

THE PEACE OF CHRIST FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT OUTREACH DEPARTMENT

BY: TEAM OUTREACH



2020



P.O. BOX 120, NKORANZA, ST THERESA CLOSED STREET

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.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report is a review of activities undertaken by the outreach team from January to December, 2020. The period covers pre- COVID, COVID era and post- COVID restriction activities. The review takes into accounts the impact of the global pandemic on our activities vis a avis the outline of activities contained in our annual plan for the year 2020, and how the timelines of those activities were adversely affected. This report however does not include the annual financial statement as standard practice requires. This is because Outreach is a subsidiary of the PCC –Hand in Hand Foundation and as such, all financial reporting are done by the management of the mother organization

Some of the activities discussed in this report include:

1. Home visits
2. Antiepileptic drugs to children from needy families
3. Parents Support Help group activities (PSHG)
4. Special cases
 - ✓ Baby court for Christabel
 - ✓ Foldable bed for princess
 - ✓ Linda
 - ✓ Renovated room for Kojo Abonwene
5. Livelihood support
6. Assistive device
7. Daycare center
8. Public awareness and advocacy
9. New member of staff
10. Specific activities that were truncated by Covid
11. Post Covid restriction activities
12. New identifications
13. Meeting with the leaders of Nkoranza SPHG
14. Data base
15. PCC Outreach father Christmas in photos
16. Way forward

The following salient points can we found in the report:

1. An average of 26 families were visited in a month
2. Over 10000 tablets of antiepileptic drugs were distributed within the period
3. All our four parents support groups are active despite the inability to hold regular meetings
4. Three of our very vulnerable clients were supported with different and individually appropriate interventions.
5. Two Children were supported through livelihood program.
6. A new daycare center named **PCC/ANASE DAYCARE CENTER** has been built in Nkoranza
7. Three (3) very important activities outlined in our annual plan for 2020 were truncated due to covid-19 Pandemic.
8. Ebenezer benefited a wheelchair and Gordon's one was repaired by the outreach team.
9. Outreach PCC team spent Christmas with some children.

On The way forward, the outreach team will continue with activities that are permissible under the covid-19 protocols. We will continue with our home visits, antiepileptic drugs support, and the preparative works towards the opening of our daycare centers come January, 2021. We will examine our annual plan for 2020 and carry over the undone activities to 2021.

HOME VISIT

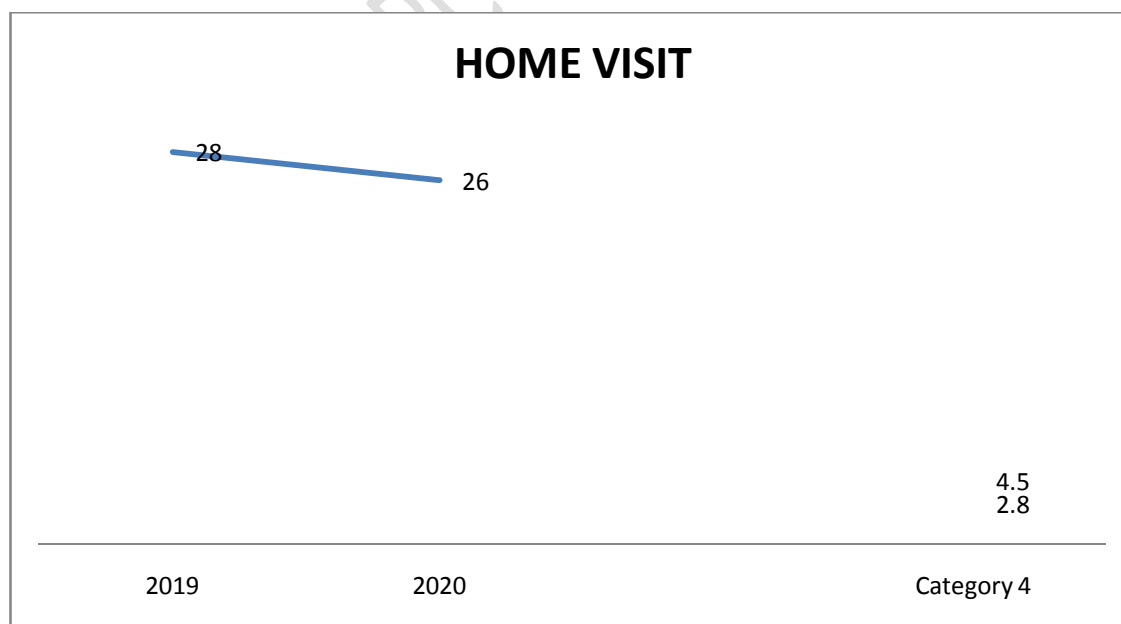


The home visits form a very integral part of our work as the outreach team. During the period under review, we visited an average of 26 families per month in the Nkoranza north and south districts. These visits usually give us the opportunity to interact with parents one on one to find out other challenges confronting them. We offer them free counseling with regards to their challenges. We also spend time in checking on livelihood support

programs. During the pre covid period (January to March, 2020), we had the privilege of visiting various clients together with some foreign donors and friends of PCC. They include Jenny, a psychiatrist from Belgium, Mrs. Greetje Knetch and Mr. and Mrs. Yang.

However, the warmth that is usually associated with our home visits was affected in the wake of the pandemic as we all needed to adhere to the safety protocols of social/physical distance and wearing of nose mask. But notwithstanding these protocols, we still visited on regular basis to check on the health and general wellbeing of our clients.

In the year 2020 we visited an average of 26 clients per month as compared to 28 clients in 2019. this represents a decrease of 7%.



ANTIEPILEPTIC DRUG

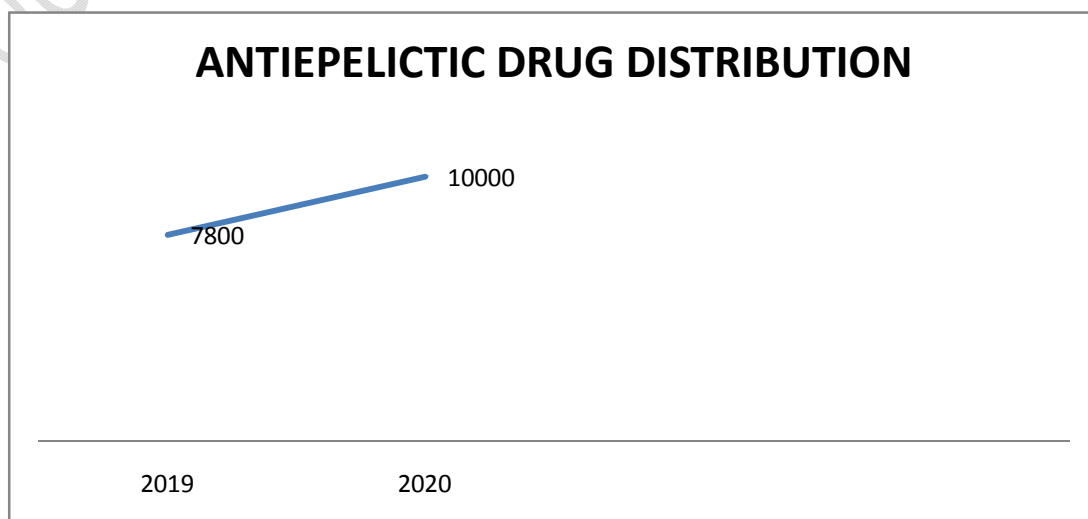


Figure 2: antiepileptic drugs for Abena

The antiepileptic drug distribution forms a very integral component of the outreach project. The intervention involves the distribution of 60 tablets of carbamazepine each to children with epilepsy from poor families. The 60 tablets cost approximately \$5 a month, (GhC30.00). Parents of the beneficiaries are always thankful to the outreach team and

PCC management for this laudable idea to support them with antiepileptic drugs on monthly basis. The team encourages parents to take key interest in providing the drugs when we run short of supply to ensure that the children do not relapse. Some children, who could not do anything previously as a result of frequent convulsive fit, can now take part in house and farming activities. That is indicative of the positive results from the supply of free antiepileptic drugs to beneficiaries. We have also taken steps to collaborate with the mental health officers who exercise jurisdiction on the various clusters of villages to review cases to ensure effectiveness in the use of the drugs.

We currently support about 20 children across the Nkoranza North District and the Nkoranza South Municipality who are suffering from various degrees of seizures. In the year under review, we distributed 10000 tablets as compared to 7800 tablets in 2019. This represents 35.8% increase in distribution.



PSHG ACTIVITIES



The parent support help group forms part of our major stakeholders in taking decisions in the best interest of the children with intellectual disabilities. Four major groups are currently functioning. Each of these groups is engaged in doing one activity or the other to boost the interest of parents to actively participate in the group. Asunkwa group is into piggery, Nkwata group

rearing goat, Siika group doing soap making and Nkoranza town group also making soap. Apart from doing these activities, they also discuss issues concerning their children's wellbeing and share ideas.

The outreach team together with the group also discuss about the ongoing project as well as helping individual parents to access the District Assembly Common Fund. In the month of February, one parent was assisted by the outreach team to access Thousand Ghana Cedis (€1000) from the assembly.

During the construction of the daycare center in town, the group together with the outreach team visited the site as sign of their commitment to the project and to lend their support to the workers. Some of them carried blocks, muter and water to support the project. In one of our meetings, we discussed elaborately on the need for parents support help group to realize the aspirations of putting up a daycare center in Nkoranza. The parents promised to mobilize other parents to ensure we get appreciable number of children to start the center upon completion of the building project.

SPECIAL CASES

During the reporting period, the outreach team extended some support to some very vulnerable children in our operational area. The children supported include Christabel, princess and Linda.

✓ **BABY COURT FOR CHRISTABEL**

In the course of the reporting period, Mrs. Greetcje went on home visits with the outreach team. She also held a post-visit meeting with us to discuss her observations. It was during the meeting that she proposed to help two of our clients with basic pressing needs. The team upon careful deliberations, nominated Linda and Christabel. We consulted with the mother of Christabel to know the intervention that will mostly help her. The mother suggested a baby court to assist the



Figure 3: Greetcje with Christabel

child to learn how to sit. The device with its jingle sound and rattles has helped engage her attention while the mother attends to other duties in the home.

We have followed up and found out that the device has been of tremendous help in improving the sitting posture of young Christabel.

✓ **FOLDABLE BED FOR PRINCESS**



Figure 4: before intervention

In the course of the month of July, the outreach team visited princess and her family at kyeradeso. We observed that even though she has her siblings always around her and playing with her, the sleeping place and posture of princess was not dignifying. She slept on a nylon sack on a bare floor. The situation was even more precarious considering the fact that it was raining season in Ghana.



Figure 5: post intervention

In view of this worrying spectacle, the team wrote a proposal to management to support little Princess with a locally made foldable bed. We are happy to report that, Princess now has a dignifying bed to sleep on.

OUTREACH

✓ LINDA



Figure 6 :Linda receiving support

Linda is one of the very vulnerable children we have been supporting. The outreach team identified Linda with spinal bifida at a time when she was having very troubling pressure sores. But with the intervention of the team and the management of PCC, all the sores are completely healed. Linda is

now a happy girl but still doesn't get people in the community to come around her. This is because of the negative societal perception about her. Our attempt to go get her enrolled in school has hit the snag due to this very negative perception in the community.



Figure 7: Linda in summer school learning

In view of the serious perceptual and attitudinal challenges Linda was faced with, the board of our other organization took a decision to integrate her into our community against our long standing principle of not accepting children with parents into the center. It is imperative to report that Linda is very such accepted into her new home and everyone loves and cares about her.

✓ **Renovated room for kojo Abonwene**

Kojo Abonwene was identified by the outreach team in the Salam community on



November 8; 2017. He was at the time left in a room with discarded items. His state was so deplorable. The outreach team took steps together with the department of social welfare to ensure the family put the room in order to ensure dignity and safety of the child.

Figure 8: Before renovation

Three years later, the family did very little to renovate the room. In the course of the year under review, it became imperative for the outreach team through the support of



management to provide 4 bags of cement and money for workmanship to renovate the room. It is Worthy of report that kojo now sleeps in a much dignified room. We also provided some used cloths for him. We look forward to working with the family to ensure an increase acceptability of the boy by the larger community.

Figure 9: After renovation

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT



Figure 10: cash amount for mother of Princess

During the period under review the team supported princesses' mother with an amount of 600.00gh cedis to do petty business in order to take good care of princess. We also supported Portia Nyarko and the mother with an amount of 700gh to be used to support in the upkeep of the child.



Figure 11: livelihood support being given to Portia's other

The outreach team subsequently made separate follows up to check on how the funds were utilized for the benefit of the children. We are happy to report that, the mothers have used the funds in accordance with what they promised.

ASSISTIVE DEVICES



Figure 12: new chair for Ebenezer

The outreach project also concentrates on functional mobility of our clients with mobility problems. In view of this, we have been supporting children with assistive devices like clutches and wheelchairs.

In the period under review, we have supported one child (Ebenezer) with a wheelchair. We also

helped with new parts to fix the broken wheelchair of Gordon, one of our clients who benefited a wheelchair from us two years ago.

The outreach team also provided a set of clutches to Kwame from Kwafere. The young adult developed a waist problem and as result resorted to the use of ordinary sticks to enable him move around. He consequently, dropped out of school because he needed to move about 6 kilometers each day to access education in the nearest village. The outreach team is considering supporting him with a tricycle to ensure he can attend school come 2021.



Figure: 13 Gabriel fixing a broken wheelchair



Figure: 14 new clutches for Kwame

DAYCARE CENTERS



Figure 15: The new daycare center at Nkoranza

The outreach project adopts a multifaceted approach in dealing with the identified gaps in service delivery to children with intellectual disabilities. In the area of education, we encourage the concept of inclusion to ensure children with intellectual disabilities learn together in the same classrooms as

their non disabled colleagues. To this end, we have been holding workshops for teachers as well as supporting children to get enrolled in mainstream schools. However, not all children can be in the mainstream schools due to the severity of their disability or their age. As a result, we have started piloting the concept of daycare centers to help reduce the burden on parents who want a safe haven to leave their disabled children during the day as they attend to their respective livelihood activities. Until the advent of the pandemic, we had one of the centers running effectively at Donkro Nkwanta. We have also put up a new daycare center at Nkoranza. We initially planned to open the one in Nkoranza (**PCC/ANASE DAYCARE CENTER**) in September, 2020. However, the current restrictions on the opening of public schools by the government of Ghana, has stalled the opening of the center. But we have discussed with the parents and all the collaborators to open the center when schools resume in January, 2021.

It is worth noting that the site/land for the beautiful Daycare Center was given free of charge to us by the municipal assembly.

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ADVOCACY



Figure 16 public education session at Konkomba

In February, the outreach team visited a number of health centers and clinics within our operational area to study their pre- natal and post-natal clinic itineraries. Some of the clinics include: African Libra, Pinihini CHPS compound, Nkoranza health center, and Dromankese health center.

Subsequent to obtaining the various itineraries, the team went with the African Libra team to Kwafere and Konkomba for education. Our interaction with the women was so reveling as many of the attributed causes of cerebral palsy and other childhood disabilities to spirits and curses. Some of them told the team that people in the villages around still kill such children clandestinely. We had plans to continue with such educative programs but those activities were forestalled as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic with the associated lockdowns and ban on social gathering. We have plans to resume the public education and awareness programs now that the covid scare and the number of infections in Ghana have drastically reduced.

A NEW STAFF MEMBER FOR OUTREACH



The outreach project started with a two member team. Over the course of five years, the project has seen tremendous scale-up and as a result, there was the need for additional worker to boost our

staff strength. Consequently, on the 1st of October, 2020, the team welcomed another graduate from the University of Education, Winneba in the person of Mr. SIEH ELIJAH. He is specialized in community Based rehabilitation and disability studies. The team now boasts of three vibrant and hardworking staff members which is clear evidence that the team is going to travel extra mile in the years ahead.

SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES THAT WERE TRUNCATED BY COVID

Some specific and very important activities outlined in our 2020 annual plan had their timelines adversely affected by the global covid-19 pandemic. The notable ones among them are:

- I. **“WE RING THE BELL”**: a yearly activity organize to create awareness about the rights of every child to education in a least restrictive environment. We often gather students and make a loud noise for about a minute to drum home the message of inclusion. The program which is done by all partners of Liliane Fund in various countries across the globe was postponed indefinitely this year as a result of the pandemic.
- II. **FAMILY RETREAT**: We planned to hold a small family retreat for some selected families this year. But with the current situation of covid-19, it is not possible.
- III. **PUBLIC DURBAR AT DROMANKESE**: The levels of superstitions and the associated negative societal attitudes towards children with intellectual and other forms of disabilities within the Dromankese town and environs is very alarming. As a result, we planned to have a durbar of the chiefs and people to find the best approach to deal with the perceptual issues and the attendant ramifications on the social inclusion of the children with disabilities. We hope to carry out this all important exercise in 2021

POST COVID RESTRICTION ACTIVITIES

PUBLIC EDUCATION



Figure 17: public education at konkoma

As part of our usual duties, and with the gradual easing of Covid restrictions in Ghana, the team during the period embarked on public education which is aimed at raising the awareness of the public about causes of disability at pre- natal, antenatal and post-natal stages. The education also focused on eradicating the negative perceptions people have towards intellectual disability. The team during the period visited several communities within the Municipality and shared with most mothers the causes, consequences, and some preventive measures of disability. On some occasions the team joined the African Libra Health Center immunization team to some of the communities. The immunization program had the potential to mobilize most women in the various communities. The outreach team saw it appropriate to also use that opportunity to share what it had with parents who brought their children for immunization. The outreach team together with the African Libra Health center immunization team visited communities like Kwafere, Amanda and Jerusalem.

NEW IDENTIFICATION



During period under review the team identified and registered new clients in areas like Ntanaaso, Krutu, Boama, timiabu and Salama Kurom. A total number of 8 children were identified. Among some conditions of such children include fit, cerebral palsy, hearing problem and intellectual disability. We advised some of these families to visit the hospital for proper diagnoses to enable them benefit some interventions from the outreach team. In the case of some two or three children, there was no need for

diagnoses. However upon further interrogation some of these parents stated that they may need support in the form of assistive devices, livelihood, and antiepileptic drug intervention to help better the conditions of their wards. We can boldly say though these were new cases, most of them were not beyond the usual intervention of the outreach team except in the case of Mafia Magdalene. Afia was identified in a village near Ntanaaso. The child lives with her mother and two siblings in a farm house in a very remotest part of Nkoranza South. She is intellectually disabled and epileptic. Due to the absence of the father and neighbors, the mother sometimes ties her to a tree in order to attend to some farming activities to fend for the family. On one occasion when she was left loose, she had a fit and roasted her foot in fire. It was so bad that she lost all her toes.

Though we are much aware of our policy of admitting into PCC abandoned intellectually disabled children only. But we wish to appeal to the board of PCC to consider giving that child opportunity to be in PCC as we couldn't think of any other alternative to ensuring good quality life for the young girl.

A MEETING WITH THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PSG OF NKORANZA



A meeting was also held during the months under review with the leadership of the parents support group of Nkoranza to discuss the new daycare center and how to proceed come January, 2021. Some of the issues that were discussed include the date of resuming, transportation and the kind of uniform the children will have to use when the center resumes.

The leaders also suggested some things that they think can help make the center an interesting place for the children. Some of the things that were mentioned include a TV set, Drums, physiotherapy and a workshop center. They added that they would have loved to see the daycare center officially commissioned before the date of resuming. They suggested that the center resumes in the second week of January with the idea that by that time everything about elections and Christmas would be over. It is also expected that the Covid restrictions on the reopening of schools in Ghana would have been lifted. The group also said they are ever ready to help in the running of the daycare center anytime they are called upon. The leaders appealed to management to employ a member from the group to work at the center to support the running of the center.

DATA UPDATE

Over the years the team keeps track records of each client we identify. During the period, a lot of clients were identified. We also got to know through our numerous home visits that some of our existing clients have passed on while some have moved from the Municipality. To enable us know the total number of client that the team is currently dealing with, there was the need to update our data. After the whole process was done with, the total number of client we have as at now is eighty three (83). Out of the number, 57 of them are males while the remaining 25 are females. The data has been created on both word and excel forms.

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PCC OUTREACH FATHER CHRISTMAS

During the Christmas festivities, the outreach team through the support of PCC management and donations from Joe Amo & family, natives of Donkro Nkwanta, shared rice, oil and saddens to some of our clients across the district. Below are pictures to attest to the kind gesture during the yuletide.





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WAY FORWARD

On The way forward, the outreach team will continue with activities that are permissible under the covid-19 protocols. We will continue with our home visits, antiepileptic drugs support, and the preparative works towards the opening of our daycare centers come January, 2021. We will examine our annual plan for 2020 and carry over the undone activities to 2021.

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