

Friends of Marimanti

Annual report 2024



OPD Marimanti Level IV Hospital

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Introduction

2024 was an exciting year for the foundation “Friends of Marimanti” with a lot of activity going on. We are most proud of our achievement in getting the solar project up and running, including the guarantee the expenditure saved from electricity bills will be used to improve healthcare for mothers and babies. This was our main goal set for this year. Furthermore, we had a successful year concerning fundraising and two separate visits of our Dutch board members were paid to Marimanti Hospital. Proudly we present our year report, and we hope to expand our progress in 2025!

Visits to Marimanti

January 2024

14th-20th January Piet and Mimosa visited Marimanti Hospital and had two meetings with the CEC member dr. Gichuya and his team in Chuka Hospital. During these meetings opportunities for our partnership were discussed. The most important topic was the practicalities regarding the solar system and the challenge of how to ensure that the expenditure saved from the system would flow back to Marimanti Hospital. We came to the agreement this expenditure would be used to rebuild the maternity ward, one of the main goals of the foundation. The MOU could be signed officially and later that year the addendum for the solar project could be signed. Furthermore, we discussed many issues with the hospital staff and shared ideas about the renovation of the maternity ward. For more information about our visit see our separate report.

November 2024

From 18th to 22nd of November 2024, Myrrih Hulsbergen visited Marimanti Level IV Hospital. A lot was achieved in these days. The solar panels were placed, ensuring the placement of the dry batteries and inverters the week hereafter and all parts of the hospital were connected immediately. Meetings were held with the Kenyan board members and with hospital staff about the interns who visited the hospital in 2024 and their programs, about in-hospital education and out-hospital training, about the quality of care in the maternity ward and ideas on improvements in 2025. Also, the problem of teenage pregnancies was discussed and how to address this issue; plans will be further developed in 2025.

Two new medical doctors have started to work in Marimanti Hospital; they have brought their experiences from other hospitals and seem to be adequate in their work. Also, five medical specialists are paying visits to Marimanti for 2-3 days per week: a gynecologist, general surgeon, orthopedic surgeon, ophthalmologist and family physician.

More information about this visit can be found in the full report.

Working groups and achievements

To improve efficiency in the drawing and implementation of plans besides the attention given to implementation of a solar system, three working groups were established in September 2023. At least one board member from both countries is seated in every working group, as well as one other staff member from Marimanti Hospital. The involvement of staff will in the best case improve awareness, increase support and result in more sustainable developments. These three working groups focus on the following topics in the maternity ward: 1) Renovation of the ward, 2) Improvement of quality of care, 3) Improvement of education.

Working group 1: Renovation of the ward

The first global sketches were produced in cooperation with the Kenian team during the visit in Januari 2024. Depending on the costs saved by the solar project a start will be made during the year 2025.

Working Group 2: Improvement of quality of care

Dr Martin Mugambi, Dr Myrriith Hulsbergen and midwife Charity are seated in the working party. The year 2024 was used to start active use of national protocols and organizing on-the-job training of midwives; these trainings were most urgent and could be organized most cost-effective. However, the organization of training on the job could not involve lots of staff due to duty-scheduling in the maternity ward. The gynecologist, Dr Grace Kanyi, took over the responsibility of training the team (see below, working group 3).

During the visit in November 2024, the working group came together and made plans for the coming year as described in the annual plan 2025.



Dr Martin Mawira receiving his certificate

Dr Andrew Njoroge performing episiotomy repair.

Working Group 3: Education

Pediatric Specialization Training

In 2024, a nurse was selected to pursue pediatric specialization training. Caroline Kawira Micheri is set to begin her two-year pediatric training at Nairobi Gertrude's Children Hospital in March 2025. While neonatology training was initially proposed, the local Friends of Marimanti (FoM) board concluded that training a specialized pediatric nurse would be more beneficial.

FoM has agreed to cover Caroline's housing, study-related expenses, and exam fees during her training in Nairobi. To maintain staffing continuity, the government has arranged a replacement at Marimanti Hospital during her absence. Caroline will remain affiliated with Friends of Marimanti for a minimum of five years, ensuring that her enhanced expertise in pediatric nursing directly benefits the hospital.

Life-Saving Skills Training

Additionally, a "Life-Saving Skills" training was organized by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) in Nairobi. Dr. Njoroge and Dr. Mawira attend the online and in-person sessions in November and December 2024. The trained medical doctors will do training of the midwives and other doctors to ensure knowledge transfer.

Maternity ward improvements

In 2024, national protocols were introduced in the maternity ward, facilitated by Friends of Marimanti. These protocols, along with additional training materials, were shared by Dr. Grace Kanyi through the maternity WhatsApp group. Dr. Kanyi visits Marimanti Hospital three days per week and is available for consultation 24/7.

Dr. Kanyi also conducted two obstetric drills in October 2024, focusing on neonatal resuscitation and postpartum hemorrhage (PPH). However, due to shift constraints, not all midwives could participate. Despite this, the midwives have shown eagerness to learn and have taken a more initiative-taking role in management, though they believe certain cases should remain under the doctor's responsibility.

Monthly maternal and neonatal near-miss and mortality review meetings are organized by the doctors under Dr. Kanyi's supervision. Friends of Marimanti does not intervene in these activities.

Other achievements in 2024

Solar system

In November 2024 phase 1 of the solar system started: forty-four solar panels were placed on three roofs. The week hereafter, the dry batteries and inverters will be placed, and the connections with the different wards and parts of the hospital will be made. All parts of the hospital will be connected immediately. The 2nd phase will start after a few months adding panels, inverters and batteries depending on the demand. The system will be checked upon and cleaned every three months, under the responsibility of the county engineer for a period of 5 years. Thereafter maintenance will be done by the county government under the supervision of the hospital's biomedical engineer. With the money saved by using solar energy, the maternity ward will be rebuilt. Drawings and expected costs will be requested from the chief officer in December 2024, when phase 1 of the solar is finished.



Fundraising

Several fundraising activities were done in 2024 as listed below, resulting in both private sponsoring and a donation of the Imelda-Nolet Foundation. The website and social media were used to acknowledge the foundation FoM and Marimanti Hospital. Furthermore, many private donations have been received.

January: “Dr House Evening” by student Erasmus University

February: Rotary Club Alkmaar: Presentation and meeting Rotary Club Alkmaar by Piet and Mimosa. A presentation about our foundation and goals was given and a lively discussion about possibilities for further collaboration were discussed. A donation of 5000 euro was granted and the intention for further collaboration in future was mentioned.

May: Presentation for medical staff ADRZ hospital, Goes. Mimosa informed her colleagues in her hospital about the foundation and goals. The present colleagues were impressed and supporting. This resulted in several private donations, a donation of 1000 euro from the internal medicine department and support for the “Christmas action”.

December: Christmas letter ADRZ: All medical doctors at the ADRZ hospital received a letter from our foundation while receiving their Christmas present. This resulted in several private donations and a donation of 1000 euro from the gynecology department.

December: Donation from the Imelda Nolet Foundation: our official request resulted in a donation of 10.000 euro to continue building the solar system.

Financial Report 2024

Income and expenditure 2024	Account 2023	Account 2024
Income		
Gifts/donations	17.687,83	21.680,21
→ Total income	17.687,83	21.680,21
Expenses		
Costs Rabobank/website	52,70	256,74
Debit interest	0,08	
Declarations / management costs	2479,83	1780,01
TNC Friends of Marimanti		22.000,00
→ Total expenses	2532,61	24.036,75
Result	+ 15.155,12	- 2.356,54
Financial overview Rabobank (31-12)	+ 15.151,61	+ 12.795,07

Explanation:

Donations were tracked via the transaction overview of the bank and when email addresses of the donors were available, they were thanked using a newsletter at the end of the calendar year. The first newsletter of the foundation was sent in December 2024; the destination of the donations was also further explained. Donors who donated via the QR code could not be tracked.

Rabobank’s costs concern the regular costs, and the costs incurred to transfer the money to the Kenyan account. The Dutch account holder pays these costs. Furthermore, the expenditure for the relevant goals is monitored in close consultation with the Kenyan partners; the Kenyan partners account for the expenditure incurred through their bank receipts.

The declarations / management costs concern the cost for the website, advanced by one of the board members (these costs are off directly from October 2024); the costs incurred for the flyers that were supplemented with the Christmas gift of the ADRZ hospital; and the costs incurred for the visit to Marimanti by the treasurer (Jan 24), whereby the treasurer donated the same amount as a gift to the foundation on the day of payment.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the year 2024 was highly successful. Most important, the solar system was installed with the guaranteed that the saved expenditure from electricity will be flowing back to the hospital. Also, trainings of staff have started. Two visits from Dutch board members to Marimanti ensured the strong bond between the Kenyan and Dutch board of the foundations.



The Solar Team

Board members and contact details

Board members, the Netherlands

Dr. Mimosa Bruinooge, co-chair

Mr. Piet Bruinooge, co-treasurer

Dr. Myrrith Hulsbergen, secretary

Dr. Senned Karrar, public relations

Board members, Kenya

Dr. Andrew Njoroge, co-chair

Dr. Martin Mawira, co-treasurer

Mr. Stephen Kamanja, general board member

Mrs. Angelica Mutuura, advising party

Supervisory Board

Prof. Dr. Jelle Stekelenburg

Dr. Irene de Vries

Mr. Simon Jongepier

(Mr. Alex Muia)

Address Marimanti Hospital

Marimanti, Tharaka Nithi, Kenya

Website "Friends of Marimanti"

<https://www.friendofmarimanti.org/>