

IFESH CONTRIBUTION TO CHILD LABOR ELIMINATION

By FANNY Saraho

Introduction

IFESH in Cote d'Ivoire since 2005, subsequent to a Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Ministry of Education.

Its activities started in September 2005 with the arrival of a first wave of two volunteers.

The period 2006 – 2007 is the second year of the project pilot phase.

Field of Intervention = Education, both Formal and Non Formal sectors.

- Training of trainers: pre-service and in-service teaching delivery
- Improvement of curricula
- Adult Literacy
- Child labor prevention and HIV/AIDS sensitization
- Poverty alleviation
- Monitoring and Evaluation

Target populations:

- Teachers in Teacher Training Colleges (TTCs)
- Pilot phase in Alepe, Aboisso and Yamoussoukro areas
- Illiterate youth, adults and children in cocoa growing communities

Approach/Strategy

IFESH contributes to child labor elimination through the:

- The training of trainers, teachers
- Sensitization of parents on child labor (have them identify the difference between a socializing task and a non-socializing task, and make them cancel the non-socializing tasks).
- Sensitization of parents on the importance of basic education for all and the potential welfare an educated child is likely to bring to his parents especially educated females.
- The importance of reproductive health at the family level, the community and its impact on the whole nation through the sensitization on HIV/AIDS to which female children sent to cities to work as housekeepers are exposed to.
- Creation of committees for the prevention of child labor
- Support to Community development initiatives.
- Small projects funding of income generating activities to empower women

Achievements

Since its arrival in Cote d'Ivoire, IFESH has obtained the following results.

(12 communities per area, 36 in all)

- Elaboration of a functional literacy manual intended for the cocoa farmers in which the theme of child labor is treated
- Pre-service teaching delivery to 36 literacy tutors
- 36 committees are being installed for the prevention of child labor.
- Literacy classes being delivered since December 2006 to 1080 cocoa community beneficiaries (farmers and/or members of their families in Aboisso, Alepe and Yamoussoukro, the 3 areas selected for the pilot phase of the project)
- The same target population being sensitized on child labor, HIV/AIDS and the importance of basic education for all.
- Contribution to the reparation of a cassava mill in Andou M'Batto (Alepe) as a support to community development initiative
- Elaboration of a proposal for the construction of an integrated learning center in Andou M'Batto