

## The Rufford Foundation

### Final Report

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Congratulations on the completion of your project that was supported by The Rufford Foundation.

We ask all grant recipients to complete a Final Report Form that helps us to gauge the success of our grant giving. The Final Report must be sent in **word format** and not PDF format or any other format. We understand that projects often do not follow the predicted course but knowledge of your experiences is valuable to us and others who may be undertaking similar work. Please be as honest as you can in answering the questions – remember that negative experiences are just as valuable as positive ones if they help others to learn from them.

Please complete the form in English and be as clear and concise as you can. Please note that the information may be edited for clarity. We will ask for further information if required. If you have any other materials produced by the project, particularly a few relevant photographs, please send these to us separately.

Please submit your final report to [jane@rufford.org](mailto:jane@rufford.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Josh Cole, Grants Director**

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Grant Recipient Details	
<b>Your name</b>	Anne Kyomugisha
<b>Project title</b>	Empowering Women Through Improved Cooking Stove
<b>RSG reference</b>	12918
<b>Reporting period</b>	12 Months
<b>Amount of grant</b>	£6000
<b>Your email address</b>	anne@fofcod.org
<b>Date of this report</b>	January 2014

**1. Please indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.**

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
<p>To training 100 women most influential young people about the role of ICSs and how to construct them</p>			<p>Yes</p>	<p>FOFCOD has up to now completed the training of 100 influential women in the use of Improved Cooking Stoves (ICS). These women have been provided with training and skills to provide training to other women in their communities. These women volunteers completed successfully a three day training course in ICS construction. These 100 women have been divided into a group of five women in each community; these acted as leaders of the project in their respective communities. Each group constructed an improved ICS in one selected home of their members.</p> <p>The training was divided into three sessions:            Day 1 – FOFCOD staff introduced the project to the community and explained the role of ICS, the local leaders identified different local environmental problems (deforestation) and causes and made suggestions.            Day 2 - demonstration of ICS construction, local leaders prepared and organised all materials to be used in construction and asked the volunteers to clarify each and every step of construction. Our volunteers took them through a practical approach on how to construct the stoves; this has helped them to understand a whole system of ICS and construction effectively.            Final session – 100 local women leaders of each group were split into five groups to construct an ICS by themselves. This has helped them to practice their knowledge gained from the second session. After this training local leaders agreed to conduct teaching sessions and raise public awareness among there.</p> <p>As of today I am glad to report that women in these communities have appreciated the stoves as one hard this to say, <i>“Cooking has become much easier for me, I can go to the garden with no fear of delaying food for my</i></p>

<p>To raise awareness about the role of forests and how ICS can help reduce deforestation and empower women.</p>			<p>Yes</p>	<p><i>husband when I return late at night.”</i></p> <p>Women have appreciated the role of forests in Yei County. Of the 100 families who entered into the project, attended the three required training events and received their materials for the improved cooking stoves, 92 who received their material built their kitchen within two months. The reported average consumption of firewood was decreased by 46%. All families increased their knowledge and practice of forest and the role of. 97% of the families who participated appreciated the new technology in their families. 100% of the families believed their kitchen was more hygienic as a result of the improved cooking stove and 85% showed a desire to continue improving their kitchen environment. 100% of the women interviewed reported improved condition of their eyes due to less irritation from smoke, 73% of the families reported coughing less and being less susceptible to colds and the flu. 55% of the women reported less back pain after using their improved cooking stove, and 69% of the families believed that the overall health of the family had improved since their first time use with the ICS.98% of the children reported that lateness at school as result of collecting firewood has reduced.67% of women reported that ever since they received the cooking stoves, they have not been beaten by their husbands as cooking is now much faster and easier.</p> <p>We have also found out that the IEC materials provided, especially t-shirts, have played an important role in the message it communicates, one member had this to say, and “these days when I am moving around my community I hear children singing the phrase <i>No Trees= No Oxygen =No Life</i>” This is the phrase that was printed on the t-shirts.</p>
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**2. Please explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled (if relevant).**

The main challenge we had was means of communication and transport. The road network to access the community is still poor and communication with our beneficiaries was poor, our trainers and staff had to move on foot for long distances to meet these local women.

We also received more local leaders who needed to participate in the project than the budget could allow. As a result of this we formed groups of women from the different local payams so that they could pass on the knowledge to other women who did not benefit from the first phase.

Some of vulnerable families to be provided with improved cooking stoves had no kitchen and shelter to accommodate the improved cooking stove stoves. While these stoves need to be protected from the rain. We had to first agree with them to find alternative means of money to first construct their own kitchen.

We realised that the time allocated for the training was not enough as participants had so many questions they wanted to ask. We hope to improve this in the future by making the training session for at least 5 days.

Also as a result of the current attempted coup on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2013, we could not reach most of the beneficiaries as they had ran out for fear of their lives, this limited us to have the final set of monitoring.

**3. Briefly describe the three most important outcomes of your project.**

Of the 100 families who entered into the project attended the three required training events and received their materials for the improved cooking stoves. 98%of the families who received their material built their ICS within two months. The reported average consumption of firewood was decreased by 46%. All families increased their knowledge and practice of Forests and the role of ICS in women empowerment (see table below for details). 97% of the families who participated believed they could build another improved Cooking stove on their own. 100% of the families believed their kitchen were more hygienic as a result of having built their improved cooking stove and 85% showed a desire to continue improving their kitchen environment. 100% of the women interviewed reported improved condition of their eyes due to less irritation from smoke, 73% of the families reported coughing less and being less susceptible to colds and the flu. 55% of the women reported less back pain after using their improved cooking stove, and 69% of the families believed that the overall health of the family had improved since the construction of the improved cooking stove. 98% of the children reported that lateness at school as result of collecting firewood has reduced.67% of women reported that ever since they received the cooking stoves, they have not been beaten by their husbands as cooking is now much faster and easier

<b>Basic Knowledge on Forests and Improved Cooking Stoves</b>		
	<b>Before</b>	<b>After</b>
% of families who knew the role of Forests in their daily lives.	48%	74%
% of families who knew how to use ICS.	12%	87%
% of families who did not receive threats of Domestic violence from their husbands as result of delayed cooking	69%	97%

% of children able to attend school without being late.	33%	75%
% of families who agree that the introduction of the stove have improved their lives	14%	100%
% of families who have witnessed improved health as result of the stove.	28%	100%
% of families who are able to continue to raise awareness about this stove.	14%	61%

### **Three most achieved Results**

**1. Reduced level of domestic violence against women and primary education enhancement:** The burden of household tasks such as firewood collecting falls primarily on women and children, so by using the ICS the time spent wood seeking has been significantly reduced and cooking times is much faster. Such changes helped to reduce problems of overworking which are often linked to increased domestic violence. Furthermore it has helped to improve the attendance and performance of primary school students who had dropped out of school, or who were failing to perform for reasons such lateness or tiredness. 98% of the children reported that lateness at school as result of collecting firewood has reduced. 67% of women reported that ever since they received the cooking stoves, they have not been beaten by their husbands as cooking is now much faster and easier

**2. Decreasing the level of deforestation in the area:** through encouraging the use of ICS this campaign has reduced the level of household firewood used by up to 90% in more than 100 families that are using this stove. This project has educated local leaders about the role of forests. The communities have been encouraged to plant more trees in line with national policy.

### **3. Saving biodiversity**

By reducing the level of firewood consumption and educating local leaders about the role of forests the movements of people in natural forests has been significantly reduced.

### **Conclusions**

As a whole the project was a great success. 84% of the improved cooking stoves were completed on schedule and 97% of the families who participated felt confident that they could build another improved stove. In addition to the families who participated, three local youth who showed interest in the project helped in the construction of the improved stoves and were eventually trained as “master builders” of the stoves. Furthermore, the community, appreciating the beneficial effects of the improved stoves, elected to use the surplus materials from the families who dropped out to build three improved community stoves - one for their elementary school, one for their high school, and one for a local church. The entire community became interested in improved cooking stoves and so the possibility for future projects is great. However, perhaps most impressive, due to the inclusion of the families on every step of the project, and the use of certificates and public recognition of responsible participation, the sense of self-esteem and efficacy of the participating families was notably increased. Visits to participating families’ homes before and after the project showed that the secondary goals of improved knowledge of nutrition and hygiene were also attained

### **4. Briefly describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefited from the project (if relevant).**

FOFCOD has up to now completed the training of 100 influential women in the use of Improved Cooking Stoves. These women have been provided with training and skills to provide training to

other women in their communities. These women volunteers completed successfully a 3-day training course in Improved Cooking Stoves construction.

These 100 women have been divided into a group of five women in each community; these acted as leaders of the project in their respective communities. Each group constructed an improved ICS in one selected home of their members.

The training was divided into three sessions:

Day 1 – FOFCOD staff introduced the project to the community and explained the role of ICS, the local leaders identified different local environmental problems (deforestation) and causes and made suggestions.

Day 2 - demonstration of ICS construction, local leaders prepared and organised all materials to be used in construction and asked the volunteers to clarify each and every step of construction. Our volunteers took them through a practical approach on how to construct the stoves; this has helped them to understand a whole system of ICS and construction effectively.

Final session – 100 local women leaders of each group were split into five groups to construct an ICS by themselves. This has helped them to practice their knowledge gained from the second session. After these training local leaders agreed to conduct teaching sessions and raise public awareness among their fellow community members.

## **5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes of course, we plan to continue with enhancing the knowledge and experience of the previous trained local leaders by using them to train and sensitise others as well as to construct more Improved Cooking Stoves for women and schools who are currently the biggest consumers of firewood.

### **We feel that our work is still needed in South Sudan due to these following factors:**

Development is not possible without access to energy. Energy is vital for women's development in terms of reducing their time burden for collecting firewood used in cooking and heating, supporting livelihoods activities, improving health and well being and providing opportunities for enterprise and capacity-building.

Conventional energy policies have tended to focus on energy supply, with little attention to the social issues relating to energy. Energy policies miss vital opportunities to ensure projects draw on women's vital local knowledge and their influencing capacity within households and communities. From our recent research, studies show that many rural women spend up to 5 hours a day gathering fuel and carrying heavy loads. This burden leaves them with little time for productive activities or leisure, puts women and girls at risk of long-term health problems and increases their vulnerability to physical or sexual violence. Spending long hours indoors with traditional wood burning stoves can result in health hazards such as lung disease and eye infections for women and children. The provision of clean cook stoves can mitigate these negative impacts while promoting women's empowerment, as the time that would have been used to collect fuel can now be used for other productive and economic activities.

**6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?**

We have shared the outcomes of this project with different stakeholders including the Ministry of Gender and Social Development and The South Sudan Human Rights Commission. During my participation at the World Justice Forum in The Hague, Netherlands, I was also given an opportunity to talk about how gender based violence can be solved from such a project. The project has been reported on social media houses especially south Sudan Radio stations and we have uploaded the project outcomes on different social media.

On this note I am glad to report that several other partners have wished willingness to contribute to the project. These have included, Village Earth, Rain Forest Action Network and Global Giving. This gives us a more opportunity to share the project outcomes with a wider community and a possibility to serve and reach more women in South Sudan.

**7. Timescale: Over what period was The Rufford Foundation grant used? How does this compare to the anticipated or actual length of the project?**

This project has taken over 50 weeks – 2 weeks shorter than anticipated period. Unfortunately, the final report submission has taken long time as a result of the attempted coup in south Sudan on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2013, ever since then accessing communities and offices was not possible. Most of our staff had to be evacuated as a result of the same conflict until of recent in January 2014 when working conditions have been slightly normalised.

**8. Budget: Please provide a breakdown of budgeted versus actual expenditure and the reasons for any differences. All figures should be in £ sterling, indicating the local exchange rate used.**

Item	Budgeted Amount	Actual Amount	Difference	Comments
Establish contact and seek official permission to start implementation	140	140	0	
Training of 100 local leaders (Women)	1050	1045	-5	Average transport and communication costs for training as we used community volunteers well versed in the same communities
Recruitment and training of 20 volunteers	762	762	0	
Selecting and informing local leaders and IEC materials	500	500	0	
Practical training and building of 50 ICS samples	2500	2521	+21	Prices of materials slightly increased than anticipated
Selecting and visiting the most 50 vulnerable families who will receive free ICS samples	468	450	-16	Work has been done by less workforce than previously anticipated

Evaluation	330	330	0	
Reporting	250	250	0	
TOTAL	6000	6000	0	Though some items increased in the budget than previously anticipated, other items reduced and this helped us to keep within the budget.

**9. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?**

The provision of clean cook stoves can improve their economic, social and cultural values, improve their living stands and restore the lost biodiversity while promoting women’s empowerment and promoting their rights, as the time that would have been used to collect fuel can now be used for other productive and economic activities. Therefore there is need to reach more families and communities through this project.

**10. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the RSGF receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

We have been using the logo of RSGF in all materials and documents in relation with FOFOD project including PowerPoint presentations, letters to different officials, posters, announcements, booklets, t-shirts and RSGF logo will be included in our 2013 Annual Report and also on our website.

**11. Any other comments?**

The use of local materials and knowledge while giving families’ flexibility and room for creativity along with the required investment of time and energy rather than money were highly effective aspects of this project. These features promoted an empowerment of the participants and an increased sense of ownership. The required participation in training events prior to receipt of materials was very useful in determining which participants were genuinely interested in the health of their families and not just seeking handouts. Future projects might consider soliciting funds and material after the participants have completed the required training events to avoid the solicitation of surplus materials. Future projects should not try to copy a specific improved cooking stove model but rather work with the community to develop one that will best suit their needs. A visit to the improved cooking stoves after 8 months of use showed that the sheet metal was deteriorating. Because the sheet metal was one of the more difficult supplies to acquire, it is suggested that for a longer life of the stove a model that does not require the sheet metal be explored.