

MOHAMED'S STORY

As told by

Catherine Thomas

Mohamed S Kamara(Class 3) came to see me during my visit to the David School in February 2022. He was limping, in pain and distressed. His leg had two large wounds which were uncomfortable and looked infected. It was obvious to me that this was a very serious condition. He is a bright boy who loves going to school yet he was missing lots of classroom time due to feeling unwell and in pain.

I organised an initial consultation with Dr David Koroma who has a surgery in Rokel, about fifteen miles away from Mile 36. He prescribed antibiotics, painkillers and recommended X-rays. Mohamed visited the Connaught hospital in Freetown for the X-rays. The transport, appointments and expenses were handled by Marion, one of our teachers, as I had returned to the UK.

She became very upset with the treatment at the Connaught as at every stage, she was asked for money. Children supposedly receive free treatment at the hospital but the doctors and nurses were not being paid by the Government and kept demanding cash.

Marion eventually obtained the X-rays but no report of what further action was required so we decided to involve Doctor David again. He examined the X-rays and concluded that Mohamed needed surgery as his leg bones were severely infected. However, the surgery required was specialised and outside his area of expertise. Dr David arranged for a surgeon friend of his to treat Mohamed in Makeni, a three hour drive by car from Mile 36.



Hospital with Mum



With Auntie Marion



Hospital Bed

Mohamed would need to stay there for 2-3 months to recuperate. Mohamed's mother, herself a victim of polio was to stay with him. The operation went ahead on 31st May 2022, with several pieces of bone needing to be removed. The operation was successful and saved Mohamed's leg, in fact quite possibly saved his life.

Understandably the first week after the operation Mohamed was in a lot of discomfort but with plenty of good food and care from his mum and nurses, he quickly started to recover. Auntie Marian, our teacher, travelled the three hours each way every weekend for eight weeks to check on him and his mum.

The Charity paid for the operation, tests and his food and transport.

This is a private hospital but the Doctor cut the fees by 50% as the Charity is helping children in Sierra Leone.

Mohamed was instructed to stay off his feet for the first four weeks. During this time he read books and played with other children on the ward. After this period he started to walk again and soon became very active. He wanted to go home but the Doctor would not discharge him until all the wounds had healed completely.

On his final weekend in the hospital, as a surprise, instead of Auntie Marion travelling to see him, his father walked through the hospital door.

Mohamed had not seen his dad for two months as he had stayed back at Mile 36 caring for the younger siblings while Mohamed and his Mum were away. A very happy Mohamed.

Mohamed returned home to Mile 36 on the last day of the summer term. The whole village were out to welcome him home despite heavy rains that day. His first question to Auntie Marian was “am I promoted to Class 4 ? ”. Mohamed had missed a whole term of school in the academic year. The children are tested at the end of each of three terms to gauge whether they can be promoted to the next class. He had missed one of the three tests. When the teachers added his results for terms 1 and 2 (and divided by 3), his average mark was still high enough to promote him. He returns to school into Class 4. To be taught by ----- Auntie Marian. He was ecstatic

September 2022



Operation Scar



Recovered



With Sister

