

**INTERNATIONAL COCOA INITIATIVE, GHANA IN COLLABORATION WITH THE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
ENROLLED YOUNG PERSONS INTO AN APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM**

The International Cocoa Initiative (ICI) GHANA in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development in the Adansi Asokwa District Assembly enrolled five (5) young persons in apprenticeship programs in the Adansi Asokwa District on 20th April 2023. The beneficiaries were one (1) male and four (4) females. This important program focused on cocoa farmers and the welfare of their families. The objectives of the enrolment exercise are to minimize unemployment in cocoa communities and also to provide alternative support to the children of cocoa farmers who were not able to continue their basic education.

The beneficiaries were from four different communities namely; New Akrofuom, Kojo Nkwanta, Akromaso, and Ayokoa. The four beneficiaries would be enrolled in dressmaking and one beneficiary in glasswork. The International Cocoa Initiative Ghana would support the beneficiaries with all expenses and fees in their training and grant allowances for their training. The Department of Social Welfare and Community Development would be monitoring the apprentices to ensure their involvement in the apprenticeship program and address any forms of abuse and challenges affecting their training program.



Figure 1 Engagement exercise with one of the beneficiaries at her place of work

This has increased the number of beneficiaries supported by the International Cocoa Initiative Ghana in Adansi Asokwa from twelve (12) to seventeen (17) from 2018 to 2023.

Parents of the beneficiaries expressed gratitude to International Cocoa Initiative Ghana and the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development for supporting their wards to be enrolled in an apprenticeship program.



Figure 2 Engagement with families of one of the beneficiaries at the place of training