Voice of Mengo

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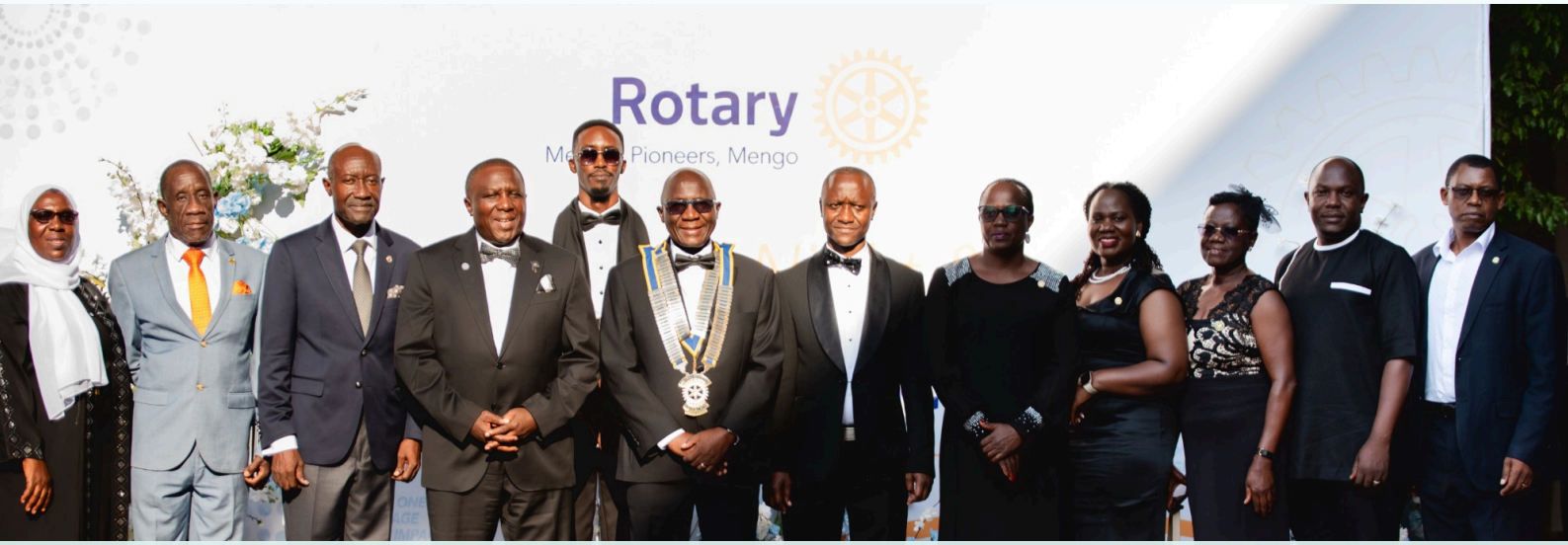
Mengo Hospital · #*MengoCares*



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01 PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

Rotary and Mengo: a relationship growing from support to service

A long-standing partnership is evolving into an even stronger culture of service within Mengo Hospital.

For years, Rotary has been an important partner in Mengo Hospital's work, supporting initiatives that have strengthened patient care, infrastructure and access to essential services. From major investment in the Mengo Hospital Rotary Blood Bank to support for dialysis and other areas of care, the relationship has demonstrated what sustained partnership can achieve.

That relationship entered a new chapter on 3 June 2026 with the chartering of the Rotary Club of Medical Pioneers, Mengo. The club was established not only to deepen Mengo Hospital's connection with Rotary, but also to bring the values and objects of Rotary closer to staff — encouraging service, fellowship and stronger engagement with Rotary clubs beyond the Hospital.

The club has already begun translating that spirit into action. One of its first projects has been the repainting of Nassolo Children's Ward, helping create a brighter and more welcoming environment for young patients and their families.

The wider Rotary–Mengo partnership has also continued to strengthen the Hospital's blood services. A new Transfusion Transmissible Infections (TTI) testing machine, valued at USD 189,963, forms Phase One of a two-phase equipping initiative valued at USD 258,417. The machine enables blood testing to be carried out on site, reducing turnaround time from approximately three days — when samples had to be transported to Uganda Blood Transfusion Services in Nakasero — to about 24 hours.

"It is a relationship moving from support to shared service."

The next phase includes expansion of cold-room capacity, with the ambition of increasing blood storage from approximately 2,000 units to as many as 20,000 units. Together, these investments strengthen the systems needed to make safe blood more readily available when patients need it.

What makes this chapter particularly significant is that Mengo is not only benefiting from Rotary partnership; its own staff are increasingly becoming part of the Rotary community and carrying the culture of service forward. It is a relationship moving from support to shared service — with the potential to create an even wider impact inside the Hospital and in the communities it serves. ■



"Mengo Hospital has already seen what partnership with Rotary can make possible. Through the Rotary Club of Medical Pioneers, Mengo, our vision is to build an even stronger bridge between the Hospital and the Rotary world, bringing people and partners together to serve with compassion and deliver tangible impact for our patients, our staff and the communities around us."

CP Julius Luswata
Charter President, Rotary Club of Medical Pioneers, Mengo



Safer blood, faster

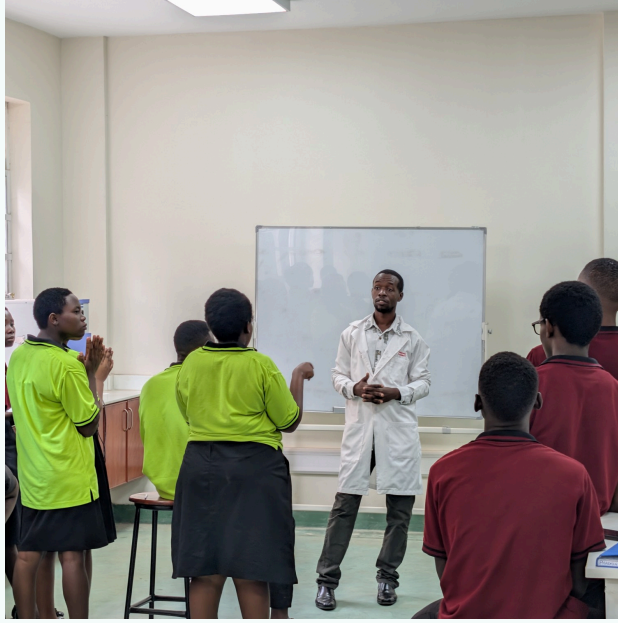
3 days → 24 h
Blood-test turnaround, now done on site

2,000 → 20,000
Planned blood storage (units) with new cold rooms

USD 189,963
The TTI testing machine — Phase One

USD 258,417
Total two-phase equipping initiative





02 BUILDING THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE TRAINING

Mengo Hospital Training Institute enters a new chapter

New infrastructure, expanding programmes and a bigger academic ambition are positioning MHTI for its next era.

Mengo Hospital has always understood that improving healthcare is not only about treating the patient in front of us. It is also about preparing the healthcare workers who will care for the next patient, the next family and the next generation.

That commitment is taking a significant step forward through the continued growth of Mengo Hospital Training Institute (MHTI). The Institute's new five-storey training block is now functional, providing expanded space for teaching, practical learning and student development. The facility includes 15 classrooms, 10 skills laboratories, a library and a computer laboratory.

This expanded learning environment supports a growing portfolio of health training programmes, including Medical Laboratory, Pharmacy, Public Health Dentistry, Ophthalmology, and Anaesthesia and Critical Care at certificate, diploma and post-basic levels.

The next stage of growth includes planned degree programmes in Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science, Bachelor of Nursing and Bachelor of Midwifery. Beyond undergraduate training, the longer-term ambition is even larger: to transition into a healthcare training university with linked Master's programmes, fellowships and stronger academic and professional partnerships.

Partnerships with Uganda Christian University and Ndejje University are part of this wider direction, creating opportunities for collaboration as the Institute expands its academic offering.

MHTI's greatest advantage remains its connection to a functioning hospital. Students are learning within an environment where healthcare is delivered every day, allowing theory, clinical exposure, mentorship and professional practice to reinforce one another.

With a training legacy stretching back more than a century, Mengo is building on a long history while preparing for a very different future — one in which the demand for skilled, specialised and adaptable health professionals will continue to grow. ■

Inside the new training block

5
Storeys, now fully functional

15
Classrooms

10
Skills laboratories

2
A library and a computer laboratory

THE ROAD AHEAD FOR MHTI

Today

Certificate, diploma and post-basic

- Medical Laboratory
- Pharmacy
- Public Health Dentistry
- Ophthalmology
- Anaesthesia & Critical Care

Next

Planned degree programmes

- BSc Medical Laboratory Science
- Bachelor of Nursing
- Bachelor of Midwifery

The ambition

A healthcare training university

- Master's programmes
- Fellowships
- UCU & Ndejje University partnerships

STUDENT ENROLMENT · JUL–DEC 2026

1,546 Students across all schools, up from about 1,225 in the 2025/26 academic year

1,202
Nursing & Midwifery

344
Allied Health Sciences

87
In four new programmes

New this semester: Pharmacy 39 · Public Health Dentistry 29 · Ophthalmology 14 · Anaesthesia 5



"Our ambition is to continue growing MHTI into a stronger and more comprehensive health training institution. We have already expanded our offering with TVET-accredited Diploma programmes in Anaesthesia, Ophthalmology, Public Health Dentistry and Certificate in Pharmacy. The next step is degree-level training, and with interim authority from the National Council for Higher Education, we are working towards introducing Bachelor's programmes in Nursing, Midwifery and Medical Laboratory Science from July next year. As we grow, our vision is to strengthen our affiliation with Uganda Christian University and, in the longer term, develop MHTI into a degree-awarding institute in its own right."

Assoc. Prof. Robinson Ssebuufu
Director Education, Training & Research (DETR)





03 SKILLING FOR THE HEALTH SYSTEM WE NEED

Creating practical pathways into healthcare

Two six-month programmes are helping bridge the gap between training, practical competence and workplace readiness.

Across the health sector, one of the persistent challenges is not simply having people who want to work in healthcare, but ensuring that they have the practical skills and clinical exposure required to contribute confidently in real care environments.

Mengo Hospital is responding through targeted skilling programmes designed for two different points in the healthcare workforce journey: a pathway into healthcare through the Dental Assistant Skilling Programme, and a pathway into specialised practice through the Specialised Nursing Apprenticeship Programme.

The Dental Assistant Skilling Programme is a six-month training programme delivered through the Mengo Hospital Dental Department, with intakes in March and September. It combines in-hospital training, practical clinical experience and mentorship, creating an entry route for people who want to build a career in healthcare while developing workplace-ready skills.

For already qualified nurses, the six-month Specialised Nursing Apprenticeship Programme provides focused clinical exposure in five areas: Critical Care, Dialysis, Emergency Care, Ophthalmic Nursing and Inpatient Care. The programme is designed around real clinical practice, helping participants build confidence and competence in areas where specialised skills are increasingly needed.

The programmes serve a wider purpose beyond Mengo Hospital. By investing in practical training, the Hospital contributes to a stronger pool of skilled healthcare workers for the wider health sector. At the same time, this creates a pipeline of professionals whose training and capabilities are already understood should recruitment opportunities arise within Mengo.

This approach helps bridge the space between qualification and practice. It recognises that strong health systems depend not only on classroom knowledge, but on professionals who have had the opportunity to practise, learn under supervision and understand the realities of patient care. ■

"Strong health systems depend not only on classroom knowledge, but on professionals who have had the opportunity to practise."

TWO PATHWAYS, ONE PURPOSE

A PATHWAY INTO HEALTHCARE

Dental Assistant Skilling Programme

- **6 months**, through the Mengo Hospital Dental Department
- Intakes in **March** and **September**
- In-hospital training, practical clinical experience and mentorship
- An entry route for people building a career in healthcare

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

O level, with credits in Mathematics and English

25 Dental assistants trained through the programme

A PATHWAY INTO SPECIALISED PRACTICE

Specialised Nursing Apprenticeship Programme

- **6 months**, for already qualified nurses
- Designed around real clinical practice

50 Nurses trained across two groups: 33 in the first, 17 in the second

NURSES TRAINED, BY SPECIALTY



Inpatient: 5 in the first group, all 17 in the second.



SUCCESS STORY

From trainee to chairside assistant

"The training has helped me become much more confident and competent in my work. I have learned how to handle patients better, assist the doctor effectively and follow the right protocols, especially around infection prevention and control. These are things that have improved both my skills and my efficiency. In my current role as a chairside assistant, I am now much more confident in what I am doing and in the support I provide during patient care."

Nabweteme Rebecca
Dental Assistant Skilling Programme Trainee



04 ONE YEAR CLOSER TO CARE

Kabaka Edward Mutesa II Hospital, Busiimbi marks its first year

One year after opening, the hospital is bringing essential and specialist services closer to communities in Ssingo.

When Kabaka Edward Mutesa II Hospital, Busiimbi opened in August 2025, the goal was clear: bring quality healthcare closer to communities that had often needed to travel significant distances — including to Kampala — to access important services.

One year later, the hospital is steadily establishing itself as an important point of care for the people of Ssingo and surrounding areas. Its services include general medicine, laboratory services, ophthalmology, antenatal and maternity care, ECG and imaging.

The availability of specialist eye care has been particularly significant. Patients who previously had to travel to Kampala for ophthalmology services can now access care closer to home, reducing the distance, time and additional costs associated with seeking specialist attention.

In its first year of operation, the hospital has served 5,969 patients, reflecting the demand for accessible healthcare services closer to the communities they are intended to serve.

The focus for the second year is to consolidate the services already available while continuing to expand the hospital's capacity. Plans include the introduction of dental services, more advanced imaging and additional community-centred initiatives developed with the support of partners.

The first year has reinforced a simple but important lesson: access is not only about whether a service exists. It is also about how close that service is to the people who need it. By extending the Mengo model of care beyond Kampala, Kabaka Edward Mutesa II Hospital is helping close that distance. ■

Busiimbi's first year, at a glance

5,969

Patients served in the first year

Services available now

- General medicine
- Laboratory
- Ophthalmology
- Antenatal & maternity
- ECG
- Imaging

Coming in year two

- Dental services
- More advanced imaging
- Community-centred initiatives

"Access is not only about whether a service exists. It is also about how close that service is to the people who need it."







05 WHEN DIABETES THREATENS MORE THAN BLOOD SUGAR

Mengo Hospital launches a dedicated Diabetic Foot Clinic

A specialised weekly clinic is strengthening prevention, early intervention and long-term management of diabetic foot complications.

As the burden of diabetes and other non-communicable diseases continues to grow, effective care increasingly requires looking beyond blood sugar management to the complications that can significantly affect a patient's quality of life.

On 14 August 2026, Mengo Hospital launched its dedicated Diabetic Foot Clinic, providing a focused point of care for patients living with diabetes who are at risk of, or already experiencing, complications affecting their feet.

The clinic operates under the Department of Endocrinology and Non-Communicable Diseases, which was officially launched in November 2025 during the Hospital's World Diabetes Day celebrations. Its establishment strengthens Mengo Hospital's approach to long-term management of non-communicable diseases by bringing greater attention to one of the serious but often preventable complications of diabetes.

Operating every Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., the clinic provides consultations and diabetic foot assessment and care. Services include foot screening and risk assessment, evaluation and management of wounds and ulcers, assessment for nerve and circulation-related complications, wound care and dressing, patient education on proper foot care, and referral or coordination with other specialists where further intervention is required.

Beyond treating an existing wound, however, the clinic has a larger purpose: prevention and better chronic disease management.

For people living with diabetes, seemingly minor foot problems can become serious when they are not identified and managed early. Regular assessment, patient education and timely intervention can therefore play an important role in preventing complications and helping patients manage diabetes more effectively over the long term.

The vision of the Department of Endocrinology and Non-Communicable Diseases is for the clinic to continue developing beyond its current offering. As highlighted by the Head of Department, the focus will increasingly be on both the management and prevention of diabetic foot complications, with aspirations to establish a dedicated foot laboratory as the service evolves.

This would create an even stronger platform for assessment, prevention, treatment, patient education and follow-up while supporting Mengo Hospital's broader commitment to comprehensive chronic disease management.

The Diabetic Foot Clinic therefore represents more than a new weekly clinic. It is another step towards a model of diabetes care that identifies risks earlier, manages complications more effectively and equips patients to take an active role in protecting their long-term health. ■



VISITING THE CLINIC

Every Thursday

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

- Foot screening and risk assessment
- Evaluation and management of wounds and ulcers
- Assessment for nerve and circulation-related complications
- Wound care and dressing
- Patient education on proper foot care
- Referral or coordination with other specialists

Department of Endocrinology & Non-Communicable Diseases, Mengo Hospital









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