

SENSE INTERNATIONAL TANZANIA

Sense International (SI) is a disability specialist charity, partnering with local organizations in Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, Romania, Tanzania and Uganda. Sense International is one of the world's leading international organizations working for people with deafblindness and multi-sensory impairments and their families. Their vision is of a world in which all people with deafblindness can be equal and active members of society.

In partnership with HDIF and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Sense International are piloting an innovative approach to inclusive education for children with deafblindness in Tanzania – the Inclusive Education Programme. This program is implemented with 100 children in 79 schools in Dar es Salaam and Kilimanjaro Regions. One of the children is Julieth. See her story below.

Julieth's Story:

Julieth (not her real name), a 15-year-old girl from Same District council, who lives with her grandparents as her mother passed away. During her childhood, Julieth had suffered from measles, which led to total blindness with a hearing impairment in both ears. Julieth's grandmother used to tie her around a tree whilst she carried out her daily duties, so that Julieth would not wander away. During the night, Julieth would be tied around a leg of a bedstead so that she would not fall off or wander away. Her grandmother also had challenges feeding Julieth due to difficulties in her ability to swallow food.

Sense International Tanzania found Julieth in this desperate situation - she was dirty, had been biting herself, and had developed a physical disability on her left leg due to being tied up for a long time, which prevented her from walking. The Sense International Tanzania staff that found Julieth, untied her, assessed her mental health, and later took her to Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center (KCMC) for further examination and treatment. Later, Julieth was taken to Uhuru Mchanganyiko for an assessment, where it was decided that Julieth could be enrolled in a mainstream school close to her home in Same district, where she would be supported with the teaching assistant to learn alongside other peers. Her school curriculum focuses on life skills in the areas of communication, concept development, motor skills, safety awareness, meal-time, and increasing her participation in daily routines. Her father agreed to pay the daily cost of taking Julieth to and from school by a motorbike. At the same time, a special seats Member of Parliament in the district donated a tricycle for Julieth, to support her with mobility and transport.



Julieth with the grandma and DSNEO

From January 2017 Julieth, in addition to her schooling, has been enrolled onto the home-based education programme. Through the home-based program Julieth's Teaching Assistant supports her to

travel home and takes care of her in the house whilst waiting for family members to return home. A lot of progress has been made in Julieth's development and she can now sit and settle in the class, walk a little bit, use a handkerchief to wipe off saliva and eat food on her own. She can now also freely mingle and play with other children, and no longer needs to be tied up to keep her safe.

The community around Julieth has been amazed to see how Julieth has been able to go to school and participate in a mainstream classroom, make friends, learn new skills and have an improved quality of life through the support of the Inclusive Education programme.