

PEACE OF CHRIST FOUNDATION

1ST QUARTER REPORT



PHOTO COURTESY
OF TRINIDAD GARDEN

JANUARY-MARCH 2023

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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 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 gives an account of the activities undertaken by the outreach team in the period from January to March 2023. The topic areas contained in the report are:

- ✓ **Home Visit**
- ✓ **physiotherapy**
- ✓ **daycare centers**
- ✓ **antiepileptic drugs**
- ✓ **inclusive education workshop**
- ✓ **PSHG meetings**
- ✓ **School-based education and awareness**
- ✓ **Social inquiry**
- ✓ **Livelihood support**
- ✓ **way forward**

Below are some of the salient interventional highlights contained in the report:

- Cumulatively, 100 homes were visited over the reporting period
- A total of 1500 Tablets of carbamazepine were distributed to children with epilepsy
- Two PSHG meetings were held
- Four (4) new children with various physical disabilities from various communities visited our center for physiotherapy services.
- A workshop on inclusive education was successfully organized
- A social inquiry was conducted and a report issued
- There have been new developments in daycare centers. However, one of the children died.

On the way forward, the team will concentrate working in collaboration with the parents in Techiman to actualize a new daycare center by the end of the second quarter.

HOME VISITS



The outreach project is currently operational in three administrative districts within the Bono east region with approximately 100 clients. To monitor and be apprised of the progress of our clients, we embark on regular home visits.

In the first quarter of the year, we made a cumulative visit of 100 times to 40 families across the three districts in the region.

In February, the outreach team was joined by Hester Jonkheer, a physiotherapist by profession and a master's student from the university of Maastricht in the Netherlands. She is in Ghana to undertake a research study on the social inclusion of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the role of caregivers.

The outreach team visited several communities with her during the first three weeks of her arrival in Ghana. The purpose of these initial visits was for her to familiarize herself with the parents and caretakers of children with IDD and to ask for permission to conduct interviews with them.

Some of the communities visited are Siika, Boana, Asunkwa, Jerusalem, Salam, Kyeradeso, Nkwanta among others.

PHYSIOTHERAPY



II PHYSIO SESSION AT PCC

During the period under review, many parents visited PCC with their children to access physio services. The number of new clients referred from St. Theresa hospital as of the end of March stood at three (3). Also, one client from Kranka in the Nkoranza north district visited for an initial assessment by the physio team from the Holy Family Hospital.

The purpose of this intervention is to make physiotherapy service available to children in the Nkoranza south and north districts as a result of the difficulty many a parent was facing in their effort to access physio services for their children. They had challenges concerning cost and lack of proximity to physio services. The intervention has eliminated these factors and invariably made physio services accessible to children with IDD in our operational area.

During the period under review, free accommodation was offered to a parent from Dromankese and her child for one week to enable the child to undergo extra physio exercises from the PCC physio team led by Twum Michael and Thomas.

DAYCARE CENTERS



The two daycare centers in Nkoranza and Donkro Nkwanta are still operational. The children continue to attend with interest and parents are happy for the opportunity to have their children with disability taken care of during the day as

they attend to their respective businesses.

During the period under review, many people from both Ghana and outside Ghana visited the daycare centers for various reasons. Sabine Van Erp from the Netherlands was in both daycare centers to review the games and daily routine activities of the children. Also, a team of parents and the pediatrician at the Holy Family Hospital in Techiman visited to understudy the concept and to find out how it can be replicated in Techiman. Rev. Juliana Oppong of the Assemblies of God church in Techiman together with some members of Rev. Oppong's foundation was at the Nkoranza Daycare center to celebrate the birthday of



IV CUTTING OF BIRTHDAY CAKE

Mary Owen with the children. The children were very happy to dine and drink with their guest from Techiman

In the case of the daycare at Nkwanta, a fence wall is being constructed to ensure the safety of the children due to the proximity of the center to the main Nkoranza -Kumasi Road.

We, unfortunately, lost one of the children in the Nkoranza Daycare center (Lordina). We condoled the family. And we pray that her soul finds a peaceful repose with her maker.

ANTIEPILEPTIC DRUGS

The purpose of antiepileptic drug intervention by the outreach team has been to educate and encourage parents to use antiepileptic drugs to manage the conditions of their children instead of resorting to unhealthy concoctions or other religious/spiritual means. The support is also to ensure that children from poor and needy families get a regular supply of drugs to avoid them relapsing and resulting in a crisis.



V BOYAN GIVING OUT DRUGS

During the months under review, the outreach team distributed 1500 tablets of carbamazepine to children with epilepsy from poor households within the Nkoranza north and south districts. This number represents a sharp decline from the previous distributions over the same period. This is due to the global shortage of drugs that invariably affected our stock. We have therefore urged parents and caregivers to try and buy from the local pharmacies while PCC takes steps to procure some.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION WORKSHOP



VI PARTICIPANTS AT THE WORKSHOP

On the 27th of January 2023, the outreach team in partnership with the Nkoranza municipal education directorate organized a day's training workshop for thirty (30) teachers and some officers in the municipal office on the inclusive education policy and the need to use the principles of UDL in teaching.

The workshop was facilitated by Gabriel with support from the regional special education coordinator and the headmaster of Shalom special school.

The workshop commenced with a presentation on intellectual and developmental disabilities; their causes and examples.

Participants were then taken through the inclusive education policy against exclusion, segregation, and integration.

The participants were also taken through the principles of UDL and accommodation in the mainstream classroom. A practical lesson was delivered by Gabriel depicting multiple means of engagement, multiple means of representation, and multiple means of action and expression.

Participants were urged to brief other teachers in their respective schools to ensure children with disabilities and admitted, retained, and supported to benefit from the teaching and learning processes in the regular classrooms.

PSHG MEETINGS



During the period of under-reporting, the outreach team held two separate PSHG meetings for parents in Nkoranza south municipality and in Techiman south municipality.

The meeting with the parents in Nkoranza south was purposely to discuss the challenges of the daycare center and how to take steps to resolve them.

VII PARENTS AT THE MEETING IN TECHIMAN

The meeting with the parents from Techiman south however was a follow-up to the earlier visits by some of the executives to Nkoranza to apprise themselves about how the concept works and how it could be replicated in their municipality. We meet with the parents and some executives of the DPO at the center for the Physical Challenged in Techiman.

We first took the parents through some causes of IDD across the three main stages (pre-natal, peri-natal, and post-natal). We then had a Q&A session with the parents on the subject.

The team had a long deliberation with the mothers on the need for the daycare center and the steps needed to actualize the dream. We discussed the need to get rented accommodation in the interim to be used for the purpose. The executives made a firm commitment to getting a place to start the daycare center.

We also discussed the issue of transportation in the long run. However, the parents promised to bring their children to the center at their means and expense until the long-term transport issue is resolved.

The outreach team was accompanied by Hester during the deliberations.



VIII GABRIEL ADDRESSING PARENTS DURING THE MEETING

SCHOOL-BASED ADVOCACY



On 20th February 2023, the team held a school-based sensitization talk at Okatakye Agyimang Koodom basic school. This was on the occasion of the birthday of one of the Basic two learners (Abagena Benson) living with Cerebral palsy. The outreach team was invited by the parents of the child.

We used the occasion to educate the teachers and learners on the importance of inclusive education and

IX BASIC SCHOOL STUDENTS AT OKATAYE

urged the students to appreciate and accept diversity. Benson is the second child with cerebral palsy we have ensured his admission and retention in that school. We used the occasion to applaud the headmaster and his staff for their effort in ensuring that children have access to education.

The municipal officer in charge of the preschool was also present to witness the occasion.

SOCIAL INQUIRY



X THE BAWON-YELE FAMILY

The outreach team in the quarter, conducted and issued a social inquiry report on a family with three children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Child Status Index (CSI) tool was used in the conduct of this inquiry.

The three siblings; Christopher, Emmanuel, and Joel are living with cerebral palsy possibly caused by RF

incompatibility. Their disability is congenital that affected all children born to the couple except two females. The fourth male child with the same condition died a couple of years ago.

They live with their biological parents in Techiman in the Bono East region of Ghana. The parents are migrants from the north. They have no sustainable source of income and consequently depend on charity and menial jobs to fend for the family. The children have no education due largely to the severity of their condition and also the absence of special schools in the community.

The report highlighted some facts about the family and the state of affairs of the children and recommendations made for the consideration of the PCC board. The board has since responded to the recommendations and steps are being taken together with the family to find the best way of supporting them to ensure a good life for the children.

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

In early January, the outreach team conducted an assessment of all the livelihood support we have done since the outset of the intervention. The purpose was to enable management to decide the way forward concerning livelihood support. Out of a total of 28 interventions, 21 were largely successful. Seven of the interventions were unsuccessful due to many factors. We have taken useful lessons from the previously unsuccessful interventions and measures are being taken to ensure that do not reoccur.

Because of the assessment and the discussion with management, there has been a lag and therefore we have not been able to support any child in the first quarter. We have however identified some families and we will be supporting them in the ensuing quarters of the year.

WAY FORWARD

By the end of the second quarter, the team will concentrate on working in collaboration with the parents in Techiman to actualize a new daycare center.