



*Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
Union-Discipline-Work*

Office of the Prime Minister

*Child Labour Monitoring System as
part of the certification of cocoa
production processes*

Steering committee

Summary of the report

Contact:

Mme Acquah Assouan
+ 225 20 20 29 41/42/43/44

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL SURVEY ON CHILD LABOUR IN COCOA PRODUCTION

CONTEXT

Over the last ten years the unacceptable employment of children has become a growing concern, both in countries that produce and consume cocoa and within international organisations.

Côte d'Ivoire is the world's leading producer of cocoa, a crop that is crucial to the national economy and which gives Côte d'Ivoire a prominent position in the international market. As a result of this situation, Côte d'Ivoire is particularly vulnerable to strategic issues inherent to the sustainability of the cocoa economy.

The issue of the worst forms of child employment in cocoa production led to the signing of the Harkin-Engel Protocol in 2001. According to the terms of this protocol, with a revised milestone established in July 2005, a certification process must be implemented in regions that account for 50% of cocoa production in Côte d'Ivoire by 1 July 2008. Certification is a cycle of ongoing improvements in living and working conditions in cocoa production that consists of four stages:

- The pilot survey;
- The publication of the survey report;
- The implementation of actions for social protection (in response to the findings of the survey);
- Independent verification.

Cocoa production is a key sector to Cote d'Ivoire, a country that is the main source of raw materials used in the chocolate industry. For this reason, the Ivorian government is heavily committed to providing a multifaceted, long-term response to the issue of child labour in cocoa production. In addition to institutional, legal and penal responses, mention should also be made of operational responses in the form of action on the ground, be it in terms of prevention, remediation or an integrated approach.

Thus, as integrated action, social responsibility in cocoa production is the main area of interest in the Child Labour Monitoring System (CLMS) pilot project, which was designed and has been implemented in 22 departments since 2004. Two pilot projects were executed in the first stage of the implementation of the Harkin-Engel Protocol:

1. An initial pilot project was implemented in the department of Oumé (Centre – West) in 2004-2005 to test the technical and social feasibility of a CLMS on the ground.
2. Drawing on the technical lessons learnt from this pilot project, the new pilot survey methodology was tested in three cocoa-producing departments: Agnibilékro (Centre East), Tiassalé (Centre South) and Soubré (South West). In these three regions, the pilot survey involved 120 households in six villages. 120 heads of households, 184 children (aged 5 to 17) and 76 adults involved in cocoa production were surveyed. The survey was conducted from 25 April to 30 July 2007.
3. The recommendations contained in the new report were used to prepare the practical guide for the implementation of the 2007-2008 national survey.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SURVEY

The general objective was to prepare a description of the state of affairs in terms of working and living conditions in cocoa production, and to identify needs in terms of remediation. In terms of specific objectives, the aims of this new study were to:

- Present and comment on the descriptive statistics on each target of the survey.
- Perform a statistical and socio-economic analysis of data collected, in order to improve the understanding of observations.
- Establish the determining factors behind the involvement of children in dangerous work.
- Prepare a list of needs for remediation action.

METHODOLOGY

ANADER (Agence Nationale d'Appui au Développement Rural), whose main activity is to provide assistance to farmers and agricultural development, conducted the survey and collected the data. The field survey was conducted in 36 villages in 18 departments by ANADER from December 2007 to February 2008.

Four types of survey representing the four target groups were administered by ANADER using supports for the collection of data consisting of the following components:

- A village questionnaire (QA) that can be used to prepare a monograph of the locality (n= 36);
- A questionnaire for the head of household employed in cocoa production (QB), describing their socio-demographic characteristics, the composition of their household and their living and working conditions (n= 723);
- A children's questionnaire, for children who work for the head of household (QC), describing their socio-demographic characteristics and living and working conditions (n= 1.313);
- A questionnaire for adult workers (QD), for adults who work in cocoa production for the head of household and who are in no way related to them. The questionnaire describes their socio-demographic characteristics, as well as their living and working conditions. (n= 232).

MAIN FINDINGS

Cocoa is mainly produced in isolated villages in rural environments, and have little socioeconomic infrastructure

Cocoa production is the main economic activity in three-quarters (78%) of the villages surveyed. However, the absence of required infrastructure and organisations creates an unsafe environment and low standard of living for families and children involved in cocoa production. A few important results:

- Three-quarters (72%) of villages do not have a health centre;
- On average, police/gendarmerie stations are more than 22 km away;
- Most villages are outside communal areas, whether due to distance or inaccessibility during certain times of the year;
- Around half (48%) do not have a local market; one-third (33%) only have a weekly market;
- 53% of villages have no electricity. Just 15% of households have electricity;
- There is limited access to potable water; only 40% of villages have access. 8% have no source of potable water;
- Access to education is limited: 9% of villages do not have a primary school, with the nearest school an average distance of 3 km away. No village has a secondary school, with the nearest located at least 10 km away.

Cocoa production in Cote d'Ivoire is primarily a family-run business based on small farms that support large families.

Most of the farmers surveyed own small plantations (94%), with the average size of plots varying from one to three hectares. Labour essentially comes from within the family, confirming trends seen in national agriculture surveys conducted in 1974 and 2001. The average number of children per household is six; however, 35% of households have between 6 and 10 children. In these family businesses, children usually play a role.

Children who work on cocoa farms mainly live with their parents, in a stable family environment with regular meals.

These children live with their father (76%) or mother (72%) in the family home. Most of the children surveyed have always lived at home (83%), either with one or both parents. School and family reasons were cited as reasons for children living away from the family home.

Almost all children surveyed were satisfied with their diet (97%), with 86% saying that they regularly received three meals a day.

The involvement of children in work in the field is not limited to cocoa production.

Although cocoa production provides employment to most children, subsistence farming and domestic employment are also a source of employment for children. These occupations compete with cocoa production throughout the year.

Occupation	Percentage of children involved
Cocoa production	89%
Subsistence crops	87%
Domestic chores	82%
Year-round crops	42%
Look after livestock	40%
Work outside the house	22%

Child labour in cocoa production is very widespread, and is characteristic of the operation of small family-owned fields.

89% of children work in cocoa production. Fewer than 2% of children who work in cocoa production are not members of the household. This confirms the predominance of family labour in the production of cocoa in Cote d'Ivoire.

The survey was not able to establish proof of restrictions on freedom or the abuse of children living in households that produce cocoa.

Of the 1,313 children surveyed, none said that they were bound to their employer by debt. On average, children live 3.5 km from plantations. Generally, they travel this distance on foot (92%). A small number (5%) live at the field.

17% of children indicated that they have been victims of violence in the field (verbal or physical violence).

Those responsible for this violence are heads of households and older people (brothers, other relatives, adult workers).

Children employed in cocoa production are involved in or exposed to dangerous work.

A large number of children are exposed to dangerous work as defined in Decree No. 2250 of 14 March 2005 as handed down by the Ministry of Labour.

Work	Involvement Percentage	Indirect exposure Percentage
Felling trees	5.5	21.5
Burning	16.2	31
Carrying heavy loads	53.2	48.8
Spreading fertiliser	8.4	20.4
Spraying pesticides	4.6	35.5
Treatment of breeding	11.5	19.1

Children aged between 6 and 14 are most exposed to dangerous work. 71% of children who were injured received medical attention; 15% received none. The other children did not indicate whether or not they received medical attention. 2% of children confirmed that they had been forced to work whilst ill.

Parents' level of education is a factor that influences a child's chances of going to school.

Children whose parents have not received a school education are less likely to go to school, and are therefore more likely to go into the labour market, in particular into cocoa production.

More than half of heads of households have no formal education (53%). Moreover, 21% have not completed primary school. Barely one-quarter (27%) of men and 7% of women have completed primary education.

63% of children attend school, while 27% had never been to school. 10% have dropped out of school.

In a context of relatively low levels of school attendance, more than half of children in school (60%) cannot read while 22% read with difficulty.

Adult workers

Few adult workers appear to be working against their will.

Three-quarters of adult workers (75%) surveyed decided themselves to work in the cocoa fields, while 20% (n=46) work there as a result of the intervention of a parent. Eight respondents indicated that they did not agree with their parent's decision.

The survey revealed that most workers (88%) do not have any debt. Of those who had debts (n=28), 12 must remain in the field until their debts have been repaid. Those with debts know how much they owe, and when it is due. Five workers (2%) believe that they will not be able to leave the field even once their debt has been repaid, while 5 other believe that they are accumulating other debts.

Those indebted workers who believe they will not be able to leave the field even once they have repaid their debt did not give reasons for this belief.

86% of workers indicated that they had not encountered any difficulties leaving the cocoa field, while 12% indicated that they had.

While some cases of indicators of constraints, deceit and serfdom have been recorded, workers in general terms have freedom of movement and feel safe.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In response to the results of the survey, recommendations made have been divided up into several types of actions:

Short-term action

Defend the rights of children

- Make parents aware to bring an immediate end to the involvement in and exposure of children to dangerous work;
- Make parents aware of the need to ban physical violence towards children;
- Increase awareness of the need for schooling among young boys and girls;
- Rectify cases where individuals do not have identification documents and increase awareness of the search for documents among the competent authorities;

Defend the rights of adults

- Conduct more detailed investigations in the case of suspected restrictions on the freedom of movement;
- Increase awareness within the population of the search for administrative documents with the competent authorities;
- Increase the awareness of the population of hygiene;
- Put in place a policy for training farmers in the use of chemicals in collaboration with the National Union of Phytosanitary Professionals (UNIPHYTO);

Medium- and long-term actions

Reinforce education policy

- Support schools policy by building the appropriate infrastructure (primary and secondary schools) and training the required human resources;
- Continue the policy of developing school canteens;

Food security policy

- Intensify subsistence production;

Agricultural training policy and capacity building

- Strengthen the intervention system of agricultural assistance structures so that it can benefit the maximum number of farmers;
- Promote the emergence of groups of professional service providers (plantation maintenance, phytosanitary treatment, spreading fertiliser) in rural areas;

Improvements to infrastructure

- Improve roads in rural areas;
- Maintain village pumps and expand the coverage of the national water conveyance system;
- Increase the electrification of cocoa-producing villages;
- Build and equip health centres;

Rural development

- Develop activities to retain youth in rural areas (trades, activities and youth clubs);
- Organise reading courses for adults.

Reduction of rural poverty

- Define and implement strategies to reduce poverty in rural areas: agricultural diversification, finance for innovation in the area of technical itineraries, the quest for finance, agricultural marketing, the development of rural trades, etc.