

THE PEACE OF CHRIST FOUNDATION



FIRST QUARTER REPORT -2024

OUTREACH

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 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, and 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 progress report of the outreach project concerning activities undertaken within the first quarter of 2024. During the quarter under review, the team carried out the following activities in line with our mandate to impact and improve the general well-being of children with intellectual disabilities:

- Parents support group meetings in Nkoranza, kyeradeso and Nkwarta.
- Antiepileptic drug support
- Home visits
- Inclusive education workshop
- Public education at various health centres
- Newly established daycare at kyeradeso
- Farm project
- Artificial limb for John

Some of the outstanding points in this report include:

1. Three meetings were held with parents of children with intellectual disability in Noranda, Kyeradeso and Nkwarta
2. Twenty (20) children benefited from the free antiepileptic drug distribution
3. The outreach team visited 19 communities including NkoranzaTown as part of the home visits
4. We have successfully organized a workshop for 30 teachers on inclusive education
5. The PCC board through outreach paid for the amputation and fixing of an artificial limb for John
6. The new daycare was established at kyeradeso
7. Public education and awareness creation were carried out in five health centres
8. A new land has been acquired to start a cassava farm for our PSHG at Jerusalem

PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS



PSG MEETING

During the period of reporting, the team held various meetings with parents at each of the daycare centres. The purpose was to find out from the caretakers and parents alike some of the challenges facing the centres and how to address them. It was noticed that there were challenges at the Nkwanta Daycare Center concerning the quality of care given to the children and the punctuality of the caretakers. As a result, the two caretakers were replaced.

At the **PCC/ANANSE Daycare** in Nkoranza, the Motor tricycle at a point was not picking up certain children which gravely affected the attendance. The issue was discussed and addressed as well. The attendance of the children has seen an improvement and we hope to

sustain it.

The team will continue to supervise and give feedback to the board and other stakeholders on the progress of the daycares to ensure prompt resolution of challenges that may come up. We will also continue to organize monthly meetings with parents to discuss issues concerning their children and the Daycares.

During the meetings, Parents expressed their profane gratitude to the board of PCC for taking steps to ensure the daycares are safe for their children to attend daily. Parents also promised to bring their children every day to the centres.

ANTIPILEPTIC SUPPORT



BOYAN GIVING DRUGS

During the period of reporting, the team distributed Three Thousand. Six Hundred (3600) tablets of antiepileptic drug to twenty (20) children over three months. Each beneficiary received 60 tablets per month.

The purpose of this intervention is to reduce the frequency and severity of seizures among children living with epilepsy and also ease the financial burden on parents and caretakers. The intervention has brought great relief to parents and caretakers and also improved the health and well-being of the children. We are happy to report that parents are paying the GH20 cedis for the monthly dosage which was agreed upon by the board and the outreach team as part of the exit strategy for this intervention. Though not every parent can pay due to financial difficulties, the majority of them can pay regularly. This is therefore making it difficult to account properly to the board of PCC. However, the team will continue to ensure greater transparency by making the list of parents who pay every month available to the project director for scrutiny.

HOME VISIT



PRINCESS AT FORIKROM

During the months under review, the team visited a total of 25 communities across the two districts of Nkoranza South and North. On average, the team visited 30 families/households per month. These visits as usual allowed us to see how the children cope. We also interacted with parents and caretakers on the need to improve the social and health conditions of the children. The team also advised parents to make use of the livelihood support project offered to them to care for their children. Some issues were identified and addressed by the team. The team is going to scale out a plan to identify and visit many more families in the

coming months.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION WORKSHOP



GABRIEL DOING PRESENTATION

Advocacy drive is one of the outreach's focal areas of organizing advocacy for parents, pregnant women, lactating mothers and other identifiable groups in the communities within our operational area. During the period under review, the outreach team collaborated with the Nkoranza South Municipal Education Directorate to organize a workshop on inclusive education for teachers within the Donkro Nkwarta North circuit. The workshop took place in the Anglican church at Donkro Nkwarta. The number of participants who attended the workshop was thirty. The workshop was organized for only teachers due to their constant engagement with children with IDD in the classroom.

Gabriel presented a topic on the concept of Inclusive education, and the use of the Universal Design for Learning principles in teaching learners with learning disabilities.

Participants were excited and contributed meaningfully to the discussions and expressed interest in the desire for similar workshops to be organized for other teachers in the circuit. The School Improvement Supervision officer in charge of the circuit who was in attendance promised to invite the team as resource persons to educate more teachers in the circuit on the concept of inclusive education and the UDL principles. He was also excited about the concept of the daycare centres being established by PCC.

Participants were given a snack at the end of the day.



JOHN

STORY OF CHANGE

The outreach team during our home visit in 2022, identified John at Bonte in the Nkranza North district. John had a sour on one of his feet. The family after several failed efforts to get a cure gave up and John became despondent. He remained indoors for over two years.

Even though his situation falls outside the interventions of Outreach, the team on humanitarian grounds, informed the board of PCC concerning his condition. The board took an interest in the case and supported him. The Peace of Christ Foundation footed the bills for the amputation of the affected leg and fixing artificial limbs to enable him to walk and carry on with activities of daily living.

On our last visit, John could not hide his joy and appreciation to the board of PCC. He recounted the precarious nature of his precious condition and how PCC has helped him to live among his friends and go about his activities. John is currently into shoemaking. He said he can now take care of himself and his child.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS CREATION



GABRIEL AT PRE-NATAL CLINIC

During the period of reporting the team visited eight health centers to do public education on the possible causes of intellectual and developmental disability and its effects before, during and after delivery. Such health center includes Nkwabeng, Braho, Dandwa, Ayerede, Ahiayem, Kyeradeso, Bonsu and Dramankese. The team as usual collaborated with the staff to deliver this very important information to our target group which is pregnant and lactating mothers. The team took time off to interact with some health staff to find out progress made over the years. The general responses have been that outreach PCC has been very instrumental in educating Pregnant, and lactating mothers and the general public on the divergent views concerning intellectual disability to accepting one's condition and seeking solutions from the appropriate institutions like PCC and others. According to them, about 98 per cent of births in the year 2023 have been without birth defects in most of the health centres. In the coming months, the team will conduct an assessment of public education and awareness creation and the impact made on the lives of the people in their respective communities. This we believe will give us an overview of what direction to go intent of the public and awareness creation. Some of them could not hide their feelings and excitement about having their babies without any conditions and were so thankful to the outreach team.

NEW ESTABLISHED DAYCARE AT KYERADESO



DAYCARE AT KYERADESO

In January, the outreach team was asked by the board to write a letter to the Municipal Education Directorate to seek permission to start a daycare centre in Kyeradeso for children with IDD and also use a classroom belonging to the government of Ghana, temporarily. This was subsequent to an agreement reached with the head of the school to give out one classroom to PCC to be used as a daycare centre. In less than two weeks the director gave his approval for the start of the center. Subsequently, the outreach team together with the project director of PCC had a meeting with parents at Kyeradeso. At the meeting we deliberated extensively on the need to start the daycare for children with IDD in Kyeradeso. The project director said PCC as an institution will renovate the facility and provide all the necessary items needed to start the daycare. He advised parents to do well by bringing their children to the center. He further said, PCC will only bring more support if the children keep coming to the center every day in their numbers. Two weeks after the meeting, the daycare was established with a total number of five children and has been increased to seven children with six being consistent at the centre. The team will collaborate with parents and other stakeholders to reach out to many more children and ensure the existing parent support group is strengthened to form part of our major stakeholders. Parents have expressed their sincere thanks to the board of PCC and the outreach team

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

No child was supported in terms of livelihood intervention during the period under review.

CASSAVA FARM PROJECT



LAND ACQUIRED AT JERUSALEM

The recent economic downturn has brought untold hardship on many Ghanaians including children with IDD and their families. Due to this, the team wrote to the board of PCC and suggested supporting our PSHG at Jerusalem to go into cassava farming.

The team subsequently got three acres of land in Jerusalem which has been paid for and cleared to start making mounds on the land for planting the cassava. We shall give a detailed report on the progress of the project in the next quarter.

DONATIONS BY THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH



DONATION

The Seventh Day Adventist Church (Nkwanta local chapter) made a donation to the Donkro Nkwanta Daycare Centre in the month of March. The items included food items, assorted drinks, detergents, toiletries and biscuits. The gesture was part of their ministry's effort to reach out to the needy in society. The items were received by the caretaker on behalf of the outreach team.

The drinks and the biscuits have since been served to the children as snack.

CHALLENGES

The major challenge faced by the team during the first quarter was trying to acquire land to start the farming of cassava for the Parents' Support Help Group in Jerusalem. Land for farming activities is becoming increasingly scarce in the Nkoranza district due to the use of the same for cashew plantations.

WAY FORWARD

Moving forward, the team will continue to collaborate effectively with various institutions, more importantly, focusing on creating new daycare centres for children and young adults with intellectual disability.