



MISSION STORIES

Practical, long-term assistance from ONUCI for Ivorians living with HIV/AIDS

On the main street of Korhogo, just next to the newly renovated central circle where the Prefect of Les Savanes region has his office, is a well kept blue and white building. It is the regional office of the NGO Lumière Action, and the home of the Association Lumière Action of Korhogo.

The association has 103 members, all HIV positive, of whom 57 are living with AIDS. But like the building they meet in, they show no signs of sickness. The ones that need anti-retrovirals have them. At a cost of 5,000 CFA per quarter or 20,000 CFA a year, they have access to this life-saving combination of medicinal drugs. And through the positive lobbying of their association and other concerned organizations, the price is set to go down to 12,000 CFA per year in the coming weeks.

As important as the association is for offering education, counseling and advice about living with HIV and AIDS, it has also set out on creating sustainable projects to ensure the economic well being of its members. “Living with HIV/AIDS and having access to ARVs is important, but without a fixed income and having a good diet, it is not possible to sustain your life,” explains Mr. Lanciné Sylla, the president of the Association.

A Project d’Elevage [Animal Husbandry Project] will kick into full action on 20 December 2005, when 500 laying hens will move into their new home at the Association’s farm in the centre of Korhogo. Lumière Action purchased the land and will help pay the salaries of the people working there (a contribution of more than 1.5 million CFA). A grant of 4.5 million CFA from ONUCI paid for the construction of the farm buildings and the store where the eggs will be sold.

With the prospect of each chicken laying between three and five eggs per week, and the eggs selling for 70 CFA each, the farm is expected to bring in between 100,000 CFA and 175,000 CFA weekly in the coming months. A part of this will need to be re-invested, but there will still be a decent income for the association, in addition to work for at least three of its members.

The Projet d’Elevage is one of hundreds of small projects undertaken by ONUCI through its Quick Impact Project (QIP) programme.

“This is a good example of a long-term Quick Impact Project,” says Brigitte KarEkezi, who oversees ONUCI’s QIP programme for the Sector East in Bouaké. “It will provide

sustainable development. By investing this capital up front, we help to create something that will assist the members of the association for the years to come.”



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