

Visit Marimanti Hospital

Foundation “Friends of Marimanti”, 14th – 20th of January 2024

Piet and Mimosa Bruinooge

The Foundation “Friends of Marimanti” has been created aiming to support Marimanti Hospital in Tharaka County, Kenya. For more information about the foundation see our website: www.friendsofmarimanti.com

The two above mentioned board members, visited Marimanti Hospital in January 2024. For Piet is was the first visit to Marimanti, so one of the aims of this visit was to get to know Marimanti and its surroundings, the hospital and the people working there and to get a feeling of the challenges the staff and patients are faced with every day. For the people and staff of Marimanti it’s likewise important to get to know us and stay involved in the plans and decision making. After all, it’s the Marimanti staff who sets the priorities.

Furthermore, we planned to meet with the minister and his team to set further steps in working out our plans

Day 1: 14th of January 2024

After an early arrival at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, Andrew’s brother in law, Josphat Gichure, picked us up at the airport and transported us to Chuka town, since we had to be there for a meeting with the minister the next day.

After a fantastic lunch with Andrew, his wife Mirjam and their three kids, a visit was paid at mr Wilson (chief of staff of Mr. Muthomi Njuki, honorable governor of the county)and his wife ms. Evelyn. That night, we stayed at Lowlands Hotel.

Day 2: Monday 15th of January 2024

At 10 am we were scheduled for a meeting with the CEC member dr Gichuya and his team. It was a very positive meeting where opportunities for our partnership were discussed. *Details about this meeting can be found in the minutes, addendum 1*



Dr Elijah Kameti, Mr Aggrey Karani Riungu, Dr. Mimosa Bruinooge , Dr Gichuya Nthuraka M’Riara, Mr Pieter Bruinooge, Dr Andrew Ger Njoroge

After lunch at Tredds garden we picked up Andrew’s daughter Mimosa to send her of to boarding school. Interesting to get a glamps of the school system in Kenya. The journey continued to Marimanti were we arrived end of the afternoon and checked in at Homelodge hotel

Day 3: Tuesday 16th of January 2024

Visit to Marimanti Hospital. After a warm welcome and tour in Marimanti Hospital the engineering team from Chuka arrived and made their inspections. Preliminary findings and plans about the solar system were shared with the administrative and medical staff of Marimanti Hospital. Suggested was to install a solar system covering the whole hospital, but with “load isolation” which means machines that consume a lot of electricity will be taken out of the quotation for now. This will cover the basic needs such as light and computer service and can be expanded in future. This is a slightly different approach as suggested before, when the idea was to start per hospital block. To our impression, the engineering team was very knowledgeable and capable of carrying out this project. Questions and suggestions from the staff were answered comprehensively and all were enthusiastic to continue this project.

For details about this meeting see minutes, addendum 2

Already the next day a report was send per email, see *addendum 3*

After the meeting, we completing the tour in the hospital and discussed with different staff members about the situation and needs in Marimanti Hospital.

Besides the challenges in the hospital we also got to see a whole other site of Marimanti: Andrew and his friend Jesse took us to beautiful waterfalls. On the way there we got an impression of rural surroundings of Marimanti and challenges in country life



Typical landscape

Day 4 Wednesday 17th of January 2024

For Mimosa, the day started with visiting the hospital and joining ward rounds with dr Kanye, gynaecologist, dr Motuma (MO) and dr Muchiri (family medicine specialist). During these rounds it was very clear that some people are really suffering from poverty related health issues. As much as 17 patients stayed admitted in the hospital because they could not pay the hospital bill. Some patients are deprived from essential surgery and treatment because they are not capable of paying the hospital bill. Also the general conditions in the wards are suboptimal: hot, crowded and overdue maintenance. After seeing all this it was once again clear that a FOM really can make a difference in people's lives.



Ward rounds with dr Motuma

In the meantime, Piet and Adrew went to Marimanti town to get to a feeling of the town. After an impressive morning, we had lunch with dr Kanye, gynaecologist and mr Kamanja, nursing officer in charge. During this lunch, we talked about the wish to renovate the Maternity Ward. Both dr Kanye as mr Kamanja (also a trained midwife) shared their ideas and agreed upon a rough sketch how their suggestions could put it to reality. This sketch was worked out the next day and shared with the ministry.

See addendum 4

Later that afternoon we paid a visit to a community workshop and dr Kanye joined dr Andrew, his friend Jesse and us went to another, also magnificent waterfall called Ikwe waterfalls. Truly beautiful and a very relaxing way to get to know dr Kanye.



Dr Mimosa, dr Andrew Njoroge, dr Grace Kanye, Jesse, Piet

That evening dr Martin Mawera, also a board member of FOM joined us and we discussed several issues about the foundation. Myrrith and Senned joined us via Zoom for a board meeting, minutes are made separately.

During the visit, we talked to different key stakeholders in the hospital about their ideas about the foundation and the needs of the hospital. Here is a summary of the ideas shared

- *Dr Pius Mutuma, MO. Most interested in paediatrics and public health. He and Senned form a working group about continues medical education. His wish is to send at least 2 nurses for specialisation training, one in neonatology and one in pediatrics. He also acknowledges for more intensive on the job training in neonatal life support (NLS), although on the job training is intensified lately and conducted about every 4-6 weeks. He likes the suggestion that one of the interns planning to do a rotation in Marimanti coming April will help with improving NLS training.*

Furthermore, he is worried about cases of malnutrition in the area, some advances cases have been admitted in the hospital lately.

He is very enthusiastic about the foundation and likes to stay actively involved

Dr Henry Muchiri, specialized in family medicine, trained in Cuba. Very supportive about the foundation, also emphasises the importance of improving pediatric care and the poverty related health issues in Marimanti.

Dr Anthony, general surgeon. Present Monday – Wednesday. Monday 15th was his first day in Marimanti, so he's not familiar with the challenges about this specific hospital and region, but is very enthusiastic about the foundation. He's also experienced and enthusiastic about learning by means of simulation training and loves to contribute to that in Marimanti. He himself is ALSO and ATLS trained

Dr Grace Kanye, gynaecologist, mostly present Monday – Thursday. Shared her ideas on how to improve quality of care at the maternity ward by renovating.

Mr Kamanja, midwife, nursing officer in charge. Already involved from the start of FOM. Supporting the foundation, also shared his enthusiastic ideas about improvement of the MW.

Thursday 18th January

Due to the scheduled meeting in Chuka we had to leave Marimanti Thursday morning. Martin and Mimosa had planned to exchange ideas about continues medical education, but unfortunately, Martin was called away for an emergency caesarean section. But for sure, quite some progress has been made already. Early afternoon we safely arrived in Chuka where we checked in at “Hidden Treasure Hotel”. That afternoon we had quite a long meeting with the minister and his team and the MOU was officially signed. *For more information see minutes. Addendum 5*

Friday 19th January

Travel day to Nairobi. After greeting Andrew’s wife Miriam and enjoying a lovely early lunch at their house Jesse drove us to Nairobi in his comfortable car, accompanied by Andrew. After quite a long journey with heavy traffic jams we arrived at the house of Andrew’s close friend Cecilia and enjoyed a lovely dinner again. After a night at the Boma in (a hotel at headquarters of the Red Cross) we took an early morning flight back to Amsterdam.

In conclusion

All our goals for this trip were achieved and above that, we had a wonderful time together. We enjoyed the beautiful country but most of all its welcoming and loving people. Essential steps to proceed with our projects, especially the solar project, were made. And once more, after seeing the suffering of the people in Marimanti with our own eyes, we’re more than ever inspired to make this foundation a success!