

# Ex-post Evaluation of EnDev Burkina Faso - improved cookstoves (ICS)

## Executive summary

From 2005 – 2019, Energising Development (EnDev) Burkina Faso aimed to expand access to clean cooking solutions by developing an inclusive and sustainable cooking energy market. This project was also known as 'FAFASO'. It targeted access to improved cookstoves (ICSs) for households (HH), social institutions (SI) and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The project was implemented by Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

This 2023 ex-post evaluation builds on findings from a 2019 exit evaluation.

## Background

Burkina Faso developed its own ICS model in the 1980s called 'Roumdé', meaning 'the preferred one'. This was one of several environmental initiatives against forest degradation. However, ICSs were largely forgotten after the 1980s. EnDev Burkina Faso and the Institute of Research in Applied Science and Technology (IRSAT), reintroduced the Roumdé stove in 2005. EnDev supported the development of the stove model and invested heavily in the capacity building of stove producers and resellers and the marketing of Roumdé. Towards the end of the project, EnDev worked with the Burkina Faso Ministry of Environment, Green Economy and Climate Change (MEVCC). Together, they supported the establishment of 5 sites across the country where stove producers could organise large-scale production.

## Supply-side observations

**The ICS sector is still very informal and loosely organised. Measures to professionalise the sector are important to reach scale with ICS in the country.**

ICS producers in Burkina Faso are often blacksmiths who, following the traditional caste-like organisation of the artisanal sector, belong to the same extended family. The stove producers and resellers trained during EnDev's project generally follow the Roumdé quality standards. Some now support themselves solely through ICS production and sales. This was not the case before EnDev's intervention. IRSAT tests stoves for large orders from NGOs or the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for resettlement areas. These orders require a quality standards label.

Of the 5 sites established in the final year of the project, only 2 are active today. These sites' activity is mainly limited to organising production for larger UNDP orders. The sites would have had a better chance of staying open if they had been established earlier in the EnDev project. Still, this would not have solved the main challenge of decreasing demand after EnDev stopped marketing Roumdé.

EnDev contracted Edburgh consultants and Danish Energy Management to conduct an independent ex-post evaluation of EnDev Burkina Faso. The main evaluation questions were:

- 1) What influence did EnDev's intervention have on sector development?
- 2) To what extent are local institutions ready (and have the capacity) to take over and contribute to developing a sustainable energy market?
- 3) What are the lessons learnt?

Ex-post studies are carried out at least 2 years after a project has been phased out. The desk-based evaluation was carried out between January and May 2022. The evaluation is based on an analysis of 9 relevant reports and studies, and 30 interviews with important stakeholders. The report is based on absolute numbers of sales on country level. On global level, EnDev applies so called monitoring factors for attribution, additionally and sustainability and reports in adjusted numbers of people reached.

### EnDev Burkina Faso

<b>Project period</b>	2005 - 2019
<b>Budget</b>	EUR 7,997,000

### Project results:

- Reintroduced improved cookstoves as a cooking solution for households, social institutions and enterprises.
- Facilitated the sale of 1.2 million improved cookstoves.
- Trained 1,800 producers. This included training on quality standards.

### Demand-side observations

**EnDev was able to reintroduce ICS in Burkina Faso through capacity building and marketing. No direct financial support for producers or end users was necessary to accomplish this. The stoves are almost exclusively used in urban and peri-urban areas.** Financially better-off urban and peri-urban households in the 2 largest cities, Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso, use the ICSFAFASO promoted. ICS are in direct competition with LPG stoves. The government subsidises LPG stove cylinders. There is high awareness of ICS in Burkina Faso, especially the Roundé model. This awareness can be attributed to EnDev. The ICS market slowed down after EnDev was phased out. Even though EnDev did not support stove sales directly, the marketing efforts significantly boosted demand. Also, the quality assurance support helped create consumer confidence in the product. The current lack of nationwide marketing and follow-up on quality standards are the main reasons behind the slowdown of the market.

### Enabling environment observations

**The strategic choice to promote a local ICS model has resulted in local ownership of it and its quality standards. All the stakeholders interviewed recognised Roundé as a Burkinabé stove model .**

At the start of the project, public stakeholders were sceptical of EnDev's market-based approach. However, all market actors, including the government, recognise EnDev results. Overall, EnDev did not have a direct impact on national strategies, and government actions on ICS seem random.

In Burkina Faso, there are few international donors with activities in clean cooking and ICS. The most important action related to ICS in the country is the AFD– *Bois Energie Sahel* programme. This programme sees itself as a continuation of EnDev but with other elements included, such as support for LPG stoves and ICS for charcoal and firewood. The programme is currently on hold due to political developments in the country.

Currently, Burkina Faso has high levels of insecurity, poverty and a poor economic outlook. The most promising way forward is to engage the Burkinabé government in the development of a general clean cooking strategy that international donors can then support. The current government priorities most closely related to the promotion of clean cooking are forest protection and rural electrification. A clean cooking strategy that integrates those 2 policy agendas has the best chance of political buy-in.

### Conclusions

EnDev Burkina Faso or 'FAFSO' reintroduced the Roundé stove and contributed to the development of an ICS market by supporting the further development of stove types, marketing campaigns and the technical training of stove producers. There is general awareness of various ICS products, and quality standards are widely known. When EnDev phased out, the market slowed down. Quality standards are still maintained for public orders. Semi-industrial production could bring Roundé back to the market to continue its impact. However, this is unlikely to happen in the current political/economic environment in Burkina Faso.



*“The market has slowed down now, but you can say that there is a high awareness concerning ICS that EnDev laid the foundation for.” ICS producer.*