CCF Webinar: Clean Cooking in Schools

Case of Rwanda

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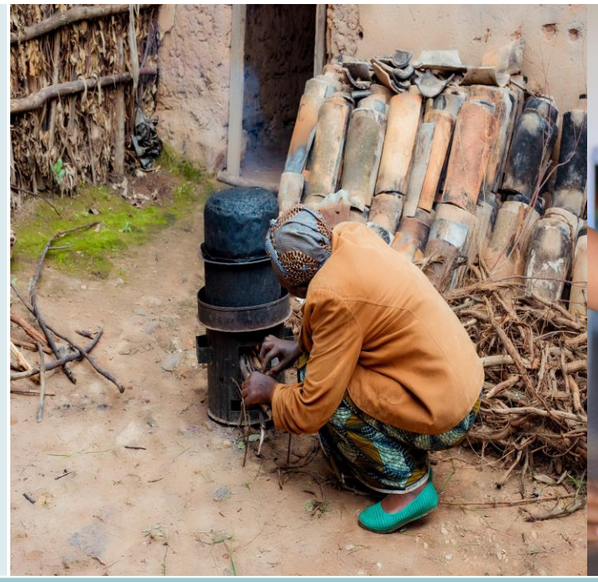
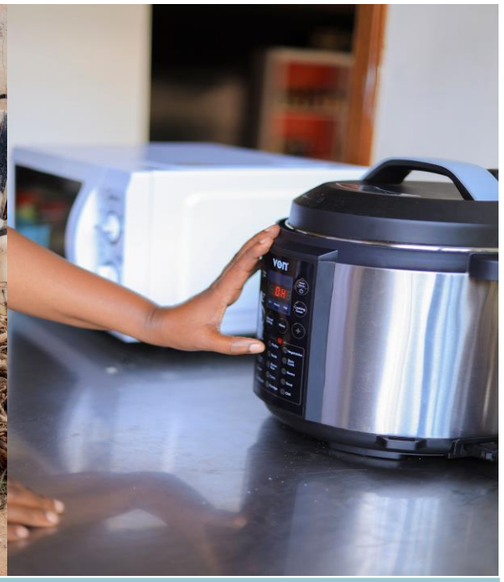
Energy Access in Rwanda

- **Electricity Access rate** (July 2025): **84.6%** (59.6% grid, 25% off-grid)
- **Customers:** 2.75 million (1.95 million grid, 800,000 off-grid)
- **Access to clean cooking energy (2022): only** 28.4%, with 76% of the households relying on traditional biomass (firewood)





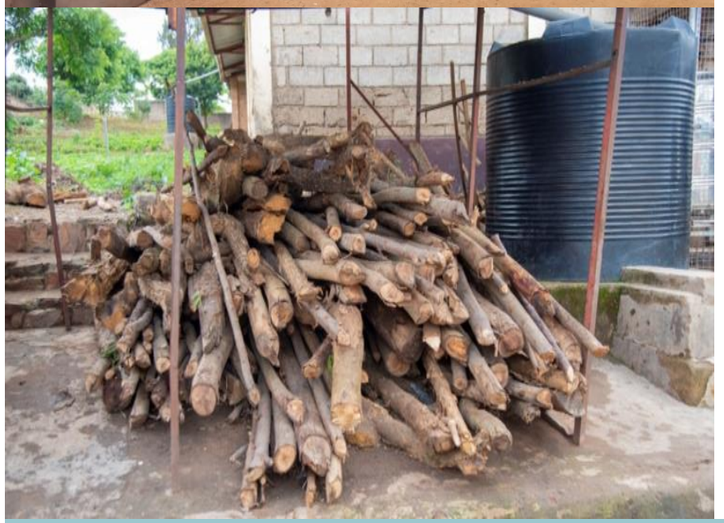
WB projects for Households' CC

- **EAQIP (2021 - 2026)** to distribute CC stoves to 500,000 households. So far connected 517,624 (Biomass 92%; LPG 8%; Electric 1%).
- **ASCENT (2023 – 2029)** to distribute CC stoves to 80,000 households. Total of 31,725 distributed (LPG 87%, Electric 13%).

WB projects for institutional CC

- **AF EAQIP (2022 - 2026)** to distribute CC stoves to 150 schools. Early-stage implementation for 35 schools (LPG 88%; Electric 12%).
- **ASCENT (2024 – 2026)** to distribute CC stoves to 60 schools. Identification of schools ongoing.

Rationale for institutional clean cooking in Rwanda



In 2019, Rwanda adopted the National Comprehensive School Feeding Policy aimed for universal coverage of school meals from pre-primary to secondary

To implement the school feeding policy, the GoR equipped schools with kitchens and cooking stoves. **The vast majority of schools rely on firewood for cooking.**

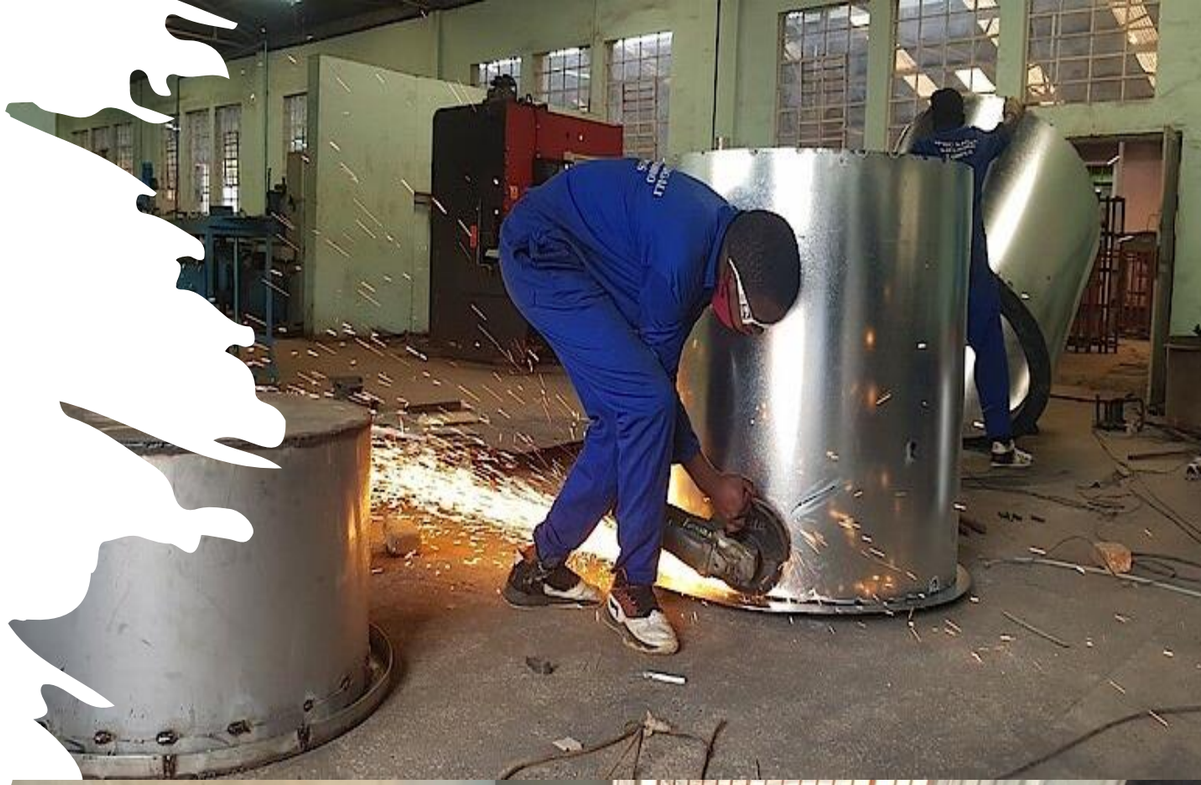
It was estimated that 482 schools would need about 71,000 ton of firewood burnt for cooking per year. This could lead to about 114,000 tons of CO2 emissions per year, considering 1.6 kilograms of CO2 emissions per 1 kilogram of firewood burnt

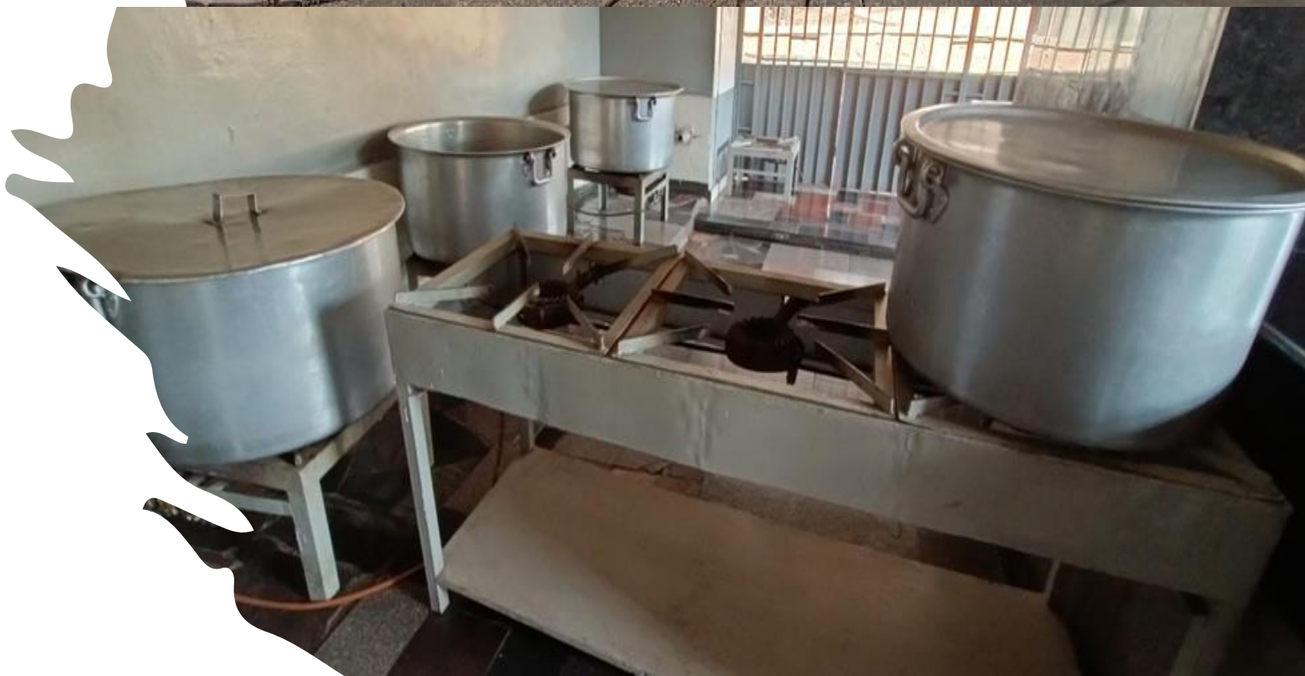
Burning firewood for cooking also exacerbates deforestation in Rwanda.

It was **critical to promote efficient and clean cooking solutions for schools to reduce the adverse impacts of relying on firewood in terms of carbon emissions and deforestation.**

Key challenges for school feeding (energy related)

- High upfront costs of institutional stoves for schools switching to cleaner solutions;
- Inadequate user capacity in stove operation, maintenance and repair for long-term sustainability of institutional stoves;
- Technology development in the institutional cooking sector is at the very nascent stage;
- Inadequate enabling environment for institutional cooking that lacks standard procedures and testing guidelines for quality assurance and potential for carbon credits.





Initial project design v/s current design

- AF to EAQIP (US$ 2.85M + US$ 0.3M TA) to provide clean cooking stoves to 150 schools in Rwanda
- A TA activity to organize a competition and a pilot to identify suitable cooking technologies, obtain technical performance data, user feedback, and to collect information on the operating and maintenance (O&M) costs and training needs.
- The selection of beneficiary schools to take into consideration schools' ability to provide adequate O&M budgets to match the appropriate technologies based on experience learned from the pilot.
- The bidding document to incorporate the results from the pilot as well as the implementation results from the EU funded school cooking project.

- Change in policy (no biomass stoves, only LPG and Electric) led to drastic reduction in number of schools from 150 to only 35.
- Construction of new kitchens was considered
- Pilot phase was fixed at 9 schools. It was not successful and was dropped to go to full scale of 35 schools. There were no responsive bidders qualified and experienced for both construction and supply and installation of clean cooking technologies.
- Innovation grants were approved for only 2 companies.

Status & lessons learnt

IC Project Status

- Contracts for the design and construction of 35 modern kitchens (Two Lots of 17 and 18 kitchens respectively)
- Contract for the supply and installation of clean cooking solutions in 2 schools (Electric cooking solutions)
- Contracts for the supply and installation of clean cooking solutions in 33 schools (Two lots: Electric cooking solutions in 2 schools and LPG cooking solutions in 31 schools)
- All contractors are onboard.
- Supply of electric cooking solutions in 2 schools is completed.
- All project works to be completed in June 2026.

Lessons learnt to carry forward into ASCENT Rwanda

- It is important to include in the project design the construction of kitchens.
- An optimized size of the scope is important to attract more qualified and experienced bidders.
- It is better to split the offer into specific lots that can better attract more specialized bidders.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