



Policy plan 2022-2024

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About us

Shirati Foundation consists of a group of people who, as a board, are dedicated to improving medical care for the poor and most marginalised groups in Africa, regardless of race, religion or political affiliation. All board members have work experience or have otherwise been involved with the district hospital: Shirati KMT Hospital, in northern Tanzania.

Personal experience with the health issues, prevalent in this region, gave rise to ideas on how to tackle them. In order to pool these ideas, exchange experiences and create a joint financial flow to finance the projects, the Shirati Foundation was then set up.

Ideas for projects to improve healthcare in and around Shirati are first tested for local need. Extensive consultations take place with stakeholders to verify that the project is of added value, and the project has social support.

Besides local need, local co-responsibility is an important pillar for our projects. By involving Tanzanians in each project, its sustainability can be greatly improved.

In addition to collaborating with local stakeholders, Shirati Foundation engages with both local organisations (such as REACH foundation), and international organisations (e.g. Global Surgery Amsterdam). The aim of this is to create synergies, which will benefit both parties and thus ultimately the projects.

Developments

Tanzania has changed a lot in recent decades, and with it, its healthcare system. Although nationwide many parameters show that general well-being is improving, this development is primarily taking place in urban areas.

Remote areas, like the Rorya district where Shirati is situated, often notice little of the increase in prosperity. Although non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular disease and cancer, are now beginning to take their toll in Rorya, infectious diseases have by no means been eliminated. This 'double burden of disease' often requires more than hospitals and governments have the capacity and funds for.

The aim of the Shirati Foundation is to help the disadvantaged population of our region, by focusing on the pathologies that hit them hardest, but on which relatively limited health policies have yet been made.

Malnutrition still plays a major role in under-5 mortality in our region, partly due to cultural practices and maternal mortality. The government unfortunately falls short locally in providing patient education, staff training and supply of fortified foods.

Lake Victoria, which is of great practical and economic importance to most of the population in Rorya, also poses a serious threat to general health due to the presence of schistosomes (bilharzia).

Government campaigns, aimed at annual treatment of school-age children, are irregular and do not target other high-risk groups, such as fishermen.

Finally, victims of road accidents are now brought in daily, often with severely broken bones. The main reason for these are traffic accidents, often caused by motorbikes. As these are showing an explosive increase in the street scene, but infrastructure and law enforcement cannot keep up with this development, the number of road accidents is only expected to increase in the coming years.

Therefore, in countries like Tanzania, road traffic accidents are the leading cause of severe bone fractures. A complicating factor is that the surgical expertise needed for treatment is often not available in rural Tanzania, causing patients to suffer serious complications from under-treated fractures.

Objectives

During the period from 2022-2024, Shirati Foundation is committed to the following:

- Provide a consistent supply of, locally produced, fortified foods, to reduce the impact of malnutrition within Rorya. Also research to provide insight into the risk factors behind malnutrition.
- Providing one free, nutritious, meal per day for patients, admitted to Shirati KMT Hospital.
- Reduce the number of complications of schistosomiasis within Rorya, through semi-annual patient education and dispensing of medication in villages identified as high-risk areas. In addition, collection of data, to evaluate the success of this intervention.
- Study on the prevalence and consequences of fractures within Rorya, as well as the possibility of collaboration with local bonesetters and their treatment.
- Support to Shirati KMT Hospital in the form of education and resources, where the local need is greatest (e.g. ETAT training, diagnostic equipment and construction of operating room in the delivery ward).

Method of raising funds

Shirati Foundation receives its income through:

- One-off and recurring donations. These donations are mainly made by individuals and organisations/companies.
- Financial project support from other foundations or organisations (e.g. the Dutch Albert Schweitzer Fund).

In the future, sales of some products, which aim to depict Shirati (e.g. books or music), may contribute to the foundation's income.

Use of assets

The assets are spent in accordance with the objectives of Shirati Foundation.

- The foundation's income is primarily used to offset expenses.
- A small portion (+/- 2%) of the income will be spent on overhead costs of the foundation, such as periodic bank account and website charges.
- The foundation has a non-profit motive. However, it does want to maintain a healthy buffer to withstand disappointing revenues. In addition, this is set aside to initiate new activities.

Board

Shirati Foundation has a board responsible for managing its assets.

The board consists of six people, namely a chairman a secretary, a treasurer, and three general board members.

- Chairman is Mr J.A. Beijneveld, resident in Amsterdam;
- Secretary is Mr J.J. Binnerts, resident in Amsterdam;
- Treasurer is Ms E.M. van der Lugt, resident in Nigtevecht;
- General board members are:
 - o V. von Salmuth, resident in Amsterdam; project head of Shirati Food Programme

- o M.L. van het Nederend, resident in Amsterdam; head of communications & IT
- o M.T. Koning, resident in The Hague; treasurer and project head of Schistosomiasis Outreach Project

Board activities

Meetings

The board meets a minimum of four times a year, either physically or online, for a board meeting. Minutes of these are kept and stored.

Activities

The following activities are carried out under the responsibility of the board:

- Selecting, setting up and supervising projects;
- Selecting other uses of income.
- Raising funds to finance other activities;

Finance

The board is responsible for sound financial management. The tasks involved include:

- Prepare an annual budget;
- Adopt and approve annual financial statements;
- Managing funds;
- Spending the funds and maintaining a financial buffer.

Remuneration of board members

Board members receive no remuneration for their board work.

Monitoring & evaluation

For the financial year of 2022, due to its brevity, no external auditing will be requested yet. This will be planned for the end of the financial year of 2023, and then yearly henceforth. For internal control and monitoring, the Shirati Foundation works with two treasurers, for two-way evaluation.