



'We must send Musa to hospital. His eyes are very bad.'

'Yes, he had measles and hasn't opened his eyes since the day the children went back to school.'

Joyce estimated that to be about two weeks ago. Musa's weight was only 8 kg. He had been fed only maize and water.

Ma-Anna was no longer breast-feeding him – her milk had stopped long ago. There were no vegetables where she lived, and she had no money for powdered milk.

Feeling the nurse's readiness to listen, Ma-Anna gave more information. Bit by bit Joyce managed to join the pieces into a picture of Ma-Anna's situation: she had four children – the oldest, Anna, was about eight years old; Musa, the youngest, was the only boy. There had been another baby boy but he had had a bad cough and died. Her husband had gone to the city to find work. For a while he sent money home. However, for the last two years Ma-Anna had not heard from him. At the time her husband left to go to the city she was pregnant with Musa.

Joyce urged Ma-Anna to take Musa to hospital straight away. Fortunately, she knew of someone who would be driving that way the next day.

Ma-Anna thanked the nurse. She had been terrified of coming to the clinic, because she had heard that nurses chased away people