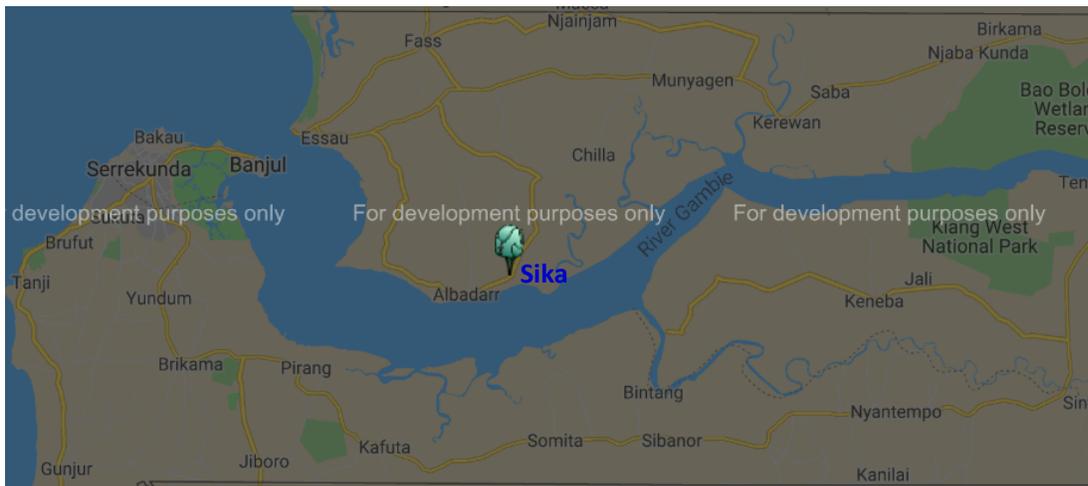


Project Proposal: Build a Basic Health Care Clinic in Sika Village (North Bank Region, The Gambia)

Summary

This project aims to construct a basic health care clinic in Sika village, in rural Gambia North Bank Region (see below for the satellite map of Sika and its surroundings). The village has a population of about 2,500 people, of which two-third are children of school-going age. Currently there is no healthcare facility in Sika; everyone in need of medical attention commutes on foot and via any other means available some 5 kilometers to the nearest health care unit in Albadarr. Once the clinic is built, the Government of the Gambia has agreed to provide healthcare workers, basic medicines. Having identified a site, the people of Sika have embarked on a fundraising campaign to raise the necessary funds to construct the clinic. We hope that you can join hands with us to actualize our aspirations to build a basic health care facility for the people of Sika. With access to a basic health care unit, the incidents of difficult births, and many death can be reduced which will enhance the socioeconomic and innovative capacity of the people of Sika and the inhabitants of the neighbouring villages. Please help us achieve these thankful goals.



Satellite map of Sika and its surroundings

Challenge:

Sika is a village in the North Bank Region of The Gambia, **located about 40km from the capital**, Banjul. The village has a total population of some 2500 inhabitants; it has nursery and a basic cycle school, but without any primary health care unit. Expectant mothers, the elderly, and children have to travel some five to 6 kilometers either on foot, donkey carts or via any other means available, using inaccessible roads, to seek treatment for malaria and other diarrhoeal diseases; toothaches; and other systems diseases such as cardiovascular (e.g., hypertension); and endocrine disorders (e.g. diabetes).

Solution:

This project aims to construct a basic health care clinic (see below for the layout of the proposed clinic) so that the people of Sika can have access to basic health care services (i.e. treatments for malaria, cholera, measles, hypertension, diabetes, etc.) as well as provide community health education for the prevention of diseases and maintenance of wellbeing. It is also anticipated that those individuals that require more complex care such as surgeries and admissions can be referred to Banjul for specialist care. Upon completion of the construction of the clinic, the Government of the Gambia has agreed to provide healthcare workers and supply basic medicines for the clinic. Educational activities aimed at prevention and management of diseases as well as counseling will be provided by trained staff supplied by the Government of The Gambia and friends of Sika. In order to help actualize this initiative, the people of Sika have come together to embark on a fundraising campaign to help erect the clinic. At present some D500000 (\$11000) have been received in pledges; it is hoped that with your support we can build a clinic that can provide routine medical care to the people of Sika and its neighbours.

Long-Term Impact:

This project will increase the overall wellbeing of the villagers and surrounding areas by helping pregnant women to have safer births, providing preventative interventions and health education for malaria, hypertension, diabetes and immunization for children, and providing treatments for waterborne disease, etc. These interventions will contribute to the local economy by keeping people healthy enough to work through the agricultural season, which will improve their capacity to earn money, and fulfill some basic requirements (e.g., be able to pay for better healthcare, good shelter, clothing, education and food); become innovative, creative and so on.

This initiative is in line with the Ministry of Health's Mission which is "To promote and protect the health of the population through equitable provision of quality healthcare".

It is our hope that with your support, we can work together and make a difference in the lives of the people of Sika and the neighbouring villages.

Yours faithfully,

Mamina Ibrahim Sonko