

PEACE OF CHRIST FOUNDATION

**3RD QUARTER
REPORT**

**OUTREACH
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 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, 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 details the activities undertaken by the outreach team in the period from July to September 2023. The report is written under the following strands:

- ✓ **Home visits**
- ✓ **Antiepileptic drug distribution**
- ✓ **Livelihood support**
- ✓ **Daycare centres**
- ✓ **Physiotherapy**
- ✓ **Public Education**
- ✓ **Consulting and counselling in PCC**
- ✓ **PSHG workshop**
- ✓ **Assistive devices support**
- ✓ **Challenges**
- ✓ **Way forward**

The salient points/highlights contained in the report are outlined below:

- ✓ An average of 35 homes were visited
- ✓ 3600 tablets of carbamazepine were distributed
- ✓ Three children benefited from the livelihood project
- ✓ Two wheelchairs were given to persons with a physical disability
- ✓ 400 copies of flyers were printed for public education
- ✓ A workshop was organized for our PSHG

- ✓ More parents visited for advice and physiotherapy
- ✓ Two new children have been admitted into the Nkoranza daycare centre.

On the way forward, the team will step up the public advocacy and education drive by making the flyers available to many pregnant women and nursing mothers to ensure the incidence of childhood disabilities declines in the long run.

HOME VISITS



Figure 1 HOME VISIT TO JERUSALEM

The outreach team embarks on regular home visits to check on the health and general conditions of our clients every month. These visits are also used as a means of distributing antiepileptic drugs to our clients with epilepsy and as well as monitoring the progress or otherwise of the various livelihood

interventions support to young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

During the period of reporting, the outreach team visited an average of 35 families/households of children with IDD across the project's two major operational administrative districts. We offered pieces of advice to families and urged them to continue to support the children and empower them to take part in household and community activities as much as practicable. The outreach team has noted with delight improved family acceptance and participation among our clients especially those living with the additional condition of epilepsy.

ANTIEPILEPTIC DRUGS

One of the far-reaching interventions of the outreach project is the distribution of free antiepileptic drugs to children and young adults with epilepsy from poor and needy families. The intervention ensures a regular supply of drugs to our clients and therefore prevents them from getting into crises. The outreach team has



Figure 2 BOYAN GIVING OUT DRUGS

been supporting families in this regard for the past 6years.

In the period under review, we distributed a total of 3600 tablets of carbamazepine to our clients.

This means we gave out 1200 tablets per month.

The outreach team through the decision of the board of PCC will from October 2023 half the total number of tablets given per an individual. This decision is part of our exit strategy. We have communicated the decision to all our beneficiaries. We will urge them to buy the remaining half to complete the monthly dosage prescribed for each client. The outreach team has noted a remarkable improvement in the lives of the children since introducing them to antiepileptics. The conspicuous absence of bruises on their faces and other parts of their bodies lends credence to the fact that the drugs have a positive impact on their lives. We believe therefore that their parents will continue to buy the drugs for them.



Figure 3 GOATS FOR SAMSON OPOKU

LIVELIHOOD

The livelihood scheme under the outreach project was instituted primarily to support young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to engage in small-scale income-generating activities as a way of contributing to their families' income. It aims also to make the beneficiaries active and give

them a sense of pride. Since the inception of the scheme, many young adults and families have benefited. The intervention covers a variety of income-generating activities including animal husbandry and petty trading.

During the period of reporting, the team supported three persons with IDD's to go into animal keeping. The beneficiaries are:

- Samson Opoku at Prusu
- Nebeletero Kwame at Domeabra
- Kwame Issac at Nyinasi

The outreach team will monitor and issue a progress report on the interventions by the middle of 2024.

ASSISTIVE DEVICES



Persons with physical disabilities usually need assistive devices to aid them in their mobility to go through their daily activities. It is however not easy for many such individuals to acquire the devices due to the cost. Given this fact, the outreach project has assistive device support as one of the interventions aimed at giving dignity

and relative independence to persons with disabilities. We have supported many persons with wheelchairs and clutches since the beginning of the project.

The outreach team supported two persons with physical disabilities (amputees) with wheelchairs during the period under review. We also sent some devices including a standing frame to Donkro Nkwanta daycare Center as part of a physiotherapy intervention by Inge.

DAYCARES



Figure 5 ENTERTAINMENT SESSION AT DAYCARE

The outreach project continues to provide functional education and a haven for children with IDD through our daycare centres at Nkoranza and Nkwanta.

During the period under review, five children with IDD from Kyeradeso were transported to join the daycare at Nkwanta. The children were happy and the parents were

delighted at the development. However, we are unable to continue with the daily transport of the children to the centre due to the cost of transportation. We are discussing with parents about finding an empty classroom in their community to start a new daycare centre for the children.

During the period, one caretaker at the Nkoranza centre in addition to Boyan from the outreach team attended a workshop on first aid for the daycare center. The two-day workshop was organized by the Department of Social Welfare for all daycare centres within the municipality.

Two new children (Anas and Brander) have also been enrolled in the Nkoranza daycare centre during the period.

CONSULTATION IN PCC

The outreach team continue to operate a centre for advice and support at the premises of PCC. As part of our work, we attend to many parents and caretakers of children with IDD's who are seeking residential care for their children in PCC or looking for one support or the other. We offer pieces of advice to parents and caretakers of varied issues

and sometimes refer them to other institutions for support. In recent times, we have received and attended to increasing numbers due to the physiotherapy unit within PCC. We get referral cases from St. Theresa Hospital. The team also collaborate effectively with Shalom Special School to ensure that children who are qualified to be admitted to the school are referred to the school for assessment and admission



Figure 6 DR. ALBERT ASSESSING A CHILD WITH ERB'S PALSY

PHYSIOTHERAPY

The physiotherapists from Techiman (Holy Family Hospital) visit PCC every two weeks to attend to children with physiotherapy needs. They are assisted by Thomas and Twum (caretakers within PCC).

This intervention was initiated to make physiotherapy service available to children in the Nkoranza South and



Figure 7 INGE AT NKWANTA DC

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 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, many parents visited PCC with their children to access physio services. The physio centre witnessed an increase in the number of new clients referred from St. Theresa Hospital. A total number of six new clients visited the centre for physio services during the period. They received various services based on their needs. Some were referred to Techiman for further services.

In June, Inge, a physiotherapist from the Netherlands visited PCC. She attended to some of the clients who visited PCC during the period. She also visited our two daycare centres to assess some of the children with physio needs. She provided orthopaedic shoes, braces and a standing frame for some of the children.

PUBLIC EDUCATION



Figure 8 GABRIEL ARRANGING COPIES OF FLYERS

public education is one of the cardinal pillars of the outreach project. Since its inception, the team has continually been educating expectant and nursing mothers about the causes of childhood disabilities through the prenatal and postnatal health system. We have on various occasions used the face-to-face verbal approach. In some instances, we delivered our message through the use of a projector.

During the period under review, the team with prior approval of the board

of PCC has printed four hundred (400) copies of flyers to be used to educate pregnant women and nursing mothers about some of the preventable causes of childhood disabilities. We aim to reduce the incidence of childhood disabilities in the long run by making women especially aware of the consequences of certain lifestyle choices on the unborn baby or the infant.

The flyers were vetted and approved by the municipal health directorate of the Ghana Health Service in Nkoranza South. We also received the all-clear from the management of the various health facilities in the municipality.

The outreach team has planned to print and distribute a total of one thousand flyers by the end of the year.

PSHG TRAINING WORKSHOP

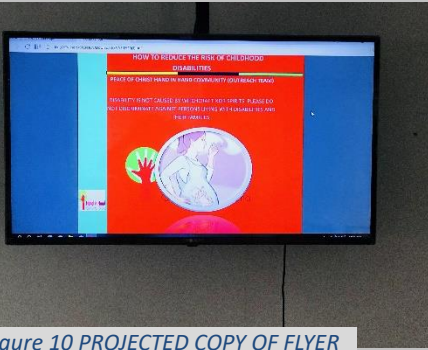


Figure 10 PROJECTED COPY OF FLYER

Following the printing of the flyers for education purposes, we organized a training session for our PSHG members to be conversant with the content of the flyer and how they can use it to educate the public in churches and other public gatherings in the future. The workshop was organized within the premises of PCC. The participants came from

Nkoranza, Nkwanta and Asunkwa where we have functioning PSHGs

The outreach team will continue to empower the members of the PSHGs to carry out public education and influence public perception and attitudes towards children with IDD's positively.

CHALLENGES

The team's major challenge during the review period was our inability to start a new daycare centre at Forikrom due to accommodation challenges.

WAY FORWARD

Going forward, the team will step up the public advocacy and education drive by making the flyers available to many pregnant women and nursing mothers to ensure the incidence of childhood disabilities declines in the long run