

Report on the campaign on the topics "Where to with the garbage?", "Waste separation at home or in landfills", "What does plastic do to our health and environment?", "How do we keep our district clean?"

In advance, the head of the Aïtchédji district divided his district into 20 sub-zones, which were then grouped into 6 higher-level zones depending on what they had in common. Each sub-zone was required to send 2 to 4 representatives for the sensitization campaign, depending on its size.

January 25, 2020: First workshop:

The communicator presented the project. People were very interested and eagerly participated in the discussions. We found that this issue touched a sore point in society. The many wild landfills were seen as a real health hazard.



Public landfills have been considered. The district of Aïtchédji already has such a landfill. Then the question was asked: where to put the garbage? Because if garbage were collected twice a week, this landfill would be much too small. The question came up about waste recycling. "What can we do with the garbage?" There was talk of composting. Since the head of the district had viewed a German composting plant during a visit to Germany last September, he told about it. He concluded by saying that the district of Aïtchédji does not have the money to build such a composting plant, but that would not mean that there is no possibility to create something similar with less money. It has also been said that plastic can be pressed and sold to companies that could use the

plastic as a fuel, e.g. Cement factories. However, it must be ensured that such companies have a good filter for their exhaust gases. Bottles could be sold to juice producers, iron to iron traders. After this thought, the next discussion was how and when to separate the garbage. Before the discussion went on, the communicator invited everyone present to visit a wild landfill with him.



The smell of the landfill repelled many participants. But the landfill was not supposed to be simply looked at. The communicator pulled out a box of disposable gloves and distributed the gloves. The participants hesitantly entered the garbage mountain and began to pull out individual items.



With this exercise, the question of where to separate the garbage was answered almost automatically. A separation of the rubbish in the landfill was unreasonable. It was also found that separating the rubbish at landfills could be life-threatening, as many auxiliary nurses still do not properly bring the used needles to hospitals for disposal. When separating on landfills, the risk of pinching oneself with such a needle and becoming infected with HIV is very high. All participants accepted without exception that each family should have at least 3 rubbish bins. The following question referred again to the

landfills. People wanted to identify at least 3 landfills in their district so that the separated garbage could also be stored separately and prepared for new use.

At the end of the first workshop, the representatives of the sub-zones were given homework to reflect on how the waste issue could be better organized.

February 1st, 2020: 2nd workshop:

To start the 2nd workshop, the memories of the 1st workshop were refreshed. The participants then shared what they had been thinking of during the week. It was mentioned that they remembered seeing very much plastic on the wild dump and therefore the plastic dump had to be particularly large. The communicator used this proposal to talk about the damage plastic does to our health and the environment. A lot of information about false hormones and other components of plastic was new to the participants. Biodegradable bags have been discussed. But the communicator pointed out to his audience that the best garbage is the one that is not produced. That means using bowls, bottles, fabric bags and leaves as packaging material.



(This image shows how Akasa is conventionally wrapped in leaves. Akasa is a cornstarch jelly that is eaten with sauces. Today, many women use plastic bags instead of the leaves.)

There was also talk of leaving unnecessary packaging in the supermarkets or at the market sale-stalls. As an example, toothpaste tubes were mentioned, which are sold again packed in boxes. If customers refused to take additional garbage home, the middlemen would be forced to leave the additional garbage with the manufacturers and they would be forced on their turn to minimize the unnecessary packaging.

The last point that was discussed was how the individual sub-zones and their higher-level zones could be organized so that their immediate surroundings would be clean and pleasant. It has been suggested that a cleaning day be held once a month. It was mentioned that they lack material and tools to carry them out. It was also thought that young people could be hired as “cleanliness keepers” who would appeal to people who throw things on the street. Each sub-zone wanted to organize awareness-raising campaigns in their surrounding. The ideas were varied and further meetings to mature the ideas were planned.



February 8th, 2020: great awareness campaign:

The chief of the district of Aïtchédji opened the big campaign, to which all citizens of the district were invited. The communicator gave the citizens present a brief overview of the past workshops.



“Vie et Culture” presented a play that mainly dealt with the subject of plastic.



Subsequently, representatives of different population groups, i.e. youngsters, young people, mothers, fathers, members of the parents and teachers association of schools and the wise of the area offered their thoughts from their point of view.





Next, all participants in the workshops were given a certificate of participation.



The association Ecole de Solidarité ended the activity by handing over wheelbarrows filled with tools for the cleaning days to the district of Aïtchédji.

