

ROSE AND JOYCE

ABOUT US

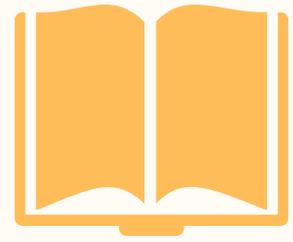
Joyce | 37 years old

Rose | 4 months old

Rose's symptoms | Nasty
cough and sneezing a lot

Place visited | Namulenga
Health Centre

Country | Malawi



THE PHARMACY RUN OUT OF MEDICINES A LOT AND THEY HAVE TO THINK OF SOLUTIONS SO THE PATIENTS DON'T GO AWAY EMPTY HANDED

Joyce and Rose were seen by Sister Martha (Medical Assistant)...

Sister Martha used an ear thermometer donated by Inter Care and health partners to check the baby's temperature. She also used a stethoscope to listen to her lungs and heart. Sr Martha prescribed Rose with amoxicillin syrup and paracetamol and advised Joyce to take her daughter to the hospital if she was still no better in a couple of days.

Does the pharmacy always have what you need?

Joyce told us that when she visited the pharmacy with her prescription, there was no child paracetamol available so the pharmacy assistant took some paracetamol, cut it into smaller pieces and instructed the mother to feed it to the baby a little at a time.



First steps...

Joyce had been giving her daughter cough syrup, given to her by a friend but the baby was still no better so she walked to Namulenga Health Centre.



Sr Martha, what are your thoughts on the pharmacy staff's solution?

I know it's not perfect. We don't want to be giving adult medicines to children, but when the alternative is not to treat them at all, what do you do? We are making difficult decisions everyday. It is a balancing act and we just have to try and do the best we can with what we have in our hands.