
PRIMATURE

Projet Pilote SSTE



CLMS SNAPSHOT ON THE CURRENT SITUATION ON THE GROUNDS – MID JUNE 2005

Child labour is a worldwide issue. In the world, about 352 millions of children are engaged in child labour. Among them, 245 millions (about 70%) are victims of the worst forms of child labour. 211 millions are between 5 and 14 years old, and on this population, 186 millions are victims of the worst forms of child labour. Children between 15 and 17 years old are estimated at 14 million. 70.4% of 352 million children work in the agriculture, and in fishing...

In Côte d'Ivoire, the government has been committed to combat child labour practices in the cocoa culture. With several pilot projects underway (STCP, WACAP and the pilot project on child labour monitor in the district of Oumé.

As far as actions undertaken with the support of partners such as WCF, WACAP, ILO, GTZ and several NGO's:

1. Signing and the ratification of ILO conventions 182 and 138;
2. International seminar on cocoa certification;
3. Implementation of a child labour monitoring system (CLMS) pilot project in Oumé funded by the Ivorian government;
4. Implementation of WACAP project in six departments;
5. Various meetings with WCF, GIG, ICI and the working group of verification (step 3 of the certification system);
6. A workshop on child labour with cocoa farmers;
7. The release of the mid-report of the CLMS project.

Despite the militaro-political crisis, Côte d'Ivoire has taken as a priority to combat against child labour. A snapshot on the CLMS current situation on the grounds is provided as below:

1. General information

Detailed information that is available derives from results of first surveys on the grounds in the child labour monitoring system, undertaken with 240 cocoa farmers and 500 children from May 29 to June 3,

2005. The selected sites are as follows: Bokéda and Tonla (sub- district of Diégonefla), Kouaméfla and Guépahou (Sub-district of Oumé). The questionnaires which were analyzed and finalized have provided responses from 150 cocoa producers using 383 children temporarily or permanently.

2. Breakdown of age of children at work

¾ of children at work are 11 years old and more

The category of age with the highest rate is 14 years old with a rate of 13.54%.

3. Breakdown by gender

The majority of children is composed of young boys, i.e., 60 % of cases against 40 % for young girls.

4. Filiations with the employer

The survey clearly indicates clearly that the majority of children working in the cocoa plantations are son or daughter of the employer. Only 7% of children stated that they have no family link with their employers and could be victims of child labour.

5. Type of dangerous child labour

The works mentioned here are forbidden in the agricultural sector in Côte d'Ivoire through a ministerial order dated March 14, 2005 released from the Ministry of Civil Service and Employment. 36% of children stated that they have often carry heavy loads on long distances, whereas less than 1% stated that they were engaged in spraying pesticides.

6. Reasons for the use of child labour

Among reasons included in the questionnaire, the most frequently raised reasons are :

- ★ 'Children accompany their parents on the field' (64,67% of surveyed employers);
- ★ 'To help their family (54% of surveyed employers);
- ★ 'To occupy children during their holidays' (45% of surveyed employers);

Other reasons, such as the acceptance of low salaries (0.67%), status of children in the farm-life environment (0%), and the absence of alternative solution marginal.

7. Level of education of child workers

33% of children have never attended school, 50% of them have the primary school level (of which a majority has the first and second grade level) and 5% of children are in the Franco-Arabic education in the district of Oumé.

8. Size of farms

The majority of cocoa producers (80%) surveyed are small cocoa producers with production acreages of 2 to 9 hectares.