

THE PEACE OF CHRIST FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT- OUTREACH



2022

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INTRODUCTION

The outreach project was started in 2016 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 by 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.

SUMMARY

This report is a compilation of the quarterly reports for the year 2022. It details Some of the activities undertaken and their resultant outcomes for the year as captured below:

1. 13, 450 tablets of antiepileptic drugs were distributed to needy children with epilepsy.
2. 20 children benefited from free physiotherapy services.
3. An average of 36 homes per month were visited as part of our home visit activities.
4. A brief ceremony was held to officially opened the daycare center at Nkoranza.
5. A daycare building facility was completed and is in use at Donkro Nkwanta.
6. A new motorbike with a bigger engine capacity was bought for outreach.
7. Six (6) children benefited from livelihood support.
8. Two (2) young girls were given a sewing machine each and assisted to undergo apprenticeship training.
9. public education was conducted in seven health facilities and five antenatal outposts in villages.
10. Management sponsored Gabriel to do a six (6) week online certificate course in NGO project and operations management

Also included in this report are the challenges encountered and as well as the outlook for 2023.

The major challenge we faced during the year was the rising inflation in Ghana and the cascading effects on the general cost of living. Our budget for fuel and feeding grants for the daycare centers took a serious hit as a result of the situation.

We paid special tributes also to three of our children who have died in the course of the year.

In the year 2023, the project team will focus more on getting additional daycare centers established. We will also embark on more advocacy drive through the local radio stations and also by organizing workshops for identifiable stakeholders who can influence local public policy.

HOME VISITS

Visiting to check on our clients is a regular feature of the outreach work. We make conscious effort to reach out to each client to find out their states of health and social conditions within each month.

During the year under review, we visited an average of 36 homes per month.

The year under review also witnessed a couple of home visitations by expatriates. The team was joined by Mr. and Mrs. Rudiger from Germany, Mrs.



Mrs. Greetje Knetsch

Greetje Knetsch, and husband, Dr. Sofanne and as well as suzzana. Some of the communities we visited were Donkro Nkwanta (to see the Daycare), Salamkrom, Kyeradeso, Jerusalem, Nyinasi among others. They were taken to see some of the children that we supported through the livelihood intervention as well as those we supported to undergo apprenticeship training.

The team also went to some of the villages with Miss Naomi- a Ghanaian volunteer with PCC from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.

REOPENING OF DAYCARE CENTER AT NKORANZA



CUTTING OF TAPE BY DR. ALBERT

The daycare center building at Nkoranza was completed in the year 2020 at the time of the global Covid-19 pandemic. Consequently, it was not possible to organize a befitting official opening ceremony due to the imposition of restriction act that was passed through an executive order by the president of the republic of Ghana.

The center was however in operation since 2020 and admitting children with intellectual and developmental

disabilities.

On Friday, 22nd October of this year, the management of the Peace of Christ Foundation (our mother organization) in consultation with the Municipal Chief Executive of the Nkoranza south assembly decided to have the center officially opened. The ceremony was brief but colorful. The dignitaries in attendance included the Chief and elders of the Kokofo Traditional area, the deputy municipal coordinating director, the municipal education director, and friends from the diaspora. The media, children with IDD and their parents, the PCC Asare music group were also present.

The deputy Municipal coordinating director was the guest of honor. Speeches were delivered by the various attendees including parents. The occasion was climaxed with a tape cutting ceremony jointly done by Dr. Alberts Van Galen (Managing Director of PCC), the chief of Kokofo and the municipal education director.

The guests and all attendees were served with food and drinks after the vote of thanks was delivered by Madam Jane, one of the parents with a child in the center.

WORLD DISABILITY DAY CELEBRATION



3rd of December every year is designated as the International Day of Disabled Persons and therefore activities are outlined to mark the day. The team for 2022 celebration was “Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world”

The federation of disability organizations, the umbrella organization of all disability groupings in Ghana within the Nkoranza south municipality

put together a number of activities to mark the day.

As partners and an advocacy outfit, outreach PCC was very central in the celebration.

On 2nd December, Gabriel together with two executives from the federation, went to Fabia FM, a local radio station to talk about the activity outline of the day and also the rights of persons with disabilities as a precursor to the actual celebration on the 3rd of December. Outreach PCC also mobilized parents of children with IDD to join in the public float. Gabriel delivered a solidarity message on behalf of outreach PCC during the durbar. We donated an amount of one Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢100.00) to the federation as part of their fundraising efforts to sustain their activities including public advocacy.

PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

Parents, especially mothers of children with disabilities have been very integral in the success stories of outreach work. We therefore try to mobilize them and hold periodic meetings to discuss the way forward of our activities.

In respect of our daycare center in Nkoranza, we scheduled to have regular meetings to discuss the challenges facing



the children and how to resolve them. In the year under review, we held three meetings at the daycare. The predominant items discussed include the payment of money to augment the fuel money we receive from PCC for the “Okada” that transports the children to and from the center, the need for parents to prepare the children in time for school and commitment of parents to group activities to support and sustain our Parents Support Help Group (PSHG).

In the year under review, we also held similar meeting at Donkro Nkwanta to discuss the sustenance of the daycare center.

COMPLETION OF DAYCARE FACILITY AT DONKRO NKWANTA

The provision of daycare facilities for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities has been a cardinal part of the outreach project in the last couple of years. We currently have two of such facilities in Nkoranza and



Donkro Nkwanta. The centers offer functional education and serve as safe places for parents to keep their disabled children while they go out to fend for their families. The parents are not required to pay fees neither feeding grants for the children. The children are given one hot meal each day.

The management of PCC with support from donors started a new building project at Donkro Nkwanta in the year 2021. This was after the children were evicted from a government facility that was initially used to start the daycare center. The new facility has been successfully completed and the children have started using it awaiting official opening.

The outreach team with prior approval from the PCC board, has engaged the services of a new caretaker (**ESTER**) to support in the care of the children at Donkro Nkwanta.

NEW MOTORBIKE FOR OUTREACH



NEW MOTORBIKE

The means of transportation of the outreach team is predominantly by motorbikes. This is due to the nature of the roads in our operational area. The bad nature of the roads causes rapid tear and wear of the parts of the motorbikes leading to their breakdown. In view of that, the outreach team made a request for a new motorbike that is more resilient and able to withstand the shocks of

the potholes.

The management of PCC heeded to our request and bought a new motor with a bigger engine capacity of 170 horse power and strong shock absorbers for the outreach team. We are grateful to the donor who made this possible.

FARMING PROJECT



TRASHING MAIZE AT JERUSALEM

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 discuss and subsequently ploughed and planted the maize.

During the last quarter of the year, we trashed the maize and realized only two bags. We sold it out but made a lost at the

end.

The yield during the major session was not very impressive. The rains also delayed in coming to ensure we plant the lean session maize before the end of August. We have therefore decided with the parents to plant okra during the lean session since the time for planting the maize has since elapse.

Though we made a lost, it is encouraging to use the project as a means of getting the children and their parents engage together in a common activity.

ANTIEPILEPTIC DRUGS

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

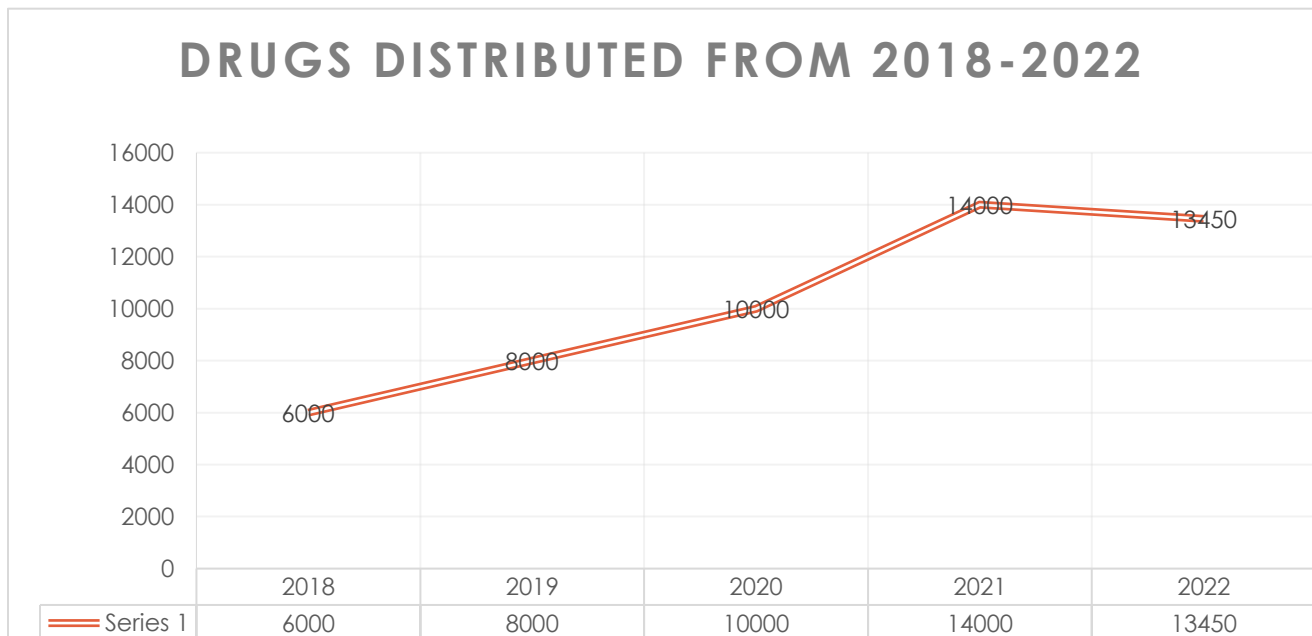


homes. This intervention which started at the very outset of the outreach project, has helped to mitigate the debilitating impact of epilepsy on many of our clients. Those who were using very unconventional methods like local herbs and spiritual means, have since changed and embraced the use of the drugs to reduce the effects of the

condition.

During the year under review, the team distributed a total of 13,420 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.

The chart below gives the graphical representation of the distribution of drugs from 2018 to 2022



From the diagram above, there was a decline in the trajectory of quantity of drugs distributed in the year 2022. This was as a result of a deliberate decision by the management of PCC and the outreach team 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.

PHYSIOTHERAPY

During the second quarter of the year, the outreach team in consultation with the executive board



PHYSIO SESSION IN PCC

of PCC, forged a collaboration with the physiotherapy team from the Holy Family Hospital at Techiman to visit our community to offer Physio services to children with IDD's within the catchment area. The decision was as a result of the growing need for physio services for children in the Nkoranza enclave. We found out that many a parent were not able to access physio services due to the cost of

transport and also the cost of services. The move therefore was to eliminate these factors and invariably make physio services accessible to children with IDD's in our operational area.

In year under review, a total of twenty (20) children with various physical conditions, from various communities across our three operational districts visited our center for physiotherapy services. Out of the number, 8 went through Plaster of Paris procedure. The parents have also been taken through the exercises to enable them continue at their various homes.

Aside the regular children with intellectual and Developmental Disability in our database, we also received a number of referral cases from St. Theresa Hospital in Nkoranza.

We also offered free accommodation to three parents and their children for one week to enable them have extra exercise from the PCC physio team lead by Twum Michael.

STORY OF CHANGE (MOHAMMED)

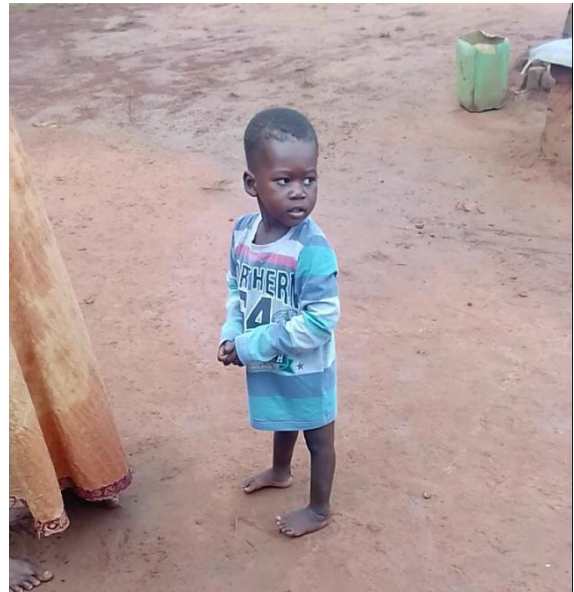


The ultimate expectation of the outreach team from every intervention is to impact the life of a child positively. In the period under review, we have started our story of change series with the focus on young Mohammed. He was identified in November, 2021 at Donkro Nkwamta.

Mohammed was born with clubfoot that was left untreated over a period and therefore hindering the ability of the child to stand and subsequently walk.

The outreach team gave advice to the parents and later referred the child to St. John of God Hospital at Duayaw Nkwanta for treatment. We paid for the procedure as well as the cost of transport and feeding.

During our recent follow up visit, we noticed that the child is now able to walk. This has brought so much relief to the family of Mohammed, especially the mother. The family will soon enroll him into school. The mother who basically was left at home because of Mohammed, now has the hope of looking for a job to support the family.



The story of Mohammed mirrors the stark reality of many children living with similar conditions that have remained unresolved due partly to the lack of access to basic physiotherapy or orthopedic services and in some instances, lack of funds to pay for the services. This is the reason why PCC through the outreach project will strive to impact the lives of many more children like Mohammed.

LIVLIHOOD SUPPORT



The livelihood support intervention is one of the means by the outreach team to engage the young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities 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

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 year under review, we supported a total of six children (Farruk Awudu, Felix Achampong Godfrey Azumah, Gyamia and Mavis). Each of the beneficiaries was given two female goats to rear.

Even though this intervention has been largely successful, it also recorded a number of failures due to the fact that some the children have lost their animals to theft and disease outbreaks. A recent follow up checks done by the outreach team on this intervention revealed that three of the parents sold some the offerings of the goats we gave out and lodged the proceeds in bank accounts created in the name of the children.

The outreach team has also taken steps to advice parents to as part of this social intervention try to venture into other forms of income generating activities.

ASSISTIVE DEVICES

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 disabilities who are in basic schools.



In June 2022, the outreach team received

three new specialized and two regular wheelchairs from Joni & Friends to replenish our stock.

In the year under review, the outreach team gave one specialized wheelchair, one baby trolley and a pair of clutches to some beneficiaries.

Outreach PCC continues to offer assistance to children to ensure their functional mobility.

Felix Acheampong, who was supported with a wheelchair, had a real difficulty sitting and maintaining good posture prior to this support. The family mother had to occasionally trapped him as her back whenever he was ill and they had to visit the hospital. But with the support, he can now be wheeled comfortably to the hospital and other social places in a more dignified manner.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

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 in the year under review.

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 stressed on the need to delink disability and curses so as to do away with stigmatization.

The team also 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 seven health facilities and five antenatal outposts in villages.



GABRIEL DOING PUBLIC EDUCATION

WORKSHOPS



WORKSHOP SESSION AT SHALOM SPECIAL SCHOOL

On 30th 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, second 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 presentations 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. Though we were not able to achieve this aim, we will take steps in the preceding year, 2023 to organize the workshop.

CAPACITY BUILDI

Managing the outreach project require learning new body of knowledge about best practices and NGO strategic management in order to deliver in an efficient manner to our clients and also meet



the expectation of our donors. In view of this, the team periodically attend workshops and also scout for training programs that will ultimately improve our knowledge in delivering better services to our target group.

During the period under review, management sponsored Gabriel to do a six (6) week online certificate course in NGO project and operations management. The course was put

together by the

Cambridge Center for Excellence. The team of lecturers are experts from varied field such as the NGO sector, the legal fraternity and as well as the media and communication space. Some of the models of the course include:

- a) **Ngo strategic management**
- b) **The theory of change**
- c) **Fiduciary trust and financial management**
- d) **NGO funding and proposal writing**
- e) **Advocacy and media skills**
- f) **Community entry**
- g) **Tools for monitoring and evaluation**

Gabriel's participation in the training program will broaden the knowledge of the outreach team to plan and implement projects with far reaching impact on children with IDD's and their families.

LOBBYING FOR SUPPORT FROM THE COMMON FUND



GORDON IN HIS NEW TRICYCLE

One critical tenet of community work is advocacy and lobbying. And the outreach team has made frantic effort to work closely with state and non-state institution within our operational area and beyond, to advance the welfare of children and young adults with disabilities.

In the year under review, the team lazed with the fund management team of the district assembly

common fund for persons with disabilities. a number of clients benefited from the fund. In the last quarter of the year, the fund through our effort, purchased two tricycles for Gordon and Fidelis. The outreach team in previous years supported Fidelis and Gordon with a tricycle and wheelchair respectively. However, Gordon had his chair occasionally breaking down due to the rough terrain he goes through to school. This compelled us to encourage the father to register them as members of the federation so as to benefit from the fund.

APPRENTICESHIP SUPPORT



GABRIEL DONATING A SEWING MACHINE TO CHRISTIANA BEETO

In the bid to scale up our activities and touch more lives, the team introduced a set of new interventions in our 2022 annual plan of activities. One of the interventions is dubbed, **APPRENTICESHIP SUPPORT PROGRAM**. The rationale behind this intervention is to support young adults with physical disabilities from poor families who are desirous of learning a trade. The nature of the support includes providing the tools required for the training and also paying for the cost of the training. We also, with technical support from the Business Advisory Board,

a state body under the ministry of trade and industries, gave career counselling to prospective beneficiaries and their families.

During the reporting period, the outreach team successfully identified and supported two female young adults to undergo training as seamstresses. The two beneficiaries are:

- 1. CHRISTIANA BEETO**
- 2. BOAHEMAH ELIZABETH**

During our follow up visits in the course of the year, we noticed that the beneficiaries were making a lot of progress in their training. We will however modify the intervention by changing the target group to young adults with mild to moderate form of IDD in 2023. This is to ensure that we do not deviate from our original mandate of focusing on only persons living with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR OUR CLIENTS



ERNEST

In the year 2020, the outreach team with support from the board of PCC, has been extending a hand of good gesture to children with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our operational area during Christmas festivities. The yuletide season is a period of care and love.

During the period under reporting, we distributed rice to our clients. We were not able to add oil this year due partly to the escalating price increases of goods on the market and also the increase in the number of beneficiaries.



PORTIA AND THE FATHER

TRIBUTES

Glowing tributes to three of our children with disabilities (Christabel, Gloria and Linda) who have passed on to eternity in the course of the year. May their beautiful souls find peaceful repose in the bosom of their maker. Rest well until we meet again at Jesus's feet.

CHALLENGES

1. The rising inflation in Ghana that currently stands at 50.3% with the cascading effects on general cost of living took a hit on our budget for fuel and feeding for the daycare centers.
2. Inability of some parents to pay their contribution for fueling the Okada.
3. One member of the outreach team left in the course of the year and therefore limited the ability to visit more villages.

WAY FORWARD

In the year 2023, the project team will focus more on getting additional daycare centers established. We will also embark on more advocacy drive through the local radio stations and organizing workshops for identifiable stakeholders who can influence local public policy.