



Maternity Africa

Making childbirth safe



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Maternity Africa

REGISTERED IN TANZANIA AS A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
WITH REGISTRATION NUMBER00NGO/R2/000524

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Vision

Maternity Africa's vision is to make childbirth safe for every woman. Maternity Africa's prayer is 'to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God.'

Mission

Maternity Africa is a Christian-based non-governmental organization that endeavours to provide fistula treatment and quality maternity care for all marginalized women throughout Tanzania, through professional excellence and in the example of displaying love, kindness, and compassion regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity.

Core values

Professional excellence

Justice for the poor

Integrity

Compassion

Honesty

Respect

Human dignity



Maternity Africa serves vulnerable and marginalized women and girls of childbearing age.

Maternity Africa is funded entirely and exclusively by grants and donations.

All services are provided free of charge.

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Message from Dr Andrew Browning, Founder

Dear Friends and Supporters,

2023 was another year of service, with women and babies cared for, health and dignity restored and staff developed, as we all seek to walk humbly with our God.

At the core of what we do is recognising that all people are made in God's image and deserve love, care and respect. It's been a joy to see people being touched by His strength and compassion. We are thankful for His enabling provision.

There were significant growth and changes during 2023. Michael Hynds established further into his role as Country Director, and Dr Doreen Moshi replaced the outgoing medical officer in charge, Dr Fredrick Mbise. Together with our matron, Sr Glory Mbowe, Dr Doreen is doing a wonderful job leading the clinical team.



The training of midwives increased significantly, both for Maternity Africa's midwives and midwives from external health facilities. Sr Marianne Bontenbal, a midwife-trainer from The Netherlands returned home in June after being with us for 15 months. Elizabeth Peter and Salim Bunge, two of our Tanzanian midwife trainers, are doing fantastic work continuing the external midwife training and follow-up monitoring and evaluation.

Our vital community outreach increased during the year with more visits to local schools, education on reproductive health in additional, more remote communities; radio and online broadcasting; and of course, the core of what we do: obstetric fistula treatment and prevention.

In late 2022 we opened a new maternity waiting home at Kivulini Maternity Centre, which serves as a safe place for pregnant women who are high risk, live far away or come from unsafe home situations, to wait until it is their times to deliver. Through God's provision we purchased 15 acres of land for another maternity hospital in Chamwino District, 50km east of Dodoma City in an underserved area. We established a water supply and fenced the perimeter. We are planning to commence construction in mid-2024.

I thank our faithful board members who help us through our plans, and our donors who have trusted us with their funds. We thank our patients who trust us in some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives. Finally, as always, we rely on God who is the source of strength and stay.

With prayers,

Andrew Browning

Dr. Andrew Browning AM, FRCOG, Founder

Message from Michael Hynds, Country Director

Warm and appreciative greetings.

I echo Andrew's many sentiments. 2023 was a great year of further consolidation and growth, with the expansion of some existing programmes, and planning for further future opportunities.

I am mindful of God's plan for the poor, such as from the words of the prophet Isaiah 1:17: "Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow". It is our responsibility and our privilege to share in God's work, doing what we can in response to God's clear command.



I like to follow the mantra of 'equip, empower and encourage', inspiring our fantastic staff to be the best that they can be in all aspects of our work. It is a delight and a joy to serve them, and to see them engaging so positively with their work, taking ownership and responsibility, confidently and accountably in many new ways. I am extremely proud of them. During 2023, for example, we increased our radio broadcasting substantially, including nationally, hosted a successful 'fistula marathon' in May, invested in internal training (both in technical, job-related skills, and 'softer' interpersonal skills), developed our highly acclaimed adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights training and education programme, continued with our external midwife training programme, and increased the number and frequency of mobile clinics and community sensitisation programmes.

There is evidence of significant need for good maternal healthcare in Chamwino District, Dodoma Region, where many of our fistula patients come from. In anticipation of some major designated funding, we investigated several sites on which to build our second hospital. We purchased land around 450km from Kivulini Maternity Centre (our existing facility in northern Tanzania) in early 2023, and look forward to construction work commencing very soon. We are currently in the final stages of constructing a chaplaincy / patient rehabilitation facility at Kivulini Maternity Centre, which we plan to open in June 2024. As part of our multi-year strategic planning process, we are also exploring various other new opportunities and partnerships, seeking to develop our work further and provide care for even more vulnerable and marginalised girls of childbearing age—all free of charge, thanks to the tremendous generosity of all of our funders.

Overall, I thank God for His continued faithfulness and abundant blessings towards our work. As always, I look forward with confidence and certainty, to seeing His hand further at work in Tanzania. May God bless you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Hynds". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing 'M' and a distinct 'H'.

Michael Hynds, Country Director, Maternity Africa – michaelhynds@maternityafrica.org

1 CLINICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Deliveries

A wonderful total of **2,198** deliveries took place in 2023, with January and December having the highest number of deliveries per month, respectively **214** and **212**.



Our Caesarean Section (CS) rate averaged **17%** in 2023, a great outcome. This is especially so, considering the increasing number of referrals from other health facilities to Kivulini Maternity Centre of women who are at high risk or had a previous Caesarean Section (implying a higher likelihood of a repeat CS). A beautiful achievement from our clinical staff.

Another attribute to the excellent care provided by Maternity Africa's staff is that once again there were **no maternal deaths**.

The smiles on the faces of the women cared for at Kivulini Maternity Centre and their families are a joy to witness and a testimony to the quality, kindness and respectful care that our staff provide every day.

Maternity Africa continues to strive to serve the most vulnerable and marginalised women and girls. As part of this, pregnant teenage girls are a main focus. In 2023 **17% (364)** of our total number of deliveries were to **teenagers**. Maternity Africa continues to provide maternal health care for these girls and offers some social support, based on their individual needs. Through our new Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights training and education programme, which will be elaborated on later in this report, Maternity Africa is also actively investing in preventing teenage pregnancies.

We look forward to meeting more strenuous delivery targets in 2023 and beyond to serve as many vulnerable and marginalised women and girls as possible, safely, and save the precious lives of many mothers and their babies.



Neonatal special care unit



We provide specialised care for newborn babies in need in our neonatal special care unit. The care ranges from some extra warmth to advanced respiratory support with CPAP (a machine that uses mild air pressure to keep airways open). In 2023 a total of **200 newborns** were admitted to our special care unit, some for a few hours and some for up to two weeks. Our staff are trained frequently and provide high quality advanced neonatal care, saving many precious lives. Maternity Africa's neonatal mortality rate is significantly lower than the national average, at 2.8 deaths per 1,000 live births, versus 20. We are also grateful for the support that Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre provided through a new arrangement involving paediatric registrars being on site at Kivulini Maternity Centre during the working week, overseen by leading paediatrician Dr Steve Swanson.

Antenatal care

Antenatal care (ANC) is very important in detecting problems early during pregnancy and thereby reducing potential risks for mother and baby during pregnancy and labour, especially if they attend at least four times during pregnancy. In 2023, including women seen during our twice-weekly outreach/mobile clinics in underserved communities, our

staff completed almost **10,000** ANC

appointments. **72%** of the women attended four or more ANC visits, a

tremendous outcome, showing the trust in our staff and satisfaction with the ongoing care they provide.



Social pack for Anna

Maternity Africa's staff exceed expectations in their care for our patients. If there is a patient in dire need of assistance, staff donate some of their own money and purchase items to help the mother and her family survive.

Anna is a mother of three children and pregnant with her fourth. Her husband ran away, leaving Anna destitute. As a result of her pregnancy she is not able to engage in any income-generating activities. Maternity Africa provided her with a 'social pack' to assist Anna and her children in their survival, until she is ready again to engage in farming activities and able to provide for her family.

Under five vaccinations

As part of and in support of the Ministry of Health, Maternity Africa provides vaccinations for all children under the age of five in the surrounding communities. Care



ranges from vaccinating all babies born in Kivulini Maternity Centre before they are discharged, to serving all other children in our busy out-patient department. In 2023, our staff vaccinated a fantastic total of just over **2,000** children.

Surgery for obstetric fistula and other birth-induced injuries



We performed a total of **199** fistula surgeries at Kivulini Maternity Centre during the year. In addition to those women that Maternity Africa treated directly, we supported **8** fistula surgeries during the year at nearby Selian Lutheran Hospital. Most fistula patients are healed after their surgery. Dr Andrew Browning visits several times a year to operate on more complex cases and to train our in-house doctors in fistula surgery, helping to develop their knowledge, skills, experience, competence and



Rosa's story

I started labour at home but was not able to deliver my baby there. In the evening, they brought me to the rural clinic. However, it could not help, so I was transferred to a larger facility and then to a hospital in Dodoma. When I arrived in Dodoma, I had lost consciousness. On examination, they found my baby was very large and therefore obstructed. I had delayed too long.

After the stillbirth of my baby, I returned home, and for four months, I leaked urine continuously. At home, I presumed I was the only woman living with fistula.

When people started calling me a baby, I spoke with my husband, who always supports me and cares for me. He helped me find treatment at Kivulini Maternity Centre. On arrival there, I realized many women in Tanzania live with fistula. I discovered that I was not alone. I began to have hope of healing.

Life at the Centre is incredible. The medical team is compassionate and understanding. I have not had to pay for anything and received everything. The cooks are amazing. I learned new skills: beading and how to cook mandazi snacks. There is daily spiritual and psychological guidance from the chaplains and social workers. I am so grateful.

Now, I am healed, and I am overjoyed. I called my husband, and we rejoiced.

confidence.

The fistula patients are a wonderfully mixed group of women, whose ages range from 16 to 80 years, and who support each other, share experiences, and offer one another comfort and companionship. Daily they sit outside in the sunshine, laughing, doing each other's hair or baking snacks together. Despite their often dreadful and sad stories, they bring so much joy to Maternity Africa.

Maternity Africa's social workers, other staff and volunteers lay on various social, pastoral and educational events (known as the Patient Rehabilitation and Education Programme, PREP) for the fistula patients.

Comprehensive family planning

Maternity Africa offers counselling on comprehensive family planning services to all of the patients entering its gates, as well as during mobile clinics in the community.



The uptake of family planning was more successful in 2023 than in prior years, with **61%** of the patients counselled receiving a form of family planning. Through sensitisation and education, we increasingly overcome barriers and beliefs, such as family planning causes sterility or cancer, and sometimes a woman may be 'competing' with her husbands' other wives in terms of the number of offspring she can produce for him.

2 NEW PROGRAMMES, BUILDINGS AND INITIATIVES

The past two years in particular were exciting in terms of growth for Maternity Africa: internal and external training, physical construction and brand-new, patient-centric projects.

Internal training for ALL staff

Besides continuous training of Maternity Africa's clinical staff, we commenced 'soft skills' training for all staff. With the generous support of professionals volunteering from the **Achmea Foundation** in The Netherlands, facilitated by SPICA International Corporate Volunteering, several training programmes took place, with topics ranging from 'train the trainer' and 'trauma counselling' to 'marketing and communication strategies to source patients' and 'personal coaching and leadership'. Funded by **Australian Volunteers International**, we also commenced and completed a training programme designed and delivered by local NGO, **Jobortunity**. This programme included topics on customer care, teamwork, using polite language, motivation and giving and receiving feedback. It is tremendously encouraging to see behavioural change as a direct result of these popular initiatives.



External midwife training



With the generous support from a major European funder, Maternity Africa launched a multi-year external midwife training programme. A large percentage of maternal deaths in Tanzania arise because of a lack of adequate knowledge and skills among many midwives. Our programme aims to achieve a **reduction in maternal (and neonatal) deaths** by increasing clinical knowledge and developing practical midwifery skills, competence and confidence.

Midwives from surrounding health facilities and some from further afield are invited to Kivulini Maternity Centre for practical skills training. Eight to ten midwives come at a time, starting with a week in our classroom for theory, skills training and simulation exercises in basic and emergency obstetric and neonatal care. For the remaining two to five weeks of their time with us, the external midwives are placed in Kivulini Maternity Centre's wards, including the labour ward, working alongside Maternity Africa's midwives, learning on the job. Every week there are some further



classroom sessions too, and a fun, end-of-course graduation ceremony.

Testimony of an 'external midwife'

Maternity Africa's training at Kivulini Maternity Centre is of so much benefit. For me, personally, it increased my confidence working as a midwife, now having the self-assurance of knowing what to do in an emergency. The training improved my knowledge and skills, and developed and changed my behaviour so that now I always want to know more, learn more, and do research.

When my colleagues saw that my improved skills and knowledge positively affected patient outcomes at work, they wanted to learn from me and improve too. As a result, most of them improved, changing their workplace behaviours.

Maternity Africa's follow-up evaluation visits to my hospital are so helpful as well. We get more training, can ask questions, and get answers. There will always be a long-lasting effect of this beneficial training.

We welcomed four groups of external midwives in 2022 and six groups in 2023, training a total of **84 external midwives** from **45 health facilities** (a mixture of Government and private ones).

It is a wonderful experience to have these colleagues with us, and participant feedback is extremely positive. Every midwife demonstrated improvement in their skills and knowledge at the end of their respective training periods.

During the three- and six-month follow-up visits to their health centres there is clear and significant behavioural change and that all are sharing their new knowledge and skills with their colleagues. Over time, this will lead to improved outcomes in maternal and neonatal care.

We look forward to welcoming another six groups in 2024, and to continuing with our follow-up evaluation visits across the country.

Adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights education programme

A Maasai boy takes a stand against Gender-Based Violence

A young Maasai boy stood in front of his whole class to thank Maternity Africa's team for teaching him a valuable lesson. He said: "I will never hit a girl or woman in my life, because it is wrong. I will continue talking with you all, to make sure that you boys also never hit a girl (again) in your lives". Some of his peers laughed at him, but he kept talking with them, explaining his new attitude and beliefs.

this programme, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other relevant government departments. The training topics start with general life skills, such as communication, self-confidence, and child rights, followed by more specific sexual and reproductive health topics, including gender-based violence, puberty, sexually transmitted diseases and teenage pregnancy.

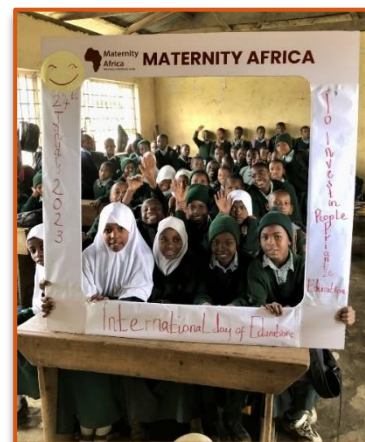
In 2022, we delivered a total of **200 training events** in ten government schools, both primary and secondary. Almost **2,100 adolescents**, with ages ranging from 10 to 19 being reached.

Besides the in-school activities, we also trained directly **65 out-of-school adolescents**. Surveys



Motivated by the persistently high percentage of pregnant teenager deliveries (average of 12.5% of all deliveries with us), their heart-breaking stories of sexual violence and sometimes even lack of knowledge on how they got pregnant, Maternity Africa wanted to work actively on preventing teenage pregnancies, thus decreasing the risk of obstetric fistula and other birth induced injuries, reducing sexual violence and increasing sexual and reproductive health knowledge among adolescents.

In July 2022, we commenced with



among the participants showed a massive increase in knowledge about sexual and reproductive health and rights, coupled with encouragingly positive changes in attitude towards gender-based violence, child rights and child marriage. Over time, we expect the programme to result in young people making better, more-informed choices. The programme's early successes motivated us to continue and expand it in 2023. Training events, commencing in the current school year in a further ten government schools are underway, reaching almost **2,500 adolescents**. Our team is also training parents/caregivers on how to

communicate better with their adolescent children and how to protect them from violence. During most weeks our team broadcasts on local and national radio stations, covering different topics relating to sexual and reproductive health and rights, often featuring live phone-ins.

By the end of 2023, the team had identified **fifteen pregnant teenage girls** and referred them to Maternity Africa's Kivulini Maternity Centre for antenatal care and delivery. Without the involvement

of our team, these girls may not have heard of Maternity Africa, and struggled to find somewhere safe to deliver their babies. Ages of these girls range from fourteen to seventeen years. Besides physical care, they are supported by our social workers, a home assessment is performed and we try to keep them in school as long as possible or help them return to school after delivery. We also provide care packs to them as well, contents based on their individual needs.

Diana, an aspirational pregnant teenager

I was five months pregnant when I started going to the clinic with the help of Maternity Africa's adolescent programme. My body was experiencing many new changes, and Maternity Africa was always there to help. They never gave up on me.

Early in the mornings, someone from Maternity Africa collected me from school to bring me to Kivulini Maternity Centre for medical help. My home is very far from any hospital, so I would not have been able to attend an antenatal clinic if it wasn't for Maternity Africa.

As my body changed and grew with my pregnancy, my school uniforms don't fit me anymore, and it was not possible for my parents to afford new uniforms. Maternity Africa provided me with new school uniforms large enough to make me feel comfortable in class.

The Advocacy Campaign that Maternity Africa conducted in its programme gave me courage, and I learned communication skills and decision-making skills. These skills boosted my confidence to communicate the changes I experienced in my body. They helped me make good decisions for my dream for my future.

My dream is to continue in education as a mother, to graduate from secondary school and further my studies in University.

I thank the adolescent programme team from Maternity Africa for their generous support. They never gave up on encouraging me even at times when I felt like giving up. The team's social worker always created a safe space to talk with me whenever I visited the Kivulini Maternity Centre for a clinic.

We are delighted that, towards the end of 2023, and thanks to the generosity of the programme's main funder, we hired two more full-time staff for this important programme.

Maternity waiting home

In November 2022, Maternity Africa opened an onsite **20-bed** maternity waiting home. The women we serve may have many challenges at home or with transport that prohibit them from coming to the hospital when the time to deliver comes. Some live far away with limited access to transport, especially during nighttime and the rainy seasons; some are not safe at home because of violence; others have no social network and support. The maternity waiting home serves as a safe place for these women to wait until labour starts, when they will be transferred to the hospital wards for safe delivery.

Training videos

A generous donor funds the filming, production and distribution of training videos, as an addition to the external midwife training programme. **Eight videos** are currently being produced in Swahili language, onsite at Kivulini Maternity Centre, with final edits being made at the time of writing. The

topics covered in these videos feature the most common obstetric emergencies and neonatal resuscitation. In the first instance, these training videos will be distributed to the external midwives who were trained at Kivulini Maternity Centre, followed by wider dissemination. The videos will serve as a source, reminder and training tool for the trainees to use when training their colleagues, and will be made available on our dedicated YouTube channel, 'Maternity Africa Training and Education'.

Spiritual care

As a Christian organisation, Maternity Africa obeys Christ who led the way in caring for the poor and impoverished. To that end, for those women who are interested, Maternity Africa avails of the services of two local chaplains, including one who is a trained evangelist. We also hold morning Devotions for all available staff to attend, and patients are welcome to attend Sunday morning church meetings that take place on site. Again, for those patients who are interested, we provide variously, a New Testament, a Bible, a hymnbook, a Gospel booklet and MegaVoice devices that include recordings from the Bible and gospel messages.



3 PLANS FOR GROWTH

A second Maternity Africa hospital

In February 2023, Maternity Africa purchased 15 acres of land in a designated development zone in a rural, underserved district, around 50km to the east of Dodoma City and over 450km from Kivulini Maternity Centre. We selected this site because many of our fistula patients come from there, indicating a marked lack of access to good maternal healthcare.

After obtaining the Title Deeds and necessary building permissions, we dug a 110m borehole, erected a 1,200m perimeter fence and placed 24-hour security on site. As at the time of writing, we are addressing other statutory matters, and will shortly put the architectural plans to contractors for tendering purposes, with a view to commencing in or around mid-2024, subject to funding.

We expect construction and fit-out to take around 15 months, so we aim to open in late 2025. We plan to commence recruiting staff by mid-2025, so that they can be trained and oriented at Kivulini Maternity Centre, prior to taking up posts at the new facility. We also plan to implement a communication, sensitisation and promotion strategy, suitably in advance of the facility's opening, to optimise uptake of services from the outset.

New chaplaincy and rehabilitation centre at Kivulini Maternity Centre

At the time of writing, we have almost completed the construction and fit-out of a patient rehabilitation centre at Kivulini Maternity Centre, predominantly for our fistula inpatients who are with us, typically for three weeks to three months. Construction also involves repurposing an existing, underused building to a multi-purpose chaplaincy, and building a training/rehabilitation centre housing a sewing room, indoor and outdoor training kitchens, social work and pastoral counselling. An anticipated outcome is that, as a result of embarking on a rehabilitation programme, those women who are interested and able can develop some skills that will help them to earn an income of their own.

Other activities

As part of our rolling, five-year strategic plan, we are improving our processes to attract more poor women to come for fistula treatment, as well as for more women to attend our clinics and subsequently deliver their babies with Maternity Africa. We are doing this by increasing direct community outreach, site visits, radio broadcasts, word-of-mouth recommendations and partnering effectively with other organisations.

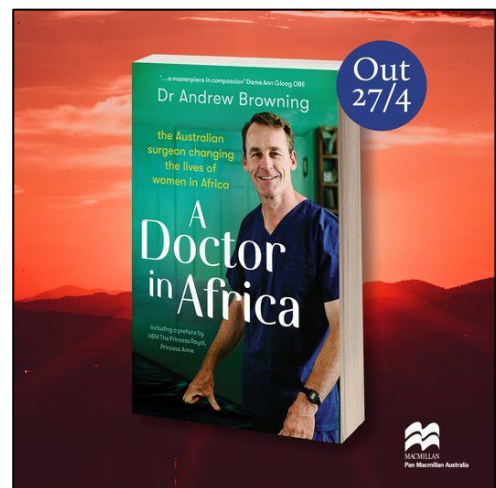
4 FUNDRAISING

Maternity Africa will continue its global fundraising efforts for general purposes and specific projects. Annual running costs for Kivulini Maternity Centre for 2024 are expected to be around USD 1.25 million (GBP 1, AUD 1.5m, EUR 1.15m).

Maternity Africa always welcomes opportunities to partner with private grant-making trusts and foundations, and donations from ordinary people. You can find out more about how to donate by visiting <http://maternityafrica.org/get-involved/donate/>, or by emailing Michael Hynds: michaelhynds@maternityafrica.org.

“A Doctor in Africa”

April 2021 saw the launch of a book written by Dr Andrew Browning. With the preface by HRH The Princess Royal, Princess Anne, and foreword by Her Excellency, Linda Hurley, Andrew's book is an inspiring story of his selfless life, from the obstacles he has overcome working in remote, harsh and vastly under-resourced regions, to the compelling stories of the women whose lives he has transformed forever through fistula surgery and access to free maternal healthcare¹.



¹ A Doctor in Africa, by Dr. Andrew Browning, available for purchase on international amazon websites.

5 PEOPLE SPOTLIGHT

People we serve

Maternity Africa exists to serve poor and marginalized women and girls of childbearing age (typically aged 15 to 49). Some patients, typically those treated for obstetric fistula, are often older, having suffered from the condition for many years, sometimes several decades. Regarding family planning, Maternity Africa serves the entire local community, including men.

Maternity Africa's maternity department provides maternal healthcare services for women in rural parts of Arusha Region, Northern Tanzania. The focus also includes areas of social and economic deprivation in the city of Arusha. The local population includes many women and girls for whom access to good maternal healthcare would otherwise be very challenging.



Maternity Africa works with other local maternal healthcare facilities, such that they can refer their more complex cases to Maternity Africa. Maternity Africa also works closely with the Ministry of Health, and has a Memorandum of Understanding with Arusha District Council to provide **free maternal healthcare** for poor women.

People who serve – dedicated staff



During 2023, Maternity Africa employed an average of approximately 80 full-time Tanzanian staff. Maternity Africa is grateful for their continued hard work and dedication, often in challenging and complex situations, doing their best to provide comfort, compassion and care. The staff are incredibly involved with all activities taking place at Maternity Africa, providing ideas for new projects, being motivated to learn and teach others (both their colleagues and staff coming from other facilities), always striving for

excellence.

Maternity Africa is also grateful for the interest of medical and midwifery students. In recent years we welcomed students from Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland and Australia. The staff always welcome them with open arms and hearts and take them on a journey of discovery and learning. The students experience and learn what providing maternal health care is like in a low-

resource setting. Not only in the hospital, but also in more remote areas where we provide mobile clinics. The experiences and responses have all been very positive and we hope we instilled a passion in these students for the work that we do so passionately.

Experience from an Australian medical student

Providence disguised as misfortune brought me to Kivulini Maternity Centre this year. Being in my final year of medical school, having had two elective placement arrangements fall through, my time with Maternity Africa came as an unexpected last-minute recommendation from a friend. Miraculously arranged and approved with my university just in time, thanks to lots of prompt and patient emailing from Maria, I found myself in Africa for the first—and hopefully not the last—time.

My typical day consisted of ward rounds, followed by clinic, then floating between labour ward, theatre and the neonatal special care unit thereafter, each day as flexible and varied as childbirth demands. I am grateful for the way all staff included me and allowed me to follow along with them in their work, with many doctors and midwives even taking the time specifically to teach me knowledge or skills, much of it unfamiliar territory to me. Even for a short visit at a relatively quiet period in the hospital, to learn from the volume and extent of pathologies and diagnostic dilemmas I have almost never encountered in Australia was immensely valuable.

Surprising myself, I was most moved when I joined the ward rounds in Maternity Africa's neonatal special care unit for the first time. Merely watching the mamas leaning over the cots smiling and fussing with their dear little babies was so precious. Here I was on the other side of the world and yet this felt *exactly like home*. A mother's love is indeed a universal gift.

I must not neglect to mention morning Devotions. Dear staff, continue to relish this chance together before each workday to praise genuinely, before each surgery to pray un-self-consciously; this is a rare joy – not inhibited by shame nor forced by obligation. Our western medical system is not so advanced as to allow such freedom as this.

To speak for 'the feel on the ground' of the hospital, it is delightful. This is most of all when the fistula mamas begin to arrive before camp – the hospital really comes alive. I felt there was a lovely sense of camaraderie between the staff, especially in how they included the visiting external midwives there for training. I loved how we all sat down to eat lunch together, and I treasure their joyfulness. I've decided that the wonderful Tanzanian quality of being 'quick to laugh' is one I wish to embrace, or rather re-discover, in this coming year.

I'm most grateful for the learnings that I don't know how to write down, the things I can't garner from textbooks and lectures. I appreciated listening in on many discussions that helped me explore ideas and begin to understand how healthcare intermingles and is affected by culture, government, religion and management (for better and for worse).

I couldn't have enjoyed a better placement, nor finale to medical school – and I promise this review is as genuine as it is glowing. This is a 'Christian hospital' in the best sense of both those words. And this is an organisation that's got its head screwed on straight and its heart in the right place.

Those five weeks were short only on time, rich in everything else – friends, experiences, memories. I will treasure this as I go forth – into medicine, or whatever else God has in mind.

People who serve – external partners

SERVICE DELIVERY PARTNERS

Maternity Africa recognizes the benefits of collaborative working to be better able to meet beneficiaries' needs. Summarized as follows are the main relationships that Maternity Africa developed and enjoyed during the year.

Organisation	Background and nature of collaboration
Arusha District Council	There is a Memorandum of Understanding in which Maternity Africa agrees to provide good maternal healthcare services, free of charge, to poor women and girls in Arusha District, as well as to provide practical skills development for birth attendants working in other regional healthcare facilities.
Arusha House Church	Arusha House Church congregates at Kivulini Maternity Centre on Sunday mornings. Patients are very welcome to attend if they would like to, and sometimes up to 40 or more of them do, with segments of the meeting conducted in Swahili language. The women are welcome to remain for some refreshments afterwards. The church also pays for Bibles in the Swahili language to be distributed to fistula patients who would like to receive one.
Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre	Maternity Africa refers extremely sick neonates to Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre for treatment at its neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).
Arusha Lutheran Medical Training Centre	Periodically, Maternity Africa hosts groups of up to eight student nurses on clinical rotations, training them on practical aspects of their educational curriculum.
Builders of Future Africa	Builders of Future Africa is a non-governmental organisation that aims to build a prosperous Africa by restoring hope to children and youths who have lost it, and helping them to meet their own essential needs. It does this through supporting education, health, livelihood development and community empowerment programmes. Maternity Africa's relationship with Builders of Future Africa provides for it to refer patients to Maternity Africa, principally pregnant teenagers, and to share appropriate, relevant community outreach and training activities.
East Africa Impact Center	For nearly four decades, East Africa Impact Center (ECHO) has been equipping and empowering hungry families with knowledge and the life-giving grace of God. It has impacted millions of lives by teaching small-scale, sustainable farming methods so families can provide for themselves and their communities. ECHO provides training and awareness of the value of simple, sustainable horticulture and nutrition to Maternity Africa's patients.

Organisation	Background and nature of collaboration
Girls Livelihood and Mentorship Initiative	Girls Livelihood and Mentorship Initiative (GLAMI) mentors secondary school girls to complete their education, develop into confident leaders, and transform their own lives and their communities. It equips girls to overcome challenges and reach their full potential because educated girls create lasting positive change. The outcome is proactive, resilient, and socially-responsible girls who secure better jobs, raise healthier families, and increase the standing of women in society. Maternity Africa's relationship with GLAMI provides for it to refer patients to Maternity Africa, principally pregnant teenagers, and to share appropriate, relevant community outreach and training activities.
Ministry of Health	Maternity Africa has an Agreement with the Ministry of Health to provide healthcare services on behalf of the Government of Tanzania. Maternity Africa enjoys good relationships with Ministry personnel, reports to them on a monthly basis and is currently negotiating the plans to expand community outreach into districts that are currently poorly served by primary healthcare facilities.
Mission Aviation Fellowship	Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) is an international Christian organisation whose mission is to fly light aircraft and to use other technology to bring help and hope to people in some of the world's poorest communities. Operating in Tanzania continuously since 1963, MAF serves remote communities through aviation. The programme has a fleet of two Cessna 206 aircraft able to meet the needs of its customers. MAF serves local partners including, churches, hospitals, missionaries, NGOs, and development and relief agencies who are working to provide access to healthcare, safe drinking water and the Gospel to the isolated people of Tanzania, particularly in the northern remote regions. Maternity Africa's arrangement with MAF enables our staff to travel to rural communities as part of our fistula outreach campaign.
Maasai Women Development Organisation	Maasai Women Development Organization (MWEDO) is a non-governmental women-led organization. MWEDO empowers women to enhance sustainable equitable and human development for Maasai women through access to education, women economic empowerment and maternal health and HIV/AIDS education. MWEDO is a membership organization with over 5,000 grassroots women members from Arusha and Manyara regions of Tanzania. Maternity Africa's relationship with MWEDO provides for it to refer patients to Maternity Africa, who satisfy Maternity Africa's screening requirements, to advocate for fistula treatment and to share appropriate, relevant community outreach activities.

Organisation	Background and nature of collaboration
Neema Village	Neema Village began as “Neema House” in 2012 as a rescue centre for abandoned, orphaned and at risk babies in Arusha. Since then, hundreds of babies have been rescued, many abandoned babies have now been adopted and others who had lost their mothers during the birth were saved and have now been able to return home to an extended family member. Maternity Africa has an arrangement with Neema Village for mutual referrals.
Nomad Tanzania	Nomad Tanzania is a safari tours company that Maternity Africa is partnered with for fistula outreach work. Nomad Tanzania plans to transport Maternity Africa personnel to its campsites to join its healthcare and maternal health outreach programme. Nomad Tanzania supports health facilities, bringing in specialists to address specific healthcare requirements. Nomad Tanzania adopted obstetric fistula as one such opportunity.
Pastoral Women Council	The Pastoral Women Council (PWC) is a non-profit membership organisation that works in northern Tanzania to achieve gender equality and community development through the empowerment of Maasai women and girls. Maternity Africa’s relationship with PWC provides for it to refer patients to Maternity Africa, who satisfy Maternity Africa’s screening requirements, to advocate for fistula treatment and to share appropriate, relevant community outreach activities.
Selian Lutheran Hospital	Maternity Africa assists Selian Lutheran Hospital by way of support for surgical treatment for obstetric fistula and other birth-induced injuries.
Walk in Love International	Walk in Love International is a non-Government organisation that assists and supports families who are struggling to keep their children, a child relative or an orphan in their homes and communities. Maternity Africa’s relationship with Walk in Love International provides for it to refer patients to Maternity Africa, who satisfy Maternity Africa’s screening requirements, to advocate for fistula treatment and to share appropriate, relevant community outreach activities.

The number and scope of Maternity Africa’s collaborative relationships may expand over the next few years as Maternity Africa continues to establish its brand, reputation and services.

People who provide

Maternity Africa acknowledges and is extremely grateful for the kindness of its generous donors. During the year, the following provided financial gifts and support in kind:

Donor name		Donor name (continued)
Achmea Foundation, in association with SPICA International Corporate Volunteering		Gould Family Foundation
		IMPACT Foundation UK
BabuBibi Foundation		King Baudouin Foundation United States
Barbara May Foundation ²		Little Sun
Blaren Voor Afrika		Mercury Phoenix Trust
Beyond Borders/University of Applied Sciences, Rotterdam		Rotary Club of Arusha West Side
Fistula Foundation		Segal Family Foundation
Fulmer Charitable Trust		Sonic Healthcare
Gideons International		Many private individuals and families

People who would like to support

Fundraise

Start your own fundraising campaign to help make a difference by supporting Maternity Africa. For more information, please feel free to contact us for further assistance at: <http://maternityafrica.org/get-involved/fundraise/>

Donate

Any donations, whether great or small, are very much appreciated and will help us deliver care to the many women who need it. You can give tax efficiently to Maternity Africa at: <http://maternityafrica.org/get-involved/donate/>

Pray

As a Christian organisation, Maternity Africa appreciates God's hand in all of its work. To find out about how you can pray for our work, visit: <http://maternityafrica.org/get-involved/pray/>

² Barbara May Foundation (BMF) contracts with major donors throughout the world to generate funds for Maternity Africa, channeled through BMF. Such major donors are typically based in the United States of America, Australia and Switzerland.

People who lead

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

Name	Position
Professor Wilfred Mlay	Chairman
Professor Esther Mwaikambo	Director
Dr Godwin Kimaro	Director
Mr William R Temu	Director
Mr Modest Akida	Director
Dr Andrew Browning	Director
Mr Michael Hynds	Director and Secretary

FOUNDER

Dr Andrew J. Browning, AM, FRCOG

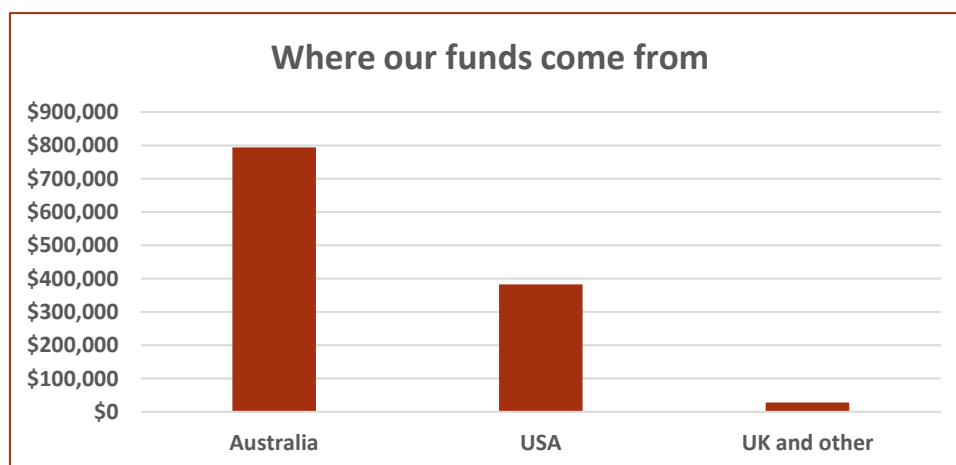
COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Mr Michael I. Hynds, FCA, CMIIA, CIA, MA

6 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023³

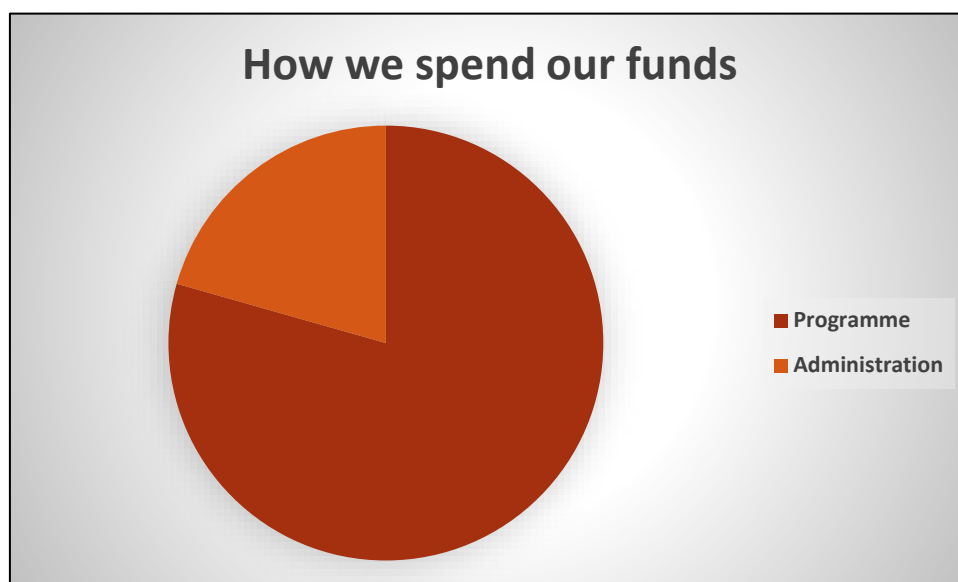
During the year, Maternity Africa received the equivalent of approximately USD 1.2 million in financial support from a range of generous donors: 66% from Australia⁴, 32% from USA and 2% from the UK and other countries.



³ The audited financial statements are expected to be signed off at the Board Meeting scheduled for June 2024.

⁴ The majority of donations from Australia are administered by Barbara May Foundation, whose income comes from around the world.

Maternity Africa's expenditure, totalling approximately USD 1.2m, is summarized as follows:



The vast majority⁵ of our income is spent directly on programme activities, including direct patient care costs and, for example, the costs of running our external midwife training programme and adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights training and education programme.

7 CONCLUSION

Overall, Maternity Africa is very pleased with the clinical and other outcomes achieved during 2023. We look forward to future growth as we design and implement our rolling multi-year strategic plan.

As always, we are thankful to our gracious and loving God, the oversight of our Board, our wonderful staff, the kindness and generosity of our funders and all of our patients.

Serving them is totally worthwhile.

⁵ Allocating exact proportions between direct programme expenditure and the essential administrative activities required to run and manage Maternity Africa is challenging. It is an inexact science, and depends on the underlying assumptions used to apportion costs, such as motor vehicle costs and some salaries, when activities are 'shared' and estimates can vary wildly. However, the diagram shown above serves as a reasonable approximation.



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<http://www.maternityafrica.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/maternityafrica>

YouTube Channels:

- Maternity Africa (of interest to donors)
- Maternity Africa Training and Education (of interest to learners)
- Kivulini Maternity Centre (of interest to clients)

Maternity Africa is registered in Tanzania as a Non-Governmental Organization with registration number 00NGO/R2/000524.

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