



## Project details



### Project Name

The CookFund Programme,



### Fund

19.4 million Euro - European Union (EU) and led by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)



### Duration

Five years, 2021 to 2026



### Mission

To accelerate the adoption of clean cooking solutions by supporting local enterprises, CookFund empowers businesses involved in the clean cooking value chain, including production, importation, distribution, and retail



### Scope

Urban - Dar es Salaam, Pwani, Morogoro, Dodoma, and Mwanza.



### Vision

The CookFund programme is contributing to the national agenda by building the market for clean cooking solutions ensuring accessibility, and availability by the end user to help reach the target of 80% adoption by 2034

## Context

Cooking is a basic and crucial aspect of the daily lives of every Tanzanian. Adoption of clean cooking is a broad agenda with multiple development priorities, including the agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in relation to health, gender inclusion, economic empowerment, innovation and the environment.

The CookFund programme leverages the strengths of the private sector to accelerate the market growth of Tanzania's clean cooking sector. Private sector features such as competition, product diversification and profitability can strengthen the operation of the grant fund and ensure the adoption of clean cooking solutions. This case study outlines the programme's prominent strategies to drive adoption through the private sector and the specific challenges they address

## Private sector actors in the clean cooking sector

Policy advocates, manufacturers, distributors and retailers, financial institutions, and research and development institutions.

### Key challenges for adoption

#### Fulfilled need:

Cooking and meal preparation are essential components of household functions in urban Tanzania; approximately 90% of Tanzanian households use biomass for cooking. As such, a key challenge in transitioning to clean cooking solutions is the perception of affordability, noting that the majority of the population purchases their cooking energy needs on a daily basis.

#### Perception:

Tanzania has strong cultural and religious influence, with over 90% of the population identifying as Muslim or Christian. Therefore, perceptions regarding elements of clean cooking technologies, such as alcohol use for bioethanol and the perceived explosivity of gas cylinders, pose cultural barriers to their adoption.

#### Market infrastructure:

The novelty of fuels such as bioethanol in the market requires the establishment of both production and distribution industries to support their adoption. CookFund implementing partner UNIDO has set an initial target of reaching 500,000 households with bioethanol fuel and cookstoves in Dar es Salaam where the region has up to 8 million households who have yet to transition to clean cooking technologies.



## Strategies for Adoption

**Market development and collaboration:** Supporting private sector enterprises through grant funding strengthens the creation of a competitive offer for end users ensuring sustained use of the clean cooking solution. The value chain is also strengthened by producing and distributing technologies and solutions..

**Regulatory support:** Through research and advocacy efforts, awareness of technologies amongst stakeholders is increased, promoting the inclusion of cleaner cooking technologies in the national energy mix and national transition strategy. This advocacy also includes fiscal considerations like tax relief for fuels such as bioethanol, which face higher taxes of up to 22% of the total sale price.

**Stakeholder empowerment:** Through capacity-building initiatives and knowledge sharing with diverse clean cooking sector actors from the government level to the end user, the programme achieves a downstream impact approach, resulting in greater awareness of the technologies and the associated market opportunities throughout the clean cooking value chain.

## Expected Impact

**Market penetration of clean cooking solutions:** Leveraging the private sector's strengths through distribution and market outreach can accelerate the adoption of clean cooking technologies. The programme is expected to drive market penetration of clean cooking methods like briquettes and LPG through financial incentives to eligible enterprises and companies.

**Climate mitigation:** Traditional cooking methods often involve burning solid fuels like wood and coal, contributing to deforestation and climate change. The CookFund Programme is expected to reduce the impact of climate change in Tanzania by increasing the share of the population with access to sustainable cooking solutions.



**Economic development:** The programme is expected to stimulate local economies, create jobs, and foster innovation in the clean energy sector by providing financial and technical assistance to eligible enterprises and companies.

**Increased awareness:** By leveraging the private sector market base, and knowledge initiatives are expected to increase awareness about the benefits of clean cooking solutions among the Tanzanian population. This can lead to a shift in consumer behaviour and greater household adoption of clean cooking solutions



## Conclusion

The programme lays the foundation for a sustainable energy transition that prioritises people and the planet by addressing market barriers, cultural sensitivities, and regulatory challenges. As the programme evolves, it is poised to support further advancements in Tanzania's clean cooking sector, driving positive change for future generations.

## Acknowledgements

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Imanuel Muro, CookFund Programme Manager and UNCDF Senior Finance Specialist

## About UNCDF

The UN Capital Development Fund makes public and private finance work for the poor in 47 least-developed countries (LDCs).

With its capital mandate and instruments, UNCDF offers “last mile” finance models that unlock public and private resources, especially at the domestic level, to reduce poverty and support local economic development.

UNCDF’s financing models work through two channels: financial inclusion that expands the opportunities for individuals, households, and small businesses to participate in the local economy, providing them with the tools they need to climb out of poverty and manage their financial lives and by showing how localised investments through fiscal decentralisation, innovative municipal finance, and structured project finance can drive public and private funding that underpins local economic expansion and sustainable development.

By strengthening how finance works for poor people at the household, small enterprise, and local infrastructure levels, UNCDF contributes to SDG 1 on eradicating poverty and SDG 17 on the means of implementation. By identifying those market segments where innovative financing models can have a transformational impact in helping to reach the last mile and address exclusion and inequalities of access, UNCDF contributes to several different SDGs.