

Project Reference No: SG002.17

FINAL PROJECT REPORT

Project Name: Improved Cookstoves in Burundi - A Cleaner Climate Initiative

(Dukingire Igiti)

Organisation Name: Christian Aid

Date Funds Received: 7 October 2022

SUMMARY

This innovative project financed by the Isle of Man Government, was designed to improve access to sustainable cooking methods by stimulating the production, purchase, and use of an additional 13,500 improved cleaner energy cook-stoves, and to catalyse conditions for sustainable cookstove market development in the commune of Nyamurenza in Ngozi province, Burundi. The project, which is now complete, was implemented by Christian Aid and its local partner AgriBusiness service (ABS).

The partners have been working with the communities to

- Increase community access to the improved cookstoves 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 succeeded in diversifying their products (and therefore income) by also producing; 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.

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

Objectives Planned Activities	Narrative - A	Narrative - Actual Outputs & Outcomes 1.1 Identification of project beneficiaries ne project participants identification took place via a rticipative process where the local administration has involved to identify the most vulnerable					
Planned Outcomes Outcome 1:							
To improve community access to							
the improved cookstoves and							
knowledge of the harm							
traditional wood stoves							
contribute to both their health							
and the environment.							
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Output1.1	1.1.1 <u>Identification of project beneficiaries</u>						
Community workshops held on	The project participants identification tools also see						
health and climate impacts of the improved cookstoves.							
improved cookstoves.	* * *						
	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:						
	33.5						
	1. GICU Hill (Colline/village): 285						
	Categories	Number	%				
	Male	153	56				
	Female	132	46				
	TOTAL	285	122				
	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				

1.1.2 Conducting awareness raising sessions at the village level.

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 were aware of the project and the provincial administration regularly visit the project.

1.1.3 Workshop sessions on the contribution of inefficient cooking to climate change

Each colline (village) benefitted from meetings to sensitize 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.

1.1.4 Workshop sessions on rapid deforestation and impact on climate change

35 representatives per co-operative took part in awareness-raising meetings on deforestation and the impacts on the climate on the country and 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.

1.1.5 Training on transitioning to clean and fuelefficient cook-stoves and how this can reduce the environmental and climate damage.

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 has been shared with the other co-operative members.

Output 1.2 Demonstration of improved cookstoves to community and distribution to 200 vulnerable households

1.2.1 Select 200 pilot households in two zones of Nyamurenza.

In collaboration with local administration officers in two zones of Nyamurenza, 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 were led by women.

1.2.2 Distribution of 200 improved cookstoves to the most vulnerable households

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.

1.2.3 Conduct a comparative survey and data collection on reduction of household air pollution.

The comparative survey and data collection was carried out in year 2 of the project and a report was produced. This showed there was a significant gain for those who use improved stoves: the cost of wood used weekly was reduced by 68%, from 13,031.43FBU (equivalent to £3.66) for traditional stoves to 4165.92 FBY (equivalent £ 1.17); the cooking time was reduced by 72.73% (from 155 minutes for traditional stoves to 42.26 minutes for improved stoves); and the wood collection time which was at 128.23 minutes was reduced to 32.23minutes on average.

In terms of household air pollution, 90.78% of surveyed households stated that improved stoves emit very little smoke and 7.09% estimate there was little smoke. 97.87% of the households surveyed said that traditional cookstove emitted a lot of smoke while only 0.71% of households surveyed said that traditional cookstove respectively emit average smoke, little smoke, and very little smoke.

In terms of firewood consumption, 93.62% of the households surveyed claimed that they realize a significant reduction in wood consumption when they abandoned traditional stoves in favour of improved stoves. 21.99% of households surveyed estimated a reduction of more than 50%; 12.77% estimated a reduction in firewood of between 40 and 50%; 13% of

users of improved stoves noted an attenuation gravitating between 30 and 40% of the firewood; 26.95% of households using improved stoves estimated a reduction in firewood, which ranges between 20 and 30%; then, 17.73% of households surveyed estimated a reduction of 10 to 20% in wood, while 0.71% note that the reduction is less than 10% in firewood.

1.2.4 Demonstration session with community leaders and climate change champions

This activity took place in year 2 of the project. 446 participants (206 men and 260 women) were reached by the demonstration session in the community. The cookstoves demonstration emphasised the advantages of improved cookstoves. This included the rapidity on cooking, reduction in firewood, protection of eyes diseases, and its economic usage), and other topics included how to protect the cookstoves. All the participants appreciated the usage of cookstoves.

Outcome 2:

Support the development of quality production standards in partnership with ABS and establish two women led cooperatives capable of manufacturing 7240 high quality stoves per year for the local market.

Output 2.1

Established quality standards and production capacity of improved cookstoves via two women led cooperatives.

2.1.1 Creation of two women led co-operatives.

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. The co-operatives have been active since October 2021 and are receiving encouragement from the provincial leadership (the governor) of the area.

2.1.2 Train the trainer workshops on improved cook stoves production standards (60 trainers trained)

Different groups have 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 trainers have gained skills on how to produce cookstoves, how to make them solid and produce diversified products.

The production of diversified products made from clay has helped the cooperative members to diversify their income. Products include cookstoves, bricks and tiles. The income generated helps to support the sustainability of the cooperatives.

2.1.3 Purchase of two plots to construct the cooperative hangars.

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.

2.1.4 Construction of the cooperative workshop hangars

All the construction material and furniture were provided on time. There has been high participation by the community, collecting and transporting material to the site. The hangers were completed by 24 June 2022 however due to heavy rains there was a partial destruction of the oven with the tunnel. The cooperative bought additional bricks to repair the oven and with the hangers they are in full operation for the manufacturer and drying of the cookstoves. The hanger also provides a facility for the members to sit and plan together and discuss the future of their cooperative.

2.1.5 Set up clay supply mechanism, including licencing.

In year 2 the cooperatives have been visited by a technical official from the Ministry of Mining to develop and produce an environmental survey about the area where they will take the clay.

The official authorization and the technical environmental survey will be transmitted to the Minister of Environment Agriculture and livelihood to get the license.

The Two cooperatives received the Registration from the Burundi Revenue Authority on 11/9/2023 and all procedures for getting license have been completed.

Output 2.2 Developed linkages to local markets and stimulate demand for improved cookstoves.

2.2.1 Development of branding for cooperative cookstoves

The two cooperatives were registered on 30 March 2023 by the national co-operative Board (ANACOOP). Their branding is Dukingir'igiti meaning (protect the tree).

2.2.2 Supporting and establishing linkage to local markets.

The community members declared their interest to get the modern cookstoves. Through the demonstration, the community were sensitive and informed on where the cooperatives have set up their outlets.

Each of the cooperatives are negotiating contracts with distributors from the provincial market of Ngozi. The cooperatives are planning to increase the production and reach the market and become the single and unique improved cookstoves small holder producer cooperative in Ngozi. Christian Aid and ABS facilitated the linkage with retailers and wholesalers in Ngozi central market and small community commercial centres.

2.2.3 Publicity using local radio.

Demand for the cookstoves has been generated using publicity through local radio. Important messages from administrative authorities, cooperatives leaders, people using modern cookstoves and those using traditional cookstoves were interviewed to deliver their opinions and interest. This broadcast on the improved cookstove enabled several communities' members to get the news of improved cookstoves. More than 7,500 persons were reached through the broadcasts.

2.2.4 Participation in sector meetings

The cooperatives are informed on the project objective and activities. The cooperative members participated in different sector meetings and got introduced in the opportunity on the cookstoves sector.

The meetings were organised by the Ministry of Agriculture with the cooperative sector and in the area of climate change, they participated in meetings with the Forest Farmers producer organisation. In the area of the improved cookstove initiatives, the two cooperatives were mapped among the cooperatives that will be trained on the government direction for cooperative development.

2.2.5 Participation in the provincial and national agro fairs.

The two cooperatives participated in the national and provincial agro-fairs events, and this increased their visibilities and enabled the cooperatives to network with other cookstove sellers and producers. As an outcome the cooperatives have been requested to submit a manifestation of interest in the world bank Soleil -Nyakiriza project that is promoting the new energy. The two created cooperated have send a manifestation of interest in the sector of improved cookstove.

2.2.6 Training sessions for cooperatives on marketing

The leaders of the co-operatives have estimated they can produce a cookstove for between 3000 to 3200 BIF. They have decided to sell the cookstoves for 4500 BIF each. The Training focused on how to negotiate a contract and on marketing (Product, Price, Place and Promotion) After the training the cooperative decide to calculate a small percentage, they will give the retailers as there is a big distance between the cooperatives and the commercial centres as well as the Ngozi market.

They also identified local traders as potential business partners to sell cookstoves in smaller centres of the community.

2: Financial Accountability – how the money was spent.

The total grant received was £100,000 with Christian Aid contributing £26,043 raised from churches and individuals during our Christian Aid Week fundraising appeal on the Isle of Man in 2022 and May 2023. The project expenditure was in line with the original budget which is emailed as a separate report with this narrative.

3: Project Narrative – how the project was implemented or 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. Together with ABS, Christian Aid has implemented all the planned activities within the period agreed in the contract and worked closely with the local administrative authorities at provincial level to village level in the commune of Nyamurenza. Since the last project report, the main activities have related to the outcome of Improving community access to the cookstoves and Knowledge of the harm of traditional wood stoves that contribute to both their health and degradation of the environment. In addition, activities have focused on supporting the development of quality production standards and establishing two women led cooperatives capable of manufacturing. Other activities relate to monitoring and evaluation.

Safeguarding

All actions outlined in the project safeguarding plan were carried out. The Project partner staff were training by Christian Aid on safeguarding and related accountability mechanisms and the partner now has a safeguarding policy for staff to adopt. Awareness on the policy was cascaded to the project participants by ABS. An accountability mechanism has been implemented including a complaints system. Some complaints had been made and these were collected and analyzed and reported to the safeguarding officer who responded. No breach of the policy or code of conduct were found.

In line with the Safeguarding Plan information was regularly shared with project participants on the expected behaviours of the project representatives, (all of whom signed the Code of Conduct). At inception stage a participatory risk analysis was undertaken with the communities, and as a result risk mitigation measures were generated. In recognition that women can be at a greater risk, separate all women focus groups discussions were arranged so they could voice any concerns openly.

Risk Management

The project was managed in line with the risk management plan for operational and political risks with regular monitoring 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, Louise Whitelegg. Over the last year working with Churches Alive in Man World Development Committee, she has been responsible for the implementation of communication and fundraising activities in the Isle of Man.

The month of May saw a great deal of activity with bucket collections throughout the Islands streets and supermarkets, house to house collections, Church services, coffee mornings, craft fairs, quizzes, and concerts. We engaged the Manx public - reaching most people of the Island either directly through the aforementioned efforts or by the coverage

of the project in the Media, with articles appearing in the Independent and the Courier and featuring on Manx Radio's "At your Service" programme.

In addition, we have run events and visits with the cook-stove to schools, churches, fairs, and shows throughout the year.

The feedback from the Manx Public has been warm and heartening. Even in these difficult economic circumstances generosity continues. Discussions of the project have raised issues of climate change and how the project has a novel and practical approach to daily problems. It has also raised awareness of the circumstances Burundian families face and how they support themselves daily. It has brought the challenges of people living in Burundi, to life for the Manx people. For example, there is an understanding of how difficult it is to do something which is so basic for us – such as the ability to cook a meal safely.

The longevity of the project has also been welcomed by the Manx people. It is appreciated that by working in and with the communities, local solutions have been developed for local issues, maximising the value for the Manx pound.

The IOM residents are demonstrating international citizenship by supporting communities in Burundi to flourish independently in a difficult environment. This in turn is helping the Island in reaching its commitment to SDG 4: Insuring Inclusive and Quality Education for All and Promote Lifelong Learning, which includes global citizenship as one of its targets.

Although this may be the end of the project, Churches Alive in Manx World Development Committee intends to have a presentation of this report to the public in January 2024. Additionally, we would also like to present this report and good news story to members of Tynwald.

Sustainability

The two cooperatives have contributed to social, economic, and environmental sustainability through the project. The project has supported women's economic empowerment and had a positive impact on the environment and health of the communities. The communities have a greater awareness of the effects of climate change and through local adaptation and resilience interventions have developed local actions towards mitigating the problem. Local and provincial administrations are interested in sharing the learning with other communes. The cooperatives capacity and management skills have been developed over the period of the project and the financial model is a sustainable one.

4: Visual Report – photographs.

As requested, we have attached photos of the project by email.

5. Case studies /testimonials from project participants



Ntakarutima from Nyamurenza Gigu cooperative is a mother of 4 children. She explains, "In the past, I used to cook the traditional way, but now I use the improved cookstove "Bika igiti". The reason why I shifted was mainly informed by the amount of firewood consumed. The traditional stoves required a lot of firewood, which is not the case with the improved cookstoves. Additionally, when I use the improved cookstove, the smoke is moderate, but the previous technique emitted much smoke, causing diseases. I used to suffer from eye pains in the past but now I don't have such problems, as there is no need to blow into the firewood to ignite the fire. I can even use charcoal. Considering the benefits, I received from using the cookstove, I would recommend my peers to start using the improved cookstoves as they don't require much firewood".

She goes on to say "We 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 this wood and terraced the plot and built the shed and oven. This project has also brought us together in a cooperative without any ethnic distinction which allows us to increase friends. Currently, my contribution in this cooperative is my strength because we are very poor in our family, and we cannot find monetary contributions".

Josephine is a farmer and widow with 4 children based in Gicu hill.

She explains "We use the firewood that we buy from neighbours to cook our meals at 2000BIF per day and we cook in the house where we live. The local authorities called us and talked about this project. They told us



that those who want can form a cooperative that will manufacture the improved cookstoves to sell them, which will allow us to have income too. They also told us that these cookstoves make it possible to use little firewood and that they protect those who cook against smoke-related illnesses because they give off little smoke".

"This project was beneficial for me because currently, I know how to make these modern bricks and I can earn 1500 BIF per day. It's a tiring job, besides you can see that it's almost the men who make them, but I told myself that I need to learn how to do it and now I'm mastering it. I work to feed my children because no one else can do it for me. I also learnt, thanks to this cooperative, how to manufacture improved cookstoves, tiles and other types of sophisticated bricks because this oven will help us to heat many products from clay".

My contribution to this cooperative is my strength because I cannot find the money to contribute. The activities of this cooperative prove that our future is bright in our community because the members of the cooperative will benefit from the money from the sale of all the products produced and all the members of our community will be sensitized so that they go account of the importance of using these improved cookstoves which will make it possible to lower the cost of purchasing wood and prevent diseases caused by smoke."

6. Additional Comments

The participatory approach with the community and cooperative participants proved to work well and created a motivating enabling approach. This has engendered a sense of ownership and mobilization in collecting and transporting local materials and assisting in the construction process. The communities were best placed to identify local solutions to local problems. In addition, the collaboration between the local partner ABS and the communal authorities helped support the projects implementations and sustainability going forward. The authorities are interested in whether other communities can also develop similar initiatives.

In addition to 88 % of the community members having shifted from using the traditional local system of firewood to using the improved cookstoves the project has helped achieve greater social cohesion with community members from different ethnic groups working together.

Report date: 6 October 2023



INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – SMALL GRANT FUNDING Budget

Project Title	Improved Cookstoves in Burundi - A Cleaner Climate Initiative (Dukingire - Igiti)			
Applicant Organisation(s)	Christian Aid Isle of Man			

Budget exchange rate

Description	Total cost in GBP	Year 1 Budget	Year 2 Budget	Cumulatived planed Budget	Year 1 Expenditure	Expenture Year 2	Cumulative expenditure	Bi-annual Year Balance
Project Objective: Improve access to sustainable cooking methods by stimulating the production, purchase, and use of improved co	ook-stoves and to							
Outcome 1: Improve community access to the improved cookstoves and knowledge of the harm traditional wood stoves contribute to both their	health and the envir							
Output 1.1: Community workshops held on health and climate impacts of the improved cookstoves								
Identification of project beneficiaries	861	861		860.78	860.78		860.78	
Conducting awareness and information sessions at the village level	1,290	1,290		1,289.73	1,289.73	-	1,289.73	
Workshop sessions on the contribution of inefficient cooking to climate change	1,290	900	389.73	1,289.73	900.00	390.76	1,290.76 -	1.03
Workshop sessions on rapid deforestation rates and impact on climate change	1,290	1,000	289.73	1,289.73	1,000.00	291.46	1,291.46 -	1.74
Training on transitioning to clean and fuel-efficient cookstoves	1,290	900	389.73	1,289.73	900.00	388.75	1,288.75	0.97
ABS project coordination (0.5 FTE)								
Christian Aid Project Officer (0.2 FTE)								
Output 1.2: Demonstration of improved cookstoves to community and distribution to 200 vulnerable households								
Select 200 pilot households in two zones of Nyamurenza	717	717		716.51	717		716.51	
Distribution of 200 improved cookstoves to most vulnerable households	394	394		394.08	394		394.08	
Conduct a comparative survey and data collection on reduction of household air pollution	2,508	1,254	1,254	2,507.80	1,254	1,253,41	2,507.31	0.49
Demonstration session with community leaders and climate change champions	1.003	1.003	2,254	1,003.12	1,254	946.62	946.62	56.50
Denois traction session with community readers and climate change thampions	26.834.44	16.414.74	10.419.69	26.834.44	15.345.28	11.243.51	26.588.79	245.65
Outcome 2: Support the development of quality production standards in partnership with ABS and establish two women-led cooperatives capable					13,343.20	11,243.31	20,300.73	243.03
	e oj manajactaring i	,240 mgn quanty stov	es per yeur jor the i	iocui murket.				
Output 2.1: Established quality standards and production capacity of improved cookstoves via two women-led co-operatives	747	242		746.54	747	1	746.54	
Creation and registration of co-operatives	717	717		716.51	717	-	716.51	
Train the trainer workshops on improved cook-stoves production standards (60 trainers in total)	1,290	645	645	1,289.73	645	589	1,233.42	56.31
Technical expert consultancy for training (4 days)				2 200 21		<u> </u>	2 000 11	-
Purchase of two plots to construct the cooperative workshop hangars	2,866	2,866		2,866.06	2,866	-	2,866.06	<u> </u>
Materials for construction of the cooperative workshop hangars			-			-	-	
Bricks	1,075	1,075	-	1,074.77	1,075	-	1,074.77	
Cement bags	537	537	-	537.39	537	-	537.39	
Roof tiles	5,016	5,016	-	5,015.60	5,016	-	5,015.60	
Roofing materials	967	967		967.29	967		967.29	
Sands (6 trucks)	172	172		171.96	172		171.96	
Construction labour	752	752		752.34	752		752.34	
Mould to produce clay cookstove	63	63		63.05	63	-	63.05	
Construction of clay oven baking structure	129	129		128.97	129		128.97	
Set up clay supply mechanism including License	2,651	2,651		2,651.10	2,651	2,180	4,831.35 -	2,180.24
Provision of metal material for cookstove stand and cover	2,870	1,435	1,435	2,869.64	1,435	-	1,434.82	1,434.82
ABS project coordination (0.5 FTE)								
Christian Aid Project Officer (0.2 FTE)								
Output 2.2: Developed linkages to local markets and stimulate demand for improved cookstoves								
Development of branding for cooperative cookstoves	358		358	358.26		349	349.30	8.95
Supporting and establishing linkage to local markets	717	358	358	716.51	358	274	632.15	84.36
Publicity using local radio stations	466	233	233	465.73		210	209.91	255.82
Participation in sector meetings	358	179	179	358.26	<u></u>	210	213.95	144.31
Participation in Sector meetings Participation in the provincial and national agro-fairs	1,075	537	537	1,074.77		1,123	1,122.82 -	48.05
Training sessions for cooperatives on marketing	1,075	609	609		609	1,123	1,122.82 -	77.05
	1,218	609	609	1,218.07	609		1,295.12 -	//.05
Christian Aid Project Officer (0.4FTE) Total Outcome 2	FF 200	35,349.61	20.246	EE 200	24 261 22	20,200	54.604	205
	55,396	35,349.61	20,046	55,396	34,201.20	20,290	54,491	905
Monitoring and Evaluation								
Accomodation, food and transport for implementation and monitoring visits (2 staff, 2 nights each trip)	4,729	2,364.49	2,365	4,729	2,367	3,168	5,534.70 -	805.71
Project Baseline Project Baseline	2,150	2,150		2,150	1,185	-	1,185.47	964.07
End-term evaluation	2,150		2,150	2,150		2,050	2,049.57	99.97
Subtotal Monitoring and Evaluation	9,028	4,514.03	4,514	9,028	3,552	5,217	8,770	258
Project Management, Quality Assurance & Administration						,		
Christian Aid Burundi Country Manager (0.1 FTE)								
Christian Aid Finance Assistant (0.1 FTE)								
ABS Finance officer (0.33 FTE)								
Christain Aid driver (0.05 FTE)								
Christian Aid and ABS office and security								
Christain Aid Project Mangement (10%)						-	-	-
Subtotal Project Quality, Management & Administration	22,180	9,692	12,488	22,180	9,245	14,303	23,548 -	1,368
Total Project Direct Costs	£ 113.438.53	£ 65,970.86	£ 47,467.95	£ 113,438.82	£ 62,344.13		£ 113,397.89	£ 40.93
Total Project Indirect Costs	£ 12,604,28	£ 7,330,00	£ 5,274.00	12.604	£ 7,330,00			
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