

# Efficient Cook Stoves for Returnees in Burundi



Cooking with the new stove (staged cooking situation). Photo: Aera SA

**This project distributes efficient cook stoves for returnees in Burundi. The stoves are part of an aid package handed out in reception camps by aid organisations such as UNHCR and World Food Programme. The stoves have improved combustion, resulting in reduced household air pollution with its associated adverse health effects. The stoves also require less fuel wood which conserves forests, saves on the chore of gathering wood and reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.**

In Burundi, many former refugees and IDPs (internally displaced persons due to natural disasters and climate change-induced food insecurity) are now being assisted to return home. Returnees often come back owning almost nothing except little savings. It is anticipated that upon resettling, many will use inefficient cooking systems that have been entrenched across most central African communities. These normal cooking systems require a large amount of fuel and are very smoky, which disproportionately exposes women and children to household air pollution and can result in adverse health effects like respiratory illnesses and ischemic heart disease. Meanwhile, much more firewood needs to be extracted out of the neighboring forests, and more time spent by women and children for gathering and transporting the wood.

**The amount of wood we used for two days with the old cook stoves lasts us a week with the new cook stove.**

## Returnee

The project is distributing improved cook stoves (ICS) to returnees via aid packages which also include items such as clothing, food, medical supplies etc. The stoves distributed through this project will encourage returnees to replace the prevailing inefficient three-stone fire places or traditional cookstoves that are predominantly used across the region. The new efficient stoves provide for an efficient transfer of the thermal energy, generated through the combustion of biomass, to the cooking pot.

## Project type:

Efficient cook stoves

## Project location:

Burundi

## Project status:

In operation, credits available

## Annual CO<sub>2</sub> reduction:

395,379 t

## Situation without project

Higher consumption of non-renewable biomass

## Project standard

**Gold Standard<sup>®</sup>**

VER

## Impressions



Efficient cook stoves warehoused. Photo: Aera SA



The project generates jobs. Project employees. Photo: Aera SA

There is thus a resultant reduction in both biomass consumption and in greenhouse gas emissions. Reduction of biomass consumption avoids deforestation, reduces expenses associated with purchasing fuel. There will also be an economic benefit in that the stoves will be produced locally in Bujumbura.

The project implementer OBEN is a local NGO with a solid track record, active in climate projects for more than 15 years and already operating five successful carbon programmes. The OBEN production facility is located in Bujumbura and features three lines of production for the stoves. Leveraging carbon finance, this project will allow the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions associated with cooking, and allow for the more sustainable use of biomass resources within Burundi.



Production site: this is where the cookers are made. Photo: Aera SA

### This project contributes to 7 SDGs:



Reduction of fuel consumption and associated expenses by 80 per cent



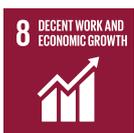
Reduction of indoor air pollution and related risk to respiratory diseases



Women regain time otherwise spent collecting firewood and cooking



Distribution of 200,000 improved cook stoves to returnees



170 jobs generated



Avoidance of 395,379 t CO<sub>2</sub> per year and 2 t CO<sub>2</sub> per stove per year



Avoidance of 2,500 ha of deforestation per year



Bujumbura is the largest city and the economic centre of Burundi. Photo: Aera SA