



Context

Women in Burkina Faso, especially those in rural areas, are more prone to low rates of literacy, high rates of unemployment and inequality of access to land, credit, and technology. However, small-scale beer production – a micro-industry which is deeply embedded in local culture – is one important source of income for rural women.

For generations, the beer, called “dolo”, has been produced predominantly by women, or the “Dolotières” as they are known. As a result of using poorly-designed cook stoves, these women face severe health problems, such as burns, back problems and respiratory difficulties. Furthermore, the cook stoves, which are fuelled by firewood, have a low combustion efficiency that results in longer cooking times and higher fuel consumption than necessary. According to the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, firewood consumed by the Dolotières accounts for 50% of total firewood consumption in the capital, Ouagadougou. If provided with more effective and energy-efficient equipment, women would not only improve and protect their health, but also enjoy considerable economic benefits and ultimately elevate their position in society.

Strategy

In a recent partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and with funding from the Global Environment Fund (GEF), UNIDO is promoting women’s empowerment and clean technologies through a programme that distributes fuel efficient cook stoves in Burkina Faso’s beer brewing sector. UNIDO is installing over 1,000 energy-efficient cook stoves in beer breweries in the region of the Plateau-Central. Additionally, the programme will establish a credit line for the Dolotières to access financing to enable them purchase the energy- efficient cook stoves. The credit line will be provided by a regional African bank and implemented by a local financial institution. UNIDO’s intervention in Burkina Faso also focuses on developing four clusters of women beer brewers to generate collective gains and facilitate their integration into the local value chain.

Expected results

The project aims to empower women through the following expected results:

- The provision of technical assistance to 1,600 women so that they can improve the efficiency of their production
- Improvements to the health and environmental conditions experienced by 1,600 women due to installation of clean technologies and reduced exposure to the burning wood fumes
- A reduction in the levels of drudgery experienced by women and girls, and improvements to their personal security as a result of converting to energy-efficient cook stoves
- The establishment of four new clusters in order to foster women’s collective access to financial institutions and business and knowledge gateways
- An increase in women’s profits and incomes achieved by a 40-50% reduction in the amount of firewood consumed

Impact/Outlook

Promoting energy efficiency through improved cook stoves translates into increased health and development outcomes and lowers poverty rates in rural and peri-urban areas of Burkina Faso. Expanding opportunities and access to sustainable energy and the provision of resources, such as credit, training and new technologies, enhances gender equality and facilitates women’s empowerment.

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At a glance:

Goal:	Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and improved livelihoods for women entrepreneurs and their families
MDG:	1. Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger; 3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women 7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability
Thematic areas:	Energy and Environment; Poverty Reduction through Productive Activities
Donor:	Global Environment Facility (GEF)
Partner:	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
Budget:	USD 430,000 + USD 730,000 co-financing
Status:	Ongoing
Duration:	June 2012 – May 2014