

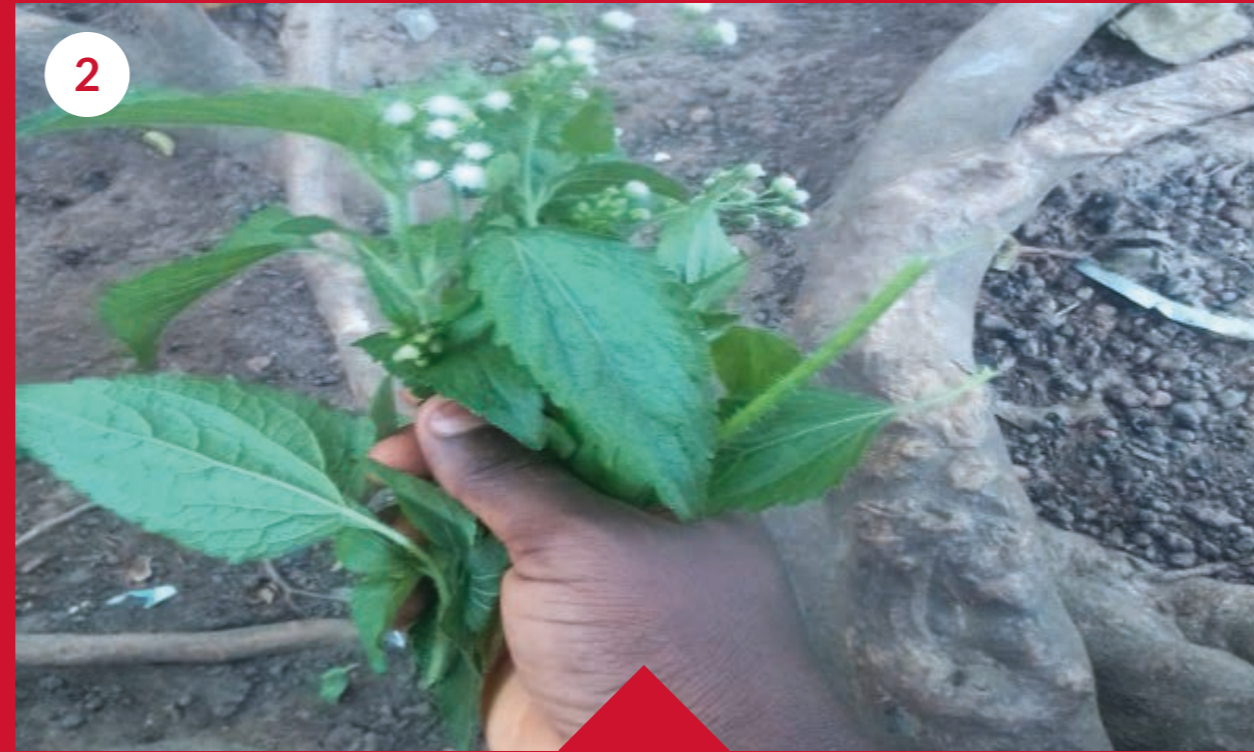


Person Affected Journey: Deontee P Dennis

My name I'm 19 years old. I live New Zwedru comis Deontee P Dennis munity. I am a student in eighth grade with a single mother no father. My foot problem started since 2021. I am a member of the peer support group where we go to share ideas and get experience from others story on how to take care of our conditions and invite others to join us. I was also part of the photo taking, those pictures were used to explain my situation from the beginning to present.

Physical and psychosocial impact

This slipper represents the distance between me and the community. Everybody rejected me, only my mother and little sister use to come around me. I was abandoned by my family and friends when the sickness started. The time the foot started, I used to sit down alone, be thinking, if the foot, I will get medicine for it, for it to heal.



Seeking care from traditional healer

This shows the traditional medicine that I was using when my foot started to get well. This photo, the time it started from Zwedru here, they say that interior thing, that how we were in the interior, and we started using country medicine. Yeah, after some time doing the country medicine, the foot don't want to get better, that it we go to the hospital.



Seeking care at the health facility

Later we met a man working on the program in the hospital. He said but your foot is getting rotten, you need to come to me to the hospital. This is the hospital he referred me to and I went there, they did my test and admitted me.



Receiving care at health facility

This is the hospital medicine that I'm using now that making me to feel better or well. I took the photo because after the doctor finished talking with us, after some of the treatment they were using for me to get better. I want to give other patients a message that the hospital medicine heals me than the traditional medicine.

Experiences of stigma and support



The time when my family and friends started coming around me. Yes, the time the foot started, after were fighting for me to get healed. So, after that time, nobody used to come around me but later on, the foot started getting better. People can come around me now. I can go among groups because the time the foot used to leak, I was not able to walk, whose motor bike I will sit down? But now, the foot stopped, I can be among people and be in groups. I can even go to church, take some part in the community, even joke eat together. People coming here around me. I want to tell other patients that when the condition starts, some people can not come around you, but with time, some will start coming around.



Reconnection with family and friends

When I left the hospital, I started to reconnect with my friends and family.



Improved wellbeing

This is me doing good and feeling well.



Increased participation in community

This is me going to church and participating in the church activities.



Role as a peer advocate in support groups

Deontee photographed at the REDRESS Mid-term Review meeting, at a workshop for peer advocates leading support groups.



Improved physical wellbeing

This photo shows that I can now stand by myself because, I never used to stand on my feet. The message I want to give them, let they forget about tradition thing and go to the hospital and keep their faith they will get their healing.