



December 2025

Dear friends and donors of St. Francis Hospital (Mutolere Hospital),

As the end of the year approaches, this is a wonderful moment to share with you the positive initiatives and developments of this year at St. Francis Hospital, made possible with the support of the Friends of Mutolere Foundation. We will briefly update you on a number of ongoing projects and initiatives, as well as a change within the Board. In addition, we give the Medical Director, the Administrator, and staff of Mutolere Hospital ample opportunity to share their experiences with the foundation, while also offering a brief glimpse of our joint plans for the coming year.

#### ***Ongoing projects and initiatives***

***Endoscopy and EWS (Early Warning System)*** Dr. Sandra Donkervoort, a Dutch surgeon, has been visiting Mutolere Hospital twice a year since 2023 for several weeks at a time to strengthen knowledge and skills in laparoscopic and other endoscopic procedures. In addition, the EWS—an assessment tool for early recognition of critically ill patients—has been introduced. In collaboration with the local team, workshops are organized, surgeries are performed and supervised together with the local surgeon and gynecologists, and medical equipment is purchased.



***Trauma care*** This year, Dr. Peter Reemst, surgeon, and Aloiz Nsengiyum provided a follow-up Trauma Team Training to the multidisciplinary team of healthcare professionals. This training, developed specifically for LMIC countries, equips medical and nursing staff with knowledge and a structured approach to trauma care. This refresher training will be repeated annually in the coming years.

***ICU (Intensive Care Unit) and NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit)*** At the end of 2024 and beginning of 2025, with the support of Dr. Niels Jansen (Physician in International Health Care, working in Mutolere Hospital from May '23 to May '25), a new, well-equipped ICU with six beds was built. The ICU



has been developed into a separate, semi-autonomous unit rather than solely a surgical ICU. Investments were made in equipment, facilities, and staff training. The head nurse, Aloiz Nsengiyum (Bachelor of Nursing Science), oversees daily operations and works closely with the physicians responsible for the medical management of patients. Katinka Crolla, pediatric nurse, worked with great dedication at Mutolere Hospital for two years until May '25. Thanks to her expertise and commitment, the NICU has grown into a busy, independent unit with a stable team of experienced staff members.

***Supervision and mentoring of medical students*** The foundation has enjoyed a long-standing and productive collaboration with the University of Groningen to facilitate clinical rotations each year. Rotations are also requested through other universities. supervised the medical students together with local physicians and specialists. Sil van den Bersselaar has since taken over this role. In 2025, a total of 10 medical students completed clinical rotations through the universities of Groningen and Utrecht.

*Training and education*

The training of a staff member as a Dental Officer has resulted in the dental department becoming fully operational again, with a significant increase in patient numbers over recent months.

By the end of 2025, a nurse completed training as a nurse anesthetist. Another staff member is currently training to become a Clinical Officer and hopes to complete this program by the end of 2026.

*Change within the Board*

As of 1 January 2026, Katinka Mijnheer will hand over the chairmanship to Niels Jansen. She has been involved in projects and board activities since 2012, serving as Chair of the Board for the past eight years. Almost every year, she visited Mutolere to discuss plans and projects with hospital management and to help create the necessary conditions for implementation. Thanks to strong collaboration with local management, the commitment of the Friends of Mutolere, and the ongoing support of many donors, numerous valuable initiatives have been realized and projects successfully implemented. Niels has worked with great dedication and enthusiasm for two years as an AIG in surgery and gynecology in Mutolere and has been a Board member for over two years. Under his leadership, among other achievements, the renewed ICU was realized. Sil van den Bersselaar has been working in Mutolere since September 2025 as an AIG in maternal and child health and will join the Board as of 1 January 2026. Sil:

"I received an incredibly warm welcome from all my colleagues here in Mutolere, which made me feel at home very quickly. My work focuses on the further development of intensive and critical care and the pediatric department. In recent months, we have started weekly resuscitation trainings on both wards, which are attended with great enthusiasm. For 2026, we aim to focus within surgery and the ICU on triage and early recognition of acutely ill patients. In the pediatric department, babies with low birth weight (under 1,500 grams) are the most vulnerable, and we will concentrate on improving care for this particularly fragile group."

All projects, initiatives, and sponsored training programs are only possible thanks to the help and support of our donors (the Franciscan Sisters Alles voor Allen, MMC Helpt, Hoffknecht van Vuuren, Stichting Lameris, Lions (Nuenen), UMC Groningen (clinical rotations and stipends for medical students), Reynaerts, Rombouts, Sil Online (website), other foundations and private initiatives/donations, and anonymous donors).

Thank you very much for your continued support.

We wish you all a prosperous 2026!

**The Board**

Miranda van Wanrooij, Secretary

Willem den Boer, Treasurer

Niels Jansen, Board member, Chairperson as of 1 January

Katinka Mijnheer, Chairperson until 1 januari

Sil van den Bersselaar, Board member as of 1 January

**Door Mr Pontius Mayunga, administrator, Mutolere Hospital**

The Chairperson  
Friends of Mutolere  
Holland

Dear Mrs. Katinka,

Warm greetings from St. Francis Hospital Mutolere!

As we come to the end of year, let me take this opportunity to express our heartfelt appreciation for the wonderful collaboration we enjoyed.

This year we registered many achievements through Friends of Mutolere.

- (a) Professionally, specialized surgeries were performed and these included, laparoscopic surgeries, orthopedic (SIGN) surgeries and also Trauma Team Trainings.
- (b) Education/Training Program continued where some staff finished training and are working while others are still on training.
- (c) Another long-term Dutch Doctor was found to replace Dr. Niels. This also boosted the staffing level at the hospital.
- (d) Arranged placements of Dutch Medical students continued and actually many students came for internship as a result of good coordination by Katinka.
- (e) Big projects were carried out with financial support from Friends of Mutolere, and these projects are: Intensive Care Unit, Laparoscopic equipment and solar repairs (this project will be completed by end of January 2026)

Request for the future:

- Continued collaboration with Friends of Mutolere -Holland.
- Support in fundraising for the following projects:
  - (a) Automated Health management information system.
  - (b) Community Health Insurance.
  - (c) Sponsored surgical camps

(d) Equipment for theatre and laboratory.

We say, thank you Katinka for your able chairmanship, and thank the committee members and all members of Friends of Mutolere.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the in-coming Chairman Dr. Niels Jansen for accepting this challenging task and also all the incoming committee members.

To all the donors, we say thank you and request for your continued support.

We wish you a Happy Christmas season and a Prosperous New Year 2026.

  
MAYUNGA PONTIUS  
ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR



Door Dr. Jerome Mugisha, medical director en gynaecologist



## ST. FRANCIS HOSPITAL MUTOLERE

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Date: 17<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Our ref:.....

Your ref:.....

Dear Katinka and FOM,

Mutolere hospital belongs to the Registered Trustees of Kabale Diocese. The hospital was founded by the Dutch Franciscan Sisters and continues to have good working relationship with the Dutch, presently through co-operation with the Friends of Mutolere, Holland. It is with profound gratitude that I write this piece to the FOM. The Hospital Management Team is profoundly honoured to have found the FOM dependable partners who have co-operated to ensure the Healing Mission is continued against all odds. So many projects, including the following, have led to impactful growth and development of the hospital:

- Capacity building which has enabled hospital staff attain qualifications required to improve on their skills and competencies.
- Infrastructure development.
- Securing of funds for medical equipment.
- Support to start the ICU.
- Trauma care.
- Linkage and connection to other potential donors.

We are aware that FOM thoughts are always with us. We appreciate that, through the Board, FOM have continued to provide ideas that result into projects that focus on survival and improved relevance and competitiveness.

As we look at the future we are aware that FOM and the Hospital Management Team have brainstormed on the idea of increasing access through Health Insurance and also improving efficiency and effectiveness through having robust data and Health Information Management System (HMIS).

Hospital Management notes that the great concern about the need for continued collaborations and resource mobilization, sustainability and continued investment in specialization and super-specialisation.

Together we keep the candle burning.

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**DR. MUGISHA JEROME**  
**MEDICAL DIRECTOR**



Door Winfred N'Mugisha I/c Theatre Mutolere Hospital.

"On behalf of Theatre staff Mutolere Hospital and on my own behalf, let me take this opportunity to thank the management of FRIENDS FOR MUTOLERE (FoM). We cannot take it for granted because we have benefited so much from this program. For the past 6yrs I have worked in theatre I really so far had excellent good stories and experience to tell about our beloved FoM.

It has always been good time to have visiting surgeons and we really benefit a lot from them by working with them, training both nurses and Drs through the surgeries. Thank you, our dear visiting surgeons, like Dr Peter Reemst, Dr Snellen Dr Vierhout, Dr. Willem den Boer, Dr Williams currently and Dr Sandra commonly known as AKAZI KEZA here in Theatre (and many others whom I have not remembered). Dr Sandra has done a lot of training on laparoscopy both theory and practice and this has helped the nurses to help much in successful laparoscopic surgeries.

We appreciate the current method of sending Medical Drs who stay a little longer e.g Dr Niels Jansen and his wife Kate Crolla, Dr Marije and currently Dr Sil who is doing a great work in ICU. Working with Dr Niels and his Wife Kate was such a blessing to this institution because of their qualities like hard work, flexibility, kindness to patients, being social to mention but a few. To the medical students it has always good time to have them as they have always behaved well and we believe they learn a lot as we also learn from them. As I finalize let me tell you that we are always thankful to all support you render to our Hospital like Theatre Renovation and all the equipment and instruments we always receive in theatre e.g orthopaedic, laparoscopic and those used in genal surgery which help us have surgeries successfully. May God bless you abundantly.

Long live FoM long live Katinka C/P for friends of Mutolere".

**Door Mr. Aloiz Nsengiyum**, hoofdverpleegkundige chirurgische afdeling en ICU

"Dear friends of Mutolere, We are thrilled to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support in establishing the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) at St Francis Hospital Mutolere. Your contribution has been a game-changer for our patients and medical team.

The ICU will significantly enhance our ability to provide critical care to those in need. Your kindness, compassion, and commitment to healthcare excellence are truly inspiring. We're grateful for your trust in our mission and vision.

Dr Niels Jansen and his wife Kate in their 2 year stay at the hospital did a very tremendous work on surgical department and were able coordinate this incredible achievement and their hard work is truly missed may God continue blessing them.

We now have Dr Sil who have now adapted well to the work environment of the hospital thank you for always supporting us.

Thank you for making a difference in countless lives and in our community we look forward to continuing to serve our community with your generous support".