

The Inclusive Energy Fund

[Funder] Impact & Communications Report



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What is the IEF?

The Inclusive Energy Fund (IEF) supports Fairtrade Certified Producer Organisations (SPOs & HLOs) to design, implement and monitor projects that accelerate and expand access to clean and green off-grid energy technologies and services for their membership bases and communities. The IEF awards project support on a competitive basis and provides both Technical and Financial Support to successful applicants.

The IEF is based upon the following design principles:



Competitive

Funding is allocated competitively and used effectively



Local ownership

Capacity development built into each project



Outcomes-based

The IEF is focused on outcomes not content



Innovative support model

Combined technical and financial support



Community-led design

One-size-fits-all solutions do not exist



High degree of sustainability

Aiming for permanent change



Funding Tiers for the IEF programme

Funding Options	Standard Contributor (£50k - £99k)	Gold Contributor (£100k - £199k)	Platinum Contributor (£200k +)
Reference IEF contribution on website and in comms	✓	✓	✓
Company logo included on IEF landing page and comms	✓	✓	✓
IEF Kickoff Report	✓	✓	✓
Project Pulse Update	✓	✓	✓
Final report	✓	✓	✓
Case Studies		✓	✓
Project-Specific Communications Materials			✓

The IEF has three contribution tiers: **Standard**, **Gold** and **Platinum**, determined by the level of investment.

All funders receive standardised IEF reports (Kick-off, Project Pulse update and Final), which are not tailored to individual funders, regardless of their contribution amount.

Gold and Platinum Contributors will receive a tailored communications package, with content varying based on their investment level.

Gold Contributors receive standardised reports plus project-specific case studies for deeper insights into IEF projects.

Platinum Contributors receive all Gold-tier benefits plus communications and impact materials related to specific IEF PO projects.

The example slides in this template indicate which tiers each slide applies to for clarity.



The Inclusive Energy Fund at a glance

19,608

Coffee & tea farmers from

6 producer organisations

6 POs across:
Rwanda
Uganda
Tanzania

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Grants Awards

Activities include cooperative strengthening, access to markets and new service development.

IEF 1.0 funded six producer-led projects across five outcome areas to achieve the overall programme goal.



PROGRAMME GOAL

Higher energy inclusion and resilience in Fairtrade Communities, through:

- Access to energy
- Access to education
- Access to finance

Loan Funding

Used to set up revolving loan facility for members, or to procure a shared benefit productive asset.



Overview of Projects involved in the IEF

Kasaali (Coffee SPO)

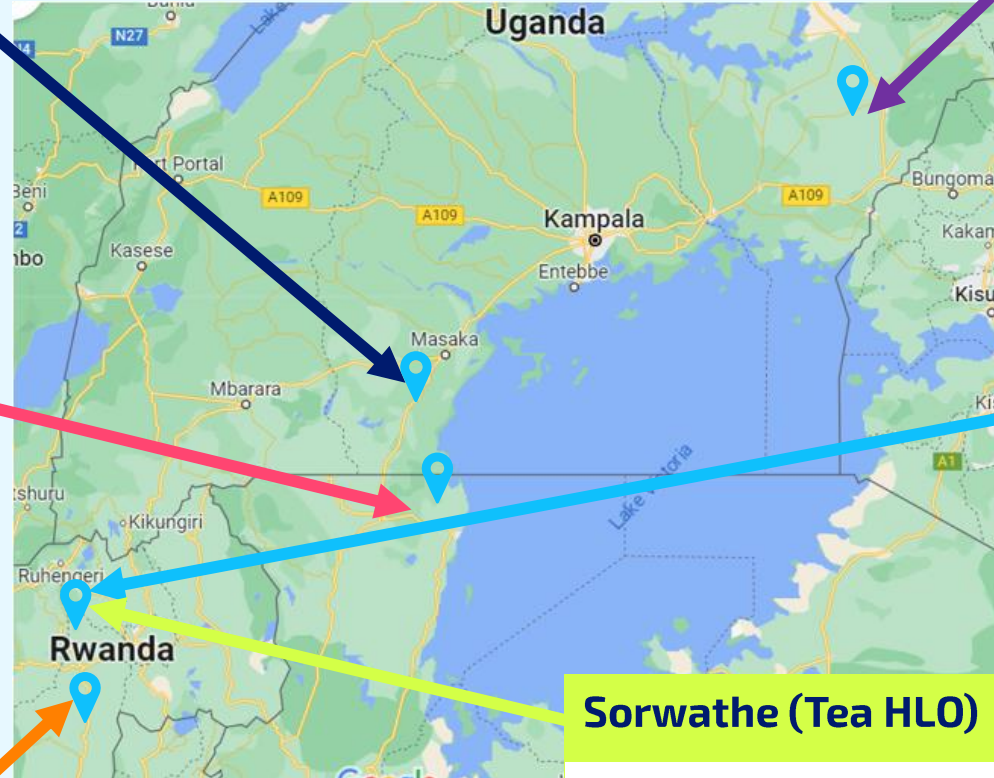
Focusing on funding viable business setups built on solar technology

KCU (Coffee SPO)

Establishing SACCO micro-finance facility to cover full 60,000 membership base

Abahuzamugambi (Coffee SPO)

Purchasing parabolic solar dryer to improve bean quality and grow market access



BCDI (Coffee SPO)

Establishing member-owned bakery using lava rock thermal oven and sourcing locally produced ingredients

H.O.T (Tea SPO)

Piloting "Pay with coffee" check-off loan repayment system

Sorwathe (Tea HLO)

Establishing permanent, independent technical centre operated and owned by youth trained through the IEF

IEF: Overview of programmatic KPIs

Results Area	Indicators	Baseline	Endline
Programmatic	% of SPO/HLO project plans which include women and/or youth beneficiaries	100%	100%
Programmatic	% of farming households who report insufficient energy access for their aspirational productive use	90%	48%
RA1	# and type of green energy products made available to farming households for domestic use through the IEF project	-	2 types
RA1	# of farming household beneficiaries who have adopted clean and green energy products for household use	-	383
RA2	# of farming household beneficiaries who have adopted clean and green energy products for productive use	-	1,588
RA3	# of attendees at energy education trainings or events	-	7,730
RA3	# of education programs, events or trainings regarding clean and green energy	-	50
RA4	% of SLO/HLO leadership who report feeling confident with administering technical services	18%	100%
RA4	# and type of technical services offered to farming households by SPO/HLOs	0	3 types, 42 trained
RA5	# of farming household beneficiaries who have used financial services or products offered by their cooperative through the IEF	-	148
RA5	% of farming households who feel financial services and products are suitable for their (energy) needs	-	31%

Result Areas

RA1

Increased availability of clean and green energy products for domestic use

RA2

Increased availability of clean and green energy products for productive use and shared-benefit

RA3

Increased availability of education and information about clean and green energy for members

RA4

Increased availability of energy-related technical services for members

RA5

Increased availability of energy-related financial products and services for members





Trust in off-grid energy providers and products

73% of respondents expressed trust in off-grid energy providers and their products, marking a significant shift from the initial baseline assessment, where concerns about quality, durability, and affordability were prominent among participants.

Feedback from respondents revealed a mix of perspectives on the quality and reliability of off-grid energy products, with the majority being broadly positive. Many highlighted good service, reliable products, reasonable prices, and the importance of improving access to electricity for those without grid connections.

However, some concerns were raised regarding the cost, quality, and shelf-life of products. The most common quality issue mentioned was related to solar power systems or products breaking down or batteries failing shortly after purchase.

The IEF team also noted that perceptions of cost and affordability often depend on individuals' circumstances. For instance, perspectives may vary between those transitioning from grid to off-grid energy and those moving from no energy access to off-grid solutions. These views are also shaped by household income and wealth, which can differ significantly across communities.

'I think it's a good way to reduce the cost of electricity because it's a renewable energy system and it makes it easier for people who don't have access to electricity.'

73%

of participants said they trust off-grid energy providers and products

'They are trusted because they are certified by the government and they guarantee the equipment they provide us.'



They encouraged us to buy the solar energy products, they trained us in terms of installation and cooperation. We were even introduced to new solar energy equipment, so that no neighbour has a problem, I will help him, and show him how to do it and visit to solve it.”

Coffee Farmer, [Co-operative name], Kenya

[Name of cooperative]: Overview of project KPIs

Results area 1: Clean and green off-grid energy for domestic use are available to farming households

- An MoU was signed with a supplier that offers simple solar and battery systems.
- Five solar systems distributed to beneficiaries at project midline.

Indicators

Results

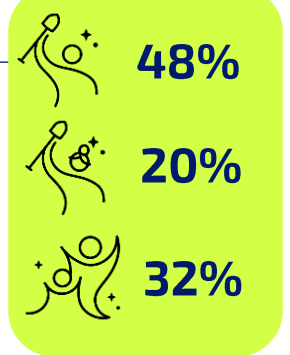
Total # of beneficiaries	10
Total # of members receiving financial services through the producer organisation for clean and green energy products	44
Total value of financial services provided to members by the producer organisation for green and clean energy products	8,561,586 Rwf/USD 6,111
# of MoUs signed between PO and energy suppliers	1

Results area 3: Education on clean and green energy

- Posters and brochures in the local language were developed and utilised to augment the training process..
- Five qualified staff members were selected and trained to become trainers who were instrumental in cascading knowledge to a broader audience.

Total # of beneficiaries	2,307
Total # and type of educational trainings/campaigns/materials provided for members	4 trainings, 2,307 brochures
Total # of members receiving training on technical services for clean and green energy products	400
# Workers trained as Trainers of Trainers	5

Beneficiary gender & youth % breakdown



Results area 4: New clean energy technical services are available to farming households

- Two types of technical services are now available: Installing solar systems and changing dysfunctional batteries.

Total # members trained in technical services	5
# and type of technical services offered to members (repairs, installations)	46 cases of support
# and type of training sessions held with members (in person, online, etc.)	1



Producer Spotlight: BCDI

Bukhaturwe Community Development Initiative (BCDI) is a Fairtrade and Organic certified coffee producer on the foots of Mount Elgon, Uganda. BCDI is an all women cooperative who aim to empower female coffee growers and reduce the gender equality gap in coffee.



“I really appreciate the bakery project because it has reduced dependence on my husband since I have it to keep me busy and earn from it though I still need capital to have a serious baking business.”

FGD member

BCDI's project aimed to increase the use of clean energy for cooking, to minimize the health risks related to inhaling smoke from firewood. BCDI decided to build a bakery using solar-aided ovens which use re-usable 'lava' rocks. They also built a training centre, upskilling members on how to run the bakery so they can sell their own products, ultimately diversifying their livelihoods.

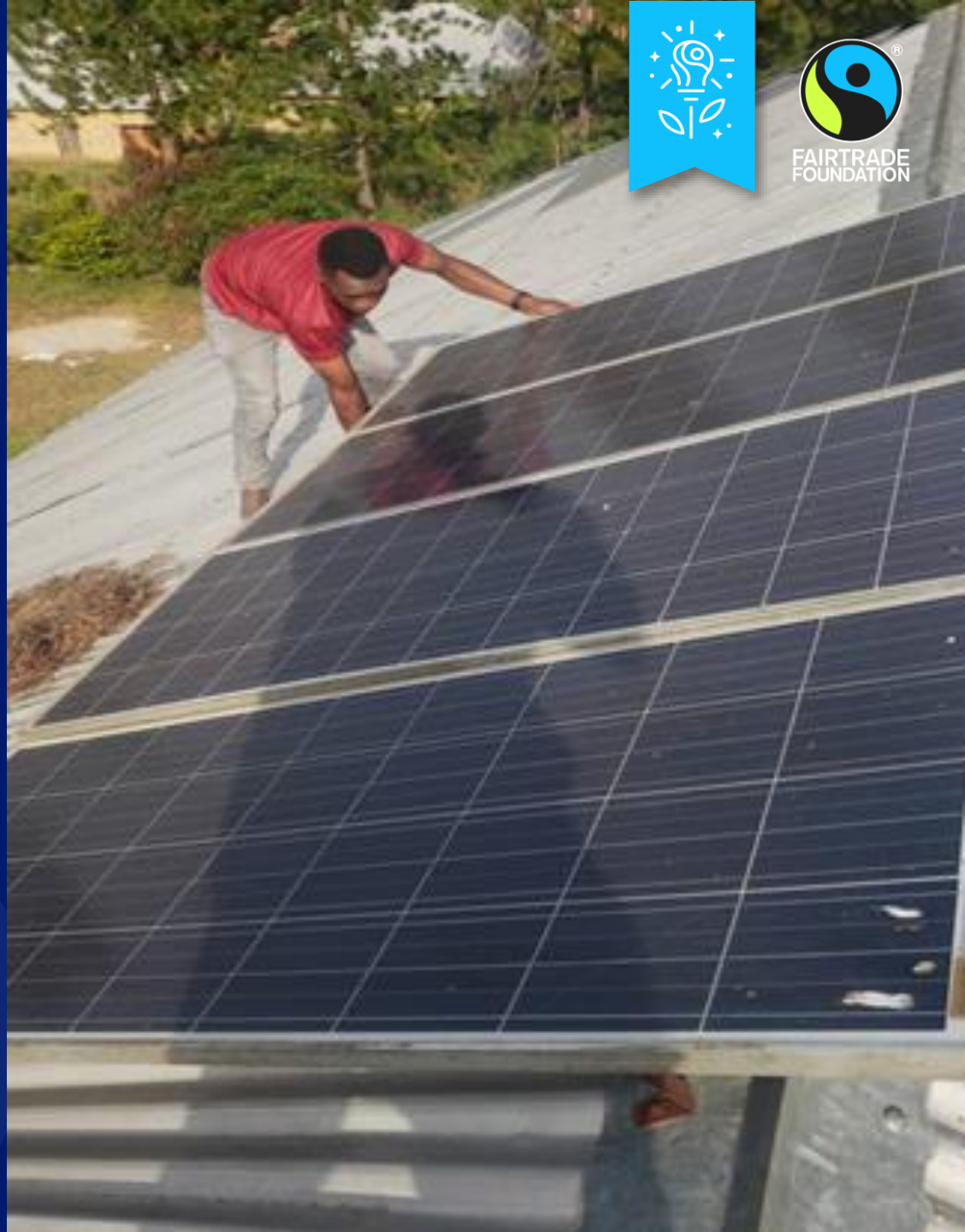
Over the course of the project, BCDI provided ongoing training to 28 members, with a focus on creating opportunities for youth (11 of the trainees are under 35). These members have gained skills and knowledge in baking and making a range of baked goods including mandas, sumbusa and cookies.

Justine Wamale, age 54, one of the bakery trainees, said that after she acquired skills she began making mandas and sumbusa. She explained that she had a capital of 20,000 Ugandan shillings to start with and she sells her products to the nearest trading centre where she is able to earn at least 7,000 Ugandan Shillings daily to support her family in buying food, school materials and some chickens.

“My capital is still small but I am optimistic that it will increase slowly and after it has increased, I have a plan of buying a goat and a cow.”

Justine Wamale





I always receive many phone calls from the members consulting me about the installation and repair of solar systems and some of those farmers have already invited me to install solar panels in their homes ... So far, I have already installed over 10 solar panel systems. And in the near future, I plan to... train my fellow youths to become solar technicians as well.

Steven Kasumba, 24, Kasaali Farmers Cooperative Society, Uganda, Trained through the IEF project