PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COCOA CERTIFICATION CYCLE
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A- INTRODUCTION

- The government has created the Steering Committee of the Child labor Monitoring System (SSTE) as part of the certification process of coffee and cocoa production by decree n° 2007 – 449 of March 27, 2007.

- This Committee has an Executive Secretary in charge of implementing the program of activities that stems from its mission.

- The general objective of the implementation of this program is to demonstrate that Côte d’Ivoire has put in place a mechanism that makes it possible to:
  - Remedy in a durable manner, the abusive forms of labor in cocoa-culture in proved cases;
  - Prevent the occurrence of such cases in areas where this phenomenon does not exist;
  - Transparently communicate on progress made through independent verification.
B- BRIEF REMINDER OF EFFORTS
PRIOR TO JULY 2008

Results of the implementation of the certification program on the deadline of July 1st, 2008:

❖ **Initial Diagnosis Inquiry**
A pilot survey was conducted in three regional districts during the 2006/2007 campaign
A National survey was conducted in 18 regional districts during the main campaign of 2007/2008

❖ **Publication of Reports**
Each provisional report was validated during a workshop that brought together experts, the public sector, the civil society, industrialists, development partners, and producers.
The reports on the pilot and the national survey were respectively published on November 30, 2007 and June 26, 2008 on the following web site:
www.cacao.gouv.ci
On each occasion, the publication of these reports was done along with a briefing (disseminated by both the national and international press), accompanied by electronic correspondences to all national and international technical and institutional partners.

Three major facts were revealed by the survey:
- The insufficiency of socio-economic infrastructures in most villages;
- a very low school enrolment rate, when compared to the national average, and,
- an involvement in, or exposure of children to hazardous works.
B- BRIEF REMINDER OF EFFORTS PRIOR TO JULY

- Remediation
  A workshop was organized, that summarized and capitalized all the action undertaken before the initial diagnosis survey. These actions were then evaluated during an evaluation mission, after which two documents were produced:
    - The Capitalization and Evaluation Report on Remediation Actions Conducted Between 2002 and 2007;
    - A framework document on partnership between the private and public sectors, for the implementation of new social protection initiatives.

- Independent Verification
  An Independent Verification mission stayed in Côte d’Ivoire from May to November 2008, that focused on results of the survey conducted by the Ivorian government.
  A report was produced and is available on the web site of the verification Committee at www.cocoaverification.net
B- BRIEF REMINDER OF EFFORTS PRIOR TO JULY

- International workshop on certification


It gathered all the experts from the national cocoa community, and international parties. It confirmed the vision of the Ivorian Government, that certification is a process that will enable the equipment of rural zones with tools for its development.
B- BRIEF REMINDER OF EFFORTS PRIOR TO JULY 2008

As a result of the effective implementation of the certification on at least 50% of the cocoa production zones in Cote d’Ivoire, a joint declaration by Harkin–Engel and the Industries, was made on June 16, 2008.

This declaration requires Côte d’Ivoire to maintain its commitment, and to continue to provide aid to the rural world. The process will be re-evaluated in 2010.
Activities after July 2008 involved the following:

1. Evaluation of the initial diagnosis survey of Côte d’Ivoire by the independent verification mission, and publication of a report;
2. Meeting in Accra, March 2-3, 2009, and recommendation to conduct a complementary study;
3. Second meeting in Accra, May 18-19, 2009;
4. Remediation.
C- STATUS OF ACTIVITIES AFTER JULY 2008

- Evaluation and report by the verifiers

The verifiers rated Côte d’Ivoire’s work as below average, and recommended an additional study.

- Accra Meeting, March 2-3, 2009

The Ivorian government shared some remarks about the report of the verifiers, and agreed to conduct an additional study.

- Accra Meeting, May 18-19, 2009

Côte d’Ivoire presented the results of its complementary study. All the participants agreed to the creation of a joint working group that would coordinate and harmonize future efforts.
C- STATUS OF ACTIVITIES AFTER JULY 2008

 Remediation

It is the process whereby programs are developed, that respond to the needs of populations identified by the initial diagnosis survey.

A concept called Self Help Village was created as a remedy to child labor in cocoa farming, and as a way to improve the living conditions of the populations. 30 cocoa farming villages were selected for this campaign. Through a participatory method, they will benefit from the implementation of the following activities:

- Community mobilization;
- Raising or awareness on the consequences of the Worst Forms of Child labor on the health of children;
- Creation of health huts and of community education centers;
- Creation of income generating activities for the benefit of various households.

By the end of the year 2009, Côte d'Ivoire will complete the implementation of the remediation programs described in under the Self Help Village.
Côte d’Ivoire has definitively embarked on the certification of its cocoa production process.

The Steering Committee of the SSTE-Certification Cacao is now addressing the remediation phase, which is the most important phase in the process, as it will contribute to the socio-economic development of the cocoa farming zones.

Through the creation of the Joint Working Group, the efforts of the governments will be more efficient and more productive.

We welcome additional resources and support from the private sector, and other stakeholders of the child labor issue, in order to increase the number of beneficiary villages selected under the framework of the remediation program.
Thank you for your attention