

CORK–SINGIDA PARTNERSHIP

NEWSLETTER • SEPTEMBER 2026

Registered Charity No. CHY 8586

Forty years of partnership, supporting health and community programmes in Singida, Tanzania

Dear Friends and Supporters,

This newsletter provides an update for Cork-Singida Partnership members, UCC staff and the wider community on recent and current projects supported by the Partnership in the Singida Region of Tanzania. For more than 40 years, the Cork-Singida Partnership has connected supporters in Cork with practical projects in Singida. This update covers three rural dispensary and health-centre projects supported through the Diocese of Singida, together with two Faraja Centre Community-based Health Care programmes supported by the Medical Missionaries of Mary.

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION Health-centre upgrade • Clean water installed • More than 99% of requested equipment purchased

RURAL DISPENSARIES AND HEALTH CENTRES

Iguguno | From dispensary to health centre

Located 30 km from Singida, Iguguno serves an estimated 20,000 people across 28 nearby villages. In 2024, €13,000 was sought towards a new building with a four-bed labour ward, a 16-24 bed post-delivery ward, reproductive and child health facilities, and a clinic for mothers and fathers. With additional support from other benefactors, the work has now been completed beyond the original request. Iguguno has been upgraded to a health centre with expanded maternity and delivery rooms and operating-theatre capacity. It can now provide medical and obstetric emergency care, including caesarean sections, blood transfusion following post-partum haemorrhage, and some additional surgical procedures.

Chemchem | Clean and safe running water

Built in the 1950s and located 116 km from Singida, Chemchem serves five villages with a combined population of 26,500. The area experiences severe poverty, limited infrastructure and very low annual rainfall, placing a reliable source of clean water among the dispensary's most urgent needs. In 2024, one Partnership member provided €8,300 for a solar pump, water tower and distribution system. With a small amount of funding raised locally, the project has now been fully and successfully completed.

Heka | Essential medical equipment

Heka Dispensary opened in 1997. Located 100 km from Singida, it serves a population of approximately 85,000. The dispensary requested 40 basic items, particularly to support pregnant women and children under five. These included an examination lamp, autoclave, baby warmer, stretcher, trolley, examination bed, nebuliser, suction machine, urine analyser, blood-pressure monitor, weighing scales and wheelchairs. More than 99% of the requested medical devices have now been purchased.

FARAJA CENTRE PROGRAMMES

Hospice and Palliative Care | Care at home, free to patients

The Faraja Centre provides home-based hospice and palliative care without charge to patients. Its work supports the whole person and the family.

- Identify patients and provide holistic home-based care addressing physical, psychological, spiritual and social needs.
- Educate and support family members and caregivers.
- Build community understanding of chronic disease, especially cancer, beginning with local government and healthcare personnel.

The programme has seven full-time staff: one doctor, four palliative-care nurses, one pharmacy technician and one driver. They are supported by 43 Palliative Care Health Workers drawn from all 18 wards of Singida Municipality, creating a direct link with local communities serving circa 300 patients.

The Cork-Singida Partnership helps to fund salaries for some full-time staff and stipends for 10 community palliative-care workers.

Human Trafficking | Awareness, prevention and community action

Human trafficking is a serious health and human-rights issue. Poverty, unemployment, instability, conflict and weak governance can increase vulnerability. Forced labour, forced marriage and sexual exploitation remain major concerns across Africa. Working within Tanzania's anti-trafficking framework, Faraja CBHC raises awareness throughout the 18 wards of Singida Municipality. The Partnership is helping to finance work that increases public understanding and reduces the severe effects of trafficking. Activities include training for community health workers, teachers, local government authorities and religious leaders in schools, churches and mosques. The programme also supports advocacy with village and community decision-makers. Because trafficking is highly stigmatised, media and education - including social media and school clubs - are used to increase knowledge of its prevalence and consequences.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We are deeply grateful to everyone who has supported this work. You do not need to be a UCC staff member or pensioner to contribute: the Partnership also welcomes support from the wider community.

- Make a small regular contribution; eligible UCC staff may use monthly payroll deduction.
- Consider a once-off, lump-sum gift, to mark a retirement, anniversary or other special occasion.
- Remember the Cork-Singida Partnership through a bequest or legacy.
- Share this newsletter with colleagues, friends and newly recruited staff.

Learn more and download the Payroll Authorisation Form: www.ucc.ie/en/singida/

Thank you for helping practical, locally delivered services reach rural impoverished communities in Singida, Tanzania.