

## ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL

### REPORT ON THE VESICO VAGINAL FISTULA(VVF) SURGICAL CAMP CONDUCTED AT ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL, KATETE.



#### 1. Introduction

Vesico-vaginal fistula (VVF) is an abnormal opening between the bladder and the vagina that results in continuous and unremitting urinary incontinence. The condition is one among the most distressing complications of gynecologic and obstetric procedures. Eastern Province is just many rural Provinces has a high number of women afflicted with this condition.

The Fistula Foundation of Zambia in partnership with St. Francis Hospital has been conducting VVF repairs in the Province using St. Francis Hospital as a treatment site.

The Medical Support Group of Netherlands working with the Late Dr. Jansen Joop have been supporting the camp through the provision of supplementary surgical supplies.

Dr. Joop was very passionate the fistula work and dedicated his life in promoting the restoration of the women dignity through the fistula repairs.

#### 2. VVF surgical Camp

The VVF camp was conducted from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2022 with a team of visiting surgeons who were supported by the local surgeons.

A total number of 36 patients were admitted for assessment and 28 surgeries were conducted as follows:

1. VVF repairs- 13
2. Perineal tears- 6
3. RVF- 3
4. Ureteric fistulas repairs-2
5. Anterior Colporrhaphy- 3
6. EUA+ Biopsy-1

The eight had other conditions and were referred to the other departments for appropriate treatment.

The success rate at the end of the treatment was 100% and the patients were successfully discharged.

### 3. Mobilization Support

The Fistula Foundation conducted an intensive community sensitization through the radio programmes and use of the Fistula champions to create awareness about the camp. The patients were transported to the treatment site and were supported with basic groceries and food during their stay in the hospital. Upon discharge, they were transported to their various homes and they were given a home pack containing toiletries and a chitenge wrappers.

The patients came from the ten Districts in Eastern Province as indicated in the table below.

SN	District	Total number patients	Number of patients who underwent VVF repair
1.	Chipata	8	2
2.	Chasefu	6	1
3.	Vubwi	5	3
4.	Nyimba	5	2
5.	Petauke	4	2
6.	Katete	3	1
7.	Lundazi	2	0
8.	Sinda	1	1
9.	Chadiza	1	0
10	Kasenengwa	1	1
	Total	36	13

#### 4. Procurement of medical supplies

The hospital received a total amount of 770 Euros (ZMK12, 960.00) towards the support of the camp. The funds were used to procure IV fluids as the fluids were out of stock at the time and this is critical item during the operations.

#### 4. Appreciation

The hospital would like to thank the MSG and the Fistula Foundation for supporting VVF camp hospital. The programme is assisting a lot of women in the Province who are afflicted with this condition to get treatment. Each woman left a hospital with a unique story to tell.



Some of the patients preparing to go home after discharge.