



Christmas Report 2025	27th of November 2025
Governance improvements this year have uncovered the embezzlement of funds by our FFM manager, Sheldon Siziba. Legal investigations are ongoing. Construction of the Nook Hostel has been halted for the time being. The Nook Learning Centre is operating as usual and has achieved great success.	Oliver Müller Senda Luiesta Sut 8 7016 Trin Mulin oliver.mueller@matibi.ch
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Annual Report 2025 – Friends for Matibi

The year 2025 presented **Friends for Matibi** with major challenges, but at the same time offered numerous successes that impressively underline the impact of our work. Despite financial and organisational setbacks, in particular the embezzlement of around CHF 50,000 by our former Nook Manager, we succeeded in supporting learners, implementing community projects and sustainably improving the region's infrastructure. Our **Nook Learning Centre** model proved once again that education, entrepreneurial initiatives and social responsibility can go hand in hand. The experiences of the year enabled us to significantly strengthen the organisation's governance and digitise processes to increase transparency and control. Our new bilingual website gives the local team the opportunity to communicate their experiences themselves: matibi.org

Governance and digitalisation

The construction of our **Nook Hostel** stalled after irregularities were uncovered. The financial embezzlement was identified at the end of October 2025 after several months of intervention. Sheldon Siziba was dismissed, and we have filed a civil lawsuit to recover the funds. Depending on cooperation and repayment ability, we will file criminal charges. In close cooperation with local lawyers and our sister organisation **SwiZim Trust**, we are thoroughly documenting the case in order to learn for the future and improve internal processes in the long term.

As part of our governance improvements, we have **digitised** our processes. We now use accounting software and an activity tracker that are available online and optimised for mobile devices. Each expenditure is countersigned by four people and then approved by all members of the governance circle. This creates transparency regarding the use of funds and ensures that all resources are used in a traceable manner. At the same time, the organisation continues to work on the government-mandated **transformation process** to convert the trust into a **Private Voluntary Organisation (PVO)**.

Successes and impact

In October 2025, we held the **eighth Nook exhibition** which attracted 150 visitors. The exhibition showcased the progress made by the learners and demonstrated the breadth of our training programme. The **ninth learning cycle** started on November 24th, with 25 new learners registered. This illustrates the steadily growing interest in our educational offerings.

Our learners acquire specific practical skills, particularly in **welding and metalwork, clothing manufacture, digital media creation and catering services**, thereby developing not only manual dexterity but also creative problem-solving skills. In addition, they visited the **Neshuro Business Centre** as part of an industry exposure tour to gain insights into real business processes and understand how entrepreneurship works in practice.

At the same time, the trainees and the team worked with local partners on social projects:

- **Repairs and refurbishment work at the Nehanda Clinic** to improve the medical infrastructure.
- **Renovation of the operating theatre at Matibi Mission Hospital**, which has strengthened medical care in the long term.
- **Kotamaurime Garden**: a new irrigation system ensures continuous access to water and supports the students' agricultural training.
- **Medicines for the hospital** were procured in July 2025, and **three doctors** now support local medical care.

These projects demonstrate that **Friends for Matibi** invests not only in people but also in places, bringing long-term benefits to the entire community.



Full house at the exhibition at the end of the 8th learning cycle at the Nook in Matibi.

The learners confirm the value of the Nook on the **skills training page** of our website matibi.org. They report that the programme has given them access to practical skills and entrepreneurial knowledge that were previously denied to them. One participant says that she had to leave school due to financial difficulties, but through the Nook she found new perspectives, actively participated in projects and began to

develop herself economically. These voices underscore that our programmes not only impart technical knowledge, but also promote hope, initiative and economic independence.



One of many success stories:

David Chimuti, a proud graduate of the 7th learning cycle of the Matibi Nook Hub, has become an impressive example of how vocational training can open new doors for young people. After completing his training in metalworking, David took a bold and confident step: this year, he started his own metalworking business – a milestone that reflects both his hard work and the solid foundation laid during his time at Nook.

Strategic impact

The projects and programmes of Friends for Matibi clearly show that **education, social responsibility, sustainable thinking and economic development** go hand in hand. Learners develop technical skills, entrepreneurial thinking, care for nature and social responsibility at the same time.

Practical projects in metalworking, repairs to the clinic, gardening and renovation of the hospital demonstrate that our work has a direct impact on the community. Internships in more distant companies

strengthen the learners' understanding of business processes and open up networks beyond the region. Psychosocial support measures promote the learners' emotional resilience and lay the foundation for long-term success.

Outlook for 2026

For 2026, we plan to:

- **Further strengthening governance** and **completing the PVO transformation**.
- **Complete the hostel project**.
- Tackle **phase 2 of the operating theatre renovation**.
- **Re-identify and prioritise projects from the community**: school roofs, learning materials and furniture, butchery, briquette business, school fees.
- Implementing the **ninth and tenth learning cycles**, supplemented by practical courses in metalwork, welding and entrepreneurial skills.
- Launch a **business accelerator** for mature projects from the learning cycles, including entrepreneurship knowledge, business coaching and start-up loans.
- Initiatives for **women's empowerment** and **psychosocial camps for young people**.
- Expansion of projects on **ecological, sustainable farming** and **green energy**.

2025 was a year full of challenges and disappointments, which can also lead to opportunities if we learn and develop as an organisation. The **Friends of Matibi** have shown that education and training programmes, social responsibility and entrepreneurial thinking can directly and sustainably improve the living conditions of learners and the entire community. Despite governance issues, projects were able to continue, learners were supported and the local infrastructure was improved. By digitising accounting and activities and introducing transparent control mechanisms, the organisation is now future-proof. We don't just build Nooks – we build **prospects and sustainable opportunities for an entire region**.

It is good to have friends who believe that communities develop best from within. Thank you very much for your support, your trust and your connection to Matibi. Together, we are shaping a future full of opportunities and sustainable impact.

I wish you a wonderful festive season.



Oliver Müller, President of "Friends for Matibi"