

REPORT OF THE GROUND WORK SESSION WITH THE CLM COMMITTEE OF KOUAMEFLA (DISTRICT OF OUME), AUGUST 2005.

The visiting team was composed of:

M. Jeff Morgan (MARS Inc.) appointed by WCF on certification issue, M. Tony Lass (Consultant), president of the consultative commission for the private sector (ICCO), Mrs. Andrea Lewis, Economic Officer of the Embassy of USA in Côte d'Ivoire, Mrs. Assemien Nadine, National Coordinator of ILO/WACAP and the Côte d'Ivoire Cocoa Task Force (Primes Ministers' Office, ARCC, FDPCC, APEXCI) led by Mrs. ACQUAH Amouan, and including the coordination unit of the Pilot CLMS Project.

The visit has been conducted as below:

1. Courtesy call to the District Officer, Friday 26th Aug.

The delegation paid a courtesy call to the District Officer. This visit has permitted to greet the District Officer and to give him officially the information of the ground visit to Kouaméfla. The delegation has been introduced. The district Officer has expressed his joy and proudness for the visit, since it is seen as a proof of support that will help in upholding deep involvement of the district in child labor combating.

2. Office Session at Oume City CLMS District Office, Friday 26th.

This session gave the opportunity to introduce the whole ground team, led by the CLMS District Manager.

As indicated in the snapshot report provided, a summary of the work achieved has been presented, showing that all the six villages had completed the first stages of the CLMS three stages process, and were about to begin the third one. The first general results of the baseline situation, mainly coming from the « center – villages » were also presented, leading to the conclusion that the hamlets still remain to be reached by the data collection, for more complete results. A specific concern, related to the ability to ensure that there is real impact on the pre project situation of child labor, has been clearly expressed.

3. Ground work session with CLMS Committee of Kouaméfla, Friday 26th.

Kouaméfla is one of the six selected CLMS villages, technically supported by the pluridisciplinary team in charge with the sub-district of Oume.

The main findings are as follows:

- As in each of the five (5) other villages, the CLMS process has been ran till the beginning of the third stage, dedicated to the implementation of the action plan ;
- The work achieved in a participatory way has been entirely presented by members of the CLMS village committee, showing thus a high level of both awareness of the issue and appropriation of the process ;
- Many difficulties have been reported :

- Lack of means to reach hamlets for planned activities like sensitization, pre identification of children, etc.;
- Lack of means for current running of the Committee ;
- Lack of means to realize cost full contents of the action plan other than those supported by ILO sponsored NGO dedicated to Pilot CLMS by WACAP;
- Both Ivorian and foreign delegation has delivered congratulations and encouraged the CLMS village committee, emphasizing the helpfulness of the work achieved in the Protocol deadline postponement;
- Both industry representative and USG representative will report, to help in finding the best way to bring effective support in facing the difficulties encountered.

4. Final meeting in Yamoussoukro, Sat. 27th

This meeting gave the opportunity to express each other thanks. The main findings are as follows:

- There is a common very positive appreciation of the work done, especially in terms of good organization, community capacity building, technical involvement of ILO (with its expertise) ;
- The best way of conducting the scaling up is to stand upon the joint statement of July 1st 2005 as a road map ;
- In this respect, certification must be understand as a regular, representative of the whole cocoa sector, affordable (for both industry and CDI), credible assessment of child labor situation ;
- The first step to begin the above process is a global, sector wide baseline diagnostic, that will be done as agreed below :
 - i. Common elaboration of TOR (draft to be submitted by Tony LASS on 7th sept.);
 - ii. Common design (with both sides agreed experts) of the diagnostic tool ;
 - iii. Running of the field Measurement by agreed Ivorian experts, with regular external checking process.
- A specific effort still remain in drawing and implementing an appropriate communication strategy, in improving both western and African common understanding of agriculture related concepts such as « farm », « farm size », « tooling level »,etc. An industry counterpart must be appointed to work with Mrs. Konan Payne who is in charge with communication for the Cocoa Task Force;
- Budgets for lacking means in hamlets reaching must be drawn and submitted to US Embassy Representative, who will report for possible support.

After this visit, the key lesson that can be pointed out is that communities in the pilot area are very aware of the issue, and strongly committed in tackling it. Consequently, it must be a duty to provide the minimal means necessary to strengthen the trust built.