



**THE PEACE OF CHRIST FOUNDATION**

**FIRST QUARTER REPORT, 2025**

**OUTREACH**

**BY**

**EMMANUEL BOYAN**

## 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.** f. To advocate for the inclusion of issues concerning children with intellectual disabilities in policy decisions

## **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

This report is a detail account of the various activities undertaken by the outreach manager in the months of January, February and March 30, 2025. The activities in this report include: Home visits, PSHGs meetings and activities, distribution of antiepileptic drugs, daycare centers and public education and awareness creation.

Some key highlights in the report are itemized below:

1. About 38 families visited in various villages and towns within the Nkoranza south municipality and North district assembly.
2. Six PSHG meetings were held across all the four daycare during the reporting period
3. 3,600 tablets of carbamazepine were distributed to children with epilepsy from poor households.
4. The daycare centers coordinated and supervised.
5. Public education and awareness creation.
6. Visitation by Sofanne and Joe Emma to the daycare centers.

On the way forward, I will consult and deliberate extensively with management of PCC, parents and other duty bearers on the smooth implementation of the project in the next quarter of reporting.

## **HOME VISIT**

One very regular routine activity of the outreach work is home visits. Children with intellectual disability in various villages and towns are visited to find out their general stat of life. During the months under review I visited about 38 families of children with IDD and their parents on daily basis to interact with them and check on how they are faring especially, those with epileptic condition. I also spent time checking on the livelihood support program offered to some children and I was convinced with the level of progress made by the children with the support of parents. The children involvement in the program, sort to sustain it for other children to also benefit. I offered them free counseling in regards to their challenges. Those given wheelchair were encouraged to keep it clean and repair when broken. Parents are forever grateful to the board of PCC for all the supports offered to them and their disabled children to live a dignified life in the communities.

## PSHGs



Parent support help group forms part of the major stakeholder in discussing issues concerning their children's wellbeing and the state of the daycare centers. In the months under review I have organized four times PSHG meetings with parents to leverage on

progress made and challenges confronted.

**In Nkoranza DC** only one meeting was held with parents to discuss issues like nonpayment of okada money, children who are no more using the center and monthly supply of items for the up keep of children at the DC.

**In oforikrom DC** two meetings were held with parents and among some of the importance points discussed include; appreciation to the board of PCC for establishing a DC in forikrom and employed competent persons to take care of their children while they go about their normal work and pick them later after work. Parents were also happy that the board acted timely in resolving issues with the local chiefs which nearly close down the DC. They also promised to stand up and resist any attempt by a local chief or a member from the community who wishes to undermine the progress of the project. I took time off and advised parents to ensure their children come to the DC on the daily basis.

**In Nkwanta DC** only one meeting was held but majority of parents did not attend and so I could not organize subsequent meetings due to a general phenomenon that affect all the DCs. This is because during the farming season most parents are busy preparing their farm lands for cultivation and so spent all their time throughout the day at the farm. I hope to organize in the next quarter of reporting according to the monthly PSHG meetings.

**Kyeradeso DC** two conservative meetings were held during the period of reporting but only few parents turned out for those meetings, due to the same problem of farming activities. Some parents also travelled throughout the period under review. one good report about kyeradeso DC is that, the secretary to the group visits the center all most every time to interact with the children and the care takers. According to him parents must not meet before finding out a problem and solving it but the daily visitation affords him the opportunity to interact with children and care takers and find out what happened.



## ANTIEPILEPTIC DRUG



During the months under review about 3,600 carbamazepine antiepileptic drugs were distributed for a total of twenty (20) children. This intervention is helping poor but needy families who could not afford a monthly dosage. Parents of the beneficiaries are so thankful to the board of PCC for this laudable idea to support them with antiepileptic drugs on monthly basis and how that the drug has helped their children with epileptic seizure. Some parents recount the trauma they went through any time the seizure occurred in their children. But now the condition only comes once every month and sometimes not at all. I will continue to encourage parents to take key interest in providing the drugs whenever we are short of drugs to ensure the condition minimizes. Some children, who could not do anything previously due to the frequent seizures, are now engaged in house choice, attending, DCs, going to the market and farming activities. This show positive results in the supply of the antiepileptic drugs to beneficiaries. Some parents have shown positive commitment in paying the twenty Ghana cedis on monthly basis. I recommend to management and donors that, this intervention should be continued and extended, to support many more children.

## DAYCARE CENTERS



The daycare centers provide safe haven for children with intellectual and multiple disabilities which gives parents the opportunity to go about their normal duties of work and pick them up after work. During the period under review I supervised and visited four daycare

centers twice every week to ascertain progress and challenges confronting the centers. The four centers have performed averagely well during this period as compared to previous days when some centers were faced with countless problems. I also took steps to introduce caretakers to the families of children IDD to ensure cordial relationship is built to intensify ways of improving the daycare centers in the communities. In this case the caretakers are supposed to call and make follow up on children through their parents to find out reasons why a child is not attending the center in a day or two. This comes as result of a directive from the board to keep the project running effectively any time I, am not present to carry my full mandate as a project coordinator. I will work hard to collaborate with the caretakers for effective home visit to check on children and their family.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS CREATION



During the period of reporting, I embarked on public education and awareness drive in a number of health centers and Community Health Planning Services (CHPS) facilities in both Nkoranza south and north districts. I collaborated with six health to educate pregnant women during anti-natal, pre-natal and post natal section. I educated them on precaution measures before pregnancy, during and after birth by attending pre- natal, anti-natal and post-natal. During the period mothers were informed to

report to the nurses or doctors as soon as possible if they notice any abnormalities, in order to prevent or manage the situation. I also shared simile message with **dressmakers group** on the negative perception people have towards persons with IDD and other multiple disabilities. In view of this, I shall continue to do more engagement with other groups to educate them throughout other communities to beat down the stigmatization some families go through within their communities. During same period, a football game was organized between children with intellectual disability in the outreach DCs with normal regular school pupils. It was a great moment of seeing how children with IDD performed better and built good relationship with other children to ears the negative perception people have

toward them. Many of the people who came to witness this game were amazed at what these children could do and do better than even some normal children.

**I also visited some churches with some staff from the DCs** to deliver a talk on causes



and effects of children living with IDD and their families. I unveiled the role of the church (pastor and the congregation) in supporting these children, because Jesus Christ admonishes us to do same to these little ones as we do unto him.

Out of this, the church of Pentecost branch at kyeradeso mountain ziam church made donations items worth of millions of Ghana cedis to PCC and promised to visit kyeradeso DC and offer them support.



## **VISITATION BY DR. SOFANNE AND MR. JOE EMMA TO THE DCs**



Dr. Sofanne, is a member of the Dutch Foundation and a board member of PCC. During her stay in PCC and discharging her official duties, I was privileged to join her and the Director of PCC Mr. Emmanuel Dassebre Amponsah to visit some daycare centers in communities around. During the visit, She interacted with the children and caretakers and sort to find out how that there are low numbers recorded in some daycare centers

especially, Nkwanta DC. She also used the opportunity and encouraged prosperla and Debora to put up their best in ensuring a quick responses and visiting children who failed to come to the center a day or two. Dr. Sofanane had a discussion with the former assemblyman and thanked him for all the support he rendered to the children at the center and encouraged him to continue to support. The assemblyman expressed his gratitude to the entire board of PCC and also pledged his support for the center.

## **WAY FORWARD**

On the way forward, I will consult and deliberate extensively with management of PCC, parents and other duty bearers on the smooth implementation of the project in the next quarter of reporting.