

THE PEACE OF CHRIST FOUNDATION

SECOND QUARTER REPORT OF OUTREACH PROJECT – APRIL- JUNE 2024



OUTREACH TEAM

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report covers the months of April, May and June 2024. The various reporting headings discussed in this report include the following:

- Antiepileptic drug
- Home visit
- Parents support group meeting
- Advocacy drive
- Daycare centers
- the state of Forikrom Daycare center
- Michael Twum joined the outreach team
- Vanessa and her mother visited PCC
- Visitation by Data Bank Foundation
- Livelihood support program
- The farm project

Some of the salient points in the report are:

- ❖ We supported 30 children with sixty tablets of monthly dosage of carbamazepine (1800mg).
- ❖ The outreach team during the period under review visited about seventeen (17) communities, comprising of seventy-two families with children living with
- ❖ Parents self-help groups held seven (7) meetings during the period of reporting,
- ❖ We engaged two churches of Pentecost in the Dorkron-Nkwarta circuit for advocacy.
- ❖ Progress made on the three existing DC
- ❖ we have finalized the signing of all documents for Forikrom DC
- ❖ Medical assessment for Vanessa
- ❖ Data bank staff visited the daycare center in Nkoranza
- ❖ The farm project.
- ❖ New staff member added to the outreach team

Going forward we will continue to carry out all the activities to ensure the wellbeing of children with intellectual disabilities. We will particularly focus on getting Forikrom daycare center established.

Antiepileptic drug



The outreach project has over the years supported many children with diverse multifaceted interventions. One of which is antiepileptic drug support. 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. Today the story is different as compared to the previous times. The team has constantly been supplying our clients with monthly dosages to ensure the regular seizures they suffer is reduced drastically. This intervention has also brought a relief of financial burden on parents. Not all of them can pay for the twenty Ghana cedis as agreed upon by the board of PCC to leverage the cost of transportation of the drug and their commitment to helping their children. Some can pay in fulfillment of their commitment to do that. Each child receives sixty tablets of carbamazepine monthly (200mg). During the period of reporting, we have distributed 18 boxes of carbamazepine (200mg) to our clients. The team will by this intervention, continue to create public awareness about the condition and also introduce new clients to antiepileptic drugs. This primarily is to discourage the use of concoctions and resorting to unscrupulous men of God. No official complain about side effects of the antiepileptic drug offered to our clients.

HOME VISITS



The outreach team during the period under review visited about seventeen (17) communities, comprising of seventy-two families with children living with intellectual disabilities. We interacted with and counseled families about their children's conditions to take good care of their children with intellectual disabilities. Our visits usually allow us to discuss with parents about their children and the progress or otherwise that they children have made during the period. We also use the home visits as moments to interact 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.

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

During the months under review the team organized seven meetings with parent groups who have children with intellectual disability. These meetings were held mostly in communities where we established daycare centers. The communities include, Nkoraza Town, Donkro-Nkwanta, Kyeradeso, Oforikrom, Jerusalem and Dromankese. Each of these meetings brought up with issues which were of concern to parents and outreach team for discussion.

In the case of Nkoaranza daycare center, the nonpayment of transport by the children using the okada (motor tricycle) was discussed and now everybody has been able to pay for the month of June. Joe Emma 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 is providing everything and so parents should appreciate that and also ensure their children attend the centers on the daily bases. He further urged parents to provide toilet roll, detergents and other items to support the running of the centers.

The three existing daycares have had their enrolment numbers increased as compared to the previous times. Kyeradeso started with four children and now seven, Donkron-Nkwanta was almost collapsing and now has a total of thirteen (13) children and the Ananse daycare center is also fourteen children with eleven using the okada currently.



ADVOCACY THROUGH CHURCHES

Many people still do not understand why children suffer from IDD. This could be attributed to ignorance, traditional beliefs and myths or lack of awareness creation within the society. It is as a result of this that, the Peace of Christ Foundation through its outreach team organizes public education and awareness creation from time to time to sensitize the general public on the causes of IDD and the effects of negative societal attitudes on children with IDD and their families.

During the period of reporting, the team engaged two churches of Pentecost in the Dorkron-Nkwanta circuit. We took time to explain some dos and don'ts and other factors that could lead to a child becoming IDD. The team also used the opportunity of antenatal and postnatal sessions organized by health staff to speak to pregnant women and nursing mothers.

We will continue in this direction to reach out to many more churches, Mosques and public gatherings.

DAYCARE CENTERS



During the months of reporting the team made a total visit of 24 times across the three daycare centers. These frequent visits allowed us to know what was happening and timely address issues that were raised. In the month of June, the number of children at the Nkwanta daycare was reduced due to a change of weather with a kind of sickness affecting many people. About five children have since not been coming to the center. In Kyeradeso daycare center only one has stopped coming temporarily to enable the parents to take local herbal medication for the cure of epilepsy. A second caretaker will be joining

Agnes from next week Monday 8th July, 2024.

For Ananse daycare center all the children come to the center on daily bases. In general, everything is going well and the team will continue to supervise and report back timely to the board of PCC on progress made and challenges to be tackled.

The parents on the other hand promised their full cooperation to ensure we realize that objective. Some of them shared their joy with us hoping they will now have a safe place to keep their children during the day while they fend for themselves and their families.

THE STATE OF OFORIKROM DAYCARE CENTER

The outreach project is on course to establish the fourth daycare center in Forikrom to offer children with IDD the opportunity to spend time at the center and for parents to go about their normal duties and later pick them up in the evening. The building was acquired through the church of Methodist in Forikrom for free as part of their social cooperate responsibility in helping children with IDD. An agreement form has been prepared and signed by both parties to officially allow the Peace of Christ Foundation to fully fund the renovation and operation for the next two years. The renovation work is at 70 per cent complete and will soon finish for it to start operation. The board of PCC has already interviewed two old caretakers who are of good standing with children with IDD in their previous jobs and offered to come and spend some two weeks for internship training before the official start of the daycare in Forikrom.

STAFF FROM DATA BANK FOUNDATION VISITED ANANSE DAYCARE CENTER



During the period of reporting, Data Bank Foundation staff visited the Ananse daycare center and interacted with the children who are intellectually, disabled. They had a short meeting with the staff at the center and a board member from the Peace of Christ Foundation. During the meeting, they lauded PCC and the outreach team for this initiative in supporting children with special needs. According to them they would adopt this concept of daycare centers practiced by PCC and will extend invitations to the outreach team to guide them to establish and run it well. They donated an amount of three hundred Ghana cedis to

organize a small party for the children. This brought great joy and happiness to their faces and every day these children would ask when is the next party for them. Through the outreach team, the children and staff at the center have expressed their profound gratitude to the Data Bank Foundation and wished them well as they hope to establish the same at other places to make other children living with IDD feel included in society.



VANESSA WITH A DEFORMED HAND

Vanessa a girl of 7 years of age visited PCC with her mother on the grounds of seeking financial support for surgery on her broken hand which at the same time badly burned and became stiff. The mother's wish is to see her daughter able to use both of her hands in future and not depending on others to do things for herself especially, as she progresses in her education. The board of PCC therefore, asked the mother to take her to wenchi government hospital for assessment and doctor's report indicating there is the need for surgery before PCC can bear the cost of the surgery.

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT PROGRAM

Livelihood support program is one of the outreach interventions which allow young adults and their parent to choose between which animal profitable and beneficiary 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 which some are successful and few other ones have failed.

The board has decided to put a hold on livelihood support program until further discussion either to continue or completely scrape it.

THE FARM PROJECT



The outreach team over the years has implemented two farm projects one was unsuccessful due to certain factors that were not considered, including suitability of the land with the crop and location of 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 projection of benefits and profits is huge, so attention with greater force from the children and the team would complement the success of the project. The team has engaged the agricultural officer at the municipal directorate. The first weeding has been done while waiting for the second weeding. We will continue to engage the children in the farm activities until it's successful.

NEW STAFF EMPLOYED

The outreach project has expanded from the time it started through its proper policy implementation to support children with IDD and their families. This suggests that one person cannot manage the entire project to achieve its success. Due to this, the board of PCC decided to employ Michal Twum as a second person to support Emmanuel Boyan in executing the outreach annual plan to the benefit of children with IDD. We would work hard to achieve greater success in the future.

Way forward

Going forward we will continue to carry out all the activities to ensure the wellbeing of children with intellectual disabilities. We will particularly focus on getting oforikrom daycare center established.