



EAST AFRICAN CRUDE OIL PIPELINE HOST COMMUNITIES

PROJECT ACTIVITY REPORT

Community Production of Clay Stoves and Cow-Dung Briquettes

1. Activity Title

Empowering Oil-Affected Women and Youth with Skills for Clean Cooking and Alternative Energy Production



2. Background

Women and youth living in communities affected by oil and gas activities in Uganda continue to face challenges related to access to affordable and sustainable cooking energy. Many households depend heavily on firewood and other traditional fuels, requiring women and girls—who often bear primary responsibility for household cooking and care work—to travel long distances in search of firewood.

This exposes them to additional risks, including sexual harassment and other forms of insecurity, while prolonged exposure to smoke from traditional cooking methods contributes to respiratory and other health problems.

In response, the project organized and empowered women and youth in oil-affected communities with practical knowledge and skills to produce **clay-based energy-efficient cooking stoves and briquettes made from cow dung and mud**. The activity was designed to provide communities with locally available, affordable and more sustainable alternatives to firewood while creating opportunities for livelihoods and skills transfer.



3. Objective

The activity aimed to:

- Equip women and youth with practical skills to produce improved clay cooking stoves and alternative fuel briquettes.
- Reduce household dependence on firewood and exposure to indoor cooking smoke.
- Reduce the time and risks associated with travelling long distances to collect firewood.
- Strengthen women's and youths' livelihood opportunities through production and sale of clean-cooking technologies.
- Promote community-level knowledge sharing and replication of alternative energy solutions.



4. Activities Implemented

The project facilitated practical community training sessions for women and youth on:

1. **Preparation of locally available materials** for making clay cooking stoves.
2. **Design and construction of improved clay stoves** suitable for household cooking.
3. **Preparation and production of briquettes** using cow dung, mud and other locally available materials.
4. **Drying, handling and storage** of the stoves and briquettes to improve their usability and durability.
5. **Demonstration of improved cooking practices** and the benefits of reducing reliance on firewood.
6. **Peer-to-peer skills transfer**, enabling trained participants to train other community members.
7. **Livelihood development**, encouraging participants to produce and supply stoves and briquettes to households and communities beyond the initial project locations.

The approach emphasized hands-on learning, allowing participants to acquire practical skills that they could immediately apply in their households and as income-generating activities.

5. Key Outputs

The activity resulted in the following outputs:

- Women and youth from oil-affected communities were trained in the production of improved clay cooking stoves.
- Participants acquired practical skills for producing briquettes from cow dung and mud.
- Community members began using locally produced alternative cooking fuels and improved stoves.
- Trained participants gained the capacity to train other community members, supporting wider replication of the technology.
- Some participants began producing stoves and briquettes for household use and local supply, creating opportunities for income generation.



6. Key Outcomes and Benefits

a) Improved household health

The adoption of improved clay stoves and alternative briquettes has contributed to reducing reliance on traditional open-fire cooking and associated smoke exposure. This has supported improved indoor cooking conditions and reduced reported smoke-related health concerns among participating households.

b) Reduced burden on women and girls

The activity has reduced the dependence on firewood among participating households. As a result, women and girls spend less time travelling long distances to collect firewood, reducing the physical burden associated with this unpaid household responsibility.

c) Reduced exposure to protection risks

Reducing the need for women and girls to travel long distances to isolated areas in search of firewood also reduces their exposure to situations in which they may face sexual harassment and other protection risks.

d) Improved livelihoods

The skills acquired through the project have created opportunities for women and youth to produce and sell clay stoves and briquettes. Importantly, the knowledge is not limited to the original trainees. Participants can train others and expand production within their communities, creating a pathway for continued skills development and income generation.

e) Community-led replication

One of the key achievements of the activity is the development of a **community-owned skills base**. Trained participants are able to pass their knowledge to other households and community members, allowing the intervention to continue beyond the initial project-supported training.



7. Sustainability

The activity has strong potential for sustainability because it relies primarily on **locally available and affordable materials and community-based skills**. Rather than depending entirely on externally supplied technologies or fuels, participants have learned how to produce the stoves and briquettes themselves.

The ability of trained women and youth to train others and produce stoves and briquettes for sale provides an additional mechanism for sustaining and expanding the intervention.

8. Overall Contribution

The activity demonstrates how community-led clean-cooking solutions can address several interconnected challenges faced by women and youth in oil-affected communities. By building practical skills in the production of improved clay stoves and alternative briquettes, the project has contributed to:

Cleaner cooking → reduced smoke exposure → improved household health → less dependence on firewood → reduced exposure to protection risks → reduced burden on women → new livelihood opportunities → stronger community resilience.

The intervention therefore goes beyond introducing an alternative cooking technology. It strengthens community capacity to develop locally appropriate energy solutions while creating opportunities for women and youth to become **producers, trainers and entrepreneurs** within their communities.