

InterCare IC+

MEDICAL AID FOR AFRICA

Merstham Aid Project has been a supporter of Inter Care's work for many years, for which we are extremely grateful. Our vital work is only made possible thanks to the generosity of donors such as MAP.

Established in 1974, Inter Care sends recycled surplus quality medicines which would otherwise be incinerated, along with healthcare goods and medical supplies such as dressings, instruments and devices to rural health units in some of the poorest parts of Africa. The way we work not only benefits around 130 health units in Ghana, Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia by providing them with vital medical supplies, but also makes use of surplus medicines from pharmaceutical companies, medical wholesalers and healthcare professionals, thereby helping to reduce waste. In 2012, the charity received the highly prestigious Queens Award for Voluntary Service in recognition of the contribution we receive from over 50 volunteers, many of whom are medically trained. This helps us to maintain low overheads and to maximise the impact we have on the lives of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable patients treated at the health units we support. These include hospitals, clinics, prisons, schools for the visually impaired and centres for the disabled and for orphaned and vulnerable children. The catchment population of these health units is over 11 million.

In Tanzania, for example, one of the countries to which Inter Care sends medical aid, remote areas often lack hospitals and medical centres can be long distances away for rural communities. Health centres frequently suffer from a shortage of trained workers and from a lack of medical supplies and equipment. **St Francis of Assisi School for the Disabled and Able Bodied Children, Tanzania** is typical of the beneficiaries Inter Care supports and provides resident care and

education for over 250 orphaned and vulnerable children. Some of the children have disabilities, including albinism and sight and hearing impairment including some who are blind. Tanzania has a particularly high incidence of albinism with around 35,000 individuals affected nationally.

Within many communities, albinism is treated with fear and suspicion with those affected regularly subjected to physical attacks. Many of the children at St Francis have been placed there by parents who cannot cope with the stigma and challenges of caring for a child with albinism. St Francis has a small clinic which is in desperate need of basic medicines, skin creams, bandages and dressings as well as books and toys for the treatment and wellbeing of the children.



<http://intercare.org.uk/>