



# MULANJE MISSION HOSPITAL

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## DONATIONS

National Bank of Malawi

P.O. Box 945 Blantyre

Account numbers:

USD-donations: 407275

GBP-donations: 286818

EUR-donations: 380873

Swift Code:

NBMAMWMW

UK Charitable Trust

Bank: Bank of Scotland

Account name: Mulanje

Mission Hospital Trust

Account number: 21658669

Sort code: 80 22 60

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## Editorial comment

*By Dickson Chisale*

As we come to the end of the year, this December newsletter gives us a moment to look back together. It has been a year of change and learning at Mulanje Mission Hospital.

In this newsletter, you will read about progress in quality of care. Through teamwork the hospital moved from 2 to 3 stars. You will also meet new members of staff who bring new ideas and colleagues who returned from school.

In this newsletter we share about departments that often work quietly, such as laundry, yet play a

important role in keeping patients safe every day.

This year was not easy. Changes in staff, limits on recruitment and few resources remain part of our daily work. Still, these challenges remind us of what matters most. Every person, every department and every service has a place in the shared mission: to give holistic, compassionate and quality care to the people of Mulanje.

As we celebrate Christmas, we wish you peace, hope and joy. Thank you for standing with Mulanje Mission Hospital.

## Meet Memory Kasonda

Memory Bernard Kasonda is the new Administrative Officer at Mulanje Mission Hospital. He supports departments to function well administratively and helps address challenges, and ensures teams have the resources they need.

Previously Memory worked with Old Mutual, where he focused on client engagement. He brings this experience in organisation, communication and problem solving into his current role at the hospital.

Welcome to the team, Memory!



*“Being part of a team that serves the community and brings hope gives my work real meaning and motivates me.”*

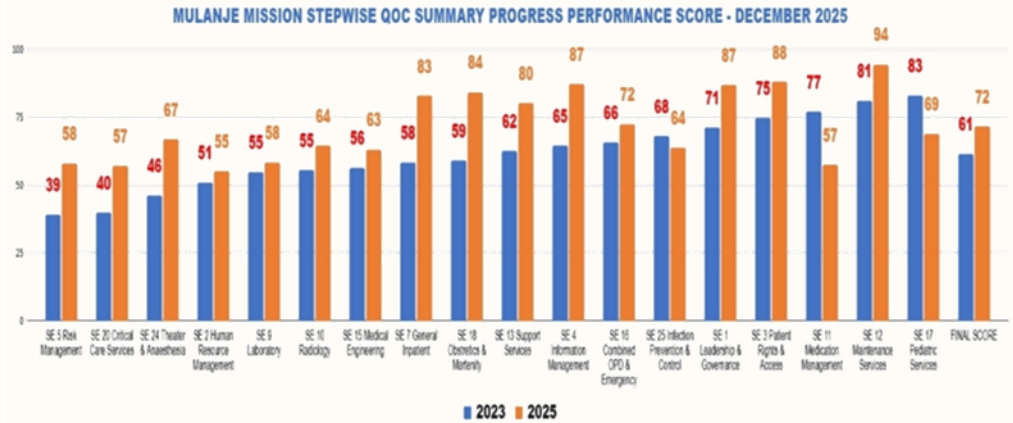
# MMH Journey To Achieve Three Stars

By Tabu Gonani, Principal Nursing Officer

Many countries have made strides towards achieving universal health coverage. This has been a hot topic of discussion in low income settings like Malawi. While countries pay attention to universal health coverage, the significance of the quality of services provided cannot be ignored.

The Malawi Quality Directorate introduced quality of care standards in 2023. This marked a slight shift from the COHSASA standards that were previously used. Unlike the COHSASA standards, which were international and focused on accreditation, the quality of care standards use a stepwise approach. Facilities are awarded stars according to their level of performance, ranging from 1 to 5 stars.

Mulanje Mission Hospital's first quality of care assessment was done in 2023 and MMH was awarded 2 stars with an average score of 61%. The MMH quality improvement team targeted 3 stars by December 2025. An implementation plan was put in place. In 2025, an internal monitoring system was also introduced.



▲ Graph showing 2023 results (blue) and 2025 results (orange)

Many changes were made, including improved risk management practices, improved medical equipment maintenance and the introduction of policy guided practice. MMH introduced and intensified clinical audits as a way of improving patient care.

A committed team of staff has been on the ground to ensure that systems and practices improve. The most recent assessment was done in December 2025. The hospital moved to 3 stars. The average score moved from 61% to 72%. Special thanks go to all members of

staff for their commitment to improving the quality of services. A special mention goes to our Maintenance department, Laundry and CSSD for exceptional performance.

MMH is confident that a 4 star status can be achieved by the end of 2026. Management, the quality improvement team and the entire staff are geared to work towards this goal. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to our followers as we work together to make patient care safer through quality improvement.



▲ Group Picture After Receiving the Results

## Eye Care Takes a Step Forward

By Precious Kadzongwe, Clinical Officer

When people lose their sight, they lose more than vision. They lose independence, income and often their place in life. In Malawi this happens far too often. About 5% of adults above 50 live with blindness or severe visual loss. Cataract causes more than half of these cases. Yet cataract is treatable.

### World Sight Day

In October we organized a World Sight Day event. We expected a good turnout, but more than 300 people came. Demand was so high that we extended the activity to 2

days to ensure everyone received care. Many people told us they had never had an eye check before. We diagnosed 34 cataract cases many of which have received surgery. This event proved once again that people with eye problems are everywhere.

### Reaching people where they live

Our work does not stop at the hospital gate. We travel to remote villages for screening. Some need glasses, others surgery or medicines. We explain their condition and treat them.

Without MMH, most of these people would stay home without hope. Eye care is expensive and far away for many families. Here, care is close and fair.

### A Great Addition to the Team

In November a Dutch ophthalmologist joined us for 3 months. She supports the team in surgery and quality of care. Her presence came at the right moment, as our new eye theatre is almost completed.

Thank you for standing with Mulanje Mission Hospital and with everyone who wants to see again.



▲ World Sight Day, 9 October 2025

## Interview: Our Newly Graduated Community Health Nurse

By T. Van Acker

After twelve years of bedside nursing at Mulanje Mission Hospital, Violet Chimbayo felt ready for a new step. A one year course in community health opened that door and drew her towards work outside the hospital and closer to communities.

She enjoys the preventive side of care, especially health talks and direct engagement with people. The recent VIA (cervical cancer screening) training gave her confidence as a VIA provider and she looks forward to future village

campaigns. From her ward experience, malaria remained a major challenge, particularly among young children, although she sees the impact of prevention, with fewer paediatric malaria cases after indoor residual spraying.

As she starts her new role, Violet looks forward to PHC activities, outreach to the 14 health posts, and applying her new skills. She speaks with enthusiasm and says she cannot wait for the year ahead.



## Cervical Cancer: A Preventable Threat in Malawi

By S. Macliner and T. Van Acker

Cervical cancer remains one of the deadliest cancers for women worldwide. Each year, more than 350,000 women die from cervical cancer across the globe. Over 94% of these deaths occur in low and middle income countries, where access to early detection and treatment is limited.

Malawi carries one of the highest cervical cancer burdens in the

world. Every year, an estimated 3,600 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer in Malawi, and almost 2,500 women lose their lives to the disease. These figures show that this disease is not rare. It affects families, communities and the health system as a whole.

The good news is that cervical cancer is preventable and treatable when detected early. Mulanje

Mission Hospital has made cervical cancer prevention a priority through several strategies. These include VIA screening for women, early treatment for those who test positive, HPV vaccination for girls and continuous training of health workers in cervical cancer services.

On 17 November 2025, Mulanje Mission Hospital marked World Cervical Cancer Elimination Day with community activities at Khaya Health Post. The day focused on awareness, prevention and early detection. Community members took part in health talks and drama performances, while women accessed VIA screening and girls received HPV vaccination.

During the event, 57 women received VIA screening. 56 women tested negative, while 1 woman required further investigation. A biopsy was taken and the client was referred for further care. Many girls received the HPV vaccine and large numbers of community members received clear health messages on cervical cancer, family planning and maternal health.

Mulanje Mission Hospital will continue to raise awareness about the preventable nature of cervical cancer, encourage women to attend regular screening and advocate for expanded HPV vaccination to protect future generations.



▲ The Cervical Cancer Screening Team at Khaya Healthpost

## School Book Project

By Wise Ndawa

For many years, schools in the MMH catchment area faced a serious shortage of books. In some classes, one book served more than twenty learners. Teachers worked hard, but the lack of materials made teaching and learning difficult. This project set out to change that. We recently supported eight primary schools in Mulanje District with new school books for upper primary classes.

**Distributing schoolbooks at Nyengeni Primary School ►**



## School Book Project

- continued

With support from Focus Accretio (a donor from the Netherlands), we procured a total of 7,292 books. The books cover English, Chiche-wa, Mathematics and Science for Standards 5, 6, 7 and 8. In addition, each school received teacher guides and syllabus copies for all subjects and all standards.

Before distribution, we carried out careful counting and sorting of all books at the hospital. Each title was checked against the approved list. We packed the books per school and per standard to ensure that every school received the correct quantities. This process took time, but accuracy was important. We wanted transparency and fairness for all schools.

We then held a stakeholder meeting with head teachers, the Traditional Authority and the District Chief Education Officer. During this meeting, we shared the full book lists and agreed on proper storage and use. The joy in the room was clear. Many head teachers shared stories of teaching with only a few

books for whole classes.

Through this support, many schools moved from one book for more than twenty learners to about one book for six learners. This change allows pupils to read, follow lessons and learn much better.

Mulanje Mission Hospital believes that education and health go hand in hand. We thank Focus Accretio for the trust and support that made this project possible. Together, we bring stronger learning opportunities to our children and hope for a better future.



▲ Teachers receiving books and teacher guides

## Shop online and support Mulanje Mission Hospital!

By Ruth Shakespeare

Support MMH from the UK and raise free donations for MMH Trust

Did you know that when you buy online, from a weekly shop to a holiday booking, you can support Mulanje Mission Hospital through easyfundraising? More than 8000 retailers take part, including eBay, Argos, John Lewis & Partners, Tesco, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S. It costs you nothing extra.

How it works

1) Visit [this website](#) and join for free.

2) Each time you shop online, start via easyfundraising and choose your retailer.

3) After checkout, the retailer makes a donation to Mulanje Mission Hospital at no extra cost to you.

There are no catches or hidden fees. Every purchase helps, and we truly value your support. Please feel free to pass this on to friends and family.

Thank you,  
Ruth Shakespaere

 easyfundraising

## You spend, retailers donate

Sign up to easyfundraising  
and see your favourite  
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Mulanje Mission Hospital

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**Sign up and get started**

## Christmas Celebration at the Hospital

Mulanje Mission Hospital held a Christmas celebration for the first time in many years.

A choir made up of staff members created a true Christmas atmosphere through carol singing. At one point, the whole room burst into dancing, a beautiful sight to see.

The choir moved through the wards singing, while our new chaplain, Reverend Isaac Benice, together with the Spiritual Ministry Team, encouraged inpatients through prayer and a small gift.

During the celebration, the hospital recognised departments that

performed exceptionally well during the recent quality assessment.

It was a good reminder of the Christmas message of hope and a meaningful way to begin the holiday season. Merry Christmas everyone.



## End of Year Reflection

*By Andrea Van Acker, Medical Director*

As the year draws to a close, it is a time for reflection.

This year brought many changes in staff and leadership. In January, we said goodbye to our Human Resource Management Officer, in April to our Medical Director, in June to our Principal Hospital Administrator, and most recently to our Head of Station, Rev Chikopa. Together, they served Mulanje Mission for an impressive 40 years. Their departure left a real gap in institutional memory.

At the same time, this season opened space for new people and fresh talent. We filled 2 new roles, a physiotherapist and an administrative officer. We already see new vision, enthusiasm and clearer structures taking shape. In addition, 2 expatriate doctors serve

as volunteers. Their presence brings teaching, supervision and much needed relief to our clinical team.

We remain under a government recruitment freeze. Any new staff appointment requires funding from the hospital payroll. This reality sharpens our awareness of how much each person and each service matters. In Corinthians, Paul describes the Christian community as one body, where every part has a vital role. Mulanje Mission Hospital reflects this image closely. Every staff member, every department and every service contributes to safe and compassionate care.

Our laundry offers a clear example. It sits quietly at the back of the hospital, often unseen, yet it stands

at the centre of infection prevention and patient care. Clean linen protects patients, supports wards and enables safe clinical work.

Our current laundry machine has reached an advanced age and has become unreliable. Breakdowns occur more often, repairs cost more and the risk of total failure grows. To sustain continuous care, replacement of this machine has become urgent.

This Christmas, we invite you to support a new laundry machine. This practical gift strengthens the whole body and helps the hospital continue its mission of care.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. We wish you a blessed Christmas and a hopeful New Year.

# CHRISTMAS

# APPEAL

Help us by supporting the purchase of a new laundry machine! Clean bed linen and theatre clothing are essential for MMH. Though rarely seen, the laundry keeps wards open, surgeries safe and care continuous.

Help us to get a  
new **Laundry**  
Machine

\$ 19,000

Cost for a good  
Laundry machine



Via Paypal [LINK](#)



Via Tikkie [LINK](#)  
(Euro Donations)