



Isle of Man
Government

Reiltys Ellan Vannin

Project Reference No: SG003.15

PROJECT REPORT

Project Name: Mali Cook Stoves

Organisation Name: Christian Aid

Date Funds Received: 26/02/2016

Notes to Reporters:

A brief, concise, and to-the-point report of two three pages is what we require. Insert as much text as you feel is appropriate, but do not feel obliged to write a long report when a short one would suffice. The questions in Sections 1-5 must be clearly addressed.

A report must be sent within 12 months of funding – even if the project is incomplete. Failure to do so will disqualify you from consideration for further funding.

1: Projects Outcomes – the results achieved.

(Include here a brief comparison between original project goals and actual outcomes.)

Objectives Planned Activities Planned Outcomes	Narrative - Actual Outputs & Outcomes
<p>To identify potential markets and beneficiary households through conducting an initial mapping exercise and diagnostic study of the improved cook stoves value chain</p> <p>Activities: This pilot project will commence with awareness raising activities in the target communities to the project, and its aims and objectives. Key project stakeholders will be identified. Activities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting a diagnostic study of the improved cook stoves value chain in the three target districts • Identification of 300 beneficiary households • Organisation and sensitisation of household beneficiaries into the project aims, most notably how to access improved cook stoves • Establishing a mechanism for poor, vulnerable households to access SEWA improved cook stoves 	<p>Key Outcome: 480 households now have access to an improved cook stove (ICS) and use it regularly</p> <p>Due to the successful awareness raising programmes, the prominent location of the improved cook stoves (ICS) shops in the centre of the communes and the financing schemes introduced for poorer families, the project has exceeded its initial target of ICS take-up by 300 households. 480 households are understood to have purchased a locally made ICS from July 2016 – December 2016.</p> <p>A mapping exercise was conducted in May 2016 which covered: the socio-demographic make-up of the targeted communes; the types of stoves and energy sources currently in use and the reasons for their choice; the level of household income and typical expenditure on energy and cooking; the availability of ICS; the perception and of ICS, they type they would like to receive and what they would be willing to spend.</p> <p>The data from this was used to plan the project implementation, develop the financing scheme and informed the design of the ICS presented to the local artisans.</p>
<p>To identify and support relevant market actors and artisans to increase the number of cook stoves produced</p> <p>Activities: The project will adopt an approach that supports local artisans in the production of cook stoves. The project will aim to increase the number of cook stoves being made by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting and scaling up the work of partner organisation Katene Kadji, a local cook stove manufacturer. Katene Kadji will train local artisans to produce high quality stoves which it will then purchase. This contributes towards the 	<p>Key Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 220 female potters have been trained and equipped in the project area; • 220 potters have seen their income increased by more than 10%; • 72 Blacksmiths were trained and equipped, and have improved income of more than 5% <p>Training sessions for the 220 female potters took place in May 2016, and covered the stove manufacturing process, health and safety and quality indicators. Each group received 4 training sessions of 8 hours. Upon completion of their training, equipment and funds were provided to the potters to support their activities. Follow-up training and additional guidance continued until August 2016, with a final session in November 2016, allowing the potters to share their learnings and advice for best practice.</p>

<p>artisans developing their own businesses, ensuring sustainability of the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These artisans will be supported to develop their own producer associations, and will access training in production quality, marketing and financial management, as well as increasing their access to credit. • Training will be given to artisans at each level of the value chain, namely craftsmen, craftswomen, retailers, as well as users at the household level • Practical equipment support will be given to artisans – including blacksmiths kit, potters kit, road signs, advertising flyers, labels, SEWA cook stove instruction labels and books. 	<p>The training of blacksmiths consisted of five eight-hour sessions. The training focused on the steps of manufacturing the metal coating, particularly mastering the tracing of the plate, the cutting, the assembly of the cut parts, and the assembly and finishing of the ICS. Each blacksmith also received tools and equipment, plus a small grant of start-up funds, and received follow-up supervision and additional training where necessary.</p>
<p>To improve awareness of and access to ICS by poor, vulnerable households</p> <p>Activities: The project recognises that in order to stimulate demand for cook stoves, it needs interventions which increase awareness of the health and financial benefits of clean cook stoves and makes them affordable for poor families. It will do this through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising campaigns –community mobilisation activities will take place, such as market days or the use of champions/early adopters who can help generate interest and demand. Christian Aid will work with Government ministries to integrate cook stoves awareness into health education and will undertake radio campaigns to promote the use of cook stoves • Financing schemes – support will be given to micro-finance schemes and the development of savings and loan associations (community based savings and credit 	<p>Key Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three shops (one per commune) have been opened for the sale of improved cook stoves; • An access mechanism to ICS for poor/vulnerable households has been created <p>To increase awareness of the project and the opportunities for local artisans and households, the project was officially launched in April 2016 with a ceremony at the former Regional Centre for Solar Energy in Badalabougou. This was attended by representatives from central services and states agencies responsible for electrification and domestic energy, the communal and traditional authorities (town hall and village chief) and members of the local population from the three targeted communes.</p> <p>To encourage interest in the ICS the partner held two information sessions in each commune, which included culinary tests conducted by local community members such as women’s groups and traditional leaders, using both ICS and traditional stoves. The demonstrators were timed and adjudicators measured the amount of fuel and the time taken to cook each meal. Local radio stations broadcast the results of the tests, which showed a 48% reduction in time taken to cook, and a 75% reduction in fuel consumed, compared to traditional stoves.</p> <p>These tests were followed by community discussions that focused on the potential risk to health and wellbeing of the</p>

<p>schemes) which will ensure that poor families are able to access the funds needed to purchase the stoves.</p>	<p>traditional stoves and the environmental impact of burning fossil fuels.</p> <p>Radio campaigns ran on local stations in each of the communes for five months. Topics included: the features and benefits of ICS, the access to stoves in rural areas; instructions for use of the stoves and the availability of manufactures in the local area.</p> <p>The ISC shops were established in July 2016 to support sales of locally produced ICS and increase awareness amongst the local community of their benefits. The shops are located in or close to the local markets, are staffed by local women and are open 6 days a week. Set-up meetings were established between the shops and the local artisans, setting a fixed price for the different parts of the ICS and the finished product. Quality standards and indicators were also agreed.</p> <p>At the same time, financing schemes were developed to ensure poor families could access the required funds to purchase the ICS. This was done in coordination with the new shops and through a consultation process with local stakeholders. The effectiveness and the use of the financing schemes continued to be monitored and assessed up until December 2016, and will continue to be monitored after the end of the formal project by partner organisation, Katene Kadji. The finance scheme allows poorer households to purchase ICS on credit, with very reasonable repayment rates. Each household is sponsored by a local association who acts as a guarantor.</p>
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2: Financial Accountability – how the money was spent.

A financial report has been included in this application. As you'll see the direct project implementation costs were higher than expected, but savings were made in the Human Resources lines of the budgets. As such the project came in only slightly over budget, with the additional costs being covered by Christian Aid's innovation fund, In Their Lifetime.

3: Project Process Narrative – how the project was implemented or progressed to date.

The project was implemented according to the project plan and within the given budget. Support from local authorities and traditional leaders was sought early in the development, allowing for a successful launch and for community concerns to be addressed in the early stages. The project was particularly well received by the local women's groups and the female potters who received training and a new source of income from the project.

Difficulties experienced

There were initial complications with the local perception of the project, specifically that local communities would be asked to pay for the ICS themselves rather than be given them. In early consultation meetings with local authorities and community leaders, the rationale behind the

market system approach of the project was explained, along with the advantages of the model for local enterprise and the plans for a financing system.

In one commune, there was poor cooperation between the blacksmiths and the potters, leading to delays in production. The partner helped to solve these problems by bringing the groups together and establishing group leaders to help coordinate the supply and demand of the metal components.

The low level of education amongst the female potters also caused complications around basic literacy and numeracy tasks required for the production and sale of the ICS. In the ongoing monitoring of the women's training and skill development, the partner attempted to rectify these issues with informal training and by pairing more educated women with less educated women. For future projects, the partner has recommended that basic literacy and numeracy be included in all markets and enterprise related training.

Testimonials

Ms Cisse of Moribabougou:

We enjoyed the introduction of the stoves among us. Women members of my grouping are satisfied with the mechanism put in place to acquire the stove. It would be difficult for poor women to disburse in one place 7,500 FCFA to buy an improved stove. With the sale credit system, everyday each pays 100 FCFA. On Fridays, we pay to the shop. We have opened another list as soon as we finish repaying this first credit, we are going to take another for the happiness of other women.

Ms. Coulibaly of Baguineda Camp:

We liked the stove. But because of money, we could not buy it. With this project and especially as it is ourselves who manufacture and sell it, we put in place a system of sale credit which can allow all in need to get.

The major difficulties that we have is the supply of clay (which is expensive and far from our village) and of metal part of the stove because our blacksmiths have not yet well accompanied us in the process.

Mr Daouda Dara, a blacksmith in Dialakorodji:

The project allowed me to get a consistent job. Indeed, I have been trained by the project and now I make stoves. The major difficulty on my level is the lack of funds to meet the orders of potters and to make an appropriate workshop for doing the work.

In a survey of project beneficiaries in December 2016, beneficiaries were asked to judge their experience of the project as either Very Good, Good, Quite Good, Fair, Poor or Very Poor. 32% of people rated the project as Very Good, 61% as Good and 7% as Quite Good.

4: Visual Report – photographs.

(Attach some photographs in electronic format of project implementation & results).

These have been included in the email with the report.

5: Your Comments – sustainability / next steps / potential to scale up etc....

(Include here any other comments, learnings, or suggestions you have for the Isle of Man)

Sustainability

We believe this project is likely to be sustainable. The communal and village authorities have been heavily involved since the beginning. They are all aware of benefits of ICS on family economy, health and wellbeing and the preservation of the environment. They are committed to continue the project at the level of their respective constituency. The three shops will remain open indefinitely, facilitating the availability of ICS at the local level and providing local artisans with a regular market. The project partner Katene Kadji has committed to continue to monitor the effectiveness of the financing scheme and to ensure credit rates and prices remain at a level that is agreeable to all parties.

This project has successfully met its objectives and initiated a long-term market solution for improved household cooking. However, the number of households using ICS remains low given the number of potential households. The various actors involved in the project are motivated to sustain the project actions beyond this pilot phase. The administrative, communal and village authorities have discussed an extension of the project to other communes of the district and even of the region. Additionally, there have been consumer requests for larger pots to be sold, for use in larger households, restaurants and for catering social events.

Learning

The findings from this project formed part of wider organisational review of Christian Aid's ICS work. This learning review confirmed the substantial improvements on fuel efficiency and cooking conditions provided by ICS compared to traditional cooking methods. Health and wellbeing improvements were found in the increased safety of the ICS and the ease and convenience of their use. There have been some considerable lessons learnt on how best to support market development, emerging from each of the pilots such as this one in Mali, to promote and expand the market for ICS which are ongoing. Consolidating and sharing this has begun, through the learning documents and initiating the community of practice on ICS. However, this requires ongoing support to maintain and strengthen. The results of this project and the other Christian Aid ICS pilots in other countries have been shared with local authorities and partner organisations in all project areas, allowing decision makers to compare the different experiences of the projects and share learning.

January 2017