



FROM DAR ES SALAAM TO ISUSUMIYA VILLAGE: A ONCE-IN-A LIFETIME JOURNEY OF CARE.



THE BEGINNING

In Isusumiya village in Chemba District, reaching the dispensary means traveling along a long, dusty road that is often rough and difficult to navigate. During the rainy season, the journey becomes even more challenging as the path turns muddy and slippery.

The nearest town feels far away, and everyday conveniences that many people take for granted, like visiting a salon, can become rare luxuries.

For Noela Nebukadneza Peter, these challenges are part of daily life. Noela is a registered Nurse and a proud participant of the Benjamin William Mkapa Foundation's Mkapa Fellowship Program.

She left the busy city of Dar es Salaam to serve in the remote Chemba District at Isusumiya Dispensary, a small facility that many families depend on.

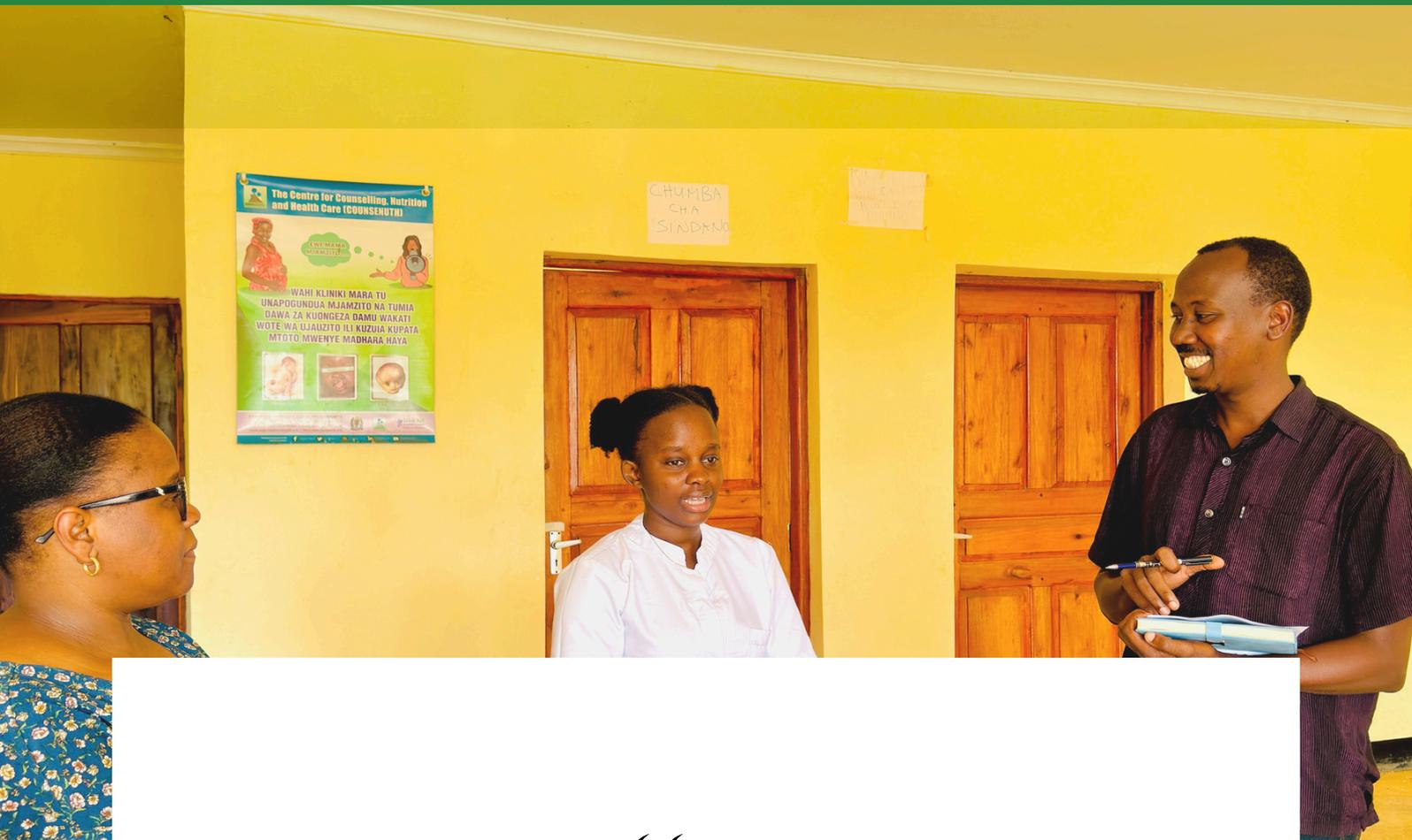


SHE CHOSE TO STAY AND SERVE

But what makes Noela's story remarkable is simple: she is the only nurse at the facility. A dispensary powered by One.

Every morning, before the village fully wakes up, Noela begins her work. As the only nurse at Isusumiya dispensary, she carries many responsibilities, attending to pregnant mothers, providing postnatal care, treating children, and responding to emergencies. In places where health workers are scarce, access to care can mean the difference between life and death.

For mothers in Isusumiya, Noela has become more than just a nurse. She has become a source of reassurance.



IN NOELA'S WORDS



“

Pregnant mothers come here because they know someone will listen to them and care for them, she says. ”

The dispensary is often the first place women turn to when they feel the first signs of labor or when they need antenatal check-ups. Mothers arrive on foot, by bicycle, or sometimes after long rides on motorcycles from surrounding villages. And waiting for them is me. She says while smiling.

SAME HAIRSTYLE FOR MONTHS



Working in a remote area means embracing a different rhythm of life. The distance to town and the rough roads make travel difficult. Sometimes months pass before Noela can make the journey for personal errands. Even simple things, like changing her hairstyle, must wait.

“It can stay the same for months,” she laughs.

But these sacrifices are part of a much larger commitment: ensuring that mothers and babies receive safe, respectful care.

Through the Mkapa Fellowship Program, health professionals like Noela are placed in underserved communities where they are needed the most.

For Isusumiya village, that placement changed everything. Building Trust, One Mother at a Time



NOELA IS CHANGING THE STORY.

Before Noela arrived, many pregnant women hesitated to visit the health facility. Some preferred delivering at home due to distance, lack of staff, or uncertainty about the services available. Today, that story is changing.

Women now come earlier for antenatal visits. They return for follow-ups. They encourage their neighbors to seek care.



Noela's work may seem quiet and unseen. But every safe delivery, every healthy newborn, and every confident mother tells a different story.

It is the story of how one dedicated health worker can transform access to maternal and child health care. And through the Mkapa Fellowship Program funded by Irish Aid, that impact continues to reach communities that need it most.

“They tell other mothers, ‘Go to the dispensary. Nurse Noela is there,’” she shares.

NOELA'S WORDS



BUILDING OF TRUST

That trust is powerful. It means more mothers are delivering safely. It means newborns are receiving care from the very beginning of life.



For the mothers of Isusumiya, Noela is not just the only nurse. she is the reason they believe the dispensary is a place of safety, care, and new beginnings

