

# ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL MONTHLY BULLETIN

JANUARY 2021 VOLUME 1

## MESSAGE FROM THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Colleagues

I would like to welcome you to the first monthly bulletin for St. Francis Hospital. It is my sincere hope that through this monthly bulletin we will be able share with our colleagues and partners the various developmental milestones that is taking place at the hospital, our aspirations and the challenges we are facing as an institution.

Since its inception in 1948, the vision of the hospital has been to serve the people of Zambia particularly the vulnerable by providing quality, cost effective and affordable health services.



The Hospital continued to of excellence provision of services in Surgery and

receiving referrals from within and outside the Province.

I think we have been able to achieve this because of the support of Government and various partners who have stood with us even in difficult times.

The immerse support of

Government and the partners is greatly appreciated and valued.

They 2020 was yet another difficult year especially with the outbreak of COVID 19 which has only created fear among our people but has also put a lot strain on scarce resources.

I look forward to this new year with a lot of optimism despite the many challenges that have come with the COVID 19 pandemic.

has be a Centre in the health especially, Obstetrics.

### **Farewell:**

The hospital bade farewell to Mrs. Esther Manda Nursing Officer and Mrs. Xoliswa Silanda – Principal Tutor who retired after a long service at the hospital and the Nursing Training College respectively.

And welcomes Ms. Victoria Tembo who joins the school as a new Principal Tutor.

### **Bereavement:**

On a sad note a dark cloud fell over the hospital in December when Dr. Jansen Joop whom most of us remember as a

dedicated medical officer passed on.

Just the month was closing its curtains another member of staff

Mr. Bruno Mwale the Senior Environmental Health Technologist succumbed to COVID 19 at Kalindawalo General Hospital on 31.01.21.

## UPDATES ON THE PROJECTS

A number of projects have been taking place with the support of our all-weather partners. Some of them were completed in 2020 while others are still in progress.

### 1. Renovation of the Pharmacy Block

The renovation of the Pharmacy Block which started at the beginning of 2020 was completed at the end of 2020. The project was supported by the Medical Support Group (MSG) of Netherlands. The hospital has procured furniture for the department while Medical Stores Limited has promised to give us shelves. The renovated building has been a very motivator to the staff as they have to work in a very conducive and clean environment.



## Background

St Francis' Hospital is a 2<sup>nd</sup> level hospital located in Katete off the Great East Road in the Eastern Province of Zambia about 490km from Lusaka and about 85km from Chipata, the Provincial town. The Hospital is jointly managed by the Zambia Anglican Council and The Catholic Church (Eastern Diocese).

The Hospital provides services in medical, obstetrics and gynecology, surgery, ophthalmology, and pediatrics.

It also provides advanced specialized healthcare to patients in Orthopedic surgery, Obstetric fistula, Urology and plastic and cosmetic surgery through visiting specialist Doctors.

The other services provided by the hospital include Laboratory, Dental, Radiology, Physiotherapy, Eye, Cervical Cancer screening, Gender Based Violence Survivor Support (GBV) and HIV/AIDS services.

St Francis' Hospital has a nursing college with four programmes; Registered Nursing, Public Health Nursing, Midwifery and the abridged programme for Enrolled to Registered Nurse conversion.

The hospital also hosts medical, nursing, clinical officer and paramedical students, from within and outside the country for placement in various fields.

### Availability of Drugs and Medical supplies

The hospital continued to experience stock out of essential drugs and medical supplies, though there was an improvement in the month of January with improved supply from Medical Stores Limited especially the intravenous fluids. The hospital prioritized the procurement of drugs and medical supplies from the monthly grants and the National Health Insurance reimbursement.

### COVID 19

The month of January was a very difficult month for the hospital as a number of staff and students tested positive for COVID 19 and had to stay away from work and classes. There was a lot of fear among the members of staff.

## 2. Intern Doctors' flats

The flats for the intern doctors are almost complete save for the minor external and internal decorations thanks to Beit trust for supporting this project.



Beit trust flats

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## 3. Staff house

The construction of the Andrew Cairns house at the hospital has since being completed.



Andrew Cairns house

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#### 4. Construction of Physiotherapy Building

The construction of the Physiotherapy building which will also house the Gym, medical records and the pharmacy central supply unit is progressing well despite the rains. The project has been financed by MSG and Wilde geese.



Physiotherapy building at construction

## UPDATES ON THE PROJECTS

### **OXYGEN PLANT:**

The hospital finally received the long waited oxygen plant. After a long time of planning, fundraising, and anxious waiting the truck carrying the plant arrived at the hospital on the morning.

We had to figure out how to remove the plant from the container and placing it in the half completed building which was to house the plant. The operational was which took about five hours delicate with no room for error. In the midst of the drizzling rains, the plant and the set of oxygen cylinders were finally and safely placed in the building.

The completion of the building started the following day, though the progress has been hindered by the heavy rains that the District has been facing in the recent weeks.

The installation of the oxygen plant will yet be another successful story and a major milestone not only for the hospital but for the entire Province and Ministry of Health as well.

The hospital is heavily indebted to the trustees of Friends of St. Francis Hospital(FoSf) in general and Andrew Cairns in particular for his role in the pursuit of this project.



The oxygen plant house under construction



Witnessing the arrival of the oxygen plant at the hospital.

## HEALTH PROGRAMMES AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

### Eye Programme

The Canadian Blind Mission approved the proposal to resume funding the eye programme at the hospital.



St. Francis Eye clinic

**FLYSPEC Support**

The flyspeck continued to support the hospital through Dr. Moyo; the Orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. Goran Jovic the Pilot/plastic surgeon and Dr. Nenad the Urologist who regularly visited the hospital to provide specialized services to the community of Eastern Province.

**Provision of prosthetic and orthotic devices.**

Our UK partner 500 miles has continued to support people with disabilities in Eastern Province by providing prosthetic and orthotic devices.

**HIV/AIDS Programme**

Churches Health Association of Zambia (CHAZ) has been very instrumental in the provision of HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention at the hospital CHAZ has supported the provision of Anti- Retroviral Therapy, Voluntary Male Medical Circumcision services and management of Multi Drug Resistant Tuberculosis. The Provincial Health Office (Eastern) with support from Centre for Disease Control(CDC) has also supported the HIV/AIDS programme especially with the provision of infrastructure, equipment, dedicated Health staff and Technical support.

At the end of 2020, the hospital had a total number of 5,173 patients on ART.



CHAZ donated a motorbike to ease the transportation of samples.

**Water and sanitation programme**

In order to improve access to clean and sufficient water at the hospital, Logie Legacy provided a grant to sink one borehole and procure the submersible pump. However, the project will have to be delayed because of the raising underground water levels during this period the drilling companies have advised that this could not be a better time to drill the borehole.

**Vesico- vaginal fistula repair programme**

The fistula foundation continued to restore the dignity of women who are affected by this dehumanizing condition by conducting the repair of VVF. St. Francis Hospital has been designated as a treatment center for VVF.

In 2020, three camps were conducted at the hospital and a total number of 105 women were screened for VVF while 78 repairs were conducted. The women were supported with transport to and from their villages and other logistics.

This year the first camp started on 31<sup>st</sup> January and will run for seven days.

**Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) programme**

The Friends of St. Francis Hospital has continued to support vulnerable children in primary, secondary and tertiary schools with school fees and other educational materials in order to enable them complete their education. Without this support, most of these children would have been out of school. There are 824 children being supported under the OVC programme.

**Volunteer Doctors programme**

The number of volunteer doctors arriving at the hospital has significantly reduced since the outbreak of corona virus in December, 2019. Dr. Rikke Ebenhard Hoejland the Anesthesiologist and her family came to the hospital in November, 2019 and left at the end of October, 2020. She was very valuable in theatre and the management of critical care patients in the Intensive Care Unit. Dr. Liza de Boer joined the Obstetric team in June, 2020 on a six months stay and left at the beginning of this year.

Currently there are two volunteer Doctors, Dr. Thanwhweer joined the hospital in December, 2020 to link up with Dr. Tim Wiggins who has been around since 2016.

**Valuable donations of COVID 19 materials.**

The hospital is greatly indebted to the Government and various partners who donated assorted equipment and Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) towards the fight against COVID 19. The donations included Oxygen concentrators (10), infra- red thermometers (10) among other items from the Ministry of Health.

The other partners who donated PPEs, Handwashing stations, infra- red thermometers included but not limited to:

- Fistula Foundation
- Friends of St. Francis Hospital
- Medical Support Group
- Logie Legacy
- CHAZ
- Red Cross Society
- World Vision International

**Health status**

Indicator	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Outpatient attendances	19,397	19,271	19,851	16,708
Total admissions	3,611	3,824	4,151	3,698
Total deliveries	858	891	1,158	981
Caesarean Sections	356	347	463	363
% of Caesarean Sections	42%	39%	40%	
Number of maternal deaths	1	5	2	3
Cervical cancer screening	699	372	344	322
Suspected Invasive Cervical Cancer	9	12	10	5
Major operations	788	638	1,019	747
Minor operations	729	736	793	701

The number of patients accessing health services at the hospital has generally remained high over the years.

Trauma mainly due to Road Traffic Accidents, Burns and falls continued to be the major reason for admissions. The hospital being situated on the busy Great East Road which is a gateway to Mozambique and Malawi receives a lot of victim accidents mostly with head injuries. The management of such patients is usually challenging as the hospital does not have a CT or MRI Scan and has to take patients to the Provincial Hospital for CT Scans.

Cardiovascular Diseases such as Hypertension also ranked among the major causes of morbidity and mortality among the adults.

Prematurity, asphyxia and neonatal sepsis was the major cause of morbidity and mortality among the neonates.





The Medical Superintendent Dr. Lalick Banda flanked by the Head Clinical Care Dr. Dayson Kumwenda and Father Samson Mwanza; the Hospital Chaplain addressing staff(below) during the General Meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2020



Tim Legge posing for a photo with St. Francis Football team during his recent visit to the hospital in January, 2021. The team plays in the Football Association of Zambia (National Football Association) Division 1 and the time of writing this report was sitting on 3<sup>rd</sup> position after six games having lost only one game.



Part of the Management team during the meeting. Management meets Monday morning to discuss the running of the hospital.



The Intensive Care Unit is critical to the provision of critical care to patients.



During the opening of The Obstetric Theatre and Labour ward High Dependence Unit in December, 2020 by the Ministry of Health Permanent Secretary (Administration) Dr. Kennedy Malama



His Lordship Bishop William Muchombo posing for a photo with the National Health Insurance staff (above) during the branding of the hospital.

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