

**PRESTEA-HUNI VALLEY MUNICIPAL
ASSEMBLY**

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND
SANITATION UNIT**

**MEDICAL SCREENING AND MONITORING REPORT
OF ACTIVITIES OF FOOD SELLERS/HANDLERS FOR
THE YEAR 2022**

FROM

1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER

BY

MUNICIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL

HEALTH OFFICER

BOGOSO

MEDICAL SCREENING AND MONITORING REPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF FOOD VENDORS/HANDLERS IN

THE MUNICIPALITY

INTRODUCTION

This report covers the period January-December, 2022 on the general medical screening exercise organized in August, 2022.

The purpose of the exercise was to enforce the public health regulation to ensure that any person who engages in the activity of preparing, handling and selling of any food item to the general public adheres to the regulations of food and drink sellers.

Any establishment which provides any service in relation to food for public consumption is expected to comply with all the public health requirements through the practice of good personal and environmental hygiene.

Operators/owners of such facilities shall ensure that all their employees undergo medical examination before handling any food item for sale to the public.

GENERAL MEDICAL SCREENING EXERCISE

The general (mass) medical screening for food vendors/handlers in the Municipality was organized in August, 2022. The Municipality was zoned into Four (4) areas as indicated below;

1. Prestea
2. Bogoso;
3. Aboso and
4. Huni Valley Zones.

MEDICAL SCREENING RECORDS FOR 2022.

S/N	SUB-STATION/ZONE	NO. OF VENDORS MEDICALLY SCREENED
1.	Prestea	1,345
2.	Bogoso	1,115
3.	Aboso	1,288
4.	Huni Valley	891
TOTAL		4,639

A total of Four Thousand, (4,200) vendors were registered and during the exercise a total of Four Thousand and Six Hundred and Thirty-Nine (4,639) screened. This represents 110.45% which indicated that 10.45% were added to the number registered.

The Prestea zone recorded the highest number of vendors (1,345) with Huni Valley registering the lowest of 891. The rest are Bogoso (1,115) and Aboso (1,188) respectively.

RESULTS OF SCREENING

The analysis of the of the total results indicated that 98 vendors tested positive for Widal test whilst the other tests for Hepatitis and Helminthic showed 3 and 12 respectively.

All the vendors who tested positive were referred to the nearest public health facility for treatment before being allowed to handle any food item for public consumption.

They were also educated on the health implications of the results to themselves and close relatives as well as to the general public.

MONITORING

As part of the routine duties of the Unit, the Officers at the various Sub-Stations embarked on the inspection of premises where food is prepared and offered for sale to the public to ensure that the operators were practicing good personal and environmental hygiene and to ensure that they have undergone medical examination to declare them fit.

The premises visited during the period are as follow;

1. Food establishments-----803;
2. Markets-----5;
3. Schools (Caterers) for school feeding programme)-----133;
4. Industries including bakeries-----183;
5. Hotels, Guesthouses, etc.-----64;
6. Community Public Health education and sensitization programmes----75
7. Inspection of Stores.....428

The Officers sensitized the public on the need to observe personal environmental hygiene.

The markets, churches were the main areas where the sensitization was carried out as well as during community durbars.

During the period under review, a total of 133 schools were visited. About 32 of the schools were beneficiaries of the Ghana School Feeding Programme.

The officers inspected the general sanitation condition of the school environment viz; solid waste management, availability of other sanitary facilities (toilets/urinals), water supply and personal hygiene practices by pupils/students.

The officers sensitized the cooks/caterers undertaking the school feeding programme to strictly adhere to basic environmental and personal hygiene practices. These caterers/cooks were taken through some of the guidelines on Nutrition Intervention for School children.

In all about **136** caterers and cooks were sensitized for the period.

The officers ensured that all the workers engaged in the preparation and handling of any food item for the pupils/students had undergone medical examination which declared fit.

The Unit on some occasions carry out such school health programmes in collaboration with GES (SHEP Coordinator), Department of SWCD and the Nutrition Officer (Municipal Directorate-GHS).

ORIENTATION FOR SCHOOL FEEDING CATERERS/COOKS

The Unit during the period under review (2022) organized Four (4) orientation programmes for school feeding caterers and cooks. The programmes were organized besides the routine monitoring of food handlers and vendors and also attended by other food vendors besides the caterers.

The programmes were organized by Officers from Bogoso, Huni Valley, Aboso and Prestea, Sub-Stations respectively.

The table below indicates the topics discussed, the venues and the number of participants. The Municipal Nutrition Officer (GHS) was part of the teams that carried out the programmes.

OUTCOME OF PROGRAMME

The participants were very happy about the information given by the Officers. They suggested that such programmes should be organized regularly and officers should also visit the beneficiary schools of the feeding programme.

The participants were also entreated to practise all that they have learnt so that they can teach others to learn from them as well.

TABLE OF PROGRAMME

S/N	NO. OF OFFICERS	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS	TOPICS DISCUSSED	VENUE	DATE
1	4	26	i. Personal and Environmental Hygiene Practices;	Bogoso Sub-Office	02-03-2022
2	4	24	ii. Dangers Associated with Eating Expired Foods;	Community Center -Huni Valley	18-03 2022
3	4	32	iii. The Importance of Medical Screening and Certification of Food Vendors /Handlers;		
4	3	54	iv. Essential Nutrition Practices; eg; Eating Healthy Meals, Varied Diets and Adequate Quantities;	SDA Church Central, Prestea	31-07-2022
TOTAL		136			

LIST OF NUTRITIONAL ORIENTED INTERVENTIONS

ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT IN THE YEAR

- Registration of children for child welfare clinics.
- Growth monitoring and promotion at health facilities and communities.
- Nutrition surveillance at health facilities and communities.
- Vitamin 'A' supplementation for children 6-59 months.
- Nutrition assessment, counseling and support services (NACS) on exclusive breastfeeding, complementary feeding, diet in pregnancy, dietary needs of HIV/AIDS patients etc.
- Iron and Folic Acid Tablet supplementation for adolescent girls (GIFTS)
- Supportive supervision to health facilities

PRIORITY AREAS AT THE BEGINNING OF 2022

- Rejuvenating school vitamin A supplementation
- Intensifying nutrition education at the antenatal and post-natal clinics
- Strengthening the Girl Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation programme.

(SOURCE- MUN. DIRECTORATE- GHS 2022 ANNUAL NUTRITION REPORT)

CHALLENGES

The following were some of the challenges encountered during the monitoring period;

- i. Lack of regular means of transport for officers to frequently visit all the communities;
- ii. Uncooperative attitude of some food vendors to observe basic personal and environmental hygiene at their premises;

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Motorbikes should be procured for the Four (4) sub-stations to be used by the officers for regular visit to the various communities.
2. Officers should be provided with protective clothing for field activities.

CONCLUSION

The monitoring exercise as well as the routine duties undertaken enabled the officers to identify premises where food is prepared and sold to the public and the failure of the attendants to undergo medical screening. These persons were made to report to the office and issued with medical forms to be medically examined.

Generally, it was observed that many food vendors were in possession of valid medical certificates. Attention was also paid to vendors who tested positive during the general medical screening exercise to ensure that they were fully treated before handling any food item for public consumption.

Any food vendor who failed to undergo the medical examination would be arraigned before the court and prosecuted.

It is hoped that the Unit would be given the necessary support to enable it achieve the activities planned and targets set to improve general sanitation in the Municipality as well improve the health conditions of the populace.

Thank you.

Signed

(RAYMOND SEWORH)

MUN. ENVT. HEALTH OFFICER

**THE MUN. CHIEF EXEC.
PHMA
BOGOSO**

ORIENTATION FOR SCHOOL FEEDING CATERERS/COOKS

HUNI VALLEY



ABOSO



BOGOSO



SDA CHURCH CENTRAL-PRESTEA



MONITORING OF FOOD/BEVERAGE VENDORS

PRESTEA



PRESTEA



HUNI VALLEY



HUNI VALLEY



BOGOSO



AWUDUA

