

BATAMURIZA Angelique is a 39 year old widow living in gahabwa village, Gikonko Cell, Gikonko Sector,



Gisagara district since June 2009. She lives with her two daughters. She left DRC, with her family after staying in the Congo forest for long due to the Genocide in Rwanda-her home country. She says it was unexpected for her and her family to come to Rwanda and also live in a community of peace. Shortage of cooking fuel is a major problem faced by the host communities.

Angelique has struggled with managing the insufficient firewood collected around. In order to cope, Angelique had to work long distances to collect cooking fuel. She used a traditional wood stove that consumes a lot of firewood and takes longer to prepare a ready-to-eat meal. The Rural wood stoves were offered as a mitigation measure against deforestation and combat the loss of time and efforts requirements invested when looking for firewood.

Angelique enjoys her current life with the Rural wood stove. She says that the stove has helped her reduce consumption of firewood. *"The firewood that was meant to last for a month was never enough until I received the Rural wood stove. Now, the money I used to purchase extra cooking fuel is allocated in providing supplementary food for my family."* She received her stove among the first beneficiaries of the Rural wood stove during stove test adoption process, and she was also trained to train other community residents on how to use the stove.

Angelique says she is able to use available firewood efficiently while using the Rural wood stove. She no longer needs to walk longer distances and even skip meals as a result of the firewood shortage. She further explains that in her life before the efficient stove, children were required to trek in woods nearby to fetch firewood. However, this situation created conflict among the residents within the community. It also led to absenteeism or lateness at school, in addition exposure to physical assault.

Not only have the stoves reduced firewood consumption hence protecting the surrounding physical environment but also reduced the amount of funds that were used to procure firewood and amount of greenhouse gases that harm the airspace. These funds can be put to another use such as medication, housing, clothing and environmental protection activities for instance terracing, landslide rehabilitation and reforestation activities done on her farmland in future.

Furthermore, household lives' have improved tremendously; children are attending classes and are able to eat warm meals thus improving their nutrition levels. Protection issues faced before the introduction of Rural wood stoves are no longer present as people do not need to collect firewood outside the village. The use of rural wood stoves ensures the reduction of carbon emissions being emitted into the atmosphere hence mitigating on climate change impacts.



This are Rural wood stoves that RDIS disseminate in the rural settings, many households appreciate the stove because they have many advantages they have found with using this stove, namely; reduces the difficulties that one meets while lighting the stove and adding in firewood, significant reduction of firewood used before, general cleanliness in the cooking area, reduced time of cooking,

well prepared food because of the increased heat in the liner even when one has removed all the firewood and charcoal (simmering).



From 2016, RDIS opted for another stove liner-Rural wood stove that is well used in Uganda, the stove passed highly with 29.4% thermal efficiency in respect to Improved Cook Stoves for East Africa (ICSEA) water boiling test and safety test. This picture shows the stove under the process of installation; its body is made of mud bricks, after the burning boxes are fixed

into the stove body, they are surrounded by small stones that are there to keep the heat.

This little girl is called Akariza. At the time we visited this family she told us how much she enjoyed the drinking water like drinking water from the filter, and that she now takes it to her nursery school. She said "I like water so much and I now know how to turn on the tap. My mum has also taught me that I should always use a clean cup to fetch the drinking water."



Tuyisenge Phocas is 23 years old and lives with his family of 7 in Karama Village, Biringaga cell in the Cyeza Sector. They have been given an improved cook stove and a ceramic water filter by RDIS. Phocas thanked RDIS for the filter saying that; "before we were not able to access drinking water, but now the whole family can access water every time we need it, and we no longer need firewood to boil it." Previously his family have been cooking on

the 3 stone stove, which has had difficulties. Due to the amount of smoke produced when cooking, their health has been affected and there was little or no hygiene in the Kitchen, they also used to spend a long time cooking. Phocas said about the stove; "*Our stove heats up very fast and we can do other jobs while cooking on the stove, because someone isn't needed to sit next to it the whole time.*"

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