

# Reducing the Climate Impact of Cooking in Rwanda (ReCIC)



Country	Rwanda
Technology	ICS, Alternative Fuels
Project period	11/2020 to 10/2025
Budget	EUR 5,709,000
Partners	Ministry of Infrastructure (MININFRA), Ministry of Environment (MoE), Rwanda Energy Group (REG), Rwanda Environmental Management Authority (REMA), Energy Development Corporation Limited (EDCL) and Private Sector
Implementing Organizations	GIZ, SNV
Objective	Establishing a sustainable production and dissemination chain for improved cookstoves (ICS) and fuels
Achievements until 08-2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production and dissemination of 223.956 ICS supported and 232.525 t CO<sub>2</sub>e saved.</li> <li>• Support of the Rwanda Standards Board (RSB) cookstoves laboratory through technical skills training and equipment</li> <li>• 57 community mobilisation and 63 cooking demonstrating events in 6 districts, reaching 46.000 people</li> </ul>

## Background

Due to its extremely high population density and land size, Rwanda is one of the most vulnerable countries to deforestation. The high dependency on solid biomass for cooking, used in inefficient cooking devices, generates high

emissions affecting the climate, environment, and users' health. The GoR, through its Biomass Energy Strategy (BEST) seeks to reduce the share of households using inefficient cooking solutions from 83.3% (2014) to 42% by 2024. However, to date, more than 70% of the population continues to use three-stones and traditional stoves for cooking (GoR survey on cooking fuel and technologies, 2020).

The EnDev project *Reducing the Climate Impact of Cooking in Rwanda through improved cooking energy systems* (ReCIC) is co-funded by the European Union under the Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) initiative and aims to address these challenges through a threefold approach: increasing and improving the production capacities of ICS and fuel producers, raising consumer awareness, and supporting dissemination density.

The project supports a wide range of improved cookstove (ICS) technologies with the aim of developing a viable and sustainable market promoting local production. ReCIC aims to increase production capacities of stove producers to 200,000 ICS per year, reaching a cumulative 500,000 households by 2025, while avoiding 200.000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per year.

Moreover, EnDev is working with the Government of Rwanda (GoR) in strengthening the regulatory framework, improving and supporting stove testing capacities and overall sector coordination to improve the existing market conditions.

## Boosting local production, distribution, and marketing capacities to develop a sustainable ICS market in Rwanda.

- A Cooking Energy Business Growth Fund (CEBGF) is currently providing financial support and capacity building, through business development services, to more than 10 companies in the development and

dissemination of high quality semi-industrial production of ICS and fuels.

- EnDev has trained the staff of five cooperatives and companies producing Tier 2 clay stoves in technical and business development skills.
- Extensive awareness raising campaigns, from community mobilisation events to radio TV and radio spots, aim to change local cooking habits, and raise the adoption of ICS technologies, by highlighting the economic, health and social advantages.
- EnDev works closely with producers to support their marketing efforts and retail distribution networks.

- A new institutional stove model is developed and tested at a school in Kigali.
- EnDev advised the GoR in developing a Clean Cooking Compact in 2021 and is supporting the deployment of an international expert at the Energy Development Corporation Limited (EDCL).



### Making the local market ready for Tier 3 and above

In December 2022, the GoR issued new ministerial guidelines on clean cooking with the ambitious target to ban cookstoves below Tier 3 from 2024 onwards. Currently, Tier 2 stoves comprise the majority of the market. EnDev is supporting the government in the implementation of the new policy:

- In collaboration with the World Bank and EDCL, EnDev is supporting the upgrade of locally produced Tier 2 to Tier 3 stoves, through technical support to local producers. The aim is to foster Tier 3 and “Made in Rwanda” ICS and fuel producers.
- EnDev continues to support pottery cooperatives, whose stoves cannot be upgraded, by linking them to Tier 3 producers to sustain their market participation.

### Supporting sector coordination and quality assurance

Fostering the overall enabling environment, EnDev works closely with the Government of Rwanda:

- EnDev cooperates with the Rwanda Standard Board (RSB) in enhancing the technical capacities of their staff and through the provision of equipment for the laboratory responsible for the cookstove testing.
- Since the project inception of ReCIC, EnDev has tested over 24 stove models.

### From potter to promising business owner

Gerard Niyitegeka (35) was a potter in a cooperative previously supported by EnDev. In 2020, he started his own business “Environ Green Conserve” with his extended family and temporarily borrowed a working space. After market linkages and trainings facilitated by ReCIC, Gerard has now moved to a permanent workshop and hired 28 permanent staff and 11 casual staff. Also being one of the CEBGF winners, Gerard used the funds to upgrade his kilns, and his production capacity went from 1500 stoves to 8000 stoves per month. EnDev continues to support the businessman: He is now prototyping a new stove model that responds to his customers’ preferences, and he reports: “I am a stronger player in the market. I can now compete with other companies on same footing and this new stove type gives me hope that I can have an impact in Rwanda”.

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