

# PEACE OF CHRIST FOUNDATION

SECOND  
QUARTER  
REPORT-2022

OUTREACH



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## **INTRODUCTION**

The outreach project was started purposely to identify, register and support children living with intellectual disabilities using community-based approaches. The project also aims to create public awareness about the rights of the children and change negative perceptions people have about persons with intellectual disabilities using multi-faceted and multi-disciplinary approaches.

The overall objective of the project is to improve the social conditions of children and young adults with intellectual disabilities within the Nkoranza South and north Districts.

The specific objectives are:

- a. To activate community members to accept and respect the rights of children with intellectual disabilities
  
- b. To erase the negative perceptions people, have about intellectual disability
  
- c. To encourage community members and parents to take responsibility for their children with intellectual disabilities
  
- d. To form parents, support groups and empower them to take good care of their children with intellectual disabilities
  
- e. To undertake small scale livelihood projects for young adults with intellectual disabilities.
  
- f. To advocate for the inclusion of issues concerning children with intellectual disabilities in policy decisions

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report details the activities undertaken by the outreach team in the period from April to June, 2022 with the ultimate goal of improving the general wellbeing of children and young adults living with disabilities within our operational administrative districts (Nkoranza North, Nkoranza South and Techiman South in the Bono East Region of Ghana). The various thematic areas contained in the report are:

- ❖ **Introduction**
- ❖ **Executive Summary**
- ❖ **Home Visit**
- ❖ **Antiepileptic Drugs**
- ❖ **Livelihood**
- ❖ **Daycares**
- ❖ **Physiotherapy**
- ❖ **Public Education and Awareness**
- ❖ **Farm Project**
- ❖ **Assistive devices**
- ❖ **Social enquiry**
- ❖ **Workshop attended**
- ❖ **workshop for staff of Shalom Special School**
- ❖ **Challenges**
- ❖ **way forward**

Below are some of the salient interventional highlights contained in the report:

1. Average of 36 homes were visited on monthly basis by the outreach team.
2. 4000 tablets of carbamazepine were distributed to our clients with epilepsy.

3. 2 children benefited from livelihood support
4. The physiotherapy team from the Holy Family Hospital have started visiting PCC to attend to children from the outreach team in surrounding villages.
5. 5 wheelchairs (3 specialized and 2 regular) were received from Joni&friends.
6. Public education and awareness were done by the outreach team in 5 different health facilities and 3 local community antenatal clinics.
7. Communication boards/charts have been provided to our daycare centers.
8. A workshop was organized for staff of Shalom Special School

Going forward, we will intensify our advocacy work (using multi-faceted approach) to ensure more acceptance for children with disability and respect for their fundamental human rights.

## HOME VISITS



One very regular and important activity of the outreach work is home visits. The team visits children with disability in various villages and towns within our area of scope to find out their general state of affairs. We offer useful pieces of advice to parents and caretakers during such visits.

In the second quarter of 2022, an average of 36 homes were visited per month. The outreach team was privileged to be joined by Dr. Sofanne during some of the visitations. She is a member of the Dutch Foundation and a board member of PCC. She used the opportunity to follow up on some of our previous interventions in the areas of livelihood support and the apprenticeship training support for some selected young adults with disability.

Some of the communities visited during the period under review include Fianso, Forikrom, Asumkwa, Dromankese, kwafre, Salamkrom among others.

## ANTIEPILEPTIC DRUGS



**GABRIEL DONATING DRUGS TO A HEALTH COORDINATOR**

One of the interventions of the outreach work that has influenced lives so significantly is the distribution of antiepileptic drugs to children and young adults living with epilepsy in very poor homes. This intervention which started at the very outset of the outreach project, has helped to mitigate the debilitating impact of epilepsy on many our client. Those who were using very unconventional methods like local herbs and spiritual means, have since changed and embraced the use of the drugs to reduce the effects of the condition.

During the period under review, the team

distributed 4000 tablets of carbamazepine to our clients. The number also included a thousand tablets donation made to the Bosunya Health facility to cater for those in the Dromankese, Kranka and Fiema sub towns. We have decided in a management meeting to begin to wane off some of the beneficiaries who have been supported for a couple of years and to take on new clients who have not had the benefit of our free drugs. Even though we are aware of the financial implications of waning them off, we still believe the parents have a sense of responsibility and we cannot provide drugs to them in perpetuity.

## LIVELIHOOD



*GOATS GIVEN OUT TO FARRUK*

The livelihood support intervention is one of the means by the outreach team to engage the young adults with IDD in income generating activities. Since the roll out of the intervention, many young adults have benefited. Strong parental support is the precondition for a client

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to benefit. Some of the beneficiaries have used the income from the intervention to pay for medical bills and other pressing social needs.

In the second quarter of 2022, two children (*Farruk Awudu and Felix Achampong*) were given two female goats each to rear. The outreach team has also taken steps to advise parents to as part of this social intervention try to venture into other forms of income generating activities. We are also making arrangements to mobilize the parents and their young adults with IDD to undergo a training program under the auspices of the Business Advisory Center to acquire skills in some small-scale livelihood activities.



## DAYCARES



*DONATION AT NKWANTA DC*

The daycare concept started in around 2017 to bridge the gap between the provision of formal education for children with IDD within the regular classroom and the segregated system in Shalom Special School. We noticed that lack of safe haven for the children with IDD as a result of either being

underaged to be admitted in the special school or

being severely disabled to be in the regular schools was depriving many a parent (mothers) from working to support their families.

As a result, we have established two daycare centers in Nkoranza and Donkro Nkwanta to provide functional education for the children.

In the period under review, we have got a new child in the Donkro Nkwanta Daycare center. We have also provided the centers with communication charts to promote effective teaching and learning. The Donkro Nkwanta DC also received a donation of food items and some assorted soft drinks from Mr., Appiah and his wife (both natives of the community).

We have also discussed with management and taken steps to build a playing ground for the Nkoranza Daycare Center.

## PHYSIOTHERAPY



*MEETING WITH PHYSIO TEAM*

In our annual plan of activities for 2022, we indicated the need to provide for physiotherapy services for children with disability within the Nkoranza south and North Districts. this was pursuant to an anecdotal assessment conducted by the outreach team that revealed that many Parents could not attend

physio sessions scheduled for their children at the Holy family Hospital in Techiman due to cost of transport.

In view of the compelling need for this all important service to the developmental needs of the children with disability, the management of PCC went into a partnership with physio team of the Hospital, to visit our center ones every week so that parents will be able to attend regular physio sessions to improve on the mobility needs and also prevent permanent contractures.

The Physio team from the Holy Family Hospital has since started and parents who have attended the first two sessions, have showed much enthusiasm towards the exercise. Three children were taken through plaster of Paris (POP) procedure by the team.



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*PHYSIO SESSION*



*POP PROCEDURE*

## **PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS**



**GABRIEL DOING PUBLIC EDUCATION**

During the period of reporting, the outreach team embarked on public education and awareness drive in a number of health centers and Community Health Planning Services (CHPS) facilities in both Nkoranza south and north districts.

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The team educated pregnant women and nursing mothers about some of the behavioral causes of childhood or infant disabilities so as to minimize their occurrences. We also stress on the need to delink disability and curses so as to do away with stigmatization. we have in the later part of the quarter, prepared slides and made PowerPoint presentations for our audience to ensure greater understanding. We also procured a projector for the purposes of public education and awareness creation

In all, we conducted the education in five health facilities and three antenatal outposts in villages.



**PUBLIC EDUCATION AT ASUNKWA**

## **FARM PROJECT**



*OUR MAIZE FARM*

During the first quarter of 2022, the outreach team acquired a one-acre land at Jerusalem for the cultivation of maize. The team met with parents and their wards to discussed and went ahead to plough and plant.

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In the second quarter, the team together with the children and their parents applied fertilizer and subsequently weedicides. The maize has matured and will be ready for harvesting in a couple of weeks. We have agreed to sell the maize to PCC and share

the profit among the young adults with IDD to support them take care of their personal needs. We are also planning to plant the second season maize (dry season) immediately after harvesting.

## ASSISTIVE DEVICES



*WHEELCHAIRS RECIEVED FROM JONI&FRIENDS*

Since the beginning of the outreach work, we have always supported persons with assistive devices. especially wheelchairs and clutches for their fictional mobility. We mostly support children with intellectual disability who have additional physical

deformities. In a few instances, we extended our help to children with physical disability who are in basic schools.

The team in April of this year, gave out a baby trolley to mark, a child with CP from Bosunya.

We also succeeded in getting three new specialized and two regular wheelchairs from Joni & Friends to replenish our stock.



*MARK*

## SOCIAL ENQUIRY



*SLEEPING PLACE OF LATIFA AND GRANDMOTHER*

the outreach team receives many requests from parents and organizations asking for support, mostly to have children with IDD admitted into PCC. On some occasions, we also get demands from parents to support in terms of assistive devices, physiotherapy, orthopedic surgery among others.

In the period under review, we received a request with regard to Latifa Awudu, a seven-year child with IDD. The grandmother was asking for PCC to accept the child in our center. In view of the fact that the child has relations still alive, PCC management could not accept her in the center.

We realize during our discussions however that the Grandmother's major problem has to do with a decent place for them to sleep.



*LATIFA AND GRANDMOTHER*

She said they were living in a

dilapidated structure and fears the place may collapse when the rains come. In view of that, Boyan was asked to follow up and bring a social enquiry report on the state of affairs of the family. We have since analyzed the state of the family based on the facts provided by Boyan. We will in the months ahead discuss with management and also collaborate with Fund Management Committee of the common fund to marshal resources to support the child and the grandmother.

## **WORKSHOP ATTENDED**



*STAKEHOLDERSS MEETING*

On the 27<sup>th</sup> June, 22, Gabriel attended a workshop organized by the Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ), a statutory body with three broad mandate to check: Human rights abuses, administrative justice and corruption.

The one-day workshop was to prompt various stakeholders about their

respective code of ethics and the need to prevent abuse of power and violation of fundamental human rights in the course of the discharge of their duties.

The municipal Director of CHRAJ who addressed the participants, made specific mention of the tendency of public officials to abuse the rights of persons living with disability and other vulnerable groups including women and children. He emphasized the fact that the law will not deal kindly with public officials who discriminate and abuse the rights of persons with disability. Participants were encouraged to be advocates for inclusion and respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of all individuals including all minority groupings.



## WORKSHOP FOR SHALOM SPECIAL SCHOOL



*WORKSOP PICTURES*

On 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022, the outreach team in collaboration with the management of Shalom Special School, organized a one-day training workshop for newly posted teachers and the non-teaching staff. The purpose of the workshop was to give the participants basic insight and knowledge about what constitute intellectual and developmental

disability, the causes, types and how to manage children with IDD.

The workshop was also attended by five municipal education officers (Coordinators in charge of school health, Basic schools, secondly cycle, culture and guidance and counselling).

Gabriel facilitated the program with support from the Headmaster and the senior house master of the school.

Three main presentation were made as follows:

- Models of disability
- What is IDD, causes and types
- Management of children with IDD



The team has decided to organize another workshop for the teaching staff on how to draw and implement Individual Educational Program (IEP) for children with IDD. We will also honor a request by the education official present to organize same for the directorate and heads of public basic schools.

## **CHALLENGES**

- ❖ Increases in the prices of food items continue to take a toll on the budget of the daycare centers
- ❖ Fuel prices hikes also has cascading effect on all the activities of the outreach team including cost of fueling the tricycle for the Nkoranza Daycare Center.

## **WAY FORWARD**

Going forward, we will intensify our advocacy work (using multi-faceted approach) to ensure more acceptance for children with disability and respect for their fundamental human rights.