

THE PEACE OF CHRIST FOUNDATION

[ANNUAL REPORT-2024 OUTREACH)]

The outreach project was started in May 2015 as a sequel to the PCC resource centre for advice and support. The project aims to identify, register and support children living with intellectual disabilities in communities within the Nkoranza South and North districts using community-based approaches. It is also to create public awareness about the rights of children and change negative perceptions people have about persons with intellectual disabilities using multi-faceted and multi-disciplinary approaches. The overall objective is to improve the social conditions of children with intellectual disabilities through advocacy, awareness creation and collaboration building. 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 parent supports 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 is a summary compilation of the individual reports of the outreach project from January to December 2024. It regroups the individual activities into general headings.

The thematic areas discussed in this report include the following:

- **Home visits**
- **Antiepileptic drugs support**
- **Livelihood support**
- **Parents' support groups activities**
- **Two new daycare centres established in 2024**
- **Referral for physiotherapy and surgery**
- **Christmas gifts**
- **Donations**
- **Two New motorbikes for outreach**
- **Inclusive education workshop**
- **Public education and awareness creation**
- **Farm project**
- **Assistive device**
- **Challenges**
- **Forecast for 2025**

Some of the salient points in the report include but are not limited to the following:

1. A total of (105) families visited
2. 9000 tablets of antiepileptic drugs were distributed to support children from poor families. This figure decreased from the 10000 tablets distributed in the year 2023.
3. Two new daycare centres have been established at Kyeradeso and Forikrom
4. A successful workshop on inclusive education was organized for teachers and other stakeholders in education.
5. About (16) children were referred for physiotherapy

The major challenge the team faced in the year under review was a lack of cooperation from some traditional leaders and parents who were unwilling to support their children to attend the centre. The livelihood activities of our parent's support groups have not been as efficient as we wanted due to the lack of commitment on the part of some parents towards group activities.

Our forecast for 2025 is to continue with public education on radio, in community clinics, and churches. We will also work towards strengthening our parents' support groups and empowering them. We intend to scale up to cover some more communities in the Nkoranza North district in the year 2025.

HOME VISITS



Figure 1 INGE WITH A CLIENT

The Outreach team visits clients with intellectual disabilities and their families in their homes on a monthly basis. The visits usually, afford us the opportunity to have face-to-face interaction with our clients and listen to their problems and provide them with solutions. Princess shared with us about her ordeal of rape and how she has always left home alone for the whole day till evening when her mother and other siblings would come back to meet her.

During home visits, we give antiepileptic drugs to some children who are in dire need of the drugs to ensure they have reduced epileptic seizures. The team also gives counselling to parents on the best way to care for their disabled children as well as make new identifications. We engaged with community members to understand their level of knowledge and understanding about intellectual disability and follow up on the livelihood support we have given to some of the young adults. Parents use the period of our visits to make known the challenges of their children. They also make appeals for support for their children.

THE BOARD VISITS THE FOURTH DC

During the time of reporting, the Board of PCC led by the General Director visited the four daycare centres to ascertain the progress and challenges confronting the DCs across the two municipalities. They interacted with the children and had meetings with the caretakers to find out if they were faced with challenges at the centres. Remarkably, the General Director was impressed with the level of progress and encouraged the workers to keep up the good work and ensure every child is safe at the centre. He said, one of the places these children can feel good and safe is at the daycare centre.

DISTRIBUTION OF ANTIEPILEPTIC DRUGS



Figure 2 TWUM GIVING OUT DRUGS

During the period under review the outreach team distributed nine thousand (9000) tablets of antiepileptic drugs to children and young adults with epilepsy. The gesture aside from reducing the financial burden on the parents, also helps parents see the positive effect of the drugs and therefore helps change their perception of resorting to pastors and native doctors for non-existent cures. This intervention has helped many young children who previously would either fall into fire or water with wounds and sometimes die in the process. People sometimes would not come to their aid when they have seizures due to the negative perception they have about them.

The team has engaged with community members on several occasions and sensitized them against the common beliefs of witchcraft and demonic spirits and discouraged them from resorting to negative means of cure. Antiepileptic drug intervention is one of the most effective ways that help prevent crises for our clients. Throughout the period few children have experienced fewer epileptic seizures due to the effectiveness of the antiepileptic drugs offered to children. Every Parent has paid for the 20gh agreed on by the board of PCC to shows parents commitment that effect. Parents were thankful for the support and appealed for the continuation of the support. The number of tablets distributed in 2024 is less and below that of 2023.

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT



Figure 3 GRACE'S PEN BURNT

A livelihood support program is one of the outreach interventions which allow young adults and their parents to choose between viable economic activities profitable and beneficial to the child going into the future. The package comes with the child's involvement in taking care of the animal and benefiting from it to change his or her life. Over the years so many children have benefited from this offer some are successful and few other ones have failed. At the end of the year, a child from Dromankese informed the team about an outbreak of disease killing eight goats leaving only one and two were sold for the child. In Nkoranza town, Grace lost all her goats through bush fire which

came from afar and burnt all eight goats in the pen.

Based on these developments, the board of PCC decided to put a hold on the livelihood support program till further discussion either to continue or completely scrape it. At the close of 2024, no child was supported in terms of the livelihood support program which originally was introduced to assist young adults with intellectual disabilities.

TWO NEW DAYCARE CENTERS ESTABLISHED



Figure 4 DAYCARE SESSION AT NKORANZA

The outreach team in collaboration with parents of children with intellectual disabilities at Kyeradeso and Forikrom established two daycare centers for children with intellectual disabilities. In January 2024 the team wrote a letter to the Municipal Education Directorate and sort for approval to start and operate a daycare center using a classroom belonging to the government of Ghana. In two weeks it was approved and the building was renovated by PCC and has since been operational. Forikrom Presbyterian church

offered an old church building as part of their social cooperate responsibility for the establishment of a daycare centre for children with IDD. Parents of these children could not hide their excitement having to break the barriers of finding a place to leave their children during the daytime and pick them up later in the evening after work. At the end of the year, two new daycare centres were established for children with IDD and created direct employment for four individuals. These four individuals have worked in PCC over time and gained enough experience to provide care for the children at the centres.

The two existing daycares have had their enrolment numbers increased as compared to the 2023 enrollment. Donkron-Nkwanta was almost collapsing and now has a total of thirteen (13) children and the Ananse daycare centre is also fourteen children with eleven using the Okada (motor tricycle) currently. Parents have done so well in paying the fare every month.

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP MEETING



Figure 5PSHG MEETING

The outreach team strategically formed PSHG as our major stakeholder for engaging with parents every month on issues concerning their children with IDD. During these meetings, parents are allowed to share what led to their children becoming intellectually, disabled. In 2024, the team organized ten meetings with parent groups who have children with intellectual disability. These meetings were mostly held in communities where we established daycare centres. The communities include Nkoranza Town,

Donkro-Nkwanta, Kyeradeso, Oforikrom, Jerusalem and Dromankese. Each of these meetings brought up issues which were of concern to parents and the outreach team for discussion. We recount how the enrollment in the daycare centres has increased astronomically.

In the case of the Nkoranza daycare centre, the nonpayment of transport by the children using the okada (motor tricycle) was discussed and now everybody has been able to pay for June. Joe Emma the Director of PCC attended one of the meetings in May and advised parents on the need to play their part in support of running the daycares. He further said PCC as an organization provides everything so parents should appreciate that and also ensure their children attend the centres daily. He further urged parents to provide toilet rolls, detergents and other items to support the running of the centres.

REFERRAL FOR PHYSIOTHERAPY AND SURGERY



Figure 6 INGE AT PHYSIO CENTRE

In the year 2024, the outreach team referred a total of sixteen (16) children with IDD who have physiotherapy needs. Many of these children came from far villages within both Nkoranza south municipality and North district. The specialist from Holland attended to them and recommended various sets of exercises to parents and guidance to do the same at home. She also gave orthopaedic shoes to correct club foot among children.

STORY OF CHANGE

The outreach team identified John at Bonte in the North district during a home visit in 2022. John had an incurable sour on his foot for about two (2) years. The family after several failed efforts to get a cure gave up and John became despondent. He remained indoors for over two years. John's situation did not fall within our core mandate but on humanitarian ground, the team informed the Board of PCC concerning his condition. The board took an interest in the case and supported him. The board footed the bill for the amputation of the affected leg and fixing artificial limbs to enable him to walk and carry on with activities of daily living. On our last visit, John was self-employed i.e. shoemaker and could not hide his joy and appreciation to the board of PCC. He recounted the precarious nature of his previous condition and how PCC has helped him to live among his friends and go about his normal activities of life. He can now take care of himself and his family.

CHRISTMAS GIFT



Figure 7 DISTRIBUTION OF XMASS GIFTS

Christmas marks the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ on the 25th, of December each year. During this period gifts are offered and received from individual which symbolizes Christ's birth when three wise men offered gifts to his parents. The outreach team in collaboration with the Board of PCC offered Christmas gifts to our clients as our appreciation for having worked together in a good cooperation manner that brought about successes achieved at the end of the year 2024. The gifts include; rice, oil and sandiness. A total of 80 children benefited from this gesture. The number of children benefited remains the same as compared to the year 2023. Parents and their children were grateful to the Board of PCC and the outreach team.

DONATIONS



Figure 8 DONATION AT NKORANZA DC

The outreach project depends on donors and sponsors to be able to fund its annual plan of activities for every year. Major donors like Handinhand Holland, Ananse Foundation and the Germany support club. Through the activities of outreach, individuals, associations and churches have donated to support what outreach has been

doing over the years.

Two churches, two individuals and one association have donated to support the outreach daycare centre in Nkwanta. One of the children Obed Opoku also donated to the daycare center in town. All these donations comprise assorted drinks, biscuits, toffees, soaps, diapers, T-rolls and some small cash to support outreach activities for the year 2024. The team is grateful to all donors in the year under review. The donations for 2024 are over and above the donations received in the year 2023.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS



During the period of reporting, the team visited several health facilities in the municipality to engage with the general public about intellectual and developmental disability that affect newborn babies before, during and after delivery. The communities include Nkwanbeng, Brahoho, and Dandwa, Ayerade, Bonsu, Dromankese, Jerusalem, kyeradeso. We also visited and churches. The team does this in collaboration with staff of various facilities to deliver this very important information to our target groups like

lactating mothers



Pregnant women, associations and the general public. The health staff expressed their satisfactory complement to the outreach team for choosing to campaign and change the negative perceptions of people towards intellectually disabled children. We are happy to report that, the team receives phone calls almost every day to thank us on how individual women have successfully, delivered without birth defects due to our knowledge shared that saved them. We will

not relent on our effort to reach out to many more people in subsequent years.

Figure 9PUBLIC EDUCATION SESSIONS

TWO NEW MOTORBIKE FOR OUTREACH



The outreach project has seen astronomical expansion through its annual plan implementation to achieving a lot of successes over the years together with parents of children with intellectual disability. Logistics like motorbike, laptop mobile phone among others are needed to carry out the activities of outreach. In 2024 Data Bank Foundation donated a motorbike and an Okada. The new bike and the Okada are robust and faster than the old ones. The motorbike is much fit for

use on village roads than the old motorbike.



The outreach team is grateful to the Data Bank Foundation. The motor has facilitated our work and avoided the situation in which the old one broke down occasionally and had to undergo repairs thereby interrupting the work of the outreach team.

Figure 10 NEW MOTOBIKES FOR OUTREACH



Figure 11 INCLUSIVE EDUCATION WORKSHOP SESSION

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION WORKSHOP

During the period under review, the team planned to ensure the enrolment of children with intellectual and multiple disabilities into the mainstream education system. We organized two workshops for teachers, parents and other stakeholders in education to discuss the concept of inclusive education and how we can improve on the physical and social environments of the schools to ensure an enabling school environment for all intellectually disabled children to benefit from the teaching and learning process. The workshops offered

an opportunity for 20 teachers, 5 staff of the Education Directorate, and 30 parents of children with disabilities to acquire knowledge about inclusive education

Participants were taken through topics such as: the concept of inclusive education, the challenges of inclusive education and the rights to education of the children with disabilities. There was a brainstorming and experience sharing sessions where participants shared their practical experiences and encounters with children with disabilities in regular schools.

At the end of the workshop, all participants agreed on the need for attitudinal change and also the need for improving on the physical accessibilities of the schools by building simple and cost effective ramps and disability friendly rest room in the schools. We also agreed to impress on headmasters of the various schools to factor environmental accessibility in drawing the SPIPs whenever capitation grants from the central government are being disbursed.

Participants called on PCC to consider replicating the training for more teachers and stakeholder in the future.

FARM PROJECT



Figure 12 OUTREACH CASSAVA FARM

The outreach team over the years has implemented two farm projects which were not successful due to certain factors that were not considered in determining the suitability of the land with the crop that could survive on the land. For this reason, the team decided to go into cassava farming, which is much easier to do than other crops we did over the years. The projected income and profits are huge, as a result, much attention and effort from the children and the team was needed to ensure the success of the project. The team has engaged the agricultural officer at the municipal directorate. Four times weeding have been done while waiting for harvest. We will continue to engage the children in the farm

activities until it's successful.

ASSISTIVE DEVICE SUPPORT



Figure 13 RECEIPT OF WHEELCHAIR

In the year 2024, the outreach team supported four children with basic assistive device. These individuals were supported to be mobile and able to carry through with activities of daily living. The devices include two foldable and two specialized wheelchairs. Princess, one of the beneficiaries has since gained access to the daycare center as a result.

Statistically, the number of persons supported with assistive devices remains the same as 2023.

CHALLENGE (s)

The major challenge the team faced in the year under review has to do with the lack of cooperation of some parents in working together as a group for the collective interest of their children with disabilities. Another equally troubling challenge was some traditional leaders resisting the activities of outreach on their lands especially, establishing DCs.

FORECAST FOR 2025

In 2025, we will continue with public education on radio, community clinics, and in churches. We will also work towards strengthening our parents support groups and empower them. We intend to scale-up to cover some more communities in the Nkoranza North district in the year 2025.