

## Work in the church

The Evangelical Church of the Gambia was started as people responded to the mission's holistic approach of sharing the gospel while following social programmes. Today it is an independent organisation, and national Christians are taking increasing responsibility for the small, but growing, church.

Several congregations meet regularly for church activities at different locations in the country. The ECG also runs a conference and training centre in the interior.

The church provides a programme of Theological Education by Extension courses on different levels. Evangelism has become a joint venture of mission and church. The ECG church is a member of the Evangelical Fellowship of the Gambia (EFG).



## Our vision

WEC's social and development programmes are the means through which we fulfil the vision God has given us for the people of the Gambia.

Join us in our vision:

Reaching out  
together  
in word and deed  
to share God's love  
in the Gambia.

Check out

[www.wecinternational.org/gambia](http://www.wecinternational.org/gambia)

## Other information

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# The Gambia

## Introduction

Ninety-five per cent of the Gambia's population of approximately one million people are considered to be Muslim. The remaining five per cent are either animist or Christian.

In 1966, a year after gaining independence from Britain, the Gambian Government granted the first visas to WEC workers for medical work. Today WEC is an officially recognised NGO (non-governmental organization), and is granted a limited number of visas to conduct medical, literacy, educational and rural development projects.

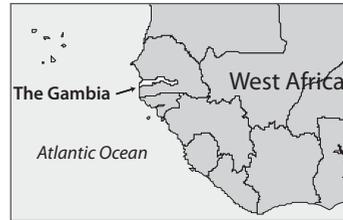
As long as workers fulfil the conditions set by the Government, WEC has complete freedom for evangelism and church planting activities. A WEC-affiliated church, the Evangelical Church of the Gambia (ECG), has been established across the country.



**WEC International** works in over 80 countries around the world, with the goal of evangelising its remaining unevangelised peoples as speedily as possible.



# The Gambia



## Medical work

Throughout the year up to 100,000 patients are seen at our clinics. Emphasis is placed on primary health care, antenatal care and infant welfare. In addition to maternity cases, the majority of patients suffer from malaria or malnutrition.

Our main clinic is located in Sibanor with smaller clinics in Jarrol and Nemaunku. Patients who are too ill to go back to their villages can use the in-patient facilities which are available at the Sibanor clinic. In Brikama a team, together with another NGO and the government health centre, is working on a project for home-based care, and in Chamen two of our medical workers are working in a community health project.

The clinics are run by medical professionals: doctors, nurse midwives

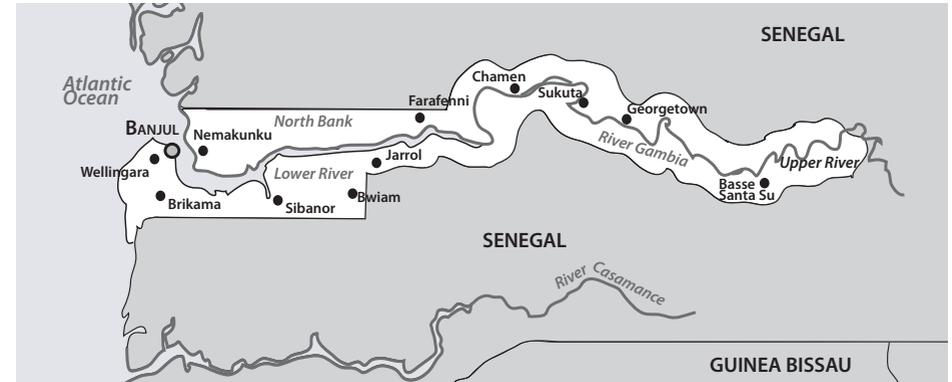


and laboratory technicians, plus nurses trained locally or by the State. Because of the need for trained local employees, a two-year nurses' training programme was established in Sibanor. Christian teaching is offered alongside these activities.

## Literacy & translation

Having seen the need for Gambians to be able to read and write in their mother tongue, we run literacy classes in the Mandinka, Jola and Wolof languages. This provides opportunities to present the gospel in many villages. Literacy classes are also held in two prisons.

Graduates of the literacy classes can continue with English classes. Reading material in local languages encourages the new readers. The New Testament has been translated into Mandinka and work is in progress on the Old Testament, parts of which are already available. Bible translation into Jola is focussing on the New Testament.



## Youth work & education

In the coastal region WEC runs a skill-training centre and gives vocational training in motor mechanics.

A secretarial institute and a study library were handed over to local Gambian initiatives.

On the North Bank we run another skill centre for underprivileged girls.



## Rural development

The agricultural project in Bwiam runs a demonstration vegetable garden and a fruit tree nursery with a large variety of trees.



These have been developed to encourage individuals and schools to plant orchards and gardens, both for income generation and to combat deforestation in the Sahel.