

## An ASSL delegation visits the MCH in April

- Newly refurbished and equipped surgical ward
- Water factory
- Thank you for helping us
- New accounting system
- Donation of medicines & IT equipment

Give a child a year at school

A small bridge for a big impact

A great gift: rice distribution

The patient of the quarter

A major celebration to mark the 18th anniversary of the MCH



**ACTION  
SWISS  
SIERRA  
LEONE**



# ASSL 2024 – Newsletter 1

We hope that you will enjoy reading this Newsletter, illustrating the life in and around the Magbenteh Community Hospital. Many outstanding achievements have been made possible through the donations of our Friends and Sponsors. Thank You for Your help!

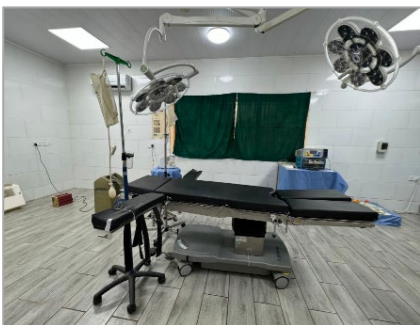
## An ASSL delegation visits the MCH in April

Jean-Luc Robert-Charrue, our President, accompanied by Sébastien Botteron, Vice-President, David Jones, Treasurer and Philippe Monnard, Head of Projects, recently spent 5 days in Magbenteh. Their stay was very productive, with numerous working sessions with the hospital staff and enriching encounters with the children from our school.



From left to right:  
Jean-Luc Robert-Charrue  
David Jones  
Davidericson Conteh,  
Chief Medical Officer  
Sébastien Botteron  
Philippe Monnard

The ASSL delegation's tour of the hospital showed how well the medical teams are working, despite the many challenges. Dr Inge Hendriks and Dr David Conteh are supported by community health workers and surgical assistants who carry out some of the treatments and surgical procedures. The **newly refurbished and equipped surgical ward** greatly improves the quality of care. The newly installed digital X-ray machine has significantly improved the management of trauma cases. Other centers in the region are benefiting from the quality of the images obtained by referring their patients. However, there is still room for improvement in diagnostic procedures, and discussions with doctors have highlighted the urgent need for analysis equipment (complete blood count, liver tests, etc.). The ASSL committee considers this last point to be a priority and is already working on a precise evaluation of the selection criteria for this equipment.



David Jones, treasurer of the ASSL, examines the **new QuickBooks accounting system** with Allie Badara, SSLDF accountant. As a result, the flow of your donations is tracked from start to finish.

# Please help us

The Magbenteh Community Hospital exists thanks to your generous donations. Thanks to you, we can ensure the sustainability of the hospital and continue to save and change lives in Sierra Leone!

You can support us by making a matching donation to:

Care for one day	USD 50
Hernia operation on a child	USD 300
Medicines and supplies for one day*	USD 1,000
Salaries one day*	USD 1,000
Salaries one month*	USD 30,000

*\*for the entire hospital*

The delegation also visited the **water factory**, which, thanks to a regular spring on the campus, as well as a filtration plant and packaging machines, produces several thousand 500 ml bags of water a day, the sale of which generates a significant profit, enabling the hospital in particular to obtain supplies of medicines. This is a fine example of a project that is enabling the hospital to become more self-sufficient, while at the



same time providing the local population with access to excellent quality water. Another project that was widely discussed during the

visit was the "outreach" project, which involves equipping a vehicle to enable a medical team to visit isolated communities. This too is a "two birds with one stone" project, enabling the most vulnerable populations to be treated while at the same time enhancing the hospital's reputation.



A **donation of CHF 2,000** worth of **medicines** was generously offered by Sébastien Botteron, our Vice-President.

The President is so proud and happy to be able to meet Esther, Adamsey and Mohamed, who are sponsored by his two sons and their wives, as well as by his wife. These 3 children have received their uniforms and school equipment and will be fed during school days, which is unfortunately not the case for everyone... It's so difficult to accept that some children watch their friends eat while they have nothing...



**Light up the smiles of other children by sponsoring them,** and we're proud to be able to guarantee that your payment will end up on their plates, as we regularly visit them to make sure it does.

**For just CHF 145,**  
you can give a child  
**ONE YEAR OF SCHOOL AND THE MEALS!**  
You're securing your child's future.  
It's an **INESTIMABLE GIFT!**



The money paid by the sponsor is used to pay for the child's school fees, uniform, shoes, school equipment (books, exercise books, etc.) and lunches for the whole school year.

To find out more...

Visit our website: <https://assl-ch.org/parrainage/>

Contact us at: [parrainage@assl-ch.org](mailto:parrainage@assl-ch.org)



The 30 children sponsored by the **Rotary Club of Nyon** are also very lucky.

The ASSL delegation is pleased to pass on the donation made by ASSL committee member Anne Prisco. It consists of a **laptop computer and a scanner** for the pupils' drawings, which will then be sent to their sponsors.



## Faithful support from Helfende Hände

### A small bridge for a big impact



The old bridge built near Magbenteh to enable children to walk to school was built by Helfende Hände (Germany). Over time, the wood weakened and became dangerous. German donors again offered their help and a new bridge was rebuilt with larger iron beams for the balustrade and concrete for the roadway.

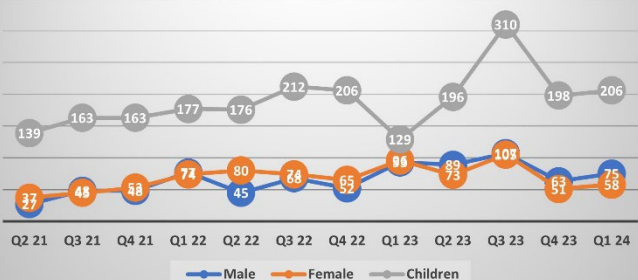
### A great gift: rice distribution

Helfende Hände funded and organised a rice distribution to each member of MCH staff. A gift of 25 kg of rice, which was both welcome and motivating for all employees, was once again a fine gesture at a time when the cost of living is skyrocketing for the local population.

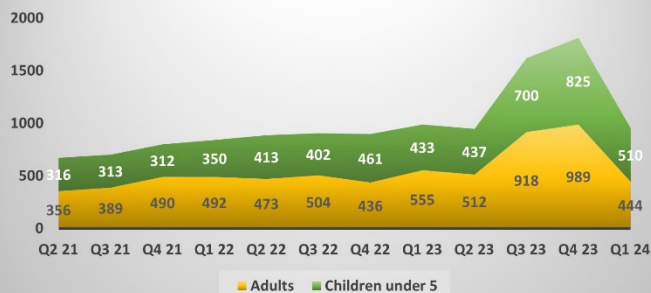


## Quarter Numbers

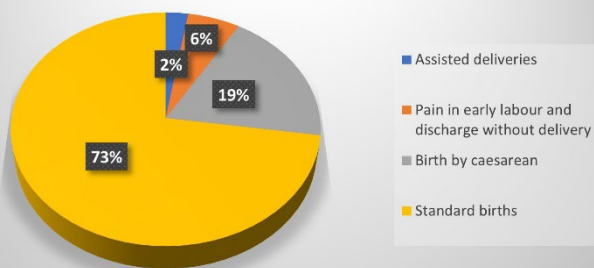
Inpatients Wards



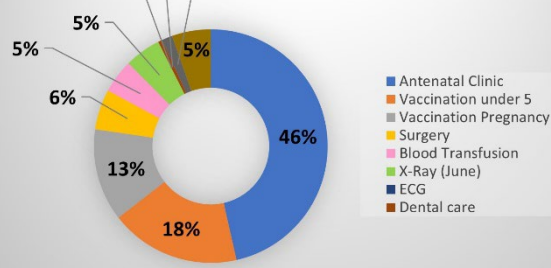
Outpatient Department



Maternity



Registered



*Make a Difference!*  
**DONATE!**

**All donations, big or small, are always welcome.**

We appreciate all gestures which will allow our action in Sierra Leone to succeed.

We accept donations in several currencies. In Switzerland, the donations are tax deductible.

### For bank transfers:

Beneficiary: Action Swiss Sierra Leone  
Bank: UBS SA, 1260 Nyon, Suisse. CCP 80-2-2  
BIC (Swift): UBSWCHZH80A

### For the hospital:

IBAN for donations in **CHF**: CH30 0022 8228 5536 2701J  
IBAN for donations in **EUR**: CH84 0022 8228 5536 2761V  
IBAN for donations in **USD**: CH53 0022 8228 5536 2760A

### For the Friends of the Magbenteh Community Hospital

Would you like to become a Friend of the Magbenteh Community Hospital?

Visit our website : [www.assl-ch.org](http://www.assl-ch.org)

Set up a standing order with your bank:

IBAN: CH41 0022 8228 5536 27M3 U  
Account «Action Swiss Sierra Leone»  
Monthly standing order of CHF 50.00

### For the school sponsorship:

IBAN for donations in **CHF**:  
CH85 0022 8228 5536 27M1k



For Swiss donors, **DO NOT MAKE DONATIONS DIRECTLY AT THE POST OFFICE COUNTER**

because we are not given the name of the donor. This makes it impossible to identify the donor and send a tax certificate.

For Swiss payment (replacing the "payment slip")



**A big thank you to your generosity. Thanks to your contribution, we can continue our action in Sierra Leone and therefore, support the most in need.**

## The patient of the quarter



**Abibatu Kargbo**, a 22-month-old baby girl, was brought to our clinic by her mother, who was complaining of fever, frequent loose stools, coughing, vomiting, weakness and loss of appetite. She was examined and admitted, and laboratory tests were carried out. She was diagnosed with malaria and severe dehydration. She was admitted to the malnutrition unit, treated and discharged. Malaria remains one of the main causes of death in children and adults and requires rapid action when diagnosed.



## A major celebration to mark the 18th anniversary of the MCH

The MCH, which was founded in 2006, celebrated its 18th anniversary in March with a host of events.



### A dinner with prestigious guests

A dinner was organised in the presence of a number of prestigious guests, including representatives from the Ministry of Health and Bombali District Council, who appreciated the spectacular changes seen at the hospital and acknowledged the many challenges ahead. They thanked the donors and the work accomplished and pledged to continue working in collaboration with SSLDF/MCH.

### Celebrating a shining star

**Joseph Tarawallie**, our Chief Executive of the MCH was celebrated and thanked for his dedication and invaluable work for the hospital.



Joseph Tarawallie was born in the Tonkolili region of northern Sierra Leone. His diverse educational and professional background took him to Ghana for a degree in theology and business administration and to Nairobi, Kenya, for a master's degree in theological studies. He then returned to Sierra Leone where he worked for 15 years at the Adventist

the northern region and then joined the MCH hospital in 2016 with responsibility for chaplaincy and the guidance and counselling unit. Since 2021 he has taken on the role of Controller, Personal Assistant to the President of SSLDF and later in the year was promoted as Chief Executive of MCH. Working hard to improve and maintain the hospital's quality standards, he is disciplined and competent in all his assignments. His unique and exceptional leadership style has been recognised and he won the **MCH 18th Anniversary Award of Excellence!**



### Fun activities

A **football match** took place on 25 January between the medical and non-medical staff of the MCH. The match ended in a draw: 2-2.

The **inter-sponsor sporting challenges** were taken up by four different groups: Helfende Hände (blue), L'Appel (yellow), Fedevaco (brown) and ASSL (white and red), who won this event.



A **large procession** to celebrate the creation of the hospital was organized from the city center to the hospital grounds. MCH staff, dressed in specially designed T-shirts, marched with a live band through the streets, amongst customers, stakeholders and the general public. Staff took advantage of the procession to pass on advertising messages to the public to promote the various MCH services and projects.

