

# St. Francis Hospital monthly news bulletin

## March, 2021



### Upcoming events

- VVF camp 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2021
- Orthopedic Surgeon visit 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2021

## Dear friends and partners of St. Francis Hospital

Thank you for taking time to read this news bulletin.

The purpose of this news bulletin is to keep you updated on the events taking place at the hospital.

This month, we warmly welcome Dr. Laura Bowell a volunteer Doctor who has joined us from United Kingdom on a six months' contract.

Sadly, we will miss the services of Mr. Masulani Shumba (Information, communication and Technology Officer) who has been transferred on

promotion to Smart Zambia in Chipata. We congratulate him on this well-deserved promotion and we wish him well.

To all our partners we can only say thank you for your continued support.

**Dr. Lalick O.C. Banda**



Dr. Lalick Banda

Medical Superintendent

## Waiters empowered with knowledge

Pregnant women who are at risk of developing maternal complications during delivery are admitted to the waiting shelter for close monitoring. The women come from all the corners of the Province. They are often referred to as "waiters". Some of these mothers have never been to school while others dropped out of school either at primary or secondary level. Most of them especially the young ones are willing to go back to school after they deliver.



It is for this reason that the hospital saw it fit to introduce academic lessons for the waiters.

On Tuesday and Thursdays, waiters are given lessons on ante-natal care. These include, birth preparedness, signs and symptoms of labor among others.

The mothers are taught in Chewa because the majority do not understand English. The lessons are repeated every now and then for the sake of the new comers. Every day there are new admissions to the waiters.



A teacher giving lessons to mothers.



**Mothers during lessons**

## Waiters empowered with knowledge

The waiters are being taught by the teachers under special education from Jersey Primary and Secondary Schools. The first lesson was done on 8th April 2021. The first lesson was in literacy and they were taught on vowels and syllables.

Tim Legge and the Christian Aware Team have been providing funds for the procurement of school requisites.

We are appealing to other well-wishers to support this education programme.

Remember" knowledge is a precious gift we can ever give to these mothers."

There are usually between 80 to 120 waiters at a time and they are very excited at this opportunity.



**Dr. Laura Bowell**

## Progress on the projects

### **1. Construction of physiotherapy building in fast lane**

The construction of the physiotherapy building is progressing at a very unprecedented speed. Barely four months of the commencement of the project, the contractor has covered a lot of ground and the project is estimated to be at 80% completion. The project which is scheduled to take 10 months is likely to be completed ahead of schedule.

### **2. Oxygen plant housing in major boost**

The major works on the oxygen plant housing which includes the installation of electrical and plumbing fittings have been done. The Muslim Association in Katete and Chipata Districts building donated materials worth K40,000.00 towards the completion of the building.

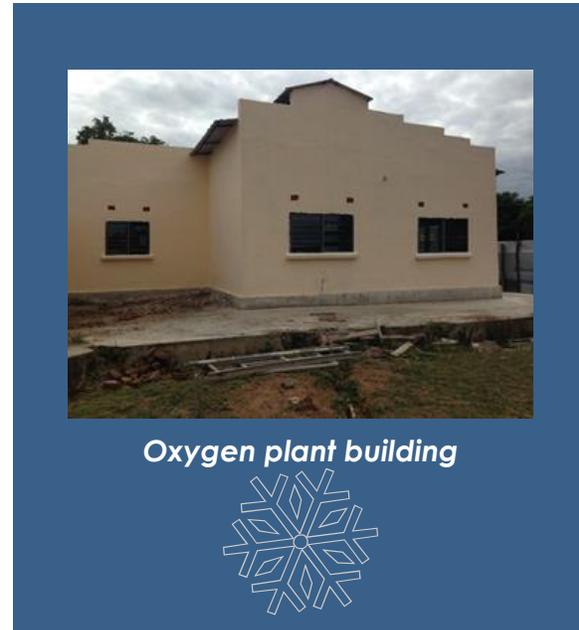


*The physiotherapy building under construction*

**St. Francis Hospital,**  
**Private bag 11, Katete,**  
**ZAMBIA.**  
**Cell no.0963506695**  
**Email:**  
**sfmh@sfmhzambia.com**  
**website:supportstfrancis**  
**hospital.org**

## CBM Project Starts.

For a long time CBM which means Christian Blind Mission has supported the eye services at St. Francis' Hospital. The last programme ended in April 2019. This year a new project P4079 was launched. It is a multi-year programme that will last until 31st December 2023. This will see cataract surgeries done on patients in Katete and 5 other surrounding districts and screening for secondary school pupils in Katete for refractive errors.



Oxygen plant building



## By Dr. John Y. Mvula

! In March, three schools were visited, namely: Katete Girls Boarding, Kafumbwe Boarding and Kapoche Day Secondary schools. Screenings were done for refractive errors. A total of 335 pupils were screened with a total of 81 pupils found to have refractive errors. Pupils with refractive errors were referred to St. Francis hospital for both subjective and objective refraction and prescription of glasses.



Dr. Banda receiving donations from the Muslim Association



Eye screening during the school eye outreach

## Key Performance indicators

indicator	Quarter 1 2020	Quarter 2 2020	Quarter 3 2020	Quarter 4 2020	Quarter 1 2021
Total number of OPD attendances	3375	5576	6224	5774	9,218
Total admissions	3525	3824	4151	4030	3,483
Total deliveries	858	891	1158	981	933
Cesarean sections	356	347	463	363	346
<b>% C/S</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>
Birth asphyxia	27	18	30	36	16
Fresh stillbirths	14	16	16	26	11
Macerated stillbirths	13	11	16	24	25
Maternal deaths	1	5	2	3	7
Major operations	788	638	793	701	461
Minor operations	729	736	1016	747	407

## Highlights of the month

### 1. *Mbusa wa bwino gets a facelift*

In the continuous stride to improve the infrastructure at the hospital, the pediatric ward also known as 'Mbusa wa bwino' (good shepherd) was recently painted and redecorated. The ward looks very refreshing and certainly provides a conducive environment for speed healing.

### 2. *St. Francis Hospital provides support to health facilities in the District*

The St. Francis team conducted an integrated outreach activity in nine health centers in Katete District, from 9th to 30th March, 2021 in order to equip staff with skills and competences in the management of Maternal and Child Health as well as Pediatric and Adolescent Anti- Retroviral Therapy(ART).

The team also conducted cervical cancer screening and sensitization to women who could otherwise have to walk long distances to access the services at the hospital.

A total of 520 women were screened for cervical cancer and four women were found with suspected Invasive Cervical Carcinoma(ICC) and were referred for further treatment.

### 3. *St. Francis participates in the virtual Provincial Integrated Meeting(PIM)*

The hospital took part and presented at a two days 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter,2020 PIM which was held virtually due to the Corona virus restrictions. The PIM was held from 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. This is an important forum where the performance of all the facilities in all programmes are discussed.

### 4. *The cardiac probe is finally procured*

In 2019, the hospital received some funds from the Logie legacy to procure the cardiac probe. The numbers of suppliers have been contacted to supply the probe over one year without success. Finally, we were able to get a supplier who responded to the supply of a probe meeting our specifications and finally the probe was delivered and is functioning well. This will increase the profile of investigations that the radiology department is able to perform and ultimately improve the delivery of health services rendered to the patients.



Re-decorated pediatric ward



Leaders of the Muslim Association paying a courtesy call on the Medical Superintendent during the donations of building materials for the Oxygen plant



Clinical Officers students from Chreso University and Lusaka Institute of Applied Sciences bidding farewell after 8 months of clinical attachment