

2018

**PEACE OF CHRIST
FOUNDATION**

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[ANNUAL REPORT (OUTREACH)]

The outreach project is a subsidiary project under the Peace of Christ Foundation/ community (PCC). It was started in May, 2015 as a sequel to the PCC resource center for advice and support. The aim of the project is 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 the 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 parents 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 monthly reports of the outreach project from January to December, 2018. The report regroups the individual activities into general headings. Also included in this report are graphical, comparative analysis of certain activities as compared to the end of year 2016 and 2017.

The thematic areas discussed in this report include the following:

- **Home visits**
- **Antiepileptic drugs support**
- **Livelihood support**
- **Advocacy and awareness**
- **Daycare center**
- **Parents support groups activities**
- **Capacity building and networking**
- **Referral for physiotherapy and surgery**
- **Research on healthcare accessibility**
- **New motorbike for outreach**
- **Inclusive education workshop**
- **Publicity of outreach work**
- **Challenges**
- **Forecast for 2019**

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

1. 7 children benefited from the livelihood project; representing a decrease of 1 as compared with 2017.
2. 6000 tablets of antiepileptic drugs were distributed to support children from poor families. This figure is over and above the 4000 tablets distributed in the year 2017.
3. A new daycare center has been established at DonkroNkwanta
4. A successful workshop on inclusive education was organized for teachers and other stakeholders in education.
5. A research on healthcare accessibility was conducted and a report compiled.

The major challenge the team faced in the year under review was the fact that the livelihood activities of our parents 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 2019 is to 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 2019.



Gabriel assessing a child during home visits

Home visits

The Outreach team visit children with intellectual disabilities in their homes on monthly basis. An average of 25 children per month was visited across villages within the municipality in the year under review. This represents a five point increase over the 2017 average of 20 children. The visits give the team the opportunity to find out the living conditions of children with intellectual disabilities and their families. We also give some antiepileptic drugs to children in dire need of the drugs during our visits. 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 team also gives counseling to parents on the best way to care for their disabled children as well as make new identifications.

Public education and awareness



Public education and awareness form a central part of the outreach project. The change in the perception of the public towards children with intellectual disabilities and their families obviously has a greater propensity to influence societal attitudes towards them in a positive manner. In view of this, the team visited churches, pre and post- natal clinics to educate members of the public about the causes of intellectual disabilities. We also used the local radio stations occasionally for public education.

In the year under review, the outreach team together with the students on internship held awareness talks in churches and on radio.

On the 21st of March, 2018, outreach Peace of Christ joined a lot of non-governmental organizations across all the continents of the world to observe “Ring the bell.” The program seeks to raise the public awareness about children with disabilities who have been denied access to education.

The theme for the celebration was: **“All children are welcome to school, including children with a disability”**





Fedilis in his tricycle

functional wheelchair.

Statistically, the number of persons supported with assistive devices represents a drop as compared with the 2017 figures.

Provision of assistive devices

As part of our outreach project, we provide basic assistive devices to persons with disabilities. These individuals sometimes are not part of the persons with intellectual disabilities. We support them to be mobile and able to carry through with activities of daily living. In the year 2018, we supported a total of five (5) children with assistive devices. These include three wheelchairs, one set of clutches and a tricycle. The children are all of school going age and therefore the devices helped to facilitate their movement to and from school.

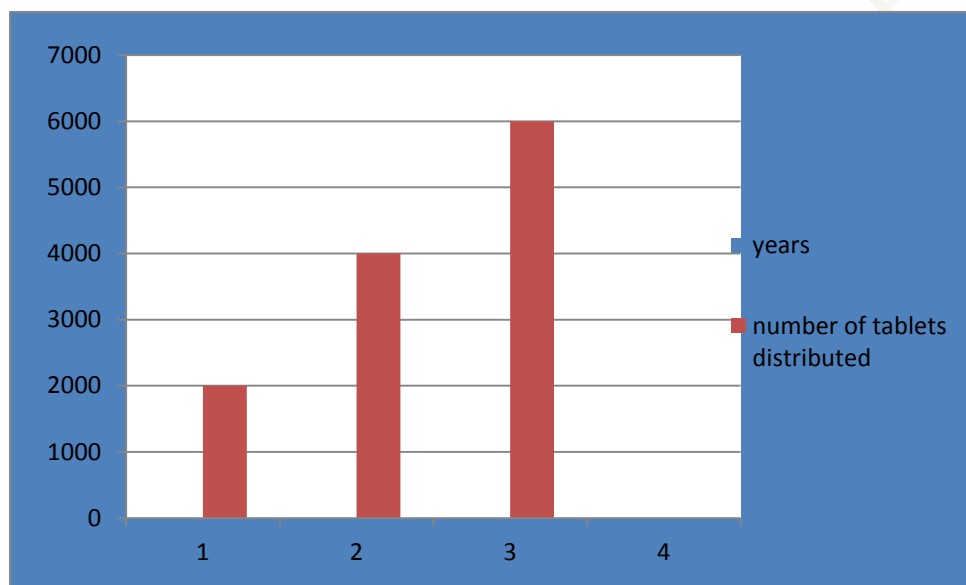
Fedilis and Gordon were among those supported. They are siblings who suffered bone deformity as they grew up. The children prior to our intervention, dropped out of school due to mobility challenges. But they are now back to school after Fedilis was given a tricycle and Gordon got a



Livelihood support

The livelihood support project was introduced to assist young adults with intellectual disabilities to engage in small scale income generating activities to help them find something meaningful to spend their time doing and to also support the family income. The models include animal rearing, snail farming, groundnut or maize farming among others. The model for each child varies depending on the interest of the family.

At the close of 2018, a total of 7 children and young adults were supported in various small scale income generating models. This number represents a decrease of 1 from the 2017 annual number of 8 children. The decrease was as a result of using the monthly allocations from livelihood to support the daycare center and also purchasing a tricycle for Fedilis.





Painting session at the center

Daycare center

In the year 2018, the outreach team in collaboration with the parents of children with intellectual disabilities at DonkroNkwanta established a daycare center for children with intellectual disabilities. The parents with support from the community opinion leaders got a building facility for the commencement of the center. The outreach team with support from our mother organization helped in the renovation of the structure. We did painting and designing, building of a simple ramp and mending of the ceiling.

The outreach team also committed to pay the caretaker monthly allowances as well as help to provide the children one hot meal a day. The activities of the center got a boost when students intern from the University of Education, Winneba were posted to the center to help the caretaker.

The students mobilized the parents and encouraged them to show interest in the welfare and education of their intellectually disabled children.

The outreach team also provided some teaching and learning aids to facilitate activity based learning. We also gave the center a record player for the children to dance to local music.



Front view of the structure of the center



The chief of Nkwanta during a courtesy call on him by the General Director of PCC

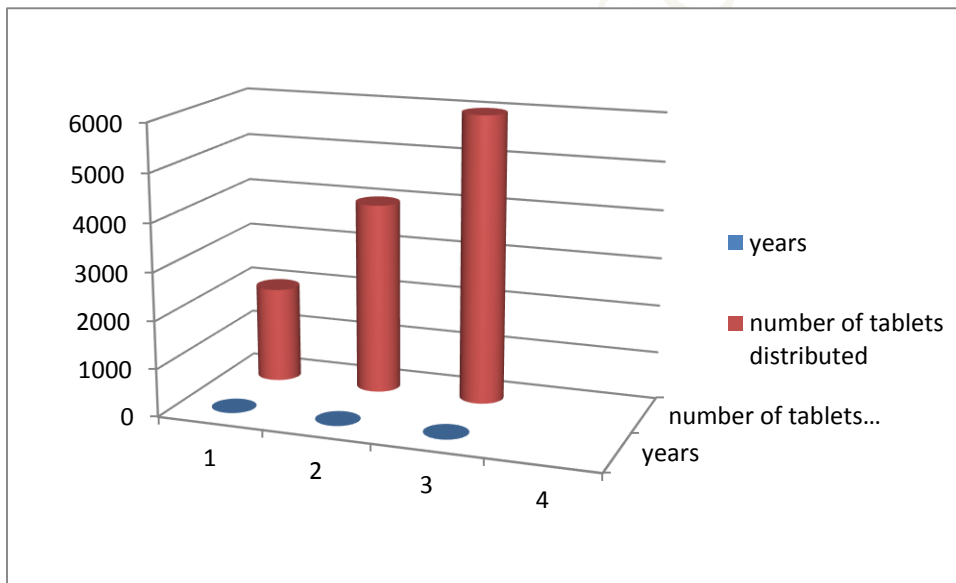


Distribution of antiepileptic drugs

The outreach team distributed six thousand (6000) tablets of antiepileptic drugs to children and young adults with epilepsy in the year under review. The drugs were distributed to support parents who face financial difficulty in affording the drugs. The drugs help minimize the frequent occurrence of epilepsy on the beneficiaries. The gesture aside reducing the financial burden on the parents, also help parents see the positive effect of the drugs and therefore help change their perception of resorting to pastors and native doctors for non-existent cure. The antiepileptic drugs intervention is one of the most effective interventions that helps prevent crisis situations of our clients. Parents on many occasions show appreciation for the support and appeal for the continuation of the support. The number of tablets distributed in

2018 is over and above that of 2017 and 2016. In 2016, we distributed 200 tablets. This was increased to 4000 in 2017.

The chart below gives the graphical and pictorial view of the distributions made from 2016 to 2018.



Capacity building workshop and networking



Participants in a group picture

The peace of Christ Foundation has had a longstanding relationship with the Samuel Willington Botwey Foundation (SWEB), Liliana fund and other disability related non governmental Organizations. The platform offers each partner Organization the opportunity to interact and learn best practices in the field of disability.

The main object of SPAID is to “advance the course of disability rights, social and economic empowerment and social inclusion of all persons with disabilities and their families in Ghana using the community-based rehabilitee for inclusive development strategy”

In October 2018, a meeting of heads of organizations was held at Cape Coast to formalize the formation of a network to champion the course of disability in Ghana. The network was named SWEB Partners’ network for Inclusive Development. (SPAID) was formed and lunched with

interim management and advisers to steer the affairs. The meeting was attended by Gabriel on behalf of PCC.

The workshop aside the formalization of the network also offered participant the chance to share experiences and documentations on the writing of concept notes and proposals.



Zinab

Referral for physiotherapy and surgery

One cardinal pillars of the outreach project is to advice parents and make appropriate referrals of children with disabilities to access basic services. We refer children to the mental health unit for assessment and medication purposes. We also help children with physiotherapy needs to come to our center at Nkoranza for services free of charge. We provide free accommodation and meals to them as well. In 2018, three (3) families came to PCC for physiotherapy services.

In the year under review, the outreach team also referred a child (Zinab) with clubfoot to the St. John of God hospital for medical attention. The child was given Plaster of Paris and scheduled to visit the hospital from time to time until a date is set for the surgery.

Zinab is one of the children in the community daycare center at DonkroNkwanta. She is a very happy child. We look forward to supporting the family to pay for the cost of surgery (subject to availability of funds) when the time is due.



Physiotherapy session at PCC

Research on healthcare accessibility



The outreach team in the year under review conducted a survey into health accessibility for children with intellectual disabilities within the Nkoranza South Municipality.

The study was conducted to serve as baseline information into the barriers that children with intellectual disabilities and the parents/caregivers face in accessing health care.

The study sampled the views of 32 respondents comprising 17 health professionals, 10 parents of children with ID, 3 children with ID, 1 officer from health directorate and a director of the National Health Insurance Scheme.

The researchers used interview and observation as the main tools for information gathering. The researchers also relied on audio recordings of the people interviewed. The information was analyzed using Microsoft excel. Audio recordings were interpreted and used as additional information to buttress statistical facts.

It was found out that persons with ID and their caregivers are treated with respect by health professionals in the municipality. The research also established that persons with ID do not get access to specialized services within the study area. Resource constraint was another fact established. Also the facilities do not have incubators to cater for preterm babies. They largely rely on Kangaroo mother care and other improvised methods.

The study also established that persons with ID and their families have a difficulty affording health care. The National Health Insurance does not cover a wide range of health conditions associated with persons with ID. It was also established that some indigents pay premium to register for NHIS even though they are supposed to be exempted from paying premium.

The study also confirmed a worrying trend of inaccessible health facilities and places of convenience within health facilities.

Overall, the study established that access to health care for persons with ID is not satisfactory and a lot need to be done to ensure good quality health care for persons with ID specifically, and the disabled community at large.

The researchers concluded by making some recommendations for stakeholders in health to consider going forward. These recommendations include:

- The NHIS authorities together with the Municipal Department of Social Welfare should take steps to ensure that all indigents are registered on the Scheme without travelling long distances to the municipal office

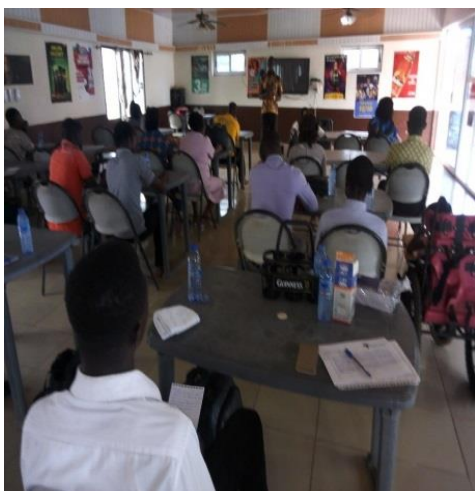
- The health directorate should organize periodic workshops on disability related topics for health professionals.
- Urgent steps should be taken by health administration in the various facilities to improve the physical accessibilities for wheelchair users and also toilet facilities.
- Steps should also be taken to establish basic physiotherapy department in St. Theresa Hospital to cater for the needs of children with Cerebral Palsy.
- Further studies should be conducted into co morbid conditions associated with children living with intellectual disabilities in the district.

New Motorbike for outreach



Management of PCC bought a new motorbike for outreach team in May 2018. The motor was officially inaugurated to replace the old one we have used since 2015. The new bike is robust and faster than the old one. It is much fit for use on village roads than the old motorbike.

The outreach team is grateful to the management of PCC and the donors who supported financially. 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.



Inclusive Education workshop

As part of our 2018 annual plan to ensure the enrolment of children with intellectual and multiple disabilities into the mainstream education system, we organized a workshop for teachers, parents and other stakeholders in education on 13th March, 2018 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 the children to benefit from the teaching and learning process. The workshop brought together 15 teachers, 5 staff of the education directorate, 3 parents of children with disabilities, 1 social worker from the Assembly, 1 mental health officer and 1 representative of the

Disabled People's Organization.

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 ready.

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

The participants were awarded with certificate of participation at the end of the workshop.

Aside the workshop, we also constructed a simple ramp to facilitate the movement of Grace Fosua in and out of her classroom as a demonstration of our commitment towards inclusive education.

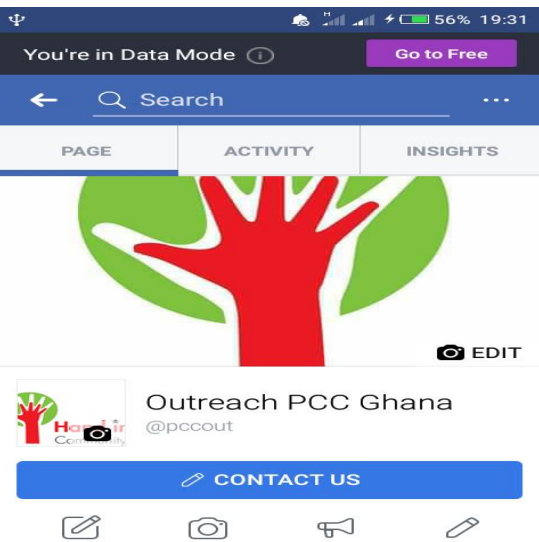


Ramp for Grace

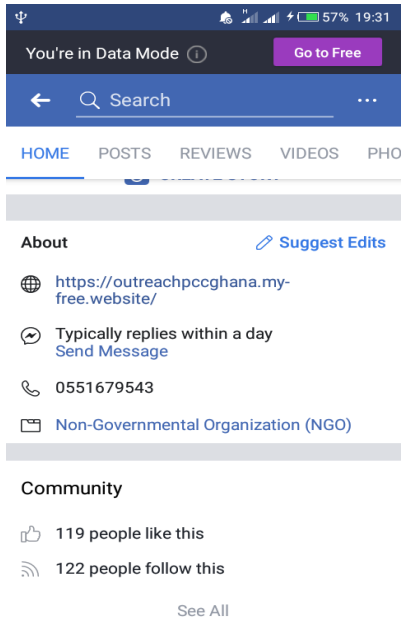
Publicity

As part of measures to publicize the work of the outreach project to the general public, we created a Facebook page in the year 2018. The user name of the page is “Outreach PCC Ghana” The page is primarily use to post pictures and short videos of very current activities in order to give our followers and the general public up- to- date information about our project.

Though the page is relatively new, we have over one hundred (100) likes and followers. We will make effort to update the page and occasionally boost some of our post in order to show to the world what we are doing to improve the lives of children and young adults with intellectual and multiple disabilities.



Screenshot of our page



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. Some parents are very individualistic and turn to make personal demands on the outreach team. Another equally troubling challenge was the astronomical increases of fuel prices at the pump in the course of the year. This affected our budgeted funds for fuel.

Forecast for 2019

In 2019, 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 2019.