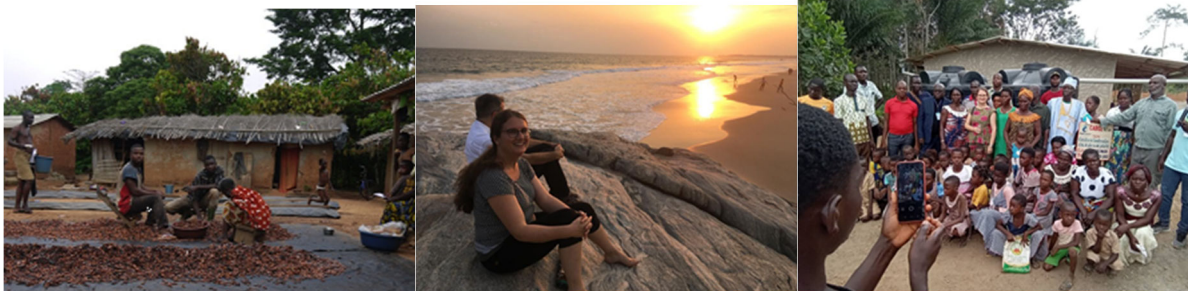


CABOZ Action Past News 2023 – English

August

Funding from a CABOZ Sourcing customer in Germany means we can continue the AVEC/AGR project (**savings groups and income-generating activities**) we started in 2019 with the support of, first of all, the Jacobs Foundation and then the Rainforest Alliance, as well as CABOZ AG.

We have also begun planning a **14-day trip to Côte d'Ivoire in February 2024**, which will include visits to some of CABOZ Action's projects. If you are interested, please contact Marie-Louise Nussbaumer for further information: marty.nussbaumer@swissonline.ch



July

We were delighted to confirm the election of Markus Berwert as our **new treasurer** at our committee meeting on 13 July. Markus recently retired as Managing Director of the Central Swiss Football Association, so we are hoping he will inspire some new projects with football for young people.



June

The highpoint of the month was the inauguration of the **new drinking water system for the health clinic** in Zougou Kouassikro on 20 June. Once again we were able to rely on the competent work of CK Enterprise in drilling for water and installing a foot pump with good quality drinking water. The health workers as well as the people in Zougou and surrounding villages celebrated this milestone together with the representative of the local sub-prefect and the staff from CABOZ Action and

SCOPACI. Many thanks again to our sponsors Vives, Gemeinde Obersiggenthal and the church community in Ftan-Guarda–Ardez for their generous support. The pump means that people, in particular women and girls, no longer have to walk so far to fetch water.



The inauguration took place on the same day as the **school prize-giving**. Kathrin Heitz Tokpa, the president of our Ivorian counterpart, CABOZ Action Côte d'Ivoire, gave the three best pupils in each class a small gift to encourage them. Her presence was a good opportunity to hold the Associations's **Annual General Meeting**, which 13 people attended. They set the membership fee and elected the committee of six.

Back in Switzerland, CABOZ Action had a small stand with our new poster at the **Festival of Nations** in Nussbaumen on 18 June.

May

Our **11th AGM** took place in Baden on 10 May. We were delighted to welcome Jey Wegner and Nathalie Windlin as new committee members. Nathalie gave an interesting presentation about her Masters project on the attitudes of cocoa farmers to shade trees on their cocoa plantations. Before we rounded off the evening with a fine meal, Kathrin Heitz Tokpa shared her enthusiasm about how well some of our projects are going and told us about plans for the coming year.



*Under shade trees – about shade trees:
An interview by Belmando Loukou (translator & sociology PhD student) during a survey of SCOPACI persimmon farmers.*

March

At this year's SchoggiFestival in Zurich we are organizing a live online interview with Kathrin Heitz Tokpa, the president of CABOZ Action Côte d'Ivoire. On 26 March at 13:00 summer time we will discuss the "Risks of child labour in the cocoa industry – what can be done? (taking place in German) and would love to meet any members and friends in person there. Come and enjoy some very special chocolate and cocoa juice at the festival. And try out some 'savon noir', a black soap made from burnt cocoa husks and palm kernel oil by members of one of the savings groups CABOZ Action supports.



February

The Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs, in French AVECs) have proved to be very popular. With the support of the Rainforest Alliance and CABOZ AG, we were able to help set up 6 new VSLAs at the beginning of the year – 4 in Soubré and 2 in Duekoué. With the groups in Duekoué, we are experimenting with setting up school funds to help parents equip their children with what they need when the school year starts.

January

Having good relations with the local state authorities is essential for the long-term acceptance of CABOZ Action's work and is particularly important in preventing the risks of child labour. Our team has therefore informed the Centre for Social Work (Centre Social) of the Platform "Système d'Observation et de Suivi du Travail des Enfants en Côte d'Ivoire" (SOSTECI) and the prefecture in Soubré about our project with the Rainforest Alliance and the new approach we are taking to address this sensitive issue. We are now in a better position to cooperate with state agencies should we encounter human rights violations or cases of hardship.

