

## A SMILE THAT CONQUERED ALL ODDS

Imagine growing up in Kikuyu, a small village in the Dodoma Municipality, with an inherent double disability which leaves you labelled as deaf and dumb. To make a difficult situation even worse, at the age of 7, you experience a traumatic road accident due to your lack of hearing and end up losing your right leg. Your health issues and disadvantages not only make you utterly depressed and hopeless, but also cause your family a great deal of suffering and uncertainty. Your widowed mother completely loses hope for your chances of a bright future. This is Pauline Ngalya's story.



Pauline with an artificial limb through SATF support

It wasn't until around October of last year that SATF heard of 14-year-old Pauline's tragic story from TIKVAH, our local implementing partner operating MVC programs in Dodoma. Pauline's mother was begging for assistance to get another artificial limb for Pauline after her previous prosthetic had fallen apart. Without her leg, Pauline could not attend tailoring classes at her vocational school in Singida. She was in dire need of a new, custom artificial limb to aid her movement and get back in to school.

SATF responded right away, knowing we could step up to help Pauline Ngalya and her family regain hope for her future. TIKVAH took the lead in finding a place to buy prosthetic limbs, and after much searching, a hospital appeared with the solution Pauline so desperately needed. In no time at all, she travelled to Bukoba Regional Hospital for the fitting of her new leg!

SATF could fortunately extend this one-time support to Pauline, enabling her to return to tailoring at her vocational school in Singida. On top of that, thanks to her new prosthetic, Pauline can walk and function normally again and manage her day to day tasks at home and school.

Pauline is not alone, but one of three disabled girls from around the Dodoma Municipal suburbs who have received education and health support from SATF since 2016.

Pauline's smile has returned, showing just how much she has overcome in her young life. She can now look forward to achieving her hopes of becoming a tailor and living independently and as a productive member of society.