

Asanko Gold

Company Profile

Asanko Gold is a gold mining company operating in the Amasie West district of Ghana's Ashanti Region. Established in 2016, its two-phase mining operation comprises nine gold deposits—two large deposits and seven satellite deposits—all situated along the Asankrangwa Belt within the Kumasi Basin. Asanko currently employs approximately 1,700 employees, including 369 full-time staff and 1,184 contractors.



Assisting the Rural Poor to Prevent Malaria

Responding to the increasing burden of malaria among its employees, Asanko Gold—a gold mining company operating in the Amasie West district of Ghana's Ashanti Region—is taking meaningful steps to implement a malaria prevention program. Asanko kicked off its program in 2018.

Established in 2016, its two-phase mining operation comprises nine gold deposits—two large deposits and seven satellite deposits.

In Asanko Gold's first year of operation, the company

observed that a significant percentage of monthly and annual patient visits to the clinic were attributable to malaria. Asanko provides primary health services to its employees and their dependents at a clinic on its main site. Attendance tracking records showed that malaria was the third most frequent reason for visiting the clinic. In 2016, Asanko Gold's employees averaged 53¹ monthly malaria cases; however, this increased by 75% to 93 in just the first half of 2017.

These numbers have had deleterious cost implications for the company. The company's estimated average costs for

treating single cases of uncomplicated and complicated malaria was US\$19.00 and US\$37.69, respectively. Additionally, lost productivity rates for malaria-related absenteeism were estimated based on average hourly wage estimates. On average, lost productivity for eight hours of absenteeism for a junior staff was US\$25.00. For senior staff, the average was US\$75.00. The table below shows the financial burden of malaria, based on the average number of monthly malaria cases for 2016 and 2017.

The breakdown reflects two scenarios: one for complicated and the other for uncomplicated malaria cases; both have different cost implications. These costs do not include the additional health implications malaria imposes on workers, whose work demands unimpeded physical agility.

Asanko Gold has a policy draft on health, in which malaria was ranked third on the list of the company's health priorities. The document proposed a malaria prevention strategy comprising an extensive list of interventions, including education and awareness, purchase and distribution of insecticide-treated nets to employees and their dependents, mosquito repellent sprays for night-shift workers, larviciding, indoor residual spraying, and malaria

prophylaxis for expatriate workers.

In January 2018, Asanko Gold joined the network of Malaria Safe partners to receive implementation support for its malaria control strategy. Malaria Safe was designed by the Private Sector Malaria Prevention project of the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs to support companies while they reduce the burden of malaria on companies and communities. Asanko Gold kicked off its malaria control strategy by purchasing 2,000 insecticide-treated nets and distributing them to its employees.

¹The health department provided all the data presented in this profile. The department's occupational nurse practitioner uses the monthly analyses of routine clinical records to track malaria cases.

	2016 – Average Number of Cases per Month: 53				2017 (first half) – Average Number of Cases per Month: 93		
	Disease Severity	Average Monthly Cost of Malaria Treatment (US\$)	Average Productivity Lost to Malaria per Month (US\$)	Average Total Cost of Malaria/ Month (US\$)	Average Monthly Cost of Malaria Treatment (US\$)	Average Productivity Lost to Malaria per Month (US\$)	Average Total Cost of Malaria/ Month (US\$)
Junior Staff	If all cases were uncomplicated	1,007.00	1,325.00	2,332.00	1,767.00	2,325.00	4,092
	If all cases were complicated	1,997.57	1,325.00	3,322.57	3,505.17	2,325.00	5,830.17
Senior Staff	If all cases were uncomplicated	1,007.00	3,975.00	4,982.00	1,767.00	6,975.00	8742
	If all cases were complicated	1,997.57	3,975.00	5,972.57	3,505.17	6,975.00	10,480.17



PSMP is a three-year project funded by the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) and operated by the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (CCP). The purpose of the PSMP is to catalyze private sector engagement in malaria control, in particular in the supply and distribution of Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLIN).