



Mulanje Mission Hospital

Newsletter

November 2024

**Mulanje Mission Hospital
CCAP Blantyre Synod
PO Box 45 Mulanje
Malawi**

**E-mail:
director@mmh.mw**

**National Bank of Malawi
P.O. Box 945 Blantyre**

**Hospital accounts:
407275 (\$)
286818 (£)
380873 (€)**

**SWIFT CODE:
NBMAMWW**

Editorial comment

By Dickson Chisale

Dear friends, colleagues and partners all over the world.

This newsletter unmask some packages that are delivered beyond MMH walls. Our community outreach programs bring healthcare services directly to those who need them. Our collaborations with local chiefs, volunteers and the vulnerable people enhance the impact and foster a healthier community. One of the collaborative engagements is sighted in the article below by Sue Sabuni.

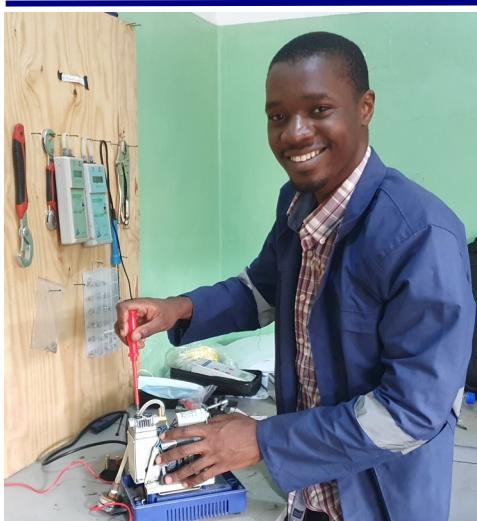
As a hospital, we among other programs treat patients with non-communicable diseases (NCDs) right in their communities through a well-functioning and funded primary health care department. Such NCDs include hypertension, diabetes and asthma. The program also extends its services to

palliative care (chronically and terminally ill patients who cannot go to the hospital by themselves to get medical care).

MMH has now become the center of healthcare excellence following the current award of a certificate of “TWO STARS” by Quality Management Directorate under the ministry of health, Malawi. This achievement symbolizes the collective efforts by MMH members of staff in service delivery.



New member of staff: Mphatso Lingalawe



I am a dedicated biomedical engineer with a strong passion for healthcare technology. My roles include conducting routine inspections, performing repairs and providing user trainings to staff on equipment. I believe in proactive maintenance to prevent failures, which directly impact patient care. As a biomedical engineer I contribute to improved patient outcomes by ensuring that healthcare providers have well-functioning medical equipment.

My name is Mphatso Lingalawe, I am 28 years of age. I'm a holder of Bachelor's degree in Biomedical Engineering (Honours) obtained from the Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences.

I have joined Mulanje Mission Hospital in August. I have already put a new oxygen system in place, trained nurses in the use of thermocoagulators and worked on maintenance plans so far apart from regular troubleshooting.

**Keep up to date with all the news from MMH.
MMH website is regularly updated**



**Visit our site at
www.mmh.mw**

**Please send feedback to
info@mmh.mw**

MMH organizes regular supervisory visits to Village Health Committees.

These committees are integrating many aspects of primary health care, such as antenatal care, hygiene and sanitation and nutrition. In Malawi's healthcare system, where qualified doctors and nurses are much scarcer than in many other countries, volunteers play an important role. They will actively seek for health problems and refer people to the hospital. It is often so much better to treat early stage disease than to deal with severe consequences later in time.

The volunteers of MMH are of great importance for the hospital and we really appreciate all their efforts!



△ Meeting of village health committee: these volunteers are an important part of the Primary Healthcare Department

Computer lessons at the Youth Centre



△ Interactive computer class at the Youth Centre

Young people and all those young at heart can now improve their computer skills at the Youth Centre. MMH is providing regular lessons but there is also time for practise at own pace. This investment aligns with Malawi's Digital Economic strategy—it is key that young people are able to learn the skills needed to excel and powerpoint and make the work more efficient. for an increasingly digitized economy. Staff at the hospital can also take part in classes. This will improve our mastering of programmes like word, We are grateful for those partners that make this work possible – in particular the Ardbarron Trust.

Staff house construction

- By Dr. Arie Glas



An existing building is currently being renovated into two staff houses with three bedrooms each. This will be needed when staff, currently on training, will return to the hospital. The building was previously in use as a hostel for primary care trainings, but these trainings now take place in the villages and the hostel therefore is no longer needed. The project is well underway and should be completed before Christmas.

◀ *New staff houses under construction*

MOYO/Ansbach für Malawi celebrates 10 years

- by Dr. Stefan Schwarz

This year, Ansbach für Malawi, also known as MOYO ("life" in Chichewa) celebrates its 10th birthday!

In the early 90s, Dr. Stefan Schwarz, worked at Mulanje Mission Hospital. He decided to set up this initiative together with a group of young people in 2014, to support the Mulanje region. His son, Martin, was born here in Malawi. MOYO/AfM support several programmes in the hospital. Stefan explains:

"MOYO/Ansbach für Malawi e.V. is situated in Southern Germany. For 10 years now we have collected money from our friends and sponsors to support activities in the Mulanje area in Malawi. We concentrate on projects in health and education. As we are a small association we cannot guarantee the support for long-term projects. Therefore we sponsor items like school buildings and contribute to MMH projects and hospital supplies. This year we had 200 school desks built by local carpenters. To raise money we send out newsletters to our sponsors and inform them by a



△ *Public lecture on topics about Malawi in Ansbach, Germany*

WhatsApp group about our activities. Once a year we have a public lecture on topics concerning Malawi. It is nice to see that a lot of people are interested although almost nobody here knew where Malawi is before MOYO/AfM appeared. As one of our partners in

Malawi likes to say: We are better together! " Funds have also been raised via a sports tournament.

At MMH, in recent years we have worked together in responding to Covid-19 and also in maintaining school gardens and livestock lessons at all 20 primary schools in our area.

Good data provides indisputable evidence which can be used to improve the day to day care for our patients.

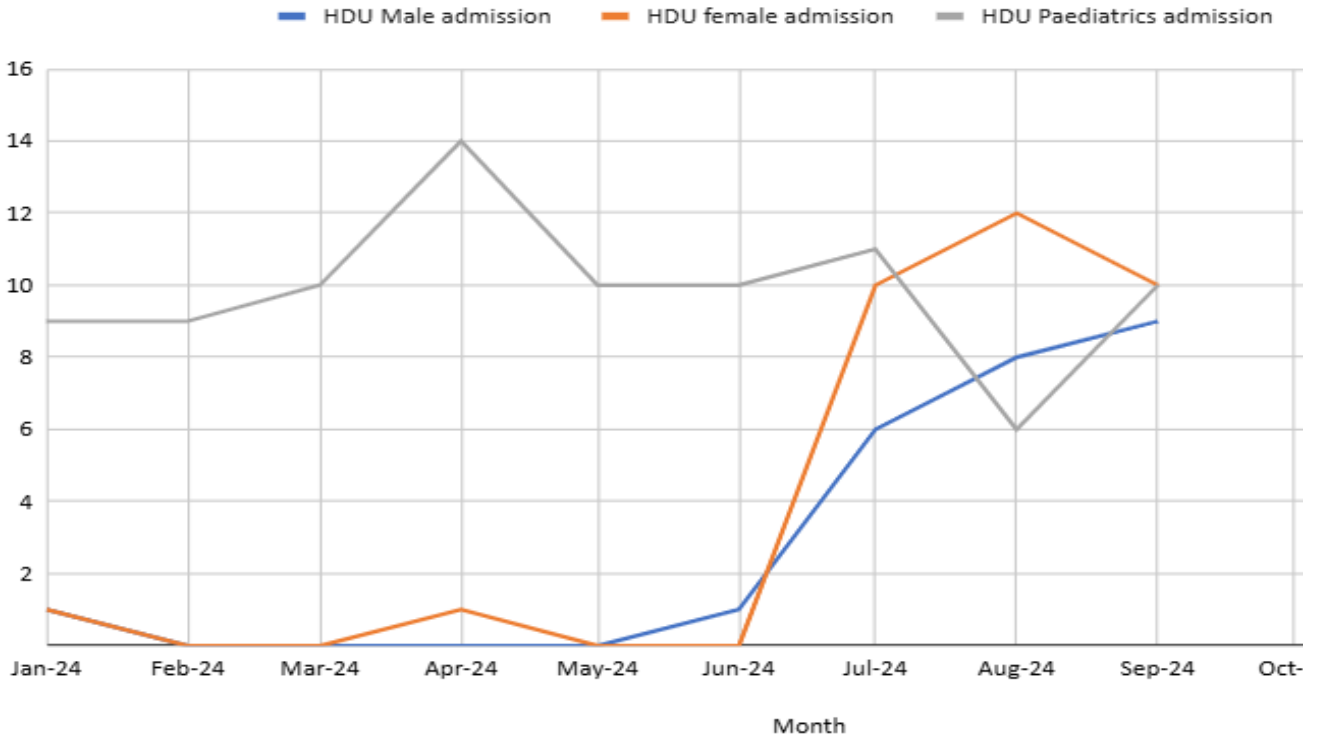
Last year, a data management system was launched. It is a

care provided for the sickest patients. A great improvement which results in lower workloads on the general wards and a reduction of the mortality in the hospital.

We also monitor our caesarean

between 10-15% (which may be on the lower side for Malawi). Since a maternity training and implementation of a new guideline in 2023 implemented, our CS rate has dropped significantly, without seeing more complications. This

HDU Admissions per ward



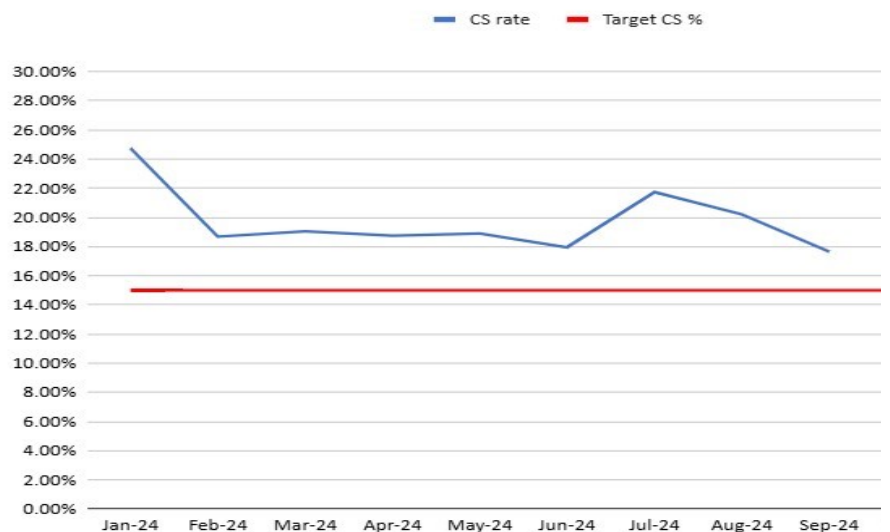
database that is accessible by everyone to see how the hospital is performing. Some of the indicators are: number of admissions and % of referrals to tertiary level, number of women receiving contraceptives (and types of contraceptives), number of newly diagnosed HIV patients with retention in care and data on viral load suppression and in-hospital mortality.

Some data that we would like to share with you is on High Dependency Unit (HDU) admissions. These have increased since June due to the recruitment of extra critical care nurses. We are now able to open the HDU full time and make a big difference in the quality of the

section (CS) rate which is currently around 19%. The worldwide rate is at 21% and the WHO advises a rate

suggests improved pro-active support of natural labour.

CS % VS Target CS %



Other interesting information is that since the opening of a new dental department in August this year, visits to the dentist have increased with about 40%. The new department is popular!

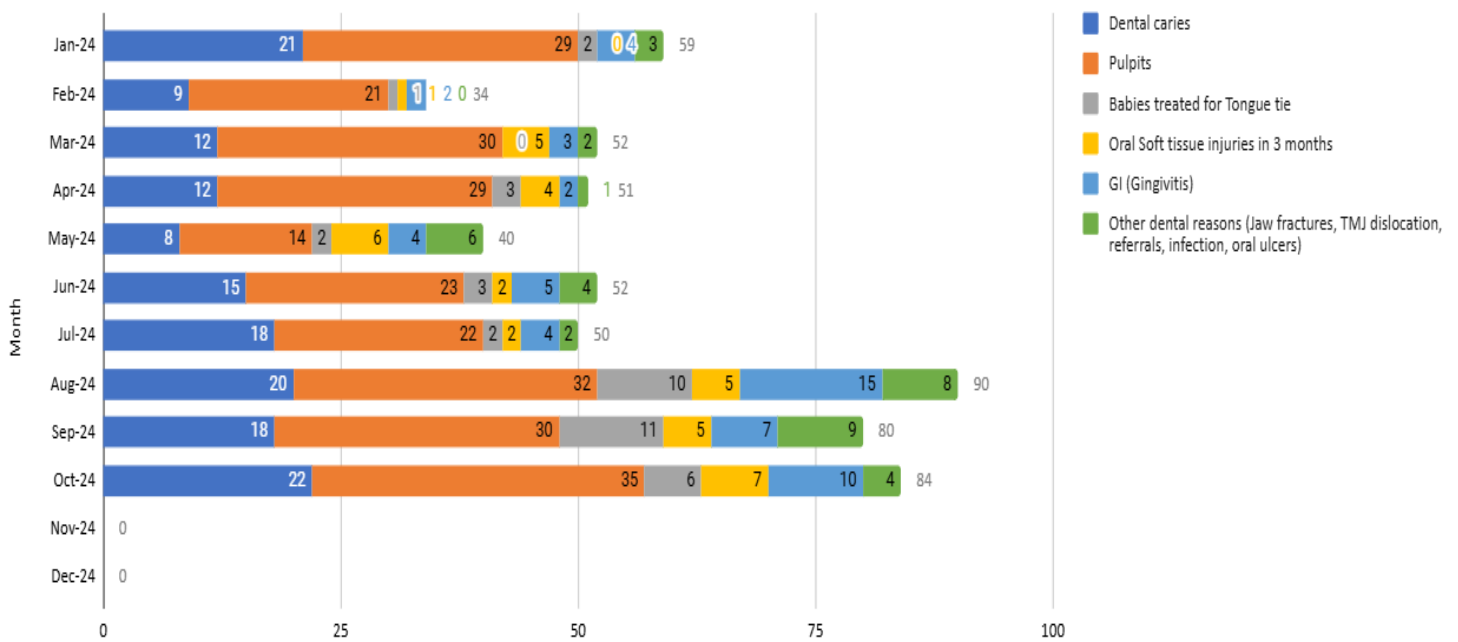
Over the coming years we want to improve on the collection and usage

of data with a hospital wide database for recording, reporting and decision making.

We also want to showcase our data on a national level and this way inspire other healthcare facilities and set an example. In the newly launched primary care programme

called Chitsanzo (meaning 'example'), this is one of many planned outcomes. We believe that a userfriendly data system with accessible records will help in improving patient care, better decision making and strengthening of communication at all levels.

Dentist numbers per month



The Bed Sponsorship Fund

Support needy patients in Malawi

The Bed Sponsorship Fund is there to provide care for the most vulnerable patients coming to MMH.

For example, the case of Lucy, an elderly lady with a chronic wound of her arm. She needed treatment for diabetes, an operation and then daily dressings. She and her family paid for the first period of admission, but then were not able to continue paying her bills. She then requested discharge before the wound had healed. The Bed Sponsorship Fund provided coverage of the remaining bills, so that she could stay until the wound had healed and she could return home safely.

The hospital does insist that those who can contribute, do so. In our experience, almost everybody can pay for some of their healthcare costs.

US\$ 850, €700 or £600 provides one bed at MMH for one year. These funds are used for **drugs, medical supplies and other expenses** to provide free care to the most needy.

Thank you for your support! You can contribute via any of the methods listed on www.mmh.mw/donations