agreement was signed between **cbm** and OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation (OSELF), to increase the support to the Eastern Highlands Provincial Health Authority (EHPHA). This will significantly improve eye health care services for the people of Goroka and surrounding areas. **cbm** has worked with EHPHA for many years providing surgical services to return sight, but the eye clinic in the Provincial Hospital did not have a centre that could provide glasses to the people that need them. Walking out after a test with just a prescription meant people's access to quality glasses via a referral to the national hospital in Port Moresby, which required travel by air, was not an affordable option.

The eye nurses at the Vision Centre are now assessing patient needs, measuring refractive error utilising both auto refraction and subjective refraction and prescribing glasses to the delight of the management and most importantly, to the people of Goroka and surrounding catchment areas within the Eastern Highlands.

The Vision Centre is complementing a **cbm** inclusive education programme and serving adults and students to correct vision impairment so they can access education and employment. Evelyn (pictured on previous page) has severe low vision but with the high powered glasses she received from the Vision Centre she is able to progress learning at school.

In 2023 **cbm** supported partners to return sight to 1,944 people from rural communities in PNG, with 906 eye surgeries and 1,038 glasses dispensed. We acknowledge the Aotearoa New Zealand International Development Cooperation Programme for supporting this programme.

OBSTETRIC FISTULA SURGERY IN NIGERIA

Faith's shirt says "Work hard. Dream big." Faith's big dream was to learn cake baking and event planning, to support herself and her family. But that dream was shattered when she developed obstetric fistula. For two long years she was shunned, isolated and became utterly depressed.

Despite "dreaming big", no amount of "work hard" would earn enough money for Faith to pay for her obstetric fistula surgery and wraparound after care.

Faith's homeland of Nigeria is challenged with some of the world's most debilitating health conditions for mothers and newborns. For lack of maternal healthcare, more than 13,000 women a year find themselves uncontrollably leaking bodily waste, and living with the life-long smell, shame and isolation of obstetric fistula.

"I felt really helpless," Faith remembers. After delivering her baby boy, Faith was shocked to discover urine leaking freely from her body. "I thought it would pass, but it continued day after day."

She tried in vain to keep herself clean – tightly wrapping herself, scrubbing and washing herself until her skin was raw.

Life became very isolating for Faith. Any time she went out, people would instinctively move away from the smell of her urine. Her heart broke every time.

Fortunately, Faith heard about the **cbm**-funded Sustainable Family Healthcare Foundation's obstetric fistula service operating inside Kwali General Hospital, where she received life-changing surgery. The flow of urine stopped. At last, Faith was able to enjoy drinking water again, without fear of being shunned for her smell.

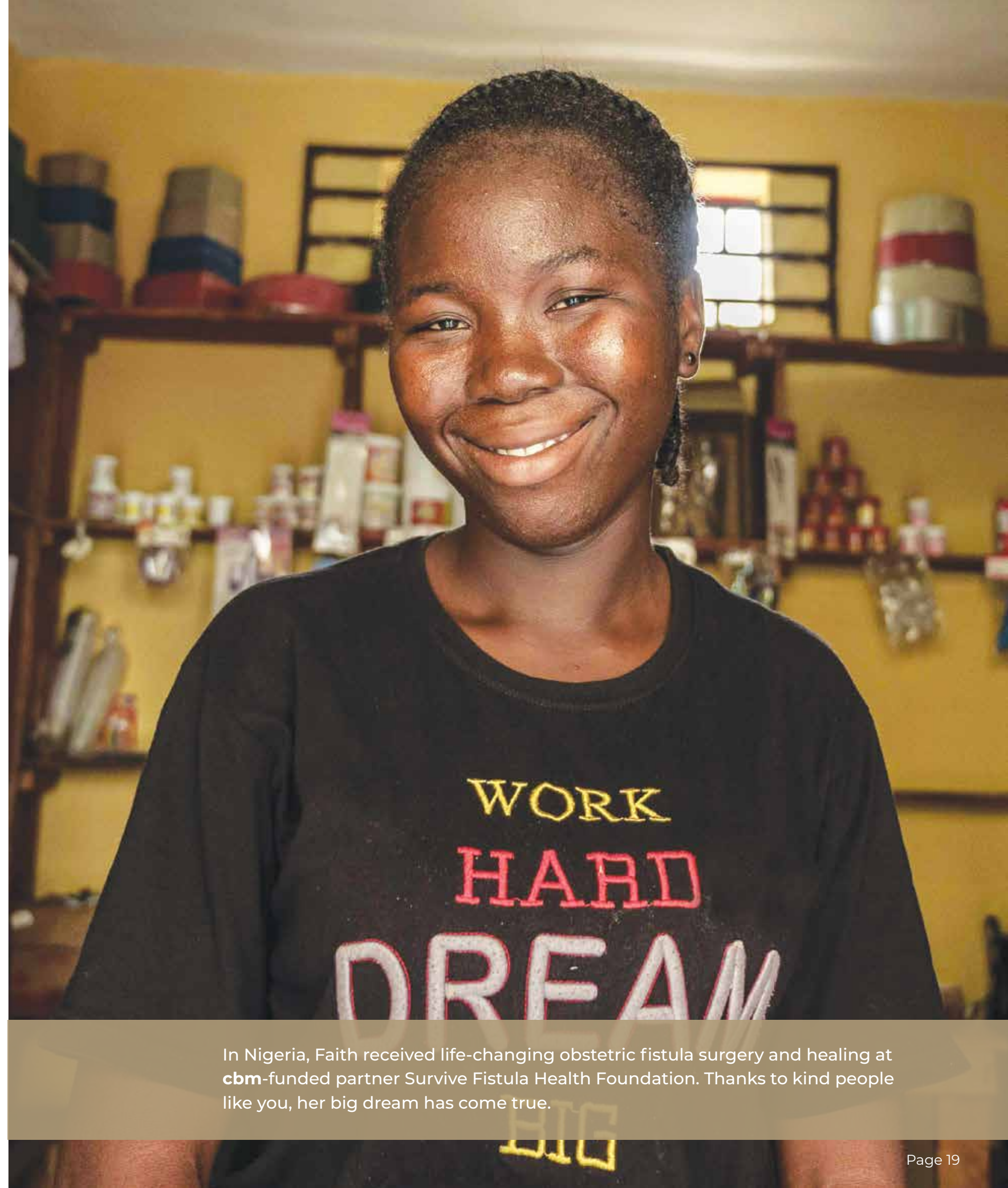
Faith also needed a practical way to rebuild her life as a mother providing for her son. Thanks to kind people like you, her big dream has come true. She has enrolled in a cake baking and decorating class, and hopes to make a good living as a baker.

"I am thrilled to be learning how to make cakes and snacks. These skills will help me support my son."

It is a beautiful thing for a woman who was once shunned because of her smell, to regain her standing and dignity in the eyes of her community. It restores her hope and dignity.

Faith now has her life back. Her face beams and shines with a joyful smile.

Thank you for being willing to be part of this vital ministry, through sharing your prayers and your blessings so generously with heartbroken mothers, like Faith, who have been living with the smell, shame and isolation of obstetric fistula.



In Nigeria, Faith received life-changing obstetric fistula surgery and healing at **cbm**-funded partner Survive Fistula Health Foundation. Thanks to kind people like you, her big dream has come true.



Andrew, **cbm** Board Member, visited the **cbm**-partnered HRDC (Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Children) in Nepal, where he met 7-year-old Amit.

PHYSICAL REHABILITATION IN NEPAL

cbm has been providing comprehensive medical care and rehabilitation services to children and adults with physical disabilities through its local partner HRDC (Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre for Disabled Children) since 2019. HRDC is a 100-bedded non-profit paediatric orthopaedic hospital and rehabilitation centre that provides treatment for children with physical disabilities from socioeconomically disadvantaged families.

Andrew Smith, who was Chair of the Board of **cbm** at the time, visited this hospital in 2023, accompanied by one of **cbm's** programmes officers, Ahyoung, to further develop good relationships with its local partners and to learn more about the local context and needs, by experiencing the communities **cbm** works with.

It was incredible to see how dedicated and committed all of the project staff were at the HRDC, and how much effort they put in to ensure that the children get the best possible treatment and services available.

Social healthcare workers are trained in physiotherapy to be able to provide home-based physiotherapy sessions to children who are unable to travel the long distances to the HRDC. Children who are identified through the outreach camps, are referred to them to receive quality treatment through surgical intervention and follow up services. HRDC also has multiple assistive device workshops where they design and produce assistive devices (both prosthesis and orthosis) such as shoes for clubfoot or crutches specifically tailored to each child's needs.

For all of the children who receive orthopaedic surgery, it is a very long process of recovery. It isn't about just receiving the surgical intervention but also about the many months or even years of rehabilitation, which require a lot of time and commitment (investment) from both the patient (and family) receiving the treatment, as well as the hospital centre providing the services. However, you can see the positive change as the children regain their dignity and are integrated into their community, and it is wonderful to see them being given the opportunity to live out their full potential.

Amazingly, 27 of the current HRDC staff members are also past patients who received treatment at the hospital themselves as children.

"I don't think of HRDC as work, I think of it as a place of miracles... a place where the children come in crawling, but can leave walking on their two feet with dignity."

– Iroj (HRDC Project Manager)

CHILD SPONSORSHIP

3-year-old Sophia was born with congenital bilateral cataracts. She is the youngest in the family, and much-loved by everyone. Sophia is eager to learn and although she started attending kindergarten, her blindness has made it difficult for her to continue.

Sophia became socially isolated and when the **cbm**-funded health care worker visited, Sophia was sitting by herself, listening to the children play without her. Her parents say she is an intelligent child, keen to learn English and to learn to count, and when other children are around the house, she listens intently to their conversation.

“We are very worried that if Sophia does not get treatment she will not be able to live a normal life like the other children”, says her mother Joyce.

That is why Sophia, and children like her, need help urgently, as in the first three years of brain development there is a risk of a child completely losing the ability to see perfectly.

Joyce and husband Mukoya worried about their daughter’s future, but there was hope for Sophia.

With support from **cbm** Child Sponsors, Sophia received sight-saving cataract surgery at a **cbm**-funded hospital in Uganda. Her family could never afford to do this, but **cbm** Child Sponsors made it possible. Sophia will be able to make friends with other children, and go to school. She will have a much brighter future.

Sophia’s life will never be the same again. Her eyes are clear and bright after receiving cataract surgery; but best of all, Sophia is no longer sitting by herself.

She can now run and play, keeping up with the other children.

Thanks to **cbm** Child Sponsors for supporting this life-changing programme.

“And He took the children in His arms,
placed His hands on them and blessed them.”
– Mark 10:16

Generous **cbm** Child Sponsors help children with disabilities receive the vital support they need through regular gifts, making impossible dreams come true. 3-year-old Sophia received sight-saving cataract surgery at a **cbm**-funded hospital in Uganda.



OUR WORK EDUCATION & EMPOWERMENT

2,990 people empowered through development programmes, comprising:

1,246 people supported to access inclusive education

949 people participating in peer support / self-help groups

640 people supported in economic empowerment and sustainable livelihoods

155 teachers trained on inclusive education

Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) is a ministry that ensures people with disabilities are respected and included in their communities on an equal basis in all areas of life. This approach is people centered, community driven, and human rights based.

INCLUSIVE LIVELIHOODS

For people with disabilities, earning an income is empowering, bringing the respect of others, including the respect of their families, and it also enables other opportunities. In 2023, **cbm** worked in Laos, Burkina Faso, and the Pacific assisting people with disabilities to gain access to vocational training and employment.

With the support of **cbm** supporters and Aotearoa New Zealand's International Development Cooperation Programme, the CBID project is bringing about social, health and economic improvements to people with disabilities and their families in 20 villages in the Luang Prabang Province of Laos. Through this programme, people with disabilities and vulnerable groups are building sustainable livelihood opportunities and being empowered to access their human rights for health care, rehabilitation, clean water, sanitation and hygiene. 663 people joined Self-Help Groups, which are formed to identify and address their members common livelihood challenges. The goals of the groups are to create mutual support, promote equality and inclusion, and reduce discrimination. In addition, 151 people were trained to support their livelihoods, 141 on animal husbandry and 10 on crop production. To support participation in livelihoods, a health and rehabilitation needs assessment of people with disabilities was completed across 20 villages. Almost 450 people were interviewed with key needs identified. Based on this assessment, 173 people with disabilities, and their family members, received training on disability rights, 45 people were supported to access health services including 13 people receiving ear and eye treatment, 12 people assessed for wheelchair procurement and 20 people receiving assistive devices. 40 households completed construction on accessible toilets with another 26 under construction.

Kiane from Laos, is blind in one eye and can no longer work in construction. Thanks to generous **cbm** supporters, he received the gift of goats, and carefully raises them to increase his herd. This will enable him to provide an income for his family.



INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

In 2023, **cbm** NZ started a new Inclusive Education programme in Madagascar with a focus on mainstreaming inclusive education. The idea was born to merge these projects into a single major project focused on the inclusion of children and youth with visual and hearing impairment within mainstream schools.

The overall objective of the project is to ensure that children and youth with disabilities benefit from quality inclusive education, and to facilitate their inclusion in society. The project activities include awareness-raising for the early identification of learners, training of teachers in Competence Centres and inclusive mainstream schools in order to improve the quality of education provision, and strengthening the capacity of mainstream schools. This project strengthens the capacity of teachers from the Competence Centres to be able to share their knowledge and expertise with teachers from mainstream schools on how to educate learners with visual and/or hearing disabilities. These teachers will be experts on Inclusive Education and will support the implementation of the Inclusive Education policy of the Ministry of Education throughout targeted regions. The aim is that the teachers at targeted mainstream schools will be able to provide good quality inclusive education to learners with disabilities. Progress and student achievement to date has been most encouraging.



Sinclair's parents had always hoped and prayed that he would one day go to school and learn like other children. With the help of his rehabilitation team Sinclair has worked tirelessly to build up his strength and coordination to be able to attend school.

EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Sinclair's parents want him to dream big and reach his full potential.

But when Sinclair was just a baby his mother, Delvina, noticed that he wasn't able to sit on his own, or balance his head. Concerned, Delvina and husband Sedrick took Sinclair to a hospital in Wewak, Papua New Guinea, to seek assistance from the physiotherapists who confirmed he had cerebral palsy.

Delvina couldn't help but feel worried and emotional about her son's condition. She would often cry as she watched other children his age go to school. Sedrick and Delvina devoted all their attention to ensure he got the best. "He is loved, cared for and cherished," said Delvina.

Sinclair had several sessions with the hospital physiotherapists and when he turned one, Delvina took him to see **cbm**-partnered Callan Services. It was there that they met Angie, the Rehabilitation Officer who would be part of Sinclair's life, supporting his goals for development.

With the help of his rehabilitation team Sinclair worked tirelessly to build up his strength and coordination. Basic exercises to strengthen his muscles and improve his balance, gradually progressed to more complex movements as Sinclair's abilities improved. Sinclair's rehabilitation activities were diverse, aimed at addressing different aspects of his condition, and tailored to his needs and interests.

Sinclair would also join group sessions where he would play games, create art and socialise with other children with disabilities. The visits provided opportunities to develop social skills, creativity, and confidence. Sinclair's rehabilitation officers also visited him at home to monitor progress, adjust the plan and provide support and guidance to his family.

Eventually Sinclair was walking!

His parents were overjoyed to see him achieve such a major milestone, something that once seemed impossible.

As he continues to make progress, his dream of joining the army is becoming more achievable.

His posture and balance have improved so much that he is able to stand tall and straight.

Over the years, Delvina has shed many tears worrying over Sinclair. "We have always hoped and prayed that he would one day go to school and learn like other children." Sinclair's parents are amazed at how far he has come.

Thank you for your kind and caring heart, and for helping to make impossible dreams come true.

OUR WORK

HUMANITARIAN ACTION

25,055 people with disabilities and their families received humanitarian assistance.

2,429 people reached by programmes on disaster preparedness and other initiatives to empower communities resilience.

cbm's main humanitarian goal is to support locally driven people-centered, effective humanitarian assistance to some of the poorest and most at-risk men, women and children affected by natural and human-caused disasters. This support is delivered in partnership with Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) and in close coordination with the humanitarian sector at global, regional, national and local levels.

BANGLADESH

Over one million Rohingya people fled Myanmar, finding refuge in the makeshift camps of Cox's Bazar. Initially there were no services for refugees with disabilities in the camps. Continuing from previous projects, and with the support of the Aotearoa New Zealand International Development Cooperation Programme, **cbm** and local partner Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) reached 20,965 people to improve their wellbeing, many for the first time in their lives. These activities have led to a substantial increase in the accessibility of integrated healthcare and inclusive services in the refugee camps.

- 1,900 people received rehabilitation services such as Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Language Therapy (7,791 sessions).
- 2,234 people received eye care and 816 people received hearing screening services.
- 1,500 people received disability awareness-raising sessions to prevent disabilities.
- 776 people received assistive/therapeutic devices such as crutches, wheelchairs, glasses and hearing aids.
- 657 caregivers were trained to provide effective rehabilitation at home.
- 300 people were referred to other health services.
- 40 people received accessibility modifications to their homes.

The programme surpassed its goal with 84% of people who received health services experiencing improvement in their health condition, able to perform daily activities such as eating, bathing, grooming, toileting, walking, and climbing stairs.



The steep slopes in the refugee camps of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh are challenging for people with disabilities. But thanks to people like you, Omar has received a prosthetic leg as well as rehabilitation and gait training, giving him confidence and independence.

KENYA

The food crisis in Kenya was caused by the failure of five consecutive rainy seasons. The current drought in Kenya has been the longest, most severe drought in over 40 years, with widespread livelihood losses and massive displacement of populations in search of pasture, food, and clean water. It was reported that over 60% of the population in Turkana County, North West Kenya were on the brink of starvation, and the scarcity of clean water, poor conditions of livestock, and increasing prices of essential food items were causing households to be unable to survive this food crisis.

In partnership with the Aotearoa New Zealand International Development Programme, **cbm** supported a Drought Response Inclusion Programme. The project was able to support vulnerable households to meet their basic needs through the provision of food and water, medical outreaches, and support to the disability movement.



Thanks to generous people like you, refugees like Omar are receiving comprehensive medical and rehabilitation services, which are empowering them with a sense of normalcy in their lives.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN BANGLADESH

In the heart of the Rohingya crisis, an unprecedented humanitarian disaster unfolded as over a million Rohingya fled persecution in Myanmar to seek refuge in Bangladesh. Families faced displacement, violence, and dire living conditions in overcrowded camps. This crisis, marked by widespread human rights abuses, compelled international organisations and aid agencies to intervene, providing critical support for survival.

Amid the chaos, individuals like Omar, a resilient 55-year-old, found themselves uprooted from Myanmar to Bangladesh. His journey took a challenging turn as he grappled with the responsibility of being the primary provider for his family. Earning a livelihood as a day labourer, Omar faced the harsh realities of displacement.

When Omar received the diagnosis of tuberculosis in his right leg, which worsened over time, he was forced to have his leg amputated.

Thanks to generous people like you, a comprehensive rehabilitation treatment plan was devised, encompassing short and long-term goals for Omar's functional independence. The rehabilitation officer guided him through a journey of strengthening exercises, activities of daily living practice, social inclusion strategies, and caregiver training. The collaborative efforts aimed at restoring physical and emotional well-being. To enhance Omar's functional activities, he was provided with essential assistive devices like a toilet chair and elbow crutch.

As time progressed, casting and measurement took place then distribution, limb fitting and gait training unfolded. Omar received a prosthetic leg and gradually his mobility improved significantly.

With newfound mobility and independence, Omar reclaimed the ability to undertake daily activities. From grocery shopping to attending prayers and actively participating in social engagements, the prosthetic leg, coupled with the knowledge imparted by the Occupational Therapist, restored not just Omar's physical capabilities but empowered him to reclaim a sense of normalcy in his life.

Omar's story is a moving testament to the transformative impact of dedicated healthcare professionals, assistive devices, and the resilience of individuals facing adversity.

Through the collaborative efforts of **cbm** partners, rehabilitation support extended beyond therapeutic assistance, contributing to the restoration of hope and enabling a more inclusive and fulfilling life for Omar and his family.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN KENYA

Thanks to generous **cbm** supporters like you, there were teams on the ground responding to the food crisis in Kenya, particularly in areas where people with disabilities were being left behind.

One such person you have helped was Sofia – she was so brave.

Sofia has a disability which means she struggles to stand... but this didn't stop her going to work on other people's farms as a casual labourer.

There's nothing 'casual' about it though.

Sun-up to sun-down in the burning heat. Swinging a hoe into the rock-hard ground. Trying to ignore the pain shooting up her leg, and the never-ending ache that made it feel like her back was breaking.

"It is such a challenge to do farm work because of my leg. Even walking can be a challenge."

It's thirsty work, but there was no water, the nearby river had dried up.

Sometimes Sofia could make it down onto her knees, and scrape out a hole, and wait for some brown water to seep to the surface... and hope it didn't make her sick... but most days she had no choice:

"I rely on my children to look for water. I am a person with disabilities. I can't carry water myself."

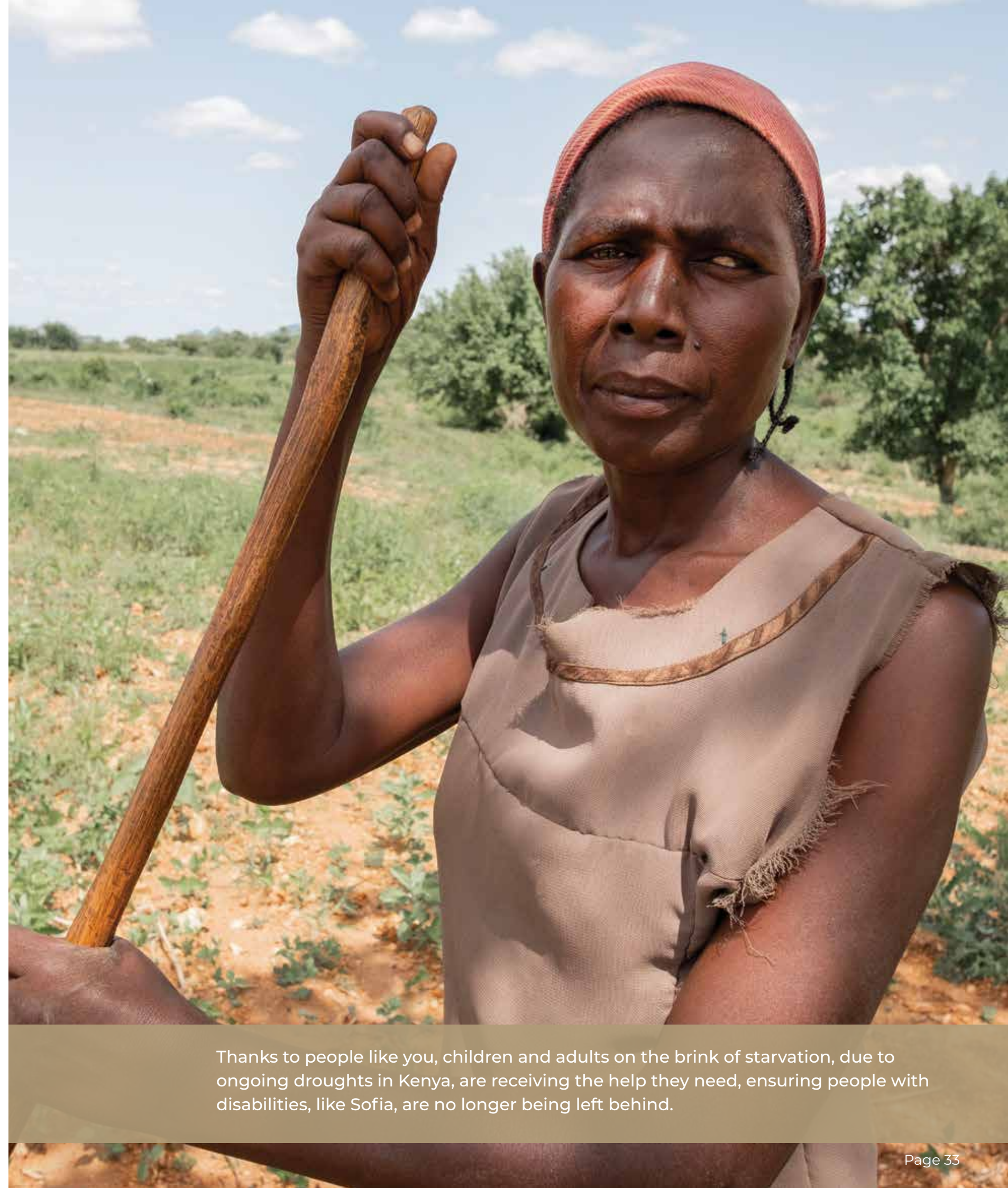
Children often made a two-hour return trip on foot carrying a heavy jerry-can of water on their heads.

Every life matters. And every generous gift from people like you helped make a life-changing difference where it is most urgently needed.

Support from people like you helped people with disabilities, and their families, receive urgent access to food and water supplies. This was vital because there was very little work on farms for Sofia to earn the money she needed to buy food for her family.

Generous gifts from people like you helped children and adults in need access medical supplies, protecting them from the effects of malnutrition.

People with physical disabilities were also provided with the mobility aids they needed to access the distribution points to survive this crisis.



Thanks to people like you, children and adults on the brink of starvation, due to ongoing droughts in Kenya, are receiving the help they need, ensuring people with disabilities, like Sofia, are no longer being left behind.



Herbert is the Disaster Risk Reduction officer at Nuanua O Le Alofa (NOLA) in Apia, Samoa, where he is influencing and educating emergency responders on how to improve services for people with disabilities. Herbert is also blind.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN THE PACIFIC

Herbert is a critical team member at Nuanua O Le Alofa (NOLA). As part of his role as NOLA's Disaster Risk Reduction officer, he regularly works with government and civil agencies around Apia on how to improve services for people with disabilities. One of the key agencies he recently presented to was the Samoa Fire and Emergency Services Authority (SFESA). This service provides fire, ambulance and paramedic services, and has co-responsibility for Samoa's early-warning system.

Commander Siaosi Asi at SFESA described Herbert's presentations and support to the station as important and impactful. Commander Siaosi Asi said the methodology that NOLA and Herbert used in presenting was really effective, with the attention of the audience becoming even more focused when they had the opportunity to hear directly from someone like Herbert who has been blind from birth.

Prior to working at NOLA Herbert worked in media as a journalist with Talanoa Media. In that role he was in charge of the current affairs team, and was a radio announcer. It is some of these skills that Herbert is utilising now with NOLA to ensure their messaging for stronger inclusion of people with disabilities in emergency response is impactful and effective.

Changing the mindset of others and organisations to see the ability of individuals, rather than focusing on the "disability" – is one of the challenges that Herbert embraces at NOLA. So when organisations like SFESA invite Herbert to speak to them, he is keen to ensure an impactful outcome. Herbert has faced-down the stigma that others have had towards his disability, and while his message "feels like old-news" to him, he understands that it is always new information to some audiences.

Herbert brings greater impact to his work in disability inclusion by "knowing the audience", and understanding the environment within which the presentation is taking place. This is also supported by Herbert and NOLA's ability to anticipate the type of questions others may have. Following Herbert's presentations at SFESA, the leadership there have also become advocates of the mantra of "nothing about us without us" when it comes to improving emergency services for people with disabilities.

"...Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

– Matthew 25:40

WHO IS CBM?

CHRISTIAN BLIND MISSION



OUR VISION

An inclusive world in which all people with disabilities enjoy their human rights and achieve their full potential.



OUR MISSION

Fighting to end the cycle of poverty and disability.



OUR VALUES

We Champion Inclusion: We believe everyone is equal before God. We are passionate about working with people with disabilities to build a world in which all people are included, valued and respected.

We Strive for Justice: We work for positive change, inspired by a vision of a just and equitable world. We model justice and faithful love as Jesus did, serving those in greatest need, regardless of race, gender, age or religious belief.

We Pursue Excellence: We are committed to

achieving the greatest possible impact from the resources entrusted to us, attaining high quality in all our work. We challenge ourselves to constantly learn, innovate and improve.

We Embrace Partnership: We achieve more when we work with others. We commit to partnership, listening and learning together. We collaborate creatively with partners, supporters, governments and colleagues to achieve lasting change.

We Live with Integrity: We show God's character by seeking to live by our values and fulfill our commitments. We hold ourselves accountable to our supporters and those we serve, seeking to live authentically, responsibly and honestly.



In celebration of Volunteer Week and Christmas, **cbm** staff lovingly prepare a morning tea with home-baked goods to thank our wonderful volunteers for their dedication and commitment to **cbm**.

LIVING OUR VALUES

Having a values-based culture is our highest people priority. Our values – inclusion, justice, excellence, partnership, and integrity – underpin the way we work, our behaviours and our interactions both internally and externally. It is a blessing to be able to live out our faith in the workplace.

Staff members also come together to live out our values through staff gatherings and in weekly devotional reflections. Part of these reflections and prayers come from the **cbm** Prayer Diary. Staff spend time in prayer for the ministry of **cbm** and all who are involved.

We are blessed with a small but dedicated team of volunteers who help with weekly administrative duties. We love hearing and seeing them each week and they are a valued part of our family.

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.”

– Romans 8:28

OUR BOARD

cbm is grateful to its Board members who generously volunteer time and expertise and act in a non-executive capacity.

At the end of 2023, Susan Willis-Hirst retired from the Board, having served her maximum term of nine years. Susan made significant contributions to **cbm**, leading the fundraising committee and as Board Chair 2019-2021, including through the turbulence of COVID-19. She is much loved and missed.

Featured on this page are Board members active in 2023.

Our Board undertakes reviews to ensure a balanced mix of skills, with diverse experience and leadership qualities. The relationship of our Board and Senior Leadership Team is one of cooperation and a shared commitment to the mission of **cbm**.

HANRÉ BECKER (CHAIR)

Hanré joined the Board in 2022. He is a Chartered Accountant and a Chartered member of the Institute of Directors. Hanré has held the position of Chief Financial Officer in several medium to large organisations, as well as Chief Operating Officer and Managing Director. Currently Hanré is an Investor and Professional Director. Hanré is grateful to be able to spend more time in serving not for profit organisations and his local community and is already making a difference with his involvement in **cbm** and all our exceptional projects.

ANDREW SMITH

Andrew joined the Board in 2019, having recently retired from a career in surgery, counselling and tertiary education. His previous involvement in mission, particularly in South East Asia, made **cbm** an ideal organisation in which to invest post-retirement time and energy. Andrew retired from his position as Board Chair at the end of 2023, and remains active on the Board.

SUSAN WILLIS-HIRST

Susan joined the Board in 2014. She was Chair of the Board for three years until 2021. She holds a Bachelor of Commerce and a Masters in Marketplace Christianity. Her career was forged in marketing for several multi-national fast moving consumer goods companies. Susan was fortunate to visit Africa in 2017 and was deeply impressed by the impact that **cbm** is making in the lives of people with disabilities who are also living in poverty.

RAY COSTER

Ray joined the Board in 2015 because of his conviction that the heart of God is to care for the poor and needy. Ray was previously a Presbyterian minister. He served as Moderator of the Presbyterian Church from 2012-2014 and continues ministry at the national level as a member of a number of Church Committees. Ray is our board member who sits on the CBM Global board. Ray is the New Zealand representative on the World Council of Churches Central Committee.

VERONIA HOUGHTON

Veronia is a chartered accountant and Chartered member of the Institute of Directors. She is a self-employed business woman, a Company Director and Financial Officer for several private property development and investment companies and serves on local community not for profit boards. Veronia has also served in the NZ Police both as a front-line officer and forensic accountant.

GERALDINE CRUDGE

Geraldine joined the Board in 2020. Geraldine is a solicitor, and currently works for an Auckland-based employment law services firm. She has a Masters degree in International Development from the London School of Economics, and a passion for the poor and marginalised in the world. She has volunteered in New Zealand and London with various charities, and spent time volunteering in Thailand, India and Myanmar.

EVAN CLULEE

Evan joined the Board in 2022. He has worked across the disability sector in various roles over 30 years, including being CEO of an intentional Christian community supporting people with intellectual disabilities. Evan holds a degree in Applied Theology from Carey Baptist College, Auckland. Evan has first-hand experience of mission, and development alongside disabled people in the Philippines, South East Asia, and the Pacific region. These experiences grew a desire to serve and support disabled people across the world.

NEIL MURRAY

Neil joined the Board in 2022. He is a retired eye surgeon who was active, often together with his wife Tania and children, in inclusive eye work in low and high income countries for nearly 30 years. During this time he has known **cbm** from both the inside – in the field in West Africa working for **cbm** for several years – and from the outside, not only as a supporter but also as an observer of **cbm** activities while involved with other aid organisations. He has a deep understanding and appreciation of the impact of **cbm's** work.

IAN HORNE

Ian joined the Board in 2022. He holds a Masters in Business Administration (Dist) and is a member of the Institute of Directors. Recently retired from a career in banking and the public sector, Ian now seeks to utilise his skills in governance, finance and organisational management, in the not for profit sector. He has a passion to serve the poorest of the poor.

ENGAGING WITH OUR VALUED SUPPORTERS

PRAYER BREAKFAST - ELIZABETH

What a blessing it was to gather at Eden Park, with 500 Christians, at the annual Auckland Prayer Breakfast. We gathered together to pray for Auckland’s families, neighbourhoods, businesses, and local and central government. It was wonderful to be in prayer and worship, fellowshiping with other Christians, and Christian leaders, across the city.

Thanks to generous **cbm** supporters for helping to sponsor New Zealand Sign Language interpreters, giving people with hearing disabilities the opportunity to fully participate. There was also a ramp with a gentle slope, allowing easy access to the stage when people with mobility disabilities spoke or prayed. It was heart-warming to see Christians with disabilities being included, and able to participate in leading the prayer breakfast.

Thank you Auckland Church Network, and the New Zealand Christian Network, for an inspiring time of prayer.



BEQUESTS - MARY & STUART

Without the compassion of faithful supporters like Mary and Stuart, who include **cbm** in their Will, many of the poorest of the poor would miss out on sight-saving operations, on life-saving and life-changing health care, and on access to education and livelihood programmes that can lift them out of poverty.

“Just the thought of continuing to bless others in need, and especially people suffering with the stigma of poverty as well as disability, by way of leaving a bequest to **cbm** in our Will after we’ve gone, fills my husband Stuart and I, with great joy. The mission of **cbm** remains even more vital and necessary now as we are all facing uncertain world economies and fragile environments, which impact considerably on people with the greatest need.”

Thank you for your ongoing support, and for considering a gift in your Will to **cbm** to help transform the lives of future generations.



IN LIEU OF GIFTS - ADRIENNE

Adrienne likes to make a difference wherever she can – especially to people who are less fortunate than herself. As a longtime supporter of **cbm**, when the time came recently for her 80th birthday, she did not need any more gifts. But what she did want to do was to celebrate her special day with family and friends, plus she wanted to give them the opportunity to support mothers reached by **cbm**’s obstetric fistula programme in Nigeria.

On the day, many of Adrienne’s friends popped in to say hi, shared in the hospitality and passed on their birthday wishes. People came throughout the day, joining in for morning tea, lunch or afternoon tea. A number left generous donations in support of **cbm**’s obstetric fistula programme.

It was a wonderful day of celebration for Adrienne, plus she helped raise over \$1,700 in support of mothers in Nigeria suffering with the shame and isolation of obstetric fistula. Support that will bring them renewed hope for a better future.



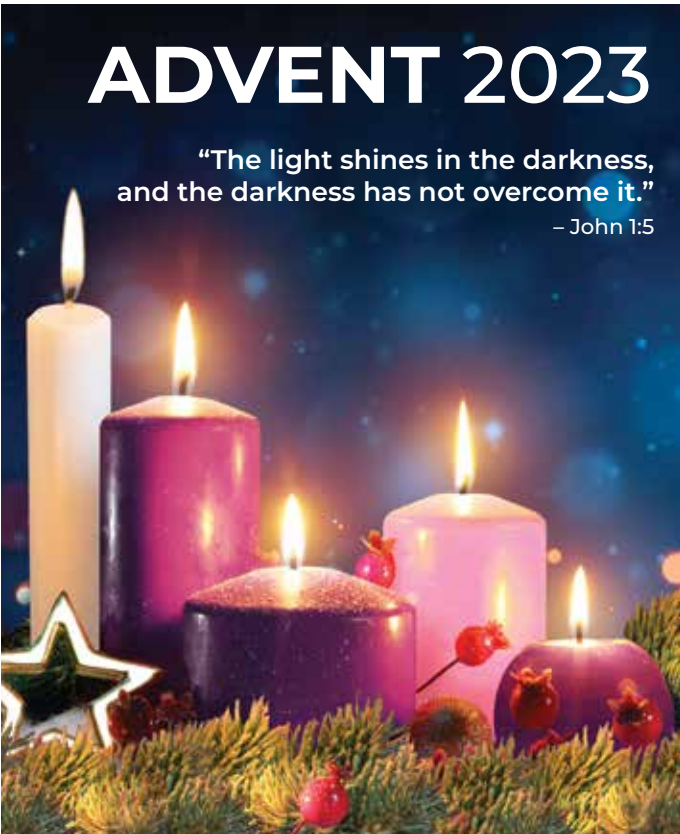
ADVENT

Advent sees us coming together to celebrate the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Each week, our free four-week **cbm** Advent series, was sent out with prayers and reflection, impact stories and videos about **cbm**’s mission to bring **Hope, Peace, Joy** and **Love** to people with disabilities in the world’s poorest places.

Alongside the church programmes, the church congregation and **cbm** supporters were invited to continue Advent reflections at home by creating special Advent moments with loved ones, including prayers and reflections during the week, Advent colouring in, a ‘how to’ guide to make your own Advent wreath, and opportunities to give meaningful gifts at Christmas.

This year, please join **cbm** in celebrating the true meaning of Christmas with loved ones, friends, colleagues, neighbours, and people in your community.

To find out more, please visit www.advent.org.nz



EXTERNAL MEMBERSHIPS AND ACCREDITATIONS

cbm is a Member Association of CBM Global Disability Inclusion. Together, we work alongside people with disabilities in the world’s poorest places to transform lives and build inclusive communities where everyone can enjoy their human rights and achieve their full potential.

cbm is a registered charity with the New Zealand Government (CC26154). All Board members act in a voluntary, non-executive capacity and participate in an annual process to review **cbm** policy compliance and Board performance.

cbm is accredited by the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), which is responsible for managing the Aotearoa New Zealand International Development Cooperation Programme. To maintain accreditation, **cbm** systems, policies and processes are rigorously reviewed by the Aotearoa New Zealand International Development Cooperation Programme.

cbm is a signatory to the New Zealand Council for International Development (CID) Code of Conduct, which is a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice. As a signatory, we are committed and fully adhere to the CID Code of Conduct, conducting our work with transparency, accountability and integrity. **cbm** also adheres to the CID Fundraising Charter.



Thanks to generous people like you, Hilda received the gift of sight at a **cbm**-funded hospital in Papua New Guinea. She feels like she has been born into the world again, and is so grateful to be able to see the faces of her beautiful grandchildren.



Murray tests out a well-maintained borehole while visiting a village in Nigeria. The refurbished boreholes help keep children and adults from contracting Neglected Tropical Diseases like River Blindness.

“For I know the plans I have for you,”
declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you
and not to harm you, plans to give you
hope and a future.” – Jeremiah 29:11



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