



COCOA LIFE

COTE D'IVOIRE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Executive summary

April 2015



1. The purpose of the needs assessment

A needs assessment is carried out for each Cocoa Life origin in the early stages of program design. It helps us and our partners to understand problems and their root causes, and to identify how we can support thriving communities in that origin.

By enabling us to hear farmers' and communities' voices, the assessment brings their needs to life and helps Cocoa Life build action plans that are relevant. This, in turn, drives positive impact.

The assessment is holistic, developed with multi-stakeholder input and tailored to each origin.

It will:

- Identify needs relevant to farmers and communities in that area
- Identify affected groups and stakeholders to consult
- Look at the impact on people and the environment of existing cocoa activities
- Consider environmental, social, economic, and political factors in cocoa communities
- Determine risks to cocoa production, potential mitigating actions and opportunities to support thriving cocoa communities.

Assessors will consider a wide range of factors, such as livelihoods, supply chains, labor practices, human rights, the status of women, children, ethnic groups, or migrant workers; conflict, value distribution, land tenure, and environmental conditions, among others.



For more detail about the needs assessment process, see the [Cocoa Life Guidance Document](#) (section 5: Situation Assessment).

Separately, a project baseline assessment will measure the status of each of Cocoa Life's 10 global KPIs, to enable progress to be tracked and reported during the program. The baseline assessment is the first phase of [Cocoa Life's verification framework](#)

These two activities are complementary. The needs assessment informs Cocoa Life's action plans, while the baseline assessment is the starting point to measure their impact.



2. Background Needs Assessment Cote d'Ivoire

A Needs Assessment was performed in May 2014 in five major Cocoa Life regions of Cote d'Ivoire as a foundation step in building participation and engaging farmers and their communities in reaching the Cocoa Life core goal of empowered cocoa farmers and thriving communities.

The needs assessment was conducted in extended cocoa growing areas where our suppliers already work and support farmer organizations through various sustainability activities. The process involved coordinated joint efforts from our NGO partner, CARE, who prepared the farmers and community leaders; our suppliers, who informed and guided the farmer organizations; an independent team of university surveyors and experts, who implemented the surveys; and the Cocoa Life local team.

The survey involved various steps of data collection and analysis including one-to-one interviews with hundreds of farmers and community leaders, including women leaders, structured focus group discussion with farmer organizations, women's groups and youth associations, as well as with government, NGOs and private partners.



3. Key findings & implications for Cocoa Life

I. Key finding: Income from cocoa

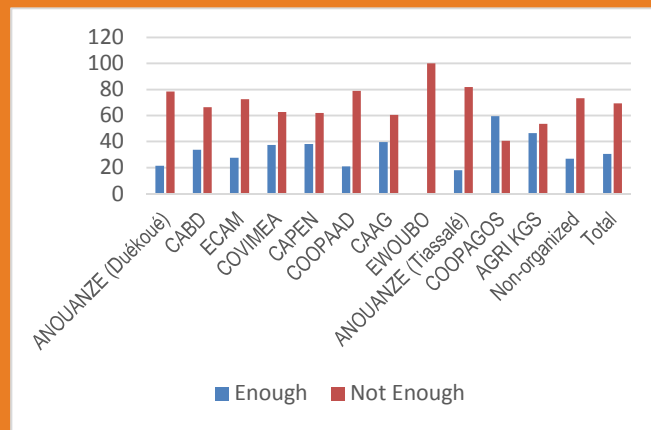
- 97% of surveyed farmers are engaged in cocoa as their main income source.
- Nearly 70% think that they do not earn enough to cater for their needs.

One of the most salient features of the survey is that the vast majority of farmers, nearly 97%, are engaged in cocoa as their main income source.

While 97% of the farmer members of cooperatives earn most of their income from cocoa (64% exclusively from cocoa), nearly 70% think that they do not earn enough to cater for their basic family and farming needs.

In addition, access to non-agricultural income is limited as only 18% reported having such opportunity and when they do, it is fairly low compared to cocoa income.

Relevance to Cocoa Life: Our targeting of these regions and beneficiaries is right and matches the objective of the Farming area to increase productivity and income from cocoa. The finding also concurs with our objective to increase income from sources other than cocoa in the Livelihoods area.



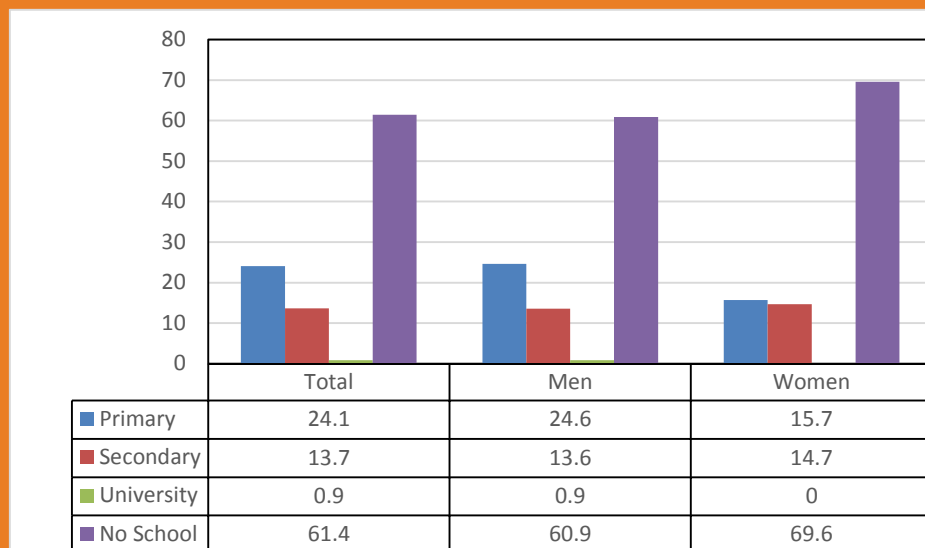
II. Key finding: sociological features

- Majority of cocoa farmers (61%) have not been to school. Compared, this percentage is even higher for woman (70%) than for men (61%).
- 35% went to school of whom 24% did not go beyond primary school.

The sociological features of cocoa target areas indicate and confirm that cocoa farming is male dominated with 94% of surveyed farmers being men; although there are a higher number of women aged 45 above, suggesting a higher mortality rate among adult male farmers and most women farmers inheriting lands from the late husbands. Young farmers (less than 35) account for only 17% as they face limited access to land.

Most cocoa farmers (61%) have not been to school. Of the 35% who went to school, 24% only visited primary school. Compared, this percentage is even higher for woman (70%) than for men (61%).

Relevance to Cocoa Life: Access to production tools such as land and knowledge, including literacy, will be addressed through the Community and Farming target areas.



III. Key Finding: Training and application of Good Agricultural Practices

- More than 80% of surveyed farmers have received at least one training on good agricultural practices.
- Lack of application of learned good practices and low investment in plant protection cause the presence of diseases such as Black Pods and Swollen Shoot.

Relevance to Cocoa Life: through the Farmer target area of Cocoa, ensure training is relevant, accessible to all groups including women and young people and increase adoption rates. In addition, take steps to increase access to crop protection and other farm inputs.



Access to seeds and planting material: More than 83% of the surveyed farmers use local non-certified seeds for replanting; only 10% use certified seeds from CNRA and nearly 7% use other unidentified types of seeds. Of the farmers using improved seeds from CNRA, 18% are women against 10% men, which may suggest that women are more open to innovations and sensitive to quality products.

Relevance to Cocoa Life: this finding implies be that our partnership with the Ivorian government services should focus on access to improved planting material.

Access to Fertilizer and plant protection tools: 46% of farmers reported that their land is slightly degraded and 26% said it is highly degraded, which makes a total of 72% of farmers observing depletion of the fertility their farms. Despite this low soil fertility only 35% use organic fertilizer against 42% inorganic fertilizer. The main limiting factor for the use of fertilizer is financial.

Relevance to Cocoa Life: through the Farming target areas, Cocoa Life will work with program partners to develop a more sustainable and farmer-affordable input supplies.



IV. Key Findings: Community

- Schools are at least 5km away from cocoa camps, and are either provisional or poorly maintained and equipped.
- Health clinics are remote and lack regular supplies and qualified personnel.

Overall, the Cocoa targeted communities have limited access to basic social services and when they do, the quality of the service is poor and irregular. In addition, social and development infrastructures are limited and poorly maintained.

Schools and Health facilities: There is a drastic lack of education and health facilities in the Cocoa Life target regions. Schools are at least 5km away from cocoa camps, and are either provisional or poorly maintained and equipped. Health clinics are remote and lack regular supplies and qualified personnel. Malaria and water-borne diseases are highly prevalent. Children and women are the most vulnerable to the poor health conditions.



IV. Key Findings: Community (Continued)

- Drilling or improved wells are the main sources of drinking water for nearly 58% of households.
- A high number of farmers still use open-air wells (27%) and 8% use water from rivers and other surface water bodies.
- Only 3% use fairly safe drinking water from the water company network.

Potable water: Drilling or improved wells are the main sources of drinking water for nearly 58% of households. However, a high number of farmers still use open-air wells (27%), and 8% use water from rivers and other surface water bodies. Only 3% use fairly safe drinking water from the water company network, which is very marginal.

Electricity: More than half (57%) of the cocoa households use kerosene lamps for lighting. Only 20% use electricity. The use of solar energy is very marginal because of lack of information and access to the service.

Roads and means of transport: bicycle is the main vehicle for cocoa farmers (48%) followed by motorcycles/mopeds (17%). Only 2% of the cocoa farmers own a car. Roads are poorly maintained and very difficult to access during rainy season, which affect collection and transportation of cocoa beans.

Relevance to Cocoa Life: the development and implementation of community-driven local development plan is a fundamental condition for a community to receive a full package of services from the program. In addition, these Community Action Plans are aligned to the local development government-led plans for synergy of actions, validation and potential match making with other funding sources.



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V. Key Findings: Livelihoods

- 6% of cocoa farmers produce other cash crops (rubber, palm oil) , from which they pull less than 30% of their total income
- 95% of cocoa farmers grow food crops, primarily for household consumption; and when they sell it, the gross income is less than 20% of their total annual income.
- 40,21% of women cocoa farmers surveyed earn 100% of their income from cocoa

Cocoa farmers involved in other cash crops: Only 6% of cocoa farmers produce other cash crops (rubber, palm oil), from which they earn less than 30% of their total income; A little more than 95% of cocoa farmers grow food crops, primarily for household consumption; and when they sell it, the gross income is than 20% of their total annual income.

Nearly **40% of women cocoa farmers** earn 100% of their income from cocoa. 26% are engaged in food crop production but earn not more than 10% of their income from it.

Relevance to Cocoa Life: the strategies on the Livelihoods target area will primarily focus on diversifying the income sources of women farmers through training and support to production and marketing of non-cocoa crops and economic activities. This strategy is in line with our gender action plan, which will address income-driving activities for vulnerable women.



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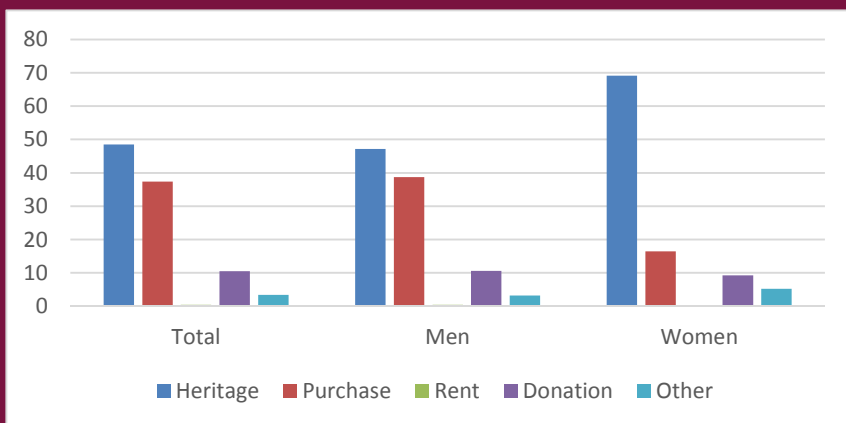
VI. Key Findings: Youth

- Majority of young cocoa farmers (88%) own their farm which they inherited from their parents.

Although marginalized for land access, the majority of young cocoa farmers (88%) own their farm, which they inherited from their parents. Nearly 70% of women cocoa farmers had access to land by heritage against 47% for men. While 39% of men afford buying lands, only 16.5% of women did purchase their land because of lower income.

Relevance to Cocoa Life: addressing access to land and production tools, such as training and farming inputs, for young and female farmers are key priorities for the Youth target area and the cross-cutting gender strategy. Both sets of needs will be embedded in the community action plans so that their achievements engage all community members including male farmers and community decision makers. Cocoa Life will also engage with its suppliers and partner farmer organizations and NGOs to ensure these needs are integrated in the interventions and that due attention is given to women and future generation of farmers.

Cocoa Life Cote d'Ivoire will continue to address child labor in program communities through the training of community leaders, women associations, farmer cooperatives and engaged NGOs. In addition, a national situation assessment will be conducted to evaluate the status of child labor in Ivorian cocoa sector and recommend actions to address it. We will continue and, where feasible, expand our partnership with the local authorities and the National Child Labor Platform.



VII. Key Findings: Environment

It has been reported by surveyors that, although most of the villages visited are clean, there is difficulty to manage solid waste in several communities due to the lack of local waste management services.

In addition, because of limited access to new lands and low productivity in existing farms, pressure is reported to expand cocoa farms into forests.

Relevance to Cocoa Life: The program will address the sanitation and hygiene issues due to the lack of sensitization through its community development plans. Extension to forested areas for cocoa production will be addressed in two ways:

- Farmer training on good agricultural and environment practices
- Exclusion of supplies from farms located in forested areas.



3. What's next?

This needs assessment has identified a number of priorities in cocoa farming communities that have implications for the specific interventions chosen to implement Cocoa Life in Cote d'Ivoire.

Cocoa Life's next step is to build a detailed program design. In keeping with our principle of partnership, we will do this with our NGO partners, suppliers and government partners. The findings of this needs assessment will inform program design, along with other external inputs as well as Cocoa Life's established focus areas and KPIs.

