

## **Vacancy for Volunteer Medical Doctor in Rural Tanzania**

Mnero is a small village in a remote location in southern Tanzania about 40 km away from the District capital of Nachingwea. The only European style buildings are the former Benedictine Mission and the hospital. Mnero hospital has been built almost 70 years ago. Since long it belongs to the Catholic Diocese of Lindi – situated at the Regional Capital about 200 km to the East, bordering the Indian Ocean.

The hospital currently has about 80 beds and a staff of roughly 50. It is providing all essential medical services for the very poor rural peasant population which hardly has access to any other place for medical treatment.

29 years ago the former German development Service DED (now merged with GIZ) sent the first volunteer workers to Mnero Hospital to help improving its services. Before that the hospital had not had a resident doctor for many years. The volunteers stayed for 2-3 years each and succeeded each other without interruption for the subsequent 18 years. Together with their Tanzanian partners they were able to reestablish and run appropriate medical services. In 1994 they started a small charity in Germany called “Solidarity Mnero” (SolMne) which is active up till now. It was founded to assist the hospital in terms of advice but also with funds for the improvement of infrastructure, education, medical equipment and pharmaceuticals. Over time, the activities extended to other health related fields like reforestation, support of local schools or village water supply.

In 2007 the support with volunteer doctors from Germany ended. Since then the hospital was run by several Tanzanian doctors and administrators. SolMne continued to provide some financial support and tried to help with intermittent short visits from previous volunteers. Nevertheless partly due to a lack of medical doctors partly due to administrative incompetence and mismanagement the quality of medical services decreased very much over the years. The situation of the hospital became less and less transparent and the communication between previous volunteers/SolMne and Mnero less frequent and clear. The diocese as the owner was not able to substantially improve the situation. Therefore it – as well as the hospital staff itself – has asked once more for a medical doctor from abroad.

After long and intensive discussions in 2015 we from SolMne decided to comply with this request by sending a medical doctor again in order to prevent further deterioration of medical services and bring them back to an acceptable standard.

SolMne succeeded in sending European voluntary doctors to Mnero. Since August 2016 a Dutch couple, both medical doctors, is working at the spot. This, in addition to a completely new and by the meantime well established Tanzanian and European managerial staff, improved the above mentioned situation substantially. Those Dutch expatriate doctors are going to leave their post by mid of October 2018.

Therefore we are looking now for a volunteer medical doctor who is able and willing to continue this task. It would be possible to live and work in Mnero as a single person, a couple or as a family. Ideal would be a married couple of Medical Doctors.

### **Profile and task**

The living and working conditions demand a personality with high intrinsic motivation, flexibility and tolerance. In terms of medical skills, the position requires you to have a reasonable experience in surgery and/or gynecology/obstetrics and/or pediatrics (the nearest hospital with well equipped and educated MD's is two hours driving distance away).

Your main task will be to stabilize and further improve appropriate medical services for in- and outpatients in very close cooperation with the local staff. That includes on-the-job-training of the local Assistant Medical Officer(s), Medical Assistants and Clinical Officers. You will also need to advise and support the local hospital administration in different sectors of management (financial administration and planning, staff development, quality management).

### **Conditions**

As we are only a small charity we cannot offer a "real" salary – a fact we are quite unhappy about.

We are thinking of providing a monthly allowance of € 1000 which is supposed to cover ALL your expenses (including health insurance as well as retirement funds!). In case you are married and/or have children we are ready to slightly increase this allowance.

In addition housing will be provided free.

We would also provide a lumpsum of € 1000 for personal expenses including furniture and appliances for the house.

We will also pay for the flight to and from Tanzania at the beginning of the contract and at its end. To enable you to visit home we pay an additional lumpsum of € 1000 for travel expenses after the first year, second year etc. provided another year of contract follows. We would also cover the costs incurred to get a work- and residence permit up to a total of € 750 per person.

We would aim at a two years contract – with the option of extension if both sides agree.

You would be expected to learn intensively Swahili as soon as it becomes clear that we agree on each other. As it is essential to speak Swahili reasonably well we would contribute € 1000 for a language training course in the country.

### **Procedure**

If you are interested please provide your detailed CV together with a letter of motivation to Dr. Friedhelm Bernreiter at the following email-address: daktari\_bern@aol.com

Sending your data includes permission that we from SolMne confidentially share this information for discussion.

We then would reply to you by mail and/or by phone and if we are interested we would invite you to a personal meeting before any decision would be taken – on your and on our side.

After having agreed we would inform you about the situation and would try to prepare you a little bit by arranging for further personal meetings with you if this would seem desirable and feasible.

Please be aware that we would make a contract with you while another working contract would be made finally between the Catholic Diocese of Lindi and you.

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This is an opportunity to live and work among extremely friendly people in an amazingly beautiful landscape of the "real" Africa. All former European volunteers came back satisfied having done meaningful medical work and enjoyed this period of their lives greatly.

More information can be found (however in German only) on our homepage:  
<http://www.mnero.de/>