

REPORT ON MONITORING OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDS) IN ASSIN SOUTH DISTRICT, 2026

INTRODUCTION

The Section 2 of the District Assemblies Common Fund Act 1993 (Act 455) is to ensure that, a percentage of total quarterly revenues of Ghana collected is released to the MMDAs for local level development. Out of this, a percentage is allocated for the improvement and empowerment of the socio-economic development of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) various MMDAs. The disbursement and management of the District Assembly Common Fund for PWDs has been entrusted to be regulated in accordance with the old and revised guidelines by the Disability Fund Management Committees (DFMCs) at various MMDAs.

The aim of the District Assembly Common Fund (DACF) for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) is to minimize poverty among all PWDs through sustainable decent work and also for the enhancement of their social image through dignified labour. To achieve this, several objectives has been put together including; supporting PWDs with income generating activities as a means of achieving economic empowerment, Providing educational support for PWDs including schoolchildren, students, and vocational students as well as apprenticeship trainees, Build the capacity of PWDs and PWDs organizations in the districts to enable them advocate and assert their rights and undertake awareness-raising and sensitization on disability issues, Support PWDs to have access to technical aids and other assistive devices and equipment, Support caregivers/parents of children with disabilities who require more than 15 hours of care giving per day for their children.

In relation to fulfilling the aforementioned aims and objectives, the Section six of the revised guidelines (2022) for the disbursement and management of the funds to PWDs obligate monitoring and evaluation of the utilization of the fund at the National level (NCPD, MLGRD, MESW, DACF secretariat and GFD) and the Local level (NCPD, GFD committee, District Assembly and Department of social welfare).

In view of this, the DFMC during their meeting in December, 2023 agreed to embark on monitoring of PWDs who have receive various supports and also use the opportunity to create a new album for the District. The current album was put together in 2019 which is now blotted with deceased PWDs and the exclusion of others. The monitoring and registration exercise was to be a collaboration of the department of social welfare and some PWD association members on the DFMC.

This report therefore is to outline the result and analyzing the findings and observations from the monitoring of PWDs emanating from the 42 communities visited within the 5 - days stipulated period in the Assin South District.

PURPOSE OF THE MONITORING EXERCISE

The purpose of the monitoring of PWDs in the District was to evaluate the impact and the usefulness of the support provided to beneficiaries taking into consideration the status of beneficiaries of the fund in the period of the monitoring whose socio-economic development is expected to have been improved. The team used 5 working days to conduct the exercise which took place between 13th – 17th of July, 2026.

OUTCOME FROM THE MONITORING EXERCISE

During the monitoring exercise, various avenues were utilized to make the work easier and also to be able to reach the targeted communities per day.

Some honorable Assembly members and community focal persons assisted the teams in locating the beneficiaries.

The Day one of the exercise saw the teams visiting communities such as; Akweteykrom No.2, Ongwa, Adiembra, Abodweseso, Bepokokoo, Adubiase, Kwaata and Assin Nkwanta. As communities in the District are farming communities, most of its inhabitant are mostly farmers which has driven some into living in cocoa farms (Hamlet), as such locating some PWDs were much difficult than expected.

Day two of the exercise took officers to communities such as; Nsuaem, Kyekyewere, Manso, Ampenkrow, Darmang, Ngresi, Nkran, and Assin Kyinaso. The exercise for the

day went well with little or no issues. The organization for the day was very much appreciated by the team to some community focal persons assisting with specific location of beneficiaries. The team recorded most of targeted beneficiaries during the Day two of the monitoring exercise. Most of the communities visited in the day two have benefitted the most in the period for the monitoring exercise.

Day three (3) of the exercise saw the team going through Ayaase, Bankyease, Domeabra, Achiase, Jakai, Homaho, Seidukrom and Assin Dosi. On a major farming day, some beneficiaries were hard to reach as most of them had gone to farm or their able beneficiaries were out of the house making conversations with some a difficult one.

Day four (4) of the exercise saw officers go to the following communities; Akrofuom, Tebil, Andoe, Otabilkrom, Odumasi, Nyankumasi, Akweteytkrom, and Asratoase. The Monitoring exercise on the day was successful as the teams were able to meet almost all the targeted beneficiaries schedule for the day.

Day five (5) and the final day of the exercise saw the team visiting Sibinso, Besease, Framase, Amoabeng, Homaho, Anyinabrim, Kruwa, and Assin Bosomadwe. As most of the community members are farmers, the day's exercise was not entirely successful as most members had gone to farm when the team got there. The challenge was also as a result of delay due to the rains on the day. The team encouraged PWDs who approached to follow-up to come to the office to register and apply for assistance after the exercise to enable them to receive the necessary support. Some of the community members in the areas visited were delighted to have officers from the District Assembly coming into their community which some said it new to them.

RESULT AND ANALYSIS OF THE MONITORING EXERCISE

START UP CAPITAL: A total of thirty-six (36) people supported with startup capital were monitored. Out of this, twenty-one (21) have invested in various businesses which

they revealed the businesses are progressing well. Five (5) beneficiaries shown that their businesses were not progressing well and one of the beneficiaries said she has not started her business yet because the funds could not resolve the extra cost incurred. All these thirty-six (36) beneficiaries stated that they will need additional support to improve their various businesses to make it better which will intend improve their living conditions.

VEGETABLE GRINDING MACHINE: Two PWDs who have been supported with vegetable grinding machines through the monitoring exercise revealed that the machine is fully functional after one of them requesting for a new engine as the first one was faulty. She stated that, the business is progressing but her major problem is market for her machine as no much businesses are in the area.

PLASTIC CHAIRS: The monitoring exercise revealed that, one of the beneficiary who requested for funds to start plastic chair rental has been successful in that ventures. The monitoring revealed that, the plastic chairs rental business might be a good business opportunity in the District for PWDs.

COCOA SPRAYING MACHINE: The District is known for its production status in the cocoa business and some PWDs who are mostly physically challenged are not left out. Eighteen PWDs through the monitoring exercise were interviewed to have been supported with cocoa spraying machine. Out of the total number, 10 reported that, the machine developed fault in the first three months of use and repaired it. Most of the PWDs stated that they made some level of profit before the machine started to give them problems. The monitoring exercise revealed that, the cocoa spraying machines do not last long with the PWDs which might be due to several reasons. The beneficiaries revealed that, the brand of machine is not common in the District as well as the parts to repair which makes it difficult to get parts to fix when the machine develops fault.

MANUAL BLOCK MACHINE: The team had the opportunity to interview the PWD who benefited from the DACF for PWDs who was supported with manual block machine. The beneficiary disclosed to the team that the machine is functioning well but it took him

some time to get funds to secure a trip of sand to start molding on his own. He disclosed that, the machine has helped him a lot and has started making some profit. The process revealed that, PWDs who receive such support should be given some amount as start-up capital in order for them to start the business right away.

SHOE MAKING MACHINE: The monitoring exercise made it bare that, beneficiaries of shoe making machine are utilizing the item very well but admonished that, the Assembly should support them with additional funds to buy the other materials such as leather when the machine is provided to them.

WHEEL CHAIR/TRICYCLE: Four beneficiaries were monitored in this category. Three of them stated that their wheelchairs are in good conditions but need supports in income generating items to better their living conditions. One other beneficiary requested that, she should be supported with a tricycle instead to aid her movement as most time she does not get people to assist her. The exercise revealed that, some of the wheel chairs had smaller back tyre which compels them to have someone to assist them before they can move.

FUFU POUNDING MACHINE: The team was able to interview ten (10) PWDs supported with Fufu machine. Out of the ten (10) interviewed, five of the machines are fully functioning and making some level of profit according to the beneficiaries. Two of the beneficiary's machine is not functioning who said it's because of some little fault which he is looking forward to repairing it. On the other hand, the other beneficiaries have not started utilizing the machine because she received the machine barely two months ago and has not got the starting capital to set it up. The monitoring exercise revealed that, the Fufu machine has been beneficial to PWDs who received it.

FRIDGE/CHEST FREEZER: The team was able to interview Twenty-seven (27) beneficiaries who have been supported with chest freezers. A significant proportion of them are not utilizing the product due to electricity bills which they confirmed are not able to pay the bills with the first few months. Few were able to disclose to the team of their challenge to stock the freezers because no additional start-up capital was given

to them to start their proposed businesses. The exercise revealed that, out of the twenty-seven beneficiaries, about 12 of the freezers are not in use which shows that, the item the beneficiaries requested has not been beneficial to them. They opted for other business support instead.

FINDINGS FROM THE MONITORING EXERCISE

The monitoring exercise revealed that;

- That, the Cassava processing machine has been profitable to beneficiary because the Gari business is of high demand in the district.
- That, a significant number of those who received start-up capital have utilized the businesses to gain some profit with some by the PWDs themselves and others by their able caregivers.
- That, the plastic bowl business is a good business opportunity in the District for PWDs.
- That, the brand of Cocoa spraying machine bought is not common in the District as well as the parts to repair which makes it difficult to get parts to fix when the machine develops fault.
- That, some beneficiaries failed to properly repair or maintain the machines provided to them which later get spoiled beyond repair.
- That, beneficiaries of shoe making machines should be given additional funds to purchase the other items such as leather to start their businesses.
- That, some of the recently purchased wheel chairs had smaller back tyres which compels them to have someone to assist the PWDs before they can move.
- That, the Fufu machines provided has been beneficial to PWDs who received it.
- That, most of the beneficiaries who were supported with provisions have made progress to maintain the businesses and made some level of profit.
- That, out of the twenty-seven beneficiaries interviewed, about 12 of the freezers are not in use which shows that, the item the beneficiaries requested has not been beneficial to them.

KEY CHALLENGES

The key challenges to registration and monitoring exercise was the number of days used which was not enough to cover a significant number of communities in the district. Other major challenges were related the bad road network to communities which made the exercise uneasy. Also difficulty in communicating with PWDs who were said to be mentally challenged as most of them did not come to the registration center with their caregivers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It was recommended that,

- the number of days for the exercise be increased or have one of either registration or monitoring exercise at a time.
- the association leaders; Ghana Society for physically Disabled (GSPD), Ghana Blind Union (GBU), Ghana National Association of Deaf (GNAD) who happen to be dominant in the District should be focus on strengthening and being more organized to ease in such processes.
- The Assembly together with DFMC should investigate the reported beneficiaries who have sold their items to recover the said items.
- The DFMC should take a second look at beneficiaries who request for Chest freezers as most of them are not utilizing the item
- The DFMC should focus on empowering PWDs who are capable through livelihood skills and financial literacy trainings to build their capacity to be able to manage their own items and businesses.
- The Assembly together with the DFMC should label the item purchased for PWDs as **"NOT FOR SALE"** to serve as deterrent for individuals from buying from vulnerable PWDs and also make it easy to identify.
- The DFMC and the Associations should encourage and educate PWDs to request for items that are beneficial and relating to the major business avenues in the District such as GARI and PALM oil activities.

CONCLSION

The monitoring exercise was successful with the few challenges stated which should be avoided in future activities. The team expressed their delight and gratitude to the honorable Assembly members and leaders of the various communities including community focal persons and CCPCs as well as CICs who effortlessly assisted the process. Registration is still ongoing at the Department of Social Welfare office for PWDs who missed out when the team visited their communities and also communities that were not part of the routine.

ANNEX: PICTURES FROM THE MONITORING AND REGISTRATION EXERCISE



