

3. Social expertise and pleas (networking, monitoring, awareness, action research)



Monitoring and awareness: social monitoring and awareness find their field of study in the 2 municipalities of ASMU intervention area (domestic work, social and professional insertion, urban property and basic social services...). The monitoring is done on various society issues from partners and populations point of view.

Networking: participate and encourage networking with State partners and non-State partners to develop synergies between players (UNGEI, CSOs network on health-Universal Health Coverage, Sankoré network, Human Rights in Abobo, "Warning-Property", actor's network of Cocody,

RASEP...).

Action research and advocacy: The ASMU leads action research to conduct pleas in order to influence public policy: healthcare of vulnerable populations, young servant girls, insertion of youth, decent employment, Craftsman code, urban property and access to basic social services. public policy: *healthcare of vulnerable populations, young servant girls, insertion of youth, decent employment, craftsman code, urban property and access to basic social services.*

The CERAP's Social Pole

The CERAP is the heir of the **African Institute for Economic and Social Development (INADES)**, founded in 1962 by the Jesuits in Cocody, Abidjan (Mermoz avenue). In 2002, it became the **Centre for Research and Action for Peace (CERAP)** for human rights and peace training. Since 2014, the CERAP was reorganized in to 2 separate poles: a **university pole** (bachelors, masters, MBA, publishing house and documentation center) and a **Social Pole** (ASMU, Project department).

Mission of the Social Pole: "the Social Pole is meant to be a framework for action for poverty reduction, improving living standards and status of the most vulnerable populations, promoting social justice and cohesion".

2 departments make up the Social Pole: The **Social Action in Urban Areas - Action Sociale en Milieu Urbain (ASMU)** and the **Projects department** which implements projects in the following areas: Conflict management - social cohesion - peace training – citizenship / democracy – rural property ...

The working approach of the ASMU and the Projects department is « **bottom-up** » and « **change-oriented approach** » from the actors involved.

Many thanks to our partners!

- MISEREOR
- Embassy of Germany and France
- Catholic Committee against Hunger and for Development (CCHD)
- Funds for Development of professional training (FDFP)
- District of Abidjan, municipalities of Abobo and Cocody
- the Ministry of Literacy and Non-Formal Education (MENET - DAENF - ex SAA)
- Educational and Social complexes of Abobo and Cocody (MFPES)
- Evening classes and literacy centers
- "Platform Networks" of Cocody and Abobo (PFS) and Youth Employment structures (AEJ)
- Regional and national trade chambers (CNMCI)
- Orange Foundation of Côte d'Ivoire (FOCI)
- Young Catholic Students' Organization (JEC)



Centre de Recherche et d'Action pour la Paix

ASMU - Social Action in Urban Areas



The ASMU was created in 1985 in the municipality of Abobo (District of Abidjan) in a poor neighborhood called Abobo Sagbé, Côte d'Ivoire. It is a part of the Social Pole of the CERAP (ex-INADES).

Mission: "to work toward the promotion of human dignity and fight against poverty by reducing economic and social exclusion of the youth, improving living standards and status of the most vulnerable populations, and promoting -at the collective level- social responsibility, accountability, justice and cohesion".

Target areas: District of Abidjan, in the municipalities of **Cocody** and **Abobo**.

Target populations:

- **Youth** (14-25 years old) from impoverished families from Cocody and Abobo
- **Artisans** (apprentices' bosses) and other actors of craftsmanship
- **Civil society organizations**, professional and / or civic associations
- **Government institutions** and territorial communities
- **The general public** (awareness and advocacy)

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The ASMU takes part in 3 additional areas:

1. Social and professional training of vulnerable young people

Selection criteria for young apprentices:

- Young (girls and boys) from impoverished families,
- Young illiterate or out-of-school children that have a school level below that of the 5th grade,
- Aged from 14 to 25 years old,
- Having the desire to learn a craftsmanship,
- Whose legal guardian lives in Abobo or Cocody.



Training components:

- **A 3-month motivation period:** drawing up a vocational project (aspirations, strengths, weaknesses, family environment...) in order to choose a trade.
- **A professional training:**
 - Apprenticeship of a trade in the craft sector, supervised by a master craftsman instructor,
 - Technical modules in a classroom (alternance training).

Craft trades:

Sewing (men, women, children) – calligraphy – house painting – shoemaking – air-conditioning – cooking/baking - mechanics (car or motorcycle) – car building – automotive electricity – tapestry - electronics – electricity - ironwork and welding – tiling – hairdressing – carpentry...

Individual coaching by an ASMU facilitator (visits to the workshop and family).

Additional trainings to the professional training:

- Functional literacy,
- Human training: passing on life skills and knowledge to the youth to bring changes in behavior and a better social insertion (emotional life, AIDS, civism, community/associative life...),
- Simplified management of a workshop or an income-generating activity.

An innovative pedagogy for a more complete training:

• **Leadership and responsibility training:** organized in small groups for complementary training, the students elect representatives for each group.

• **Gender and empowerment:** there are many girls amongst the apprentices (81% in Abobo in 2017). The ASMU encourages them to take on responsibilities including in the groups' representatives.

• **Theatre** to arouse oral expression and self-confidence (the apprentices often have poor French skills).

• **Citizen, athletic and cultural activities:**

- Citizen actions, services to the community: neighborhood clean-ups...



- Cultural activities: educational films, theatre, debates...
- Sports: handball, football, Maracaña...

The ASMU trains about 450 apprentices per year.

2. Capacity development of associations and leaders of civil society organizations



Training and mentoring of craftsmen associations

The ASMU offers trainings to its artisans and to the members of professional organizations and associations, partners of the ASMU apprentices' training:

Financial management of a workshop – creating a business plan – craftsman code – creation and management of a professional association – facilitation of functional literacy classes...

Training of civil society organizations, structures or leaders, having a project:

For several years now, the ASMU has organized training according to **2 methods**:

- **biannual sessions** (January-April and June-September), with coaching, practical setup of a project...
 - **“Custom-made” training modules:** (upon request) for a civil society organization, an organization or an institution (CNDH-CI, FAO-CI, National Caritas, AVSI, DJPCI...).
- Terms and conditions to be determined together.*

Mentoring and coaching of institutions or leaders of citizen associations of inhabitants, women, young people (Abobo PK18, villages of the district ...).

Themes of certified training courses:

Project management – citizen control of public action – monitoring and evaluating a project – fundraising – advocacy work – good associative governance – job search assistance – gender-based violence – Setting up of a business plan – urban property – web communication...

