

The cover features a large, stylized graphic of a hand with fingers spread, rendered in white and light grey. The background is a gradient of orange and yellow, with a black border at the top and bottom. The text is centered on the right side of the hand graphic.

ANNUAL REPORT

OUTREACH PCC

2021

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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:

1. To activate community members to accept and respect the rights of children with intellectual disabilities
2. To erase the negative perceptions people have about intellectual disability
3. To encourage community members and parents to take responsibility for their children with intellectual disabilities
4. To form parents support groups and empower them to take good care of their children with intellectual disabilities
5. To undertake small scale livelihood projects for young adults with intellectual disabilities.
6. To advocate for the inclusion of issues concerning children with intellectual disabilities in policy decisions.

SUMMARY

This report is a compilation of the various monthly reports for the year 2021. The activities undertaken and the resultant outcomes are well captured by the info graph below. Also included in this report are the challenges and recommendation as well as the outlook for 2022.

ACTIVITIES RESULTS FOR 2021

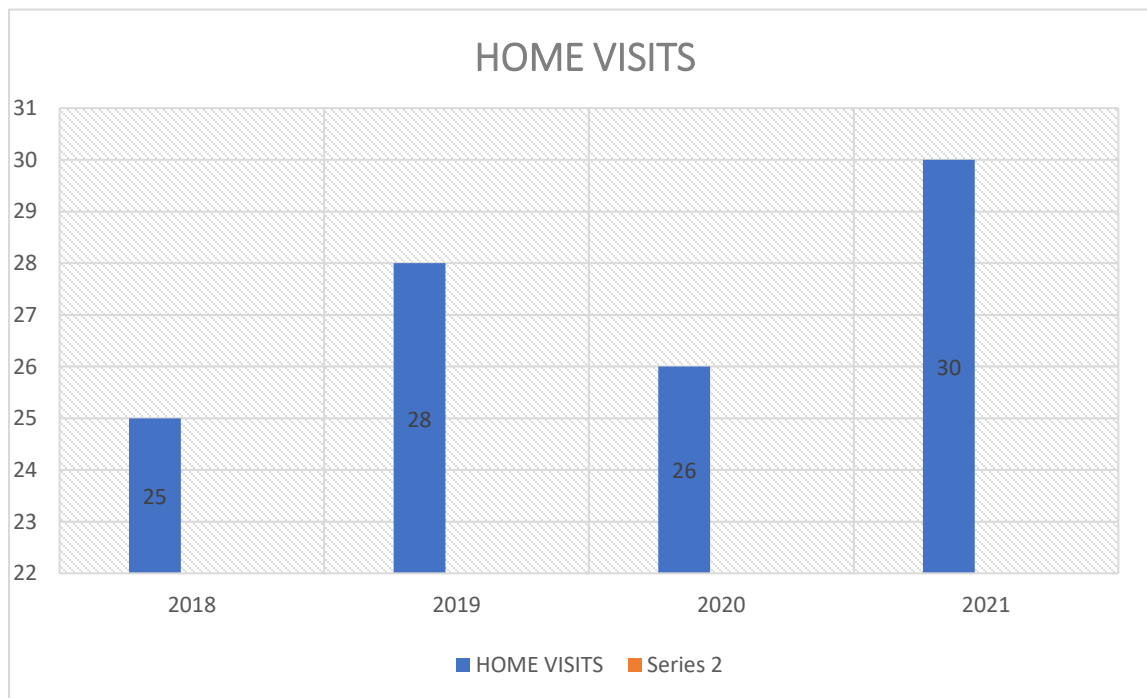
- 12000 TABLETS OF ANTIEPILEPTIC DRUGS DISTRIBUTED
- COMMUNITY DURBAR HELD AT DROMANKESE
- A NEW DAYCARE BUILDING WAS PUT UP AT DONKRO NKWANTA
- 5 CHILDREN BENEFITED FROM LIVELIHOOD EMPOWERMENT
- 28 CHILDREN ENROLLED, RETAINED AND GIVEN ONE HOT MEAL A DAY
- A NEW MOTOR TRICYCLE BOUGHT TO CONVEY OUR KIDS TO NKORANZA DAYCARE CENTER
- AN AVERAGE OF 30 HOMES VISITED PER MONTH FOR COUNSELLING AND FOLLOW UPS
- PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY CONDUCTED IN 12 PUBLIC BASIC SCHOOLS
- 2 PERSONS WERE ASSISTED TO BENEFIT A DEEP FREEZER AND FUFU MASHING MACHINE FROM THE COMMON FUND
- 5 CHILDREN BENEFITED FROM ASSISTIVE DEVICES
- 6 CHILDREN WERE REFERRED FOR PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICES
- 2 CHILDREN WERE ASSISTED TO ENROLL AND REMAIN IN MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS
- 26 NEW CLIENTS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND REGISTERED
- 2 SPORTS AND GAMES ACTIVITIES WERE HELD FOR CHILDREN WITH IDD
- OUTREACH IN COLLABORATION WITH FORESTRY COMMISSION UNDERTOOK TREE PLANTING UNDER GREEN GHANA INITIATIVE

HOME VISITS



Home visits are very much essential activities of the outreach work. The visits are the surest means of finding out about the general health and social wellbeing of our clients. In the year under review, the team visited an average of 30 families per month within the Nkoranza North and South districts. Each of these visits gave us the opportunity to interact with parents and their children to find out other challenges facing them. We usually spend time to counsel them with regards to their challenges.

The graph below depicts our home visits over the years.



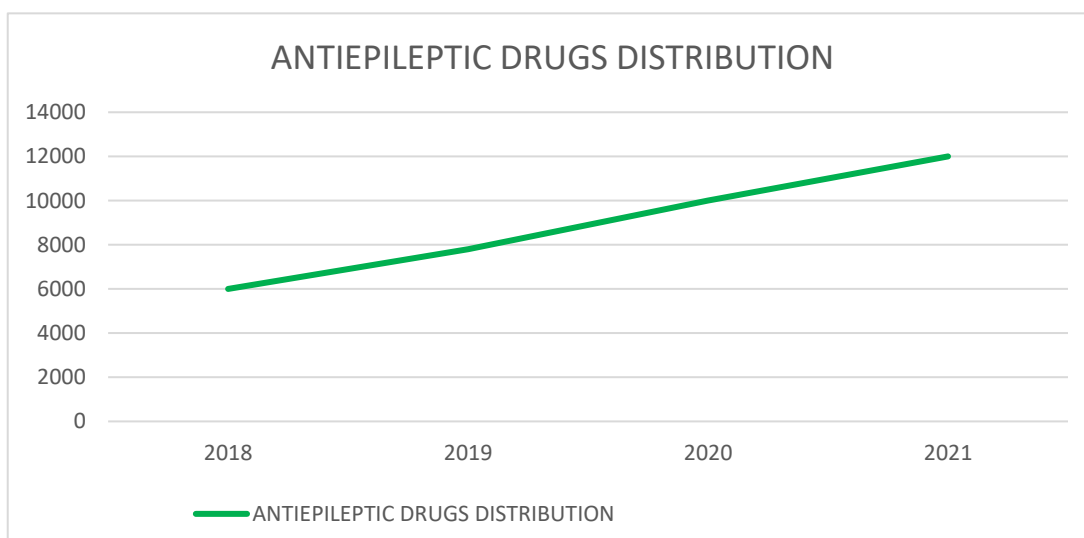
ANTIEPILEPTIC DRUGS

The antiepileptic drugs intervention has always been one of the outstanding interventions within the outreach project over the period. It is an intervention that has prevented crisis situations among

beneficiaries over the years.

In the course of the year, the outreach team distributed 12,000 tablets of carbamazepine to beneficiaries in the Nkoranza North and South Districts. The distribution of the drugs to our clients has not only improved the condition of children who suffered various forms of fit, but has also assuaged the burden of parents in providing drugs for their children. It is worth stating that the distribution of the drugs is done in accordance with the prescriptions of

medical officers under the various mental health units of the health centers across the two districts.

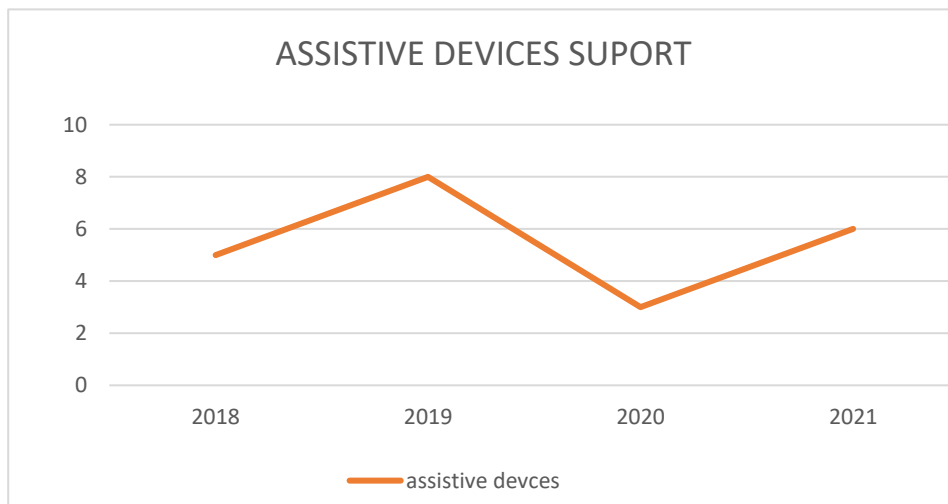


ASSISTIVE DEVICES

Another prioritized area of the outreach project is the functional mobility of our clients with mobility problems. In view of that, the outreach team supports children with assistive devices like clutches and wheelchairs. In some circumstances we also fix broken parts for some of our clients. The team has over the years established and maintained a cordial relationship with Joni& friends (a not for profit organization of international repute) for the supply of assistive devices.



During the year under review, the outreach team supported six (6) children with functional assistive devices. The five comprises of three (3) wheelchairs, a pair of functional clutches, one (1) baby court and a walking stick. The recipients are Kwame, Godwin, kelvin leo, Gloria, Fosu Emmanuel and Jaclyn.



REFERRAL FOR PHYSIOTHERAPY



Children born with Cerebral palsy in many instances have deformities with their limbs. These deformities when not attended to in a timeous manner, could develop into permanent contractures. In view of this, the outreach team has over the years been advising parents to go for physiotherapy services in Techiman. Most parents are not able to comply because of financial constraints. The

team has therefore taken the option of referring them to our center in Nkoranza where we give them free accommodation and food for days while our physiotherapy team take them through the requisite exercises. Though the team of caregivers who take children through physiotherapy sessions are not professionals, they periodically receive training from Inge (an expatriate professional physiotherapist from the Netherlands and a friend of PCC)

In the year under review, six children were referred to our center for physiotherapy services. Their parents were also taught how to continue with the prescribed exercises in their homes. Our follow ups revealed a positive outcome. One of the children (Makin) who could not walk prior to the intervention, can now walk with ease. Others can also now move their hand and legs with much ease as compared to the period before the intervention.

DAYCARE CENTERS



The concept of daycare centers started a couple of years back in response to the call of parents to get their children some level of functional education. This was because of the severity of the disabilities of their children coupled with the apparent lack of resources and capacity of the regular schools to absorb the children with intellectual disabilities.

Pursuant to this call from parents, we are currently running two daycare centers in Nkoranza and Nkwanta respectively. There are 28 children with various levels of disabilities currently benefiting from the centers. They are four caretakers in the two centers. The children have been motivated to stay in the centers by given them one hot meal each day. We have also gotten support from our donors in the course of the year to buy a new motor cycle to transport the children in Nkoranza daycare center to and from the center.

The outreach team also made a strong case for a new daycare facility to be built at Nkwanta. This was after the children were evicted from the temporary public facility we were operating from. In view of this, our donors again came in to support to put up a new befitting facility for the center. The project is nearing completion and will be operationalized in the first quarter of 2022.

PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES



The idea for the formation of parents support groups is to create the platforms for information sharing among parents about their children with disabilities. The groups also create the ease for the outreach team to communicate our ideas about the project to the parents and their children for deliberations and finalization after we have factored in their concerns.

In the course of the year, we had several meetings and encounters with our parent groups in

Nkoranza and Donkro Nkwamta concerning the daycare centers. Decisions about transportation of the children, their uniforms were taken in respect of the Nkoranza Daycare center. With regards to Nkwanta daycare center, we agreed on the need to build a new daycare facility after we were evicted from the public facility we were in.

Aside the meetings and the decision taking, the groups also had the opportunity to participate in a series of workshops organized under the auspices of Inclusion Ghana, a non-governmental organization that is partnering with outreach. They were taken through topics such as group dynamics, leadership and entrepreneurship. Some of the workshops were held in Techiman and Winneba in the Central region of Ghana. Some selected parents and children were also given the opportunity to go for a three-day recreational tour at the Kintampo waterfalls.



AWARENESS CREATION AND ADVOCACY



During the period under review, the Nkoranza Municipal Health Directorate organized a school-based screening programs for some basic schools in Nkoranza south district. outreach team also took advantage of that to do public awareness creation on childhood disabilities and the effects on child development. We followed-up to various schools in and out of Nkoranza Township

where the screening took place. We had the opportunities to speak to the few parents who made themselves available at the various schools. Teachers and the children themselves where not left out. In several occasion we had discussion with some teachers who find it difficult handling children with disability in



the classroom. We also used the opportunity to speak to some parents whose children we found with learning difficulties.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION SUPPORT



During the year, two (2) children benefited from our inclusive education support. They are in the person of kelvin Baah leo of Boana and Richmond Boateng of Ayerede. Richmond received textbooks from outreach PCC to aid his preparations towards his final exit exams in 2022. In attendance to witness the donation was the caretaker of the boy, the

headmaster and some senior staff members of the school. We took the moment to educate the staff about the need to respect the rights of children with learning disabilities to education and to allow them access in regular schools to promote inclusivity.

Kelvin on the other hand, was also enrolled in Boana primary school based on the advice of the team to his grandmother to choose mainstream education instead of a special school. This advice was based on kelvins condition. We also took our time to interact with the headmaster of the school and made it known to him why their system should embrace kelvin and all other children with the same or similar conditions. This also facilitated kelvins enrollment to the school.



SPORTS AND GAMES FOR CHILDREN WITH IDD

During the year under review, the outreach team in collaboration with a sister not for profit organization (**Inclusion Ghana**) organized two successful sports and game activities for our children with intellectual disabilities in two different communities namely Nkoranza and Donkro Nkwata. This was after series of organized programs and workshops for parents of children with Intellectual disabilities, stakeholders, and other state Agencies had been held. The occasion was also graced with numerous of flamboyant displays from the Ghana scout (Bono Region Division). It was a sight to behold as parents, their wards and community members participated with much enthusiasm. The activities during the programs include: football, sack race, filling bottle, dancing competition, relay running and tag of war.



COMMUNITY DURBAR AT DROMANKESE

Working with persons with disability without eradicating the negative perception of people on disability is like a new wine in an old bottle. The outreach team seeks to ensure that people get to understand the causes of disability and its related issues. The education is done through several media such as radio, school base talks, the church, community durbars among others. During the year under review, the team organized a public durbar at Dromankese to educate the people about disability and related issues. The choice of the community was influenced by the experiences the team had over the years in our attempt to ensure public acceptance for Linda. Linda was basically ostracized by the community. She was roundly rejected when the team tried to enroll her in a public school in the community. Many parents threatened to withdraw their wards from school

while some actually did. The durbar was organized with the active involvement of the chief and his elders as well as the family of Linda and other opinion leaders like the assemblyman and the leadership of the local health center. The durbar was organized under the theme: “Disability, the perceptions of the people and its consequences on PWDs and their families. The occasion was graced by the Gyasihene of the



Dromankese traditional area as well as the assemblyman of the electoral area. The in charge of the local health center was also in attendance. The family of Linda came in their numbers to welcome her. It was a mixed feeling for them as tears rolled down upon the sight of her. The glaring sign of beauty and joy on her face attracted many onlookers to come around to see her.

The program started with an opening prayer after which the assemblyman gave a welcome address. The outreach team then gave a brief history of PCC. We proceeded to invite the health officer to address the audience about the scientific causes of disabilities. His lecture drew lots of questions from the audience. The team lead by Elijah, delved into the perceptions and the resultant effects on PWDs and their family members. His speech was immediately followed by a testimony of Linda’s father about his experiences when Linda was living with him. The testimony was both

emotive and telling of the level of stigma of against persons with disabilities in the community. The ceremony came to a closed after the assemblyman gave his closing remarks. The closing prayer was said by Dominic Awuah of PCC. The audience was given some pack of foods and drinks. Thereafter the team has recorded six (6) new clients from the community. The general observation and assessment of the outreach team pointed to the fact that the program was successful and impactful.

FARM PROJECT

Another aspiration of the outreach team is to ensure independent living among persons living with intellectual and developmental disabilities. To achieve this, the team during the year decided to engage our young and energetic adults with Intellectual disabilities within Donkro Nkwanta in vegetables farming. The team successfully acquired a one acre plot of land at Donkro Nkwata to be used for the vegetables farming. A new water pumping machine was procured and a meeting was held with the parents, our volunteer and the children (beneficiaries) to get their buy in and unrelenting support as a prerequisite for the success of the project. We engaged the young adults in okra farming for the first time as a means of testing how best both the young adults and parents would



respond to the project. We had a nice start however things did not go as we expected. To our surprised, barely three weeks to the maturation of the crops, we visited the farm and found out that the crops had started wilting. The team decided not to give up on such a laudable project and as a result, we have taken steps to get the project rebound. We are however not satisfied with the commitment level of the young adults and their parents towards the project. We will engage them further and get them to take frontal role in every phase of the project. We are also considering relocating the project to Jerusalem if the parents fail to show commitment.

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT PROGRAM

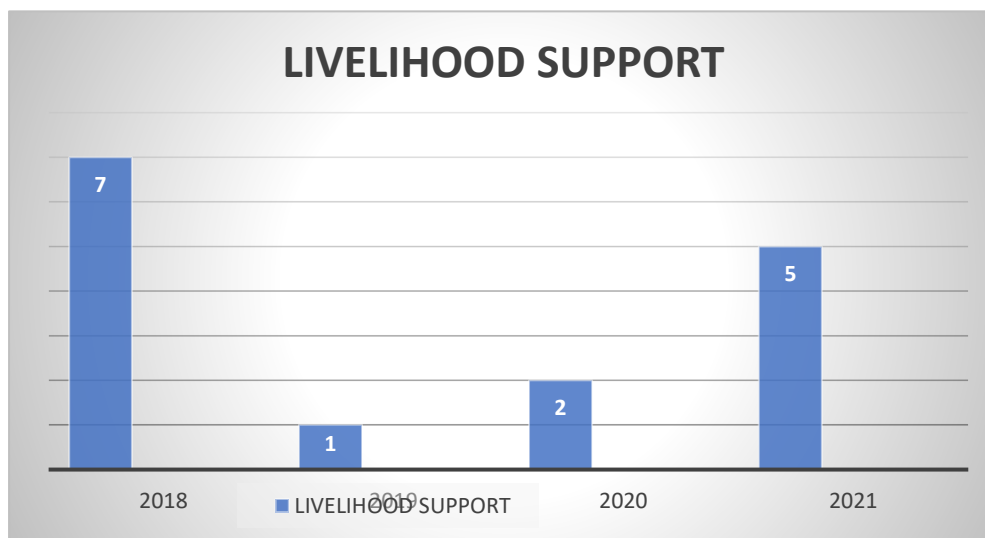


The philosophy underpinning this intervention is the belief by the outreach team that poverty and disability are inversely related. In line with this thinking, we try to imbed poverty reduction in many of our interventions.

The outreach team has been supporting children with intellectual disability to undertake small scale economic activities with assistance from

the parents. We also sometimes give the support to the parents in situations where the children cannot undertake the activities due to the limitations posed by their disability.

In the year 2021, we supported a total of five children to undertake various livelihood projects. This represent an increase of three from the 2020 figure of two persons supported.



LOBBYING FOR SUPPORT FROM THE COMMON FUND

The outreach team works in close collaboration with various state institutions to ensure ease of access to services for various safety nets programs by the state of Ghana. We do this because of the difficulties many parents especially those in remote communities face in their individual attempts to benefit from these programs. This year through our exertion, two of our clients were shortlisted and approved by the fund management committee to benefit from the District Assembly Common Fund for persons with disabilities. The two beneficiaries, Boahema and Alice were given a freezer and a fufu grinding machine respectively. The team will preserve its usual collaboration with the District Assembly to get many of our clients involved in the beneficiaries in the subsequent years.



GREEN GHANA PROJECT



The green Ghana project is an initiative aimed at saving depleting forest reserves in Ghana. Under the project the government provides free seedlings to people from all walks of life including celebrities, organizations, traditional leaders and schoolchildren who are interested to help in the Green Ghana initiative.in the

course of the year, the outreach team in collaboration with the forestry division in the Nkoranza municipality together with some children from PCC took part in the project. We made a stronger effort to plant 100 trees within the walls of PCC. We have subsequently fenced the trees and nurturing them.

NEW IDENTIFICATIONS

A total number of 26 new clients were identified and added to the outreach client database during the period under review. The clients were identified within the Nkoranza north, Nkoranza south and Techiman south District. The identifications form part of our continual effort to identify and trigger early interventions to ensure that the clients get optimal benefits. The newly identified



clients have varied forms and degrees of disabilities. Notable among them are: clubfoot, cerebral palsy, epilepsy and contractures.

The outreach team will in 2022, draw individual intervention plans base on their case histories and the need assessments. We intend to refer some of them for further medical assessments or physiotherapy interventions. Some of them will also be assisted to undergo orthopedic surgery. With regards to those with chronic epilepsy, our team in collaboration with the mental health departments of the various districts, will try to diagnose their

conditions and make the appropriate prescriptions before we can add them to our list of free antiepileptic drug beneficiaries.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS



In the year 2020, the outreach team gave gifts to some of our clients around Donkro Nkwanta and Jerusalem areas during the yuletide. This year, the team replicated the gesture in the Dromankese area. The supply of rice and cooking oil to vulnerable children from poor families for the purposes of spending the Christmas is because of the importance families attach to the

eating of rice during the festive season. Many poor household usually depend on the benevolence of others in order to have rice and cooking oil to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

We were able to support 25 children in 2020 and 25 also in 2021 due to the inadequacy of funds. We however hope to increase the number in 2022 by including it in our annual plan of activities and remind management earlier for the purchases to be made at a time when prices are still moderate.

CHALLENGES

- Inadequate parental cooperation leading to the failure of the Nkwanta farm project
- Fuel price hikes in the course of the year leading to distortions in the fuel budget

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) We will continue to engage parents and educate them to cooperate fully
- 2) Management should consider giving extra money to the team whenever fuel prices increase beyond the budgeted amount.

WAY FORWARD

The outreach team has put together an annual plan of activities and budget for 2022. In addition to our regular activities, we have outlined far reaching policy proposals for the year. These include:

- ✓ Apprenticeship support program for young adults with disabilities
- ✓ Small loans and grants scheme for artisans and craftsmen with disabilities
- ✓ Adolescent sexual and reproductive health needs of girls with disabilities

We will also take steps to scale up our activities to Techiman South district as well as collaborate effectively with state and other not for profit organizations that provide services to children and young adults with disabilities.