



GNMC NEWSLETTER

Volume 05 | Year 2022

www.gn-mobileclinics.org

Dear Friends of GNMC,

The economic crisis hit Ghana face-on in one big blow. Fuel prices rose from 14 GHS per liter to 24 GHS. Most individuals walk to work, face challenges of sending their children to school and many patients in need don't see a doctor when sick. The health system is fragile and collapses further.

It is vital for GNMC to establish a third mobile clinic affiliated with the HopeXchange Medical Center; everyone involved has confirmed that this is an urgent measure.



Childrens ward at HopeXchange

COOPERATION FOR A THIRD MOBILE CLINIC IN HOPEXCHANGE

Although we have been working with HopeXchange since 2016, when Britta established the theatre setup, started staff education, and introduced pediatric surgeons from the university hospital launching a mobile clinic near urban Kumasi did not seem imperative. But the current economic crisis taught us a different lesson:

Vulnerable communities in the slums of the city are currently amongst the first to be hit by hunger and diseases: Children from several orphanages, slum dwellers, mental patients and **head potters*** and their families.



** **head potters**: groups of young women, mainly from the North of Ghana, who work by carrying loads from one place to another in the vast Kejetia market.*

A DIFFERENT KIND OF GRATITUDE

After major operations, a follow-up for years should be routine, but here in Ghana, it is not. Meanwhile, we make sure that our postoperative kids receive regular follow-up treatment. For example, Betty and Reginald who are two of our surgical patients. Betty originates from the west of Ghana and recovered from two critical operations for genital repair. She visited us after six hours of travel by Trotro (local bus).

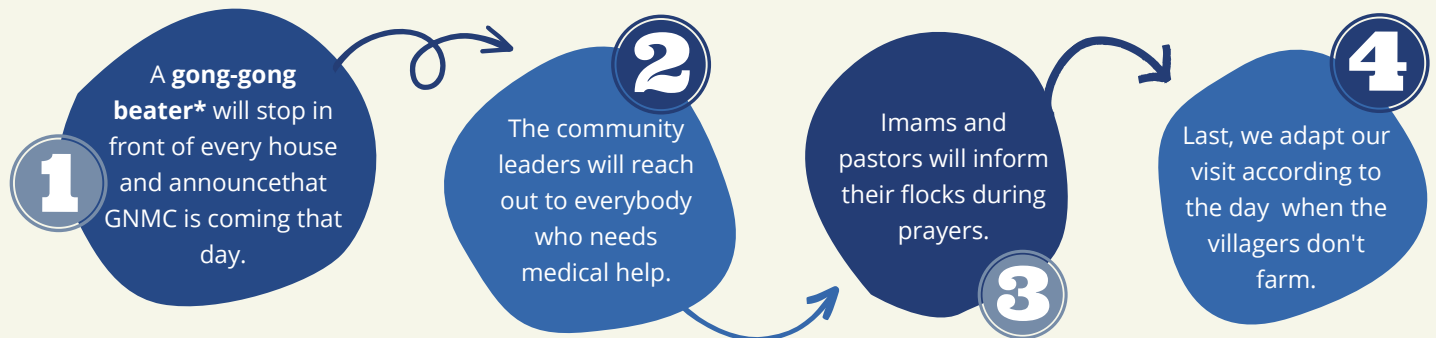
Reginald was born without functioning nerves in a part of his bowel. His mother brought him to us in time and we were able to restore his continence. His parents were so grateful that they called his newborn sister "Britta Junior".



Left to right: Reginald's mother, Reginald, Dr. Britta with Britta Junior

ENTERING A NEW COMMUNITY

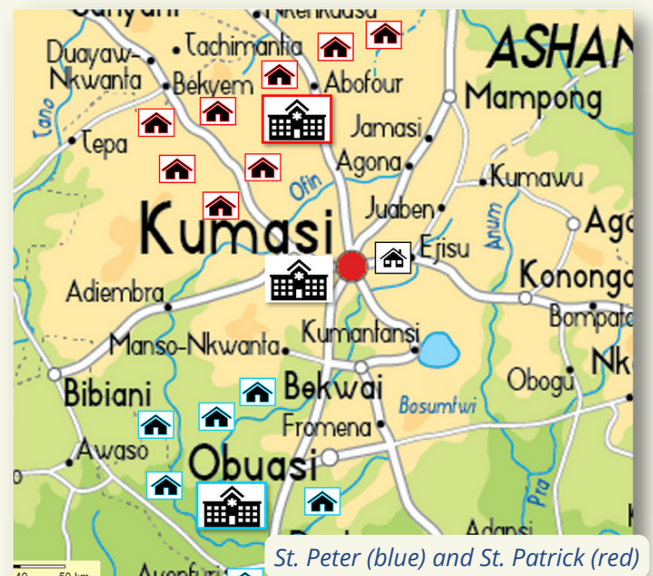
In our last newsletter we decribed the challenges we encounter once we entered a new community. Lack of information and trust makes it difficult to get patients on board. Undoubtedly, reaching out to people in need, who feel stigmatized, shy, and ashamed (e.x. epileptics or schizophrenics) is a challenge. In Ghana, even children with operable conditions but with poor parents need encouragement to find their way to our mobile clinics in the villages. During out first joint peer learning seminar, the GNMC teams from St. Patrick and St. Peter came up with **a protocol** that will be implemented at new health posts systematically:



In bigger villages, communication centers will be asked to announce the mobile clinic on their loudspeakers for a fee.

This new protocol, even if only partially implemented helps us to succeed. The frequency of patients at our health posts has increased. In Gyametahunu* it brought over 50 patients attended the GNMC's last visit. Such good work by the team!

**Gyametahunu: One of the health posts located an hour away from St. Peters*





2022 HIGHLIGHTS

- The 2nd Mobile Clinic St. Peter has gained momentum and is currently working with **6 health posts**.
- Our new Homepage is now online - in English and in German. Have a look, www.gn-mobileclinics.org
- All stakeholders made the official decision to open the **3rd Mobile Clinic** with HopeXchange Hospital in Kumasi.
- GNMC encounters more and more malnourished children in the health posts and developed a **sustainable support program**. Additional funding to cover the **registration fees** for all children under 14 years is coming to our GNMC branches in October.
- GNMC started a series of **peer-learning seminars**; experienced and new teams will learn from each other. During the first peer meeting, they establish their own guidelines for successful outreach.
- GNMC is in discussion with the Tamale University in northern Ghana to find means of **training in pediatric surgery and psychiatry** through GNMC.
- GNMC cooperates with **Ghana Health Service** for a continuous follow-up of malnourished children in remote areas.
- Our medical assistant from St. Patrick, Ebenezer, learns about international development in Israel. This will **benefit the GNMC Mobile Clinic** for the years to come.

**THANK YOU ABUNDANTLY FOR
YOUR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT**

Ori, Britta, and the GNMC teams

