



ACTEURS CITOYENS



Report

MESSAGE OF THE MANAGER





We spend sleepless nights searching for answers to many questions: why bad governance, Why corruption, Why underdevelopment. If they are nurtured by the absence of freedom, these pains, really find their origin in ignorance and bad citizenship. Being Conscious of the power of awareness raising, Audace Institut Afrique has, with the support of the Network For Free Society, travelled around 5 regions of Côte d'Ivoire with a message to the youth The development level of a country depends on his civic awareness.

Any change begins in mentalities through raising awareness.

As said the hummingbird legend, it is the responsibility of every citizen to be entirely committed and involved in freedom promotion which is the key for the poverty alleviation. We must, even in a desert soil, sow the future. During this caravan we've noticed that no fight for freedom is easy nor futile. We've seen motivated young people facing adversity, youths desiring freedom and young people who have renewed hope for the future. The utopia of freedom is surely becoming reality. The snowball effect of freedom is spreading everywhere in Côte d'Ivoire. Freedom is the future

Aquilas **YAO**
Manager of the caravan

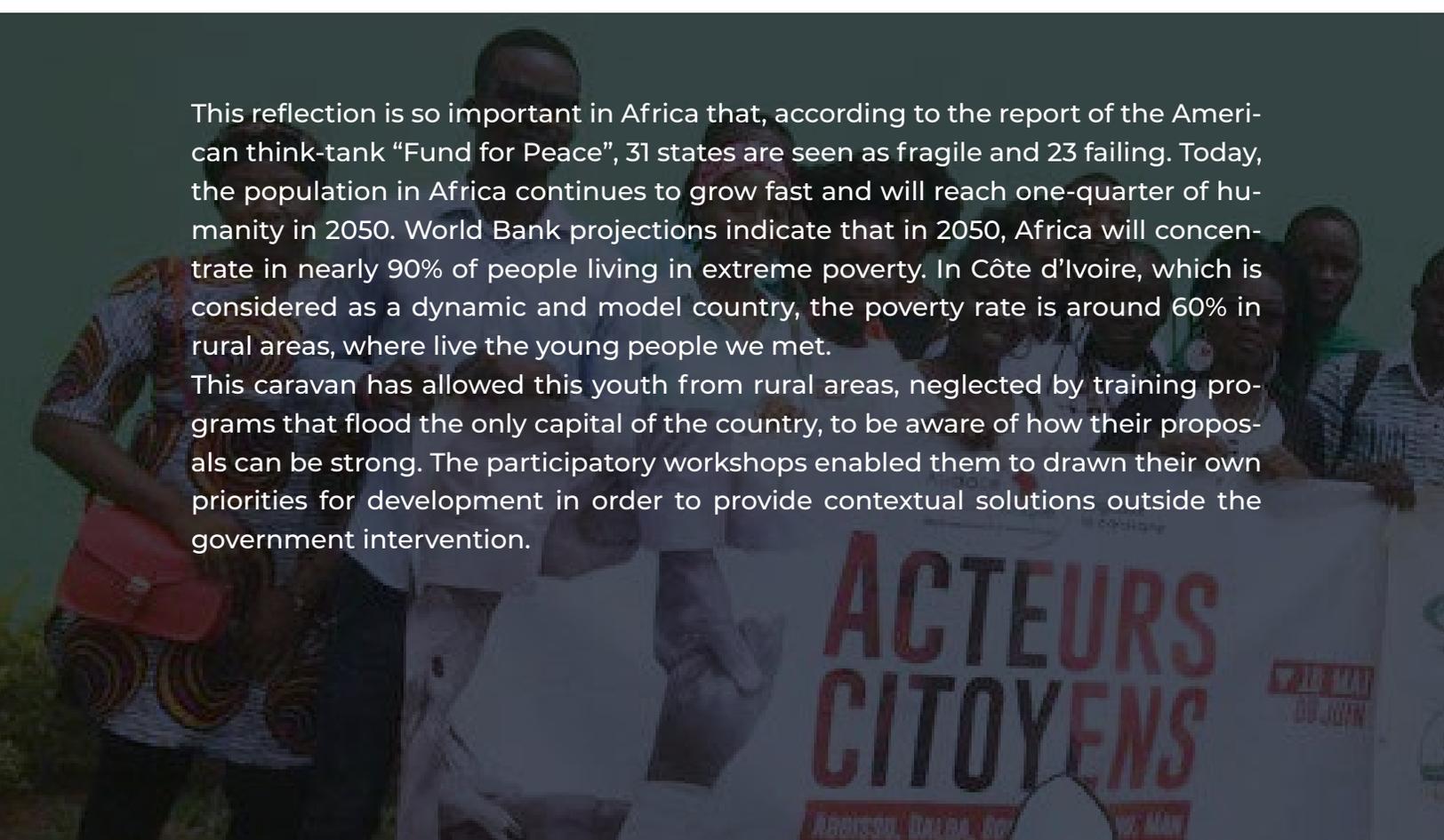


Introduction

The world is moving, and becoming more and more dynamic. Africa, known as continent of despair, is becoming the continent of all opportunities, the continent where everything remains to be done. Côte d'Ivoire is not left out of this dynamic, but its population seems to stay on the sidelines. If our previous “freedom as a remedy for poverty” campaign has shown the importance of freedom, it was also important to help people (especially the youth who is 77.7%) understand their responsibility on the way to this freedom. Youth has a responsibility in the fight against corruption, the control of public policies and its history. For a month Audace Institut Afrique shared the tools of reflection to forge an active conscience, diverted from voluntary servitude

This reflection is so important in Africa that, according to the report of the American think-tank “Fund for Peace”, 31 states are seen as fragile and 23 failing. Today, the population in Africa continues to grow fast and will reach one-quarter of humanity in 2050. World Bank projections indicate that in 2050, Africa will concentrate in nearly 90% of people living in extreme poverty. In Côte d'Ivoire, which is considered as a dynamic and model country, the poverty rate is around 60% in rural areas, where live the young people we met.

This caravan has allowed this youth from rural areas, neglected by training programs that flood the only capital of the country, to be aware of how their proposals can be strong. The participatory workshops enabled them to draw their own priorities for development in order to provide contextual solutions outside the government intervention.

A group of young people, mostly men, are standing outdoors and holding a large white banner. The banner has the text 'ACTEURS CITOYENS' written in large, bold, red letters. Below this, there are smaller logos and text, including 'ABISSINIA' and 'CO-JOIN'. The background is slightly blurred, showing more people and what appears to be a natural setting.

**ACTEURS
CITOYENS**

ABISSINIA
CO-JOIN

Methodology

Activities in the different cities took place in 2 parts: Plenary lectures and work shops

1-Conferences

Regarding conferences, we had to show the responsibility of young people in the management of their different communities. The caravan leader has shown at every step the importance of accountability in the quest for the freedom as the key for poverty alleviation. He also told about the strategy issue in the quest for change, explaining that any commitment to change requires a good knowledge of his environment, an unfailing commitment and awareness of the fact that any change takes place over time. The trainer emphasized the importance of motivations in the quest for change. He invited young people to always probe their motivation because any process of change that does not aim at the recognition of individual liberties is a selfish and vain process. Finally, we had the same conferences: Young people can and must be the main actors of change and by making themselves as real sources of proposals.

2- The Workshop

The workshops brought together 35 young people per step and aimed at getting them to find solutions themselves outside the government actions. The workshops took place through 2 steps.

Firstly, we asked young people to identify the difficulties they face and propose solutions. These workshops shown that almost all the proposals for solutions were based on what the government should do.

Secondly, we asked young people to provide solutions to these problems knowing that the state is failing and that it is not aware of their realities or their context. This second part reveals original, realistic and concrete solutions. This approach allows participants to propose liberal solutions themselves.





Aboisso

Broadcast on the main local radio of the area which is the main source of information.



Strong women involvement during workshops

Discussions with the populations of Nzikro (area of ABOISSO). About 10 participants came from surrounding villages to participate in the caravan Citizen Actors



Daloa



Very instructive workshops about contextual solutions without the government action.

Students from the University of Daloa was also present. We had a strong mobilization although the general strike.
The trainer, explaining the responsibility of citizens in the building of society



Man



Korhogo



The step of Man in the West of the country took place at the University Gueu Pascal with the participation of around hundreds students impacted by the message of Audace Institut Afrique

Korhogo was one of the most moving step of the caravan, despite the difficulties encountered, students remained motivated and they wanted to participate to the activity until the end.

Korhogo



Strong student involvement despite the last minute refusal of the hall promised by the administration several weeks ago; Reason: a visit of the International Monetary Fund.



Active consciousness is turned on! Students from University of Korhogo wished to participate to the activity, then they looked for another hall themselves and found it for the



Bouaké

The students of the University of Bouaké wanted to do the activity despite the disruption of the all-powerful student union which disrupted all student activities of the day



Remarkable involvement of women in the workshop

Citizen actors of Bouaké very excited and committed to continue the reflections and action!



TESTIMONIES

“ This is my first time to attend such an event and I have been so happy to share my ideas and to be enriched by other ideas. I thank the organizers for this initiative

Mounira, **Aboisso**

“ Through this training I realize how withdrawing from fruitful actions can be harmful for his country. As young and strong, I decided to be at the service of the development of my community

Rita, **Daloa**

“ meaning of citizenship. I realize that bad citizenship is one of the major obstacles to development. My association is leaving with the tools to be more active

Arsène, **Bouaké**

“ I've never heard such a message; I never imagined how much the population and especially young people could be the tools of change. This training is a revolution for us» Metica, Man

Metica, **Man**

Proposals from citizen actors

- *Organize workshops to promote freedom ideas with different associations (women, young people, professionals, students)*
- *Establish listening and support centres for young victims of drug abuse.*
- *Implement local arbitration committees to prevent and resolve land disputes.*
- *Upgrading the “palaver trees” to discuss all the issues affecting the community in order to provide appropriate solutions.*
- *Prevent youth delinquency by encouraging young people to community
Lobby the authorities to require 30 hours of driver training before obtaining a driving licence in order to reduce insecurity on the roads*
- *Establish a health system in the neighbourhoods, managed by the residents themselves*
- *Create a rotating and participative funding system for youth entrepreneurship projects*
- *Set up surveillance and alert committees (via what Sapp and whistle-alarms) inside neighbourhoods to prevent theft*
- *Establish neighbourhood schools to strengthen student’s education level in order to resolve the low level of the education system*
- *Set up cooperatives for the sale and delivery of food products*
- *Establish a permanent dialogue committee between the administration, student unions, and amphitheatre delegates, civil and customary authorities to prevent strikes and manage conflicts within universities*
- *Create personal assistance businesses (carpentry, masonry, plumbing, etc.) to guarantee part-time jobs for students.*
- *Establish a network of part-time jobs for students*
- *Organize readings and debates at citizen stakeholder committee meetings to develop students’ critical thinking*
- *Send delegations to City Council meetings to share the people concerns*

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- *Organize summer universities to discover cultures and traditions of the region in order to promote the positive aspects of our cultures*
 - *Improve the employability of young people by promoting community commitment*
 - *Fight against corruption by addressing the sociological aspect. Rely on those who know the tradition to find a sociological definition of corruption and show people the importance of ending it. Corruption is very often seen as an arrangement and a facilitation of life and not as a scourge*
 - *Require the establishment of an inclusive management committee of health centres including traditional leaders, community, religious and civil society leaders*
 - *Set up an audit committee of health institutions composed of representatives of local populations*
 - *Encourage intercultural dialogue through the organization of cultural heritage promotion days.*
 - *Organize awareness sessions with motorcycle taxi managers to obtain the mandatory helmet for users to fight against the high rate of fatal motorcycle accidents*
 - *Create Facebook pages for each academic level to disseminate live courses on Facebook. This strategy is the solution for overcrowding in amphitheatres.*
 - *Request and obtain from the members of the consultation sessions in their local offices to take into account populations' aspirations.*

Figures of the caravan



CONFERENCES

5



REGIONS VISITED



WORKSHOPS

190 women



514 students



324 men



2

radio broadcast

25

citizen solutions proposed

97%

of positive opinions

More than

15k

people reached

Difficulties

The caravan was not made without difficulties. The greatest difficulty encountered was the disruption in campuses either by strikes, by the non-cooperation of university administrations or even by the powerful, politicized student unions.

We also had an unkind control of our bus on the way to Korhogo by the police men at a corridor that damaged our computer.

Recommendation for the organization

We noticed that students were very interested and motivated by the caravan. We suggest for the next edition the following measures:

Hire a vehicle for missions for more security

Organization of preparatory missions to meet the local authorities so that they facilitate our missions.

Conclusion

The Citizens Actors Caravan did not only give tools for an awareness and a citizen commitment, it allowed to see the desire for freedom of the populations visited. The path may seem sinuous, but there is a lot of hope for the future. Let us also remember that the change will resolutely come from the bottom of the ladder which means from the populations themselves, who must be encouraged and equipped to be real citizen actors and not just passive individuals in the history of their country history.

Once again, Audace Institut Afrique and Network For Free Society reached the essential: freedom and responsibility for a real shared progress.



ACTEURS CITOYENS

Thank to our partner

NETWORK
FOR A
**FREE
SOCIETY**



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