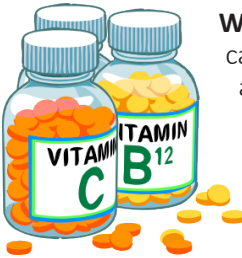


Health & Nutrition

Child mortality in the developing world is a big concern.

Every year, more than 10 million children die before the age of five from causes that are easily prevented in the developed world. Half of the children in developing countries who die before the age of five, are killed by diseases or illnesses like *HIV/AIDS*, *diarrhea*, *malaria*, *measles* and *pneumonia*. These children lack access to the essential services that would help them recover from the preventable diseases and illnesses that are killing children by the millions.



We Charity recognizes the link between helping disadvantaged people meet their basic health care needs and building strong communities. Over the years, the **Health pillar** has become as effective, sustainable and cost-effective as possible. To ensure the success of its programs, **WE Charity** often works closely with the government in many ways to ensure their health care practices align with the government's national priorities, and in most cases, partners with the government to administer health care in communities where we work. Their programs generally focus on health education and preventative care, allowing children to remain healthy and able to go to school.

Meet Alice

Alice Cheborgei says that, thanks to **WE Charity's** Baraka Health Clinic in the Narok South District of Kenya, health care in her community has undergone a vast improvement. For the first time, families like Alice's now have access to immediate and inexpensive medical services. It's a much-appreciated change from the way health care used to be. As the 35-year-old housewife and mother of six explains, locals used to have to travel to Longisa hospital to see a doctor and receive medical treatment. It was a journey she made twice, once when she had malaria and again when her eldest child did. But for most of her neighbours, the trip was prohibitively long. As Alice explains, the sick would usually just "stay home" because of the distance.

This situation took quite a toll on the community. And not just on its health: "Without good health I am not able to do anything in my farm and even my business," says Alice, adding that, without available medical services in the community, "the economy will go down because when people are sick they cannot produce."



With its fast and easily available treatment and an ambulance to cut down on travel time, the Baraka Health Clinic is keeping people healthy and allowing them to focus on their work. It's even helped to decrease the number of cases of illness in the area through preventative health training for local mamas. Through the clinic, Alice and the other women in her community group have learned to stave off disease with simple household measures such as boiling water before drinking it. For Alice, the Baraka Health Clinic's presence in the community has been an empowering one, not only ensuring the well-being of community members, but also giving women the knowledge and confidence to keep their families healthy. As Alice says, describing her gratitude for the clinic and its founders, "To me, **WE Charity** means development and positive change."

"Health & Nutrition" Activity



Ask your children to think about and respond to the following questions:
Make a list of the responses as you go.

What do you do when you get sick? 

(Tell parents, check temperature, take medicine, etc.)

What can your parents do to help you? 

(Tuck you into bed, make you soup, give you medicine, take you to the doctor, etc.)

What can the doctor do to help you? 

(Check for infections, medicine, send you to the hospital or a specialist, etc.)

What would happen if you couldn't go to a doctor or didn't have a hospital nearby? 

Discussion Opportunity!

Talk with your children about the fact that more than 10 million children, under the age of five, in the developing world do not have access to a lot of the things that are available in more developed countries—like doctors, medicines, healthy meals, clean water, etc.



Your participation in Dance-A-Thon will help to provide children and families living in the community of Oltepesi in Tanzania, Africa, with free access to medical care, health clinics, medicines and medical supplies, as well as educational programs that teach residents how to be healthier by washing their hands and boiling water.

