



Project full name:
St. Francis Referral
Hospital in Ifakara

Domain:
Health

Phase I:
2010 - 2020

SDC contribution:
CHF 8.268 million

Main Partners:

- Roman Catholic Diocese of Mahenge
- Saint Francis Referral Hospital (SFRH)
- Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)
- SolidarMed

Other Partners:

- Edgar Maranta School of Nursing
- Ifakara Health Institute (IHI)
- Tanzania Training Center for International Health (TTCIH)
- Saint Francis University College of Health and Allied Sciences (SFUCHAS)
- Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDGEC)
- President's Office - Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG)

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Project Overview

The St. Francis Referral Hospital SFRH is located in Ifakara, in the southern part of Tanzania. The hospital was founded as a dispensary by the Swiss Baldegg sisters in the 1920s and is owned by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Ifakara. In 2010, the St. Francis Hospital was among 10 faith based hospitals that were officially upgraded by the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDGEC) to become referral hospitals. SFRH has a capacity of 370 beds and offers a wide range of services including specialised care.

Switzerland and Ifakara share a rich and long history. The hospital is connected historically and operationally to a number of other health institutions that are also supported by different Swiss institutions (mainly Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute - Swiss TPH and Norvartis Foundation for Sustainable Development – NFSD): the Tanzania Training Centre for International Health (TTCIH), Ifakara Health Institute (IHI), and the Edgar Maranta School of Nursing (EMSN). More recently, the St. Francis University College of Health and Allied Sciences (SFUCHAS) was created to join the health related institutions, completing what is known today as the *'Ifakara Cluster of hospital services, academia and research'*.

In 2012, SDC launched a new comprehensive support project to include:

- Construction and rehabilitation of hospital structures,
- Technical assistance in the provision of quality health care services,
- Provision of medical equipment,
- Strengthening of the hospital ICT system, and

- Technical assistance to put in place adequate governance and management systems for sustaining the quality of services, and optimising synergies with local partner institutions and other stakeholders.

Overall Goal

The overall objective is to support the hospital in the development of the range of services and provide a conducive environment for training of students and research.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Governance of SFRH has been enhanced and is more transparent.
- The strengthened ICT system has made substantial contribution to revenue increase for the SFRH.
- Several key elements of the hospital expansion have been completed. These include: construction of the emergency and X-ray wing, labor wards, new pharmacy, sanitary toilets, waiting area, drying area, Out Patient Department and meeting hall.

Beneficiaries

The primary beneficiaries of the project are hospital staff, local partner institutions and patients from Kilombero valley in Morogoro Region and beyond, a population of approximately 800,000.



New Out Patient Department © Swiss TPH