

Release

Responding to the Covid-19 pandemic

Fribourg, Wednesday the 8th of July

As the Covid-19 situation continues to unfold, our purpose of enhancing rural livelihood by driving a respectful tropical agriculture is more crucial than ever.

Since the early stages of the pandemic, we have brought substantial local relief efforts in our plantations of Africa and Southeast Asia to address three key priorities: protecting our employees and their families, supporting local communities in their efforts to fight the pandemic, and ensuring continuity in our operations to sustain local employment and support local markets and the farmers depending on them.

To support our teams in the plantations, a crisis unit led by our Corporate Health Advisor has been created, providing expertise and guidance as well as coordinating response efforts between countries. The situation in our host countries is monitored daily and measures are adjusted in our plantations and industrial sites as the situation keeps evolving.

Our teams have gained a strong experience in responding to epidemics during past events such as the Ebola crisis. As a result, they have been able to quickly react to the Coronavirus and set up a number of pro-active prevention measures on our operational sites.

In compliance with local governments' recommendations and regulations, our plantations have established procedures to prevent further spread of the virus such as restrictions of movements and social distancing, along with a strict control of people and vehicles entering and leaving the operational sites.

Prevention campaigns have been conducted through the best local media available to reach the biggest number of people possible, including sensitization programs broadcasted through local radio channels.

Our employees and third parties have been extensively trained on safety measures about Covid-19.

On our sites, we have purchased the necessary equipment to prevent and face the Covid-19: buckets, soaps, hand sanitizers, face masks, food items, thermometers, etc.

Health check-ups and testing campaigns are organized in cooperation with local health authorities. Equipment was also supplied to our medical centres, along with specific training on how to handle any suspected case in coordination with relevant public departments.

All these measures are being reinforced as the situation still evolves globally.

Our approach to respond to the Covid-19 situation also focuses on local communities through donations of equipment and sometimes financial support to governmental authorities. For example:

- *In Nigeria, Okomu distributed food to 21 communities near its plantation, including 6 250 kg of rice, 12 500 kg of beans and 150 litres of palm oil to help them during the lockdown¹;*
- *Our subsidiaries, Socapalm, Safacam and SPFS-Palm'or have made a donation of XAF 50 million (over 76 000 euros) to the Government of Cameroon for the Special National Solidarity Fund created to fight the Covid-19. This action has been recognized by several national media²;*
- *In Côte d'Ivoire, SOGB has invested XAF 1.4 million (over 2 000 euros) to offer necessary health kits to its neighbouring villages³. These kits include buckets with taps, liquid soap, hydro-alcoholic gel and bleach;*
- *In Sierra Leone, SAC has donated 4 000 gallons (over 15 000 litres) of palm oil to the Government⁴ and supported the district of Pujehun with the distribution of 50 buckets, signs and soaps and with the provision of 520 litres of diesel to the Covid-19 team to help implement the lockdown. SAC also provided 400 litres of palm oil for quarantine houses and visitors overseeing the lockdown;*
- *In Liberia, LAC has donated 300 buckets with faucets and soap to its communities, along with 2 500 kg of rice to help them cope with the lockdown. SRC also donated buckets and soap to its communities.*

To see all the actions taken by the Socfin Group and its subsidiaries, you can consult the news section on our website⁵ and on our plantations' social media.

¹<https://www.sunnewsonline.com/covid-19-okomu-oil-palm-donates-food-items-to-21-communities-in-edo/>

²<https://ecomatin.net/le-groupe-socfin-offre-50-millions-de-fcfa-pour-lutter-contre-le-covid-19/>

³<https://aip.ci/cote-divoire-aip-covid-19-des-kits-sanitaires-offerts-aux-populations-des-villages-de-grand-bereby/>

⁴<https://www.globaltimes-sl.com/socfin-kissy-industry-boost-covid-19-fight/>

⁵<https://www.socfin.com/en/news>



Cameroon - Hand washing point in Safacam



Nigeria - Donation to members of the Ofunama Community by Okomu



Cameroon - XAF 50 million contribution to the Special National Solidarity Fund



Cambodia - Health check-up of workers with Public Health Department representatives

Being an essential economic actor in our host regions, we are deploying all safety precautions with the aim of ensuring the continuity of our activities to guarantee employment of our workers and maintain an active market for local smallholders.

We are committed to face this crisis together with our employees and host communities. Our teams are already showing great adaptability and have been mobilised since the beginning of the pandemic to implement all necessary measures.

Together, we will get through this exceptional situation.

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