



Côte d'Ivoire - The WIND approach and strategic interventions on labour inspection: Improving working and living conditions through local solutions



Responds to the following criteria

- ▶ Innovation
- ▶ Replicability
- ▶ Efficiency
- ▶ Effectiveness
- ▶ Sustainability



Main stakeholders

National Agency for Rural Development (ANADER); Coffee and Cocoa Council (CCC); Occupational Safety and Health Department (DSST) at Ministry of Labour; Department of Labour Inspection (DIT) of the Ministry of Employment and Social Protection.

▶ Description

In the absence of occupational safety and health (OSH) measures, children of working age can find themselves performing dangerous work. Also, the lack of OSH exposes parents to work-related accidents.

The Work Improvement for Neighbourhood Development (WIND) approach, developed by the ILO, aims to encourage and assist agricultural actors to take voluntary and low-cost measures to improve their working and living conditions. This innovative approach aims at improving the OSH of individual workers, as well as of their families and communities.

The labour inspection services through the Department of Occupational Safety and Health and the Department of Labour Inspection have adopted the WIND approach and contributed to its introduction in cocoa-farming households. The joint involvement of labour inspection services and actors in charge of rural development has facilitated the implementation of this approach for the benefit of local farming communities and community groups.¹

At the same time, the Côte d'Ivoire's National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking, Exploitation and Child Labour (2019-2021), which was adopted by the Government in 2019, highlights the need to improve the capacities of OSH inspectors using the ILO WIND approach as one of the main tools, setting the political floor and engagement for the use of ILO WIND in Côte d'Ivoire. Moreover, the National Programme for Safety and Health developed by national stakeholders in 2020 also instructed the use of tools such as WIND.²

Introducing this approach with 86 actors in 13 communities in the sub-prefectures³ of Grand-Zattry and M'batto cocoa-producing regions in Côte d'Ivoire has enabled the adoption of new and innovative prevention practices in terms of OSH and productivity. The importance of these innovations is that they are produced at low cost, through local resources and, more important, with either individual or collective groups of beneficiaries.

Examples of such simple, effective, efficient and sustainable local inventions are presented below.

¹ See ILO (2014): [Global action guide for WIND - Practical approaches for improving safety, health and working conditions in agriculture](#).

² Policy validated but yet to be adopted by the Government.

³ 4th level sub-administrations of the country

Djézoukro: Beneficiaries adopt the principles of the WIND approach

Before the introduction of the WIND approach, farmers used to cook using stoves consisting of three blocks of stones (figure 1). These stoves or fireplaces produced a lot of smoke affecting farmers' own health and that of other community members. After the training, 40 households adopted improved stoves with chimneys for smoke disposal, which reduced exposure to toxic fumes (figure 2). In addition, improved stoves with fireplaces used less firewood and allowed meals to be cooked faster, reducing the burden on children who were often asked to carry firewood from a long distance.⁴

The adoption of broomsticks, which improve posture when performing household cleaning tasks, by all involved peer trainers, is another example of improved prevention practices in everyday living and working styles. Brooms with long handles were previously not totally unused in the communities. However, community actors were unaware of the benefits of using them to improve working posture. The training and monitoring enabled the use of the broom in the households of the beneficiaries as well as in several households sensitized by them.

Parcsou and Gbaleville: Further local inventions that limit the use of children in cocoa-farming areas

In the village of Parcsou, trained beneficiaries covered and fenced water sources that are within the vicinities of their homes and which are used by inhabitants of the village. This practice has been recognized by community members as a means to prevent the contamination of water resources by foreign bodies that would make the water unhealthy for consumption (such as drowned animals or other harmful physical bodies). The fences were also found to be a means of protecting the children and controlling their access to the water sources. This practice thus has a compound effect, ensuring parents' as well as children's well-being through less polluted water as well as safer water source areas.

Peer trainers from the village of Bagolieoua, inspired by models presented during training on the WIND approach, had local craftsmen make a tool for cocoa shelling (figure 3). The shelling operation is usually done with a machete and is recognized as a task that causes injuries to producers. Shelling can also reduce the quality of the beans when they are injured during the operation. This intervention has made it possible to reduce the danger and arduousness of the cocoa shelling operation.

► Figure 1. Djézoukro beneficiaries adopted new concept of stoves



A household stove in the village of Djézoukro uses a lot of firewood and produces toxic smoke.



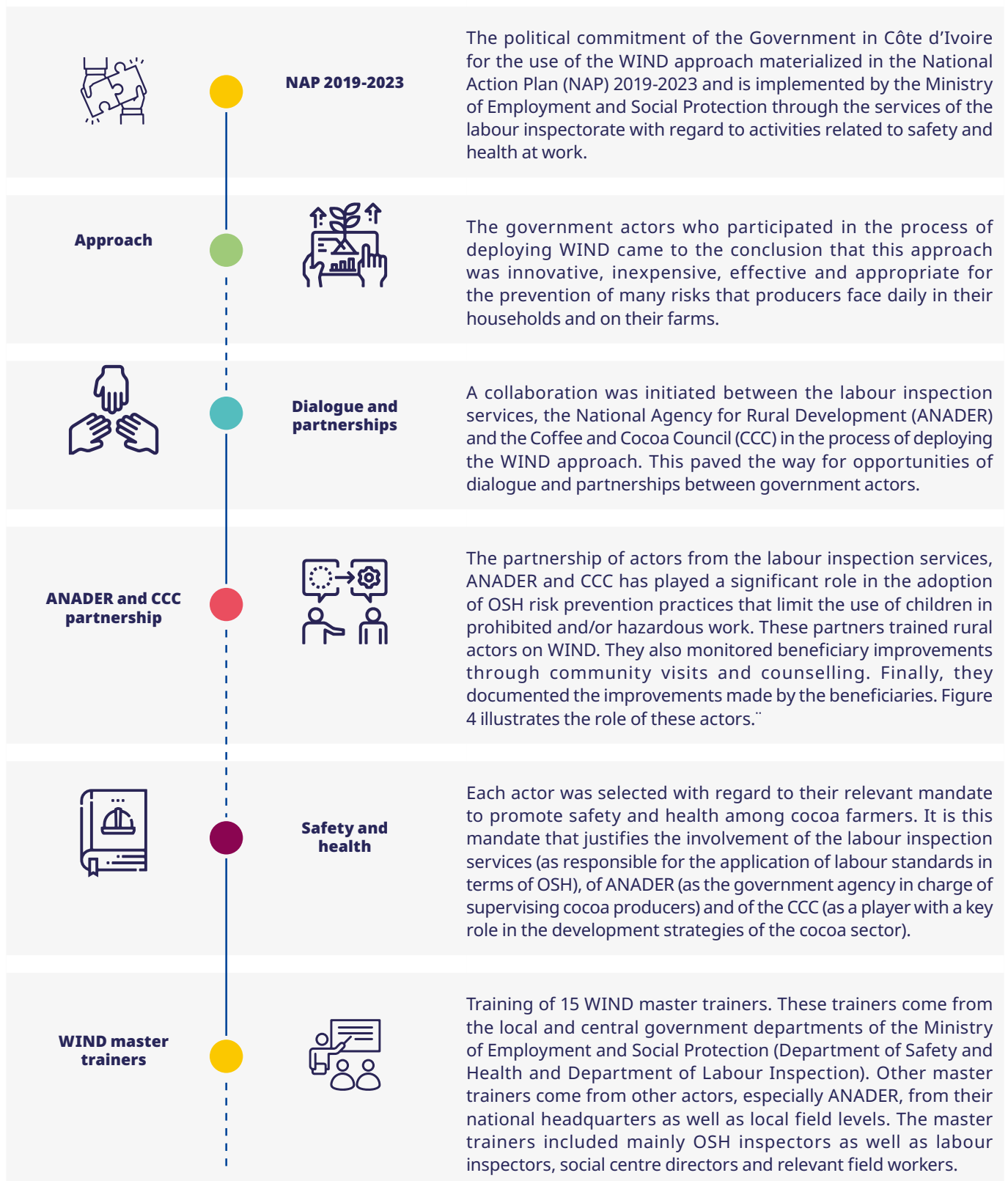
The same household's stove is improved with a chimney to reduce smoke, using less firewood and saving time in cooking food.

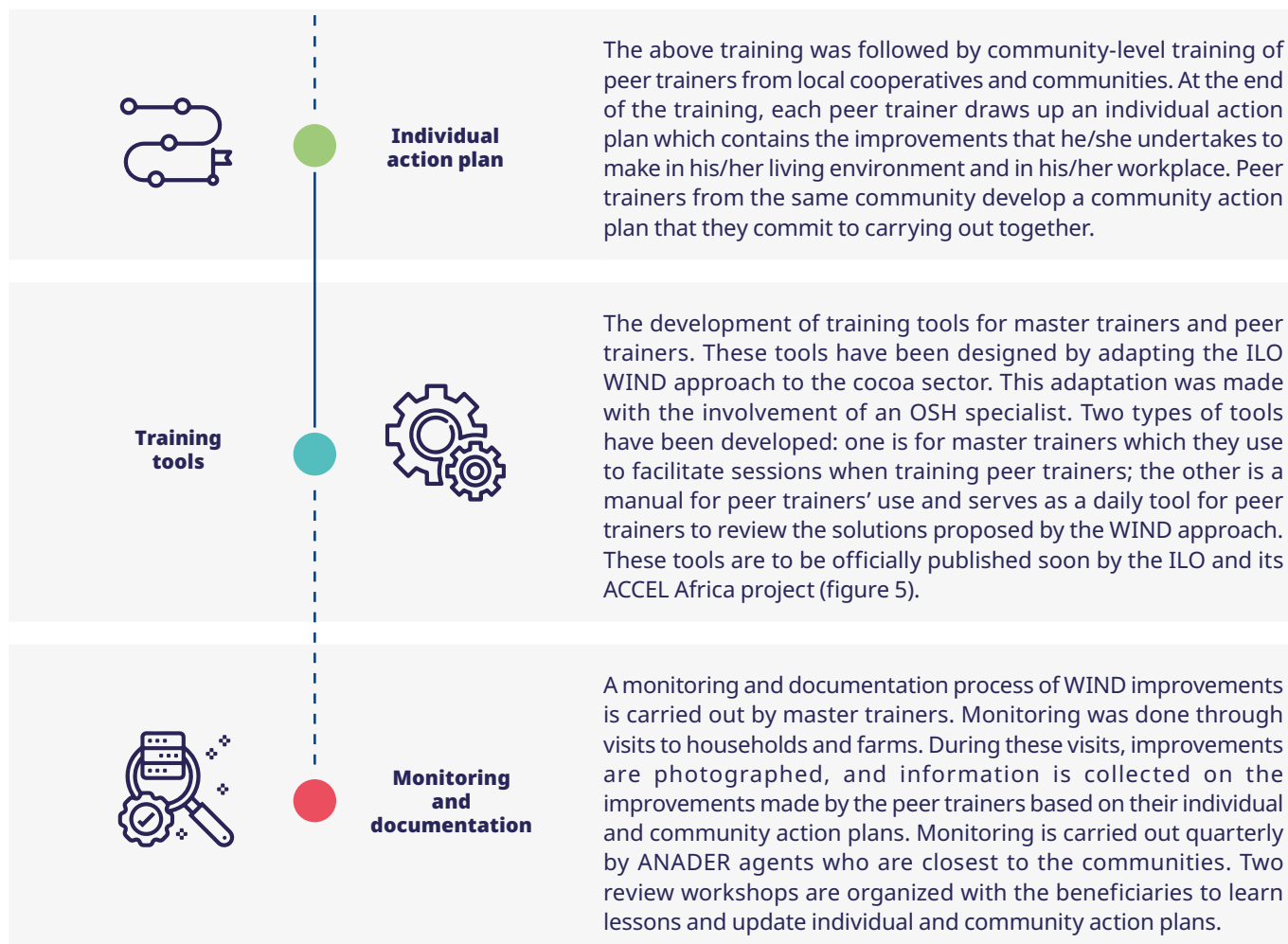
4 See ILO (2021): [Focus on WIND: an ILO integrated approach to eliminate child labour in cocoa farming](#).

► **Figure 2.** The “ecabo” for shelling cocoa pods, a locally produced device



► Process





► **Good Practices**

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► **Figure 3. Roles and responsibilities of partners for the deployment of WIND**

MESP (occupational safety and health administration), DSST:

In accordance with its purposes and strategies, the DSST is tasked to reduce the risk of the worst forms of child labour and to reduce the vulnerability of households to safety and health risks. Within this project, it has contributed to the improvement of the working and living conditions of beneficiaries by getting involved in the training of community actors and by participating in the monitoring of improvements. Thus, it will be able to play a role as an actor in strengthening the capacity of other stakeholders and will document the knowledge and data generated as part of its monitoring.

Coffee and Cocoa Council: In its role as chain manager, the CCC will ensure the sustainability of project interventions. This will be through improved cocoa development strategies, and successful mainstreaming of the tools to be deployed by the project to ensure child labour-free cocoa growing.

National Agency for Rural Development (ANADER): the main supervisory body for the agricultural sector, which served as a vehicle for sharing WIND project tools with rural populations.

15
master trainers trained by
ACCEL Africa



15

master trainers capacitated another

87

local trainers in the villages of Kipri, Bagolieoua, Yaobakankro, Grand-Zattry, Konankro, Parcsou, Djézoukro and Gbaleville.



Human productivity as well as healthier modes of working lifestyles for cocoa farmers



► Figure 4. Cocoa growing communities have improved their occupational and regular safety practices, minimizing risks and improving their wellbeing



► Enabling factors

- 1 Strong political and technical will from the national and local labour and agricultural administrative offices under the Ministries of Labour and Agriculture.
- 2 The already present mandates of the selected partners, as described in figure 4. For example, the mandate of the DSST includes ensuring labour regulations, in particular the provisions related to working conditions and OSH.
- 3 Training of peer trainers from the selected communities, which ensures (i) appropriate connections, knowledge of OSH behaviours in homes and workplaces and their effect on workers and their children; (ii) having knowledge that is sustained in the community in order to extend and replicate the practice; and (iii) ability to convince local farmers of the need to carry out such needed improvements and how to do it.
- 4 According to local economic circumstances, these WIND-based approaches and innovations were found suitable in terms of costs versus benefits.

In brief

The WIND approach was used and transcended by the national as well as local labour administrations, reaching the lowest tiers of cocoa farmers in the supply chains. It aimed at knowledge sharing, explanation of causes and consequences of OSH malpractices directly in the cocoa farming fields, or in the cocoa farmers' homes. **This was through a highly communal participatory, low-cost and action-oriented approach.** This approach played a major role in preventing short- as well as long-term illnesses or injuries for these farmers as individuals as well as their families and communities.

Moreover, this practice showed that improvements in the health situation of adult workers in cocoa supply chains through simple improvements in their OSH conditions within their daily hectic and dangerous working lifestyles can lead to the following: (i) they have better health conditions and therefore better attendance and productivity at work; and (ii) children will not need to replace them in either domestic work or going out to the cocoa fields and getting injured and/or missing out on their education.