

PROJECT REPORT

Donation of 500 TLUD Clean Cookstoves by Rotary Clubs of Bloomington–Normal through Rotary Clubs of Bungoma to Women Self-Help Groups in Bungoma County, Kenya (2023–2025).

1. Project Overview

The Rotary Clubs of Bloomington–Normal (Sunset, Daybreak, Normal, and Thrive) successfully implemented a transformative clean cooking initiative through the donation of 500 Top-Lit UpDraft (TLUD) clean cookstoves to 14 Women Self-Help Groups in Kanduyi Sub-County and Mumias Sub-County, Bungoma County, Kenya.

The project directly addresses challenges related to household air pollution, deforestation, climate change, women’s health, and economic empowerment. By providing access to efficient, low-emission cookstoves, Rotary delivered a practical, scalable, and sustainable solution that improves household well-being while safeguarding the environment.

2. Beneficiaries and Reach

Each TLUD cookstove serves an average household of five (5) people, resulting in a direct impact on approximately 2,500 individuals across Kanduyi and Mumias Sub-Counties.

The distribution of donated Cookstoves to the 14 Women Self-Help Groups is as follows:

- Sikata Champions 49
- Bidii Yefwe 30
- Joy 41
- Naitela 35
- Senna 40
- Jamia Tawasul 105

- Young Mothers 15
- Shamsiya 42
- Nalutiri Nakhakira 23
- Daughters of Neon 20
- Kumia 25
- Mapema Ndio Best 30
- Wabukhonyi 20
- Mazingira 25

Total = 500

3. Confirmed Outcomes and Impact

Following sustained use of the TLUD cookstoves, the Women Self-Help Groups have confirmed significant and life-changing outcomes:

a. Health and Well-being

- Reduced indoor air pollution
- Fewer cases of eye irritation and respiratory illnesses
- Improved overall household health, particularly for women and children

b. Environmental Benefits

- Reduced deforestation due to lower biomass fuel consumption
- Lower carbon emissions, contributing to climate change mitigation
- Cleaner and more efficient fuel combustion

c. Economic and Social Benefits

- Lower household fuel costs
- Significant time savings from faster cooking and reduced fuel collection
- Economic empowerment of women and girls through time reallocation and income-generating activities
- Improved educational outcomes, especially for girls

4. Innovation: Golden Metal Household Plaques with QR Technology

A distinctive and innovative feature of this project is the installation of golden metal plaques on households that received cookstoves during the initial 500-unit phase (2023–2025).

Each plaque contains:

- Project identification details
- Visual documentation
- A QR code linking to a dedicated digital landing page

📄 Landing Page: <https://woodgas.com/ken/rotary>

The platform hosts photos, videos, and stories highlighting participating Women Self-Help Groups and beneficiary households. This innovation enhances transparency, accountability, and global storytelling, ensuring Rotary’s impact is accessible and visible.

5. Recognition by Rotary Leadership

This innovation greatly impressed our Rotary District Governor Wairimu Njage, who recognized the initiative as a model example of how technology can be used to amplify Rotary’s service story. The integration of clean energy solutions with digital documentation has elevated the project’s visibility and credibility across Rotary networks.

6. Financial Summary

Total Project Cost:

- KES 1,517,287

Cookstoves Distributed:

- 500

Implementation period:

- December 2023 – December 2025

The investment demonstrates strong value for money, delivering long-term health, environmental, and socio-economic benefits to thousands of people.

7. Strengthening Rotary Fellowship: Paul Harris Fellow Donations

Beyond the clean cookstoves initiative, the Rotary Club of Bloomington–Normal (Sunset, Normal, Daybreak, and Thrive) further strengthened Rotary fellowship and service recognition through the donation of Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) awards to partner Rotary and Rotaract Clubs in Bungoma, Kenya.

These awards honor outstanding service, motivate continued community leadership, and reinforce enduring international Rotary partnerships.

Paul Harris Fellow distribution to beneficiary Rotary Clubs is as follows:

- Rotary Club of Bungoma Magharibi 3
- Rotaract Club of Bungoma Magharibi 4
- Rotary Club of Bungoma 2

Total = 9

This gesture significantly strengthened collaboration between Rotary Clubs of Bloomington-Normal in District 6490 (USA) and Rotary Clubs of Bungoma in District 9212 (Kenya), fostering deeper fellowship and shared commitment to service.

8. Appreciation and Acknowledgements

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Rotary Club of Bloomington–Normal (Sunset, Normal, Daybreak, and Thrive) for their extraordinary generosity, leadership and commitment to sustainable development.

Through:

- The donation of 500 TLUD clean cookstoves,
- The introduction of innovative QR-enabled household plaques.
- The awarding of Paul Harris Fellow recognitions.

The Rotary Clubs have created lasting impact for communities in Bungoma County while advancing Rotary’s mission of Service Above Self.

9. Conclusion

The TLUD clean cookstoves project stands as a powerful example of **Rotary in Action**, improving health, protecting the environment, empowering women, embracing innovation, and strengthening global fellowship.

The success of this initiative provides a strong foundation for scaling clean cooking solutions across Bungoma County and beyond, while continuing to tell Rotary’s story in a way that is visible, verifiable and inspiring.