



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES**
UNITED KINGDOM

SOS Children's Village Asiakwa, Ghana – Medical Centre

Update for the Federation of Cocoa Commerce, November 2015

The Asiakwa Medical Centre was established May 1993 and is supported by the Federation of Cocoa Commerce to provide quality primary health care to the children and staff in the SOS Children's Village, and also to the larger community in the surrounding areas. The facility is managed by a nurse and a medical doctor. The centre runs on an outpatient basis but in some cases patients are admitted briefly (not beyond 24 hours) for further examination and treatment. Serious cases are referred to bigger hospitals. Below is a summary of the work carried out at the Medical Centre thanks to the kind support of the members of the Federation of Cocoa Commerce.

How many people the FCC's support has helped through the Medical Centre:

- SOS Children: 112
- SOS Youths: 60
- Workers: 73
- Students: 287
- Community: 350

Types of Services Provided:

The clinic conducts routine laboratory tests such as:

- Blood group
- Sickling
- Genotype
- HIV Screening
- Hepatitis BsAg



A young girl who lives at the SOS Children's Village in Asiakwa receives a medical examination.

These tests are also run for prospective employees and children before they become part of the organization. We can also carry out simple procedures such as circumcisions, dressings, incision and drainages and suturing.

A child welfare clinic is held every month, while a deworming campaign is carried out once every quarter.

Malaria remains the number one cause of illness and death in Ghana, accounting for 38% of all outpatient visits and over a third of all hospital admissions. Malaria is by far the most common illness that we treat. Other common treatments are for:

- Common colds
- Diarrhoea
- Ulcers
- Cuts
- Typhoid



A group of SOS children visit their sibling at the Medical Centre

Successes of the Medical Centre

- We held a breast cancer awareness and screening exercise for one day at the SOS Medical Centre. About 80 people, mostly from the neighboring communities, were treated.
- The clinic's resident nurse was married for seven years without a child. His wife was treated for cervical cancer in the SOS facility. She recently gave birth to a bouncing baby boy.
- We have embarked on Save My Mother outreach programmes in nearby villages. Initially we waited for patients to visit the medical centre on specific days set aside for the cervical cancer screening. But we later discovered that proximity was a problem for them. So the medical centre now embarks on outreach programmes to ensure direct contact with the prospective communities. Patronage has shot up monumentally. Since the inception of the Save My Mother in Asiakwa, 1,500 patients have been screened so far.
- About 400 patients have tested positive and were treated immediately. All pre-cancerous cells have now cleared completely. The three patients found to have full blown cancer have been referred to major hospitals.



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Challenges we face

- We only have one permanent staff. The medical officer only comes to support twice every week. This creates a vacuum especially when patients needing the services of a doctor cannot access one in the medical centre.
- There is no internet access at the centre, which makes record keeping and communications very difficult.
- We need more medical supplies to enable the facility become a health solution to more patients, by treating a wide range of medical conditions.

The work at the medical centre is vital to the health and lives of all those within our Children's Village and its' surrounding community in Asiakwa, we cannot thank you enough for your continued support to make this possible.



Thank you!