

WOUTER NOLET  
FOUNDATION



# ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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## Preface

It is with great pleasure and a sense of gratitude that we mark our fourth year in Sierra Leone, supporting medical students through our scholarship program and providing maternal healthcare to pregnant women in rural areas.

Throughout 2025, we awarded scholarships to 79 students across three advanced training programs: surgery/obstetrics, pediatrics, and internal medicine. A number of these sponsored students also served as certified scanners in our Maternal Outreach Project (MOP). In 2025, they performed 8,065 scans and referred 737 women to the hospital for safe delivery.

In our Child Health project, we rolled out a community-based program where malnourished children receive hospital care while parents are educated on health, nutrition and hygiene.

After four years of development, we like to ask ourselves: What did we achieve? Are we creating the added value that the people of Sierra Leone truly need? And if so, how do we ensure our healthcare services become sustainable?

The healthcare system in Sierra Leone faces major challenges: there is only one doctor for every 23,000 inhabitants. The country has one of the world's highest Maternal Mortality Ratios (MMR) at 443 per 100,000 live births. For comparison, in the Netherlands, that figure is 4 per 100,000. Additionally, 94 out of every 1,000 babies born do not reach the age of five.

Given these statistics, we believe we are on the right track, but our services must become more deeply embedded in local structures. During our last Board meeting, we decided to develop a strategic transformation plan for 2026, including:

- Strengthening our workforce: to empower staff to carry more responsibility.
- Modernizing our infrastructure and equipment.
- Implementing better systems for planning and control.
- Fostering community (leaders) participation: our services are only sustainable if the communities trust and encourage them.
- Reducing fixed costs: our goal is to reduce these from approximately 55% to less than 35% by 2027.

At the end of 2026, we will make a decision whether the leadership of our activities can be transferred to the local management. If so, we will no longer need to appoint a new Dutch tropical doctor.

None of our work would have been possible without our donors. This year, many new donors have joined the Foundation. We are deeply grateful for the trust they put in us.

Finally, a word of thanks to our local staff and team. Their dedication and perseverance under difficult circumstances deserve great appreciation. We are proud of what has been achieved and look forward to significant progress in 2026.

Pim Nolet *Chairman*

# 1. Scholarship Program

In 2025, the Wouter Nolet Foundation (WNF) issued 18 new scholarships. In total, 79 students are enrolled in our program.

	Batches			Total
	22-23	2024	2025	
<b>CapaCare</b>	13	9	7	29
<b>German Doctors</b>	18	11	5	34
<b>Partners in Health</b>	10		6	16
<b>Total</b>	41	20	18	79

We offer scholarships to disadvantaged healthcare workers in Sierra Leone for advanced training in surgery/obstetrics (CapaCare), pediatrics (German Doctors) and internal medicine (Partners in Health).



The programs use problem-based learning to facilitate student-centered knowledge transfer. Through medical training and clinical experience, students develop strong diagnostic reasoning, clinical skills, patient counseling, and team collaboration.



The WNF scholarship covers personal costs, including food, clothing, transportation and mobile data. It applies to the entire three-year training period, including the final one-year housemanship.

Graduates become Clinical Officers with a bachelor’s degree and a license from the Medical and Dental Council of Sierra Leone. They are typically employed in district hospitals and paid by the government.

By supporting these mid-level clinicians, WNF aims to bridge the human resource gap between medical doctors and assistants. This facilitates "task-sharing."

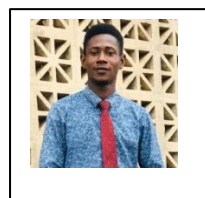
Here is what some of our students had to say:



**Abdulai Lahun (CapaCare)** “I was the first beneficiary. The allowance helped me focus on my studies, knowing my personal needs were covered.”



**Christiana Sesay (German Doctors)** “The scholarship gave me the opportunity to focus entirely on my clinical practice.”



**Peter Kargbo (Partners in Health)** “The scholarship reduces financial stress, allowing me to dedicate to the study.”

## 2. Maternal Outreach Project

In 2025, 72 small villages have been served within the Maternal Outreach Project (MOP), performing 8,170 scans and referring 755 High-Risk Pregnant (HRP) women to the hospital for safe delivery. The number of scans increased by 79% compared to 2024.

Annual Statistics	2023	2024	2025
Visits made	44	46	72
Scans performed	3760	4565	8170
HRP's diagnosed	443	409	755
% HRP's	11,8%	9,0%	9,2%

### Need

Women in remote, rural areas lack access to maternal care. These women usually give birth at home or in CHC/PHU's where medical facilities are very limited. In case of complicated pregnancy, birth giving may then become risky.



### Team

The MOP tries to prevent this risk by providing ultrasound scanning in the villages and referring High Risk Pregnant (HRP) woman to Masanga hospital.



The MOP team includes - among other professionals - our sponsored students, who gain vital field experience. We also train 'Maternity Agents' (mostly Traditional Birth Attendants) to recognize risk signs and support the HRP women.

Since half 2025, we have included a Child Health Project (CHP), focusing on malnutrition and disease prevention of children through parental education.



### Training

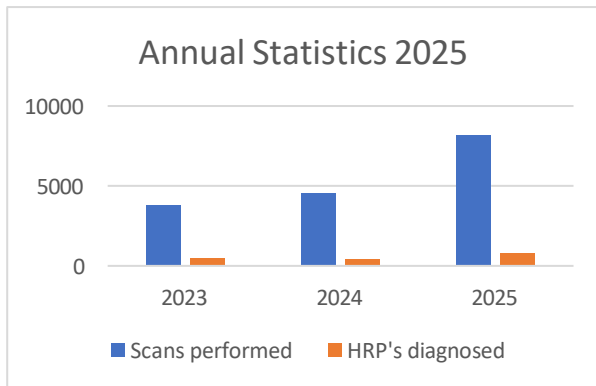
We also initiated hands-on training for rural midwives and nurses from the CHC/PHU's to improve quality. Quarterly two-day training sessions were held at Masanga Hospital, focusing on a range of obstetric topics and scenario-based learning.



These trainings not only enhance the skills and attitude of the healthcare workers but also foster closer collaboration between CHC/PHU's and Masanga Hospital, thereby facilitating the HRP women referred.

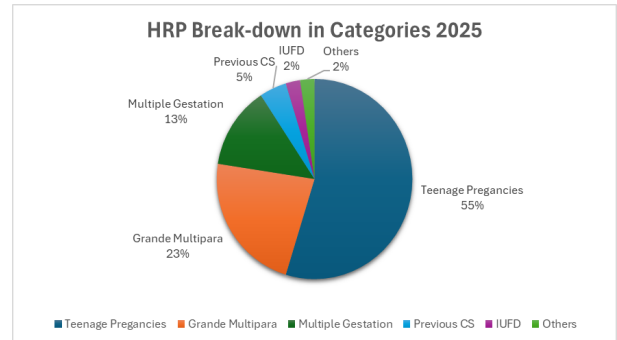
## Statistics

The number of scans performed increased from 4,565 in 2024 to 8,170 in 2025 - a significant growth of 79%. Despite this volume increase, the identification rate of High-Risk Pregnancies (HRP's) remains stable at approximately 9%.



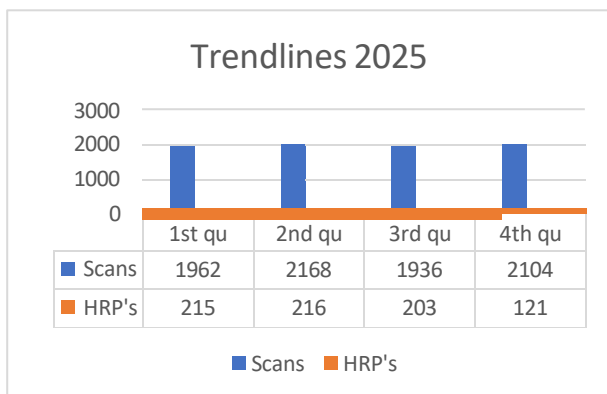
## HRP Break-down

A breakdown of these cases shows that 55% of HRP's involve teenagers. Based on our research in the Tonkolili district (refer to paragraph 3), we are investigating intervention points to improve the health and well-being of this vulnerable group.



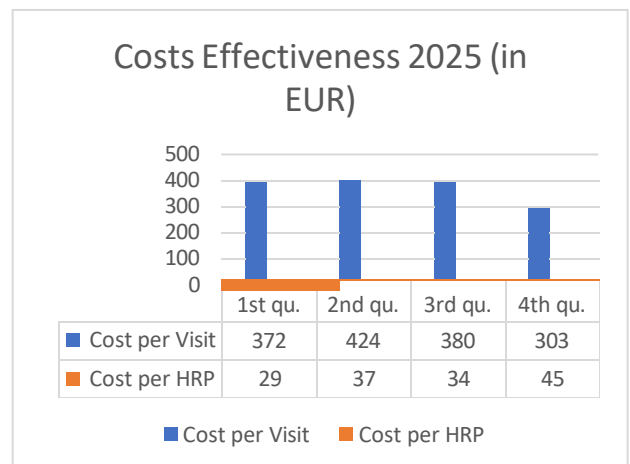
## Trendlines

In the first three quarters, HRP's generally followed the volume of scans. However, in Q4, scans went up (from 1,936 to 2,104) while the number of HRP's went down (from 203 to 121). This inverse relationship suggests a change in quality or nature of what was being scanned. We need to investigate the cause of this reduction.



## Costs Effectiveness

The operational costs per HRP (average of € 36) are relatively high. Although they directly reflect the core objectives of our mission, we will try to reduce the fixed costs of our operational activities from approximately 55% to less than 35% by 2027.



### 3. Research Reviews

*A pre-post study to evaluate the effect of our outreach ultrasound scanning in 22 villages in Mathokara catchment area, Tonkolili District, Sierra Leone. By - Nina Stybe*

This study was aimed to assess the effect of our scanning and counseling on High-Risk Pregnant (HRP) women who gave birth in a facility based center (offering a crucial set of life-saving services) instead of at home. Data were collected by interviewing all (identified) HRP women in the catchment area before and after the scanning/ counseling intervention. An electronic survey was developed to enter data during the interview. Women who had given birth within the past year were eligible. Baseline data were collected in 2023 and follow up data in 2025. Nina Stybe led the research-team consisting of six research assistants.



Interviews took place by going door to door in the villages, assisted by our Maternity Agents. At baseline, 444 post-partum women were included and 432 at follow-up.

The study found promising results across all variables assessed: an increase in facility-based births from 74.8% to 79.2%. More than 89% of the women received at least one scan and the number of HRP women increased from 6.1% to 12.0%. Most participants (98.1%) would recommend other women to go to the monthly scanning and 72.2% participated in at least one health talk provided by Maternity Agents.

*A qualitative exploration of teenage pregnancy in Tonkolili, Sierra Leone.*

*By - Imke Broecheler and Erika Martin*

This study explored the lived experiences of teenage pregnancy from the perspective of girls who were pregnant at the moment of interview or were previously pregnant. Using in-depth interviews and focus group discussions, the research identified several barriers that influence their access to and use of maternal healthcare.

One major barrier is that hospital delivery is not always considered the best option. Financial constraints as well as concerns about transportation and the ability to afford food or other necessities during a hospital stay discourage many girls from seeking facility-based birth giving. In addition, limited knowledge about the signs of labor and the risks associated with teenage pregnancy can lead to delays in seeking appropriate obstetric care.

Fear also plays a significant role in following medical referrals. Some participants reported fear of being mistreated by healthcare staff in hospitals, while others felt anxious about going to distant hospitals.



Finally, many teenage girls have little decision-making power. They often depend on caregivers or partners to decide whether to seek care, which can further delay access to necessary services. These combined factors create significant challenges for pregnant teenagers in obtaining timely and adequate maternal healthcare.

## 4. Events

### Opening Wouter Nolet Skills Lab

On November 28, Masanga Hospital - in cooperation with CapaCare - opened a new skills lab that was named after Wouter. A Skills Lab is a place dedicated to practical learning, testing surgical and obstetrics skills.



Our tropical doctor Annelien van Binsbergen gave a speech at the opening: *"Wouter's passion was to transform theoretical knowledge into real-world practical skills. We hope this lab stands for decades as a beacon for those, seeking expertise."*

### City-Pier-City Run, The Hague NL March 2025

On March 9, 2025, 35 enthusiastic runners participated in the City-Pier-City run in The Hague. They showed up at the start, wearing the blue 'Rennen voor Wout' T-shirt.



Afterwards, the runners were cheered on at Greens restaurant. They met with family and friends and enjoyed the drinks.

The event was organized by our social media team. More than 50 donors granted our request for charity.

### Dr. Wouter Run, Masanga SL December 2025

On December 19, 2025, 220 employees and villagers gathered for the annual 10km race.



While a professional runner won in 33 minutes, the event was truly about inclusivity - featuring children, pregnant women and even athletes with amputations. Over €15,000 was raised in favor of Masanga Hospital!

We are very thankful to all these loyal donors.

A dramatic incident occurred during the race: runners found an unconscious pregnant woman along the side of the road who had fallen from a motorbike. Using the WNF outreach ambulance, they rushed her to the hospital and our clinicians saved both the mother and child via an emergency C-section.

## 5. Financial Review

<b>Income and Expenditures</b>				
		<b>2025 Actual</b>	<b>2024 Actual</b>	<b>2026 Budget</b>
<b>Income</b>				
	Periodic donations	<b>108.500</b>	16.550	80.000
	One-off donations private	<b>25.757</b>	7.368	25.000
	One-off donations institutions	<b>7.500</b>	26.661	5.000
	Runners Event donations	<b>1.291</b>	1.852	1.000
	Interest from saving account	<b>1.881</b>	121	1.500
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>144.929</b>	52.552	112.500
<b>Expenditures</b>				
	Funding WNSF	<b>32.502</b>	12.669	30.000
	Funding MOP running	<b>69.770</b>	57.125	70.000
	Funding MOP research	<b>6.953</b>	0	0
	Overhead	<b>2.234</b>	2.546	2.500
	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>111.459</b>	72.340	102.500
	<b>Operating Result</b>	<b>33.470</b>	-19.788	10.000

### Income

The Wouter Nolet Foundation (WNF) enjoyed a financially robust year in 2025, concluding with a positive operating result exceeding €33,000. Income from periodic donations rose substantially compared to 2024. This increase is primarily attributed to the "catch-up" of income that had been postponed from the previous fiscal year.

### Expenditures

The WNF scholarship project expanded significantly, welcoming 18 new students for a total of 79. We disbursed approximately €30,000 in grants this year. Academic performance remained high: all students passed their year-end exams, with only one withdrawal from the German Doctors advanced training program. All payments were processed via a uniform procedure through our local bank account in Sierra Leone.

The Maternal Outreach Project (MOP) continued its strong growth throughout the year (see paragraph 2 for further details). Additionally, we introduced a new Child Health project, while the Research project was successfully completed. All projects remained well within budget - a testament to the diligent cost control exercised by our local management team.

The administrative overhead accounted for only 2% of total expenditures. This is significantly below the 10% benchmark typically used as a yardstick for similar foundations in the Netherlands.

<b>Balance Sheet</b>			
		<b>31-12-2025</b>	<b>31-12-2024</b>
<b>Assets</b>			
	Current Bank accounts	<b>12.857</b>	6.268
	Savings bank account	<b>143.555</b>	116.674
	Commitment periodic contracts	<b>152.000</b>	145.500
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>308.412</b>	268.442
<b>Liabilities</b>			
	Equity	<b>156.412</b>	122.942
	Provision project funding	<b>152.000</b>	145.500
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>308.412</b>	268.442

## Balance Sheet

The Foundation has built up a total equity of € 156.412. When combined with the long-term commitments from our periodic donation contracts, this places WNF in a healthy financial situation. We possess more than sufficient resources to ensure the continuity of our activities in the coming years.

## Accountability and Governance

To ensure rigorous financial oversight, the Foundation employs a Dutch medical doctor stationed in Masanga. She holds ultimate responsibility for local finances in Sierra Leone, reporting monthly to the Treasurer in the Netherlands.

Furthermore, an audit committee has reviewed the Foundation's financial records of both the Dutch administration as well as the Sierra Leonean administration. No irregularities were found. Consequently, the committee has approved the financial statements and granted discharge to the WNF Board.