

MCC SALT/YAMEN Service Opportunity

MCC is an equal opportunity employer, committed to employment equity. MCC values diversity and invites all qualified candidates to apply.

Assignment Title & Partner Organization: SALT/YAMEN: Nursing and Midwifery Instructor – LAMB

Term: August 15, 2023 – July 13, 2024

Date Required: August 15, 2023

Location: Parbatipur, Bangladesh

Project Theme: ES Education Salt/Yamen

Job Synopsis:

The SALT/YAMENER will assist the Lutheran Aid to Medicine in Bangladesh (LAMB) Nursing & Midwifery Training Centre by working closely with the institute's principal, lecturers, instructors, and staff to provide teaching support, as well as share ideas, technical knowledge, related training, and participate in discussion sessions given to the students and staff. The participant will serve as a mentor for the nursing students and join in extracurricular activities and community life, as possible and assist staff with various reporting in English.

Qualifications:

All MCC workers are expected to exhibit a commitment to a personal Christian faith; actively participate in a Christian church or community; and dedicated to nonviolent peacemaking.

An invitation to an assignment is contingent on the successful completion of a criminal background check.

- Minimum bachelor's degree (4 years minimum study, as required by government for visa purposes) in nursing or another related field.
- Teaching experience is an asset.
- Excellent written and spoken English with the ability to work in English with second/third language speakers. Committed to learning the Bangla language.
- Self-reflective and open to learn.
- Good communication skills (listening, acceptance, empathy etc.).
- Strong computer skills.
- Able to be flexible and abide by security protocols within a potentially uncertain political climate.
- Willing to travel on public transport.
- Curiosity and interest to learn about how rural society functions and how LAMB and MCCB are engage the community.
- Ability to inspire others and model the vision and values of LAMB and MCC.
- Appreciation for the variety of faith perspectives in Bangladesh, especially the Islamic faith and ability to respectfully interact with people of all faiths.
- Compassion, creativity, courage, curiosity.
- Possess strong self-care skills and healthy coping mechanisms.
- Curiosity, compassion, creativity

- Possess strong self-care skills and healthy coping mechanisms.
- Able and willing to live relatively independently with support from MCCB and the host community.
- Willing to be an active part of a MCCB team, offering support to one another and taking on tasks that positively contribute to the team.

Key Responsibilities

- Assist Training Centre and LAMB medical staff to implement the nursing curriculum i.e., support and work with the staff to prepare teaching plans, plan activities, evaluations, tutoring, and assist with clinical supervision and practical skills development.
- Mentor and assist students in skills-based practical courses and laboratory learning sessions.
- Teach basic IT knowledge as well as English conversation and writing classes.
- Facilitate extracurricular education and activities i.e., peace, music, sports, bible study, etc.
- Write stories, reports, and case studies in English. Provide administrative and English editing tasks, as requested.
- Depending on the skills and knowledge of the participant, facilitate occasional trainings and learning sessions for students and staff of the Training Center and other departments of LAMB.
- Actively participate in community life, taking initiative to build healthy relationships with students and staff.
- Respect and follow the rules and regulations of LAMB and the Training Institute.
- Respect the culture and traditions of the local community.

Assignment Narrative:

LAMB, which stands for Lutheran Aid to Medicine in Bangladesh, is an NGO of the American Santal Mission and has been working in a rural area of northwestern Bangladesh for 70 years. LAMB is nationally and internationally known for its integrated approach to health care and extending high-quality services to poorest and most vulnerable, including maternal health care, advocacy for natural childbirth, and fistula treatment.

The SALT/YAMENer will be involved in supporting the Nursing and Midwifery Training Centre of LAMB Hospital through assisting with the educating the Diploma Nursing & Midwifery Training and Diploma Midwifery Training Course recipients. MCC is supporting the studies of approximately 30 students there, many of whom are from ethnic minority communities.

The SALT/YAMENer will work closely with the LAMB Training Centre's principal, lecturers, instructors, and staff to teach the curriculum based and extracurricular-based lesson and learnings. The participant will guide the students—the nursing course is 20% young men while midwifery course is limited to young women—in their practical and laboratory learning.

The educational materials used are in English, but the primary classroom language is Bengali. Hence, it is important for the SALT/YAMENer to learn to communicate in Bengali. MCCB will make language training arrangements for the participant.

The SALT/YAMENer will also teach basic IT knowledge and conversational English. The participant will also support the training institution's staff in writing various reports in English, as well as

participate and assist with arranging different meetings, training, learning sessions, and other events for the students and staff.

As the nursing students live on campus in the training institute's dormitory, the SALT/YAMENers will have a lot of opportunities to build strong, healthy relationships with them, learn about their lives, and join and provide leadership to them in sports, music, bible study, community service, and other activities outside of the classroom.

LAMB Hospital medical professional staff includes both Bangladeshis and international long-term and short-term volunteers. The SALT/YAMENers will have the opportunity to participate in this dynamic, committed, and multicultural community centered around an ecumenical church on the campus. The church holds Sunday school on Fridays, weeknight family prayer gatherings, and worship in Bengali on Sunday evenings, as well as a monthly gathering in English. The SALT/YAMENers will have the opportunity for social and spiritual connection here.

For more information about LAMB, see: www.lambproject.org

Location Description:

The SALT/YAMENers will be based in the LAMB Hospital of the World Mission Prayer League, located in Parbatipur, a subdistrict of Dinajpur district in the northwest part of Bangladesh. The LAMB Hospital compound in Parbatipur is home to the hospital, which is particularly renowned for maternity care and fistula treatment, as well as dental services, programs for children with disabilities, staff residences, a guesthouse, an English-medium school, the offices of its rural community development programs, and its training center for nurses and midwives.

MCC has three offices in Bangladesh. The closest is in Bogura, about three hours away. The Dhaka office where the MCC Representative is based is about 8hrs away (325 km). Ongoing support will be provided by both offices.

The local economy is based on agriculture as well as coal mining. Most of the population are Bengali Muslims but there are also Bengalis Hindus and Christians, as well as the Santal ethnic group and some Urdu-speaking stranded Pakistanis (known as Biharis).

Medical care and medicine are available in the LAMB Hospital, and at Dinajpur Medical College Hospital in a neighboring town. For more complex medical problems, there are good facilities in Dhaka. MCC has also used medical services of mission hospitals in Bangladesh and hospitals in Bangkok where excellent care is available.

There is limited internet access on the campus, however, 4G cellular data is widely available.

In general, Bangladesh is a challenging social and cultural context in which to live. It is a land of contrasts – lush green rice fields and high population density, extreme poverty, generous hospitality, bright colors, conservative culture, hot humid weather, and cooling rains. While adjusting to the culture, general living and program administration can be stressful at times, MCCers have found a rich experience in building relationships in their community and work. SALT/YAMENers can also form meaningful relationships with other MCC workers, some of whom have worked with MCC for over 20 years. These relationships, along with the critical work MCCB carries out to alleviate the extreme poverty of this country, helps to create a meaningful experience, bringing hope to all involved.

Challenges:

- COVID-19 remains unpredictable both at home, and around the world. MCC strongly recommends vaccination against COVID-19. Safe and effective vaccines against COVID-19 are a vital part of prevention, by reducing individual risk of disease and risk of transmission to others. Vaccination is particularly important for those who are interacting closely with members of the community, those staying with host families, who are traveling, who live in contexts with limited healthcare resources, or who are at higher risk of serious disease. Proof of vaccination may be required in individual cases to fulfill job expectations, for example if it is required for travel by an airline, a government requirement to enter a country, required by a local partner organization, etc.
- Bangladesh is one of the nations that is most vulnerable to the devastating impact of climate change. Recent summers have seen extreme temperatures in Dhaka and elsewhere surpassing 40°C (105°F) and extensive flooding and drought are increasingly frequent.
- Bangladesh is the most densely populated nation on earth. Unrelenting traffic, extremes of poverty and climate vulnerability, marginalization of minorities and exploitation of power in everyday corruption weigh heavily on daily life. Muggings, phone snatchings, and petty theft do occur, but are rare. Most Bangladeshis prefer to travel by public transportation that is often crowded, ranging from pedal-powered rickshaws to bus to train.
- A national election is scheduled for December 2023. Politics can be unstable, and sometimes political events are marked by strikes and demonstrations, which can be accompanied by violence, usually isolated. Terrorist incidents have been part of Bangladesh's history, but not in recent years. The security of our workers is a priority, and both MCC Bangladesh, and the partner organization will provide safety and security guidance which the SALT/YAMENer must abide by.
- The Bangladeshi home diet is simple and delicious: rice or flatbread and lentil soup (*dal*) plus vegetables and curry, three times a day. Fresh fruits are available in season. Care is needed regarding roadside food. Although most Bangladeshis eat meat, vegetarian accommodations are possible.
- As a Muslim society, Bangladesh is officially dry, but alcohol of dubious quality is available, particularly near the Indian border and in some indigenous areas where abuse of homemade and illegally imported alcohol can be a problem. In these areas, some local people may offer or strongly pressure the SALT/YAMENer to consume alcohol, which they are expected to politely refuse.
- For women serving in Bangladesh, there can be several added challenges. It is a conservative culture and modesty in dress is highly valued. Female service workers and SALT/YAMEN participants are expected to dress in a culturally appropriate manner in public. Most Bangladeshi women wear *shalwar kameez* (south Asian-style trousers and long top with short sleeves) with an *orna* (scarf) draped over their shoulders. Many Bangladeshis have a distorted view of Western women through the media, and this can lead to sexualized comments and unwanted attention. This is rarely dangerous but can be unpleasant at times. There also remains a predominant view of women as the 'weaker' sex, and, at the same time, you will meet dynamic and creative women leading in all areas of life. MCCB partners are obliged to adhere to MCC's safeguarding policies and procedures against sexual abuse, exploitation, and harassment.
- Bangladeshi law, social mores, and religious communities are not supportive of LGBTQ+ persons and, although the government now recognizes three genders, publicly identified LGBTQ+ activists have been subject to violence. As everywhere, SALT/YAMEN participants

are expected to pay attention and be sensitive to the local complexities of gender, sexuality, and power.

- Managing frustration when things don't turn out as expected can be hard. While we do our best to determine and outline job responsibilities with our local partners, assignments come alive based on the passions, skills, and gifts of an individual. Responsibilities may change or be refined over time in communication with supervisors to meet the ongoing changes and needs within a local context. As such, the greatest characteristics a participant can bring to an assignment are adaptability, flexibility, patience, a willingness to get your hands dirty, and humility to complete even mundane-seeming tasks.
- For those who are task-oriented, it can be a challenge to recognize the importance of "being" instead of always "doing" building healthy relationships and mutually transformative learning is an important part of the participant experience. We hope participants will come with a desire to walk alongside our local partners, rather than see the assignment solely as a way to "get things done".

Benefits:

For all SALT/YAMEN assignments, MCC provides:

- All basic needs related to assignment i.e., travel to and from assignment, food & household costs, housing, in-country transportation, etc.
- Modest monthly personal allowance
- Modest monthly worker care allowance
- Full medical coverage—no co-pay
- Educational loan reimbursement
- Vacation days
- Orientation and Re-entry Retreat costs
- MCC in-country meetings and retreat costs
- End-of-term benefits

For more information, see mcc.org/salt or mcc.org/yamen