

Sibanor Health Centre

Anyone wishing to work at any of the projects below will require self funding, as all roles are on a voluntary basis and are unpaid. Join us in this faith venture, and come with, or develop a strong support base that will enable you to fulfil your calling and ministry. We encourage people to join WEC which is a faith-based fellowship, made up of a network of committed volunteers.

As the clinic is run by the local church, you would work under Gambian leadership with a mainly local team.

Besides your role, there are many opportunities to get involved with local church, youth club and village outreach. Serve the Lord in many ways in evangelism with the local church and the clinic.

Base: ECG, Sibanor Health Centre

Contact: sibanortrek@gmail.com

Doctor

Responsibilities: Doctors share responsibility for the ward and care for all the patients out-of-hours and either the general outpatient clinic or the HIV clinic for routine clinic duties. The doctors are also responsible for teaching, maintaining clinical standards in the clinic and developing relationships with other healthcare providers in the Gambia.

Qualifications/ Experience: Doctors with some postgraduate experience are preferred as you will need to be independent when on-call and to carry leadership responsibilities. Experience in gynaecology, paediatrics or general practice is particularly helpful. A diploma in tropical medicine is helpful, but not essential. Junior doctors with little experience are also very welcome. This post would also suit a retiree.

Flexibility and a willingness to try new ways of working is essential.

Duration: Any length of time from 4 weeks to long term. Retirees are very welcome, including those who would like to work intermittently e.g. one or two months at a time on a regular basis.

Base: ECG Health Centre, Sibanor

Contact: sibanortrek@gmail.com

Head of Nursing school

This vacancy is a new opportunity to work in a community nursing school based at Sibanor Health Clinic in the Gambia.

Our nursing school opened in July 2024. We appreciate the government support that we have received in setting up the school. We use the Gambian Curriculum as its base, and the course is taught in English.

Responsibilities: To oversee the teaching of the course and the development of the curriculum.

Qualifications /Experience: Registered nurse with 3 years clinical experience and experience of teaching. Flexibility and a willingness to try new things are essential.

Suitable for: Anybody with the above qualifications. It would also suit a retired person. Single or married accommodation available.

Duration: One year minimum. Commitment can be flexible but must be planned well in advance. This post would also suit a retiree.

Funding: this post is self funding.

Background

Sibanor is a rural health centre in the Gambia that was founded by WEC International almost 60 years ago. WEC handed it over to the local Evangelical church of the Gambia 8 years ago. Accommodation is on site.

We offer a 24/7 service and undertake low risk deliveries. We have over 700 HIV patients and over 1000 registered NCD patients. Common reasons for admission are malaria, HIV, sepsis, Severe Acute Malnutrition, Pneumonia, Gastroenteritis, and obstetric and gynaecological problems.

The gospel is preached in the waiting hall and we often pray with patients on the wards. Once a week we visit a local village to screen for undiagnosed hypertension and diabetes. We run a kids club once a week and there are many opportunities to be involved with the youth and the local church.

Website: <https://www.shed-the-lightgambia.com>

The following information is from the website:

A brief history of ECG Sibanor Health Centre

Medical mission work at Sibanor commenced in the 1960's when a team of midwives from the mission organisation WEC established a small mission hospital with basic healthcare and maternity facilities. For many years it was the only source of medical care for the entire population of the Foni area in which Sibanor is located. The facilities at the health centre were expanded over time with more missionary volunteers – doctors and nurses, coming to work alongside the predominantly Gambian nursing team.

WEC's mission is to reach what is termed 'unreached people groups' with the Gospel and several of the tribal groups served by Sibamor Health Centre fell into this category, with no Bible available in their tribal language and no Christian witness in their locality.

The Health Centre provided the opportunity to demonstrate the love of Jesus to local people (through excellent and compassionate health care), to give them the opportunity to witness the transformed lifestyle of Christian volunteers working amongst them, and to give them the opportunity to hear the good news about salvation through Jesus Christ.

In 2003 the Gambian Health Authority opened a hospital at Bwiam, which is about 15km further up-river than ECG Sibamor. This well-resourced medical facility was able to deal with more complex cases than Sibamor and gradually Sibamor evolved into a centre dealing with more minor illnesses. Nevertheless the patient workload at Sibamor is still significant and it still plays a major role in the provision of health care to the Foni's.

In 2017 WEC decided that it should prioritise its human resources and finance in other areas and gave notice of the intent to close the Health Centre. The Evangelical Church of The Gambia (ECG) felt strongly that the mission work of the Health Centre was not yet finished, and an agreement was made to transfer the centre from WEC to ECG. Since 2018 the Centre has been under Gambian management and WEC has moved to a support role, providing some ongoing finance support (mainly from retired ex-volunteer doctors and nurses) and a steady stream of short and long term volunteers.

Today the Health Centre employs approximately 40 people in a range of medical and support roles and sees over 20,000 patients a year. It has outpatient consulting rooms, ward accommodation for inpatients comprising 30 beds, a dedicated HIV centre and a newly-opened nursing school.

ECG Sibamor Health Centre Vision

To show the compassion of Jesus to our patients through provision of high quality affordable health care, and to see local people become followers of Jesus through hearing, understanding, and receiving the Gospel.

ECG Sibamor Health Centre Mission

To provide good quality affordable medical services that will meet the physical, mental, and spiritual needs of the sick and needy, and demonstrate God's love and compassion through words and actions.

To build relationship and trust with the local people so that in addition to provision of medical care, they are open to hearing the Gospel.

To have a distinctively Christian approach to managing the Health Centre, with prayer as a priority and with staff members helped to develop their skills and encouraged to achieve high levels of quality.

ECG Sibamor current objectives

The Health Centre has seven primary objectives, which are relevant for the situation that exists today:

- To give all patients high quality acute and chronic health care, including maternal care, achieving high levels of successful outcomes.
- To provide services that are seen to be reasonably priced by the local people, so that they come for treatment early.
- To carry out weekly Outreach visits to nearby villages to identify people who have asymptomatic hypertension and diabetes.
- To partner well with government health services, including providing timely statistical information on patient numbers and reasons for attendance.
- To encourage and actively promote regular attendance at the Health Centre for all patients for whom concordance with a long term treatment plan is critical for their well-being.
- To maintain high levels of capability, motivation and commitment amongst the Health Centre staff.
- To take every opportunity to demonstrate the love of God and to testify to the saving grace of Jesus with patients, with staff members, and in the local community.

A brief history of ECG Sibamor Nursing School

During the time that WEC ran Sibamor health centre, WEC also provided training for Gambian nurses many of whom are still working at the health centre today. The training was held in high regard by Gambian health officials and many of the trained nurses are also working in government health establishments and in the Medical Research Council centre in the capital. The training was focussed on the needs of a nurse working in a health centre setting and did not result in any recognised nursing qualification.

Following the transfer of ownership of the health centre from WEC to ECG, the new leadership recognised the strategic importance of nurse training in The Gambia and initiated the establishment of a fully accredited training school, providing a two-year academic and practical training course that results in a nationally recognised Community Health Nurse qualification.

The school opened in 2024 and currently has 12 students in training. New buildings were

completed in 2024 enabling the school to grow to a maximum of 60 students (30 per year's intake) in the years ahead.

In addition to the formal nurse training, students are invited, irrespective of their faith background, to participate in daily devotions and to consider how faith impacts the way in which nursing care is provided.

Mission, Vision and Values of the ECG Sibanor Nursing School

Vision

The Vision that drives the ECG Sibanor Nursing School is to see Gambian national men and women trained to become excellent Community Health Nurses who have high levels of commitment to serving their fellow Gambians, and high levels of spiritual awareness and confidence to deliver care to the whole person – physical, emotional and spiritual.

Mission

The Mission of the Nursing School is to deliver a steady stream of capable and qualified Community Health Nurses who are motivated by the love of God to bring healing and hope to the Gambian people.

Values

1. We believe that men, women and children of every tribe and tongue, every belief or none, and every place in society are equally important to God and equal candidates for His love and grace.
2. We believe that God calls His followers to express His love and grace through good works, including bringing medical care to those in need.
3. We believe that God has a best plan for every individual, and that for some people a part of that plan is to exercise their gifts and abilities through a career in Community Health Nursing.
4. We believe it is right to test the aspiration and vocation of each prospective student before enrolling them at the School.
5. We believe that it is right to foster and develop the gifts and abilities of Nursing Students by aiming for excellence in all areas of the Nursing School's operation and in all areas of Nursing Students' lives.
6. We believe that discretion, respect and cultural awareness are vital cornerstones of medical practice and need training and testing in the same way as medical capabilities.
7. We believe that the spiritual life of every person is of prime importance to God in addition to their physical and emotional lives.