

PROJECT C.U.R.E
Needs Assessment Report
Liberia
Conducted January 11th, 2024, on behalf of
Quessemba Community Clinic
Sponsored By: Delron Shirley
Assessment Conducted By: Eric Jensen

Background

Quessemba Village, Lofa County, Liberia

Liberia is a country located in western Africa along the coast. It has a population of over 5 million people who are predominantly classified into three groups: the indigenous population, Black immigrants from the United States and West Indies, and Black immigrants from neighboring west African states.¹ The village of Quessemba, where the clinic in scope is located, is in the far north of Liberia in Lofa county. It is a small community of a few hundred people. They are primarily subsistence farmers growing crops such as coffee, rice, cassava, eggplant, and papaya. They also raise chickens and pigs. Quessemba is about a one mile walk from the Makuno river which borders Guinea. Quessemba villagers will trade goods and services with local villages including those in Guinea. The villagers can earn about 5,000 Liberian dollars per year which equates to about 30 United States dollars. Most of the villagers are educated to either a junior high or high school level.²

There is no electricity going to the village. However, there are three solar lights with battery backups in the village so that the kids can study at night. Grades one through six are taught in the village. Quessemba is a 1.5-hour drive from Voinjama, the county's capital and a 10-hour drive from the Liberian capital of Monrovia. One of the biggest issues for Quessemba is that the roads during the rainy season are passable only by 4-wheel drive high clearance vehicles. During the dry season, the roads are bumpy but passable. A new Liberian president, Joseph Boakai was sworn into office in January 2024. One of Joseph Boakai's platforms is to make the roads in Liberia passable to all vehicle's year round.

The major health needs for the community are for maternity care, pediatrics, malaria care, and diarrheal disease. Of these, maternity care will be the primary need. The village is heartbroken over the loss of two babies during childbirth in the last couple of months. The nearest hospital is a 1.5-hour drive away in Voinjama. The community cooks over open fires and their meals consist mostly of rice supplemented by their other crops. Regarding water, they have two hand pumps to support the community, however one of the pumps is broken. The one working community pump is treated with chlorine every two to three months. Some of their latrines feed into septic tanks for sanitation.³

The hope is that the clinic will serve the larger community and not just the village of Quessemba. There are approximately 2,500 people in villages surrounding the clinic. This includes villages in Guinea. The local villages consist of mostly subsistence farming and transportation between villages is primarily on

¹ Petterson, D. Rahl , Jones, . Abeodu Bowen and Holsoe, . Svend E. (2024, February). Liberia. Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/place/Liberia>

² This information was provided to the Needs Assessment Representative by the host, Jame Korha.

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foot. Transportation is quite limited in Quessemba. There are no cars and very few motorcycles making travel to the nearest clinic in Voinjama challenging. A clinic in Quessemba within walking distance would enhance the village and the surrounding community greatly.

Sponsor/Host Organization

James Korha of Korha International is leading the development of the clinic. James was born in Quessemba but now resides in Monrovia, Liberia with his wife Dr. Bilinga Sagno-Korha. James Korha received his college degree while living in the United States. Dr. Bilinga Sagno-Korha is a native of Guinea and now works at the ELWA Hospital in Monrovia. Dr. Korha expects to work at the clinic in Quessemba by rotating in and out along with other doctors.

The hope for the Quessemba Community Clinic is to raise funds (primarily Korha International and Teach All Nations Mission) to cover and fund the delivery of one initial container of medical goods. The initial container is expected to be sufficient to start the clinic. Delron Shirley of Teach All Nations Mission located in Colorado Springs, Colorado is currently doing a fundraiser for the Quessemba clinic to fund the first container of medical equipment from Project C.U.R.E. The plan is for local doctors and nurses to rotate through the clinic including several nurses that live in Quessemba. The hope is that the payments from patients will be sufficient to fund future cargo containers at least partially. Hopefully, the clinic will be able to add more services in the future including dentistry, ophthalmology, and minor surgery. Future containers are expected to be able to help procure items to help provide those services.

Project C.U.R.E. Findings – Project Effectiveness

Strengths:

- There is already one doctor (Dr. Bilinga Sagno-Korha) involved.
- James Korha, the founder of Korha International was born and raised in Quessemba which gives him a vested interest in the success of the clinic.
- There are six nurses in the village of Quessemba that will be involved.
- Korha International is receiving help locally from Samaritan's Purse as well as international aid from Teach All Nations Mission.
- The Quessemba Community Clinic is being supported by the villagers themselves by collectively participating in the building of the clinic itself as well as educating themselves on basic health protocols.
- The facility will provide health services to a larger community that is currently underserved regarding healthcare.

Weaknesses:

- This is a new clinic meaning that everything is needed but patient and staff numbers are not confirmed.
- There is currently no medical equipment at all.
- Power will only be provided via a generator.
- Future containers are not confirmed due to funding constraints.

Opportunities:

- By supplying phase one, core equipment and consumables, the hospital can quickly get up and running, which will start bringing in patients and income. This will then allow them to hire and attract more healthcare workers, as well as garner more supplies.
- For low-income patients, access to healthcare will be drastically increased by having an accessible clinic within their community.

- Opportunities are also available for training staff.
- There is an opportunity for the clinic to partner with the Eternal Love Winning Africa hospital in Monrovia for staff and supplies.

Project C.U.R.E. Findings – Special Issues and Additional Information

Quessemba Community Clinic is very interested in hosting a C.U.R.E. Clinic and/or C.U.R.E. College trip. The single biggest issue is the condition of the roads for delivery of medical goods to the clinic itself during the rainy season. However, this is surmountable by using large, high clearance four-wheel drive vehicles.



Quessemba Community Clinic is pictured above.

Project C.U.R.E. Findings – Customs and Logistics

James Korha has no experience in importing containers. However, he works closely with Samaritan's Purse and expects them to be able to help with the import process. Nothing concrete has been established yet. The expectation is that the delivery will be to the port of Monrovia. Then, Korha International will have to divide the medical goods into three different trucks for delivery to the Quessemba Community Clinic. The road to Quessemba is bumpy but passable in the dry season (December to March). During the rainy season (late April to mid-November), the roads are only passable via high clearance 4-wheel drive vehicles. Korha International and the Quessemba Community Clinic accept past-dated consumables; however, as of 2021 the country of Liberia does not allow past dated supplies.



Road to Quessemba in dry season, albeit with overnight rainfall is shown above. It is important that the container arrives during the dry season for transportation.

Project Plan

There is currently 1 container in-scope with delivery preferred before the rainy season which starts in late April.

Institution Specific Information

Institution: Quessemba Community Clinic

The brand new Quessemba Community Clinic is being spearheaded by James Korha of Korha International. James was born in Quessemba, received his degree in the United States, and has returned to Liberia. It is his desire to help the community improve their healthcare and lifestyle. The clinic will serve Quessemba and surrounding villages of about 2,500 people. Staffing will include 2-4 doctors rotating through the clinic. Six local Quessemba villagers are trained nurses and will be on staff. There will also be 4 nurse's aides, 3 midwives, 2 lab technicians, and 3 community health workers.

The Quessemba Community Clinic is approximately 80% complete. Most of that work has been done by the local villagers through the Quessemba Town Citizens Association. The community has truly come together to build the clinic. The men shoveled sand from the river's edge into bags which were then hauled by hand to the clinic site a mile away as part of the concrete mixture for the clinic foundation. The clinic is basically a one floor building with an adjacent detached rotunda under a cupola. The plan is for patients to arrive and register in the rotunda. Once registered, the patients will move onto the front open area of the clinic itself to wait to be seen. From there, they will move into an examination room for initial examination and processing. For now, there is a maternity ward, a simple laboratory, pharmacy, men's recovery ward, women's recovery ward, administrative area, and records room. There is land available for expanding the clinic in the future.

The men's and women's recovery ward can each hold 3 manual beds, which will be needed. If possible, they would like 4 birthing beds for the maternity ward. Initially, there will not be a dentistry area, endoscopy, ophthalmology, nor a formal surgical center. However, they would like to obtain minor surgical, delivery, and suture kits. The only power to the clinic initially will be a generator. The expectation is that the generator will be run when needed during the day and off at night. At some point, they hope to get a solar array with battery backup that will be sufficient to at least run the lights

at night. There is an electrician that lives in Voinjama that will be able to provide support for electrical equipment.

Facility Size	Number of Treatment Rooms: 4		Number of patients: Unavailable due to newness of facility		Number of births: Unavailable due to newness of facility
Breakdown of Facility	Number of ER Beds: 0	Number of Delivery Rooms: 1			
Staff	# Doctors: 2-4 rotating	# Nurses: 6	# Midwives: 3	# Lab Techs: 2	# Other Providers: Community Health Workers, 3 Nurse's Aides, 4
Demographics	Population served: 2,500	Rural	% Males/Females: 25/75	%Pediatrics/ Adult/Senior: 50/35/15	% Referral Rate: Unavailable
Bio-Tech Support	Biomed Tech on staff? No	Capable of repair? No	Capable to install? No	Budget to Pay Tech? No	

Top 3 Items Requested:

1. Delivery beds
2. Delivery kits
3. Lab equipment

The following summarizes the key needs identified during the site visit in each facility area.

Emergency Room / Triage: Requested items include 1 Defibrillator, 1 Laryngoscope, 1 Mayo Stand, 2 Minor Surgical Instrument Kits, 1 Vital Signs Monitor, 1 Patient Transfer System, 1 Suction Unit, Clinical Airway Kits, Dressings, Exam Gloves, Sterile Gloves, Irrigation Kits, Stapler Kits, and Sutures Kits.

Consultation / Exam Area: Requested items include 25 Chair/Stools (*these must be metal or wood as the consultation area is under an awning, but exposed to the elements*), 1 Exam Light, 1 Exam Table, 1 Otoscope/Ophthalmoscope, 1 Pulse Oximeter, 1 Adult Scale, 1 Infant Scale, 1 Speculum, 1 Sphygmomanometer, 1 Spirometer, 1 Stethoscope, 1 Digital Patient Thermometer, 1 Oral & Forehead Thermometer, 1 Vision Tester, Exam Gloves, Sterile Gloves, Patient Containers, and Respiratory Supplies.

Patient Ward / Intensive Care Unit: Requested items include 6 Manual Beds, 1 Gurney/Stretcher, 1 Hoyer Lift, 2 IV Poles, 4 Patient Monitors, 1 Nebulizer, 6 Over Bed Tables, 6 Bedside Cabinets, 4 Privacy Curtains, 1 Pulse Oximeter, 1 Intravenous Fluid Pump, 1 Wheelchair, 1 CPAP, 1 Bipap, 4 ICU Monitors, 1 Oxygen Concentrator, 1 Anti-Embolism Pump, 1 Enteral Feeding Pump, Alcohol Pads & Swabs, Bedpans & Urinals, Casting Supplies, Disinfectants & Cleaning Supplies (Non-patient), Disinfectant & Skin Cleaning Products (Patient), Non-Sterile Drapes, Dressings & Dressing Supplies, Feeding Tubes Bags & Supplies, Exam Gloves, Sterile Gloves, IV Tubing & Supplies, Needles, Oxygen Supplies, Pads Wedges & Positioning Pillows,

Patient Containers, Patient Gowns, Patient Paper Supplies, Patient Supplies, Protectors & Restraints, Sharps Containers, Skin Specialties, Splints Ace Wraps & Extra Support Hose, Applicator Swabs, Syringes, Urinary (Foley) Catheters & Supplies, Central Vascular Percutaneous Lines, and Suction Unit Tubing & Supplies.

Laboratory: Requested items include 1 Autoclave, 1 Blood Drawing Chair, 1 Hematocrit Centrifuge, 1 Lab Centrifuge, 1 Cultures Incubator, 1 Hematology Rotator, 1 Microscope, 1 Refrigerator/Freezer, 1 Water Bath, 1 Glucose Meter (Codefree and AccuCheck are preferred, these strips are readily available in Liberia), 1 Lab Scale, Blood Drawing Supplies, Lab Coats & Scrubs, Lab Containers & Labels, and Lab Kits.

Obstetrics / Infant / Maternal Health: Requested items include 2 Bassinets, 1 Bili Light, 1 Breast Pump, 1 Crib, 1 Delivery Surgical Instrument Kit, 1 Fetal Monitor, 1 Ultrasound, 1 Infant Warmer, 4 Birthing Beds, 1 Fetal Doppler Unit, 1 Fetoscope, 1 Infant Incubator, Ambu Bags, Baby & Birthing Supplies, C.U.R.E. Kits for Kids, Diapers & Wipes, Feminine Supplies, Sterile Gloves, Midwife Birthing C.U.R.E. Kits, and Underpads.

Operating Room / Surgical Theater: Requested items include 1 Blanket Warmer Air Unit, 1 Blanket Warmer Liquid Unit, 1 Kick Bucket, 1 Mayo Stand, 3 Vital Signs Monitors, 1 Portable Operating Room Light, 1 Tourniquet System, 1 Delivery Instrument Kit, 1 Dilatation & Curettage Instrument Kit, 1 Ear Instrument Kit, 1 Minor Surgery Instrument Kit, 1 Circumcision Instrument Kit, 1 Suture Instrument Kit, 1 Autoclave, 1 Suction Unit, OR Airway Kits, Ambu Bags, Biopsy Needles & Kits, Chest Tubes & Drainage Units, Sterile Drapes, Sterile Gloves, Scalpels, Scrub Brushes & Skin Prep Kits, Stapler Kits, Surgical Caps Boots Masks & Gowns, and Sutures Kits.

Endoscopy: No needs identified at this time.

Ophthalmology: No needs identified at this time.

Pharmacy: Requested items include 4 Chairs, 1 Desk, 1 Refrigerator, 1 Table, 1 Medication Cabinet, 1 Shelving Unit, and Pharmacy Supplies.

Radiology / Diagnostics: No needs identified at this time.

Rehabilitation: Requested items include 1 Crutch, 1 Walker, 1 Cane, 1 Bicycle, 1 Pedal Machine, 1 Hoyer Lift, 1 Transfer Board, 3 Standard Wheelchairs, 1 Adult Standing Aid, 1 Pediatric Standing Aid, Activities of Daily Living, Braces, Pads Wedges & Positioning Pillows, and Splints Ace Wraps & Extra Support Hose.

Administration / Other Equipment: Requested items include 3 File Cabinets, 2 Storage Cabinets, 1 Miscellaneous Cart, 3 Computers, 2 Desks, 1 Bed for staff, 4 Office Chairs, 1 Refrigerator, 20 Waiting Room Chairs, 3 Waiting Room Tables, Office Supplies, Stacking Bins, and White Boards & Bulletin Boards.

Dental: No needs identified at this time.

Instructional Needs: Requested items include 1 Adult CPR Manikin, 1 Youth CPR Manikin, 1 Infant CPR Manikin, and Instructional Supplies.

Additional Information

Pictures/Anecdotes



Pictured above is the post-delivery recovery room. There is 1 delivery room at the facility.



The Needs Assessment Representative is shown above discussing the needs of the new facility in the central part of the building.



The outdoor rotunda is pictured above. Patients will be checked in and undergo initial examinations in this area.

Appendix

Primary Contact Person:

Name: James Korha	Title: Korha International Founder
Organization: Korha International	Role: Primary Facility Representative
Address: ELWA Community, Paynesville, Liberia	Email: KorhaInternational@gmail.com
Phone: 231 8866 02305	

Other Contact Person:

Name: Dr. Bilinga M. Sagno-Korha	Title: Doctor
Organization: Korha International	Role: Secondary Facility Representative
Address: ELWA Community, Paynesville, Liberia	Email: BiliKorha@gmail.com
Phone: 231 8863 52784	

Other Contact Person:

Name: Delron Shirley	Title: Representative of Partner Organization
Organization: Teach All Nations Mission	Role: Primary Sponsor Representative
Address: 3210 Cathedral Spires, Colorado Springs, CO 80904	Email: TeachAllNations@MSN.com
Phone: 719-685-9999	