

PEACE OF CHRIST FOUNDATION



2ND QUARTER REPORT-OUTREACH.

2023



TABLE OF CONTENT

TOPIC	PAGE
INTRODUCTION.....	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	4-5
HOME VISIT	6
ANTIPILEPTIC DRUGS	7
LIVELIHOOD.....	8
DAYCARES	9
PHYSIOTHERAPY	10
PUBLIC EDUCATION BY PSHG.....	11
CONSULTING AND COUNSELLING IN PCC.....	12
PSHG MEETINGS.....	13
SHAFIQUE ISSAHAKU	14
EVALUATION REPORT.....	15
CHALLENGES.....	16
WAY FORWARD.....	16

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 children's rights and change people's negative perceptions about persons with intellectual disabilities using multi-faceted and multi-disciplinary approaches.

The project's overall objective 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 details the activities undertaken by the outreach team in the period from April to June **Page | 4**

2022. The various strands contained in the report are:

- ✓ **Home visits**
- ✓ **Antiepileptic drug distribution**
- ✓ **Livelihood support**
- ✓ **Daycare centres**
- ✓ **Physiotherapy**
- ✓ **Public advocacy by PSHG**
- ✓ **Consulting and counselling in PCC**
- ✓ **PSHG meetings**
- ✓ **Shafique Issahaku**
- ✓ **Challenges**
- ✓ **Way forward**

The key highlights under the various strands include:

- Average of 35 families were visited per month
- 2000 tablets of antiepileptic drugs were distributed
- Two children benefited from the livelihood support scheme
- There was a ceremony for the official opening of the daycare centre at Nkwanta
- 3 new clients visited PCC for physiotherapy

- The parent's support group in Nkoranza with support from outreach had a maiden church-based education of IDD.
- Three PSHG meetings were held
- The deplorable state of the roads is posing a challenge to the team

On the way forward, the outreach team will make a frantic effort to get rented accommodation at Forikrom to start a new daycare centre.

HOME VISITS



Figure 1 Home visit at Kyeredeso

Home visits are central and core to the activities of the outreach project. The team visits children and young adults with disabilities and their families regularly to find out the state of affairs. We offer pieces of advice to families on a variety of cases about the developmental and general well-being of their wards living with IDD.

During the period under review, the team visited 35 families on average per month. We also used the visits to access the progress or otherwise of some of the livelihood interventions instituted over the years.

ANTIPILEPTIC DRUGS



Figure 2 Boyan giving drugs

In the reporting period, the outreach team distributed two thousand (2000) tablets of carbamazepine to children and young adults living with epilepsy seizures in our operational area. The antiepileptic drugs intervention which is targeted at clients from poor families, has over the years prevented many a beneficiary from relapsing into crises. Parents and caretakers have come to appreciate the efficacy of the drug and as a result, have abandoned

the hitherto practice of using herbs and other unconventional means of controlling epilepsy.

The number of medications given in the second quarter fell a little short of the quarterly average due to a temporary shortage of drugs in the global market. The team however took delivery of drugs in the month of May from the management of PCC and therefore will be able to support our clients. It is however not the intention of the team and for that matter, the management board of PCC to continue giving out drugs to the beneficiaries in perpetuity. We have therefore made parents aware of our intention to wane the children of this intervention in the future.

LIVELIHOOD



Figure 3 Fufu machine for Kelvin

The livelihood support scheme is a poverty reduction intervention introduced by the outreach team to support young adults with IDD. The scheme since its inception has benefited many children and young adults with IDD and their respective families.

In the period under review, the outreach team supported two children living with IDD. The first support in the month of May went to Emmanuel Kunadu at Forikrom.

He was given two female goats for rearing. The second beneficiary (Kelvin Gyan) was given a fufu machine. The machine was given at the instance of the mother of Kelvin. Fufu is a staple in Ghana and there is a gradual shift from the traditional use of pestle and mortar to the use of machine. It was therefore economically prudent to support the family to own the machine in a vicinity where many people patronize the service. The support to Kelvin consists of a grant component of Thousand Two Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢1200.00) and a loan component of Nine Hundred Ghana Cedis (GH¢900.00) payable in instalments over 18 months.

DAYCARES

The daycare concept is one of the very glaring manifestations of the outreach project. We are currently running two centres in the Nkoranza South district.

On 26th May 2023, there was a grand ceremony to officially commission the daycare centre at Donkro Nkwanta. The ceremony was graced by the chief and elders of the community, the chief imam, pastors of local churches and parents and opinion leaders in Donkro Nkwanta. Also present were some caretakers in

PCC and Kofi Asare music group.

The ceremony was colourful. Many speeches were made by various guests including the chief. The General Manager of PCC seized the moment to lay bare the intention behind the daycare concept and urged parents, chiefs and various opinion leaders to support and sustain the initiative.

In the light of the commissioning, the outreach team in consultation with the board and prior acceptance of parents of children with IDD's at Kyeredeso has commenced transportation arrangements to transport the children to join those at the centre in Donkro Nkwanta.

The outreach team has continually been visiting and monitoring the activities of the two daycare centres over the period. We have also visited Forikrom in the Techiman South municipality to discuss with parents and some opinion leaders to kick-start the establishment of a new daycare in the community.



Figure 4 Opening of Nkwanta DC by DR. Albert

PHYSIOTHERAPY



Figure 5 physio session at PCC

The physiotherapy intervention initiated in 2022 was aimed at supporting parents with children living with IDD to have access by eliminating the factors of cost and distance. Through the intervention, we established an arrangement with the physiotherapy team at the Holy Family Hospital at Techiman to visit our community every fortnight to attend to our clients within the Nkoranza catchment area.

During the period under review, we recorded three new clients. The old clients have recorded appreciable improvement in their respective cases and parents are happy with the level of service they have received over the period.

PUBLIC ADVOCACY BY OUR PSHG



In the period under review, our parent's support group in Nkoranza with support from the outreach team, held a public advocacy talk in the Sessiman chapter of the Church of Pentecost in Nkoranza. The topic was on causes of intellectual disability and the effects of negative public perception against children and families of children living with disabilities. Though the mothers do not have the

Page | 11

benefit of higher formal education, they have a very good appreciation and command over the topic areas. This advocacy talk was the maiden edition and we wish to continue to offer them the needed support to carry on with this advocacy drive in many public gatherings

CONSULTING AND COUNSELLING IN PCC



Figure 7 consultation session in PCC

One of the regular but mostly under-reported activities of the outreach team is the advice and counselling we offer to parents and caretakers who visit PCC for the first time to seek support or admission for their wards.

During the period of reporting, the outreach team recorded a total number of six families visiting PCC. Some of the parents were looking for an opportunity to enrol their children in a residential institution like PCC to afford them the needed time to work and fend for their families. We advised some parents to opt for inclusive education in their neighbourhoods.

PSHG MEETINGS

Parents support Help Group activities have been part of the outreach project from the outset. We mobilized parents into groups to empower them to meet regularly to discuss their children and offer emotional and psychological support for themselves. Even though the activities of the PSHGs have not been without challenges, we continue to make some modest progress.



Figure 8 PSHG meeting at Nkwanta

During the reporting period, we had three separate meetings with parents in Nkoranza and Donkro Nkwanta. The meeting centred on the daycares and how parents can support sustaining the centres. Some parents and their children also had the privilege of attending a three days games and sports festival organized by our partners (Inclusion Ghana) at Sunyani. The group from Nkoranza lifted the ultimate prize at the end of the program.

SHAFIQUE ISSAHAKU



Figure 9 Shafique Issahaku

One of the children that visited PCC with the mother for support during the period is Shafique Issahaku. He is two and half-year-old child with the syndrome of Down. The mother is a young girl in her final year in High school. The father and other family relations abdicated their responsibilities towards the child and his mother. Consequently, the mother visited PCC to request support. She was looking for a temporary opportunity to keep the child in the custody of PCC for five months until she is done with her final examination in August. After deliberations and consultations with the management of PCC, the outreach team asked the mother to look for somebody willing to care for the child for a minimal amount of money for the child's upkeep. She was able to get an old lady who agreed to care for the child and PCC through outreach has since been advancing Two Hundred Ghana Cedis per month to support her in that regard.

EVALUATION REPORT ON OUTREACH

During the review period, Hester Jonkheer a physiotherapist by profession and a master's student from the University of Maastricht in the Netherlands was in Ghana to undertake a research study on the social inclusion of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the role of caregivers. After her research work was concluded in May, she submitted an evaluation report on the outreach project. The report touched on various interventions under the outreach project as well as goal-setting planning and reporting and also the content taught at our daycare centres.

She outlined some lapses and suggested solutions to enhance the outreach project as a whole. She met with the board and the outreach team to further discuss her findings in relation to the outreach project. We are taking steps together with the board to implement some of the recommendations contained in the report. We are grateful as a team for her input and we are ready for independent views and criticisms that will ultimately contribute to making the project better.

CHALLENGES

The rains have set in and have rendered most of the village roads almost inaccessible. The little pot-holes have become gullies and causing havoc to the shock absorbers of our motorbikes. The development has invariably limited the frequency at which we visit the hard-to-reach communities.

WAY FORWARD

In the third quarter, the outreach team will make a frantic effort to get rented accommodation at Forikrom to start a new daycare centre.