

A Model General Hospital for Northern Ghana

Ghana Rural Integrated Development (GRID) and Northern Empowerment Association (NEA)



As partner organizations working to alleviate poverty in Northern Ghana, our joint mission is to assist poor communities by helping them to meet their basic needs in a sustainable manner. Building a strong health care system is one of the key components of the interconnected and holistic approach that informs this mission.

The purpose of our immediate project is to establish a sustainable and model hospital in Carpenter that will serve the health needs of approximately 100,000 people in rural Northern Ghana.

Ghana's Northern Region is vast, rural and largely poor, serviced by only 17 doctors, most of whom live in the Region's capital, Tamale. The majority of the Region's residents are subsistence farmers or fishermen. Hunger and disease are endemic. People who are very poor are often undernourished, ill and prone to disease and infections. When individuals become too weak or too sick to support their families, poverty and illness eventually affect all members of the family, and this in turn impacts the community.

Motivated by Christ's love, we seek to dispel helplessness and hopelessness with tangible solutions, such as wells and clinics, schools and crops, and the creation of economic opportunities through enterprise. Every year our visiting Health Team, comprised of medical professionals from Canada and the UK, spends two weeks in the Northern Region, attending to as many of the sick and injured as possible. We know that many of the patients our visiting team has treated would have certainly died had those doctors and nurses not arrived when they did.

This fact alone makes the urgency of this project particularly acute, as it underscores the need for a permanent hospital in the area, a hospital that will be accessible to this needy population twenty-four hours a day, 365 days of the year. A hospital in Northern Ghana will both provide and improve year-round sustainable health care for the area. And while we have accomplished so much to improve health through prevention and basic interventions, an accessible, permanent hospital is necessary to address remaining unmet needs and save many more lives.

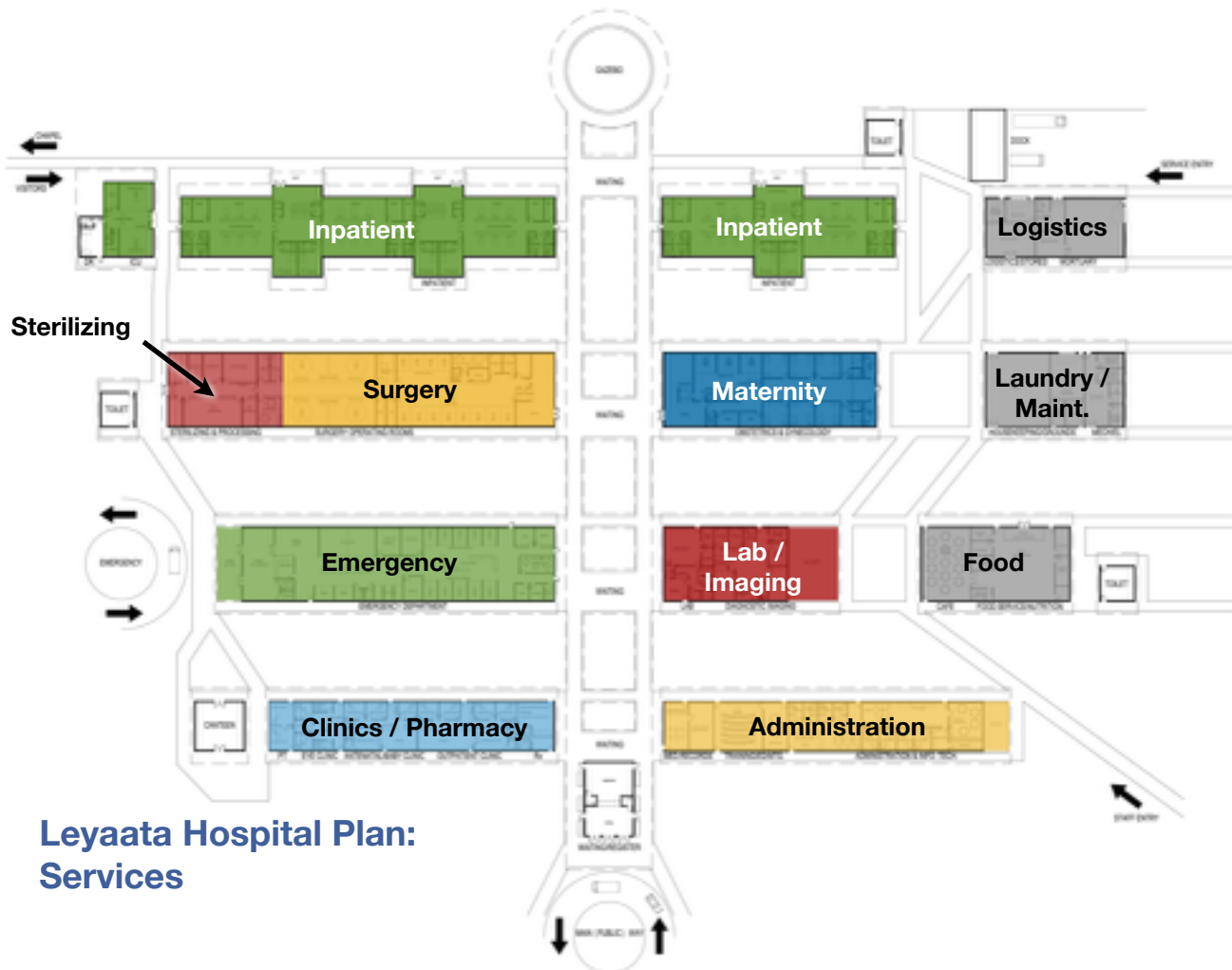
A Hospital for Carpenter



The 30-acre hospital site will be situated adjacent to NEA's Carpenter compound, on one of the country's main roads in the northwest.

Once completed, within the following two or three years, this fully equipped 50-bed general hospital will become the area's essential health care hub, offering specialized care, surgical care, outpatient clinics, eye clinics, OB/GYN and prenatal clinics, chronic disease management clinics, diagnostic imaging services and round-the-clock emergency services.

We estimate that core hospital services would see around 47,000 patient visits annually and key supporting medical services would see about 53,000 patient visits annually. Data suggests that the hospital will be handling as many as 18,000 emergency department cases, 1,000 births, potentially 1,000 to 3,000 surgeries and 4,000 inpatient visits annually.



A Model Hospital

Our first thought is for the thousands of men, women and children and the hundred communities that will benefit from this hospital; but our long-term goal is nothing less than the transformation of health care in Ghana's rural North. Our hospital will be a model of quality hospital care for the entire nation and, we expect, for Ghana's neighbours.

For the past twenty years, we have been methodically laying the foundation for a health care network in this catchment area, providing basic clinic care as well as training and education. Today, through our development work, eighty percent of the people in the catchment area are now able to afford and are registered with Ghana's National Health Insurance, which will give them free access to many of the new hospital's services.

This hospital project literally builds on our successes to date and is the culmination of many years of compassionate and focused commitment to the people of Northern Ghana. The establishment of a general hospital for the Region will be the vital missing link in the array of NEA/GRID health care initiatives and programs already successfully established in the area and which are currently helping to improve the health and well-being of entire communities.



The Layaata Hospital will be a model of:



Financial Sustainability

Through income-generating activities, partnerships with expatriate specialists, and our long-established relationship with Ghana's Ministry of Health, the Layaata Hospital be financially sustainable.



Patient Care

All patients, regardless of ethnicity, status, gender, or faith, will be treated with respect, compassion, and the appropriate urgency.



A Restful Environment

The Layaata Hospital will be a sanctuary: a place of peace, rest, and healing.



Diagnostics

The hospital will have adequate working equipment to swiftly and accurately diagnose illnesses.



Staffing

NEA's proven model of leadership will be used in the hospital to establish a healthy work environment, increase staff engagement, and improve quality of care.



Maintenance

Buildings and equipment will be cleaned, serviced, and well-maintained.



Management

Supplies will be on hand when needed and will not be wasted. Technology and communication systems will be above standard.



Partnerships

Specialists and health professionals from around the world will, both in person and virtually, join Ghanaian staff to provide health care for all.



We Can Do This, With Your Help

The recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa illustrates that nations with robust health care infrastructures are better able to support their citizens during health crises and prevent the spread of disease. Our vision of a model general hospital for the Northern Region has broad and enthusiastic support from local health personnel, government representatives, traditional community leaders and from the people it will serve.

And we are ready to build. A volunteer team of North American and Ghanaian engineers and architects has visited the project site and gathered the information they need to develop hospital plans. Initial drawings and costing have been completed. Indeed, our hospital project has every possible reason to succeed — thirty years of our dynamic GRID/NEA partnership, our knowledge of the area and its needs, the overwhelming and enthusiastic support of the governments and communities involved, and the innovative ideas that will ensure its sustainability. We even have qualified medical professionals ready to serve including doctors, and nurses that we have been putting through university as part of our preparation.

We ask that you partner with us so that we may build this life-saving hospital in Carpenter together.



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