CABRINI MINISTRIES
ST. PHILIP'S MISSION
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EXPANSION AND CONTINUITY OF SERVICES TO FOSTER INCLUSION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITY ST. PHILIP'S MISSION - ESWATINI

INTERIM REPORT - AUGUST 2025 - JULY 2026

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HOLY SPIRIT REGION
MISSIONARY SISTERS OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Background

The grant was awarded for the continuation and expansion of our specifically to scale up our New Abilities Program for children living with disabilities aged 0–17 years. The program aims to provide holistic, child-centered care and therapy services within a community-based framework.

During the period covering August 2025 to July 2026, the New Abilities Centre provided comprehensive rehabilitation, psychosocial support, referral services, and community outreach to children living with different abilities and their caregivers. Program implementation focused on improving children's functional abilities, strengthening caregiver capacity, facilitating access to specialized services, and promoting disability awareness and inclusion within communities.

Major achievements

Continuous Occupational Therapy

A cumulative total of 83 children attended the New Abilities Centre during the reporting period, demonstrating sustained demand for rehabilitation services and continued access to specialized care for children with disabilities. To support individualized rehabilitation programs, a cumulative 477 occupational therapy sessions were delivered, enabling children to improve their mobility, communication, self-care skills, and overall independence.

Caregiver participation remained an important component of the rehabilitation process as a result throughout the reporting

period, 64 caregivers were engaged in home-based care plans, equipping families with practical skills to continue therapy interventions within the home environment and promote better developmental outcomes for their children.

Referral to other services

The Centre continued to strengthen referral pathways for children requiring specialized medical services. During the reporting period, 42 children were referred to medical facilities for specialist assessment and treatment, ensuring timely access to services beyond the Centre's scope of care.

Furthermore, to improve children's functional independence and participation in daily activities, 36 assistive devices and aids were provided. In addition, 39 children received medical and nutritional support to address critical health needs and improve their overall well-being.

Caregivers' Psychosocial Support

Recognizing the vital role caregivers play in the rehabilitation journey, the program provided psychological and emotional support to 58 parents and caregivers. These services helped strengthen caregiver resilience, improve coping mechanisms, and promote positive family environments for children with disabilities.

A total of 7 motivational meetings were conducted during the reporting period, bringing together 222 parents and caregivers to share experiences, receive psychosocial support, and learn practical strategies for caring for children with disabilities. These forums also strengthened peer support networks and encouraged active caregiver participation in rehabilitation.

To reinforce services at household level, 20 outreach family monitoring visits were conducted. These visits enabled program staff to assess children's progress, provide follow-up guidance, identify emerging needs, and strengthen family-centered care.

Community Engagement

Community engagement remained a key strategy for promoting disability awareness and fostering inclusive environments. During the reporting period, 13 meetings were conducted across 13 schools, reaching 7,944 participants, including learners, teachers, school management, and community stakeholders. These sessions promoted disability inclusion, challenged stigma, and increased awareness of the rights and potential of children with disabilities.

Health promotion activities were also implemented within communities through 24 health education sessions, reaching 20 communities and engaging 992 community members. These sessions focused on disability awareness, early identification of developmental challenges, health-seeking behavior, and the availability of rehabilitation services.

Health facilities continued to serve as important platforms for community sensitization. A total of 41 health education sessions were conducted at health facilities, reaching 4,663 participants. These sessions contributed to increased awareness among caregivers and community members on disability prevention, early intervention, referral pathways, and available support services.

Challenges

Limited Financial Resources for Specialized Care

Some children required specialized medical investigations, consultations, surgical interventions, and assistive devices that exceeded the available program budget.

Although referrals were made and support was provided where possible, several families faced financial constraints that delayed access to the recommended specialized services.

The growing demand for comprehensive disability services continues to outpace the available resources.

Transportation and Accessibility Barriers

Many beneficiaries live in remote rural communities and experience difficulties accessing the New Abilities Centre due to transport costs and long travelling distances.

As a result, some children were unable to attend therapy sessions consistently, which affected continuity of care and progress toward their rehabilitation goals.

Outreach visits helped mitigate this challenge; however, transportation remains a significant barrier for many families.

Limited Frequency of Therapy Sessions

The New Abilities Centre relies on visiting Occupational and Speech Therapists who are available only twice per month. As a result, many children are unable to receive therapy as frequently as clinically recommended.

While each therapy session is tailored to the child's individual needs and caregivers are provided with home-based intervention plans to continue therapy between visits,

the limited availability of therapists can slow the pace of progress for children requiring more intensive rehabilitation. Increasing the frequency of specialist therapy services would allow for more consistent follow-up, earlier achievement of developmental milestones, and improved functional outcomes for the children enrolled in the program.

Our impact

Activity	Indicators	Achievement R1	Achievement R2	Total
Continuous occupational therapy:	Nr. Of children attending New Abilities Centre	54	83	137
	Nr. Of therapy sessions delivered	90	477	567
	Nr. Of caregivers engaged in home based care plans	54	64	118
Referral to other services:	Nr. Of children referred to other medical facilities for specialistic care	10	42	52
	Nr. Of aids delivered	13	36	49
	Nr. Of children receiving additional medical/nutritional suppport	16	39	55
Caregivers' psychosocial support:	Nr. Of parents/caregivers receiving psychological and emotional support	13	58	71
	Nr. Of motivational meeting conducted	3	7	10
	Nr. Of parents/caregivers attending motivational meetings	63	222	285
	Nr. Of outreach family monitoring visits conducted	5	20	25
Community engagement:	Nr. Of meetings held in schools	4	13	17
	Nr. Of schools reached	4	13	17
	Nr. Of participants to school meetings	2103	7944	10047
	Nr. Of health education sessions conducted in the communities	8	24	32
	Nr. Of communities reached	10	20	30
	Nr. Of participants to community sessions	258	992	1250
	Nr. Of health education sessions conducted at the facility	10	41	51
	Nr. Of participants to sessions at the facility	287	4663	4950

Success story

Lucas Gambule's Journey Towards Independence

Background

Lucas Gambule is a two-year-old infant who was referred to the New Abilities Centre after his caregiver became concerned about delays in his developmental milestones. During the initial assessment, Lucas presented with delayed developmental skills that affected his mobility and participation in age-appropriate activities.

Following a comprehensive assessment by the multidisciplinary team, Lucas was enrolled in the rehabilitation program and received occupational therapy services tailored to his developmental needs. His caregiver was actively involved throughout the intervention process and was trained in home-based exercises to reinforce therapy activities outside the Centre.

Our intervention

Lucas attended therapy sessions consistently, with his caregiver ensuring that all scheduled appointments were kept. The caregiver also diligently carried out the prescribed home exercise program, which played a critical role in supporting Lucas's development between therapy sessions.

The combined approach of regular occupational therapy, caregiver commitment, and consistent follow-up created an enabling environment for Lucas to achieve meaningful developmental progress.

Results

As a result of the intervention, Lucas has demonstrated remarkable improvement in his developmental abilities. He is now able to walk independently and confidently participates in play activities with other children, reflecting significant gains in his mobility, social interaction, and overall confidence.

Lucas's progress highlights the importance of early intervention, consistent therapy, and active caregiver involvement in improving developmental outcomes for children with disabilities.

His journey serves as a testament to the positive impact of family-centred rehabilitation services in enabling children to reach their full potential.

Financial statement

ID	Item	Total Budget	Spent R1	Spent R2	Balance
A1	Occupational therapist	SZL 136,080.00	SZL 34,020.00	SZL 102,060.00	SZL -
A2	Social Worker	SZL 38,755.92	SZL 11,867.13	SZL 35,784.06	-SZL 8,895.27
A3	Incontinence supplies	SZL 5,857.07	SZL -	SZL 7,181.33	-SZL 1,324.26
A4	Soft snacks	SZL 18,840.00	SZL 2,227.08	SZL 17,062.90	-SZL 449.98
A5	Specialist Care Support	SZL 25,000.00	SZL -	SZL 24,806.89	SZL 193.11
A6	Caregivers Meeting	SZL 20,000.00	SZL 2,700.00	SZL 17,182.60	SZL 117.40
A7	Psychologist	SZL 16,000.00	SZL -	SZL -	SZL 16,000.00
A8	End of year workshop	SZL 3,144.08	SZL -	SZL -	SZL 3,144.08
A9	Hydro Therapy	SZL 6,300.00	SZL -	SZL -	SZL 6,300.00
A10	Speech Therapy	SZL 57,720.00	SZL -	SZL 52,800.00	SZL 4,920.00
A11	Home Visits	SZL 4,302.93	SZL -	SZL 6,050.00	-SZL 1,747.07
A12	Transport	SZL 30,000.00	SZL 4,455.00	SZL 27,017.07	-SZL 1,472.07
Total		SZL 362,000.00	SZL 55,269.21	SZL 62,970.96	SZL 16,785.94

Unfortunately due to a technical problem at the premises of the partner responsible for providing hydrotherapy and psychological support, some of the funds could not be utilized.

Since the problem has now been fixed, the balance of SZL 16,785.94 will be used to cover the related therapy costs in the upcoming two months.



Occupational Therapist teaching and guiding guardians living with children with different abilities on medical care insight and health therapy , guiding them on physical therapy to improves physical mobility and function, learning disability therapy



Occupational Therapist teaching and mentoring guardians living with children with different abilities