

September 2009 case study: Integrated Child and Family Support (ICFS) Mattru

Hannah – Trained Tailor

Hannah is a beneficiary of the ICFS Project in the rural location of Mattru and was enrolled in the project in 2007 at the age of 15. Following the death of her parents, Hannah was fostered by her blind uncle and, as the oldest, she became the breadwinner, selling firewood to feed the family of six. The family was referred to the ICFS project by the local management committee, which is a collective of representatives from the community, local and chiefdom authorities.

Considering her age at the time of enrolment, Hannah opted for training in tailoring and in August 2007 she was admitted as a trainee at the SLOIC Training Centre in Tihun in the Sogbini Chiefdom. During her training, Hannah continued to help support her family by selling firewood and charcoal within her community. In June 2009, Hannah completed her training in tailoring. After her graduation she was provided with a standing sewing machine, two rolls of poplin materials, some assorted sewing threads and other tailoring equipment such as scissors and a tape measure. The tools were formally handed over at a ceremony attended by community elders, project staff and friends and family of those who were graduating.

Returning to her village, Hannah set up her tailoring business from of the family home. During her first month of business, Hannah had 15 commissions. She has plans to grow her business and she has decided she will continue to sell firewood and charcoal to supplement her family's income. She says her biggest plan is to save enough money to enable her uncle to have treatment at the hospital in the coming year.