

THE PEACE OF CHRIST FOUNDATION

THIRD QUARTER REPORT – JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2024

BY

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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:

- 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 is a quarterly requirement of the outreach team to appraise the management of the progress of the project in respect of activities undertaken. In the months under review, the team carried out the following activities in line with our mandate to impact the general wellbeing of children with intellectual disabilities:

- ✓ Home visits
- ✓ Antiepileptic support
- ✓ Daycare center
- ✓ Parents support group meeting across the four daycare centers
- ✓ Forikrom DC established
- ✓ The Board visits to the four Daycare Center
- ✓ Inclusive education workshop

Some of the outstanding points in this report include:

1. The outreach team visited over 23 communities as part of the home visits
2. Ten (10) children benefited from the free antiepileptic drugs distribution for three months.
3. Daycare centers are well supervised by the team
4. We successfully established the fourth daycare center at Forikrom.
5. Seven different meetings were held with parents of children with intellectual disability at Nkoranza, Nkwanta, kyeradeso and Forikrom
6. The fourth DC has been established
7. Visitation to all the DC by the Board of PCC
8. Sensitization workshop was held for parent and opinion leaders.

HOME VISITS

In the period of three months, the outreach team visited about 23 communities across the two districts of Nkoranza South and north respectively. These visits are part of our normal routine of engaging with parents every month and as at when there is an urgent call from parents.

Our visits as usual afforded us the opportunity to see how the children cope. We also interacted with parents and caretakers on the need to improve on the social and health conditions of the children. We also advice parents to allow their children to be vaccinated against any new diseases in the country by nurses either at the health post or at home and report any side effective on time for treatment. Parents should ensure security around their children while they are away from home. Where there is a daycare center, parents are entreated to send their children to the center and pick them later in the evening after work.

ANTIEPILEPTIC SUPPORT



Figure 1 Beneficiary

During the months under review, the team supported 10 children with 60 tablets of dosage per child on monthly basis. This comes as a result of our normal routine plans to ensuring the distribution of antiepileptic drugs to our clients with epileptic seizures. Parents of the beneficiaries however, are asked to pay a 20gh cedis to support certain charges on the importation of the drugs into the country. Even though many of them are not able to pay due to the current economy hardship in the country few are able to fulfill their commitment.

No side effect has been reported from parents throughout the period of reporting. Parents of beneficiaries were happy and thankful to PCC for the anti-epileptic drugs support that ease their financial burdens. Some parents expressed their readiness to purchase the drug in the local pharmacy shops to ensure their children continue to take the drug. There has been a significant improvement in the health of the children since they started taking the medication.

DAYCARE CENTERS



Figure 2 PSHG MEETING

The team during the time of reporting supervised the four daycare centers, three are in Nkoranza south municipal and one in Techiman South District. Children who are intellectually disabled attend the centers and they are happy with the program the caregivers take them through every morning till the time of closing. The caretakers have taken good care of the children. They change activities every half an hour and focusing on the child's ability, thus what the individual child can do and what he/she cannot do.

Parents are so thankful to PCC for establishing these daycare centers to take care of their children while they go to work and pick them later in the evening time. The team engaged parents together with the caretakers on the need to take good care and full support from parents towards their children. Many of the children travel long distances before accessing the center. Some time they don't even come to the center but roaming on the streets at the mercy of others sending them anyhow. Due to this, parents of Donkro Nkwanta daycare center asked for an Okada (motor tricycle) to be used for transporting their children to and from the center on daily basis and are ready to contribute for fueling the Okada.

PARENT SELF HELP GROUP MEETINGS



Figure 3PSHG group meeting

During the period under review the team held seven various group meetings with parent self-help to deliberate on matters concerning their children well-being and ensure effective collaboration between parent and the team. During these meetings parents were encouraged to speak about issues affecting them and their children either at home or at the center. It was during one of the meetings that a parent shared her story of disappointment in the unknown person who took advantage of her disabled daughter and slept with her without

her conscience and took to heel till today nobody knows his where about. She said, if the child was at the center this heinous act would not have happened while she was at the farm. And so, she advice other parent not to follow sue but send their children to the centers. The team also advice parent who children are not assessing daycare centers should leave their children in the care of trusted people before going to work or farms.

FORIKROM DAYCARE CENTER ESTABLISHED

The long-awaited daycare center has finally been established for children with IDD who lives in Forikrom and its surrounding communities. There are over nine children identified and registered for the Forikrom DC. Six children are punctual at the center because the other children need some special wheelchair before they could access the DC. The team will continue to supervise and carry out activities to engage with the chiefs and people in the community to sensitize them on the causes and effects of children living with IDD and increase the enrolment at the center.

THE BOARD VISITS THE FOURTH DC

During the time of reporting, the Board of PCC led by the General Director visited the four daycare centers to ascertain the progress and challenges confronting the DCs across the two municipalities. They interacted with the children and had meetings with the caretakers to find out if they are faced with challenges at the centers. Remarkably, the General Director was impressed with the level of progress and the efforts made so far and encouraged the workers to keep up the good work and ensure every child is safe at the center. He said, one of the places these children can feel good and safe is at the daycare center.

AWARENESS CREATION WORKSHOP



Figure 4 Workshop session at Forikrom

The outreach team of PCC held an awareness creation workshop at Forikrom on the 7th August 2024. The workshop started at around 9:30am with Emmanuel Boyan taking participants round the various departments of PCC for orientation. He immediately after that delivered a power point presentation on the history of PCC and outreach project in particular.

Two important presentations were done thereafter. The first one was a presentation on intellectual disability, to introduce participants to

the causes and features of intellectual disability. I later presented on acceptance and management of children living with intellectual disability.

Participants contributed extensively to the discussions and expressed interest in the initiative to have similar workshop organize for different denominations within the circuit.

Participants were given lunch at the end of the day.

WAY FORWARD

Moving forward, we will continue to work effectively on the thematic areas of the project especially, public advocacy through radio, antenatal and postnatal clinics. We will also carry out all other activities to ensure the wellbeing of our clients.