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Using the Improved TIKa Cookstove to Reduce the Burden of Domestic Work for Women in Rural Côte d'Ivoire

Impact Story 15

KEY IMPACTS

The TIKa project aims to generate evidence to inform the large-scale deployment of clean cooking technologies in rural Côte d'Ivoire. With an adoption rate of 96.8% and multiple perceived benefits - including time savings, reduced wood consumption and reduced smoke - the project demonstrates how a targeted technological intervention can help create the conditions for sustainable socioeconomic empowerment while contributing to environmental objectives.

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Project Overview

The [*Using the Improved TIKa Cookstove to Reduce the Burden of Domestic Work for Women in Rural Côte d'Ivoire \(TIKA\)*](#) project aims to generate evidence to inform the large-scale deployment of clean cooking technologies in rural Côte d'Ivoire. Its central objective is to reduce the time women and girls spend on unpaid care work while promoting their socioeconomic empowerment and reducing household carbon footprints.

The project targets rural women who benefit from the improved TIKa cookstove, their households and community structures in four regions of Côte d'Ivoire: Tchologo, N'Zi, Tonkpi and Lôh-Djiboua. Launched in March 2024, the project seeks to document the factors influencing adoption of the TIKa cookstove, how the time saved is used, the redistribution of care work within households, and the resulting effects on livelihoods and well-being.

Project Activities

The first two years comprised the preparatory and operational phases of the project, structured around five main areas:

- The baseline survey conducted in the four intervention regions, a key component of the preparatory phase, helped identify beneficiary households and, importantly, engage local and administrative authorities in the four regions.

- The distribution of 2,000 improved TIKA cookstoves across the four intervention regions. Each distribution was preceded by an official launch ceremony bringing together prefectural authorities, local elected officials and private-sector representatives. Advocacy with local institutions secured an additional contribution of 160 cookstoves from the N'Zi Regional Council, in addition to those allocated to village chiefs, bringing the total number distributed to 2,202, or 110% of the initial target.
- The establishment of a community monitoring system, including the appointment and training of 42 village focal points responsible for collecting quarterly data from beneficiaries via smartphone.
- A midline survey was conducted six months after distribution, using a random sample of 300 beneficiaries per region and supplemented by focus group discussions.
- Training for women beneficiaries on Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and Income-Generating Activities (IGAs) in the Tchologo and N'Zi regions (January–February 2026) resulted in the creation of 29 new VSLAs - 21 in N'Zi and 8 in Tchologo - the strengthening of existing groups, and training for 1,110 women on how to establish and manage IGAs.

As part of the implementation methodology, ongoing monitoring is also conducted through field visits and the collection of beneficiary testimonies.

Finally, alongside operational implementation, work is under way to produce scientific outputs, with ongoing contributions from researchers, doctoral candidates and master's students.

Project Achievements

Post-distribution data, collected largely by the 42 village focal points, together with preliminary findings from the midline survey, for which data cleaning is still under way, highlight the following:

2,202	96.8%	96.3%	87.6%
TIKA stoves distributed	Overall adoption rate	Satisfaction rate	Time saving

Adoption and Use: Near-Universal Uptake

The overall TIKA cookstove usage rate is 96.8% across all regions. Tonkpi leads with 99.7% active users, while usage rates in the other regions exceed 94%. This level of adoption, sustained six months after distribution, demonstrates strong uptake and confirms that the cookstove is meeting a genuine need among beneficiaries.

At the same time, 92.1% of beneficiaries continue to use their previous cookstoves, mainly when cooking with large pots or for festive occasions. The TIKA cookstove therefore complements rather than completely replaces existing cooking technologies - an expected pattern at this stage of the project.

Beneficiary satisfaction: a very positive reception

Overall, 96.3% of beneficiaries report being satisfied (67.9% “very satisfied” and 28.4% “satisfied”), while only 0.5% report dissatisfaction. Tonkpi (86% “very satisfied”) and Tchologo (83%) recorded the highest levels. The analysis indicates a positive association between the intensity of daily use and satisfaction levels.

Time savings: the most immediately felt benefit

Time savings were reported by 87.6% of households, making them one of the most widely reported benefits. Stories collected during field visits and focus group discussions point to the same finding: using the TIKA cookstove substantially reduces both cooking time and the frequency of firewood collection because less wood is required, resulting in tangible changes in women's daily routines.

Further analysis of women's time use as part of the full midline survey will enable the extent of these gains to be quantified more precisely.

Perceived benefits: wood savings, reduced smoke, faster cooking

Across all regions, the three benefits most frequently cited by beneficiaries were reduced wood consumption (89% to 99% of beneficiaries), reduced smoke (86% to 98%) and faster cooking (75% to 93%).

Women reported spending less time cooking and being able to get up later, illustrating a tangible easing of their daily routines. For example, one beneficiary explained that she can now get up an hour later than before because cooking takes less time, resulting in both time savings and reduced physical fatigue.

Women also identified the ease of using the TIKA cookstove as a key factor in its rapid adoption. Many reported using it not only for household cooking but also for small business activities, demonstrating how readily the technology has been integrated into their existing practices.

Beyond time savings, beneficiary testimonies indicate broader improvements in living conditions and well-being, including more time for income-generating activities, reduced mental and physical fatigue, and greater satisfaction in daily life. Beneficiaries' requests

for additional cookstoves and wider distribution indicate strong acceptance and high perceived usefulness.

Institutional Impact and Advocacy

Institutional change is already evident in the language and engagement of public decision-makers. Through workshops, institutional meetings, advocacy activities and events marking the International Day of Rural Women, unpaid care work is increasingly recognised as a development issue requiring public action. Representatives of several ministries - including those responsible for Women, Energy, Environment and Solidarity - expressed interest in supporting the large-scale deployment of clean cooking solutions and incorporating the TIKa project into national priorities.

This process led to the integration of the [Ivorian Centre for Economic and Social Research \(CIRES\)](#) in national technical mechanisms, including its participation in discussions on developing the national clean cooking strategy. This recognition underscores CIRES's key role as a leading producer of evidence that contributes to policy development on unpaid care work and clean cooking technologies.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

At this stage of implementation, the main challenge has been maintaining the operational schedule, initially because of the electoral context surrounding the presidential and legislative elections in the last quarter of 2025. As a precaution, several field missions - particularly in the western and central-western regions of the country - had to be postponed until after the elections to avoid exposing teams to security risks. Delays in project disbursements also disrupted the agreed schedule.

Care Sector Contributions & Next Steps

The project provides evidence that improved cooking technologies offer a practical means of reducing women's unpaid care work in rural areas. With an adoption rate of 96.8% and multiple perceived benefits - including time savings, reduced wood consumption and reduced smoke - it demonstrates how a targeted technological intervention can help create the conditions for sustainable socioeconomic empowerment while contributing to environmental objectives.

Its specific added value lies in combining clean cooking technology, evidence generation and women's economic empowerment through Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and Income-Generating Activities (IGAs) - a combination rarely documented at this scale in Côte d'Ivoire.

The next steps are to:

1. Support the effective establishment of the identified IGAs across all intervention locations.
2. Ensure regular monitoring of VSLAs (meetings, savings, governance) and IGAs (start-up, operation, challenges), using dedicated indicators.
3. Strengthen technical support in the Tonkpi and Lôh-Djiboua regions, where difficulties in using cookstoves are more pronounced (12–13%).
4. Conduct the final (endline) survey in the four regions and produce a baseline–midline–endline comparative analysis to document the full range of project effects.

Recommendations:

1. Integrate improved cookstoves into national policies on clean cooking, gender equality, and energy, drawing on the evidence produced by the project.
2. Expand the village focal point system as a low-cost, scalable and replicable community monitoring model for similar programmes.

About the Africa Cares Together Community of Practice

The [Africa Cares Together](https://www.africacarestogether.org/) community of practice (ACT CoP) is a vibrant, inclusive network of diverse actors committed to amplifying care work across Africa. It is coordinated by ActionAid International (AAI) and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) and is funded by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Global Affairs Canada (GAC), and the Hewlett Foundation. The ACT CoP network is made up of members from the 19 projects of the [Scaling Care Innovations in Africa](#) (SCIA) initiative, a partnership between IDRC and GAC.

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