



Isle of Man
Government

Reiltys Ellan Vannin

Project Reference No: SG002.17

PROJECT REPORT – Year 1

Project Name: Improved Cook-stoves in Burundi - A Cleaner Climate Initiative
(Dukingire Igit)

Organisation Name: Christian Aid

Date Funds received: 24/9/2021

SUMMARY

This new innovative project financed by the Isle of Man Government is completing its first year of implementation by Christian Aid Burundi and Agribusiness Service (ABS). The project area is in the commune of Nyamurenza in the province of Ngozi. Overall, the objective of the project is to improve access to sustainable cooking methods by stimulating the production, purchase, and use of an additional 13,500 improved cleaner energy stoves and to catalyse conditions for sustainable cook-stove market development. The partners have been working with the communities to:

- Improve community access to the improved cook-stoves and knowledge of the harm traditional wood stoves contribute to their health and the environment.
- Support the development of quality production standards and establish two women led co-operatives capable of manufacturing high quality stoves for the local market.

In summary 754 cook-stoves have been produced by the two co-operatives (501 at Gicu hill and 253 at Buhigirinka hill). In addition, the co-operatives have achieved diversification of the products: 457 tiles, 34 pots and 330 bricks. Co-operative leaders have improved their skills in funds management and opened a bank account with a microfinance institution. The youth (male and female) are also motivated to receive trainings on the new technology to build the hangar and an oven tunnel. All community members from the two villages are highly motivated and are actively taking part in all planned activities.

1: Projects Outcomes – the results achieved in year 1.

This section of the report provides a brief comparison between the original project goals and the outcomes achieved in year 1.

Objectives Planned Activities Planned Outcomes	Narrative - Actual Outputs & Outcomes																																																		
<p>Outcome 1: To improve community access to the improved cook-stoves and knowledge of the harm traditional wood stoves contribute to both their health and the environment.</p> <p>Output1.1 Community workshops held on health and climate impacts of the improved cook-stoves.</p>	<p>1.1.1 <u>Identification of project beneficiaries</u></p> <p>The project participants identification took place via a participative process where the local administration was involved to identify the most vulnerable community members in two hills (Gicu and Buhigiranka) within the zones of Nyamurenza Commune. As a result, 566 individuals, each representing a household were identified, as detailed below:</p> <table><tr><th colspan="3">1. GICU Hill (Colline/village): 285</th></tr><tr><th>Categories</th><th>Number</th><th>%</th></tr><tr><td>Male</td><td>153</td><td>56</td></tr><tr><td>Female</td><td>132</td><td>46</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>285</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Youth (18-35)</td><td>92</td><td>32</td></tr><tr><td>Adult (36-59)</td><td>160</td><td>56</td></tr><tr><td>Adult (plus 60)</td><td>33</td><td>11</td></tr></table> <table><tr><th colspan="3">BUHIGIRANKA Hill (Colline/village): 281</th></tr><tr><th>Categories</th><th>Number</th><th>%</th></tr><tr><td>Male</td><td>87</td><td>31</td></tr><tr><td>Female</td><td>194</td><td>69</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>281</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Youth (18-35)</td><td>114</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>Adult (36-59)</td><td>130</td><td>46</td></tr><tr><td>Adult (plus 60)</td><td>37</td><td>13</td></tr></table>			1. GICU Hill (Colline/village): 285			Categories	Number	%	Male	153	56	Female	132	46	TOTAL	285		Youth (18-35)	92	32	Adult (36-59)	160	56	Adult (plus 60)	33	11	BUHIGIRANKA Hill (Colline/village): 281			Categories	Number	%	Male	87	31	Female	194	69	TOTAL	281		Youth (18-35)	114	40	Adult (36-59)	130	46	Adult (plus 60)	37	13
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<p>Output 1.2 Demonstration of improved cook-stoves to community and distribution to 200 vulnerable households</p>	<p><u>1.1.2 Conducting awareness raising sessions at the village level</u> Each zone (Hill) benefitted from meetings to inform the communities about the project including the local administration. As an outcome, all the communities in the zones are aware of the project and the provincial administration regularly visit the project.</p> <p><u>1.1.3 Workshop sessions on the contribution of inefficient cooking to climate change</u> Each colline (village) benefitted from meetings to sensitise the communities to the project. In total an estimated 600 households attended the workshop sessions on cook-stoves and in addition to having their capacity enhanced they also registered to adhere to co-operative regulations.</p> <p><u>1.1.4 Workshop sessions on rapid deforestation and impact on climate change</u> 35 representatives per co-operative took part in an awareness-raising meetings on deforestation and the impacts on the climate on the country and in particular in the commune of Nyamurenza. This has helped them understand the importance of preserving trees and on producing new plans to regenerate their plots of trees in the field</p> <p><u>1.1.5 Training on transitioning to clean and fuel-efficient cook-stoves and how this can reduce the environmental and climate damage</u> 25 representatives per co-operative have been sensitized on the transitioning to clean and fuel-efficient cook-stove and how it can reduce the environment and climate damage. This knowledge will be shared with the other co-operative members.</p> <p><u>1.2.1 Select 200 pilot households in two zones of Nyamurenza</u> In collaboration with local administration officers in the commune of Nyamurenza, our partner, ABS organised meetings to select 200 vulnerable households to participate in the pilot to receive cook-stoves free of charge and act as demonstrators. 97% of these households are led by women.</p>
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	<p><u>1.2.2 Distribution of 200 improved cook-stoves to the most vulnerable households</u> The distribution of the 200 cook-stoves took place in August 22. Each household received one cook-stove. The distribution was supported by the Governor of the province of Ngozi. The households that received the cook-stoves will form a benchmark to evaluate the impact of the cook-stove on reducing the emission of gas and the reduction in the use of firewood.</p> <p><u>1.2.3 Conduct a comparative survey and data collection on reduction of household air pollution</u> This activity will be conducted in year 2 of the project.</p> <p><u>1.2.4 Demonstration session with community leaders and climate change champions</u> This activity will be conducted in year 2 of the project.</p>
<p>Outcome 2: Support the development of quality production standards in partnership with ABS and establish two women led co-operatives capable of manufacturing 7,240 high quality stoves per year for the local market.</p> <p>Output 2.1 Established quality standards and production capacity of improved cook-stoves via two women led co-operatives.</p>	<p><u>2.1.1 Creation of two women led co-operatives</u> Training sessions for co-operative members have been organised to teach the laws of co-operatives in Burundi. This training allowed them to organise democratic elections and achieve approved legal status as co-operatives.</p> <p><u>2.1.2 Train the trainer workshops on improved cook-stoves production standards (60 trainers trained)</u> Different groups benefited from the training. A group of 10 Batwa community (an indigenous ethnic minority group experiencing marginalization, discrimination, and extreme poverty, 7 females and 3 males trained), youth - 30 males and 20 females have been trained in making small conical bricks. The training of trainers (ToT) have gained skills on how to produce cook-stoves, how to make them solid and produce diversified products. The production of diversified products made from clay will help the cooperative members to diversify their income and support the sustainability of the co-operative.</p> <p><u>2.1.3 Purchase of two plots to construct the co-operative hangars.</u></p>

<p>Output 2.2 Developed linkages to local markets and stimulate demand for improved cookstoves</p>	<p>Each Committee of the two co-operatives successfully negotiated the price and purchase of plots in their communities to construct the hangers for the manufacture of the cook-stoves.</p> <p><u>2.1.4 Construction of the co-operative workshop hangars</u> All the constructive material and furniture have been provided on time. There has been high participation by the community to collect local material and transport it to the site of construction. The ovens and hangars are now in operation for the manufacture and drying out of the cook-stoves.</p> <p><u>2.1.5 Set up clay supply mechanism, including licencing</u> This activity is scheduled for year 2 of the project.</p> <p><u>2.2.1 Development of branding for cooperative cookstoves</u> This activity is scheduled for year 2 of the project.</p> <p><u>2.2.2 Supporting and establishing linkage to local markets</u> This activity is scheduled for year 2 of the project</p> <p><u>2.2.3 Publicity using local radio</u> This activity is scheduled for year 2 of the project</p> <p><u>2.2.4 Participation in sector meetings</u> This activity is scheduled for year 2 of the project.</p> <p><u>2.2.5 Participation in the provincial and national agro fairs</u> This activity is scheduled for year 2 of the project.</p> <p><u>2..2.6 Training sessions for cooperatives on marketing</u> This activity is scheduled for year 2 of the project.</p>
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2: Financial Accountability – how the money was spent.

The total project budget is £126,043 and it was estimated that £73,301 would be spent in year 1. The actual expenditure to the end of year 1 was £64,293. Minor variations have occurred in the budget. Some activities such as the workshop sessions under outcome one, all took place in year 1 (rather than planned over 2 years). Other activities including the clay supply mechanism licence will take place early in year 2. The year 1 underspend of £9,007 will be incurred in year 2 and the project overall budget remains on course.

In addition to the grant of £100,000 (with a first instalment of £60,00), £17,000 has been raised from churches and individuals and during our Christian Aid Week fund raising appeal on the Isle of Man. The overall target across the project for fund raising is £26,043 and fund raising is ongoing.

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

The improved cook stoves project in Burundi started as an innovative project implemented by Christian Aid and its partner ABS in a new area of Ngozi Province. ABS developed and worked in close collaboration with local administrative authorities at provincial level to village level in the commune of Nyamurenza to organize sensitization and monthly training workshop by the ABS team animator

The meetings were focused on different topics notably:

- Registration of project participants
- Sensitising on the advantage of cook stoves use
- Creation of cooperatives
- Training on co-operative management
- Provide material for hangar construction
- Training youth, women and Batwa on new technology to make cook-stoves, tiles, bricks etc.
- Some challenges during the implementation especially the high and heavy rain in the period of activities (February to April) and the lack of transport due to the crisis of fuel in the country. This impacted on project visits to monitor field activities.

The construction of the 2 hangars went well, starting with the purchase of iron sheets for the roofing. Bricks were purchased to build the oven with the tunnel. The heavy rains in April partially destroyed the oven so the co-operative had to buy additional bricks to complete the construction. Following testing of the cook-stoves, production commenced.

Safeguarding

Project partner staff have been training by Christian Aid on safeguarding and related accountability mechanisms. The partner now has a safeguarding policy for staff to adopt. Awareness on the policy has been cascaded to the project participants by ABS. An accountability mechanism has been implemented including a complaints system. Any complaints are collected and analyzed and reported to the safeguarding officer to respond. A confidential free phone number has been shared with the community.

Risk Management

Operational, financial, and political risks are regularly monitored, and mitigation measures actioned where necessary.

Communication Plan

Christian Aid continues to maintain a genuine and substantial connection to the Island with a local presence and dedicated Partnerships Officer. Over the last year she has been responsible for the implementation of communication and fundraising activities in the Isle of Man.

This includes raising awareness of the grant and showcasing the project and issues to the Manx people. Stands were taken to Tynwald Day, the Royal Show, and the Flower Festival. At Tynwald day in the Global Village, we explained the project and demonstrated a cook-stove in operation in a unique way by involving local community members and toasting over 350 marshmallows. (Photograph attached with this report).

During Christian Aid week, in May 2022, we engaged the Manx public - reaching over 20,000 people and raising awareness of the need for co-funding. We have run events and visits with the cook-stove to schools, churches, fairs, and shows. The project has generated interest in the issue of climate change and how the project participants will benefit from safer cooking and fuel reduction. The recent collaboration with the IOM has been impactful to the people of Burundi. By working in and with the communities, local solutions have been developed for local issues, maximising the value for money and sustainability of the project. The IOM residents are demonstrating international citizenship by supporting communities in Burundi to flourish independently in a difficult environment.

4: Visual Report – photographs.

Due to size, we have attached additional photos by email rather than in the report

5. Next Stage Activities

- Continuation and completion of hangar construction activities (water harvesting and construction of toilets),
- Continual sensitisation and training beneficiaries to use cookstoves,
- Registration of the co-operatives to the Minister of Energy to get legal license,
- Training on co-operative management and on production cost and revenues calculation,
- Assist co-operatives to promote cook-stoves and other material products in various promotion events organised by the Government of Burundi,
- Monitoring field activities and reporting.

Lessons learnt to date: Early participation by the community and co-operative members has engendered their motivation and involvement in decision making. There is a high

level of social cohesion with different ethnic groups working together. The support from the communal authorities has also been key to the project's success as well as the collaboration with ABS implementing the project.

Case Studies

Joséphine, 40 old years, widow

Location: Gicu hill

Family members: 5 (2 boys, 2 girls and herself)

Profession: farmer

Josephine explained that before the project she bought firewood from neighbours to cook her family meals at 2000 BIF (equal to £0.82) per day.



“Thanks to being part of the co-operative, I now know how to manufacture improved cook-stoves, tiles, and other types of sophisticated bricks because these ovens help us to heat and make many products from clay. This project has been beneficial for me because I can earn 1500 BIF (equal to £0.61) per day. It's a tiring job, but I told myself that I need to learn how to do it and now I'm mastering it. I did not know how to make them before this project because there are special and despite the fatigue, I work to feed my children because no one else can do it for me.

My contribution to this co-operative is my strength because I cannot find the money to contribute. The activities prove that our future is bright in our community because the members of the co-operative will benefit from the money from the sale of all the products produced. All members of our community will be sensitised so that they understand the importance of using these improved cook-stoves which will make it possible to lower the cost of purchasing wood and prevent diseases caused by smoke.”

Jean Bosco, 22 years old, supporting his widowed mother and siblings.

Location: Gicu hill

Family members: 9 (his mother, 5 girls and 3 boys).



Jean Bosco told how his family use firewood and

traditional cookstoves for cooking and buy firewood at 3000 BIF (equal to £1.23) per day. During the project sensitization period the community were informed “There is a project aimed at protecting the trees which will be implemented in our hill. They also asked us to be part of it if we were interested. We then formed a cooperative with initially 30 members and elected its representatives and I am part of the supervision committee

After the training on the importance of using improved cookstoves, we bought the building plot for the shed, the clay extraction plot, the construction wood, collected wood, terraced the plot, and built the shed and oven. I had never seen this kind of cookstoves in this location.

This project has also brought us together in a cooperative without any ethnic distinction which allows us to increase friends. The cookstoves are going to allow us to use little firewood to prepare our meals and will also help prevent from diseases due to smoke.”

Report date: 31 August 2022