**IMPROVED STOVES FOR REFUGEES OF THE CAMP OF MINAWAO**

In the Camp of Minawao where live more than 50 000 refugees, only wood is used to cook on traditional foyers disposed on three stones where fire is not centrated because of wind. These traditional foyers are ineffective and the wooden consumption is thus brought up because of the dispersal of flames and of the heat under the influence of the wind. Other inconveniences can be namely : lack of appropriate control of the fire, exposure to heat and smokes, the fire risks. In the space occupied by the refugees and even in the nearby villages, it is very rare to see trees because of the pressure exercised by the users since the beginning of their installation. The use of wood as the source of fuel has heavy negative impacts on the environment: it is one of main causes of deforestation and sourceof air pollution in houses.
Considering the rarity of firewood, it is the refugees themselves who have to supply the fuel and to get it, they go to the bush which is up to 15 km away from the camp or they go to the protected reserve of Zamay which is at almost 5 to 7 km away from the camp to cut fresh trees in secret.

The present project which aims at the reduction of the wooden consumption, the environmental protection and the conservation of the resources, consists on introducing 5 000 improved stoves of Bangui type to 5 000 households of the Refugees living in the Camp of Minawao. These improved stoves which are made with the sheet steel of 0,8 to 1mm of thickness have a life expectancy from 3 to 5 years old. They are more effective in terms of duration of cooking and reduce considerably the frequency of wooden collection.

The realization of this project will be made essentially with the support of the community relays chosen among the refugees. Under the supervision of the animators of SODEV, they will be involved in the targeting of the profitable households, the organization of raising awareness sessions which will allow a bigger awareness by the refugees on the problems related to the use of the firewood and the desertification generally. The distribution of the improved stoves will follow at last.

The themes to be discussed during these sessions of raising awareness will be focussed on the importance of the use of improved stoves, environmental protection and conservation of resources and will be accompanied with visibilities such as image boxes, T-shirts for community relays and animators, posters and advertising hoardings.

Before distribution of improved stoves to beneficiaries, practical exercises on their instructions for use will be done.

Theorically, we can calculate the effects of the project of improved stoves to refugees of the Camp of Minawao in terms of economies of money and the forest surface protected due to the reduction of the consumption of wood and/or charcoal.
The most sensitive direct impact is felt at a micro-economic level, in particular when the fuel must be bought and it is one of the reasons why the acceptance of improved soves is more favorable when the fuel is rare and expensive. The gain of energy and of time constitute other important considerations.
Any activity which asks even more time from women without bringing them any advantage, will have a low success rate. The use of improved stoves has the advantage to reduce the time invested by women: they need fewer wood so that they will spend fewer time to collect some firewoods as they spent time to collect them for the use in three stones to cook and will spend less money to buy it.
By reducing smoke emissions, the improved stoves of Bangui type will also contribute in a significant way to have a positive impact on the health of the user and on that of all the family, in particular the women and the children. Another positive effect is the annual gain of time due to reduction of care to be given to sick children and regular visits to the local health centers.
From this project, 5 000 households will benefit from 5 000 improved stoves. The awareness of the beneficiaries will be raised on the conservation and environmental protection. As long-term impact, this project will:
· Reduce the global warming and the pressure on trees.
· Reduce the rate of greenhouse gases emissions.
· Avoid the disappearance of the forest place setting which contributes to the preservation of the ground and thus limits the erosion.
· Protect the resources and the environment
· Reduce the quantity of wood used while cooking meals;
· Reduce the time of firewoods collection by women and the economy of money in case of purchase.