



Abdul Rahman Mojue (STP student).

CapaCare Annual Report 2021

April 2022



Contents

Summary	3
In Memoriam	4
Content	5
About CapaCare International	5
About CapaCare – Norway	6
About CapaCare – Sierra Leone	7
About CapaCare – Netherlands	7
Wouter Nolet Foundation	8
About CapaCare – Liberia	8
Surgical Training Programme – Project Locations	9
Surgical Training Programme – Graduate locations	11
Surgical Training Programme – Output student and graduate	12
Surgical Training Programme – Surgical output	13
Surgical Training Programme – Role and procedures	14
Surgical Training Programme – Tutors and Trainers	15
Media and Publications – Online	17
Media and Publications – Publications	18
Partners / Donors	19
Financial Overview	20

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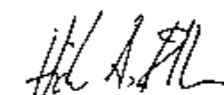
Summary

2021 has been another interesting and rewarding year for CapaCare and all of us involved with strengthening surgical care in West-Africa. We have had a series of meetings and engagements with good colleagues in Liberia throughout the year which has resulted in the establishment of CapaCare Liberia. Together with organisations and individuals we have found common ground with both the Ministry of Health and with the Liberia College for Physicians and Surgeons that seems to be a solid platform for strengthening surgical human resources in the country. We are looking forward to developing this further in the coming years.

The most significant development in Sierra Leone has been the signing of an agreement with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, the School of Clinical Sciences Makeni, German Doctors, Partners in Health and CapaCare. This allows the Ministry, partners and CapaCare to take a long step forward of establishing surgical task-sharing in Sierra Leone. While Partners in Health will offer sub-specialisation of clinical officers in internal medicine, German Doctors in paediatrics, CapaCare will continue to offer high quality training in general surgery and emergency obstetrics. This collaboration in the School of Clinical Sciences in Makeni will spearhead a nationwide strengthening of middle-level workforce, that will benefit first level hospitals.

This collaboration between the five entities offers some very interesting long-term opportunities that can strengthen human resources in the country for decades to come. CapaCare is committed to this collaboration, and we will share our experiences from more than ten years of training Community Health Officers with our partners. We believe working together in such a consortium will create a strong school, well situated to deliver high quality human resources for health in many disciplines.

In CapaCare we aim to further train more local trainers, that also can be of benefit for future surgical training in the Makeni school. With some additional guidance and training, many of our graduates have the qualifications necessary to become future trainers in surgery and obstetrics.



Håkon A. Bolkan
CapaCare International Chairperson

Trondheim, Norway – April, 2022

In Memoriam

Our hearts were overflowed with sadness when we learned that our dear colleague and friend Lama Bah passed away on February 19, 2022 after a short illness at Koidu hospital.

Lama entered the CapaCare training programme in April 2019. He held a Higher National Diploma in Community Health and Clinical Studies from Njala University. Prior to entering the STP he spent years working with both hospitals and international organisations in different capacities. Lama was a very clever and hardworking student and was already in the final year of pursuing a bachelor's degree in Community Health and Clinical Studies at Njala University when he joined CapaCare.

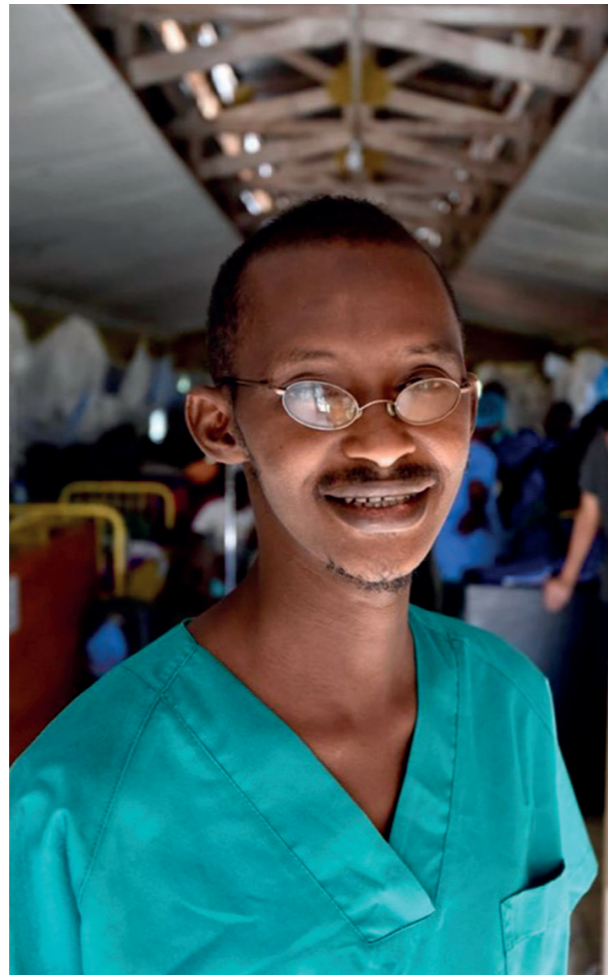
Practicing medicine and surgery was the dream of Lama. He had clear ideas since an early age that engaging in building national capacity and preventing preventable deaths like maternal and infant mortality was his destiny. During his

interview Lama stated, *"Bring life to the hopeless and giving equality opportunities to the most vulnerable has being my vision in all the organisation I represented"*.

In the all too short time Lama was part of the CapaCare family, he did exactly that. He brought life to us all. Lama grew into a great clinician during his training and saved many lives with it. His dedication for his patients was very special and outstanding. Lama was teaching his junior colleagues with passion and patience, he was a role model for them. Lama Bah was a wise, hardworking, very kind and warm-hearted man and he will always be in our hearts.

Lama leaves behind his wife, two children, family, friends and so many colleagues.

Our thoughts are with all of those who will miss him. Rest in peace dear Lama.

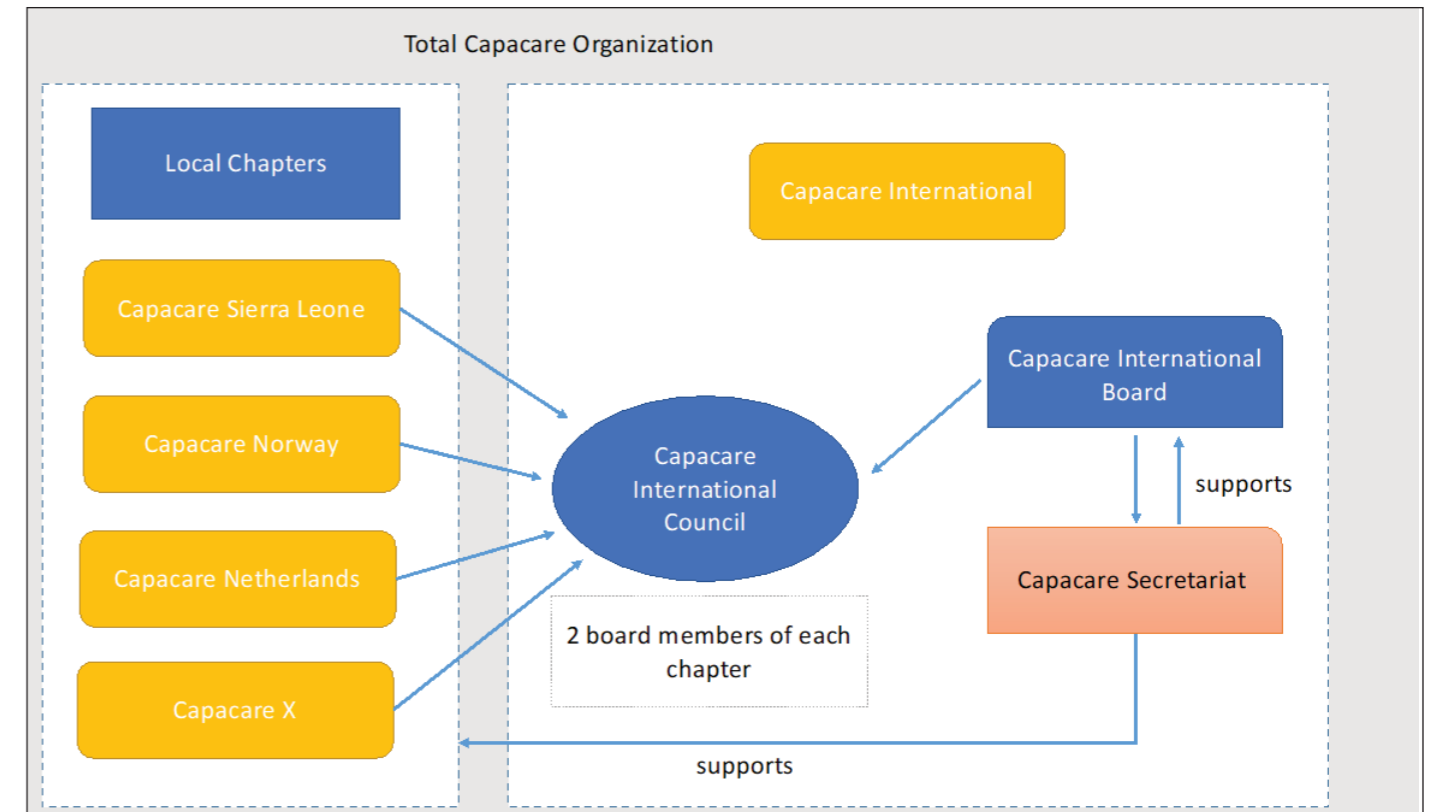


Late Mohamed Lama Bah (SACHO).

About CapaCare International

In recent years, CapaCare International has been developed as the entity that oversees and coordinates the activities of the national CapaCare Chapters. CapaCare International consists of the CapaCare International Council where two members of each national Chapter hold a seat. This is the highest decision-making body within the organisation. CapaCare International has an elected Board and is supported by a Secretariat. The main responsibilities of CapaCare International is to decide on all major matters in

the organisation in order to make sure all Chapters agree on the activities of the organisation and how the organisation moves forward. This typically includes election of the CapaCare International Board, approval of the main activities of the whole organisation on behalf of all the Chapters, approval of an overall CapaCare budget, approval of the vision, mission, and strategy of CapaCare and finally grant membership to new national Chapters.



About CapaCare – Norway

CapaCare Norway (CapaCare NO) is organised in five working groups. The Fundraising Group has prepared ethical guidelines for fundraising. The Communications Group has generated and published content for the website and provided articles and pictures on social media. The Logbook Application Group has continued the development of the logbook data collection and analysis. The Liberia Group has supported the development and preparation of the CapaCare Liberia project.

Finally, the 10-year Anniversary Group has prepared interviews that have been published on the website and published a book. Unfortunately the planned symposium was postponed to 2022 as it was not possible to gather physically as a result of COVID restrictions. All CapaCare Norway Board Members have participated in one or more of these working groups and most of these groups also have representatives from other CapaCare Chapters. The COVID-19 epidemic has made it difficult to meet physically and most meetings have been online.



STP Mohamed Jorkie receiving his 10-year Anniversary book at Yele Hospital for all his hard work helping a patient.

About CapaCare – Sierra Leone

CapaCare Sierra Leone (CapaCare SL) was established in 2015, and is currently registered at the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development under registration number NNGO/634/2020-21. The organisation actively promotes increased access to emergency surgical and obstetric care in Sierra Leone by strengthening national human resources for

those services. CapaCare SL also works to locally raise funds and recruit health professionals in Sierra Leone to accomplish this purpose. The Board oversees CapaCare's activities in Sierra Leone and advises both the local management in Masanga and the International Board.

About CapaCare – Netherlands

The overall vision of CapaCare Netherlands is to support and foster the sustainable development of the competences of health care workers in low-income countries.

The objectives and our activities in 2021 were as follows:

1. To improve the quality of the education of health care workers by:

Assisting in the continuous development of the STP curriculum. At the moment the programme in Sierra Leone is in a transitional phase. As soon as the programme is adopted officially within the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS), there is a need to proceed with this objective. This will have to be done in collaboration with different stakeholders, among others, representatives of the School of Clinical Science Makeni (SCSM).

Selecting and guiding (guest) facilitators and trainers for the Obstetric Modules. In 2021 two emergency obstetric courses took place in Masanga, in March and in August. Support was given to the trainers during the preparation, stay and upon return. Both courses were unanimously evaluated as very effective and successful by the participants. Furthermore, the course curriculum materials have been sorted out which helps a lot to standardise this training of high quality.

Supporting the Programme Coordinators in Sierra Leone and offering 'peer-to-peer' support - 'intervision'. In 2021 there has been a complete change in coordinating staff, both for CapaCare and Masanga Hospital. Intervision has become a conjoined effort of both mentioned organisations, with focus on work pressure, communication, collaboration and challenges in daily work.

2. Fostering 'lifelong learning' of graduates of the Surgical Training Programme.

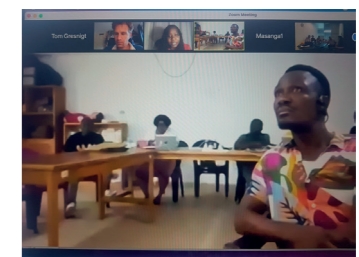
In 2021 we successfully organised the participation of ten SACHOs in the Global Surgery Summer School organised by Utrecht University. All sessions were quite interactive and so were the group assignments. The SACHOs watched together online from Masanga in this first fully digital version of the Global Surgery Summer School, and despite the lack of physical interaction there was a great inspirational atmosphere of sharing global surgical knowhow.

3. Establishing, reinforcing and maintaining a network of (new) partners within and externally to the Netherlands.

As 2021 marked the 10-year anniversary of CapaCare we were involved in the organising committee for the celebrations.

4. Fundraising for designated projects and running costs of the organisation.

In Quarter 4 2021 CapaCare Netherlands approached Wilde Ganzen Netherlands for their support in fundraising for a new vehicle in Sierra Leone and Liberia. This resulted in two collaboration agreements signed early 2022 for these separate projects. Rotary Bennekom has agreed to support CapaCare Netherlands with the vehicle project.



SACHOs participating in the Global Surgery Summer School.

Wouter Nolet Foundation

In 2021 we helped the Wouter Nolet Foundation to develop the concept for the Wouter Nolet Scholarship Fund. We engaged in discussions with their Board and advised them on how best the Wouter Nolet Scholarship Fund could be developed and implemented in Sierra Leone. The Wouter Nolet Foundation was established in 2019 to commemorate the life and work of CapaCare's Programme Coordinator Wouter Nolet, who died while working in Masanga Hospital.

The Foundation operates independently from CapaCare with a separate Board. The goal of the Foundation is to gather voluntary financial contributions from donors to provide scholarships to qualified health care workers in Sierra Leone

with limited financial means, enabling them to attend the CapaCare Surgical Training Programme (STP).

In 2021 this collaboration led to a pilot project in which the Wouter Nolet Foundation supported two students in the Surgical Training Programme by providing funds to CapaCare to cover the direct costs related to their training (course materials, housing, and travel allowance). Furthermore, CapaCare Netherlands and the Wouter Nolet Foundation agreed that CapaCare Netherlands will in the future support the Wouter Nolet Scholarship Fund to act as a semi-independent commission to review and select potential candidates for the scholarships.

About CapaCare – Liberia

CapaCare Liberia was officially established in 2021. CapaCare representatives were in the country from January to May 2021 and from September 2021 onwards in order to establish CapaCare as an organisation in Liberia. The objective of CapaCare Liberia is to improve access to surgical and obstetric care by increasing the capacity of health workers through strengthening training. To do so we aim to complement the existing government structures and training initiatives by providing training in a rural area of Liberia, where the surgical need is highest.

One of the main activities in 2021 was to engage key stakeholders, amongst whom were the Ministry of Health, the Liberia College for Physicians and Surgeons (LCPS) and the Liberia Medical and Dental Council, as well as other NGOs working in (surgical) health care delivery and training. It was agreed that CapaCare Liberia will start by supporting the LCPS with training of postgraduate residents in Surgery and Obstetrics & Gynaecology by providing a rural posting and modular skills-based training courses.

In November 2021, a hospital assessment was carried out to identify a primary training site. Jackson F. Doe Memorial Regional Referral Hospital in Tapeta, Nimba County, was selected as the training hospital. This facility is located centrally in Liberia and is accredited by the Liberian and West-African authorities as one of their training hospitals. In 2022, CapaCare Liberia will transfer its activities to Tapeta and start the training.



Håvard Adde, Katja Maschuw, Ella Teasdale and Mark Oghogho

In order to start the activities in this rural environment, a fundraising exercise was undertaken together with CapaCare Netherlands and the Wilde Ganzen Foundation to purchase a vehicle in 2022. Acquiring a vehicle will be crucial for the structural development of the organisation in Liberia.

Moving forward, major milestones for the coming year will be to start surgical and obstetric training and to continue the development of the organisation. We look forward to this development as we strive to support and strengthen surgical training in Liberia in 2022.

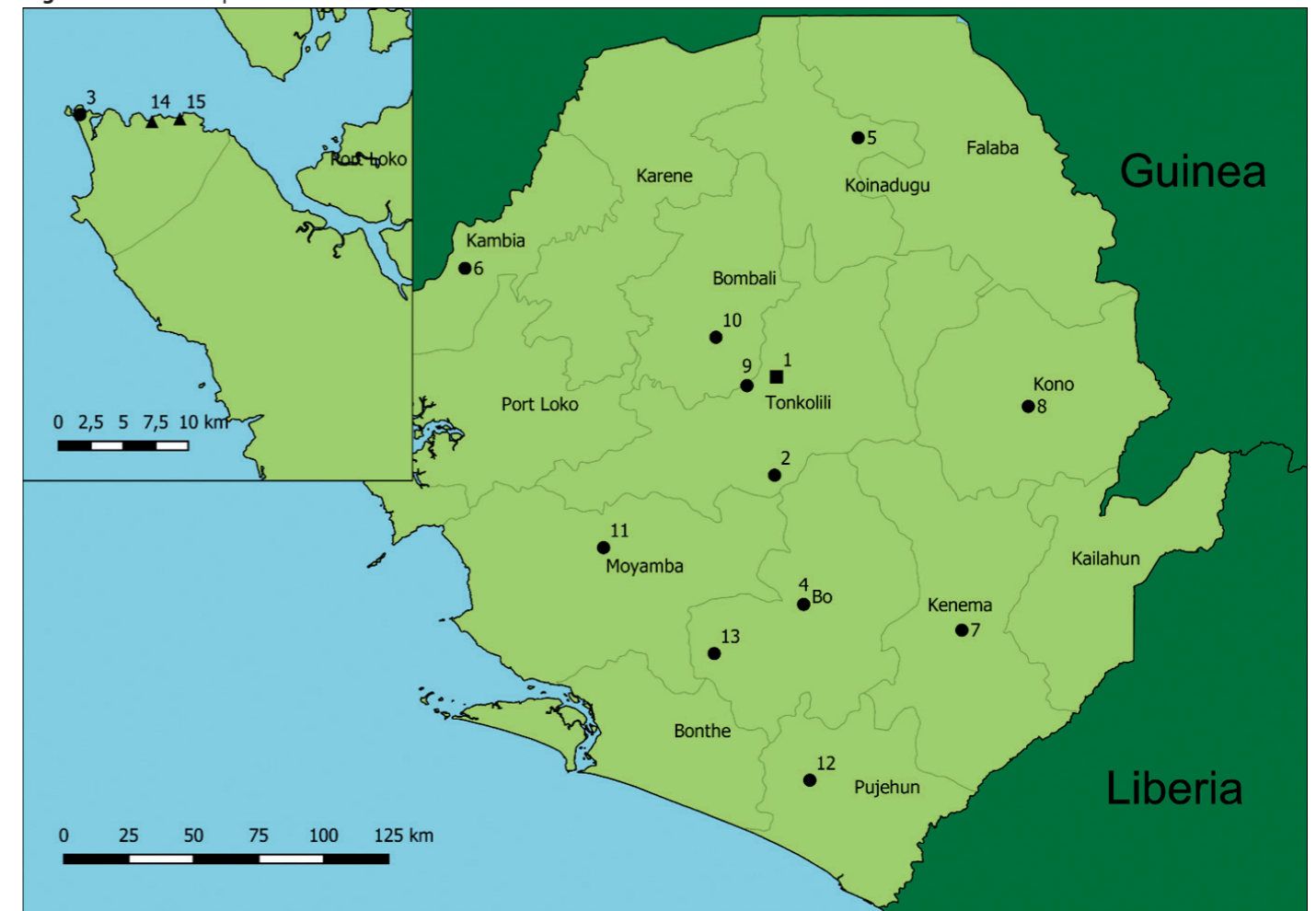
Surgical Training Programme

– Project Locations

Since the start of the Programme, Masanga Hospital has been the home of the Surgical Training Programme (STP) in Sierra Leone. It is the place where the local management team is based and where all the students commence their basic training. The cooperation with Masanga Hospital makes it possible to provide, besides the theoretical and skills training, practical courses in basic surgical skills. After several weeks in the Programme, the students are introduced to the wards, outpatient department and operating theatre.

After six months of basic training in Masanga, the students continue their clinical rotations in partner hospitals, for three rotations of five to six months each. In this period, they will receive further practical training and gain experience in management of obstetric and surgical emergencies. After successful completion of the rotations, the students take their final oral and written examinations at the end of year two, conducted by the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS) in collaboration with CapaCare. Upon graduation, the students enter a one-year housemanship stage (six

Figure 1: Partner Hospitals in 2021



- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Basic training 1. Masanga Governmental Hospital | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Kabala Governmental Hospital 6. Kambia Governmental Hospital 7. Kenema Governmental Hospital 8. Koidu Governmental Hospital 9. Magburaka Governmental Hospital 10. Makeni Governmental Hospital 11. Moyamba Governmental Hospital | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Pujehun Governmental Hospital 13. Serabu Catholic Hospital |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clinical rotations 2. Lion Hearth Medical Center Yele 3. Aberdeen Womens Clinic Freetown 4. Bo Governmental Hospital | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Housemanship 14. Connaught Freetown 15. PCMH Freetown |

months of obstetrics and six months of surgery) in the two largest tertiary governmental hospitals in Freetown. The housemanship is organised by the MoHS.

Fifteen of the surgically most active hospitals in Sierra Leone with experienced surgeons, obstetricians and/or surgically inclined Medical Officers were active partners of the Training

Programme in 2021 (**Figure 1**). These partner hospitals are selected on the basis of their surgical capacity, coverage of supervision, and the availability of surgical tutors. The hospitals and their national and international staff have offered their premises to the Programme, ensuring that each candidate is exposed to the most skilled tutors presently available in the country.



Sheka Mohamed Kamara (STP student).

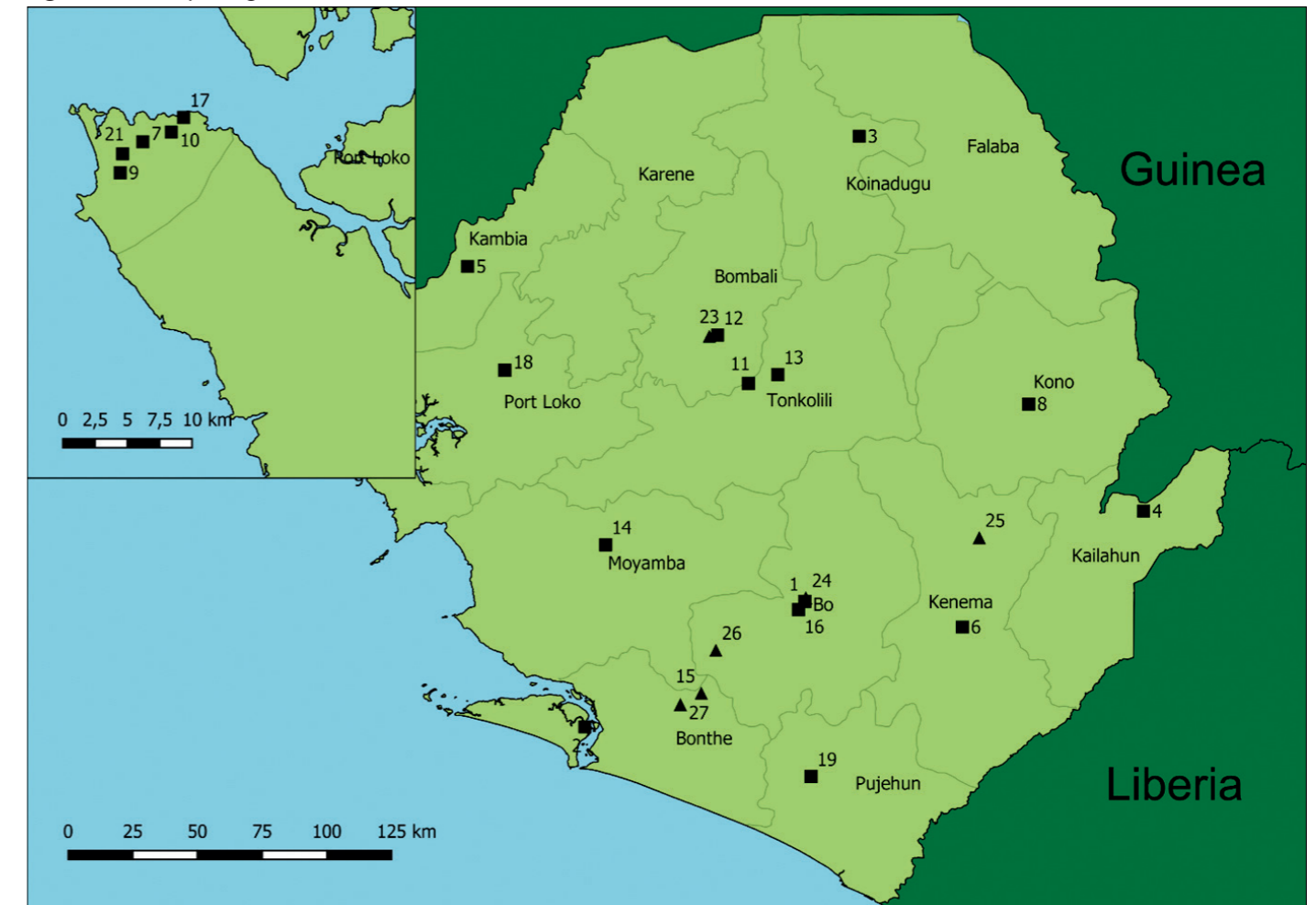
Surgical Training Programme

– Graduate Locations

After successful completion of the training, the Surgical Assistant Community Health Officers (SACHOs) are posted by the government to the different hospitals (**Figure 2**).

The number of hospitals where the SACHOs are posted remains the same at 25. The hospitals where the SACHOs are posted consist of both governmental and private non-profit hospitals and have an essential role in the provision of emergency obstetric and surgical care in the country.

Figure 2: SACHO postings in 2021



- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Governmental 1. Bo Governmental Hospital 2. Bonthe Governmental Hospital 3. Kabala governmental hospital 4. Kailahun Governmental Hospital 5. Kambia Governmental Hospital 6. Kenema Governmental Hospital 7. King Harman Road Hospital 8. Koidu Governmental hospital 9. Lumley Governmental Hospital | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Macauley Street Hospital 11. Magburaka Hospital 12. Makeni Governmental Hospital 13. Masanga Governmental Hospital 14. Moyamba Governmental Hospital 15. Moyowa Governmental Hospital 16. Njala Governmental Hospital 17. PCMH Freetown 18. Port Loko Hospital 19. Pujehun Governmental Hospital | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Private (non-profit) 20. Rokupa Hospital, Freetown 21. Wilberforce Military Hospital 22. Lion Heart Medical Center, Yele 23. Magbenteh Hospital, Makeni 24. Masama Live Saving Hospital, Bo 25. Panguma Mission Hospital 26. Serabu Catholic Hospital 27. UMC Hospital Matru |
|--|---|---|

Surgical Training Programme

– Output student and graduate

In 2021 **fifteen** new students for the STP (Surgical Training Programme) were recruited, **three female, twelve male**. The April 2021 batch consisted of nine new students - **two Medical Doctors**, eight male and one female. Unfortunately, one student had to drop-out due to underperformance in the first year.

Due to sudden financial restraints (UNFPA budget cut) we had to reduce the number of new students in the second half of 2021. We recruited six new students - **four male and two female** who started their training in October 2021.

From the total of fifteen new students, **six** came from the School of Clinical Sciences Makeni (SCSM) after completing their advanced diploma - all had previous working experience in various fields of healthcare.

In 2021 several meetings were held with the Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS), particularly with the Director of Training (Professor Samai) leading up to the signing of a five party Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between MoHS, SCSM, German Doctors, Partners in Health, and CapaCare Sierra Leone in August 2021.

Our students in various partner hospitals were visited during **ten** supervision trips - this number of trips was less than normal due to the UNFPA budget cut in the second half of 2021. Nevertheless, we kept close contact with supervisors and our students in the partner hospitals. Due to an unsafe and inadequate training environment in Kenema Government Hospital, no students were sent to this facility in the second half of 2021. The CapaCare Sierra Leone Local Management Team is in continuous conversation with the staff on the ground in Kenema, if improvements are made the collaboration will be picked up in 2022. The MoU with Aberdeen's Women's Centre in Freetown was renewed, and the first student was sent there with great success for his second posting in 2021.

In 2021 a total number of twelve students graduated. During the Graduation Ceremony in October 2021, 29 received their diploma. They are currently awaiting posting by the MoHS. The total number of graduates is now **63**.

In all trainings of the basic training programme, National Trainers (SACHOs) were training alongside International Trainers and we are happy to announce that in 2022 the first training that will be given only by National Trainers will commence.

	January 2021		December 2021	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Basic training	14	1	18	3
Housemanship	11	1	10	1
Graduates (MD)	54 (2)	3	57 (2)	5



1: From front to back (anti-clockwise) Mohamed Moussa Tommy, Yembah Mansaray, Hassan A. Sheriff, Mohamed Kamara, Ishaika Konneh, Lamin Bassie and Salamatu Nyaiya Saidu (SACHOs).

2: Fasalie Koroma (SACHO).

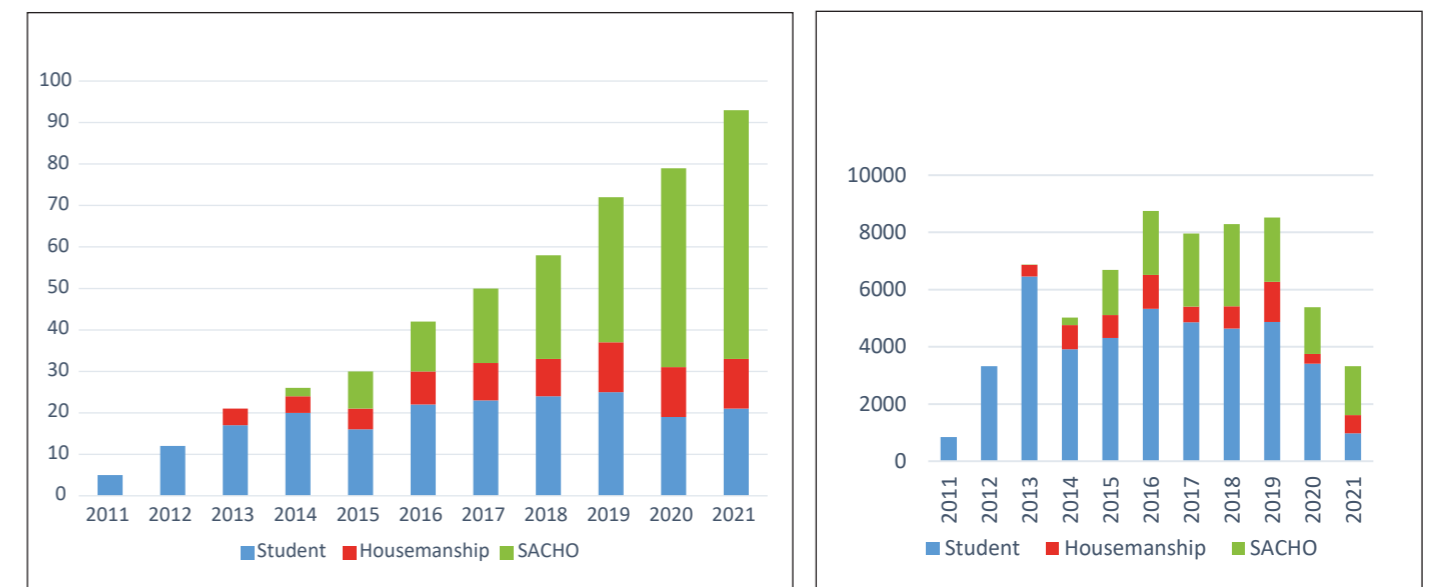
Surgical Training Programme

– Surgical output

Since the start of the programme in 2011, the students and graduates combined have participated in and performed more than **66,000 surgeries**. The total **number of operations for 2021 alone was 3,325, however there is a substantial under-reporting**. Students within the initial two years of training performed 983, those in housemanship 629, while the graduates performed 1,713.

Out of the 1,713 procedures registered by graduates in 2021, only 89 procedures (5.2%) were performed within Western Area. 646 of the surgeries performed by graduates outside of Western Area were caesarean sections. At the time of writing of this annual report, however, considerable data is yet to be submitted due to low reporting by many graduates, and a migration from excel based reporting to online app based. This must be considered when interpreting these numbers. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has most likely caused a reduction in surgical volume during 2020 and 2021.

Figure 3: Accumulated number of students, interns, and graduates (left) in the programme and annual volume of surgical activity (right) since the start of the programme in 2011.



From left to right is Abduila Moriba Lahun (STP student), Dr Bayoh (MoHS Medical Officer), Dr Jaap Gunneweg (CapaCare Training Coordinator), two UK Medical Doctors and STP students.



Surgical Training Programme

– Role and procedures

The most common procedure for both the students and graduates in 2021 was **caesarean section**. The

graduates performed over **84% of their surgeries fully independently**.

Students (incl. housemanship)				Graduates		
No	Procedure	n	%	Procedure	n	%
1	Caesarean section	533	39.8	Caesarean section	529	32.1
2	Inguinal hernia repair	314	23.5	Inguinal hernia repair	483	29.3
3	Appendectomy	79	5.9	Scrotal hydrocele	150	9.1
4	Laparotomy	55	4.1	Appendectomy	107	6.5
5	Femoral hernia repair	36	2.7	Umbilical hernia repair	65	3.9
6	Scrotal hydrocele	31	2.3	Laparotomy	46	2.8
7	Umbilical hernia repair	30	2.2	Hysterectomy	46	2.8
8	Other obstetrics/gynecology	23	1.7	Femoral hernia repair	28	1.7
9	POP casts for fractures	22	1.6	Strangulated hernia repair	25	1.5
10	Hysterectomy	18	1.3	Myomectomy	21	1.3
Total		1,141	85.2	Total	1500	91.1

Table 1: Top 10 procedures for students and graduates in 2021.

Students (incl. housemanship)				Graduates		
No	Role	n	%	Role	n	%
1	Surgeon independent	678	42.1	Surgeon independent	1,447	84.5
2	Assisting	390	24.2	Assisting	233	13.6
3	Surgeon supervised	342	21.2	Surgeon supervised	31	13.5
4	Observing	202	12.5	Observing	2	0.1
Total		1,612	100.0	Total	1,713	100.0

Table 2: Role during operation for students and graduates in 2021.



Amara Conteh and Yembeh Mansaray (SACHOs) and Abibatu Rahman Bangura (STP student performing an operation).

Surgical Training Programme

– Tutors and Trainers

A core element of the STP is module-based training by international and national tutors. These training modules are usually conducted in Masanga by Gynaecologists, Midwives, Orthopaedic Surgeons, Paediatric Surgeons, Surgeons and Surgical Assistant Community Health Officers (SACHOs). In 2021, the international trainers came from Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, and the United Kingdom. All international tutors are engaged on a voluntary basis. CapaCare provides support for transportation,

accommodation, visas, and vaccines. The local tutors receive an honorarium for the training they provide. In 2021, 12 training modules and nine CPD courses were conducted.

In 2021 no separate Medical Doctor (MD) trainings were conducted, however two Sierra Leonean MDs working at Masanga Hospital did participate in several Surgical Training Programme modules.

Module	Trainees	Duration	Month	Tutor
CPD – Proctology Rotifunk	SACHO	2 days	January	Lesley Hunt (S)
Pig Course	STP	1 week	January	Ishiaka Konneh (SACHO), Lesley Hunt (S), Sayo Kanney (SACHO)
Surgery & the abdomen	STP	3 weeks	Jan / Feb	Hassan Sheriff (SACHO), Hindowa Lavally (SACHO), Katja Maschuw (S),
CPD - Paediatric Surgery	SACHO	2 x3 days	Feb	Judith Lindert (PS)
Emergency Obstetrics	STP	3 weeks	Feb/Mar	Monica Kujabi (G*), Alice Clack* (G)
CPD – Proctology Kambia	SACHO	2 days	Apr	Lesley Hunt (S)
Basic Surgical Skills	STP	2 weeks	Apr	Amara Conteh (SACHO), Hindowa Lavally (SACHO), Ishiaka Konneh (SACHO), Lesley Hunt (S), Yembeh Mansaray (SACHO)
Pig Course	STP	1 week	Apr	Lesley Hunt (S)
Basic Obstetrics	STP	1 week	May	Jaap Gunneweg (T), Rosa Roemers (T)
Trauma & Orthopaedics	STP	2 weeks	May	Harry de Vries (O), Lars Bo Simper (O)
CPD - Breast Cancer	SACHO	2 days	May	Biku Gosch (G)
CPD – Proctology Makeni	SACHO	2 days	July	Lesley Hunt (S)
Surgery & the abdomen	STP	2 weeks	July	Ishiaka Konneh (SACHO), Lesley Hunt (S), Sayo Kanney (SACHO), Yembeh Mansaray (SACHO)
CPD - Summer School Global Surgery	SACHO	1 week	July	
Emergency Obstetrics	STP	2 weeks	Aug	Arvind Subramaniam (G), Mohamed Lama Bah (SACHO)
Basic Surgical Skills	STP	2 weeks	Oct	Hassan Sheriff (SACHO), Kathrine Holte (S), Ishiaka Konneh (SACHO), Yembeh Mansaray (SACHO)
CPD – Proctology Makeni	SACHO	2 days	January	Lesley Hunt (S)
Pig Course	STP	1 week	Oct	Hindowa Lavally (SACHO), Ishiaka Konneh (SACHO), Lesley Hunt (S), Yembeh Mansaray (SACHO)
CPD – PPH and aortic compression	SACHO	2 x 2days	Nov	Ann Morris (MW)
Basic Obstetric Course	STP	1 week	Nov	Bassie Lamin (SACHO), Samuel Saa Kamanda (G*),
CPD – Burns training	SACHO	2 days	Dec	Maria Bakker (B*)

Table 3: Burn specialist in training (B*), Gynaecologist (G), Gynaecologist in training (G*), Midwife (MW), Orthopaedic Surgeon (O), Paediatric Surgeon and Paediatrician (PS), Tropical Doctor (T), Surgeon (S), Surgical Assistant Community Health Officer (SACHO), Surgical Training Programme students (STP), * support from the UK, as due to COVID restrictions travel to Sierra Leone was not possible.

Apart from the trainers, there were also several support visits, mostly to offer programme support and research related activities (Table 4).

Purpose	Duration	Month	Support staff & Research
Creating Course material	2 weeks	Oct/Nov	Andrew Bristow (P), Lesley Hunt (S)
Public relations, stories, photos	8 weeks	Oct-Dec	Andrew Bristow (P)
Programme support, Graduation & 10-year celebration	1 week	Oct	Diede van Delft*, Erik Wehrens* (B), Håkon Bolkan* (B, NTNU), Puck Hegeman (B)
Programme Support and Research	1 week	Nov	Alex van Duinen* (B, NTNU), Johan Ahlbäck (S)

Table 4: *External funding, Board (B), Norwegian University for Science and Technology (NTNU), Photographer/Filmmaker (P), Surgeon (S).



From left to right John Conteh, Paul Jonathan Lappia, Sheku Farnah, Abdul Rahman Moijue, Sheka Mohamed Kamara and Fatmata Marah and Cherneor Sieray Jalloh (STP students).

Media and Publications

– Online

CapaCare’s main communication channels are through our website www.capacare.org and social media. According to Google Analytics, our website was viewed more than 6,600 times by more than 5,300 individual users in 2021.

Our Facebook site has 1,191 followers, and we posted 33 posts in 2021. These especially focused on our tenth anniversary, by sharing interviews with various stakeholders of CapaCare. In addition, we used our Facebook site to share insights from the education and graduation of students and to pay our respects to the passing of a dear colleague. We promoted three fundraising campaigns: ‘Running for CapaCare’, ‘Urgent! Help the burn victims of Freetown’ and ‘CapaCare Christmas Fundraiser’, collecting a total of 135 donations.

In 2021 CapaCare dramatically increased our presence on social media, especially through Instagram. We have had an active Instagram account since 2013, with 51 posts (approximately seven posts a year). However, for 2021

alone, we posted 39 posts. We have also been present through Instagram stories for 67 days in 2021. The captions of these posts and stories informed our audience about our surgical education, a free e-book available for all, our surgery registration procedures, the examination and graduation ceremony of our students, life in Sierra Leone, how to become a trainer, as well as information about our fundraising campaigns.

In 2021 the number of Instagram followers more than doubled, from approximately 220 to 500. Our followers are mostly women (73%), 25-34 years old (50%), living in Norway (42%), the Netherlands (25%) and Sierra Leone (10%).

In May 2021, two representatives from CapaCare, Erik Wehrens (MD) and Mohammed Kallon Manseray (CHO) were interviewed for the podcast called “The Global Health Dispatch”. The episode is called “COVID in the jungle” and is available through Apple Podcasts.



Freetown after the explosion in November 2021.

Media and Publications

– Publications

Contributions from CapaCare Board members, trainers, trainees and graduates.

Scientific peer-review publications:

1. **Addé HA, van Duinen AJ**, Sherman LM, Andrews BC, Salvesen Ø, Dunbar NK, Bleah AJ, Weiser TG, **Bolkan HA**. A Nationwide Enumeration of the Surgical Workforce, its Production and Disparities in Operative Productivity in Liberia. *World J Surg* (2022) 46:486–496.
2. **Ashley T**, Ashley H, Wladis A, **Bolkan HA, van Duinen AJ**, Beard JH, Kalsi H, Palmu J, Nordin P, Holm K, Ohene-Yeboah M, Löfgren J. Outcomes After Elective Inguinal Hernia Repair Performed by Associate Clinicians vs Medical Doctors in Sierra Leone: A Randomized Clinical Trial. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2021 Jan 4;4(1):e2032681.
3. **Bakker JM, van Duinen AJ, Nolet WWE (†)**, Mboma P, Sam T, van den Broek A, Flinkenflögel M, Gjóra A, **Lindheim-Minde B, Kamanda S, Koroma AP, Bolkan HA**. Barriers to increase surgical productivity in Sierra Leone: a qualitative study. *BMJ Open* 2021;11:e056784.
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Presentations (online and in-person):

The most significant presentations by CapaCare staff and Board Members in 2021 were:

1. Changes in surgical activity in Sierra Leone between 2012 and 2017 - at the European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH 21) which is the largest scientific global health congress in Europe, Bergen, September 2021.
2. Factors influencing surgical productivity: a qualitative study in Sierra Leone, European Congress on Tropical Medicine and International Health (ECTMIH 21), Bergen, September 2021.
3. COVIDs påvirkning på helsesystemer, Forum for forebyggende infeksjonsmedisin og reisemedisin (FIRM) konferanse, Trondheim, November 2021.(van Duinen).
4. Surgical Training Programme in Sierra Leone, Global Health Norway conference, Trondheim – NTNU, Trondheim - Building sustainable international partnerships.



Partners / Donors

CapaCare has continued collaboration with our main partners in 2021. Those have been the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Torun and Ole's Stiftelse, and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD). All main sponsors have been supporting CapaCare for several years.

The Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) and Trondheim University Hospital, St. Olavs have contributed with funds for evaluation of the initiative via three PhD scholarships, and medical students writing their master thesis related to CapaCare's work. Furthermore, Trondheim University Hospital have funded the development of an app for data collection which was successfully completed in 2021.

Since 2015 CapaCare has been an Implementing Partner of UNFPA in Sierra Leone. Annual and quarterly plans and budgets are submitted to UNFPA, and all the spending in Sierra Leone is audited both by internal and external UNFPA auditors as well as the registered accountant firm Bertin & Bertin.

Masanga Hospital Rehabilitation Project continues to be the main partner in Sierra Leone together with the Sierra Leonean Ministry of Health and Sanitation (MoHS). The MoHS continues to grant three-year paid study leave for the Community Health Officers enrolled from the governmental sector. The Ministry also takes part in interviewing new candidates and act as exam invigilators. Finally, it is the Ministry that oversees the internship - the last part of the training. To date, there has been good cooperation with the Ministry to ensure local ownership. CapaCare has also received substantial support from private donors.

In 2021 we also had the pleasure of welcoming more students from the School of Clinical Sciences Makeni (SCSM) into our Programme. The partnership with the SCSM was further formalised by signing a Memorandum of Agreement between MoHS, SCSM, German Doctors, Partners in Health, and CapaCare Sierra Leone in August 2021.

Finally, we are glad to be collaborating with the Wilde Ganzen Foundation again to be able to purchase a vehicle in Sierra Leone and one in Liberia.



**Torun and Ole's
Stiftelse**



Financial Overview

Finance – key figures

Both the financial report of CapaCare Norway and CapaCare Sierra Leone will be made available online at www.capacare.org.

Income

Income in 2021 was 6.9 million NOK. This consisted of two parts, 4.9 million NOK for the ongoing activities in 2021 and 2.0 million NOK which is earmarked for activities in 2022 and the start of 2023.

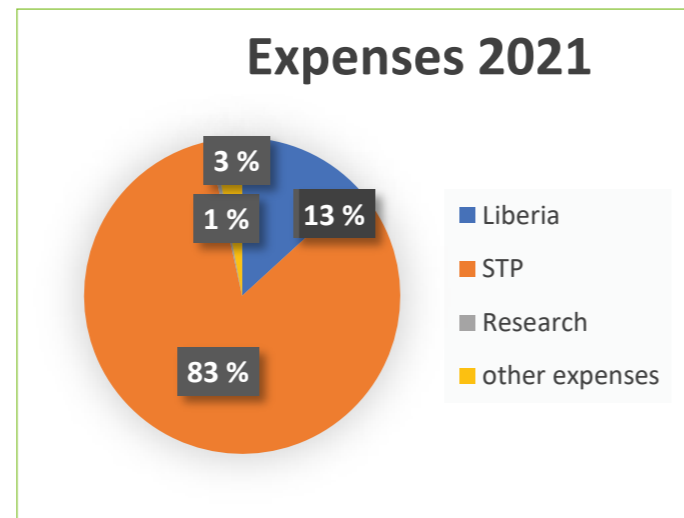
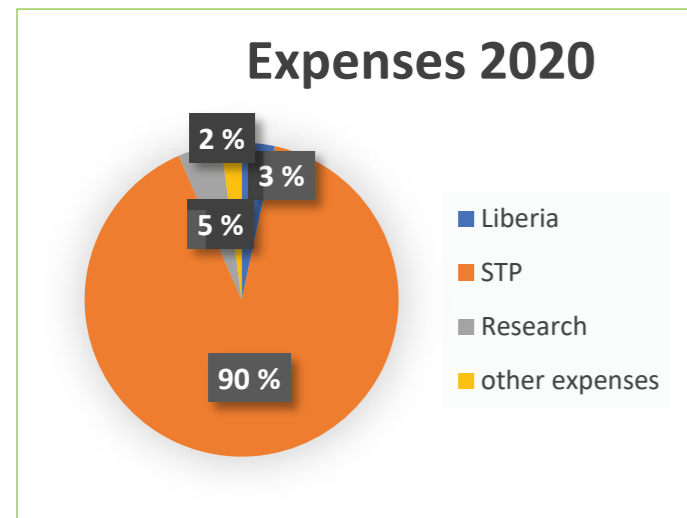
For ongoing activities the income in 2021 was 4.9 million NOK, compared to 4.5 million in 2020, of which 1.3 million NOK was received in Sierra Leone. The major part of the income was for the Surgical Training Programme in Sierra Leone and was donated by Norad and UNFPA.

Of the remaining 2.0 million NOK that was received, 1.3 million is restricted funding for the project activities in Liberia, whilst 0.7 million NOK is unrestricted funding.

Expenses

Expenditure in 2021 was 4.5 million NOK compared to 3.8 million in 2020, an increase of 18%, and comparable to the level before the COVID-19 pandemic. In both years the majority of the expenses were spent on the Surgical Training Programme in Sierra Leone. The research expenses are presented separately although they are part of the Surgical Training Programme in Sierra Leone.

Also the project in Liberia further developed in 2021, this can be clearly seen by an increase of expenditures for that programme.



We want to thank everybody that has contributed to the work of CapaCare and for the support that we have received!

CapaCare International Executive Board

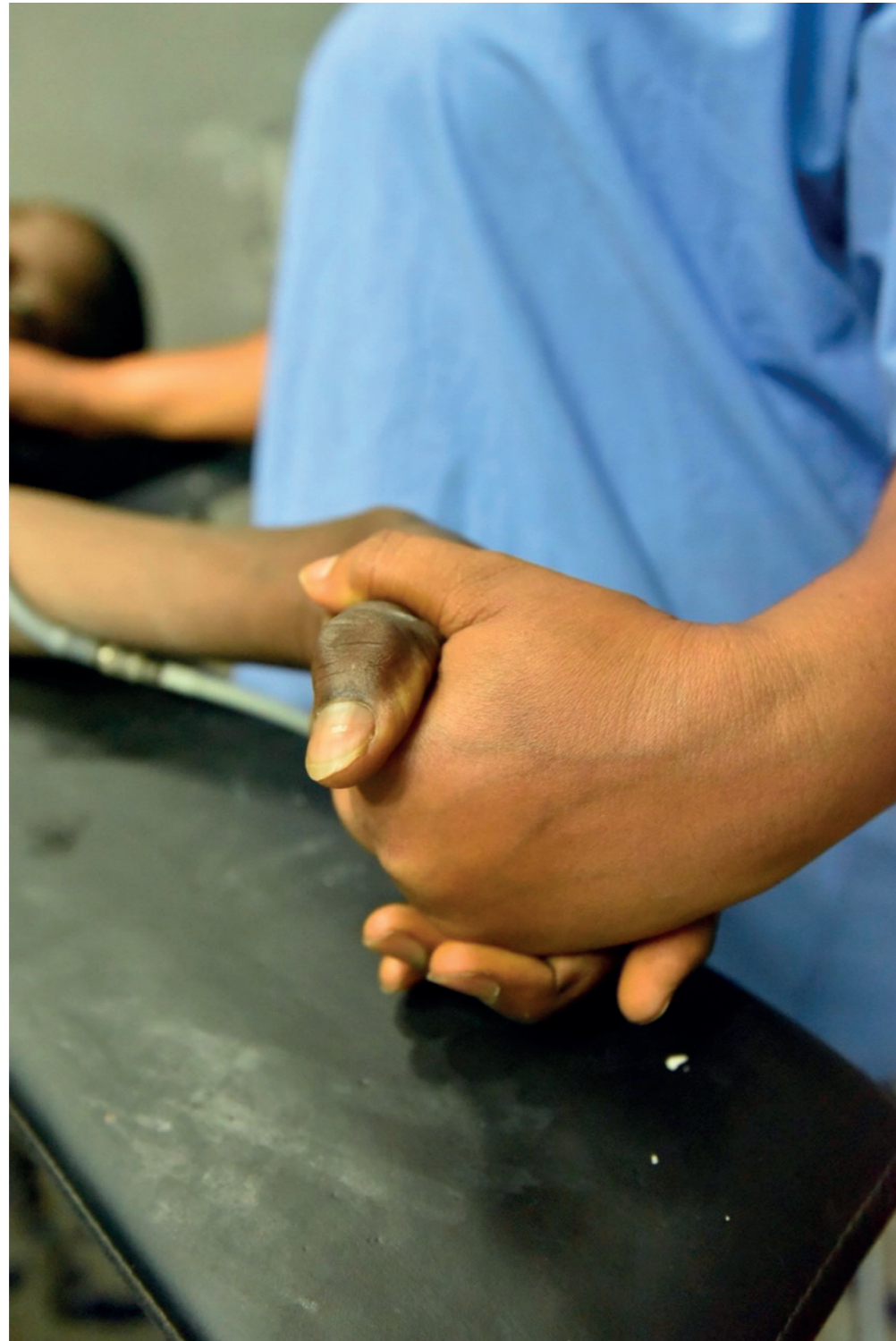
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CapaCare 10 years

CapaCare was ten years old in 2021!
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STP Graduation 2021.



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