

# BETHESDA HOSPITAL

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**Physical Address:** N2 North to Mkuze, left at T-junction, 3 km to Umbombo, turn right and go 18 km

**GPS co-ordinates:** 32.0820982 | -27.5741112

Bethesda is a district hospital founded in 1937 by the Methodist Church and now run by the Provincial Government. It is situated in the Umkhanyakude Health district. Bethesda hospital has 230 authorised beds and 196 usable beds and there are 517 approved posts.

It is situated in the north-eastern corner of KwaZulu-Natal in the small village of Ubombo on the Lebombo Mountains overlooking the Northern Maputaland planes.

The work includes both primary and secondary level medical care and we serve a population of about 100 000 people in an area of about 1500 square kilometres. There are 8 residential clinics and two mobile clinic teams that visit 20 points every 2-week cycle. The medical staff use an aeroplane or 4x4 vehicles to visit residential clinics weekly. We also fly dire emergencies to the referral centres. TB and other infectious diseases are prolific, as are malnutrition, HIV related disease and malaria.

There is a minimal malaria risk at the hospital itself because of the elevated altitude and recent spraying programs have decreased the incidence dramatically. Co artemether had been introduced due to high levels of resistance to Fansidar (Pyrimethamine/sulphadoxine) and Chloroquine.

Maternal and child health and Primary Health Care are priorities so a great deal of time and effort is being spend on improving our clinic services and health education. We teach Primary Health Care nurses and have a very active AIDS team, which has a growing home-based care and AIDS orphan programme.

The nearest town is Mkuze 16 km's away at the foot of the mountain where many hospital children attend school.

It is a beautiful area with may internationally renowned tourist sites including games reserves and beach resorts with some of the best coral reef diving reserves in the world.



**Vision:** Bethesda Hospital to be the most desirable hospital to seek help from and to work for.

**Mission:** To develop a people centred district health services in the Bethesda catchment area where all persons have equal access to quality and comprehensive district health services, jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities.

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