



# ESCAPE PROJECT SUCCESS STORY

## “Waiting for Sunscreen Lotions”

---

*Story by Denis Robert, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, ADRA Tanzania - [denis@adratanzania.org](mailto:denis@adratanzania.org)*

“Eight months down the line, and no sunscreen lotions at the Dodoma Tanzania Albinism Society (TAS) Offices., I come here every morning to check, and all I’ve found are empty words as you can see. However as I still wait for the sunscreen lotions, here comes the Tanzania: ESCAPE team to give me what I have long waited for”.



*Figure 1 Victoria, at Dodoma Regional Hospital premises after receiving Aveeno Sunscreen Lotion, May 19, 2021*

Victoria was born in 1993 in Hombolo Village, Chamwino District, Tanzania. She lives with her sister who is also a person with albinism. Victoria is the youngest in a family of four children born with albinism. Her two older brothers died due to skin cancer.

Victoria explained to the Tanzania project team that finding sunscreen lotion has become a challenge since COVID-19 started in March last year. As a result, the Regional Dermatologists



**ADRA**

Training Center (RDTC) at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center (KCMC) responsible for producing the Kilimanjaro Sun care lotions, closed due to shortage of funds.

“It is very sad!” exclaimed Victoria, who was challenged many times to decide between food for the day or much needed sunscreen. In Tanzania, one tube of sunscreen lotion is sold for \$35,000 Tanzania shillings, the equivalent of \$15 USD or \$18.00 CAD. For most persons with albinism in Tanzania, sunscreen is a luxury as well as a necessity. Obtaining sunscreen lotion is always difficult so when Victoria heard that there would be clinic in Dodoma Regional Hospital, she saved the date and planned for the trip.







**ADRA**

**A word of appreciation from Victoria**

“I do not have enough words to thank you for this great gift to me and my fellow People with Albinism (PWAs). Being able to come to the mobile clinic and receiving sunscreen lotions at the same time is a such a blessing. I thank you for touching our lives. We had a sunscreen shortage for many months but finally here we are with sunscreen lotions again, no more smearing cooking oil on our skin. Most of the time when the RDTC doctors distributed sunscreen lotions, there was not enough for all of us.

It is my hope that this gift of Aveeno sunscreen lotions will be given to other PWAs who are suffering like us, you will only know the value of this gift of sunscreen lotions if you have been in a tough environment like myself. Please do not stop here, continue to help PWAs so that they can be safe from sun rays” says Victoria.

*ADRA Canada, in cooperation with ADRA Tanzania, Health Professionals International Canada, and Manitoba Council for International Cooperation has launched the Early Skin Cancer Awareness, Prevention and Engagement (ESCAPE) Project in partnership with Tanzania Albinism Society, Standing Voice, and local health professionals and agencies. Our goal is to distribute much needed sunscreen, engage communities in a public awareness campaign and work with local dermatologists and public health agencies to identify and treat early skin cancer in Persons with Albinism across six regions in Tanzania.*

**Thank you, God Bless you!**